



University
of Victoria

speed reading

UVIC BUDGET

Plans to deal with cutbacks

In the wake of the provincial government's \$4.2-million reduction in the university's operating grant announced this spring, the board of governors has approved a deficit management plan for 2008/09 and received a document outlining the university's approach to budget reduction for 2009/10. **Story on page 3.**

DECANAL APPOINTMENTS

New leadership for engineering, law faculties

Donna Greschner brings a rich background of research, teaching, practice and public service in constitutional law, human rights and health care law to her new position as dean of the Faculty of Law. Dr. Thomas Tiedje will join the Faculty of Engineering as dean on Sept. 2. A much-awarded engineer, Tiedje comes from UBC, where he has served as head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. **Stories on page 2.**

CHANCELLOR ELECTED

New chancellor a familiar face

After six years of service on UVic's board of governors, Murray Farmer will don the robes of university chancellor starting Jan. 1. Farmer, a UVic grad and strong university supporter, is president of Farmer Industries Group, with interests in the construction, development and hospitality industries. **Story on page 4.**

HONOURING OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Distinction calling

Summer is a good time to start thinking about nominating your fellow employees for the 2008 President's Distinguished Service Awards. The nomination deadline is earlier this year (Oct. 15) for this awards program, which pays tribute to the effort and achievements of the University of Victoria's 4,000-plus staff members. Nomination forms will soon be available on the PDSA website, which also contains information about the program and previous winners. More online at <http://web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa/index.html>



SUMMER OLYMPICS

Vikes off to Beijing

Vikes running coaches Brent Fougner and Ingrid Ruys and Paralympics swimmer Stephanie Dixon will be in the Canada contingent at the Olympic Games in Beijing this summer. They will join 10 alumni from Vikes men's and women's rowing teams who will also represent Canada at the Games. **Story on page 8.**



TOXINS IN GRIZZLY DIET

PAGE 5

CREDIT: VALERIE SHORE

THE RING

JULY 2008

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



L-R: Fellowship winners Amber Mitchell, Lois Stewart, Aijun Yang and Lianne Charlie. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT

4 of 10 UVic grad students awarded Pacific Leaders fellowships

PROPORTION
OF NEW
BC PUBLIC
SERVICE
FELLOWSHIPS
AWARDED
TO UVIC
STUDENTS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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 sev-

eral 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

SEE FELLOWSHIPS P.3

Two leading Indigenous scholars join UVic

Indigenous historian is UVic's newest Canada Research Chair

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-ween) 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 develop-



Waziyatawin

ing an understanding of how to redress the ways that Indigenous

SEE HISTORIAN P.5

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



Hopkins. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

appointment being a catalyst for research, partnerships and educa-

SEE HOPKINS P.7

New research centre on
Aboriginal health

In May, the UVic senate approved the Centre for Aboriginal Health Research. Built on the foundation of UVic’s Aboriginal Health Research Group, the new centre will promote the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples, whose health disparities require urgent attention. This change in status will better position the centre’s faculty and student members to take advantage of funding opportunities in interdisciplinary research and training. Centre researchers will focus on the strengths, challenges, opportunities and problems of Indigenous Peoples and the societal structures and institutions that affect them. The director of the new centre is epidemiologist Jeff Reading, who headed the research group and is also the scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research—Institute of Aboriginal Peoples’ Health, based at UVic.

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 in New York.

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. “It has 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 to 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 be 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 medalist in law, she earned her graduate law degree from Oxford University as a Commonwealth Scholar.

Returning to the UofS, she taught the university’s first course in feminist legal theory. In the mid 80s, she represented the prairies on the federal Women’s 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 Harper’s advisor during the Aboriginal campaign against the Meech Lake Accord.

In 1992 she was a member of Saskatchewan’s negotiating team for the Charlotte-town Accord.



Greschner

“That was one of the most intense projects I’ve ever done,” remembers Greschner. “There were many sleepless nights since we 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.

“His 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 California, where her spouse, Alan McHughen, is a professor at the University of California 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 California 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 and economic activity and create social benefits. Although relatively small and new compared to competing faculties at other universities, engineering at UVic has one of the strongest research programs for its size in Canada. We can take advantage of this to 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 nanostructure materials from 1983 to 1987. In 1987 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 looks forward to collaborating with people working in related areas at UVic.

UVic’s current dean of engineering, Dr. Michael Miller, has been on the engineering faculty since 1987 when he was named chair of the Department of Computer Science. He will complete his second five-year term as dean on June 30.



Tiedje. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH

Announcing a rich vein
of digitized scholarship

Starting this fall, nearly 900,000 researchers and students in the social sciences and humanities across Canada will be able to go online and access, search, sort and consult a rich new digital collection of scholarly resources, including books, letters, historical documents, music scores, maps, artwork and audiovisual materials.

This rich vein of 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 \$47 million provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, eight provinces and 67 universities (see *The Ring*, April 2007).

“Providing access to this wealth of scholarly material is a critical step in enabling researchers and students across the nation to

further understand our society and how Canadians are shaping the world we live in,” says UVic President David Turpin, chair of the CRKN Board of Directors. “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/>.

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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 (\$1.5 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 Vice-President Academic Jamie 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 depart-

mental 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 13 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 sessionally taught course sections will also be affected.

"Since UVic is already the most efficient of BC's research-intensive universities, there's really no way that a cut of this magnitude 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."

SFU is dealing with a \$6.3-million cut, while UBC received a combined \$15.8-million reduction and UNBC \$1 million less than promised.



Cooper's hawk chicks survey the campus from their perch near the Cunningham Building. The chicks are part of a study on the ecology of Cooper's Hawks in the Greater Victoria urban environment. PHOTO: ANDY STEWART

CAMPUS WILDLIFE

Hawks' nest part of living laboratory

They may not know it, but four Cooper's hawk chicks and their nest near the Cunningham Building are part of a long-term regional study. Former Ministry of Environment wildlife biologist Andy Stewart has been banding Cooper's hawk chicks at and around UVic for the past 14 years. Some years he finds up to five nests on campus, but this year counted only one.

"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 a month before fledging, and remain near the nest for another month.

Now retired from his government position, Stewart carries on 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.

Although Stewart usually works alone or with his wife Irene, summer students in biology professor Neville Winchester's third-year vertebrates of 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-park/articles/121_banding_hawks.htm or contact Andy Stewart at andy.stewart@shaw.ca.

around the ring

Parenting across the generations

In 2006, more than 6,300 children were living with a grandparent in BC. Grandparents face unique legal issues such as custody, visitation and enforcement of orders. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren project in the School of Social Work has received funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the BC Law Foundation to conduct further research on legal support services for grandparents. UVic researcher Barbara Whittington, together with the Parents Support Services Society of BC, will examine the legal issues grandparents face when raising their grandchildren and present solutions to government ministries and community organizations.

Southam lecturer to teach "experiential journalism"

Local journalist and social activist Jody Paterson—UVic's second Harvey Stevenson Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Non-Fiction—will share her award-winning interviewing techniques with students this fall. Her WRIT 314 class, "Changing Perspectives: Writing from the Inside," explores techniques and issues in "experiential journalism:" non-fiction writing that engages as closely as possible with the experiences of those at the centre of a story or issue without sacrificing balance or facts. The annual lectureship is named after Harvey Southam, a UVic alumnus and journalist who was an heir to his family's publishing empire when he died in 1991.

FELLOWSHIPS CONTINUED FROM P.1

support such collaboration among professionals in the health sector and, more widely, in such other areas as environmental management, community engagement and Indigenous relations.

Sociology PhD student Lois Stewart is researching the relations between institutional citizen participation, measured by voter turnout, and extra-institutional participation, indicated by the prevalence of public protests and demonstrations. By studying trends in Canada, the US, the UK and France from 1857 to 2007, she hopes to discern whether the noted decline in voter turnout correlates with a similar decrease in participation in social movements or

whether there has been a shift in the mode of political participation away from electoral involvement and into social activism.

Aijun Yang, in her fourth year of a master's in statistics program, is researching geographical patterns of mortality for Québec patients after a heart attack. Her work will help identify whether there is a gender difference in survival time after revascularization (restoration of the blood supply) and whether geographical differences in the accessibility of health care affect survival after heart attack. Her results will help health care system planners make better decisions on such issues as physician allocation and hospital performance.

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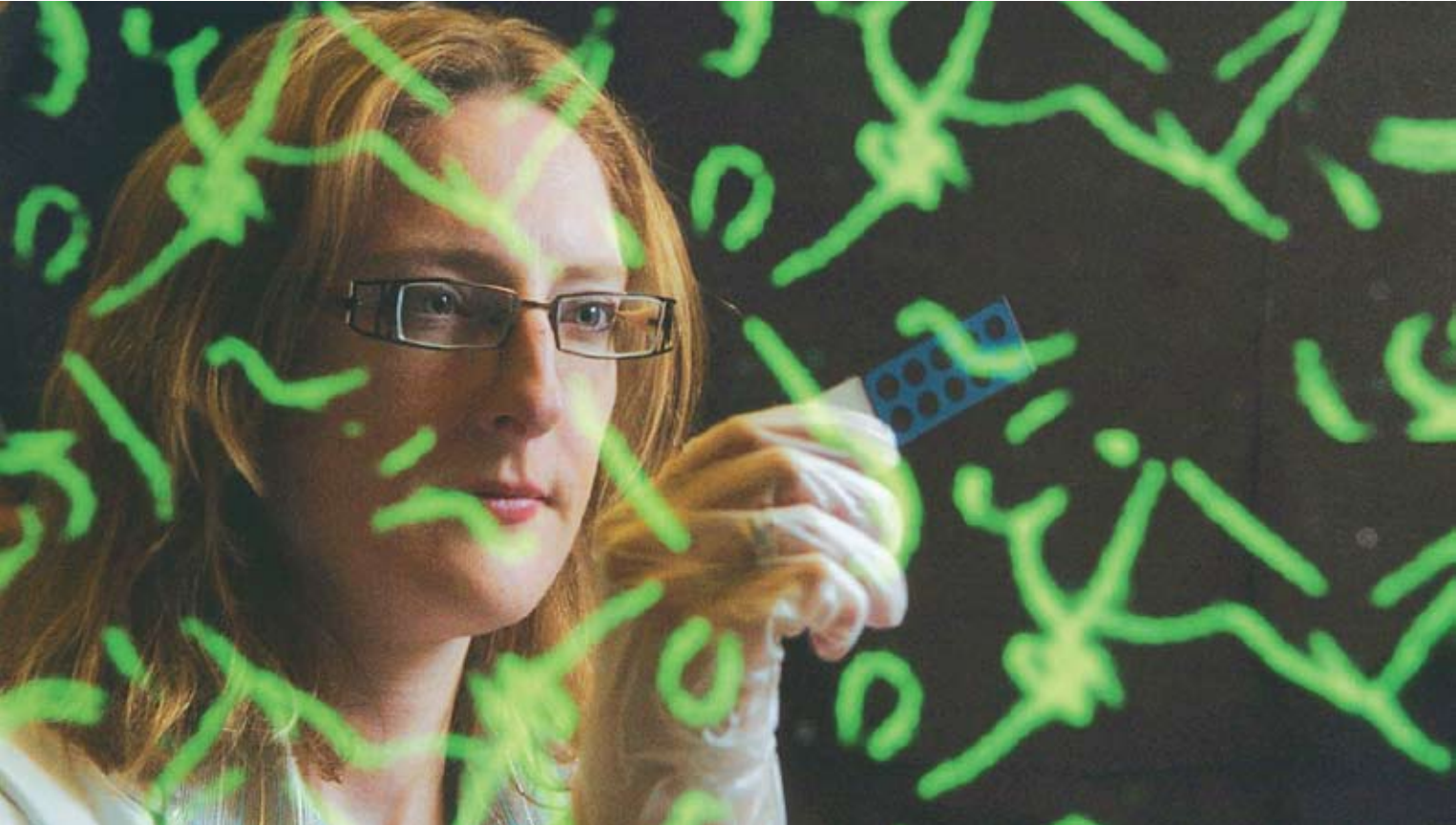
Dan Smith, chair of UVic’s geography department, has been elected president of the Canadian Association of Geographers for 2008/09. The association is the only national organization in Canada representing practicing geographers. Membership includes those who work in the public and private sectors and in universities. The association disseminates geographic research, promotes geographic education at all levels, and recognizes geographic excellence through its awards program.

In late June, five members of the UVic community received the Order of British Columbia, the province’s highest honour for outstanding achievement: **Dr. Andrew Weaver** (earth and ocean sciences), one of the world’s leading authorities on global warming and climate change; **Kathy Shields**, who led the Vikes women’s basketball team in 320 victories and only 50 losses in over 23 years; **Ken Shields**, the most successful coach in the history of Canadian university basketball, leading the Vikes men from 1976 to 1989; honorary degree recipient (2006) **Arthur Vickers**, internationally renowned Indigenous artist of Heiltsuk and Tsimshian lineage; and **Ted Harrison**, one of Canada’s most well-known and respected artists and a UVic honorary degree recipient (1998).

Clint Hamilton (athletics and recreation) has been elected as the next president of Canadian Interuniversity Sport. He will serve as president elect for one year, succeeding University of Regina’s Dick White in 2009 as president for two years. The Armstrong, BC, native is currently the Canada West Universities Athletics Association president. Hamilton was appointed director of Athletics and Recreation at UVic in August 2004, marking his return to campus where he had previously served as a student athlete and coach: he first enrolled at UVic out of high school in 1983 and was a member of the Vikings men’s basketball CIS National Championship team.

Two UVic projects received awards of merit at the **2008 Rock Awards**, presented by the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada, Vancouver Island chapter. Winning an award for eco-friendly print communications is the Faculty of Education’s brochure “Learning Transforms,” designed by Rocketday Arts. And an award for advertising was bestowed upon the UVic pencil advertising campaign, implemented by the Malahat Group for UVic Development to raise funds in support of scholarships and bursaries.

RAs for Good, founded at UVic a few years ago by a residence advisor who began holding events to raise money, have raised approximately \$5,400 through various fundraising means for the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children’s Health in support of specialized health care services to children and youth. Initial funds were also deposited into the UVic United Way account last August for the 2007 campaign.



Cameron, reflected in a computer screen showing detail of the syphilis bacterium. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

Battling a silent menace
Researcher unravels the molecular mysteries of syphilis.

BY JESSICA GILLIES

Sexually transmitted infections aren’t something most of us like 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 6.9 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 corkscrew-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 at 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 T. 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 conquer 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 convocation, Farmer—community volunteer, business leader and ardent UVic supporter—received 2,512 votes compared to 1,326 for Jim Dutton, a retired cardiovascular-thoracic surgeon. Voting concluded on June 20.

“It was a combination of elation and relief,” Farmer says. “I’m really happy to be able to continue volunteering with the university.”

Farmer’s history with the university goes back to the institution’s first day, in 1963, when he arrived as an undergraduate. He went on to receive an economics degree in 1968.

“I see the chancellor’s role as being the ambassador for the university community,” says Farmer, who looks forward to promoting the university

as the “intellectual and academic hub” of the Capital Region.

Farmer will succeed Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy whose second and final three-year term concludes on December 31. The formal installation of the new chancellor will take place during June 2009 Spring Convocation ceremonies. The chancellor is the titular head of the university, confers degrees and serves on the board of governors and senate.

President David Turpin, in a message to the university community, welcomed the election results. “Dr. Lou-Poy and his predecessors have served our university as chancellor with immense grace, generosity and wisdom. Murray Farmer will sustain the quality of leadership and spirit we at UVic have been so fortunate to enjoy.”

Farmer, 2007 recipient of the UVic Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement, is president of Farmer Industries Group, with interests in the construction, development and

hospitality industries. With his wife, Lynda, he is a co-owner of a Central Saanich equestrian training facility for young people.

Farmer’s extensive volunteer leadership has included time with the Victoria Foundation, the Sidney Marine Discovery Centre Campaign, 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 acclama-

tion: Kathleen Barnes, Betty Clazie, Larry Cross and Gail Flitton. The new chancellor and senators will hold three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2009.



Farmer. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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?

No it isn’t, says Jennie Christensen, who has just completed a four-year study of environmental contaminants in BC grizzlies. She graduated last month with a PhD 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 during a high school work experience program.

“I 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 PhD project—a partnership

with 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 PCBs, DDT, other organochlorine pesticides, and flame retardants known as PBDEs.

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

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 developing nations and are transported globally by air and through the food chain.

So are 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 items are discarded into the environment, PBDEs creep their way up the food chain, concentrating as they go.

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



Christensen conducting field work with Larry Jorgenson, member of the Heltsiuk First Nations and owner of Koeve River Lodge.

hunted bears. Christensen also spent many hours on the Koeve 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 Koeve 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 demonstrates 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 tripling 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.”



Grizzly. PHOTO: VALERIE SHORE

HISTORIAN CONTINUED FROM P.1

Peoples have been historically treated by the rest of society,” says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president research. “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 in natural sciences and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities.

Waziyatawin, who is a Wahpetunwan Dakota from southwestern Minnesota, says that UVic’s Indigenous Governance Program was the only one in North America that she was interested in joining.

“What drew me is the program’s intellectual commitment to Indigenous liberation and its dedication to personal decolonization and social action,” she says.

Waziyatawin’s research interests include Indigenous women and the struggle for social justice, the recovery of Indigenous knowledge, and truth-telling and reparative justice. She holds an MA and PhD in American history from Cornell University, and spent seven years teaching history at Arizona State before leaving in 2007 to work as an independent scholar.

“My work is grounded in Indigenous world views and values, especially from a Dakota perspective,” she says. “That perspective has fostered my deep respect for Indigenous knowledge and ways of being that can be seen in all of my research and writing.”

Waziyatawin is the author, editor or co-editor of four books, including *In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors* (2006), which tells the story of the

brutal Dakota Death March of 1862 in which 1,700 Dakota women, children and elders were marched to a concentration camp and eventually expelled from their homeland. Among them was Waziyatawin’s great-great-grandmother.

It’s a dark chapter of Minnesota history that is ignored in the history books, says Waziyatawin, whose research frequently challenges the institutions and systems of “settler society” which, she says, continue to oppress Indigenous Peoples in North America.

“When settler society acknowledges the immorality of processes and actions such as invasion, ethnic cleansing, forced removals, land dispossession, genocide and colonization, we can finally take the first steps toward justice.”

Waziyatawin—whose name translates into “Woman of the North”—says she is looking forward to learning about the history of Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia and Canada.

“Obviously, each Indigenous nation is unique with its own distinct culture and relationship to the land, but the historical experiences of Indigenous Peoples on both sides of the Canada-US border are remarkably similar,” she says.

The latest round of Canada Research Chairs was announced nationally on May 10. Also included were two UVic chair renewals: Dr. Neena Chappell, Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology and Dr. Sara Ellison, Canada Research Chair in Observational Cosmology. The renewals are for seven- and five-year terms respectively.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

New photocopiers 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 photocopiers with a new generation of energy-efficient multi-tasking devices boasting several sustainable features. The goal of the program, which Kyocera calls Advantage², 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 into 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 Advantage² 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, includ-

ing 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 Klit, manager of Printing Services at 721-8302 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.

camosun.ca/ce



Green roofs grace the new Social Sciences and Mathematics Building. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Third LEED building officially opens

The Social Sciences and Mathematics Building was officially opened on June 23. The new facility provides 9,090 square metres of research, classroom and office space for students and faculty in the departments of geography, political science, mathematics and statistics, the School of Environmental Studies and the UVic/Environment Canada Water

and Climate Impacts Research Centre (W-CIRC). The building is the third facility at UVic to be registered in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating Program. Sustainable features include green roofs and extensive use of mountain pine beetle wood. More at www.uvic.ca/buildings/cab.html

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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 University of Victoria Development Office, PO Box 3060, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3R4.

Contributed by David J. Climenhaga, St. Albert, Alberta

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 1988 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.

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calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated.
For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at www.uvic.ca/events

at the galleries
www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562

■ **Lisa Murray's 'This Earth' Until July 27.** This Earth explores texture, movement, and colour through acrylic paint and collage technique. *McPherson Library Gallery.*

■ **P/op!** Until Sept. 22. Works by internationally renowned artists working in the pop, optical and abstract art genres. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery.

■ **Copper Thunderbird.** July 9 to Nov. 30. More than 15 paintings influenced or created by internationally renowned Anishnaabe artist Norval Morrisseau. Legacy Art Gallery and Café, 630 Yates St. <http://legacygallery.ca/>

TUESDAY, JULY 8

■ **Research Conversations** 11 a.m. *The Fabric of Indigenous Research and Research Ethics: Weaving the Strands of Traditional and Contemporary Knowledge with Research.* Raven Sinclair, Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, Univ. of Regina. Human & Social Development B347. 250-721-6441

THURSDAY, JULY 10

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 3 p.m. *Constraints on Biological Productivity in the Ocean: Is the Present Valid in the Past?* Dr. Raja Ganeshram, Univ. of Edinburgh. Engineering/Computer Science 116. 250-721-6120

NEXT RING

Deadline	Publication date
Tues, Aug 26	Thur, Sept 4
Wed, Sept 24	Thur, Oct 2
Wed, Oct 29	Thur, Nov 6
Wed, Nov 26	Thur, Dec 4

HOPKINS CONTINUED FROM P1

tional programs that will help break down barriers to Aboriginal economic development in Canada.”

Hopkins’ interest in Aboriginal communities stems from his Métis status and community in Québec. “Seeing first-hand the challenges Aboriginal communities face in developing their own economies puts their struggles in perspective for me,” says Hopkins. While majoring in political science at the University of Toronto, he regarded pursuing a law degree as an important way to address the disparity in wealth and lack of infrastructure in Aboriginal communities.

“I committed myself to a broad understanding of business law and how it impacts Aboriginal communities. I felt that Aboriginal communities would need to access this information to develop their own vision of sustainable communities,” he adds.

After graduating from the University of Toronto law school in 1996, he articulated for a large national law firm, then clerked for the Northern Regions of the Ontario Superior Court. In 2000 he graduated from Harvard Law School’s joint Master of Laws and International Tax Program, earning the Award of Excellence in Research and Writing on public policy solutions to Aboriginal taxation and governance.

That led him to the University of Arizona’s Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program where, since 2000, 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 Pasqua 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 Dastmalchian.

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 \$2 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.

Legacy Gallery hosts ‘Picasso of the North’



Mary Kerr’s illustration of a costume she designed for the National Arts Centre presentation of the play “Copper Thunderbird,” about the life of Norval Morrisseau.

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/.



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around the ring

Endowment marks Sisters of St. Ann Legacy

On June 7 the Sisters of St. Ann celebrated their 150th anniversary in BC with the announcement of a \$300,000 gift to the University of Victoria. The donation will provide \$150,000 each to UVic's School of Nursing and the Faculty of Education to support graduate nursing students practicing in rural health care and rural practicum placement support for student teachers. This gift to UVic honours the sisters' mission and commitment to the education and spiritual health and well-being of the citizens of BC over the last 150 years and leaves a legacy of their pioneering work in the field of rural education and nursing.

MSW with Indigenous Specialization approved

The senate and board have approved establishment of a Master of Social Work: Indigenous Specialization expected to commence in May 2009. The program will centre on Indigenous culture, knowledge and understanding. Social workers working with and for Indigenous organizations experience a different historical, cultural and administrative environment than those in non-Indigenous contexts. The program will provide such professionals with the capacity to develop effective and relevant policies and practices and prepare them for leadership roles in their communities. It will be open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous applicants and will be offered to full-time and part-time students through a combination of on-campus summer institutes and on-line seminars.

New MA in West Coast literatures

Senate and board have approved a unique Master of Arts in English featuring a concentration in the literatures of the West Coast. Other BC post-secondary institutions offer only individual undergraduate courses in this or related topic areas. The program will have a broad historic focus, including literatures from both sides of current borders, Asian North American writing, and oral and written literature from before and after first contact between European and Indigenous cultures. This interdisciplinary content will challenge familiar models of national and regional writing while encouraging a reconsideration of the place of literature from the unique perspective of the West Coast.



Harris. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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 Barss," 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.

"Although I usually start my day at 7:30 a.m., sometimes I'm in by 6:30 a.m.

and here until 6:00 p.m. catching up, especially when there are lots of meetings during the day," she says. Harris also runs the floatplane, Helijet, BC Ferries Coastcard and hotel 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 quite strict." But she is glad to see the departments using the PCard.

"If they run into problems they can always 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: Raymond in physics and aerospace engineering from Carleton and Scott from SEOS at UVic.

Harris was born in a Japanese relocation camp near Hope, BC. "My father told me about the family being sent to Winnipeg after the war, as their house and belongings in Vancouver were

sold or given away," she remembers. "We were put on the train and made to stand as the returning soldiers were given the seats. One soldier stood up and gave my mother his seat, as she 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 *chado* (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."

VIKES ROUNDUP

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 Gary Reed of Victoria.

Ingrid Ruys, who joined the Vikes as an assistant middle-distance coach this past year, has been appointed Canada's team manager of athletics.

Paralympics 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 ath-

letes 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 Darcy Marquardt, Buffy Alexander, Romina Stefancic and Sarah Bonikowsky realized their Olympic dreams with a close victory over a crew from The Netherlands.

The foursome joins six UVic alumni who qualified based on their past performance at the 2007 World Championships in Berlin. Rachelle deJong and

Anna Marie Dezwager will represent the women's quad, and Lindsay Jennerich is a spare on the lightweight. 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 13 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 Balser, 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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