



**University  
of Victoria**

## speed reading

### TRUDEAU SCHOLARSHIP

#### Student of Indigenous law wins \$150,000 award

Andrée Boisselle, law PhD student, is one of 15 2008 Trudeau scholars. The award allows her to continue her work examining Indigenous and Western approaches to law and how both can enter into a meaningful exchange. Story on page 2.

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

#### Province funds CanAssist

People with disabilities will get more help from UVic's CanAssist program due to \$3 million in new funding from the BC ministries of Employment and Income Assistance, and Advanced Education. CanAssist is a leader in developing and providing innovative assistive technology to people with disabilities. Story on page 3.

### COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

#### Knowledge of, by and for communities

UVic's Office of Community-Based Research hosted the largest gathering of university- and community-based researchers in Canadian history in early May. CUexpo 2008 drew more than 500 delegates from around the world. Story on page 4.

### NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Black gives back

David Black, owner of Black Press, has established 37 new scholarships for BCom students from communities across the province. Black played a major role in helping establish UVic's business school in 1990, and now these \$5,000 scholarships will help more students from smaller BC communities take advantage of UVic's business program. More online at [ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca).

### EDUCATION DONORS

#### Training tomorrow's scientists

Research and development of resources in science education got a shot in the arm with a \$500,000 donation from retired university profs Mildred Shaw and Brian Gaines. The funds will establish the Constructivist Education Resources Network in the Faculty of Education. Story on page 10.

### CAR OF THE FUTURE

#### Students picked for 'green' car competition

A group of UVic mechanical engineering students has been chosen as one of only 16 teams to compete in the North American EcoCAR challenge. Over three years, the UVic team—one of only three from Canada—will work to design and build a fuel-efficient, low-emission vehicle. Story on page 2.



# SPRING CONVOCATION

SPECIAL SECTION STARTS PAGE 5

# THE RING

JUNE 2008

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper

[ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)



# TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Mazumder (L) and Burr will provide recreation programs for Russian orphans. CREDIT: DIANA NETHERCOTT

### STUDENT VOICE

## Grads team up to help kids with disabilities

BY ROBIN MAZUMDER

**1,880%**

**INCREASE IN  
CHILDREN  
WITH  
DISABILITIES  
IN RUSSIA  
1980-2002**

[Children and Disability in  
Russia, UNICEF, 2002]

Convocation is imminent and it is time for the graduating class of 2008 to step out of the safety of the university classroom and into reality. Our days no longer consist of lounging by the fountain between classes; the future we had planned for is upon us and the real world is calling. For my friend Sean Burr and I, the real world for the next few months will be a small town in Siberia by the name of Khanty-Mansiysk. How did a biology major and a Russian major combine their experiences to launch an international development project in Siberia? Read on for the answer.

I would consider my academic experience at UVic to be eclectic. My classes ranged from religious studies to a directed studies in clinical oncology. I had the

option to choose from a diverse base of courses, and in retrospect I am glad to have done so. This exposed me to many interesting topics in the arts and sciences that inspired me to become involved in activities outside of the school walls.

In my second year I chose to volunteer with Recreation Integration Victoria (RIV), a local non-profit organization that facilitates active lifestyles for people with disabilities. My volunteer work involved engaging in recreational activities with a teen with a disability. This experience led me to apply for my first biology co-op job with RIV as an inclusion facilitator, responsible for promoting the inclusion and integration of youth with disabilities into summer camps alongside "typical" youth. I have remained with RIV ever since and I am truly grateful for the opportunity pre-

sented by the biology co-op program. My studies have also exposed me to wonderful organizations such as CanAssist, where I am currently working until my departure for Russia.

At UVic, I became good friends with Sean Burr, who is convocating this June as well, with a BA in Russian and Slavonic studies. Sean, like me, has had the privilege of a very diverse and varied education at UVic. Sean took classes from Russian and Slavonic studies professor Dr. Megan Swift, who, knowing Sean's interest in international relations and development, recommended he apply for a grant offered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Entitled Partnerships for Tomorrow Phase II, this grant program

**SEE RUSSIAN ORPHANS P.3**

### KUDOS

## McLaren wins Molson Prize

Historian of sexuality honoured for contributions to Canada's intellectual heritage

BY PATTY PITTS

UVic history professor emeritus Angus McLaren is one of two winners of a Canada Council Molson Prize this year—the first historian from Western Canada to be awarded this honour. Two Molson Prizes, worth \$50,000 each, are awarded every year to distinguished Canadians, one in the arts and the other in the social sciences or humanities. Montréal literary translator Sheila Fischman was the other 2008 prize winner.

Past award winners include historians Ramsay Cook and Donald Creighton along with a litany of other outstanding Canadians including Margaret Atwood, Robertson Davies, Alice Munro, Jack Shadbolt and Glenn Gould.

"I really do feel honoured. I was

much surprised by the announcement of the award, and I'm of course pleased to be included in such a group of luminaries," says McLaren, who started teaching at UVic in 1975 and retired in December.

McLaren is a world-renowned expert in the history of sexuality. He is the author of 10 books, some of which have been translated into as many as seven languages. His works range from a cultural history of impotence and an examination of what it means to be masculine to a study of eugenics in Canada and a history of contraception.

"Over the past three decades Angus has made an outstanding and pioneering contribution to the historical study of sexuality, gender and reproduction," says Dr. Tom Saunders, chair of UVic's history

department. "His work is remarkable for its interdisciplinary character and for its enormous range across time, place and theme.

McLaren is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and was recognized by the Royal Society for the best book written on the history of medicine in Canada.

"My being awarded the Molson Prize is a real credit to the University of Victoria, and in particular to the Department of History. The previous historians who have won this award were all located at either Québec or Ontario universities," he says. "Whatever success I've enjoyed has been largely due to the support and encouragement that I have received at UVic."

The Molson prizes recognize the recipients' outstanding lifetime



McLaren. CREDIT: ARLENE MCLAREN

achievements and ongoing contributions to the cultural and intellectual life of Canada. They are administered by the Canada Council for the Arts in cooperation with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



Start your . . . pedals

June 2–8 is Bike to Work Week and UVic is once again taking part. Great prizes are available for UVic participants including a special grand prize of a bicycling trip around Europe. Cycle once or twice or challenge yourself to ride each day, and pedal into this week's events including a bike wash station and a safe cycling course. Info: <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/BiketoWorkWeek-UVIC.htm>

Donate your old water bottles

Now that the Canadian government has announced its plan to restrict the use of bisphenol-a, or BPA, a chemical used to make hardened plastics, you're probably wondering what to do with your plastic bottles. UVic's Naomi Rittberg (UVic Students' Society) is collecting bottles to house used needles. She has set up collection boxes in the SUB to gather Nalgene brand bottles, disposable water bottles and juice bottles. Since April, Rittberg has donated more than 80 bottles to AIDS Vancouver Island's used needle collection program. Info: [www.avi.org/node/2090](http://www.avi.org/node/2090).

INDIGENOUS LAW

UVic law student named Trudeau Scholar

BY PATTY PITTS

University of Victoria law PhD student Andrée Boisselle is one of 15 recipients of a scholarship worth \$150,000 over three years from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. As a 2008 Trudeau Scholar, Boisselle will be examining the Stó:lō and Western approaches to law to suggest ways that both can enter into a meaningful exchange.

After earning degrees in civil and common law at McGill University, Boisselle practiced civil and commercial litigation in Montréal before earning a master's law degree at the Université de Montréal.

Her master's thesis, which examined the duty of the Crown to consult Aboriginal peoples, received the Québec Law Professors' Association Prize.

Last summer she participated in the Stó:lō ethnohistory field school

offered by UVic's history department, where student participants live in the Stó:lō community while they combine the study of historical documents with oral histories.

"This award results from a series of incredible privileges, starting with being welcomed and taught by the Stó:lō . . . last summer and now through a further internship by which the Stó:lō allow me to take part in researching and reflecting on the cultural underpinnings of their legal order," says Boisselle from Québec City, where she is participating in a conference. "The Trudeau Scholarship will help me complete my research, participate in conferences throughout my studies and form an even wider network of peers and mentors working from different disciplines on the complex issue of intercultural dialogue."

"Along with remarkable insight and intelligence, Andrée has a way of work-

ing across cultures and traditions that is honest, direct and respectful," says law professor Jeremy Webber, one of Boisselle's PhD supervisors. "She also draws much insight from her personal experience of engagement across the English and French linguistic cultures and the civil and common law cultures."

Instead of requiring Indigenous peoples to convert their legal traditions into terms and categories that reflect Western law, Boisselle seeks to engage both systems in a way that achieves deeper understanding of both traditions in a manner respectful of both.

Her research will involve the myths, narratives and legal institutions of the Stó:lō along with the philosophical, ethical and spiritual sources of Western legal traditions.

Boisselle is the second Trudeau scholar from UVic's graduate law



Boisselle

program. In 2006 law master's student Dawnis Kennedy was chosen as a Trudeau Scholar. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Toronto.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Library expansion named for BC builder

A leading figure in the commercial and industrial development of 20th-century British Columbia is being honored for his role in the establishment of University of Victoria.

William C. Mearns (1909–1998) was a founder of the university and instrumental in the assembly and purchase of the Gordon Head lands upon which the university was built.

Now, the University of Victoria has honoured Mearns with the newly named William C. Mearns Centre for Learning, a \$20-million expansion of the existing McPherson Library. Fundraising for the new complex was completed in 2005 with a \$5-million gift from the Mearns family. The provincial government matched the Mearns gift, and the university and other private donors provided the remaining funds.

"The Mearns gift is especially noteworthy in the history of this university and of Victoria," says UVic President David Turpin. "This was a powerful statement by a Victoria family. It is a demonstration of their commitment to the quality and excellence of the University of

Victoria's learning environment."

The new William C. Mearns Centre expands the ability of the UVic Libraries to meet the challenges of technological change. The centre will house the Bessie Brooks Winspear Media Commons integrating all formats of the library's music, audio and video collection, a new special collections and archives space, and an expanded information commons that will form a single digital access point for all library resources. The expansion will also provide additional shelving, computer workstations, classrooms and collaborative study areas.

Mearns was a Victoria native who graduated from UVic's predecessor, Victoria College, in 1927. He earned engineering degrees at Stanford University and the University of Washington and completed studies in advanced management at Harvard. He spent his entire career with BC Electric, which later became BC Hydro, rising through the ranks from meter man to executive director. He received an honorary doctor of laws degree from UVic in 1991 in recognition of a lifetime of service and achievement.



Mearns Centre interior. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

'GREEN' CAR COMPETITION

Engineering students chosen for elite EcoCAR challenge

For the next three years, a team of UVic mechanical engineering students will join a select group of post-secondary teams designing and building a fuel-efficient, low-emission car of the future.

Their quest is part of the EcoCAR challenge, a competition, sponsored by General Motors and the US Department of Energy that is limited to 16 teams from North American universities. UVic is the first team from Western Canada to participate. Natural Resources Canada is also supporting the competition.

Each team receives \$10,000 in seed money in the first year, and GM donates a vehicle and accompanying car components in the second year. The students' institutions also provide funding support and academic recognition for participation in the competition. Joining UVic from Canada are the University of Waterloo and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

"We are proud to be one of three Canadian competitors in this challenge," says Dean of Engineering Michael Miller. "Our involvement reflects the expertise and commitment of our students and researchers to addressing the transportation challenges facing society, our well-established programs in integrated and alternative energy systems, and UVic's institutional commitment to sustainable and environmentally sensitive solutions."

UVic third-year mechanical engineering student Jeremy Wise was in Washington, DC, for the EcoCAR announcement along with faculty



advisor and chair of the mechanical engineering department Zuomin Dong.

"This is great news, especially since we only had a week to complete a proposal once we decided to enter," says Wise, currently on a co-op work term with Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa. "We hope to involve all UVic engineering departments and get some UVic business students involved as well."

Mechanical engineering PhD student Leon Zhou and Jeff Wishart, a recent PhD mechanical engineering graduate, also helped prepare the proposal.

While considering all alternative propulsion technologies for the competition, the team hopes to use PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle) and clean diesel engine technologies.

The UVic entry will incorporate into their design as many technologies and products developed in Canada as possible.

THE RING

Vol. 34 No. 6

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper  
[ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)

Financial support for environmental production values provided in part by UVic's Strategic Alliance partner, Kyocera Mita Canada, Ltd.



Sustainability plus savings  
A natural document solution



Printed using vegetable-based inks on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, Forest Stewardship Council certified, process chlorine free, using 100% Green-E certified renewable carbon-neutral energy.

Next issue July 3

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

Director Bruce Kilpatrick, 721-7638

Managing editor Robie Liscomb, 721-7640

Production Beth Doman, [bdoman@uvic.ca](mailto:bdoman@uvic.ca)

Display ads Bonnie Light, 388-5321, [ringads@uvic.ca](mailto:ringads@uvic.ca)

Calendar Mandy Crocker, 721-8587, [ucom@uvic.ca](mailto:ucom@uvic.ca)

Material published in The Ring does not necessarily reflect official university policy.

Material may be reprinted in whole or in part without permission, but with appropriate credit to The Ring.

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

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 721-8955

E-mail: [ucom@uvic.ca](mailto:ucom@uvic.ca)

Printed in Canada by Nanaimo Daily News

© 2008 University of Victoria

Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40014024



COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY.

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

For five years, we've been official suppliers to UVic, helping departments purchase sustainable office products. Need help? Talk to Mike Wilson, our UVic Account Manager, and discover how we're as helpful to the environment as we are to our customers.



Contact Mike Wilson at 414-3355 | Visit us on-line at [www.monk.ca](http://www.monk.ca)





## Experience UVic

Karolyn Jones, senior administrative support in environmental studies, chats up interested students during Experience UVic on May 24. They were among the hundreds of high school students and their parents who came to campus to get a sneak peek at university life and consider attending UVic.

“We had nearly 1,500 registrations, a 36-per-cent increase over last year,” says Susan Corner, manager of Student Transition Services. “Participants have been emailing staff to say how much they enjoyed the day.”

“My jaw has dropped so many times this weekend,” a visiting student told Louise Peters from Undergraduate Admissions and Records. “The campus is beautiful and Victoria is a beautiful city. I will be accepting my offer.”



CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

## CanAssist team wows BC Legislature crowd

BY VALERIE SHORE

Several BC cabinet ministers, MLAs and senior public servants were discreetly wiping tears from their eyes on May 8 after a moving demonstration of how the University of Victoria’s CanAssist program is making a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

The setting was a small reception hall in the BC Legislature and the occasion was the announcement of a \$3-million grant for CanAssist from two BC ministries—Employment and Income Assistance, and Advanced Education. The funding will be used by CanAssist to meet growing client demand for specialized technologies and services and to expand its operations and long-term research activities.

“CanAssist is a leader in providing innovative technology to British Columbians with disabilities, helping them with everyday activities from riding a bike to using a computer,” said Claude Richmond, minister of Employment and Income Assistance. “We want to help CanAssist build on this success.”

CanAssist is a disabilities assistance program at UVic that blends research and technology development, skill-building and job training, education and awareness, knowledge

transfer, and community engagement and service. It is unique in North America.

A highlight of the grant announcement was a short speech by CanAssist client Dan Spelt, a student at Pacific Christian School who has cerebral palsy. Spelt is wheelchair-bound and has limited muscular and verbal abilities. He wants to study computer science after high school, but is unable to type with his fingers.

Working with Spelt, the CanAssist team has developed an adjustable stand for his keyboard so that he can

type with his mouth. They are also working together on an onscreen keyboard system that uses word prediction to allow faster and more accurate typing.

Unfazed by the large crowd standing in front of him, the 18-year-old slowly and deliberately described in his own voice how CanAssist has changed his life. For the benefit of the audience, his words were projected onto a nearby screen and UVic graduate student Leo Spalteholz assisted with part of the text.

“I use my upper lip to operate my

keyboard and so accessibility is very important for me,” Spelt told the hushed room. “I hope to have lots of time at CanAssist to fulfill my dreams and help others.”

Spelt’s determination to express himself drew a long round of applause (and the watery eyes mentioned at the top of this story). Later, ministers Richmond and Murray Coell (Advanced Education) helped demonstrate the CanAssist-designed onscreen keyboard. And CanAssist technical coordinator Sunny Mahajan demonstrated how it can be operated using electrical signals generated by facial muscle movement.

“Through CanAssist, the accomplishments of Spelt and others with special needs are not just recognized, but celebrated,” said Nigel Livingston, the program’s founder and director.

“What touches me most about the bright and motivated people in our program is not just their extraordinary ingenuity and creativity, or their dedication and the immense pride they take in their work. It’s more than that,” he said. “They invariably describe their activities and responsibilities in terms of the people they help. They care deeply about making a difference to someone’s life. That’s a truly wonderful thing.”

Spelt and Livingston



### RUSSIAN ORPHANS CONTINUED FROM P. 1

helps in the rehabilitation process in Eastern Europe by establishing partnerships between organizations there and in Canada.

This past September, I introduced Sean to RIV, where he began to work with children with disabilities in an afterschool program and developed an interest in advocacy for people with disabilities. It is with this interest that he approached me to collaborate on a program for persons with disabilities. Knowing that persons with disabilities are a population hugely marginalized

in Russia, Sean and I decided to embark on creating a project based on what we had learned at RIV, where recreation is used as a means to integrate and include persons with disabilities into society as a whole.

Working alongside UVic graduate student Svetlana Esenkulova, Sean and I established communication with an orphanage in Khanty-Mansiysk, which had a number of youths with disabilities. The orphanage director expressed interest in hosting Sean and me, and the groundwork was laid. We

developed a program entitled “Integration Through Recreation,” and with the support and sponsorship of RIV, we submitted our idea to CIDA and were awarded \$10,000 to commence our project this coming July.

It is a multi-faceted six-week project that will involve developing an inclusive program for the children with disabilities there; our hope is to help decrease the stigma surrounding disability and do our best to integrate the children into the community.

We will be training the staff at the

orphanage in inclusive techniques with the hopes that we can develop a long-lasting partnership and sustainable program.

Both Sean and I truly value our experience at UVic and believe it plays an integral role in inspiring us. Where else would students with such diverse academic interests come together to work on a project like Integration Through Recreation?

For continuing news and information on this project, visit [www.integrationthroughrecreation.blogspot.com](http://www.integrationthroughrecreation.blogspot.com).

## ringers

**The Vikes women’s field hockey team** will have a chance to compete for their 11th national title this fall on home turf. Last month Canadian Interuniversity Sport confirmed that UVic will host the 2008 women’s field hockey national championships Oct. 30 to Nov. 2. As host, UVic is assured a spot at the national competition, although the Vikes are habitual medal contenders. Since head coach Lynne Beecroft took over the program in 1979, the Vikes have qualified for the national championships 24 times and have only missed the medal podium once. Last year the Vikes won the bronze medal. They won their last title in 2002.

**The Division of Continuing Studies’ Promotion and Publications unit** has won a CAUCE (Canadian Association for University Continuing Education) marketing award in the website category for the English Language Centre site at [www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/elc](http://www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/elc). The award was presented at the CAUCE Conference in London, Ontario, on May 29. Continuing studies Web Developer **Matt Salik** had primary responsibility for building and implementing the site.

**Prof. Emeritus John Money** (history) has been honoured by *The Historical Journal*, Cambridge University’s top history journal. In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the journal has allowed special electronic access to the 20 most influential articles published in its pages. One of them is Money’s 1971 article “Taverns, Coffee Houses and Clubs: Local Politics and Popular Articulacy in the Birmingham Area in the Age of the American Revolution.”

**Dr. Cathy Richardson** (social work) was invited to attend the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York from April 21 to May 2. The forum’s theme: Climate Change, Bio-Cultural Diversity and Livelihoods: The Stewardship Role of Indigenous Peoples and New Challenges, raised issues regarding preservation of Indigenous knowledge and eco-systems, stopping the advance of the American military in the Pacific, protecting women and children and dealing with issues of forced migration. Richardson participated in the Indigenous Women’s Caucus which put forth an intervention on the need to address the safety and well-being of Indigenous women. She is forging a research alliance with the Centre for Northern Families in Yellowknife and is studying child welfare treatment of Indigenous families in the north.

The Coolest Milk 2 Go!

MILK 2GO

CHILLIN' CHOCOLATE

MILK 2GO

STRAWBERRY SPLASH

MILK 2GO

1%

MILK 2GO

ORANGE OBSESSION

MILK 2GO

BANANA BLAST

MILK 2GO

VANILLA VIBE

MILK 2GO

COFFEE COMMOTION



# This research has its roots in the community

BY TARA SHARPE

The University of Victoria was the site of a major international gathering last month, thanks to a prodigious effort on the part of numerous organizers including the team led by UVic’s Office of Community-Based Research (OCBR).

CUexpo 2008 took place at UVic from May 4–7 and was the largest assembly of university- and community-based researchers in Canadian history. Over 500 delegates from more than a dozen countries including India, Cuba, Turkey, the US, the UK, Belgium and Sweden were on campus taking part in roundtable discussions, poster exhibits, workshops and presentations as well as off-site walking tours and field trips.

Community-based research (CBR) is literally rooted in communities: research stems from projects being carried out collaboratively on the front lines of social, economic and environmental activism to influence positive change locally, nationally and globally. CUexpo 2008 was a natural expression of this in its stimulation of new ideas, sharing of struggles and successes, and fostering of existing collaborations that inspire action-oriented solutions.

The range of topics covered at CUexpo 2008 reflected the immensity and importance of the issues explored by CBR, including workshops or presentations related to low-cost housing solutions across Canada, restoring troubled neighbourhoods in North America and building a community-based online atlas of cultural narratives by youth and elders of Arctic Bay, Nunavut.

Launched in June 2007, UVic’s OCBR acts as a catalyst for such projects. The OCBR’s activities to date have included the creation of a six-part symposium series on CBR with

Aboriginal communities; assistance with the production of UVic’s first Community Green Map; development of a UVic CBR database directory; support for the establishment of a UVic working group on housing and homelessness; assisting with the launch of a new e-journal on community-engaged research ([www.manifestationjournal.org](http://www.manifestationjournal.org)), and leading the creation of the Pan-Canadian Network for Community-Based Research. The OCBR also hosted the Science and Civic Engagement Symposium at CUexpo 2008 which brought together researchers and leaders of the European Science Shop Movement, an initiative first established in the 1970s in The Netherlands to link science and technology with non-profit organizations and other community-driven agencies.

A tangible example of UVic’s involvement in CBR rolled out at a skateboard park on the northern tip of Vancouver Island several years ago. In 2005, Anne Marshall (educational psychology and leadership studies) began a SSHRC-funded research study of transitions experienced by youth in coastal communities.

Along with other aspects of the study, she and her team have been researching how the establishment of the Port Hardy Skate Park helped skaters face local social and economic challenges.

“The skateboard park is a positive inspirational story and a great example of the community-based approach,” says Marshall. “You don’t just walk in as the expert. The communities are the keepers of expertise and experience.”

She adds that funding is one of the toughest issues for CBR, as travel expenses and time commitments associated with these types of projects can be quite high. The skateboard park project was presented as a poster exhibit at CUexpo 2008.



Ken Josephson of UVic’s geography department (on ladder) and Maeve Lydon of UVic’s OCBR (in white shirt holding map) visited Havana, Cuba, in July 2006 to assist members of a community mapping and health project. Community or green mapping provides a vivid and culturally textured map of an area, city or region. These maps have been created all over the world, including for UVic ([www.mapping.uvic.ca](http://www.mapping.uvic.ca)), and the topic itself was well represented at CUexpo 2008 with various presentations by UVic, European and Latin American delegates. CREDIT: MAPA VERDE, CUBA

Another UVic example of CBR is the “Aboriginal Perspectives and Issues of Cultural Diversity” project presented at CUexpo 2008. UVic assistant professor Sandrina de Finney (child and youth care) and the Surrounded by Cedars Child and Family Services agency are developing an adoptions model for Victoria’s urban, off-reserve communities. It is meant to address the issue of high numbers of Aboriginal children being placed in non-Aboriginal homes.

CanAssist, a non-profit program for devising innovative technology and mobility solutions for persons with disabilities, was another UVic highlight at CUexpo 2008 and is profiled on page 3 of *The Ring*.

In the background of CUexpo 2008,

a social media experiment offered an array of networking tools and treats to CUexpo 2008 participants. A Facebook profile ([www.facebook.com/pages/CUExp008/11420523317](http://www.facebook.com/pages/CUExp008/11420523317)) was set up in advance to get the online chat started and to connect participants with discussions, photographs, videos and more.

A dedicated CUexpo 2008 weblog continued the conversation in blog format (<http://cuexp02008.wordpress.com/>), and interviews with CUexpo 2008 participants are available on YouTube through a link on the blog site.

“Social networking online is clearly an important part of the way we now communicate,” says UVic Web Initiatives Officer Robin Sutherland (UVic

Communications) who oversaw the CUexpo 2008 social media experiment. “It was a very good fit with a conference on networking universities and communities and has preserved many of the voices and perspectives that were important here. We are strongly encouraging others to explore this way of collaborating publicly and sharing their expertise with their communities.”

The imprint left by CUexpo 2008, embedded within the experience of its participants and on the pages of the social networking pages, will serve as a legacy of knowledge and insight that can be taken back to communities and enhance programs that flow from the invigorating and invaluable research of civic engagement.

## Q&A with Budd Hall



Budd Hall, director of UVic’s Office of Community-Based Research. CREDIT: TARA SHARPE

■ What did it mean to UVic and OCBR—as national leaders of CBR—to host the largest gathering of community-based researchers in Canadian history?

■ It allowed us to showcase some of the exciting work being done in Victoria and the region by community and university partners working on issues of importance not only to our communities but to others in Canada and elsewhere. Over 70 faculty members, students and their community partners from UVic research centres and faculties presented the results of their work. In addition we had 75 student volunteers working and supporting the event. Holding the event here gave an opportunity for involvement to many more people than would have been possible had it been held elsewhere. There is great interest in what we are doing at UVic and it was very exciting for us to learn about the wonderful work being done across the country and around the world.

■ What were some of the exciting new ideas, projects and people that you encountered at the symposium?

■ The work of the village-based Mpambo Multiversity in Uganda to support the development of “Mother-tongue” scholarship was very innovative. The stories from Services aux Collectivités from the Université du Québec à Montréal which has been going for nearly 30 years was inspiring. Learning about the work led by persons with HIV/AIDS with the Ontario HIV/AIDS Treatment Network was powerful. Hearing from Marlene Brant Castellano, the Bay of Quinte First Nations scholar, was truly inspirational, as was the presentation by Rajesh Tandon, the founder of India’s community-based research network. Learning of the work by the European Science Shop movement from Eric Gall of France, Caspar de Bok of The Netherlands and Norbert Steinhaus of Germany was exciting as well.

■ What are the most tangible results of this international symposium, in your opinion?

■ They are many. Each of us is strengthened in the knowledge that the community-based research movement is growing across the country and around the world. We have the beginnings of a national working group on community-based research and homelessness. The creation of the Pan-Canadian Network for Community-Based Research means that we will have a permanent capacity to communicate together on an ongoing basis about how to use research to strengthen community action. The agreement by the conference participants on the wording of the Global Alliance of Community-Engaged Scholarship marked the first time an international normative statement linking knowledge creation to human rights has been made. A first meeting on science and civic engagement is another achievement.

■ What role do you foresee the OCBR playing in the months and years to come in relation to furthering these discussions?

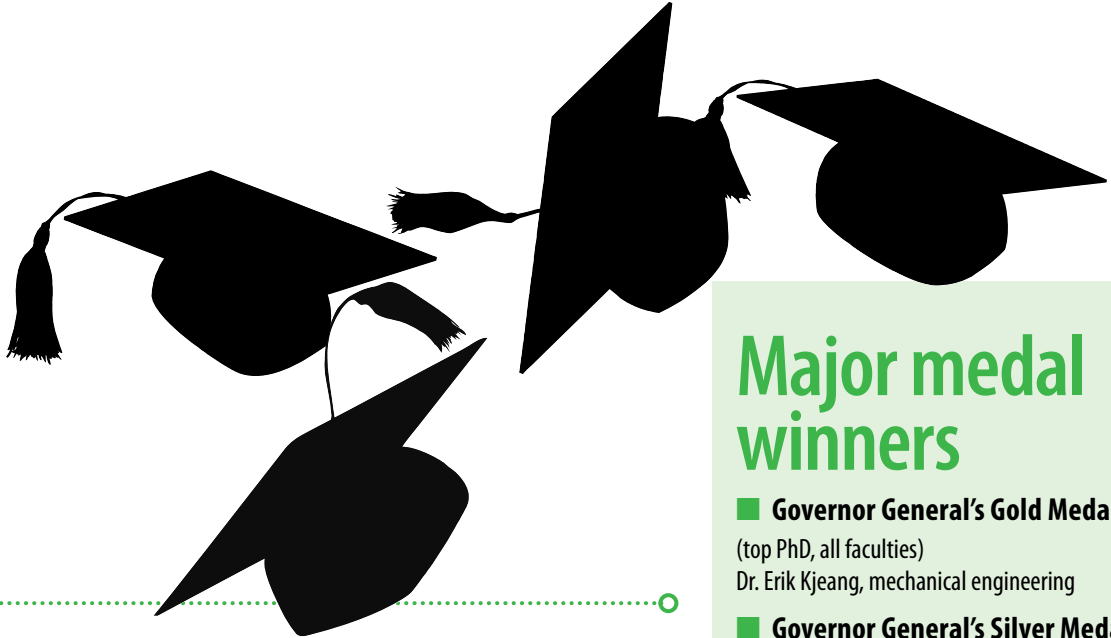
■ Our first task is to make sure that as many of the presentations, texts presented, photographs, video and audio recordings as possible find their way to the social networking sites. We need to produce a report of the key issues put forward at CUexpo 2008 to use to inform the federal granting councils of what communities and their allies need to be able to move this work forward. UVic will provide a secretariat for the Pan-Canadian Network for Community-Based Research. We need to figure out how best to do that. Most importantly we need to see how best the energies, ideas, best practices and just plain inspiration that came from CUexpo 2008 can be used to advance action on the complex issues facing our own community.





# Convocation 2008

During Spring Convocation, from June 3–6, the University of Victoria will award 3,111 degrees, diplomas and certificates. Congratulations and best wishes to all convocating students. In the following pages, we present profiles of a few of the many outstanding members the class of 2007/08.



## HONORARY DEGREES

# Honouring four exemplary public servants

The University of Victoria will present honorary degrees to four outstanding individuals for their dedication to public service in areas ranging from public administration in Canada to the grassroots empowerment of India’s poor. The degrees will be conferred during 2008 Spring Convocation ceremonies, June 3 to 6, in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium.

**ELIZA CHAN** (honorary doctor of laws, to be presented at 10 a.m., June 6) graduated from UVic in 1988 with a bachelor of laws degree and has since established an impeccable record of public service and private practice in Hong Kong and Mainland China. A past recipient of the UVic Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award, Chan has also been recognized with China’s Top 100 Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs Award and the Bronze Bauhinia Star, conferred by the chief executive of Hong Kong for her contributions to the education and health care sectors.

**Ian D. Clark** (honorary doctor of laws, 10 a.m., June 5) is a former Rhodes Scholar for

BC who rose quickly through the ranks of the federal civil service to become one of Canada’s most respected public servants. Clark’s career has included postings as secretary of the federal treasury board, Canada’s executive director to the International Monetary Fund, and president of the Council of Ontario Universities. He was the first senior official to develop organized links between the federal public service and the academic community in order to improve public policy-making.

**Donald B. Rix** (honorary doctor of science, 2:30 p.m., June 6) is a medical doctor, scientist, entrepreneur and humanitarian. A pioneering “venture philanthropist,” Rix was the founder of MDS Metro Laboratory Services (now known as LifeLabs), the largest independent medical laboratory in BC. He has been an investor, advisor and board member of companies and organizations engaged in the province’s life sciences sector. Rix has also served on the boards of several non-profit organizations and has actively promoted the importance of supporting higher education and research.

**Rajesh Tandon** (honorary doctor of laws, 2:30 p.m., June 5) was raised in the industrial city of Kanpur, India, and became one of the more respected world leaders in the areas of civic engagement and governance, and community-based research. As founder and president of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), he has strengthened the capacity of grassroots non-governmental agencies in India and other parts of the world by addressing rural development, poverty and exploitation issues in collaboration with the poor and the marginalized.

An honorary degree is the university’s top honour and is awarded by the university senate based on the recipient’s distinction in scholarship, research, teaching, the creative arts or public service.

Podcasts of honorary degree recipients’ convocation addresses, when permission is given, are posted on the university website as soon as possible after the ceremonies. To download or play recordings of these addresses, visit <http://communications.uvic.ca/podcasting/>.

## Major medal winners

### ■ Governor General’s Gold Medal

(top PhD, all faculties)  
Dr. Erik Kjeang, mechanical engineering

### ■ Governor General’s Silver Medal

(top undergraduate, all faculties)  
Aaron Kaspar, software engineering

### ■ IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Software Engineering

Aaron Kaspar, software engineering

### ■ Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal

(top master’s thesis, all faculties)  
Alexander Townson, history in art

### ■ Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal

(top master’s other than thesis, all faculties)  
Brandi Field, English

### ■ Jubilee Medal for Humanities

Kathleen Gaudet, Italian studies/linguistics

### ■ Jubilee Medal for Science

Meghan Bland, biology (co-op)

### ■ Jubilee Medal for Social Sciences

Adam Cota, psychology

### ■ Maxwell A. Cameron Memorial Award in Education

Helene Poulin, elementary education  
Michelle Couture, secondary education

### ■ Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Medal

Olivier Bergeron, mechanical engineering (co-op)

### ■ Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal

Rei Thiessen, computer science (co-op)/mathematics

### ■ IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering

Simon Ramage, computer engineering (co-op)

### ■ IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering

Filippo Rossi, electrical engineering (co-op)

### ■ Law Society Gold Medal and Prize

Meagan Lang

### ■ Victoria Medal in Fine Arts

Carli Kennedy, music



Chan



Clark



Rix



Tandon

## TRIPLE MEDAL WINNER

# Mountains beckon to top undergrad

BY MARK VARDY

Graduating with three prestigious awards, Aaron Kaspar is in the enviable position of having a plethora of career options to choose from. But after the years of intense study and hard work that led to an A+ graduating average, Kaspar said he is looking forward to some serious recreation.

“I don’t want to just dive into whatever comes up first. I want to step back and see what’s out there, what I can do, and what I’m interested in,” Kaspar says. “And I want to bike, and ski.”

Kaspar won the Governor General’s Silver Medal for top undergrad, the APEGBC Gold Medal for the highest graduating GPA amongst all BENG and BSENG graduates, and the IEEE Victoria Section Gold in Software Engineering.

Kaspar, who grew up around Fort St. John, capped off his degree in software engineering with a specialization in mechatronics, a relatively new field that incorporates electrical, mechanical and software engineering. For his final project, he designed and built an autonomous blimp with two other students.

“We had a helium-filled balloon, and then we had to build a gondola with a bunch of motors and sonar sensors and all sorts of things. And then we had to program it to fly straight down the hallway by itself,” Kaspar says.

Short videos embedded in Kaspar’s final report, which is posted online (search the UVic website for “Autoblimp” and “Kaspar” to find it), show a four-foot silver zeppelin navigating its way down the middle of a hallway.

“It sounds like a simple project, but just getting it to do that simple task is a lot of work,” says Kaspar. Indeed, his detailed report documents the minutiae his team were dealing with, such as the unacceptable lag time of several milliseconds that it took for waves bounced by sonar off the wall to travel back to the sensor. (They incorporated a system that allowed the Autoblimp to execute other tasks while waiting for input from the sonar.)

Kaspar enjoys mechatronics and will likely pursue it in the future. But while he sorts through career options, there’s something more immediate on his mind. He recently moved to Whistler for the skiing and mountain biking. “I love just going out for a ride for three hours and seeing where a trail goes,” Kaspar says. “That’s my goal for the summer—bike a whole lot.”



Kaspar. CREDIT: AARON KASPAR



JUBILEE MEDALLIST IN SCIENCE

# Passion and persistence pay off

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

How does one get to be top science grad in your class? “I was very determined and dedicated, and I worked very hard,” says Meghan Bland, 2007/08 winner of the Jubilee Medal in Science. “Ask a ton of questions,” she advises others. “Pester your profs; they are really dedicated to helping you do your best.”

Of course, passion for your subject also helps. “I’ve always loved science,” says Bland. “I got my first job in high school working on a biological control farm.”

And now, having received her BSc in biology last November, she’s working as a research assistant at the University of Toronto, studying the effects of a naturally occurring virus on gypsy moths. Since the virus is specific to gypsy moths, it is a potential candidate for an effective spray to control infestation by the pests.

Bland was born in Sidney and came to UVic on an entrance scholarship. “I really liked the small campus,” she says. “And the close relations between students and faculty meant I got a lot of first-hand help.”

“Biology co-op was the most important thing I did at UVic,” she says.

Her co-op placements included working with Eco-Care Technologies in North Saanich developing an environmentally friendly herbicide; with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada designing and running trials of a trap to control wireworm infestation which threatens field crops; and with the Ministry of Forests conducting surveys of invasive alien plants for a GPS database. She also did a directed study and co-op work term at the Pacific Forestry Centre, working on identification and inventory of bark beetles.

“Co-op created a huge network for me when I graduated and it’s really why I now have a job.”

Aside from schoolwork, Bland has travelled extensively and particularly enjoyed a stint working as a volunteer on a sea turtle breeding beach in Costa Rica.

As for her future plans, Bland hopes to continue with a career focused on invasive species control and conservation of native Canadian flora and fauna, with graduate school in her sights sometime after her current term position is over.



Bland

JUBILEE MEDALLIST IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Psych grad and rowing champ now wears a stethoscope

BY TARA SHARPE

The relentless pace of hospital hallways and operating rooms is all too familiar to Adam Cota, who takes to a busy schedule like a rower to water: he has already earned two undergraduate degrees from UVic and is now in his third year of the Island Medical Program.

Cota graduated in November 2007 from the Faculty of Social Sciences (psychology) and is receiving this year’s Social Sciences Jubilee Medal. But it certainly didn’t start or end with one degree for Cota.

He was lured from Ontario to the West Coast and transferred from UBC to UVic in 1996, drawn by the possibility of rowing throughout the year. He started the sport in grade 9 in hometown Kingston, ON, while attending Trinity College School. He continued to keep his oars in the water while undertaking his first degree (biochemistry), awarded in 1999.

From 2001 to 2003, Cota trained with the Canadian rowing team based in Victoria. He took time off from his studies for the two-year intensive period when he and his teammates had their sights set on major international competi-

tions such as the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

“Competitive rowing on a national level is all-consuming,” Cota says. “After I retired in the summer of 2003, I was able to focus completely on psychology and medicine.”

Well, not quite. Cota also runs full marathons. Last June, he took part in the eighth annual Edge to Edge Marathon from Tofino to Ucluelet.

From January 2007 till last month, Cota was also volunteering at the AIDS Vancouver Island needle exchange. Every Friday night he was behind the counter handing out clean needles and other paraphernalia.

Cota will complete his medical degree in June 2009 as a member of the second class to complete the Island Medical Program. He intends to pursue a residency in orthopaedic surgery in hopes of setting up practice on Vancouver Island. A five-year residency is standard for general orthopaedic surgery, but Cota wants to add one additional year to allow for specialization.

So fast is his pace, Cota might easily hear his own heartbeat when he holds up the stethoscope. Based on his level of dedication, there will also be a healthy dose of compassion in every patient visit.



Coombe. CREDIT: VIVIAN KEREKI

PART-TIME MBA

# Smooth sailing for business grad

BY SAM VANSCHIE

On the first day of her part-time master’s of business administration program, Emma Coombe wondered if she was crazy to squeeze school into her evenings when she already had a full-time job with BC Ferries.

Looking back, having endured many nights with little sleep, the 30-year-old says the time flew by. She feels her career prospects are better with upgraded credentials.

“So many people are getting bachelor’s degrees these days that I really wanted something that would increase my competitive advantage,” she explains. “But it didn’t make sense for me to put my career on hold to do that.”

She chose to continue her education at UVic, having already completed her bachelor of commerce at UVic, because it meant she wouldn’t have to put a hold on her career development or move.

Coombe was one of five students who started in the part-time stream of the program in August 2005, allowing for a more tight-knit team than the full-time class of over 40.

The small group quickly learned to work together efficiently on the many group projects

they were assigned over the 31 months they were in the program.

“Everybody was in the same boat—but with career and family commitments—but really willing to work hard,” says Coombe. “Everyone was trying to enhance their marketability and knowledge so we all put in 110 per cent.”

The group shared their expertise and taught each other. They built lasting friendships and a network of contacts they can call on in the years to come.

A highlight of the program for Coombe was a consulting trip to South America.

“It was very hands on experience and provided us all with an appreciation not only for consulting but also working in an international business environment,” she says.

The trip was one of the few times Coombe needed to take time off work for her studies.

“During the week I would work all day, and in the evenings I’d be attending classes or researching, reading and writing my next assignment. Most the weekend was also spent doing school work,” she recalls. “I managed to juggle all of the additional work because it was something I was doing for me. Now I feel confident I can do just about anything I put my mind to.”



Cota. CREDIT: TARA SHARPE





Gaudet. CREDIT: TARA SHARPE

JUBILEE MEDALLIST IN HUMANITIES

# Love of language motivates top humanities grad

BY PATTY PITTS

Kathleen Gaudet had “no Italian in my back-ground whatsoever” when she was selected to attend grade 12 at the United World College of the Adriatic in Trieste, Italy. But that year of study started an ongoing love affair with the Italian language, leading to this year’s Humanities Jubilee Medal for being the outstanding under-graduate in her faculty.

Raised and educated in Victoria, Gaudet enrolled in UVic to study Italian and Linguistics along with German. A second trip to Italy after her first year of studies confirmed her attachment to Italian. “I’ve always been drawn to languages and linguistics in general and Italian in particular,” says Gaudet, preparing to spend yet another summer in Italy. “It’s such a musical language and has tremendous traditions in literature.”

Gaudet managed to “immerse” herself in the language, despite studying it on the West Coast, by watching Italian films and reading Italian literature. “Reading Dante and Boccaccio in their

original language is so gratifying,” she says. “The English translations just don’t do them justice.”

She also made extensive use of the Internet. “There are so many online resources like Italian newspapers that are accessible for free. I don’t know what I’d do without the Internet.”

“What I will remember about Kathleen is the unwavering quality of all her contributions to the courses she took with me,” says Hispanic and Italian studies professor Lloyd Howard. “Whether it was the course on Dante in English or the one on Carlo Goldoni in Italian, her work was consistently exceptional, reflecting a rare knack for critical thinking that she communicated skillfully in two different languages.”

This summer she plans six weeks more of “la dolce vita” before leaving to begin PhD studies in Italian at the University of Toronto on a five-year scholarship. “I would love to be an Italian profes-sor,” says Gaudet, pondering her long-term future. But first she plans to “speak Italian to Italians, lay on the beach and read Italian books and stock up on Italian DVDs” in Italy.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

# Grads champion child care in Africa

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN

Two students from the Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU), Ruth Addison and Masoud Mohamed Ali, may be travelling the farthest distance to participate in this month’s convocation ceremonies at UVic. From Ghana and Kenya, respectively, they will receive their graduation certificate in Professional Specialization in International Child and Youth Care for Development.

Twenty-three students from nine African countries participated in this one-year web-based and face-to-face program of UVic’s School of Child and Youth Care, designed to support African countries’ ability to address the health and well-being of their children. Ninety-six per cent of participants complete the program and 100 per cent remain in Africa.

The two graduating students will be presenting “Early Childhood Care and Development in Africa: A UVic initiative in support of Leadership and Capacity” on Wed., June 4 from 7–9 p.m. in Hickman 105. For more information about the program visit [www.ecdву.org](http://www.ecdву.org).

MASOUD MOHAMED ALI

His love of children and a sense of duty drew Masoud Mohamed Ali of Mombasa, Kenya, to the Early Childhood Development Virtual University program.

Ali started his career as a teacher and in 1997 joined the Aga Khan-supported Madrassa Resource Centre for early childhood development and is currently the project director for three districts on the Kenya coast.

He has witnessed first hand the difficulties faced by many of the world’s neediest children and is compelled to make a difference. “I am obliged to find ways to improve the quality of life for the bright and often underprivileged children of Africa,” says Ali.

The program provided Ali with an opportunity to learn from the “richness of experiences” shared by his fellow students throughout Africa. The valuable online learning tools enabled

students to express views and opinions within group discussions that happened right across the continent.

“I appreciate the way that UVic is supporting theory and practice relevant to Africa,” says Ali. He says the knowledge gained from the program will be shared with other colleagues and working groups, and feels his education is an investment in African children and the leaders of the future.

Ali aims to complete a master’s in early childhood development and continue to give back to the country and continent that is his home.

He and his wife, Zakiya, have recently celebrated the arrival of their first child—a girl named Farhiya, which means “joy” and “happiness.” This loving father is living his dream, and Africa is the better for it.



Greffard. CREDIT: SARA TAYLOR

RECREATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION CO-OP

# Co-op experience provides ticket to dream job

BY SARA TAYLOR

Convocation is a time of celebration and excitement but it can also bring anxiety; graduation marks the end of student life and the beginning of life in the “real world.”

For Kristin Greffard, the transition has been seamless, thanks to her work experience with UVic’s Co-operative Education Program. The recreation and health education graduate student landed her dream job within 24 hours of completing her final work term—she’s currently training in Vancouver to become a municipal police officer with the Victoria Police Department.

Kristin completed four work terms, including working on a research project through the Brain Injury Program of the Vancouver Island Health Authority, acting as youth coordinator for the James Bay Community School youth program, and helping to implement healthy workplace plans as a wellness coordinator for the BC Ministry of Environment.

“It took a lot of work but the payoff was priceless,” says Kristin. “My co-op positions weren’t necessarily connected to my career of choice, but they gave me a better appreciation for the people and initiatives in my community and that has been invaluable.”

The co-op program also taught Kristin skills like goal setting, time management and how to embark on a job search. These skills paid off. Twenty-four hours after completing her work term, she was sworn in as an officer in training.

Kristin will spend the next seven months training in Vancouver before being posted back in Victoria.

She’s excited about the future and encourages other students to seriously consider incorporating the co-op option into their education at the university. “Co-op helped me reach my goals by giving me the opportunity to build the skills I needed to pursue my career of choice,” she says. “Now I’m ready to take the next step.”



Addison

RUTH ADDISON

Recalling the words of her mother, graduate Ruth Addison from Accra, Ghana, had to admit that “mommy was right after all.” She would often say “teaching and education do not only happen in the classroom.” Embracing this wisdom, higher education and the joys of motherhood, Addison has embarked on an outstanding career as a national advocate for early childhood development in Ghana.

Since 2002 she has been with the Ghana National Commission on Children in the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs, where she is the senior program officer. She engages all levels of government and works hard at building relationships and bridging obstacles.

The need for a more focused national early childhood development strategy drew her to “the obvious choice for capacity building”—the unique ECDVU program in the School of Child and Youth Care. The web-based and face-to-face components of the program pro-

vided international exposure with renowned experts without having to relocate to pursue graduate studies.

“I found the course content so relevant to my work,” says Addison. “It provided me with clearer linkages between theory and practice.” Along the way she balanced her heavy workload, engaging course work and a fulfilling family life, excelling in all areas.

Opportunities for networking within the program were invaluable and provided a platform to share experiences and best practices on issues relevant to each student. “We were one big family seeking to improve the health and welfare of all our children.”

Her role as a mother is at the root of her dedication and tireless commitment to the children of her country. “Recognizing the importance of the early years and contributing our quota of support is what really matters,” says Addison. “But in all of this my role as a mother takes precedence over everything.”





Poulin. CREDIT: HELENE CYR

CAMERON AWARD IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

French teacher immersed in learning

BY CRYSTAL BERGERON

Being a mother can be trying at the best of times. Being a mother of a young daughter and returning to school can be downright difficult. Just ask Hélène Poulin, the winner of the 2008 Maxwell Cameron Award in Elementary Education.

“Challenges are many for a mother who is returning to school after spending years in the work force,” says Poulin. “I was fortunate to meet the right people at the beginning of my time at UVic. My program professors provided invaluable experiences to me that allowed me to develop teaching strategies appropriate to second language acquisition, something I really need as a French immersion teacher.”

Born and raised in Saint-Léonard, Québec, Poulin completed a college diploma in wildlife management

before venturing west to immerse herself in the English language and Anglophone culture. She fell in love with Victoria the moment she arrived at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. “As a result, UVic was a natural choice when I decided to go back to school to become a teacher.”

As a teenager Poulin was involved in scouting and enjoyed organizing games and teaching her fellow scouts to decipher Morse code, tie knots and set up tents. She later worked as a park naturalist. “I am quite a passionate person and when I start teaching, it shows through, no matter the topic. I want to instil the same passion in my students, cultivate their interest and eagerness to learn.”

Consistently ranked as excellent throughout her practica, Poulin was described by her university supervisor as “extremely well organized and eager

to take responsibility for her students.” She uses a creative approach to teaching that includes a strong sense of beliefs and humanitarian values to provide innovative ways to learn for her students. Poulin recently connected a First Nations legend with a space theme to stimulate the children’s interest in science education.

“French immersion is a great program because it not only allows children to learn a second language in a very natural way, it also allows them to learn a different culture and opens their mind to differences.”

Currently working on-call with the Greater Victoria School District, Poulin hopes to get her own classroom soon. And she’s already thinking of grad school. “There are still so many questions that I have, especially about second language acquisition and immersion programs.”

INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

Grad has knack for giving back

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN

Dianne Buchan, Indigenous governance master's grad, credits her community with instilling in her the desire to learn and the passion to give back.

“All I really knew was that I wanted to give back to my community,” says Buchan, who grew up in Winnipeg but spent summers at the family home in Bearskin Lake First Nation, a remote reserve in Northwestern Ontario and part of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

Her Indigenous heritage and family encouragement compelled her to seek higher education and discover more fully the issues, history, frameworks and relationships that make up who she is. Capacity building and community leadership were at the heart of her personal commitment to higher education. Her passion for the need to

assist First Nations communities in their evolving relationships with all levels of government and community organizations drove her to excel.

After receiving a bachelor of arts in history and Native studies, she went on to complete a bachelor's in education so she could return to Bearskin and give back to the community that provided her with an educational foundation and a yearning to learn. Hired as the sole high school teacher in the community, she says, “I firmly believe that I learned much more than I could ever teach to my classroom of nine students.”

She deferred entrance into the Indigenous governance program in order to fulfill another year of teaching in her community. “I wanted to give more to my community and continue to build solid relationships with my

students, family and friends.”

In receipt of two scholarships from her traditional territory for academic excellence and with strong support from her family, she moved to Victoria and embarked on her masters in Indigenous governance. Buchan credits the program with transforming her way of thinking critically and analytically and providing her with a framework of strong values and concepts of Indigenous governance.

Currently she is working as a policy analyst in the First Nations Health Council for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs in Vancouver. She will continue to seek ways to contribute her research and, encouraged by her supervisor Dr. Taiaiake Alfred, who initiated a running program for students and alumni, she will complete a personal challenge and run a marathon.



GOVERNOR GENERAL'S GOLD MEDALLIST

Top PhD grad working to perfect fuel cells

BY DAVID KARP

Eleven years ago, Dr. Erik Kjeang was a high school student in Sweden doing his final project on Ballard fuel cells. He never guessed he'd one day be working for the Burnaby-based company that is one of the world leaders in the field.

Kjeang, who earned his PhD in mechanical engineering from UVic in November, will be receiving the Governor General's Gold Medal at this month's convocation ceremonies.

“I got home, and in my inbox there were suddenly five emails with ‘gold’ in the subject line,” Kjeang recalls with a laugh.

Since January, Kjeang has been working as a research engineer with Ballard. He helps develop their hydrogen fuel cell technology, which combines oxygen from air with hydrogen gas to generate electric current.

Kjeang works on the gas diffusion layer of the fuel cell, which transports gases to the catalyst layer of the cell, where an electric current is generated.

“It's always challenging to tweak the material to improve cell performance, because as you improve one performance characteristic, you may reduce the effectiveness of something else,” he explains.

After getting a master's degree in energy engineering at the University of Umeå in northern Sweden, Kjeang knew he was passionate about fuel cells.

“I wanted to continue doing fuel cell research, and there wasn't much in Sweden,” he said.

“When the opportunity came up to study at UVic, it was a pretty simple decision. The possibility to combine cutting-edge fuel cell research with a great lifestyle and outdoor adventures fit me like a glove.”

At UVic, Kjeang designed microfluidic fuel cells—tiny power generators the size of a hair. While Ballard fuel cell stacks are powerful enough for automotive applications, it would take thousands of the tiny microfluidic fuel cell arrays to power a vehicle.

Kjeang designed and tested around 50 microfluidic fuel cells architectures, which are still sitting in a box at UVic. He said his doctoral work at UVic has benefitted him immensely at Ballard.

“I think doing your PhD is a great way to get exposed to research and to learn how to run your own research project,” Kjeang said. “You pick something that has a good chance of success, you work hard and you don't give up—and hopefully it will bear fruit.”



Kjeang. CREDIT: ROB KRUYT



TONY SOUTHWELL  
CIM, RFP, CFP  
Former member, UVic Board of Pension Trustees



J. MARK GOUWS  
CFP, CLU, ChFC



RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS >

Monthly Income Based on \$100,000

Life Insurance • RRSPs • Annuities • Investment Funds

REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)

AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *	\$238	\$278	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100	\$250,908	\$218,364	\$190,896	\$163,565	\$152,859	\$139,047

Accelerated Payout:

Income over 5 years.....\$1,864

Income over 10 years.....\$1,036

Income over 15 years.....\$765

Total 5 year payout.....\$111,807

Total 10 year payout.....\$124,320

Total 15 year payout.....\$137,656

\* Based on best current GIC of 4.60%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

LIFE ANNUITIES

AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male						
...payments cease at death	\$560	\$611	\$687	\$827	\$947	\$1,162
...10 years guaranteed	\$548	\$593	\$660	\$759	\$828	\$948
Female						
...payments cease at death	\$505	\$557	\$613	\$723	\$826	\$1,014
...10 years guaranteed	\$515	\$552	\$602	\$686	\$759	\$884
Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed	\$473	\$504	\$548	\$630	\$703	\$825

Various options concerning guarantee periods and survivor benefits available.

Annuities derived from non-registered capital have tax preferred treatment.

...building better retirement incomes since 1974

tsouthwell@solguard.bc.ca

www.solguard.com

#402 – 645 FORT STREET

VICTORIA BC V8W 1G2

We have Life Income Fund (LIF) figures available upon request.

Ask us for a personalized illustration or a copy of Your Guide to RRIFs and Annuities

PHONE (250) 385-3636

Navigate the Ever-changing Market

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

Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty  
592-4422  
dave@davelynn.com

Page 8 The Ring June 2008



NEW FOREST RESOURCE

# Tapping into sweet potential

BY VIVIAN KEREKI

Deirdre Bruce has a soft spot for the maple and a sweet tooth: a perfect combination.

Though it's on our flag, the identifiable 11-point maple leaf does not conjure pleasant feelings for many BC foresters. In fact, in the BC forest industry, the bigleaf maple is considered a pest: the wood grade is low and when chopped, the tree sprouts vigorous offshoots that shade out valuable crop species like firs and cedars; pesticide treatment is often used.

But as recent UVic geography master's graduate Bruce discovered, the bigleaf maple has much to offer—namely it's sweet elixir: the maple syrup.

For her thesis, she studied the sap's sugar makeup, an important first step to incorporating the syrup into value-added products such as beer, chocolates, and fudge.

With the financial support of the BC Agroforestry Development Initiative, Bruce partnered with Cowichan Valley's Glenora Farms and UVic's Tree Ring Lab. Between December 2006 and March 2007, she tapped approximately 100 maple trees in the Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Port Alberni.

Bruce discovered that the sap's content is mainly sucrose, with higher levels of fructose and glucose than eastern Canada's sugar maple. The end result? A darker syrup with a distinct taste. "The syrup is delicious," she boasts. And she isn't the only one who likes Island syrup. In February 2008, 1,400

people turned out to the Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival in Duncan to taste syrup samples, watch tapping demonstrations and participate in educational tours.

"I think it is pretty neat to be a part of something in forestry that people are excited about. There aren't a lot of fun, exciting stories in forestry right now," says Bruce. She received much enthusiasm and support from private woodlot and landowners, and many volunteers helped with the tapping.

"There's a real disconnect between research and regular people. I was really interested in bridging that gap," she says.

Further research is required to assess the socio-economic potential of bigleaf syrup, but she is hopeful. Bruce likes the community aspect of maple tapping and how people of all ages can get outdoors and participate in the winter activity. Two Island breweries, Craig Street Brew Pub and Spinnakers, are interested in using bigleaf syrup for making beer, and with a unique, home-grown product, Bruce believes the cottage industry will attract followers of the 100-mile Diet and the Slow Food movement.

For now, Bruce is working with the Pacific Forestry Centre with plants and greenhouses, but she plans to stay involved with the syrup industry. She hopes to make an educational video and run workshops. And with the demand for syrup on the rise (nearly all the syrup produced from Bruce's trees sold at the festival), she'll need to get out there and keep tapping.



Bruce collecting bigleaf maple sap.



Kennedy. CREDIT: JULIE KENNEDY

VICTORIA MEDALLIST IN FINE ARTS

# Great music runs in the family

BY VIVIAN KEREKI

This year's top fine arts student and winner of the Victoria Medal is Powell River-raised Carli Kennedy.

The best part about studying at UVic's School of Music, says the guitar specialist, is the feeling of family and support she received from her peers.

During student performances, "everyone cheers at the top of their lungs," explains Kennedy. "I'm going to miss that element so much."

Although Kennedy can't take her "UVic family" with her after graduation, she'll be far from alone; she is often seen with—and confused with—her identical twin Julie Kennedy.

Not only do they share a close friendship, but they share a profession as well. Julie also graduates this year from UVic with a bachelor's of music (her principal instrument is the violin), and the two plan on pursuing a career

as a performing duo. "Wherever we go, we stick together," says Carli.

The sisters started playing the piano at the age of five, and at eight Carli began playing guitar with her father. It wasn't long before they created a family band, playing together at community events like the Variety Club Telethon.

Kennedy has performed at UVic functions, and taught private lessons to students ranging from six years old to adults. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and says she learns a lot from her students. "They are always so enthusiastic. I leave feeling very inspired."

Kennedy says she's always worked hard and been focused on school, but feels lucky because she really enjoys learning.

Kennedy has many dreams and goals as a musician, but for now she plans to stay in Victoria for a year or

two while taking the steps towards a career as a performer. The sisters are in the process of recording a demo CD and will be playing at several local venues over the summer. They also plan to perform in as many competitions as possible.

When asked about a favourite style of music, Kennedy can't decide. Her iPod holds everything from classical symphonies and guitar, to jazz and country. She admires Norah Jones, John Mayer, and Michael Bublé as mainstream contemporary artists, and feels partial to BC talent. "I'm a total coastal girl," says Kennedy who is also an avid swimmer and likes hiking and skiing.

Catch the award-winning Kennedy sisters at the Peninsula Country Market at the Saanich Fairgrounds June 21 and July 26. Visit their website, [cjkennedy.com](http://cjkennedy.com), for more details on upcoming performances.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDALLIST

# Following in his prof's footsteps

BY SAM VANSCHIE

When Alex Townson checked his University of Victoria email account and saw three messages with the headline "congratulations" he was sure there had been some kind of mistake.

Townson finished his master's in history in art last October with a thesis on early Islamic art. He's now continuing his studies at the University of Oxford in England.

The emails that piled up in his account were to tell him that he was selected for the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for academic excellence and an outstanding thesis.

"I was really surprised," says Townson. "Writing a thesis is such a huge task. It's very hard to know what it looks like to somebody else reading it."

His thesis advisor Dr. Marcus Milwright says Townson's thesis was well above the level he'd expect from a master's student, containing much which should be published.

"He's really going to make an impact in his field," says Milwright.

The thesis analyzed a building in Jordan called Mshatta. Townson made trips to the building's site in the Middle East and Berlin where part of the building's façade is stored in a museum.

"I wanted to see it in its true cultural context—as more than a two-dimensional slide, shot in perfect

lighting," he explained. "That's how I got most of my ideas."

He found art was a welcoming way to discuss cultural differences in an otherwise sensitive setting.

Through his studies at Oxford, he is following in his UVic advisor's footsteps. Milwright studied in the same faculty there and even had the same advisor.

"I'm like a second-generation student for the professor," Townson says. "To a certain extent I am representing

UVic here and I want to do well because of that."

He says his time at UVic prepared him well to compete at an international setting because of UVic's global focus and supportive learning environment.

"Professors take an active interest in students' lives there and help in every step," says Townson, who noted that as a key factor that sets UVic apart. "That's one of the main reasons I was successful."

Townson at the Nabataean city of Petra in Jordan.



## Lawyer & Notary Public



Bob Reimer

*\* Ask about alternatives to costly litigation \**  
**4195 Shelbourne Street**  
*(two blocks north of Feltham Rd.)*  
Real Estate - Purchase/Sale/Mortgage  
Estate Litigation  
Wills & Estate Probate/Administration  
Power of Attorney/Representation  
Family Law - Divorce & Separation  
General Legal Advice & Referral  
**721-2441**



More grad profiles  
at [ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)

- **Kate Costin**, a theatre grad pursuing costume design in NYC
- **Michelle Coture**, French immersion teacher and Cameron Award winner in secondary education
- **Hadley Friedland**, single mom pursuing a career in Indigenous law
- **Simon Ramage**, IEEE Gold medallist in computer engineering and contributor to a massive grid computing project
- **Filippo Rossi**, mature student and IEEE Gold medallist in electrical engineering
- **Rei Thiessen**, Computer Science Grad medallist who's been fascinated by programming since elementary school

cadboro bay merchants

*Now Two Great Locations!*


**Cadboro Bay PEOPLES PHARMACY**

*Prescriptions  
Herbals & Supplements  
Greeting Cards & Gifts  
Film & Photo Developing  
Photocopying & Fax  
Post Office*

**477-2131**  
3825 Cadboro Bay Rd.  
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 12-5pm

*UVic student extended medical cards accepted at both locations*

**Campus**

  
*Come on Over!*

*Prescriptions  
Herbals & Supplements  
Film & Photo Developing  
Personal Care Products  
Cosmetics*

**721-3400**  
UVic Student Union Building  
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

**PEPPER'S**  
100% VICTORIA OWNED



*Locally owned and operated*

Mon-Fri 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**10% Student Saver Discount**  
now available every day  
(excluding select items)

**FREE DELIVERY**

   
Interac

**Peppers • 3829 Cadboro Bay Road • Victoria BC • 477-6513**



Pub and Liquor Store  
in Cadboro Bay



**GET OFF CAMPUS  
& COME ON DOWN**

Smuggler's Cove Pub 2581 Penrhyn St.  
Reservations 477-2688 (lunch and dinner) [www.smugglerscovepub.com](http://www.smugglerscovepub.com)



**VILLAGE SERVICE**

*full service gas pumps at self-serve prices  
fast, friendly attention  
for all your car repair needs*

Village Service • 3845 Cadboro Bay Road • Victoria BC • (250) 477-5523

Profs give back to support science education

BY PATTY PITTS

During their careers as university professors, Vancouver Island residents Mildred Shaw and Brian Gaines shared a deep desire to help their students become engaged in science, mathematics and technology. The couple also encouraged their university students to inspire those they taught in a similar way.

Now retired, the couple will continue to assist students through a donation of over \$500,000 to the Faculty of Education to establish the Constructivist Education Resources Network (CER-Net). It will assist UVic education faculty and students to advance their research and develop resources in science, mathematics and technology education. Shaw and Gaines will also continue to donate to the fund on an annual basis.

The couple practiced “constructivist education,” empowering students to understand how they each construct meaning from their current knowledge and experiences.

Practitioners facilitate students’ understanding of the way in which their cultures and prior experiences affect their learning and help students interpret information in a context that is familiar to them.

In the 1980s, Shaw developed several software systems to help learners to understand their individual constructive processes. Gaines, in addition to holding several academic appointments in his career, was a founding director of several companies.

“We have been generously funded throughout our careers and it is a pleasure in retirement for us to be able to support the next generation,” says Gaines. “We encourage further donations to this fund.”

“Faculties of medicine, science and engineering are often high profile foci for gifts to universities, while the significant role of faculties of education in providing all students with a working knowledge of these



Gaines and Shaw (standing) and UVic President David Turpin observe as young Science Venture participant Lauren Roberts tries out science education software. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES


disciplines can be overlooked,” says Shaw. “General science education, especially in schools, provides the motivation for our future scientists and engineers and lays the foundation for everyone to have informed engagements in science technology, societal, and environmental issues.”


“We are honoured that Dr. Shaw and Dr. Gaines share in our mission to produce world-class educators,” says UVic Dean of Education Ted Riecken. “Their gifts and future contributions will ensure we are able to continue to prepare teachers with a strong

background in constructivist learning theories that are applicable in a wide range of educational settings.”

Originally from England, Shaw is a computer scientist and psychologist and a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, the British Computer Society and the British Psychological Society.

Gaines, also from England, is an engineer and psychologist and a Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the British Computer Society and the British Psychological Society.

 **CAMOSUN**  
COLLEGE



**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](http://camosun.ca/ce)

  
**University of Victoria**  
Continuing Studies

**Congratulations to graduates of our Certificate/Diploma Program in Business Administration on receiving CIM designations!**

The Canadian Institute of Management (CIM) is Canada’s senior management organization dedicated to professional development. These newly accredited members, all graduates of the Certificate or Diploma Program in Business Administration offered by Continuing Studies, have met the Institute’s requirements and are entitled to use the professional designation, C.I.M.

**George Andrew, Sharon Blagborne, Gail Henry, Jackie Robertson, Judith St. Denis.**

The business program was accredited by CIM in 2006. Students enrolled in the program have the option to register with CIM while they study and apply for the designation upon successful completion of the program. For more information, call 250-721-8027 or visit <http://bmt.uvic.ca>



**Gail Henry:**  
“I see this kind of education as essential for someone in the business sector. The professors that teach in this program are awesome. I’m very proud of my new qualifications!”



# calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated.  
For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at [www.uvic.ca/events](http://www.uvic.ca/events)

## at the galleries

[www.maltwood.uvic.ca](http://www.maltwood.uvic.ca)  
721-6562

■ **P/op!** *Until Sept. 22.* Works by internationally renowned artists working in the pop, optical and abstract art genres. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery. 721-6562

## MONDAY, JUNE 2

■ **Silent Auction** 6 p.m. *The Secrets of Eating Smarter: Focus on Lyme Disease.* Speaker nutritionist Radka Prusha, followed by a silent auction. All proceeds will be donated to the In Trust of Marie McQuhae Fund. \$10/\$15 at the door. Strong 103. Info: [eboucek@uvic.ca](mailto:eboucek@uvic.ca) 588-3062

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 7 p.m. *Early Childhood Care and Development in Africa and the West: A UVic Initiative in Support of Leadership and Capacity.* Dr. Allan Pence (UVic), Ruth Addison (Ghana), Masoud Mohamed Ali (Kenya). Hickman 105. Sponsored by the Office of International Affairs and the Early Childhood Development Virtual University. 472-4028 or 721-7218

## FRIDAY, JUNE 6

■ **Beck Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *A Very Personal Approach to the History of Icelandic Cinema.* Ágúst Guðmundsson, filmmaker and director of the Federation of Icelandic Artists. Two of his films, "The Dance" and "The Seagull's Laughter" will be screened at Cinecenta, Thurs. June 5. Clearihue A206. 853-7656

## FRIDAY, JUNE 13

■ **Operation Trackshoes** 12 p.m. *Until June 15. Provincial sports festival for people with mental disabilities.* Info: [www.trackshoes.ca](http://www.trackshoes.ca) 721-4932

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

■ **Centre for Biomedical Research Lecture** 6 p.m. *Cafe Scientifique—Hormones in our Water: Should We Be Concerned?* Dr. Caren Helbing, UVic. Group discussion to follow. Swans Hotel, Collard Rm. 472-4067

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

■ **Institute for Dispute Resolution Lecture** 12:30 p.m. *Imagining Ourselves Related: Archetypes that Shape Community Dialogue.* Michelle LeBaron, professor of Law and Director of Dispute Resolution at UBC. Hickman 105. 721-8199

## PROTEOMICS

# Funding helps in fight against pine beetle

BY MARIA LIRONI

How can we make trees more resistant to pine beetles? That's one of the questions scientists at the UVic's Genome BC Proteomics Centre hope to answer with new million-dollar equipment the federal government is helping to purchase.

The equipment will be used for metabolite research, the study and identification of metabolic products of cells that may be used to distinguish a disease state from a healthy state. Metabolomics is used in a number of areas including the study of plant health.

"Metabolomics in plants is extremely complex compared to humans," explains Proteomics Centre Director Dr. Christoph Borchers. "While plants have tens of thousands of metabolics, humans have only 4,000. The equipment can provide a comprehensive analysis of the metabolites that can kill the mountain pine beetle. Once we know what's making the trees vulnerable we can work on breeding the right trees."

Western Economic Diversification Canada is providing \$600,000 to buy the machines and the centre will provide \$400,000. Equipment includes a high-resolution, high-performance liquid chromatographer, a hybrid mass spectrometer, a robotic liquid handling workstation and bioinformatics data storage software.

"Our government understands that investments such as this one will lead to discoveries that not only build educational and professional



opportunities for Canadians, but also lead to greater prosperity for us all," says the Honourable Rona Ambrose, president of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and minister of Western Economic Diversification. "The metabolic analysis conducted with this new equipment secures the Proteomics Centre's status as a Canadian leader in the life sciences sector."

"We're delighted to have this support as it will expand the centre's proteomic and metabolomic analytical service capabilities for international researchers; increase training opportunities for our students; and stimulate technology transfer to the marketplace," says UVic President David Turpin.

The UVic Genome BC Proteomics Centre has been providing protein analytical services to more than 200 academic, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and government laboratories worldwide since 1982, making the Proteomics Centre the longest operating protein core facility in Canada. Supported by a collaborative relationship between the University of Victoria and Genome British Columbia, the centre is a not-for-profit proteomics facility that performs research and operates on a fee-for-service, cost-recovery finance model.

# around the ring

## Update your contact information—just in case

In order to be able to provide important emergency information to students and staff, UVic needs your current contact information on file. Please take a moment now to check and update your telephone number, cell phone number, email and mailing address in uSource. Your contact information will be used only for the purpose of sending official emergency messages from the university.

Here's how to do it:

- If you do not have a Netlink ID, visit <https://netlink.uvic.ca/>
- Log in via <http://usource.uvic.ca>
- Choose the Faculty & Staff or Student tab
- Choose Personal
- Choose Update Addresses & Phones or Update E-mail Addresses
- Click the active link(s) to bring up the information fields and enter your current contact information
- Click Submit

For more information about the UVic emergency management program, visit <http://ohs.uvic.ca/emergencymgmt/index.html> or email University Emergency Planner Daphne Donaldson at [ddonald@uvic.ca](mailto:ddonald@uvic.ca).

# convocation

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDALLIST

# Master's grad explores the intersection of technology and ethics

BY MARK VARDY

Brandi Field was walking to the UVic campus when she saw a sign advertising a garage sale. But where many of us would simply absorb the mundane and move on, Field turned her reflections on that sign into a master's in English essay that won this year's Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal.

The garage sale sign was printed from a computer. She thought how at one time, the sign would have been written by hand, enabling her to glean something about its author.

"It suddenly occurred to me I should look into the experiences of the subject as mediated through the computer," she said from her home in Winnipeg.

That impetus, together with an abiding interest in science fiction and the philosophical material covered in seminar classes, led to her essay with the impressive, if somewhat overwhelming, title: "From Death to Democracy: Technospectral Potential in Gibson's Cyberpunk and the Digital Humanities."

"I just tell people I studied science fiction," she says. Pressed a little further, Field reveals that she applied Jacques Derrida's philosophy of ethical decision-making to William Gibson's 1999 sci-fi novel *All Tomorrow's Parties*.

For Derrida, ethical decisions are ultimately grounded in the certainty of one's own mortality. Responsibility is born from the fact that nobody else can take your place at the moment

of death. However, in Gibson's novel, mortality is extended via technological means to infinity.

If cyberspace (a term that Gibson himself coined and popularized in the 1980s) allows us human beings to escape mortality through virtual reality, where is the grounding for Derrida's concept of responsibility?

"With our lives being so entrenched in computers, we have to figure out what responsibility means," Field says. "My whole paper was based on the fact that I think this is an open question—it's not something you can conclude upon. Rather than habitually rely on taken-for-granted moral codes, we need ongoing democratic debate about the very grounds on which decisions are taken," says Field.

Applying this way of thinking to her own life led to her decision to study law with the intent of improving social problems. Field won an entrance scholarship to the University of Manitoba's law school, where she begins in September 2008.

"I receive four newspapers in a day, and I read them," says Field. "And you know how you read and you get frustrated? Because you think, 'We can do better.' Maybe we can't fix all the problems, but we can do a little better."

"My MA formed a question for me that I'll never finish asking and that I'll never finish living out. That's what I like about it, because I'm learning from something constantly. I'm not just putting it away; it's going to affect everything I do."

# CAMPUS DENTAL

State of the art dentistry on the UVic campus, in the Student Union Building (SUB).

Offering the most comprehensive and up-to-date dental services available to faculty, staff and students at UVic.

## STRAIGHTEN WITHOUT BRACES! ASK US HOW

Call today for your appointment:  
**(250) 380-1888**



Computer science doctoral student **Louis Lei Yu**, master's student **Yan Zhuang** and professor **Dr. Valerie King** are the winners of a best poster award at WWW2008 in Beijing, the premier venue for academics and industry to present work on the Web. The poster, "Guanxi in the Chinese Web: A Study of Mutual Linking," proposes and investigates a novel theory that the linking structure in the Chinese Web reflects the particular network of fundamental social relationships in China known as *guanxi*. To view the paper visit <http://www2008.org/papers/pp206.html>.

UVic child care supervisor **Debbie Esposito** has been awarded a \$1,000 Certificate of Achievement from the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. Manager of UVic Child Care Services Jack Lalonde applauds his entire team as well as Esposito's commitment "to providing quality child care programs here at UVic for the past 20 years. The award recognizes the work Debbie and her team do in meeting the varied needs of the children in their care."

UVic faculty member **Kathy Gaul** is this year's winner of a national award for medical education, the CAME (Canadian Association for Medical Education) Certificate of Merit Award. Gaul, a member of UVic's Island Medical Program and the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, was part of the original UVic team that helped expand the UBC medical program to Vancouver Island and northern BC. Chief among her many achievements and commitments, she is course director for the program's foundations of medicine and teaches human anatomy and exercise physiology.

In April, the University of Victoria **Model UN Club** flew to New York for a major "mock" conference replicating the actions of UN negotiators, and returned home with a number of awards including one for Distinguished Delegation. The UVic team represented the Chinese delegation, not an easy task in the face of international criticism over treatment of Tibet and the Olympic torch relay, and received assistance from three faculty advisors. The five-day National Model United Nations Conference took place April 22–26 and the delegation award placed the UVic team in the top 15 per cent of participants, with approximately 2,400 university and college students from across North America, Europe and other regions in attendance.

convocation

LAW SOCIETY GOLD MEDALLIST

Law grad goes the distance

BY DAVID KARP

Meagan Lang has good reason to be proud. She completed the Vancouver International Marathon—all 42.2 kilometres of it—in just over four hours. "For me, that's really great," she says. "That's six minutes a kilometer for 42 kilometres. I didn't even stop once."

Lang, who graduated from UVic in November, found time to train for the May 4 race while clerking with the BC Court of Appeal. Running isn't the 28-year-old's only talent—she's receiving the Law Society of BC Gold Medal at this month's convocation ceremonies as the UVic law grad with the highest GPA.

"I'm thrilled," Lang says. "I really enjoyed law school. One of the nice things about UVic is that it's such a small school, so the faculty is very involved."

It's clear that when Lang applies herself to something, she gets results. At UVic, she took advantage of the school's co-op education program and moots. She also spent four months at the Law Centre, where UVic law students provide free legal advice to people who don't qualify for legal aid. "I really learn more by doing than

just hearing," Lang says. "With co-op, when you go back after working, you're sitting in class and you actually know how to apply things more."

Lang became interested in law after graduating from the University of Calgary with a history degree. A school project on an Aboriginal treaty translated into a research job with Calgary law firm Rath & Company, where Lang spent a year-and-a-half researching treaty rights and traveling up north to consult with Aboriginal people.

"It gave me an idea about what lawyers actually do, and I thought maybe I'd want to go to law school," Lang recalls.

After she finishes clerking with the Court of Appeal this summer, Lang is off on a trip to Israel and Jordan before beginning articling at Vancouver's Bull, Housser & Tupper in September. She wants to develop her litigation skills and gain experience in the courtroom.

But while she's excited about her future in law, she's more lukewarm on her career as a marathoner.

"I don't think I'll do it again," Lang admits. "I find running is such a great stress reliever, but all this pavement is hard on your knees."



Lang. CREDIT: ROB KRUYT



Gillies. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

day in the life

**A day in the life of Paul Gillies** takes him all over campus driving a heavy dump truck or aging backhoe.

Gillies is an equipment operator for the grounds department of facilities management. He started in the department 30 years ago and has worked on everything: trees, shrubs, lawns, flowers, drains, irrigation, composting and waste water management. "Three or four of us comprise a team taking care of 'public works'—a catch-all phrase for almost everything: drainage, roads, gutters, signs, curbs."

Every day is different for Gillies. He works for other shops and provides support for contractors, perhaps excavating for the plumbing shop to repair broken water lines or preparing sites so the contractor can lay paving. In winter, he may get a call at 3:30 a.m. for snow removal or spreading sand and salt.

"More and more of what we do revolves around being environmentally and ecologically sensitive," he says. "This summer, we started putting soil on roofs." Gillies picks up screened soil with the backhoe, loads it into a slinger truck with buckets; a crane takes the buckets to the roof, a trap door opens, spreading the soil.

While Gillies says he is a small cog in a big wheel, he feels he is doing something people really appreciate. "UVic has one of most beautiful campuses in Canada. The original vision—over 40 years ago—was that landscape would predominate and buildings would be secondary. UVic is lucky to have so much lovely green space that hasn't been developed, including Finnerty Gardens and Mystic Vale. By the time UVic started to grow, people were more aware of the importance of green space."

Raised in London, ON, he came to BC to live on Cortez Island at the Cold Mountain Institute (now called Hollyhock Farm). "After I discovered Victoria I realized I could never go back to the hot humid summers and bitterly cold winters in Ontario."

Gillies says he has been fortunate to live in such a beautiful city and to work in the parklike setting of UVic. "UVic has always felt as if it were more than just a job; there has been a real sense of community here."

Gillies has been a student of Buddhism for 40 years he is looking forward to retirement when he can devote more time and energy to this pursuit.

Host Families Needed for August!

The UVic Home Placement office is looking for local families to host students participating in the English Language Centre's 2008 summer language programs.

- Homes must be within 5 km of the UVic campus
- Maximum of two international students per home (including non-UVic students)
- Students are 18 to 22 years old
- Home Placement payment provided

**Families must provide students with:**

- a welcoming English language-only home environment
- a private furnished room
- all meals and snacks
- daily family activities highlighting Canadian family life and our beautiful garden city



Please contact us now for more information or to request a host contractor application package.  
**Email:** [homeplacement@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:homeplacement@uvcs.uvic.ca)  
**Phone:** 250-472-4268  
*In person:* English Language Centre, Continuing Building (2nd floor reception), Ring Road at Gabriola Road, UVic campus



SIX BUCKS TO FILL THE TANK? NOW YOU CAN AFFORD A FEW TEXTBOOKS.

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

NAME BRANDS INCLUDE:

- |          |                 |                          |              |                    |                                |                |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| KYMCOTNG | ezeeBikeKaishan | Chrome BagsNolan Helmets | daKineO'Neal | Givi BoxessxAppeal | Corazzo ClothingRyders Eyewear | plus many more |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|

SCOOTER UNDERGROUND 1061 Johnson Street, Victoria (250) 220-7243 [www.scooterunderground.ca](http://www.scooterunderground.ca)

