Holiday in Cambodia

SUBHEAD: Safe drinking water for Cambodians

By Tara Sharpe

It drips all over your face on hikes through local rain forests. It’s delivered to our homes and offices in heavy refillable bottles. And it flows on demand from thousands of taps here on Vancouver Island. We’ve got “water, water, everywhere” but there is often barely a drop worth drinking for people living in the rural communities of Siem Reap Province in Cambodia.

University of Victoria aquatic ecologist Dr. Anu Manamperumal (biology) and research assisant William Duke, MD, want to help change that. They were invited by the world-wide humanitarian organization Rotary International to participate in a community development project to improve water quality in Siem Reap Province.

Manamperumal, Duke and their colleagues in Victoria and Cambodia have set up a water-testing laboratory in the province’s capital city Siem Reap. Through interviews, water sampling and first-hand observation, they will now monitor the water quality in 3,000 households in and around the capital city.

Although the capital has become a popular tourist destination, its economic benefits definitely do not extend to everyone. The province of Siem Reap—with a 53-per-cent poverty rate and 94 per cent of the population living in rural areas—is one of the poorest in Cambodia, and availability of safe water is a major concern. Less than one-third of the population has access to drinkable water and only 6 per cent have access to a latrine or toilet.

Add to this the daily realities of inadequate nutrition, poor hygiene and low literacy rates, and the outlook is stark, particularly for those who are the most vulnerable: the mortality rate for children under the age of five in Cambodia is the highest in southeast Asia at 120 of 1,000 live births.

“For me, it is all about the children,” Duke says. “It’s the reason that I’m here at UVic doing this research.” Before coming to Victoria, Duke worked with Doctors of the World in Chiapas, Mexico, where he became aware of the tragic toll paid by families who lack access to safe water.

In Cambodia, the lab technicians will measure the performance of bio-sand filters in each of the 1,000 households intended to transform red cloudy water taken from hand-dug wells and nearby river tributaries and remove deadly E. coli and other pathogens. The villagers are given assistance to set up and maintain the filters, and then regularly receive visits from the lab team to ensure this equipment is operating optimally.

Equipment funds were provided by the University of Victoria’s sustainability policy.

Consultations coming for UVic sustainability policy

The university has embarked on a process to create a new campus sustainability policy and action plan. The process will include a review of current campus initiatives and best practices at other institutions, and an eight-month consultation period to identify ways in which UVic can take a leadership position in social, environmental and economic sustainability.

The policy will set the direction for the university’s institutional commitment to sustainability and empower individuals, departments and faculties to take action. The plan will include a framework for identifying opportunities, establishing strategic priorities and developing encouraging strategies.

“We want to build on UVic’s sustainability successes in teaching, research and operations,” says Neil Connelly, director of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability.

On Sept. 18, 2006, a federal commission of inquiry cleared Arar of all terrorism allegations.

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Around the Ring

When pastries attack... The pastries that are under the light in the middle are peaking technology, a coming towards you. The next thing you see is the clouds of smoke, when the pastries in the disk are baking! The smoke is from the fact that the peeling leaves off the paper, the cloud is yellow. I'm not sure, the pastries are baked 30% more than the traditional method. (Eviene University, Engineering student's name: Ann Young, Friend of mine). It is very easy to see, as they are baked in the glass. I am not sure if the pastries are still going to be baked in the glass. I think they are going to be baked in the glass, but I am not sure.

The Ring March 2008

Galaxy searches yields new clues to origins of life

An international team led by a University of Victoria astronomer has discovered new evidence that a galaxy 10 billion light years away from Earth contains the carbon-based molecules that could form the building blocks of life.

Eliana, who is the Canada Research Chair in Observational Cosmology, studies the chemical evolution of galaxies. Using powerful telescopes, she searches for the sources of the infrared and optical light from distant points of intense light known as quasars, which pass through galaxies on their way to Earth.

“The life of a quasar will begin...”

When that happens, an object begins to form, with the gases in a galaxy,” she explains. “When that happens, an object begins to form, and researchers are trying to determine when the ingredients for life first existed in the universe. The team also found that the distant galaxies we studied are very poor in DBs compared to the Milky Way,” she says.

Help others experience UVic: UVic asks you to do more to help your local community by volunteering your time. UVic is seeking new volunteers to work at events within their various locations or on campus. There are many volunteer opportunities available. These include events such as the Spring Wine Festival, the UVic Triathlon, and the UVic Relay for Life.

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By Patty Pitts

When Canadian athletes work up their sweat for their country at the Beijing Olympics in August, their bodies will replenish the nutrients and minerals that they lose in the process. Those sweat losses impact their ability to perform well on the medal podium.

A collaboration between UVic and the Victoria-based Canadian Sport Centre Pacific (CSCP) can help improve that odds. Nutritionists and scientists known as dietitians keep the body functioning normally. Examples are sodium, calcium and potassium. Properly balanced fluids are vital for optimal muscle coordination, heart and nerve function and mental concentration.

To maintain this balance, athletes sweat more often than the average person. Athletes estimate the average fluid loss from their sweat can be between eight to 10 litres per hour! Research from the CSCP indicates that placebos can improve the quality of sports drinks.

The only way to judge the effectiveness of sports drinks and individual athletes is to analyze their sweat. But existing testing procedures require expensive equipment. UVic knowledge and Wong Lab researchers, Patrick Mulligan and Taylor Logie, saw a unique opportunity to engage undergraduate students in an innovative research laboratory experience. While senior biology students studied on cyclic organisms as part of their research, the students gained research experience in the laboratory.

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For instance, students from both courses were able to communicate their own research into other courses. Students could communicate their research into other courses. Students contributed to the University of Victoria's Office of the President and Dean's Office of Strategic Services.

FROM THE SOLomon Islands

It was an immense honour to be selected as the first PIAF representative ever to represent Canada. The project was available for service providers and accessed the local media to promote the benefits of health education. I travelled to the Solomon Islands in early December 2007 to conduct the Students for Development program in the Pacific. I was impressed by the levels of health and education awareness levels and the University of Victoria's Office of the President and Dean's Office of Strategic Services.

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Global citizenship—world democracy or imperialism in disguise?

Global citizenship, one of the most important yet perplexing movements of our time, will be the topic of a discussion by Dr. James Tully (political science), a Distinguished Professor Lecture, on “Global Citizenship: March 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Strong C103.” Some see global citizenship as a new form of transnational democracy that will transform the international political order. Others say it is the continuation of Western imperialism by new means—where co-produced multinational organizations have replaced the nation-states of earlier imperials. Still others contend it is nothing new and can be understood in the familiar categories of state-central citizenship and internationalism.

In his lecture, Tully will put forward the conflicting interpretations of global citizenship and discuss new trends in practice and academic research.

In 2003, Tully was awarded a University of Victoria Disting-

uous Professorship—the highest academic honour that the university bestows. To date, ten faculty members have been named Distinguished Professor. This lecture series offers the community the opportunity to hear and more fully understand the faculty member.

New public admin minor addresses public service needs

By Christine McLennan

Starting this September, the School of Public Administration will implement a minor in public administration, providing the opportunity for students in all fields of study to learn about public sector management. It will be the only undergraduate university program in BC with a public management and non-profit focus and will provide campus students with an opportunity to learn through distributed (field) methods.

Students taking the minor in public administration will enhance their skills and knowledge about government and non-profit management. The minor will also prepare students to work in the public sector.

The intent of the minor is to give students a range of public and non-profit service management and leadership skills,” says Trent Lindquist, director of the school. “Many of the skills that graduates have in the private sector will be valuable in the public sector.”

The minor consists of ten upper-level courses. “The minor is designed for upper-division students with an opportunity to learn through distributed (field) methods,” says Dr. Benoit.

The minor is a four-year program particularly memorable.

By Thomas Waterholt

It’s not every day that managers get to bring a pirate to justice. But a group of Grade 11 Victoria high school students did exactly that last month. Tantalized prospects Captain Jack Sparrow (of Pirates of the Caribbean fame) was at an historic courtroom as part of an innovative outreach program promoting democratic participation by law students at the University of Victoria.

The Law for All (LFA) initiative is designed to educate law teams and new legislators who are interested in studying law—but due to part-time or economic circumstances—may not have been encouraged to pursue that goal. The student course program also wants to see more students from underrepresented cultural or ethnic communities attend UVic Law. “Since the facility is already deep in community and diversity policies, the school’s admissions office has enthusiastically supported the LFA project,” says Dr. Tuffy.

“A real law student was donned to show how the law works, but the judge and the organizers also made sure the students enjoyed the experience. Although they felt like chumps during their opening arguments, they soon settled down to cause meaningful arguments. It was hands-on, a lot of fun.”

This year, the added attraction of a mock trial engaged the students’ imaginations and made the field program particularly memorable.

“LFA wants to change all that. Through funding from the Ministry of Public Administration and Education, the school allows the Public Service Training and Administration Program to change all that. Through funding from the Ministry of Public Administration and Education, the school will provide the University of Victoria with a public administration and commerce program particularly memorable.

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**Ringers**

UVic Law students Karen Elsworth and Sara Smith won the final round of the 2008 National Law Association (NLA) National Student Moot on February 28. They argued against the motion "Proposed: The Canadian International Trade Commission (CITC) should have the power to order the destruction of evidence in applications for dumping and subsidization margins." Elsworth and Smith prepared for the final round with National Law Association president Sarah Lapp. They are among 25 UVic students who have represented the university at NLA competitions in recent years. Elsworth is a second-year student and Smith is a third-year student.

**Athletics and recreation facilities under review**

Some of the athletics and recreation facilities on UVic’s campus have been on the chopping block. With UVic facing significant financial challenges, the athletic, recreational and community facilities have been examined to determine whether they are worth the investment. The evaluation process has been underway since last fall, and a report is expected to be ready by the end of the year.

**Sources**

- UVic News 
- The Malahat Review

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**Shifting the Health Paradigm: Can you Learn from Traditional and Western Health Concepts?**

Tuesday, March 10

For $45 plus GST

The time for a paradigm shift on health and health care is now. We can no longer afford to assume that this is the time for an incremental approach, but rather a bold and imaginative approach to the future of health care. The process of transforming our present health care system to one that focuses on health promotion, wellness and prevention is long overdue.

Dr. Richard F. Prince
Lancaster University of Social Policy, has received this Award from the Canadian Association for Community Living. A native of the United Kingdom, Dr. Prince is a leading expert on community living and the rights of people with disabilities.

**Experience the Difference**

**Transitions: New Beginnings**

Tuesday, April 15 and 22 7 to 9:30 (two sessions)

For $45 plus GST

This is the third in a series of workshops on topics relating to personal, social and spiritual growth. Participants will learn to develop strategies for living and working at a pace that is responsive to their personal and professional needs. Sessions are led by Karen Larrick, a journey group facilitator and spiritual director. This workshop is part of a series that begins on January 26 and is designed to help people find new directions for their lives.

**Experiential Therapy and the Art of Storytelling**

March 26

For $45 plus GST

This workshop will focus on the use of stories and the principles of experiential therapy as a means of personal growth and development. Participants will learn how to use stories to explore their own experiences and the experiences of others.

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**Collaborating in word and action**

By Adrienne Hubbert

Fourth-year writing and award-winning student Andrew Wade often finds himself caught in two different worlds. But the Festival of Christmas and New Year (FINDS) Studio Theatre is one place where he can be a part of both worlds.

The studio theatre is a collaboration between the departments of English and Communication Studies. It is dedicated to providing a space for students to explore the creative process and to develop their own writing and directing skills.

Wade’s interest in this creative process is evident in his work on the script for the FINDS Studio Theatre production of “William Vs. The World.” The play was written by a group of students and directed by Adrienne Hubbert, a sessional instructor in the Department of English.

“Every rehearsal teaches the process of writing and creating together,” says Hubbert. “But it’s also a process of learning to work within a group and to collaborate with others.”

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**A little knowledge is a beautiful thing**

Watch for Camosun’s Spring/Summer Continuing Education calendar March 15

Email: edcalendar@camosun.bc.ca if you’d like to be mailed a personal copy.
Sin Assit programs. Safeway (Fort and Waterloos, Strong C116. 721-7354)

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• Hardwood Flooring

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• Underground Parking
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Trial: 1-31-30-p.m. Friday: Music of Latin American composers. MacLaurin A125. 721-8904

Tuesday, March 14

1:00 p.m. Working with Gwen and the Foxhounds. Arts and Letters Hall. 721-7878

Friday, March 17

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. The Military Aspect of Imperialism; Occupation Now and in History. Prof. Howard Hurst, Univ. of Victoria. Strong C103. 721-7904

Saturday, March 18

Campus

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. The Importance of Imperialism. Dr. John Miles Foley, Univ. of Missouri. Clearihue A207. 721-8514

Friday, March 28

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. Pathways of the Human Rights. Globally. Justine Masika Bihamba, Notre-Dame de Namur University, Brussels. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

Saturday, March 19

BC Institute for Co-operative Study 1 p.m. Working with Nomadic Women in Mongolia. Evelyn Hammond, First Nation's Co-op. MacLaurin A125. 721-8904

Monday, March 21

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. The Milatary Aspect of Imperialism; Occupation Now and in History. Prof. Howard Hurst, Univ. of Victoria. Strong C103. 721-7904

Wednesday, March 26

Other 11:15 a.m. Active U.P. program launch. Commons Block, Arcturus. 721-7878

Music 8 p.m. Lansdowne guest lecture round. Helen MacLachlan. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

Friday, March 28

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. The Galactic Structure because it is made up of two molecules combined in a helix,” says van Veggel, whose research has been inspired by small, cheaper and faster devices.

“Polymers are attractive because they are relatively cheap and easy to make,” says van Veggel. “But blue light is inexpensive, polymer-based LED’s still a challenge because some materials decompose to the point when they don’t produce blue light anymore. We want to make new materials that are stable and blue imaging. We’ve already shown that it can be done.”

Optical amplifiers are used in telecommunications to boost signals, and they have the potential to create smaller, cheaper and faster devices.

“Right now, the chips in computer monitors are insensitive to electricity, and there are through the use of electricity. But, in principle, we can do all our computing with photons, with light, and that’s potentially a lot fewer than anything else has to have at the moment.”

van Veggel is particularly interested in the helpful applications of photonic materials, including new biologics, which can boost disease research such as cancer. Biologics are mammal-based and biologic in nature, and they can interact with each other in many ways.

For example, when there are cancer cells that are more than three millimeters deep in the skin, visible light cannot penetrate that far but infrared can.

“The idea is to make a nanotransistor—a particle with a dimension of one billionth of a meter—that has the desired optical properties, and stick it into an array that is specific to the cancer cell’s looking for van Veggel.

“When we treat the biologic, we’ll get light from a certain part of the skin, and that tells us there are cancer cells with. It is now possible as well.”

van Veggel’s research is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the BC Research Council.

The incredible case of Senor Zapata. Performed in English. The Incredible Case of Senor Zapata, University of Missouri, Clearihue A207. 721-8514
Science research and technology transfer at the University of Victoria got a shot in the arm on Feb. 20 with a $1.04-million grant from Western Economic Diversification Canada.

The funding, announced on campus by Minister of Western Economic Diversification Rona Ambrose, will go to four projects that are purchasing or upgrading scientific equipment and a facility that will be used to expand the advanced technology sector on Vancouver Island.

“We are delighted that Western Economic Diversification Canada has invested in these projects,” says UVic President David Turpin. “The equipment and facilities being funded are supporting world-class research that will be of direct benefit to Canadians in fields as diverse as coastal management, drug development, alternative energy and information processing.”

The projects are:

- Upgrade of nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. NMR spectrometers are used by researchers to describe the structure of molecules they study or make. The Department of Chemistry’s current 300-megahertz NMR spectrometer is an essential piece of equipment that supports research with potential applications in areas as broad as drug development, alternative energy sources, advanced waste treatment and new information processing and storage technologies.

- EBL System. The Electron Beam Lithography (EBL) system will replace the spectrometer’s console. “It will not only improve the quality of the results,” says UVic chemist Lisa Rosenberg, “but will hugely expand the repertoire of experiments we can perform on our samples using this instrument.”

- Raman microscope. Raman microscopes provide images of the chemical and structural composition of a wide range of materials. The new microscope will be used by UVic chemists and engineers to identify and develop advanced nanotechnology materials such as nanoscale microprocessors, which could be used in new generations of chips for computers. Nano-scale is 500,000 times smaller than a human hair. The new system to be installed in UVic’s Department of Physics uses a beam of electrons to construct new structures or circuitry patterns as small as 50 to a few hundred atoms wide. This technology allows researchers to build micro-structures, such as new electronic and magnetic devices, with components smaller than the width of a human hair.

- VENUS. VENUS monitoring system for undersea slope stability. This project will design, build and deploy an 8-km extension to the Strait of Georgia leg of the VENUS cabled subsea observatory. The extension will support instruments to study the slope dynamics of the Fraser River delta—critical information for adjacent coastal communities and facilities such as the container/coal port and the Tsawwassen ferry terminal.

Partners in this $551,100 project include Natural Resources Canada, the Wes-Jones Group, Environment Canada, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the universities of Oxford (UK) and Colorado (US) and TELUS. Led by UVic, VENUS is the world’s most advanced cabled ocean observatory, providing live data from the seafloor. For more information visit www.venus.uvic.ca.

Vancouver Island Technology Park. UVic’s Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP) accelerates the transfer of technology from research labs to the marketplace. Its conference centre (previously known as the business centre) is a focal point for Vancouver Island’s high-tech sector to meet and share ideas. This funding will expand the conference centre and further assist VITP’s ability to nurture small to medium-sized technology firms. The funding will also be used for a security upgrade, marketing materials and an economic impact study covering the 2007 fiscal year.

Western Economic Diversification Canada is a federal department that works in partnership with the provinces, industry associations and communities to encourage diversification of the Western economy.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF VICKIE THOMAS may see her ast work at 6 a.m. or finishing up at midnight. Thomas is in her eight year as a print operator for Printing Services. During the busiest times—before the start of the fall and winter semesters—the printing machines run 18 hours a day.

Although there are few women in this field, Thomas, who studied applied communications at Camosun College, began running an offset printing press at age 18 and worked in a commercial printing firm the next year. At UVic, she and other operators rotate job stations running the Digimaster, a high-speed digital copier that can print 6,000 black-and-white copies per hour; a digital colour copier for full-colour copies; an offset printing press, which is cheaper for high volume printing and can print two colours at the same time; a scanner, which converts lap top copies to digital files; a collator; a folding machine; a guillotine cutter and a shrink wrapper.

“Everyone tries to make it sound like their job is the most urgent,” she laughs. “Now we are hearing terms like ‘urgent rush’ and ‘absolute rush’—it’s hard to tell which job is more important.

“It can be a hard job with lots of standing and lifting. I’m tired at the end of the day when it’s been very busy and noisy. I keep in good shape, though, and use custom-made hearing protection,” she says. “I wore a pedometer for a while and did 10,000 steps, no problem! It feels good when you have completed a quality job and met an ‘urgent absolute rush’ request.”

The industry has changed dramat- ically over the past 20 years, with advancing technology as well as environmental consciousness. “It’s not like it used to be, where all the garbage went into one big, muddy barrel,” she says. Paper and plastic are recycled, spent ink is sent away for recycling and photographic chemi- cals are treated as hazardous waste.

Thomas is the mother of two sons, the elder of whom just finished his history degree at UVic and moved home pending law school. “It’s invigor- ating living with a grown up son,” she says. “He’s an extravagant cook. We never have just a bagel!”

Thomas enjoys taking photo- graphs, and several of her photos hang on the front wall of the office. She is also taking courses for a business administration certificate through the CUPE 951 professional development fund to expand her job skills at the university.

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- Upgrade of nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. NMR spectrometers are used by researchers to describe the structure of molecules they study or make. The Department of Chemistry’s current 300-megahertz NMR spectrometer is an essential piece of equipment that supports research with potential applications in areas as broad as drug development, alternative energy sources, advanced waste treatment and new information processing and storage technologies.

- EBL System. The Electron Beam Lithography (EBL) system will replace the spectrometer’s console. “It will not only improve the quality of the results,” says UVic chemist Lisa Rosenberg, “but will hugely expand the repertoire of experiments we can perform on our samples using this instrument.”

- Raman microscope. Raman microscopes provide images of the chemical and structural composition of a wide range of materials. The new microscope will be used by UVic chemists and engineers to identify and develop advanced nanotechnology materials such as nanoscale microprocessors, which could be used in new generations of chips for computers. Nano-scale is 500,000 times smaller than a human hair.

- VENUS. VENUS monitoring system for undersea slope stability. This project will design, build and deploy an 8-km extension to the Strait of Georgia leg of the VENUS cabled subsea observatory. The extension will support instruments to study the slope dynamics of the Fraser River delta—critical information for adjacent coastal communities and facilities such as the container/coal port and the Tsawwassen ferry terminal.

Partners in this $551,100 project include Natural Resources Canada, the Wes-Jones Group, Environment Canada, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the universities of Oxford (UK) and Colorado (US) and TELUS. Led by UVic, VENUS is the world’s most advanced cabled ocean observatory, providing live data from the seafloor. For more information visit www.venus.uvic.ca.

Vancouver Island Technology Park. UVic’s Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP) accelerates the transfer of technology from research labs to the marketplace. Its conference centre (previously known as the business centre) is a focal point for Vancouver Island’s high-tech sector to meet and share ideas. This funding will expand the conference centre and further assist VITP’s ability to nurture small to medium-sized technology firms. The funding will also be used for a security upgrade, marketing materials and an economic impact study covering the 2007 fiscal year.

Western Economic Diversification Canada is a federal department that works in partnership with the provinces, industry associations and communities to encourage diversification of the Western economy.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF VICKIE THOMAS may see her ast work at 6 a.m. or finishing up at midnight. Thomas is in her eight year as a print operator for Printing Services. During the busiest times—before the start of the fall and winter semesters—the printing machines run 18 hours a day.

Although there are few women in this field, Thomas, who studied applied communications at Camosun College, began running an offset printing press at age 18 and worked in a commercial printing firm the next year. At UVic, she and other operators rotate job stations running the Digimaster, a high-speed digital copier that can print 6,000 black-and-white copies per hour; a digital colour copier for full-colour copies; an offset printing press, which is cheaper for high volume printing and can print two colours at the same time; a scanner, which converts lap top copies to digital files; a collator; a folding machine; a guillotine cutter and a shrink wrapper.

“Everyone tries to make it sound like their job is the most urgent,” she laughs. “Now we are hearing terms like ‘urgent rush’ and ‘absolute rush’—it’s hard to tell which job is more important.

“It can be a hard job with lots of standing and lifting. I’m tired at the end of the day when it’s been very busy and noisy. I keep in good shape, though, and use custom-made hearing protection,” she says. “I wore a pedometer for a while and did 10,000 steps, no problem! It feels good when you have completed a quality job and met an ‘urgent absolute rush’ request.”

The industry has changed dramat- ically over the past 20 years, with advancing technology as well as environmental consciousness. “It’s not like it used to be, where all the garbage went into one big, muddy barrel,” she says. Paper and plastic are recycled, spent ink is sent away for recycling and photographic chemi- cals are treated as hazardous waste.

Thomas is the mother of two sons, the elder of whom just finished his history degree at UVic and moved home pending law school. “It’s invigor- ating living with a grown up son,” she says. “He’s an extravagant cook. We never have just a bagel!”

Thomas enjoys taking photo- graphs, and several of her photos hang on the front wall of the office. She is also taking courses for a business administration certificate through the CUPE 951 professional development fund to expand her job skills at the university.