AWARD-WINNING PARTNERSHIP

Nursing students, Aboriginal community learn from each other

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN

What does it mean to walk a mile in another person’s shoes? Just ask UVic nursing students and members of the Tsawout First Nation participating in an award-winning pilot project called the Reciprocal Partnership Model in Nursing Education.

“The education I have received has provided me a clearer vision of the context of Aboriginal communities and my role as a nursing student,” says Lynn Appleby. “I am so grateful for this experience because I feel more culturally competent to enter into meaningful relationships.”

“I learned to listen with my heart, and this will have an immense impact on how I will strive to be in relation to my patients when I am nursing.”

Marcy Robertson

And Tsawout elder Doreen Pelkey says, “We are honoured to join nurses on their journey and we thank you for trusting our knowledge.”

The historic health challenges for Aboriginal people and their difficulties in accessing post-secondary education compelled Tsawout Chief Allan Claxton to envision a program that might encourage more community members to pursue higher education and choose careers in health care.

“Our plan was to create opportunities to get together and exchange knowledge,” says Joan Gilkie, School of Nursing project co-leader.

A collaboration involving the Tsawout First Nation, UVic’s School of Nursing and the Office of Indigenous Affairs, the project was created to increase the number of Aboriginal health care professionals and to advance a nursing curriculum that provides culturally appropriate learning opportunities. It recently received the 2007 Education Innovation Award from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing western region.

“This type of partnership has never been tried before, and we could not have done it without the community’s contributions and our elders’ guidance,” says Rhonda Underwood, Tsawout project coordinator. Elders had a profound impact on the education of nursing students by telling stories and sharing a history that has affected their entire community.

Since September 2007, 21 third- and fourth-year nursing students and 26 community learners have participated in the project, exploring such issues as environmental health, postnatal care and community health planning.

The pilot is funded through the Ministry of Advanced Education, Aboriginal Special Projects until December 2008.

“With this pilot project, the Government of Canada is taking a fresh new approach to on-campus recruitment,” says Oryssia Lennie, Deputy Minister of Western Economic Diversification Canada and the deputy minister in charge of strengthening the linkage between the public service and UVic. “By working with the University of Victoria, we’ll have the chance to show RC students how they can make important contributions to Canada’s future through a wide range of career choices in the public service.”

“The University of Victoria is committed to ensuring our students gain

UVIC-FEDERAL GOV’T AGREEMENT

Attracting students to the public service

The University of Victoria and the Government of Canada have partnered in a unique pilot project aimed at bringing more university graduates into the public service.

Currently, 66 per cent of the federal public service is over 40 years of age. By 2012, over 25 per cent of today’s public service can retire, including almost half those in executive level positions. Faced with this challenge, UVic and the federal government have signed a memorandum of understanding to deliver on-campus career and learning events that will give university students and graduates an insight into the diversity of opportunities in the public service.
CanAssist client Val Corley, with her adjustable wheelchair camera mount. The device has a trigger system that allows her to take a picture with a sense of a bulb.

CanAssist receives $1-million “jackpot”

BY VALERIE SHORE

A UVic program that develops customized devices, technologies and services for people with disabilities can expand its work, thanks to a $1-million donation from the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation (GCGC). CanAssist, which responds to community requests for assistive technologies from across Greater Victoria and around the world, will receive $280,000 in each of the next five years from GCGC. The donation allows CanAssist to respond to more requests for devices, continue its ongoing research program, and expand its operations to provide training opportunities for people with special needs.

“I am pleased to help ensure the continued progress and expansion of this vital work,” says Ross McLeod, chair of the GCGC. “This is a very exciting and rewarding time for CanAssist, and one in which we are very proud to be a part.”

“I am happy to be here and to support the continued success of this program,” she said.

This support will make an incredible difference to us,” says Dr. Nigel Livingston, founding director of CanAssist. “Not only will we be able to increase our overall capacity to serve the community, but we can now make a much longer-term commitment to our clients, to our staff and to the students who work with us.”

FOR HE’S A JOLLY GUGGENHEIM FELLOW

Climatologist wins prestigious fellowship

Uvic climatologist Andrew Weaver is one of only three Canadians selected for 2008 Guggenheim Fellowships. “I’m absolutely ecstatic,” says Weaver of his fellowship. “It will allow me to focus dedicated research time to understanding how the thawing of permafrost in Canada’s Arctic will affect climate systems this century.”

Weaver and his research team have built one of the world’s most sophisticated climate modelling facilities.

Past Guggenheim winners from UVic include astrophysicist John Navarro, English professor Anthony Edwards, ocean physicist Chris Weaver and business professor Bob Kuisle. More online at ring.uvic.ca.

PICS is off and running

Climateologist Dr. David Roden- huis is the new director pro tem of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS).

PICS was announced on Jan. 25 by BC Premier Gordon Camp- bell as a collaboration among the province’s four research-intensive universities—UVic, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fra- ser University and the University of Northern BC—as well as government and the private sector. UVic is the host and lead institution.

In general, PICS will work to increase our understanding of the magnitude and patterns of climate change, evaluate the physical, economic, social and institutional implications; assess options and develop solutions; and communicate climate change issues to government, industry and the general public.

The province provided UVic with an endowment for PICS that will generate more than $4 million a year for operating costs, and another $4.7 million this year for start-up expenses. The $90 million in funding is the largest single contribution to a university endowment in Canadian history.

Rodenhuis, whose expertise is climate monitoring and mod- elling of the atmosphere, is also senior scientist and acting direc- tor of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC), a consortium that helps bridge the gap between research and applications. PCIC has been operating for several years at UVic with support from stakeholders in government and industry. PICS funding includes support for PCIC.

In the first few months, PICS has established communication among the four collaborating univer- sities, initiated a competition for the first PICS graduate fellows, launched a database of climate researchers in the province and set up an initial governance structure.

The next step is to de- velop a five-year research plan. PICS research will be conducted by the community of physical scientists, engineers, so- cial scientists and policy experts in BC whose work has a bearing on the climate change issues facing the province and local governments.

“We’re asking the BC research community to anticipate cli- matic changes that are coming to Pacific North America and direct their research toward solu- tions,” says Rodenhuis. “At the same time, we need to attract the entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector.”

The database will contain the basic information on “who is doing what” at BC’s four research-intensive universities, says Rodenhuis. “Researchers who want to join the search for solutions to the major issue of our times will be identified in that database.”

More info: www.pics.uvic.ca

OCEANS RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Funds to provide speed boost for NEPTUNE data

When data start flowing from the NEPTUNE Canada undersea observatory, possibly as early as fall 2008, it will revolutionise researchers and in greater volume thanks to a dedicated high-bandwidth Internet connection.

CANARIE, a not-for-profit cor- poration that designs and delivers Canada’s research and education backbone advanced network, is providing $2.2 million to fund the line, which will be provided by Shaw Business Solutions.

The line will provide the NEP- TUNE Canada network with the required capability to transport the hundreds of instruments and sen- sors it will install later this year on the site in the Pacific Ocean 800 km under- water cable loop west of Vancouver Island. More online at ring.uvic.ca

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.

Letter ROBSON RETIRES

Jerry Robson, executive director of facilities management, has elected to retire from the University of Victoria after nearly 21 years of service.

Starting with the university as the director of campus planning, Jerry has overseen and directed much of the construction of the buildings and infrastructure that are on campus today.

Just as visible has been the development of our grounds and gardens—important features that contribute greatly to making UVic one of the most, if not the most, desirable campuses in the country. A combination of excellence in building design and commitment to progressive maintenance has meant that even in difficult budget times our buildings have withstood the wear and tear that seem very visible at other institutions. Jerry and his team have made a significant contribution to the environment of the University of Victoria.

Join me in congratulating Jerry on his many accomplishments and wishing him well as he goes into retirement.

—Gayle Gonzi, vice-president finance and operations
The challenge of budget planning at the University of Victoria grew suddenly steeper this spring when university administrators and the board of governors were faced with developing a strategy to deal with a last-minute $4.2-million budget cut imposed by the provincial government.

Cuts to the budgets of BC's universities and colleges for 2008/09 were announced March 12, less than three weeks before the start of the new fiscal year. For UVic, this meant that many months of budget review, priority setting and integrated planning were knocked off course when operating grant increases promised by the provincial government a year earlier did not fully materialize.

As a first step, on March 31 UVic's board of governors accepted a recommendation from the university's executive council and passed a deficit budget for the university for 2008/09. In the understanding that "one-time only" funds would be used to cover the shortfall in the operating budget and a plan to achieve the necessary ongoing reductions would be brought to the board in June.

As The Ring went to press, deans and administrators were developing plans to implement 2-percent cuts across the board to bring the permanent reductions into effect. UVic Vice-President Academic Richard Cassels says the process will be "very challenging" and would likely affect everything from faculty positions and student enrolment to program quality and service levels.

Cassels says the reductions in funding seem to have been sparked by a perception in the Ministry of Advanced Education that provincial investments in increased post-secondary capacity have not produced a commensurate growth in student seats. "That certainly doesn't apply to UVic," says Cassels. "There will always be some lag between receiving funding for new students and filling the new seats, but UVic has a strong record of delivering additional spaces."

There's little flexibility at the university to absorb the cuts, says Cassels. UVic is among the most efficient of BC's research-intensive universities, receiving the lowest amount of funding per student. There's nowhere to turn for a painless cut. Since salaries comprise 78 percent of UVic's operating budget, eliminating faculty and staff positions is expected to be the "primary means" of meeting the budget reductions. As much as possible, these reductions will be achieved through eliminating vacant positions. Funding for teaching assistants and course sections will also be affected.

Vice-President Finance and Operations Gary Gorrill echoes Cassels' assessment. "With the significant growth in students and research activity and new buildings coming on line, our administrative and support areas are already stretched," she says. "Implementing budget reductions requires some tough choices on service levels. We're not going to be able to deliver the same services with reduced resources.

The university's significant successes of recent years in attracting external funding for research and student financial aid won't be able to mitigate the impact of the cuts since the funds may not be targeted to specific purposes and can't be redirected.

Cassels says that despite the last-minute deadline on the time and effort that went into the development of longer-term academic and support service plans, and the integrated budget planning process at the university wasn't interrupted. "All that good work will stand our students and university operations in good stead," he says. The priorities that we have identified do not change merely because of this funding reduction, and the integrated planning process remains by far the most effective way for us to move ahead on UVic's strategic goals.

SFU is dealing with a 63.6-percent cut, while UVic has received a combined $15.8-million reduction, and UVIC $1 million less than promised.

BY TARA SHARPE

A children's literary champion, a mentor to Aboriginal students and a Scouts Canada leader are among the eight outstanding students who received UVic 2008 Blue and Gold Awards April 24. Each has taken time out of her or his busy course work schedule to volunteer in the community while maintaining solid marks of at least B average in the classroom.

Each winner received a certificate, a pin and a cash award. Top prize winners Andrew Bateman, Lisa DeWitt and Jessica Page each received $2,500. Diane Cardin, Lori Malka, Maya Matthew, Kate McBrady and Carlyne Rudolph received $1,000 each.

Bateman is in his final year as a Faculty of Social work undergraduate student. He has volunteered with UVic Students for Literacy as a reading buddy, providing one-on-one tutoring to children as well as providing organizational support for the group. Bateman has also volunteered with Common Energy, the UVic students' society and UVic's board of governors and senate.

DeWitt is a Woodworking student in the Faculty of Business. As part of her commitment to her roots and culture she is involved with the UVic Native Students' Union and is a mentor to new Aboriginal students entering UVic's commerce program. Her passions also extend to martial arts. She co-founded the Taekwondo Do Club during her first year at UVic.

Page, in her last year of study as an undergraduate biology student, has amassed 2,000 volunteer hours through Scouts Canada as a leader, a youth representative for the western region and delegate to Scouts Canada's Cascadia Council. Her scouting work has taken her to Gambia and Ecuador. Page also serves on the UVic senate, is one of three founding executive members of the UVic Curling Club and has volunteered extensively with Science Venture.

Cardin, Malka, Matthew, McBrady and Rudolph all contribute to a variety of on- and off-campus volunteer organizations while also attaining strong academic credentials.

The Blue and Gold awards program was established by UVic in 1996 and receives financial support from CBC. More at ring.uvic.ca

Students shine with blue and gold

CONTINUÉDE FROM PUBLIC SERVICE P1

a solid education, so that they are prepared to perform on the world stage," says UVic President David Turpin. "The knowledge, insights and skills a UVic education provides are great preparation for public service, which is why we are so excited about this pilot project with the Government of Canada."

The program starts with the launch of a web portal and career conference this fall. UVic will also develop and implement a questionnaire to gauge awareness and determine what drives students' career interests. These initiatives will test new federal approaches for on-campus recruiting and put the focus on interviewing and hiring students from BC. The program will provide an opportunity for other post-secondary institutions across the country to learn from the UVic experience. The agreement will be in effect until June 30, 2009.

Treat yourself to a learning holiday

2008 Summer Woodworking Institute
Week long sessions including a new woodworking Women's Class

Congratulations to UVic students Chantal Orr (business) and Jill Doucette (biology) who are the only two undergraduate students from universities across Canada selected to attend the World Student Environmental Summit in Nyto. The duo will enjoy an all-expense-paid opportunity to share UVic's knowledge on climate change and sustainable business practices with other young leaders. Students from more than 10 countries meet on June 17–22 to learn about the leading issues and to develop actions on sustainable development. Their deliberations will be presented to world leaders at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit taking place in July 2008.

Twenty undergraduate students from Peter Stephenson's and Deborah Mement's Anthropology 100 class recently placed among the top 50 in the Centre for Public Anthropology's Community Action Website letter writing project. Over 900 students from eight universities participated in this project, which involved proposing solutions to decision makers about the medical and political threats affecting the Yanomamo tribe of South America. Students: Mennet Boora and Trevor Smart placed among the top five. More info: www.publicanthropology.org/flash.htm

Dr. Leslie Foster (child and youth care, geography) was the key researcher and writer of the recently released annual report of the BC provincial health officer. Working with Foster were nursing PhD graduate student Chantal orr and recent geography master's student Perry Hyslett. The report examines health trends among BC grade-school students and found that fewer students are smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol, but the urine screen for marijuana has levied off. Key concerns include the increasing rates of obesity, cyber-bullying, sexually transmitted diseases and anxiety disorders. The report is available at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/phoannual2006.pdf.

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The Ring

Debit cards will be welcomed.

The best selection, and bring carrying boxes. Selection than ever before. Arrive early for the 30th annual UVic Plant Sale on May 008.

Four events are open to the public at this third national (Community-University exposition). Activities include round-table sessions, poster exhibits, field trips and more. For information on partners, programs and people, visit www.csump88.ca/ and check out the “The Ring” Facebook profile at www.facebook.com/pages/UVic/114204923117. Stay tuned for next month’s Ring to learn what happened at this international symposium.

Help elect UVic’s next chancellor

From May 20 to June 20 members of the university community can vote to elect a new chancellor. The nominees are retired Victoria heart surgeon James Dutton and UVic Board of Governors Chair Murray Farmer, BA ’68. Dutton was nominated by a group that includes former chancellor Dr. William Gibson and Dr. Reg Mitchell (chemistry). Farmer was nominated by members of the board of directors of the UVic Mining Association. Voting will take place via website (webvote.uvic.ca) and mail-in balloting. The new chancellor and members of senate will begin three-year terms starting Jan. 1, 2009.

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New CSRS director

The new director of UVic’s Centre for Studies in Religion and Society is Dr. Paul Bramadat, effective July 1. Bramadat is also an active member of the Metropolis Project, an international network for comparative public policy research on migration, diversity and immigrant integration in urban centres, and the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association, where he serves as vice-president. Info: http://crs.uvic.ca/about/newappointment.php

30th UVic Plant Sale on Mother’s Day

Making it a blooming good Mother’s Day with a visit to the 30th annual UVic Plant Sale today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 17 in McKinnon Gym. This year promises a wider selection than ever before. Arrive early for the best selection, and bring carrying boxes for the trip home. Visa, MasterCard and debit cards will be welcomed.

In March, Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill signed on for the task of increasing her personal preparedness at home and at work in the weeks leading up to Emer- gency Preparedness Week (May 4-10, 2008). On the advice of University Emergency Planner Daphne Donaldson, Gorrill and her family conducted an inventory of the emergency supplies they already had on hand, and took concrete steps to improve their preparedness for an emergency event.

Gorrill found that simply “discussing emergency preparedness with my family was the most meaningful activity we did. We discovered that it doesn’t take a lot of time—we accomplished a lot in 15 minutes—but you need to take the time.”

Gorrill had already collected some emergency supplies at home, including emergency food and water, a first aid kit and other items such as candles, matches and a wind-up flashlight. Her hot water tank was secured in a closet, and she had considered emergency food supplies for Cava, the family’s golden retriever.

When Gorrill and her family checked their home for smoke detectors, they tested the two they found to ensure they were functioning properly. She plans to investigate whether two detectors are sufficient, considering the type and location in the home. “Smoke detectors are the single most important emergency purchase—they’re a relatively easy and cost-effective way of protecting your family,” she notes.

Gorrill also established an out-of-town contact for her family, using an easy-to-re- member phone number, and discussed a fam- ily meeting place and evacuation routes.

Over the next few weeks, Gorrill and her family plan to check off the following items on their emergency preparedness to-do list:

• Re-organize the emergency supplies into a large container and relocate it to a more accessible location

• Develop a plan to rotate food supplies and check the contents of the first aid kit (to replace used or expired items).

FIRST PEOPLES HOUSE

BMO Financial Group provides lead donation

UVic’s plan to create a centre of cultural and academic support for Indigenous students is one step closer to reality thanks to a gift of $500,000 from BMO Financial Group.

The donation will support the construction of UVic’s First Peoples House, a 12,000-sq. ft. educational facility to be built at the centre of the UVic campus. An imposing two-story foyer and construction is set to begin this month.

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In mid April, Knappett Projects Inc. was named the general contractor for the project, and construction is set to begin this month. “Knappett’s expertise with West Coast building styles and sustainable construction practices is perfectly suited to the design of this building, which makes extensive use of wood and glass,” says Eugene Heeger, acting executive director of facilities management. Knappett built UVic’s Engineering Office Wing.

First Peoples House is targeted for comple- tion in June 2009 and is expected to achieve gold-level certification with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating Standards program.

“This generous gift from BMO is an invest- ment in the future of Canada’s First Nations communities and in a promising future for Ab- original students,” says Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi, UVic’s director of Indigenous affairs. “Genera- tions of Aboriginal students will find a home- away-from-home here, and they will find the support they need to succeed at university.”

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A trail-blazing lawyer, a sociologist who works with society’s most vulnerable populations, two innovative mechanical engineers and a group of climate scientists are winners of the University of Victoria’s 2008 Craigdarroch Research Awards.

Established in 2003, the annual Craigdarroch awards honour research excellence at UVic.

“We consistently say our researchers are world class, and here’s proof,” says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president research. “All of these individuals are accomplished leaders in their fields who are engaging with the wider community to apply new knowledge for the benefit of society.”

A leading legal historian, John McLaren has made an indelible mark upon Cana- dian legal studies in his writing, teaching and administrative contributions over the last four decades.

McLaren’s thoughtful examinations have ranged from the collision of religious belief and common law to the role of law as a moral regulator in areas such as prostitution, obscenity and public nudity.

His ability to combine painstaking empirical enquiry with insightful analysis of different perspectives has made him a leader and role model among Canadian legal historians, and ranks him among the best in the Commonwealth. He retired in 2006.

McLaren’s accomplishments were recognized in 2003 with the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award from the Canadian Bar Association, who referred to him as “Canada’s legal history ambassador to the common law world.”

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Empowering women and girls to reduce gender inequalities and promote their policy implications, Benoit is helping to reduce gender inequalities and promote the health and well-being of vulnerable populations in Canadian society.

As a mechanical engineer, director of UVic’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems and holder of the NSERC Chair in Sustainable Energy Systems Design, Dr. Peter Wild is committed to moving new technology from the lab to the marketplace.

Since joining UVic in 2003 he has been a steady supporter of UVic’s Innovation and Development Corporation and its activities and has been involved in a number of signif- icant collaborative research agreements with industry.

Wild has filed for several patents through IDC. One involves a probe that could replace the larger, more intrusive needles used by physicians to identify the source of back pain. Another collaboration is advancing research into harnessing energy from ocean movement, which could help remote coastal communities lessen their reliance on power generators.

Described by his peers as a “dynamic and versatile” researcher, Dr. Afzal Suleman is an internationally recognized leader in aeronautical design.

He holds degrees in aeronautical engineering and mechanical/aerospace engineering, studied space sciences at the International Space University in Japan and completed postdoctoral research at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the US.

Suleman’s research in “smart” composite materials may lead to lighter yet stronger aircraft. His work is so highly regarded that his expertise is sought by commercial and military organizations within the European Union and NATO.

But his interests aren’t limited to the skies. Since joining UVic in 2006, he has es- tablished a vibrant research program with applications in transportation, energy sys- tems and bioengineering. He has obtained substantial research grants and contracts and supervised 45 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

Sky is no limit for aerospace engineer

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Silver Medal for Excellence in Research

Sky is no limit for aerospace engineer

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He holds degrees in aeronautical engineering and mechanical/aerospace engineering, studied space sciences at the International Space University in Japan and completed postdoctoral research at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the US.

Suleman’s research in “smart” composite materials may lead to lighter yet stronger aircraft. His work is so highly regarded that his expertise is sought by commercial and military organizations within the European Union and NATO.

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Pedal power

U Vic kicks off Bike to Work Week June 2–8

BY TARA SHARPE

It’s time to start gearing up for Bike to Work Week.

The University of Victoria is taking part once again in the annual citywide campaign to promote bicycle commuting and get tuned to an even healthier lifestyle. June 2 through 8 will be an exciting week of cycling-related events on campus and throughout our city.

Commuting by bike doesn’t just happen in June for William Rondow of U Vic’s library services. Rondow is a volunteer for U Vic’s SPokes program (a bicycle bursary program that combines recycling with cycling) and lives 15 minutes by bike from campus, near the Quadra and Finlayson intersection. He rides rain or shine almost every weekday of the year. “It allows me to be more aware of my surroundings and it’s actually faster,” he says. “Whenever I drive a car, I’m always rushing to each stop light only to wait again.”

Rondow wants to see more bike routes leading to U Vic. He also helped initiate a monthly public ‘Moonlight Midnight Mystery Ride’ in the fall of 2003. Interested cyclists take to the parks and hilltops of Victoria and virtually walk (cycle, yoga, swim or garden) around Vancouver island. Every Monday and Thursday until June 19, you can join others on Ring Road at designated meeting places between 12 and 1 p.m. For details, visit activeuvic.ca and keep logging your steps in order to qualify for great prizes.

As part of Bike to Work Week, UVic will host two credit/non-credit restoration courses following the symposium for individuals interested in taking academic coursework.

ADVANCES IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION: Alien Invasive Species Management

U Vic’s School of Environmental Studies and the Division of Continuing Studies invite you to participate in the 2008 Restoration Institute scheduled for May 22 – May 23, 2008. This institute will bring together researchers, scientists, resource managers, resource industries, community leaders, policy makers, and students to learn and share knowledge on innovative techniques, approaches, and theories regarding alien invasive species management. The Institute will feature workshop sessions on May 22 followed by a reception and a keynote address. A symposium involving invited speakers, panel discussions, and oral and poster presentations will be held on May 23.

Two credit/non-credit restoration courses are scheduled following the symposium for individuals interested in taking academic coursework.

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Join the U Vic Speakers Bureau

Are you passionate about sharing your knowledge? Consider joining U Vic’s Speakers Bureau, a free service through which U Vic faculty members, staff, graduate students and retirees volunteer to make their expertise available to community groups, schools, clubs and other local organizations.

The bureau books more than 300 speaking engagements per year, reaching an audience of over 10,000. For more information or to sign up as a speaker, phone 721-8587 or email mckerod@uvic.ca or use the web form at communications. uvic.ca/bibjoin.php.

Active U: Connect with your sole mates

More than 600 U Vic staff and faculty have already logged more than 100 million steps in the Active U program, which encourages members of the campus community to get active to enhance their overall well-being. The website tracks participants’ progress as they virtually walk (cycle, yoga, swim or garden) around Vancouver island. Every Monday and Thursday until June 19, you can join other walkers on Ring Road at designated meeting places between 12 and 1 p.m. For details, visit activeuvic.ca and keep logging your steps in order to qualify for great prizes.

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Early childhood care and development in Africa

On June 4, Dr. Alan Pence, professor and director of the Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU), will share the podium with two African leaders in early childhood policy and services development.

Ruth Addison is the senior program officer for the Ghana National Commission on Children and Maoud Ali is the project director for the Madrasa Resource Center located in Mombasa, Kenya. The two leaders were participants in the ECDVU, a unique African capacity building program which just completed a one-year delivery with participants from nine African countries.

They are at UVic to receive their graduation certificates and will be presenting an overview of their work, with Pence, at a public presentation on Wed., June 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Hickman 105. This is the fifth in a series of presentations sponsored by the UVic African Partnerships Network; it is co-sponsored by UVic’s REACH early childhood network and the School of Child and Youth Care.

Canadian singer/songwriter Bruce Cockburn and retired General Romeo Dallaire—both UVic honorary degree recipients—will team up on Oct. 4 for Child Soldiers No More, a benefit concert to help end cycles of violence.

Proceeds will aid the Child Soldiers Initiative, developed by Drs. Sibylle Artz, Marie Hoskins, and Daniel Scott (child and youth care) to re-integrate war-affected children into their communities. "Our research is aimed at developing effective methods of re-introducing these children to a stable life," says Artz, who, with Hoskins, joined Dallaire and 40 other professionals from around the world last summer at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana, where they developed and tested innovative solutions to help eradicate the use of child soldiers.

It is estimated that over 300,000 children in more than 30 countries serve as soldiers, human mine detectors, porters, spies, suicide messengers and sexual slaves. Since witnessing the Rwandan genocide, Dallaire has devoted himself to helping war-affected children. "Removing all children from combat is an essential step to end cycles of violence, and having Bruce Cockburn’s important support on this mission enables many more people to learn of the initiative," says Dallaire.

Cockburn has long been a spokesperson for global peace. "It is a great honour to be working with General Dallaire and raising awareness about this initiative," he says.

Tickets for the concert are $81.50 each (including GST and service charges) and are on sale now. For further information contact the University Ticket Centre at 721-8480 or visit www.uvic.ca/auditorium.

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Carlson is currently a textbook buyer at the UVic Bookstore and she was the coursepack coordinator for 10 years before that. While both jobs involve getting material into the hands of students, the challenge on the textbook side is to order books, getting the right quantities in time. For coursepacks, its dealing with copyright.

"Faculty members bring copies of items and we get permission to copy them. It can be challenging to locate the copyright holders and credit them properly," she explains. A contract with Access Copyright covers copyright issues for all schools in Canada, but some items aren’t included. "Weird things come up from conferences, the Internet, and files a professor has had in the back of a cabinet for 15 years," she says. Fees are set by Access Copyright, and coursepacks are sold on a cost-recovery basis. "Students need to know it isn’t a conspiracy to grab money," says Carlson. "It is about reimbursing writers who put blood, sweat and tears into creating." But, she notes, coursepacks can cost almost the same as textbooks. A book may be too hard to supply or there may be more than one supplier. "I like bargain hunting—I found a supplier who provided a book for $87 cheaper than others." If book requests come in late or there are last-minute course or enrollment changes, it can be difficult to get the books on time. Buyers work with publishers’ representatives to resolve problems and try to find as many used books as possible, to maximize value for students.

Carlson is mum to a two-year-old boy. "I used to read a lot," she says. "I still read, but now it’s Spot the Dog. Little kids take all the time. The rest is laundry, but it is so worth it." Her challenge is to balance work and home life, and things like finding day care require the kind of perseverance she shows on the job. She called 82 day cares and only five had potential space. Carlson is originally from Revstikov. "I came to UVic in 1986 as a student and never left," she says. "UVic is a comfortable place." Carlson, who majored in English and history, enjoys preparing course packs and sourcing texts for some of her former professors.

University Marketing in conjunction with Student Transition Services has won silver in the best programs—student recruitment category of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education 2008 Prix d’Excellence Awards. Kudos to Nick Clewley (undergraduate marketing) and Susan Corner (student transition services) for their work on the winning projects, which were a part of the Experience UVic program.

Welcome to the newly designed Ring. Over the past few months you, our readers (and non-readers, too), have told us what you like and dislike. What you want and don’t want. In UVic’s community paper. We’ve scrutinized reader survey responses; held focus groups with faculty, students and staff; and presented our ideas at meetings and one-on-one consultations.

You asked us to make The Ring fresher, more lively and visually appealing, and better organized. You said you wanted more variety in photos and articles. And you told us to use our best educational production values. We listened. And the result is due largely to the talent of graphic designer Beth Doman and the news design expertise of Marc Chris-tensen, our publications officer.

We could go into excruciating detail about the details—choice of body and headline type (Adobe Kepler), changes in column grids (45 columns, etc.)—but we’d rather use our limited space to crow about something else.

With this issue, The Ring moves to the forefront of Canadian university newspapers in terms of sustainability. The Ring is now printed on Harbor 100 70-pound paper, made of 100-per-cent post-consumer recycled fibre, produced under Forest Stewardship Council certification, manufactured using 100-per-cent Green-E certified renewable carbon-neutral energy, and bleached without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds. Our paper is manufactured in nearby Hoguam, WA, by Grays Harbor Paper, so it doesn’t have to travel far. And we are printed at the Nanaimo Daily News with vegetable-based inks, which release extremely low levels of volatile organic compounds in comparison to petroleum-based inks.

Thanks to UVic’s strategic alliance partner Krogena Mita Canada, Ltd. for providing partial financial support to make these improvements possible.

We hope you like these changes. Let us know.

So now what? We have a new, approved statement of purpose for the paper and will be convening our editorial advisory board to conduct a thorough review of our editorial policies over the coming months. Our statement of purpose and current policies will be posted soon at ring.uvic.ca. And, speaking of the Ring website, we’re planning a major overhaul to make it more useful, integrating more Ring content into the rest of UVic’s web presence.

Eco audit Printing The Ring on 100-per-cent post-consumer recycled paper instead of virgin fibre results in the following savings:

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<th>8-page issue</th>
<th>12-page issue</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
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