



University
of Victoria

SPEED
READING

UNIVERSITY FINANCES

Budget framework
addresses growth and
economic uncertainty

The board of governors has approved a 2009/2010 budget framework that funds program growth at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, increases student financial aid, and cushions the impact of the deteriorating world economy on disbursements from the university's endowment fund. Story, page 3

PRESIDENTIAL
APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Turpin offered third term

The board of governors has accepted unanimously a recommendation from the university's committee for the appointment of the president that Dr. David Turpin be offered a third term as president. During the presidential review process, the UVic community demonstrated extraordinary support for Turpin's continued leadership. Turpin became UVic's sixth president in 2000. Story, page 2

CRAIG DARROCH RESEARCH
AWARDS

Research leaders fêted

An international pioneer in crystal growth, a scholar of English literature, a leader in European studies, an advocate for Aboriginal child health, and a university-wide team that assists people with special needs are winners of the University of Victoria's 2009 Craigdarroch Research Awards. Story, page 5

RETHINKING THE ECONOMY

Forum explores
co-operative economic
models

The UVic-based BC Institute for Co-operative Studies is a catalyst in efforts to recast our economic life on the basis of community values. Story, page 4

SUSTAINABILITY

We're officially green

UVic's well-established commitment to sustainability in teaching, research, operations and community partnerships has been formalized with approval of the university's sustainability policy by the board of governors. Story, page 4

ON THE RING WEBSITE

All the news that's
fit to post

For more stories that we couldn't squeeze into this print edition, go to *The Ring* website—ring.uvic.ca—where you'll find:

- Wind power research gets funding surge (UVic's role in the national Wind Energy Strategic Network)
- New residence building (106-bed dorm to be built)
- Mainframe decommissioned (the end of an era in computing)
- Ring survey results (we heard you loud and clear)



NEW OCEANS CENTRE

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THE RING

APRIL 2009

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Siemens demonstrates research tools to reporters at SSHRC funding announcement. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

\$12.9M

TOTAL FUNDING
FOR SIEMENS'
SEVEN-YEAR
INTERNATIONAL
PROJECT TO
DEVELOP OUR
UNDERSTANDING
OF LITERACY FOR
THE DIGITAL AGE

Reading in the digital environment

UVic-led collaboration to study knowledge environments for the future

BY PATTY PITTS

From ancient cave paintings to hand-printed books to Facebook, people have been reading in various forms for thousands of years. But what will the act of reading look like in the future and what can we learn from the past to ensure digital applications enhance and expand the reading experience?

Ray Siemens, Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing, gave visiting federal officials a sneak peek at the future during a March 16 ceremony to announce nearly \$2.5 million in funding through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) program for the "Implementing New Knowledge En-

vironments" (INKE) project that Siemens is leading.

With Andrew Saxton, MP for North Vancouver and parliamentary secretary to the president of the Treasury Board, and Chad Gaffield, SSHRC president, looking on, Siemens demonstrated one of the tools his team will use as part of their project research.

A swirl of words appeared on a computer screen, representing the frequency and context of pre-selected words or phrases appearing in a designated work—in this case, a Shakespeare play. Siemens pointed out how the tool could help a graduate student conducting research on recurrent word use or themes in a body of work or a journalist wanting to quickly compare themes in US President Barack Obama's

inaugural address to those of previous presidents.

"What we're specifically looking at is how to read better, how to communicate better, and how to write better," said Siemens. "We're looking at implementing new knowledge environments for the future."

The seven-year INKE project is assisted by an additional \$10.4 million from institutional and research partners. Siemens and his international team of 35 researchers and 21 partner agencies will develop a better understanding of literacy in the digital age.

"We describe our work as 'the future of the history of the book,'" says Siemens.

SEE DIGITAL READING P.8

Student wins national
award for green consulting business

90%

REDUCTION OF
LANDFILL WASTE
BY BLACK STILT
COFFEE HOUSE
MADE WITH
DOUCETTE'S
ASSISTANCE



Doucette at the Black Stilt. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BY DIANNE GEORGE

Working as a barista to fund her university studies has paid off in unexpected ways for biology student—and World Student Environmental Summit co-chair—Jill Doucette. On March 24 she placed first in the national Nicol entrepreneurship competition for her green business consulting practice, which focuses on the coffee, restaurant and retail industries.

"Winning this award is such an honour, and I've gained confidence in myself and my business idea," says Doucette. "Through the mentorship and contacts I've made at UVic and at the Nicol awards, I feel I've learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur

SEE DOUCETTE P.8

President Turpin to be reappointed

The Board of Governors has accepted unanimously a recommendation from the university's committee for the appointment of the president that President David Turpin be offered a third term.

"UVic has flourished under David Turpin's leadership, and both the board and the appointment committee believe we are very fortunate to secure one of Canada's truly exceptional education leaders to lead the university for another term," says board chair Ray Protti. "The university has made great strides onto the national and international stages in the past eight years, and his continued presence as president will allow us to build on those substantial achievements. In addition, as UVic faces the significant challenges posed by our current economic climate, it can do so with confidence, knowing that it has a strong, experienced and

innovative leader in place for the future."

The appointment committee's recommendation that Turpin be re-appointed was unanimous. It noted that the president "possesses a rare combination of strategic vision, excellence as a communicator and detailed understanding and knowledge of the university in all its aspects."

The recommendation came after an extensive performance review that revealed very high levels of support from all constituencies.

The consultation process included advisory ballots of UVic faculty and staff as well as interviews with 32 government, academic and community leaders at the national, provincial and local levels.

Comments from individuals both inside and outside the university were exceptionally consistent, characterizing Turpin as thoughtful, strategic,

energetic, enthusiastic and skilful in advancing the university's interests.

The committee concluded that Turpin "is extremely effective as an advocate and an ambassador for our university."

During the presidential review process, the UVic community demonstrated extraordinary support for Turpin's continued leadership.

With Turpin's guidance, UVic has grown in size and stature and has emerged as an international leader in teaching and research. A number of new degree programs have been established, especially at the graduate level; student financial assistance has more than doubled; sponsored research funding across the disciplines has more than tripled to reach \$106 million in the last fiscal year. Turpin also led UVic in the formulation and renewal of its strategic vision and in the development of a campus plan.

The rapidly changing external environment will present Turpin and the university with some significant challenges in the years ahead.

UVic must become increasingly competitive when it comes to attracting both domestic and international students. It will continue to remove barriers to access by increasing financial aid to all students, reaching out to students from non-traditional backgrounds and constructing additional residences and athletic and recreational facilities.

The university will continue to recruit and retain the very best faculty and staff to support its position as a research powerhouse, large enough to have the critical mass necessary for research and graduate education, yet small enough to nurture a supportive learning environment for students. Finally, there will be financial challenges ahead and prudent financial

management will be crucial.

"I am deeply honoured to be part of this remarkable institution," says Turpin. "Serving as UVic president has been the most rewarding part of my professional career. I am extremely fortunate to be a member of the UVic community and proud to have been asked to continue as president."

Turpin, 52, holds a PhD in botany and oceanography from UBC. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a highly cited researcher, he is widely regarded as one of Canada's pre-eminent scientists and an accomplished teacher. Born on Vancouver Island, he came to UVic from Queen's University in Ontario, where he held a number of senior administrative posts including vice-principal (academic) and dean of arts and science. Turpin became UVic's sixth president in 2000.

More information: <http://web.uvic.ca/univsec/presapptcomm.htm>

WRITE TO US

The Ring welcomes letters from members of the university community on matters of relevance to UVic. Please consult our letters policy online at <http://ring.uvic.ca/policies.html> and send submissions to the editor, robie@uvic.ca.

CUFA BC ACADEMIC OF THE YEAR AWARD

UVic advocate for Indigenous families honoured

BY TARA SHARPE

Dr. Jessica Ball (child and youth care) is the recipient of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC's (CUFA BC) 2009 Academic of the Year Award, and no doubt a certain circle of Indigenous parents would offer up a rousing ovation. An internationally recognized expert in Aboriginal child health and development, Ball is also particularly well known for her five-year inaugural study (2003–08) of Indigenous fathers, a project involving 80 First Nations and Métis fathers of young children.

The project on Indigenous fathers was one of seven undertaken nationally by the Father Involvement Research Alliance, a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) study examining the nature of fatherhood. Ball's efforts were oriented around the revitalization of Indigenous fatherhood, and she receives acclaim from her peers for this approach.

"She is a role model for all of us as the quintessential community-oriented academic," says Dr. Marion Ehrenberg, director of clinical training in UVic's Department of Psychology and one of the award nominators.

An example of Ball's community-university approach was the engagement of an Aboriginal team from five partner communities in BC to advise her on the study: these fathers reviewed project plans and data interpretations as well as made recommendations such as the critical need for a documentary DVD (produced as *Fatherhood: Indigenous Men's Journeys*) and booklets featuring Aboriginal men telling their fatherhood stories in their own words.

"Jessica's work truly exemplifies the principles of this award," says Dr. Leslie Brown, associate dean of

research for the Faculty of Human and Social Development and a fellow nominator. "She deserves this honour in so many ways, and particularly for her commitment to the protection of cultural diversity, for her research and perseverance, and her flexibility and creativity."

"She is ... the quintessential community-oriented academic"

DR. MARION EHREMBERG

Ball made sure her findings were readily available to her most important audience: parents and childhood educators. She created a user-friendly website (www.ecdip.org) providing information on early education and the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in programs for children and families. She prepared a series of well-designed reports as hand-outs for community meetings and workshops. And, to accompany the DVD, she compiled a tool-kit of booklets, posters, fact sheets, tips and articles. Over 3,000 resource packs have been distributed nationally and internationally.

Committed to bringing research evidence into policy decision-making processes, she has presented her research findings to numerous federal policy roundtables and parliamentary committees and has received invitations from scholars and community leaders as far away as Hawaii, Australia and Bangladesh.

"She has earned trust and respect from community members, academics



Ball. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

and educators through her many years of engaging in sound research with the intention of benefiting Aboriginal communities and global society as a whole," says fellow nominator Dr. Sandrina de Finney (child and youth care). "Jessica's example extends across all borders."

After completing three post-graduate degrees at the University of Cali-

ifornia, Berkeley, Ball has spent more than 20 years teaching in universities in Asia and North America and is the co-author of three books as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Ball is also recipient of the 2009 Craigdarroch Research Award for Research Communication (see story, page 5).


THE RING

Vol. 35 No. 4


The University of Victoria's community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca

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

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Next issue May 7

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

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Printed in Canada by Nanaimo Daily News

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40014024

Page 2 The Ring April 2009

UVic prof headed for space?

Steeves selected as Canadian astronaut candidate

BY CAMILLA GREGERSEN

Dr. Geoffrey Steeves, a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is one of 16 candidates vying for two spots as Canada's newest astronauts. They were selected from among 5,351 applicants.

When Steeves was a child, his grandparents bought him all sorts of books. "I was always drawn to the ones about space exploration," he says. He even remembers doing a school project on the Voyager spacecraft.

In 1992, when Steeves was an undergrad, the Canadian Space Agency put a call out for recruits. This captured his imagination and, ever since, he's been building his skills for the next opportunity to apply. He continued his post-secondary education, eventually receiving a PhD from the University of Alberta in 2001. He also began scuba diving, frequently diving at Ogden Point and Race Rocks. He started flying at the Victoria Flying Club in 2005, and received his commercial pilot's license and multi-engine instrument rating in 2008.

Final candidates for Canadian astronauts are mostly scientists, pilots, and medical doctors—and many are more than one of these. The space agency looks for individuals showing dedication and having broad inter-



Steeves learning to control the Canada Arm 2. PHOTO: COURTESY CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY

ests, because they need the ability to react instantly to any situation, then turn around and perform methodical research.

This time around the Canada Space Agency is looking for astronauts to go to the International Space Station, which is nearly completed. The most appealing part about this opportunity for Steeves is the chance to do scientific experiments in entirely different setting, collaborating with scientists

from around the world.

It has been a long process for Steeves. The candidates submitted written applications in May and June 2008, and have supplemented them with more information when requested. In the fall, interviews were conducted at the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics and medical tests were given at CFB Esquimalt.

This spring Steeves and the other candidates had a week in Montréal,

where they learned to use the Canada Arm 2 robotic arm and had a series of IQ tests. They also went through challenges used by the military for air crew selection when testing fighter pilots. They have been tested on their swimming and diving abilities, including an exercise that requires them to swim to the bottom of a pool and fit as many pieces into a block as possible. One test had them exiting a helicopter that was under water, and they were graded not on whether they exited successfully but on whether they followed the instructions precisely.

Testing continued in Halifax, with a day-long lesson in damage control, including fighting fires, floods and hazardous materials.

After that they had to perform their newly learned skills in a simulator for hours on end. "You know it's a simulation," explains Steeves, "but once the freezing cold water hits, your body still reacts as if it's in danger."

The following week was taken up with medical testing about which Steeves says, "you have no control over whether or not you pass."

The competition is nearly over and the Canada Space Agency will be announcing the two final choices for the positions in May.

Further information: www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronauts/

UVic budget framework addresses growth and economic uncertainty

BY PATTY PITTS

The University of Victoria's Board of Governors has approved a 2009/2010 budget framework that funds program growth at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, increases student financial aid, and cushions the impact of the deteriorating world economy on disbursements from the university's endowment fund.

The 2009/10 budget framework is based on an operating budget of \$297 million. This includes an interim provincial grant of \$177.7 million, increased by over \$14 million from last year. The framework provides for an increase of 274 full-time-equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student positions and 126 FTE graduate positions for a total funded FTE university enrolment of 16,402 and incorporates \$4.2 million in spending reductions that were required to balance the deficit budget approved last year.

New or expanded undergraduate programs addressing climate change,

technology and society, and public administration will be among those launched in response to emerging social and educational needs. New graduate student programs, including new PhDs in business and anthropology and expanded master's programs in nursing, social work and education, recognize increasing demand for post-graduate education and the key role that PhD and master's students play in a knowledge and innovation-based economy.

The framework provides an additional \$882,000 in student financial aid to maintain UVic's position among the top 20 per cent of Canadian universities in this area. Another \$300,000 is allocated to UVic's library to ensure that subscriptions and periodicals remain current. A further \$3.4 million will be allocated to priorities that do not have on-going commitments, including potentially reduced payouts from the university's endowment funds due to global market losses.

"This budget framework maintains

the quality of our programs and our commitment to student support, while, at the same time, it reflects the current climate of economic uncertainty," says UVic President David Turpin. "A higher than anticipated provincial government grant will greatly assist us to ensure that most of the benefits distributed through our endowment fund will be maintained for 2009/10 despite losses due to the worldwide economic downturn."

"Although UVic is not immune to the world's market fluctuations when it comes to our investments, through prudent financial management we have been able to avoid some of its worst effects," says Associate Vice-President Financial Planning and Operations Kristi Simpson. "We are still assessing the precise impact on our 2009 endowment disbursements through the University of Victoria Foundation, which will approve its budget later this year."

The framework contains a 2-per-cent increase in tuition fees, in keeping

with the BC Consumer Price Index inflation rate. This increase brings annual domestic arts and science undergraduate tuition to \$4,673 from \$4,581. Domestic graduate annual tuition rises to \$4,853 from \$4,664 effective May 1, 2009.

The UVic budget framework also includes modest increases in child care, housing and parking fees. A portion of parking fee revenue will be used to expand the employee subsidized bus pass program, create an emergency ride home program and build new motorcycle shelters. These initiatives build on the success of UVic's transportation demand management plan which has resulted in a 12-per-cent drop in single-occupancy vehicles traveling to and from campus since 2006.

The framework also provides for financing of 106 dormitory-style residence rooms to be built on campus by September 2010 to increase the supply of affordable, conveniently located housing for students.

NEW FEATURE

beyond the ring

With this issue, we launch a new occasional column presenting news on post-secondary education across Canada and around the world. To suggest news items or topics for this column, email robie.uvic.ca, using "Beyond the Ring" for the subject line.

Additional \$256 million for Nova Scotia universities

The Nova Scotia government has announced \$256 million in additional funding for the province's 11 universities. The province's finance minister says university funding is a top priority for the government, especially during the current economic climate.

NS media release, March 31

UofA projects \$84-million deficit

The University of Alberta is expected to post an \$84-million budget shortfall, mostly due to effects of the economic downturn on the university's investments. Endowments have declined by about 15 per cent, or \$112 million, this fiscal year. While no major cuts will result from the deficit, the university is expected to slow hiring and hold back on some optional spending.

Edmonton Journal, March 26

Guelph aiming for \$48 million in budget cuts

Nearly 122 staff and 68 faculty members at the University of Guelph have accepted voluntary departure packages, which will save the institution about \$20 million a year. The university has identified an additional \$10 million in operating cuts and is looking for another \$18 million in savings. It recently decided to eliminate the women's studies program and the organic agriculture major due to poor enrolments. Guelph was already struggling with a \$16-million structural deficit. In 2008, the university's pension and endowment funds dropped 9% in value.

Guelph Mercury, March 20, 31

Links to on-line sources for these stories: ring.uvic.ca

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REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$439	\$633	\$694
Total Payout to Age 100		\$222,831	\$198,182	\$176,962	\$155,469	\$144,437	\$132,635

Accelerated Payout:	Income over 5 years.....	\$1,838			Total 5 year payout.....	\$110,251	
	Income over 10 years.....	\$1,009			Total 10 year payout.....	\$121,023	
	Income over 15 years.....	\$736			Total 15 year payout.....	\$132,426	

* Based on best current GIC of 4.00%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

LIFE ANNUITIES							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male							
...payments cease at death		\$579	\$627	\$726	\$860	\$981	\$1,171
...10 years guaranteed		\$579	\$626	\$690	\$774	\$835	\$944
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$542	\$585	\$658	\$754	\$859	\$1,027
...10 years guaranteed		\$538	\$588	\$641	\$710	\$777	\$890
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around
the ring

UVic Plant Sale May 3

The 2009 UVic Plant Sale will be on Sunday, May 3, in the McKinnon Gym. Doors open at 10 a.m. and the sale ends at 1 p.m. Proceeds from the sale support the development of UVic’s Finnerty Gardens. New for this year: a table of plants from UVic gardens and a bagged manure fundraiser for the Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association. The sale, which always offers a huge selection of outdoor plants, is organized by the volunteer members of the Finnerty Garden Friends.

Quitters win

Congratulations to the following employees, who remained tobacco-free during round 1 of the UVic Quit and Win contest, and their non-smoking buddies—each won a draw prize of a \$75 HBC gift card: Jo-Anne Braidwood, Cheryl Crooks, Claire Jannaway, James Mason, Brian O’Hare and Ryan Winchester. Round 2 of the contest wraps up April 24, and six more prizes will be awarded. Participants who remain tobacco-free for the entire 12-weeks will also be eligible to win the grand prize of a trip for two to Seattle. Information: www.uvic.ca/clearair

UVic art collections on the web

What has 27,000 art objects, three major and multiple other locations and lots of great friends? It’s the University of Victoria Art Collections, which now has a new and informative website. There, you can find out about exhibitions and events at the Legacy Gallery, the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery and the McPherson Library Gallery; explore the collections using an extensive online database of art objects; join the Friends of the University of Victoria Art Collections and subscribe to the Maltwood e-news mailing list. Visit: uvac.uvic.ca

Get ready for Bike to Work Week, May 11–17

It’s not too early to spruce up your bike and consider being a volunteer or team captain for UVic’s Bike to Work Week. Watch the UVic Sustainability web portal for info and opportunities to get involved. <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

Ocean Networks Canada
gains a new federal centre of excellence

BY VALERIE SHORE

The economic and public outreach potential of two world-leading ocean observatories based at the University of Victoria are the focus of Canada’s newest Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR).

The \$6.5-million Ocean Networks Canada Centre for Enterprise and Engagement (ONCEE) has been established through the federal CECR program to help observatory researchers get their innovations from the lab to the marketplace and disseminate new knowledge to policy-makers and the general public.

The centre will be nested within Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), the non-profit agency created by UVic to develop and manage the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories.

“These two observatories are serving the interests of not only university researchers, but also government scientists, private sector companies and the public,” says ONC President and CEO Dr. Martin Taylor. “This centre will help ensure that they generate the benefits for Canada that were always intended.”

The VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada observatories combine continuous power, remotely operated sensors and instruments, and the streaming of real-time data through the Internet. They both involve a national consortium



of university, government and private sector partners led by UVic.

The two observatories are viewed as prototypes by countries such as Japan, France, the US, Taiwan and China, who are building or planning ocean observatories of their own. “The eyes of the world are literally on Canada,” says Taylor. “We are in the lead and will be for the next few years.”

About 500 Canadian firms are involved in ocean technologies, exporting some 90 per cent of their goods and services internationally. In BC alone, the ocean technology sector generates about \$1.2 billion worth of economic activity.

ONCEE will help maintain this international competitiveness and the supply of trained people in four areas of market opportunity: subsea sensors and instruments, ocean observatory system technologies, advanced information technology products and services, and public outreach and education.

“We’ll build on existing partnerships between observatory researchers and relevant Canadian and foreign organizations,” says Taylor. “Where

suitable industry partners can’t be found, ONCEE will help establish new spin-off companies.”

Through ONCEE, Canadian manufacturers will test and demonstrate their components, optimize their products for other markets, and link with other emerging observatories. Suppliers of ocean observatory technologies will market their products more effectively and exploit their world-leading position. Commercialization of new data management systems will create next-generation software applications in many sectors.

ONCEE’s education and outreach initiatives will lead to more informed public policy related to the oceans, greater public understanding of ocean issues, and increased awareness among young people of career opportunities in ocean-related science and technology.

Taylor says that the CECR funding, which is matched by an equal amount from partners, is especially important because it signals the vital linkage between investment in the capital and operating costs of research, and achieving returns on that investment.

“We will continue to work with the federal government to ensure that sustained operating funding is in place for the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada observatories so that the benefits to Canada are fully realized.”

More information: www.oceannetworks.ca

Sustainability at UVic: Making policy, taking action

BY MELANIE GROVES

The University of Victoria formalized its well-established commitment to sustainability with approval by the Board of Governors of a new campus sustainability policy in March. The policy is an overarching framework that provides a common understanding of UVic’s commitment to sustainability in teaching, research, operations and community partnerships.

The policy takes a “triple bottom line” approach to sustainability, with the goal of ensuring that decisions simultaneously consider and advance ecological balance, economic prosperity and social development.

“I am very pleased that the board has approved the sustainability policy,” says Gayle Gor-

rill, vice-president finance and operations. “This is a significant moment for the university, and I would like to thank the members of the sustainability policy and plan advisory committee and the staff of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability for their dedication and vision in guiding the policy development process.”

A comprehensive five-year sustainability action plan for campus operations has also been developed as a first step in implementing the policy. It provides goals and direction for a wide range of actions within eight inter-related topic areas: energy and climate; transportation; purchasing; governance, decision-making and sustainability resources; buildings and renovations; grounds, food and urban agriculture; waste management; and water management.

The policy and action plan grew out of a review of current campus initiatives and best practices at other institutions, and an intensive 14-month consultation process with students, staff, faculty and community members.

“We had an overwhelming response from the campus community in the development of the policy and action plan, and look forward to collaborating on sustainability initiatives with individuals, departments and external agencies to build on our successes and leave a legacy for the future,” says Neil Connelly, director of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability.

The policy furthers the goals set out in the university’s Strategic Plan which identifies sustainability as a priority.

More info: www.uvic.ca/sustainability

WHOSE ECONOMY IS IT, ANYWAY?

UVic forum says time is right for building the co-operative economy

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, director of the UVic-based BC Institute for Co-operative Studies (BCICS), looks beyond the recent bad economic news and sees a precious opportunity to do things differently.

“Maybe this is going to allow us to think about the way we put our economy together,” she explains. “So much of the efforts of governments everywhere seems to be aimed at remaking the economy in the way it was—rebuilding the machine that got us into this mess. Maybe we can rethink our economic life and bring it closer to what we value.”

So what are the options? A wide range of co-operative economy alternatives was explored at a March 7 forum entitled “Remaking the Economy

through People’s Eyes,” presented by BCICS and the BC Community Economic Development Network.

It brought together leaders in the field of social economy from UVic, BC and England and more than 200 participants to discuss such topics as co-operatives, community-based health promotion, food sovereignty, ecological economics, participatory economics, Indigenous economic development and social enterprise. Keynote speakers James Tully (UVic), Mark Roseland (SFU), Helen Haugh (University of Cambridge) and Doug Wright (The Co-operators), challenged the forum with a variety of ideas as to the ways in which economies have been made, how they can be made, and how they are being re-made, in Canada and abroad.

Practitioners working at the community

level led workshops on subjects ranging from ecological economics to First Nations and the economy, all aimed at harnessing the economy to community values.

“There is a lot going on at the grassroots level, where people make the economy differently,” says Peredo. “There are barter systems, community investment funds, co-ops, diverse models of community-based enterprise, micro-credit loan initiatives, local currencies—a whole range of what we call ‘social enterprises.’ These economies are not built on a model of individuals competing in an open market to increase their paper wealth. They are built, instead, on the visions of persons in the community creating real value; they are based on social innovation and on the social assets, investments and goodwill that are the strength of communities.”

“With the right framework of support, we have the makings of a strong co-operative economy right here in BC,” Peredo says.

The forum generated momentum, says Peredo, for those working in the co-operative economy—and that extends beyond co-operatives—to collaborate among themselves and with the public sector to create structures to facilitate and support the growth of co-operative community development in BC.

And the Institute for Co-operative Studies is well positioned to serve as a catalyst in this effort. The final presentation in its Ideas for a Grassroots Economy lecture series will feature Dr. Rod Dobell, professor emeritus in public policy, speaking on “People, Place and Participation: Community-based Governance in Coastal BC” on April 23 from 4–5 p.m. in Clearihue C113.



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PRESENTING ...

UVIC'S RESEARCH ALL-STARS FOR 2009



A mechanical engineer, an English scholar, an expert in European studies, an advocate for Aboriginal child health, and a university-community team that assists people with special needs are winners of the University of Victoria's 2009 Craigdarroch Research Awards.

The winners will be presented with their awards at an event at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria on April 7. Also to be honoured are the two UVic graduates who are sharing the Innovation and Development Corporation's 2009 entrepreneurship award.

"Choosing winners for the four Craigdarroch awards is always a daunting task for the selection committee," says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic's vice-president research. "This year the committee decided to exercise its prerogative to award gold medals to two outstanding recipients from very distinct fields, which speaks volumes about the depth and breadth of research talent at our university."

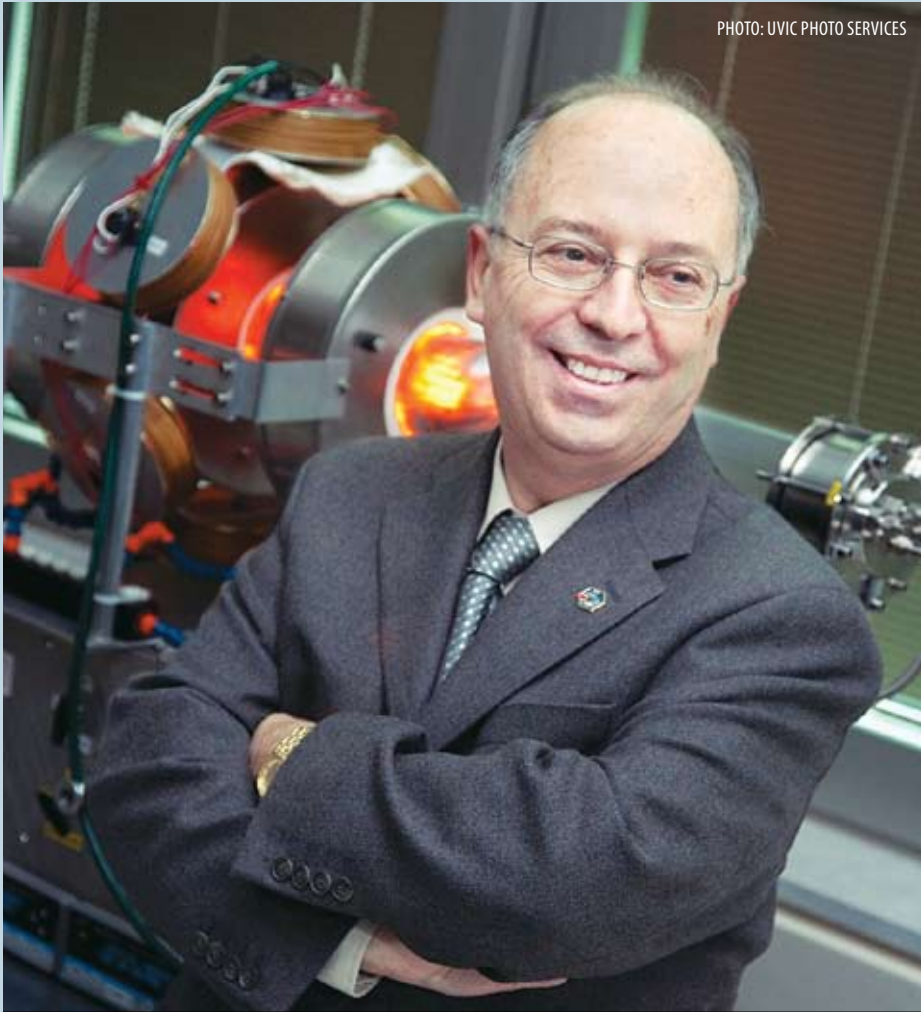


PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research

Accomplishments are crystal clear

DR. SADIK DOST—*Department of Mechanical Engineering*
From watches and cell phones to supercomputers and solar panels, almost all electronic devices rely on the semiconducting properties of single crystal materials. Sadik Dost is an international leader in crystal growth, the processes used to produce these materials. As the founding director of the Centre for Advanced Materials and Related Technology and the Canada Research Chair in Semiconductor Crystal Growth, he studies the challenges associated with growing reproducible, high-quality bulk semiconducting crystals. The advances he has made—typically in collaboration with industrial partners—have applications in a wide variety of fields, including medical imaging, solar energy conversion and security devices.

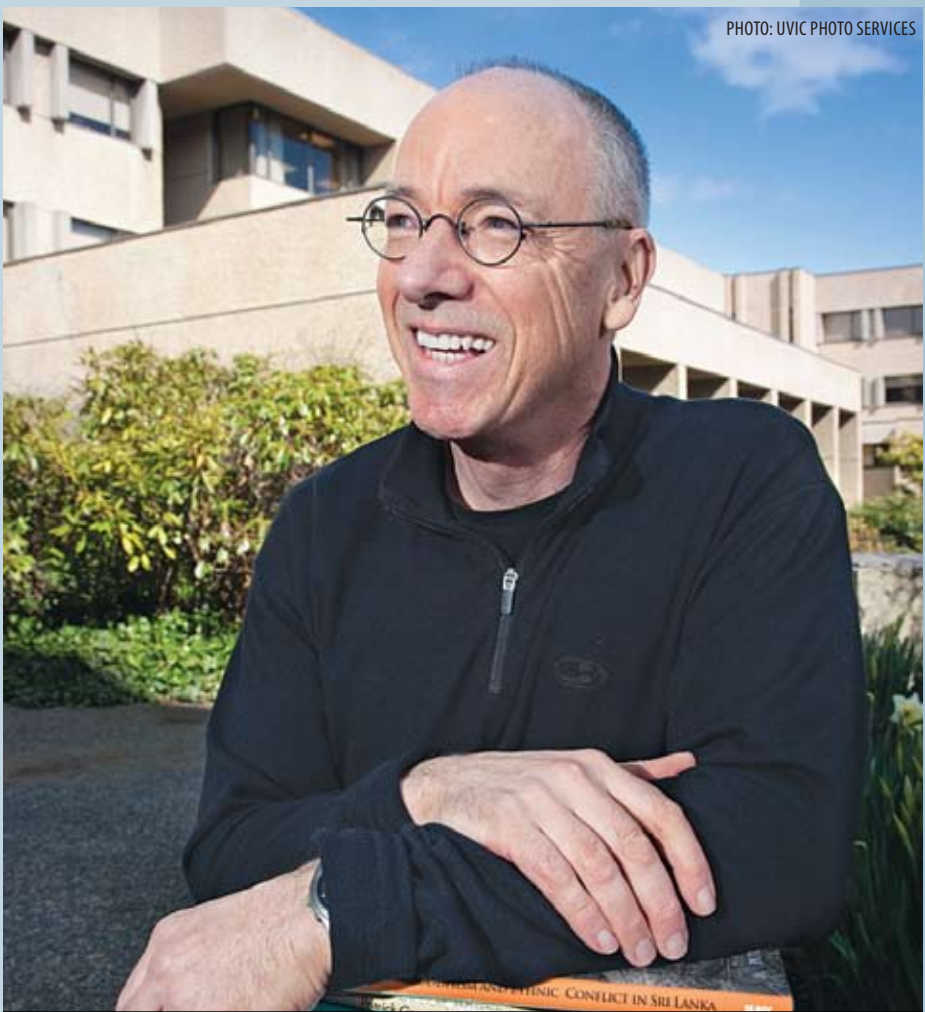


PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research

Intellectual powerhouse

DR. PATRICK GRANT—*Professor Emeritus, Department of English*
Described by colleagues as “an intellectual force of nature” and one of the most productive English scholars in Canada, Patrick Grant has spent his career—including 38 years at UVic—exploring the relationships between literature and religion. He has concentrated on literature of the English Renaissance and has an interest in the literature of Western mysticism, in modern literary approaches to the New Testament, and in the literature and culture of his native Northern Ireland. Along the way, he has authored 14 books, as well as a steady flow of book chapters, scholarly articles, journalistic essays, professional papers and lectures. He retired from UVic in 2006, but continues to write.

Silver Medal for Excellence in Research

European studies pioneer

DR. AMY VERDUN
Department of Political Science

Amy Verdun's rise through the ranks of the academic profession gives new meaning to the term “meteoric.” Since earning her PhD in 1995 and her arrival at UVic in 1997, she has rapidly become one of the “movers and shakers” in the field of European studies in Canada and internationally. As founding director of UVic's European studies program—now a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence—and a Jean Monnet Chair herself, Verdun is broadly respected as a leading scholar on European macroeconomic and monetary affairs. Her work—published in a prodigious stream of books, articles and book chapters—is widely cited in Canada and beyond, and is increasingly influential in policy circles.

Award for Societal Contribution

Applying ingenuity with heart

DR. NIGEL LIVINGSTON AND THE CANASSIST TEAM

The remarkable story of CanAssist began in 1999 when Nigel Livingston, a UVic biologist and the father of a daughter with a disability, saw for himself the unique difficulties faced by other children with disabilities. He formed UVATT, now CanAssist, a UVic program that harnesses the ingenuity of faculty, students and staff as well as community volunteers, to develop and deliver customized technology, programs and services for those with special needs. To date, the talented CanAssist team has worked with many hundreds of clients. Unique in North America, CanAssist is a successful and inspiring example of how universities can engage the community to accomplish profound benefits for society.

Award for Research Communication

Advocate for Aboriginal children

DR. JESSICA BALL
School of Child and Youth Care

Whether she's speaking about Aboriginal fathers, Indigenous children's literacy and development or intercultural partnerships, Jessica Ball is determined that research—hers and that of others—is translated into improved social policies, effective community programs and informed individual decision-making. As a Canadian leader in Aboriginal child health, she is a popular speaker and news media resource, and the author of more than 40 journal articles, book chapters and books. Her passion for applying research to practice is reflected in the range of media materials she has created to make her work accessible and understandable to the public, government and practitioners in community-based programs. (Related story, page 2)

UVic Innovation and Development Corporation Entrepreneurship Award

E-commerce data wizards

ANTHONY SUKOW AND ANDREW SUKOW,
Advanced E-commerce Research Systems (AERS)

In 2004, in partnership with the Innovation and Development Corporation, brothers Anthony and Andrew Sukow—both UVic students at the time—founded Advanced E-commerce Research Systems (AERS). The company provides statistical analysis for the eBay marketplace, helping buyers and sellers determine what their product is worth. Housed in UVic's Vancouver Island Technology Park and employing 18 people, AERS is eBay's only market data reseller and has developed relationships with Fortune 500 companies around the world. The company monitors more than 10 million consumer transactions a day.

Dr. Budd Hall (community-based research) and Dr. Darlene Clover (education) were featured speakers at a conference in Kolkata, India, on Feb. 23. Hall's presentation examined the role of poetry in the world of social movements. Clover's contributions explored the broader role of the arts in social change, particularly amongst women using collective visual arts for community change. **Dr. Evert Lindquist**, director of UVic's School of Public Administration, and **Dr. Maureen MacDonald**, dean of continuing studies, were also in India exploring new academic partnerships.

Dr. Afzal Suleman (mechanical engineering) has been appointed associate vice-president research for a five-year term beginning July 1. Suleman is associate dean research in the Faculty of Engineering. He specializes in computational mechanics, fluid-structure interaction modelling, computational and experimental aeroelasticity, ocean energy and technology, and aircraft and spacecraft design. He has received praise both for his leadership and team building abilities and his dedication to excellence in teaching and mentorship of new research. Suleman has significant experience with major international projects, which involved consensus building through communication, careful research of the issues, assessment of needs and best practices in infrastructure and research support.

FACULTY RELATIONS AND ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Hart-Wensley brings legal, admin experience to new AVP position

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

Kim Hart-Wensley has crossed McGill Road—from the Fraser Building to the Administrative Services Building—taking her legal skills and knowledge and the extensive administrative experience she gained in the law faculty to her new position as associate vice-president, faculty relations and academic administration.

For the past three-and-a-half years, she has served as associate dean, academic and student relations, in the law faculty.

"I'm very pleased to have Kim join the provost's office," says Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels. "She has the right combination of skills and experience as a lawyer, senior administrator and faculty member to do a superb job in her new role. She's committed to excellence in our academic mission and fairness in our policies and practices, and I know that the entire university community will appreciate the leadership and support that she will provide."

Hart-Wensley received her LLB from UVic in 1993. Prior to joining the Faculty of Law in 2001 as a senior instructor, she practiced law in Victoria for six years and was a judicial law clerk to the justices of the BC Supreme Court. Her interest in attending law school was rooted in her prior administrative positions with the Ontario Workers Compensation Appeals Tribunal and the Ontario Conflict of Interest Commission.

From 2002 to 2005, she was southern director of the Akitsiraq Law School program, offered by UVic in

partnership with the Akitsiraq Law School Society and Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit. She was responsible for curriculum development and faculty recruitment and retention and dealt with student issues and compliance with UVic academic regulations. She also taught in the program.

As associate law dean, Hart-Wensley was responsible for all matters related to delivery of the academic program, including academic counselling of students on a wide range of issues. She also worked closely with faculty on issues including policies on student evaluation, equity and academic accommodation.

In her new position reporting to the vice-president, academic, Hart-Wensley is responsible for all faculty relations matters, including recruitment and retention, negotiation and administration of the framework agreement and development of related policies and procedures, and support and training of academic administrators. She will also be the first point of contact for academic administrators and will provide them with direct advice on issues relating to personnel, governance, students, policy and administration.

"During the years that Mary Anne Waldron, as associate vice-president legal affairs, was responsible for these matters, the university grew tremendously, particularly in its research activities," says Hart-Wensley. "It was decided that the responsibilities of her position would be divided between a UVic general counsel and the AVP. The general counsel will be able to provide legal services to the university

on issues such as contracts, corporate finance, real property and related matters and I, as AVP, can expand more into the faculty relations side.

"As associate dean, I called on Mary Anne on a number of occasions, so I was familiar with some aspects of the position," she says. "I was excited about the opportunity it provided to bring together my legal training, skills and knowledge while working in an environment—the university—that I really enjoy."

Since she started at the beginning of March, Hart-Wensley has been busy getting up to speed on ongoing matters and files that already exist.

"I look forward to getting out and meeting people and discussing ways in which this office can support them," she says. "I want to maintain open lines of communication with people all across campus and create a welcoming environment where we can work together, taking a collaborative approach to issues."



Hart-Wensley. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

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calendar highlights

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

at the galleries

uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

- **Exhibit** Until May 3. *Taking Flight*. Showcasing the life's work of one of Canada's foremost avian artists, J. Fenwick Lansdowne, this exhibit features watercolour paintings, drawings and prints. Legacy Art Gallery and Café. 630 Yates St. 250-381-7670
- **Exhibit** Until May 3. *Conversations About Green*. A photographic exploration of the coastal rocks of BC by Fiona Spalding-Smith. Legacy Art Gallery and Café. 630 Yates St. 250-381-7670
- **Exhibit** Until May 28. *The Lion and The Fox*. The C. J. Fox Collection of Wyndham Lewis art and literary works. McPherson Library Gallery, room A005. 250-853-3612
- **Exhibit** Until May 29. *Rebels and Realists: 100 Years of the Victoria Sketch Club*. More than 50 of the club's best-known artists including Josephine Crease, Sophie Pemberton, W.P. Weston, Thomas Fripp, Emily Carr, Max Maynard, Jack Shadbolt, Ina Uhthoff, Katharine Maltwood, Stella Langdale and Edythe Hembroff. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery. University Centre. 250-721-6313 or curator@uvic.ca

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

- **Film** 7:30 p.m. *Deutscher Abend an der Uni*. Movie night presented by the Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Studies. *Sommer vorm Balkon* (Summer in Berlin), 2005 (in German with English subtitles). Hickman 110. 250-721-7316
- **Let's Talk: The Science of Medicine Lecture** 12 p.m. *Depression*. Island Medical Program students Theresa Cummings and Tarinder Grewal talk about depression, an illness that 15 per cent of Canadians will experience at some point in their lives. Medical Sciences Bldg. 150. 250-472-5543

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- **Let's Talk: The Science of Medicine Lecture** 12 p.m. *Anxiety*. Island Medical Program students Jaclyn Farquhar and David Yeh for a talk about anxiety, the number-one mental health problem in Canada. Medical Sciences Bldg 160. 250-472-5543

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

- **Materminds Lecture** 7 p.m. *What Everyone Should Know About Listeria, Salmonella and Other Food-Borne Infectious Pathogens*. Dr. Edward Ishiguro, prof. emeritus and former chair of the Dept. of Biochemistry and Microbiology. Hickman Bldg. 105. Register: 250-721-6290.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

- **Workshop** 9 a.m. *WECS Mother & Daughter Lego Robotics Workshop*. In celebration of UVic's Faculty of Engineering 25th anniversary and Equality Day, a free workshop for Mothers and Daughters to build a LEGO puppy and program it to behave like one. Science Bldg. A104. Register 250-721-8661



Carr and friends at Maltwood
Emily Carr, *Windswept Trees*, c. 1938, University of Victoria art collection, gift of Major H.C. Holmes, from the exhibition "Rebels and Realists: 100 Years of the Victoria Sketch Club" at the Maltwood

- **Conference** 9:20 a.m. *UVic's Latin America Research Group's 3rd Workshop*. Keynote: Dr. Eric Hershberg (SFU). Guest speaker: Dr. Denise Brown (Univ. of Calgary). Cadboro Commons Haro Room. 250-472-5455

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

- **Masterminds Lecture** 7 p.m. *Crime and Punishment Revisited: Exploring Restorative Justice*. Dr. Michael Hadley, prof. emeritus in Germanic studies and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Hickman Bldg. 105. Register: 250-721-6290

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

- **Conference** 12 p.m. *Community Engagement and Watershed Planning in the Comox Valley*. April 24-26. Water governance conference co-sponsored by UVic's POLIS Water Sustainability Project, Waterlution, the United Nations and EPCOR. Registration \$40. Information: www.waterlution.org/

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

- **Masterminds Lecture** 7 p.m. *The Image of the Word: Understanding Islamic Art*. Dr. Erica Dodd, adjunct associate in history in art and emeritus fellow at the Centre for Studies of Religion and Society. Hickman Bldg., 105. Register: 250-721-6290.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- **Making Tomorrow Conference** 8 a.m. *Healthy Kids Healthy Communities*. A one-day conference for parents, educators and child and youth care workers. Keynote: Peter Alsop. Student Union Bldg. \$50-\$75. Registration: 250-595-4453

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- **UVic Plant Sale** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds support UVic's Finnerty Gardens. New for this year: a table of plants from UVic gardens and a bagged manure fundraiser for the Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association. McKinnon Gym. Bring your own packing boxes.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

- **Masterminds Lecture** 7 p.m. *China's Role in the Global Economy*. Dr. Ralph Huenemann, prof. emeritus in the Faculty of Business. Hickman Bldg. 105. Register: 250-721-6290.

ringers

Dr. Wolff-Michael Roth (curriculum and instruction), Lansdowne Professor, Applied Cognitive Science, has been selected to receive the most prestigious award and highest honor bestowed by the National Association for Research in Science Teaching—the NARST Distinguished Contribution through Research Award (DCA). The award recognizes scholars for continuing contributions to, notable leadership in, and substantial impact on science education through their research over a period of at least 20 years.

Two UVic Vikes women's basketball team members picked up Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) awards in March. Third-year kinesiology student **Kayla Dykstra** received the 2009 Nan Copp Award for women's basketball player of the year. She led Canada West in field-goal percentage, scoring and rebounding during the regular season and her rebounding average set a new team season record. Dykstra was also named to the first CIS basketball all-Canadian team. Teammate and fellow kinesiology student **Vanessa Frostbauer** won the CIS Tracy MacLeod Award in recognition of her determination and perseverance. Frostbauer played two seasons for the Vikes before a heart condition caused her to miss the entire 2007/08 season. She came back for the 2008/09 season, playing in all 23 games. Both Dykstra and Frostbauer are also Academic All-Canadians.



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— Nainesh Agarwal



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in memoriam

Jackie Langley, a highly respected and well-known colleague in the pensions office, passed away Nov. 7, before having the opportunity to enjoy her own well-earned retirement. For many employees and pensioners, Jackie was the “go to” person. She had an ideal combination of warmth and professionalism and a knack for explaining complex pension matters in a way that was clear and understandable. Jackie loved her work and it showed. She took a sincere interest in people, and the extent to which she touched others is evident from countless letters and expressions of gratitude received over the years. Jackie was a familiar face on numerous UVic committees and she organized special (humour-filled) events for accounting. She was a key participant in the job evaluation initiative in the 1990s, a member of the personnel benefits and staff pension plan committee, a member of the demutualization committee, a presenter at the 1993 and 1996 Women’s Conference, a recipient of the 1999 Women’s Conference Recognition Award for leadership contribution, impact and outstanding performance, and a nominee for the President’s Distinguished Service Award in 2007. Jackie served the pensions office and the university with honesty, grace and integrity, yet never lost sight of life’s priorities: family, friends and career. She was active in her church and a devoted wife, mother of two and grandmother of four. She remains an inspiration to those who were blessed to have been her friend and colleague.

Submitted by Susan Service, Director, Pensions and Investments

Koop honoured for salmon genetics

UVic biologist Ben Koop’s research on the genetics of salmonid fish has earned him the 2009 Genome BC Award for Scientific Excellence from LifeSciences BC.

The annual award is presented to one or more individuals who have received significant international recognition in the fields of genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics or systems biology.

Koop shares the award with Simon Fraser University molecular biologist Willie Davidson. The two are co-leaders of the international Consortium for Genomic Research on All Salmonids Project, or cGRASP, which, over the last four years, has successfully identified about 90 per cent of salmonid genes.

The salmonid family of fish includes salmon, trout, char, whitefishes and graylings—all of great economic and societal importance to coastal, rural and Aboriginal communities through the fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries.

The cGRASP team has developed the world’s largest microarray chip

for salmonids—a research tool for studying what each gene does and how it responds to different environmental conditions or pathogens. The chip is now in wide use around the world.

“We’ve built this resource so that people can use it,” says Koop. “By identifying all the salmonid genes we now have targets for vaccines, and for people studying local adaptation of wild fish stocks. The chip allows us to take genetics into ecology, behavioural studies, physiology and many other areas applicable to wild and farmed salmon fisheries.”

As the Canada Research Chair in Genomics and Molecular Biology, Koop studies the molecular mechanisms of evolutionary change.

“I’m intrigued by genetic variation,” he says. “Whether we’re talking about people or wildlife populations, there’s a tremendous value to variation, and what might be detrimental in one circumstance might be beneficial in another. It all goes back to the genes and their interactions with the environment.”

DIGITAL READING CONTINUED FROM P.1

“We’ll be looking at several thousands of years of societal interaction with book-like objects and examine through them how society mobilizes and interacts with knowledge. We’ll be able to contribute directly to digital developments in this area.”

The research team will focus their work in four areas. Textual studies, the evolution of reading and writing technologies from antiquity to present, will be led by Richard Cunningham at Acadia University and Alan Galey at the University of Toronto. User experience, or how and why people read and how the reading process can change the cognitive process, will be led by Teresa Dobson at the University of British Columbia and Claire Warwick at University College London. Interface design, how people visualize information on a computer, will be led by Stan Ruecker at the University of Alberta. Information management, or the building of new digital reading interfaces, will be led by Siemens and Susan Schreibman at the Royal Irish Academy. The research team will also involve 19 postdoctoral research fellows and 53 graduate

research assistants from all participating institutions.

SSHRC MCRI funding will be supplemented with support from several partners including the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, Service BC, Les Presses de l’Université de Montréal, the Public Knowledge Project, and ProQuest—a digital database of historical documents and academic materials.

INKE will incorporate its technical, historical, psychological and sociological knowledge into functioning prototypical computational models which it will share online. “The best parts of research are when our research developments engage the reading public’s interest and needs,” says Siemens. “Our research area teams will work together at UVic as well as at their own institutions and elsewhere to apply humanities principles to a basic social technology issue—understanding all the reading devices we’ve used and what it might mean for the future.”

A full list of researchers, participating institutions, and partners can be found at the project’s website, www.inke.ca.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Macdonald brings extensive experience in the federal halls of power

BY TARA SHARPE

Nikki Macdonald, UVic’s new executive director of government relations, has found the perfect home in Victoria after many years spent walking the halls in the most influential “House” in Canada.

Macdonald took up her new role at UVic in January, following a 12-year stint in Ottawa. She has held senior positions with the federal government, including that of director of appointments to the Right Honourable Jean Chretien. In that capacity, she managed all aspects of the Governor-in-Council appointment process, from judges and senators to heads of agency, boards and commissions. She also served as senior advisor to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

With her extensive background in facilitating connections between elected officials and key stakeholders, Macdonald is a perfect fit for the government relations role at UVic. Its primary focus is on the promotion of our research to government and the procurement of support and funding for projects, research activities and other key strategic priorities for the university.

Macdonald wants the university’s deans, directors, fund-raising personnel and others on campus to think instinctually of her first before putting requests to government. “I’ve been that person on the other side of the desk,” says Macdonald, “and I can help frame the message before it’s delivered,

whether that message involves an ‘ask’ for a particular grant, or if it’s gearing up for a major announcement with a granting agency.”

A typical day for Macdonald might start with a scan of the morning news to keep track of policy changes or other announcements with implications for the institution, followed by meetings and consultation with members of the UVic community about funding strategies and projects. This usually includes direct contact with key associations and government officials whether by email, phone or in person.

Macdonald works closely with members of parliament and MLAs, ministers’ offices, deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers, policy development officials and representatives from both the federal and provincial governments. She is also regularly following up with granting agencies such as the National Research Council of Canada and the Canada Foundation for Innovation as well as post-secondary associations such as the Research Universities Council of BC and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

In this current period of contraction and global economic downturn, Macdonald promotes UVic as a vital player in moving forward. “An educated workforce is one of the pillars of economic recovery,” says Macdonald. “While funding for universities during such economic times can often come in smaller packets, there will continue to be the big ongoing files that need



Macdonald. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

‘lifting’ in Ottawa and Victoria. I am ready to work hard to leverage all opportunities to ensure we continue to receive recognition as a leading research-intensive university.”

Before coming to Victoria, Macdonald most recently worked for Schering-Plough, an international pharmaceutical company, and had implemented a highly successful federal business strategy as the corporation’s director of federal affairs from 2005 to 2009.

Macdonald has two political science degrees—a BA from McMaster University and an MA from York University. She looks forward to more introductions to members of the UVic community, and may be reached at 250-472-5475 or nikkimac@uvic.ca.

DOUCETTE CONTINUED FROM P.1

and I’m excited for the next step in the process.”

Doucette’s company, Synergy, focuses on implementing sustainable business practices. Through Synergy, she prepares greenhouse gas inventories, conducts energy audits and sources and supplies products. She also advises clients on how to integrate green ideas into their business strategy and access appropriate environmental funding programs and grants.

Her clients are seeing results. Dave Crothall, owner of the Black Stilt coffeehouse where Doucette got her start, says being green is an ethical choice and an investment in brand building. “Jill’s helped us reduce our landfill waste by over 90 per cent, cut our energy use by 15 per cent, and encouraged us to buy local and switch to compostable cutlery, cups, and cornstarch-based travel mugs.”

The annual Nicol Entrepreneurial

Award recognizes the value of the entrepreneurial spirit and the important role it plays in the success of a business. This year, teams from 13 universities participated in the Ottawa-based finals. UVic was the only finalist from western Canada.

“I really appreciate UVic’s support. I especially want to thank Mia Maki and Charlene Zietsma. They invited me to their office for special prep sessions as soon as we heard that I’d been invited to the Nicol’s,” says Doucette.

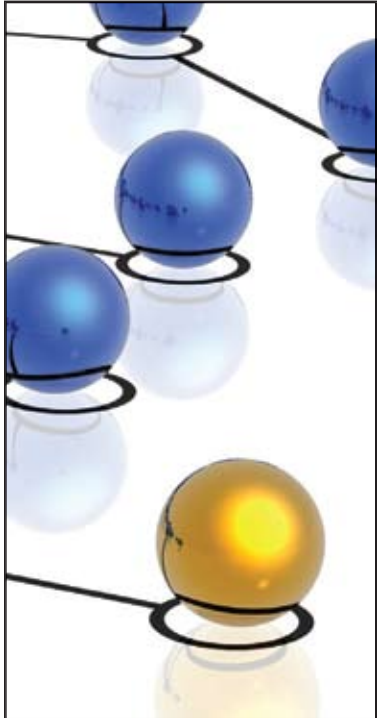
“Jill’s win at the national level reflects well on UVic’s emerging innovation strategy and illustrates the benefits of exposing all students to entrepreneurship and innovation concepts,” says Dr. Brock Smith, business professor and entrepreneurship champion.

“The Faculty of Business is recognized internationally for its entrepreneurship research and programs, and we’ll be working with senior UVic

administrators to further enhance opportunities for all interested students to develop entrepreneurial competencies and get assistance in exploring the viability of new business, product, and service concepts.”

Doucette was invited to participate in the Nicol competition based on her first-place finish in the campus-wide UVic Business Plan competition, which wrapped up on March 6, 2009.

Along with school and developing her business, Doucette is active in the student environmental movement. She and Chantal Orr (business) are co-chairs of the 2009 World Student Environmental Summit. This event, jointly hosted by UVic and the World Student Environmental Network, takes place June 25–28. Students from around the world gather to participate in discussions about climate change and build on an existing student network that was established at the 2008 summit in Kyoto, Japan.



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