



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

UVIC EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM

This test won't be academic

A campus-wide test of the UVic Emergency Alerts notification system will be conducted during the week of Feb. 9–13. The test message will be distributed to students, staff and faculty via email, voicemail, text message on registered mobile phones, and broadcast voice message via VoiceOver Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones. If the phone in your classroom or office begins to broadcast the brief emergency test message, you can cancel the message by lifting and replacing the handset. Testing is essential to ensure UVic can provide an effective emergency notification system. Info: www.uvic.ca/alerts

LEADERSHIP VICTORIA

Community leaders lauded

The 2009 recipients of Victoria's Leadership Awards were announced on Feb. 5 during an afternoon reception at the Fairmont Empress Hotel (and too late to make this issue of *The Ring*). The University of Victoria is proud to recognize its own community leaders as nominees each year. The awards are presented in honour of local leaders in the Greater Victoria community. This year's recipients will be profiled in the March 5 issue of *The Ring*. In the meantime, details, including information on the UVic recipients, will be available at www.leadershipvictoria.ca.

UNITED WAY

UVic's campaign triumphs

With nearly \$300,000 in donations, UVic was one of the top three organizations in the city for 2008 United Way campaign contributions. Our spectacular showing earned UVic the Post-secondary Challenge trophy for besting Royal Roads University and Camosun College in support of raising the most donations. The real winners, however, are the one-in-three people in the region who benefit from the United Way of Greater Victoria throughout the year. Raising the trophy in triumph (at right) are Chair of Victoria's United Way 2008 campaign Dr. Rebecca Grant (business) and UVic's 2008 United Way Committee Chair Mark Roman (systems).



CLIMATE CHANGE

Setting the research agenda for climate solutions

The UVic-based Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) has issued eight discussion papers which, after feedback from government and other stakeholders, will define the long-term research agenda for addressing the climate-related technological, social, economic and public policy challenges facing British Columbia. Story, page 3

PHOTO: JOCELYN BEYAK



'FACING UP'
TO RACIAL BIAS

PAGE 4

THE RING

FEBRUARY 2009

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Rivard. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

1ST

RESEARCH
CHAIR IN
HYPER-
SPECTRAL
REMOTE
SENSING
IN CANADA
ESTABLISHED
AT UVIC

New research chair will be BC's eye in the sky

BY VALERIE SHORE

University of Victoria geologist Dr. Benoit Rivard and his team will be keeping a very close watch on BC's natural resources in the coming years.

As the new BC Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing, Rivard is investigating new ways to use advanced remote sensing techniques to protect and manage the province's natural resources. The chair was announced last month and is the first in its field in Canada.

The \$4.5-million chair is funded by a \$2.25-million investment from the province's Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF) and matching funds from UVic and the University of Victoria Foundation.

Rivard is former director of the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Alberta and a leader in interpreting hyperspectral data. The chair is based

in UVic's Department of Geography.

"Dr. Rivard's appointment builds on our already considerable strengths in hyperspectral remote sensing," says UVic president David Turpin. "Thanks to the Leading Edge Endowment Fund and the generosity of matching donors, this program will be a focal point for research on the application of hyperspectral imaging technology to BC's natural resource challenges and opportunities."

Remote sensing is the science of obtaining information on an object, area or phenomenon from a distance, typically by using aircraft, satellites, buoys or ships.

Hyperspectral imaging collects and measures the visible light reflected from surface features such as rocks, trees and water, as well as the non-visible energy they emit. It provides much more detailed imagery than conventional remote sensing systems.

UVic scientists use ground-based, airborne and satellite-based hyperspectral imaging systems to study the condition of targets such as water surfaces or vegetation canopies. This information is used for various applications, including mapping the health of coastal environments, determining the risk factor for forest fires and the extent of pine beetle infestation.

UVic is the only academic institution in Canada to have an airborne hyperspectral scanner, flown in partnership with Terra Remote Sensing in Sidney, BC. The scanner is being combined with other sensors—thermal scanners, digital cameras and a LiDAR scanning laser system—to address issues in resource exploration and management, and environmental monitoring. The platform is unique in Canada.

Rivard will work with government,

SEE RESEARCH CHAIR P.3

Energy-savings program leads to co-op award Business Co-op Student of the Year

BY DIANNE GEORGE

Heather Weberg has won the 2008 Business Co-op Student of the Year Award for her co-op work with Jawl Properties, where she was hired to design and implement an energy awareness program for the company's more than 60 public and private sector tenants.

Weberg built the program around education and awareness and worked with tenant champions to change behaviours and attitudes about energy consumption.

"The biggest thing I tried to get across was that every little bit makes a big difference," says Weberg. "It all adds up even if just one person turns off the lights when they leave a room."

Weberg's Tenant Energy Awareness Program focused on energy conservation and included components on transportation demand management, waste reduction and water conservation. It featured email tips, newsletters and posters, sample workstation audits, suggestion boxes, a practical how-to program, and lunch-eon speakers.

"While it is hard to quantify the exact amount of energy savings as a result of Heather's program, we estimate it is in the range of three to five per cent of energy consumption in our buildings," says Weberg's supervisor, Karen Jawl (BCom '03). Through physical upgrades and the energy awareness

SEE CO-OP P.8



Weberg. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

ringers

Dr. Peter Keller has been reappointed dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for a term of five years, commencing July 1. In recommending his reappointment, the review committee noted Keller's "strong record of scholarship and administration . . . his effective advocacy for social sciences, his success in generating the resources to support the faculty's mission, and his energy and enthusiasm [which] have all served the faculty well." They expressed confidence that Keller's "combination of vision and experience . . . will continue to bring strong leadership to the Faculty of Social Sciences." Keller has a BA in geography from Trinity College, Dublin, and an MA and PhD from the University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Angus McLaren, professor emeritus (history), has been awarded the Bonnie and Vern L. Bullough Book Award for 2008 for his book *Impotence: A Cultural History*, published by the University of Chicago Press. The award is given annually by the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality for the most distinguished book written for the professional sexological community and published during the previous year. A prize of \$500 and a plaque are given to the recipient.

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.

BY VALERIE SHORE

The University of Victoria is playing a key role in a new national research network studying Canada's oceans.

The NSERC Canadian Healthy Oceans Network (CHONe), based at Newfoundland's Memorial University, brings together 65 top marine researchers from 14 universities across Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and several federal laboratories to develop science-based guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the country's three oceans.

The goal of the network is to create a marine biodiversity database for the three oceans, help train the next generation of marine scientists, and raise public awareness of the importance of Canada's oceans.

Several UVic researchers, as well as the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories, are involved with CHONe, which focuses on three research themes: marine biodiversity, population connectivity, and ecosystem function.

The biodiversity theme is co-led

by Dr. Kim Juniper, a UVic marine ecologist and the BC Leadership Chair in Marine Ecosystems and Global Change.

"The many projects under this theme are involved in understanding the importance of biodiversity to the stability of Canadian marine ecosystems and how marine biodiversity is being influenced by climate change and resource extraction," says Juniper.

Other UVic researchers, including marine geologist Dr. Mairi Best and marine biologist Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe, will target biodiversity hotspots in the Arctic Ocean and coral banks north of the Queen Charlotte Islands. UVic researchers are also partnering with Memorial University engineers to develop object recognition software that will automatically count animals such as clams and seastars in seafloor images.

Under the population connectivity theme, studies include the movement of fish and crab larvae in the Strait of Georgia (with UVic fisheries oceanographer Dr. John Dower), and population dynamics of giant tube worms at



Large Pacific corals photographed during CHONe's inaugural cruise to Dixon Entrance in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. PHOTO: PROVIDED

the Endeavour hot vents site off BC's west coast (with Tunnicliffe).

The ecosystem function theme will examine how the seafloor performs vital functions to maintain a healthy ocean. Several cross-country collaborative studies will use the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories as research platforms to conduct experiments.

Dr. Martin Taylor, president of Ocean Networks Canada, sits on the new network's board of directors and sees CHONe as a leading national research program that will address one of the most important scientific and public policy issues for our oceans—how ocean change is impacting marine biodiversity and the health of our fisheries.

Vancity CEO, senior public servant named Distinguished Alumni

Tamara Vrooman, MA '94, CEO of Vancity credit union and Bob de Faye, MPA '85, BC deputy minister of Aboriginal relations and reconciliation, have joined a circle of 49 outstanding graduates who have received Distinguished Alumni Awards from the UVic Alumni Association.

Tamara Vrooman, a history grad, became the leader of Canada's largest credit union in 2007 after a meteoric provincial public service career that culminated with three years as deputy minister of finance. Her nominators cited Vrooman's "outstanding leadership qualities" and noted that she is "gifted at conceptualizing and planning on a large scale, she is committed to excellence, and she has been a motivator and mentor to aspiring leaders."

In supporting the nomination, former BC finance minister Carole Taylor wrote that Vrooman's academic background in history "provided her with a unique perspective on dealing with issues of policy and financial affairs; [she] is able to look beyond the numbers."

Vrooman maintains regular involvement with the university through her promotion of the Department of History and her service on the advisory committee of the School of Public Administration.



Vrooman. PHOTO: JAMIE KOWAL

Vrooman was named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 in 2005 and received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003 for outstanding contributions to public service in BC.

Bob de Faye has become widely respected as a consummate public servant, working quietly and effectively on behalf of BC citizens over the span of his 27-year career.

He played a critical role in establishing the local government Community Charter, guided the early organizing stages of the 2010

Vancouver Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, and provided leadership in securing long-term collective agreements with public sector employees.

Philip Halkett, a former deputy minister to the premier, supported de Faye's nomination and described him as "an excellent example of someone who has taken his university training and applied it in progressively important positions which serve the public and the public interest."

De Faye became chair of the School of Public Administration's alumni chapter in 2006 and since then the group has grown to more than 300 members in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton and Ottawa.

Vrooman and de Faye received their awards during a special Alumni Week ceremony on Feb. 3 at the University Club of Victoria. The ceremony also included a UVic Faculty of Business presentation of its Alumni Award of Excellence to Jeff Harris, MBA '95, a principal of KPMG Silicon Valley. Harris developed and leads KPMG's national systems stabilization and improvement practice and he spearheaded the new UVic Alumni chapter in Northern California.

The alumni association has also named two other recipients of the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award.



de Faye. PHOTO: PROVIDED

Flickr.com co-founder Stewart Butterfield, BA '96, was recognized at the UVic Legacy Awards last November. Edward Harvey—scholar, teacher and editor of *The Lansdowne Era: Victoria College, 1946–1963*—will receive the association's Lifetime of Distinguished Achievement Award at a ceremony later this year.

Since 1993, the Distinguished Alumni Awards program has recognized the outstanding achievements of individual UVic, Victoria College and Provincial Normal School graduates.



Navigate the ever-changing market

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Lisa Church (food services) gets ready to deliver the Centre Caf’s empties to local schoolchildren for fundraising. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Recycling in the caf

Mountains of plastic become cash for kids

BY TARA SHARPE

The English ditty “Ten Green Bottles” means a lot more to Lisa Church than just an old rhyme children still sing. Church, University of Victoria’s retail outlets coordinator, devised an ingenious “green” plan for bottles and other recyclables collected in the University Centre cafeteria, and personally made sure local children could directly benefit from the collection of hundreds of bottles.

Church joined UVic’s Housing, Food and Conference Services department in November 2007 and quickly became tired of seeing recyclables being mixed with garbage in cafeteria receptacles. She approached her managers with a plan, bought a stack of extra trays and in August 2008 removed every garbage container in the Centre Caf eating areas. Customers leave all waste on trays, and the trays are then stacked on carts and rolled into the dishwashing area to be meticulously picked over by food services staff.

“Our team is doing an amazing job of separating all the paper, plastic, glass and food,” says Church. “We went from a minimal number of recycled items in the recycling receptacles to literally being overrun with plastics and glass, and tripling

the number of bottles collected for recycling.”

This became an instant good news story for local kids when Church put out an offer to area schools, sports groups and other youth organizations: they could collect the empties for their fundraising programs. The mother of two children, Church knew schools were facing a dip in fundraising revenue from vending machines and chocolate sales due to a provincial “healthier choices” program, and this was one answer. She had her first response within 15 seconds of emailing her offer to the schools. Now she has a waiting list and is still looking for names.

Each group can potentially raise \$800 to \$1,500 each month. The bottles are picked up three times a week by school volunteers, who deliver the cluster of bags to Victoria’s bottle depots for cash. Last month, Eagle View Elementary School was the lucky recipient of all the Centre Caf bottles.

Annette Phillips, executive assistant for UVic’s Centre for Global Studies, is an Eagle View parent and volunteered in January for the school’s program. She says, “Fundraising was getting a little harder without the bottles from vending machines, and the UVic program has made a big difference to us.”

The money has contributed toward purchasing several Eagle View wish-list items, including new computer monitors, a new microscope, and even a rock-climbing wall in the school gym.

Now that food services staff are sorting through the food trays, sandwich bread and other compostable materials are staying out of the garbage more; at least five large compost containers are filled each day. Before, the Centre Caf’s dumpster would be completely full by the end of the second day and now it takes a whole week before the garbage reaches the top.

“We recycle now right down to the paper wrapper on the straws,” adds Church.

And Church hasn’t stopped coming up with good ideas. Next, she would like to see UVic welcome elementary students into the cafeteria for regular tours so the kids can witness the process for themselves.

Each month, a new organization is selected based on a first-come, first-served system. The name of the current organization is posted on the Centre Caf’s community board. School groups and other youth organizations can add their names to the list by contacting Church at 250-721-8429 or church@uvic.ca.

PICS papers identify areas of climate change concern

How will climate change affect the health of British Columbians and what can we do about it? What infrastructure and institutional changes are needed to reduce greenhouse gases while maintaining BC’s economic competitiveness? And how can a cap-and-trade system help BC meet its emission targets?

These are some of the questions tackled in a set of climate change discussion papers prepared by teams of researchers associated with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS).

The discussion papers cover eight broad areas of policy concern for BC—identified in consultation with the BC government—and have been submitted to the BC Climate Action Secretariat for review.

“These papers define the issues and set the questions in each of these policy areas,” says Dr. Ned Djilali, UVic’s Canada Research Chair in Energy Systems and chair of the PICS program

committee. “Once we’ve received feedback from the government and other stakeholders, the papers will serve as building blocks for the institute’s long-term research agenda.”

PICS is a collaborative venture among BC’s four research-intensive universities. Led and hosted by UVic, PICS was created in 2008 with a \$90-million endowment from the BC government. It brings the province’s best minds—from universities, government and the private sector—together to frame questions and propose solutions to the climate-related technological, social, economic and public policy challenges facing BC.

The eight discussion paper topics are: health; forestry; cap-and-trade systems; green building design; transportation; alternative energy; sustainable communities; and adaptation priorities.

The full text of each discussion paper is available on the PICS website at www.pics.uvic.ca/research.php.

RESEARCH CHAIR CONTINUED FROM P.1

industry and other university researchers to develop new hyperspectral techniques for resource exploration and environmental monitoring. He’ll also develop methods to find early signs of pests such as the mountain pine beetle.

“Once the trees show signs visible to our eyes, the beetles have already moved on,” he explains. “To take action, we need to detect an infestation while the trees are still green. This is one of many resource management areas where hyperspectral imaging has great potential.”

Rivard is also working on new

hyperspectral methods for detecting a range of minerals and rock types and for estimating their abundance and distribution in a wide range of geological environments, including the Canadian North. This work has the potential to reduce field exploration costs for resource industries.

Under the LEEF program, the provincial government is establishing 20 leadership chairs to attract top researchers to BC and keep them here. This is UVic’s second LEEF chair. The first, in marine ecosystems and global change (held by Dr. Kim Juniper), was awarded in 2006.



You wouldn’t abandon your puppy.
So please don’t leave your pet rabbit here.

Sadly, most rabbits at UVic are unwanted pets or descendants of unspayed or unneutered pets abandoned on campus. Dumping them on campus is not only irresponsible and inhumane, it’s illegal.

Feral rabbits are part of UVic campus life, but their activities can have a significant impact on human health and safety, and on plants and property. To help reduce this impact, we need campus and community members to do their part:

- don’t abandon your pet rabbits on campus
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FEBRUARY 2009

Monthly Income Based on \$100,000

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 | | \$238,669 | \$210,133 | \$185,848 | \$161,560 | \$149,230 | \$136,189 |
| Accelerated Payout: | | | | | | | |
| Income over 5 years | | \$1,507 | | | | | |
| Income over 10 years | | \$907 | | | | | |
| Income over 15 years | | \$686 | | | | | |
| Total 5 year payout | | | | | \$108,653 | | |
| Total 10 year payout | | | | | \$119,981 | | |
| Total 15 year payout | | | | | \$132,012 | | |

* Based on best current GIC of 4.30%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

LIFE ANNUITIES

| | AGE | 55 | 60 | 65 | 71 | 75 | 80 |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Male | | | | | | | |
| ...payments cease at death | | \$589 | \$639 | \$732 | \$853 | \$974 | \$1,192 |
| ...10 years guaranteed | | \$581 | \$624 | \$695 | \$771 | \$836 | \$947 |
| Female | | | | | | | |
| ...payments cease at death | | \$557 | \$600 | \$661 | \$761 | \$863 | \$1,050 |
| ...10 years guaranteed | | \$552 | \$591 | \$644 | \$722 | \$786 | \$899 |
| Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed | | \$521 | \$549 | \$595 | \$663 | \$724 | \$829 |

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around the ring

Activity project ballot delayed

Given the rapidly changing economic environment, UVic will wait until the fall to hold a consultative ballot asking students to support the new Activity Project, which would see renovations to the McKinnon Building and the construction of an adjacent new complex. In the meantime, UVic will pursue provincial and federal infrastructure opportunities that have only recently become available. The project would dramatically improve access to athletics, recreation and health and wellness programs. It would give the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education space to offer bigger programs, do more research, and better accommodate its faculty and staff. CanAssist could offer an expanded program for its users while giving faculty and students opportunities to participate in an interdisciplinary program with research opportunities. The project would also help the university retain and attract students, faculty and staff as well as top athletes. It is expected to be funded through a combination of UVic, government, and philanthropic sources as well as student fees.

Indigenous and diversity research forum

The second annual Indigenous and Diversity Research Forum: Critical Conversations Continue, takes place Feb. 12–13 in the Student Union Building. The free conference features panels on disabilities and health, ethical protocols from Indigenous perspectives, sexualities, community-based research partnerships, ambient violence, and the Anti-dote and LEONET projects. Info/registration: <http://web.uvic.ca/vpac/diversity/criticalconversations2009.html>

Co-op and Career Services merge

As of Feb. 1, UVic Co-operative Education and UVic Career Services have merged under the new name UVic Co-operative Education Program and Career Services. What does this mean for students, employers, faculty and staff? Students will have access to a one-stop shop for career planning and preparation, while employers, faculty and staff will be connected to a more diverse applicant pool in terms of both skills and availability. Info: 250-721-6084.

Hear PICS directorship candidates

Hear the candidates for director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) provide their perspective on crucial climate change challenges and potential solutions. On Feb. 12, the speaker will be Prof. John Schellnhuber, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, and on Feb. 16, the speaker will be Dr. Guy Brasseur, an associate director at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, and head of the Earth and Sun Systems Laboratory. Both presentations are from noon to 1 p.m. in the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, room A144.

Spirit Spectacular

As part of the countdown to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, a community celebration event—“A SpiritSpectacular . . . livingcolours”—will take place Feb. 15 at the Victoria Conference Centre. It is an experiential festival with four main themes marked by four colours: red for activity, green for creativity, blue for community and yellow for diversity. Features include fitness and sport, face-painting and lantern-making, volunteerism and community development, cultural cooking demonstrations and dance performances. UVic is represented in all four categories and the event coincides with the annual Spirit of BC Week. Info: <http://www.spiritofbc.com/events.php?year=2009&month=2>



Pirenne (left) and Dewey, where the Saanich inlet VENUS cables come ashore. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT

OCEANS OF DATA

At the heart of UVic’s two ocean observatories is one of the world’s most advanced data management systems

To most people, Venus and Neptune are distant planets. But mention them at the University of Victoria and minds turn to the deep ocean, not deep space.

VENUS (Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea) and NEPTUNE Canada (North-East Pacific Time-series Undersea Networked Experiments)—both led by UVic—are undersea virtual laboratories. The cabled networks of instruments allow scientists to analyse data that flow 24/7, without getting their feet wet or even leaving their desks.

Since the first leg of VENUS was activated on the floor of Saanich Inlet in February 2006, there has been a steady torrent of information from instruments recording everything from water temperature, pressure and oxygen levels to images, sounds and video.

So far, VENUS instruments from Saanich Inlet and a second leg in the Strait of Georgia have sent half a trillion measurements (and counting) back to UVic and—through the Internet—to scientists and the rest of the world.

“With this incessant gush of data, it’s like trying to drink wine through a fire hose,” says Dr. Richard Dewey, a UVic oceanographer and associate director of research for VENUS. “It’s rich but it’s almost overwhelming. You can get awfully drunk.”

To handle this deluge of information, UVic has developed an advanced data management

and archiving system (DMAS) that is reading, storing and making the data web-accessible as the two observatories take the pulse of the Pacific Ocean.

It’s a massive task that involves scientists and a team of information technology specialists. “The information we see today on the VENUS website is just the tip of the iceberg,” says Benoît Pirenne, who heads the DMAS team. “Behind the scenes, there is an extensive software and hardware infrastructure designed to collect data from the various instruments and store them for 25 or more years.”

DMAS also allows scientists to schedule instrument activity, pre-plan instrument responses to unusual events such as an earthquake, or collaborate with others through Facebook-like features now under development.

VENUS studies in Saanich Inlet focus on ocean processes and seafloor ecology in a sheltered fjord. Of particular interest is the inlet’s unusual combination of high plankton populations and deep water that is naturally depleted of oxygen for part of the year. This seasonal “dead zone” offers oceanographers a data-rich study site.

“Scientists think of Saanich Inlet as a bell-wether indicator of how marine ecosystems are going to change over time,” says Dewey.

The Strait of Georgia leg of VENUS offers a compromise between a sheltered inlet and

the wildness of the deep ocean. Studies in this busy waterway are looking at water mixing, the responses of bottom animals to plankton blooms, sediment and slope dynamics of the Fraser River delta, and acoustic monitoring of whales and deep sea ships.

NEPTUNE Canada, due for completion later this year, will consist of an 800-km ring of cable and instruments along the Juan de Fuca tectonic plate off the west coast of Vancouver Island.

More than 130 instruments at five sites—one as deep as 2,600 metres—will support studies of ocean-climate interactions and their effects on fisheries, seismic and tsunami activity, gas hydrate deposits and seafloor ecology.

Together, NEPTUNE Canada and VENUS could generate up to 50 terabytes of information every year—roughly equal to an iPod filled with 13 million songs.

Data accuracy and accessibility—they’re both keys to the success of VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada where, as Dewey notes, “we’re putting the power of the Internet into the deep ocean.”

Major funders of the DMAS component of VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada are the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the BC Knowledge Development Fund and CANARIE Inc., a national organization that promotes advanced networks and applications.

More: www.venus.uvic.ca, www.neptune-canada.ca and www.oceannetworks.ca

New tool helps blunt racial bias

A new measurement tool and protocol developed by researchers at Brown University and the University of Victoria can help to reduce unconscious racial stereotypes, according to a recently published study.

UVic cognitive scientist Dr. Jim Tanaka (psychology) and his research group have developed a training protocol to improve people’s ability to recognize facial differences among individuals of a different race. Seeing people from other races as individuals by distinguishing their facial features, rather than considering them to be all members of one racial group, can help reduce racial stereotyping, says Tanaka.

The research project incorporated a new test of racial bias, the Affective Lexical Priming Score (ALPS), developed by researchers at Brown University.

Using ALPS to measure racial bias, 20 Caucasian subjects were shown a series of pictures of different races. After each photo of a face, subjects saw a word that could be real (“chair”) or nonsense (“malk”). Subjects had to differentiate between the nonsense and real words—which could have a negative or positive implication.

Before receiving any facial recognition training, subjects responded more quickly if a negative word followed an African-American face and more slowly if a positive word followed an African-American face.

Then, all subjects took part in 10 hours of Tanaka’s facial recognition training program in

which they were trained to tell African-American faces apart. Subjects in the control group were trained simply to identify the faces as African-American or not. Subjects in the experimental group were trained to distinguish among individual African American faces.

“Even though the amount of raw perceptual exposure was identical in both groups,” says Tanaka, “we found that those who learned how to differentiate African American faces as individuals showed not only a greater improvement in their ability to recognize new African American faces, but also a reduction in racial bias as measured by ALPS.”

The study, Perceptual Other-Race Training Reduces Implicit Racial Bias, is published by PLoS ONE, an online, peer-reviewed journal from the US-based Public Library of Science (www.plosone.org/home.action). Collaborating with Tanaka on the study was his former undergraduate student Lara Pierce, now a graduate student at McGill University.

Funding for the study came from the Perceptual Expertise Network, a collaborative award from the James S. McDonnell Foundation; the Temporal Dynamics of Learning Center at the University of California, San Diego; the National Science Foundation; a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada award; and a Brown University National Eye Institute training grant (the National Institutes of Health).



Tanaka. PHOTO: JOCELYN BEYAK

“REAL” HISTORY VS. NATIONAL MYTH

Ronald Wright on American identity

BY SAM VANSCHIE

Ronald Wright has never let the United States off easy. The acclaimed Salt Spring-based historian and novelist has dedicated several books to reminding the world of the superpower’s tarnished past.

His most recent work, *What is America?: A Short History of the New World Order*, jumps back half a millennium to 1492 when Columbus landed in the Caribbean to find, not a barren landscape, but an established civilization. Moving in on that land, settlers wiped out whole populations with their diseases, which Wright sees as the beginning of a pattern of unfettered conquest that remains intact to this day.

During the President’s Distinguished Lecture he offered on Jan. 22, Wright had a fresh sliver of optimism not present in his book. Just two days after the inauguration of Barack Obama, his question “What is America?” demanded a more nuanced answer.

“The scenes in Washington were enough, as my grandma used to say, to bring tears to a glass eye,” Wright admitted. “After some dark years, American democracy has done what it had to do to begin renewing itself at home and redeeming itself abroad.”

Still, the 60-year-old always looks to the future with a foot in the past. He recalls the euphoria in America not 20 years ago when the Berlin wall came down, the Cold War ended and Americans elected the charismatic Democrat Bill Clinton. The election of Obama was a similar watershed. But not everybody wanted change.

“Despite the appalling record of the past eight

years, despite many mistakes of the Republican campaign and the many gifts of the winning candidate,” Wright reminded the hundreds that came to hear him, “the popular vote was alarmingly close, with a spread of about 6 per cent. And it would have been much closer without the sudden financial tailspin of the last few months—close enough, perhaps, for the Republicans to win or to steal.”

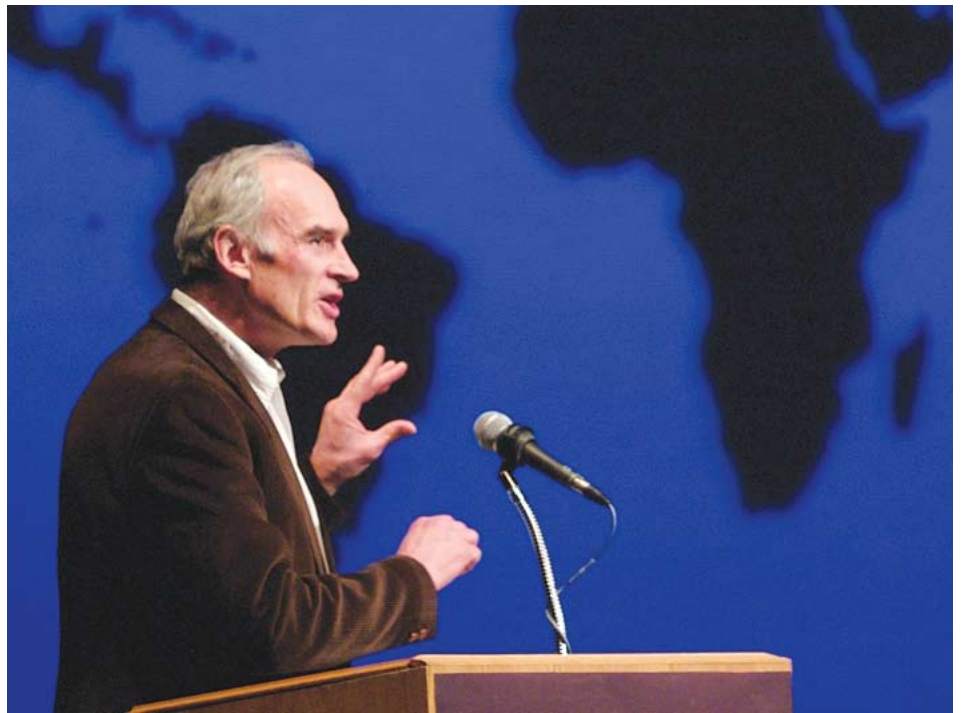
The Bush administration took the United States further to the political right—a state Wright describes as marked by militarism and religious extremism—than any other major Western country since 1945, leaving behind two wars, a trampled Constitution and the worst economic crisis since the 1930s. Yet Republican supporters still number nearly half the electorate.

“The political culture and identity crisis of the United States are best understood as products of the country’s past—by that I mean the real past, not the imagined one of national myth,” Wright stressed.

Creating a real history, Wright said, means considering many perspectives. He used the example of the years before the Civil War, when a free citizen might see the country as a thriving democracy at the same time as a slave might call it a cruel tyranny and onlookers from beyond its borders might say it’s a ruthlessly expanding empire.

“All those stories are true, but if we know only one without the other, what we know is not history but myth, and such myths are dangerous,” he said.

Without acknowledging a “real” history, Wright says, America is bound to a willful



Wright. PHOTO: NICK WIEBE

ignorance and stalled in the past, doomed to repeat the mistakes of colonialism with each Republican president.

“A significant part of the United States belongs to an archaic, aggressive and colonial culture that has drifted a long way from the mainstream of Western civilization,” Wright said, giving as examples that the United States is the only major Western nation that still uses the death penalty, has no universal healthcare, keeps one

in 99 adults behind bars, and where half the population thinks the creation myth in the Bible is literally true.

To get away from this, Wright suggests education, flattening the social pyramid, and keeping out of the Oval Office “political extremists such as George W. Bush and Dick Cheney who feed on superstition, fear and the worst kinds of patriotism that have arisen with regularity since the days of Andrew Jackson.”

Shelter on wheels

A UVic-community partnership leads to “shelter in a cart” for homeless “binners”

BY PEIGI MCGILLIVRAY

You may think it’s the end of the line when you put a beverage container into your recycling bin, but as Jutta Gutberlet knows, it’s really just the beginning.

The University of Victoria geographer is finding ways to help make life better for informal recyclers or “binners”—people who make their living collecting the beverage containers we put in our recycling bins and dumpsters.

“Informal recycling is a widespread activity in countries around the world,”

says Gutberlet. “And it’s becoming more and more prevalent in Canada. Binning is playing an increasingly important role in keeping recyclable waste out of landfills, especially in Victoria and Vancouver.”

Most binners in Victoria are homeless men between 40 and 59 years-old. They work five to seven days a week for up to six hours a day, earning an average income of \$10 to \$30 a day.

Binners often follow regular routes through city streets, travelling substantial distances and working long hours to collect and return bottles and cans. Because many binners are home-

less, they may not have anywhere to leave their personal belongings while they’re collecting. Transporting both personal belongings and collected containers is a big problem.

Gutberlet’s Community-Based Research Laboratory at UVic has teamed up with Tony Hoar, an engineer and founder of Tony’s Trailers, to create a unique “shelter-in-a-cart” that solves that problem—and more. The roomy, collapsible cart can be towed behind a bicycle, and when it’s empty, it unfolds to support a built-in tent with an elevated cot built into the base. It’s a livelihood and living accommodation all in one.

“It allows people to get around the city more easily, gather more recyclables, carry their own possessions with them—and have a safe, dry place to sleep at night,” says Gutberlet. “While it’s not a long-term solution to the problem of homelessness, especially in cold weather, it makes a significant difference to the quality of these people’s lives. And it’s something we can do right now, today, at a very low cost.”

The Mothers Project, a pilot initiative in which Gutberlet participates, has provided four binners with carts, bicycles to tow them and training on how to use them. It’s part of a larger project to create awareness about

the important role informal recyclers play in our community, to reduce the stigma and isolation they feel, and to create immediate solutions for the homeless.

“We’ve also worked with binners to create video documentaries about the reality of their lives,” says Gutberlet. “And we’ve completed a survey about the binning community here in Victoria to help us better understand who they are and how we can help improve their quality of life.”

Informal recycling has fascinated Gutberlet since her childhood in São Paulo, Brazil. “It is very widespread in Brazil, where, although there is no refund for recyclable materials, binners can make money by selling recyclables back to industry. However, they often

must go through middlemen who take some of the profit,” she says.

As the leader of the Participatory Sustainable Waste Management Project, an international development project in São Paulo, Gutberlet is helping to organize and train informal recyclers in Brazil. The purpose of the project is to target poverty, generate income for binners, improve living and working conditions, and ultimately help the environment.

“Binners are really environmental ambassadors, and the money they make allows them to live with more dignity,” says Gutberlet. “Recycling bins can be the beginning of a better life for these people. It’s our social responsibility to contribute to the reduction of poverty and marginalization.”



Shelter-in-a-cart. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT

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Tariq Ramadan
University of Oxford

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Engineering/Computer Science Room 123

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Prof. Ramadan's lecture will draw from his most recent book, *A Radical Reform: Islamic Ethics and Liberation*, in which he calls for a dramatic transformation of Muslim spiritual, ethical, legal and social traditions as a necessary response to contemporary global challenges.

"[Ramadan's proposal] is bound to provoke controversy and spark debate among Muslims and non-Muslims alike." - Oxford University Press

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For more information visit www.csr.s.uvic.ca or phone 250-721-6325.

Astronomers launch year-long celebration

When the International Year of Astronomy kicked off in Paris last month, the celebrants included royalty, government ministers, Nobel Prize winners and other eminent scientists.

Oh, and third-year University of Victoria student Deanna Pineau was also there, with a special invitation in hand.

Pineau was one of two undergraduates chosen to represent Canadian university students at the opening ceremonies. She earned the honour in a national essay competition in which she wrote about the impact of astronomy on science.

Coordinated by the International Astronomical Union, the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA) marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first astronomical observation through a telescope. More than 135 countries, including Canada, are participating in the global celebration of astronomy and its contribution to society and culture.

Pineau and a student from the University of Western Ontario joined 80 astronomy students from other countries at the Paris event, which featured presentations and video conferences with astronomers from around the world.

"Meeting eminent scientists and students from around the world was an enriching experience," says Pineau. "I gained advice from top scientists, insight into what to concentrate on

as a researcher and, in general, a broader perspective and greater appreciation for astronomy and its place in the world."

Pineau's winning essay included an innovative idea for public outreach during IYA. She plans to develop an astronomy-themed camp—games and crafts—and publish it in *Canadian Guider* magazine, which goes to Girl Guide leaders across Canada.

"My goal is to build a 'camp in a box,' which is something that guide leaders can run for their groups," says Pineau, who was a Girl Guide from kindergarten through to grade 12. She recently reconnected with a Victoria group.

"We're delighted with Deanna's success," says UVic astronomer Dr. Sara Ellison. "Her project will not only help bring astronomy into the community, but provide strong role models for the youngsters she works with."

Thanks to UVic's Department of Physics and Astronomy and the National Research Council's Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Saanich, Victoria is a hub of astronomical expertise. It's no surprise, then, that Victoria will host a series of IYA events throughout 2009.

One of the first events is a public lecture on Feb. 8 by Alain Berinstain, director of planetary exploration and space astronomy at the Canadian Space Agency. The lecture, entitled "Missions to Mars," takes place at 2:30 p.m. in room B150 of the Bob Wright



Centre. The lecture is free and suitable for all ages.

"One of the main goals of IYA is combining astronomy with other disciplines," notes Ellison, who is the IYA contact at UVic. Other planned events include astronomy-themed plays, musical performances and art exhibits, as well as star-gazing nights at UVic's on-campus observatory.

For more information on the International Year of Astronomy visit www.astronomy2009.ca and click on "Search for local events."

UVic students slay "dragons"

From the serious to the sublime, 13 UVic teams vied to win over the judges at the first UVic Pitch Competition, a mini-dragon's den event held Jan. 20. Five ideas reigned supreme and earned \$300 for each of the winning teams.

The Pitch Competition, the first of two business plan competitions, saw students make two-minute presentations to convince the judging panel that their idea had merit. "All of the ideas were excellent, and the students' presentations were crisp and focused," says pitch organizer Mia Maki, instructor in the Faculty of Business entrepreneurship program.

"The competitions are a good way to learn about entrepreneurship and hone business presentation skills," says Maki, who is also organizing the March 6 Business Plan Competition.



The winning pitches covered a range of ideas. BCom student Dan Macdonald presented his idea for an action figure toy line. Science student Jill Doucette talked about her concept of a consulting firm that helps companies "green" their operations. Other ideas included a ready-made entertainment package featuring a

bicycle trials stunt team, by business students Dane Low and David Herr; a strata website for condo owners by economics student Alex Conconi; and a travel website aimed at gay and lesbian travelers by business student Gavin Lawrence.

The UVic Business Plan competition is now under way. Students have just over six weeks to develop a plan that could earn them as much as \$5,000 for a first-place finish. Prizes also include \$2,000 for the best social entrepreneurship plan—contributed by the Institute for Co-operative Studies—and the potential for an expenses-paid trip to the national Entrepreneurial Award Competition in Ottawa. Tips and resources for preparing a business plan: www.business.uvic.ca/planit

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■ **Legh Mulhall Kilpin (1853–1919)** Until Feb. 28. 50 works in oil, watercolour, pastel, etching, and monotype, including portraits, landscapes, Symbolist pieces, and Art Nouveau designs by this relatively unknown Canadian artist. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery

■ **Taking Flight.** Until May. An exhibit showcasing the life's work of one of Canada's foremost avian artists, J. Fenwick Lansdowne, including watercolour paintings, drawings and prints. Legacy Art Gallery and Café. 630 Yates St. 250-381-7670

at the theatre

www.phoenixtheatres.ca
250-721-8000

■ **La Ronde** Feb. 19–28. By Arthur Schnitzler, guest director. Follow the trail of love, passion and seduction through Vienna's society in the 1890s as the intimate relationships of ten interconnected couples unfold like a witty, frolicking music round.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

■ **Café Scientifique** 6:30 p.m. *Benefits of Exercise for Your Brain: Hope or Hype?* Dr. Brian R. Christie. Swans Hotel, Collard Room. 250-472-4067

■ **Centre for Forest Biology Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Cumulative Effects of Climate Warming and Increasing Disturbance on Vegetation in the Western Arctic.* Dr. Trevor Lantz, UVic. Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-7119

■ **Orion Lecture** 8 p.m. Daniel Young and Christian Giroux, visual artists. Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* School of Music guitar students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

■ **Music** 8 p.m. *University of Victoria Wind Symphony.* Dr. Gerald King, conductor. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets \$12 & \$10. 250-721-7904

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

■ **Medieval Workshop** 12 p.m. *The Medieval Mediterranean.* Bob Wright Centre, Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences B150. \$49.50, students \$9.52

■ **Dance** 7 p.m. *Intimacy: Exploring Shiva through Dance and Poetry.* A Bharatanatyam (South Indian classical dance) performance. MacLaurin A144. \$12 adults, \$5 students, children under 13 free. 250-721-2672

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 2:30 p.m. *Missions to Mars.* Dr. Alain Berinstain, director of planetary exploration and space astronomy of the Canadian Space Agency. Bob Wright Centre, Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences B150. Info: sarae@uvic.ca



Signed theatre
Renowned deaf interpreter Nigel Howard (above) and Victoria hearing interpreter Mary Warner will provide sign language interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing at the Feb 28 matinee performance of *La Ronde* at the Phoenix Theatre.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

■ **Public Administration Lecture** 12 p.m. *The Leaders-20 (L20) Process.* Dr. Peter Heap, UVic. Human & Social Development A373. 250-721-8056

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *The Cultural Limits of Legal Toleration: Law and Religious Pluralism.* Dr. Benjamin Berger, UVic. Engineering/Computer Science 124. 250-721-6325

■ **Adaskin Lecture** 8 p.m. Scott Lyall, sculptor. Visual Arts A146. 250-721-8015

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

■ **Indigenous and Diversity Research Conference** 12 p.m. And Feb. 13. *Critical Conversations Continue — Indigenous and Diversity Research Forum.* Keynote speakers: Prof. Helen Lenskyj and Dorothy Christian. Free and open to students, faculty, staff and community members. Student Union Bldg., Michele Pujol Room. 250-721-8022 Info/registration: <http://web.uvic.ca/vpac/diversity/criticalconversations2009.html>

■ **Germanic & Slavic Studies Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Deutscher Abend an der Uni.* Internationally acclaimed writer, Dr. Yoko Tawada, reading her work in English, German and Japanese. Strong C118. 250-721-7320

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* School of Music string students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

■ **UVic Women's Conference** 8 a.m. *Celebrating Possibilities.* Keynote speaker: Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, BC's representative for children and youth. Open to UVic students, staff, faculty, alumni and retirees. All genders welcome. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium. web.uvic.ca/womennet/ or 250-472-4747

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

■ **Sessions in Spirituality Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Tough Questions for Religions: Do Religions Discriminate Against Women?* Panelists: Christian: Dr. Patricia Rooke. Hindu: Dr. Sikata Banerjee. Muslim: Ms. Karima Ramji Karima. MacLaurin A144. 250-721-8338

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *The Scope and Limits of Reforming Islam.* Tariq Ramadan, Univ. of Oxford. Engineering/Computer Science 123. 250-721-6325

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

■ **HSD Research Conversations** 12 p.m. *Wonder and Danger: Knowledge Translations and Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Sexual Health Education.* Elizabeth Banister and Deborah Begoray, UVic. Human & Social Development A373. 250-721-6441

■ **Studies in Religion and Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Going-Going-Gone: Poetry Speaks Rivers.* Melanie Siebert, graduate student fellow, UVic. Engineering/Computer Science 124. 250-721-6325

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

■ **Humanities Faculty Fellow Lecture** *Chance of the Dice: Ethics in the Event of Middle English Literature.* Dr. Allan Mitchell, UVic. Clearihue A311. 250-472-4677

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* School of Music woodwind students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

■ **Earth & Ocean Sciences Lecture** 3:30 p.m. *Biogeochemistry of Dust from the Iraq War and the Potential for Chronic Health Effects.* Dr. Mark B. Lyles, US Navy. Engineering/Computer Science 124. 250-721-6120

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

■ **Lansdowne Lecture** 3:30 p.m. *Let There Be Light: Galaxy Formation for the Novice.* Dr. Joe Silk. Engineering/Computer Science 125. 250-721-7700

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *History Writing and History Telling: Indigenous Peoples and the Historiography of British Columbia.* Lianne Charlie, graduate student fellow, UVic. Engineering/Computer Science 124. 250-721-6325



Receiving this scholarship was surprising and exciting. It allowed me to continue to excel and strive for grand successes.
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in memoriam

Michael Cullen, a senior instructor in the Department of English, passed away Jan.16. He had been at UVic since 1990. Michael will be remembered as an innovative and inspirational teacher and a well-loved colleague and friend, as well for having an infectious, off-the-wall sense of humour. Students record doing their best for him by feeding off and reflecting his intelligence and passion. Michael was also an accomplished and award-winning writer of poems, plays, novels, screenplays, fiction, writing texts, study guides, chapters and reviews. He was an active member of the Sidney community for many years, and he shared his enthusiasm for writing by organizing the Sidney Reading Series and by writing weekly columns for the *Peninsula News Review*, for which he won an award. He is survived by his two daughters, Catherine and Maia, the latter being in her final term at UVic. The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the doctors and nurses in palliative care unit at Saanich Peninsula Hospital for the loving care they provided Michael.

Contributed by Dr. Kim Blank, Department of English

Dr. Geoffrey N. O’Grady died on Dec. 28, at home in Victoria, just before his 81st birthday. He came to the linguistics department at the University of Victoria in 1965, becoming involved in the study of various Indigenous languages on Vancouver Island and teaching phonetics and historical sound change. He is regarded as a pioneer and leading scholar of Australian Aboriginal languages, and his linguistic research and teaching career are a tribute to the languages of First Nations peoples around the world. As a young man, he spent six years as a “jackaroo” in the Australian Outback on a vast sheep station. Riding and camping with his Aboriginal mates, he began learning their rich and intricate languages and dialects. He was eventually adopted into the Nyangumarta tribe and spoke their language fluently. While working on his BA at the University of Sydney, he conducted field trips to record and transcribe Indigenous languages. His endeavours in alphabetizing Nyangumarta resulted in a literacy program and a Nyangumarta newspaper that is still published. He completed his PhD at Indiana University, where he began a lifelong collaboration with Ken Hale of MIT, beginning with fieldwork in Arizona on HopiTewa and culminating in a series of studies on the classification of the Pama-Nyungan languages of Australia and reports to the Australian government on bilingual education. At the University of Alberta from 1963–65, O’Grady extended his work to northern Canadian First Nations languages. After his retirement from UVic in 1993, the Australian National University honoured him with an international festschrift. Geoff will be remembered for his class and charm, his easygoing nature and gift for humour and wordplay, his great modesty, his outstanding linguistic talent, his generosity and wonderful rapport with his students, and a total lack of artifice. Donations in his memory may be made to the Geoffrey N. O’Grady Scholarship in Linguistics, to assist UVic graduate students doing linguistic research, c/o the University of Victoria Development Office, PO Box 3060, Victoria, BC, V8W 3R4.

Submitted by Dr. John Esling, chair, Department of Linguistics



Nguyen. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BY ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

A day in the life of janitor Hung Nguyen starts early and by 7 a.m. he has already scrubbed the floor of the University Centre’s main foyer. For the past 14 years, Hung has arrived at 5 a.m. in a crisp navy shirt bearing UVic’s logo and cleaned the floors, windows and seats of the Farquhar Auditorium and University Centre. He knows the building as if it were home. Hung clasps his hands on his knees. He smiles and says his wife and brother-in-law work as janitors for UVic, too. Hung’s son is a recent graduate of the business program. The university is a supportive place to work and the job has helped him raise his family of four children, he says. That’s no small feat for the man who began his journey to Canada on a boat bobbing in the ocean near Vietnam, his home.

“I am a boat person,” he says. “We escaped Vietnam in 1981.” Hung and other members of his family boarded a small boat, 36 feet long and six feet wide, and pushed off into the ocean. They and many others floated, waiting and hoping to be picked up by larger ships. Hung’s boat was one of the lucky ones, he says. An English ship carrying oil passed by his small boat on the way to Singapore and took the refugees aboard. His family lived in a Singapore refugee camp, then made their way to Canada. They settled in Burns Lake in northern BC. Hung had been a fisherman in Vietnam and moved to Victoria a year after arriving in Canada, hoping the island’s fishing industry would hold a job for him. But he shakes his head and says the techniques are too different. He couldn’t find work and returned to Burns Lake, where he worked in a sawmill for seven years. But he liked

Victoria’s warmer climate and the bigger city feel, and once again moved here in 1992. Two years later he began working at UVic, where his brother-in-law was already working. Hung walks quickly through the back hallways and rooms of the auditorium, pointing out where performers warm up and equipment is stored. All the twisting carpeted hallways are his responsibility, every row of seats. He speaks with pride and says his bosses must like his work because he’s never cleaned another building. It takes two full days to get it all done. At 1 p.m. Hung heads home. “Sometimes I go catching crab and fishing,” he says. He enjoys the water and fresh air, but says they no longer remind him of Vietnam. Hung plans on retiring one day, but for now he is content with his work at the university. “I enjoy it very much,” he says.

Fall from prosperity
Tracing the economic displacement of Aboriginal people

CO-OP CONTINUED FROM P.1

program, the company met its goal of reducing energy use by 200 tonnes of greenhouse gas in 2008. Weberg’s work also helped to earn a Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada certification for Jawl buildings. One of Weberg’s biggest challenges was to avoid making assumptions about the level of tenant awareness. Weberg, who says she grew up with the sustainability message, learned that not everyone is as eco-literate as she. “I really had to work hard to ensure that I included all the information necessary, not just assume that people knew the ins and outs of recycling.” What’s next for Weberg? Her co-op experience has led her to consider a career in sustainable property development and valuation of green buildings. “I used the co-op position to learn more about real estate development and to learn new skills. I feel very fortunate that I was able to take a

project management role and had so much autonomy.” The Business Co-op Student of the Year Award, along with \$1,000, is given to an outstanding co-op student who has an above-average academic standing and an excellent performance on a work term, and has also played an active role in the UVic and local community. Weberg has already put the money to use; she has enrolled in the UBC/AIC post-graduate certificate program in real property valuation, and she just accepted a position with the Sea to Sky Office of the BC Assessment Authority. She is currently apartment hunting and looking forward to working in pre-Olympic Vancouver and hoping to contribute to climate action initiatives under way at the assessment authority. “I had a great experience with the co-op program and feel very fortunate it has led to this career opportunity,” she says.

UVic historian John Lutz is providing a fresh perspective on Aboriginal poverty. His new book, *Makúk: A New History of Aboriginal-White Relations*, explains how Canada’s Aboriginal people fell from prosperity to poverty and the origins of the myth of the “lazy Indian.” “Aboriginal people in BC went from being among the wealthiest people in the late 19th century to being among Canada’s poorest at the end of the 20th century,” says Lutz. “Welfare was offered as compensation to Aboriginal people when they were driven out of paid and subsistence work by legislation and racism.” Lutz argues that this economic change is rooted in a series of misunderstandings during the early days of contact. Trade, for Europeans, meant nothing more than a simple exchange of one good or service for another. However, in Chinook jargon—the imprecise language of interaction among Europeans, Chinook, Nootka, and other Aboriginal peoples—“trade” was translated as “makúk,” a word that



meant, more loosely, “exchange,” and encompassed not only trading, but also buying, selling, and other non-economic forms of reciprocity. Thus, what Europeans took as a straightforward concept was anything but for their Aboriginal counterparts. Nowhere was this difference in understanding starker than in the idea of trading labour for pay. For Europeans, labour involved the subordination of

nature and the accumulation of wealth, while Aboriginal peoples lived in co-existence with nature and believed in sharing wealth through rites such as the potlatch. Using oral histories, manuscripts, newspaper accounts, and biography, *Makúk* demonstrates how this crucial difference, rooted in language itself, became the seed that led to the original pejorative myth of the “lazy Indian”—one of the most persistent and damaging stereotypes ever applied to Aboriginal peoples. With this mistaken characterization as justification, Aboriginal people were disenfranchised from their own traditional subsistence economy as well as the Canadian capitalist and wage economies. “Whenever they could, Aboriginal people flocked to work places,” Lutz explains. “Laziness was the worst character flaw and any member of a family not willing to help accumulate wealth was shunned. In their rush to acquire wealth for themselves, Euro-Canadians overlooked the sharing and environmental values in the Aboriginal cultures they met.”

