SPEED READING
IN MEMORIAM

UVic mourns former chancellor
Dr. William (Bill) Gibson, former chancellor and supporter of the University of Victoria, renowned medical historian, professor, nephrologist and civic leader, died on July 4 in Victoria. The university community will miss greatly this energetic, dedicated and principled friend. Story, page 6

CHILD CARE
Seeking solutions to the need for more child care spaces
The demand for spaces in UVic’s child care centres greatly exceeds the supply, but a concerted effort by UVic, governments, and non-profit organizations is creating new spaces in the community. Story, page 9

RESEARCH FUNDING
UVic researchers awarded $33.5 million
UVic earned top spot among the nation’s comprehensive universities—and sixth place among all universities—in a recent competition for major funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Projects funded will cast new light on the most hidden aspects of our universe—from sub-atomic matter and energy to what is concealed deep in the oceans and in outer space. Story, page 2

FUNDRAISING
Donor support grows stronger
Despite the challenging economic climate, philanthropic support for UVic is stronger than ever. In the three-year period ending in fiscal year 2008/09, UVic’s Development Office posted a total of $78.5 million, a 122-per cent increase in funds raised over 2003–06. Story, page 2

CLIMATE CHANGE
Pedersen to lead PICS
Dr. Tom Pedersen has been appointed director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), starting Sept. 1. Pedersen will move from his current position as dean of science at UBC, which he has held since 2003. PICS is hosted and led by UVic in collaboration with UBC, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern British Columbia. More: http://bit.ly/3rVtMd

TOTTEN POLE VANDALISM
Police seek public’s assistance
Owl Bay Police are investigating the theft of two carved eagles from the top of the 20-foot Eagle-on-the-Degay Pole near the Maclean Building. The pole, installed there in 1982, was carved by members of the renowned Hunt family. Anyone with information to assist the investigation is asked to contact Owl Bay Police at 250-592-2424.

NEPTUNE CANADA INSTALLATION
Launching a new era in oceans research
The final stage of installation of the world’s largest and most advanced cabled ocean observatory is underway off the west coast of Vancouver Island. On July 4, the cable ship Lodbrog set sail from the Esquimalt Graving Dock (EGD) to install the first of five nodes that will power NEPTUNE Canada, led by the University of Victoria.

For the next two and a half months, a team of scientists and marine engineers will complete installation of the nodes and instruments that will provide continuous, long-term monitoring of ocean processes and events as they happen. Via the Internet, land-based researchers across Canada and around the world will use NEPTUNE Canada to conduct offshore and deep-sea experiments and receive real-time data without leaving their laboratories and offices.

“Scientists and staff at NEPTUNE Canada are delighted to begin the final phase of installation following a decade of planning,” says Dr. Chris Barnes, program director of NEPTUNE Canada.

“Working with a national and international team of scientists and industry partners, we’ve developed a host of novel science experiments, advanced engineering and sensor technologies and innovative data management systems. This is a very exciting time for ocean science.”

Barnes was among the crew of NEPTUNE Canada scientists and staff members who joined federal and provincial government and industry representatives at an installation ceremony at the EGD on July 3. This is where the nodes and their protective bright yellow cylindrical frames (TRF) have been undergoing testing by Alcatel-Lucent along with their sub-contractor, Victoria Shipyards.

As an appreciative crowd watched, the Lodbrog crew demonstrated how the ship will lower the nodes into the ocean for connection via spars to the 800-km loop of cable backbone installed in 2007. UVic’s shore station in Port Alberni provides power to the cable network and manages two-way communications and data flow between the subsea cable network and NEPTUNE Canada headquarters at UVic.

Installed at depths of up to 2.7 km, the nodes step voltage down from 10,000 volts to 400 volts. Junction boxes control and distribute power from the node to instruments including seismometers, hydrophones and remotely operated vehicles equipped with cameras, probes and chemical analysis units. Many of the instruments involve breakthrough technology being used in the field for the first time.

SEE NEPTUNE P5

Learning with the Stó:lō

BY MEGAN HARVEY, KATE MARTIN & MARGARET ROBBINS (MA HISTORY STUDENTS)

For a month this spring, we were privileged to be the guests and students of the Stó:lō—the Indigenous people who have made the Fraser River Valley and Fraser River Canyon their home for thousands of years. From April 24 to May 22, we participated in the Ethnohistory Field School, based in Chilliwack, BC. It is a partnership of the University of Victoria, the University of Saskatchewan, the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, Stó:lō Nation and the Stó:lō Tribal Council. Faculty coordinators for the field school are Drs. John Lutz (UVic) and Keith Carlson (USask).

Every second spring since 1998, graduate students and faculty from the two universities have been welcomed into Stó:lō territory for the field school. This year, nine graduate students participated.

During our first week there, each of us boarded with a Stó:lō family. We were given a tour of traditional territories: an introduction to Stó:lō archives, staff and elders, and seminars on oral history techniques and protocol, ethnohistorical methods and approaches.

For the next three weeks, we lived together on the grounds of a former residential school. During this time, we worked together with Stó:lō mentors, staff and elders on research projects that the Stó:lō have identified as being important to them.

Margaret studied Stó:lō stories of metaphysical tunnels which connect disparate parts of Stó:lō territory. She helped document and map the tunnel stories in an effort to understand their significance and visualize the spiritual geography of the Stó:lō and to illuminate Stó:lō understandings of place and community.

Kate worked with the Stó:lō to understand the impacts on individuals and the community of Bill C-31 (An Act to Amend the Indian Act, 1985), which allowed Stó:lō women who had lost their status, as well as their children and grandchildren, to apply for recognition under the act.

Megan looked at ways the Stó:lō have addressed settler governments around the “land question,” comparing petitions from Stó:lō figures at the turn of the 20th century with the more recent treaty process. Her work could provide historical context for recognition under the act.

SEE STÓ:LÒ P4

BY ARNOLD LIM PHOTOGRAPHY
The University of Victoria claimed top spot among the nations comprehensive universities in a recent major funding announcement by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). On June 25, CFI announced more than $860 million for 133 projects at 41 Canadian research universities, with UVic researchers amassing $333.5 million for four projects. This places UVic sixth among all universities in the country and earns the one-number-one spot among comprehensive universities by a wide margin.

The university’s projects include two major national and regional facilities led by UVic.

“The success of our researchers in this funding competition is simply spectacular,” says UVic’s Vice-President Research Dr. Howard Brunt. “The reason for this success is clear—it is the result of the quality of UVic researchers and their teams. Thanks to this new funding, UVic will continue to cast new light on the most hidden aspects of our universe—from subatomic matter and energy to what is concealed deep in our oceans and in outer space.”

When fully matched, the CFI funding will result in over $800 million in new research infrastructure for UVic. The university will also receive another $10 million in institutional operating funds from CFI to offset the direct and indirect costs of operating the new infrastructure.

Dr. Karen Kelam (physics and astronomy) will receive $17.8 million for a high-intensity electron accelerator at TRIUMF, Canada’s national accelerator laboratory in Vancouver. The accelerator will produce new isotopes to increase our understanding of how chemical elements were formed, allow detailed studies of the magnetic properties of materials, demonstrate an alternative technique for producing medical isotopes and ensure that TRIUMF will remain competitive with the world’s leading particle and nuclear physics laboratories.

Dr. Kim Juniper (earth and ocean sciences) was awarded $8.9 million for a university-based vessel and ROV platform that will be a regional facility operated by UVic. For this project, Juniper heads a team of senior world-class researchers and emerging leaders in Canada’s ocean research community. The vessel will support multidisciplinary research and serve as a mother-ship for ROV dive operations to service the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada cable ocean observatories (led by UVic) and associated instruments.

Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe (earth and ocean sciences) was granted $4.4 million that will enable a large team of scientists to expand the scope of studies taking place on the VENUS ocean observatory (headed by Tunnicliffe) by adding new instrument modules and extending measurements throughout the water column. The university’s Development Office sits under the wing of Vice-President External Relations Valerie Kuehne.

“Our success in fundraising mirrors the success we’ve had all across the division over the past three years,” says Kuehne. “We are seeing the results of a whole division working together to support the university’s strategic goals and objectives with a very high level of collaboration and integration across campus and with our external communities of interest locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.”

The Development Office has set a goal of $34 million for student awards for 2006–2010 and, despite economic woes, von Kaldenberg is optimistic.

“Yes, there have been some difficulties in financial markets, but our friends and supporters continue to see UVic as an investment that will always pay great dividends,” she says. “Collaboration at every level of our organization is key. The president, the deans and department chairs will continue to play a critical role in our success—it’s been a wonderful team effort all the way.”

Dr. Colin Bradley (mechanical engineering) was granted $2.4 million for an adaptive optics testbed to use in a North American endeavour to build a 30-metre telescope, the largest ever built. The telescope will see 100 times further and much more clearly than any other previous telescope. This grant will fund the development of an advanced optics system that will help remove distortion of the incoming light caused by the Earth’s atmosphere.
Recently announced investment from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WEDC) is contributing to the growth of several UVic initiatives. The welcome financial enhancement will help create fresh knowledge from the bottom of the sea, from within the human body, and from the expertise of new personnel. WEDC coordinates federal economic activities in the West and promotes development of the regional economy by working with communities, industry and the provinces.

Watching body chemistry at work

Thanks to $620,000 provided by WEDC, UVic scientists are closer to being able to answer the complex question of how drugs work where they’re needed in the human body.

New technology on its way to the UVic Genome BC Proteomics Centre will allow researchers to view images—in two-dimensions—of drugs travelling within body tissues. They will also be able to see how the tissue reacts to the specified agent and to the environment.

They’ll be able to see all this with the help of an imaging technique known as MALDI—short for Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization. MALDI imaging allows for two-dimensional spatial resolution of proteins and small molecules using a slice of tissue and a fine laser beam. The result is an optical image of the tissue slice that shows the distribution patterns of proteins, peptides, lipids and drugs at the molecular level. It will lead to more rapid and accurate diagnosis of patients’ illnesses and to more effective treatments.

UVic Genome BC Proteomics Centre Director Dr. Christoph Borchers says the information revealed “will be used to develop a 3D virtual reality atlas of the human body and improve a clinician’s ability to diagnose and treat disease. Of particular interest is the diagnosis of specific heart diseases that are currently very challenging to accurately diagnose.”

Diving into deep data, developing ocean tech

Another recent beneficiary of WEDC funding is UVic’s Ocean Technology Laboratory (OTL). With the help of an $880,000 award, UVic’s Laboratory for Automation, Communication and Information Systems Research (LACIR)—of which the OTL is a part—will take delivery of an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV). Traditionally, underwater work that takes place below depths that are safe for divers has been done by Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicles (ROVs) small vehicles that get power and control commands through a tether connected to the surface. In contrast, AUVs operate autonomously, without a tether, minimizing the amount of surface support necessary.

UVic’s new bright yellow Bluefin-12 AUV measures 3.77 metres in length and 0.32 metres in diameter. The vehicle is rated to 200 metres, which means it can see all the way to the ocean floor. The OTL OTTAV (Ocean Technology Test Bed) that UVic is constructing in Saanich Inlet, providing valuable ocean technology research opportunities for students and faculty and increasing the facility’s revenue generating potential. The OTTAV will be fully operational in 2010.

Spreading the wealth of knowledge

It’s not just hardware WEDC is facilitating. Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), the non-profit society UVic created to manage the VENUS and NEPTUNE ocean observatories, has new backing for their work developing commercial applications for ocean science research.

A WEDC investment of $360,000—paired with $240,000 from ONC—will help pay for new Senior Business Development Officer Scott McLean.

The new appointment was announced by ONC President and CEO, Martin Taylor: “We’re delighted to have someone of Scott’s expertise and experience join ONC to lead our new centre of excellence,” says Taylor.

McLean comes to ONC from Halifax, where he worked for eight years as chief technology officer and vice-president of research and development at Satlantic Incorporated, a marine high-tech company.

“The funding will help to cover the costs for the new centre staff of seven, office set-up, operating costs and equipment,” says McLean. McLean was appointed as ONC’s Senior Business Development Officer July 1, says he’s excited by the opportunity to promote and support commercialization and outreach for VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada.

“Canada is currently leading the world in this new generation of ocean observing systems and we can build significantly on this competitive advantage.”

New tools, new people set to take UVic research to higher level

BY MOIRA DANNEVER

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New residence building breaks ground

Construction will begin early this month on the new $106-bed student residence building. The 3,350-square-metre facility will help address the increasing demand for residence accommodation. Located at the south end of parking lot 5, east of the Cobequid Commons Building, it will include 84 student dorm rooms plus 22 student suites. The expected occupancy date is January 2011. The building is targeted to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification level.

TD Bank donation supports Indigenous students

Indigenous students at the University of Victoria are benefiting from a $500,000 donation from TD Bank Financial Group. The gift will help fund the university’s First Peoples House, currently under construction. It will also support the Indigenous Student Career Transitions Program, a service that helps UVic’s Indigenous students develop employment-readiness skills.

Enterprise Data Centre up and running

As many as 3,100 standard servers in 147 racks can sit comfortably into the university’s new Enterprise Data Centre (EDC). The highly secure 465-square-metre facility, which became fully functional in June, was designed at UVic. An additional 400 square metres of space in an existing marine facility, that are currently dedicated to storage, can be converted to data centre use in the future as the university’s computing needs grow. Servers will continue to be migrated to the new data centre over the next few months. EDC, in the Clearihue Building, which supports UVic’s Enterprise Data Centre use in the future as the university’s computing needs grow. Servers will continue to be migrated to the new data centre over the next few months. EDC, in the Clearihue Building, which supports UVic’s Enterprise Data Centre use in the future as the university’s computing needs grow. Servers will continue to be migrated to the new data centre over the next few months.
Mapping Our Common Ground

world around us.

The Highlands Community Green Map is one of many community mapping projects supported by the University of Victoria through the Department of Geography’s Community Mapping Resource Centre (CMC), the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Office of Community-Based Research (OCBR).

"It was wonderful to see," recalls UVic cartographer Ken Josephson, who attended the party. "It took two years for Highlanders and their community mapping partners to complete the project, and the result is a map alive with the language, sites and symbols of the Highlands people." The Highlands map seems three-dimensional. Bold land masses, hand-crafted artwork and punchy graphic icons pinpoint the locations of a wide variety of places and green resources.

On the map legend are the usual sites for public parking and golfing, but you’ll also find special icons that point out a special vista or a significant tree. This personalized legend even contains an ode to dreams and visions for the future.

Hundreds of volunteer hours were contributed by the Highlands map steering committee, citizens and artists. The Highlands project was facilitated by Josephson and Adjunct Professor Charles Burnett (geography), and Mave Lydon, consultant on community partnerships at the CMBR.

As Lydon explains in her guidebook Mapping Our Common Ground, “Every community has its stories, its secrets or long buried in the lives and landscapes of our common ground. Community mapping connects geography to the history of our lives and the world around us.”

UVic’s Community Mapping Resource Centre provides resources and tools to help community groups make both print and online, interactive, maps.

The CMC is working with the Coastal and Oceans Resource Analysis Laboratory and their partner the SeaChange Marine Conservation Society (http://www.seachange.ca) to create a web-based map.

Their Coastal Community Green Map (http://mapping.uvic.ca/coastal) was designed to engage participants in studying the history of the flora and fauna along the Saanich Inlet and peninsula. This online, interactive map enables people to become part of the mapping process simply by clicking on selected icons and adding their stories and observations about the region.

Online community mapping gives contributors so many options to participate,” says Josephson. “They can assemble a slide show, create artwork, insert photo essays, conduct interviews, make a video and even record a song.”

That’s just what’s happening with the UVic Community Green Map, with over 50 students registered as contributors, several of whom are pushing their learning boundaries. One student has taped a video tour of the campus and added it to the map. In another example, UVic student Melissa Hingston in Dr. Brenda Bockwitt’s Environmental Studies 481 class, Exploring UVic’s Cultural Landscapes, discovered that the university grounds were originally home to a very productive strawberry farm. Hingston went so far as to unearth an old musical gem related to the discovery titled “The Hamsterly Jam Farm Song.” The sheet music is posted to one of the farm site icons and the student has included a vocal recording of the song for visitors to enjoy.

Josephson says the beauty of community mapping is how it inspires all ages of people to talk about what they value in life and to work together to tell each other’s stories. “Community maps help everyone understand the bigger picture.”

The UVic Community Mapping Resource Centre is a joint project of the Department of Geography and the Common Ground Community Mapping Project and has received funding from the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, the Learning and Teaching Centre, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Geography and the Office of Community-Based Research.

It is affiliated with the New York-based Green Map program, which promotes sustainability and community participation in the local, natural and built environment through its Green Map System. For more information or to get involved http://mapping.uvic.ca

Student environmental summit a ‘peak experience’

Interview with Jill Doucette, UVic biology and environmental studies student and co-chair of 2009 World Student Environmental Summit

Ring: What are the most memorable moments of the World Student Environmental Summit hosted by UVic June 24 to 28?

Doucette: The most memorable moment for me and Chantal Orr (UVic’s business student and summit co-chair) was when a group of delegates told us that the summit was a life-changing experience. One delegate from Australia said the last day was the best day of her life. Knowing that we achieved our goal to educate, empower and engage these exceptionally young leaders is an incredible feeling.

Another moment is the closing ceremony on June 28 when our team of coordinators (Will Wright, Jeff Mannet, Mike Fraser, Brian Cairn, Tova Cassey, Dan Lafferty and Nick Clark) came onto stage for a surprise sentimental speech that we will never forget.

The third moment was in discussion. The delegates were comparing challenges in addressing climate change through civil engagement in developing and undeveloped countries. Although the face of the challenge is different, delegates made unexpected comparisons behind the root challenges in society.

Stó:lō continued from P.1

current-day treaty processes and relationships.

Our time at the field school was a transformative experience on several levels. We were received with a ceremony by everyone we encountered. Stó:lō people expressed a very genuine willingness to engage with us and have us learn as much as possible while we were there. The number and variety of community events we were invited to witness is just one very memorable example of how we were made welcome. We were all deeply affected by this generosity, and it inspired a similar kind of feeling in us.

The field school was an incredible introduction to what grounded, community-based schol- arly research can look like. It was a hands-on encounter across our cultural differences, and we learned first hand about our various points of convergence and divergence in a setting in which we were invited to participate in a meaningful—and useful—manner.

One of the things we will take away from the experience is a more sensitive awareness of the difference between reading histories and witnessing how people actually live their histories. While we all “live history” in some way, being in Stó:lō territory and learning from Stó:lō people about how they experience the past is quite different from reading about it in a book. The experience humbled us in important ways to what we couldn’t know without respectfully building relationships and learning how to listen in the ways needed in this particular context.

Listening to people talk about what in a more conventional academic arena could be framed as current and historical ‘issues’ or ‘events’, we got a very strong sense of how history is a lived experience. Pre- and post contact narratives are highly personal histories in Stó:lō communities—they are part of peoples’ personal stories. It is a remarkable thing to have somethings—whole communities even—share some of this with us as outsiders.

We also learned to work productively in a context that is not our own. Part of this meant learning how to behave, in the sense of protocol and manners—being conscious of how to listen and speak. We learned the basics in how to proceed respectfully in a cultural context that is largely unfamiliar to us as non-Indigenous students. Practicing oral history in Stó:lō communities, for example, is not about rushing into an interview and having someone tell you everything. It takes time, and this is assumed. Implicit in this is a sense too that there is time, that there will be time to keep talking, to return and continue working in some capacity with the community, to keep building and reshaping the relationships we have begun.

While some of this seems a bit abstract, it is those larger impressions and feelings that will act in our work and in our lives from now on. The field school experience helped to transform the way we think about the role of relationships and community building in research.

A collection of the best Ethnographic Field School research papers has been published in a peer reviewed on-line journal, The Research Review (http://journal.ets.uvic.ca/). More: www.ethnohist.ca

PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Megan Harvey and Kate Martin
FAST, FRESH AND FUTURISTIC
Writing students get filmmaking experience with Internet video

By Rosemary Westwood

Writing instructor Maureen Bradley and a small class of students sit in a dark computer lab in the Fine Arts Building. Projected on the wall is the result of months of planning and hard work: the Freshmen’s Wharf web series.

Freshmen’s Wharf blends the screenplay of writing student Rachel Warden with the enthusiasm of 11 other writing students to turn words on a page into two short pilot webisodes designed for the quick click environment of the Internet.

The result is a quirky comedy about first-year student Shame Herbison, who gets off to a rough start at UVic. The production process through and actually make a film. It’s going to become. I think it’s a really valid web series.

The shoot was also a chance for Bradley to get behind the camera and do one of her favourite jobs: directing.

The class began as a volunteer opportunity to work on a film and learn all the ins and outs of pre-production, filming and post-production. But students soon realized the experience would make a great directed study course, and a new class was born.

“It’s a very rare opportunity,” says Warden. “Filmmaking is collaborative, so when student writers want to get their work produced, they sure can’t do it alone.”

The project came together in short order thanks to the help of numerous community members, local actors, faculty members, the donation of a score from David Parfitt and equipment from Cinevic Society of Independent Filmmakers. Bradley’s recent Canada Foundation for Innovation grant for $390,000 also helped fund the film.

But the real source of the class’s success is “the enthusiasm and commitment of students.”

“Knowing this is possible with the limited budget we had and with a group of people who are passionate about writing and about filmmaking—it’s pretty awesome,” says Megan Russell.

For Russell and fellow student Eliza Robertson, the class was a chance to try filmmaking for the first time. Robertson both acted and learned the ins and outs of recording sound while Russell worked in the lighting crew.

Student Clay Murphy had some experience with managing equipment on set and says the class honed those skills.

But the course’s main draw for students was a chance to see how their work can come alive—a result often hard to come by for playwrights and screenplay writers, Bradley says. “I wasn’t familiar with the genre of webisodes, and I think it’s something that is becoming more prevalent. Anyone can make one,” says Robertson. “You don’t have to be in Hollywood.”

The class has been so successful that students have decided Freshmen’s Wharf should keep on going. The group has formed Writers Room Productions and hopes to film more episodes in the fall.

For now, though, they have the gratification of an international audience for the launch of their first filmmaking effort. Watch Freshmen’s Wharf online: www.youtube.com/TheWritersRoom

The UVic EcoCAR team placed second overall at the EcoCAR Challenge student competition in Toronto last month for the design of its fuel-efficient, low-emission car of the future. It is also the winner of the Multithor Modeling Award and has placed highly in numerous other competitions. The competition marks the end of the first year of the EcoCAR Challenge where 14 US and three Canadian teams work to advance car design by using leading-edge automotive technologies that are also driven by the environment. In year two of the competition, teams will incorporate their own unique powertrains into a Saturn VUE. In year three, teams must refine their vehicles to near showroom quality.

Dr. Eileen Van der Flier-Keller (earth and ocean sciences/geography) has been awarded the 2009 E.W. Ward Medal by the Geological Association of Canada for her outstanding efforts to communicate and explain geoscience to the public. Van der Flier-Keller has spent her career in the UVic Speakers Bureau, speaking on earth science for children. Her numerous publications include a Field Guide to the Identification of Pebbles and the South Vancouver Island Earth Science Fun Guide.

Dr. Nancy Turner (environmental studies) and Professor Emeritus Jack Hodgins (environmental studies) were recently recognized for their contributions to Canadian literature and his leadership as a teacher and mentor. Turner was honoured for her work in ethnohistory and her leadership in documenting First Nations traditions.

The course calendar with our full line-up of continuing education classes is available August 8.
Psychologist was committed to family, students, research

Dr. Esther Strauss of the Department of Psychology passed away on June 17 at the Palliative Care Unit at Royal Jubilee Hospital after a three-and-a-half-year battle with ovarian cancer. Esther obtained her BA at McGill University in 1969, where she majored in psychology and sociology. She then earned master's degrees in sociology from Northeastern University (1971) and in special education from Boston University (1972).

Between 1973 and 1975, she worked at the Aphasia Research Center in the Boston Veterans Administration Hospital, where she developed her long-standing commitment to neuropsychological research.

She completed her doctorate in psychology under Prof. Morris Moscovitch in 1980 at the University of Toronto. Esther then took up a position as assistant professor of psychology at the University of Victoria. She attained the rank of full professor in 1991.

Among her numerous accomplishments, Esther co-authored (with Prof. Otfried Spreen and Dr. Elizabeth Sherman) the standard work on neuropsychological assessment, The Ring (1978) which they investigated how short-term fluctuations in a person’s reaction time predict later mental decline.

As part of her productive program of research, she mentored numerous graduate students who have gone on to successful careers in both academic and clinical settings.

These are the objective achievements of an outstanding career. Although impressive, they do not convey the full measure of Esther’s impact on students, colleagues and the university. Simply put, Esther was a treasure.

Submitted by Dr. David Hultsch, Department of Psychology

UVic mourns Dr. Bill Gibson, former chancellor, friend and benefactor

Dr. William C. (Bill) Gibson, former chancellor and avid supporter of the University of Victoria, renowned medical historian, professor, neurophysiologist and civic leader, died on July 4 in Victoria. He was 95.

Gibson was born in Ottawa. He grew up in Victoria and graduated from UVic’s predecessor institution, Victoria College, in 1931. He received a BA from the University of British Columbia in 1933, an MSc (1936) and an MDCM (1941) from McGill University and a DPhil from Oxford University in 1938.

Gibson served with distinction in the Royal Canadian Air Force, starting as deputy director of medical research during the Second World War and rising through the ranks to wing commander and senior medical officer for Vancouver in 1960.

A specialist in neurology and psychiatry, Gibson taught at the University of Sydney, the University of California, Yale University, Stanford University and—from 1970 to 1978—at UBC, where he played a key role in developing the Faculty of Medicine and creating the Woodward Biomedical Library. He served as professor and director of the Kinsmen Laboratory for Neuropsychological Research, professor of psychiatry and head of the Department of History of Medicine and Science. From 1978 to 1984 he was chair of the Universities Council of British Columbia.

Over a long and productive scholarly career, Gibson published more than 125 scientific papers and 10 books. Among his earliest books was Young Endeavour: Contributions to Science by Medical Students of the Past Four Centuries (1938), and his last was Old Endeavour: Scientific and Humanitarian Contributions by Physicians Over Age 65 (2007).

UVic has benefited from Gibson’s long association with the university. In the late-seventies, Gibson envisaged a new type of professional who would have the knowledge and skills to introduce information technology into Canada’s health care system. His advocacy was instrumental in the creation of UVic’s groundbreaking School of Health Information Science in 1982, and he is acknowledged as its “intellectual founder.”

Elected the sixth chancellor of the University of Victoria in 1985, he served for two terms until 1990, conferring some 12,000 degrees.

His long and distinguished record of community service involved work with many societies in the health care area, including the Canadian Mental Health Association, Cedar Lodge School for Brain-injured Children, the Terry Fox Foundation of BC, the BC Cancer Control Agency and the Muscular Dystrophy Association of the US. He served as chair of the advisory board for the UVic Centre on Aging and maintained close ties with the Faculty of Education and the School of Music.

Gibson’s many honours include the BC Centennial Medal (1967), the Queen’s Jubilee Medal (1977), an honorary doctorate from UVic (1991), and the Order of Canada (2002).

His many contributions to the university community serve as a living legacy rooted in his generosity of spirit and keen interest in the education of young people, particularly in the disciplines of medicine.

A large plane tree growing between the Cunningham and MacLaurin buildings stands as a vital symbol of his legacy. It was grown from a seedling—the descendent of a tree on the Greek Island of Kos under which Hippocrates lectured his students in medicine—provided by Gibson and which he helped plant in May 1970 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Victoria Medical Society.

The university community will miss greatly this energetic, dedicated and principled friend.
Harrison murals add vibrancy to new building

Celebrated Canadian painter Ted Harrison was present June 17 for the unveiling of two large murals he has donated to the University of Victoria. Harrison had painted the murals on the walls of his home and, when he moved last year, they were saved and now grace the walls of the university’s new Social Sciences and Mathematics Building.

Harrison murals add vibrancy to new building

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The Ring
July 2009
PHOTO: JOCelyn BEyak

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For the past several years, UVic students, faculty and staff have faced increasing difficulty finding suitable child care spaces on or off campus. The quality of care provided by UVic Child Care Services is stellar,” says Grace Wong-Sneddon, interim associate director of Student and Ancillary Services. But the demand for spaces in UVic’s child care centres greatly exceeds the supply.

However, a constellation of recent initiatives and developments at UVic is presenting a valuable opportunity to address the problem.

“The university understands the need for increased access to quality child care,” says UVic Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrell. “We have a shared interest in this with faculty, student and staff parents and are making efforts to find long-term, sustainable solutions to address the need for additional high-quality child care options.”

Currently, Child Care Services provides spaces for 148 children (with a wait list of 47), 28 toddler spaces (with 122 on the wait list), 23 pre-kindergarten spots (with 69 waiting), and 25 kindergarten age children (with 31 waitlisted). There are also 50 spaces in the out-of-school care program (with 19 on the wait list). Wait times for spaces range from several months to two or more years.

“There has always been a wait list for UVic child care, explains Dr. Lynne Marks (history), “but in the last two years, things have become worse, in part because of developments beyond UVic’s. Marks has long been involved in the child care issue, most recently as chair of the UVic Academic Women’s Caucus and co-chair of the newly established UVic Child Care Action Group. She is also a member of the UVic Child Care Parent Advisory Council.

Child care spaces are very tight off-campus as well, leading to similarly lengthy wait lists. Marks cites the cancellation of the federal childcare policy and the failure of provincial child care subsidies to keep pace with costs as playing a major role in the reduction of available and affordable child care spaces locally.

UVic’s Academic Dean, director of faculty renewal and academic leadership initiatives, describes the child care situation in Victoria as an unfortunate, perfect storm. “In recent years, there has been a combination of factors including low pay for child care workers, few spaces for child care training, and Victoria’s relative lack of a new Canadian population that, in other cities, has provided in-home child care as a means of generating income.”

According to the Victoria Foundation, there were only 5,161 registered child care spaces in the Capital Region, to serve a population of 17,325 children under six years of age. Both Nolan and Marks point out that this situation will likely get worse, as three major child care centres in Victoria announced in March that they are closing, meaning the loss of an additional 100 spaces in the city.

Last year, Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels asked Nolan and Wong-Sneddon to explore maximizing the use of current resources on campus and to develop collaborations with others to help address the child care need.

Wong-Sneddon has worked with Child Care Services to create 16 part-time pre-school-age spaces in Centre Block, which in the afternoons houses the out-of-school program. These spaces will be available, beginning in September, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on weekdays, but not during public school holidays or professional development periods, when it is needed for the UVic workforce.

Meanwhile, Nolan has been working closely with the UVic Family Centre on a program to provide training for Family Housing residents who wish to offer in-home child care. This has involved providing an information session for those interested, an infant / child first aid and CPR course, and a field trip to the Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral agency, which trains and registers such caregivers.

Further development of this approach awaits implementation of the recommendations of the external review of the UVic Family Centre, which was completed recently.

The university has also created a child care steering committee, charged with investigating the full range of models of child care service availability options in the local context, and identifying the associated capital and operating costs and the rate implications for families. Sponsored by Cassels and Gorrell, the committee includes Associate Vice-President Student Affairs Jim Dunsmuir, Associate Vice-President Finance and Operations Kristin Simpson, as well as Nolan and Wong-Sneddon.

“We want to proceed in a responsible and thorough manner in addressing this important need,” explains Gorrell. “We need to clearly understand the short-term and long-term needs, opportunities and challenges. We need to do this right so that we have a sustainable solution.” Their report is expected to go to the board of governors in late September.

Universities across Canada and the United States are facing a similar child care capacity challenge, and they are pursuing a variety of models. These include building new child care centres or expanding existing ones, partnering with other large employers or third-party providers, and supporting networks of in-home services.

Here in BC, Gorrell points out, both UBC and SFU have been required to provide, and have accordingly benefited from, child care spaces associated with in-association university real estate development—an option that due to its much smaller land base, does not have. UVic has recently opened five new child care centres, administrated by housing services and with a funding stream supported by real estate development.

UVic Child Care Services receives funding from fees, a provincial government child care operating grant and UVic transfer funds. The university covers subsidy and capital costs for the manager and clerical support staff, and currently provides funding for services or sale of goods. UVic has developed a regular external review over the sum- mer, and among issues it will explore are increasing capacity within the current physical structure, maintaining the high quality of care currently provided, the implications for families in the issue have joined together to launch the UVic Child Care Action Group and strategies about ways to in- increase the number of child care spaces at UVic. “We include faculty members, representatives of the PEA, the Graduate Students Society and the Office of Indigenous Affairs,” says Marks, who is co-chair of the group along with Dr. Stephen Ross (English) and Michael Lines (law).