



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

UVic physicists celebrate supercollider success

On March 30 a new era of discovery about the basic nature of the universe opened with the first proton collision at the 27-km Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland. UVic physicists Michel Lefebvre and Rob McPherson are members of the UVic-ATLAS team that designed and built crucial components for a detector that records the debris resulting from colliding trillions of protons at the highest energies ever reached by a particle accelerator. *Times-Colonist* story: <http://bit.ly/9iZdha>

OCEANS RESEARCH

International partnership links oceans observatory efforts

On March 11, UVic-based Ocean Networks Canada, which manages the NEPTUNE and VENUS ocean observatories, signed an agreement with the Consortium for Ocean Leadership to work together to contribute to our scientific understanding of the oceans. The consortium administers the US Ocean Observatories Initiative, which is building observatory networks to be completed in 2014. <http://bit.ly/cxugaN>

RABBIT CONTROL

Pilot project identifies relocation challenge

UVic has concluded its pilot project to test the feasibility of capturing, sterilizing and finding new homes for a number of the feral rabbits from areas in and around the playing fields. The project determined that it was relatively easy to humanely capture rabbits, recruit volunteers and engage veterinarians to sterilize the rabbits, but efforts to relocate the rabbits to area sanctuaries failed. UVic will continue to work with the Ministry of Environment and the BCSPCA on a long-term plan to reduce and manage the feral rabbit population on campus. More: <http://communications.uvic.ca/releases/>

THE CAMPUS

Unauthorized gardening activities on the quad

At press time, unauthorized plantings by self-professed 'guerilla gardeners' remained in the common recreational and circulation space in front of the McPherson Library. Due to the amount of false and misleading information circulating, UVic and student organizations are planning a public meeting to enable all interested members of the campus community to receive accurate information; provide their perspectives on sustainability, gardening and food issues on campus; and learn about the variety of initiatives under way. Watch for further info at www.uvic.ca/current/



WOOLSTENCROFT STRIKES GOLD

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THE RING

UVIC BUSINESS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Historic gift is icing on the (birthday) cake

BY DIANNE GEORGE

\$10M

**GIFT FROM PETER
B. GUSTAVSON TO
UVIC BUSINESS
TO SUPPORT
SCHOLARSHIPS,
PROFESSORSHIPS,
RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION**

UVic Business celebrated its 20th anniversary on March 19 with a community open house and birthday party. The celebrations were spectacularly enhanced with a historic gift of \$10 million given by Peter B. Gustavson. This is the largest philanthropic gift ever to UVic Business and will support scholarships, professorships, research and innovation at the Faculty of Business.

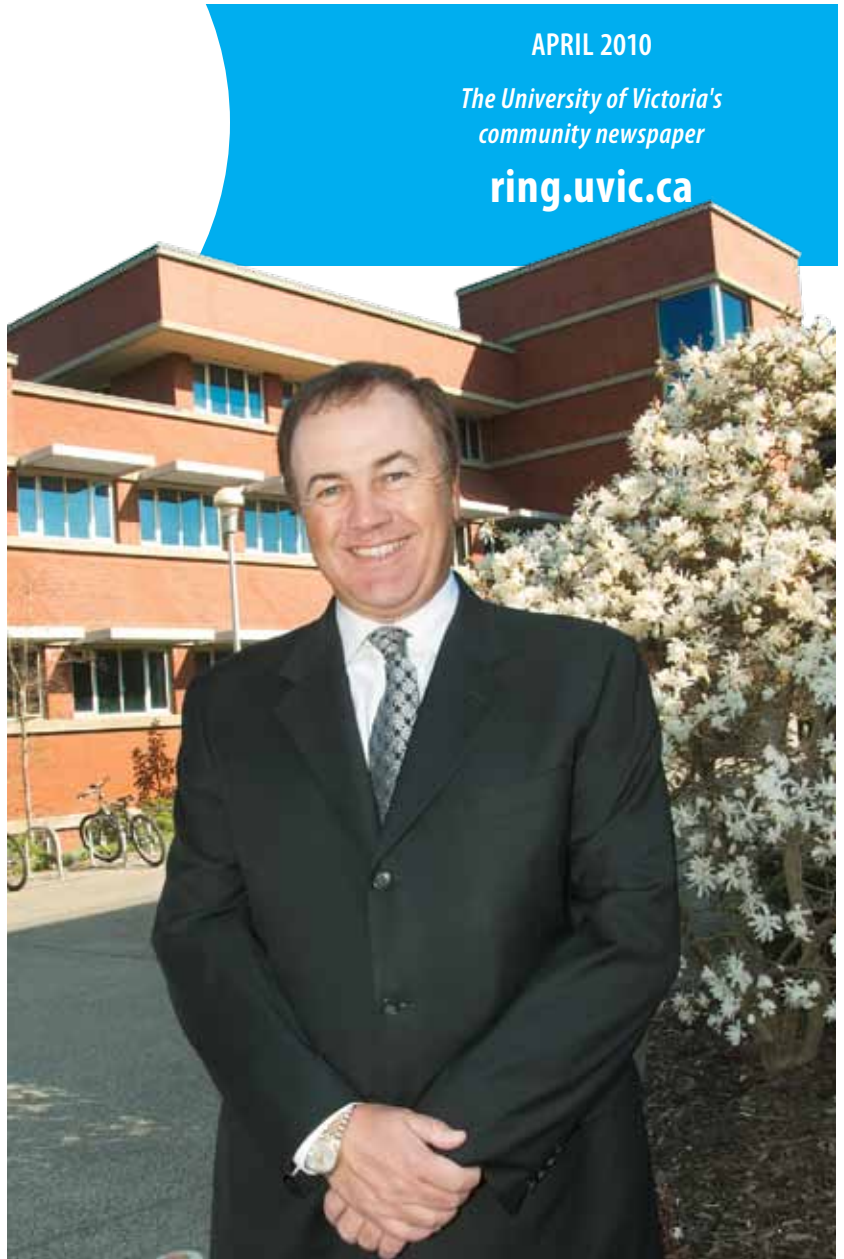
Gustavson is the founder of Custom House, a Victoria-based global foreign exchange payments powerhouse. He sold the company in 2009 to Western Union for US \$370 million.

Gustavson has been involved with the business school since 2003 as an employer, member of its advisory board and chair of the Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award event that he helped establish in 2004.

"I know what it's like to struggle to find the money for tuition and living expenses," said Gustavson, speaking to more than 250 people who attended the festivities. "I worked full-time while at university and with the help of my grandma would have \$2 a week for gas.

"I'd pray I didn't run out and have to walk to a gas station—you could freeze to death outside in a Winnipeg winter. I'd rather see students pursuing studies rather than pursuing ways to fund their studies," he added.

UVic President David Turpin said the gift will turn the already remarkable business school into an internationally



Gustavson. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

renowned centre of excellence for business education.

"It will literally transform the way we do business education, and it will benefit generations of students," said Turpin. "When students enrol here, our greatest hope is to see the trajectory of their lives changed, their aspirations elevated and their minds sharpened."

The funds will be invested in an endowment, and the interest earned will support scholarships, enhance student experiences, create more professorships and research funding, and develop new programs such

as the faculty's new Master of Global Business degree.

"Peter is a wonderful friend," said Dean of Business Dr. Ali Dastmalchian. "His unprecedented generosity will spur innovation and new ideas for educating students to understand the big picture of business. By enhancing our learning environment—particularly in the international arena—we can expose our students to more opportunities."

SEE GUSTAVSON P.2

Canada Research Chair does big things in a small way

BY MARIA LIRONI

Dr. Reuven Gordon (electrical and computer engineering) is UVic's newest Canada Research Chair. As the Canada Research Chair in Nanoplasmonics, Gordon will conduct research that will help in the creation of sensors for the early detection of cancers, new tools to study viral infection and more efficient and cost-effective solar devices.

Under a microscope, human cells can be seen with our eyes. Viruses or cancer markers, however, are invisible because they are much smaller than the wavelength of light. To see them, the light must be reduced to the nanometre scale. (A nanometer is equal to one billionth of a meter.) Gordon is using "nanoplasmonics," with nanofabricated metals, to "squeeze" the light.

Gordon is also researching the use of nanoplasmonics for more efficient solar energy conversion. While solar energy is the most bountiful of green-energy sources, it is also the most expensive, so it is hardly used. Again, nanostructured metals show promise in this area because they allow for more efficient light absorption from the sun with lower material costs.

"By shrinking light to the nanometer scale—the size of viruses, for example—it is possible to increase the interaction of light with materials," Gordon explains. "This has obvious benefits when trying to detect a single molecule that identifies if someone has cancer, or when trying to capture and study a virus with light. Even large-scale devices, like solar cells, can benefit from nanoplasmonics because they enhance light-matter interaction dramatically."

"Dr. Gordon conducts leading-edge work that will push the limits of his study area with medical and sustainable energy applications," says UVic President David Turpin. "The Canada Research Chairs program helps universities to attract and retain the best talent from around the world, assisting universities like the University of Victoria to achieve research excellence in natural sciences and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities."

Gordon's five-year appointment is as a \$500,000 tier-2 chair, recognizing exceptional emerging researchers acknowledged by their peers as



SEE GORDON P.2

Gordon. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Dr. Cecilia Benoit (sociology) is a recipient of a 2010 BC Community Achievement Award. “Cecilia Benoit has improved the content and delivery of programs for people in her community who are outside the mainstream,” reads the award citation. “Her research with at-risk youth, pregnant women with substance use issues and sex workers has found widespread application and benefits.” Benoit is the only award winner from Victoria.

Dr. John Lutz (history) is the winner of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences 2010 Harold Adams Innis award for the best English-language work in the social sciences. He won the award for his book *Makúk: A New History of Aboriginal-White Relations* in which he explains how Canada’s Aboriginal people fell from prosperity to poverty and the origins of the myth of the “lazy Indian.” Noreen Golfman, president of the federation says, “John Lutz’s book challenges our ways of thinking about the history of relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.”

Going Viral

News media latch onto grad student’s research

BY GENEVIEVE VON PETZINGER

On Feb. 16, if you had Google-searched my name, you would have come up with my Facebook profile and the abstract for my presentation last April at the Paleoanthropology Society meeting in Chicago. The next day, when *New Scientist* published an online version of their Feb. 20 cover story on my research (“Stone Age Code: The Writing on the Cave Wall”), there were pages of hits returned with my name—my research had gone “viral.”

Since then, there has been an absolute storm of media requests, and the global response has far exceeded my wildest imaginings. I recently appeared on the *Daily Planet* show on the Discovery Channel; my research is going to be part of a French/German documentary for the ARTE network in Continental Europe; and my work has been featured in nearly a dozen countries in substantial articles for national newspapers or national science magazines. The countries include Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Russia, Poland, Iran and Canada. I have also done multiple radio interviews in both English and French. I am currently collaborating with the Smithsonian Museum to add a section about my research to its permanent online exhibit on human origins. As well, the Bradshaw Foundation rock art



von Petzinger. PHOTO: SOL KAUFFMAN

website has asked me to be a permanent contributor.

Obviously, there is a lot of luck and timing involved when it comes to attracting the kind of worldwide reaction that my research has received, but there are also quite a few things that can be done to make sure that the right people know when this is happening. I knew this was going to be a huge opportunity for me to publicize my research, and I wanted to make sure that I did not miss out. With that in mind, I contacted the

UVic Communications office before the *New Scientist* article came out, and we had a media tip ready to be released at the same time that the story was published.

The instant media reaction was nearly overwhelming, and I had to quickly become a lot more media savvy than I ever thought would be required for someone quietly studying Ice Age cave art.

Below are a few of the most useful things I learned over the course of this wild ride:

■ **Giving reporters adequate time and comprehensive answers to their questions will result in better stories.**

All journalists want to write a great piece, so make sure you give them enough to work with.

■ **Explore all possibilities.**

Sometimes what starts out as seeming like an insignificant piece can become a major article, so my policy was to respond to all media requests, whether they seemed “important” or not.

■ **Don’t re-invent the wheel.**

If you have gone to the trouble of creating well-thought out answers to one reporter’s email questions, there is nothing wrong with using the same answer or a slightly altered version of that answer for another interview.

■ **Create a media package that you can send out right away when an interview request comes in.**

This gives reporters something to work with while you answer any specific questions they may have. My package consisted of an overview of my research project and photos of the cave art. Also, there is nothing wrong with sending along any PDF versions of articles that have already been written about your work. This gives the reporter an opportunity to see how others have approached your research, and helps them decide what unique perspective they want to take.

■ **Use each contact as an opportunity to make more contacts.**

By promoting my research globally, I was hoping to connect with scholars working in my field in parts of the world where I would like to do my PhD research. Journalists and science writers are the perfect people to ask about scholars in their countries. In the cases of Russia and the Czech Republic, where the language barrier could have been a huge issue when it came to me making contact directly, it was the local journalist who facilitated it for me, and even acted as an intermediary. I now have excellent new opportunities opening up for me in these two countries, and all because I asked.

New science dean is “strong advocate”

Dr. Rob Lipson is the new dean of science, effective July 1.

He is currently a professor in the University of Western Ontario’s Department of Chemistry with a cross appointment in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and is the Department of Chemistry’s former chair.

Lipson is a fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada (2009) and the former director of the Western Institute for Nanomaterials Science (2005–10). He is the recipient of numerous academic prizes, including the Florence Bucke Prize for Research Excellence (2000), a Distinguished Research Professorship from the UWO Faculty of Science (2008), and the E.G. Pleva Award (2008)—Western’s highest accolade for teaching. He is also the senior editor for the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*.

Lipson serves on numerous boards, including the Technical Advisory Board of the Ontario Centres of Excellence in Photonics and the Canadian Society of Chemistry Accreditation Committee (CSC), and he is director of conferences for CSC. He has also served as a member (2004–06) and

chair (2007) of the NSERC Grant Selection Committee for Physical and Analytical Chemistry, as a member of the NSERC E.W.R. Steacie Award Committee (2008-10), and on several committees for the Optical Society of America.

“The faculty and the university will hugely benefit from Dr. Lipson’s experience,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels. “He is known to be a strong and effective advocate for education and research, both within the university and beyond, and to be effective in securing support for academic initiatives.”

“I am thrilled to be coming to the University of Victoria,” says Lipson. “I have long admired the chemistry department, whose research excellence is well known on the national and international stages. What I have recently learned by exploring the expertise and accomplishments of the University of Victoria is just how strong the entire Faculty of Science is across the board in both teaching and in research activities, ranging from fundamental mathematics to more applied work. From my perspective, UVic science



Lipson. PHOTO: MITCH ZIMMER

is already making an impact in our understanding of space, the planet and oceans, biological materials, exotic molecules and at the subatomic level. I am looking forward to working with such a distinguished academy to enhance its teaching and research missions. I am truly honored and humbled to have been selected as its new dean.”

More information about Lipson: <http://www.uwo.ca/chem/people/faculty/lipson.htm>

GORDON CONT’D FROM P.1

having the potential to lead in their field. For more information about Gordon’s research: www.ece.uvic.ca/faculty/rgordon.shtml

The latest round of Canada Research Chairs was announced at UVic last month. Also included were 10 UVic chair renewals: Robert Chow (retinal and early eye development); Ted Darcie (optical systems for communications, imaging, and sensing), Xiaodai Dong (ultra-wideband communications), Arthur Kroker (technology, culture and theory), Ian Putnam (operator algebras and dynamical systems), Anthony Quas (measurable dynamics and ergodic theory), Raymond Siemens (humanities computing), Margaret-Anne Storey (cognitive support for software and knowledge engineering), Verena Tunnicliffe (deep oceans research) and Joan Wharf Higgins (health and society). The renewals are for seven- and five-year terms respectively. UVic holds 35 CRC positions.

GUSTAVSON CONTINUED FROM P.1

“They will gain the knowledge and develop a global mindset that will help them solve some of the most pressing issues of the day and help improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the global community.”

David Herr, a fourth-year BCom student, thanked Gustavson on behalf of the students, acknowledging the importance of scholarships and aid in allowing him to take advantage of the opportunities.

“These allowed me to focus on my education and long-term goals and make the most of my experience,” said Herr. “It is so motivating as students to know that the business community supports us and believes in the value of our education,” he added.

“I believe that society’s best invest-

ment is the investment in its youth,” said Gustavson. “I think investing in students in the school of business will be creating the business leaders for our community in the future. They’re the ones that will create new enterprises, new products, new services and all the associated jobs that go along, and will enrich our lives and our communities. For that reason, I am pleased to be in the fortunate position to be able to assist the faculty and its students with a birthday gift of \$10 million.”

The gift builds on the philanthropy that UVic has been honoured to receive from other individuals such as \$5 million from the Mearns family, the \$2.25 million from the Mohr family, and \$11 million from Bob Wright/Oak Bay Marine Group donation.

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Fresh from the source.

SAPUTO IS PROUD TO BE AN OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF THE VANCOUVER 2010 WINTER GAMES

VANCOUVER 2010 OFFICIAL SUPPLIER

University budget framework supports focused growth

BY PATTY PITTS

On March 30, UVic’s Board of Governors approved a balanced 2010/11 budget framework that, in spite of increasingly constrained resources, funds new graduate and undergraduate programs, increases student financial aid and expands student support services.

The 2010/11 budget framework is based on an operating budget of over \$300 million supported primarily

through the provincial government operating grant, student fees and other funding sources. The framework provides for an increase of 126 full-time equivalent graduate student positions.

As in previous years, the framework contains a 2-per-cent increase in tuition fees. This brings annual domestic arts and science undergraduate tuition to \$4,766 from \$4,673. Domestic graduate annual tuition rises to \$4,950 from \$4,853 effective May 1, 2010. This

places UVic tuition in the mid-range of Canadian universities.

The framework provides for an additional \$800,000 in student financial aid, \$100,000 to the library to assist with the cost of its collections and services for new programs, and almost \$500,000 to student services and support areas to assist with initiatives such as academic support in writing and math, student recruitment, disability

accommodation and a new welcome centre. The improved financial performance of the University of Victoria Foundation and support from UVic will allow the foundation to make distributions from all its endowments.

UVic estimates its total revenue for 2010/11 to be close to \$500 million, including continued strong funding from research granting agencies, revenue from ancillary operations, and capital funds.



Vice-presidents address budget questions

Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels and Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill discuss the process leading up to the framework and the role this year’s framework plays in future planning.

■ **Many other universities are having to cut programming and positions, yet there are no cuts specified in UVic’s budget framework. How has UVic managed to maintain the status quo?**

Cassels: We have used the integrated planning process as a way of identifying priorities and also upcoming cost pressures so as to minimize surprises and develop solutions to anticipated challenges. As a result, we’re in fairly good shape and do not anticipate any cuts this year.

However, we do anticipate that over the next several years, any growth in resources will be very constrained. The continuing economic downturn means that UVic will face reduced endowment revenues due to lower investment returns, constrained government revenues and slower student growth and the revenue that accompanies it.

We have so far been able to maintain all of our programs and staff positions through careful allocation of the funds we do have. The deans and other administrators are also continually adjusting their programs and shifting resources to areas of highest need. There will be no layoffs due to this budget.

Over the past three years we have been withholding funding in areas where enrolment targets haven’t met expectations. Since enrolments have grown this year, we are now putting some of those resources into faculty and other budgets.

■ **You’re going to be negotiating very soon with all of the employee groups on campus. Will this budget framework cover the costs associated with new contracts?**

Gorrill: Like all public sector employers we are bargaining this year under a provincial mandate that limits public sector employee compensation to a “net zero” increase in total compen-

sation. As a result, sectors that have settled to date have either extended current agreements for two years or included targeted compensation trade-offs to address priority issues for both parties. Accordingly, we have not included additional costs for general pay increases in the budget.

While there will not be general cost increases, we have increased the budget to reflect additional ongoing benefit commitments and increased compensation budgets to reflect merit adjustments and promotions. The estimated increase in salaries and benefits is \$3.4 million.

■ **Last year UVic, like many other universities, lost significant investment revenue due to worldwide market losses. Has that situation improved?**

Gorrill: The financial performance was significantly improved compared to the prior year. While we have not recovered all of the losses from the prior year, the improved financial performance of the University of Victoria Foundation, along with some support from the university, will allow us to distribute awards from all of the endowments this year.

■ **What will happen to student enrolment over the next few years?**

Cassels: Enrolments have grown strongly over the past several years. New provincial funding has increased access enormously and allowed us to build dozens of new academic programs. But the era of funding for growing enrolments further is now drawing to a close.

The slower pace of growth over the next several years provides us with an opportunity to consolidate some of the gains we have made over the past few years in terms of program expansion and focus on enhancing those programs and support services.

We still, however, intend to attract new students—especially to the relatively new program areas that are yet not fully subscribed. This will ensure that new students can take advantage of those offerings and through proper enrolments ensure that the programs

are financially sustainable. And, as always, the deans will maintain the process of reallocating resources gradually to areas of greatest need and interest.

We anticipate that over the next five years, future undergraduate growth will be highly focused on programs that are supported specifically by government funding, special fees or other external sources. Even at full enrolment, student recruitment will remain a priority. As a destination university, our goal will be to continue to attract the very best students from across the country and internationally.

In 2010/11 we will receive the last increase in direct government funding for graduate students and indeed want to attract additional graduate students beyond this number. These students will support an increase in both research activity and the quality of graduate and undergraduate learning experience through both the addition of new graduate courses and the value that graduate students bring to the classrooms as teaching assistants.

■ **With tighter funding, will UVic be able to launch any new programs this year?**

Cassels: This year’s framework has allocated over \$1 million to build support and educational and research capacity for new programs across the university’s faculties. They range from new undergraduate and graduate programs in public health and a master’s program in global business to a new creativity program in fine arts. Several more are under consideration to come on-stream in the future. All build on UVic’s strategic goals to integrate education and research, and promote experiential learning, interdisciplinarity and internationalization.

■ **There’s been a huge amount of construction over the past few years. Are there any capital projects planned for the coming year?**

Gorrill: With the completion of the First Peoples House, we have now

finished all of the capital projects contained within UVic’s most aggressive capital program ever—a total of \$180 million. In the upcoming year, we will complete a new residence building, and work will continue on the athletics and recreation facility, which includes the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education and CanAssist, through completion of project working drawings. As well, under the federal-provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program, renovations will occur in six of our oldest buildings. Once completed, the KIP projects will have generated 600 jobs and involved 125 different companies.

However, due to our aging campus, these projects won’t cover all of the deferred maintenance required to bring all of our buildings to the more sustainable and energy-efficient levels we would like. Funding for support of building maintenance has been reduced and this could continue into the future.

Planning will continue on the new athletics and recreation facility and we will complete the purchase of the Queenswood property. We expect that funding for capital will be very limited in the near future, meaning there will be few if any new major capital projects on campus.

■ **Is UVic going to be able to maintain balanced budgets into the future?**

Gorrill: We are committed to balancing budgets, but this will be more difficult in the future. We do expect more years of static funding from the provincial government, recognizing that many other sectors have also seen their funding reduced, and less student growth with the accompanying drop in tuition revenue. We expect to continue our ongoing success with attracting research funding to the university, but that success is a double-edged sword since expanded research also has associated costs. In order to continue with balanced budgets, while minimizing the requirement for cuts, the university will have to diversify its funding and seek out new sources that can supplement our traditional ones.

ringers

Dr. Chris Barnes is the winner of the 2010 Logan Medal from the Geological Association of Canada in recognition of his “sustained distinguished achievement in Canadian earth science.” Barnes, a marine paleontologist, is project director of NEPTUNE Canada, the world’s largest cabled ocean observatory. He led earth sciences departments at the University of Waterloo and Memorial University and served as director general of the sedimentary and marine branch in the Geological Survey of Canada before joining UVic’s School of Earth and Ocean Sciences in 1989. He headed the school from 1991–2002.

Dr. Paul Bramadat (Centre for Studies in Religion and Society), **Dr. Avigail Eisenberg** (political science), **Dr. Benjamin Berger** (law) and **Dr. Rebecca Johnson** (law) are part of a team of 36 researchers from around the globe who will spend the next seven years delving into the role of religion in an evolving society such as Canada. The Religion and Diversity Project will seek to identify the contours of religious diversity in Canada and the potential benefits of approaches to diversity that promote substantive or deep equality and move beyond tolerance and accommodation.

Dr. Zhongping Chen (history), **Dr. Greg Blue** (history) and **Ying Liu** (library), join a team of international researchers investigating the rise and development of the Indian Ocean region, including Eastern Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the emerging superpowers of China and India. “The Indian Ocean World: The Making of the First Global Economy in the Context of Human-Environment Interaction” is the first large-scale attempt to investigate and analyze how environmental factors, including natural disasters, influenced human society in the Indian Ocean World and how human activities changed the environmental conditions. It will also address how the human-environmental interaction led to the rise of the first global economy.

Brian Cheng, UVic women’s basketball coach, was awarded Coach of the Year honours from both Canadian Interuniversity Sport and CanadaWest and led the team to their best season in a decade, finishing 14-4 in CanWest play.

Navigate the ever-changing market

A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-comers to navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, he will assure smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.

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REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100		\$199,084	\$179,469	\$162,227	\$144,283	\$137,093	\$127,400
Accelerated Payout:		Income over 5 years.....\$1,819				Total 5 year payout.....\$109,104	
		Income over 10 years.....\$989				Total 10 year payout.....\$118,611	
		Income over 15 years.....\$715				Total 15 year payout.....\$128,619	

* Based on best current GIC of 3.50%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

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	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male							
...payments cease at death		\$586	\$638	\$716	\$852	\$971	\$1,199
...10 years guaranteed		\$574	\$617	\$674	\$754	\$806	\$918
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$535	\$584	\$638	\$747	\$852	\$1,052
...10 years guaranteed		\$529	\$574	\$618	\$697	\$761	\$873
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Undergrad researchers show their stuff

This year, 53 undergrads from 33 academic units received inaugural Undergraduate Research Scholarships to conduct research alongside their profs. On April 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Hickman Building they will be showing the results of their projects. The event will open with the announcement of a new on-line journal, *The Arbutus Review*, featuring UVic undergrad research. Everyone is welcome. More info: <http://www.ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/urs.php>; <http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/arbutus>

Using multimedia to promote student engagement

Everyone is invited to attend the Online Teaching and Learning Showcase: Promoting Net-Gen Student Engagement Using Multimedia, April 29 from 1–4:30 p.m. at the Learning and Teaching Centre in the Hickman Building. The event will feature a panel discussion, poster sessions and short discussion sessions with UVic faculty and instructional staff from multiple disciplines who use multimedia (Moodle, Blackboard, podcasts, videocasts, YouTube and web 2.0 applications) in interesting and innovative ways. More info and registration: <http://elearning.uvic.ca/>

Retirees present lectures, exhibition

The bad behaviour of colonial judges, kindergarten for three- to five-year-olds, and snake oils that target the elderly are the topics being covered by this year's Masterminds Lecture Series. The free lectures will take place every Wednesday in April. As part of Masterminds 2010, artwork created by members of the UVic retirees community is being showcased at the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery until April 23. More info: www.uvic.ca/masterminds

UVIC FACULTIES HONOUR TOP RESEARCHERS

Each year, several UVic faculties confer awards for excellence in research to faculty members who have made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in their field. In this issue, we profile four recent recipients of such awards for leading-edge work in multiculturalism, the evolution of galaxies, digital humanities and sustainable business.

Dr. Avigail Eisenberg (political science)

Faculty of Social Sciences Award for Research Excellence 2010

Dr. Avigail Eisenberg is widely acknowledged for her leading work in the field of multiculturalism in Canada and abroad. This award recognizes both her scholarly work and her remarkable ability to bring together in networks and conferences a wide range of researchers from around the world.

Eisenberg's scholarship is notable for the range of issues she considers—not only cultural differences but also differences of gender, indigeneity, religion and ethnicity.

"The way in which we understand identity is central to how we understand human relations," says Eisenberg.

She also has expertise in both the political and legal dimensions of multiculturalism, including the careful analysis of legal reasoning in critical cases in Canada and abroad. In this respect, her work is both highly sophisticated in its engagement with theoretical and philosophical arguments and grounded in its search for practical solutions to complex problems.

"I love my research because of its relevance to real-world politics and political change," she says.

With two single-authored books from acclaimed university presses, four co-edited books, 13 refereed articles in leading journals in the field and 18 chapters in books, Eisenberg's portfolio is outstanding. Her works are read and taught widely in Canada, the United States and Europe. Her most recent book is *Reasons of Identity: A Normative Guide to the Political and Legal Assessment of Identity Claims*, published by Oxford University Press.

Dr. Sara Ellison (physics and astronomy)

Faculty of Science Award for Research Excellence 2009

Dr. Sara Ellison, Canada Research Chair in Observational Cosmology, has made significant contributions to the study of the chemical evolution of galaxies, with the aim of illuminating



Clockwise from top left: Eisenberg. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES. Siemens. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT. Winn. PHOTO: GARY MCKINSTRY. Ellison. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

how the simple ingredients that came out of the Big Bang have become the rich fabric of galaxies and stars that we see around us today.

Using powerful optical and radio telescopes—including the Hubble Space Telescope—Ellison analyzes the light transmitted from quasars at the far reaches of the universe. "Some of this light will pass through a galaxy on its way to Earth, interacting with the gases in that galaxy," she explains. "We can then analyze that light using spectroscopy and learn what elements and molecules are present in the galaxy."

By studying light from the more distant galaxies, transmitted billions of years ago, Ellison is able to look back into the early history of the universe.

In 2004, the American Astronomical Society awarded Ellison the Annie Jump Cannon Award, given annually to a female astronomer within five years of receipt of a PhD for distinguished contributions to the field. Her work is supported by funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineer-

ing Research Council, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund, and the Canada Research Chairs program.

Dr. Ray Siemens (English) Faculty of Humanities Award for Research Excellence 2009

Dr. Ray Siemens, Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing, is internationally recognized as one of the founders of the interdisciplinary field of digital humanities. He is involved in several large collaborative research projects on human-computer interaction, interface, and the electronic book and is leader of the Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) project, a multi-million-dollar study involving an international team of 35 researchers and 21 partner agencies that is developing our understanding of literacy in the digital age.

"We're looking at several thousands of years of societal interaction with book-like objects and examining through them how society mobilizes and interacts with knowledge. We'll be able to contribute directly to digital developments that will help us read better, write better and communicate better," he explains.

Siemens describes his field as "the future of the history of the book," and, as a scholar of both 16th- and 17th-century English manuscripts and literary computing, he is well-versed in the evolution of reading technologies throughout history. A prolific writer and editor, Siemens is founding editor of the electronic scholarly journal *Early Modern English Studies*, is conducting research on two early Tudor manuscripts, and co-authored Blackwell's *Companion to Digital Humanities* (the seminal text in this field). He is also founder of the annual Digital Humanities Summer Institute, which brings scholars from around the world to UVic to explore issues at the forefront of the field.

Monika Winn (business) Faculty of Business Research Excellence Award 2009

Dr. Monika Winn, associate professor of strategy and sustainability, has been at the forefront of research into business and sustainability since the early 1990s. "At that time in management scholarship, nature just didn't exist," she says.

Now, the topic is in the mainstream and she adds to the body of knowledge through her research into how business and organizations can work with nature rather than against it. "Business and organizations have a tremendous capacity to get things done," she says. "They can funnel resources and galvanize energy towards building the capacity to deal with the challenges of climate change and transform the way we do things."

Winn is a prolific researcher and contributes extensively to the body of knowledge in her field. She is writing the editorial for a special issue of *Business and Society* on the topic of adapting management theory and business strategy in light of environmental and social change, and her article on the impact of climate change on organizational environments has been accepted by *Business Strategy and the Environment*. She has recently published on the topics of stakeholder influence tactics and corporate reputation management and contributed to the book *From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate* on the expected climate impacts on BC's key sectors.

Winn serves on several editorial boards, including *Business and Society*, *Business Strategy and the Environment*, and the *Journal of Business Venturing*; she also sits on the program committee of British Columbia's Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and co-founded the Organizations and the Natural Environment (ONE) Division in the Academy of Management.



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CanAssist’s podWiz rocks their world

BY ANNE TOLSON

The first time Ashley Cook played music on an iPod by herself was a moment of pure magic. The 17-year-old girl’s eyes widened, she looked up at her dad in astonishment, then she pressed the red button on her arm again, thrilled to be in control of a Miley Cyrus album.

“Ashley loved her iPod from the moment she received it,” says her dad, Rodney Cook, who was at his daughter’s high school in Mission, BC, on the day a new adapter for the iPod was unveiled. “She gets very excited about operating the iPod and shows us she is proud when she activates the switch.”

Developed by CanAssist engineers at the University of Victoria, the podWiz is a unique device that enables people with severe disabilities to perform many functions on an iPod independently—simply by pressing a large button. Ashley, who has cerebral palsy, was among 11 youngsters to receive the adapter during the Dec. 9 unveiling in Mission.

disabled in BC’s school system.

Like many kids with challenging disabilities, Ashley has a curriculum that includes learning to hit a large single button—called an accessibility switch—that turns on a tape deck or other device, a crucial step in learning cause and effect as well as a means of controlling one’s environment. For years the PISP team used tape decks, since CD players didn’t work well with accessibility switches.

“I was sitting in the hallway, transferring a *High School Musical* CD onto a cassette tape for Ashley,” Jenkins recalls. “There were all these kids walking by, staring at what I was doing because they didn’t understand the technology I was using.”

Not surprisingly, many of the teens were carrying Apple’s ubiquitous iPod and wearing earphones.

At that moment, Jenkins realized that the way he and his team were using music to teach the kids with disabilities was antiquated, cumbersome and tended to isolate them from their peers.



Chris Jenkins, of PISP, sets up the podWiz system for Aiyana. The five-year-old, who attends Victor School in Victoria, just adores music—everything from Queen and Nickelback to Abba and Ohio Express. PHOTO: TANYA SWITUCKA.

Ashley also happens to be indirectly responsible for the genesis of this remarkable project, which today is opening a new world to 200 young people with very challenging disabilities across British Columbia.

The ‘Aha!’ moment

The inspiration for the iPod project can be traced to the corridors of Ashley’s school almost two years earlier.

Chris Jenkins, a teacher-consultant, had arrived at Heritage Park Secondary and was preparing to meet with Ashley and her teachers to create a special curriculum for the girl. He is one of a small team called the Provincial Integration Support Program. Part of the Ministry of Education, PISP has a caseload of more than 100 kids who have been deemed the most severely

“I remember thinking ‘We’ve got to do something to update this,’” says Jenkins. “It’s got to be current, portable and something that their peers can identify with.”

Of course, given his role with PISP, there was one more fundamental requirement. “It’s also got to have the capability to be a teaching tool,” he added.

CanAssist gets involved

Jenkins had already heard about CanAssist at the University of Victoria, which for the past 10 years had been developing customized technologies and innovative programs for people with special needs. So he contacted CanAssist on behalf of PISP.

Typically, a project undertaken by CanAssist is the result of a request

from an individual or their caregiver. If the device requested doesn’t already exist and the idea is technically feasible, an engineer or programmer will be assigned to create a one-of-a-kind technology. Sometimes, a particular device becomes popular and is requested by several clients.

But the iPod project represented new territory for CanAssist.

In this case, the request came from an organization rather than an individual. Instead of developing a device for a single client, CanAssist was asked to provide units to more than 100 severely disabled children attending schools in BC.

Before the engineers began working, CanAssist administrators went looking for funding. In April 2009, the team was thrilled when Variety—The Children’s Charity—generously offered to cover the cost of building 125 adapters, the iPod nanos to go with them, and each child’s choice of speakers or earphones.

Developing the podWiz

With funding secure, Carl Spani, an electrical engineer at CanAssist, began working in earnest on a prototype for the iPod adapter.

The adapter was built to connect to an iPod and an accessibility switch or button. Operating the iPod involves repeatedly pressing this button, which activates a series of voice prompts built into the adapter. These prompts

bled children in Victoria who provided them with valuable feedback. Not long before the December unveiling, a contest was held to name the new device. The winning submission came from 18-year-old Jesse Hoffman of Sooke, who called CanAssist’s invention the *podWiz*.

“Delivering the iPods and watching the kids use them for the first time was amazing,” recalls Spani, one of several CanAssist employees who lent their support during that first delivery at Ashley’s school.

“Seeing them smile when they realized *they* were controlling their music was fantastic. It was like magic for these kids.”

Interest spreads

Since the delivery of the first 125 iPod systems, several other organizations have provided funding to CanAssist to build additional units, bringing the total number of deliveries so far to about 200.

In the meantime, CanAssist is exploring the possibility of patenting the podWiz. Such a move would help make the device more widely available and, ideally, generate revenue for CanAssist, as part of its goal to be self-sustaining.

CanAssist is also scheduling meetings with Apple representatives to determine if there might be opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Today, Jenkins and his colleagues at PISP are using the iPod systems as part of the curriculum for all the kids in their program. He says the iPods are proving a versatile teaching tool in the classroom. Importantly, the device is also a means of socialization and inclusion for kids with disabilities.

“If you’re using the same device that everyone else is using, you can be more involved in life,” he explains. “You can be out in the common area in your high school and you’ve got speakers on the back of your wheelchair. People can come up to you and say, ‘Hey what have you got on your iPod? Play us something.’”

Elijah, an eight-year-old from Courtenay, provides an example of how the adapted iPod system offers this greater sense of inclusion.

“When we first got the iPod, Elijah took it to school for sharing in his class. Everybody thought it was so cool,” says his mom, Joanne Lund.

As for Ashley, despite ongoing health problems that have kept her away from school in recent months, the podWiz that sits on her wheelchair tray has been a source of daily happiness and respite from her discomfort.

“When we brought it home, her brother took the liberty to fill it with all kinds of music,” says her dad. “She has a permanent smile and often laughs out loud while listening to her iPod.”

CanAssist benefits enormously from the generosity of partners, donors and volunteers and deeply appreciates the critical role they play in helping provide programs and technologies to those with special needs. For more information on CanAssist, visit www.canassist.ca. To make a donation, call Barbara Toller, CanAssist Development Officer, at 250-853-3948.

around the ring

Make your contribution to UVic’s history

In 2013 the University of Victoria will celebrate its 50th anniversary and the university welcomes alumni and retired faculty and employees to join with people now on campus to participate in the celebrations. Everyone is welcome to go online to www.uvic.ca/uvic50 and enter comments and stories (up to 1,000 words) about their experiences at UVic and share their photographs and videos. Professor Emeritus Ian MacPherson (history), is preparing a book on the history of UVic, and if you wish to speak with him or make suggestions about the book, contact him at hisproj@uvic.ca. And watch *The Ring* for further announcements about the celebrations and the book.

Help improve The Writing Centre

The Learning and Teaching Centre has been conducting a year-long, campus-wide assessment of the services provided by its Writing Centre. The project is the first of its kind to implement a multi-component writing centre assessment. Look for a message in April that will invite all students—graduate, undergraduate, diploma and certificate alike—to participate in the online satisfaction survey. Get involved in shaping the services provided to support your learning and to enhance your success at UVic and beyond. For more info: Principal Investigator Dr. Li-Shih Huang Ishuang@uvic.ca

Former Ikea boss in residence at UVic Business

Former president of IKEA Canada and retired partner in IKEA Seattle Anders Berglund has joined UVic Business as executive-in-residence. Berglund, who divides his time between Victoria and US locations, will serve as an on-site guest lecturer, provide advice to faculty and students and help to broaden the business faculty’s relationships with the community. He will be available once a month to meet and talk with business students, faculty and staff. Judith Sayers, a former chief of the Port Alberni Hupacasath First Nation; Martin Rissley, hotel director aboard the cruise ship Royal Caribbean Adventure of the Seas; and Stacy Kuiack, founder, past president and past CEO of Vigil Health Solutions Inc. serve in a similar capacity.



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in memoriam

Twenty-five-year-old graduate from the Department of Theatre **Eva Markvoort** succumbed to a lifelong battle with cystic fibrosis on March 28. Eva’s indomitable spirit and energy were inspiring to everyone who learned of her struggles. Her blog, “65_RedRoses”, chronicled her experiences with the disease and advocated support for cystic fibrosis and the importance of organ donation. As an acting student, Eva performed in four mainstage productions at the Phoenix Theatre. Her professors remember her as a talented actor and a person who fearlessly embraced every opportunity. In 2007, Eva became too ill to continue her education. Later that year, she received a double lung transplant, which went into chronic rejection last summer. This past February, although she was short two credits, UVic fast-tracked her degree, which was delivered to her hospital room in Vancouver. Eva’s story gained an international presence through a documentary film, also named “65_RedRoses”, which won awards at the 2009 Hot Docs festival in Toronto and the Vancouver International Film Festival. In 2010, the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation recognized her commitment and advocacy work with the prestigious Summerhayes Award. Eva leaves an inspirational legacy—not only of her tireless efforts for the causes that impassioned her, but also one of strength, love, courage, dignity and hope that has motivated thousands around the world. Donations can be made in Markvoort’s name to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at www.cfvanancouver.ca and more information about organ transplants can be found at www.transplant.bc.ca.

Contributed by her friends and professors in the Department of Theatre

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Peter Williamson**, manager of the University Club. Peter passed away Wednesday, March 24, before having the opportunity to enjoy his well-deserved retirement. Peter joined the University Club in November 1999. He was kind, generous and highly respected by club staff, board of directors, members, the university community and clients alike. Peter worked long hours at the club. His dedication and professionalism to his work are attested by the many complimentary letters received. Peter was a familiar face at the entrance of the club every noon hour, welcoming and assisting members and their guests with a smile on his face. Peter conducted his business in a cool and calm manner. He was ever so patient in accommodating clients with their numerous event changes. He was always eager to jump in to help wherever he was needed. He served the club and the university with integrity, honesty and sincerity. Peter loved to read and watch sports—but most of all, he adored his grandsons. Peter’s personable, easygoing manner and good sense of humour will be missed by all, especially the staff. A memorial service will be held at the University Club, April 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Rashna Charania, assistant manager, University Club

Gold, times five
Woolstencroft skis to Paralympics podium

BY MIKE MCNENEY

When skier Lauren Woolstencroft, BEng ’05, was interviewed for a feature profile in the Autumn issue of the *UVic Torch* Alumni Magazine, she said—in her usual, understated way—that she would be “unhappy” if she didn’t make it to the podium at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Paralympics.

In the end, she had five incredibly good reasons to be happy with her performance after winning all of her races and bringing home five gold medals in the alpine standing ski races. Her five victories match a single-games Paralympic record set by swimmer Stephanie Dixon, BA ’09, in 2000 in Sydney.

Woolstencroft, born with no legs below the knee and no arm below her left elbow, far exceeded her own expectations. She had been having a sub-par season on the World Cup circuit but worked hard in the final month before the games and felt confident heading into her events at Whistler. “Everything worked in my favour. I feel extremely lucky,” she said afterwards in an interview with the *Globe & Mail*.

She became “Canada’s Golden Girl” and carried the Canadian flag at the close of the Games. She dropped the puck at a ceremonial face-off, alongside other BC-based Paralympic and Olympic athletes, at the March 30



Woolstencroft with a handful of gold.
PHOTO: JONATHAN HAYWARD/CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Canucks game. Her passion for skiing was fostered early by her athletic family. She grew up in Calgary and was skiing the slopes of Whitefish, Montana, and Lake Louise by age four. At 14, she skied in her first competition. She joined the national team in 1998. At her first big competition, in 1999, “I was dead last,” she told the *Torch*. “But I accelerated really quickly.” She chose engineering “because I liked that it is very applied,” she says.

“I wanted the going-away-to-university experience, and when I was trying to decide where to go, I was thinking of going east. I found that most engineering schools are very rigid, whereas UVic offered a more flexible program. They wouldn’t kick me out if I took time off for training and competing.” She spread her degree over six years, taking one winter off so she could compete in the Salt Lake games. After she graduated, she landed a job with BC Hydro, mostly working on power distribution infrastructure for Olympic venues. Jean-Sébastien Labrie, the head coach of Canada’s Para-Alpine Ski Team, notes that her technique is very close to the able-bodied. “She has very good balance, so she can produce the same kind of edging,” he says. Her coach lauds her ability to put aside troublesome nerves. “She is a very well-rounded person,” Labrie says. “She’s mature, she makes the right choices, she is able to control her emotions. Since I’ve known her, she’s been very good at performing on demand. When it counts she’s always solid, with the right focus and right intensity.” Woolstencroft, 28, now returns to the job she loves at BC Hydro, and to contemplate whether to retire from competition or to take another run at Paralympic glory at the 2014 Sochi Games.

Hold the spam please
UVic Systems—with your help—
keeps the email flowing

BY SHERRI PUENTES GRAVERAN

Not to be confused with a luncheon meat, spam—the electronic equivalent of junk mail—has become a serious problem for many organizations including the University of Victoria. On average UVic receives 1.5 million email messages per day, approximately two-thirds of which (1 million) are discarded as they are considered spam. Recently, hacked or stolen UVic Exchange email accounts have been used to intentionally send spam. Most Internet service providers have sophisticated software filters in place to detect and control spam, and as a result of these incidents, Hotmail temporarily placed the university on its “blacklist,” blocking access to their customers. UVic is actively researching ways to reduce spam and has recently implemented stronger countermeasures to protect the university’s reputation and prevent future sanctions by Internet service providers such as Hotmail and others. Spam is a global problem that affects both incoming and outgoing email—even legitimate bulk emails that are sent from the university to non-UVic addresses. Senders of such

innocuous bulk emails could be regarded by email service providers as a source of spam, making it difficult for them to deliver the message to their audience. To help the university reduce spam, we encourage users to protect their resources both inside and outside UVic. The following tips can help individuals and departments avoid spam and ensure important emails are delivered reliably. To avoid receiving spam: ■ Don’t reply to spam or attempt to unsubscribe. This simply validates your email address, causing you to receive more spam. ■ Be extremely careful about using your email address on websites—it’s often difficult to tell which sites will share your address with spammers. ■ Don’t share your personal credentials with others. ■ Check your Inbox often and delete old and/or no-longer-needed messages on a regular basis. ■ Empty your Trash—deleted messages are moved to the Trash folder but are not removed from the system. To ensure your outgoing emails are delivered reliably: ■ Avoid sending lengthy messages or large attachments that occupy

large amounts of storage on the university’s email system. Placing the file on a website or SharePoint site makes it readily available without using local disk space. ■ Offices sending bulk emails to students should endeavour to use the students’ UVic email addresses. ■ Choose your language carefully when crafting email messages. If you do need to use words that might be filtered, don’t attempt to obfuscate words with extra characters or odd spellings, which will just make your messages appear more spam-like. ■ Use capitalization sparingly—avoid using capitalized subject lines. ■ Watch your punctuation—using punctuation marks such as “!!!” or “\$\$\$” or unusual punctuation like “*” or “^” draws unnecessary attention to your email message. ■ Review subject lines and content. Common problems are words and characters like Free, Hello, Guarantee, a number, a ‘\$’ sign or white space. Words in all capitals are typically picked up. Additional security tips: www.uvic.ca/systems/about/informationsecurity/ and www.uvic.ca/systems/status/features/phishing.php

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calendar highlights

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

at the galleries

uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

- **Exhibit** 10 a.m. *UVic Retirees Art Exhibit*. Until April 23. Discover the talents of 27 diverse artists, including Pat Martin Bates, Rachel Coward, Anna Danylchuk, Pat George, Deirdre Roberts and Bill Zuk in media ranging from painting, printmaking and photography to pottery. Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery. 250-721-6369
- **Exhibit** *Now Here*. April 16–23. An exhibit of the work of graduating visual art students. The opening gala begins at 6 p.m., with speeches at 7 p.m. from members of the fine arts faculty. At this time the Helen Pitt Award will be presented to one promising graduating artist. 250-721-8011. Visual Arts Bldg.
- **Exhibit** *Regarding Wealth*. Until June 6. Featuring works from UVic's Michael Williams Collection, including works by artists Norval Morrisseau, Ken Flett and Michael Lewis, reflecting the many layers of wealth found within our community and challenging traditional concepts of wealth. Legacy Art Gallery and Café, 630 Yates St. 250-381-7670

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

- **Conference** 9 a.m. *Human and Social Development Faculty Research Day*. Registration required: hsdconf@uvic.ca. HSD A240
- **Conference** 10 a.m. *Anthropology Honours Research Presentations*. The ten students

in the anthropology honours seminar will present the highlights of their research. Cornett A129. 250-721-7046

- **PICS Lecture** 3 p.m. *Climate Security: What it Means and Why it Matters, Perspectives from the UK and the EU*. Dr. Sabrina Schulz, British High Commission in Ottawa. More info: www.pics.uvic.ca. Live webcast: <http://www.pics.uvic.ca/broadcast.php>. SSM A120. 250-853-3626

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

- **Lecture/Seminar** 9 a.m. *Canadian Foreign Policy and the European Union: Do We Still Count?* To register: www.uvcs.uvic.ca/community/courses/canada or phone 250-472-4747 Science Bldg. B150. \$10–\$55.
- **Orion Lecture** 12:30 p.m. *Has Avatar Changed the Nature of Acting?* Stuart Aikins. Phoenix Theatre. 250-721-7991
- **Music** 8 p.m. *University of Victoria Chorus & Orchestra*. Grand Finale. János Sándor, conductor. Univ. Centre. \$16–\$12–\$5. 250-721-8480

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

- **Music** 2:30 p.m. *University of Victoria Philomela Women's Choir*. Ana Alvarez, conductor. MacLaurin B125. \$12–\$10. 250-721-7904

MONDAY, APRIL 12

- **Other** 9 a.m. *Stressed? Walk the Labyrinth*. And April 13, 14 and 15. Find some calm in the midst of a stressful day. Chapel. 250-721-8338

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

- **ICOR Seminar** 10:30 a.m. *Coastal Sami Communities on the National Agenda. Indigenous Fishing Rights Processes in Norway*. Camilla Brattland, Univ. of Tromsø, Norway. Strong C118. 250-721-8848

- **Lecture/Seminar** 7 p.m. *The Tree Collector: The Exploits of the Scottish Plant Hunter David Douglas*. Dr. Syd House, conservator, Perth & Argyll Conservancy, Forestry Commission Scotland. Bob Wright Centre. A104. 250-721-8925

- **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Amphibian Declines: From the Global to the Local*. Dr. Purnima Govindarajulu. Strong C103.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

- **ICOR Lecture** 12 p.m. *Climates, Coasts and Genomes: How Do we Put the Social into Science for Sustainability?* Prof. Brian Wynne, Lancaster Univ., UK. Univ. Centre A180. 250-721-8848
- **Playing Field Info Session** 7 p.m. *New Playing Field Project Info Session*. Find out about the new sand-based grass recreational sports field planned for the area behind Wallace Field. Stewart Complex lobby. 250-472-5433 or nconn@uvoic.ca

- **Masterminds Lecture** 7 p.m. *Dewigged, Bothered and Bewildered: British Colonial Judges on Trial, 1800–1900*. Dr. John McLaren. Hickman 105. Register 250-721-6369

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

- **Other** 7 p.m. *Experience the Labyrinth in Candlelight*. Chapel. 250-721-8338

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

- **ICOR Lecture** 12 p.m. *Ocean Acidification, Marine Ecosystems and Geoengineering of Our Climate*. Dr. Ken Denman, Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis, Meteorological Service of Canada. Univ. Centre A180. 250-721-8848
- **Cafe Scientifique Lecture** 6:30 p.m. *The Harsh Reality of Rett's Syndrome: From*

Diagnosis to Cure. Dr. Patrick McLeod, VIHA. Strathcona Hotel, 919 Douglas St. Maple Rm. 250-472-4067

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

- **Masterminds Lecture** 7 p.m. *Why Kindergarten for Three- to Five-Year-Olds?* Dr. Margie I. Mayfield. Hickman 105. Register at 250-721-6369

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

- **Conference** *Critical Issues in Community-Based Research*. Cadboro Commons Bldg. Arbutus/Queenswood. \$75–\$100. 250-721-8472

MONDAY, APRIL 26

- **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *"You Are There" Description of the 1700 Earthquake and Tsunami in Nootka Sound*. Stephen Holland. Strong C103

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

- **Conference** *Canada/Europe Transatlantic Dialogue (CETD) Symposium*. And April 29. Registration required. SUB Bldg. 250-853-3526
- **Pacific Climate Seminar Series** 3:30 p.m. *An Outside-the-Box Approach to Climate Change Negotiations*. Dr. Barry Carin, assoc. director, UVic Centre for Global Studies and senior fellow, CIGI. SSM Bldg. A120. 250-853-3595
- **Masterminds Lecture** 7 p.m. *A New Era of Snake Oils: Chemically Ripping Off the Elderly and the Not-So-Old*. Dr. Reginald Mitchell. Hickman 105. Register at 250-721-6369
- **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Birds of Peru*. Joe Crichton of Wildbird Tours Canada. Strong C103

around the ring

Seeking top teachers

The UVic Alumni Association and the Learning and Teaching Centre are seeking nominations by May 28 for the prestigious Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award recognizes top-notch teaching among faculty members, artists-in-residence or librarians. The award is to be presented at the UVic Legacy Awards in November. It includes a \$2,000 prize, and the recipient's photo is permanently displayed in the McPherson Library alongside more than 40 other accomplished teachers who have received the award since 1989. Nomination forms: alumni.uvic.ca

Plant Sale approaches

The popular UVic Plant Sale will be on Sunday, May 2 in McKinnon Gym from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The sale always features a huge selection for the garden, but new this year: a bigger selection of perennials, grasses and shrubs directly potted up from Finnerty Gardens. Proceeds from the annual sale support the ongoing development of Finnerty Gardens. The gardens are blooming about a month ahead of schedule, so don't put off your spring visit. Large and fragrant rhododendrons that don't usually bloom until around Mother's Day are already starting to blossom.

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University of Victoria



"Because of someone's support and generosity, while I am working or studying, it's all about the quality of my experiences, not the quantity of my expenses."

Mosqoy means “to dream”

Student’s work supports education, preserves tradition in the Andes

BY PATTY PITTS

Most people who visit Peru’s Sacred Valley near Cusco take the train to Machu Picchu, buy some whisper-soft alpaca scarves and marvel at the intricate weavings produced by the Indigenous Quechua people from the surrounding villages.

But UVic grad Ashley Akins’ 2006 visit turned into so much more. Since first visiting Peru’s high-altitude valley, she’s established Mosqoy, an organization to fund the post-secondary education of the villages’ young people, and the Q’ente Textile Revitalization Society to preserve and expand the Quechua weaving tradition. It, in turn, partially funds Mosqoy.



(L-R): Auccapuri Iturriaga, Akins and Nielsen. PHOTO: PATTY PITTS

“It’s funny,” she said, back at UVic to complete a community research fellowship with the Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy. “Four years ago I thought my life was full and complete. Now I

couldn’t imagine it without Mosqoy.”

The Q’ente Society now involves 300 weavers from 35 communities who create intricate work on traditional back-strap looms using pure wool and natural dyes. Akins sells the weavings in Canada and divides the proceeds into quarters among the individual weavers, community initiatives of their choosing, Mosqoy and a reinvestment into the Q’ente Society.

In May Mosqoy will graduate its first 18 students and one of them, Rolando Auccapuri Iturriaga, is deferring the practicum placement all students must complete before receiving their diploma to spend a term at UVic studying English through UVic’s English Language Centre, which has

between Peru and Canada.

Iturriaga says he likes “everything” about his stay in Victoria, despite finding it difficult to find some of his favourite foods. “At home you don’t need to go to a store,” he explains. “You just pick fruit off a tree or go to a neighbour’s farm.” Mosqoy has also spawned its own campus club which raises \$10,000 each year through various events under the guidance of club director Jasmine Nielsen.

“Mosqoy is a very dynamic organization, and it provides the opportunity to critically reflect on what we’re doing,” says the environmental and women’s studies major. “It’s more of a partnership than a ‘top down’ organization, which is what often happens in the NGO world.”

Although Mosqoy is just four years old, Akins is already anticipating its future. One of the organization’s first two co-op students, Beatriz Palacios Fernandez, is working to make Mosqoy “sustainable in the long term” by developing a strategy and governance structure that will guide it through the next five to 10 years.

Akins’ concern for the sustainability of Sacred Valley’s population and its weaving culture extends to Mosqoy itself, and this will probably be the focus of her graduate studies, as she pursues her master’s in international human rights law at Oxford University. She’s hoping to determine whether the Mosqoy/Q’ente model can be adapted to serve other communities where poverty limits the ability of young people to pursue the education required for better employment and where a traditional culture is under threat from a tourist market demanding cheaper, less authentic products.

But first, she has a graduation ceremony to attend in Peru.



Horak. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

day in the life

BY BRAD MICHELSON

A DAY IN THE LIFE of Stephen Horak is often spent fixing things. As a technician for the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, he and his colleagues provide scientific tech support that helps keep the equipment running.

“When I say I’m an electronics tech, people often assume I work on computers all day,” says Horak. “But we largely work where science happens in the physical world. There’s electronics, but then there is a lot of mechanical as well.”

Horak and his co-workers help save the university hundreds of thousands of dollars through their maintenance work on scientific equipment. He spends a lot of his time reverse engineering things because often manufacturers don’t provide enough information on how to fix their products.

“A lot of the things that we fix will be 30 years old that, normally, people would throw out. At the end of the day, we do save a lot of money by just doing what anybody should do: fixing the thing you bought and making sure that it gives you a good lifetime of service.”

Horak grew up playing music in Calgary. In his 20s, he, like many others his age, began to realize that music just wasn’t paying the rent. He decided to take up electronics. That way he could fix his amp if it broke.

Horak moved to Victoria in 1992 and landed his current job at UVic.

Now, 12 years later, Horak has a wife, two kids, and a successful rock group called The Laundronauts. The band has been featured as 91.3 The Zone’s band of the month, has toured California and most of Canada, and has a music video rotating on Much Music.

“The band and my job do two different things that satisfy two different parts of my personality,” says Horak. “There’s something about being creative that’s important to me. There’s also something about being able to accomplish very concrete tasks that is rewarding.”

Last year, The Laundronauts set up a mini BC tour with a California band called The Love Me Nots, who are also Horak’s daughter’s favourite band.

“If you can imagine being six years old, and your favourite band is staying in your house, that’s pretty cool.”

You can listen to some Laundronauts tracks on their MySpace page: <http://www.myspace.com/thelaundronauts>

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Bookstore now offers computer sales

The UVic Bookstore is now a one-stop shop for books, gifts, clothing—and computers. UVic’s computer store closed last month and retail sales of computers for personal use shifted to the Bookstore on April 6.

UVic Systems will continue to offer computer sales for institutional use and service for computers previously purchased from the Computer Store or from the Bookstore. Such sales and service

are available at systems’ new computer purchase centre, located in the former Computer Store location (Clearihue C143).

“This operational change takes advantage of the strength of both units,” says Director of Campus Services Jim Forbes. The consolidation of the two services resulted in the loss of four positions. One of the affected employees has already found a new position on campus.

Lawyer & Notary Public

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