



**University
of Victoria**

SPEED READING

CONVOCATION WEBCAST

Spring convocation ceremonies: Watch them on the web

Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live for the first time during Spring Convocation from June 15–18. If you're not able to attend in person, you can watch the ceremonies on your computer, at www.uvic.ca/convocation. Ceremony times and further info: www.uvic.ca/resources/convocation/

IN MEMORIAM

University mourns former chancellor

The university community was deeply saddened by the passing of the Honourable Robert Rogers, former chancellor University of Victoria, on May 21. Rogers was the seventh university chancellor, serving from 1991 to 1996, during which time he conferred degrees on more than 12,000 UVic graduates. Story p2

RABBIT CONTROL

UVic prepares long-term rabbit management plan

UVic is developing a long-term plan to reduce and manage the feral rabbit population on campus. In the meantime the university has, with a great deal of reluctance, had to move on May 8 to a limited cull of rabbits in the vicinity of the playing fields in order to address the acute health and safety issues and remove the risk of a catastrophic injury resulting from stepping in rabbit holes for university and community users of the playing fields. UVic expects to publicly release the plan in late June. More info: www.uvic.ca/rabbits

GREEN TRANSPORTATION

EcoCAR team makes grand showing

UVic's EcoCAR team placed fourth overall, and won six awards, in the year-two EcoCAR Challenge finals held in May. The three-year international competition challenges 16 universities to reduce the environmental impact of vehicles by creating an automobile propulsion system that minimizes fuel consumption and emissions and encourages energy diversity. More info: www.ecocar.uvic.ca

ATHLETICS CHAMPS

Vikes shine in rugby, golf

UVic's men's rugby team proved they're the best in BC, winning the 2010 Rounsefell Cup championships in May, repeating their championship showings in 1971 and 2003. And Anne Balser, a senior on the Vikes women's golf team, won a four-hole playoff to be crowned 2010 Golf Canada University Champion on June 3. More: <http://vikes.uvic.ca/>



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THE RING

JUNE 2010

*The University of Victoria's
community newspaper*

ring.uvic.ca



Bennett at Race Rocks Marine Protected Area. PHOTO: GARY MCKINSTRY

\$180,000 TRUDEAU SCHOLARSHIP

1 of 15

NATHAN BENNETT'S TRUDEAU DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP IS ONE OF ONLY 15 AWARDED IN CANADA THIS YEAR.

National award supports grad student's research on coastal communities

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Nathan Bennett, a PhD candidate in geography, is one of 15 grad students this year receiving a highly coveted \$180,000 doctoral scholarship from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. As a 2010 Trudeau Scholar, Bennett will investigate a question that affects lake- and ocean-going communities across the globe: how do coastal communities thrive alongside protected marine parks?

Bennett's four-year research scholarship will support his combined work on

environmental conservation and the reduction of human poverty.

He will examine the relationship between coral reef marine protected areas and local livelihoods along the Andaman Coast of Thailand. There, complex ecosystems like coral reefs require protection but also supply some of the world's poorest people with sustainable, multigenerational livelihoods.

Bennett hopes to share his research results widely so that other countries, including Canada, can apply the best possible conservation and development practices

to their own marine protected areas.

Bennett is a participant in the Marine Protected Areas Research Group in UVic's geography department, and his project will build on his work with Canadian marine protected areas.

He is particularly interested in how local and sometimes marginalized voices can be brought into discussions around resource management to achieve positive outcomes for conservation and local communities.

SEE BENNETT P.3

It's common knowledge in communities

UVic researchers at the forefront of "knowledge commons" development

BY TARA SHARPE

Common knowledge—according to the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*—is shared by, coming from, or done by, more than one person. Turn the two words back to front, and multitudinous forms of knowledge find a new base: "knowledge commons" is a term used by community-based researchers for a shared conceptual space which emphasizes the learning that comes from or is done by communities and supports intersections of collaborative thought and traditional wisdoms.

A knowledge commons can help deliver urgent messages as well as preserve culture, hope and learning.

The relationship between the camas lily and the local Coast Salish peoples is one example of the traditional wisdom and community-based knowing that experts such as Dr. Lorna Williams, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning, do not want to see lost. For generations, the blue camas lily has been selectively cultivated by the Lekwungen people of the Songhees First Nation. Generational knowledge of this edible root

food is integral to ecological restoration efforts involving the lily, whose bright blue tips once formed a vast colourful carpet across the local landscape.

Other examples include how to creatively adapt technologies for children with special needs and how best to supply mobile tent projects for people who are homeless—both initiatives already undertaken by UVic researchers.

Williams has been at the forefront of national news lately, in particular with respect to the perilous situation involving First Nations languages, which was the focus of her keynote presentation on June 2 at the Canadian Knowledge Commons summit in Montréal.

Williams is Lil'wat from the St'at'yem'c First Nation and an assistant professor in UVic's Faculty of Education and Department of Linguistics as well as former program director of UVic Aboriginal Education. She is also the chairperson of the First Peoples' Council, located on Wsanec traditional territory in BC. On April 30, the council released its first annual Report on the Status of BC First Nations Languages,



SEE KNOWLEDGE COMMONS P.4

Williams. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

ringers

UVic engineering students **Bo Li, Yi Dong, Xudong Liu, Yangke Xiao** and **Zhicheng Huang** are the third-place winners in the 2010 BCNET Broadband Innovation Challenge competition, for their project “Software Defined Radio: Extend Communication Range of Walkie-Talkie” that enables walkie-talkies to be used for long-distance communication among cities or countries. The projects are judged based on their innovation and novelty, technical difficulty, bandwidth efficiency, the potential to encourage collaboration and commercial or community use, and the project presentation. The award was presented in Vancouver on May 5.

write to us

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



Roddick. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

Vanier Scholarship will fund student’s research on youth and global justice

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Manda Roddick, winner of a 2010 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, has a renewed sense of hope in today’s youth. Hope is propelling this PhD candidate in sociology to explore the deeper questions around youth international volunteer work and global social justice.

The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program is designed to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by financially assisting them during their studies at Canadian universities. Vanier scholars receive \$50,000 annually for up to three years.

The funding will allow Roddick to focus on her doctoral research into youth and global justice. As a researcher and graduate student, she worked in Ghana and Mexico with a variety of youth organizations. These experiences contributed to her growing concern over youth involvement in international development.

Roddick’s travels also strengthened her intercultural communication skills and further developed her appreciation for the complexity of global social justice work.

Her work in the field of global social justice will challenge countries, including Canada, to re-think youth volunteer programs overseas. She believes young people can make a difference in people’s lives without leaving their local communities.

“I think student volunteers need more opportunity to reflect on their involvement in helping in a foreign

country,” says Roddick. “So often, students arrive in a country, stay a few weeks and then return home without thinking about why they were there.”

“I want to continue discussing the challenges of youth involvement in global social justice work because many young people want to help others,” says Roddick. “I want to generate more dialogue on youth volunteerism and global citizenship.”

Her research will explore what global citizenship really means and how governments and non-governmental organizations can demonstrate a global understanding of issues such as poverty. Roddick also believes understanding poverty at a global level can help us understand it at the local level.

“Manda is one of those rare students who combine academic rigour with a strong social conscience,” says Prof. Bill Carroll, Roddick’s supervisor. “She is one of the most diligent and well-focused students I have supervised in nearly three decades at UVic.”

Roddick came to UVic for the opportunity to work with Carroll and to participate in the close graduate student community. Sharing the excitement, joys and sorrows of the research world is the best part of being a graduate student, says Roddick. She is known as friendly, open and dedicated to maintaining strong friendships, and, through coffee discussions and social celebrations, she has brought together new and seasoned graduate students to counter feelings of isolation.

University mourns loss of former chancellor

The university community was deeply saddened by the passing of the Honourable Robert Rogers, a former chancellor of the University of Victoria, on May 21. Rogers was the seventh university chancellor, serving from 1991 to 1996 as a member of the university’s governance structure and as the titular head of the university, the chair of convocation, conferring all degrees.

Rogers conferred degrees on more than 12,000 UVic graduates during his tenure, but may be remembered best for his work to develop and maintain close ties between the university, community organizations and the business world.

UVic president David Turpin calls Rogers’ death a great loss. “Robert was a wonderful supporter of the university and he tirelessly gave his time to UVic. He connected the university to our greater community and he left a remarkable impression on thousands of our graduates during the many convocation ceremonies over which he presided.”



Rogers. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Prior to becoming chancellor, Rogers had served as the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

He was a graduate of Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., and the University of Toronto. Rogers’ belief in the civic value of scholarship was recognized far beyond the university’s walls, and he was presented with honorary doctorates from UVic, Simon Fraser, Royal Roads Military College and University of British Columbia.

UVic going carbon-neutral

BY TERESA WADDELL, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

By the end of 2010, UVic will become a carbon-neutral campus as part of the BC government’s aggressive climate action legislation. Under Bill 44, all public sector organizations are required to be carbon-neutral in their operations by the end of this year. Carbon neutrality is achieved by first measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reducing them wherever possible and offsetting the remainder. Once the regulation is implemented, BC will become the first carbon-neutral jurisdiction in North America.

The province has provided a GHG reporting framework that uses SMARTTool software to report energy consumption data in a consistent manner. UVic staff have been busy collecting data to report on emissions from campus buildings, fleet vehicles and the manufacturing and transportation of paper used on campus. This energy measurement exercise puts UVic in a position to better understand its emissions sources and implement reduction strategies more effectively.

To track and encourage efforts to reduce GHG emissions, the province has also provided a performance

measurement reporting framework. UVic has just completed its second annual Carbon Neutral Action Report, a public report on UVic’s plans and actions taken to reduce emissions from campus operations as well as other sustainability efforts. This reporting initiative highlights the cross-campus efforts required to address climate change.

To fulfill carbon-neutral commitments by the end of 2010, UVic is required to purchase carbon offsets from the Pacific Carbon Trust, a new Crown corporation that delivers quality, BC-based carbon offsets from GHG reduction projects that meet high international standards.

Recognizing the inherent link between climate action and promoting sustainability, UVic has built its carbon-neutral commitments into a broader sustainability framework. In the spring of 2009, the university adopted a comprehensive sustainability policy and the Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2009–2014, which includes aggressive emission-reduction targets and an energy reduction strategy.

More info: www.uvic.ca/sustainability

THE RING

Vol. 36 No. 6

The University of Victoria's community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca

Printed using vegetable-based inks on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, Forest Stewardship Council certified, process chlorine free, using 100% Green-E certified renewable carbon-neutral energy.

Next issue July 16

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

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Printed in Canada by Nanaimo Daily News

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40014024

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New funding boosts forest and climate research and training

Federal grant of \$1.6M to Centre for Forest Biology

BY VALERIE SHORE

How forests interact with climate change—and are impacted by it—is the focus of a new six-year, \$1.6-million research and training program in UVic’s Centre for Forest Biology.

The program is one of 20 projects on various topics that are being funded across the country under the CREATE (Collaborative Research and Training Experience) initiative, administered by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

“This program will be a catalyst for climate-related research in our centre,” says UVic biologist Dr. Peter Constabel, director of the Centre for Forest Biology. “Beyond the science, it will give the next generation of forest scientists and managers enhanced training and a broader understanding of the real-world implications of forest and climate interactions.”

Forests play a vitally important role in global climate by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and can store it for centuries if it is not released by disturbance or harvesting. Canada has 10 per cent of the world’s forests, making it a key player in national and international strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

“Climate change is already happening, and the effects in Canada will be dramatic,” says Constabel. “We need to understand the impacts that a changing climate will have on our forests, and how we can adapt to this reality.”

The CREATE Program in Forests and Climate Change has three research themes: interactions of tree genetics, nutrition and health with forest management and climate change; conversion and storage of carbon compounds within forest trees; and plant-soil-environment interactions and their impact on uptake of greenhouse gases.



Constabel. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Under the program, 40 students and post-doctoral fellows associated with the Centre for Forest Biology will receive high-level, interdisciplinary scientific training through collaborative research projects, intensive workshops, internships, seminars and courses.

Training will build on the centre’s close linkages with scientists from the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Forestry Canada at the Pacific Forestry Centre, forest industry laboratories, and national and international colleagues.

“We want to give our students

additional skills and perspectives to equip them for careers in government and industry as well as research,” says Constabel. “And, of course, they need a broad understanding of climate change-related research.”

Established in 1990, the Centre for Forest Biology conducts basic and applied research and trains graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in forest biology. The centre represents one of the highest concentrations of plant biologists dedicated to tree research in Canada.

More information on the centre: <http://web.uvic.ca/~forbiol/>

Facts:

- Worldwide, more than twice as much carbon is stored in forests than is present in the atmosphere.
- Up to 50 per cent of forest carbon is stored below the ground in the roots and soil.
- BC’s old-growth forests have more carbon stored within them than almost any other terrestrial ecosystem.
- Canada’s forests are at risk from pest outbreaks, fire, overharvesting and climate change itself.

From UVic grad to business owner—instantly

BY MARIA LIRONI

UVic engineering students are being given a unique opportunity to graduate with a master’s degree, a diploma in entrepreneurship and a stake in a successful business.

The four students participating in the Engineering Entrepreneurship@UVic pilot project have completed the first eight months of coursework—a combination of graduate-level engineering and MBA entrepreneurial studies—and are ready to spend the next three semesters in Ottawa working with executives at Wesley Clover, a world-class investment company, to choose a high-tech business opportunity.

“It’s a pull versus push model,” explains Dr. Thomas (Ted) Darcie, the UVic electrical engineering professor who helped develop the pilot. “We’re pulling the need from the customer and building a solution rather than

pushing a product from the lab to the marketplace without a firm customer.”

This model ensures student and business success by leveraging established business relationships and promoting partnerships between fledgling and established companies in the Wesley Clover portfolio. The company takes a hands-on, active investor role in working to build new companies and has successfully “hatched” numerous ventures using this incubator approach.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity for students. They’re meeting weekly with Owen Matthews, executive vice-president of Wesley Clover. They’re connected to very successful local business leaders who are eager to coach them. Nowhere else can students access a professional network like this,” says Darcie.

Wesley Clover founder and chair Sir Terence Matthews says he decided to become involved with this project

because of his existing relationship with UVic. He was named the Faculty of Business 2009 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year and his son Owen sits on the faculty’s board of advisors.

“Setting up a new business and growing it to be successful, that is almost a new hobby for me,” says Matthews, who has played a role in starting up more than 80 companies over 30 years using students. “New grads are great to work with. I teach them how to go into business, line them up with a client and ‘boom’: up they come and it’s successful.”

“This is fantastic, we have been trying to work with engineering to come up with joint programming,” says business dean Ali Dastmalchian. “You can’t have it better than this: you have an industry channel to market and two departments at a university that don’t normally talk to each other doing joint programming in a community that wants growth in high-tech.”

The students are also receiving help and advice about their business from UVic’s technology transfer office, the Innovation and Development Corporation.

The first team of students will graduate in May 2011 with a master of applied science and a diploma in entrepreneurship, and equity in a business they helped form.

Last month, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, the Alacrity Foundation (formed by Wesley Clover and the British Columbia Innovation Council, UVic and the MITACS Accelerate Program) announced their financial support for the Engineering Entrepreneurship@UVic program, thus ensuring its permanent place on the UVic landscape.

Applications are now being taken for the September 2010 class of Engineering Entrepreneurship@UVic. More info: www.ece.uvic.ca/~eemp/start/

After earning a degree in education from UVic, Bennett completed a master’s degree at Lakehead University in Northern Ontario. His master’s thesis focused on Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation perspectives on the benefits of conservation and the creation of a national park on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories.

BENNETT CONTINUED FROM P.1

“This award will allow me to travel to Thailand and explore several questions related to the complex and evolving relationship between coral reef marine protected areas and local livelihoods,” says Bennett. “Achieving a balance between the conservation and development agendas,” he adds, “will be increasingly challenging on a finite planet that is characterized by a grow-

ing population, increasing pressure on natural resources, and rapid global, social and environmental change.”

“Further complicating these issues,” explains Bennett, “is the threat posed by a changing climate to the health of marine ecosystems and the viability of local livelihoods.”

His work will also look at how marine protected area communities

can respond to the impacts of climate change.

“Marine conservation is also an important issue here in Canada and locally,” says Bennett. “I hope that my research will be locally applicable so that Canadian coastal communities can achieve positive development outcomes within a marine protected framework.”

ringers

UVic Child Care Services was honoured with one of nine Child Care Legacy Awards in May in recognition of more than 40 years of outstanding service to the children of BC. The Ministry of Children and Family Development presents the Child Care Awards of Excellence Awards annually in recognition of the best in licensed child care in the province.

Dr. Jack Littlepage (Centre for Global Studies), co-director with Dr. Mark Flaherty (geography), of the Southern Oceans Education and Development (SOED) project, was the keynote speaker in March at the Escola Superior de Ciências Marinhas e Costeiras, Quelimane, Mozambique, speaking on the role and effectiveness of aquaculture in reducing poverty in developing countries. The school opened in February 2006 and now offers a full undergraduate program to 250 students for the first time in its short history. **Drs. Flaherty and Steve Cross** (geography) worked with faculty earlier this year to produce a full curriculum for an MSc program in aquaculture to be offered at the school later this year.

Two of the teams from **History 481** whose websites were launched in December have won the Peter Liddell Award for Humanities Computing. The award is provided for undergraduate students with minimum third-year standing or to graduate students who have completed a project within the context of a course or thesis in the Faculty of Humanities that makes a significant creative or innovative contribution to humanities computing. This year, the award is shared between two teams: **Amber Whittle, Jeremy Buddenhagen and Tim Paulson** for their St. Ann’s Academy & Architecture of Faith website <http://web.uvic.ca/~bloomen/stannswebsite/index/index.html> and **Alison Lindsay, Andrew Reid, Kim Madsen and Jim Kempling** for their website St. Andrew’s Church—In the Heart of Victoria. http://web.uvic.ca/vv/student/st_andrews/index.php

Dr. Michael Masson (psychology) will receive the 2010 Richard C. Tees Distinguished Leadership Award by the Canadian Society of Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS). According to the award nomination, Masson has made numerous contributions to the causes of scientific psychology and to the CSBBCS. His research has had a substantial impact on our understanding of how the normal human brain/mind executes skilled tasks such as understanding language, remembering and recognizing objects. Masson is described as unfailingly gracious, generous and patient with students and colleagues who seek out his advice and assistance in matters of methodology, analysis and theoretical interpretation of data. The award will be presented in June at the CSBBCS annual meeting in Halifax.

around the ring

Green light for new campus community gardens location

The Campus Planning Committee passed a motion at its May 28 meeting recommending that plans be developed for a new location for the UVic Campus Community Gardens. The five-year arrangement for the current site near the TEF building will end in the fall of 2011. The proposed site is approximately 400m west down MacKenzie Avenue on a triangular grassy lot bordering the McCoy Road pedestrian pathway. The Campus Community Garden Club, comprised of students and staff, is supportive of the new location and excited by the possibilities for the future. Planning work will begin immediately, with the move to the new gardens site expected to take place in 2011.

New agreement between UVic and United Way

On May 19, UVic's Office of Community-Based Research announced agreement with the United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV) for funding of five UVic graduate students to focus on areas needing particular focus in our community—such as increased capacity for housing and safer places for youth to seek haven. UWGV is providing \$90,000 over three years. One aspect of the students' efforts will help inform discussions for this fall's re-examination by the UWGV of its three defined impact areas: family and community well-being; housing for homeless, low income and working poor; and mental health and addictions.

CAPI interns blog and vlog about Asia-Pacific matters

The inspiring work being done in communities across the Asia-Pacific region by Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives interns, intern alumni, and CAPI's partner organizations are the focus of blogs and audio and video podcasts at <http://capi-interns.mypodcastworld.com/> and www.capi.uvic.ca/blogs. Check it out.

MENTORING PILOT PROGRAM

Building friendships, community and employee satisfaction

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

What do the generations have to teach each other? Quite a lot, if a recently concluded UVic mentoring pilot program is any measure. For six months, starting last November, ten mentor-mentee pairs—each consisting of an early-career UVic employee and a seasoned university faculty or staff member—participated in the pilot.

Spearheaded by Human Resources, the program was aimed at helping to achieve some key objectives of UVic's strategic plan: development, engagement and retention of UVic employees. And, according to participants, the results were positive from both the mentor and mentee sides of the equation.

"It provided a venue that supported forming intergenerational friendships," says Michele Campbell (undergraduate admissions), who was matched with mentor Susan Corner (student transition services). "That's rare in our culture."

"You think there's a generational gap, that you're facing particular issues for the first time, but you're not," says Andrew Coward (budget and capital planning), who found many and unexpected points of connection with his mentor Dr. Peter Stephenson (anthropology, environmental studies).



L-R: Corner and Campbell. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

"We had great executive support and even the participation of UVic President David Turpin and Vice-President External Relations Valerie Kuehne as mentors," says Jolie Wist (human resources), one of the program's coordinators along with Janice Johnson (office of the vice-president finance and operations) and Krista Sheppard (development). "Many of the mentors appreciated that participation allowed them to give back to the university and to hear the fresh ideas and perspectives of younger people."

Key components of the pilot's success—and aspects that differentiated it from many other mentoring programs—were the balance between formal structure and flexibility and the extent to which the entire process was mentee-driven.

Formal components of the program involving all participants included bookend kick-off and wrap-up events and, in between, monthly group luncheons that even included a popular "speed-mentoring" session. "The group dynamic of the project was really beneficial," explains Coward. "It provided an opportunity to connect with lots of people from across campus."

Mentees were encouraged to iden-

tify their goals for the project and selected their own mentors with the assistance of the project coordinators. Campbell was interested in a mentor who, like her, is a creative person doing administrative work. Her supervisor, Leona Locke, suggested Corner, who is a painter and who does a good deal of on-the-job mentoring. They met informally throughout the project and also wrote and shared journals. Corner, a self-described extrovert and a very busy person, found journaling "a great way to be still, have space and listen."

One of Campbell's goals was "to develop a more intuitive and thoughtful approach to a career." She has recently been admitted to UBC's three-year master's program in landscape architecture.

Though the pilot is over, Campbell and Corner are continuing their relationship and have supported each other in deciding to enter their artwork in the adjudicated Sooke Fine Art Show.

Coward approached the mentoring pilot as a learning opportunity and a way to gain greater perspective, and over a series of casual off-campus lunches he and Stephenson found that they had a lot in common. Stephenson provided a depth of experience and

perspective on the academic and administrative cultures of the university and they found they shared insights and experience on such administrative issues as risk management and finances.

They also found it useful to share their male perspective on mid-level university management. "It's not a common thing," says Stephenson. "Most mid-level management at universities is done by women." Their conversations included male career and family issues such as how to juggle time commitments as a working dad.

Their "budding friendship" is their greatest benefit from the program, according to Coward and Stephenson. "The mentoring program was extremely well managed," says Stephenson. "I hope that it continues, and my only concern is that it not become too large and unwieldy."

"The university seems like a big place," says Coward, "but the more people you meet and get to know, the smaller the place becomes."

If the program goes forward beyond the pilot, Wist says that the intention is to open it up to mentoring opportunities for all age-groups and people at all stages of careers on campus.

KNOWLEDGE COMMONS CONTINUED FROM P.1

starkly revealing the troubling state of BC's First Nations languages.

The situation in BC is a variation of the situation of all Indigenous languages in Canada. The council's report did also provide positive examples of Aboriginal language revitalization—an effort that Williams has been

closely engaged in for some time.

"It's important to recognize and acknowledge that when people made or make their homes on the lands we now call Canada, that they take on the heritage of the languages located on those lands," says Williams. "It's extremely important that the public

recognizes all Indigenous languages as their heritage; then governments must respond to ensure the knowledge and wisdom embedded in the languages are protected. These languages exist nowhere else in the world."

The knowledge commons event coincided with the Congress 2010 of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Montréal, which incidentally became the staging ground for the signing of a landmark accord on the education of Indigenous peoples.

Williams reflects upon the events in Montréal this month, saying, "I came away from Montréal and the congress with a feeling of hope and optimism. With the signing of the Accord on Indigenous Education, there is a set of guidelines that each faculty of education can use, in dialogue with its Indigenous communities, to build Indigenous education into the fabric of their faculties. Making the changes necessary to the education of people of Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage requires partnerships and collaboration where knowledge can be shared and exchanged. We are at a time when we realize that we can learn from each other to live wisely on this earth."

Dr. Budd Hall of UVic's Office of

Community-Based Research (OCBR) is the architect of the Canadian Knowledge Commons initiative and was a keynote panelist alongside Chad Gaffield, president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, who joined 150 other scholars, community leaders and research funders at the summit.


Hall says, "We are putting out a call for the renegotiation of the understanding of knowledge; knowledge is produced in the village market as well as the ivory tower. A thousand years ago, knowledge was available as people needed it, because most lived in communities where knowledge-keepers and users were located in the same vicinity. Over time, knowledge has ended up in silos with knowledge-keepers and users separated from each other. The knowledge commons approach brings it all back together."

"We have to remember the wisdom-keepers are aging," finishes Williams. "And we are really under pressure to ensure we document and record these wisdoms before it is too late."


More info: www.uvic.ca/ocbr, <http://knowledgecommons.ning.com> and www.congress2010.ca

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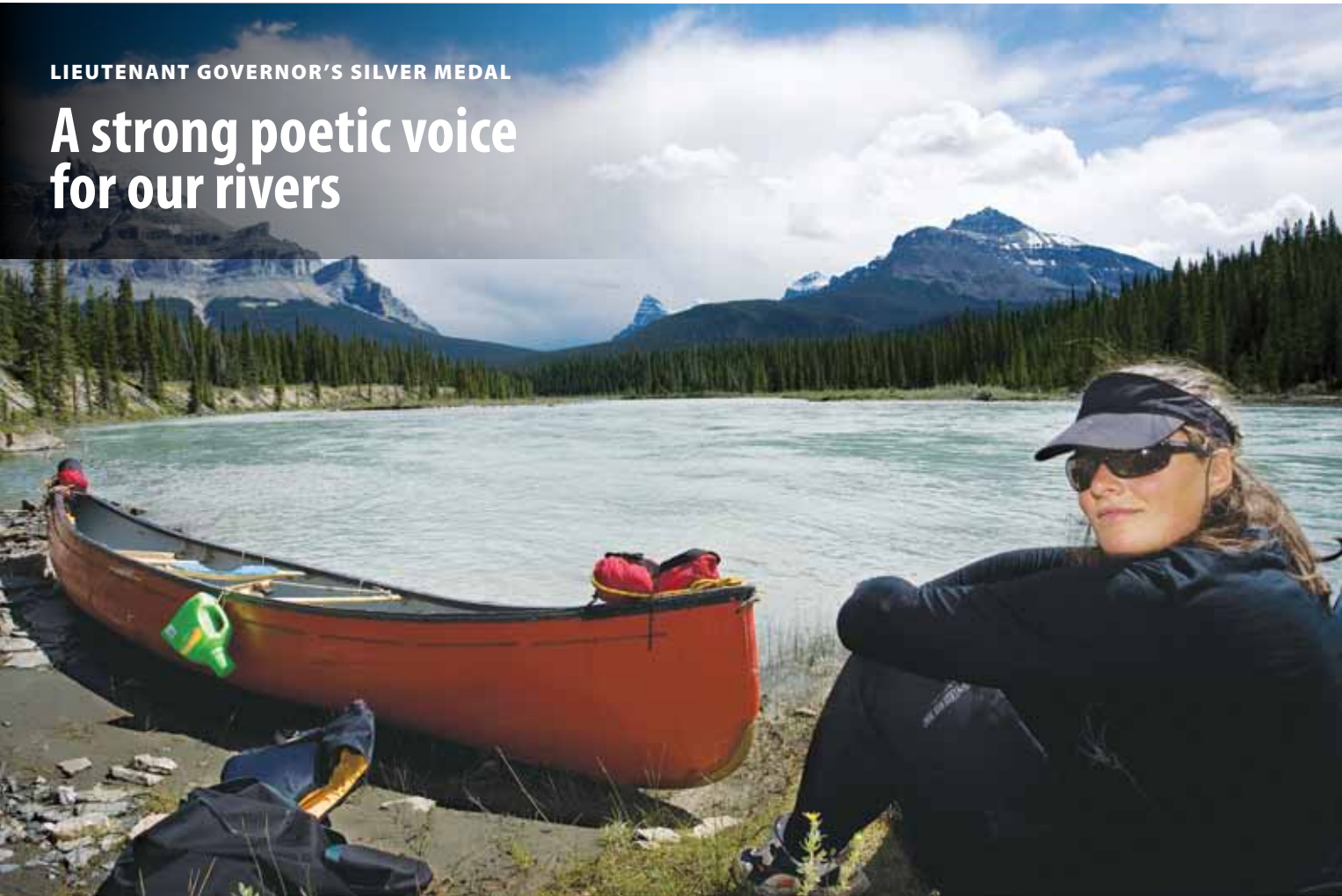


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CONVOCATION 2010

Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During Spring Convocation, from June 15–18, the University of Victoria will award 3,063 degrees, diplomas and certificates. Congratulations and best wishes to all convocating students. In the following pages, we present profiles of a few of the many outstanding members of this year’s graduating class.



Siebert on the North Saskatchewan River. PHOTO: ROB SKELLY

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

This year’s top graduate student thesis is already a published book of poetry.

Even before writing student Melanie Siebert defended her poetry thesis for her MFA—which has earned her the Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal—it was accepted for publication by McClelland and Stewart. Published in April, *Deepwater Vee* is already making waves in the Canadian poetry scene and was featured in a segment of the CBC Radio show *The Next Chapter* with Shelagh Rogers, who called the book “ravishing.”

“I got a taste of poetry in high school,” says Siebert. “And I’ve always collected scraps of words in journals. But it was years after leaving my little Mennonite hometown that I just happened to pick up a book of poetry by Di Brandt. Her poems had this rebellious, stormy kind of singing that argued with her Mennonite ancestors. That’s when I realized that poets were living and breathing people—that it was possible to speak to and about your own little corner of the world.”

And that engagement with the world for Siebert includes close attention to rivers. Siebert grew up

in the Peace River country in northern Alberta and then near the North Saskatchewan River in Saskatchewan. *Deepwater Vee* is intensely concerned with the deteriorating state of the continent’s northern rivers and the effects of environmental degradation on people and wildlife. The poems draw upon her years of working as a wilderness guide on rivers across Alaska, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. But also, closer to home, the book explores rivers like the Athabasca and the North Saskatchewan—rivers clearly impacted by industrial development. “There’s something sad,” she says, “about not being able to dip your cup into a river. A hundred years ago, you could drink from any river in Canada.”

While attending the University of Saskatchewan, Siebert took her first poetry workshop with award-winning poet Tim Lilburn. “At the end of that course, he said that if I wanted to take my work further, I should go to UVic,” Siebert recalls. She pulled up roots and transferred here, where she completed her BFA in writing.

Although she was encouraged to pursue graduate work at a major writing program in the US, Siebert decided to stay at UVic because Lilburn—who had,

himself, subsequently moved to UVic as a faculty member—agreed to be her supervisor.

“At UVic I’ve had a chance to work closely with writers like Tim Lilburn, Lorna Crozier and Patrick Lane,” she says. “They’re some of Canada’s finest writers who are thinking about the way we dwell here—sometimes haphazardly, sometimes violently, maybe even sometimes with grace—in and among this larger community of beings. And they’re doing this thinking with agile, spirited language.”

Siebert describes the writing program as one of mentorship. “Being a part of that writer-to-writer conversation,” she explains, “really ignites your desire to make the work worthy.”

Currently, Siebert is the first artist-in-residence at UVic’s Centre for the Study of Religion and Society, where she is helping organize a conference on religion and writing and working on new poems.

“*Deepwater Vee* feels to me like just a start in terms of thinking about rivers, colonialism and the underbelly history of our relationship to the land,” she says.

“Writing, for me, is a way to sink into the places I love, even as they’re steadily disappearing.”

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Top electrical engineering grad has passion for renewable energy

BY AMANDA THOMSON

Brandon Graham-Knight is riding a wave of success. In addition to his current position as a junior software developer at UVic, he is also this year’s recipient of the IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering.

He credits fellow students Abhinav Rai and Logan Volkers with pushing him to succeed, saying their influence propelled him from a B average to an A average. “They’re incredibly smart people, like the kind of people who see something once and then don’t understand how not everybody gets it on the first go.”

Graham-Knight worked at various co-op placements while at UVic: his most recent was at the

British Columbia Transmission Corporation, the provincial Crown corporation that plans, builds, operates and maintains the province’s publicly owned electrical transmission system.

In 2007, he worked with Dr. Peter Wild at UVic’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems developing the Design Engineering Challenge in which over 100 first-year engineering students divided into 20 teams to design and build electromagnetic, micro-controlled cranes over the course of a single day. “So basically for a whole summer I got to play with toys,” Graham-Knight says, “to build something that was fun for people to do.”

Graham-Knight’s passion is renewable energy. Some options he’s considering for the future include work at BC Hydro, or study through the Postgradu-

ate Programme in Renewable Energy (PPRE) in Oldenburg, Germany. Renewable energy is “something that we have to figure out,” he says. “We as a people cannot survive for the amount of oil that we burn. They talk about peak oil—who knows how much is actually left?—but there’s just no way we can continue like this indefinitely.”

“What I got out of UVic was more than the courses,” Graham-Knight says. “It was more than going to courses and getting marks and taking tests for me; it was a whole package of what UVic has to offer.”

To prospective engineering students, he offers this piece of advice: “The main requirement is that you’re willing to put in the work when the work needs to be done.”

Major medal winners

- Governor General’s Gold Medal**
(top PhD, all faculties)
Dr. Valerie Napoleon, law
- Governor General’s Silver Medal**
(top undergraduate, all faculties)
Navraj Chima, microbiology
- Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal**
(top master’s thesis, all faculties)
Melanie Siebert, writing
- Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal**
(top master’s other than thesis, all faculties)
Emily Blacker, English
- Jubilee Medal for Humanities**
Erin Fairweather, French/anthropology
- Jubilee Medal for Science**
Adam Pankalla, Biology
- Jubilee Medal for Social Sciences**
Deanna Singh, psychology
- Maxwell A. Cameron Memorial Award in Education**
Gail Blaney, elementary education
Jennifer George, secondary education
- Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Medal**
Michael Fryer, mechanical engineering (co-op)
- Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal**
Donna Kaminskyj, computer science (co-op)
- IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering**
Travis Danniels, computer engineering (co-op)
- IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering**
John (Brandon) Graham-Knight, electrical engineering (co-op)
- IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Software Engineering**
Anna Cox, software engineering
- Law Society Gold Medal and Prize**
Christina Drake, law
- Victoria Medal in Fine Arts**
Molly Janz, music

More stories

For more graduating student profiles, visit ring.uvic.ca



Honorary degree list includes ex-Bank of Canada governor

BY MIKE McNENEY

David Dodge, who guided the Bank of Canada fiscal policy through most of the last decade, will be among four recipients of honorary degrees during Spring Convocation ceremonies.

The university’s highest honour will also be presented to Marie Cooper, a leading advocate of Aboriginal education, trail-blazing journalist Linda Hughes, and one of Canada’s leading authorities on heritage conservation, Harold Kalman.

Podcasts of the Convocation addresses of this year’s honorary degree recipients will be posted on the web as soon as possible after the ceremonies. Visit: <http://communications.uvic.ca/podcasting/convocation/>



Marie Cooper
Honorary Doctor of Education (10 a.m., June 18)

Marie Cooper is a leading voice in Aboriginal education in BC, working to create opportunities in education for Aboriginal learners and more inclusive educational policies and practices for the benefit of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students alike.

Her interest in education came at a time when post-secondary learning was deemed illegal for “Status Indians.” Undaunted, she graduated from high school in 1952 (as one of the first Aboriginal students permitted to attend a BC provincial school) and set her sights on a teaching degree.

She refused to give up her Aboriginal status and identity in order to attend a Canadian university, and chose instead to leave her Tsartlip community and move to California to obtain her BA in education.

After returning home, she was instrumental in developing Native Indian Education in the Greater Victoria School District, became a critical link between the Saanich Indian School Board and the Saanich School District, and coordinated the first Native studies program at Camosun College.

She has also been a driving force behind strengthening relationships between UVic and the Coast Salish people of southern Vancouver Island.



David Dodge
Honorary Doctor of Laws (2:30 p.m., June 16)

In more than 35 years of public service, including a seven-year term as Governor of the Bank of Canada, David Dodge was centrally involved in forming and implementing Canadian public policy and is responsible for far-reaching contributions to the governments and people of Canada.

After completing his PhD in economics at Princeton University, Dodge joined the federal Department of Finance, accepting some of the most difficult and challenging files facing the Government of Canada. He dealt with major housing financing programs at the Central (now Canada) Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the 1970s. In his work with the Anti-Inflation Board he undertook much of the economic analysis essential for a complicated set of wage and price controls.

His public service career culminated with his 2001 appointment to the Bank of Canada, during which time he steered monetary policy through the financial turmoil arising from the burst of the high-tech bubble and the 9/11 attacks that rattled financial markets.

He responded with a series of dramatic interest rate cuts that maintained economic stability and public confidence. Along the way, he made open communication between the Bank of Canada and the public one of his top priorities.



Linda Hughes
Honorary Doctor of Laws (2:30 p.m., June 17)

After graduation from the University of Victoria in 1972 with her undergraduate degree in history and economics, Linda Hughes embarked on a pioneering career in print journalism.

In 1987, Hughes became the first female editor-in-chief of the former Southam newspaper chain.

Five years later, she was named the first female president and publisher of the *Edmonton Journal*, cementing a reputation for superb journalism, a compassionate management style and strong ties and partnerships between the *Journal* and the Edmonton community.

A true community leader, she received the Larry Shaben Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Housing Sector for her work as chair of the Edmonton Committee to End Homelessness.

Since retiring in 2006 she has been appointed chancellor of the University of Alberta, in response to which her former colleagues at the *Journal* wrote: “Linda—no one calls her by her last name—is hard-working, accessible, savvy, famously non-partisan and nothing short of brilliant in bringing people together for a righteous cause.”



Harold Kalman
Honorary Doctor of Laws (10 a.m., June 17)

Harold Kalman is considered the definitive heritage conservation practitioner, theorist, writer and scholar, and has been instrumental in more than 1,000 preservation projects in Canada and internationally. St. George’s Church in Halifax, the Woodward’s redevelopment in Vancouver and the City of Victoria’s approach to conservation planning have all benefited from his expertise.

Throughout his career, Kalman has maintained a close involvement with teaching, in particular UVic’s cultural resource management program.

He has also written or contributed to 17 books on conservation, including *A History of Canadian Architecture*, considered the standard source and reference text for the field of architectural history in Canada.

One of his earliest books, *The Railway Hotels and the Development of the Chateau Style in Canada*, was produced in conjunction with the Maltwood Museum and is a key resource explaining a central part of Canadian culture and Victoria’s built heritage.

The methods of research and assessment of historic architecture that Kalman introduced have influenced an entire generation of architects, planners and historians as well as owners and custodians of historic properties.



Braem. PHOTO: STEVE MCBRIDE

MBA grad sails into the future

BY DIANNE GEORGE

Moms are truly wise, says Jen Braem—a 2010 graduating MBA student, senior member of Canada’s Sailing Team and aspiring 2012 Olympian. Braem’s mother signed her up for sailing lessons, which sparked a passion and helped to steer her then 12-year-old daughter to a future on the water.

Originally planning a move from Kelowna to Alberta to study engineering, Braem quickly changed course after checking the map and the weather. She enrolled at UVic to study theatre, completed a BFA in 2004 and returned to UVic in 2008 to strengthen her management skills through an MBA.

“For 10 years I had a dream life,” says

Braem, who is also a high performance coach and CEO of Carmanah Yacht Sales. “Theatre goes dark in the summer, so sailing was a perfect fit. I would sail and coach in the summer and work as a stage manager in the winter. But after a while, even though I was only 25, I felt like I was hitting the glass ceiling. I thought the MBA was a perfect way to capitalize on the skills I already had.”

While studying, Braem was also competing. “It was a tricky balance—training, fitness, fundraising, school—I cried a lot,” she jokes. “During the second semester I was competing in Miami, and was up at 5 a.m. to study, then out on the water, and finally back to the books from 7 to 10 p.m. It was exhausting, but gives you discipline and

the ability to prioritize.”

She says one of the biggest sacrifices was missing out on the fun times with the class. “When everyone else was heading to the pub, I was training.”

Looking ahead, Braem would like to be part of big sporting events to combine her love of the stage with sports. “There really is a marriage between art and sport at the big events.”

But for now she is concentrating on her goal of competing for Canada in the International 470, the women’s two-person dinghy. Braem will miss her own convocation ceremony as she and Erin Flanagan, her sailing partner and fellow UVic grad, leave June 14 on the first leg of their journey to compete in the 2012 London Olympics.



A passion for social justice

Victoria City Councillor and Vancouver Island Compassion Society founder Philippe Lucas has had his share of life experiences. Lucas was exposed to hepatitis C through the tainted blood supply at age 12, but the condition was only diagnosed in 1995, the same year that his father committed suicide. “Sometimes life makes choices for us, and with the benefit of a little longevity we can see that even the most adverse event or situation can lead to some positive outcomes,” says Lucas, whose personal experiences with medical cannabis led him to conduct a number of research projects on this topic over the last 15 years.

Graduating with a Master of Arts in Studies in Policy and Practice—an interdisciplinary graduate program in the Faculty of Human and Social Development aimed at those involved in social activism, human services and community work—has provided an opportunity to “deepen the theoretical underpinnings that form the base of progressive reform efforts, particularly in the area of drug policy,” says Lucas.

Recipient of the 2007 UVic Blue and Gold award for community contributions, Lucas has worked towards raising awareness on social issues such as homelessness, drug policy reform and food security. Currently a research affiliate and board member with the Centre for Addictions Research of BC at UVic, Lucas says, “I have a passion for work and research around progressive social change towards the legitimization of a patient-centered, community-based approach to medical cannabis.”

In 1999 he opened the Vancouver Island Compassion Society, a non-profit medical cannabis research and distribution centre in Victoria. He has testified in front of Senate and the House of Commons on the issue of mandatory minimum sentences (Bill C-26 and C-15) and was invited to share his research and experience on medical



Lucas with statue of Sir John A. MacDonalld at Victoria City Hall.

cannabis access with Israel’s Ministry of Health.

“I believe that the letters at the end of your name really do have an impact on policy direction and how seriously your research is regarded in an academic setting,” says Lucas, who pursued an education in liberal arts at Concordia, Carleton, Bishop’s and UBC, but chose UVic in 1995 for its mid-size, beauty and academic excellence. He completed a professional degree in education and went on to teach English and drama in a local secondary school. An increasing interest

in social justice and harm reduction compelled him to pursue an education that complemented research in an area where few experienced researchers existed.

He credits UVic with another important milestone in his life. “Ten years ago I had the fortune of meeting my wife through a conference she was organizing at UVic. She has been an incredibly supportive partner through many challenges and successes over the last 10 years—from lengthy court cases and election

campaigns, to many years of study at UVic,” says Lucas. He and his wife, Mary (MA 2001, history in art), recently embarked on a retail business venture called “Hip Baby” following another milestone—parenthood. Their daughter was born one month before his election to Victoria City Council in 2008.

Lucas will continue to champion the importance of social justice through his work on harm reduction and environmental sustainability on council and in the community.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR’S SILVER MEDAL

Original approach, careful research net grad medal

BY BRYNA HALLAM

It’s unusual for a master’s student to be published, but the work of Emily Blacker, who is receiving a Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal, is far from typical.

Blacker’s master’s essay, completed as part of the English and Cultural, Social, and Political Thought programs is being published this year in a collection of essays entitled *Cultural Production at the Interfaces of the Oral, Written, and Visual*.

The essay grew out of a course on literary anthropology taught by Dr. Nicholas Bradley, who would become Blacker’s supervisor for this final project.

“That Emily’s paper is included in a prestigious collection of essays is a testament to the originality of her approach and the care with which she completed her research project,” Bradley says.

Her paper analyzes the ethics of encounters between ethnographers and the people they study by examining *Life Lived Like a Story*, a renowned ethnographic study of three Yukon elders by Julie Cruikshank.

“My paper examines the ways in which *Life Lived Like a Story* raises a number of important questions about how (and why) stories are read, recorded and told—about the journey of storytelling itself, in all of its complexities,” Blacker explains.

“Part of what was so fascinating about working on this text was the way in which it challenged any single interpretation and resisted any single disciplinary interpretation,” she says. “It challenged me to think in new ways, and continues to do so every time I revisit the paper, or the text itself.”



Blacker.

Blacker, who completed a BA at Dalhousie University and the University of King’s College, was drawn to UVic by the English and Cultural, Social, and Political Thought programs, which she says allowed her “to follow up on research interests stemming from my undergraduate experience.”

She has been interested in English since high school—it and philosophy were her favourite subjects—and says, “I was fortunate to have inspiring teachers who sparked my interest in studying English at the university level.”

Blacker, now teaching communications at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, ON, says the faculty and academic community at UVic stand out for her. “I had a fantastic committee for my master’s essay, which made a huge difference,” she says. “One of the advantages of attending a smaller school like UVic is having the opportunity to get involved and to become a part of the academic community.”

GOVERNOR GENERAL’S GOLD MEDAL

Dissertation explores effects of landmark case on Indigenous legal system

BY THOMAS WINTERHOFF

Val Napoleon made UVic Law history last spring by becoming the first person to earn a PhD degree from the Graduate Program in Law and Society since it was established in 2004. Her doctoral dissertation—“Ayook: Gitksan Legal Order, Law, and Legal Theory”—has now earned her the University of Victoria’s Governor General’s Gold Medal.

This honour is presented annually to a student in a master’s or doctoral degree program on the basis of an outstanding GPA and thesis or dissertation. Napoleon, whose PhD studies were supervised by Professor John Borrows and Professor John McLaren of UVic Law, will receive her award at the June 2010 convocation ceremony.

Napoleon is of Dunneza, Cree and Sauteaux heritage and is also an adopted member of the Gitksan, an Indigenous people of northwestern British Columbia. She worked as a community activist and consultant in northern BC for over 25 years, specializing in health, education and justice issues. Napoleon defended her dissertation in April 2009 in the Gitksan community of Gitanyow, with Gitksan and settler people in attendance. She says it was invigorating “to talk about Gitksan law in front of Gitksan people,” many of whom she interviewed during the course of her research.

Her dissertation explored and articulated the Gitksan legal order, laws and legal theory, as reflected by a groundbreaking Aboriginal land title case: *Delgamuukw*. Gitksan people devoted decades to the preparation and litigation of *Delgamuukw*, going through the initial trial proceedings, taking the case to the Appeal Court of BC and then finally bringing it before the Supreme Court of Canada in 1997.



Napoleon.

As part of her PhD research, Napoleon investigated whether protracted engagement with Canadian law had undermined the Gitksan people’s own conflict management systems and whether it had an impact on internal relationships. Her examination of *Delgamuukw* offered fresh perspectives on Gitksan law and, more broadly, on how Indigenous legal traditions can be practically considered in shaping the political and legal relationships between Canada and Indigenous societies.

“Doctorates in law often focus on doctrinal studies of Canadian law’s treatment of Indigenous issues as opposed to Indigenous legal theory or law,” says Napoleon. “I called on legal anthropology and a number of other disciplines to help me develop the dissertation and conduct the research.”



From dropout to legal scholar

BY MELANIE TROMP HOOVER

After leaving home at the age of 14 and high school after Grade 10, Ryan Tonkin worked a series of odd jobs around Victoria before starting to put his goals into action in his early twenties.

Tonkin returned to school in 2007 to find his way to law school and—judging by his future plans that include both an MA and a Harvard law degree—he found his footing somewhere between Aristotle and Descartes.

“I found I had a personal interest in how to go about looking at the world in a really methodical way,” explains Tonkin of his choice to tackle an honours degree in philosophy in preparation for law school.

“Law is really just rigorous logical argumentation, so there’s a central overlapping core that you can find in both law and philosophy.”

This curiosity has paid off for Tonkin, who will be celebrating his first-ever graduation day this month.

“I came back to school because I didn’t really have another option,” explains Tonkin. “I saw a lot of things

in the world I wanted to do, and I knew I wouldn’t be able to get there without challenging some of my personal expectations and creating a new opportunity.”

Tonkin made his way to UVic after a year of hard work at Camosun during which his outlook and high GPA caught the attention of UVic philosophy professor Carrie Klatt, who instructed Tonkin for two summer courses in 2008.

Klatt helped Tonkin attain a full scholarship for the remainder of his studies at UVic and has hired him as both a teaching assistant and an LSAT tutorial instructor at different times during his undergraduate career.

In 2009 Tonkin was awarded a UVic Undergraduate Research Scholarship through the Learning and Teaching Centre that saw him linking philosophers of language and aestheticians in a study to investigate aesthetic judgement.

He was also the chair of the Philosophy Students Association, worked as a volunteer librarian for his department and was a regular volunteer at Sanctuary Youth Centre downtown.

“You really can’t underestimate



Tonkin. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

the value of hard work,” says Tonkin. “Once I realized how to be strategic in my planning, I found I was able to succeed in a way I never thought was possible.”

And he’s got a lot of hard work ahead of him before heading south

of the border to pursue his interests in international and social justice next year.

Tonkin is squeezing a master’s degree in philosophy into just 16 months before he heads to Harvard in September 2011 to begin his law degree.

“If you’d asked me about all of this three years ago I would have laughed at you, really,” chuckles Tonkin. “Saying this experience has been awesome is a huge understatement.”

JUBILEE MEDAL IN HUMANITIES

Top humanities grad a cultural explorer

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

Since her final final exam, Erin Fairweather has been couchsurfing. But don’t get the idea that she’s a slacker. Winner of this year’s Jubilee Medal in the Humanities, Fairweather has been traveling through France, Switzerland, Germany and Spain living with people offering their couches to budget travelers through couchsurfing.org.

“My reason for traveling right now is to reset my mind,” she says. “It’s a little ‘congratulations me’ present as well as a great excuse to visit my sister Leanne, who has recently set up a home in Berlin.”

Fairweather, who graduates at the top of her class with a major in French and a minor in anthropology, has been passionately interested in French since she was first exposed to the language in Grade 5 in Langley, BC.

In Grade 10, she participated in an exchange program in Québec. “It opened my eyes to different ways of living, different ways of speaking and whole new amazing experiences: –27° weather, dog sledding, home-made maple syrup, new music and swear words. Being bilingual opens so many doors. I love the language, all of the literature that can be read in context, and the culture that comes along with it.”

The exchange experience deepened her interest in the language and gave her a feel for anthropology. “I enjoy the different approaches, perspectives and the way of thinking. Anthropology can be applied to absolutely every aspect of life and therefore any type of research. I intend to incorporate my learnings and use a holistic approach while doing further research and studies, coming from different angles and



Fairweather.

considering all possibilities apparent to me.”

At UVic, she won a wide range of scholarship support and enjoyed “the amazing sense of campus community and engaging professors. I would not have accomplished anything without the encouragement and support of Dr. Hélène Cazes, who has been absolutely amazing, caring, generous and incredibly supportive,” says Fairweather. She also credits her friends and family for their support, and “I guess I should also mention hot chocolate and Kraft Dinner.”

For now, she is soaking up her experiences in Europe. “It is a dream; we are exploring these places through the eyes of locals, with the advice of people from within the culture, and experiencing home-cooked traditional meals instead of being isolated at hotels or hostels doing only touristic excursions. This is really important to me, not to just see the world, but to meet the people as well.”

And in September, she begins her studies towards a master’s degree at UVic with a fellowship from the French department.

GOVERNOR GENERAL’S SILVER MEDAL

Top undergraduate already in med school

BY GAIL KIRKPATRICK

Navraj Chima—BSC microbiology—winner of the Governor General’s Silver Medal for top undergrad is leaving his cello at home.

His interest in microbiology began as a hands-on research intern with the BC Cancer Agency when he was a Grade-11 student at St. Michaels University School.

“I’ve been interested in diseases since a young age, and so microbiology was the natural progression. Medicine is the next step.”

Chima is completing his first year of medicine at UBC. He wanted more patient interaction than microbiology was offering and began volunteering in the emergency room and medical imaging department at Royal Jubilee Hospital, and with the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He earned an entry-level paramedic license, but soon found that even that was limiting, and affirmed that he wanted to become a doctor.

Chima says it is still too early to see where medicine might take him, but “I am seeing all the different opportunities available as a clinician, teacher, researcher, and hope somehow to combine all three of my interests.”

“Something UVic professors instilled in me was the way learning changes from high school to university, and then from second to third year, moving towards being an adult learner, and now shifting into learning medicine. Here we learn up until the last day; there is no break; and then you write exams on everything you’ve learned.”

He served as director of finance and fundraising for the Student Alumni Association for three years. “It is a wonderfully supportive group, everyone helping each other out as needed.”

He has traveled extensively and says he never stops appreciating how fortunate we are to have the opportunities that we have here in Canada and at UVic.



Chima volunteering with the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Chima will spend his summer with the St. John Ambulance Brigade and carrying on with the BC Cancer Agency volunteering in youth and philanthropy—helping high school and university students raise money for the agency. “I’ve developed a strong bond with them, and I want it to continue.” He will also assist in the development of online-based, self-directed tutorials in surgical case studies.

This past winner of multiple UVic scholarships isn’t all work though.

He chills with ultimate Frisbee, squash, (“cricket has gotten too time consuming”), photography, and playing Bach and Rachmaninoff on his cello.

“I decided to change directions a bit at UBC, and have joined a medical *a cappella* group called the ‘Auscultations.’ I like my cello too much to haul it around on the bus.”



Fryer. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GOLD MEDAL

Engineering a “team effort” for award winner

BY BRYNA HALLAM

The dinnertime conversation in Michael Fryer’s house may have centred on science and math, but it was never dull.

His father, a high school physics teacher in Sechelt, BC, and his mother, who has a background in biology, focused on “fun science” and ideas, he says, with the family figuring out the number of trees in the world, or using vinegar to show that blackberries can be used as an indicator of pH. “We were good at leaving all the boring stuff for school and just dealing with the fun stuff.”

As a result of this early exposure, he says, he has more of a theoretical physics and math background than other students—something that may help to explain his academic success: Fryer, who is graduating this month, is receiving the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Gold Medal for highest graduating GPA in his class. He also received the Faculty of Engineering Dean’s Entrance Scholarship, a UVic Excellence Scholarship, the Cunliffe Engineering Scholarship, and Norman Yarrow Scholarships in Engineering—twice.

But, he says, he didn’t do it alone, and thanks his classmates, friends, family and professors—including Dr. Rodney Herring, his thesis supervisor, and Dr. Tom Tiedje, the Dean of Engineering—for their support.

“Engineering is really a team effort: People helping each other on projects,

helping each other on homework, helping each other with notes and studying for tests—it’s a big thing.”

The heavy workload makes the engineering community particularly important, and activities such as the Order of Pi, the Engineering Students Society and even a pick-up game of football after a difficult exam stand out for Fryer.

Fryer completed co-op placements with the military, Kodak, General Motors and the team of Dr. David Sinton, which was working on a device for early detection of ovarian cancer. He also undertook a research term and built a confocal acoustic holography microscope—it uses sound to build a 3D image of soft tissues—for his honours project.

“The end result was that I got a really good, broad range of opportunities in different fields related to engineering,” he says.

He also spent four months volunteering in Calgary and Uganda with Engineering Ministries International, a non-profit Christian development organization that designs buildings to serve the poor.

Fryer is spending the summer working for Tiedje and is considering attending grad school—he is looking at UVic and the University of Waterloo—and focusing on energy systems.

“I really like problem solving, and applying science to making things,” he says. “It’s pretty cool.”

JUBILEE MEDAL IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

To eliminate the stigma of mental illness

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

A passion for helping those suffering from the stigma of mental illness drove honours psychology grad Deanna Singh to the top of her class, earning her the 2010 Jubilee Medal in Social Sciences.

“My dream is to change the stigma of mental illness in our society,” says Singh. “Too many people suffer in silence with depression and other mental illnesses.”

Singh came to UVic after spending three years studying microbiology at UBC. She says changing her major to psychology was the best decision she ever made. Strong family support also helped Singh follow her love of psychology.

“I want new students to know that it is never too late to change your major,” she says. For Singh, an honours psychology program was a better fit; she knew her dream of helping people with mental illness could become a reality.

Singh appreciated the honours psychology program especially for its small group size of 20 students and excellent instruction from the department’s faculty. “We worked so closely together,” says Singh. “It was the highlight of my degree.”

Singh was so excited to be at UVic and in a program that she loved that achieving her best was fairly stress free. “It is so important to love your program,” says Singh. “I could have stayed with microbiology and been very unhappy.”

Outside of her academic life, Singh runs to keep fit and relieve



Singh. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

any stress, volunteers weekly at the Victoria Hospice Society, and performs a classical Indian dance called Bharat natyam. “The dance I do is both meditative and physical,” says Singh. “I have been dancing Bharat natyam for 14 years.” Between the meditation and physical elements of the dance, running and volunteering, Singh has a busy and rewarding life beyond studying.

For the first time in many years Singh will not be taking classes this

summer; instead she will be tutoring ESL Korean students and house painting. In September she will begin a four-year UBC medical degree at UVic’s Island Medical Program. “I’m so pleased that I can study medicine on the UVic campus,” says Singh.

Singh, who has always wanted to be a psychiatrist, will have four more years of residency after she completes her medical degree. “I’ll be 34 years old by then,” smiles Singh, “I hope to start a family one day.”

VICTORIA MEDAL IN FINE ARTS

Virtuoso Victoria medalist embraces life with gusto

BY TARA SHARPE

Molly Janz, Victoria Medal Award recipient for top GPA in the Faculty of Fine Arts, pulled more than heartstrings when she first began to beg her parents for a chance at the violin. She was only three years old, but she knew she wanted her fingers on the stranded steel of the stringed instrument.

“I’ve wanted to play the violin for longer than I can remember. My parents weren’t convinced a three-year-old could be serious about it, but I was still bothering them two years later, so they rented a violin and I began taking lessons when I was nine.”

Janz grew up in Nelson, BC, and quickly became familiar with the West Coast while spending childhood summers sailing around the Southern Gulf and San Juan Islands in her family’s 21’ sailboat, *Pokey*.

In 2003, Janz moved to the coast to attend Lester B. Pearson College. She added an extra year between her Grade-12 and first-year university courses to travel to Bolivia, where she taught literacy classes for women and English to tourist guides in an Indigenous village.

Janz completed a two-year violin diploma in performance and pedagogy from the Victoria Conservatory of Music (in connection with Camosun College) and transferred to UVic in 2008. She decided to

switch to the viola at that time.

The decision was not impromptu for Janz, who had “always been drawn to the sound of the instrument” and has played it since she was 15. Her passion is chamber music, and she loves “the role that the viola has in the string quartet.”

What particularly impressed her while at UVic was the “close collaboration with faculty members. It was not only educational but also inspirational.” She cites the Lafayette String Quartet chamber coachings, and commends the former UVic orchestra director János Sándor, who passed away recently, for enticing his students to orchestra rehearsals despite the early-evening schedule: late afternoon till dinnertime “is not the most appealing time of day for two-and-a-half hours of practice, but it is a credit to him that we enjoyed it so much.”

Her focus was performance music, but she did fit in Italian language and Old English electives, and has even started to learn Ancient Greek “now that I’ve got a bit more ‘free time’ after graduating.”

Janz is spending the summer in Scotland and *The Ring* caught up with her only days away from her departure to Holland for auditions at three graduate schools. She wants a master’s degree (viola, performance) in chamber music “and then my dream is to form a string quartet.”

UVic's SPARCS Program (Solving Problems with Algorithms, Robots and ComputerS) has won the BC Educational Technology User's Group (ETUG) 2010 ETUG Innovation Award in Educational Technology. SPARCS is a group of professors, graduate students, undergraduate students and children that work to raise awareness of computer science in Victoria, Canada and beyond. SPARCS strives to enlighten and inform students from grade school to first-year about the possibilities of computer science at UVic and beyond using fun and innovative methods while contributing original research to the computer science education community. <http://outreach.cs.uvic.ca/>

Jens Bornemann (Electrical and Computer Engineering) is UVic's newest fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, recognized for his distinguished achievements and career-long service to the engineering profession. His research includes RF/wireless/microwave components and antennas, systems design, and problems involving electromagnetic field theory in integrated circuits and radiating structures. The academy is an independent, self-governing and non-profit organization established in 1987 to serve the nation in matters of engineering. It currently has 306 active members, 125 emeritus members and three honorary members.

CONVOCATION 2010

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION
GOLD MEDAL IN SOFTWARE
ENGINEERING

Top software engineering grad defies gender stereotypes

BY AMY GEDDES

When BSEng grad Anna Cox went to class, it was a given that her peers will be wearing more facial hair than lip gloss. But the reality that males outnumber females in engineering has never given Cox a second thought. “It never really factored into the decision I made to go into engineering. I chose to do something that I’m good at.” The recipient of this year’s IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Software Engineering for having the highest graduating GPA in her class, Cox is a role model for women considering entering her field. For her, gender is not a precursor to academic success, nor did enrolment statistics keep her from studying what she excelled at. Since the day she discovered her knack for computer programming during a high school information technology course, she has been hooked, and her UVic experience prompted her further.



COX. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

“I really enjoyed the programming courses, so I decided to go in that direction rather than a more traditional engineering field.” Although she says she is not a “typical computer nerd,” she has no problem admitting she has always been good at math and science. Cox chose UVic specifically because it offered an undergraduate software engineering program. Many of today’s software engineers have degrees in computer science, due to the lack of post-secondary software engineering programs. New BSEng degrees, however, are

now being introduced at the undergraduate level, and UVic is leading the pack. In addition to benefiting from a focused BSEng curriculum, Cox also honed her skills via the mandatory co-op component of the program. From collaborating with a team to administer the provincial government’s Blackboard software application, to graphing data from NEPTUNE Canada’s undersea observatory, Cox sampled some fascinating ways she might contribute to the software engineering field.

“Co-op gave me insight into what jobs in my field are really like, which I think is very important. Enjoying something in theory is quite different from enjoying the day-to-day tasks that you do at work.” Eager to join the workforce instead of pursuing graduate studies right away, Cox is searching for her dream job. As she graduates at the top of her class, she reinforces the idea that women indeed have a relevant place in the engineering-related careers of tomorrow.

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Thai nurse reinvents herself in Canada

BY AMY GEDDES

Nuttida Chieosongkram was an accredited nurse in Thailand, but when she moved to Canada, she did what many would find difficult; she redid her post-secondary education to continue working in her field. Graduating this year with a BSN from the Camosun College-UVic collaborative nursing program, she looks back on her years of study, not as a do-over, but as a complement to what she had learned in Thailand. “It added to what I’d learned before,” she says. “It gave me a stronger ability to care for people.” Chieosongkram’s story is one of dedication and perseverance. As a youth in Thailand, Chieosongkram was deeply affected by her mother’s battle with liver cancer. “I saw the sadness in my family and I did not know how to comfort them,” she recalls. “I told myself that I would learn how to care for and comfort people in their time of need.” In Thailand she completed four years of post-secondary nursing

education and received a nursing and midwifery degree. Seeking adventure she moved to Canada as a nanny, soon discovering that she wanted to remain in the country permanently. But her credentials did not translate into what is required of a Canadian registered nurse. After growing tired of waiting tables and working in hotels to earn a living she enrolled in the Camosun College-UVic collaborative nursing program to earn her post-secondary credentials a second time. She quickly began to see that the more technology-based content of the Canadian nursing program in fact supplemented the hands-on training she had received in Thailand. “It’s learning in a different kind of way,” she says. She uses the example of administering an intravenous. In Thailand nurses would administer the IV manually; in Canada they programmed a computer to deliver the medication at the appropriate rate. “I had the chance to work independently and collaboratively with



Chieosongkram.

multidisciplinary teams inside and outside hospitals. The instructors helped me to think as a leader.” Chieosongkram spent two practica with the Tsawout First Nation band and after eight years of nursing-related education in both countries combined, she has just secured a position at Chilliwack General Hospital as a mental health psychiatry nurse—a profession she trained for at UVic that she had not studied previously in Thailand.

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International internship a perfect match for graduate law student

BY BRYNA HALLAM

When graduate law student Anne Mitaru saw a posting for an internship with Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), she wondered, “Is this possible?”

Mitaru, who was born in Canada and raised mostly in Kenya (she earned a bachelor of laws degree from the University of Nairobi), has a background in international law and women’s rights, and DAWN—a net-

work of feminist scholars, researchers and activists—is a major organization in the field.

“I, of course, seized the day,” she says. “Any feminist working on global South issues would want to have an opportunity to meet the people behind DAWN.”

Through the internship, which was part of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives’ 2009/10 Students for Development Program and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, Mitaru spent four months working as a program assistant with DAWN at its office in the Philippines.

CAPI has been offering the international experiential learning opportunities since 2003. Students and graduates gain valuable work experience, along with the benefit of research and networking opportunities. “It was such an opportunity to learn, with so much to do,” Mitaru says.

It was an even better match than she first realized: Her thesis for her master of laws degree focuses on

development financing, offering a feminist legal critique of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness; DAWN co-ordinates the Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development at the United Nations. The internship gave her access to DAWN’s partners, allowing her to ask questions and learn about the issues first-hand.

The internship also gave Mitaru experience in a different part of the world. “I had a good grasp of organizing women’s rights in an African context,” she says. “It was interesting to learn about the Asia-Pacific and understand the differences and similarities in the two spheres.”

Now back in Nairobi working with an international women’s rights organization, Mitaru, who is graduating from UVic this month, is considering a return to school to do a doctorate.

“DAWN presents a strong case for what I call academic activism,” she says. “These are women who are in the area of academia but continue



Mitaru.

to be activists.” It was powerful, she says, “just knowing you can be part of both worlds and absolutely contribute positively and strongly in each of those worlds.”

Initially drawn to law by the drama of the courtroom, she has come to realize that understanding law gives her the ability to make a difference.

“I felt there were lots of things that could be better for many, many people,” she says. “This is a space I can use.”

Island Medical grad chasing dreams into space

BY GAIL KIRKPATRICK

Graduating in the third class of UVic’s Island Medical Program (IMP) leading to a UBC MD degree, Dr. Mark Lipsett has launched upon a career trajectory aimed at outer space.

As part of his IMP program, Lipsett completed an aerospace medicine clerkship at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas, which exposed him to the clinical, operational and research aspects of space medicine.

“As a kid growing up in Port Alberni, I had telescopes, and I was interested in space movies and the shuttle program,” says Lipsett. “The NASA experience was similar to coming to the Island Medical Program. Everyone was helpful and welcoming. Both are facilities where people love their jobs, and you can feel the passion and the energy.”

Lipsett was one of two Canadian medical residents and one medical student to receive funding through the Canadian Space Agency’s Operational Space Medicine Group to attend a four-week aerospace medicine elective at NASA.

At the Johnson Space Center, Lipsett viewed a rover originally built for the Orion space exploration program, and he launched and landed a

simulated shuttle mission, experiencing booster jettison and gravitation pull, which he describes as “dropping like a slug.” After hours, he ran with newly recruited Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacque and explored the role of Canadian flight surgeon Dr. Doug Hamilton.

Lipsett studied pharmacology and anatomy in Australia as an exchange student during his undergraduate program in kinesiology. While in Australia he took a 10,000-km drive that had him visiting Woomera Space Centre, a joint Australia-NASA facility. After receiving his master’s in kinesiology and diabetic research from Simon Fraser University, Lipsett went on to McGill to attain a PhD from the Faculty of Medicine, where his research focused on diabetes and how to stimulate the human pancreas to regenerate.

“I could have stayed in diabetes research,” he explains. “But I’ve always been interested in learning, and more and more I got thinking about medicine. I’m so thankful for the opportunity to have a more immediate positive impact on people in the field of medicine.”

He says UVic allowed him to “chase a dream,” and he would choose the Island Medical Program again because of the amazing support students



Lipsett. PHOTO: GAIL KIRKPATRICK

receive from the entire community.

“There is a lot of one-to-one. I would ask many questions, assist in surgical procedures, and then I’d go out at night and play hockey with many of the physicians.”

Lipsett is heading to St. John’s to begin a residency in anesthesiology, which, he says, is perfect preparation for any future work with NASA. On long missions in the future, astronauts may have to put themselves to sleep and maybe use local anesthetic for any surgeries. “Longer missions will require extensive knowledge of pharmacology and space physiology to determine appropriate medications and supplies required for extended missions ensuring astronaut health,” he explains.

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** *Northern Lights*. Until Aug. 8. A selection of Inuit sculptures from UVic’s newly acquired Hal Knight Collection, complemented by prints and drawings from the permanent collection. Legacy Art Gallery and Café, 630 Yates St. 250-381-7670

■ **Exhibit** *Victorian Poetry and the New Print Media: An Exhibition*. Until Aug. 31. The exhibit highlights the primary content used in Eng 551, a graduate seminar taught in the 2010 Winter Session by Dr. Alison Chapman, a Victorian poetry specialist with UVic’s English Department. Mearns Centre/McPherson Library A005. 250-853-3612

MONDAY, JUNE 14

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 6 p.m. *Spotlight Series #2: Capital and Communities: Indigenous Perspectives on Investment and Economic Development*. Moderated by Prof. James Hopkins, (Métis) National Aboriginal Economic Development Chair, UVic, faculties of business and law. Strong C122. RSVP: ncaed@uvic.ca or 250-853-3869

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 9 a.m. *Help Create Positive Space: Become a PSN Resource Person*. UVic’s Positive Space Network (PSN)

is hosting several workshops this summer for members of the campus community who would like to learn more about issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, queer and questioning communities. Sedgwick C168. To register: <http://web.uvic.ca/~psn/get-involved/workshops/>

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 12 p.m. *Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy Distinguished Lecture*. Stefano Zamagni, University of Bologna, is considered the ‘prophet’ of the Emilia-Romagna Cooperatives in Italy. He will be speaking about his forthcoming book: *Cooperative Enterprise: Facing the Challenge of Globalization*. Bob Wright Centre A104. 250-853-3931

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

■ **Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Chile x2: Lessons for BC and Cascadia*. Experts from the Canadian Reconnaissance Team to Chile will present observations and lessons learned from the recent 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile. Engineering and Computer Science Bldg. 125. 250-472-5752.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

■ **Conference** 5 p.m. And June 24 & 25. *Build Your Future Leadership Conference*. Workshops and panel discussions by leading academic and business experts. Strong Bldg. \$199 for one-day registration, \$348 full conference registration. www.uvicbuilding-futures.ca/ 250-721-6630

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Bob Reimer

day in the life

BY TARA SHARPE

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF Kerissa Dickie has always been full of words. As an emerging writer, she penned the award-winning short story *Wildflowers* while an undergraduate in UVic’s writing program. Now, as communications and outreach coordinator for UVic’s Office of Indigenous Affairs, she finds that words are to her like a hammer to a carpenter or an atom accelerator to a particle physicist.

She uses them every day in preparing newsletters and handbooks or distributing notices through her email networks—all in an effort to “take away the mystical sense of inaccessibility of a post-secondary education.” She says she especially wants to help students who could easily be “more than 1,000 miles away from home trying to find special ground where they can feel accepted.”

Dickie was born and raised Deneha from the Fort Nelson First Nation in northern BC and also has Cree and German heritage. Her mother is Chief Councillor of the Nation; the local school is named for Dickie’s grandfather; and *Wildflowers* is taught as part of the school’s Grade-12 curriculum.

Dickie’s short story about a young girl at residential school won the Our-Story Aboriginal Fiction Writing Challenge in 2007 and was published in an anthology of Canada’s emerging Aboriginal writers by Theytus Books. Dickie says she had “big dreams of



Dickie outside First Peoples House. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

making my family proud, especially considering I’m the first generation not to be sent to residential school.”

After accepting her own accolades, she now works to ensure other Aboriginal students get every opportunity for recognition and success. UVic’s Office of Indigenous Affairs assists Aboriginal learners in accessing services and programs and supports them in their experiences while attending university on traditional Coast Salish territory.

Dickie herself graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UVic in June 2008 and, drawing on her background in visual arts and writing, did a short stint at Trafford Publishing before beginning work at UVic later that same year. Her experiences prior to arriving at UVic helped contribute to the expertise she brings to her current occupation.

Immediately after high school,

Dickie lived in Argentina on a Rotary exchange then returned home to take university transfer classes from the local Northern Lights College as well as work for the Residential School Healing Project with survivors in her community. During her time with the project, she had the opportunity to help publish a book of their stories and artwork.

“And since graduating, I have been blessed with job opportunities here including research assistant to the director of Indigenous education, administrative assistant to the LE,NO~~NET~~ Aboriginal Research Project, and now a wonderful position in communications and outreach,” says Dickie.

Her most important focus right now is the seventh annual Indigenous Student Mini-University Summer Camp. BC students of Indigenous

ancestry from Grades 8 to 12 sample life at UVic from July 5 to 9, participating in academic, physical, creative and social activities including whale watching and cultural performances as well as learning more about the benefits of a post-secondary education and their options for the future. Next up is UVic’s annual Indigenous Week of Welcome and Indigenous Adult Orientation in the fall.

But next for Dickie herself is hopefully funding for her first book. An insatiable reader, she recommends her latest favourite *The Master Butchers Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich, but her “favourite of all time is *Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie. I recommend it to everyone.”

It is unlikely her fingers will ever be idle on the keyboard, and it won’t be long before readers will have another chance to fill up on Dickie’s own words.

in memoriam

Irvin K. Burbank, a professor in the Faculty of Education for 30 years, died on March 13 at the age of 75 following a prolonged illness. He is survived by Pauline, his devoted wife of 48 years, five sons and a daughter, and 16 grandchildren.

Irv grew up in southern Alberta and, after receiving his BEd, taught school in Lethbridge for four years before leaving to attend Utah State University where he earned a doctorate in education.

He worked as the mathematics consultant for the Los Angeles County School District prior to accepting a position in mathematics education at UVic in 1970.

In content and curriculum courses, Irv used humor and stories as well as a variety of visual and concrete aids to help his students overcome fears and gain confidence in learning and teaching mathematics. He travelled throughout BC to provide in-service training for practicing teachers, and

he presented papers at numerous professional conferences. Irv was the senior author of a school mathematics textbook series that was adopted in jurisdictions across Canada.

He was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving in many teaching and leadership responsibilities.

After his retirement, Irv and Pauline accepted a mission call to Fiji to teach college credit courses to native teachers, to enable them upgrade their pedagogy and better their economic condition. Irv’s life and greatest joys were defined by and revolved around his family, his Christian faith and his teaching.

Submitted by James H. Vance, friend and former colleague

János Sándor, conductor of the University of Victoria Symphony Orchestra for 15 years, died May 14. Under his baton, hundreds of students made music in ways that they never could have imagined possible. His beautiful way of teaching, through stories, demonstrating, sound effects, coaxing, humour and above all marvelous use of the baton (which he held with a beautiful delicacy), gave our students the courage and motivation to make music with their whole selves. Always positive and respectful, János took a keen interest in every student. Throughout his tenure at UVic he attended virtually every concert, performed by both faculty and students alike. At meetings he was thoughtful, speaking rarely, but always to the point. He was hugely funny and loved to tell stories (of which he had many). Trained as a timpanist as well as a conductor, he always had a soft spot for the percussion section of the

orchestra, and the brass loved him because “he lets us play!” One of János’ great talents was his ability to build the tension in a phrase of music to the point that when the brass and percussion sections finally did have their moment, it was like being in the stands for the winning goal a World-Cup soccer match. The exhilaration was palpable!

János’ arrived in Canada in 2001 with a lifetime of brilliantly successful conducting behind him. He had traveled the world, making music with professional musicians from every walk of life in innumerable countries and cultures. But his heart was with the young people, the musicians of the future. He told us all at the reception held in his honour at the Grand Finale Concert on April 10th this year, that his 15 years at UVic were the happiest of his life. He is greatly missed.

Submitted by Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, School of Music

around the ring

Carve, carve, carve your boat

Has the fresh scent of western red cedar left you wondering what’s going on under the tent outside First Peoples’ House? It’s an outdoor classroom, Straits Salish style. In the Faculty of Education, teaching and learning go hand in hand, but not always in traditional classrooms. The first of three offerings of the popular course “EDCI 499: Learning and Teaching in an Indigenous World” is currently under way. “CÁ ETTE SNEWEL” or “working on the canoe” is experiential learning at its finest. Under the tutelage of local Indigenous knowledge keepers and a master carver, students are investigating and experiencing Straits Salish culture, language and ways of life through creation of a traditional ocean-going canoe. More info: ied@uvic.ca

Get your H₂O from a bottle refilling station

In an effort to reduce the use of bottled water on campus, water fountains in ten campus buildings have been upgraded to allow for easy refilling of reusable water bottles. Locations include the Social Sciences & Mathematics, Strong and MacLaurin buildings. Three of the fountains were funded by the Student Alumni Association. The Student Union Building also has a new fountain (near the accessible washroom on the main floor) with a handy spout for easy water bottle refilling. This project reflects UVic’s overall waste management vision of becoming a zero-waste institution. More info: <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/WasteRecyclingComposting.htm>

Nisga’a business leader helps guide UVic students

Art Mercer, one of BC’s top Aboriginal business leaders, is the business faculty’s newest executive-in-residence. Mercer provides insight on relevant issues, strengthens ties with Aboriginal communities and helps prepare students to make a positive contribution in the business world. He is working with Prof. James Hopkins, UVic’s inaugural National Aboriginal Economic Development Chair. Mercer is on campus monthly and recently helped launch the 2010 summer Spotlight Series on Aboriginal economic development. The next lecture is scheduled for June 14 with Chief Allan Claxton, Kristyna Bishop and Robert Valencia. Details: events.uvic.ca



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