



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

HELP DEFINE UVIC'S
FUTURE

Draft Strategic Plan ready for feedback

There's a little something extra in the copies of this issue of *The Ring* distributed on campus—UVic's *Draft Strategic Plan: 2012*. Following an extensive consultation process earlier this year, the draft plan is ready for you to review and provide comment. There are 37 objectives in the new draft plan, designed to guide the university for the next five years. The document reflects shifts in education and research around the world and here at home. It acknowledges that implementation of the plan will begin as the university prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Please send any comments or suggestions on the draft plan to UVic's Planning and Priorities Committee via strategicplanreview@uvic.ca or via campus mail to the University Secretary's office by Monday, Nov. 14.

FACULTY AWARDS

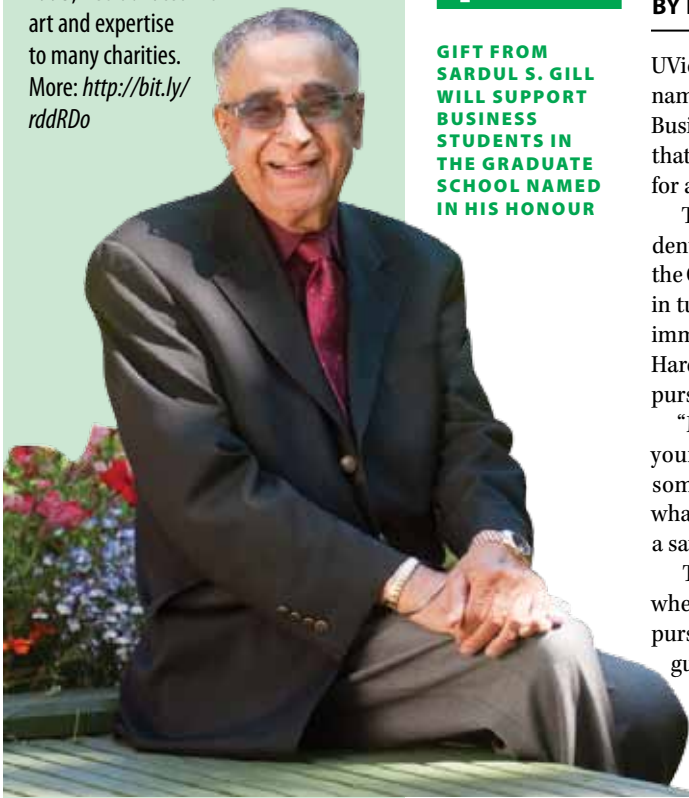
Royal Society honours UVic scientists

Geologist Dante Canil and astrophysicist Julio Navarro have been elected UVic's newest fellows of the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding scholarly achievement. The distinction is considered Canada's highest academic honour. The society has also awarded its 2011 Miroslaw Romanowski Medal to UVic climatologist Andrew Weaver. Story p.2

ARCHIVES DONATION

Ted Harrison gives his archives to UVic

Celebrated Canadian artist Ted Harrison has presented his personal archives to the university. His personal papers and letters, business correspondence, art supplies, some personal items, video, films and photographs will reside in the University of Victoria archives. For nearly 30 years Harrison taught art all over the world and, since coming to Victoria in 1993, he's donated his art and expertise to many charities. More: <http://bit.ly/rddRDo>



Gill. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



CORNETT CELEBRATION

P.2

THE RING

OCTOBER 2011

*The University of Victoria's
community newspaper*

ring.uvic.ca



Canada's Governor General David Johnston extends a hand of appreciation to third-year Environmental Studies/Indigenous Studies student Jessica Brown of the Heiltsuk/Ahousat First Nation, who reported on her participation in UVic's LE,NONET project, supporting Aboriginal student success, during His Excellency's visit to campus on Sept. 26. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Canada's Governor General visits UVic

Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and his wife Mrs. Sharon Johnston visited the UVic campus on Sept. 26 as part of their visit to Victoria. The vice-regal couple, along with the Honourable Steven Point, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and his wife Mrs. Gwendolyn Point, were among the guests at a discussion about UVic's

LE,NONET project in the ceremonial hall of First Peoples House.

LE,NONET originated as a four-year research project by the University of Victoria and the Government of Canada to increase the post-secondary involvement and graduation rates of Aboriginal people. The program was the first of its kind in Canada. UVic continues to offer

this program, which has resulted in increased retention and graduation rates for participating Aboriginal students.

During the afternoon visit, Their Excellencies met with UVic President David Turpin as well as First Nations elders, and educators and students involved in the LE,NONET project.

More: <http://web.uvic.ca/lenonet/>

\$5M

GIFT FROM
SARDUL S. GILL
WILL SUPPORT
BUSINESS
STUDENTS IN
THE GRADUATE
SCHOOL NAMED
IN HIS HONOUR

Grad school gift pays tribute to Sikh immigrants

BY KEITH NORBURY

UVic's graduate business school has a new name, the Sardul S. Gill Graduate School of Business, marking the first time in Canada that such an institution has been named for a donor of Indian descent.

The new name honours Victoria resident Sardul Singh Gill's \$5-million gift to the Gustavson School of Business. That gift in turn is Gill's way of honouring his Sikh immigrant parents—Bhan Singh Gill and Hardial Kaur Gill—for encouraging him to pursue higher education.

"My father's thinking was this: Get your education, and if you can't use it somewhere, you can always go back to what you're doing, which was working in a sawmill," Gill recalls.

That advice came during the 1940s, when few Canadians of Asian extraction pursued professional careers. In fact, his guidance counsellor at Victoria High School advised Gill against going to college because of his "background."

But in the early 1950s, Gill enrolled in Victoria College anyway,

later transferring to UBC, where he graduated with a bachelor of commerce degree in 1956. He went on to earn his certified general accountant designation and pursue a 30-year career as an auditor with the federal government.

In the meantime, he steadily built a portfolio of residential and commercial real estate now held by his company, Gill-AM Investments. Those investments proved so successful that, as he approached his 80th birthday this November, he decided to donate a considerable portion to UVic.

"The funds will provide much-needed support for our graduate students in financial aid and scholarships, international projects and research, and for faculty teaching and research," says Dr. Ali Dastmalchian, dean of the Gustavson School of Business. "We are delighted to name our graduate school after Mr. Gill; he is a person who exemplifies the importance of hard work and integrity."

Gill said the motivation for the donation was simple: "This is my hometown. I was born and raised here, and father spent most of his life here. So why not UVic?"

His daughter, Amir Kaur Gill, and a son, Kevin Singh Gill, are UVic graduates. Gill and his wife, Amar Kaur Gill, who died in 2009, have two other sons: Robin Singh Gill and Stephen Singh Gill.

Their grandfather, Bhan Singh Gill, was born in 1887 in Jagdeo-Kalan, a village in the Amritsar district of the Punjab. He first came to Canada in 1906. With only a fifth-grade education, he had to settle for labouring jobs in Vancouver Island sawmills.

Hardial Kaur Gill came to Canada in 1926. Her son, who was born in Victoria in 1931, and his sister, Perminder Kaur Gill, arrived in the midst of the Great Depression.

"My father couldn't even get a job for nine, 10 cents an hour," Gill recalls.

A devout Sikh who was a founder of Victoria's Sikh temple, Gill's father persevered despite the tough times. He could see that social attitudes were changing, his son recalls.

"Everything is moving forward," Gill says. "I think there is subtle racism. It's still there. I'm not going to deny the fact ... but it's changing, for the better, much better."

around the ring

Get your flu shot

Beginning Oct. 17, seasonal flu shots will be available at Health Services, located in the Jack Petersen Health Centre. Drop in to see a nurse or attend one of the upcoming campus flu shot clinics: Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in HSD A461; Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the McPherson Library, first floor (follow the signs); Nov. 16, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the South Tower Residence Board Room (enter from Lot 5). \$20, cash only. Bring your medical card. www.health.uvic.ca

The summer that wasn't

What happened to our summer weather this year? UVic's Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium has an explanation. Its analysis of data from Environment Canada and BC's climate monitoring program confirms that, on average, conditions were cooler and wetter than normal from February through July. Why? Lingering effects of last winter's La Niña, the cold phase of ocean and atmospheric patterns in the equatorial Pacific, pushed our usual summertime high pressure ridge further west, allowing cold, moist air in from the Pacific. What's in store for this winter? There's a 50/50 chance La Niña will be back, bringing more cool conditions. Details: pacificclimate.org/resources/publications



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THE RING

Vol. 37 No. 9

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper
ring.uvic.ca



Printed using vegetable-based inks on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Next issue November 8

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

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Printed in Canada by Horizon Publications
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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40014024

“New” Cornett celebrated

On Sept. 22, under grey skies, the Cornett Building courtyard was filled with green umbrellas and smiling faces. Elder Joyce Underwood drummed and said the opening prayer and welcome to the land.

After three and half years or renovation activity, the “new” Cornett was complete, and it was time to celebrate and thank the staff and faculty who worked in the building despite the endless jackhammering noises, floods and loss of heat.

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Peter Keller took the opportunity to thank a number of people who oversaw and coordinated all the work, including the Facilities Management team, VP Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill and Associate VP Finance and Operations Kristi Simpson. Most of all, Keller thanked the people who lived and worked in the building, and as a token of appreciation green-and-



Coast Salish artist lessLIE with his artwork *Reflections* on the entrance doors of the Cornett Building. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

white umbrellas were passed around to everyone.

The day also marked the official opening of a generous art donation by George and Christiane Smyth. The

Smyths donated part of their contemporary Coast Salish art in memory of sociology professor Morgan Baker, who died in August 2009. The Cornett art displays can be viewed on all three

floors and include such artists as Maynard Johnny Jr, Susan Point, Chris Paul, lessLIE, Ray Sim and Andy Peterson.

Online guide to the art collection (553kb pdf): <http://bit.ly/nl2pae>

Three UVic scientists earn national honours

Two University of Victoria scientists have joined the ranks of Canada's academic elite. Geologist Dante Canil and astrophysicist Julio Navarro have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding scholarly and scientific achievement. The distinction is considered Canada's highest academic honour.

The society has also awarded its 2011 Miroslaw Romanowski Medal to UVic climatologist Andrew Weaver for “his exceptional research achievements, scholarly writings and resolute efforts to share his knowledge on climate change [which have been] critically influential the world over.”

Canil is an international leader in the study of the Earth's mantle, the super-heated layer of rock below the crust that makes up about 85 per cent of the planet's mass. His pioneering work has greatly expanded our understanding of volcanic rocks that host diamonds, ancient deep regions of the continents, and the evolution of oxygen in the Earth and atmosphere. “A better understanding of diamond geology aids in the exploration of Canada's North where diamond deposits are concentrated,” says Canil. “And the evolution of oxygen in the mantle—Earth's largest chemical reservoir—may be key to the rise of oxygen in the atmosphere over time, which led to the evolution of complex life forms on our planet.”

Navarro is one of the world's leading astrophysicists, whose research on

galaxy formation and evolution—primarily using sophisticated computer simulations—has shaped our current understanding of how structures in the universe formed. He is especially well known for his work on dark matter, a mysterious substance that holds galaxies together.

“Cosmology is undergoing a golden age of discovery that promises to rewrite the most fundamental laws of physics,” says Navarro. “It's only in the past few decades that humankind has been able to piece together a scientifically verifiable account of how the universe began and evolved. It's a privilege to be active in this field at this time.”

Weaver is one of the world's leading authorities on climate change. He is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in climate modeling and analysis and, in particular, as an expert on the role of the ocean in climate variability and change. His recent research on ancient climates has contributed significantly to our understanding of climate change and variability over the last 130,000 years of Earth history.

Weaver is also well known for his tireless efforts to engage the public on climate change issues. He is the author of two books for general audiences on climate change: *Keeping our Cool: Canada in a Warming World* (2008), and *Generation Us: The Challenge of Global Warming* (2011). Weaver has been a fellow of the Royal Society of



Canil. PHOTO: MARC CHRISTENSEN



Navarro. PHOTO: JO-ANN RICHARDS

Canada since 2001.

With the election of Canil and Navarro, 46 current or former UVic faculty



Weaver. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

members have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. More info: www.rsc.ca

New office handles student policies and non-academic misconduct

BY MELANIE GROVES

A new office within the Division of Student Affairs has opened its doors to oversee policies affecting student life at UVic and resolve allegations of non-academic student misconduct.

The Judicial Affairs Office administers the new Non-academic Student Misconduct Policy and works directly with students, faculty and other university community members to help resolve concerns in a consistent manner.

Approved in May 2011, the policy clarifies what constitutes non-academic student misconduct and establishes processes for submitting, investigating and responding to al-

legations, and appealing decisions made under it.

“When concerns about student conduct arise, our goal is to offer fair and efficient processes that emphasize informal resolution while educating students so they can understand the impacts of their behaviour,” says Student Affairs Policy Officer Jonathan Derry. “Now we are able to review concerns in a consistent and comprehensive way while protecting the rights of those involved and working toward solutions that serve the broader campus community.”

Any member of the university community concerned about student misconduct can file an incident report.

“We encourage people to use the confidential online reporting form,” says Derry. “We will begin an investigation if the issue meets our criteria and can't be resolved informally.”

Following an investigation, the office may implement or recommend sanctions in cases of confirmed misconduct. “When student misconduct is confirmed, the focus is on repairing the harm caused and restoring relationships and community, rather than on punishment,” says Derry.

The office is also responsible for developing, reviewing and implementing policies that affect student life at UVic. “We're working with campus stakeholders to make sure that policies

impacting students are clear, current and accessible,” says Derry.

The Judicial Affairs Office “is a resource for the entire university community and enhances our efforts to create a safe and inclusive community that supports student success,” says Jim Dunsdon, associate vice-president of student affairs. “It will also help ensure that policies across the student affairs portfolio meet the needs of students, departments and other users.”

For more information about the office, or for questions about what constitutes non-academic misconduct, visit the website at www.uvic.ca/judicialaffairs, call 250-721-6397 or email sapolicy@uvic.ca.

About the Board of Governors

The University of Victoria Board of Governors is one of two primary governing bodies of the university (the other being the UVic Senate). The board is responsible for the management, administration and control of the property, revenue and business affairs of the university.

The board consists of the chancellor, the president, two elected faculty members, one elected staff member, two students elected from the university's undergraduate or graduate student societies, and eight members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor

in Council. A chair and vice-chair are elected annually to one-year terms.

The board approves the strategic direction and policy of the university, as well as the operating budget framework and capital project expenditures. It sets tuition, maintains UVic's real property and other assets, and approves procedures for appointing senior academic administrators, faculty and staff. It appoints the university president and both supports and holds the president accountable.

The board meets six times each year. Each two-day session consists of

an initial day of committee meetings followed by separate open and closed sessions of the entire board.

"Serving on the board was an exciting and challenging experience," says Dr. Eric Sager (history), who has served as an elected faculty member. "It was a privilege to have a role in the management and approval of the university's property, its finances and its strategic directions."

More information about the board, including the roster of current members, the meeting schedule and minutes from past meetings: www.uvic.ca/university-secretary/governors/index.php



New members of the Board of Governors 2011–12



Bassi



Bowie



Driessen



Paterson

NAV BASSI Elected staff member

Bassi is the director of Academic and Administrative Services for University Systems at the University of Victoria as well as the chief technology officer for the Gustavson School of Business. Previously, he was responsible for establishing the Project Management Office for University Systems. Bassi holds a BSc in computer science and an MBA (service management) from UVic, as well as a Master's Certificate in Project Management and the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential. He has taught management information systems for the Gustavson MBA program and economics for the Division of Continuing Studies at UVic.

JENN BOWIE Elected student member

Bowie is pursuing an English major and film minor with a deep interest in policy and governance. For the past two years, she has been heavily involved in the University of Victoria Students' Society and currently serves

as UVSS director of student affairs, a role that engages with all forms of student groups on campus. Having spent the last four years at UVic, Bowie has "learned a lot about the university and gained a lot of useful experience that I am eager to put to good use at the Board of Governors level."

PETER DRIESSEN Elected faculty member

Driessen was appointed at UVic in 1985, and is currently a professor in the Faculty of Engineering with cross-appointments in music and computer science. His teaching and research interests include music technology, sound recording, audio signal processing and multimedia. He has over 100 publications and 14 patents and holds research funding from NSERC, SSHRC and the Canada Council for the Arts. Driessen was elected by members of the faculty to serve on the Board of Governors for a three-year term 2005–08. He served on the executive of the Faculty Association for four years, and is currently vice-president of the association. Other contributions to

UVic include service on Senate, the Senate Committee on Libraries and as faculty library representative.

LINDSAY LeBLANC Order-in-council appointee

LeBlanc holds a BCom (Hons) from the University of Northern British Columbia and an LLB from the University of Victoria. She was admitted to the British Columbia bar in 2006. As a partner with the law firm of Cox, Taylor, she focuses on property land development, corporate and commercial

law, estate planning, foreclosure, and administrative and municipal matters. LeBlanc has served as director-at-large on the Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust Committee of the Canadian Bar Association and as legal director of the Vancouver Island Sexual Health Society, and was treasurer and director of the Victoria section of the Canadian Bar Association, Young Lawyers. Her current one-year term on the Board of Governors began on July 31, 2011.

TARA PATERSON Elected student member

Tara Paterson is chairperson of the University of Victoria Students' Society, having served during 2010-11 as a UVSS director-at-large. She is pursuing a double major honours degree in political science and women's studies. Paterson is an active volunteer and organizer in the community and previously served on several student groups.



LeBlanc

around the ring

Terry Glavin on fact, fiction and Afghanistan

When it comes to his experiences in Afghanistan, acclaimed writer Terry Glavin is characteristically blunt. "In my own working life, I have never encountered such a deep and dark gulf between the real world and the way that world, and the war there, appear in the media." The winner of more than a dozen literary and journalism awards, Glavin, UVic's fifth annual Harvey Stevenson Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Nonfiction, will explore our need to understand the world through narratives, discuss the enduring value of true stories and launch his seventh book, *Come From the Shadows: The Long and Lonely Struggle for Peace in Afghanistan*, at a free public lecture, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in room A240 of the Human & Social Development Building.

Lauding local heroes

The 2012 Victoria Leadership Awards (VLA) program is accepting nominations until 4 p.m. Nov. 30. UVic is a founding partner of the VLA program, which celebrates the inspirational talents of our city's most tireless champions. The awards will be presented on Feb. 21 at a gala ceremony at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. For a list of past winners and more info: <http://bit.ly/pU6Lsk>

Nominations: Alumni Teaching Award

The UVic Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the Gillian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award recognizes the university's best sessional lecturers, lab instructors and senior lab instructors based on innovation, curriculum development and educational leadership. The recipient receives a \$2,000 cash prize from the Alumni Association. The award will be presented during Alumni Week 2012 in February. Sherwin was a senior lab instructor in the Department of Geography and was known for her commitment influence on students and colleagues. Nomination forms are online at alumni.uvic.ca and are due by Oct. 28.




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RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS

Monthly Income Based on \$100,000

REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100		\$172,710	\$159,063	\$146,747	\$133,544	\$128,137	\$120,615
Accelerated Payout:							
Income over 5 years				\$1,790			
Income over 10 years				\$959			
Income over 15 years				\$683			
Total 5 year payout					\$107,379		
Total 10 year payout					\$115,006		
Total 15 year payout					\$122,968		

* Based on best current GIC of 2.85%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

LIFE ANNUITIES							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male							
...payments cease at death		\$488	\$540	\$616	\$755	\$861	\$1,081
...10 years guaranteed		\$480	\$526	\$588	\$678	\$743	\$860
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$451	\$492	\$554	\$657	\$750	\$950
...10 years guaranteed		\$448	\$485	\$540	\$623	\$693	\$816
Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed		\$415	\$445	\$487	\$558	\$622	\$728

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ringers

MPA students (public administration) from the 2010 on-campus program undertook the BC Public Service Challenge this summer as part of their ADMN 507 curriculum. The challenge was to develop a proposal for a leadership identification program that is practical, affordable and supported by research. Seven groups formed within the 42-student cohort made presentations to a distinguished panel of BC public service experts. The winning team members were **Hana Embaye, David Ennis-Dawson, Kathryn Harris, Naomi Jehlicka, Caitlin Morrison, Alexandra Schwenger, and Martin Stegman**, who proposed a three-pronged selection process for identifying potential leadership candidates early in their careers with government.

Paul Stokes joined UVic as the new Chief Information Officer on Sept. 12. He will be responsible for providing information technology leadership to ensure that technology supports UVic's academic, research and administrative goals. Stokes comes to UVic from the University of Northern British Columbia where he served most recently as chief information officer and oversaw a centralized IT department and was responsible for institutional research, all IT and AV infrastructure, software and services for academic, administrative and research units. He is a graduate of UNBC and holds an MSc and BSc in computer science.

Lorna Crozier (writing) picked up Saskatchewan's \$10,000 Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence on Sept. 8. The award is given annually to a Saskatchewan author with an acclaimed body of literary work. The Swift Current-born Crozier certainly qualifies—as well as publishing over 15 books, Crozier has also won the Governor General's Literary Award, UVic's Craigdarroch Award for Excellence in Artistic Expression, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an officer of the Order of Canada.

Roberta Taylor (social work) is the recipient of the 2011 Elsie MacGill Northern Lights Award, presented by the International Organization of Women Pilots to recognize a Canadian woman's contribution to aviation. After a serious accident ended her career as a bush pilot, she focused on education, the environment and equity issues. Her numerous contributions to supporting and mentoring women complement her commitment to social justice and educating future social workers using innovative distance education courses.



UVic India Field School participants at the Taj Mahal. L-R, top row: Amy Fleming, Amanda Taylor, Sarah Brown, Crystal Tremblay, Carmen Smith, Laura Leigh McKenzie, Christa Brown, Dr. Philip Dearden; front row: Victoria Francis, Julia Bennett, Brittany Murphy, Lise Gibbons, Hannah Kobluk, Emma Coldwell. PHOTO: PHILIP DEARDEN

India Field School a rich cultural experience

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Travel in India is not for the faint of heart; the diverse culture, dense population and multiple language dialects are challenging for most travellers. In August, 20 UVic geography field school students took up the challenge and went to India, where they spent the next four weeks exploring issues of community governance, women's empowerment, resource use and management, and conservation. The India Field School was a first for UVic in partnership with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA).

UVic geography professor Phil Dearden and PhD candidate Crystal Tremblay led the group through Northern India from village to village, beginning in New Delhi and continuing to Haryana and the Himalayan region, followed by a number of days in the Alwar district of Rajasthan at the Sariska Tiger Reserve.

In each village the students observed and thought about areas of conservation, development and resource management. For many of the students this was their first time travelling outside Canada.

"I'm overwhelmed—overwhelmed with joy, appreciation, satisfaction and inspiration. This school was more than I ever could have hoped for. I've learned so much, I've changed, and I've found so much more to explore," says Ellen Hunter-Perkins.

"The whole field trip was very intense; the students were amazing and embraced all the challenges of travelling in a different culture," says Tremblay.

"The India field school was invaluable and was unquestionably the highlight of all my undergraduate degree experiences," writes Victoria Francis. "I feel I have gained many important skills and learned many valuable lessons, including interview skills,

criteria of participatory research, park management planning—just to name a few."

Julia Bennett writes, "In India, the country of diversity, it seemed fitting for us to have a wide variety of experiences. I kept saying 'I can't believe I'm in class right now,' when we were hiking through a national park, talking to locals in a village, or wandering through a palace. I realized the value of experiential learning opportunities like these. Instead of simply learning about topics, we saw them firsthand and had the opportunity to engage with them."

"The most memorable thing about this trip was all of the women whom I got to meet," says Sarah Brown. "Their daily struggles became real to me and I got to experience and feel what they go through. The oppression that they feel, I got to feel too. Their faces and their kindness is something that is cherished memory for me."

On their final day of the field course the students presented their observations at the PRIA headquarters in New Delhi. A highlight for students was having the PRIA staff and visitors from the Canadian High Commission attend.

"Field school success is defined largely by the quality of the students," says Dearden. "We could not have wished for a more engaged and perceptive group, and this resulted in an experience that many of them will remember for the rest of their lives."

Since 1982, PRIA has focused on key initiatives including participatory research, citizen-centric development, capacity building, knowledge building and policy advocacy. For more information on PRIA: <http://www.pria.org/>

Pictures and a video about the UVic Geography Field School: <http://crystaltremblay.com/>

UVic innovation goes to China

BY PATTY PITTS

Celebration and innovation will be the focus of an intensive upcoming trip to China by UVic President David Turpin and a university delegation that includes a team from UVic's internationally leading organization CanAssist.

The ground-breaking technology from CanAssist that helps those with disabilities increase their quality of life will be presented at events at the Jockey Club Rehabilitation Engineering Centre in Hong Kong and

the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. In China's capital, examples of the technology—an adaptive iPod, an adaptive joystick to aid with computer access and a one-button camera—will be demonstrated and presented to a young girl and a young man from the Beijing area.

"There are close to 700,000 people with a disability living in BC but there are an estimated 80 million people living with a disability in China," says CanAssist Director Nigel Livingston. "I think there is enormous potential for partnerships between CanAssist and Chinese

organizations to develop technologies that can assist these people. China made great strides in raising awareness about accessibility when it hosted the 2008 Paralympic Games, and I am delighted that there is interest in the CanAssist model in China."

On Oct. 16 Turpin will join university presidents from around the world at Shanghai's East China Normal University (ECNU) as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. The occasion will also mark an anniversary for UVic.

"While we're celebrating this milestone in Shanghai, we'll also be mark-

ing the 30th anniversary of UVic's partnership with ECNU, one of the longest-standing agreements with a Chinese university in Canada," says Turpin. "I'll also be making an announcement that demonstrates our commitment to this partnership and to increasing international exchanges for both students and faculty."

CanAssist Community Relations Coordinator Elsa Yan will be posting news, photos and possibly video from all three stops on the trip. She'll be sharing her updates via the UVic website www.uvic.ca.



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Hope drying up for Iraqi marshlands

A woman milks a water buffalo on a floating island near homes made from reeds.

This image of a simple yet sustainable life in the southern Iraqi marshes—an image formed by Wilfred Thesiger’s classic text *The Marsh Arabs*—is vastly different from the present reality. The University of Victoria’s Canada-Iraq Marshlands Initiative (CIMI) wrapped up last year, but it is still not clear whether the traditional way of living will be anything more in future than descriptions of old photos or lives lived on the marshland margins.

The CIMI, with \$5 million in federal funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), was a large-scale collaborative project to revive the vibrancy and diversity of marshland life in the largest wetlands of southwest Asia. The southern Iraqi marshlands are cradled between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers north of where the two waterways drain into the Persian Gulf.

The initiative was launched in 2005, with the first phase headed by the University of Waterloo and devoted to training wetlands scientists in Iraq.

UVic led the second phase, initiated in 2007 in cooperation with the Fraser Basin Council of British Columbia, University of Waterloo and Iraqi partners. Phase II focused on environmental management and good governance.

UVic geography professor Dr. Stephen Loneragan (now retired) and Maureen Maloney, QC, former director of UVic’s Institute of Dispute Resolution (now with SFU’s School of Public Policy) worked with David Marshall,



Fishers using a traditional boat in the Iraqi marshlands. PHOTO: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

executive director of the Fraser Basin Council, and John Talbot, a professional facilitator, to coordinate development of the long-term plans.

In the late 1980s, approximately half a million people were living in the region, but the marshlands were drained under Saddam Hussein’s regime and the population dwindled to fewer than 100,000 by 2003.

The CIMI produced a report last year, *Managing for Change: The Present and Future State of the Marshes of Southern Iraq*, summarizing the dramatic changes over the decades as well as the results of the initiative, and identified key factors that still need to be addressed.

Due to challenges including security problems, frequent drought, the presence of oil and, most ominously, an ongoing water crisis, “it is doubtful whether the marshlands can support at some future point the same culture and livelihood that once sustained the people,” says Loneragan. “Their way of living literally dried up in front of them.” According to recent reports,

fewer than 80,000 people live there now, with most residents situated at the edges of the marshes.

Maloney, in an earlier *Ring* article, acknowledged that one significant challenge was providing leadership “at a distance” because the researchers couldn’t go into Iraq. (Original *Ring* story: <http://bit.ly/pHpeuz>)

Everything had to be done through meetings in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. The project took one and a half years to develop, with an initial meeting in Amman, Jordan in 2006, followed by a second in Syria in October 2007 with leaders of the three marshland governorates, federal officials, sheikhs from the area’s largest tribes and the three regional universities.

Despite the obstacles, the UVic team was able to finalize a management plan that is now being used by Iraq’s Minister of State for the Marshlands to help develop a strategy for the future of the region. Meetings among stakeholders have continued, coordinated by a committee jointly chaired by the University of Basrah and the

federal Committee to Restore the Iraqi Marshlands. The project was also nominated for Harvard University’s prestigious Roy Family Award, which celebrates public-private partnerships that enhance environmental quality in a novel and creative manner.

Yet the future of the marshlands is unclear. “With upstream water withdrawals from Turkey and Syria, competing uses within Iraq, and the likelihood of more droughts caused by climate change, there simply won’t be enough water to sustain life in the Marshes,” notes Loneragan. “We are potentially looking at an environmental collapse on the order of the Aral Sea in Russia.”

Managing for Change, as well as a comprehensive atlas of 60 maps with full descriptions in English and Arabic, and a link to a 2010 interview with Loneragan, are available at <http://bit.ly/pepzIM>.

Copies of the report and atlas are available by emailing loneragan@uvic.ca.

Gold—good for development, toxic for children

BY TARA SHARPE

Small-scale gold mining may look like a treasure hunt to outsiders, but it is actually part of a global movement to escape poverty. Unfortunately, ‘X [also] marks the spot’ where children in Nigeria have grown ill over gold.

Dr. Kevin Telmer (earth and ocean sciences) was in northwestern Nigeria in July in his latest effort to help solve the global conundrum. “In Zamfara, 100,000 miners can extract 10 tonnes of gold in one year and realize most of that profit,” says Telmer. “Unlike bananas, coffee or cotton—which bring in less than 10 per cent for workers and growers—with gold the miners are seeing direct returns of about 80 per cent.”

This informal industry produces approximately 15 per cent of the world’s extracted gold and is practised in 70 developing countries by 10 million people. Miners and their

families are exposed to toxic levels of mercury and lead even while the rare metal itself means better livelihoods, healthier lives and a chance at a more prosperous future.

The gold ore is ground up, then mercury is added to bind the gold into an amalgam; this is then heated to evaporate the mercury and gold is left behind. This ancient method—a fast and cheap way to extract gold—was used extensively in the Canadian gold rushes. The mercury poisons the small-scale miners, the local community and environment, and travels around the globe contaminating the world’s fisheries.

And in Zamfara, it’s not just mercury. The world’s worst-ever lead “epidemic” has already killed hundreds of children this year in that region. Telmer was in the northwestern state of Nigeria to assess the current system and design a safer mining program that will improve the health, social

and environmental conditions of mining communities.

There, mercury is used but lead is the more acutely dangerous element. When gold is ground out of the lead-rich ore using motorized flour mills, lethal dust is released into the air to poison the soil.

Telmer partnered in Nigeria with Médecins Sans Frontières, Blacksmith Institute (New York) and US environmental consultancy Terra Graphics to develop a solution they collectively refer to as a three-legged stool.

Medical case management provides emergency treatment for those already experiencing toxicity. This is accompanied by environmental remediation. “And then there is prevention—initiation of safer mining practices,” says Telmer. “That’s where I come in. We focus on the origin of the problem.”

The mill grinding process is very dusty. The short-term solutions are

conceptually simple: use a wet processing method. Telmer assists with the set up, and in Zamfara wet processing produces more gold—an easy sell. With the mercury, distillation can recycle 95 per cent of the heavy metal, resulting in 20 times less exposure.

“We’re experts, we Canadians,” Telmer adds. “Gold is how most of the West was built. The Fraser River. The Klondike. It is a very Canadian industry, and we’re heavily involved to this day. A lot of the capital required for gold exploration is raised on our nation’s stock market. And a lot of Canadian junior exploration companies use small-scale miners as an exploration tool—an ethically questionable practice. We can do better.”

Telmer founded the non-profit local Artisanal Gold Council (AGC), which is in the early stages of setting up a corporate social-responsibility fund for the small-scale miners. Visit www.artisanalgold.org for more info.

ringers

Professor Emeritus Wolfgang Hoefler (electrical and computer engineering) is one of two recipients of the IEEE/Microwave Theory and Techniques Society 2011 Pioneer Award, which recognizes a major, lasting contribution in the field.

UVic writing instructor Joan MacLeod is among six playwrights shortlisted for the \$100,000 Elinore and Lou Simonovitch Prize, the largest award in Canadian theatre. The award recognizes accomplishments in design, direction and playwriting in three-year cycles, with this year’s focus on playwriting. MacLeod’s plays include *Another Home Invasion*, *Homechild*, *The Shape Of A Girl*, *2000*, *Little Sister*, *The Hope Slide*, *Amigo’s Blue Guitar*, *Toronto*, *Mississippi* and *Jewel*. The winner will be announced on Nov. 7 at a ceremony in Toronto.

Dr. John Esling, chair of UVic’s Department of Linguistics, was elected president of the International Phonetic Association (IPA) in August. A linguist and phonetician whose research has helped advance scientific understanding of speech, Esling taught at the University of Leeds before coming to UVic in 1981. The IPA is the oldest representative organization for phoneticians, established in Paris in 1886, with the aim of promoting the scientific study of phonetics. Esling is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; currently editor of the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*; and director of UVic’s Phonetics Laboratory. Esling has also participated in the development of several phonetics teaching and speech analysis software programs.

Vikes cross-country and track and field athlete **Darren Mazzei** (education) was named one of the Top Eight Academic All-Canadians for 2010–11 by Canadian Interuniversity Sport Sept. 27. Academic All-Canadians are athletes who have maintained an average of 80 per cent or better over the academic year while competing for one or more of their university’s varsity teams. Among these outstanding individuals, one female and one male student-athlete from each of the four CIS regional associations are selected annually as Top Eight Academic All-Canadians. The Vikes boast one of the highest percentages of Academic All-Canadians in the country, with over one-in-five receiving the distinction.



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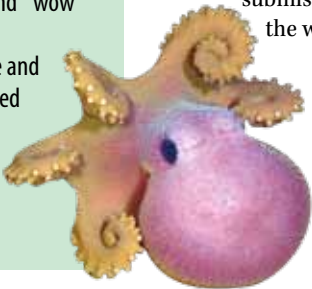
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ringers

Twenty current and former UVic theatre students and four professors travelled to the Czech Republic in June for the Prague Quadrennial of Performance, Design and Space, a ten-day competitive exhibition that focuses on the development of performance design arts around the world. Led by Professor Allan Stitchbury and MA candidate Claire Hill, UVic participated in the student exhibition with a digital retrospective of the past four years of set and costume design at the Phoenix Theatre. Students also participated in design seminars, and recent graduate Ingrid Hansen participated in a stunning movement-based performance called Six Acts, which attracted over 400 attendees.

UVic's NEPTUNE Canada ocean network, the International Space Station and the Large Hadron Collider are all on the top 10 list of "humankind's most ambitious science projects," published on PopSci.com, the digital edition of Popular Science magazine. The rankings are based on construction costs, operating budget, size of staff and physical size of the project, as well as scientific utility, usefulness to the average person, and "wow" factor. Overall, NEPTUNE Canada takes ninth place and is the only Canadian-based project on the list. To see the PopSci.com ranking: on.msnbc.com/okcgxM



UVIC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Share your UVic Great Moments

BY PATTY PITTS

The organizers of UVic's upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations are inviting you to take a stroll down memory lane and contribute to the anniversary website at the same time. The link to "Great Moments at UVic" on the web is now live and ready to accept your nominations.

"A great moment can be an individual or team achievement, a physical campus development or a memorable UVic event that reflects UVic's commitment to excellence and contributed in some way to UVic being one of Canada's leading universities," says Anniversary Events Manager James Burrough. "We want to try to capture many of the ways that UVic and its people have had an impact on Canada, its communities and the world. A selection committee will review the submissions in the new year to ensure they meet the criteria and will recommend which great moments will be featured on the anniversary website during the 2012-13 celebratory period."

Burrough also encourages people to share their own personal great moments. "Maybe you met your spouse while you were working or studying at UVic. That's a great moment for you. And we plan on sharing as many submissions as possible on the website."



Commonwealth Games volunteers acknowledge applause from the crowd during the Games' closing ceremonies at Centennial Stadium, August 1994
PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Over the past 50 years there have been many great moments at UVic. Some that could receive nominations include the university launching its co-op program—now one of the biggest in Canada—and becoming one of the first Canadian universities to sign a partnership agreement with a Chinese university.

In the '80s both UVic's men's and women's basketball teams had record-

setting national title runs. In 1994 UVic helped host the Commonwealth Games and was the site of both the opening and closing ceremonies and many memorable athletic performances.

In the past decade UVic took delivery of one of the world's fastest computers and installed both the NEPTUNE Canada ocean network and the VENUS coastal network,

part of the Ocean Networks Canada Observatory.

It's possible to submit photographs with your nominations for great moments, and submissions will be accepted until Jan. 20, 2012. Submissions should be no longer than 200 words. To submit a great moment go to www.uvic.ca/anniversary and click on the "Great moments" tab.

THE SCIENCE OF SOUND

Music and computer science degree turns five

BY JOHN THRELFALL

If you tweak it, they will come. That was the thinking behind the creation of the combined Music and Computer Science degree program five years ago.

"I've taught courses in music technology since I came to UVic in 1990," says program co-creator Andrew Schloss. "We used to get emails asking, 'Is there any way I can study music technology?' and I'd have to say, 'Not exactly—you could take these courses in music and these courses in engineering,' and so on. We created this program because we saw a need, and it's been a smashing success."

Originally created by Schloss—who specializes in computer research in music and acoustics—and electrical and computer engineering professor Peter Driessen, the teaching faculty has doubled since 2006, thanks to the addition of audio engineer Kirk McNally and musician and computer scientist George Tzanetakis.

Now boasting 40 students, it's clear the program was ahead of its time. "At first, people just didn't get it—it was outside their experience," recalls Schloss. "We worked really hard to convince everyone—including our colleagues—that we should do this; now everybody uses iPods and

iPhones, everyone looks up songs on the web, so everybody understands."

No surprise there. Once the sole interest of tech geeks and audio cliques, the two fields and how they relate have been forever changed by the digital revolution. From recording technology and computerized instruments to creating audio for video games and platforms for delivery, music and computers have now been irrevocably fused. "All music is in the clouds," says Schloss. "There's tremendous effort being made to figure out how to access it, transmit it and create it. Computer science and music are one of the most natural combinations."

Schloss should know. As a percussionist and electronic musician, he's a virtuoso on an instrument called the radiodrum and has played alongside the famed likes of Ricki Lee Jones, Joe Jackson, Tito Puente and Hilario Durán, as well as sound pioneers Trimpin and Leon Theremin. Schloss also received a SSHRC Research/Creation Grant in Fine Arts (along with Driessen and Tzanetakis) in 2011, and is one of the scientists featured in BC's Year of Science initiative.

"There are so many young people now who love music, and this is a highly employable area," says Schloss, noting the proliferation of smart phones

has also increased employment options. "Telephony, data, speech and music are all mixed up now, so there's a need for people to do all kinds of things with speech. This program allows people who love music to actually study something that will lead them to good and interesting employment."

But it's not just about music. Schloss notes the importance of sound in video games ("The more sophisticated games get, the more they want high-quality audio—and that even includes things like reverberation inside caves, for example") and how Tzanetakis' own research into music information retrieval can not only be used for search-and-discovery music apps like SoundHound, but also for more surprising bioacoustic applications. "Using the machine-learning techniques that George teaches, we have several students working on finding and identifying whale songs, which is kind of cool. So, beyond music, there are a lot of things that are scientific and creative."

One of the most interesting of all the various computer science initiatives on campus right now, the combined Music and Computer Science program has a promising future, says Schloss. "It's pretty big now, and it's getting more popular. We're turning people away."

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calendar highlights

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

at the galleries

uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

- **Exhibit** *In Her Own Words: Works and Writings*. By Emily Carr, Katharine Maltwood and Myfanwy Pavelic. To Nov. 26. Legacy Art Gallery and Café. 630 Yates St. 250-721-8289
- **Exhibit** *Kuluta and the Professor: The Friendship of Henry Hunt and Peter Smart*. Oct. 8 to Nov. 26. Legacy Art Gallery and Café. 630 Yates St. 250-721-8289

at the theatre

www.phoenixtheatres.ca
250-721-8000

- **Theatre** *Love Kills*. Oct. 13–22. By Kyle Jarrow. Produced by Theatre Inconnu. Directed by Clayton Jevne. This critically acclaimed rock musical and psychological drama revisits the aftermath of a historic 1958 spree killing, bringing us inside the investigation and inside the hearts of the two teenage lovers who are pressured to confess before dawn. Phoenix Theatre. \$13–24. 250-721-8000
- **Theatre** *Rookery Nook*. Nov. 3–19. By Ben Travers. Directed by Bindon Kinghorn. Fast paced and full of witty repartee, this stylish 1920s British farce is comparable to the comedies of Traver’s contemporary, Noel Coward. Phoenix Theatre. \$16–\$24. 250-721-8000

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

- **Lecture/Seminar** 12:30 p.m. *Japan in 2011: Tragedy and Revival*. Prof. Gary Knight (Florida State Univ.) will describe the effects of the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear power plant meltdowns on business and global commerce. Strong C122. 250-721-7020
- **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music guitar students. MacLaurin Bldg. B125. 250-721-8634
- **Lecture/Seminar** 2:45 p.m. *China Transplants its SEZ Concept to Africa*. Dr. Connie Carter (Royal Roads Univ.). Social Sciences & Math B215. 250-721-7327
- **Lecture/Seminar** 4:30 p.m. *Seminarium*. Also Oct. 14/21/28 and Nov. 4. The research collective Seminarium aims to provide a fruitful arena in which to cultivate on-campus interest in Medieval Latin texts. Clearihue C253. 250-721-7367

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

- **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Advocacy and Conservation: The Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt Example*. Sponsored by the Dept. of Biology. Fraser 159.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

- **Lecture/Seminar** 12:30 p.m. *Merging Without Alienating: A Mixed-Method Study of Cross-Border Integration*. Dr. Mary Yoko Brannen (INSEAD international graduate business school). MacLaurin D110. 250-721-7020
- **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Harlots in the Household? Religion and Sexual Deviance in the Criminal Courts of France*. Justine Semmens (UVic). Strong C118. 250-721-6325
- **Lecture/Seminar** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Program*. Jennifer Stillwell, an interdisciplinary artist working in the areas of sculpture, video and installation. Visual Arts A162.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

- **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music voice students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634
- **Lecture/Seminar** 2:45 p.m. *Projections of Relative Sea-Level Change in the Canadian Arctic*. Thomas James, Geological Survey of Canada. Social Sciences and Math B215. 250-721-7327

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

- **Lansdowne Lecture** 11:30 a.m. *Sor Juana and Classical Female Exemplars: Suicides and Sudden Death*. Dr. Anthony Lappin (Univ. of Manchester). Strong C126. 250-721-7413
- **Orion Series in Fine Arts** 8 p.m. *Aiyun Huang, percussion*. Internationally respected soloist and educator, Aiyun Huang (McGill Univ.). MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

- **Earth & Ocean Sciences Seminar** 3:30 p.m. *Turbulence in the Upper Ocean Forced by Wind, Waves and Surface Buoyancy Loss*. Dr. Ann Gargett, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA. Wright Centre A104. 250-721-6120

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

- **Other** 10 a.m. *International Opportunities Fair*. Have you always dreamed about studying abroad but don't know where to start? University Centre Lobby. 250-472-4523
- **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Lieder at Lunch with Sharon & Harald Krebs*. Twos and Threes. MacLaurin B037. 250-721-8634

- **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *The Wettest Spot in the Dominion of Canada: Conceptualizing Poverty in 20th-Century Vancouver*. Dr. Jordan Stanger Ross (UVic). Strong C118. 250-721-6325

- **Lecture/Seminar** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Program*. Derek Sullivan draws upon overlapping histories of modernist design, abstraction and conceptual art to unsettle notions of meaning and authorship. Visual Arts A162.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

- **Conference** 10 a.m. and Oct. 21. *Migrations in the Hispanic and Italian World*. The Dept. of Hispanic and Italian Studies presents its 27th annual colloquium. The Thursday sessions will be presented in English, and the Friday morning session will be presented in Spanish. University Centre A180. 250-721-7413

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

- **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music string students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

- **Café Scientifique Lecture** 6:30 p.m. *Engineering Replacement Organs: From Stem Cells to Reality*. Dr. Stephanie Willerth (UVic). Maple Rm., Strathcona Hotel, 919 Douglas St. 250-472-4067

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Exits to the Posthuman Future*. Arthur Kroker and Marilouise Kroker (UVic). Strong C118. 250-721-6325
- **Lecture/Seminar** 7 p.m. *Islamic History Month Canada: Copernicus, Galileo and Beyond: Renaissance Interactions with Arabic and Islamic Science*. George Saliba (Columbia Univ.). Social Sciences & Math A120. 250-721-6325

- **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Investigating the Migration of Rufous Hummingbirds*. Ecologist Dr. Jonathan Moran. Sponsored by the Dept. of Biology. Fraser 159.

- **Lecture/Seminar** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Program*. Art Clay, specialist in the performance of self-created works with the use of intermedia. Visual Arts A162

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

- **Social Justice Studies Lecture** 7 p.m. *Exit Environmentalism: Reflections on the Past and Future of a (Failing) Social Movement*. Dr. R. Michael M’Gonigle (UVic). Hickman 105. <http://web.uvic.ca/socialjustice/>

- **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *The Monument from Kigali to Toronto: Performing Genocide Across Urban Space and Time*. Kim Solga. www.TheCityTalks.ca. The Legacy Art Gallery 630 Yates St.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

- **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music woodwind students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634
- **Lecture/Seminar** 2:45 p.m. *Charting the Future of Canada’s Capital in the 21st Century*. The National Capital Commission invites Canadians to discuss their aspirations for Canada’s Capital. Joe Pittari, DPRA Canada, Inc. Social Sciences & Math B215. 250-721-7327

- **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *The Un-natural History of Aquatic Invasive Species in British Columbia*. Dr. Melissa Frey (Royal BC Museum). Sponsored by the Dept. of Biology. Fraser 159.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

- **Music** 10 a.m. *Inside Opera with Robert Holliston*. An in-depth presentation and discussion of Pacific Opera Victoria’s production of “Mary’s Wedding.” MacLaurin B125. Reservations are required: 250-382-1641 or email: rsvp@pov.bc.ca

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- **Flu shot clinic** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *UVic Health Services Flu Shot Clinic*. Everyone welcome. \$20 cash only. Bring medical card. HSD A461. www.health.uvic.ca

- **Lecture/Seminar** 12:30 p.m. *Fateful Complexity: Genesis of Unplanned Interconnectedness of Pakistan’s Tribal Areas to Talibanisation & Other Conflicts*. Ivan G. Somlai. Clearihue D267. 250-721-7020

- **Distinguished Women Scholar Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Adventures of Foreign Languages*. Yoko Tawada, Japanese author. Hickman 110. 250-721-7320

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Imaginary Friends*. Doug Jarvis. Strong C118. 250-721-6325

- **Lecture/Seminar** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Program*. Eric Fredericksen, director of Western Bridge, a nonprofit exhibition space in Seattle. Visual Arts A162.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- **Lecture/Seminar** 12:30 p.m. *Malling Over Japan: Perspectives on Shopping Centre Development and Management*. Dr. Hendrik Meyer Ohle (National Univ. of Singapore). Strong C108. 250-721-7020

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music brass students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634



The rock musical *Love Kills* runs October 13 to 22 at UVic’s Phoenix Theatre featuring theatre alumna Marina Lagacé (right) and former student Brendan Bailey as the teenage spree killers Caril Ann Fugate and Charlie Starkweather. PHOTO: HUBERT WANG.



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United Way Campus Campaign

The UVic 2011 United Way campaign is officially away from the starting blocks, following the barbeque launch on Sept. 21. This year’s fundraising target of \$290,000 is UVic’s most ambitious goal ever.

“UVic has been a strong supporter of the United Way of Greater Victoria for over 35 years,” says campaign chair Charles McQuade. “This year one of our goals is to expand the number of employees who contribute through automatic payroll deduction.”

Faculty and staff who return the pledge form and sign up to give as little as \$6 a month will be helping the nearly 128,000 Victorians who benefit from United Way-supported programs and services delivered through 67 agencies.

Pledge forms for UVic employees will arrive in the next few weeks. Staff and faculty who contribute through their pledge packages will be eligible to win weekly prizes from Oct. 11 to Dec. 16.

Mark your calendars for upcoming United Way campus events including the Plasma Car Races, Nov. 2 at noon in the SUB; the Hearts and Hands Craft Fair on Nov. 15; and UVic Libraries book sale Nov. 29 to Dec. 2.

For more information, visit <http://unitedway.uvic.ca> or contact campaign@uvic.ca.

ShakeOut earthquake drill Oct. 20

Do you know what to do when the earth starts shaking? Are you ready to “drop, cover and hold on?” UVic did a great job of “shaking out” during the first province-wide earthquake drill last January. As the annual date for BC has been changed to October, a second large provincial exercise is planned on Oct. 20 at exactly 10:20 a.m.

The two-minute drill will help you to learn the immediate response procedures for an earthquake. “Practicing these simple procedures now could make a big difference to your health and safety when an earthquake occurs,” says Daphne Donaldson, UVic’s manager of emergency planning.

More information and resources: http://ohs.uvic.ca/emergency_management/earth_power.php and www.shakeoutbc.ca

day in the life

BY KAYLA PEPPER

Jane Collins’ office walls are a scrap-book of touristy photos from around the globe. The photos aren’t of her, but of the smiling UVic Business students she’s sent on international exchange.

Collins is the International Programs Exchange Coordinator for the Gustavson School of Business. For 20 years she’s helped build the program to now include 72 partnership schools in 35 countries. She primarily works with incoming and outgoing students to ensure their exchange experiences are transformative and exhilarating.

Her globetrotting started at 16 years old. After grade 11, she went on a Rotary Exchange to Finland for a year—a brave ambition for a girl who self-admittedly lived a sheltered childhood in Qualicum Beach. This experience broadened her global perspective and built her confidence.

“I still know what it’s like to land in that country and be so homesick,” says Collins. “I didn’t speak Finnish. My first family didn’t speak English. But, in hindsight I’m lucky. It was hard, but anything of value is hard.”

She came away from the experience with friendships she maintains



Jane Collins. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

to this day. And that’s what she wants for her students.

Trips to Europe, Mexico and a work exchange to Australia later, Collins proudly devotes her working life to helping students have the kind of experiences she was privileged to have.

The busiest period for her is January to the end of April when she devotes all her time to helping students prepare for their trips abroad.

“Then students come back [to UVic] and they can accomplish anything. It’s great to see that transformation and know it’s because of the travel they’ve done.”

Collins smiles ear-to-ear as she emphasizes how fortunate she is to work with such a wonderful team at UVic and around the world. She’s someone who’s turned a life-long passion into a career.

When she’s not on a trip or planning someone’s voyage, Collins says she’s quite the introvert. She credits her job for pushing her out of that quiet life of reading, sewing and leisurely evenings with friends. Plus, with increased airport security, she says that travel has changed and taken some of the pleasure away. These days she’s playing host to her friends

from Finland and Australia.

While she doesn’t have any big trips on the horizon, she encourages students to apply to the program.

“I think we make it so easy and safe for our students to go,” she says.

Collins says she’s been extremely lucky not to have ever run into safety issues while travelling abroad. But her advice to students and anyone travelling is to “stick with it because people are wonderful no matter what country they’re from.”

“You do learn that people are people and people want to help. No one’s going to see you stranded. If they can help, they will.”

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE OF CANADA

Student Refugee Program changes lives at UVic

BY SASHA GRONSDAHL

The arrivals area of the Victoria International Airport is generally a pretty quiet place. So this August, when it was filled with UVic students holding brightly coloured signs in Swahili, it was clear they were celebrating an important occasion.

The welcoming committee was there to greet Ali Issack, Mohamed Idle, and Hanna Godalle to Canada. The three students were sponsored to come to Canada and study at UVic through the World University Service of Canada’s (WUSC) Student Refugee Program,

They are three of 72 students who were sponsored to come to Canada this year from refugee camps in Africa and the Middle East through the WUSC Student Refugee Program.

WUSC works in refugee camps in Syria, Kenya and Malawi to provide

young adults living in the camps with an opportunity to resettle in Canada and continue their education at a Canadian post-secondary institution. In the camps, students apply for the program and go through a competitive selection process. In Canada, local committees of student volunteers on university campuses fill out sponsorship papers and make a commitment to support the sponsored students for their first year in Canada.

The UVic WUSC local committee has been active since 1981, and the student club currently sponsors three students each year. In recent years, sponsored students have been from Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Of this year’s students, Ali and Mohamed are originally from Somalia, and Hanna’s country of origin is Ethiopia. All three students travelled to Canada from refugee camps in Kenya.

Once the sponsored students arrive in Canada, UVic WUSC is responsible for everything from arranging their housing to navigating the Canadian immigration system. Along with coordinating the logistical details of the students’ resettlement, UVic WUSC helps new students integrate into life in Canada by organizing social activities from potlucks to an intramural soccer team.

The program is funded by a yearly donation from the UVic administration and by student fees. Each full-time undergraduate student pays \$1.50 towards WUSC each semester. This funding provides financial support for the sponsored students’ first year in Canada, and usually they find jobs and take out student loans to pay for the remainder of their education.

“My thanks to WUSC and UVic is unlimited,” says Ali. “WUSC has



L-R: Ali Issack, Mohamed Idle and Hanna Godalle. PHOTO: SASHA GRONSDAHL

become a famous organization all over the camps in Kenya due to its wonderful positive impact on the refugee students.”

Canadian student volunteers benefit greatly from the program as well, says UVic WUSC’s General Coordinator Felicia Wall. “Meeting the new students and learning from them is the most rewarding part of being in

WUSC,” she says. “It makes me smile whenever I see them on campus.”

To all those who made his sponsorship possible, Ali has one final message of appreciation. “I am honoured to be a recipient of this tremendous gift,” he says. “Thanks to your generous support, I am proud to be a first-year student at the University of Victoria.”

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