



University  
of Victoria

SPEED  
READING

CHILDCARE EXPANSION

Childcare plan released

UVic's Working Group on Child Care has released a plan for childcare expansion with recommendations for increasing capacity immediately and in the future. Full report: Look under "News" at <http://web.uvic.ca/vpfin/> and <http://web.uvic.ca/vpac/>

STRATEGIC PLAN RENEWAL

Academic leaders prepare for review of strategic plan

Academic administrators from across campus met on Jan. 28 and explored the broader context and underlying complexities and issues involved in the current review and renewal of UVic's strategic plan. They identified four broad areas to be addressed as consultations and discussions continue across campus in the coming weeks. Story, p.2

THE WORKPLACE

UVic one of BC's "top employers"

For the second consecutive year, UVic has been recognized as one of BC's top 100 employers by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers. "Reasons for selection" include UVic's commitment to providing employees with opportunities for work/life balance by offering alternative work options; supporting new parents with leave top-ups and an on-site day care; and encouraging employees' ongoing development by providing education assistance. Details: [www.eluta.ca/top-employer-university-of-victoria](http://www.eluta.ca/top-employer-university-of-victoria)

AT RING.UVIC.CA

Why science matters

Columbia University professor of physics and mathematics Brian Greene lectured on campus Feb. 1, leading the capacity audience on a mind-bending journey chronicling the increasing complexity laid out by Einstein's theories of relativity, and explaining what Greene considers today's best shot at explaining how it all fits together: string theory. Krista Zala reports at [ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)

Rhodes and his dog Sydney.

PHOTO: VALERIE SHORE



RECYCLEMANIA P.6

THE RING

FEBRUARY 2011

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper

[ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)



Simard in front of UVic's new telescope. PHOTO: NICK WEST

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TELESCOPE  
WILL BE 200  
TIMES MORE  
POWERFUL THAN  
THE LARGEST  
TELESCOPE  
CURRENTLY IN  
OPERATION

EYE ON THE SKY

UVic expertise helps build  
the world's largest telescope

BY GREG PRATT

Imagine a telescope so powerful that it would let you see a loonie coin being held by someone in Calgary—from Victoria. Sound far-fetched? The technology is closer to reality than you think.

An international team of scientists and engineers is currently building the world's largest and most advanced optical telescope—the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)—and University of Victoria researchers are playing a key role in its development.

When the TMT starts observing the sky in 2019, astronomers will be able to detect and study light from the earliest stars and galaxies, analyze planets around nearby stars and test many of the fundamental laws of physics.

The TMT project team has selected the summit of Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawaii as its preferred site.

With its 30-metre diameter mirror, the TMT will have nine times the light-gathering power of the largest telescopes in use today and more than 10 times the resolution of the Hubble Space Telescope.

"TMT will be 200 times more powerful than the largest telescope currently in operation," says Dr. Luc Simard, an astronomer with UVic's Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics. "It will literally show us the birth of galaxies, stars and exoplanetary systems."

The TMT project is a partnership among the California Institute of Technology, the University of California and the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA).

Simard is the science instruments group leader for the TMT project. "We currently have three main teams spanning 15 different institutions—not to mention

industry—and two continents," he explains. "It's already a big job, and it will get bigger as our new partners—Japan, China and India—get integrated into the instrument teams and we get started on actual construction."

Another key UVic contributor to the telescope project is mechanical engineer Dr. Colin Bradley and his adaptive optics team, which is developing a solution to one of the main challenges facing TMT observations—turbulence from the Earth's atmosphere.

The TMT will have a set of deformable mirrors that "will basically change shape in real time to compensate for image distortions caused by the Earth's atmosphere," says Bradley. "In terms of the engineering, this is an extremely complex system. Canada is a world leader in this kind of work."

SEE TELESCOPE P.6

Gaming? Dog walking?  
Whatever it takes to get off the couch

BY PATTY PITTS

Bikes, video games, dogs—UVic behavioural psychologist Dr. Ryan Rhodes has studied a variety of motivations to get people off the couch and into a more active lifestyle. He and fellow researchers have examined whether owning a dog motivates people to maintain a regular walking schedule and has demonstrated that using computer game bikes to power the gaming process is effective in helping people stick to an exercise regime.

Since regular exercise is a proven factor in

fighting cancer, Rhodes was recently recognized for his work and awarded one of only two 2011 Canadian Cancer Society Senior Scientist Awards worth \$500,000 over five years. The award frees Rhodes from his teaching duties to devote more time to his research.

"I'm very honoured to be given this award and opportunity," says Rhodes, who is director of UVic's Behavioural Medicine Laboratory. "The next series of studies on exercise games, conducted during the tenure of this award, will be focused on evaluating these games in the family home. Prior research has shown positive outcomes in terms of adherence

and fitness benefits, but the studies are lab-based and comprised of young males. There is a convincing link between physical activity and reductions in the prevalence of several cancers. The problem is motivating people to exercise. I want to see if the results I've achieved in the lab hold up in the home where there are far more distractions."

One distraction that Rhodes and his fellow researchers welcome is the family dog.

"Research has shown that walking is a very effective means of achieving physical activity levels

SEE DOG WALKING P.8



# ringers

**John Celona** (music) picked up a Best in Category nod in the 2010 California Film Awards for his thriller screenplay, *Nightfreight*, as well as an invitation to the awards ceremony this month in San Diego. This is the second win for the yet-to-be-made film, which follows his 22-minute 2009 HD film, *The Strange Case of DJ Cosmic*; the first was an award for his self-made minute-and-a-half trailer, [www.imdb.com/video/demo\\_reel/vi763730713/](http://www.imdb.com/video/demo_reel/vi763730713/) which picked up Best Art Direction in the 2010 International Movie Trailers Festival in August 2010. As for the future prospects of *Nightfreight*, Celona says, "I am in the long process of raising a budget for the feature-length. You know how that goes."



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## THE RING

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**Director** Bruce Kilpatrick, 250-721-7638, [abk@uvic.ca](mailto:abk@uvic.ca)

**Managing editor** Robie Liscomb, 250-721-7640, [robie@uvic.ca](mailto:robie@uvic.ca)

**Production** Beth Doman

**Display ads** Bonnie Light, 250-388-5321, [ringads@uvic.ca](mailto:ringads@uvic.ca)

**Calendar** Mandy Crocker, 250-721-8587, [ucom@uvic.ca](mailto:ucom@uvic.ca)

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The Ring, PO Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955  
E-mail: [ucom@uvic.ca](mailto:ucom@uvic.ca)

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# Academic leaders identify key areas for strategic plan discussions

The University of Victoria's academic leaders recently spent a day preparing for discussions about renewing the university's strategic plan that will take place in their units and across campus as part of the spring term consultation process.

At the annual academic leadership retreat, chaired by UVic President David Turpin and new Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Tremblay on Jan. 28, deans, department chairs, directors of schools and research centres and senior administrators gathered to discuss the changing environment for post-secondary education and the implications for UVic.

Tremblay told the gathering that one of the goals for the retreat was to establish the "broader context," to identify the "underlying complexities and issues" that would assist engagement with some of the key questions, and to ultimately ensure that the content of the renewed strategic plan is "determined from the bottom up" with a clear sense of "collective ownership" by faculty, students and staff.

After presentations on the changing landscape for the BC public sector and the national and international context for post-secondary education, the participants broke into a dozen discussion groups to identify their choices for the most significant questions or issues to be tackled in the review of the plan.

Tremblay summarized the wide-ranging discussion into four main areas.

■ **The goals, needs, and expectations of our future students:** How do we build the right programs and support structures? How can we build on

our success in attracting and retaining Aboriginal students? How do we meet the different learning needs of a diverse student population? To what extent should we take advantage of distributed and blended learning to meet the needs of graduate and international students?

■ **The tension between budgetary realities and taking advantage of opportunities through efficiencies and streamlining:** How can we be part of the solution to major social issues, e.g. health care? Is there an opportunity to help shape the metrics by which the university system will be judged?

■ **Social responsibility and community engagement:** How can we think in terms of the international community and look at a world citizenship framework where the local is clearly connected to the global?

■ **The opportunity to create an innovative research and program structure:** How can we further the integration of academic and research programs and take advantage of the opportunity to recruit and retain leading researchers who can serve as the mentors for the next generation of researchers? How can we reward and celebrate teaching at a research-intensive university?

A follow-up session was powered by a panel that saw members square off on a series of deliberately provocative positions on issues such as interdisciplinary programs, student success, research strategies, and the size of the university. Small group discussions then identified challenges and opportunities associated with each of the areas.

At the end of the day, Tremblay told the group that it had been "a really exciting session. I learned a lot. I'm hoping that these are the issues which you are going to take back to your units and start thinking about the process."

Turpin called the retreat "an incredibly rich day" full of good discussion. He asked the academic leaders to facilitate discussion in their areas and to "do everything you can to encourage your colleagues to look at some of those big issues that are out there, because those are the ones that are truly going to shape our institution in very dramatic ways in the years ahead."

He also suggested that the consultation process will help the university community identify and get comfortable with the opposing points of view that will stimulate constructive debate. "We need to acknowledge that there are tensions out there, and to actually revel in them. We're a university, we're not supposed to agree, we're supposed to challenge each other and yet at the same time, as an institution, we have to figure out which way we are going. There are some very valid points of view on opposite ends of the continuum."

The consultation process to renew the plan is in full swing, with a schedule of more than 40 meetings to take place between representatives of the university's Planning and Priorities Committee and faculty, student, staff and external groups. (For a full schedule, visit [uvic.ca/strategicreview](http://uvic.ca/strategicreview).) In addition, many departments, schools, units and groups will be holding their own meetings to organize their feedback to the committee.

## Get involved—strategically

Comment on the discussion document online at <http://web.uvic.ca/strategicreview/discussion.php>

See why three campus leaders think you should get involved in the discussions around the strategic plan: [www.youtube.com/uvic](http://www.youtube.com/uvic)



Inayatoli

the faculty's largest capital campaign (with \$76 million raised of a \$120 million goal) in support of major infrastructure and endowed projects, including new buildings, research chairs, graduate scholarships and experiential learning initiatives.

Inayatoli has also worked closely with former Waterloo President David Johnston (now Canada's Governor General) in achieving alumni, development and international institutional goals.

His skills and expertise were particularly valuable to the start-up of Waterloo's satellite campus in Dubai and in developing new partnerships benefiting students in the public and private sector in India.

He holds both BEng and MBA degrees and is currently completing a PhD in management sciences.

## VIEWPOINT

# Humanities, languages, arts: A luxury? A mission? A must?

BY DR. HÉLÈNE CAZES (FRENCH) AND DR. GORDON S. SHRIMPTON (EMERITUS, GREEK AND ROMAN STUDIES)

Are language departments under threat in the neo-liberal academic landscape?

The brutal announcement of "termination" for language departments, including classics, and the drama programs at SUNY Albany last September sounded a shrill alarm. Instantly, petitions supporting the condemned departments, open letters to the university president, and demonstrations of support for the faculty and students were circulated on the web and commented on in dozens of blogs. Suddenly, as if some invisible and tacit border had been transgressed, academics—and notably a talented biologist and polemicist—were concerned for the fate of smaller humanities departments. The concern for humanities had crossed the garden fence of disciplines.

A similar emotional outpouring served well the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto; following the public announcement of its dismantlement, hundreds of signatures and open letters stopped the process at the inception and saved the day! Polemics and rallies, however, are not sound management strategies.

Under financial stress, institutions must reduce or eliminate "luxuries." Schools cut music and art programs, and the US Congress sets its sights on the Public Broadcasting System and the National Endowment for the Arts.

So who decides what a "luxury" is and how? The inevitability of cuts to arts programs in schools when money is short establishes an expectation in the public mind. So when another public institution, like a university, runs short of money, what will it do? No admin-

istrator wants to deal with a public outcry, so why not take the line of least resistance and close down programs where public apathy is most to be expected?

The outcry at SUNY and Toronto must have come as a surprise to the administration, but demonstrations after the fact are not substitutes for the dialogue that needs to take place. Music was once a central part of education; in Plato's Academy in ancient Greece, and in Charlemagne's Palace School during the medieval period. Now, not subject to formal examination by the provincial government, it is marginalized.

The values that drive our expectations for a publicly funded education system should benefit from a critical public airing. Parents want their children to succeed, and success usually means jobs, but it is this assumed relationship between education and jobs that needs scrutiny. What is the relationship, for example, between algebra (part of our core curriculum) and any person's day-to-day work? If algebra is defended by arguing that it teaches certain mental skills, the same argument can be used of music.

Even "success" deserves reconsideration. If it is an economic term, as many people use it, the economy changes much faster than school curricula these days. In fact, according to the very influential Daniel Pink (*A Whole New Mind. Why Right Brainers Will Rule the Future*), our core curriculum holds our young people back more than preparing them for the new economy. What it needs is more training in languages, culture, creativity, more—music.

*Editor's note: Views expressed in this Viewpoint are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of The Ring or the University of Victoria.*

# Michael Kennedy appointed to Board of Governors

Michael Kennedy, vice-president and regional leader of Stantec Consulting Limited in Vancouver, has been appointed to the University of Victoria Board of Governors.

Over the course of his 20-year career, he has worked on a variety of major infrastructure projects in Canada, the US and Europe. He holds a bachelor of science in construction management from the University of Manchester, is a member of the UK-based Chartered Institute of Building, and is a project management professional. He is a founding executive committee member of the BC District Council of the Urban Land Institute and a Vancouver board member of the Kids Up Front charity.

In 2007, he was the recipient of the Business in Vancouver "Forty under 40" award. Kennedy is a member of



Kennedy

the board of governors of the Business Council of BC. His UVic board appointment is until July 31, 2012.



Members of UVic's JDC West team: (on ladder, top) Derek Juno; (middle, L-R) Nadia Aziz, Samantha So; (on ground, L-R) Ryan Hulstein, Chase Teron, Ross McPhail, Jessica Daser, Dana Stephenson. Photo: UVic Photo Services

# Business students excel at JDC West

Gustavson School of Business BCom students climbed to new heights at the recent JDC West Business Competition, one of the premier competitions for universities in Western Canada.

For the first time since entering the competition in 2006, UVic students medaled in four events, placing first in the accounting and not-for-profit cases and second in the entrepreneurship case. They also took third place in the social challenges section—a grueling, on-call competition requiring completion of eight athletic and other challenges within 48 hours. Another honour was earned by the sports team, who were voted the most sportsmanlike by the competitors.

"We go up against much larger schools, so our students must play to

their strengths," says Dr. Dale Ganley, coach and assistant professor at the Gustavson School of Business. "Our students demonstrated leadership, adaptability and passion, which is the focus of our programs, and that's what put them on the podium."

JDC West is the largest student-run business competition in the West and was held in Saskatoon in January.


"We're thrilled with our performance," says Sam So, fourth-year business student and JDC West Captain for UVic, who organized the 44 students who attended the competition earlier this month. "We changed our strategy this year and engaged students who had been away on exchange in workshops and intensive practice sessions the week before competition—it really paid off."

## Get published in *The Ring*

*The Ring* is looking for volunteer contributors to provide articles, photos and other content for our print edition and our new website ([ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)).

By contributing your voice and talents, you'll gain an outlet for your creativity, help inform your colleagues and make *The Ring* more vibrant and engaging.


To find out how to become a volunteer contributor, visit: [ring.uvic.ca/get-involved](http://ring.uvic.ca/get-involved)



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## RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS

*Monthly Income Based on \$100,000*

**FEBRUARY 2011**

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Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$273	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100		\$190,449	\$172,839	\$157,234	\$140,847	\$134,242	\$125,254
Accelerated Payout:	Income over 5 years .....	\$1,810					\$108,572
	Income over 10 years .....	\$979					\$117,494
	Income over 15 years .....	\$705					\$126,864

\* Based on best current GIC of 3.30%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

### LIFE ANNUITIES

	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
<b>Male</b>							
...payments cease at death		\$540	\$586	\$668	\$813	\$918	\$1,138
...10 years guaranteed		\$529	\$568	\$630	\$722	\$784	\$899
<b>Female</b>							
...payments cease at death		\$496	\$534	\$596	\$700	\$817	\$989
...10 years guaranteed		\$492	\$527	\$581	\$666	\$734	\$850
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As someone who has contributed so much, consider leaving a gift that will allow future generations to experience the UVic community that you've helped create. Contact Natasha to start the conversation about creating a lasting legacy in your will or estate plan.

Natasha Benn | 250-721-6001 | [nbenn@uvic.ca](mailto:nbenn@uvic.ca)



University  
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### Navigate the ever-changing market

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

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around the ring

Celebrating distinguished service


All faculty and staff are invited to attend the President's Distinguished Service Awards presentation March 3 from 4–5:30 p.m. in the Ceremonial Hall, First Peoples House. These annual awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of university employees to the betterment of the university and its community. Award categories include: Award for Excellence in Service OR Excellence in Leadership (two awards); First Five Years— Outstanding Service Award (one award); and Team Award for Innovation (one award). Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to <http://web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa> by Feb. 23.

Federal government facilities welcome students

Do you know someone who is interested in science? UVic and Natural Resources Canada are partnering to offer two facility tours this spring. Students can visit the Hertzberg Institute of Astrophysics in February and the Centre for Plant Health in March to learn about exciting research and careers in the public service from scientists themselves. For details, visit [www.uvic.ca/coopandcareer/events](http://www.uvic.ca/coopandcareer/events). Spaces are limited, so register today at [www.learninginmotion.uvic.ca](http://www.learninginmotion.uvic.ca).

Community leaders feted

The 2011 Victoria's Leadership Awards will be announced Wed., Feb. 16 at a gala reception from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. UVic is a partner in the annual community awards program. The Leadership Victoria Lifetime Achievement award recipient was announced on Jan. 17. Thrifty Foods co-founder Alex Campbell Sr., UVic Honorary Doctor of Laws and the 2010 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year, was recognized for his generous philanthropic support and enrichment of the Greater Victoria community. Campbell will receive his award on Feb. 16, as will the recipients of the individual awards in four categories—the University of Victoria Community Leadership Awards, the Rotary Community Leadership Awards, the Vancity Youth Award, and the Leadership Victoria Alumni Award—and the local organization for the third annual Victoria Foundation Community Leadership award, to be announced at the reception. More info: [www.leadershipvictoria.ca/v\\_awards.html](http://www.leadershipvictoria.ca/v_awards.html)



campus

DENTAL CENTRE

# Outside the Box: Daniel Laskarin discusses a decade of *Agnostic Objects*

BY JOHN THRELFALL

When is a box not a box? When it's part of a sculptural exhibit by Daniel Laskarin, of course.

Laskarin, current chair of UVic's Visual Arts department, recently wrapped up his first survey show at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Titled *Agnostic Objects (things persist)*, Laskarin's 10-year survey offered not only the gallery's latest glimpse into Victoria's burgeoning contemporary sculptural scene but also afforded viewers the opportunity to reengage with contemporary art in general. But if visitors find themselves feeling a little baffled by some of the pieces, they needn't feel bad—it's all part of the artist's concept.

"Laskarin has a stated interest in doubt and uncertainty, which he sees as important qualities in his work," notes AGGV director Jon Tupper in the introduction to the 96-page, full-colour glossy catalogue for *Agnostic Objects*. "He believes viewers become creatively engaged when they can't easily identify objects." Thus, an apparently simple box becomes the basis for "Butterfly Trap," a playful Wile E. Coyote-style piece that sets out to capture the viewer's imagination.

"I celebrate uncertainty as a positive and creative process," explains Laskarin. "Uncertainty, without let-

ting it become paralyzing, is profoundly important; it's where criticality begins, where change begins. These objects have a relationship with the outside world that is uncertain; there are little hooks, little gestures, but it's not clear."

What is clear, however, is the essential role of the viewer in relationship to these objects. "His artistic practice is stimulated by propositions and investigations, which are intentionally left unresolved in the objects he produces," notes Nicole Stanbridge, the AGGV's associate curator of contemporary art. "Consequently, the objects allow for thoughtful consideration on the part of the viewer."

It also allows for thoughtful consideration on the part of the artist. "It is kind of a landmark," Laskarin says about the survey exhibit. "It gives you a real opportunity to look over your own development from a bit of distance. And it's good to have had the exhibit up for four months, as I was working on a lot of the works right up to the time it opened—so while it's a survey exhibition, there's a lot of new work that hasn't been shown before. And it creates a platform for the next development."

Indeed, with four pieces of the 21 pieces on view made specifically for this exhibit and another five having been "modified, reconfigured or



Laskarin's "Butterfly Trap". PHOTO: BOB MATHESON

changed" since their initial creation between 2000 and 2010. *Agnostic Objects* offered a range of work that can, depending on your perspective, be seen as delightful, challenging or downright perplexing.

"A lot of the works aren't that easy to approach, but it's contemporary work, it's experimental work," he explains. "Just like experimental physics, some of it is quite esoteric. The great thing about art as a practice is that it lets you think about things as seriously and deeply as you're able."

Laskarin readily admits there's room in the art world for "comfortable, recognizable, familiar" pieces, but also points out the necessity of

# Author generating "critical hope" in approach to reconciliation

BY BRYNA HALLAM

For Dr. Paulette Regan, "how people learn about historical injustices is just as important as the truths about what happened."

Regan, who became UVic's first graduate from the Indigenous Governance Program, receiving her PhD in 2006, is the Director of Research for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Her work examines the role truth-telling and reconciliation processes can have in teaching—or re-teaching, as the case may be—Canadians about their history.

In her new book, *Unsettling the Settler Within* (UBC Press 2011), Regan urges non-Indigenous Canadians to examine the accepted history of the country and challenge the "cherished national myth" of Europeans as benevolent peacemakers.

"It is a call to action, a pedagogical strategy for grappling with the complex history and legacy of Indian residential schools," Regan said at the

book's launch Jan. 25 on campus. "I believe that education is not simply about the transfer of knowledge but is a transformative experiential learning that empowers people to make change in the world."

In part, the book recounts Regan's personal journey into what she calls "the visceral heart of Indigenous-settler relations," from her days as a student at UBC to her work with residential school survivors in Hazelton, BC.

Regan, a non-Indigenous person, prepared for her work as claims resolution manager in the small northern village by reading and reviewing documents in Vancouver, but found that hearing the live testimony of survivors brought home the full impact of the residential schools in a way that reading about it never could.

"In their eyes, I was not an ally, but a perpetrator," she said—a realization that brought feelings of empathy, denial, guilt, anger and fear. But in that time—one marked by her uncertainty and lack of knowledge—Regan also

realized that "the real work of reconciliation is forged in the hard places."

As a result, she calls on other non-Native Canadians to take a critical look at how the history of the country is presented and to open themselves up to the idea that violence lies at the core of relations between Euro-Canadians and Indigenous people.

"An unsettling pedagogy asks us as settlers to explore our own collective identity," she said, "to plumb the depth of our repressed history, so that we can risk interacting differently with Indigenous peoples—with vulnerability, humility and a willingness to stay in the decolonizing struggle of our own discomfort."

As much as Regan's work compels non-Native Canadians to shoulder some of the responsibility of reconciliation, it is also very much about generating what she calls "critical hope."

"I'm a mother, a grandmother. To do this work, I have to believe there is a reason," she said. "We can't think that just because we're talking, things will magically work out."



Regan. PHOTO: LIU INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ISSUES

# TUNING UP

## Two new conductors lead the School of Music in fresh directions

BY JOHN THRELFALL

UVic's School of Music has a pair of new conductors, and while both are young and innovative, each offers students a distinctly different tempo.

Award-winning European composer and conductor Ajtony Csaba has stepped up to lead the UVic Orchestra, while Newfoundland composer and trumpet player Patrick Boyle is showing his brass with the Jazz Ensemble.

Both bring with them a full score of awards and accolades—Csaba has performed with major orchestras in Europe and China, and his first opera, *gentle birth*, received numerous prizes, while the in-demand session artist Boyle has a pair of critically acclaimed solo albums (*Still No Word* and *Hold Out*) and was named "one of Canada's top trumpet players and jazz musicians in general" by CBC Radio—and both are clearly happy to be on campus.



L-R: Csaba, Boyle. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

"I was looking for a remote place in the world where I can teach a little bit and work with an ensemble where I have the possibility to try out new things," says Csaba of his shift to Victoria from Vienna, where he was chief conductor of the Central-European Chamber Orchestra and the Vienna Jeunesse Choir.

"It's an excellent environment for research, to work out a mixture of practical and theoretical things. And to share my experience, which might be a little exotic here."

For his part, Boyle—who recently performed at Carnegie Hall and is just completing his doctorate at the University of Toronto—says, "So far, so good; it's really nice here. I'd heard good things about UVic's jazz courses and I knew the music education department was a huge jewel in the crown here."

The Transylvanian-born Csaba, whose interest lies in modern, ex-

perimental, contemporary music, is pleased with how his work has been received. "I know that what I'm doing is pretty experimental, but I'm happy the students and faculty enjoy taking part in it."

Despite the demands of teaching and conducting the UVic Orchestra, he's still working with his ensemble in Vienna on an experimental repertory ("how to find new ways of doing a concert, using applied media, lots of interdisciplinary connections"), all of which is aimed at what he describes as "rethinking the concert."

"Historically, we had a very long change from the Classical period, when concerts were aristocratic venues for a limited number of people, to the Romantic era, where it just became a show for a lot of people in a big concert hall," he explains. "Now

we are in the 21st century where everything is happening in parallel; we still have the Romantic approach, but a lot of new initiatives are coming up, and everybody's working out what we are doing, what it is."

As both a jazzman and ethnomusicologist, Boyle's interest naturally leans more toward the art of improvisation, which enhances his classes in jazz history, theory and arranging. "I like the study of music and culture," he says. "I get great satisfaction from performing, but I do find researching different improvisatory traditions—South Indian music, bluegrass—has deepened my own performing life. It's been a fun balance to live in both those worlds."

Each conductor also has plans for breaking out of the Ring Road. "We have several invitations for different

UVic ensembles to play off-campus, as well as in Vancouver, Toronto and different North American cities over the next few years," says Csaba.

Meanwhile, Boyle sees good potential in the city's greater jazz community. "Much like St. John's, Victoria seems to be a 'build it and they will come' kind of place. The jazz scene here is small but vibrant, and the players are of an extremely high quality. And I'd really like to develop a strong bond with local high school music programs; we need to have players coming into our school, so we really need to care about where they're coming from."

Boyle pauses and chuckles, seeming to speak for both new conductors as he reaches his coda. "Really, I'm just excited to contribute in any way I can."

THE POWER OF STORIES

# Richard Wagamese believes in changing the world, one story at a time

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Want to change the world? According to the Department of Writing's 2011 Harvey S. Southam lecturer Richard Wagamese, it's easier than you think—all you have to do is talk to your neighbour.

"It's an elemental thing," the Ojibway author and journalist explains. "The boundaries and perceived limits of your world change when you stop and talk to another human being. When you exchange stories—where you came from, how you got there, how your life is going—the addition of that one story to your reality changes your world."

Seem too simple? For Wagamese, that's the beauty of it. "It's not a huge undertaking, it's not an enormous task or a quest," he says. "It's just talking. If you multiply that exponentially over seven billion people, where everyone is sharing one story with each other, the number of strangers in the world shrinks by the same process—you actually affect change by sharing stories."

As part of his duties as Harvey S. Southam lecturer, the 55-year-old, multiple award-winning Kamloops resident is not only passing this simple wisdom along to his students this semester but he's also holding a public lecture on Feb.

16—titled, not surprisingly, "The Power of Stories."

The event also marks the launch of his seventh book and latest memoir, *One Story, One Song* (Douglas & McIntyre)—the follow-up to his acclaimed *One Native Life*, one of the *Globe and Mail's* top-100 books of 2008. Wagamese describes *One Story* "as a book of reflections on the people, places and events that have shaped the man I am at 55."

But *One Story* is only one of four books Wagamese is releasing in 2011. Also on deck are *Indian Horse*, a novel; *Runaway Dreams*, his first collection of poetry; and *The Next Sure Thing*, a story for Orca Books' "Rapid Reads" difficult readers series. Add in his ongoing newspaper column, "One Native Life," which also runs as a radio commentary in both Canada and the US, as well as his teaching, and you've got a schedule that would seem daunting for any writer—but Wagamese takes it all in stride.

"It's like I tell my students I'm a working writer, and I'm really happy with that," he says. "I have a deadline every week, I have a course to teach, I have speaking engagements. As much as it seems kind of incredible, it doesn't strike me as odd because it's what I've worked towards."

When asked how his background

as member of the Wabaseemoong First Nation in Northwestern Ontario has factored into his success as a writer, Wagamese pauses before replying. "Well, it was through the grace of Creator, and the love and nurturing of my own tradition," he explains. "I don't have a degree, so I didn't follow the established path to becoming a writer. But at one point in my mid-twenties, I asked traditional people why I didn't have a role in our circle—why I wasn't a hunter, a trapper, a carver, a drummer, a singer, a dancer, a fisherman. They listened to me tell my story about where I'd been, what had happened to me and how I found my way back home, and they said, 'Well, the way you told that, you're supposed to be a storyteller.' And that amazed me."

Thus began a process of traditional training that, along with 30-plus years of what he describes as "discipline, dedication and commitment," has now led him here to UVic. "Everybody sees four books in one year and they think it's incredible, but there's a lot of stuff underneath the surface that makes that happen," he says. "And that's what I try to get across to my students—all of this becomes possible by virtue of the amount of initiative and determination you put into it."

Ultimately, Wagamese feels the



Wagamese. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

power of stories is inherent in every culture. "It speaks to something we all share, regardless of background," he says. "We all carry a yearning to be heard. Everything we do from the time we gain the ability to recollect offers a story. And we need to remind each other that's the truth of who we are as human beings; we're hardwired to tell stories."

*Richard Wagamese will present "The Power of Stories" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, in room 105 of the Hickman Building. Admission is free. For more information, call 250-721-6222.*

around the ring

Do caged books sing?


Freedom to Read Week ([www.freedomtoread.ca/](http://www.freedomtoread.ca/)), Feb. 20–26, will be marked by a display of censored books held in a cage at the McPherson Library. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou will join other celebrated banned books to remind us of the many books frequently banned from school libraries and classrooms. This censorship affects the right of Canadians to decide for themselves what they choose to read. Check out the list of challenged books prepared by The Book and Periodical Council: <http://bit.ly/14yYqj>

Whole lot of shakin' goin' on

Thanks to the participation of students, staff and faculty, the Great BC ShakeOut earthquake drill on Jan. 26 was a huge success on campus. Those who "shook it out" at UVic joined over 470,000 total participants province-wide. The drill increased awareness of correct earthquake response procedures, and prompted discussion about personal and departmental preparedness. The lessons learned from this year's drill will be used to improve next year's event. For photos and FAQs answering common queries about earthquake response and preparedness, visit [ohse.uvic.ca](http://ohse.uvic.ca). More info: Daphne Donaldson, Manager of Emergency Planning, at 250-721-6355 or [ddonald@uvic.ca](mailto:ddonald@uvic.ca)

Distinguished alumni honoured

Eleven leading members of the University of Victoria's alumni community were recognized during Alumni Week for their professional achievements and community leadership. Receiving Distinguished Alumni Awards on Feb. 9 were: **Elton Pereira**, BCom '98, co-founder, president and CEO of Victoria-based security and utility software developer ParetoLogic; **Barbara Wilson Kii'ilijus**, Dipl '99, cultural resource specialist who has worked for the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site (Parks Canada Agency) since 1989; **Robert (Bob) Young**, Victoria College '48, leading Victoria physician; **Bronwyn Taylor**, MEd '95, educator and president of the Lower Vancouver Island Retired Teachers Association; **Gerry Douglas**, BSc '95, founder of Baobab Health Trust in Malawi; **Paul Beauchesne**, BMus '88, principal tuba with the Victoria Symphony; **Lynn Stevenson**, PhD '03, Executive Vice-President and Chief Nurse, Vancouver Island Health Authority; **Charlayne Thornton-Joe**, BA '83, community leader and Victoria city councillor; **Sharon McIvor**, LLB '86, legal scholar and Indigenous activist; **Robert Young**, BSc '67, pharmaceutical scientist; and **Chris Fibiger**, BSc '66, neurological scientist. More information: <http://bit.ly/g6AVAu>



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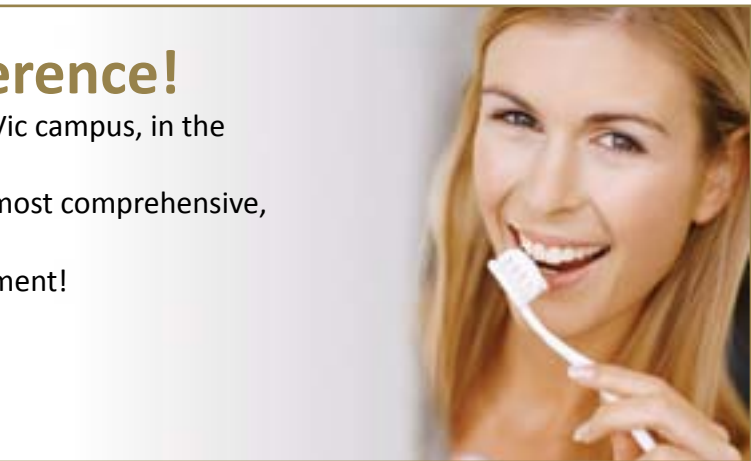
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# UVic's business school joins elite class

BY DIANNE GEORGE

A new accreditation received by the University of Victoria's Peter B. Gustavson School of Business puts it among the top-tier of business schools worldwide.

In January, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accredited the school's business programs following a thorough program review, evaluation of the teaching environment, and an examination of course relevance to the needs of business.

"The Gustavson School of Business continues to build a reputation for excellence, and this new accreditation reflects the dedication of the faculty, staff and students to the pursuit of that goal," says UVic President David Turpin.

"AACSB accreditation lets our students know that they are getting a quality business education," says Dr. Ali Dastmalchian, dean of the Gustavson School. "This was an exhaustive three-year process where we measured every aspect of our program delivery, from the number of PhD-qualified professors teaching in the classrooms, to our research record, to student learning outcomes."

"It is a standard that assures prospective students that a certain level of quality will be upheld with respect to their management education," says Connor Edwards, president of

the Commerce Students Society and BCom candidate 2011. "For current students, it signifies that the leadership at the Gustavson Business School is leveraging every opportunity to become one of the top-ranked programs not only in Canada, but on an international scale."

This is the second accreditation for the business school. It received the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) accreditation in 2007 and was reaccredited in 2010.

Out of 12,000 business schools worldwide, there are 66 business schools—about 0.5 per cent—with both accreditations. The Gustavson School of Business joins six other Canadian business schools with this double mark of excellence: Queen's, Sauder School of Business, Simon Fraser University, Telfer School of Business, HEC Montreal and Laval.

The Gustavson School of Business serves about 900 students each year and has just celebrated its 20th anniversary by introducing a PhD in International Management and Organization, a Master of Global Business degree and a Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Entrepreneurship.

These programs complement its BCom, MBA, Executive Programs and specializations in international business, entrepreneurship and service management.



**“Sort it out” for Recyclemania**

UVic is competing for the first time in Recyclemania, an annual friendly competition between universities and colleges across North America to see who can recycle the most and reduce the most waste. Celebrating the kick-off near one of the SUB's expanded recycling stations are (L-R) waste reduction coordinator Nadia Ariff, Tamara Dinter, Chloe Donatelli and Laura-Leigh McKenzie (student members of UVic Sustainability Project), Kelsey Mech (student member of Common Energy), sustainability coordinator Rita Fromholt and workshop student Colin O'Neil. Through April 2, Facilities Management will be measuring campus waste and recycling and reporting the counts for Recyclemania. Staff will also conduct a waste audit in the quad outside the library on Feb. 18; stop by to learn how much compostable and recyclable material goes to the landfill. More info: [www.recyclemania.org](http://www.recyclemania.org) or [www.uvic.ca/sustainability](http://www.uvic.ca/sustainability) PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

## UVic moves to a rabbit-free campus

**BY PATTY PITTS**

Last month the University of Victoria revised its long-term feral rabbit management plan to eliminate the proposed “rabbit control zone” from the interior of the campus and designate the entire campus “rabbit free.”

Over 800 rabbits have been removed from campus through permits granted by the Province of BC. Fewer than 50 rabbits remain. UVic's goal is to remove all of the remaining rabbits by Feb. 28 to give permit holders sufficient time to sterilize the rabbits, allow for recuperation and transport them to sanctuaries before their permits expire. After Feb. 28, any rabbit found on campus will be humanely trapped and killed.

The permits to remove rabbits expire as of March 31.

UVic plans to remove all the remaining rabbits from campus over the next several weeks, while it's still possible and before the next breeding season begins.

UVic asks campus and community members not to feed the remaining rabbits on campus as it makes them more difficult to trap and makes them vulnerable to being on campus after Feb. 28.

While the original rabbit management plan called for a rabbit control zone in the central part of campus to be home to a population of about 200 sterilized rabbits, UVic believes that maintaining this zone would be problematic and would encourage

pet owners to continue to abandon pet rabbits on campus—the original source of UVic's out-of-control rabbit population.

“The permit holders have worked very hard to take more rabbits from us than we had thought would be possible,” says Facilities Management Executive Director Tom Smith. “They and the BCSPCA support us in this effort to remove all rabbits from the campus to sanctuaries.”

UVic will continue to support the BCSPCA in its attempt to encourage area municipalities to adopt by-laws prohibiting the sale of non-sterilized rabbits and the abandonment of rabbits. More information about UVic's feral rabbit management plan: [www.uvic.ca/rabbits](http://www.uvic.ca/rabbits)

### TELESCOPE

CONTINUED FROM P.1

Simard's research interests are the formation and evolution of distant galaxies. “I'm an astronomer who has learned to translate science into engineering and engineering into science. You can't take courses for this. It has to come by osmosis, although others call it ‘baptism by fire,’” he laughs.

Simard's TMT experience is reflected in course material he prepares for his graduate course in instrumentation, and it is often a focus of class discussions.

“We talk about everything from creating artificial stars up in the atmosphere using powerful lasers, to developing deformable mirrors that can change shape hundred of times a second.”

The telescope isn't just about the discoveries that it will help make, stresses Simard. It's also about taking astronomical instruments to the next level.

“TMT represents a change of scale for astronomers,” says Simard. “We're used to building instruments that are the size of a small car. Now we're talking about instruments that are the size of a house.”

Artist's rendering of the new 30 metre telescope. COURTESY TMT OBSERVATORY CORPORATION

## calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at [www.uvic.ca/events](http://www.uvic.ca/events)

**at the galleries**  
[uvic.uvic.ca](http://uvic.uvic.ca)  
250-721-6562

**Exhibit Stage: Photographic Portraits.** Showcasing the work of Frank Pimentel, Nina Raginsky and Ulli Steltzer. Mearns Centre/McPherson Library 027. 250-721-8298

**at the theatre**  
[finearts.uvic.ca/theatre](http://finearts.uvic.ca/theatre)  
250-721-8000

**Theatre** 8 p.m. Feb. 24—March 5. *Twelfth Night.* By William Shakespeare. Directed by Linda Hardy. A psychedelic 1970s spin on Shakespeare's classic gender-bending comedy. Phoenix Theatre. \$15-22. 250-721-8000

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**Music** 12:30 p.m. *Lieder at Lunch* with Sharon & Harald Krebs. MacLaurin B037. 250-721-8634

**Lecture/Seminar** 2:30 p.m. *Reflections on a Trilogy.* Prof. Emeritus Patricia E. Roy (UVic). Clearihue B215. 250-721-7382

**Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4 p.m. *Conceptual Hurdles for Bringing Religious Values into the Public Square.* G. Elijah Dann (SFU). Social Sciences & Mathematics A104. 250-721-6325

**Conference** 7 p.m. *Taught @ UVic.* Six UVic psychology professors presenting their latest research. Earth & Ocean Science Bldg. B150. 250-813-2349

**Other** 8 p.m. *Astronomy Open House.* And Feb. 23, March 2 & 9. Wright Centre Observatory. <http://astrowww.phys.uvic.ca/events/> 250-721-7700

**Lecture/Seminar** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Program.* Matt Harle. Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

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

**Lecture/Seminar** 3 p.m. *Aging and Health: A Public Policy Apocalypse or an Age-Friendly 21st Century.* Mark W. Rosenberg (Queen's Univ.). Strong 108. 250-472-5697

**Music** 8 p.m. University of Victoria Wind Symphony. *Italian and American Influences.* Gerald King conductor. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets \$5-\$17.50 250-721-8480

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

**Anthropology Colloquium** 11:30 a.m. *Charles Darwin and the Human Fossil Record.* Dr. Ian Tattersall (American Museum of Natural History). Cornett A225. 250-721-7047

**The F. Murray Fraser Lecture** 12 p.m. *Taking a Rights-Based Approach to the Practice of Law: How to Inject Human Dignity and Justice into Your Career.* Alison Brevin. Fraser 158. 250-721-8162

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**Humanities Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Dialogues Across the Continent: Encountering Eastern Europe in the West.* Dr. Magdalena Kay, UVic Humanities Faculty Fellow. Clearihue A212.

**Lansdowne Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Becoming Human.* Dr. Ian Tattersall. (American Museum of Natural History). Social Sciences & Mathematics A120. 250-472-4496 or 240-721-7046

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Victoria Natural History Society Presentation—Birder's night.* Ed Pellizzon and Ted Ardley. Fraser 159.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

**CSRS Distinguished Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *The Civic Umma: Citizenship in a Secular Age.* Aymyn B. Sajoo (SFU). Hickman 105. 250-721-6325

**Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Changing Community Composition and Seasonality: Zooplankton Responses to a Shifting Ocean Climate.* Dr. Mairi Best (UVic). Fraser 159.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1**

**Cafe Scientifique** 6:30 p.m. *What is the Connection Between Frogs, the Environment and Your Genes?* Dr. Juan Ausio (UVic). The Strathcona Hotel, 919 Douglas St., Maple Rm. 250-472-4067

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2**

**Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4 p.m. *Ukrainian Religion and Culture in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.* Marcia Ostasewski (U. of Washington; Cape Breton Univ.) Social Sciences & Mathematics A104. 250-721-6325

**Lecture/Seminar** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Series.* Jonathan Shaughnessy (Univ. of Ottawa). Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3**

**Hugh Alan Maclean Lecture** 12:30 p.m. *From a Property Right to Citizenship Rights: The Black Canadian Legal Odyssey.* Dr. Barrington Walker (Queen's Univ.). Fraser 152. 250-721-8168

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4**

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

**Orion Lecture** 2 p.m. *Talking Religion, Comparatively Speaking: Throwing Some Light on the Multi-Confessional Landscape of Late Medieval Iberia.* Dr. Cynthia Robinson (Cornell Univ.). Strong C103. 250-721-7941

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5**

**Conference** 9 a.m. *The Unexpected Mediterranean.* Fine Arts Orion lecturer Dr. Cynthia Robinson (Cornell Univ.) moderates. Fine Arts 103 & 104. Seating is limited. 250-721-7941

**MONDAY, MARCH 7**

**CSRS Special Lecture** 10:30 a.m. *The People of No Religion: The Loss of Religion in Canada, the US and Great Britain Since 1950.* Callum G. Brown (Univ. of Dundee). MacLaurin D010. 250-721-6325

**Lansdowne Lecture** 3:30 p.m. *Irony and the Politics of Self-effacement in Augustan Rome.* Prof. Kirk Freudenburg (Yale Univ.). Elliott 168. 250-721-8514

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8**

**Lansdowne Lecture** 3:30 p.m. *The Cinematography of Virgil's Aeneid.* Prof. Kirk Freudenburg (Yale Univ.) Elliott 168. 250-721-8514

**Lansdowne Lecture** 7 p.m. *Spirituality and Funeral Trends in North America.* Dr. Kathleen Garces-Foley (Marymont Univ.). Strong C126. 250-721-6271

Cornett Memories Contest Winner Alison Farquhar shows off her winning entry on her new iPad. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

## Just another cinder block in the wall

UVic geography grad Alison Farquhar was all smiles when she claimed her prize for her winning story, “The Wall” in the Cornett Memory Contest (<http://bit.ly/FOJRdk>). She received an Apple iPad from Social Sciences' Dean Peter Keller and took a tour of the renovated Cornett building.

With the help of some fellow conspirators, Farquhar recreated the scene from April 1, 1973, when a group of geography students bricked up a portion of a hallway in the Cornett building. The prank was between geography and economics who were long standing rivals at the time.

“I enjoyed touching bases again with everyone involved to verify the facts,” she says. “Some I see all the

time, but others have moved away and we rarely have any contact. Seeing the pictures again and writing the story stirred up many memories of my days at UVic.”

Alison's story received over 1,000 votes, making her the clear winner in a contest that saw nearly 70 entries in total. “It was fun to see the counts go up daily; sometimes in the lead and then falling back and then in the lead again.”

The Cornett Memories contest was launched last November as a way to celebrate the memories of staff, faculty and students who spent much of their lives working and studying in the Cornett building. More Cornett memories: [www.cornettmemories.uvic.ca/](http://www.cornettmemories.uvic.ca/)

University of Victoria  
Centre for Studies in Religion & Society

### 2011 Distinguished Lecture in Islam

**Aymyn B. Sajoo**  
Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures, Simon Fraser University

The Civic Umma: Citizenship in a Secular Age

Monday, February 28, 2011, 7:30 pm  
Harry Hickman Bldg, Room 105

Aymyn B. Sajoo is a distinguished scholar, author and lecturer on the role of religion in democratic life. He has served as an advisor to the Canadian departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs and has held numerous visiting appointments at universities in Canada, Singapore and the UK. Dr. Sajoo's recent books include *A Companion to the Muslim World* (2009), *Muslim Modernities* (2008) and *Muslim Ethics: Emerging Vistas* (2004).

“[Sajoo] opens a debate that is as healthy as it is overdue...in today's globally connected yet culturally divided world.” - International Journal of Middle East Studies

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Page 6 The Ring February 2011 The Ring February 2011 Page 7



ringers

**Luanne Martineau, Sandra Meigs** and **Robert Youds** (visual arts) are among 54 Canadian artists represented in the National Gallery of Canada’s 2010 Canadian Biennial exhibit, “*It Is What It Is*,” which highlights recent acquisitions of new Canadian art. Also included in the same exhibit is UVic MFA graduate **Kevin Yates**, currently assistant professor of visual arts at York University.

Faculty and graduates of UVic’s Phoenix Theatre factored heavily among the nominees and winners of the 2010 edition of the annual Critic’s Choice Spotlight Awards, which highlight excellence in the local theatrical scene. UVic nominees include faculty member **Alan Stichbury** (*The Rake’s Progress*), sessional instructor **Kerem Çetinel** (*Romeo and Juliet*) and graduate **Patrick Du Wors** (*A Streetcar Named Desire*); in costume design, faculty member **Mary Kerr** (*Romeo and Juliet*) and graduate **Erin Macklem** (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*); in lighting design, sessional instructor **Kerem Çetinel** (*A Streetcar Named Desire*) and graduate **Amanda Gougeon** (*Romeo and Juliet*); in direction and overall professional production, faculty member **Brian Richmond** (*A Streetcar Named Desire*); in performance and overall community production, graduate **Ian Case** (Richard III); and, for best new play, graduates **Amiel Gladstone** and **Lucas Myers** (*Smalltown: A Pickup Musical*) and current student **Jay Mitchell** (*Z-Day: The Anthem for the Post-Zombie Apocalypse*). Winners included **Kerem Çetinel** and **Brian Richmond**, both for their work on Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre’s production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

**Dr. Nancy Turner** (environmental studies) received an honorary doctorate Jan. 28 from Vancouver Island University in recognition of her passionate commitment to studying and documenting the sacred relationship between First Nations and the diverse ecosystems of British Columbia. “I feel very honoured but I also feel the award is more a tribute to the people who were my teachers,” says Turner. “It’s recognition of the value of that kind of knowledge.” Her work has made significant contributions to the fields of botany, ecology, anthropology, geography and linguistics.

Maybe you’ve seen her busking at the Inner Harbour. Now UVic music student **Sarah Tradewell** has won a contest to play in the international YouTube Symphony Orchestra. The violist is one of five Canadian musicians chosen from 336 finalists and 46 countries. Winners were chosen online on the basis of video auditions and popular vote. *Times Colonist* story: <http://bit.ly/fUQKrf> YouTube video: <http://bit.ly/ff311c>

day in the life

BY CRYSTAL BERGERON

A day in the life of the Faculty of Education’s Nick “Xumthoult” Claxton means getting one step closer to building the bridge between the UVic community and local Indigenous communities. Employed since September of 2009 as Indigenous advisor/coordinator, Claxton not only advises students on programs and admission procedures within the faculty, he acts as a liaison between Indigenous students and other services on campus and as a resource for non-Indigenous students, faculty and staff on cultural issues, protocol and other Indigenous issues and topics.

He also taught the popular experiential course, “Learning and Teaching in an Indigenous World” in the faculty’s popular Indigenous Education Summer Institute last July. “I’m here as a vital link between our two communities,” says Claxton. “I often get calls from First Nations students who are thinking about attending UVic and wondering if we’ll be a good fit for them. I tell them ‘yes.’ I work at a university that’s a true innovator in Indigenous education and a leader at incorporating Indigenous ways of learning, knowing and teaching into its programs.”

And Claxton should know. Born and raised in his homeland of WSÁNEĆ, he’s a UVic alum, having completed his undergraduate degree in psychology here in 2000 followed by a master’s degree in Indigenous governance.



Claxton (third from left) at the Indigenous Education Summer Institute. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

“I actually started out my post-secondary education on a lacrosse scholarship to Brown University in the States,” he says. “I loved playing on the lacrosse team, but never came across a single Indigenous student in my year there. I decided I was better off at home living and learning in my own territory. Naturally UVic was the perfect choice for me.”

In addition to his duties at the university, Claxton is a busy husband and father of three children. “I have two wonderful boys, aged 16 and 12, and a beautiful daughter who is nine,” he proudly boasts. “My wife and I try to instill in them what our parents taught us; that higher education will make your life better not only for you, but for your com-

munity as well. I teach my children the importance of life-long learning and learning through doing. We learn our language of SENĆOŦEN from my father who is one of only a few fluent speakers left in the WSÁNEĆ community. I teach them traditional ways to hunt and fish and as well, and stress the fact that this is not sport. We only hunt what we are going to actually eat and use. There are values and respect given to the animal and its spirit always.”

Claxton’s determination with his ancestral values doesn’t stop at home. He recently started a PhD program in curriculum studies at UVic. “I want to envision and develop a curriculum that is rooted in Indigenous knowledge and ways

of learning and teaching,” he says. “Right now we’re educating our children with a curriculum that is not our own identity—I want our WSÁNEĆ identity and way of life to be instilled in every facet of our children’s school lives. Who knows? Maybe one day my research will serve as a model for other communities to adapt their own culture, knowledge and history to school curricula.”

If Nick Claxton has anything to do with it, you can bet his research will indeed be modeled for children everywhere, and he will continue to help build a stronger community for us all, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, one bridge at a time.

Senate reaffirms commitment to diversity

UVic’s Senate reaffirmed the university’s commitment to diversity and equity in a motion passed at the Senate’s Feb. 4 meeting. The action followed a wide-ranging discussion of a motion presented by graduate student senate member Gordon Ruby in response to a high profile article “‘Too Asian?’” in *Maclean’s* university rankings issue last year; the article was subsequently retitled on the web to “The Enrollment Controversy.”

The motion requested that a letter be written to the magazine and that the issue be referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards. In the course of the discussion, numerous members of the UVic Senate expressed the wish to move the focus away from the article and to reaffirm instead UVic’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

As a result, the motion was with-

drawn and a motion from Senate member Robert Burke, seconded by Ruby, was passed. The new motion draws on the strategic plan, and Senate will submit it to the Planning and Priorities Committee as part of the renewal of the plan. It states “Senate reaffirms that the University of Victoria is committed to being a diverse and welcoming learning community that values equal rights and dignity for all persons. Recognizing that people are our primary strength, the University of Victoria is committed to providing environments for work and study that are safe, supportive, inclusive and healthy, and foster mutual respect. We aim to recruit and retain a diverse group of exceptionally talented students, faculty and staff without prejudice, to support them in ways that allow them to achieve their highest potential.”

DOG WALKING CONTINUED FROM P.1

for optimum health,” says Rhodes. “And we know that dog owners walk more than non-dog owners. Our observational snapshot of park use supports earlier work that dogs serve as motivational support for their owners’ walking practices through fair and foul weather.”

Rhodes and other researchers studied walkers with and without dogs in six area parks. While more people without dogs (73 per cent) visited parks than those with dogs (27 per cent) during the months of fair and poor weather, non-dog walking and vigorous activity levels fell significantly—by 35 per cent and 5 per cent respectively—when the weather turned foul. However, visits to parks by dog owners for walking increased during months of winter

weather by almost 6 per cent.

The researchers want to expand on their research and are looking for adult dog owners who walk their dog(s) less than four times a week for a minimum of 30 minutes at a brisk pace and would like to be more active. Participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire and wear a pedometer for seven days at the start, middle and end of the three-month period.

Honorariums of a \$25 gift card will be given to participants at the mid and end points of study. Contact Holly Murray at 250-472-5488 or [bml@uvic.ca](mailto:bml@uvic.ca) if you are interested in participating.

Results of the study will be published in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*.

UVic 2010 United Way blasts past goals

The campus community—staff, students, faculty and retirees—has more than 300,000 reasons this year to believe that the annual United Way campaign can change the future for those whose challenges are too great to face alone.

The final tally for the UVic 2010 United Way campaign was declared Jan. 25, exceeding the campaign goal of \$280,000 and placing UVic in the number-two position for top donors in the city. The grand total is \$302,328 with 81 new donors and 552 donors overall.

A bright green VW bug, a very cold dunk tank, a craft fair stocked full of handmade goodies, and a fleet of plastic racing cars helped coax folks to the various fundraising events across campus over the 14-week campaign. More than \$39,000 was raised by events alone, including: the annual BBQ kick-off with \$2,845; the VW bug push \$2,340; the dunk tank \$1,170; the craft fair \$2,009; the plasma car race \$2,694; the fashion show \$3,827; the chemistry show \$1,338; the coin drive

\$2,729; and a whopping \$19,878 for the book sale.

Since 2005, the UVic campus community has raised over \$1.5 million for the United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV) and on Jan. 28, the UWGV announced it had reached its 2010 goal of \$6.2 million, raising a total of \$6.21 million.

The UVic committee co-chairs, Dean of Social Sciences Peter Keller and Government Relations Executive Director Nikki MacDonald, point out the valued contributions—time and donations—from the large and dedicated team of volunteers from the UVic community plus the many generous sponsors both on and off campus who helped contribute to the smooth coordination provided by the 2010 committee, which received the 2010 Outstanding Campaign Committee Spirit Award from the UWGV at the annual Spirit Awards event on Jan. 27.

Visit the campaign website at [unit-edway.uvic.ca](http://unit-edway.uvic.ca) for more information and to access links to the campaign’s social media pages including blog posts and Twitter messages.

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