



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

DONNER PRIZE

PhD student wins national book award

Public Administration doctoral candidate Mark Jarvis has been awarded the prestigious Donner Prize for his co-authored book *Democratizing the Constitution: Reforming Responsible Government*. Administered by the Donner Foundation, the annual award recognizes the best public policy book by a Canadian. The book sounds alarm bells around government accountability and a breakdown in our constitutional conventions. <http://bit.ly/uvicdonner>

FACES OF UVIC RESEARCH

60+ UVic researchers on video

The newly launched Faces of UVic Research video series features over 60 faculty members presenting a succinct “elevator pitch” on their work—in everyday language—that quickly gets to the heart of what they do and why it matters. In the first two weeks, the videos have been viewed more than 5,000 times. <http://bit.ly/uvicresearchprofiles>

RING.UVIC.CA

Much more online:

■ Dr. Francis Juanes (biology) studies fish sounds to learn about the effects of climate change on fish populations. <http://bit.ly/Kg8Gu8>

■ Memorial scholarship in memory of UVic student Leo Tak-Cheung Chan, who died in January of meningococcal disease, reaches \$27,000. <http://bit.ly/J8MiW8>

■ Writing prof Tim Lilburn's new book, *Assiniboia*, is “polyphonic” and “performable” poetry. <http://bit.ly/JQJmLK>

■ UVic Revolving Sustainability Fund project to save \$7k in water costs annually by installing low-flow plumbing fixtures in Business and Economics, Strong buildings. <http://bit.ly/KPZoEt>

■ Nearly 100 recipients of 2012 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards show their stuff. <http://bit.ly/lyoGrQ>



LESSONS FROM THE CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE

SEE P.3

THE RING

MAY 2012

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Willerth and undergraduate assistant Kathleen Kolehmainen (in background). PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

CELLS OF HOPE

Stem cells hold tremendous promise for treating disease. But first we need to understand how they work.

226

APPROXIMATE
NUMBER OF
CELL-TYPES THAT
MAKE UP THE
HUMAN BODY—
ALL OF WHICH
STARTED OUT AS
A STEM CELL.

BY PHIL SAUNDERS

When Stephanie Willerth was five years old she asked her parents for one of two things for Christmas—a chemistry set or a pair of tickets to a college bowl football game. “It wasn’t much of a choice since bowl tickets are pretty pricey, so they gave me the chemistry set,” says Willerth, who at 31 now has a much bigger “chemistry set”—a research lab at the University of Victoria.

As a biomedical engineer in UVic’s Department of Mechanical Engineering and Division of Medical Sciences, Willerth is making advances in a field that has huge medical potential—stem cell bioengineering.

Stem cells are special, powerful cells found in humans and other animals that can replicate into cells that can repair and replace damaged tissues. Stem cell research holds huge promise for the treatment of conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, diabetes, heart disease and spinal cord injury.

But first, scientists need to know more about the biological signals that “tell” stem cells when and how to differentiate, and to find methods for growing and observing large numbers of the desired types of cells.

When Willerth was a graduate student in the US in 2006, her research group was the first to develop a method for studying stem cell behaviour in a 3-D setting. That

work used embryonic stem cells, which are the most versatile at reproducing and creating tissue. But they also raise many difficult ethical and legal issues.

At UVic, Willerth and her team are exploring similar techniques using “pluripotent” adult stem cells, which have been altered to behave like embryonic stem cells.

In a recently published study, Willerth and undergraduate assistant Kathleen Kolehmainen used a highly concentrated mix of a naturally occurring blood protein to grow stem cells in an environment that most resembles a living body.

“Biologists traditionally work on cells

SEE WILLERTH P.2

Humanities faculty members receive BC honours

Making historical sense of census data

BY TARA SHARPE

What can data stored in a bunker under the Clearihue Building in the early part of this century tell us about life 100 years ago? Dr. Eric Sager (history) has devoted his life to exploring such questions, and on Apr. 11 he received a career achievement award from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations (CUFA) of BC.

Sager has appeared on radio and TV programs and produced popular and critical essays as well as academic articles, and is well known for communicating the importance of history to daily life. “Inequality is receiving a lot of attention in the world today,” he points out, “but Occupy and other

protest movements are merely the most recent outgrowths.

“What are the roots of inequality? It’s a mistake to think these are all recent questions. In the early 20th century, socialists and even conservative economists such as Stephen Leacock were trying to answer what Leacock called the ‘unsolved riddle of social injustice.’”

“The Canadian census is our record of the present, for the benefit of historians of the future,” adds Sager. “And family is always a hot topic. The word itself is a reference to something singular, but ‘family’ takes many, many different forms.”

Sager participated in the Canadian Families Project (1996–2001), studying the nature and evolution of the Canadian family. Due to a

SEE CENSUS P.8

Teaming up to revitalize Salish languages

BY TARA SHARPE

Last month, Dr. Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins (linguistics) accepted a 2012 BC Community Achievement Award for her highly consultative approach on the Coast and Straits Salish language revitalization project. Czaykowska-Higgins was not thinking of herself that day.

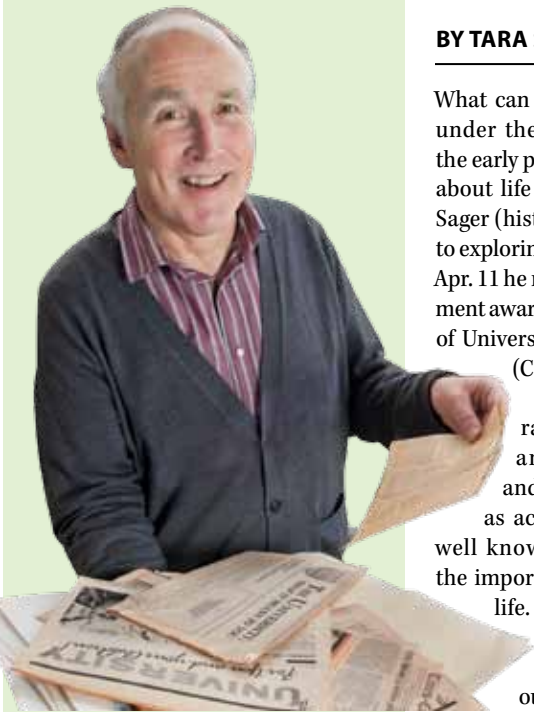
She begins this story—because that is what it is, primarily about words and people—with emphasizing first how many others were involved in the Community University Research Alliance (CURA) partnership.

“This award recognizes the value and importance of language revitalization to Aboriginal communities, and I want to share the applause with the Coast and Straits Salish communities of Vancouver

Island who have been working so hard to reclaim their languages,” says Czaykowska-Higgins. She also points to co-investigators Drs. Suzanne Urbanczyk (linguistics) and Tom Hukari (professor emeritus), the CURA Elders advisory committee, steering committee and management team as well as numerous colleagues and students. “UVic was an ally in all the different aspects of this very deeply collaborative project.”

The project (Jan. 2004–Dec. 2009) had its early beginnings in 2001 among other related activities when John Elliott Sr. of the Saanich Native Heritage Society first approached UVic. The partners—the society, the Hul’q’umi’num’ Treaty Group, the First Peoples’ Cultural

SEE LANGUAGES P.2



Sager. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

WILLERTH
CONTINUED FROM P.1

in two dimensions,” she explains. “The cells we’re working with are being suspended in a 3-D environment, which is how they behave in the body, so we can see how they migrate, grow and differentiate to create tissue.”

Willerth, her students and research colleagues can now observe stem cells as they make the transition from cells to tissue and hopefully better understand the mechanics of the cell-tissue process. “The goal is for stem cell therapies to become more widely used for a larger range of applications,” she says.

Willerth is just as excited about the teaching potential of the demonstration video that accompanied the published paper. “My students can access the demo any time and replicate the process more easily,” she says.

“The idea that we’re on the brink of helping people overcome so many different kinds of medical challenges is one of the most exciting aspects of my work,” says Willerth. “The fact that I can support the training of today’s young biomedical engineers to bring us closer to that day is what drives me. That—and this really nice chemistry set I get to work with every day.”

Faces of UVic Research video of Willerth describing her work: <http://bit.ly/JTnjFt>



Czakowska-Higgins. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

LANGUAGES CONTINUED FROM P.1

Foundation and the First Peoples’ Heritage, Language and Culture Council and UVic—focused on two different but closely related languages: SENĆOŦEN, the language of the WSÁNEĆ people whose ancestral territory includes the Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands, and Hul’q’umi’num’, the language of communities living on and north of the Malahat to north of Nanaimo.

“And all the partners were listening to each other. It’s really hard to do this well, but you cannot do a project like this without meaningful consultation. We were listening to the voices of the Elders who told us this is what we had to do.” It is this ability to foster collaboration and respect that garnered her a provincial award last month.

Czakowska-Higgins comes “from an immigrant family, so language has always been very important to me. I didn’t speak English at first, only Polish, so language is at the centre of who I am as a person.”

The final CURA report contains a cautionary note: language loss is occurring at an alarming rate in many Indigenous communities in Canada and elsewhere. (It is estimated that half of the world’s approximately 6,000 languages will disappear in this century.) This project is one contribution to the positive reversal of this loss in the SENĆOŦEN- and Hul’q’umi’num’-speaking communities.

The CURA partners created new tools and programs (including DVDs, training manuals and language lessons), evaluated current systems and strengthened partnerships to keep the revitalized languages thriving. Email ecz@uvic.ca for a copy of the report.

Czakowska-Higgins joined 35 other recipients at the ninth annual achievement awards on Apr. 25. Award info: www.bcachievement.com/community/

She is also one of the new “Faces of UVic Research” now on YouTube.

CARSA consultations
result in parkade design
choice

The revised parkade design for the proposed Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) is five levels, including one level underground, and additional parking for bicycles.

Developed with feedback from the public on five different options, the parkade will be located next to CARSA on McKenzie Avenue and its height has been reduced to almost half that of the original proposal presented to the District of Saanich last year.

The new proposal is a combination of the top two preferred design options—the option to bury two levels with 59-per-cent support and the option to reduce by two levels with 41-per-cent support.

The revised design has a total of 332 parking spaces, including eight for people with accessibility issues, and inside spaces for 64 bicycles.

The design allows convenient, safe and direct access to CARSA and limits the depth of excavation, which lessens technical challenges of deeper sub-surface work. It also fits under Saanich’s bylaw height limit of 10 metres.

At a series of open houses April 28 to May 2, including one on the UVic campus, people viewed the

new design, got more information from UVic staff involved with the project, and provided comments on three different exterior cladding options.

The exterior options are:

- precast concrete with vine cover and cast concrete wall art (\$13.4 million)
- metal panel and glass design (\$15.5 million) or
- aluminum vertical fins (\$14.8 million).

Illustrations of the options and more information on the revised design can be viewed at www.uvic.ca/carsa.

Public feedback will be collected until May 10 and will help UVic finalize the design before re-submitting the CARSA proposal, including the revised parkade, to Saanich.

The proposed CARSA project would provide a new home for UVic’s Department of Athletics and Recreation and for CanAssist—UVic’s internationally renowned entity that develops and delivers technologies, programs and services critical to improving the quality of life for people living with disabilities—and recreational opportunities for students, staff, and community members.

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Closer educational, research ties formed with Brazil

From April 25 to May 2, UVic President David Turpin joined 30 other Canadian university presidents along with Canada’s Governor General David Johnston on an unprecedented higher education mission to Brazil. It was the largest international delegation of university presidents in Canadian history.

Organized by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), the delegation succeeded in raising the profile of Canadian universities and creating new opportunities for academic exchanges and research collaboration.

Brazil will soon be one of the world’s top five economies and shares some important research priorities with UVic, including climate change, sustainable development, green energy and ocean science and technology.

UVic already has several research partnerships in Brazil, ranging from

establishing a community-based mariculture industry to supporting clean-technology entrepreneurship and from using satellite imagery to monitor water quality in the Amazon to developing strategies to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

“In today’s global society and economy, it is more important than ever that we offer our students opportunities to develop international as well as intercultural capacities and skills,” says Turpin. “It is important for our students and faculty to have access to opportunities worldwide and we are looking forward to welcoming Brazilian students to our campus.”

Turpin played several key roles during the mission. On April 26, he moderated the Presidents’ Roundtable “Funding our Cooperation,” held in Rio de Janeiro, on how increased

collaboration between Canadian and Brazilian institutions can be funded and supported.

On April 27, he was a panelist at the Canada-Brazil Innovation Forum in São Paulo on successful university-industry partnerships that advance research and innovation. The Consul General of Canada in São Paulo specifically requested that Turpin participate and describe the innovative nature of UVic’s Ocean Networks Canada platforms and oceans research and technology.

In addition, Turpin signed several memoranda of understanding to co-operate on research, and student-exchange agreements with three top universities: Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), the Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP) and the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP). The

UNESP agreement is a “hybrid” student exchange that offers co-op work terms for UVic students in Brazil and study terms for Brazilian students in Canada.

UVic also signed an agreement with the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) to secure matching money for projects between UVic researchers and those at universities and research centres in São Paulo State.

UVic plans to host up to 50 Brazilian students per year, starting with a smaller number this September.

Overall, Canadian universities signed 75 agreements with institutions in Brazil, totaling CDN\$6.7 million.

Additional information related to the presidents’ mission to Brazil can be found on the AUCC website at www.aucc.ca/brazil.

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RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS

MAY 2012

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		\$169,062	\$156,201	\$144,549	\$131,997	\$126,836	\$119,619
Accelerated Payout:							
	Income over 5 years	\$1,786			Total 5 year payout	\$107,114	
	Income over 10 years	\$954			Total 10 year payout	\$114,456	
	Income over 15 years	\$679			Total 15 year payout	\$122,111	

* Based on best current GIC of 2.75%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

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	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
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...payments cease at death		\$469	\$525	\$607	\$748	\$838	\$1,030
...10 years guaranteed		\$460	\$509	\$573	\$664	\$725	\$844
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$421	\$463	\$524	\$629	\$726	\$915
...10 years guaranteed		\$418	\$460	\$514	\$598	\$664	\$782
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The Ring welcomes letters to the editor on issues of direct concern to the university community. Letters should be signed with university community affiliation noted, not exceed 500 words in length and not be submitted to other media outlets. The editor reserves the right to select letters for publication and to edit for style, grammar and length.

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SURVIVING A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE:

Lessons from Christchurch and the University of Canterbury

BY DAPHNE DONALDSON
AND PETER KELLER

Imagine an event of such magnitude that the university has to be closed for several weeks for reasons of safety, and that even when it reopens a significant number of our buildings are inoperable and likely to remain so for more than a year.

This raises interesting questions. How do you close a university down? How do you re-organize the academic term and the delivery of academic programming to allow students to get on with their studies when you have lost a significant amount of teaching space? How do you keep students engaged while the university is closed? How do you facilitate continuation of research and scholarship when a significant part of your research space required for timely data collection and access to sophisticated instrumentation is unsafe for occupancy?

All this is compounded by the fact that the town you are located in has sustained equivalent damage, that many of the homes the staff and students live in are damaged—many with no running water or toilets—and a large percentage condemned for destruction. And your usual chain of suppliers and services in the local community is disrupted or out of business.

This is what the University of Canterbury and the city of Christchurch in New Zealand faced on Sept. 4, 2010, when an earthquake of 7.1 magnitude struck early on a weekend morning, and again on Feb. 22, 2011, with a smaller, but much more destructive earthquake of 6.3 magnitude in the middle of the business day.

There are many parallels between Christchurch and Victoria, and between the University of Canterbury and the University of Victoria. Both cities are located in a seismically active area. The housing stock in both

is of similar age and structure, with many homes built of brick and mortar. And the two universities are of similar size and age, and have campuses that are remarkably alike.

This March the University of Canterbury welcomed a small delegation from UVic interested in seeing first hand how the university and the city are recovering a year after the most devastating event, and discussing lessons learned and insights gained.

The “red zone,” approximately 16 city blocks that make up the core of downtown Christchurch, remains behind a chain-link fence with heavy machinery on a controlled schedule tearing down most buildings because they are structurally unsafe. We were privileged to join our hosts for a tour of this area on the first day of our visit, giving us a sobering insight into the power of nature and what Victoria might look like should a similar event strike us here. The reality check continued with a tour of neighbourhoods later that day revealing abandoned houses in various stages of collapse including some hanging off cliffs, roads protected from further rockslides by walls of shipping containers filled with concrete, neighbourhoods with wonky potholed streets and mobile outhouses on sidewalks where municipal services have yet to be restored.

The next few days on the Canterbury campus told the story of how, after a few weeks of closure, academic programming re-opened with lectures offered in tents on parking lots, moving a few months later into clusters of pre-fabricated buildings erected on playing fields to accommodate teaching, research and office needs displaced by the approximately 20 per cent of the university’s space that could not be re-occupied and is now slated for demolition.

We learned a lot. The University of Canterbury had dedicated effort and resources to preparing for the



UVic delegation at Christchurch Cathedral.

likelihood of a major disaster, and this paid dividends. University officials had established an Emergency Operations Centre, had given time to thinking through in detail what might need to be done should real disasters strike, and had practised responses to various simulated crises.

Our hosts shared that, after February’s devastating earthquake, not all turned out as expected and practised, and there were many unanticipated challenges and surprises. Nobody, for example, anticipated that the students would organize themselves into the Student Volunteer Army with over 1,000 students turning up day after day to reach into the neighbourhoods to help residents with whatever was needed, including clearing driveways, patching roofs or arranging food. And imagine universities elsewhere in New Zealand and other parts of the world agreeing to allow Canterbury

students to stay with them and to take courses there for a term without charging any fees.

We returned to Victoria with long lists of lessons learned and questions to ask ourselves. How can what we heard and saw strengthen UVic’s current emergency operating procedures and emergency planning structure? What should we do and prepare for now, so that in real crises we can move quickly beyond emergency response into recovery? What we learned already is informing a number of initiatives and steps have been put in place at UVic since our visit that hopefully will make both individuals and the university even better prepared and more resilient.

The hope is that Victoria and its university will never have to face the type of situation our friends encountered in Christchurch. But our geological setting and the odds tell us that we had better be prepared for the worst.

And we do know that everyone at UVic needs to understand basic emergency procedures on campus and be well prepared at home.

Our week in New Zealand has been hugely informative and has taken us important steps further in knowing what questions to ask and what to put in place now. It has reminded us once again that nature can be so very powerful and unpredictable. It also has brought us closer to colleagues in another part of the world whose amazing hospitality and willingness to share insights and lessons learned will prove invaluable should it ever come to that.

Daphne Donaldson is UVic’s manager of emergency planning

Peter Keller is a professor of geography, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and one of the directors of UVic’s Emergency Operations Centre.

The delegation

All members of the delegation to New Zealand were part of the University of Victoria Emergency Operations Centre or Executive Policy teams. The team included: David Turpin, president; Gayle Gorrill, V-P finance & operations; Peter Keller, dean of social sciences and Emergency Operations Centre director; Tom Smith, executive director, Facilities Management; Bruce Kilpatrick, director, UVic Communications; Daphne Donaldson, manager, emergency planning.

Whom they met

The group met with University of Canterbury officials, faculty, staff and students, including the vice-chancellor and senior executive. They also met with the communications team, research and academic leaders, digital learning group, facilities management, student affairs, student association, human resources, health and safety and finance, the current president of the Student Association and the student leaders of the Student Volunteer Army.

How you can help

To build UVic’s capacity to respond and recover from emergencies, we need to identify staff, faculty and students with emergency response and recovery skills that may be needed during a crisis. If you have volunteered with other agencies (e.g. search and rescue, Red Cross, emergency social services etc.), or have language or first aid skills or other experience that may be needed during a crisis, contact Daphne Donaldson at ddonald@uvic.ca.

Hear first-hand what the earthquake was like

On June 12, from 1:30–4 p.m. in Social Sciences and Math A102, Carolyn Taylor, a UVic student who was in downtown Christchurch when the earthquake hit, will describe her experiences and how the earthquake has impacted her life. Daphne Donaldson, manager, emergency planning, will talk about the city and the university campus one year later and what we can learn from the people of Christchurch.

Are you prepared for an emergency?

For resources on earthquake response and preparedness—just in case: <http://bit.ly/lj0GAr>



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Craigdarroch

RESEARCH AWARDS 2012

BY VALERIE SHORE

Passion, enthusiasm, a commitment to making a difference in our lives—these are the qualities that are shared by all winners of the Craigdarroch Research Awards, and this year’s “class” is no exception.

The 2012 Craigdarroch Research Awards, which honour achievement in research at UVic, were presented at a celebration event on May 1.

“The number and eminence of the nominations this year speak volumes about the extraordinary investigative and creative activity taking place each day in every corner of our campus,” says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president research. “These six individuals exemplify UVic’s commitment to excellence and the open transfer of knowledge to the wider community.”



Vandenberg. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Gold Medal for Career Achievement (two recipients)

DR. DON VANDENBERG
PROFESSOR EMERITUS,
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
AND ASTRONOMY

Just as we can guess the age of someone from their appearance, Don Vandenberg can determine the age of stars and stellar systems. He is internationally acclaimed as a pioneer in his field for using computer models to understand the structure and evolution of stars, and for developing tools and techniques now used routinely by stellar astronomers around the world. He is also one of the world’s most highly cited researchers—a clear indication of the lasting impact he continues to have on his field.



Crozier. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

PROF. LORNA CROZIER
DEPARTMENT OF WRITING

Poet, essayist, teacher and mentor—Lorna Crozier is without doubt one of UVic’s most publicly celebrated faculty members. Winner of the 1992 Governor-General’s Award for Poetry for *Inventing the Hawk*, she continues to captivate readers across Canada and around the world with her poetry and creative non-fiction. The arresting, lyrical honesty for which she is best known infuses her 15 books of poetry and her award-winning 2009 memoir, *Small Beneath the Sky*. In 2009 she was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada—the country’s highest academic honour.



Kushniruk. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Silver Medal for Excellence in Research

DR. ANDRE KUSHNIRUK
SCHOOL OF HEALTH
INFORMATION SCIENCE

The challenges of introducing computer and telecommunications technology to the health care sector are many and complex. Andre Kushniruk is an emerging international leader in the field of health informatics, which studies how health data are collected, stored and communicated. He is renowned for his work on computer usability in the health care context and is an expert on e-health telemedicine and computerized patient record systems. Through his research and teaching, he continually strives to develop user-friendly systems for medical practitioners and their patients.



Lutz. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Zehr. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Award for Excellence in Knowledge Mobilization

DR. E. PAUL ZEHR
SCHOOL OF EXERCISE
SCIENCE, PHYSICAL AND
HEALTH EDUCATION/
DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Whether he’s talking about the physical limits and potential of the human organism or sharing his knowledge of neurobiology with students and the public, Paul Zehr demonstrates a remarkable talent for communicating science at a general level. He is an accomplished neuroscientist but is equally well known for his tireless efforts to engage general audiences in the wonders of scientific research. His two popular books—*Becoming Batman* and *Inventing Iron Man*—use superheroes to explore the outer limits of our scientific and technological abilities.

Award for Excellence in Artistic Expression

DR. GEORGE TZANETAKIS
DEPARTMENTS OF
COMPUTER SCIENCE
AND ELECTRICAL AND
COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Automated understanding of multimedia content is one of the major challenges facing computer systems today, especially with the proliferation of digital music on the internet. George Tzanetakis blends computer science and the creative arts to advance a new interdisciplinary area of research—music information retrieval. The work draws on his broad expertise in signal processing, machine learning, music perception and human-computer interfaces to develop more effective tools for manipulating large audio collections and improve musician-computer interactions.

Award for Excellence in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

DR. JOHN LUTZ
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

John Lutz has few equals in popularizing the history of the Pacific Northwest. In the words of one nominator, he “throws the doors of academe wide open and invites everyone—students, amateur historians and the general public—to walk in.” Through an innovative weave of traditional historical research, community-based fieldwork and the creation of popular interactive websites, Lutz sheds new light on settler-Aboriginal relations in the Pacific Northwest and makes Canadian history fun, accessible and exciting for students and the general public.



Tzanetakis. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Meet the 2012 Craigdarroch winners on video
<http://bit.ly/uvicresearchprofiles>

Behind the accent: UVic research gives immigrant youth a voice

BY PAULINA JARMULA

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be an immigrant to Victoria? University of Victoria medical anthropology PhD candidate Sarah Fletcher and her team of immigrant youth research assistants are giving us a good idea.

Since October 2011, they have been conducting research on the experiences of immigrant youth in Victoria. Their project, Navigating Multiple Worlds, explores how immigrant youth experience the transition from one country and way of life to another, as well as how they deal with and use the language of stress in everyday life.

The research findings to date have ranged from heartbreaking to hilarious. Some of the youths’ first impressions of Victoria have included “quiet,” “small,” “boring,” “very white,” “lots of old people,” and “like a zombie movie.”

Some common challenges that have come up have been expected. There is always the issue of communication (“I’m just not funny in English.”); finding new friends and fitting in (“I had never heard of Lady Gaga. In my language, ‘gaga’ means crazy. So Lady Gaga means crazy lady.”); adjusting to a different school (finding your locker and figuring out what “block schedule” means); finding a job and earning money (just as soon as you learn how to write a “Canadian” resume); and understanding Victoria’s

“recycling laws,” which one youth noted as his biggest challenge.

Cultural stereotyping has also come up on several occasions. One youth shared a story about his Canadian friends expecting him to know kungfu because of his nationality.

Linguistic barriers have also emerged as a primary theme; one youth commented on his difficulties in understanding English jargon. Newly arrived in Victoria, he had boarded a bus to be greeted by the driver with “Hi there!” He knew “hi” and he knew “there” separately, but the meaning of them together was lost on him.

One thing is certain: many facets of our daily routines that we so often take for granted or tend not to think about altogether have proven to come up time and again throughout the interviews.

As for stress, there is no question that youth are resilient when it comes to dealing with life’s obstacles. Some use the language of stress to express their hardships, while others prefer to describe these hardships as challenges. Some don’t even know what the word “stress” means. (“What is this word? We don’t have this word in my language.”) Friends, family and community are often sought out for support, but for newcomers, they are not always close at hand.

The project also benefits the immigrant youth research assistants, helping them develop skills that will support them in their future academic

and professional pursuits.

Having completed their research analysis and identified key themes throughout the research findings, the team is now moving on to the “photovoice” stage of their project. In this stage, the research assistants will be taking photographs that capture what each identified theme means to them. Some of the themes include “home,” “stress,” “belonging” and “your imagined future.”

As one youth put it, “I’d say it has been one of the best experiences of my life. It allowed me to meet people who understand me and have gone through the same experiences as me. I also learned a lot from other people’s difficulties and I started to see how beautiful it is to overcome all of them. Now we’re ending the project with a photovoice stage, which amazes me because I am discovering a whole new area of expression while sharing our points of view with the community.”

Navigating Multiple Worlds is focused on taking the youths’ recommendations and turning them into tangible outcomes such as recycling information sheets translated into major settlement languages.

The project is presenting a photovoice exhibit at Xchanges Gallery, which will provide Victorians with insight into the lives of the youth involved in the project. More importantly, Navigating Multiple Worlds is giving a voice to a minority demographic, allowing them an opportunity to



Photovoice photo by Elisangela Pontedura: “This picture represent support for me because I can see in it my family and my friends helping me cope and live my everyday life. As living so far away from home I’ve learnt that home is where I am at the present moment and that my family is now the friends I’ve made in Canada. I have learned that we are here for each other and to support each other. My friends are my support and they help make my every day life easier and blissful. I love being here and I am thankful for having this wonderful gift life has given me.”

share their stories and collectively fuel change throughout the community.

Paulina Jarmula is a program coordinator at the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society and is involved in the Navigating Multiple Worlds research project as a research assistant.

The Navigating Multiple Worlds Exhibit opens June 1 (5:30–9:00 p.m. with the official opening at 7 p.m.) at the XChanges Gallery, Suite 6E-2333 Government Street. The exhibit will be open to the public June 1–3 from 1–5 p.m.

INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE EXCHANGE

The spirit of *aloha*

BY JESSICA NANAGIISHKUNG BENSON

Having never been to Hawai’i before, I had a typical vision of the tropical paradise: sandy beaches lined with palm trees, a coconut drink decorated with a miniature umbrella in hand, the occasional hula dancer in sight, and a plethora of tourists. This distant, magical place seemed breathtakingly beautiful, but it also seemed a little too conventional for my liking. But when the opportunity came for me to complete an elective course in Hawai’i, I jumped at the chance not knowing that a transformative, life-changing experience awaited me.

The course (IGOV 595) was a two-week intensive academic and cultural exchange between UVic’s Indigenous Governance Program (IGOV) and the University of Hawai’i at Manoa’s Indigenous Politics Program (UHIP). This was the sixth course in a series of ongoing graduate seminars that began in 2006, with locations alternating between Canada and Hawai’i. The March 2012 exchange brought 24 IGOV MA students, PhD candidates, faculty, alumni and Local Advisory Council representatives to Honolulu.

Entitled *Restoring Kuleana: Contemporary Native Hawaiian Politics*,

the course focused on community, place-based experiential learning. For four days the class split into two groups: I was with the group that went to the island of Kaho’olawe, while a smaller group went to the island of Moloka’i. Both of these locations represented two case studies that were intended to teach us about Native Hawaiian efforts to reclaim traditional land and Hawaiian land practices.

In the 1950s Kaho’olawe had been expropriated by the US military and used for bomb testing. Brave Hawaiians like George Helm, Kimo Mitchell and the Ritte family were part of the Hawaiian Renaissance movement in the 1970s and occupied the island in protest. By the 1990s the military ceased bombing and gave the island to the state of Hawai’i. Today the Protect Kaho’olawe Ohana (PKO) organization brings people to the island who are willing to learn about Kaho’olawe and practice *aloha aina* (love the land) through clean ups, ceremonies and hard work. Accessing the island is a privileged experience because it represents the intersection of Native Hawaiian resistance, spiritual practice and *aloha aina*.

The PKO members and Hawaiian youth present during our visit demonstrated an immense amount of *aloha*



IGOV and UHIP students and faculty on the island of Kaho’olawe (Jessica Benson in front row at left)

(love, warmth and friendship) to us, to their culture and for their land. Young people spoke to each other in Hawaiian, listened intently to the wisdom imparted from the adults, and sang their *mele* (chants) with confidence. Youth asked us about our words, songs and homelands. By the end of the trip I found myself using Hawaiian words properly and heard some Hawaiians joking in my language, Anishinaabe-

mowin, with the newfound vocabulary I had taught them.

The exchange that happened made it clear that although from different places and from different walks of life, we are united in our struggle to protect our land and remain inherently Indigenous on it. I returned from Hawai’i knowing that *aloha* is more than a tourist commodity, it is a sacred way of life, and if lived like a

true Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) then Hawai’i can be authentic, not conventional.

Jessica Nanagiishkung Benson is a graduate student in the Masters of Indigenous Governance Program and is Anishinaabe from the Chippewas of Rama First Nation and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation.



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Dr. Sandy Gibbons (exercise science, physical and health education) has been recognized by Physical and Health Education Canada with its most prestigious award: the R. Tait McKenzie Honour Award. This award is named after the distinguished Canadian physician, sculptor and physical educator Dr. R. Tait McKenzie and is given to Canadians who epitomize his professional ideals, service to humanity and dedication to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of physical and health education. Gibbons is one of two Canadians honoured this year. She is being recognized for her outstanding teaching career as well as her school-based scholarship and research in physical education.

Prof. Emeritus Martin Segger is the winner of the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects Public Servant-Public Agency Award for his work recognizing landscape architects in his recent exhibitions at UVic’s Legacy Gallery. In the exhibitions Emergence of Architectural Modernism 1 & 2, UVic and Victoria Regional Aesthetic in the Late 1950s and 60s, local landscape architects Desmond Muirhead, Clive Justice, John Lantzius and Don Vaughan figured prominently with their biographies and works on private residences and such civic projects as Centennial Square and the UVic campus.

Children’s residential school art portrays a truth

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Human faces, landscapes, cultural stories, wildlife and abstract shapes are just some of the depictions found in a collection of children’s art created during the years 1958–60 at the Alberni Indian Residential School. Each piece of art tells a story about a child who did not have a voice.

“The legacy of the residential schools speaks through the artwork,” says UVic visual anthropologist Dr. Andrea Walsh. “Standing in front of the paintings brings you into that child’s moment—there is immediacy to the experience.”

The children’s paintings are now part of the University of Victoria Art Collections and Walsh’s community-based research project. The paintings were bequeathed to the university by Robert Aller, the artist who was hired to teach weekly art classes at the Alberni Residential School in the late 1950s.

“Our hope is to embrace an open access policy with the artwork,” says Walsh. “We want all the elders and the public to have access to these paintings.”

Walsh works very closely with Elders’ Voices on campus, the Nuuchahnulth people and the community of Port Alberni. The elders play a key role in the community-based research project’s methodology and are the foundation for the entire project.

“The elders’ expertise and close involvement is what makes this project special,” says Walsh. “Often it is the elders leading this project, carrying out their vision.”

For instance, during last month’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (www.trc.ca) regional event in Victoria, the children’s artwork was displayed in the Fairmont Empress Hotel. The



L–R: Dr. Robina Thomas (social work); Sulsa’meeeth (Deb George), cultural protocol liaison for the Office of Indigenous Affairs and project researcher; Dr. Andrea Walsh (anthropology); and Elders in Residence and project researchers Tousilum (Ron George) and Joyce Underwood. PHOTO: GARY MCKINSTRY

elders expertly took the lead on how the children’s art would be carried into the room in which they would be displayed for participants at the TRC regional event.

“The paintings can’t be stacked; every child must be carried,” instructed Cheryl Johnson, one of the women who organized the dancers for the pre-TRC installation of the artwork at the Victoria Conference Centre.

The pre-TRC event to hang the paintings with the participation of survivors, family members of the child artists and their communities took the form of a memorable ceremony. Over 40 Nuuchahnulth women dancers each carried a single piece of art into the space. They were led into the room by men singers, who filled the hotel with their voices and drums.

For this special ceremony, over 100 Nuuchahnulth people travelled to Victoria to bear witness and view the 47 pieces of residential school artwork.

Over two days more than 1,600 members of the public viewed the art.

“Rich, tragic, emotional and hopeful,” says Deb George (elder-in-training and UVic coordinator of Elder’s Voices) about the survivor stories she heard. “The paintings help memories come alive and this is very important for healing,” says George.

Walsh acknowledges huge contributions and expertise of Elders’ Voices: Deb George, Victor Underwood, Joyce Underwood, Ron George as well as Alberni Residential School survivor Patricia Watts and UVic faculty Christine Welsh (women’s studies) and Robina Thomas (social work).

The final TRC report will likely include reference to the work of the residential children’s art as the chair of the TRC, Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, recently said the art is “a very important part of the commission.”

For more information, contact Walsh at anthtwo@uvic.ca.

Youth produce video resistance narratives

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission regional event in Victoria included the premiere of seven videos produced by seven young Indigenous researchers for the UVic Centre for Youth and Society’s project, “Resistance Narratives: Strategies and Significance for Indigenous Youth.”

Using digital storytelling, the youth identified and celebrated strategies of resistance that enabled family and community members to survive the Indian Residential Schools of Vancouver Island.

More info: <http://bit.ly/ILVAV7>.

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50th anniversary logo available soon

In anticipation of the launch of UVic's 50th anniversary celebrations in September, University Marketing has created a special logo, stamp, stationery and email signature to recognize the anniversary milestone. From September 2012 to June 2013, the 50th anniversary logo will replace the core UVic logo and must be used on all materials.

Faculties and departments with their own unique UVic logos may use the 50th anniversary stamp in con-

junction with their own logo.

The logo, stamp, stationery and email signature will be available on the brand guidelines Sharepoint site at <https://share.uvic.ca/mktg/guidelines> at the beginning of June. A netlink ID and password will be required to log in to the website. Brand guidelines and instructions on use will also be available for download.

If you require the 50th anniversary logo before June, contact Carmen Konig, 250-721-6246 or ckoning@uvic.ca.

Sedgewick air quality testing

The University of Victoria is conducting air quality tests in the Sedgewick Building following an April 16 WorkSafeBC report citing employee health concerns. The university has hired an environmental consultant recommended by WorkSafeBC to conduct the tests, which will occur within the next several weeks. The test results and any recommended actions will be shared with employees.

Over the years, the university has responded to individual complaints and undertaken improvements to the Sedgewick Building, most significantly sealing off the building's crawl space with a vapour barrier in 2011 to address complaints about an occasional earthy odour in the building.

Air quality tests after the remedial work found that airborne mould spore concentrations indoors in Sedgewick's C Wing were similar to those found outdoors, but testing was not done throughout all three Sedgewick wings.

An internal ventilation system was also turned back on (it had been turned off due to staff complaints

about cold, blowing air some time earlier) to deal with an issue identified by air quality testing around levels of carbon dioxide in offices that, with doors and windows closed for extended periods, were found to be above WorkSafe BC standards for indoor air quality comfort.

A few employees report symptoms such as chronic coughing and runny noses, itchy eyes and the onset of allergies when in the building.

WorkSafeBC has ordered the university to conduct further sampling for airborne contaminants and take action to address any problems; to make improvements in systems to report, investigate and address the health and safety concerns of workers in a timely manner; and to report to WorkSafeBC the measures taken.

The WorkSafeBC inspection report has been made available to all employees working in the Sedgewick Building, and UVic Occupational Health, Safety and Environment is working with units in Sedgewick to provide further information to employees.

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

www.uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit** *Symbols of Living In-between: Re-stor(y)ing Life within Life-threatening Illness*. Until June 12. Maltwood Prints and Drawings Gallery in the Mearns Centre/McPherson Library (room 027, lower level). 250-381-7645

SUNDAY, MAY 13

■ **Music** 2:30 p.m. *Faculty Recital: 4 Saxophones*. Victoria jazz musician Gordon Clements and Victoria Conservatory colleague Dr. Erik Abbink, UVic saxophone professor Wendell Clanton and gifted pedagogue Ross Ingstrup reunite for a concert featuring a tango sandwiched between jazz-inspired pieces and French neoclassical compositions. Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin B125. By donation. 250-721-8634

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

■ **Other** 9 p.m. *Astronomy Open House*. Also May 23, 30 and June 6. Sponsored by the Dept. of Physics & Astronomy. Contact email at physgen@uvic.ca. Wright Centre, 5th Floor. 250-721-7700

THURSDAY, MAY 24

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *An Evening with Daniel Boyarin*. Acclaimed author and rabbinic scholar Daniel Boyarin (Univ. of California, Berkeley) reads from his newest work, *The Jewish Gospels: The Story of the Jewish Christ*. Church of St. John the Divine,

Bike to Work Week is May 28 to June 3

Grab your bike and join in the annual celebration of cycling to work and school. Events on campus this year include:



Saturday, May 19: One day cycling skills workshop, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hickman Building 110

Monday, May 28: Kick-off BBQ lunch at the SUB, noon

Tuesday, May 29: Celebration Station at the Fountain, 7:30–9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 30: Free lunchtime cycling safety seminar, Strong Building C108, noon

Thursday, May 31: Celebration Station at the Fountain, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Register your team on the Victoria Bike to Work Week website, www.biketowork.ca/victoria, and contact action@uvic.ca for more information.

1611 Quadra Street. Sponsored by UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and the Anglican Diocese of BC. 250-721-6325

FRIDAY, MAY 25

■ **Conference** *How To Talk about Science*. Keynote speakers: K-12 Bonnie Schmidt, (president, Let's Talk Science), Bob McDonald, (host CBC Quirks and Quarks), Dr. E. Paul Zehr (UVic, author, *Becoming Batman and Inventing Iron Man*). Hosted by the Centre for Biomedical Research. MacLaurin A144. Registration required. \$175. 250-472-4067

MONDAY, MAY 28

■ **Other** *Greater Victoria Bike to Work Week*. Until June 3. Events planned throughout the week, thousands of dollars in prizes, many celebration stations, great food and lots of fun. Visit www.biketowork.ca/victoria. 250-920-5775

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

■ **Other** 1 p.m. *UVic Kids Safety Day*. Crime prevention event hosted by Campus Security Services. Bike rodeo for children 5–12 yrs. to learn bike safety skills, a bouncy castle, free refreshments, safety displays with police, fire and ambulance members. Campus Security Bldg. Rear parking lot #2. 250-721-8981

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

■ **Other** *Operation Trackshoes*. June 8–10. Provincial sports festival for people with developmental disabilities. Athletes come from all over the province of BC to compete in fun, recreational and competitive events. Prices vary. To register: visit www.trackshoes.ca or call 250-721-4932

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federal 92-year rule of access, the research team perused census data from 1901, nothing later. From 2003 to 2009, Sager was also a co-investigator with the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project (CCRI), which created national samples of censuses from 1911 to 1951.

Because access to the data was highly controlled, the CCRI team at UVic worked under high-level security in a bunker in the basement of Clearihue. There were no windows in the bunker, there was a swipe card for the door; “Nothing in, nothing out,” says Sager.

He has long argued for access to census data after 92 years because he believes that the value of the information for historians, genealogists and others “far outweighs any risk to Canadians. After all, we put much more revealing and confidential information on Facebook.”

When he is not logging hours in bunkers or teaching history in classrooms both as a professor and

a visiting ambassador of history in local schools, Sager “vent[s] my frustrations by thrashing away at golf balls at Cordova Bay.” He brings a similar passion to his pursuit of the perfect aria. He and his wife attend Pacific Opera Victoria performances and have used frequent flyer points to travel to Chicago for *Otello* and London for *Tristan und Isolde*.

Just as opera and golf will move him, Sager feels strongly about a “liberal arts” vision: “Universities are places where society stores and shares its arts and sciences, for their indispensable value to us all.”

The CUFA BC awards are presented annually to honour faculty members from BC universities.

Nine UVic researchers have already been honoured since the CUFA BC distinguished awards program began in 1995, including most recently Jessica Ball (2009), Elaine Gallagher (2008) and Andrew Weaver (2007).

For more on Sager’s story and award, visit: <http://bit.ly/IJReP7>

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day in the life

Kehoe. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BY MELANIE GROVES

You wouldn’t necessarily expect to find the beginnings of a university press on the corner of a librarian’s desk. Yet the small stack of textbook-sized volumes on the desk of Inba Kehoe, the university’s copyright officer and scholarly communications/publishing librarian, hints at a bright publishing future for the University of Victoria.

Kehoe’s eyes light up when she talks about her forays into digital publishing, part of her “scholarly communications” portfolio. Her first project involved the development of an online academic journal publishing service, now available at *journals.uvic.ca*. Using open source software, Kehoe helped a number of small departmental journals develop an online presence, with an option to print copies on demand via the UVic Bookstore: www.uvicbookstore.ca/text/espresso/index.php. The site provides advice for peer reviewers, sample publishing agreements and publishing templates. Kehoe assists with indexing the journals to make them more widely accessible.

“Students are excited about online publishing, and it’s fun working with them. We give them whatever assistance we can,” she says. The growing site now hosts 18 journals, including international and peer-reviewed titles.

As successful as this service has been, it’s clear that Kehoe has a big-

ger vision. “We will eventually have a book publishing site like the journal site,” she says. “There’s a big need for it, and I find it very satisfying to help authors put the pieces together, give them advice on copyright, indexing and marketing, and then see the book in print.” The three textbooks on Kehoe’s desk—produced by retired history professor Ian McPherson and his colleagues through a SSHRC grant—are the fruits of the pilot phase of this service.

Although she doesn’t believe a traditional university press is economically viable in this digital age, Kehoe suggests that a hybrid model—where the university provides access to design and on-demand printing services for authors with funded projects—will allow many more faculty members to make their work accessible.

Kehoe arrived at UVic in 1998, after completing her Masters of Library Science degree and beginning her career as a librarian at Queens University. Before immigrating to Canada, she had been a teacher in her native Singapore, specializing in English and phys ed.

“I use my teaching skills in my librarian life,” she says. “As a second career, it is a good fit for my skills.” As a liaison librarian for the areas of business, economics and public administration, she provided assistance to upper-level undergraduate and graduate students, teaching them how to do research and build

collections for their assignments. In 2003, Kehoe became UVic Libraries’ first information literacy coordinator, making countless class presentations to help students navigate the sometimes confusing world of library resources.

In 2007, Kehoe became the university’s first library copyright officer, taking over licensing, policy and education work from the Office of the University Secretary. “It was perfect timing,” she says. “I enjoy reading legalese and I already had many contacts, so it was natural for me to start going out and talking to the campus community about copyright issues.” She created and developed strategies to raise awareness about copyright rules and regulations.

Kehoe now spends about half of her time working on copyright issues. She responds personally to emails to copyrite@uvic.ca, which run the gamut from “How do I get permission to put an image in my thesis?” to “What do I need to know about signing a publishing agreement?” Each question requires research and often problem solving. “I like meeting and talking with people, trying to find solutions, and finding balance between the use of materials and authors’ rights.”

Outside her busy professional life, Kehoe finds balance by “staying away from the computer,” through sewing, gardening and golfing with her family.

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