



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

INFO BREACH

Personal information theft

Over the weekend of Jan. 7 and 8, there was a break-in at UVic's Administrative Services Building that resulted in the theft of personal information about current and former employees. Those affected include all individuals who have received pay through UVic payroll since January 2010. UVic sincerely regrets this incident and is posting updates with information for the campus community: www.uvic.ca/infobreach

UVIC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Deadline for submitting Great Moments is Jan. 20

The university is currently collecting submissions online of historical or significant moments from UVic's 50-year history. Great Moments could be individual or team achievements, a physical campus development or a UVic event. See story, page 3. Submit your Great Moment: <http://bit.ly/rNwFDg>

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Class publishes book on development economics issues

Students in Dr. Alok Kumar's third-year Development and Economics course have had their research papers published in a book entitled *Governance, Social and Physical Infrastructure, and Development*. Their papers cover such topics as poverty, hunger, gender inequality, child labour and globalization. Being published has helped some of these students get into grad school or find jobs with development agencies. Online *Ring* story: <http://bit.ly/we8rSW>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Students help local organizations address energy challenges

UVic students participated on six teams in the CRD's Ready, Set, Solve Challenge last term, applying their skills and knowledge to help local organizations improve their energy efficiency. Geography student Jessie Abraham reports on her learning experience: <http://bit.ly/AAEGAF>

ALUMNI WEEK 2012

Absolutely amazing alumni

Feb. 6–12 is the annual celebration of everything that UVic grads do for their communities. This year's speakers include Gold Medalist Paralympian Lauren Woolstencroft (BEng '05) on Feb. 8 and extreme adventurers, best-selling authors and award-winning documentary film producers Julie (Wafaei) Angus (MSc '01 biology) and her husband Colin on Feb. 9. More: <http://bit.ly/w1FzLU>



MEET UVIC'S HONORARY
FACEBOOK PHOTOGRAPHER

SEE P.6

THE RING

JANUARY 2012

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Welcome Centre Receptionist Cheryl Lawrence helps a visitor at the newly opened facility in University Centre. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

WELCOME CENTRE OPENS

Rolling out the welcome mat

196

THE NUMBER
OF STUDENTS
ASSISTED IN
PERSON BY
UVIC'S NEW
WELCOME
CENTRE ON JAN.
4, THE FIRST DAY
OF CLASSES

"Willkommen, bienvenue, welcome" are not just words in the popular song "Cabaret," but part of the everyday vocabulary and philosophy for staff at who have rolled out the welcome mat at UVic's newly opened Welcome Centre.

Located on the first floor of the University Centre next to the cafeteria, the new centre promises to be a "one stop shop" of information for prospective and current students, staff, faculty and visitors to campus.

"We're planning to avoid the 'run around' that some students may experience," says Welcome Centre Manager, Bruno Rocca. "We're promising to get people where they

need to be, answer the questions they have, provide them with correct, up-to-date information or direct them to the appropriate person, department or faculty in one referral."

The experienced staff of five shares a wealth of diversity and backgrounds ranging from recruitment and communications to education and customer service. Their combined experience as former UVic students and their years of employment in different positions on campus will certainly add to the success of the centre.

"The Welcome Centre has been in the plans for several years now," says Jim Forbes, director of campus services. "It's

wonderful to see such an important initiative come to fruition to enable us to be an even more diverse, welcoming learning community."

In addition to delivering campus know-how and excellence in customer service, the Welcome Centre will serve as home to the UVic Campus Tours Program, which offers daily tours for prospective students and their families, school groups, dignitaries and other visitors to campus. "We have 18 enthusiastic campus tour guides who are thrilled to have a place to call their own," adds Rocca. "The new space will

SEE WELCOME CENTRE P.2

Researchers combat internet fraud

Grad student goes undercover to infiltrate "Water Army"

BY JEAN MACGREGOR

A virtual flood is on the rise, and it's not just your email inbox overflowing.

There's a growing "water army" of online posters at work who earn their name by flooding websites with fake comments and paid endorsements in an orchestrated deluge.

A UVic graduate student went underground to conduct research that could ensure you don't take a bath from their cyber confidence tricks.

Cheng Chen is a second-year master's student in the Department of Computer Science. With his co-supervisors and co-authors, Dr. Kui Wu and Dr. Venkatesh Srinivasan, Chen is developing a systematic approach to detect these hidden paid posters.

Posing as one of the legion of unemployed students or underemployed workers in China who sign on with PR firms as paid posters, Chen got a job. The qualifications were few, according to Chen.

"All you need is a credit card in order to receive payment," says Chen, who adds that there's no shortage of work as a paid poster.

"There are many, many tasks, and you can



L-R: Chen, Wu and Srinivasan. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

SEE WATER ARMY P.6

around the ring

PDSA—A celebration of excellence

All faculty and staff are invited to attend the President's Distinguished Service Awards presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the University Club (awards presentation starting at 4:45). These annual awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of university employees to the betterment of the university and its community. The award categories are: 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. Please register by Jan. 23. Registration and further info (including the list of 2011 nominees): <http://web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa>

Nominate a top UVic researcher

Feb. 1 is the deadline for submitting nominations for UVic's Craigdarroch Research Awards. Categories are: career achievement, research excellence, artistic expression, innovation and entrepreneurship, and knowledge mobilization. Info: www.uvic.ca/craigdarrochawards



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VIEWPOINT

The fine arts count (down)

BY DR. LYNNE VAN LUVEN

Almost all university educators have met parents who do not want their daughters, or especially their sons, to pursue a career in the arts. Why? Because most parents want to see their children well established in the world, and they have heard all the tales about low wages and uncertain futures in fine arts as opposed to more stable and lucrative careers in the sciences or law.

And yet, we have just emerged from a holiday season where symphonies, plays, art shows, ballets, choirs, pantomimes and all other manner of entertainments abounded. And, again, why? Because at certain times of the year, special times, we turn to the arts to refresh and revitalize ourselves, to reflect anew our ideals and values as a society.

Even though fine arts graduates often enjoy satisfying careers—you will find them as curators, educators, critics, administrators, arts dealers, as well as creators in various media—they are often in the lowest quarter of average earnings among the more than 500 occupations surveyed by Statistics Canada.

What a strange disconnect exists in Canadian society: the arts are not a place for children to seek careers, yet they are the sites to which we want to take our children for holiday treats. The arts are both unstable yet vital. We expect them to be there for us, as long as someone else takes the risks to create them.

Certainly, whenever times get tough, the arts are designated as frills or fripperies and become the first things our society cannot "afford." For instance, Queen's University suspended its Bachelor of Fine Arts in November, and the University of Windsor recently consolidated its fine arts and music schools, to make economies. But Canada is part of a larger malaise: last year, the University of East Anglia cut its fine arts program. In the United States, the situation has been even more dire for the past two years.

And yet there are bright spots amid the gloom: in mid-December,

the 125-year-old Nova Scotia School of Art and Design was saved from immediate closure when the provincial government agreed to cover its \$2.4-million deficit. But the school must find ways to cut costs and to collaborate with other universities to offer shared programs.

In Saskatchewan, where prairie pragmatism often prevails, the University of Regina isn't seeing enrolment plunge in the Faculty of Fine Arts. But Dean Sheila Petty said in a recent interview that's because her program is evolving. She maintains that the traditional model of fine arts needs to change.

"At UVic the Faculty of Fine Arts has a stable budget situation for now," says Dean Sarah Blackstone. "But we must continue to achieve our enrolment goals and work to be sure our students receive the very best education we can provide. These are challenging times, and we must be ready to respond to increasing budget pressures as they develop."

So, change is coming, and we need to be part of it. At UVic we already have co-op programs that give our fine arts students valuable practical experience that makes them attractive to employers. We have programs such as professional writing and applied theatre that enable our students to work within the broader community.

But I'm thinking we all need to become more proactive both on and off campus. We need to speak out more for the arts in our city and across our province. And we must work to find ways to take more of our programs off campus. And when our former students are successful—and many are, in many fields—we need to brag a whole lot more. Making our achievements and our students visible is the best way to counteract that mentality that believes "the arts don't count."

Dr. Lynne Van Luven is associate dean of fine arts and a faculty member in the Department of Writing.

Views expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of The Ring or the University of Victoria.



Trimpin in his studio. PHOTO: KRISTY FARKAS

Sculpting sound

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Over the next three months, internationally celebrated composer, inventor and sound sculptor Trimpin will be collaborating with a UVic team of emerging sound engineers, musicians and visual artists on his latest project, titled (*CanonX+4:33=100*).

With the team's assistance, Trimpin will transform a group of abandoned pianos into an array of visually dynamic and aurally stunning acoustic and electroacoustic sculptures and automatons, by way of celebrating the 2012 centennial of the birth of influential experimental composers John Cage and Conlon Nancarrow.

"The pianos will be 'prepared' with mechanical actuators—small robotic devices to play the piano strings in a way that both composers, more than a half century ago, started to experiment with, compose and perform," explains the Seattle-based Trimpin.

The installation, created in col-

laboration with Music and Computer Science Program co-creator Andrew Schloss, will also use video cameras and sensors to translate movement and colour into gestures that will activate the instruments, all with an eye to experiencing sound visually.

(*CanonX+4:33=100*) kicks off with Trimpin's mid-January campus visit, where he will introduce the project, conduct workshops with participants and host a public screening of the acclaimed 2009 documentary, *TRIMPIN: the sound of invention*, at 8 p.m. on Jan. 18 in room A146 of the Visual Arts Building.

The completed (*CanonX+4:33=100*) will run March 16 to April 28 at the downtown artist-run centre Open Space, which is also a collaborator on this project. During this time, the UVic team will lead demonstrations and workshops and develop unique methodologies for activating and "performing" the installation as an enormous musical instrument.

WELCOME CENTRE CONTINUED FROM P.1

also enable us to provide even more creative educational programming to school groups who visit campus from all over the world on a regular basis."

And welcoming it is—after four months of construction the centre itself is comfortable and appealing. Encased with tempered glass walls to take greatest advantage of the natural light, it is bright and cheery. The interior walls and ceilings are lined with fir, reflecting the natural beauty of Vancouver Island.

In addition to three administrative offices, the centre has a large and comfortable seating area for students and visitors to relax, several public

computer work stations, a state-of-the-art presentation room and two private consultation rooms for recruitment and admissions liaison staff to meet with prospective students and their families.

The centre opened for business on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. M–F and 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on Saturday. Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to visit anytime and make the Welcome Centre their first stop for campus information.

An official opening celebration is slated for Monday, Feb. 6 with a public open house from 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9.

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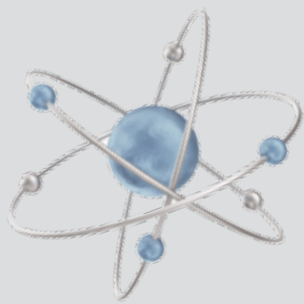
BY TARA SHARPE

You can't hear it. You certainly can't see it. But after telltale signs this winter, the world can be more convinced the Higgs boson might be all around us.

The UVic-ATLAS team played a role in the latest announcement of another round of new data from the Large Hadron Collider. The LHC—recently named by *Popular Science* as one of humankind's 10 most ambitious science projects—is a giant 27-km circular ring buried deep underground near Geneva to accelerate beams made up of trillions of protons into deliberate head-on collisions. Physicists hope the data from the collisions will help unveil the secrets of nature by allowing them to examine the very building blocks of matter.

On Dec. 13, researchers released new results offering indications the Higgs boson particle actually exists and that a long-standing theory of physics may well be true. The theory is that the elusive particle is responsible for the mass of all things. The trick is to prove it.

ATLAS-Canada spokesperson Dr. Rob McPherson, an adjunct professor at UVic, echoes last month's announcement from CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (whose facility is the site of the LHC), saying that researchers see indications of the Higgs boson appearing in three statistically independent analyses in two different experiments. No



one of these indications is, by itself, more significant than a prediction that the next roll of a pair of dice will be double sixes coming true, but seeing signs in all of the search channels is much more unlikely. CERN also stated that "tantalizing hints have been seen ... [although] not yet strong enough to claim a discovery." CERN news release: <http://bit.ly/uaP0vy>

There was international, national and local media attention revolving around the LHC results, including coverage by the *Globe and Mail*, *Vancouver Sun* and *Times Colonist*. BBC News also mentioned the role played by UVic-ATLAS data in a supercomputing demo in November 2011. See: <http://bbc.in/tR5EZs>

The UVic group brought Canadians into the ATLAS experiment in 1992 and is responsible for several crucial components of the ATLAS detector, one of two large detectors recording the subatomic debris. The ATLAS data centre is housed at TRIUMF in Vancouver, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics founded by UVic, UBC and SFU in the 1960s.

Last chance to submit your Great Moment

BY MELANIE GROVES

There are only a few days left to submit your Great Moment in advance of UVic's 50th anniversary celebrations. Anniversary organizers encourage you to send in your special memory about a UVic event, achievement or campus development online by Jan. 20 to the Great Moments website at www.uvic.ca/anniversary/moments/index.php.

A selection committee will review the submissions, and as many stories (and photos) as possible will be shared on the anniversary website during the 2012–13 celebratory period. Some submissions will also be included in the 2012–13 *Annual Review*.

Several community members have already submitted a Great Moment. Here's a great example. ▼

Invention of the UVic Thermofloat coat

SUBMITTED BY GRANT W. HUGHES

In the 1970s, Dr. John Hayward invented the UVic Thermofloat coat—certainly a great moment in UVic's history. The coat looked like a regular coat... but in a marine emergency it performed as a life jacket and also trapped body heat to delay hypothermia if a person went overboard in frigid waters.

The UVic Thermofloat coat saved my life in March 1981. I was riding in a Zodiac with other marine biology researchers near Nakwakto Rapids, BC, when the skipper took his hand off the tiller to adjust his glove. In that brief moment the tiller snapped over and the researchers sitting on the left pontoon tumbled into the boat.

Unfortunately, I was on the right pontoon and went overboard—wearing boots, jeans, a heavy vest, toque and my UVic Thermofloat coat. I went under the Zodiac, hit my head on the skeg of the outboard motor, and



Hughes wearing his UVic Thermofloat Coat in 1979

then popped up like a cork behind the boat, thanks to my coat.

The crew pulled me back on board and we headed to the mother ship. The thermal protection of the coat also kept me from losing additional body heat on the 30-minute trip back to the ship. So, thanks to UVic for saving me from a tragedy at sea.

around the ring

New academic leadership appointments

Several new academic administrators have assumed their duties as of Jan. 1. Jonathan Bengtson is the new university librarian. Dr. Mary Ellin Purkis returns after a leave to the post of dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development and Dr. Leslie Brown returns to serve as associate dean, HSD, after serving as acting dean. Chairs and directors returning from leave are Dr. Catherine Caws (French), Bill Gaston (writing) and Evert Lindquist (Public Administration). New acting chairs or directors are Dr. Ulrike Stege (computer science), Dr. Thomas Saunders (history) and Christine Welsh (women's studies). New acting directors of UVic research centres include Dr. Barbara Hawkins (Centre for Forest Biology) and Dr. Joanne Lee (Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy). For the complete current academic leadership listing of deans, associate deans, librarian and associate librarians, chairs of departments and directors of schools and the start and end dates of their appointments, see: www.uvic.ca/vpacademic/about/deans-chairs/index.php



Together in diversity.

Critical Conversations: Living Social Justice Provost's Diversity Research Forum

Learn about innovative research from UVic faculty, staff and students. Engage in critical conversations on gender, race, identity, ability, Indigenous ways of knowing, mental health, sexuality, international topics and more...

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Register at www.uvic.ca/diversity2012



A change is in the air.

UVic is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees and visitors.

Effective September 1, 2011, smoking is only permitted in designated areas outside Ring Road.

Look for more information, including a campus map showing the designated smoking areas, at www.uvic.ca/smoking.

For information or to provide feedback about this initiative, please contact clearair@uvic.ca.



ringers

Marjorie MacDonald (nursing), Canadian Institutes of Health Research Applied Public Health Chair in Public Health Education and Population Health Intervention Research, has begun a two-year term as president of the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC). The voluntary non-profit, non-governmental organization is dedicated to preserving and promoting the public's health by working to strengthen disease and injury prevention, health promotion and healthy public policy. MacDonald aims to focus on enhancing community and civic engagement, promoting involvement of students and developing relationships with the new First Nations Health Authority of BC. She is an advisory council member of UVic's new School of Public Health and Social Policy.

Heather Raven (law) has been appointed Queen's Counsel, an honour conferred on members of the legal profession by the provincial government to recognize exceptional merit and contribution. Her citation says, "Raven became the first Aboriginal person to become a senior administrator in a Canadian common law faculty when she was appointed associate dean of the University of Victoria Faculty of Law in 2009. Along with being a legal educator, she is a commercial and labour law expert and serves as a role model for Aboriginal law students."

Spiritual Economies: Islam, Globalization, and the Afterlife of Development (Cornell University Press, 2010), by **Dr. Daromir Rudnyckij** (Pacific and Asian studies), was named co-winner of the 2011 Sharon Stephens Prize awarded by the American Ethnological Society, North America's oldest association of professional anthropologists. The Stephens Prize is awarded biannually to a "work that speaks to contemporary social issues with relevance beyond the discipline of anthropology and beyond the academy." *Spiritual Economies* deploys recent advances in ethnography to analyze moderate Islamic "spiritual reform" initiatives in Southeast Asia that reinterpret Islam to make it conducive to commercial success and business productivity.

Swanson's legacy—a library transformed

BY JEAN MACGREGOR

Change and collaboration are keywords for Marnie Swanson's tenure as University Librarian.

Retiring last month after 23 years as head of UVic Libraries, Swanson not only piloted the library through extensive brick-and-mortar renovations, but also oversaw an electronic transformation of the library's collections and practices.

A long-term member of the University of Victoria Senate and many senior executive committees at UVic, Swanson has been a leader in research library consortia, including the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL). She received the 2011 Helen Gordon Stewart Award for an outstanding career in librarianship from the British Columbia Library Association, and the 2011 CARL award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship.

The recent renovations to the Diana M. Priestly Law Library and the expansion of McPherson Library to include the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning are evidence of dramatic change at UVic Libraries with Swanson at the helm.

When she arrived in 1988, stacks and shelves of books covered the windows in parts of McPherson Library. Now, the building better reflects the ways students work and study, with light-filled galleries, group study spaces and comfortable seating.

"It's a more welcoming space now," says Swanson. "Unlike some more impersonal libraries, ours still feels like a library. We were so lucky to have architects who got to know us and understood the functions of our library. They did a great job of combining the aesthetics with function. It works, and it looks good."

Renovation and expansion of McPherson Library was a 15-year undertaking, starting with seismic upgrading and reconfiguring of the

loan desk. "It was a real feat to keep services running and the building open during that time," says Swanson. "We spent a lot of money on earplugs."

But change at UVic Libraries during Swanson's tenure hasn't been all wood and windows.

She was hired with a mandate to computerize the library—a tall order in 1988. Under her direction, librarians and library staff started from scratch, with few automated functions in place at that time.

"Library staff have been through change like no other department on campus," says Swanson. "And librarians still hold the same fundamental values, but they are doing very different jobs now."

The library's role in powering the research engine at UVic now includes new areas of service, such as support for open source publications, digitization, copyright management, social media and mobile text reference. According to Swanson, these innovations and greater collaboration between librarians, researchers and faculty are increasingly important to UVic Libraries.

It was rewarding to get to know the campus and meet lots of different, very interesting people.

One of the greatest rewards of her position has been working with people all over the university, says Swanson.

"I worked with the deans, but also with all faculties, finance, the budget office—you name it—came in contact with most people at one time or another. It was rewarding to get to know the campus and meet lots of different, very interesting people. I felt lucky to



SWANSON. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

have that opportunity—it's a unique position," she says.

Promoting collaboration, not only around the Ring but also among research libraries in British Columbia, has been a hallmark of Swanson's career. Co-operative collection and service development projects, such as stewardship of Canadian research data resources and development of shared storage, or "last copy" facilities have been a priority for Swanson.

Swanson says her biggest surprise in the job came on her last day of work, when Dr. Reeta Tremlay, VP Academic & Provost, announced the development of the Marnie Swanson International Commons in the Mearns Centre for Learning. The new commons will provide space and support for international students, and reflects the personal touch Swanson brought

to all her projects at the university.

"I am very, very honoured," says Swanson.

Renovation of the space for the new commons falls to the new University Librarian, Jonathan Bengtson. Bengtson comes to UVic Libraries from concurrent positions as director of Library and Archives at University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto and at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto.

Despite the rewards of the job and the honours, Swanson is ready to get her retirement project under way alongside her husband, Chuck Swanson, who also starts 2012 in retirement from his position as Vice-president of real estate at BC Investment Management Corporation. The Swansons plan to move up-island later this year to be closer to their grandchildren.

Island food security means bounty for future

BY TARA SHARPE

A new report by the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance (VICRA)—of which UVic is a member—points out that less than 150 years ago there was an abundance of locally produced food available for Vancouver Island inhabitants; yet now the majority of our food is imported.

The report proposes a plan for producing and keeping food on the Island. It explores how a changing global climate and existing food systems can be counterbalanced or augmented by traditional wisdoms, urban agricultural initiatives and enhanced purchasing policies.

It is the result of an 18-month research collaboration funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and including all five VICRA members—UVic, Royal

Roads University, Camosun College, Vancouver Island University and North Island College. The project was co-ordinated by UVic's Office of Community Based Research and led by Lifecycles Project Society founder and UVic research associate Linda Geggie and principal investigators Dr. Aleck Ostry (geography) and Dr. John Lutz (history).

"This project helps people on Vancouver Island predict and prepare for the changes that are coming and in fact are already here," says Ostry, Canada Research Chair in Social Determinants of Community Health. Ostry, Geggie and Lutz were assisted in their work by the efforts of faculty and



students from the five VICRA institutions as well as other researchers, and food and community groups.

"The ability to draw on the resourcefulness of students, and to coordinate their work across the Island campuses, was a real strength of the project," says Geggie. "Many students are interested in food issues, and this project allowed them to combine their passion with academic pursuits." Lutz adds, "We wanted to harness the energy of students and introduce the first taste of what a secure, long-term and sustainable food system could do for our Island."

The report describes specific op-

portunities for academics, policy-makers and the general public to take action to increase local food self-sufficiency. The plan focuses on four theme areas: climate change, Indigenous food systems, urban agriculture and institutional food purchasing.

"To put it bluntly," says Ostry, "we need more empirical information locally, regionally, provincially and nationally about what we produce, how we produce it, how and where we process it, how markets work that control food movements and food supply-chain structure, how we distribute food, how we retail it, and what policy levers move the disparate pieces of this system."

More info: <http://mapping.uvic.ca/vicra/localfoodproject> and <http://bit.ly/uvic-buy-local>

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A virtual journey through the Coast Salish cultural landscape

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

What's at stake in treaty negotiations? What is the cultural significance of the land? As one BC First Nations group has learned, the complex language of land claims can be a key obstacle to making well-informed decisions about the treaty process.

Now, thanks to researchers and students in the University of Victoria's anthropology and computer science departments, First Nations communities can learn about the treaty process and their traditional territories in a fun way—by playing a video game.

Through traditional stories and place names spoken by community elders, players learn about the cultural significance of the land for the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group (HTG)—a BC-based First Nations organization in Ladysmith.

The Hul'qumi'num people are made up of six First Nations—Cowichan, Chemainus, Penelakut, Lyackson, Halalt and Lake Cowichan.

More than 1,000 Hul'qumi'num archaeological heritage sites have been recorded on southeastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Although few ancestral villages have been dated, several go back more than 5,000 years—contemporary to the Old Kingdom of Egypt.

Ongoing research in collaboration with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group has documented over 700 place names in the Hul'qumi'num language. The stories, meanings and experiences of these named places continue to be a vital part of Coast Salish cultural life.

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group has been negotiating land claims with Canada and BC since 1993. About 335,000 hectares of land on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are being discussed.

The video game is a collaborative project designed by UVic faculty and grad students. The HTG approached UVic anthropologist Brian Thom



Thom, left, and Caro. PHOTO: NIK WEST

about converting into a video game a popular board game they had developed to teach members about the treaty process.

Thom teamed up with UVic computer scientist Yvonne Coody to take the project to their students. "We designed a graduate-level course that had students in both our departments working together on a game that would address the needs of the First Nations group in a culturally respectful and informed way," says Thom.

The students consulted First Nations elders to develop the game storyline, which takes players on a virtual journey through the Coast Salish cultural landscape of southeast Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Players "travel" to culturally significant places, experiencing traditional knowledge through video, audio, detailed maps and photographs.

At each of these places, players are asked questions that develop their knowledge of critical issues and terms related to the treaty process. When all six levels of the treaty process are completed, players can download a "final agreement" certificate to celebrate their achievement.

The motivational hook for players is the unique experience the game provides for learning the Coast Salish cultural landscape.

They hear about places like Kwa'mutsun (Quamichan), Puneluxutth' (Penelakut), and St'zuminus (Chemainus), which are centres of community life today. They see and hear elders such as Joey Caro talk about place names and tell the stories behind them.

"Everyone is on computers these days," says Caro, communications director at the HTG and creator of the original board game. "A video game

is a fun way to teach our community about the treaty process and provide information about the land, uses of the land, and historic place names associated with the land."

Caro wants the video game to be accessible to everyone in the First Nations community and beyond. And the developers hope that other communities will embrace the idea when they demo the video game to the Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Summit.

"At a time when First Nations and the general public are reflecting critically on the treaty process," says Thom, "it makes sense to look for innovative ways to educate everyone concerned about what's at stake—and make it interesting in the process."

The video game is available online at web.uvic.ca/~htg and www.hulqumium.bc.ca/

ringers

Geography students in a first-year environment and sustainability course surprised their professor, **Dr. Phil Dearden** (geography) by raising \$550 in about 10 minutes for World Vision. In his wrap-up lecture Dearden was talking about the sins of over-consumption and the threat of underconsumption in many parts of the world—a topic that threads throughout the course. Dearden showed the class a World Vision gift catalogue and explained that a mere \$100 would fund a medical clinic for a year, as drug companies would match the amount raised 17-fold. Dearden passed around a hat and the students gave their "spare change" which amounted to \$550, or enough, when matched, to fund five medical clinics for a year, plus change to fund classroom supplies.

A 500-plus-page special issue of Elsevier's reputed journal *Applied Mathematics and Computation* (Volume 218, Issue 3, Oct. 2011) was dedicated to **Dr. Hari M. Srivastava** (Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics and Statistics) on the occasion of his 70th birth anniversary. This Special Dedication Issue stemmed essentially from a four-day international congress in honour of Srivastava, held in 2010 in Bursa, Turkey. It contains about 100 scientific research articles written by mathematical, physical, statistical and engineering scientists from all over the world. Several other international scientific research journals have also published special issues dedicated to Srivastava on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of his birth.

Dr. Frank van Veggel (chemistry) has won the inaugural Award for Research Excellence in Materials Chemistry from the Canadian Society of Chemistry (CSC). As the Canada Research Chair in Supramolecular Photonic Materials, van Veggel investigates the design of new materials with optical and magnetic properties—research that has huge application potential for emerging optical communication and computing technologies, and diagnostics. The CSC is one of three constituent societies of the Chemical Institute of Canada.

Local students benefit from after-school outreach

BY PATTY PITTS

Just over two years ago UVic's Faculty of Education learned that an anonymous graduate of Victoria College—a former teacher—had left the faculty an estate worth \$700,000. The only instructions: spend it to enhance the education of children. For the past year the Centre for Outreach Education (CORE) has been doing just that.

Created after a year of careful consideration, focus groups and idea generation, CORE has established outreach programs that have both welcomed children to campus and taken UVic graduate students into the community to assist youngsters where they live.

"We've created a 10-year budget for CORE sufficient to run our current programs, but we'd love to expand even further," says the faculty's Associate Dean Administration Jillian Roberts. "It would be pretty exciting if we could get other donors to contribute to the centre as well."

CORE currently offers several programs: CORE Club provides after-school tutoring on campus three times a week to elementary students; through Tools for Success, offered through the Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre, UVic grad and undergraduate students offer children with epilepsy tutoring assistance; undergraduate Teacher Education Program students offer Songhees First

Nation students intensive tutoring in their community through CORE Mobile; and the CORE grants program offers after-school enhancement in drama and music in local schools.

CORE also works with UVic's CanAssist to offer a venue for InclusionWorks!, which provides young people with developmental disabilities opportunities to expand their life skills and consider next steps after completing public school education.

Over 100 local students have participated in CORE programs during the past year and 35 UVic graduate and undergraduate students have gained valuable experience through their participation. Although CORE does not have a research focus ("The steering committee wants it to be service-oriented," Roberts explains) a UVic PhD candidate has expressed interest in conducting graduate research as part of a practicum with InclusionWorks.

Janice, a mom dropping off her son recently for CORE Club, described the program as "great, absolutely amazing," adding that her son had improved his math grade by a full letter grade after the club's spring session and had shown further improvement last fall in his other subjects. "He's so excited by CORE Club that his sister is now coming too."

CORE Club and CORE Mobile will be offered for the next two years, but CORE's steering committee has a


mandate to solicit new program ideas annually. "The CORE grants program is driven by the interests of the faculty members," says Roberts. "Next year's focus may change depending on who applies for a grant."

The deadline for applications is Jan. 15 and CORE grant applications and funding information can be found online at www.core.uvic.ca/getinvolved.htm.

Roberts would love to see other donors build on that initial anony-

mous gift to enlarge CORE's budget and allow for new programs and the expansion of existing ones.


"We have the capacity to extend CORE Club into Friday and Saturday, and we could expand CORE Mobile to include more First Nations communities and inner-city schools where families face difficulties bringing their children to us," she says. "We have all this expertise in the faculty, and UVic and the community would be a better place if we were able to share it."



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The Ring January 2012 Page 5

Hit "Like"—UVic's FB page features pro photos

BY JEAN MACGREGOR

Mark Cacovic leads a double life around the Ring.

A Desktop Support Services consultant with University Systems, Cacovic provides on-site support to faculty and staff for computing issues, including workstation and network problems, installation of hardware and software and configuring computers.

He's also UVic's first honorary Facebook photographer.

Cacovic's photos can be seen on the UVic Facebook page: www.facebook.com/university-ofvictoria and on his Flickr photostream: www.flickr.com/photos/mcacovic/.

And those are his photos at the top of page one of this issue of *The Ring*.

Cacovic got his photographic start with a point-and-shoot camera nine years ago with the birth of his first child. Now, he shoots with a Sony Alpha a200 SLR and publishes his work on an impressive Flickr site. His photos have been picked up by Getty Images online stock photography store and published in a book by Andrew Murray: *The '80s Kid: A retro take on growing up in '80s Ireland*.

His discriminating eye and sharp focus caught the attention of the university's Facebook page admins.

"We found our judges were always choosing Mark's work for our Flickr photo of the month, and we knew we had an enthusiast for the kind of UVic stories we want to tell," says Robin Sutherland, manager of university internet strategies and initiatives.

"Being the honorary Facebook photographer is a neat opportunity," says Cacovic. He finds students on campus aren't shy at all about appearing in photos online. "I'd been concentrating on nature photography and it was a big step to approach people to be in my photographs, but everyone's been very agreeable and positive about the experience."

Cacovic packs his camera to work every day to take advantage of the image buffet around UVic.

"The campus is just a wonderful palate for taking photos. There is so much variety, every day there's something different to photograph. And at different times of day, things on campus look completely different," he says.

Cacovic shoots mostly on his lunch hour, and maximizes his time with the camera. "I down some lunch, grab my camera and out I go," he says. "It's probably the only hour in the day when I can just stroll and just take my time walking somewhere. In my position, I'm running around 100 miles an hour. I find taking pictures on campus very relaxing."

Dancing (and scoring and filming) the poetic word

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Never underestimate the power of interdisciplinary chit-chat. When assistant theatre professor Conrad Alexandrowicz met famed poet and writing professor Lorna Crozier at the annual Faculty of Fine Arts retreat last year, he had no idea their discussion would soon translate into nearly \$175,000 in grant funding.

"I introduced myself to Lorna and said, 'I've really admired your work for a long time and think it'd be neat to collaborate on a project,'" recalls Alexandrowicz. And while Crozier was intrigued by his initial idea of adapting the work of Canadian poets into a dance/movement piece for the stage, it was her suggestion to write an entirely new poetry cycle that became the basis for Alexandrowicz's winning Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant proposal.

Now titled *Words Made Flesh: Staging Poetic Text*, Alexandrowicz's SSHRC project has evolved into a truly interdisciplinary fine arts production. Not only will it be based on Crozier's poetry and his own directing/choreography skills (with the assistance of applied theatre graduate student Kate Bessey), but it will also feature a musical score by Alexandra Pohran Dawkins, head of woodwinds with the School of Music, and will be filmed and adapted into a digital format by associate writing professor and experimental filmmaker Maureen Bradley.

"I wanted to examine different kinds of text and how they could lend themselves as a source for physical theatre creation," Alexandrowicz explains. "But I didn't want to do anything that was purely abstract; I wanted to do something that has a lot of emotional power and a consistent narrative line. It's already hard enough



Alexandrowicz. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

to get people to sit still when you're doing interdisciplinary performance, so you have to make sure they're touched by what you're doing emotionally."

Alexandrowicz is no stranger to adapting words and music to movement; a noted director, writer and choreographer who specializes in the creation of interdisciplinary productions that address subjects central to the human journey, he has received critical acclaim for his projects across Canada for the past 30 years.

But he says *Words Made Flesh*—currently preparing for a spring 2012 test-run, with the final production set for a fall 2013 debut—will be more than just another dance piece. "I want to embody the poetic text as much as I can," he says, "so it's not just going to be voice-over accompaniment; I've done that for years with my own work and I want to do something quite different here."

Another intriguing aspect to this production is its cinematic future. "It'll start off as a short dancefilm, then be developed into a chance-based application for iPods, Androids and

Blackberrys using the I Ching, where you can shuffle together different pieces of text and music and movement."

Alexandrowicz will be addressing some of his primary research questions: "What kind of poetic text best lends itself to performance?" "What becomes of the narrative voice of the poem when the text is staged?" "How does the text interact with music, both improvise and scored?" And the process will allow Alexandrowicz to discover how the finished performance text is transformed via the additional media of film and interactive applications.

Ultimately, Alexandrowicz is grateful for the opportunity this generous SSHRC grant has given him to create new work—especially considering the current Canadian arts climate. "Even if you spread it out over three years, this is more than a lot of companies get in annual funding from the Canada Council," he says of his nearly \$175,000 windfall. "It's a huge amount of money; it's astonishing. I feel really grateful and lucky I was able to get this on my first attempt."

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WATER ARMY CONTINUED FROM P.1

choose any of them. Every task is to post something," says Chen. "Sometimes you post to forums to say good things about products, or you post comments to blogs. [The employer] gives you articles, which you don't need to modify, to post to specific blogs. After that, they hire other people to post comments to the blogs to make the articles more popular."

The pay is generally mere pennies per task, says Chen, so it's not a get-rich-quick scheme.

By getting to know the behavioral practices and organizational structure of paid posters through his undercover research, Chen and his supervisors designed and validated a new detection mechanism.

They tested it on comments and reports on two news websites, Sina.com and Sohu.com, concerning a conflict between two competing Chinese tech companies, Tencent and Qihoo 360.

"We wanted to find patterns of behavior of the online users, because

we know there are two groups of people—normal users and paid posters. In our paper, we describe some different behaviors between these two groups of people," says Chen.

The team found differences in the kinds of comments posted by members of the water army and regular users, and differences in the percentages of replies, the time of posts, the duration of activity and the number of reports commented on by the posters.

According to the researchers, the trick is to stay ahead of the water army by developing new systems that prevent paid posters from learning how to avoid detection.

"It's like a game of cat and mouse," says Wu.

And it's a high-stakes game involving millions of players.

Proliferating online along with the water army are shill bidders on eBay, spam reviewers on travel sites, floggers (fake bloggers), and virtual astroturfers—so-called for their attempts to generate fake grassroots

support for causes and companies.

While the researchers have been unable to confirm the veracity of specific online comments and posts, they want to help consumers and citizens kept afloat despite the sea of malicious marketing.

"The idea is to ultimately have a tool that can help people identify paid posters, because it is very hard as a user to guess, when reading a comment, if it came from a genuine user or from a paid poster. The goal of our research is to build a system that can identify potential paid posters and possibly create an online service that can help people," says Srinivasan.

Next up: the research team is taking on popular FAQ sites, like Yahoo! Answers, to detect coordinated groups of paid posters working together.

Read the team's report, "Battling the Internet Water Army: Detection of Hidden Paid Posters," at: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1111.4297>.

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calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated.

For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at www.uvic.ca/events

at the galleries

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■ **Exhibit** *Images of Internment: Paintings by Henry Shimizu*. Until Feb. 2. Shimizu presents a series of paintings documenting his experience as a teenaged internee at the New Denver, BC, Japanese internment camp from 1942–46. Maltwood Prints and Drawings Gallery, McPherson Library. 250-381-7618

■ **Exhibit** *The Emergence of Architectural Modernism II: UVic and the Regional Aesthetic in the Late 1950s and 60s*. Until Feb. 26. Legacy Art Gallery. 630 Yates St. 250-381-7645

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. A concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

■ **Other** 7 p.m. *Victoria Chinese New Year Gala*. Dragon dance, music, singing, dancing, comedy, drama and more. UVic Centre Farquhar Auditorium. \$8–15. 250-721-8480

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

■ **Music** 2:30 p.m. *Guest Lecture: Trimpin*. Internationally celebrated sound sculptor, composer and inventor, Trimpin, talks about his upcoming installation (CanonX+4:33=100). Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8634

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 12:30 p.m. *The Empress and Mrs. Conger: The Uncommon Friendship of Two Women and Two Worlds*. Author Grant Hayter-Menzies. Hickman 110. 250-721-7664

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Divine Origins: Did Shamanistic Practices Inspire the Earliest Art?* Genevieve von Petzinger (anthropology, UVic). Engineering/Comp Science 124. 250-721-6325

■ **Film** 6:00 p.m. *TRIMPIN: The Sound of Invention*. Peter Esmonde's 2009 feature documentary examines the life and work of Seattle-based artist/inventor/composer who will be creating an installation piece at UVic. Visual Arts A162. 250-721-6222

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 9 a.m. *Wave of the Future: Water Policy in Western Canada*. The third webinar in the POLIS Water Sustainability Project's 2011/2012 Creating a Blue Dialogue webinar series. To register: communications@polisproject.org

■ **John Albert Hall Lecture** 7 p.m. *Media, Spirituality and Imagining Canada*. Pamela E. Klassen (Univ. of Toronto). Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *The City Talks Presents: Roger Keil. Governing the City Without: The Challenge of Global Suburbanism*. More: www.TheCityTalks.ca The Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School

of Music keyboard students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

■ **John Albert Hall Lecture** 7 p.m. *Picturing the Soul: Protestant Missionaries and their Photographs*. Pamela E. Klassen (Univ. of Toronto). Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-6325

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

■ **Conference** 4:30 p.m. and Jan. 24. *Provost's Diversity Research Forum. Critical Conversations: Living Social Justice*. SUB, First Peoples House and Halpern Centre for Graduate Students. Pre-registration required. 250-721-6143

■ **John Albert Hall Lecture** 7 p.m. *Protestant Potlatch: Confession and the Ethics of Storytelling*. Pamela E. Klassen (Univ. of Toronto). Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-6325

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

■ **Café Scientifique** 6:30 p.m. *Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe*. Dr. Alexandra Branzan Albu (UVic). RSVP required at cfr@uvic.ca or 250-472-4067. Strathcona Hotel 919 Douglas St., Maple Rm.

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *UVic Distinguished Professor Lecture Series. Robert Redeemed: The Beauty of Schumann's Late Songs*. Dr. Harald Krebs (music) with Sharon Krebs, soprano. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

■ **John Albert Hall Lecture** 7 p.m. *Spiritual Radio: Testimony and the Optimism of Communication Technologies*. Pamela E. Klassen (Univ. of Toronto). Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-6325

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 7 p.m. *Dismantling Empire with Derrick Jensen*. Author of *Endgame, A Language Older Than Words*, and *Songs of the Dead*. Admission by donation. Info: wildcoast.ca/volunteer or zoe@wildcoast.ca. David Lam Auditorium. 250-813-3569

■ **Lansdowne Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Using the Sieges of Rhodes, 1480 and 1522, as a Laboratory To Study Changes in Early Gunpowder Weapons and Defenses Against Them*. Kelly DeVries. (Loyola Univ., Maryland). Hickman 105. 250-721-7382

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

■ **Studies in Religion and Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Religious Pluralism, Religious Freedom, and Multicultural Policy: Lessons from Three Tolerant Societies*. Paul Rasor (Virginia Wesleyan College). Engineering/Comp Science 124. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 6 p.m. *Visiting Artist: Elspeth Prat* (School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser Univ.) Visual Arts A162. 250-721-6222

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *West Coast Student Composers Symposium*. Annual meeting of student composers from UBC, SFU and UVic. Three concerts take place during the afternoon, featuring composers and performers from each institution. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

■ **Music** 8 p.m. *Faculty Recital: Lafayette String Quartet—25th Anniversary Concert*. MacLaurin B125. \$25. 250-721-8634

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 7 p.m. *Making Documentary Films—Passion and Commercialism*. Reto Caduff, director for film and television. David Strong C122. 250-721-7321

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

■ **Lansdowne Lecture** 7 p.m. *The Archaeology of Intangibility—Monumentality in Cameroun*. Dr. Nicholas David (Univ. of Calgary). Social Sciences & Math A104. 250-721-7047

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

■ **Other** 12 p.m. *Bringing Biographies to Life*. Documentary film workshop led by filmmaker and producer Reto Caduff. RSVP required (geru@uvic.ca). Hickman 120. 250-721-7321

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Connecting People, Land and Spirit: Why Indigenous Land-Based Cultural Practices Matter*. Julie Froekjaer-Jensen (UVic). Engineering/Comp Science 124. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture/Seminar** 7:30 p.m. *Meaning and Memory: Reflections on Contemporary Aboriginal Art in Canada*. Writer and media artist Steven Loft. First Peoples House. 250-721-6222

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

■ **Open House** 10 a.m. *Welcome Centre*. Info: www.uvic.ca/welcome or brocca@uvic.ca. University Centre, Welcome Centre. 250-721-8109

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day in the life

BY JEAN MACGREGOR

Elizabeth Stevenson likes to play a little Bob Marley or Mozart to help students relax at exam time.

A library assistant in the Bessie Brooks Mary Winspear Music & Media Commons at UVic Libraries, Stevenson's in tune with the highs and lows of student life. She and her colleagues at the music and media loan desk know the regulars.

"Laptop for you?"

Stevenson anticipates a student's usual order as he approaches the Music & Media desk, and she checks his laptop out with a swipe of his ID card.

"We get to know students pretty well," she says. "A student might show up every day for one term and then disappear. But for that one term, we make a connection with the student and we get to know what they want."

The Music & Media desk—or M&M as it's affectionately called by staff—loans not only music, but also audio recorders, cameras and camcorders, and accessories like noise-cancelling headphones, data projectors, graphics tablets, remotes and tripods, with laptops in high demand.

With an abundance of gadgets like that, it's no surprise that the M&M desk is a busy place.

"Very busy!" says Stevenson. "In addition to providing service at the desk—and answering email and phone calls—we process equipment in a constant cycle, handle returns of CDs and DVDs, give orientation to the multimedia iMacs, clean headphones,



Stevenson. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

set up equipment, and of course, communicate with each other."

"It's busy, but we listen to music and have fun, and the people we help are, by and large, a lot of fun," she says. "We get along well, so we listen to each other and we're friends."

Stevenson came to UVic Libraries in 2005 and worked in the stacks for a year before starting at Music & Media. With a BA in anthropology and certification in permaculture design, Stevenson is a committed life-long learner.

So much so that she's undertaken a self-directed program of study toward a practice in prenatal and childbirth

support. Stevenson has taken educational leave for a couple of months annually for the past three years, and since last fall, she's worked a reduced work week in order to fulfill her training goals.

Stevenson participated in a year-long training program for lay counsellors at Esquimalt Neighbourhood House, and now volunteers in that capacity once a week. She's combining her counselling skills, meditation training and a conscious birthing study program toward her aspiration to support women in childbirth.

Stevenson says her permaculture training—the principles of which

are based on systems ecology—activated her desire to apply her energy to effect the most positive change possible.

"I've been honing in on what that means for me—and it's birth," she says. "If a woman has a great birth experience, she might feel like she can take on anything. The confidence she gains will inform every aspect of her world, and she'll pass it on to her kids as well. The ripple effects will just keep going and going. Once one person starts to shine, others are inspired."

Now, that seems to hit the right note.

Diversity conference highlights social justice

Learn about innovative research from UVic faculty, staff and students at the Provost's Diversity Research Forum, *Critical Conversations: Living Social Justice*, taking place on campus Jan. 23 and 24. Engage in critical conversations on gender, race, identity, ability, Indigenous knowledge, mental wellness, sexuality, internationalization and more.

This year's program features keynote speaker Her Honour Gwendolyn Point and dynamic panel presentations, including:

- *Associate vice-presidents' forum: Social justice and the UVic Strategic Plan*
- *"Just" sustainability: Balancing environmental protection and human rights*
- *Pursuing social justice in institutional contexts*
- *Perspectives on Indigenous wellness*
- *Walking the talk: Navigating by narrative and*
- *Learning without borders: Promoting social justice through the internationalization of teaching.*

Registration is free and includes deliciously diverse meals, and all rooms are accessible. Everyone is welcome: faculty, staff, students and community members. Register soon as space is limited.

For more information visit the website at www.uvic.ca/diversity2012 or contact diverse@uvic.ca.

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John Albert Hall Lectures

The John Albert Hall Lectures are sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia and the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria.



Protestant missionary and amateur photographer Frederick Du Vernet in northern BC, ca. 1909. Photo courtesy Prince Rupert City & Regional Archives.

These lectures examine the impact of changing media on Christian practices of confession, "or spiritual testimony," over the past 100 years in North America. Drawing on prominent episodes in Canadian Protestant history, the talks consider how religion is shaped by the media through which it is communicated, while highlighting the profound influence of Protestant confession on the rise of a new social media culture obsessed with the personal testimonial.

Testimonies of the Spirit: Christianity, Media and the Politics of Confession

Pamela Klassen
Department and Centre for the Study of Religion
University of Toronto

- Lecture 1 Thursday, Jan 19, 7:00 pm**
Media, Spirituality and Imagining Canada
 - Lecture 2 Friday, Jan 20, 7:00 pm**
Picturing the Soul: Protestant Missionaries and their Photographs
 - Lecture 3 Monday, Jan 23, 7:00 pm**
Protestant Potlatch: Confession and the Ethics of Storytelling
 - Lecture 4 Wednesday, Jan 25, 7:00 pm**
"Spiritual Radio": Testimony and the Optimism of Communications Technologies
- Location: Social Sciences and Math Building, Room A102



Professor Pamela Klassen is an anthropologist of religion at the University of Toronto. Her work draws on approaches from history, ethnography and religious studies to explore the significance of religion in North American society. Her major publications include *Spirits of Protestantism: Medicine, Healing and Liberal Christianity* (2011), *Blessed Events: Religion and Home Birth in America* (2001) and *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement* (with Courtney Bender, 2010).

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