



University
of Victoria

50
YEARS

SPEED
READING

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: 1

Sitting on top of the world

UVic is among the top one per cent of universities in the world and is the top-ranked university in Canada without a medical school in the *Times Higher Education's* annual World University Rankings. UVic is among eight Canadian universities in the top 200, ranking 196th worldwide. Earlier this year, *Times Higher Education* ranked UVic 11th in the world and first in Canada among universities under 50 years of age in its "100-under-50" rankings. <http://bit.ly/RN4DXv>

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: 2

UVic retains second spot in *Maclean's* rankings

UVic has retained second place for the third straight year in the comprehensive university category in *Maclean's* rankings of Canadian universities. The university's commitment to excellence in all areas is evident, with UVic ranked in the top three in 10 of 13 performance indicators. UVic scored well for its library expenses, acquisitions and holdings, as well as for the amount of total research dollars and the percentage of its budget dedicated to student scholarships. <http://oncampus.macleans.ca/education/>

OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Celebrate the Marnie Swanson International Commons

Where can international students access help, information, resources, academic programming, services and events to support their success at UVic? At UVic's new International Commons. Everyone is invited to the formal opening Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. in the McPherson Library Mearns Learning Commons, featuring student artistic performances and refreshments. <http://bit.ly/SOX2fi>

VIKES ROWING

Women's crew earns third consecutive national title

The Vikes women's rowing team earned their third consecutive Canadian University Rowing Championship title Nov. 4, adding to their impressive collection of 11 national banners. They won the 2012 CURC title by the narrowest of margins, with an overall points total of 101 with UBC only two points back, followed by Western University with 98. <http://bit.ly/Uuo9bY>

JOIN THE CIRCLE

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Classes and exams are cancelled on Dec. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. when people will gather in the quad outside the library to commit to ending violence in our communities. See p. 11



FALL CONVOCATION

pp. 5–10

THE RING

NOVEMBER 2012

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Traverse at Perestroika wall in Berlin

CONVOCATION PROFILE

1,262

Grad takes sustainability worldwide

BY RACHEL GOLDSWORTHY

When he came to UVic from his hometown of Fernie, BC, Michael Traverse literally didn't find his footing right away. To begin with, he broke his leg at the start of his first year. Then he had to decide between arts, sciences, theatre, business.... The options were enticing.

But once he got his feet under him, there was no stopping him.

"I'm more than happy I took this path," says Traverse, who will receive his Bachelor of Commerce degree at UVic's Fall Convocation.

He had some help along the way. He regularly relied on a family friend, who

listened and advised whenever Traverse asked.

"She was always there to help me educationally," he says.

Traverse also received a Black Press scholarship for each of his four years at UVic.

"That made my time at school way easier," he says. "I'm forever grateful for that."

"The business program is very progressive," he explains. "The mandatory co-op was very appealing; I didn't want to come out [of university] with zero business experience. Also, the exchange program was a huge motivating factor."

But Traverse wasn't content to stick with even those exciting basics. During third year—his first year in the Commerce

program—the Business and Sustainability course piqued his interest. He got involved with the Commerce Students' Society Sustainability Club and helped organize a carrotmob, a reverse boycott of a local business.

He loved the carrotmob ("I think they're a brilliant idea!") and the sense of engagement, so Traverse had to find a way to stay involved with his Gustavson colleagues as well as sustainability while he was on exchange in Vienna the next year. He enlisted a fellow student to be co-director of the Sustainability Club; she would keep things running while he was away, and when he

SEE TRAVERSE P.4

Research universities set out an "Opportunity Agenda for BC"

The education and economic prosperity plan submitted by the presidents of BC's six research-intensive universities to the legislature in mid-October has been garnering support ever since, from student and faculty organizations to some of the province's most prominent newspapers.

The Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC) on Oct. 18 released an "Opportunity Agenda for BC"—a practical plan to expand post-secondary opportunities for young people, close the skills gap and create jobs throughout the province.

UVic President David Turpin presented the proposal to the BC Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on behalf of RUCBC. "Today's increasingly global economy requires that British Columbians have the right education and the right skills to be successful," said Turpin. He said that the Opportunity

Agenda is about supporting students and meeting the competitive needs of BC's economy now and for the future.

The proposal sets out three key pillars for action: a space for every qualified student, a guarantee for students in need, and a commitment to innovation and jobs by providing stable funding sources for research and innovation initiatives.

Both the UVic Students' Society and the UBC Alma Mater Society as well as the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC have supported the proposal.

An editorial in the Victoria *Times Colonist* of Oct. 26 urged legislators to "consider carefully what the university and college presidents are saying. Opportunity doesn't happen. It is created, and education is one of the best ways to create opportunity."

And an Oct. 26 *Vancouver Sun* editorial entitled

"Education investment promises big return" concluded: "The bottom line is that the Opportunity Agenda is not an option, but something the government must do to prevent the erosion of the BC economy. Sometimes a small investment can pay big dividends. This is one of those times."

According to the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation's BC Labour Market Outlook, there will be approximately one million job openings in BC over the next decade. Of those, 78 percent will require post-secondary education: 35 per cent will require a university degree, 28 per cent will require a two-year college credential, and 15 per cent a trades credential. By 2020, the demand for workers in British Columbia will outstrip supply by almost 62,000 people. At least 15,000 of these jobs will require a university degree and another

SEE OPPORTUNITY P.2

ringers

The Master of Global Business (MGB) program at the UVic’s Peter B. Gustavson School of Business has received the Outstanding Program Award from the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). Students in the one-year program, offered since 2010 by the Sardul S. Gill Graduate School, work and live on three continents as they study international business practices, develop leadership skills and learn at least one new language. The current year’s cohorts will soon leave Victoria for Rouen, France, and Seoul, Korea; or Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and Linz, Austria. The program prepares students to launch their careers with global knowledge both deep and wide, with real-world experience and some proficiency in another language. It also helps them develop the confidence to deal with the ambiguity and complexity of today’s global business environment. The prestigious award validates peer recognition of creativity and high quality in international education. CBIE represents about 200 Canadian educational institutions dedicated to international education.

Writings by Interim Director of Marketing **Nick Clewley** have graced the pages of the *Times Colonist’s* Sunday editions lately. The judges chose Clewley as the winner among the four finalists in the newspaper’s *So You Think You Can Write* contest.

A four-day International Dedication Congress in Honour of **Dr. Hari M. Srivastava** (professor emeritus, mathematics and statistics) was held in August 2012 under the auspices of Uludağ University at Görükle (Bursa) in Turkey. It was attended by some 250 mathematical, physical, statistical and engineering scientists from all over the world, including Canada. The duly refereed proceedings of this International Dedication Congress will appear in special issues of four scientific research journals published by Springer-Verlag.

Science historian leads-off anniversary lectures

To help mark UVic’s 50th anniversary, a series of President’s Distinguished Lectures and special convocations featuring three world-renowned authors and thinkers will kick-off in December. On Dec. 4, author George Dyson highlights the West Coast experiences that have shaped his influential insights on the history and philosophy of science and technology. On Feb. 18, prize-winning poet and author Anne Michaels discusses aspects of her creative process and on March 27 eco-feminist and scholar Dr. Vandana Shiva focuses on the social activism that has characterized her work in protecting food security India. The lectures will be combined with special convocation ceremonies at which the speakers will be conferred honorary degrees.

Dyson is a highly regarded author and leading historian of technology whose latest book, *Turing’s Cathedral*, has been called “a wonderful, even visionary” account of the early years of computers. It reveals the wide cast of characters who built the first electronic computing machine to be widely replicated. At age 16, Dyson left home in Princeton, NJ, where his father, noted physicist Freeman Dyson, was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study. An intellectual free spirit, Dyson came to BC in 1970, became a Canadian citizen, and lived for a time in a tree house on Burrard Inlet. His acclaimed first book, *Baidarka: The Kayak*, delved into the historical kayak designs created by the Native Peoples of western North America,

how the designs were used, and how they evolved with the arrival of the Russian fur trade. The book also signaled what would become the primary themes of his writing: the symbiosis and co-evolution of man and machine and the intersection of nature, history and technology. Dyson’s *Darwin Among the Machines*—on the history and possible future of artificial intelligence—was praised for its combination of scholarship and provocative speculation. *Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship* details the abandoned program for interplanetary space travel propelled by nuclear explosions. Dyson’s special convocation and lecture start at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4 in the



Dyson University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Free tickets: auditorium.uvic.ca/tickets or by phone at 250-721-8480.

UVic lauded for equity hiring

The University of Victoria has just been recognized as a national leader for its proactive strategies in recruiting, nominating and appointing Canada Research Chairs (CRC) across campus. Thanks to a number of broad recruitment strategies—including equity planning and training for all search committees, a coaching and mentoring program for new chairholders and inclusive job descriptions for chair postings—UVic consistently meets or exceeds equity targets in its CRC appointments within the four government-designated groups: Aboriginal peoples, persons with a disability, visible minorities and women. On Oct. 19, Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Tremblay accepted on behalf of UVic a certificate from the CRC secretariat acknowledging the university’s innovative practices in this area,

which include supporting formal and informal research partnerships across ten areas of research strength and extensive consultation with faculty caucus groups to support members of these designated groups. “Our emphasis on interdisciplinary research and the broad thematic strengths in our CRC strategic research plan provide a sound foundation on which to celebrate diversity and support,” explains Howard Brunt, vice-president of research at UVic. In accepting the award, Tremblay made a brief presentation highlighting the goals and criteria in place at UVic to advance research strengths from the bottom up with clear metrics for achievement. “We hire the very best,” says Tremblay. “And our success in attracting excellent faculty is accompanied by our best practices in equity.”

OPPORTUNITY AGENDA CONTINUED FROM P1

17,000 will require a two-year college diploma or trade certificate. The plan calls for 11,000 new funded spaces—3,000 in graduate programs, 3,600 in undergraduate programs, and 4,400 in college and trade programs—at a cost of approximately \$130 million over four years. It proposes a \$51-million expansion of student financial aid to include grants of \$1,500 per year to 24,000 undergraduates, loan reductions for 21,000 students, and merit-based scholarships of \$15,000 for 1,000 graduate students. The Opportunity Agenda also includes creation of an Innovate BC initiative to build on BC’s research

and innovation potential, advance new opportunities and help drive economic growth though a commitment to stable funding for research and innovation initiatives that position BC as a national leader as well as support for BC’s Knowledge Development Fund to maximize research funding brought to the province. The Research Universities’ Council of BC (RUCBC) represents the interests of UVic, UBC, SFU, UNBC, Royal Roads University and Thompson Rivers University. RUCBC’s full submission to the finance committee and a summary of the Opportunity Agenda: www.rucbc.ca

Labour relations update

The University of Victoria and three CUPE locals reached tentative agreements last week with ratification processes now under way. Agreements were reached Oct. 31 with CUPE locals 917 and 951, and on Nov. 2 with CUPE local 4163 (components 1 and 2). As *The Ring* went to press, members of CUPE locals 917 and 951 were voting on the tentative four-year agreements reached Oct. 31. The deals have no across-the-board increases in the first two years (2010 and 2011) and 2-per-cent general increases in 2012 and 2013. CUPE 917 represents approximately 500 trades, grounds workers, security officers, facility attendants and janitorial, maintenance and food service workers, while CUPE 951 represents approximately 850 office employees, library assistants, technicians and child care workers. The tentative four-year agreement with campus CUPE local 4163 (components 1 and 2) has no across-the-board increases in the first two years, 2010 and 2011—similar to the agreement reached with CUPE locals 951 and 917.

Each component has an overall 4-per-cent increase in the last two years of the contract as follows: component 1: 1-per-cent general wage increases on each of Sept. 1, 2012; March 1, 2013; Sept. 1, 2013 and March 1, 2014; component 2: 2-per-cent general wage increases on Nov. 1, 2012 and Sept. 1, 2013. The two components represent approximately 1,500 employees (190 FTEs) and include teaching assistants, lab instructors, lab assistants, second language instructors and cultural assistants. Ratification votes will be held in the month ahead. In mid-October, the university reached a tentative agreement for 2012 and 2013 with the campus local of the Professional Employees Association. That agreement is now in the process of being ratified. On Nov. 2 negotiations began between university negotiators and CUPE 4163 (component 3) representing sessional and music performance instructors. It is also in mediation with the UVic Faculty Association. More information: www.uvic.ca/info/bargaining/

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Ring Retro

The beginning of women’s studies at UVic

Throughout this 50th anniversary year, *The Ring* is ransacking its archives and republishing a selection of articles of historical interest. This month’s instalment, from our issue published on March 23, 1979, is entitled “Women pave way for women’s studies.” It recounts the pioneering efforts of Dr. Jennie Waelti-Walters (French), Dr. Paddy Tsurumi (history), Dr. Connie Rooke (English) and Theresa Iverson (library), who created the first women’s studies course at UVic, “Women in Canada.” This article, and our ongoing series of Ring Retro stories, is available online at ring.uvic.ca.

Chart a Course for Success
DAVE LYNN

Navigate the ever-changing market

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

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Brinkman on stage

Off-Broadway rap star Baba Brinkman back at his alma mater

If you were lucky enough to see Baba Brinkman on stage at UVic last month, you will never watch a rap video the same way again. The Faculty of Humanities, as part of UVic’s 50th anniversary celebrations, brought back to town this celebrated grad and hip-hop artist whose off-Broadway performances are runaway hits. Brinkman (MA, English), a modern-day troubadour who appeals to hoodie-wearing teens and briefcase-toting intellectuals alike, performed two shows with music and turntablism by DJ Jamie Simmonds on Oct. 24: *The Rap Guide to Evolution* and *The Canterbury Tales Revisited*. Visit [bitly.com/RNfZeJ](http://bit.ly/RNfZeJ) for a wrap-up summary of his performances as well as links to a video interview and a curated collection of tweets and news coverage. Brinkman’s exclusive appearance was not to be missed—a maestro display of originality and wit that did justice to words but to which words can’t fully do justice. Check out www.bababrinkman.com for details on future tour dates.

University continues to plan for budget reductions

As has been previously reported in *The Ring*, UVic is preparing for the potential provincial cuts to university operating grants as a result of the government “challenging the advanced education sector” to find \$50 million in savings in 2013–14 and 2014–15. At the same time, UVic is looking for savings to fund salary increases negotiated with its employee groups under the provincial government’s “cooperative gains” bargaining mandate.

In June, UVic President David Turpin asked all vice-presidents to incorporate a 4-per-cent cut into their 2013–14 operating budgets and to develop plans for a further reduction of up to 4 per cent in 2014–15. *The Ring* is providing this budget planning update to try to answer some of the questions from our community about the overall context and process:

Why does UVic have to cut its budget? With the continuing economic uncertainty in the global economy, revenues at all levels of government are tight. This is having an effect on the funding available for the post-secondary sector across Canada and internationally. Provincial operating grants and other sources of operating revenue have not kept up with increases in educational costs. These costs are driven significantly by the single largest component of any university budget—faculty and staff salaries. University salary budgets increase each year as a result of the cumulative effect of the progression through salary ranges for many

individual employees that occurs even in the absence of across-the-board salary increases. Universities are about people, and at UVic approximately 80 per cent of the university’s annual operating budget is devoted to salaries and benefits.

Why cut 4 per cent now when we won’t know what the actual reduction will be until at least spring 2013? The provincial government has sent strong signals that there will be cuts in the advanced education budget in each of the next two years. There will also be increases in compensation for UVic employee groups resulting from the across-the-board salary increases for 2012 and 2013. While the combined effect of these on the university budget can’t yet be determined, the university is projecting a deficit, even without a reduction in UVic’s provincial operating grant. By planning for reductions now, and providing as much notice as possible, UVic can minimize negative impact on quality, capacity or services, and reduce the need for layoffs by using existing vacancies or planned retirements. The university has instituted a vacancy management strategy so that wherever possible, faculty and staff vacancies are not filled, allowing reductions to occur through attrition rather than layoffs. Implementing some of the planned reductions in the current fiscal year will also allow units to accelerate the savings and free up one-time funds to help with the transition.

What about the following year? Given the greater uncertainty for 2014–15, units are being asked to develop plans for possible reductions in the range of up to 4 per cent. Announcement of these further cuts won’t occur until there is greater certainty of the university’s budget for the following year. The university usually finalizes budget parameters in November of each year for the following year. The current uncertainty related to provincial operating grants and compensation costs should be alleviated by then, allowing confirmation of any budget reductions at that time for 2014–15. Individual units may decide, however, to implement their plans ahead of time, particularly where these plans are part of a restructuring or change in service delivery. If the full amount of reductions implemented is not required, the unit will be in a position to reallocate any savings to its highest priorities.

What about finding efficiencies to address the government’s expectations for reductions in administrative and other costs not directly related to program delivery? The last two years of cuts have meant that many administrative efficiencies have already been identified and implemented, so over the last few months a variety of different approaches have been explored, including optimizing resources and applying “smart growth” principles such as consolidating undersubscribed and duplicate sections of courses without shutting out students or increasing faculty course loads, and removing scheduling bottlenecks to free up space for more students without building more classrooms; looking to reduce costs by sharing and standardizing services like couriers, travel or educational technology; and reducing energy consumption across campus. The university is also in discussions with the province and other post-secondary institutions to determine if there are opportunities to reduce costs through enhanced purchasing power and sharing information technology infrastructure and licenses.

What is being done to address the provincial funding situation? The Opportunity Agenda (see “Research universities set out an ‘Opportunity Agenda for BC’” on p.1) proposes a practical plan to expand post-secondary opportunities for young people, close the skills gap and create jobs. The agenda that has been put forward by the presidents of BC’s six research-intensive universities is predicated on the provincial government maintaining operating grants for the post-secondary sector and increasing funding over time. The presidents will continue to advocate strongly for not proceeding with the potential reductions announced in the last budget.

How are decisions on budget reductions being made and communicated? The Integrated Planning Committee, led by the provost and involving all of the university’s vice-presidents and associate vice-presidents, outlines institutional priorities to ensure that resources are allocated in a manner consistent with the objectives of the strategic plan. Some areas of highest institutional priority such as financial aid and scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students, and library acquisitions, have been protected from cuts. Deans, directors and heads of administrative units have been working with their respective vice-president to identify possible reductions that can be achieved with as little impact as possible on the university’s commitment to excellence; its teaching, research and service to the community mission; and its strategic priorities. Decisions made at the unit level will be communicated to faculty and staff by their unit heads. Unit budget reduction plans will be implemented throughout the next year keeping in mind the university’s goal of minimizing the impact on quality of programs and on students, faculty and staff. A budget planning website containing many of the key documents in the process has been created at www.uvic.ca/budgetplanning/.

ringers

In a profile in the *Vancouver Sun*, **Mary Sanseverino** (computer science) makes an argument that computer science is the new English. Sanseverino wants her students to know the extent to which computer science is used today. She is also a key player in UVic’s Women in Engineering and Computer Science group, which addresses the gender disparity within the sciences. Profile article: <http://bit.ly/RxDmKx>

Four UVic faculty will square off in the race to win the federal seat of Victoria in a by-election scheduled for Nov. 26. **Donald Galloway** (law) is the Green Party’s selection; **Dale Gann** (UVic’s Vancouver Island Technology Park) is the candidate of the Conservative Party; **Murray Rankin** (law) will represent the NDP; and the Liberal Party selected **Paul Summerville** (Gustavson School of Business).

The list of presenters for TEDx Victoria on Nov. 17 at the Victoria Conference Centre boasts a number of UVic people, including: drug policy researcher **Alan Cassels** (health information science); journalist, author and environmental lawyer **Calvin Sanborn** (Environmental Law Centre); PhD candidate and lecturer **Jamie Kemp** (medieval studies); and PhD candidate and cave art expert **Genevieve von Petzinger** (anthropology). Internationally renowned athlete, filmmaker and UVic grad **Darcy Turenne** (geography/environmental studies) and UVic alumnus and scientific literacy proponent **Reid Gower** (philosophy) are also on the bill as speakers. Among the artists and performers for the second annual one-day conference is Impulse Theatre, which was founded in 2010 by UVic theatre students. <http://tedxvictoria.com>

Lynne Young, School of Nursing professor and associate director of graduate education, is the recipient of the 2012 Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) award for excellence in teaching. The award will be presented at CASN’s annual reception in Ottawa on Nov. 13, 2012. CASN is the national voice for nursing education, research and scholarship and represents baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in Canada. They will be celebrating their 70th anniversary next year.

Department of Writing sessional instructor **Madeline Sonik** is the winner of the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize for her memoir, *Afflictions & Departures*. She received the \$5,000 prize on Oct. 10 at Victoria’s Union Club, emceed by CBC Radio All Points West host Jo-Ann Roberts (who will also be the writing department’s 2013 Southam Lecturer). The jurors cited *Afflictions and Departures* as “a wonderfully generous book that returns us to one of literature’s touchstones: intensely personal revelation rendered universal. Sonik’s tone—cool and wry—manages to be simultaneously humane and funny.” 2012 also saw the book nominated for the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction and the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction.

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Bob Reimer

FIVE ALUMNI REPRESENT UVIC’S TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

On Oct. 16, to celebrate the university’s global, national and local community impact, UVic paid tribute to five remarkable alumni whose inspiring stories of personal and professional accomplishment exemplify the university’s tradition of excellence. *A Celebration of 50*



Dixon
Stephanie Dixon, BA (psychology) 2009

UVic strives to instill inspiration and perseverance. These qualities lie at the heart of the accomplishments of Paralympic swimmer and medal winner Stephanie Dixon. Her inspiring attitude has taken her to the height of her sport and motivates a new generation.



John
Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch’oh), BA (sociology) 1974

UVic is dedicated to social justice and equal rights for all persons. Grand Chief Edward John (*Akile Ch’oh*), a Hereditary Chief of Tl’azt’en Nation, exemplifies these values and is a leading voice—locally, provincially and internationally—of Indigenous governance, business and community development.



Nicklen
Paul Nicklen, BSc (biology) 1990

UVic values interdisciplinarity as a means of enriching our understanding of the world. Paul Nicklen, one of the world’s foremost nature photographers, uses the arts to translate science. His passion for documenting the effects of climate change aligns with UVic’s research focus in this area.



Smith
Alisa Smith, BA (history in art) 1994; MA (history) 1997

Sustainability is a commitment to future generations and is central to UVic’s mission. Alisa Smith personifies this commitment and has also captured the imagination of consumers in an innovative and very immediate way with the book *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*.



Vrooman
Tamara Vrooman. BA (history) 1991; MA (history) 1994

Educating socially responsible leaders is a UVic tradition. The health and wealth of society are inseparable, and the thoughtful leadership in these areas of Tamara Vrooman as president and CEO of Vancity—the first Canadian financial institution to join the Global Alliance for Banking on Values—is noteworthy.

Grad’s robot dreams become reality

BY MITCH WRIGHT

Growing up in southern China, Hui Zhang had the same dream as millions of children around the world—robots to do the household chores and farm work.

Zhang decided to pursue the dream of designing “intelligent machines” by earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering from China’s Harbin Institute of Technology and Jilin University, respectively, and completing a PhD at the University of Victoria last June.

He transferred to UVic in 2009, after one year at the University of Saskatchewan, because he’d learned that the Applied Control and Information Processing Laboratory, led by Dr. Yang Shi, is one of the best in the world working on networked control systems. It’s a field he became intrigued with upon realizing that mechanical skills alone are not enough to design the best machines—he needed to be an expert in advanced controls.

His field, known as mechatronics, refers to the interdisciplinary integration of mechanical systems, control systems, electrical systems and software engineering.

“Mechatronic engineers have the most comprehensive knowledge in engineering,” says Zhang. “My supervisor, Dr. Yang Shi, told us that mechatronic engineers know everything about something and know something about everything.”

Zhang earned considerable academic recognition throughout his time at UVic, earning a number of scholarships and donor awards, including the prestigious 2010 China Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed PhD Students Abroad.

Zhang’s accomplishments are all the more impressive given that he started his PhD program with no background in advanced control systems.

“At the early stage, I knew nothing about my project and had no background on the project at all,” he says. “My supervisor and group-mates helped me a lot. With three years of hard work and constructive help, from zero background, I’ve become an expert in the field of advanced control.”

And his expertise is sought after. Now working on the design of diesel engines and electric vehicles at the Center for Automotive Research at The Ohio State University, Zhang has published more than a dozen articles in leading journals, which have been cited more 130 times. Journals are also now turning to him to review and judge his peers’ work.

Zhang says he’s achieving his childhood dream, but the dream itself is becoming larger and larger as his knowledge expands. He’s also sharing his knowledge by co-supervising PhD students working to apply network control to electric vehicles.

“I am really enjoying the high-tech work and applying my theory to industry,” Zhang says, adding that he hopes to become a professor within the next couple of years.

“Then I can share my experience and knowledge with more and more students.”

Zhang

TRAVERSE CONTINUED FROM P1

returned to Victoria, he’d be available for hands-on projects like organizing another carotmob.

Even that wasn’t enough.

Next, he developed the idea of a SustainableExchange blog [<http://sustainableexchange.wordpress.com>].

“About 80 per cent of [commerce] students go on exchange,” he says. “I saw that as a great opportunity to see what other countries or cultures are doing. I thought a blog would be a great platform...to make that link between sustainability and that it’s an international thing.”

Traverse’s SustainableExchange blog gets intriguing posts from students around the world; carotmobs are a regular part of Gustavson culture; the sustainable events checklist that he co-created is a welcome addition to websites across campus. And now Traverse sees potential to help his new employer, Teck Coal Ltd., which he sees as a sustainability-driven company, move forward with sustainability as well.

“When I take on something,” he explains, “I really want to succeed at it.”

Judging by his legacy at Gustavson, Michael Traverse is already hitting his stride.

The Nanjing Massacre: 75 Years On

November 16
7:30pm: Diana Lary, Keynote Lecture

November 17
9am: Symposium
7pm: Screening of the movie, *The Flowers of War* (2011)

Harry Hickman Building Room 105
University of Victoria

For full schedule visit www.capi.uvic.ca
or call 250-721-7020

University of Victoria
Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives

CONVOCATION 2012

Congratulations, grads!



The University of Victoria will award 1,262 degrees, diplomas and certificates at Fall Convocation in four ceremonies Nov. 13 and 14. All four ceremonies will be webcast live at www.uvic.ca/convocation and each ceremony will also be available in a video-on-demand format on this website for eight weeks thereafter.

Grad shares nursing expertise in Bangladesh



Soomal

BY DENISE HELM

When Permjit Soomal stepped off the plane in Bangladesh in October 2011, the nursing student was overwhelmed by the heat, smells and sounds.

She was also one step closer to realizing her dream—to make a difference in the world through working in the health sector.

“I wanted to create and support programs that will help alleviate poverty and improve health,” says Soomal, who graduated this year with her Master of Nursing (nurse educator option). “Nursing education does both.”

Soomal grew up in Golden, BC, after her family moved there from India when she was nine years old. She got a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UVic in 2002 and returned in 2010 to do her master’s degree because of her positive experience as an undergrad, the supportive faculty and the school’s commitment to an international perspective.

“I was educated to be a global citizen, with curriculum that works across continents,” says Soomal. “My education was tailored so that I was able to pursue my dreams. Faculty at UVic have been and continue to be my mentors.”

As part of her program, Soomal did two practice placements, in October 2011 and from January to March 2012, at the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The impoverished country has a severe shortage of nurses, who are poorly trained, underpaid and held in low esteem.

Soomal’s challenge was understanding the cultural differences that affect nursing, including religion, family relationships, social status and appropriate physical contact, while recommending teaching strategies. She discovered, for example, that students learn by rote and don’t question their teachers. This makes encouraging the critical, independent thinking that is essential in nursing difficult.

“Trying to teach something that goes against a cultural norm is a huge challenge,” says Soomal.

Yet she knows that quality nursing results in quality health care.

“Nursing education is important because women educated [about health] make healthy communities and nations. I am excited to be a small part of the health sector in improving quality of life.”

So that others could learn from her placements, Soomal shared her experiences, both difficult and rewarding, in a blog “I wanted to inspire others through shared stories so that their hearts can be encouraged to act. Secondly, it was an opportunity to examine my own moral, social and ethical values.”

“I feel that I am born in this world to do something good, especially for women who are disempowered. This is an incredibly empowering experience.”

In September 2012, Soomal was hired for a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency to strengthen nursing education and services in Bangladesh. She is, indeed, living her dream.

Trying to teach something that goes against a cultural norm is a huge challenge

Writing grad lights up film fest screens

BY JOHN THRELFALL

It’s one thing to have parents who have found fame in the same field you’re studying; but who wants one as the head of their university department? Consider Connor Gaston, whose parents are author Dede Crane and acclaimed novelist and Department of Writing chair Bill Gaston. Big shoes? You bet.

But the younger Gaston isn’t just following in the family’s fictive footsteps. Instead, he has already started making a name for himself as a filmmaker: one of his short films, *Bardo Light*, appeared at both Montréal’s Festival des Films du Monde and the Toronto International Film Festival; another—*Stuck*—will be debuting later this month at the Whistler Film Festival.

“Getting into the Montréal film festival was enough—it showed that someone enjoyed my work,” he recalls with a chuckle. “But when

Toronto called it was like, ‘Oh god, what’s going on here?’” Despite his early success, Gaston—already an MFA student in writing—remains realistic about his future as a filmmaker.

“I never really thought of myself as a director,” he admits. “UVic doesn’t even have a real film school—you can’t get a degree in film here yet—so I came at it from a writer’s perspective, which is pretty healthy if you want to become a director. Without a good story, any film is lost.”

Gaston quickly credits his grad mentor, filmmaker Maureen Bradley, for keeping him focused. “She really inspired me to keep writing short films,” he explains. Using the Whistler-bound *Stuck* as an example, Gaston notes that while he directed it, Bradley produced it and offered continuous hands-on mentoring. “I give her all the credit for my successes.”

When asked about future plans,

Gaston hedges nervously. “I don’t like to think days ahead, let alone years,” he says. “So far I’m just doing what I like . . . I pitched a couple of feature film ideas to a Vancouver production company I met at TIFF, and they want to see a script—which I just finished writing the first draft of—and now I have to sign a release contract so they can read the script, which is kind of funny . . . and scary too.”

When asked about being the latest of the writing department’s many success stories, Gaston downplays his own achievements to date. “There’s a whole bunch of super-talented writers and filmmakers up here and a lot of them have taken off recently,” he says with a nervous laugh. “I guess I’m scared this is going to be the high point of my life, and that it’ll all be downhill from here.”

Somehow that doesn’t seem likely—despite those big shoes.

Gaston. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Words never fail for linguistics grad

BY TARA SHARPE

Two years ago, a graduate student from a coastal province in eastern China chose UVic for his further studies in Canada. In the words of Jianxun Liu (MA, linguistics), “I said goodbye to so many things in China” to move to Victoria. “Graduation normally means completion, but for me, it is more a true beginning.”

Jianxun’s own beginnings were in Jinan, the capital city of Shandong province, a city known for its hundreds of artesian springs.

Jianxun earned a BA from the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade in 1996 and an MA from Shandong University in 2004.

He chose UVic due to “good professors and the program I wanted,” and Canada because of “a dream and a birthday gift to my wife.”

Years ago, his wife was fascinated with a beautiful scene of Canada in a photography magazine. He bought that magazine as her birthday gift, and also made a promise: “We might go there someday.”

Jianxun says he had “been studying English for many years, and before I came to Canada, I had got my first MA in English language and literature.



Liu. Photo: Robie Liscomb

I have long been puzzled, and more fascinated, by the differences between English and Chinese. I am interested in knowing more and in more depth, thus naturally I came into the field of linguistics.”

His master’s thesis explores an applicative approach to two grammatical constructions in Chinese. In the acknowledgements section of the paper, he says he is “happy that now I can look back at the writing process and express my thanks to the people who have helped me. In the whole past year, my brain has been occupied by organizing words and phrases into

meaning; at this moment, however, I feel words and phrases fail me.”

“For me, life is simple, mainly from home to campus. At weekends, I like to walk in and enjoy the beautiful nature with my wife and my daughter, experiencing the change of the seasons.”

He adds, when asked if he faced any particular challenges, “At the beginning, cultural difference might be a little challenge, but I have got much better, and I begin to enjoy the culture here.”

He is now working toward his PhD in linguistics from UVic.



HONORIS CAUSA

Fall Convocation ceremonies will include honorary degree presentations recognizing achievements in improving Indigenous-settler relations, promoting local history, and pioneering the new science of nanophotonics.



Steven L. Point

The Hon. Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of BC
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Their Honours have provided outstanding public service and unparalleled work in bringing genuine reconciliation and mutual understanding between Indigenous and settler British Columbians and they are among the most respected leaders within the Coast Salish territory (on which UVic is situated).

Steven L. Point served as the 28th lieutenant governor, completing his five-year term on Nov. 2. He was the first Indigenous person to hold the position of the official representative of the Queen. In 2010, with the help of master carver Tony Hunt, he completed a dugout canoe carved on the grounds of Government House to symbolize unity and the bridging of cultures.

He was previously the chief commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission, and he served for 15 years as an elected chief of the Skowkale First Nation. He also served as the tribal chair of the Stó:lō Nation Government, and he was honoured



Gwendolyn Point

Her Honour, Mrs. Gwendolyn Point
Honorary Doctor of Education (10 a.m., Nov. 14)

as grand chief by the chief of the Stó:lō Tribal Council. He is an alumnus and former instructor of the Native Law program at the University of Saskatchewan. He became a provincial court judge in February 1999.

Her Honour, Gwendolyn Rose Point has worked tirelessly to promote education and First Nations language renewal in her community, the province and nationally. She is an instructor of social work and history at the University of the Fraser Valley and a driving force behind the advances that have been made by the Stó:lō in education, linguistics and cultural awareness.

In her many years as the manager of education at the Stó:lō Nation offices in Chilliwack, she dramatically extended the First Nations curriculum within the Fraser Valley School District and helped to improve outcomes for First Nations students in the K-12 system.



Obee

Dave Obee
Honorary Doctor of Laws (2:30 p.m., Nov. 13)

A noted journalist, Dave Obee is also a distinguished author, historian and genealogist. He is the editor-in-chief of the Victoria *Times Colonist* and a frequent contributor of features on local history. He is a co-founder of the annual *Times Colonist* Book Drive, raising more than \$1 million for education and literacy projects on Vancouver Island.

Obee played a key role in the digitization of the *British Colonist* and ensuring that the rights to the early newspaper were granted to UVic. His 2008 book, *Making the News*, is a comprehensive history of Victoria and Vancouver Island as told through newspapers and archival sources dating from 1858.

He produced *Destination Canada*, considered the most comprehensive guide to resources for immigration researchers. A sought-after speaker on genealogy, he has given more than 300 presentations on topics including “Stalin’s Secret Files” and “Mining the Canadian Census.”



Halas

Dr. Naomi Halas
Honorary Doctor of Science (2:30 p.m., Nov. 14)

Based at Rice University in Houston, Dr. Naomi Halas is a pioneer in the emerging field of “nanophotonics”—the interaction between light and structures at a scale 100,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

She is the inventor of nanoshells—tiny particles that can be used in biomedicine, including photothermal cancer therapy. Her key finding was that nanoshells (basically coated spheres with an inner core of glass and an outer core of gold) can capture and focus light around them.

One potential application of nanoshells in cancer therapy involves harnessing their ability to convert light into heat to thermally destroy a solid tumor while minimizing damage to healthy cells.

Halas hopes that the technology will dramatically improve the prospects of people suffering with cancer and that it could be used as a general approach for removing lumps in a variety of soft tissue types.

Counseling grad dedicated to Aboriginal community

BY PATTY PITTS

Few graduate students voluntarily add more course work to their degree programs, but Jennifer Coverdale isn’t like most grad students. She willingly took seven additional courses and an extra year of study so that she could graduate this month with an MA in counseling psychology that includes all of the courses in the Aboriginal Communities Counseling Program (ACCP).

The reason? Coverdale wanted to be able to produce research results to support the changes and improvements her community is calling for.

Encouraged by her Métis Nation, Coverdale strived to do research that brings Aboriginal voices to the forefront. “I wanted to get enough letters behind my name so that policy makers and funders would listen to the lessons we have learned in our community.”

She balanced her studies with work at the urban Aboriginal child welfare agency Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, describing it as “an incredible grassroots organization committed to Aboriginal culture and youth.” It’s where she applies the skills she learned in the ACCP, which combines Western and Aboriginal counselling methods grounded in the values and traditions of Aboriginal communities.

“Most tools developed within a Euro-Western worldview do not reflect the realities of our communities,” says Coverdale, who has a Métis father and a Scottish mother. “In the

ACCP, guided by Dr. Anne Marshall (educational psychology and leadership studies) and the advisory committee, we had a professor and an Elder stand side by side and deliver coursework collaboratively to ensure we kept our relations at the centre of our work.”

Her commitment to the urban Aboriginal community led her to a research apprenticeship with UVic’s Centre for Youth and Society, where she learned about community-based research. As part of her MA research, she found the evidence she needed to support her teachings of the importance of young, urban Aboriginals’ relationships with their friends, families and nations in their life transitions. “If young people are connected to their community and culture, it ignites a fire in them that breeds resilience.”

Coverdale’s interest in helping youth started when she was still a youth herself as a volunteer with the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria.

She’s now enrolled in PhD studies at UVic and is continuing to study community-based research methodology and Aboriginal youth resilience.

While her Métis culture may be different from the cultural backgrounds of the youth she is helping and supporting, Coverdale says it is no hindrance to developing strong connections to the youngsters she gets to work with.

“If you’re working in the Aboriginal community, you need to know who you are and where you come from. You need to be genuine and transparent with good intentions. If you can do that, you can be part of someone’s story.”



Coverdale. PHOTO: PATTY PITTS



Law grad follows personal quest for knowledge



Clark. PHOTO: MITCH WRIGHT

BY MITCH WRIGHT

After her first year of university, Jan Clark decided maybe school wasn't for her. But that's not the end of this story: her CV now boasts an alphabet of academic credentials after her name.

Clark always loved learning, but she started her post-secondary career taking "the usual courses" and nothing captured her imagination. Then she took a summer job with a geologist, and that experience fired her interest in earth sciences. She returned to the University of Calgary the next fall and earned a BA in archaeology and physical geography.

She was then working for Mobil Oil, coordinating the company's environmental impact statement for the Hibernia offshore rig, surrounded by people with PhDs and master's degrees, and feeling out of place with her BA.

So she returned to UofC for an MSc in soil science, while continuing to work for Mobil on the Hibernia file. Not long after, a UofC law prof working for Mobil while on sabbatical suggested Clark consider law school. A year later she did and embarked on a successful 22-year career in environmental law, regulatory law and natural resources law.

But throughout, there was a nagging curiosity that stemmed from her very first day articling, when she was asked to file a writ with the sheriff.

"I had taken no history course, no political science course, no legal history course," Clark says. "I had no idea what a writ was, and I didn't even know we had sheriffs. I thought a sheriff was a guy with six-shooters."

It took her a full day, but she filed the writ and also became fascinated with the history of

law—particularly how and why all the "quirky" traditions developed. After retiring to Victoria, she decided to pursue the fascination by applying to UVic's Graduate Program in Law and Society in 2009.

She graduates this month after completing her thesis delving into the history of the common law last summer.

While studying, a common question from fellow students was how she plans to use her degree. It's perhaps an obvious question, coming from younger students keen to embark on careers. Not so for the recently retired lawyer.

"I was there purely for learning. I was there to answer a question that had been in my mind for a very, very long time," Clark says. "It was all just for me."

That it was a personal quest for knowledge didn't make it any less daunting.

"It was hugely challenging. My learning curve defied gravity, because I had no historical background—none," Clark says. "In these three years, I've basically learned medieval history of Europe and England from the fourth to the twelfth century, learned the history of the church during that same time, and then learned the history of the development of both the church law and the common law in that period. That's a huge, huge amount of material."

Clark hopes her experience might offer inspiration for others, in particular mature adults feeling bound by age as well as earlier educational or career choices.

"It's the whole concept of thinking that you have hurdles in your way, like thinking your age is going to be a problem; but I now realize that none of that is a hurdle," Clark says. "We have a tendency to imagine hurdles where they really don't exist."



Jensen at the Atrium's rain garden in downtown Victoria. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Grad's climate change research helps communities

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

After years studying rain gardens, green roofs and climate change, Chris Jensen will graduate this month with an MSc degree in geography.

As a master's student, Jensen began a project on how to manage rainwater where it falls, rather than directing it into stormwater systems buried under city streets. Green roofs, rain gardens and permeable paving materials are some of the strategies that were evaluated to determine how they could mitigate the impacts of more extreme rainfall brought on by climate change.

"If rainwater is absorbed where it falls, there'll be less risk of overloading our stormwater systems and less flood damage to homes, businesses and sensitive aquatic habitats," he says. "It's a gentler, more natural way of managing rainfall."

Jensen conducted his research study in the heavily urbanized Bowker Creek watershed, within the municipal borders of Victoria, Oak Bay and Saanich.

"Bowker Creek is an ideal case study," he says. "About 50 per cent of its surface is impermeable due to roads, buildings and pavement, and a study led by the Capital Regional District predicts that there will be increased flooding there in the future."

Low-impact development strategies include permeable paving materials, green roofs and rain gardens. "The idea is that if we can use some combination of these," says Jensen, "we can reduce flooding without expensive upgrades to the existing drainage infrastructure."

Jensen has been involved with the Friends of Bowker Creek Society since 2001. Throughout his master's degree he worked with municipal officials, engineering consultants, the Pacific

Climate Impacts Consortium and provincial staff to overcome the regulatory, policy and technical challenges of low-impact development.

Jensen was born and raised in Victoria and had the rare experience of growing up on a large rural property with forests, streams and wildlife.

"My interest in water resource management grew out of my childhood experiences," says Jensen. "As a child I watched my favourite forests and streams turned into housing and development, and I noticed the impact on watershed health. I thought there must be a better way of doing things."

When he is not studying the impact of extreme rainfall Jensen can be found in the alpine regions, rock climbing, skiing and mountaineering. He is also a busy parent to a young daughter.

"I had many challenges when I began my master's degree," says Jensen. "I am grateful for my family and my partner and their support during my studies."

He also acknowledges the many scholarships and fellowships that helped him throughout his degree: the Alex Graham Bell Scholarship, PICS Fellowship and UVic President's Research Scholarship to name a few.

"UVic is a great leader in climate change adaptation," says Jensen. "The university is 'walking the talk' when it comes to buildings with green roofs, rain gardens and other low-impact strategies."

Jensen is currently working for the BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. He works with local governments on addressing climate change in their development strategies. He also helps communities prepare for climate change by reducing vulnerabilities to crisis events such as flooding.

United Way fun coming up

This year's UVic United Way campaign got off to a strong start in October, and there is still time to donate and show your support at upcoming campus fundraising events.

"Thank you to those of you who have already made your pledge. All of us leading the campaign this year are so grateful for your generosity, and we are well on our way to this year's goal," says UVic campaign chair Mary Ellen Purkis. "Of course it is never too late to pledge. We will be happy to continue to accept pledges in the weeks ahead." Donors in November will be eligible for some exciting last-minute prizes.

As of Nov. 1, the campaign had raised \$167,177—56 per cent of this year's goal—from a total of 301 donors and special events. The annual Bug Push event, organized by the Engineering Students' Society, brought in \$700 in pledges and donations while the Plasma Car Races netted \$3,742 from team pledges and raffle tickets.

Don't miss the 18th annual United Way Book and Record Sale coordinated by UVic Libraries,

on Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the SUB's Michèle Pujol Room. Support the United Way of Greater Victoria by purchasing donated books and records, all sorted by volunteers from UVic and the community.

On Nov. 20 in the University Centre lobby, find unique, handmade gifts at the annual Hearts & Hands Craft Fair. Talented artisans from the UVic community will offer a wide range of crafts for sale. Look for roving raffle ticket sellers in advance, or buy tickets at the fair for a chance to win gift baskets full of vendors' handicrafts or a large photographic print.

The wrap-up event of the 2012 campaign will be That Chemistry Show, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Bob Wright Centre, room A150. Chemistry professor Dr. Alexandre Brolo will serve up mad science and cool tricks to delight kids of all ages. Tickets (\$9.75) are available in advance at the UVic Ticket Centre or at the door.

More details or to donate: www.uvic.ca/unitedway

around the ring

Help homeless people kick the cold

Are there barely-used shoes, gloves or scarves collecting dust in your home? Why not donate them to people who need them? Do something heartwarming this chilly holiday season. Three geography students are assisting the Cool-Aid Society by collecting clothing and necessities for Victoria's homeless community. Donations can be dropped off in donation boxes outside the UVSS offices and in room B327 of the SSM building until Nov. 23. Particularly wanted are lightly used shoes, gloves, scarves, jackets, towels and reusable shopping bags, as well as new women's undergarments, women's deodorant and makeup.

TRANS—the movie

Commemorating the 14th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 28) and in celebration of the Transgender Archives at UVic, UVic Libraries and Cinecenta are proud to present the 2012 feature-length award-winning documentary TRANS at Cinecenta Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. Following the showing there will be ample time for questions and answers with founding President of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health Gail Knudson, a PFLAG parent of a local trans youth, Academic Director of the Transgender Archives Dr. Aaron Devor, and University Archivist Lara Wilson. <http://bit.ly/TH3yVj>

Improve your research communications

Want to learn how to successfully communicate your research? Come to a free Workshop for Researchers on Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to noon, Room 105, Hickman Bldg. This half-day workshop, presented by Canadian Science Publishing, will showcase three expert speakers who will help unlock the mysteries of scholarly publishing and communicating science. You'll learn how to choose a journal, maximize your likelihood of acceptance, tango with peer review, understand author rights and copyright and learn about alternatives to traditional journal publishing. For info or to RSVP email media@canscipub.com. More: <http://bit.ly/Txe1mf>

The Nanjing Massacre: 75 Years On

On Dec. 13, 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army entered Nanjing, the former capital of the Republic of China. In the six weeks that followed, thousands of civilians and soldiers died, their bodies found later in mass graves around the city. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Nanjing atrocity. On Nov. 16 and 17, the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies are holding a symposium on the Nanjing massacre. The symposium will look at the events of 75 years ago and examine what they mean today for China, Japan, Canada and the Asia-Pacific region. Details and a full schedule: www.capi.uvic.ca

CONVOCATION 2012

Celebrating excellence in teaching

At Fall Convocation the university honours the outstanding talent, dedication and creativity of the faculty members and other teaching staff who provide such a high quality of education to our students.

"We are extremely proud of the recipients of this year's awards for excellence in teaching," says Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Tremblay. "On behalf of the university, I would like to offer our gratitude and congratulations to these inspiring teachers who contribute so much to the lives of their students and to the value of a UVic education."

This year's recipients are profiled below.

Dr. Liana Victorino

Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Excellence in Teaching Award



Dr. Liana Victorino has received the Commerce Students' Society Teaching Award for the last two years. Students feel comfortable sharing their opinions and asking questions in her classes. For her, the learning process is one of joint discovery, where both the student and the instructor actively think and interact in courses designed to be a challenging and rewarding experience. Victorino consistently incorporates real world business applications in her courses and provides learning experiences that steer students toward success and developing their own passion for the subject matter.

Dr. Deborah Begoray

Faculty of Education Award for Excellence in Research



Dr. Deborah Begoray (curriculum and instruction) is an internationally renowned literacy researcher who demonstrates the important synergy between teaching and research. Her research has led to curriculum development and teaching strategies that are taken up in classrooms in public schools, community health clinics, a First Nations Community school and medical education classrooms. She consistently integrates her research findings and strategies into undergraduate and graduate courses she teaches. Much of the over \$1 million in external funding secured by Begoray has been directed at research that focuses primarily on teaching issues and interventions.

Dr. Amirali Baniasadi

Faculty of Engineering
Excellence in Teaching Award

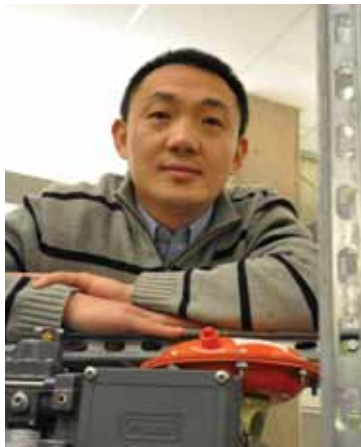


Dr. Amirali Baniasadi (electrical and computer engineering) has consistently received excellent reviews including peer and student evaluations. His goal is to educate students to a level where they understand both the underlying fundamentals and the state of the art in computer design.

He has regularly contributed to curriculum development and has designed lab manuals and new experiments to help students better understand fundamentals of computer engineering. Baniasadi has received Learning and Teaching Centre and NSERC design chair awards for his teaching contributions. His former students hold faculty positions at Canadian and US universities.

Dr. Yang Shi

Faculty of Engineering Excellence in Teaching Award



Dr. Yang Shi (mechanical engineering) joined UVic in 2009, coming from the University of Saskatchewan where he received awards for outstanding teaching. He has consistently received outstanding teaching effectiveness scores on course evaluations and remarkable praise from his students. Shi has provided excellent supervision to a very large group of graduate students and research associates through a productive research program and served on many graduate supervisory committees. As the undergraduate advisor and chair of the Curriculum Committee of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, he has made considerable contributions to the mechanical engineering undergraduate program.

Dr. Michelle Fillion

Faculty of Fine Arts
Excellence in Teaching Award



Dr. Michelle Fillion (music) inspires her students to make their music studies as much a vital part of their lives as breathing oxygen. Her teaching philosophy is "to infect them with some of the passion that I have always felt – for music, for research and the ring of good prose, and for the intellectual and creative work that comes from mind and heart." She shares what she knows and loves, and "plays it by heart." She has published widely and has consistently demonstrated, to quote one of her doctoral students, "superior performance in the classroom."

Jin-Sun Yoon

Faculty of Human and Social
Development Award for Teaching
Excellence



Jin-Sun Yoon (child and youth care) shows heartfelt dedication in supporting students and practitioners in developing an ethical and mindful approach to professional practice. She provides an optimal learning environment where inclusion and belonging are the foundation.

Her wide range of professional work in many countries has given Yoon an intergenerational and intercultural lens that informs her teaching of social justice and diversity in working with children, youth, families and communities. She is committed to providing opportunities for students to expand on their classroom learning as she engages them in community practice, advocacy and activism.

Dr. Helga Thorson

Faculty of Humanities
Excellence in Teaching Award



Dr. Helga Thorson (Germanic and Slavic studies) inspires her students to look not only inward but also back in time. She is a founding director of UVic's I-witness Holocaust Field School, a unique course that explores ways in which the Holocaust has become memorialized in Central Europe. It offers far more than the acquisition of skills and knowledge; it changes students' lives. This success results from Thorson's collaborative approach to learning and teaching, by which students are also producers of knowledge. Thorson has excelled as a graduate-level instructor and graduate advisor and revived the department's tradition of graduate-student conferences.

Prof. Glenn Gallins

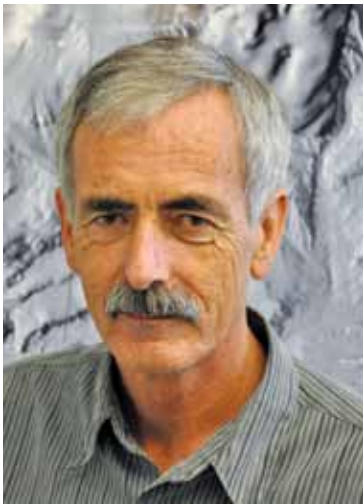
Faculty of Law Terry J. Wuester
Teaching Award



Professor Glenn Gallins (law) is receiving this award for the third time in 10 years. Gallins directs the Law Centre, the legal aid clinic, where students deal with legal problems faced by some of Victoria's neediest citizens. All clients are poor, many are homeless, many have mental illnesses, many are recent immigrants or Indigenous citizens. They are helped by students, and the students are helped by Gallins. He instructs them in law, procedure and—critically—the human context of legal practice. He teaches and exemplifies the highest ethical values of lawyering, maintaining his enthusiasm, serenity and humour.

Dr. George Spence

Faculty of Science
Teaching Excellence Award



Dr. George Spence (earth and ocean sciences) is an outstanding teacher who has contributed enormously to educational programs and to student learning in the Faculty of Science. He is passionate about science and inspires students. He is always respectful and available to students and genuinely cares that they learn and develop as professionals. The value of his personal mentoring to a large number of students cannot be overstated. Students praise his enthusiasm and dedication, broad and deep knowledge of the material, wide range of teaching techniques and ability to motivate learning and make classes enjoyable.

Dr. April Nowell

Faculty of Social Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. April Nowell (anthropology) is a scholar of early humankind whose passion inspires her students to pursue their own life passions. A dedicated teacher, Nowell is highly competent, energetic and motivates her students to learn. She is a strong advocate of



effective mentoring, helping students discover their excitement for research, and fostering their individual creativity, and their transition to professional careers. A graduate student says, “she has found the perfect balance between providing direction while still leaving enough space for students to be more self-directed and pursue their areas of interest.”

Dr. Andrew Wender

Gillian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching



Dr. Andrew Wender (political science/history) is deeply committed to teaching and strives to bring intellectual breadth, rigor and excitement to his classes. He shares his devotion to learning and fostering nuanced understanding of religion and global affairs, and he works with colleagues to develop effective strategies for teaching and learning. At the core of his efforts is the belief in cultivating engaged and critically aware citizens. As well, his growing expertise on issues in the Middle East means that he is in demand to speak with community groups and local and national media.

Catherine Nutting

Andy Farquharson Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching



Catherine Nutting (history in art) is an inspiring, compassionate and engaging teacher. Students view her as a positive and inspiring role model, noting often that her classes are the best they have experienced at UVic. She combines driving curiosity, enthusiasm and passion for the historical study of art with strong personal ethics and a desire to mentor others. She

models in the classroom the values of compassion, integrity and collaboration. She not only encourages her students to think critically about art but she also fosters a positive learning environment, allowing each student to have a voice.

Crystal Tremblay

Andy Farquharson Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching



Crystal Tremblay (geography) is a dynamic, enthusiastic and engaging teacher who creates supportive, open learning environments that facilitate diverse learning styles and support the specific needs of students. She has managed to inspire a large classroom of 150 students while also addressing specific student needs. During a field school experience in India, under sometimes trying circumstances, she served as an outstanding role model and inspiration to the students, providing teaching support as well as mental, physical and emotional support to the 20 female students, helping all to see the additional learning opportunities this experience presented.

Love of the ocean takes grad far

BY MELANIE TROMP HOOVER

Most students—including Rhiannon Pretty—come to UVic for an education and a few years focused on something they truly love, but it’s not every undergraduate that ends up with a pair of seasoned sea legs to match their degree.

Raised in Metchosin and back on the coast after a UBC stopover and two years abroad in England, Pretty grew up close to—and achingly in love with—the ocean.

“Whenever I went to the beach I could spend hours sitting next to a tidal pool watching crabs eating as the tide came in or identifying invertebrates or just staring,” laughs Pretty, who graduates this month with her bachelor’s in biology and a slew of on-the-job experience, including a field school term and 18 days at sea in the Arctic.

“When I finally came back to Vancouver Island I knew I wanted to do marine science,” explains Pretty, “and my term out in Bamfield really solidified this decision; I was spending six days a week in class and enjoying every minute of it.”

A typical day in Bamfield meant waking up at 5 a.m. to catch the tides before spending four or five hours collecting species samples from both land and sea. Once the boats docked again, Pretty spent another few hours in the lab analyzing her day’s catch by running experiments and documenting samples—all in the name of an

immersive research project that she designed.

“I was in the field all of the time in this tiny marine basin, connected to the local ecosystem in an amazing area for ocean productivity.”

But the hands-on side of Pretty’s degree just kept outdoing itself—earlier this spring she won an NSERC award that put her on an Arctic research expedition with associate professor Diana Varela’s phytoplankton project. July’s oceanographic cruise was part of the Distributed Biological Observatory, an international program aimed at monitoring ocean conditions in the north Bering Sea to create a time series of data that communicates (and eventually helps predict) changes happening in the Arctic region.

“It was an amazing experience,” says Pretty, a first-timer crossing the Arctic Circle and one the first undergraduate students to be given the job. “I was the only student there from Diana’s diatom productivity lab, so I got to make a lot of the decisions—what data collection processes were needed, what could and couldn’t be done, that kind of thing.”

Diatoms are a major group of algae and—as the base of the marine food chain—are useful for monitoring environmental conditions under the sea.

“The data I collected this summer are different from what was collected just last year,” says Pretty, explaining that diatom numbers were smaller this year. Because an 18-day cruise



Pretty on Arctic research cruise

only gives researchers a snapshot of Arctic conditions, this shift could be affected by a number of factors, but it does point to substantial transformation under the ocean’s surface. “These changes made me want to learn so much more about the Arctic.”

On top of the hunt for diatoms, Pretty was treated to a visual feast every time she looked up from her work: walrus families ambling by on icy floes, orcas, humpbacks, minke whales and even an aerial shot of the caribou migration when her cruise was held up by ice and the team

needed to be airlifted by helicopter.

“When you see the Arctic from the air, you get such a clear picture of everything that’s changing”

This sobering view and her non-stop curiosity will add up to another degree for Pretty—the avid hiker plans to start her master’s somewhere in the Pacific Northwest in 2013 with an eye towards the base of the food chain, either working even more closely with Arctic phytoplankton or looking for other predictive changes happening just below the surface.

around the ring

Get involved in Congress 2013

Faculty, students and staff are invited to be a part of Canada’s largest academic gathering from June 1 to 8 at the Congress for the Social Sciences and Humanities, proudly hosted by UVic. Join 7,000 academics and researchers as they share findings, refine ideas and build partnerships that will help shape the Canada of tomorrow. Much more than an academic conference, Congress will also feature many events and activities that are free and open to everyone, including the Big Thinking speaker series, Canada’s largest academic book fair, daily performances on the outdoor stage, an artisan fair, exhibits, and social and cultural events. For more information visit the website at uviccongress2013.ca or contact Congress 2013 Manager Suzanne Dane at congress@uvic.ca. More details about volunteer opportunities: volunteers@uviccongress2013.ca

Religious diversity and the State—Who Governs?

Religion is generally considered to be an individual affair, but what happens when the internal rules and norms of religious communities come into conflict with those of the state? Professor Jeremy Webber of the UVic Faculty of Law will address these and other issues in a public lecture entitled “Religious Communities as Legal and Political Orders” on Thursday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. in the David Lam Auditorium. The lecture is the keynote address to the Governance of Religious Diversity in China, India and Canada conference, hosted by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. More information: www.capi.uvic.ca

Alcuin Society’s 35 best-looking books of 2011

Winners of the 30th annual Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada are on display in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room (lower level, McPherson Library) Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. til Nov. 30. Thirty-five winning books were selected out 252 submitted, from 9 provinces and 104 publishers.

Looking for amazing academics

The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC (CUFA BC) is accepting nominations for their annual Distinguished Academics Awards. Nominations for the Early in Career Award, Academic of the Year Award, and the Paz Buttedahl Career Achievement Award are open from now until Jan. 30, 2013. Gala dinner and awards night takes place April 3, 2013. Information and nomination forms can be found at www.cufa.bc.ca/awards



Grad mixes classroom and experiential learning at O.U.R. Ecovillage

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

A summer camping trip in Haida Gwaii brought political science student Kat Zimmer an unexpected epiphany. “I was surrounded by natural beauty, and I thought, my academic life must reflect my passion for the outdoors,” remembers Zimmer. That moment became the catalyst for a change in her academic career. “I didn’t know about the environmental studies program and that it could also be political,” says Zimmer. “I was so excited that I could bring politics and the environment together.”

As an environmental studies/political science student, Zimmer was able to blend her love of nature with her academic studies. Four years later she is now finished her undergrad degree and looking to the future. “I want to do a master’s degree in environmental studies. I looked at other universities, but UVic has what

I want in a program and campus culture.” One of her most memorable experiences at UVic was the summer she spent at the O.U.R. (one united resource) Ecovillage located at Shawnigan Lake. At first she was at the ecovillage as part of a directed studies course; then she was hired and stayed on for the rest of the summer. Her task was to make the permaculture program more accessible to university students. “Permaculture is about systems that support each other, inputs and outputs, with very little waste,” she explains. “There is a synergy to the environment, and one can apply that to human systems as well.” Because of her work, the School of Environmental Studies is seriously considering a partnership with the ecovillage for the delivery of a permaculture field school. Zimmer came to UVic from Cran-



Zimmer in an ancient coastal redwood forest PHOTO: MARC DEMONTIGNY

brook after attending the College of the Rockies. She immediately connected with the size of the campus and the friendly, approachable community. “In my time at UVic I have seen the university through many different lenses,” says Zimmer. “I have been on student government boards, worked

as a server and held a co-op job in the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability. The university is such a welcoming, caring community.” She thanks her professors Dr. Duncan Taylor and Dr. James Rowe for their vision and support during her degree program. She is hoping to

start her master’s program under the supervision of Taylor. She says she was also supported by Helen Kobrc in the Co-op and Careers Office. “I feel so privileged,” says Zimmer. “I had such amazing support from faculty, co-op and the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability.”

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Social media causes boredom (and vice versa)

BY AMANDA FARRELL-LOW

Who would have thought that goofing around on the internet would lead to cutting-edge research and gainful employment? Probably not Liam Mitchell, but that’s precisely where the UVic grad found inspiration for his recent PhD. Mitchell originally came to UVic thinking he would do his research on consumer culture and how it related to German philosopher Martin Heidegger’s theories on boredom—until he found himself thinking about the times when he found himself the most bored. “Paradoxically enough, it’s when I’m most engaged with something online,” explains Mitchell. “I will go online, click through links for minutes and then hours and then all of a sudden, an afternoon is gone. Having been interested and engaged that entire time, at the end of it, I don’t remember a thing about the entire experience, and I’ll be tremendously bored.” So Mitchell decided to switch gears and apply Heidegger’s ideas about boredom to social-media use—in particular, two social media platforms that require their users to be relatively anonymous (Reddit and 4chan), and one that encourages users to provide more personal information (Facebook). “Because I was making that theoretical connection, I decided this was going to be much more significant and

much more interesting for me to talk about than something as abstract as consumerism,” he says. In his dissertation abstract, Mitchell concludes that, while all three of the sites are used differently, they “express different aspects of the mood that holds sway over the internet” and that “social media is both the cause of, and solution to, boredom.” The boredom he associates with social media is giving rise to an increasingly dominant view of the world, he argues, that is characterized by a “preoccupation with preoccupation.” He wasn’t the only one who felt the research was significant. When he formally receives his PhD in political science from UVic’s Cultural, Social, and Political Thought (CSPT) Program at this month’s convocation, Mitchell will be flying in from Peterborough, Ontario. That’s because a week after he presented his dissertation this past June, Mitchell secured a tenure-track assistant professor position in Trent University’s Cultural Studies department. “Most people struggle for years; I think many people don’t get jobs at all, or they will get jobs teaching one course here and one course there while trying to publish and get some profile recognition, so I’m exceedingly lucky,” says Mitchell. At Trent, he is teaching an introductory course in their media studies program—which he describes as a “much-extended” version of the Technology and Soci-



Mitchell

ety course he taught at UVic—and needs to constantly be updating his examples. “Where I was talking about Kony 2012 in the spring, I now have to be working with something new, because people don’t even remember Kony 2012 anymore. It’s almost ancient history,” he says. “It means that not only is the teaching exciting because we are working with contemporary material, but I have to modify my ideas, too.” During his time at UVic, Mitchell also helped found a political theory publication called *Peninsula: A Journal of Relational Politics*, and you will still find his name among the contributors. So while he may be across the country these days, Mitchell’s UVic ties—and legacy—remain strong.

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calendar highlights

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

at the galleries

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250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit.** *A Child's View From Gaza.* To Dec. 4. Drawings by children reflecting their perceptions of the Israeli offensive against Gaza, 2008–09. A. Wilfrid Johns Gallery, MacLaurin Bldg. A Wing. 250-978-9325

■ **Exhibit.** *Understanding Place in Culture: Serigraphs and the Transmission of Cultural Knowledge.* To Jan. 28. Northwest Coast prints. Maltwood Prints and Drawings Gallery at the McPherson Library

■ **Exhibit.** *Building the University Art Collection: 50 Years.* To Nov 24. Collecting and curating the University of Victoria Art Collections over the past 35 years. Legacy Gallery 630 Yates St.

■ **Exhibit.** *Honoris Causa: Artist Honorary Degree Recipients.* Nov. 28 to March 9. Works by artists granted UVic honourary degrees. Legacy Main and Small Galleries, 630 Yates St.

at the theatres

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■ **Good Person of Setzuan.** Nov. 8–24. By Bertolt Brecht. Set in modern-day, industrial China, a parable on how to be a good person in a money-centric, class-divided society. Tickets 250-721-8000

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *The Ugly Canadian: Stephen Harper's Foreign Policy.* Activist and author Yves Engler. David Strong Bldg., C122. 250-978-9325

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

■ **Other.** 8 a.m. *UVic Libraries Book and Record Sale.* Fundraiser for the United Way. SUB Michele Pujol Room.

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* Featuring the UVic Percussion Ensemble, Bill Linwood, Director. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

■ **CAPI Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Remembering the Nanjing Massacre: The Past that Will Not Go Away.* Diana Lary (UBC). Hickman 105. 250-721-8708

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

■ **Other.** 4:00 p.m. *Marnie Swanson International Commons Opening Celebration.* Includes student performances. McPherson Library Mearns Learning Commons. 250-472-5624

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7:30 a.m. *On the Promise of Peace: Kant's Wartime and the Tremulous Body of Philosophy.* Prof. David L. Clark (McMaster Univ.). David Strong C116. 250-721-7236

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

■ **Other.** 10 a.m. *Hearts and Hands Craft Fair.* Unique, handmade gifts offered by artisans from the UVic community in support of the United Way. University Centre lobby. Prices vary by artisan.

■ **Cafe Scientifique.** 6:30 p.m. *Probiotics for Better Health—Time to Change Gears.* Dr. Ed Ishiguro, Prof. Emeritus, UVic. Strathcona Hotel, 919 Douglas St., Maple Rm. 250-472-4067

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *School/University Partnerships in the Preparation of Teachers—the Challenges and the Theory of this Mandate.* Dr. Mary O'Sullivan (Univ. of Limerick). McKinnon 150. 250-721-8381

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *50th Anniversary Deans' Lecture Series: Alcohol Supply, Demand and Harm Reduction: What Is the Best Cocktail of Policies to Manage Our Favourite Drug?* Tim Stockwell, UVic. Legacy Art Gallery. Registration required. 250-472-4747

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artists program presents Brendan Fernandes.* Visual Arts A162.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Physical Education for Contemporary Schooling.* Dr. Mary O'Sullivan, (Univ. of Limerick). McKinnon 150. 250-721-8381

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *Religious Diversity: Religious Communities as Legal and Political Orders.* Jeremy Webber, UVic. MacLaurin A144. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *My Road to Nagasaki Goes Through Nanking—Thoughts from a Work in Progress.* The City Talks presents Joy Kogawa. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. Registration required. thecitytalks.ca

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *Speaking Our Loss, Sharing Our Journeys: Second-Generation Writers on the Holocaust.* Canadian authors Jacque Buncel, Isa Milman. Legacy Gallery, 630 Yates St. Tickets \$10 –\$5. 250-721-6325

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

VIEWPOINT

Je me souviens

BY RENAY MAURICE

On Dec. 6, 1989, a horrific act of violence took the lives of 14 women in Montréal. As a result, a private members bill was brought to parliament by Dawn Black, a BC politician, and a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was created. I remember.

But now, 23 years later, it's simply not enough just to remember. I want to inspire you. I decided to share a little of how I overcame violence in my life. I hope to reach you on a personal level. For many, going beyond remembering is a matter of survival.

The picture is me at five. It used to make me sad to look at. I wonder: how could someone hurt this little child? When this picture was taken I was already shattered, disembodied; held together by self-preservation and compartmentalization. I buried the pain and let the horror inhabit me. This is true for many people who experience violence. I became complicit in my own abuse *because* I was silenced.

As I got older the dreams came, flashbacks, and anxiety attacks. I remember my father battering me. Daily abuse included slaps, bites, being touched and forced. I remember him trying to drown me, holding me upside down by my feet in the freezing November creek. I remember being hungry and sad.

And the pain did not end when we were free of my father, or years later

when he died. There was no one event or person that “saved” me. Instead, it was a process that has become a daily practice of remembering, resisting and allowing love. Telling someone was the first step to my well-being. It started with a friend when I was 15 years old, then my aunt. At 24 I told my mother, and at 38 I told my daughters. Today I am telling you. I'm still amazed I told at all, in the midst of the façade of a “progressive” Canada—where nothing bad happens and children are safe in their homes; where racism, homophobia, colonialism, environmental violence, domestic violence, ageism and ableism are things of the past; where bad things happen to “others.” How was I supposed to tell the truth, when no one else was?

For years the abuse dictated the patterns of all my relationships. I carried it. I was ashamed of my body. I was angry and afraid. But today what hurts is not that my family didn't know how to help me, it's the culture of impunity we are *all* creating: a culture that *requires silence* and continues to *ignore violence*.

Remembering is no longer enough. Violence, in all its forms, is a social crisis and a community issue. Showing up shows we care. Decide to come to the observation of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on Dec. 3. Honour the people who resist violence and work to create change. Make the time to bear witness to the phenomenon of violence in our society. Commit to



taking direct action to end violence in our communities.

We, the Planning Committee, informed by consultations with members of the UVic community, ask the deans, faculty, staff and students to observe the cancellation of classes on Dec. 3, 2012 (11:30–12:30). Show your solidarity by attending the event. It's not too great, or too late, if we do it together.

Renay Maurice is a student in the women's studies and creative writing departments and a member of the UVic Planning Committee for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

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

Join the circle: Act against violence

Meet in the Quad outside the library. Monday, Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Classes and exams are cancelled Dec. 3 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to acknowledge the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. You are invited to join the circle to show your resistance to all forms of violence. Your presence will make the circle larger!

There will be opportunities to:

- acknowledge those in our community who work against violence on a daily basis
- view the Clothesline Project (sponsored by the Anti-Violence Project)
- honour survivors
- commit to change

Everyone welcome. Bring a friend! Watch for more details, and contact Cindy Player at cplayer@uvic.ca or 250-721-7007 for info or to get involved. In addition, the Anti-Violence Project will be hosting *Speak Your Truth: Clothesline* on Wed., Nov. 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., for anyone to come and paint a t-shirt. Location TBA.

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day in the life

BY CHRISTINE McLAREN

On any given day you may find the UVic Family Centre bursting at the seams with a children’s program, hosting a parents’ book club or busy with volunteers from the Garth Homer Centre who have been cleaning toys there for over eight years.

The centre is a community gathering place where learning and research takes place, where resources are shared, relationships are built and family support services are provided. It’s a big mandate for this small centre located in the family housing complex since 1998. And the person bringing it all together is director Elizabeth Quong.

“It is incredibly rewarding to see how student families thrive in this environment,” says Quong, who joined the centre in 2006 following years of working in the family resource services sector. “My career has been all about community and family, so the job is a perfect fit for me,” says Quong.

The centre began as an initiative of the Faculty of Human and Social Development in 1990 as a way to provide support for student families, and today, as enrolments grow for graduate, international and mature students, Quong believes the centre has an important role to play in maximizing student success.

“Being a student and a parent



Quong at the Family Centre. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

presents challenges, and in order to feel success as a student it is important that the family feels strong as well,” says Quong, who believes that “having families on campus enriches the university and facilitates a more supportive community.”

“The centre is a unique model, not comparable to any other university family centre in Canada,” says Quong. “It combines direct service to student families and supports students in their learning through practica, research and volunteering.”

A network of collaborating stakeholders interested in the wellbeing of student families within UVic and the wider community has been developed over the years with recent community support coming from Island Savings. The centre hosts a number of special events throughout the year where the university and community can come together and engage in family-friendly events.

“It is incredibly satisfying to see this type of engagement taking place at the centre,” says Quong. “I feel privileged

to work with such a wonderful team of staff, volunteers and families.”

Quong’s international roots run deep. She started life in India where her family were engaged in the international work of the YMCA. At 16 she moved to Switzerland and then embarked on a two-year commitment with CUSO in South America. Quong understands the feeling of being a stranger in a new country and can empathize with student families who may struggle to feel a sense of belonging.

“I love creating opportunities for

community,” says Quong, whose sincere appreciation of people, community and culture has infused her entire life.

Making the West Coast her home for over 30 years, Quong appreciates the natural beauty of her surroundings and enjoys hiking, cycling and kayaking. Her interests are varied as an avid reader, arts enthusiast and traveller, but when it comes to student families, Quong’s focus is crystal clear. “The centre is a place where all are welcome and everyone’s contribution is valued.”

in memoriam

Jimmy Gene Harris died in Seattle on Sept.30, 2012, at the age of 82. Harris began his long collaboration with UVic’s Department of Linguistics in 1996, having previously met the current chair of the department, Dr. John Esling, while both were in Edinburgh. Raised in the Arkansas Ozarks, Harris led a remarkable life as a phonetic fieldworker undeterred by danger in some of the world’s remotest regions.

While a graduate student, he carried out fundamental language revitalization fieldwork with the Stó:lo Nation (Salish) in the Fraser River Valley. He received an MA from the University of Washington in 1966 and an MEd from the University of Southern California in 1973 then, on leave from his field duties, spent time refining his phonetic knowledge in Edinburgh and London.

Harris worked for many agencies and carried out phonetic research, in the field, on over 300 languages—in East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America, North America, West Africa and the former Soviet Union. Over a 25-year period, he taught general phonetics at several universities including in Armenia, Brazil, Laos, Nepal, Indonesia, Scotland and Thailand. Many academic phoneticians, particularly in Thailand, owe their training to him.

Once at UVic, Harris worked intensively

with Esling for approximately 10 years on the experimental phonetic analysis of several languages from diverse language families, including: Nuuchahnulth (Wakashan); Nlaka’pamuxcin (Salish); Tigrinya (Semitic); Palestinian Arabic (Semitic); Iraqi Arabic (Semitic); Somali (Cushitic); Amis (Austronesian); Yi (Tibeto-Burman); Bai (Sino-Tibetan/Tibeto-Burman); Tibetan (Tibeto-Burman); Sui (Kam-Daic); Thai (Daic); Pame (Oto-Manguean); Akan (Niger-Congo, Kwa); and Kabiye (Niger-Congo, Gur).

Harris was instrumental in providing a link between Indigenous communities and pure phonetic laboratory research, bringing many speakers of Indigenous languages into the department’s labs and making the experience a pleasant, unthreatening and enjoyable one. Nothing was more important to Harris than teaching, learning and providing access to education.

Harris never stopped doing phonetic research. In his later years, he revived his passion for experimental methods and talent for working with people as an adjunct professor at UVic.

Based on a submission by Dr. John H. Esling, Chair, Department of Linguistics

Nels Granewall, a member of the university’s first graduating class in 1964, long-serving staff member, and leader of more than 200 convocation ceremonies, died on Oct. 23.

Granewall was born near the Swedish town of Uppsala. He was 11 when his family emigrated to Canada in 1951, choosing to settle in Saanich where they took over a farm with 50 acres of strawberry fields. As he neared completion of high school, he attended an open house at Victoria College, sparking his love for the atmosphere of learning and his passion for knowledge.

During a 33-year career at UVic that began in 1967, he managed and directed student financial aid services and scholarship programs, developing strong bonds with thousands of students. The Grad Class of 1974 founded the Nels Granewall Bursary as their graduation gift to the university.

In some 30 years of voluntary service as chief marshal of more than 200 convocations, Nels’ greatest joy and satisfaction was reconnecting with these students as each one prepared to cross the stage. His eventual transfer to the Office of Alumni Relations allowed him to remain in contact with former students worldwide as he helped establish 74

alumni branches. He also created the Student Alumni Association, still going strong as the UVic Student Ambassadors.

Nels contributed his knowledge and “institutional memory” to the alumni association’s history and archives and alumni awards initiatives. He was also a key resource for two university history books: *A Multitude of the Wise: UVic Remembered* and *The Lansdowne Era: Victoria College 1946–1963*.

Beyond UVic, his community service included executive roles with Rotary International (Student Exchange and Ambassadorial Scholarship programs) and Victoria Swedish Club Cultural Events.

In honor of Nels’ commitment to student financial aid, donations may be made to the Nels Granewall Bursary (for students who are single parents) or the Speakman-Granewall Bursary (for engineering students) at the University of Victoria, Development Office, PO Box 3060, STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3R4.

Submitted by Mike McNeney, Alumni Relations



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