



University  
of Victoria

50  
YEARS

## SPEED READING

### CAMPUS PLANNING

#### New community consultation framework available

UVic's new *Engaging with Our Neighbours: A Community Engagement Framework for Campus Land Use Planning & Development Projects* is now available online. It sets a new direction for UVic on community engagement for future land use planning and capital projects on the Gordon Head campus and immediate surrounding area. Visit UVic's news page for a PDF copy. <http://bit.ly/Y8PIPr>

### LABOUR RELATIONS

#### Update on CUPE, Faculty Association bargaining

UVic and CUPE 4163 (Component 3) representing sessional instructors and music performance instructors have ratified a tentative agreement reached in December. With this agreement in place, collective bargaining has concluded with our staff unions. In bargaining between the university and the Faculty Association, the Framework Agreement for faculty and librarians has been renewed for two years and outstanding monetary issues will be resolved at arbitration, following mutually agreed-upon negotiation procedures. [www.uvic.ca/info/bargaining/](http://www.uvic.ca/info/bargaining/)

### CITIZEN SCIENCE

#### Teen in Ukraine contributes to NEPTUNE research

UVic's NEPTUNE Canada observatory garnered national media attention after a teenager from the Ukraine discovered a moment of ocean-floor drama while viewing video taken by NEPTUNE's underwater cameras. What's the unusual creature seen slurping up a hagfish appetizer off the deep seafloor? Story, video: <http://bit.ly/XM2jSk>

### RING RETRO

#### When we were just 25

Half a UVic lifetime ago, then-President Howard Petch delivered his 25th anniversary message. Reading it today, much is familiar, though much has changed. <http://bit.ly/11goPW4>

### UVIC THEATRE

#### From comic villain to Phoenix director

Prolific Canadian television, theatre and film actress Christine Willes has taken up a new role at UVic. She's a master's student in theatre and is directing the Phoenix production of *Reasons To Be Pretty*, Feb. 14–23. Page 5



ART, ANIMALS & US

P.3

# THE RING

FEBRUARY 2013

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper

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



Csaba rehearsing the UVic Orchestra. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

### INTERNATIONALIZING THE CURRICULUM

## Listening Without Borders

1,495

NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS  
INVOLVED  
IN LEARNING  
WITHOUT  
BORDERS  
COURSES SINCE  
THE PROGRAM  
BEGAN IN 2011

BY JOHN THRELFALL

If you think a piece of music sounds the same when played by different orchestras around the world, you're not listening internationally. Which, in a musical nutshell, is exactly what School of Music professor Ajtony Csaba had in mind when he approached UVic's Learning Without Borders Program (LWB), which supports internationalization of the curriculum.

"When I came to UVic to work with the orchestra, I saw this ensemble had a lot of potential for development," he explains.

"The students, and the audience, could benefit by introducing them to several new international approaches to music."

"International" is the perfect word to describe the career of the Romanian-born Csaba—not only did he train in Vienna and Budapest, but he has also conducted orchestras in Hungary, Austria, China and Syria before joining the School of Music in 2010.

"Each orchestra has its own playing style," he notes. "The London Philharmonic Orchestra, for example, has its own style that is different from the Chicago Sym-

phony, the Vienna Philharmonic or the Beijing Central Conservatory's orchestra—so it will be very beneficial for our students, to learn a stylistic approach reflecting orchestras worldwide."

Csaba's idea was to create a four-year course more reflective of what he describes as "the multicultural state of music repertory ... and orchestra performance and training traditions around the world." The result is his "Internationalization of the Orchestra" course, which dovetails perfectly

SEE LWB P.2

### RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES' COUNCIL OF BC REPORT

## BC universities warn of looming skills deficit

A severe skills shortage will hit BC in 2016 and continue to grow unless action is taken now to improve access to all types of post-secondary education, says a report by the Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC).

The BC Labour Market Profile, released by the six major research universities that make up the RUCBC, reveals that in 2016 the number of jobs requiring university, college or trades credentials will exceed the supply of BC graduates.

That skills deficit will continue to grow through to 2020, when about 18,800 jobs will go unfilled due to a lack of the necessary education and training. Of these, 8,400 will require a university degree, 8,100 a college credential, and 2,300 trades training.

The RUCBC report was based on the provincial government's BC Labour Market Outlook and on BC Stats and Statistics Canada data.

"To secure tomorrow's jobs and power a strong economy driven by new ideas and innovation, BC needs to expand the capacity of its nationally recognized post-secondary system and make it possible for every qualified British Columbian to build a bright future," says University of Victoria President David Turpin.

"That's why BC's universities have put forward an Opportunity Agenda for BC that calls for an investment in BC's future now, so that British Columbians can take full advantage of the opportunities ahead."

Royal Roads University President Allan Cahoon says that in today's knowledge-driven economy, BC's most valuable resources are the skills and resources of people.

The Opportunity Agenda proposes three practical steps to fill the growing skills gap:

- A space for every qualified student, with 11,000 new student spaces in university, college and trades training over the next four years;
- A guarantee for students in need, with resources invested in grants, scholarships and improvements to student loans; and
- A commitment to innovation and jobs by establishing an *Innovate BC* initiative, bringing government, business, and post-secondary institutions together to build on BC's research and innovation potential, advance new opportunities, and help drive economic growth.

"Students have long advocated strengthening

the student support system in BC so that it's possible for potential students to attend university without being saddled with unmanageable debt when they come out the other side," says Lucia Heffelfinger Orser, director of external relations at the UVic Students' Society. "If we are going to address the skills shortage in this province and make education more accessible, government needs to step up and adopt the strong plan that the RUCBC has put forward in the Opportunity Agenda."

The looming skills gap also concerns the business sector.

A highly qualified workforce is key to economic success, says Bruce Carter, the CEO of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

"The supply of qualified labour is already limited in some areas and that will deteriorate further due to demographic shifts and job growth," Carter says.

The Opportunity Agenda goes a long way to addressing the looming qualified labour shortages, he says.

A full summary of the BC Labour Market Profile and the Opportunity Agenda: [www.rucbc.ca](http://www.rucbc.ca)

For a previous Ring story on the Opportunity Agenda: <http://bit.ly/WhLQJV>



ringers

Business students **Rebecca Staynor, AJ Qin, Vincon Chen, and Jennifer Sallows**, the Gustavson Greenshifters, have made it to the finals of the Walmart Green Student Challenge and will go to Toronto to pitch their sustainable business idea to a panel of eminent Canadian CEOs Feb. 26. Their idea: to transform used chopsticks into oriented strand board. It will not only create a high-end building material from a free resource, but it will also create a positive “greenshift” in China by removing 45 billion chopsticks from the landfills. The winning team and their school will each receive \$25,000. [www.greenstudentchallenge.ca/](http://www.greenstudentchallenge.ca/)

A book edited by a pair of University of Victoria professors has won the 2012 American Journal of Nursing (AJN) Book of the Year Award in the Hospice and Palliative Care category. *Religious Understandings of a Good Death in Hospice Palliative Care* (SUNY Press) was edited by **Harold Coward**, professor emeritus of history and founding director of UVic’s Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, and **Kelli Stajduhar**, associate professor at the School of Nursing and the Centre on Aging.

Meeting UVic’s next president

UVic President-designate Jamie Cassels (left) received congratulations and warm wishes from colleagues, co-workers and community members at a special reception Jan. 17 in University Centre. Shown with Cassels are Manager, Privacy, Access and Policy Bill Trott and Director, Human Resources and Organization Deborah Lang. Cassels will assume the UVic presidency on July 1.

PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



LWB CONTINUED FROM P.1

with the Learning Without Borders goal. Csaba is the second School of Music professor—along with Jonathan Goldman—to benefit from the LWB curriculum development fund.

“With the help of this grant, we can invite guest artists from specific musical cultures, who will demonstrate the differences in these performance traditions and stylistic regions,” says Csaba. “That will provide our students with new tools that help identify and interpret in a reflective way, say, French romantic orchestral music differently than Russian romantic music.”

Think of it like translating an international novel: while the story will be the same in different languages, the word choice and tone are going to be slightly different from country to country.

“If you listen to two interpretations of one piece of music one after another, it’s obvious that something is different,” explains Csaba. “The differences one can hear in a performance are related to the ensembles—this trombone player in Spain might have a slightly different tone than the one in Russia, whose training is different. The same conductor can work with each ensemble, with the same concept, on the same repertory, but it will still sound slightly different.”

Come March 1, you can hear some of Csaba’s theories in action when the UVic Orchestra performs *Dances [and a bit of counterpoint] without borders* at the University Centre. “We will play two separate sets of dances—Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Capriccio Espagnol Op. 34* and Dvořák’s *Slavonic Dances Op.46*—which are both cross-cultural,” says Csaba. “Dvořák is Bohemian, and ‘Slavonic’ references the folklore of the whole Slavonic population, while Rimsky-Korsakov is Russian, so he’s referencing another country entirely. They are both composing in a dance tradition which is not only related to their own culture.”

But can that sense of internationality truly be taught? “If students are exposed to many different ways of interpreting music, they will be able to go to another country and listen with a referenced ear,” Csaba concludes. “They can then compare and make a derivation from what they’re used to—and they will understand how it is different and how to reproduce it. This is an important experience preparing artistic collaborations in a multicultural society.”

For more information, see sidebar at right or: [www.ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/LWBProgram.php](http://www.ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/LWBProgram.php)

ABOUT LEARNING WITHOUT BORDERS

UVic’s Strategic Plan highlights the goal of internationalizing the curriculum to prepare students for their role as global citizens. To support this goal the Provost’s Office makes available resources, through the Learning without Borders (LWB) initiative, designed to support faculty members and academic units seeking to integrate international elements into their undergraduate curriculum.

The vision for the initiative, now in its second year, is to create a growing community of multi-disciplinary faculty members and students involved in the internationalization of the curriculum who are willing to share their experiences and inspire others through their leadership in this area. The hope is that the lessons learned will support the development of global mindsets and cross-cultural understanding of not just students, but the entire university community.

Previous LWB-supported courses have included CENG 421: Computer Vision, MUS 391: Global Music Traditions, PAAS 209: Intercultural Service Learning, EDD 423: 21st Century Africa, Latin America and Asia: Issues in Culture, Health, Policy and Democratic Development, and SLST 100: Introduction to Russian Society and Culture. Current courses include

MUS 180-580: University of Victoria Symphonic Orchestra, COM 405: Career Preparation Across Borders, ED-D101: Learning Strategies for University Success, ADMN 200: International Community Development Through Activism and Capacity Building, HUMA 495/EDD423: Cross Cultural Awareness: 21st Century Africa, Asia & Latin America, with others to follow.

A pre- and post-survey, Global A’s, was constructed to measure students’ self-reported changes in global Awareness, Attitudes and Actions as a result of taking an LWB course. These were compared with results from a “control course” that had not been exposed to LWB design principles. Preliminary results are extremely positive and indicate that those students participating in the LWB-enhanced courses reported substantial positive changes in global knowledge, taking others’ perspectives, and actively seeking out information about other cultures, compared to those students in the control course who largely reported no changes.

For more information on Learning Without Borders, LWB grants, and LWB courses, please visit the Learning and Teaching Centre website: <http://ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/LWBProgram.php>

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Letters welcome

*The Ring* welcomes letters to the editor on issues of direct concern to the university community. Letters should be signed with university community affiliation noted, not exceed 500 words in length and not be submitted to other media outlets. The editor reserves the right to select letters for publication and to edit for style, grammar and length.

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### RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS

**REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)**

AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *	\$238	\$278	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100	\$160,372	\$149,344	\$139,250	\$128,247	\$123,669	\$117,181

Accelerated Payout:

Income over 5 years	\$1,774				\$106,455	
Income over 10 years	\$943				\$113,092	
Income over 15 years	\$667				\$119,987	

\* Based on best current GIC of 2.50%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle. Monthly income based on \$100,000

### LIFE ANNUITIES

AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
<b>Male</b>						
...payments cease at death	\$445	\$504	\$586	\$727	\$822	\$1,027
...10 years guaranteed	\$441	\$489	\$554	\$646	\$713	\$833
<b>Female</b>						
...payments cease at death	\$416	\$456	\$519	\$622	\$719	\$893
...10 years guaranteed	\$413	\$451	\$508	\$594	\$661	\$776
<b>Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed</b>	\$377	\$409	\$456	\$532	\$595	\$700

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# PhD exhibition explores our relations with other animals

BY MITCH WRIGHT

Humans have a complex relationship with animals. Although animals ourselves, we humans, especially in Western cultures, often see ourselves as exceptional or “above” other species with which we share the planet. Yet those other animals are integral to virtually all aspects of our existence.

In a mixed-media solo exhibition, UVic art education doctoral student Connie Morey explores this idea of “human exceptionalism” and the ethics that underpin and affect humans’ relationships with animals, people, entire ecosystems—anything that might be considered “other” or excluded by our own concept of self.

Entitled *Ba\_ble*, the Feb. 1–24 exhibit of two- and three-dimensional works at Xchanges Gallery showcases the studio research component of Morey’s doctoral work, which is inspired by the work of West Coast writers Jan Zwicky (UVic professor emerita) and Robert Bringhurst. Morey describes her research as an attempt to envision an ecological perspective of imagination and the creative process, and perhaps disrupt the idea of human exceptionalism.

Morey, who also teaches at UVic in the Department of Curriculum and In-



Morey in her studio. PHOTO: MITCH WRIGHT

struction, began her doctoral research in 2009 under the supervision of Dr. Robert Dalton. She twice earned UVic graduate fellowships and a doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Morey also won the Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal for her master’s research, which was also completed at UVic. (See <http://ring.uvic.ca/07jun07/morey.html>)

Dalton explains that *Ba\_ble*, the title of Morey’s exhibit, plays with the words “Babel” (the Biblical story of early human civilization striving to build an edifice that reached the heavens) and “babble” (the judgment that followed).

“With the sudden arrival of multiple languages, people were scattered to the four corners of the earth, the confusion of languages isolating groups one from another, as it does today,” says Dalton. “Language is one of those markers that we as humans regard as evidence of our

superiority over the other species that share this planet.”

While her doctoral course work is done, and the studio research is nearly complete, Morey continues to develop the written portion of her doctoral work and expects to finish by fall. Her dissertation is tentatively entitled *Resonance, Ecology & Imagination*. It’s important to note that her art is not so much illustrative of her research as it is a crucial and equal component of her research.

“It’s not a means to an end in the writing,” Morey says, adding that the acceptance of studio work as a fundamental aspect of research has only come about in Canada in the last 10 years, and practice-based research remains a rarity.

With the exhibition of her work, Morey hopes to stimulate others to ask their own questions about human-animal relationships and cultural perceptions toward animals.

## ringers

**Ken and Kathy Shields**, one of the most storied and successful coaching duos in CIS history, have been included in the BC Sports Hall of Fame’s 2013 Class of Inductees. As head coaches of the University of Victoria Vikes men’s and women’s basketball teams, the husband and wife were at the helm of two of the most successful varsity programs in the country, earning a combined 15 national titles. Integral to the development of the UVic men’s basketball dynasty of the 1980s, Ken Shields coached the team to an incredible seven straight CIAU/CIS Championships and earned four CIAU/CIS Coach of the Year awards. As head coach of the Vikes women’s basketball team for over 20 years, Kathy Shields won eight CIAU/CIS national titles and was a two-time CIAU/CIS Coach of the Year. Ken and Kathy Shields will be formally inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame at the 45th Annual Banquet of Champions on Sept. 19, 2013.

**Dr. Iain Macleod Higgins** has received honorable mention in a major prize competition held under the auspices of the Modern Language Association (MLA)—the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work. The citation on his translation of *The Book of John Mandeville* (a medieval travel book) congratulates the UVic scholar for “impressive scholarship combine[d] with skillful translation of a Medieval work with great modern relevance.” Higgins has taught at UVic since 2001 in both the English department and the Medieval Studies Program. His teaching and research interests include later Medieval English, Scottish, and French literature, travel writing and poetry—both medieval and modern. He is currently a member of the editorial board of *The Malahat Review*. Info on prize: [www.mla.org/prizeinfo\\_translit](http://www.mla.org/prizeinfo_translit)

**Mia Maki**, senior instructor in the Gustavson School of Business, and UVic Advisor on Equity and Diversity **Grace Wong Sneddon**, director of UVic academic leadership initiatives, have joined the board of directors at the Victoria Foundation, which has helped charitable organizations succeed in building community resources in Victoria since 1936.

## Great Moments: Your stories, our history

So many great moments! The University of Victoria has witnessed many significant moments during its 50-year history. Many of these have contributed to UVic’s development into a world-leading research-intensive university while others have helped UVic make a difference in the world. Many other great moments have been of a more personal nature, uniquely experienced by UVic students, staff, faculty and community members as the campus has grown and changed.

During 2012, members of the university and the local community nominated nearly 230 engaging achievements, individual reflections and events in preparation for the university’s 50th anniversary celebrations. From personal tales of graduation to epic discoveries on the ocean floor, the amount of interest in the history of the university and in the nominations themselves was inspiring.

Now you can read about many of the most remarkable great moments in the UVic Annual Review (visit [www.uvic.ca/annualreview/](http://www.uvic.ca/annualreview/)) or explore the full list of nominated moments in the online database at [www.uvic.ca/anniversary/moments/index.php](http://www.uvic.ca/anniversary/moments/index.php).

All moments in the database have been reproduced as they were submitted. They are organized by decade—from the 1960s through to the 2000s. The collection of Great Moments can be browsed by title, and many of the titles demand a closer look—from “RES-I-Dos” and “The Great Bus Pass Experiment” to “The Russians Were Coming” and “Exploring Deep Sea Volcanoes.” Many stories feature historical photos.

If you would like to contribute your own memories about UVic, you can still post them to the 50th anniversary Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/uvic50](http://www.facebook.com/uvic50) or Tweet them at @uvic50 using the hashtag #greatmoments.



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# around the ring

## Anne Michaels on the responsibilities of fiction

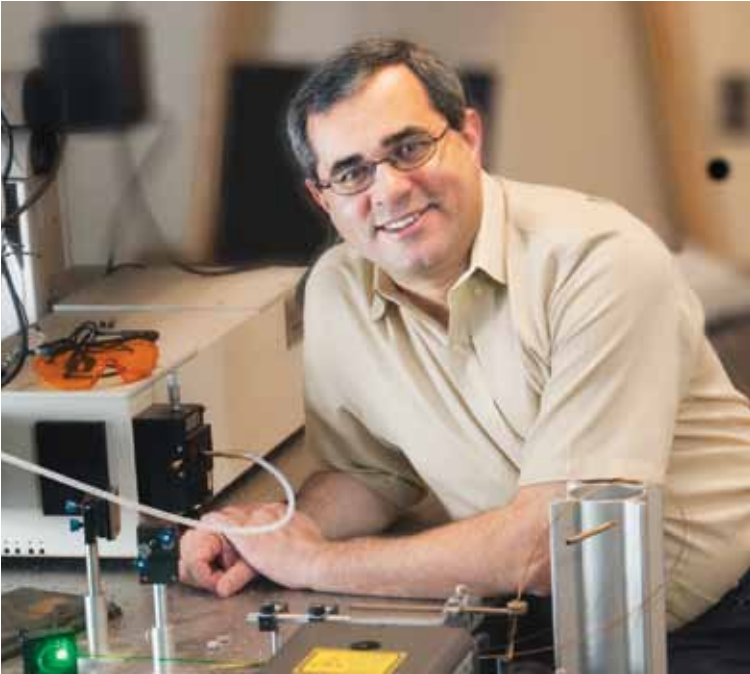
Storyteller, poet and composer Anne Michaels will receive an honorary degree from UVic and deliver a President’s Distinguished Lecture entitled “The Mystery of Wood” on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. in University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Michaels frames her talk with a quote from her novel *Fugitive Pieces* (1996): “The mystery of wood is not that it burns, but that it floats.” Her lecture will focus on the responsibilities of fiction when it is deeply engaged with historical events. Admission is free and everyone is welcome, but tickets must be reserved in advance at UVic Ticket Centre: 250-721-8480 or [auditorium.uvic.ca](mailto:auditorium.uvic.ca). More info: <http://bit.ly/WvJLcN>

## Volunteer for Congress 2013

UVic faculty, students and staff are invited to volunteer for the 2013 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, June 1–8. Congress 2013 offers delegates and volunteers eight exciting days of academic excellence, public lectures and community celebrations as part of UVic’s 50th anniversary. More than 7,000 academics and researchers representing 69 associations will be on campus to share findings, refine ideas and build partnerships that will help shape the Canada of tomorrow. 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. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to participate in a world-class event, increase your skills, be part of a team where your contribution is valued, and have fun. Training, volunteer lounge with refreshments, door prizes and many other perks are waiting for you. Sign up today at [www.uviccongress2013.ca/staff-volunteers](http://www.uviccongress2013.ca/staff-volunteers) or email [volunteers@uviccongress2013.ca](mailto:volunteers@uviccongress2013.ca)

## SSHRC seeks student research communicators

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has launched Research for a Better Life: The Storytellers, a competition designed to support excellence in research communications. It challenges postsecondary students to submit a three-minute pitch describing a SSHRC-funded research project at their university. Students may submit entries in the medium of their choice from among text, video, audio and infographic. The top 25 submissions will receive \$3,000, an invitation to a special communications workshop at Congress 2013 at UVic and the chance to deliver their pitch in to a live audience at the Storytellers Showcase at Congress. Submissions will be accepted from Feb. 16 through March 1. More: [www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/storytellers](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/storytellers)



Brolo. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Coogan. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

# CFI funds UVic nanotech, seafloor research

BY MITCH WRIGHT

Two teams of University of Victoria scientists are ready to delve into separate research frontiers—one on the leading edge of earth sciences to better understand fundamental aspects of how our planet works, the other pursuing how new nanomaterials can help create useful technological devices—thanks to funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

A total of \$3.4 million is coming to UVic through the federal government agency, part of \$215 million announced Jan. 15 for 75 projects at 34 institutions across the country.

## Nanotech solutions sought in energy, biosensors

UVic will receive \$1.8 million, part of a \$7.7-million commitment toward a wide-reaching project in advanced materials science and technology led by researchers at SFU and also involving UBC and BCIT.

The Prometheus Project aims to create a global hub for materials science and engineering innovation and commercialization, turning world-class research into jobs and growth by creating device prototypes for cleaner energy, improved health-care delivery and faster data processing.

Dr. Alex Brolo, UVic’s principal

investigator on the project, says the money will be used to upgrade lab and fabrication infrastructure so researchers have increased capacity to translate their designs into commercially viable prototypes.

“This will be a huge step toward taking our ideas to prototypes,” says Brolo, a UVic chemistry professor. “We have a strong core of infrastructure, and this investment will help improve the capacity to transform our research into useful applications.”

Brolo says UVic’s research strength is in the fabrication of nanomaterials that can be incorporated into solar cells capable of more efficient, low-cost power generation and also able to be mass-produced. They’re also working with new materials to create miniaturized biosensors and imaging probes, tools that might become “point-of-care” analysis devices for early diagnosis of disease.

“This project will allow BC’s four most research-intensive institutes to collaborate on fundamental materials research projects with a wide range of potential commercial applications,” says Neil Branda, Canada Research Chair in Materials Science and SFU chemistry professor leading the \$19.5-million project. “By engaging with a large community of industry, government and NGO partners, we will move this research out of the lab and into society to solve current and

future challenges in important areas such as energy, health and communications.”

## Undersea research frontier opening up

Dr. Laurence Coogan, associate professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, is the project leader for a research initiative receiving \$1.62 million through the CFI.

Coogan says the project will create an “unprecedented opportunity” by attaching new scientific instruments to the underwater cable operated by UVic’s Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) NEPTUNE Canada observatory to enable real-time data observations and sampling at the hydrothermal vents from subsea volcanoes.

“This is really going to open up new opportunities for researchers to understand how mid-ocean ridges work,” says Coogan, who will lead a team of 10 researchers from seven institutions across North America on the \$4-million initiative. “This is one place where we can watch the creation of new ocean crust take place in real time. The process of regeneration of the crust has a broad impact on the ocean and is one of the fundamental aspects of how our whole planet works.”

The Endeavour node is considered a frontier for earth sciences

researchers, partially because scientists haven’t been able to get easy and reliable access to the deep-sea sites.

The new installations will enhance the level of instrumentation currently at the mid-ocean ridge node, more than 200 km off the Pacific coast at a depth of more than 2 km.

“This funding support will nearly triple Ocean Networks Canada’s current instrumentation at this spectacular location in the deep ocean,” says Kim Juniper, NEPTUNE Canada’s associate director of science. “It’s a huge vote of confidence in the technology we offer to the global research community.”

Most previous research at mid-ocean ridges involved ship-based investigation, with retrieval of data and samples delayed by weeks or even months.

“We’ll now be able to understand what’s happening immediately after a volcanic eruption or other disruption and understand how changes in the environment affect the surrounding ecosystems,” Coogan says, adding that installation is expected over the next few years with the data available to anyone who registers through ONC and NEPTUNE Canada to access it.

NEPTUNE Canada videos on Coogan’s work: <http://vimeo.com/57246413>, <http://vimeo.com/57246475>, <http://vimeo.com/57246510>, <http://vimeo.com/57246537>



# A feast for the mind

Most things only get better with age—in IdeaFest’s case, they also get bigger.

Now in its second year, the University of Victoria’s popular festival of ideas has doubled in both length and content, running over two weeks from March 4–15 and featuring more than 50 free events from every faculty on campus (and more than half of UVic’s interdisciplinary research centres).

Produced and hosted by the Office of the Vice-President Research, Idea-Fest creates a vivid and multi-faceted space for community members, faculty, staff and students to explore the world-changing ideas rooted in research, creativity and scholarship happening right now in every corner of campus. Whether you’re a science lover, an activist, a zombie enthusiast, or something else entirely, this festival provides

an opportunity to have your curiosity piqued by the experts on campus that help make the world a bit more interesting—and a little bit better tomorrow—for everyone.

New and emerging ideas are explained, debated, re-worked and mobilized in a number of channels during this festival, including panels, workshops, PechaKucha-style presentations, exhibits, lectures, performances, film screenings and tours ranging in topics from big data and the social power of gaming to sovereignty in the North and whether or not English should emerge as a global language (to name just a few).

Complete festival details and a full roster of all 50 events is available at [www.uvic.ca/ideafest](http://www.uvic.ca/ideafest); be sure to keep up with @UVicResearch on Twitter for up-to-date festival information.



# Savour the diversity

The winners of the 2012/13 Diversity Writing Contest and first annual UVic Diversity Slam Poetry Contest were announced on Feb. 20 at First Peoples House, during the opening reception of the Provost’s Diversity Research Forum: Rethinking Realities.

In the fiction category of the Diversity Writing Contest, third-year French student Jin Kyung Yeo took first place for her story *Kintsugi*, while chemistry master’s student Brian Coleman was second for *8 Down and Out*. In the personal narrative category, there was a tie for first place between Natasha Clark for her piece *Loving Genderqueer* and graduate student Sepideh Heydari for *Born 23-year-old*. First-year student Jordan Konyk placed second with *Returning*. In the poetry category, third-year social work student Frances Woodcock placed first for her piece *Niger Delta*

*Dirge*, while Erin Cotton (*Sensing Femininity*) and Adrian Southin (*The first thing you do when lost is build shelter*) tied for second. Winning entries: <http://bit.ly/XSwKXh>

In the first annual UVic Diversity Slam Poetry Contest, participants created three-minute videos of their slam poetry on a topic or theme relating to diversity, equity and/or inclusion. The contest was open to all University of Victoria students as well as youth in the Capital Regional District. Of the entries submitted, a piece entitled *Blood Lines* by Gautham Krishnaraj, a student at Lester B. Pearson United World College, received the most Facebook “likes.” Krishnaraj won \$150 and also took home the jury award with an additional \$250 prize. All slam poetry video entries: <http://on.fb.me/WUIZ9d>



# From comic super-villain to master’s degree

Film and TV actor moves in new direction

BY MAX JOHNSON

Christine Willes has been a doctor, a demon and a DC Comics super-villain—and this year she can add “director” to the list. Willes, an actor well-known for her appearances on shows like *Smallville*, *Dead Like Me* and *Emily Owens MD*, came to UVic last year for her master’s in fine arts in directing. Now, as part of her final thesis, Willes is directing her fellow students of the UVic theatre department in *Reasons To Be Pretty* (Feb. 14–23).

The play, written by Neil LaBute, is a blue-collar black comedy about the relationships of four friends and lovers, and the perils of contemporary society’s obsession with beauty. Typical of LaBute’s work, it’s very four-letter friendly. Willes, also known for her work as an acting coach, has used scenes from this play and other works by LaBute to teach university actors in the past. She even appeared in LaBute’s 2006 remake of *The Wicker Man*, which he wrote and directed.

What is it about LaBute’s writing that speaks to her?

“LaBute doesn’t sugar-coat human nature,” she says. “In theatre, we hold a mirror up to nature... and just as sometimes it’s very difficult to see our own reflection in the mirror (because it’s seven in the morning, you haven’t had any sleep; or with me, I don’t have any makeup on, my hair’s a mess) sometimes I just don’t want to see that. Coaxing the audience to look at something that they know intellectually is true, but don’t want to get all stirred up about without being gently guided... is a task.”

For the past month, Willes has been focusing on gently guiding the student actors of the production through rehearsal. “They’ve been engaged very deeply, in ways that I



Christine Willes giving director’s notes to the cast and crew of *Reasons To Be Pretty* sitting in the play’s warehouse lunch room set (Designed by Breanna Wise). PHOTO: ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

haven’t seen before.” She thinks it’s because of the contemporary nature of LaBute’s script and themes—and because the actors contributed to which themes Willes chose to highlight in the production.

“I put two on the table that were not negotiable,” she says. “One was ‘appearances,’ and one was ‘the battle of the sexes.’” Both are topics Willes is passionate about (when she sends you an e-mail, her signature is automatically accompanied by a quote about how women “constitute half the world’s population, perform two-thirds of the work, but earn just 10 per cent of the income and own only 1 per cent of property”). But the student

actors found significance in other themes as well, and the production examines them too: for instance, the story’s coming-of-age nature and the questions it asks about “the slippery nature of ambition.”

It’s a storytelling process that Willes hasn’t had the luxury of experiencing in the more fast-paced film and TV world. “Collaboration there is: ‘You hire me to do a job, and you are paying me... to show up with a performance intact that you can tweak—but that’s all you’re going to have to do.’ That’s it... That is the process.” At UVic, theatre allows for the kind of collaborative and organic working environment Willes doesn’t often see

as a screen actor. “I’ve been surprised by joy, working on this. Because the people I’m working with *also* enjoy working in this way... that’s been very, very rewarding.”

“I use the metaphor of ‘performance as a garment,’” she says. “As an actor, I wear the garment one way. As a film and TV actor, I wear the garment another way. And as a director, I turn the garment inside-out. I have to approach it from a completely different point of view, even though the tasks are the same.”

Audiences can see the benefits of her approach when *Reasons To Be Pretty* opens at the Phoenix Theatre on Valentine’s Day.

“DREAM IT. PITCH IT.”

## Student entrepreneurs give it their best shot

BY DARCIE SCOLLARD

UVic undergraduate students are ripe with innovative ideas, as UVic’s fifth annual Pitch-it event proved on Jan. 24. This event welcomes students from all faculties to make a 90-second pitch for an existing or possible business venture.

Sporting the motto, “Dream it. Pitch it,” the event welcomed 23 teams this year, and according to organizer and instructor for the Faculty of Business in Entrepreneurship Mia Maki, “It was definitely our best year. We had two more teams pitching two years ago, but the quality of the pitches this year was the best in the five years that we have run the event.”

The teams had less than two minutes to wow the panel of judges, composed of Peter B. Gustavson Business School faculty members

Brock Smith and Ana Maria Peredo, and executive-in-residence Rob Milne. After each team pitched, they were led away to receive input from a panel of Innovation Centre for Entrepreneurs (ICE) authorities, serving as feedback coaches.

The winners of the \$300 prizes are Sean Wiggins (business), Ben Duthie (business and continuing studies), Marcin Koni (psychology and sociology), Aaron Lamour, Darrin Mah, and Yang You (business), and Kenyon Nisbett and Nathaniel Jordan (economics).

Wiggins pitched a music-sharing online community named Music Market, which invites community members to share in the success of their favourite local artists by purchasing content online.

Duthie pitched Eco-collaborative, which unites passionate individuals by running information-rich eco-tours

across Vancouver Island.

Koni pitched Mika, a Schedzo software app designed specifically for students to align their schedule with those of their friends and colleagues.

Lamour, Mah, and Yang pitched a Hotel U Pass, an app that allows for convenient hotel check-ins.

Nisbett and Jordan pitched Scholastic Housing Connection, a social network for off-campus housing that connects students and landlords.

According to Smith, these contestants were selected based on the feasibility of their ideas, the passion of team members, the focus on a specific important problem, and the contestants’ ability to carry out the venture.

Also in attendance was previous Pitch-it winner Jill Doucette, who went on to compete and win UVic’s Plan-it competition in 2009. She also competed and won the national Nicol

Entrepreneurial Award in Ottawa and successfully launched her business idea Synergy Enterprises.

Synergy has “greened” 35 businesses in Victoria this year through delivering measurable sustainability programs and continues to flourish. Doucette attributes the Pitch-it and Plan-it competitions as the “launchpad” for her business.

Submissions for UVic’s business plan competition, Plan-it, are due Feb. 28 and presentations take place on March 1. The prizes range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. For more information on Plan-it and how to register visit <http://bit.ly/uvicpitch>

UVic students across campus are encouraged to attend Pitch-it next year. According to Maki, “We believe that entrepreneurship exists all across campus and we want students to know that we can support them.”

## around the ring

### A New Leaf: Turning to Our Region’s Future

The demographic profile of the region is changing, affecting our needs for housing, health care, transportation, education and workers over the years to come. A 50th-anniversary discussion forum and public lecture, presented in collaboration with the Capital Regional District, will focus on how the region can take advantage of opportunities and prepare for a prosperous future. On Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Dr. Caroline Andrew, Director of the Centre of Governance, University of Ottawa, will present a free public lecture in the David Lam Auditorium, *Creating a Welcoming, Diverse and Sustainable Community*. On Feb. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. decision-makers, planners, researchers and members of the public are invited to participate in a discussion forum on our region’s future in the MacLaurin Building (pre-registration and fee required). More information: [www.uvic.ca/newleaf](http://www.uvic.ca/newleaf) or contact Grant Hughes, [gwhughes@uvic.ca](mailto:gwhughes@uvic.ca) or 250-472-5407

### Register for Connect U

It’s not too late to register for Connect U, a professional development opportunity for all UVic staff taking place on Feb. 20 and 21 in the Cadboro Commons Building. There is plenty of variety to choose from: celebrate UVic’s 50 years of making a difference, explore the campus on behind-the-scenes tours, build skills and leadership abilities, and learn how to keep yourself in balance—mind and body. Get to know the UVic Board of Governors or come to a keynote presentation by Elizabeth Denham, Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC, UVic President David Turpin or UVic’s newest member of the executive, Carmen Charette, Vice-President External Relations. Info and registration: [www.uvic.ca/connectu](http://www.uvic.ca/connectu) and [www.facebook.com/UVicConnectU](http://www.facebook.com/UVicConnectU)

### Sixth Annual Applied Linguistics Fair

Everyone is welcome at the Department of Linguistics’ free Applied Linguistics Fair, Feb. 14, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Michele Pujol Room of the Student Union Building. The fair will include information and resource tables, student research posters, and great door prizes. Come and find out about exciting English, French, German, First Nations and Asian language programs in Victoria. More information: [alassist@uvic.ca](mailto:alassist@uvic.ca)



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# Help beat breast cancer



On Feb. 16 Vikes fans have the perfect opportunity to enjoy a night of exciting basketball and support the fight against breast cancer at the same time. This year marks the sixth annual Shoot for the Cure event, which has raised more than half a million dollars for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation so far.

UVic was one of the first schools to participate in this event and has played a special role ever since. The Vikes event raised over \$2,300 last year, encouraged largely by community support for Vikes coaching legend and breast cancer survivor Kathy Shields.

Shoot for the Cure has grown to

involve 44 CIS basketball programs from across the country—a national effort that connects fans and athletes with an important social issue.

On game day, the first 50 people wearing pink will receive a prize, and a portion of ticket sales will go to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. There will also be great prizes such as pink basketball wristbands and B.B. King tickets.

As an added bonus, the game on Feb. 16 is against Vikes' archrivals the UBC Thunderbirds. The women tip off at 5 p.m. and the men at 7 p.m. on the Ken and Kathy Shields Court at the McKinnon Gym.

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UVic plant biologist Dr. Peter Constabel, with a winter crop of blueberries at local green grocer The Root Cellar, in Saanich. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

# UVic research team gets down to the genetic nitty gritty on why blueberries are good for us

Blueberries are one of our favourite fruits, and no wonder—they're tasty and they're very good for us. They're rich in antioxidants, substances that can help reduce the natural cell damage in our aging bodies that can lead to cancer, heart disease and other ailments.

A research team led by UVic plant biologist Dr. Peter Constabel became the first in the world to reveal—at a molecular genetic level—how blueberries ripen and produce antioxidants known as flavonoids.

"We already knew a lot about the chemical composition of blueberries, but until this study, very little about how flavonoid antioxidants are formed by the fruit as it ripens," says Constabel. "This knowledge has tremendous potential for BC's blueberry industry and, ultimately, for our health."

Canada is the world's third-largest producer of high-bush blueberries. Ninety-eight per cent of the country's \$1-billion blueberry crop comes from BC, where more than 800 farmers produce over 40 million kg of berries annually.

"Plant breeders can use our results to select for high antioxidant berry varieties and to try and get greater control over the ripening process," says Constabel, noting

that study partners included berry farmers and scientists from a range of government agencies in the agriculture, biotechnology and horticulture sectors.

In the study, the team used advanced genomics tools to identify a large number of genes in ripening blueberries. Genomics is the study of an organism's complete set of genes, made up of the double-helix DNA molecule that carries all the genetic instructions for an organism to function.

Constabel and his team identified genes that, as the berries ripen, are turned off during the molecular process that makes bitter (but healthy) compounds known as tannins and switched on when the berry's trademark blue-purple flavonoid pigments are produced.

In the process, the team identified more than 17,000 gene sequences, quadrupling the number of newly discovered blueberry genes—information that is now available in public databases.

With collaborators in Alberta and Oregon, the team also conducted a detailed chemical analysis of the flavonoids, and determined that the skin of blueberries contains the greatest variety and quantity of these health-promoting chemicals.

And, working with researchers in Saskatchewan, they identified a plant hormone that appears to play a key role in blueberry ripening.

The study was the first of its kind to look at blueberries from a molecular and multidisciplinary perspective, says Constabel. "I don't know of any other fruit where all of these research tools have been applied in one study."

Constabel is now turning his attention to another berry in the same family, this time one that grows wild all along the BC coast. Salal berries—also packed with healthy antioxidants—were a staple traditional food for northwest coastal peoples. They picked the berries in quantity, then mashed and dried them into cakes for winter use.

"Salal has been studied for its impact on tree regeneration, but not very much for its fruit," says Constabel, who—on a broad scale—is interested in how and why plants, especially trees, produce biologically active compounds such as tannin.

"I find it fascinating that plant chemicals, which are produced as protection against stressful environmental conditions, can also help protect the human body. So eat your fresh fruit and grains!"

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# calendar highlights

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

## at the galleries

[www.uvac.uvic.ca](http://www.uvac.uvic.ca)  
250-721-6562



“View from the old coal dump, Ladysmith” E.J. Hughes, 1970

■ **Honoris Causa: Artist Honorary Degree Recipients.** Until March 9. An exhibition featuring works by many artists who have been conferred honorary degrees by UVic and who are represented in the UVic Art Collections, including E.J. Hughes, Carole Sabiston, Robert Davidson, Jack Shadbolt, Bill Reid, Ted Harrison, Pat Martin Bates and Susan Point. Legacy Main and Small Galleries, 630 Yates St.

## at the theatre

[phoenixtheatre.ca](http://phoenixtheatre.ca)  
250-721-8000

■ **Reasons to Be Pretty.** Feb. 14 to 23. Directed by MFA candidate Christine Willes. What is it to be “pretty” and why do we care? Four friends mine the layers between self-image and self-esteem in a beauty-obsessed society. Various Prices. Tickets 250-721-8000.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 11 a.m. *Toward New Models of Coherence: Responding to the Fragmentation of Higher Education.* Dr. George Siemens. Medical Sciences 160. 250-472-5575

■ **Human & Social Development Lecture.** 12 p.m. *Whose Knowledge Counts?* Dr. Budd Hall, UVic and Dr. Alan Pence, UVic. Human & Social Development B347. 250-472-4912

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *The Battle for the Fairy Tale Under Lenin and Stalin.* Megan Swift, UVic. Social Sciences & Math A110. 250-721-6325

■ **Dept. of Writing Reading Night.** 7 p.m. Bill Gaston, Joan MacLeod, Tim Lilburn, Lee Henderson, Lorna Jackson, Kevin Kerr, David Leach. Human & Social Development A240. 250-721-6222

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

■ **Beck Lecture.** 11 a.m. *Finance Vikings, Masculinities and the Economic Collapse in Iceland.* Dr. Thorgerdur Einarsdottir, Univ. of Iceland. Strong C126. 250-853-7656

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

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *Beyond Zionism, a New Paradigm for Palestine/Israel.* Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East welcomes Miko Peled, co-sponsored by the Social Justice Studies Program. Strong C103. Tickets at the door \$10 regular, \$5 student 778-679-2943

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

■ **Cafe Scientifique.** 6:30 p.m. *Sharks: Can't Live With Them, Can't Live Without Them?* Dr. Julia Baum, UVic. Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View St. 250-721-7744

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *Obituaries to Die For.* Two authors, two obituary collections: join *Globe & Mail* editor Sandra Martin and veteran journalist Tom Hawthorn for a look at writing after death. Hickman 105. 250-721-6222

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *Vienna 1900.* An interdisciplinary discussion: panel of papers, viewing and discussion of the Life and Art of Gustav Klimt Exhibit. The event starts in MacLaurin A168 and continues in McPherson Library Lower Level, rooms A003 and A025. 250-721-7320

■ **Other.** 8 p.m. *Astronomy Open House.* Feb. 20/27 and March 6. Sponsored by the UVic Dept. of Physics & Astronomy. Wright Centre, 5th floor. 250-721-7700

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Smoke Is Still Rising: The Eclipse of Christianity and Resurgence of Indigenous Spirituality Among First Nations in Canada.* Taiaiake Alfred, UVic. Social Sciences & Math A110. 250-721-6325

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *Faculty Concert Series: Lafayette String Quartet.* With guests, the Molinari String Quartet (Montréal). A series of three concerts (February 14, 15 & 16) featuring the string quartets of Schoenberg, Berg and Webern. MacLaurin B125. Tickets \$25/\$60 for all three evenings. 250-721-8634

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *President's Distinguished Lecture and Special Convocation with Celebrated Canadian Author Anne Michaels.* University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Reserve tickets 250-721-8480 or visit [www.auditorium.uvic.ca](http://www.auditorium.uvic.ca)

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

■ **Cafe Scientifique.** 6:30 p.m. *From Fat to Sweet and Back Again: A Scientist's Journey into Hormones, Sugar, and the Choices We Make.* Dianne Lattemann. Hermann's Jazz Club, 743 View St. RSVP at [cfbr@uvic.ca](mailto:cfbr@uvic.ca) or 250-472-4067

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *50th Anniversary Deans' Lecture Series: Confidence*

*Clinic.* Colleen Clement. Legacy Gallery, 630 Yates St. Register 250-472-4747

■ **Music.** 7 p.m. *CFUW Scholarship Winner Recital.* A special performance by pianist Jenny Chang, winner of the Canadian Federation of Univ. Women Victoria. Reception to follow. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** *A New Leaf: Turning to Our Region's Future.* Free public lecture on Feb. 21, (7 p.m.) and a discussion forum on Feb. 22, (8:30 a.m.) To attend the discussion forum, registration and a fee applies. MacLaurin A144. 250-472-5047

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 12 p.m. *Is Indigenous Research for Everyone?* A panel of HSD faculty and students will debate the roles and responsibilities of Indigenous and settler researchers in the conduct of research in Indigenous communities. Human & Social Dev. A373. 250-472-4912

■ **Cafe Scientifique.** 6:30 p.m. *If Spirituality Matters to the Dying, Shouldn't it also Matter to their Health Care Providers?* UVic researchers Paul Bramadat and Kelli Stajduhar. Sticky Wicket Pub, Maple Rm. 919 Douglas St. Register email [senage@uvic.ca](mailto:senage@uvic.ca) or call 250-721-6369

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

■ **Studies in Religion & Society.** 4:30 p.m. *The World at the End of the World: Ecology Without Nature in Contemporary Continental Philosophy.* Caleb Langille, UVic. Social Science & Math A110. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *Toward the Healthy City: People, Places and the Politics of Urban Planning.* Jason Corburn, Univ. of California, Berkeley. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St.

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *Atheism and Polytheism.* Classical Association of Vancouver Island. Prof. Tim Whitmarsh, Univ. of Oxford. UVic Centre A180. 250-721-8514

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1

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

## MONDAY, MARCH 4

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:30 p.m. *A UVic Alumnus's Life in History and Film.* Dr. Anthony Chan ('67). Two of Chan's Chinese-American and Chinese-Canadian historical films will be shown at Cinecenta at 7:30 p.m. On March 5 at 4:30 Chan will lecture on these historical films. 250-721-7381

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 3:30 p.m. *Religious Scepticism and Greek Drama.* Prof. Timothy Whitmarsh, Univ. of Oxford. Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-8514

## TUESDAY, MARCH 5

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:30 p.m. *Public Philosophy and the Architecture of Civic Freedom: The Case of Medellin.* Dr. Fonna Forman, Univ. of California, San Diego. Social Sciences & Math A357. 250-721-6637

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 3:30 p.m. *Eu-hemerus Revisited.* Prof. Timothy Whitmarsh, Univ. of Oxford. Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-8514

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

■ **Exhibit.** 11:30 a.m. *Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) Fair.* Research produced by the 2012 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards scholars. SUB Bldg., Cinecenta, Michele Pujol Rm. and the Upper Lounge. 250-472-5624

# in memoriam

**Patrick Robert Konkin**, retired manager of the Student Facilities Group in University Systems, passed away on Jan. 14 following a brief illness.

Pat was among the early graduates of the University of Victoria and took part in the walk from the Lansdowne campus, now occupied by Camosun College, to the then-new Gordon Head campus.

Upon his graduation, Pat was appointed as the first statistical consultant in the newly founded Statistics Laboratory. In this position, he participated in the research work of many graduate students and faculty members, particularly those in the social sciences, by providing advice in statistical analysis. His patience and assistance in helping resolve problems endeared him to many people, and in many cases profoundly influenced the course of their future careers.

At its inception, the Statistics Laboratory was equipped with electromechanical calculators, and Pat saw this machinery replaced with a network of computers as the laboratory was developed into the Cornett Computing Facility, one of the first of the student computer labs.

Pat subsequently played a key role in the development and management of the student computing laboratories in the Human and Social Development and the Business and Economics Buildings, working closely with the faculty members who would be using these labs in their teaching. These facilities became among the largest employers of students on campus, providing invaluable work-related experience while affording them the opportunity to work with and help fellow students.

The student computing facilities became a resource for computing support as faculty and staff members sought help with their computer problems from the student lab staff. To continue to provide this assistance without reducing support to students and faculty members using the labs, Pat devised an arrangement whereby dedicated computer support staff would be located in departments and faculties. As the number of such arrangements grew, Pat established what came to be known as the Faculty Support Team.

Pat oversaw a similar development in connection with the support of Windows network servers. Since the networked computers in the various student labs relied upon server machines for their software and data storage, Pat formed a team of specialists to develop and maintain these servers. Academic and administrative departments soon sought assistance from this team to help build and maintain their own servers. Pat's original server support team subsequently evolved into the Windows Services group which now provides Windows-related network services throughout the campus.

Pat retired in 2009, but his contributions throughout a 43-year career continue to benefit members of the university. Through his efforts on their behalf, Pat contributed to the careers of numerous faculty and staff members and to the education of generations of students.

*Contributed by Dr. Arthur Brett, adjunct associate professor, Department of Linguistics, and G.L. Bluck, senior analyst, Department of Economics*



**University of Victoria**



## JAMIE CASSELS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (JCURA)

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# day in the life

BY KIM WESTAD

Debbie Robinson knows a thing or two about stage fright—the 20-year veteran of local community theatre faces it every time she sings or acts in a new production. But Robinson also knows that as the show goes on, the teamwork and preparation kick in and the stage fright fades.

Robinson applies the same strategy to the changing nature of her job as a program assistant in the School of Child and Youth Care.

When the mother of three returned to the work force at the University of Victoria in 1994, she used a typewriter, classes were in buildings, and she had limited computer skills.

Now, Robinson’s job is dramatically different. Robinson calls herself a “modern secretary,” building sites for online classrooms, updating them continuously and facing new technological challenges on a regular basis.

“The learning curve was very steep—like this,” Robinson says, putting her arm straight up in the air.

When it seems overwhelming, Robinson breaks the program down just as she’s done for the dozen plays she’s performed in.

“I might have choreography, music and lines to learn. As a whole, it can feel overwhelming, so I break it down



Robinson. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

into smaller pieces and then put it back together again,” Robinson says.

“When we’re going through a time of change in the office, I tap into that same process.”

Robinson loves the sense of teamwork in a production and in her work. The three other program assistants in the office are good friends. They’re also among her biggest fans. Caroline Green sits in the cubicle next to Robinson in their ground floor sunny office, and can reel off her friend’s roles faster than Robinson can herself.

Robinson’s stage career developed alongside her UVic one. While she’d always wanted to be on stage and took singing lessons while her children were young, shyness kept her from pursuing it. But in 1991, a friend who happened to be responsible for the choreography in *Jesus Christ Superstar* with the Victoria Operatic Society heard her singing karaoke at a party and urged her to try out.

Robinson was put in the chorus and loved it. Next came “Kiss Me, Kate,” where Robinson hoped for another

chorus role. She got the lead.

Since, she has been in dramatic and musical roles, including *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris, Beauty and the Beast, Company, Blood Brothers, The Cemetery Club, The Sound of Music*, and *Isn’t It Romantic*. Some were with the Victoria Operatic Society, others with Langham Court Theatre. Most recently, she was part of a musical revue performing at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel’s first dinner theatre at its David Foster Foundation Thea-

tre, belting out the Broadway show tunes she loves.

Her acting has earned accolades, with *Times Colonist* reviewer Adrian Chamberlain singling her out for “fine acting that especially stood out in a community theatre production.”

Next up? Possibly *Calendar Girls*, although the 59-year-old former aerobics instructor says she’s a bit leery of baring if not all, at least some, on stage.

“Do it!” cheers her friend Caroline over the cubicle.

## in memoriam

**Reginald Roy**, one of the pioneering members of the Department of History, distinguished veteran and military historian, has died at the age of 90. In 1959, Reg became the first full-time historian hired by Victoria College and was among the faculty transferred to the new University of Victoria when it was founded in 1963. Reg taught at the university until his retirement in 1988.

A high school dropout, Reg escaped depression-ravaged Cape Breton when, at the start of the Second World War, at the age of 16, he joined the Canadian Army with the rank of “Boy.” Reg saw extensive combat in Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was made a commissioned officer in 1943.

After the war, Reg returned to school, completing his BA and MA at Victoria College and UBC. He then worked for three years in Ottawa in C.P. Stacey’s famed Army Historical Section, which was producing the critically acclaimed official histories of the war. In 1953, Reg worked briefly at the Public Archives of Canada before moving back to Victoria to become a provincial archivist. In 1958, Reg’s academic career began with a one-year appointment at Royal Roads Military College; he moved to Victoria College one year later. He received his PhD from the University of Washington in 1965.

Reg was a prolific scholar, writing a dozen books and numerous articles. His most important work, *1944: The Canadians in Normandy* (1984), began the scholarly re-examination of the battlefield performance of the Canadian army in this vital campaign.

In the late 1960s, Reg initiated the teaching of military history at the university. His courses were filled with guest lectures from senior generals, air marshals and admirals, as well as common soldiers. Students commented that Reg provided first-hand encounters with the who’s who of Canadian military history.

Perhaps Reg’s most enduring legacy was as founder of the veterans oral history collection at the McPherson Library. In the mid-1960s, Reg began the collection out of necessity when he began research into the biography of Major-General George Pearkes. Pearkes had kept no personal correspondence or documents, and

Roy based much of his research on extensive interviews with his subject and other individuals. From these beginnings, Reg went on to conduct 370 interviews with veterans of the First and Second World Wars and Korea. Since Reg’s retirement the oral history collection has continued to grow from donations and an active program of interviewing conducted by students of the Veterans Oral History course. In 2005, at a special ceremony presided over by Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo, Reg was honoured when the collection was renamed the Reginald Roy Veterans Oral History Collection.

A memorial service to honour Reg will be held at the university’s Inter-Faith Chapel at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14.

*Submitted by Dr. David Zimmerman, Department of History*

**Dr. Trevor Williams** died in Victoria on Jan. 11. The day before, at a special convocation ceremony at Royal Jubilee Hospital, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies David Capson presented Trevor Williams with his doctoral certificate on behalf of the UVic Senate.

In view of the extraordinary circumstances and Trevor’s outstanding research progress toward his PhD degree, the university concluded that his completed work was well within the expected standards required for the completion of a PhD degree in mechanical engineering.

Attending the special convocation ceremony were Trevor’s wife Valerie, his brothers Stephen and Philip Williams and his mother Mair Williams, who had arrived from Wales the night before. Trevor generously shared this celebration with his fellow students, colleagues, friends as well as UVic faculty members who had worked with him during his doctoral studies.

Trevor graduated from Imperial College in 1987 with a BEng in aeronautical engineering followed, a few years later, by an MSc in management science from Southampton University. He worked for 23 years in the aerospace industry, for British Aerospace

(UK), SENER and CASA (Spain), Dynacs (USA), Eutlesat (France) and MDA (Canada). During this part of his career, he worked on communications satellites, human-rated vehicles and low-earth orbit observation satellites.

In 2008, Trevor began PhD studies at UVic. The title of his dissertation is Probabilistic Power Flow Modeling of Renewable Energy and PEV Grid Interactions. His research makes significant contributions to our understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by the integration into distribution networks of plug-in electric vehicles and distributed energy resources.

A memorial ceremony was held on Jan. 18 at UVic’s Interfaith Chapel. The Faculty of Engineering has established the Dr. Trevor John Williams Memorial Fund to help advance Trevor’s research. Anyone wishing to make a donation may contact the Engineering Development office at 250-472-4210 or by e-mail at engralum@uvic.ca.

*Submitted by Roxane Kelly, external relations officer, faculties of science and engineering*

A memorial service celebrating the life of **Roderick MacIsaac** (1966–2012), a PhD student in the Faculty of Human and Social Development (School of Public Administration), was held at the Interfaith Chapel on Jan. 24. The memorial was attended by his family, and doctoral student, faculty and work colleagues. Evert Lindquist, director of the School of Public Administration, described MacIsaac as skilled in quantitative analysis and working with data, who had high standards and was hitting his stride as an applied researcher. “He was a quiet and methodical student with a wry sense of humour and knowledgeable about a wide variety of topics,” said Lindquist.