



University
of Victoria

50
YEARS

SPEED READING

UNESCO CHAIR

Canadian launch of chair in community-based research

March 4 marked the Canadian launch of the UNESCO International Chair in Community-Based Research, jointly held by UVic's Dr. Budd Hall (pubic administration) and Dr. Rajesh Tandon, president of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia based in India. The focus of the chair's program is to build research capacity in the field of community-based research and social responsibility in higher education in the Global South. More: <http://bit.ly/XQHtWk>

ADMIN APPOINTMENT

Jeremy Webber to be next law dean

Professor Jeremy Webber has been appointed dean of the Faculty of Law for a five-year term effective July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2018. An internationally recognized scholar in the areas of cultural diversity, constitutional theory and Indigenous rights, Webber has held UVic's Canada Research Chair in Law and Society since 2002. More: <http://bit.ly/Yp18Mh>

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Vandana Shiva to speak

Dr. Vandana Shiva, one of the world's most important ecofeminists and social justice activists, will receive an honorary UVic degree and deliver a free public lecture entitled "The Future of Food" at 7 p.m. March 27 in University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. This event is currently fully reserved. For waitlist and info, visit <http://bit.ly/ZR7dVo>



Marcellus (left) developed the Safe Babies program, now in use throughout BC. PHOTO: NIK WEST



AUTHOR
ANNE MICHAELS

P.5



The Gustavson Greenshifters, second-place winners in the national Walmart Green Student Challenge: L-R: Chen, Staynor, Sallows, Qin. PHOTO UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Green glory

BCom students take second place in national sustainability challenge

45B

NUMBER OF
WOODEN
CHOPSTICKS
THAT COULD BE
TURNED INTO
FURNITURE
EACH YEAR
ACCORDING TO
BCOM STUDENTS'
AWARD-WINNING
BUSINESS IDEA

BY RACHEL GOLDSWORTHY

Upcycling chopsticks to furniture earned a quartet of business students one of the top two spots—and \$15,000—in the national Walmart Green Student Challenge in Toronto Feb. 26. Vinson Chen, AJ Qin, Jennifer Sallows and Rebecca Staynor, calling themselves the Gustavson Greenshifters, beat students from universities across Canada when they came second out of more than 150 groups that began competing last fall. The judges, a Who's Who of Canadian business leaders, clearly were intrigued by the Greenshifters' business idea and repeatedly referred to its grand scope.

The concept, to divert as many as 45 billion chopsticks annually from landfills in

China to produce oriented strand board that would then be used to make furniture, was sparked last September 2012 at a Gustavson School of Business team-building exercise called MIHSSion Impossible (Not a typo: Gustavson School of Business is built on four pillars: Innovative, Integrative, International, and Sustainable/socially responsible).

In the exercise, all 240 incoming BCom students are put into groups of four or five, each including one international or exchange student. They have a morning to brainstorm and hone innovative sustainable or socially responsible business ideas that would be a good fit in the country of the international team member. After a breathless four hours, they present their concepts to academic, community and

business judges.

One of those judges, Gustavson PhD student Richard Tuck, said, "Anyone, at that age and just being introduced to business, who can view waste as a resource, let alone a resource for high value products, is someone to look out for. These guys impressed me."

"As soon as we completed [MIHSSion Impossible], we knew we had a great idea," Sallows says. "The four of us were an official team for the semester, and it turned out that we worked really well together... so we thought we would work just a little bit harder."

When they heard about Walmart

SEE GREENSHIFTERS P.2

Safe and sound

Helping babies born with prenatal drug and alcohol exposure

BY PEIGI MCGILLIVRAY

Giving babies the best start in life is always a challenge, especially when they have been exposed to drugs or alcohol before they were born.

As poverty and other social issues have increased, the number of babies born with prenatal substance exposure has also risen. Many of these babies are resilient and can develop and grow well. However, because of the health issues they may face—including delays in development, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and neonatal drug withdrawal—these infants may spend their earliest days with foster families, receiving specialized care.

Birth parents also need compassionate support as they cope with challenges such as violence, trauma, poverty and mental health issues.

That's where Lenora Marcellus (nursing), a former neonatal intensive care nurse, comes in. In 1997, Marcellus began working with the Ministry of Children and Families and the local health authority to develop a training and support program for foster parents caring for substance-exposed infants.

Safe Babies, the pilot project, was so successful that it has since been implemented across British Columbia, and Marcellus is now helping adapt it for use in Alberta. In 2010, the Vancouver Island Foster Parent Support Services Society received a \$100,000 award for Pediatric Home Care Innovation from the Sick Kids Foundation for the program.

"Foster parents can make a real difference in outcomes for babies with prenatal drug or

alcohol exposure—and their families," says Marcellus. "Safe Babies teaches foster parents how to care for babies who have experienced withdrawal, about the impacts and effects of alcohol and other drugs, about developmental challenges, and about how to partner with and support families experiencing multiple life challenges in addition to substance use."

Experienced foster parents deliver Safe Babies in partnership with local community organizations, and with continued support from the Ministry of Children and Families and regional health authorities.

Marcellus sits on the board of the Vancouver Island Foster Parent Support Services Society, which coordinates the delivery of the Safe Babies Program, so is directly involved in bridging the gap between university and community.

"The research I do into prematurity, sub-

SEE SAFE AND SOUND P.6

ringers

The UVic website renovation team was recently awarded the 2013 Silver CASE District VIII Communications Award for Overall Institutional Website. CASE—the Council for Advancement and Support of Education—is a professional association that annually recognizes institutional excellence in communications and marketing. District VIII encompasses more than 130 institutions within the Pacific Northwest states and western provinces. Congratulations to the redesign team: Rachel Dennison, Beth Doman, Lindsay Gagel, Bruce Kilpatrick, Amos Rowsell, Jes Scott, Robin Sutherland, Cathie Walker (UCOM); Devin Arnold (SMAC); Andrew Jung, Garry Sagert, Dave Shaykewich, Sean Toscano, David Wolowicz (SYST); Nick Clewley (MKTG); Tony Eder (INST); Janice Johnson (VPFO); Norah McRae (COOP); Michael Miller (VPRE); and Pamela Nielsen (VPAC). The redesigned website, www.uvic.ca, launched on Aug. 29, 2012, reinforces UVic’s reputation as a world-class research-intensive university to all visitors.



Josephson. PHOTO: MITCH WRIGHT

Josephson is the 2012 Staff Sustainability Champion

Ken Josephson (geography) was celebrated as the 2012 Staff Sustainability Champion at the opening reception of the Connect U all-staff conference on Feb. 20. While UVic is home to countless people who help make our campus more sustainable, a few stand out in the way they make a difference and inspire others. Josephson is one of those people, and the second UVic employee to receive this peer-nominated annual award.

In his 30 years at UVic, Josephson—a cartographer in the geography department—has made sustainability the guiding principle behind everything he does. He is perhaps best known for his work to spearhead community mapping projects, including the UVic Green Map [mapping.uvic.ca/]. Community mapping incorporates citizen engagement to help create a sense of place and a collective

vision for sustainability. Josephson is also the co-creator of the UVic Living Stories project [<http://mapping.uvic.ca/uvic50/>], which gathered stories of UVic’s environmental history as an enriching place-making exercise.

Josephson was intimately involved in the design of some of the key sustainability features of the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building in which he works, including the green roof and the community mosaic project. On a smaller scale, he researched and arranged for the purchase of compostable plates, cutlery and cups for the geography department, and maintains the office composting program. Josephson also ensures the cartography department uses 100-per-cent post-consumer waste recycled paper, and biodegradable vinyl for printed banners and posters.

GREENSHIFTERS CONTINUED FROM P.1

Canada’s Green Student Challenge, they jumped at it. From 150 original registrants, the Greenshifters were selected with 19 other teams to submit more detailed proposals, and then, with four other teams, to move to the finals held in Toronto. That’s where they presented their idea to Shelley Broader, president and CEO of Walmart Canada; Dianne Craig, CEO of Ford Motor Company of Canada; Chris O’Neill, managing director of Google Canada; Claude Mongeau, president and CEO of CN; Ana Dominguez, president and general manager of SC Johnson Canada; and Tom Heintzman, President of Bullfrog Power.

Afterward Staynor said, “I got eve-

rything and more that I was hoping to get out of [the competition]. Although we didn’t win first place, it was an incredible experience, and I’m sure that even more positive things will come out of it.”

“For me, the competition is all about gaining experience and connections,” said Sallows. “And who knows where those connections may lead in the future?”

Judging by the innovation, intelligence and commitment they’ve already shown, Chen, Qin, Sallows and Staynor might very soon be heading toward the ranks of those CEOs they wowed.

More: <http://bit.ly/13tYNnO>

Province calls for “savings” across post-secondary sector

The BC government tabled its 2013 budget in the legislature on Feb. 19. UVic has provided information on its website outlining the implications of the budget on the university. [<http://bit.ly/YPZVg6>].

The \$50-million cut in funding to the post-secondary system previously announced in Budget 2012 will now be spread over three years instead of the original two: \$5 million in 2013/14, \$20 million in 2014/15 and \$25 million in 2015/16. The government’s stated intention is that the cuts will be covered by “savings” in the post-secondary education system over the next three years.

“This substantial amount will be difficult to achieve without affecting the quality of educational services to students, given the budget reductions and unfunded cost pressures that universities have experienced the last several years,” says UVic Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Tremblay.

UVic already has an ongoing structural deficit in its operating budget resulting from the annual cost of salary progression increases for faculty and staff that every year exceed the increase in tuition revenue allowed by government, UVic Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill explains. Salary in-

creases are not covered by provincial government funding.

As part of the university’s budget planning, all areas at UVic were asked to cut four per cent from their budgets, effective April 1, 2013. This reduction will cover UVic’s structural deficit as well as the cost of salary settlements in 2013/14 (with a built-in, but as yet untested assumption about the possible size of the faculty salary increase that is currently awaiting a decision through arbitration) and enable the university to meet its statutory obligation to operate with a balanced budget.

Further reductions in UVic budgets will be required in the future, says Gorrill. The extent of budget reductions will depend on a variety of factors, including the faculty salary arbitration award, the reductions in provincial operating grants to universities, and settlements in upcoming negotiations for labour contracts that expire in 2014/15.

On May 14 British Columbians will go to the polls to elect a new government, which may present a revised budget after the election. In the current uncertain environment, Gorrill points out, the university must continue its budget planning based on the best information available.

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Presidents call for dialogue on skills shortage

While confirming cuts to provincial post-secondary education funding in coming years, BC Budget 2013 was silent about how the government intends to deal with the looming skills and education shortage due to hit the province in 2016 and growing from there.

The government’s own numbers show that by 2020 the skills and education deficit will leave 18,800 jobs unfilled in BC because too few British Columbians have the necessary education and training—8,400 jobs requiring a university degree, 8,100 a college credential, and 2,300 trades training.

With a provincial election on the near horizon, BC’s research university presidents are calling on the political parties to engage in a meaningful dialogue with British Columbians about how best to close the skills gap so that BC’s economy stays strong and BC residents are positioned to fill the jobs of the future. More info on the skills deficit: <http://bit.ly/YorwFP>

“It’s critical that the political parties look to the future with a plan to meet the skills shortage by expanding opportunities for all British Columbians through new investments in post-secondary education at all levels—university, college and trades training,” says UVic President David Turpin. “We need to start now to ensure that British Columbians are ready to take these high-value jobs when the jobs become available.”

In October, BC’s research university presidents tabled a proposal designed to meet this challenge with the Legislature’s Select Standing Committee on Finance. Entitled “The Opportunity Agenda,” the plan calls for funding 11,000 more seats in graduate, undergraduate, college and trades programs to provide a space for every qualified student; a financial guarantee for students in need; and a commitment to ongoing funding for innovation and jobs. More info on the Opportunity Agenda: <http://bit.ly/WhLQJV>

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Peredo, Lai win 2013 Victoria Leadership Awards

BY TARA SHARPE

On Feb. 25, at the annual Victoria Leadership Awards (VLAs), 21 local heroes were honoured, including Drs. Ana María Peredo and David Chuenyan Lai, recipients of the 2013 University of Victoria Community Leadership Awards.

“Because of my strong relationship with the Chinese community,” says Lai, a UVic professor emeritus (geography) and research affiliate in UVic’s Centre on Aging (COAG), “I have been able to get funding to create scholarships and travel grants for students to study and visit China and Chinatowns. How can students know China without going to see the real situation? And without travel grants, they would not have enough funds to go there as a student. This is why I’m glad for the community support.”

Peredo is the director of UVic’s Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy and a professor in UVic’s Gustavson School of Business. She says, “It is a tremendous honour to be included even as a nominee for this award, let alone a winner. I am grateful to the support of UVic, and I am in debt to many people—I hope they know who they are!—who contribute to my everyday work that is being recognized here. These are really team awards.”

UVic is a founding partner of the annual program established in 2004 to recognize the commitment of community champions who work collaboratively to resolve the complex challenges facing communities.

Lai was born in Guangzhou (Canton), China, and came to UVic in 1968. He retired in 2003. In addition to his work with COAG, he is an adjunct professor in SFU’s David Lam Centre for International Communication. Over the past 40 years, he has worked tirelessly to preserve local heritage. Among his many accomplishments, he classified and transferred the Chinese Archives of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association to the UVic library and helped rehabilitate Victoria’s historic Chinatown as well as beautify the Chinese Cemetery. Both have now been officially designated as National Historic Sites.

Lai is a member of the Order of Canada and the recipient of many other national, provincial and local community awards. He is also a member of the Multicultural Advisory Council of BC and continues to work closely with the Royal BC Museum.

Peredo has also created numerous opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. Through her



Peredo. PHOTO: NIK WEST



Lai.

teaching, research and inspirational leadership, she continues to link the university and the community.

Her efforts—both locally and internationally—unite people from different disciplines, sectors and communities to share wisdom and knowledge. She specifically explores how business can be an instrument for poverty alleviation and community wellbeing, and, as an anthropologist, she has worked for various overseas development agencies. Her specific interest in the Andes arose from her earlier work as a journalist reporting on rural development for one of Peru’s leading dailies.

Gift supports social responsibility, sustainable innovation

A generous donation of \$500,000 from Vancouver-based resource firm Goldcorp Inc. to UVic’s Peter B. Gustavson School of Business will help support new initiatives at the school’s Centre for Social and Sustainable Innovation (CSSI).

Established in 2011, CSSI is part of Gustavson’s commitment to being an educational and academic leader in the developing field of social and sustainable innovation.

Goldcorp President and CEO Chuck Jeannes announced the donation at an event on campus Feb. 19.

“Our investment in the CSSI aligns with our commitment to operating sustainably, acting responsibly and to growing educational opportunities for young people,” said Jeannes. “We are pleased the Gustavson School is integrating social responsibility and sustainability into academic content and research agendas and believe ongoing strides in this growing field will continue to yield encouraging results.”

“We’re grateful that Goldcorp Inc. saw the potential in the research capabilities of CSSI,” said UVic President David Turpin. “The centre and Gustavson School of Business are helping today’s students and tomorrow’s business leaders learn to think in new ways about addressing complex problems in the changing world of business.”

The donation will allow CSSI,

which has already launched several research and education initiatives with a small annual budget, to significantly increase its activities and opportunities for both students and faculty.

CSSI and its work make up one of the four pillars (innovative, integrative, international and sustainable) that underpin the Gustavson School. Sustainability and social responsibility are integrated into the school’s entire curriculum. Almost 30 per cent of the school’s faculty teach and research business topics that include social and environmental issues.

“This donation is important support for the centre, which has already helped us examine our own practices and connected Gustavson students, faculty and staff—as well as the entire UVic campus—with sustainable business expertise and scholarship,” said Dr. Saul Klein, dean of the Gustavson School of Business.

Through research and teaching, Gustavson’s goal is to help students and the wider community become agents of change and role models for adopting sustainable and responsible approaches to business, such as minimizing impact on the global environment, transparent and consultative decision making and responsible stakeholder relations.

More info on CSSI: www.uvic.ca/gustavson/cssi/

Congress 2013 to bring international speakers to campus

If you attended the special 50th anniversary lectures of astronaut Julie Payette or technology historian George Dyson, you know that UVic’s anniversary celebration has attracted speakers of the highest calibre.

Local audiences can look forward to the insights of 10 more leading scholars and public figures as part of the Big Thinking speaker series at Congress 2013, Canada’s largest multidisciplinary academic conference, hosted at UVic from June 1 to 8. These internationally renowned speakers will present forward-thinking research, ideas and solutions to the critical questions and issues of our time.

The 2013 Big Thinking line-up features: Louise Arbour, former Supreme Court justice and United Nations commissioner for human rights; author Dany Laferrière; Margaret McCain, chair of the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation; Ben Levin, Canada research chair in educa-

tion leadership and policy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education; poet and novelist Joy Kogawa; Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, BC representative for children and youth; Doug Saunders, author and European bureau chief of *The Globe and Mail*; Daniel Weinstock, MacDonald professor of law at McGill University; Judith Heumann, special advisor for international disability rights at the US Department of State; and Richard Sennett, professor emeritus of sociology at the London School of Economics and university professor of the humanities at New York University. For details: uviccongress2013.ca/program/speakers/

Many other Congress social and cultural events plus Canada’s largest book fair will also be open to the public. Online registration for Congress 2013 is open, and volunteers are encouraged. Registration: congress2013.ca. Volunteering info: uviccongress2013.ca/staff-volunteers/


ringers

School of Music Professor Emeritus **Ian McDougall’s** Fine Arts benefit CD, *The Very Thought of You*, has been nominated for a 2013 Juno Award for Instrumental Album of the Year. It was produced by McDougall’s wife, **Barbara**, and features a selection of jazz standards with strings. The album’s nomination came as a surprise to them both. “Barb and I are overjoyed about the news,” says McDougall, who recently presented the Faculty of Fine Arts with a cheque for \$16,000 raised through CD sales—the first significant payment to his Ten Mile Fine Arts Student Assistance Fund. The Juno winners are announced on April 21, and the CD is available on campus at the Bookstore, Arts Place Cafe, the School of Music, Phoenix Theatre and the Fine Arts office.

Dr. Lynne Young (nursing) has been awarded the 2013 College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC) Award for Excellence in Nursing Education, presented to registered nurses who demonstrate excellence in nursing education in their own work settings (e.g., colleges, institutes, universities or health care agencies). She has also been selected as recipient of the 2012 Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Award for Excellence in Nursing Education (Tenured), which acknowledges the contributions and accomplishments of individuals to the realization of CASN’s mission to promote and disseminate good practices in nursing education.

Dr. John Celona (music) received a Diamond Award in the screenwriting category at the 2012 California Film Awards for his screenplay for an unproduced science-fiction black-comedy thriller called *Lady Smoke*. Celona had picked up honorable mention at the same awards two years ago for his neo-noir thriller *Nightfreight*.

Vikes men’s basketball team’s head coach **Craig Beaucamp** has been named Canada West Coach of the Year for the fourth time in his 10-year career. This is Beaucamp’s second-straight nod as the conference’s top coach. Beaucamp, a previous Canada West Coach of the Year recipient in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2011/12, led the Vikes to a 16–6 regular season record in 2012/13.



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The Ring March 2013 Page 3

around the ring

CARSA site prep begun

Site preparation for the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities began the week of Feb. 25 at the intersection of Gabriola Road and McKenzie Avenue. In preparation for construction, parking lot 3 off Gabriola Road was permanently closed. The Alumni Chip Trail through the construction zone will also be closed for the duration of the project to ensure public safety. Access to playing fields 1, 2 and 3 has also changed: enter the fields from behind the Continuing Studies Building. Pedestrians and cyclists are asked to consult directional information posted at the site, and use alternate routes. Alternative nearby parking areas are lots 2, 4 and 7. Details and updates: www.uvic.ca/carsa/

Malahat writing symposium

The *Malahat Review* presents WordsThaw 2013: an all-day (and evening) writing symposium held at UVic on Saturday, March 23. The symposium will consist of three daytime panels on relevance in fiction (with John Gould, Yasuko Thanh, Daniel Griffin and Amy Reiswig), sustainable food writing (with Rhona McAdam, Kimberley Veness and Don Genova), and writers on poverty (with Patrick Lane, Madeline Sonik and Sylvia Olsen). In the evening, *The Malahat Review* presents Words on Ice: readings from Pamela Porter, Laura Kraemer, Katherin Edwards, Bill Gaston, Marilyn Bowering, Lorna Crozier, Lee Henderson and C. P. Boyko. More info: www.malahatreview.ca/events/wordsthaw2013.html

UVic local community market

Come celebrate the arrival of spring with students, faculty, staff and community members at UVic's second local community market, March 26 from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Student Union Building (Michèle Pujol Room). Purchase healthy, local and organic food from local farmers and food producers, and products from local artisans. Get information from campus and community groups involved in food security and health issues. Enjoy live music, food tastings and demonstrations, a raffle and an Easter egg painting contest. Info: action@uvic.ca, 250-853-3758 or www.uvic.ca/sustainability/

Free food... No Foolin'!

The UVic Family Centre is getting ready for its annual No Foolin' event April 4, 4:30–6:30 p.m. outside the Family Centre in the student family housing complex on Lam Circle. No Foolin' is an opportunity for UVic student families, community supporters and local businesses to come out and celebrate the energy and diversity that families and their children bring to campus life. Parachute games, relay races, ethnic food, pizza and ice cream are all part of the free program. Everyone is welcome. More info: familyc@uvic.ca

PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Exceptional staff honoured

The celebration of this year's President's Distinguished Service Awards, hosted by President David Turpin, took place on Feb. 21 at the Cadboro Commons Dining Room, as the closing event for the Connect U all-staff conference.

"Every year—and especially this year as we celebrate our 50th anni-

versary—it is our pleasure to honour the nominees and the recipients of the President's Distinguished Service Awards," says Turpin. "This year's recipients display talent, hard work, innovation and dedication—qualities representative of all of our exceptional employees across campus. We greatly appreciate the many significant con-

tributions the 2012 PDSA recipients have made to the success and the outstanding reputation of our university."

This year, the Team Award for Innovation was presented to the Scientists and Innovators in the Schools team—Kelli Fawkes, Jane Browning and Dave Berry—from the chemistry department. The individ-

ual award winners are: Anne Heintz (Fine Arts), Award for Excellence in Service; Cheryl Crooks (Facilities Management), Award for Excellence in Service; Dave Street (University Systems), Award for Excellence in Leadership; and Chris Secord (Physics and Astronomy), First Five Years: Outstanding Contribution.



Team Award for Innovation
Scientists and Innovators in the Schools
Team—Chemistry

L–R: Fawkes, Berry, Browning.
PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

In the past decade, the University of Victoria's Scientists and Innovators in the Schools (SIS) team has reached more than 30,000 students across BC with hands-on chemistry workshops.

The team involves three core members—Kelli Fawkes, Jane Browning and Dave Berry, who has coordinated the UVic effort since 1994—as well as many dozens of graduate and under-

graduate students (nearly 100 in the last five years alone).

The team has had a vast and phenomenal impact by visiting schools to demonstrate experiments and involve budding scientists from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

UVic provides the "real scientists" for the program, which focuses on providing hands-on interactions with real

chemicals and experiments, under close and careful guidance.

The program has a decidedly positive impact on the children, but the impact on the "real scientists" is no less profound, says Department of Chemistry Chair Neil Burford.

"If there is a core innovation, it has been the recognition that acting as a scientist role model for school-age

children is a very positive learning experience for undergraduate and graduate students," Burford says. "Many cite their SIS experience as a highlight of their UVic studies. This is what experiential learning is supposed to achieve and is a direct consequence of the insights, focus and dedication of the UVic SIS Chemistry Team."



Crooks. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Award for Excellence in Service

Cheryl Crooks, Janitorial Services, Facilities Management

Everyone in the Visual Arts Building relies on Cheryl Crooks—for far more than keeping the building clean and looking sharp, although she does that too, and very well.

For more than 23 years, Crooks—one of two winners of this year's Award for Excellence in Service—has worked with Janitorial Services. She was assigned the Visual Arts Building because of her commitment to safety, sustainability and high standards.

"Cheryl has transformed ordinary janitorial tasks into a commitment to green cleaning and sustainability," says Helena Miklea, manager of Janitorial Services.

Miklea adds that, as a member of the Facilities Management Occupational Health and Safety Committee,

Crooks is constantly promoting safety and is a true role model in taking that responsibility well beyond attending meetings. "Her devotion to educating others about safe practices and applying safety is a way of life."

She's also fun, and always looking to make the people around her laugh.

Daniel Wilkin, the department's facilities and production manager, says Crooks is fantastic for morale and community building, with her "sparkling personality and great attitude."

"She is a stickler for detail and treats the building as she does her home and the people in it as family," he adds, "always with an eye on the event schedule so she knows when 'company's coming.'"



Heintz. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Award for Excellence in Service

Anne Heintz, Faculty of Fine Arts

At any given hour of the day, Anne Heintz is likely meeting with a student, talking on the phone with a student, or answering student emails by the dozen.

A university employee for the past 20 years, Heintz has been in the Faculty of Fine Arts for 15 years. As the undergraduate academic advising officer, she counsels approximately 1,400 students each year. Students are without question her top priority.

"Fine arts students are a part of her big extended family," says Lynne Van Loven, the faculty's acting dean. "From the first meeting, she is right there alongside for each student's personal journey, no matter how much time it takes to help

them achieve their goals."

Over her years at the institution, Heintz has served and continues to serve on a range of university and faculty-level committees, making significant contributions to policies, process and procedures. She is also the in-house expert—the person staff and faculty members turn to for advice in a multitude of areas, says Van Loven.

"She is truly a repository of knowledge about process, history and especially curriculum," she says. "One is never afraid to ask her a question—nor to seek her advice in a complicated matter involving student grades or academic concessions. Her support is immediate and unstinting."

“Writing is a saving grace”—Anne Michaels

BY LINDSAY GAGEL

She writes and she reads “in order to hold another human being close.” To embark on a journey with a reader and deliver him or her “to the other side.” To make a connection.

Canadian Anne Michaels is the author of four poetry collections and two critically acclaimed novels, *Fugitive Pieces* (1996) and *The Winter Vault* (2009). On Feb. 18 she presented a President’s Distinguished Lecture during a special convocation ceremony in which she received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from UVic. Her lecture examined faith and failure, pain and love, memory and silence—themes apparent in her novels.

According to Michaels, the process of writing *Fugitive Pieces* taught her a lot about being a writer. It also taught her about humanity. The novel follows the life of a Jewish boy, orphaned during the Second World War. With such huge historic events guiding the story, Michaels felt a moral responsibility to tell it right. After all, the truth was at stake.

It took 10 years to write and began with a cluster of questions that inherently had no answers—questions related to historical events that Michaels believed were connected,

though the connections were not apparent. Characters and situations formed from the questions. Then the research began in earnest.

Michaels conducted in-depth research on topics relating to history, archaeology, paleobotany and geology. “To collect facts is one thing,” Michaels explains, “to discover the meaning of the facts is quite another.” It is the meaning—the details of the facts—that takes the most time. Michaels recalled staring at a single photograph for years before that eureka moment when all the connections suddenly became apparent. Some facts, she feels, must be long thought about before one can assume an understanding.

There were times during those 10 years when Michaels was utterly silenced by the horror of the things she was attempting to understand. She asked herself, “Who was I to speak?” She put the pen down and didn’t write a word for months. It felt like the right thing to do. But once the truth unfolded, she wondered, “Who was I if I did not speak?” And then the words spilled out of her, fueled by a responsibility to the characters, an opportunity to memorialize the past and a “foolhardy courage” to write the truth in her own words.

During her lecture Michaels took



Michaels. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

a moment to reflect on failure, “that great engine of creativity.” Failure, she explained, “teaches us precisely what we need to know,” and it’s “custom made.” For Michaels, things like failure, grief, shame and regret are not the end of a story, but the middle of the story. “Failure is always forward motion,” it’s part of the journey that will eventually

deliver you “to the other side.”

Michaels’ lecture was the second in a series of three special convocations celebrating UVic’s 50th anniversary. On March 27, ecofeminist and social justice activist Dr. Vandana Shiva will be presenting “The Future of Food.” See all anniversary events at uvic.ca/anniversary.

STAFF HONOURED CONTINUED FROM FACING PAGE



Street. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Award for Excellence in Leadership

David Street, University Systems

David Street is a problem solver.

And problems come fast and furious to Street, manager of the Service Centre within University Systems, responsible for the Computer Help Desk and Desktop Support Services teams, which provide front-line assistance to all faculty, staff and students at the university.

Faced with a problem, he’s constantly looking for a path to successfully overcome the challenge and do so to the highest standards.

“David is highly resourceful and is always looking for ways to achieve what others state cannot be done,” says Nav Bassi, director of Academic and Administrative Services.

He adds that Street is committed to excellent customer service—always considering that the clients are

the people who rely on technology—and working tirelessly to ensure projects and changes are scheduled and adequately tested to minimize impact on those users.

“Over the past year alone, David has shown leadership by extending himself well beyond the expectations of his position in order to help provide a better learning and working environment at UVic,” says Bassi.

Street’s colleagues also recognize his strength in teambuilding, whether with his own staff or working with other departments, as well as his understanding of the often complex and shifting environment and willingness and ability to “get the big picture” to best serve his clients, staff and the university.



Secord. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Award for First Five Years: Outstanding Contribution

Chris Secord, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Chris Secord joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy as a machinist in 2008 and assumed leadership of the shop two years later.

He was immediately faced with completing the first major reorganization of the shop—the largest dedicated machining space on campus—in 40 years. A daunting task, but one Secord showed he had the skills and vision to accomplish beyond expectations. The shop now serves and supports researchers in a number of departments across campus, always working to the highest standards while often finding creative ways to economize without compromising quality.

“Chris has made outstanding contributions that strengthen the learning and research environment,

and he serves—through his personal integrity and commitment to excellence—as an example for the entire university community to emulate,” says Department Chair Robert Kowalewski.

Secord also has an admirable sense of being part of a larger team, seen daily as he provides skilled and effective mentorship for graduate students building custom scientific instruments in the shop.

“Although his obvious focus is the machine shop, he can see the bigger picture,” says Kowalewski. “He knows the crucial role his shop plays in the realization of the teaching and research missions of the department and university, and he has a deep commitment and loyalty to our institution.”

around the ring

Autism’s Own Conference Marks World Autism Awareness Day

On April 2 join your local autism community along with UVic’s Centre for Autism Research, Technology, and Education (CARTE) for a unique and intimate evening of autism cultural sharing at Autism’s Own Conference. All performances are by persons diagnosed with autism. There will be opening remarks by a First Nations elder, VP of Academic Planning Dr. Catherine Mateer, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Dr. Peter Keller and Director of UVic’s Autism Centre Dr. James Tanaka. Autism’s Own Conference will be held from 7–9:30 p.m., April 2 in the Hickman Building, Room 105. Admission is free and open to everyone. Info: <http://web.uvic.ca/~carte/events.html>

Hear our Masterminds

The University of Victoria Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging—with support from the university—present a series of four free lectures as part of the Masterminds 2013 series in April and May. On April 10, Dr. Ed Ishiguro will discuss “Probiotics for Better Health: Time to Switch Gears;” on April 17, Dr. Howie Wenger will speak on “Gearing Up For High Performance: The Athlete’s Quest;” on April 24, Dr. Reg Mitchell will talk about “Using Chemistry to Enhance Our Bodies: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly;” and on May 1, Juliana Saxton will speak on “An Unusual Job for a Lady: The Intriguing Role of an Orator.” All lectures are at 7 p.m. in the Hickman Building, room 105. Registration: 250-721-6369 or senage@uvic.ca. More info: www.uvic.ca/masterminds

UVic a top diversity employer

For the second year in a row, the University of Victoria has been named one of Canada’s Best Diversity Employers. The 2013 competition recognized 55 organizations that lead the nation in creating inclusive workplace cultures. UVic was one of only two Victoria organizations included on the list, and one of five in BC. The university was recognized for a variety of initiatives, including managing a mental health task force, maintaining a diversity and equity steering committee, and hosting an annual diversity research forum. More info: bit.ly/YLCDpF



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UVic@100 contest

At UVic, celebrating our 50th year is not just about our past. It's also about our future. And, at *The Ring*, we are encouraging all forward-looking members of the community to share their vision of our university on its future centenary. So we're launching the UVic@100 competition.

Gaze into your crystal ball, unleash your imagination and describe UVic in 2063. The top three submissions will get gift certificates for the UVic Bookstore (first prize \$100, second \$50, third \$25). And the best submissions will be considered for publication.

THE RULES:

All submissions must be received by the editor of *The Ring* [ring@uvic.ca] by 2 April 2013.
All genres are acceptable, including prose, poetry, songs, videos.
Maximum length: Written submissions approximately 500 words. Audio or video submissions approximately 5 minutes in length.
Open to everyone. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.
The selection committee will decide the winning submissions and choose which, if any, entries will be published.

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day in the life

Bjornson. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BY EMMA HANNAH

Dora Leigh Bjornson, program director of distance education for the School of Social Work, has spent the last 20 of her 34 years at UVic in the same building. Her office, located in the sunny, brick-and-mortar Human and Social Development Building, has a stunning view—and a resident hummingbird visits Bjornson's window on the third floor to say hello, just quickly, before darting back down to one of the many flowered bushes below.

Even though the School of Social Work offers undergraduate and graduate programs to over 250 new students a year, many will never study in a classroom with winged visitors or experience spring's cherry blossom blooms.

Three-quarters or more of the School of Social Work's students choose UVic not for its stunning views, desirable climate and proximity to the Pacific Ocean, but rather for its unique curriculum, online learning options and flexible programming. For the students that Bjornson works with, their campuses are wherever their backyards lie; they could be here in Victoria, in a rural or remote

Canadian town, or in Atlantic Canada, where there are views of an entirely different ocean.

Bjornson is passionate about distance education, remarking that she is proud help provide students—who may not otherwise be able to earn their degrees—with top-notch education virtually. "UVic is often touted as being a destination university," notes Bjornson, "but there are different ways that students choose to access the amazing resources that UVic has to offer."

In an average day, Bjornson wears many hats. She works with the school's budget and to develop programming, oversees the support for curriculum development and assists with online delivery of courses. Bjornson also has a large role working with the school's sessional instructors, who, she observes, "bring all sorts of rewarding pieces to the community of learning."

In order to accommodate the personal and professional obligations of their students, many of whom have families and established careers, the School of Social Work offers courses to its students year round. However, the year-round business of the school

doesn't slow Bjornson down. She is an accomplished accordion player and Muay Thai kick-boxer—an activity that she refers to as the "ultimate stress reliever."

When asked about her unusual musical hobby, Bjornson notes that she was a little girl when her parents signed her up for lessons with a Danish man who was peddling music lessons farm to farm in Cowichan Station. Bjornson is a two-time BC Music Festivals' provincial champion and has been playing for most of her life, most recently with the BC Accordion Orchestra.

This year, Bjornson can add a new accomplishment to her CV. After 34 years with the Faculty of Human and Social Development she is the recipient of the HSD Staff Award for Excellence. Her colleagues have also recognized her contributions to the university through a nomination for the President's Distinguished Service Award.

When asked what she is looking forward to in the future, Bjornson notes, "more of the same!"

Emma Hannah is a UVic grad (BA English; Minor Professional Writing, 2010)

SAFE AND SOUND CONTINUED FROM P.1

stance use during pregnancy, and birth and foster parent support feeds directly into Safe Babies," says Marcellus. "And the things I learn from foster parents and birth parents about the issues they face inspire new avenues of research."

This process has recently led to the development of a new program that supports pregnant women and new mothers experiencing substance use

challenges. Called HerWay Home, it is the culmination of a six-year collaborative process involving Marcellus and a group of committed community organizations in Victoria.

Marcellus's students also benefit from this integration of university and community. Undergraduates experience practicum placements with programs in the community that support families, such as the Foster

Parent Support Services Society and pregnancy outreach programs. Graduate students are directly involved in Marcellus's research projects.

"My goal is to find better ways to support birth parents so fewer children go into care," says Marcellus. "And to ensure that babies, especially those with prenatal substance exposure, have the best possible start in life."

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calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at www.uvic.ca/events

at the galleries

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

■ **Exhibit.** Art Education Faculty—*Syn Optic*. March 13 to May 4. From the studios of 23 UVic art education instructors in the Faculty of Education comes a rich and diverse exhibition of images and objects in traditional and new media. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

at the theatre

phoenixtheatre.ca
250-721-8000

■ **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.** March 14–23. Directed by Fran Gebhard. A runaway hit on Broadway—twice!—and Grammy winner for Best Musical Show Album—twice!—follows the loveable Peanuts gang through a day as they ponder the meaning of life. Various prices. Tickets 250-721-8000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Conflict in the Life Stories of Tibetan Buddhist Masters*. Ben Wood, Univ. of Toronto. Social Sciences & Math A110. 250-721-6325

■ **Other.** 7 p.m. *Mindfulness Meditation*. An eight-week session to help students deal with stress skillfully and build self-awareness through meditation, body movements and relaxation exercises. Henri Lock, United Chaplain, Multifaith Services. Register: hlock@uvic.ca. Chapel. 250-721-8338

■ **Other.** 7 p.m. *UVic Authors Celebration*: UVic authors who will read from their works include: John Langford, Jan Zwicky, Arthur Kroker and Magdalena Kay. Registration: <http://library.uvic.ca/events/authors/registration.html>. Campus Services Bldg. 250-853-3612

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

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

■ **Other.** 3:30 p.m. *Building an Innovative Nation: The Role of Universities in Strengthening Canada*. Presented as part of IdeaFest, a 50th Anniversary Signature Event. Speakers: Tom Brzustowski, Don Drummond, Ana Maria Peredo and Gerri Sinclair. MacLaurin A144. RSVP at www.uvic.ca/idea or 250-472-5416

MONDAY, MARCH 11

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 11 a.m. *Open Word: Readings and Ideas*. Reading and interview with Vancouver's Rita Wong. Fine Arts Bldg. 209. Admission by donation. 250-383-8833

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 4 p.m. *Solidarity, Resilience and Re-claiming the Commons*. Mike Lewis is co-author of *The Resilience Impera-*

tive: Co-operative Transitions to a Steady State Economy. Cadboro Commons Bldg. Arbutus/Queenswood. 250-472-4539

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *Late Proterozoic Emergence of a Habitable Planet: A Chronicle from Northwest Canada*. Dr. Galen Halverson, McGill Univ. Wright Centre A104. 250-721-6120

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 6:30 p.m. *Cafe Scientifique: The Search for the Higgs Particle at the Large Hadron Collider*. Dr. Michel Lefebvre, UVic. Reserve seats: <http://cafescifos.eventbrite.ca/>. Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View St. 250-721-7744

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 6:30 p.m. *Cafe Scientifique. Lifestyle Cross-Training: A Healthy Living Track to Cognitive Fitness*. Stuart MacDonald, UVic. Register senage@uvic.ca or 250-721-6369. Sticky Wicket Pub, Parking lot E, Maple Rm.

■ **Victoria Natural History Society Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Long-term Change and Parks Management: A Repeat Photographic Perspective of Our Changing Rocky Mountains*. Jenna Falk. Fraser 159. 250-477-5922

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Wars Waged in the Name of Humanity: Militarization, Medical Intervention and Discrepant Evaluations of Life*. Jennifer Terry, Univ. of California, Irvine. Hickman 105. 604-649-5116

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist: Sarah Anne Johnson*. Sobey Award nominated artist trained as a photographer at the Univ. of Manitoba and the Yale School of Art. Visual Arts 162. 250-721-6222

■ **Other.** 8 p.m. *Astronomy Open House*. And March 20 & 27 and April 3 & 10. Confirm: at physgen@uvic.ca. Wright Centre, 5th Fl. 250-721-7700

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 3:30 p.m. *More than Words: What Making an Endangered-language Dictionary Can Reveal about Technologies, Communities, and Doing Research*. Dr. Ewa Czakowska-Higgins, UVic. Clearihue A211. 250-472-4677

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Nowhere To Run, Nowhere To Hide: How Now for Christianity in Canada?* Wendy Fletcher, Vancouver School of Theology. Social Sciences & Math. A110. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *This Crazy Time: Living Our Environmental Challenge*. Activist and author Zeporah Berman. MacLaurin Bldg. A144. 250-721-6678

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Praxis Makes Perfect: New Models for Learning in the Humanities*. Dr. Bethany Nowviskie, Univ. of Virginia Library, Scholarly and Communications Institute. Social Science & Math A110. 250-721-7236

■ **CAVI Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *From Church to Farmhouse: The Fate of Chris-*

tians and Churches in Early Islamic Humayma (Jordan). Prof. John P. Oleson, UVic. Univ. Centre A180. 250-721-8514

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *UVic Jazz Orchestra*. Patrick Boyle, director. MacLaurin B125. Tickets \$15 & \$10. 250-721-8634

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 10 a.m. *Knowing the Basics: Keeping Kids Interested in their World*. Bob McDonald, host of CBC's Quirks and Quarks. Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. \$24 plus HST. Register 250-472-4747 or www.uvcs.uvic.ca/

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7 p.m. *The Djan'kawu Sisters at Yalangbara*. Dr. Howard Morphy, Australian National Univ. Social Sciences & Math A104. 250-721-7046

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7 p.m. *50th Anniversary Deans Lecture Series: One Hundred Years of Advocating for Justice: Litigating the Calder Case*. Prof. Hamar Foster, QC, UVic. Legacy Gallery, Yates St. Register. 250-472-4747

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Language, Dialect, and Diglossia in Quebec and Picardie*. Dr. Julie Auger, Indiana Univ. Social Sciences & Math A102. 250-721-7363

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Distinguished Lecture in Islam: Representations of Muslim Women: Image and Reality*. Prof. Zayn R. Kassam, Pomona College. Human & Social Dev. Bldg. A240. 250-721-6325

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 10 a.m. *The Malahat Review presents WordsThaw 2013: an all-day (and evening) writing symposium*. \$50 regular, \$40 students and Friends of the Malahat. Evening reading only (at the door): \$10 regular, \$5 students and Friends of the Malahat. Human & Social Dev. Bldg. A240. 250-721-8524

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

■ **Other.** 3 p.m. *Spring Local Community Market*. Fresh local organic produce, other local food products, crafts and information on healthy eating and regional food security. SUB Michele Pujol Rm. 250-853-3758

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

■ **President's Distinguished Lecture.** 7:00 p.m. *The Future of Food*. Dr. Vandana Shiva, one of the world's most important ecofeminists



IdeaFest in full swing through March 15

IdeaFest, UVic's popular annual festival of ideas, continues through the middle of March, offering a cornucopia of stimulating presentations, discussions and performances that spotlight the role of the university as a creative and intellectual resource for the community.

A sampling of upcoming IdeaFest events includes:

BUILDING AN INNOVATIVE NATION: THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN STRENGTHENING CANADA'S FUTURE

March 8, 3:30–5:45 p.m. in MacLaurin A144

A panel discussion and audience Q+A where experts will discuss how both public policy and partnerships between universities, industry, government and community will keep moving Canada forward.

GAMES WITHOUT FRONTIERS: THE SOCIAL POWER OF VIDEO GAMES

March 9, 11:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. in Strong C103

Professors, students, local game designers and curious citizens gather to explore the power of video-game technology to bring people together to improve the world.

DOES OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM NEED FIXING?

March 12, 7:30–9:00 p.m. in Wright B150

UVic experts debate what is and isn't working now with an eye towards moving beyond the illness-care system in the name of health.

GROUNDSWELL

March 15, 7:00–9:00 p.m. in Hickman B105

A screening of the adventure-sport documentary followed by a discussion of the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project by a panel of geography and environmental studies scholars and a leader from the Heiltsuk Nation.

Festival details and a full roster of all events are available at www.uvic.ca/ideafest; and be sure to keep up with @UVicResearch on Twitter for up-to-date festival information.

and social justice activists, will receive an honorary degree and deliver a free public lecture. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Event currently fully reserved. For waitlist and info, visit <http://bit.ly/ZR7dVo>

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Supporting International Students' Academic Writing Development: Using the Mother Tongue Strategically, Expressing Acquired Knowledge, and Establishing an Intercultural Identity*. Dr. Alister Cumming, OISE/Univ. of Toronto. Social Sciences & Math A104. 250-721-6634

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *A Good Reputation Is More Valuable than Money: Women, Knowledge and Slander in 16th-Century France*. Justine Semmens, UVic. Social Sciences & Math A110. 250-721-6325

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Everything from Nothing, or How Our Universe Was Made*. Prof. Carlos Frenk, Durham Univ. Wright Centre, Rm. B150. 250-721-7698

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

■ **Music.** 12 p.m. *African Percussion Concert*. The 30-member percussion ensemble from

MUS 208 African Hand Drumming. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Spiritual But Not Religious: Navel Gazing or a New Paradigm for Religious Faith in Modern Times?* Siobhan Chandler, Wilfred Laurier Univ. Social Sciences & Math A110. 250-721-6325

■ **Other.** 4:30 p.m. *No Foolin'*. Support UVic Student Families. Parachute games, relay races, ethnic food, pizza and ice-cream. UVic Family Centre. Lam Family Housing 39. 250-472-4062

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *University of Victoria Wind Symphony*. UVic 50th Anniversary Concert featuring student soloists and conductors. Tickets \$14/\$12/\$5. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 250-721-8480

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

■ **Music.** 2:30 p.m. *University of Victoria Philomela Women's Choir*. Mary Kennedy, conductor. MacLaurin B125. Tickets \$12 advance/\$15 at the door. 250-721-8634

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in memoriam

[Editor’s note: UVic student **Georgia Paige Klap** and two other young people lost their lives in a tragic house fire in Victoria on Feb. 16].

I find it helpful to maintain an attitude of gratitude and to remember that if it is not enjoyable, it is not sustainable.—Georgia Klap

An old soul, a wise woman, a dancer, musician and an advocate for all living beings. These are some of the descriptions of Georgia Klap provided by people who attended her memorial on Friday, Feb. 22. The gentleman from the Waldorf School she attended in Cowichan spoke of her fierce determination for making change, though on her terms and not at the expense of others. To Georgia, these “others” were the worms in the soil, the maple leaves falling in the forest and the hummingbird pollinating the flowers. Many of the speakers at her funeral referred to Georgia as the hummingbird, a giver of life and a symbol of the renewal of spring. These others also were her family and friends; there were many in her circle. They spoke of her spontaneous walks in the forest, her love of dancing, her wicked sense of humour and her great loyalty and empathy. If you didn’t already know her, you would want to.

To me she was a student, at first. A tentative participant in the Redfish School of Change, an Environmental Studies field school, in May and June 2012, Georgia came to our first field site with walls up and a guarded nature about her. With long dreadlocks wrapped in a scarf, she wore her fortitude like a cape, ready to take on everyone—student, teacher and guest speaker alike—in a battle of right and wrong, always striving for the truth. She expected people to bring their best game forward, to be genuine without pretense and be heartfelt without being trite. To be real.

One night early in the field school, around a campfire discussion I was facilitating, she tested me. She pushed, emotionally and critically. A couple of days later, after taking one of her long solo walks in the woods, Georgia approached me and asked if I wanted to see a plant she had found. She thought it was an unusual find for the West Kootenay region. I agreed and we walked up the trail to the plant’s location, in tense silence. The plant was unremarkable but we sat together by a small stream and slowly we started talking. Not as student and teacher, but as two people with past troubles and different perspectives. Although the discussion was awkward at times, and painful, I think we both learned a little something about letting go, trust and forgiveness. In the end we agreed to disagree and we hugged.

As Redfish continued, we all learned from Georgia. About being a free spirit and free dancing. About just picking up an instrument and playing, being in the moment. She shared songs and stories. She challenged others to reach inside and release the best part of them. Georgia transformed, as many of our Redfish students do, and knowing her was transforming for others as well. I came to realize that her invitation to see an unremarkable plant in the woods wasn’t about the plant at all. She found one thing, at the time, she knew we had in common—a love for native plants—and found a sacred place where we could find common ground, literally. She was a wise woman, indeed.

During Redfish, we canoed, biked and hiked over six weeks, and whether it was on a long-distance bike ride or hiking up 2,000 feet on snowshoes, Georgia was always there, putting a smile on people’s faces, singing songs and taking in the experience, all senses open. It was an adventure; why would it be anything else? At her funeral, I learned that this was Georgia’s *modus operandi*. She changed the world one person at a time through her interactions with them—through shared experience—during her early years in Mexico, while attending the International Youth Initiative Program in Sweden, participating in the COP15 Climate Summit in Copenhagen, touring with a dance group of international youth, World As A Garden, Travel for Social Inspiration and Exchange, or as of one of 18 university students in the Redfish School of Change.

Georgia tested, she pushed because she cared. Not about possessions, devices or circumstance, but about relationships, experience, and sensitivities. It was about the happening for Georgia: in a place, at the time. I am twice as old as she was and she lived more years in her tragically shortened life than I. Knowing someone like Georgia affects your life; losing someone like Georgia changes how you live. We miss you, our wise and humble hummingbird.

Submitted by Dr. Brenda Beckwith, Environmental Studies Senior Lab Instructor and Redfish Instructor.

New uses for worldwide submarine cable system?

In December, Dr. Chris Barnes (SEOS, emeritus) was appointed chair of a new Joint Task Force (JTF) established by three United Nations agencies that is investigating the potential of using submarine telecommunications cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning.

Under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the JTF is composed of over 60 experts from science, engineering, business and law.

The task force is developing a strategy for using modified submarine repeaters equipped with scientific sensors (such as temperature, pressure and acceleration) for climate monitoring and disaster risk reduction (particularly tsunamis). Repeaters are deployed along submarine telecommunications cables about every 50–70 km to amplify the pulsed optical signal. The JTF will also analyze the potential renovation and relocation of retired out-of-service cables for these purposes.

If the initiative is successful and receives support from industry and regulatory bodies, a wide network of mini-observatories could be established across the world’s ocean floors to measure these important parameters accurately over several decades. More <http://bit.ly/15tLNxb>

Providing trustworthy information on energy issues

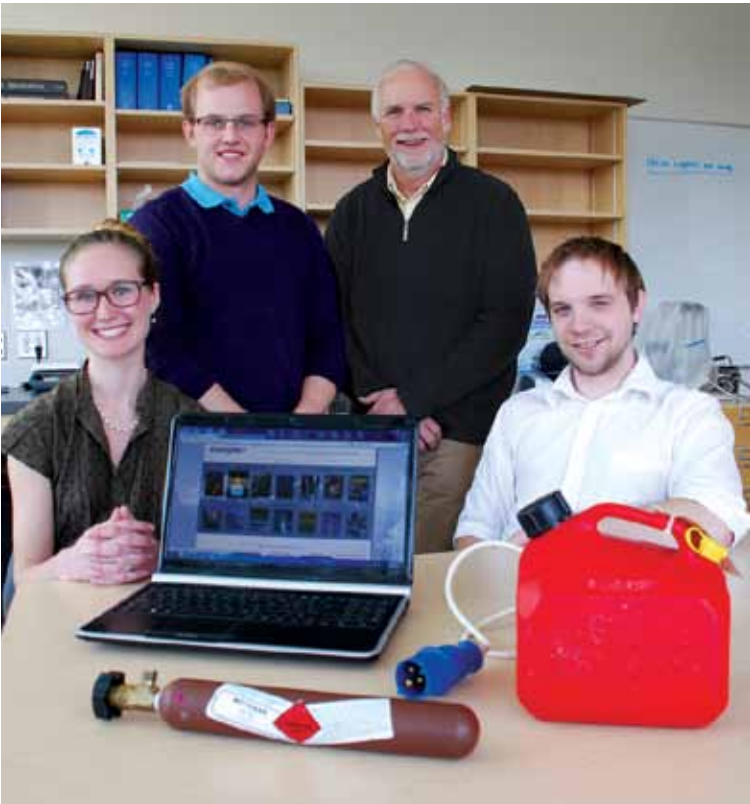
BY MITCH WRIGHT

From fuel cells to fracking, tailpipes to pipelines, debates both public and political are raging across the province over energy issues. Recognizing a need for an easily accessible, independent source of information on energy, Dr. Michael Whiticar (earth and ocean sciences) set out to create an extensive, comprehensive assemblage of unbiased information on BC energy sources, types and issues. He believes he’s accomplished that with the new website: www.energybc.ca.

The idea germinated about five years ago, while Whiticar was helping inform First Nations groups along the coast regarding offshore oil and gas exploration. Through that work, he says, he realized that much of the information publicly available and presented was coloured by the intentions of the providers and people “were often offered selective information based on various agendas and not the whole objective story.”

As a result, Whiticar put exhaustive research—with help from UVic undergraduate students Andrew Farris, Charlotte Helston and Colin Etienne—into creating a thorough online resource of easily accessible, factual material about the province’s energy sources, uses and questions.

The project covers topics including non-renewable and renewable energy sources, looking at the various sides of BC energy options and issues. It’s designed with features such as an interactive map to be a resource for people looking for BC energy-related information or pursuing more in-depth data and evidence



Whiticar with UVic students Charlotte Helston (left), Colin Etienne, and Andrew Farris (right). PHOTO: MARIA LIRONI

on specific energy topics.

“Despite there being so much information out there on complex energy issues, many people in BC were still looking for a trustworthy clearinghouse of information that is presented in an understandable manner,” says Whiticar. “Our goal is to offer an enjoyable, educational website that gives you the energy facts but is not overly prescriptive or opinionated.”

All information at the searchable website is drawn from citable material, with sources thoroughly referenced,

and based on painstaking efforts to be comprehensive while maintaining objectivity.

“The site has been checked by a lot of people looking for accuracy, completeness and tenor, to attain our goal of an independent information broker,” Whiticar says.

The site is also aimed at providing useful context for journalists, politicians and academics, and Whiticar hopes to further develop the content into classroom resource modules for BC’s K–12 education system.

Science honours students exhibit their research

BY KIM WESTAD

Anyone needing proof that students love learning through research had only to attend the second annual Faculty of Science Honours Fest March 1, where students vied for thousands of dollars in prize money.

The Bob Wright Centre lobby buzzed with action as the 48 competitors—almost triple the number from last year—presented their research to judges, fellow students and community members.

Competitors stood by poster boards that outlined their research, explaining the details to those who crowded around. The aim was to create a “conference-style” setting, much like students will be in when pitching their ideas to employers, funding agencies and the public after graduation.

The top three winners came from the different areas of biochemistry, physics and astronomy, and biology. But they had a key theme in common—they all became interested in honours study and their research topics because of their UVic teachers.

Jennifer Evancio won the \$2,000 first prize for her efforts to crystallize a surface protein from a parasite that causes African sleeping sickness. The 21-year-old biochemistry student says it was a lecture by Dr. Martin Boulanger (biochemistry and microbiology) that piqued her interest in research and the honours program.

“He said, ‘If you’re interested in research, come talk to me.’ and that’s exactly what I did,” says Evancio, who

plans to become a medical doctor or surgeon. “It was a fantastic opportunity.”

Second-place winner Connor Bot-

“[Communication] skills are key to any profession and increasingly important for scientists. We need to effectively communicate to like-minded scientists and also people who are not scientists.”

trell, a physics and astronomy student, says much the same of Dr. Jon Willis (physics and astronomy).

“I’m drawn to the mysteries and problems of science, and I found the work of Jon Willis particularly fascinating,” says Bottrell, whose research examined how dark matter is distributed in some galaxies using a gravitational lensing technique.

He and third-place winner Johanna Berry each won \$1,000.

Berry, too, spoke highly of instructors, including Dr. Roberta Hamme (earth and ocean sciences), who helped the biology student as she field tested equipment used in remote monitoring of nitrogen gas changes in

the Saanich Inlet during deep water renewal.

Berry has applied to the UVic law school and hopes to use her scientific background to help draft policies to put research into action.

Honourable mentions were given to Rob Mackenzie (microbiology); Debra Wertman (biology); Jessamyn Logan (chemistry); Stephanie Yurchak (mathematics and statistics); Andrew Robertson (physics and astronomy); and Pearce Luck (earth and ocean sciences).

The festival provides students with valuable experience, says Associate Dean of Science Kathy Gillis.

“This is what they will be doing when they go into the real world. They’ll be in a conference-style setting, presenting their work in a positive way. This a great venue to have that experience, and to have it on a CV,” Gillis says.

Students were judged in three areas: scientific thought and creativity, their communication skills in presenting the research and finally on the quality of the poster and its ability to explain complex research in a logical way.

Communication skills are critical for long-term success, Gillis says.

“Those skills are key to any profession and increasingly important for scientists. We need to effectively communicate to like-minded scientists and also people who are not scientists.”

To this end, Dr. Patrick von Aderkas (biology) who organized the 25 faculty judges, offered a workshop in advance on communication skills for students.