



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

RESEARCH AWARDS

Nominations open for
Craigdarrochs

Until Feb. 3, 2014, you can nominate an extraordinary scientist, artist or scholar for one of UVic’s Craigdarroch Research Awards. Nominations are welcome in four categories: career achievement, research excellence, artistic expression and knowledge mobilization. For eligibility criteria and a nomination package visit www.uvic.ca/craigdarrochawards or contact Brad Buie at awardfac@uvic.ca.

ENGAGING THE CAMPUS

Cassels reports on Campus
Conversations

After conducting a series of more than 50 meetings across campus, UVic President Jamie Cassels is sharing what he heard as well as his resulting thoughts and reflections in a brief report, available at bit.ly/campus-convo. The report thematically summarizes much of what was discussed, responds to some of the concerns raised and seizes on many of the excellent ideas that emerged from the conversations.

SOUTHAM LECTURE

Athletic Teams and
Olympic Dreams

There’s nothing simple about how we see athletes. “We even demand all of them to be role models, as though athleticism is itself imbued with some noble purpose,” explains noted sports writer and veteran journalist Tom Hawthorn. Hawthorn, 2014 Southam Lecturer for the Department of Writing, will discuss our love/hate relationship with athletes in a free public lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, in UVic’s HSD A240. Just in time for the Sochi Olympics, Hawthorn will also be looking at the history of the Olympic movement with an emphasis on protests, from the move to boycott the Nazi Olympics and the Black Power salutes of 1968, to the African boycott of the Montreal Olympics and the contemporary protests over Russia’s odious anti-gay laws.



UVIC RESEARCHERS SHOW THE SENSITIVE SIDE OF GRIZZLY BEARS

P.5

THE RING

JANUARY 2014

The University of Victoria’s
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Alex Burrows and the Sedins. PHOTO: JEFF VINNICK/VANCOUVER CANUCKS

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LEADERSHIP STUDIES RESEARCH

NUMBER OF
ATTRIBUTES OF A
SERVANT LEADER
IDENTIFIED
IN CRIPPEN’S
RESEARCH

Sedins bring a rare style of leadership to hockey games

BY MITCH WRIGHT

University of Victoria academic Dr. Carolyn Crippen scored a coup Vancouver hockey writers dream of—a lengthy, exclusive interview with NHL superstars Henrik and Daniel Sedin.

Crippen, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education, conducted the fall 2011 interview as part of a three-year case study of the leadership attributes of the twins. The results are in a paper published recently in the leading online physical and health education periodical *PHENex*.

A leadership studies expert, Crippen was casually watching a Vancouver Ca-

nucks game on TV in 2009 when her interest was piqued by the twins’ style of play. Crippen’s research focuses on a philosophy known as servant-leadership, which is effectively the pinnacle for leaders to aspire toward, because it focuses on achieving a greater good by serving the needs of followers above all else. She says the Sedins stood out for their civil, respectful approach to their teammates, coaches, opponents and officials.

“Their red hair and beards caught my eye, but then I started paying attention to their behaviour and quickly noticed these two players demonstrated a different form of on-ice behaviour—a more civil, respect-

ful, caring approach,” she says. “The area of servant-leadership seemed at first glance to have possible connections.”

Her subsequent case study confirmed her theory that the Swedish-born stars exemplify attributes that make them ideal role models for both young athletes and adults.

“I was initially a skeptic of the philosophy existing in professional hockey, but the evidence is overwhelming that both Daniel and Henrik Sedin demonstrate the core principles that define servant-leadership,” says Crippen.

SEE SEDINS P.3

RHODES SCHOLAR

Passion for public health propels UVic student to Oxford

BY VALERIE SHORE

British Columbia’s winner of the world’s oldest and most prestigious student scholarship for 2014 is a 21-year-old biochemistry student from the University of Victoria.

Dylan Collins will head to Britain’s famed University of Oxford next fall as a Rhodes Scholar. The award—which supports outstanding all-around students from around the world—is worth more than

\$100,000 and covers all travel, living and study expenses at Oxford.

“We’re extremely proud of Dylan and his achievement,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “He’s an outstanding student who has pushed himself in the classroom, the lab, the community and the workplace to get a well-rounded perspective and hands-on experience in his chosen field of study. His determination to make a difference in the world is remarkable.”

Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Collins will join over 20,000 students from more than 140 countries at the university, which is renowned for its rigorous education and vibrant cultural and community life.

“I’m very excited,” says Collins, who hails from Tlell, a tiny village on the north-east coast of Haida Gwaii. But he admits that attending Oxford wasn’t really on his radar until

his research interests started to gel at UVic.

“I fell into this passion for public health,” he says. “Once I started thinking about grad school, I looked around for the top people in the field who would be the best mentors possible. That led me to Oxford.”

Collins will graduate from UVic in June 2014 with an honours BSc in biochemistry. But his bulging academic résumé spans much more than the pure sciences.

“I went into biochemistry because I was interested in medicine and health,” he says. “But I quickly realized that if I want to make big changes in terms of helping people, then I’d need to shift more toward the social determinants of health.”

Funded during his UVic studies by a Loran Scholarship, he completed a series of internships that exposed him to many different aspects of health care.

SEE RHODES P.7



Collins. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

around the ring

University Centre caf gets a makeover
The University Centre cafeteria closed its doors on Dec. 13 to facilitate a major renovation and expansion. The eight-month project will see a shift from a cafeteria-style model to a market-style concept where food is freshly prepared before the customer. The new facility, to be named Mystic Market, will set a new standard in campus dining, creating a unique, West Coast dining experience. The facility will introduce nine self-branded dining concepts to appeal to the diverse tastes of the campus community. Construction begins in January 2014, with completion scheduled for fall 2014. During this time a Construction Café will operate in the University Centre. Hours and staffing levels will be increased at all other campus food outlets. Visit uvic.ca/food for information on alternative Food Service locations, and updates on construction progress. Please note that Counselling Services will be relocating from University Centre to the ground floor of the Carroll Residence building (near the entrance to the Cadboro Commons cafeteria) during construction.

Yes, actually—it is rocket science

Engineering students take first prize in international competition

BY JULIE SLOAN

For three mechanical engineering students with a passion for aerospace, what could be better than an international Do-It-Yourself rocket-design competition?

Winning it, of course.

In the summer of 2013, second- and third-year BEng students Michael Pearson, Simon Moffatt and Harry Evans—the Stratodyn team—designed a 3D printable rocket engine and won first place in an international competition open to anyone and everyone, competing against novices, school-based teams and professional engineers alike.

The Silicon Valley non-profit Open Space University created the DIY rocket competition to promote innovation and cost effectiveness in small payload delivery into space, and explore the possibilities of 3D printing for the space industry. Pearson stumbled across the competition online and enticed fellow UVic AERO team members Moffatt and Evans to team up with him.

“Space is only about 100 km straight above us, so it’s close,” says Pearson. “But the problem is, once you get there, a rocket will just fall straight back down to the ground if it’s not propelled fast enough. We needed to design a rocket engine that would propel a rocket 28,000 km per hour at those altitudes to stay in orbit.”

It took four months for the team



L—R: Evans, Moffatt and Pearson PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

online, and have it printed by New York City-based sponsor company Shapeways.com. The company specializes in metal 3D printing. The team completed the entire project online.

“One of the coolest things about the competition was that it was open to anyone in the world. There was an elementary school team that came

up with a really cool design, and there were professional engineers competing as well,” said Moffatt.

Out of 12 teams competing, the UVic team took first prize, which included \$5,000, an offer for a free business-development consultation, and a tour of the NASA research centre in Mountainview, California.

The students plan to use their prize money to travel to Silicon Valley to meet the group running the competition and tour the NASA facility. For these three students who love aerospace, it’s an opportunity they wouldn’t dream of passing up.

Full story online: bit.ly/rocket-sci

Partnership recognized for reductions in bullying

As co-creator of the anti-bullying program, WITS, (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Seek Help) Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater has worked tirelessly with community partners, police officers, school staff and administrators, and parents to protect children from peer violence and victimization. On Dec. 2, Leadbeater was presented with the CIHR Partnership Award by the Governor General of Canada in recognition of her leadership of the WITS programs.

The award acknowledges the true partnership that exists between teachers, students, law enforcement and parents who want to change the culture within a community.

“It was very rewarding to have our WITS programs and partners nationally recognized after 15 years of work helping schools create safe places for children to play and learn,” said Leadbeater.

WITS began in response to the tragic death of Reena Virk. Virk was a

14-year-old girl who was beaten and drowned by her peers in 1997. Her death followed several high profile youth beatings that resulted in death or severe neurological damage to other Victoria youth.

“There was this growing edge of youth violence that really concerned the police,” said Leadbeater in a media interview. WITS was initiated by a local school principal and Tom Woods, a local law enforcement officer, who after observing the WITS programs in action, started the Rock Solid Foundation, a not-for-profit group to raise funds to help BC schools use the WITS Programs. “Tom Woods had the desire and inspiration to make a difference; working with him and the Rock Solid Foundation was key to the success of the WITS programs,” said Leadbeater.

Today, through the leadership of Leadbeater and the help of PREVNet, the Rock Solid Foundation, the Red

Cross and the RCMP’s National Youth Officer Program, WITS is spreading to schools across Canada—more than 500 so far. “I think it’s really made a difference in the culture of schools and our communities across Canada,” says Leadbeater. “WITS programs provide a common language to talk about bullying so getting help is the norm and the right thing to do.”

The two programs WITS and WITS LEADS have recently been adapted into French (DIRE) making the resources available in both official languages for use by all Canadians. In British Columbia the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique has enthusiastically adopted the programs and is implementing them in many schools throughout the province. By adapting the programs into French, national organizations such as the RCMP can disseminate them across the country.

Through community partnerships, researchers have developed and evalu-

ated the WITS programs leading to measurable, sustained reductions in bullying. Leadbeater feels the community-based research collaboration for development of the WITS programs is critical to its success.

“Working with our community partners in Victoria made the development of the WITS programs possible and highly relevant for other schools hoping to address bullying and peer victimization,” says Leadbeater.

Leadbeater and the WITS partnership team will continue to bring the anti-bullying program into more Canadian schools, train RCMP officers and community partners and evaluate the program in French and English. Leadbeater hopes that the WITS program can become self-supporting and eventually be introduced to US schools and overseas.

For more information about WITS and WITS LEADS and the French adaptation of the programs visit www.witsprogram.ca

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There’s an app for that

UVic BCom students help United Way engage young donors using mobile gaming

BY KRISTA BOEHNERT

How do you engage millennials in philanthropy using technology? That is the question Dr. Rebecca Grant posed to Gustavson BCOM students in her fall term *Business and the Internet* course. Student groups were tasked with finding a digital strategy for local charity United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV) to engage a younger donor base.

The class presented their solutions at a trade show attended by representatives from United Way and members of the local business community. The winning team comprised of Talina Barsalou, Shantelle Bilach, Denis Luchyshyn and Daniel Thiry paired philanthropic lessons with the power of mobile gaming.

“We wanted to create interaction instead of just providing content,” Thiry says of his team’s decision to develop a game to engage potential donors.

“In class, we learned that people spend most of their time on their mobile devices having ‘me time,’ which includes seeking relaxation or entertainment through things like gaming. Reaching people during this time seemed like the most promising way to engage with them,” adds teammate Bilach.

The students brainstormed about possible game scenarios and settled on a city model where the player experiences different campaigns (or game levels) that showcase social improvement initiatives United Way supports. The game simultaneously educates the player about the important work the charity does for the community, while providing an entertaining context in which to experience the lessons.

“The game is based on a free-mium model,” Luchyshyn explains, “where the user gets it for free and can make in-game purchases to progress their play. The purchased content helps the player move through the game easier, helping them unlock new game levels.”

There is also a social media component with the game app that allows players to track their donations, as well as compare their game scores with others. “Social media sharing will increase word-of-mouth about the game and will help increase the number of users,” Bilach says.

“The competition between players keeps them engaged,” Luchyshyn adds. “They want to get to that next level before anyone else, increase their score, and share it online.”

But the competition isn’t just limited to twentysomethings. “The beauty of the game is that it appeals to a much broader audience than just millennials,” says Barsalou. “It’s something the whole family can play and get involved in.”

In addition to purchasing game enhancements, the player can set up a monthly donation, charged to their phone bill, to support the UWGV in funding the projects showcased. The amount is millennial friendly—as low as one dollar a month—with the option to increase it when they are economically in a position to do so.

And has the project changed the students’ attitude towards UWGV? “I always knew United Way’s logo, but I wasn’t aware of what they did,” Barsalou says. “Now that I know how they improve our community, they’ve got me. I’m hooked.”

And if the team’s game app completes development, you will be too.

Teaching awards highlight Alumni Week, Feb. 2–8

Alumni Week—honouring the social, economic and artistic impact of UVic graduates—runs from Feb. 2–8 with more than a dozen special events on campus and at alumni branches across Canada and in Asia.

A lunchtime gathering of alumni who work at UVic kicks off the week’s events on campus on Feb. 3; the Distinguished Alumni Awards on Feb. 5 will honour 12 outstanding graduates; and the Teaching Awards Celebration on Feb. 6 will spotlight the 2014 recipients of the Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching and the Andy Farquharson Awards for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching.

The alumni teaching awards, in two categories, will be presented to three recipients.

Dr. Mark Colgate (Gustavson School of Business) and Assistant Teaching Professor **Jin-Sun Yoon** (Child and Youth Care) receive the Harry Hickman teaching award for regular faculty members (including senior instructors), artists-in-residence and librarians.

Dr. Kristen Semmens (History) will receive the Gilian Sherwin teaching award for sessional lecturers, lab instructors and senior lab instructors.

The selection committee, chaired by Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Tremblay, evaluates nominees based on evidence of outstanding teaching methods and educational leadership. The committee considers the nominee’s performance in such areas as course design, innovation and mentorship of students.

Recipients get a cash prize of \$2,000 and their photos will be permanently displayed in the McPherson Library. There have now been 51 recipients since the alumni association introduced the first campus-wide teaching award program in 1989.

Graduate students **Jason Siefken** (mathematics and statistics), **Jamie Kemp** (history in art) and **Michael Lukas** (English) will receive the Farquharson award, organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Learning and Teaching Centre.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards presentation, at the Hotel Grand Pacific, will feature award recipients selected by faculties, divisions and the library. This year’s honorees are:

Eric Akis (journalist, author and chef); **Roderick Allen** (assistant deputy minister of education); **Brian Butler** (CEO, Butler Brothers Supplies); **Marilyn Copes** (executive director, Island Health); **Mary Mouat** (lawyer/community builder); **David Naysmith** (medical humanitarian); **Qimin You** (CEO, Ustar Biotechnologies Hangzhou); **Chris**



Colgate. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Yoon. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Semmens. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Reid (executive chair, Hydrexia); **Jan Ross** (curator/community activist); **Michael J. Whitfield** (stage lighting designer); **Evan Wood** (investigator, intravenous drug use prevention/treatment); and **Jennifer Zelmer** (executive VP, Canada Health Infoway).

Alumni Week is supported by the UVic Alumni Association and organized by the Alumni Relations office. Full event list and grand prize draw information: alumni.uvic.ca

around the ring

Salary interest arbitration decision reached

Arbitrator Colin Taylor released his decision on Nov. 20 in the arbitration matter between the University of Victoria and the UVic Faculty Association. The award covers the period July 1, 2012–June 30, 2014. For each year, Mr. Taylor awarded faculty members and librarians a 2 per cent salary increase as well as a lump sum payment of \$1,000. The lump sum payment is payable to all faculty members and librarians based on their appointment as of July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2013. The first adjustments payments were made on Dec. 13, 2013, and the remaining payroll adjustments will occur on Jan. 15, Jan. 31 and Feb. 15 of this year. Full information about the arbitration award is available at bit.ly/fac-arb

New site for UVic Plant Sale

The UVic Plant Sale is moving outdoors. The new location will be in parking lot 6, adjacent to Finnerty Gardens. This year’s sale, on Sunday, May 4, will offer a specialized selection of plants and will include tours of the gardens, showcasing its collection of rhododendrons in bloom. Since 1978 the volunteer-led Finnerty Garden Friends have organized a fundraising sale in McKinnon Gym. The sale supports ongoing development of Finnerty Gardens. Known for its rhododendrons, the gardens also feature more than 4,000 varieties of trees and shrubs, occupying 2.6 hectares on the southwest corner of campus. The gardens are open year-round and admission is free. To volunteer for the plant sale, contact Joy Davis at 250-472-5474 or joydavis@uvic.ca.



Campus Bike Centre opens

The new indoor Campus Bike Centre opened on Nov. 19, with a brief bout of stormy weather—including the unusual appearance of light hail—serving to underscore the value of shelter from the elements for cyclists as they arrive on campus. The totally enclosed facility, nestled on the west side of the University Centre parkade, offers over 230 bicycle parking spots, as well as equipment lockers. SPOKES, a volunteer-run bicycle rental and repair shop, is also housed in its newly expanded space inside the bike centre. Full story: bit.ly/bikecentre



SEDINS CONTINUED FROM P.1

Through deliberate and intense observations of the Sedins during games and in media coverage over the course of three years, culminating with a 75-minute interview with the twins, Crippen evaluated how well they measure up to the 21 competencies of servant-leadership. She found the Sedins embody all 21 almost completely, a nearly unheard of “gold standard” of the philosophy.

“We have a group here where we have a lot of leaders, and there’s times when you need to make them a leader. Hank, he’s the captain, but he can’t be a leader all the time. I think he needs to make other players lead too. That’s a big part of a team that’s successful,” Daniel Sedin says during the interview with Crippen. “I think

you have everyone realize that they can be a leader at a certain moment, and then ... you’ve got to let them handle the situation and make them grow. I think when you have that, everyone’s taking a step and getting better, as a person, as a player.”

Crippen says with increasing emphasis through all levels of hockey on safety, leadership and reducing violence, the Sedins could be perfect elite-level role models for achieving success through caring and supportive approaches. As well as the study published in PHEnex, a second piece is to be published by the *International Journal of Servant Leadership*, and Crippen is at work on a third, even more in-depth paper from the case study.

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in memoriam

Ian MacPherson, UVic historian and Honorary Degree Recipient

The university lost one of its shining lights in November with the passing of historian Dr. Ian MacPherson. In addition to his scholarly contributions—which were exemplary—MacPherson was a leading administrator and great friend to the university who had recently authored a book-length history of UVic. Moreover, MacPherson stood out as a champion in his field, becoming *avant le lettre* the type of figure who we now recognize and praise as a community-engaged academic. MacPherson’s work with co-operatives went far beyond the academic expectations of his era, and his extraordinary contribution to the betterment of society working with the co-operative movement drew UVic to award him an honorary degree—a decision made shortly before his unexpected death.



MacPherson

MacPherson was born and grew up on a farm in Spencerville, Ontario—the youngest of four boys—and taught school in a small community outside of Toronto before pursuing his MA and PhD in history at Western Ontario. He lectured in history at the University of Winnipeg and the University of London, England, before taking up a position at UVic in 1976.

MacPherson’s earliest historical interests revolved around rural history, particularly on the prairies, and his focus from the beginning was on co-operatives, which drew him to an interest in the co-operative movement in English Canada. That spark would burn throughout his long career, as the subject of his first book to the focus of the research centre he founded. MacPherson rapidly became the pre-eminent historian of the Canadian co-operative movement, and also made many scholarly contributions to the study of co-operatives at the international level.

As an administrative leader, MacPherson’s impact was also commendable. He served as chair of the history department, and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The expansion of the university led him to later assume duties as Dean of Humanities, a position from which he stepped down in order to found UVic’s Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy (then called the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies).

MacPherson’s tenure as a department chair and dean is remembered fondly by many junior faculty of that era, for his ability to empathize with their concerns and find ways within the administrative structure to develop solutions that could work for them. He was a compassionate, wise and humane leader. He was also known for his sense of humour, which could lighten tense situations. His fondness for practical jokes kept the august scholars of the history department from taking themselves too seriously. In word and deed, he has left a legacy of stories that are still told and retold to new generations.

Under MacPherson’s leadership, the CCCBE (then BCICS) became a prime source of scholarly material as well as a resource for practitioners in co-operative undertakings. MacPherson was very active in the co-op movement both in Canada and internationally, took a leading role in creating the Canadian Co-operative Association, was the co-founder of the Canadian Association for the Study of Co-operation, and served as chair of the International Co-operative Alliance committee that articulated key co-operative principles in 1995.

MacPherson’s commitment to community engagement took many faces. In 2010, MacPherson was honoured as one of eight volunteers who had been active as part of the UVic Speakers Bureau since its inception in 1980, sharing knowledge and deepening the connection between the university and the community continuously for 30 years.

The 2012 publication of his book-length history of UVic, *Reaching Outward and Upward*, was a well-appreciated addition to the university’s 50th anniversary celebrations. The work is a grand story of the many communities—on-campus, off-campus, local, national, international, physical and electronic—that have together shaped the university.

MacPherson is widely and fondly remembered across campus as a kind and compassionate man, an exceptional teacher and mentor, a wise leader, a distinguished scholar and a model of a community-engaged academic. MacPherson has left us a vital legacy in his writings, in the continuing work of the research centre he founded, in the internationally recognized principles of co-operative activism he helped to pen, and in the countless people he inspired.

He will be much missed.

In recognition of this multitude of contributions, MacPherson’s Honorary Doctorate will be awarded on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. as part of a special service of remembrance at the University Club. The UVic flag will also be lowered in his memory on that day.

In lieu of flowers please consider any of the following:

- Contributing to the UVic Dr. Ian MacPherson Scholarship,
- Supporting the Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund at the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada,
- Donating to a charity of your choice, or
- Joining a co-op

Based on a submission by Dr. Lynn Marks and Dr. Ana Maria Peredo



L–R: Sam and Stanger by First Peoples House. PHOTO: MITCH WRIGHT

The lasting value of "sense of place"

BY MITCH WRIGHT

People often have a place that holds special meaning for them. Whether it’s somewhere childhood memories were made or a serene spot that soothes their soul, place can have a profound impact on people’s lives.

For former Lieutenant Governor, politician and tireless advocate for First Nations rights Iona Campagnolo, memories of talking with other youngsters at a North Pacific Cannery dock on the Skeena Slough in northwestern BC have stayed with her. It was a formative experience that played a recurring role throughout her life and demonstrates how powerful “sense of place” can be.

UVic doctoral candidate Nick

Stanger is researching the notion of “sense of place” and how formative places become transformative places, such as that cannery dock for Campagnolo.

Stanger says with increasing amounts of time spent online and in front of monitors, people are losing their sense of connection to the ecological systems that are life sustaining, both in the physical and psychological senses. His environmental education research investigates how learning that occurs within childhood places has lasting effects on our lives.

“There’s been little investigation into the value of important places, or even the memory of them, and the impact of the experiences we connect to significant places have throughout

our lives,” says Stanger. “Our lives are rooted in place, whether we acknowledge it or not. I’m interested in how those places foster emotional, physical, spiritual, and ecological connectedness and how that contributes to shaping our lives.”

Stanger enlisted the help of four prominent British Columbians—Campagnolo, Tsartlip First Nation Elder and UVic Elder-in-Residence May Sam, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Wade Davis, and Sharktruth.orgconservation initiative founder Claudia Li—who were filmed explaining their own transformative places.

YouTube preview: bit.ly/4-transform

Full Ring story: bit.ly/4-places

In this engineering course, people skills are a design solution

BY MITCH WRIGHT

Aspiring engineers at UVic are getting something most of their peers across Canada aren’t—hands-on experience from real-world professionals in their first year of post-secondary education.

The ENGR 110 Design and Communication course is mandatory for all 400-plus first-year engineering students, and focuses on introducing principles of design engineering through practical projects with an emphasis on teamwork. Through a series of labs and lectures, some of which are instructed by community and corporate partners, students get an opportunity that many Canadian universities don’t offer until third or even fourth-year courses.

Mechanical engineering professor Dr. Peter Wild holds one of a dozen Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Chairs in Design Engineering, and part of his focus has been “getting to the fun stuff earlier,” he says.

“ENGR 110 presents a glimpse of some of the important elements of engineering practice that will not be apparent from other more technically focused courses,” Wild says.

The local arm of Schneider Electric is among the key corporate partners, with company rep Jordon Dagg volunteering his time to present lectures and labs for the last few years. With the course becoming mandatory this year, he upped his involvement and presented two lectures as well as 14 two-hour labs to include all incoming students.

Dagg’s goal is to teach about team dynamics and other so-called “soft skills” that are absolutely crucial to success after graduation.



Engineering students. PHOTO: ARMANDO TURA

“In the lecture, we talk about forming, storming, norming and performing—the four stages you go through with team-building,” Dagg says. “We’re trying to get students to understand there’s more to it than just getting together and doing a project. They’ve got to learn to work with all sorts of different people who all have different ideas.”

Their task in the lab is spaghetti-stick tower construction, a project more often in the realm of elementary school classes, but it’s less about proving their engineering prowess than about the dynamics of the teams, formed as groups of five or six.

“It’s a few more than the ideal number, but that’s the point. We want them to experience the challenges of teamwork and trying to make that work,” says Dagg. “The more students that come out with that type of experience, they’ll have a few more tools to be able to work with.”

Students also get a chance to have real-world impact through a

project with the CRD, which tasked students to come up with ideas to improve cycling infrastructure and accessibility. The top 15 suggestions were showcased in December as students pitched their plans to a panel of judges for the chance to win prizes and have their idea shared with local government professionals and decision makers.

“There’s no shortage of ways to make cycling easier, safer and more enjoyable,” says Wild. “Our goal in collaborating with the CRD was to help generate fresh ideas, make more people aware of the various challenges and solutions for cycling in our community, and offer these first-year students an applied-learning opportunity early in their engineering education.”

With this kind of fun, experiential learning, the hope is to sustain student interest in engineering through a busy and academically challenging first-year program. Other partners include Viking Air, Starfish Medical and Bic Canada.



Dangerous yet delicate

Though polar bears have become symbolic as a species put at risk by climate change, UVic research shows why the grizzly bear may be a better indicator of BC’s ecological health. STORY BY KIM WESTAD

A grizzly bear takes a dip in a glacier-fed pool. PHOTO: CHRIS DARIMONT

They inspire awe, fear, and are viewed as an international symbol of the Canadian wilderness. But who’d have thought that grizzly bears, those great lumbering creatures with the teddy bear faces and claws as long as human fingers, might also be the modern day version of the canary in the coalmine?

For all their size—it’s not unusual for a male grizzly to weigh 800 pounds or rise to eight feet when standing on its hind legs —grizzlies are among the most sensitive animals in the world. They are more sensitive to changes in their environment, such as food, development or human encroachment, than many other much smaller species.

Their numbers have been decimated over the last century. At one time, you could have walked grizzly bear trails from coastal Alaska down to northern Mexico, stopping at hundreds of salmon streams along the way. These days, explains UVic researcher and geography professor Chris Darimont, the bear trails stop in Howe sound, north of Vancouver, and the salmon runs have become mere ghosts of their former selves in Oregon and California.

A species at risk

More than half of Canada’s grizzly bears live in BC—about 15,000. Alberta has an estimated 750. The rest—about 10,000—are in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Grizzlies are listed by both the provincial and federal governments as being of special concern.

Their numbers are threatened by a variety of factors, most caused by humans, say researchers. Unsustainable hunting, poaching, recreational and industrial development, fisheries management policies that reduce the number of salmon available for grizzlies as a food source—all affect grizzly bear populations.

Reducing impacts requires a change in priorities in environmental management, says Darimont, and a shift away from viewing grizzlies as big game trophies to seeing them as an essential part of the environmental landscape. If grizzlies are healthy, the environment is healthy, researchers say.

The reverse, unfortunately, is also true.

A trophy species, but for whom?

Minnesota Wild player Clayton Stoner ended up with more publicity for his grizzly bear hunting than his hockey playing this fall.

A photo of the NHL defenceman holding a severed grizzly head went viral, focusing public attention on the contentious issue of trophy hunting. The grizzly, known to locals as Cheeky, was shot in the Great Bear Rainforest, on BC’s north central coast. Stoner had one of the limited-entry licenses given out by the province each year to hunters who can then kill bears in designated areas. Hunters can use high-powered rifles equipped with powerful scopes. They usually want the heads, coat and paws of the animal, and leave the meat and carcasses behind.

Province-wide, tourism revenues from the hunting, guiding and charter aircraft involved are estimated at \$300-million a year. The province says that the number of hunts allowed is based on sustainable limits, as determined by an independent panel of grizzly bear scientists. Harvest levels vary throughout the province, depending on the number of bears in each area, the estimated productivity of the bears and the known number of mortalities.

But joint research from UVic, Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia published this fall in the scientific journal *PLoS ONE* found that grizzlies were over-hunted in half the areas where the province permitted hunting, with large discrepancies between the upper limit to kills set by the provincial government and the number of bears actually killed. Almost all were associated with trophy hunting, says Darimont, the study’s co-author and the Raincoast Conservation Foundation science director. The study was based on a 10-year audit of the province’s own numbers.

Of particular concern was the finding that of the 3,500 grizzlies killed during the study period, more than 1,200 were females—the “reproduc-

tive powerhouses of populations,” says Darimont.

A delicate reproductive cycle

Hunters are not required to target males, but are encouraged to because of the challenges in grizzly reproduction.

Female grizzly bears don’t produce their first litter until they are about five or six years old. Delayed sexual maturity, together with a three-or-more-year interval between litters, results in a low reproductive rate. Bears usually live between 25 to 30 years.

Research has also found that adequate food sources for grizzlies play a large role in reproduction.

When a female grizzly becomes pregnant, the development of the embryo temporarily stops for several months, a process called “delayed implantation.”

If a female bear is unable to gain enough weight during the summer and fall before hibernation, she miscarries because of the lack of nutrients and caloric intake.

If the female finds enough food and is healthy enough to hibernate—grizzlies can gain two pounds a day and sometimes eat 90 pounds of food a day during the warmer months—she will give birth in the den in January or February to one to four cubs, usually two. These hairless, blind and toothless cubs weigh about one pound. The mother nurses her cubs in the den until they all come out in late April or May.

Food supply, particularly salmon, is therefore crucial for grizzly bear reproduction, one of the findings of another study published this fall in *PLoS ONE*, co-authored by UVic researchers, including Darimont.

Salmon: the centre of the food web

The fall salmon season provides the nutrient-rich food the bears need before hibernation. Grizzly bears with access to salmon have higher population density, body size and litter size, says the study.

The researchers from UVic, the

University of Calgary and the Raincoast Conservation Foundation also found that grizzlies with reduced access to salmon were more stressed, which could have other negative long-term health effects. The findings came after examining stress hormones in hair samples of grizzlies from the 30,000-km² Heiltsuk Territory on BC’s central coast. Researchers used hair strands from the huge animals to measure their cortisol, a stress hormone. Using molecular markers, they could also tell how rich in salmon a bear’s diet was and to which individual bear the hair belonged. The researchers tempted grizzlies to barbed-wire hair snags by dousing fermented fish oil in a pile surrounded by barbed wire. The bears stay only for a smell and are off, leaving a few tufts of hair behind.

The study shows the importance of resource management that keeps all users in the equation. The odds are stacked against grizzlies, says a growing body of work. Fisheries, primarily the commercial sector that target the salmon species favoured by bears, capture salmon en route to spawning grounds before they even become available to grizzlies.

Darimont’s previous work, published in *PLoS Biology*, showed how such intense competition by fisheries can suppress bear densities. The new hormone research reveals the probable mechanism: birth rates and litter sizes are likely reduced by the stress response from low salmon.

When salmon are plentiful, however, it’s more than the bears that benefit. UVic’s Tom Reimchen (Biology) first discovered how bears eat the nutrient-rich brains and eggs, casting aside the remainder of the fish to feed other animals and fertilize the forest.

Mapping the contact zone

Examining ways that grizzlies and human activities can co-exist is a big part of Trisalyn Nelson’s work. The UVic geography professor and her students recently worked with the Foothills Research Institute, publishing research in *PLoS ONE* about the impacts of habitat conditions and human disturbance on the long-term

stress and health of grizzly bears in northern Alberta.

Researchers can’t ask a grizzly why it prefers one patch of berries over another, or how a bear adapts in former wilderness areas that are logged, mined or used for recreation.

But the animal’s travel patterns—collected via satellite collars—speak for them. For example, mapping found that female grizzlies spend more time than male bears near roads. That puts them at a higher risk of human-caused mortality, either from poaching or being struck by vehicles. And losing more females from the grizzly population is a serious conservation concern.

Another model: coexistence in nature

Where do researchers and society move from here? Darimont and others are strong advocates of changing how society views grizzlies. Rather than trophies for a few, they could provide education and a conservation economy for many. Among several First Nations partners, he works with the Kitasoo/Xai’xais Nation on BC’s central coast and their Spirit Bear Lodge and Spirit Bear Research Foundation to monitor the grizzly and white bears. Other partners include the Hakai Beach Institute, funded by the Tula Foundation, who support research programs that address the complex nature of conserving, managing and restoring the central coasts unique marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

“Collectively, we envision a near future in which the extractive industries that threaten bears in their territory—forestry, over-fishing, trophy hunting—are increasingly substituted with bear eco-tourism,” says Darimont.

Imagine, say researchers, a time when Cheeky, the five-year-old bear shot last year, would still be alive, providing education and benefit to the world for another 20 years.

“What we are doing to bears we are ultimately doing to ourselves,” Darimont says. “To think that humans will somehow evade the effects of ecological damage we bring to the world is to ignore reality.”

in memoriam

James Provan

Dr. James (Jim) W. Provan passed away on November 15th, 2013 at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria due to the complications of Scleroderma. Provan was a cheerful leader, mentor, dear colleague and friend to many at UVic. Provan joined the Faculty of Engineering at UVic as the Dean and Professor of Mechanical Engineering in 1993 from McGill University and became an Emeritus Professor in 2006. He received his BSc in chemical engineering from Strathclyde University Glasgow, Scotland and started his academic career at McGill back in 1970 after receiving his MSc and PhD of Mechanical Engineering from University of Colorado.

Provan was an internationally known scholar on the modeling and control of fatigue and on the statistical fatigue reliability of mechanical components. As an academic leader, he made paramount contributions to the profession and the institution involved, serving as the Chair of the International Association for Structural Safety and Reliability, Director of the Canadian Association for Internship Program, Associate Dean Academic for the Faculty of Engineering at McGill, Dean of Engineering at UVic, and Warden of Camp 23 of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, to name a few.

The Faculty of Engineering, the many people whose lives he touched, and his profession are all made poorer by his passing. He will be missed.

James Haddow

Another colleague and friend to many in engineering, Dr. James (Jim) B. Haddow passed away January 3 at Parkwood Intensive Care due to complications of cancer. Dr. Haddow received his BSc in Mechanical Engineering from University of St. Andrews in 1951, MSc in Civil Engineering from University of Alberta in 1958, and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from University of Manchester in 1960. Haddow started his academic career at University of Alberta in 1955, reaching professor in 1965.

In 1988, Haddow took an early retirement from University of Alberta to join the UVic Department of Mechanical Engineering as an “auxiliary professor”—an Adjunct Professor on paper—where he conducted research and taught full time at UVic for more than 20 years. Over these decades, Haddow made invaluable contributions to funding and development of academic and research programs in engineering. He taught many courses, supervised and co-supervised many graduate students, and consistently gave more of himself in service to the department than would be expected or could be repaid.

Haddow was an internationally known scholar on continuum mechanics and continuum thermodynamics; nonlinear elasticity; linear and nonlinear wave propagation. He was an ICI Fellow, Senior Research Fellow of University of Glasgow and recipient of Canadian Congress of Applied Mechanics Achievement Award.

He will be remembered as a caring and cheerful teacher, mentor, dear colleague and friend to those in the mechanical engineering department and many others across campus.

—Submitted by Dr. Zuomin Dong

ROYAL SOCIETY LECTURE

What can coral reefs tell us about malaria?

Every year, more than 200 million people in tropical and subtropical regions of the world are infected with malaria and more than 600,000 die from it—mostly children.

We know a lot about malaria, including what causes it—a parasitic, single-cell microbe spread by mosquitoes—but how did this parasite evolve? And what can we learn from this evolutionary trail?

What scientists have discovered so far may surprise you.

Find out more on Jan. 30 when Dr. Patrick Keeling from the University of British Columbia’s Department of Botany, presents the 2013-14 Royal Society of Canada Governor General

Lecture at the University of Victoria.

Keeling is considered one of Canada’s most groundbreaking microbiologists. His research combines exploration of natural diversity with molecular biology and genomics to understand fundamental processes such as metabolism, symbiosis and gene exchange.

His lecture, “From Coral Reefs to Malaria: An Evolutionary Perspective of Intracellular Parasites,” will describe a convoluted evolutionary history peppered with odd characters, plot twists and exotic scenes.

“Our recent discovery that the malaria parasite contains a chloroplast raises an intriguing question,” says

Keeling. “Why would a parasite that develops in the dark within animal cells need a [cell structure] used for photosynthesis by plants and algae?”

The search for answers leads to—of all places—coral reefs.

“This whole project is a good illustration of how basic research is important,” says Keeling. “We never could have predicted any of this in a million years of guessing, but because of some good old-fashioned, curiosity-driven exploration of coral reef microbes, a whole new way of looking at the evolution of malaria has emerged.”

The Governor General Lecture takes place at 7 p.m. in room 105, Hickman Building. Info: ceremony@uvic.ca

Jan. 29–30: Critical conversations the norm at diversity conference

How does research benefit the community? How do we become allies in the movement for social justice? The 2014 Provost’s Diversity Research Forum: Arts, Allies and Activism, takes on these and other questions on Wednesday, Jan. 29 and Thursday, Jan. 30 at the University of Victoria. This annual conference brings together faculty, staff, students and community members to discuss groundbreaking research and engage in critical conversations on a wide range of equity and diversity topics, from gender and race to faith, sexuality and Indigenous approaches to the arts.

“This forum recognizes UVic scholars who do diverse research, and provides a space to share that research with our community,” says Grace Wong Sneddon, conference chair and adviser to the provost on equity and diversity. “Every voice is welcome, and we strive to create a safe space where people can talk about issues that are often difficult to discuss.”

The 2014 program features keynote speakers Denise Chong and Yvonne Brown. Chong is an internationally-



published and award winning writer, best known for The Concubine’s Children. She was named in 2013 as an Officer of the Order of Canada “for her contributions to Canadian culture as a writer, and for her civic engagement in social causes, notably in support of human rights and the arts.” Denise Chong’s presentation will be part of the opening reception at First Peoples House on Wednesday, Jan. 29 (4–7 p.m.), which will also feature a special performance—the Dance of the Big Button Blanket—and readings by winners of the Diversity Writing and Spoken Word contests.

Keynote speaker Yvonne Brown, a retired public school teacher, university lecturer, researcher, writer and social justice advocate, will speak on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 11:15 a.m. in the Student Union Building. Brown’s research, writing and workshops focus

on how the legacies of the transatlantic slave trade and plantation slavery on the continent of Africa and in its Diasporas are remembered in various struggles for citizenship.

Concurrent sessions on January 30 include From the Heart: How Arts, Allies and Activism all Converged in One Unconventional Theatre Production; First OUT: Introducing—Positive Space Network Workshop 2.0; and Racial, Religious and Other Forms of Otherness at UVic and Beyond.

The closing plenary, A Conversation with Indigenous Artists, will showcase the work of artists Lindsay Delaronde, Master Carver Charles Elliott, OBC and Victoria Poet Laureate Janet Rogers.

The conference is free of charge but pre-registration is required and space is limited. Everyone is welcome: faculty, staff, students and community members. More info: www.uvic.ca/diversityforum. Follow us on Twitter @diverseforum and on Facebook: uvicdiversityforum.

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calendar highlights

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

at the galleries

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■ **Exhibit.** *Adasla: The Movement of Hands*. Jan. 16 to April 25. This exhibition centres around the world's biggest button blanket. Created in collaboration with students at UVic's First Peoples House, the blanket invites new conversations about Indigenous button blanket makers and the artistic traditions that surround them. A project of the Williams Legacy Chair in Modern and Contemporary Art of the Pacific Northwest. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St.

■ **Exhibit.** *Art of the Book*. To March 24. Organized by the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild, this 30th anniversary juried exhibit features award winning work from some of the best makers in Canada and the US. Content ranges from calligraphy to blackout poetry, while the books take on imaginative forms such as luggage-style tags or DNA's double helix. Legacy Maltwood, at McPherson Library.

■ **Music.** *Song of the Earth*. January 6 to 11. The School of Music pays tribute to the celebrated late-Romantic Austrian composer Gustav Mahler in a week of special lectures, rehearsals, listening sessions and performances. <http://finearts.uvic.ca/music/events/2014/mahler/>

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *Faculty Chamber Music Series: Mahler*. Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin B125. Tickets \$13.50 to \$17.50. 250-721-8480

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

■ **Music.** 2:30 p.m. *Faculty Concert Series: Eugene Dowling, tuba*. MacLaurin B125. Tickets \$13.50 to \$17.50. 250-721-8634

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

■ **Cafe Scientifique Lecture.** 6:30 p.m. *Black Holes: More than Meets the Eye*. Dr. Laura Ferrarese (NRC/HIA and UVic). Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View St. 250-721-7744

■ **Film.** 7:30 p.m. *Peace Out*. Film screening of award-winning documentary. Fraser 159. 250-479-6622

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 10:30 a.m. *Responding to HIV: Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*. Dr. Evan Wood, Canada Research Chair in Inner-City Medicine (UBC). Cornett B135. 250-472-4496

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *The Voice in Your Head: Monologues from the New Messiahs*. Marita Dachsels, CSRS Artist-in-Residence, Writer. Strong C122. 250-721-6325

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. And Jan. 24 & 31. Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 3:30 p.m. *Ancient Jordan from the Air*. David Kennedy (Univ. of Western Australia). Senate Chambers, University Centre A180. 250-721-8514

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Tuesdaymusic*. And Jan. 28 & Feb. 4. Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

■ **Other.** 9:30 a.m. *Open Word: Readings and Ideas with Gillian Jerome*. Fine Arts 209. 250-383-8833

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Lieder at Lunch with Sharon & Harald Krebs*. The Hollywood Elegies of Hanns Eisler and Bertolt Brecht. MacLaurin B037. 250-721-8634

■ **Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Rocky Point Bird Observatory: Past, Present and Future*. Ann Nightingale. Fraser 159. 250-479-6622

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

■ **Other.** 4 p.m. *Visual Arts MFA Silent Auction*. Visual Arts Bldg., Audain Gallery. 250-721-8011.

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *The Guru-Sishya (Teacher-Student) Relationship in Sanskrit Scholarship*. Dr. Harold Coward (UVic). Strong C122. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *The 'Works of the Old Men' in Arabia*. David Kennedy (Univ. of Western Australia). University Centre A180, Senate Chambers. 250-721-8514

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

■ **Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *The Pacific Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea); an Occasional Canadian Resident*. Dr. Kenneth T. MacKay, Marine Biologist. Fraser 159. 250-479-6622

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *The Same Dark Tale of Intrigue and Conspiracy: Examining Antisemitism in Post-1989 Germany*. Charlotte Schallié (UVic). Strong C122. 250-721-6325

■ **Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Memory or Forgetfulness? Aegean Prehistory and Greek Heroic Tradition*. Prof. Margalit Finkelberg (Tel Aviv Univ.). University Centre A180. 250-721-8514

■ **Lansdowne Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *History, the Humanities, and the Promise of Possibilities*. Dr. Allyson Poska (Univ. of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA). Turpin A102. 250-721-7383

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *Faculty Concert: Lafayette String Quartet*. Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin B125. Tickets: \$25. 250-721-8480

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:30 p.m. *Engravings and Piercings: Andreas Vesalius and the Fabric of a Cultural Icon*. Dr. Hélène Cazes (UVic), recipient of the Faculty of Humanities Annual Award for Research Excellence. McPherson Library A003. 250-721-4677

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

■ **Other.** 1:30 p.m. *Open Word: Readings and Ideas with Nora Young*. Engineering & Computer Science Bldg. 104. 250-383-8833

ringers

Dr. Michael Roney (physics and astronomy) is the new director of the Institute of Particle Physics, which promotes Canadian excellence in particle physics research and education. The institute is the focal point for particle physics activities in Canada and a point of contact for partners in labs and universities around the world. Roney is known internationally for his work in electroweak and high-energy physics, as well as detector technologies. He served as president of the Canadian Association of Physicists in 2011–12.

Dr. Bruce Wright has been appointed as Head, Division of Medical Sciences at UVic (and Regional Associate Dean, UBC Faculty of Medicine) effective July 1, 2014. He joins us from U-Calgary where he specialized in geriatric medicine. He has also recently been involved in international medical curriculum development, including work in Nepal, Laos and Tanzania. Wright's appointment follows the leadership of **Dr. Oscar Casiro**, who will continue in his role until the end of his term on June 30, 2014. Dr. Casiro provided tremendous leadership during the first 10 years of the Island Medical Program and developed a strong program of neuroscience education and research.

RHODES CONTINUED FROM P.1

He worked in Kenya with the Foundation for Sustainable Development to increase the capacity of health care services in a rural region. Seeing street youths habitually sniff glue to ward off hunger pains left an indelible impression.

"Many foreigners seem to easily discount these children, seeing them through the lens of addiction," he says. "I was beginning to understand that this was not a behaviour of leisure, misjudgment or malicious intent, but of survival perpetuated by poverty, marginalization, stigma and disease."

Working with the BC Centre for Disease Control, he was part of a team that developed a province-wide program to reduce injury and deaths from overdoses of opioid drugs—such as morphine and heroin—using an "antidote" drug called naloxone.

"I worked on program policy and design, and then I got to co-teach the first 18 people on Vancouver's downtown east side," says Collins. "Seeing that policy translate into practice was incredibly powerful and sold me on this field of study."

This winter, Collins is completing his honours thesis in a BC Cancer

Agency lab on a project that involves the chemical modification of genes or gene-associated proteins. "This field has huge implications for diseases such as cancer," he says.

For the last year, he's been working with UVic's Centre for Aboriginal Health Research (CAHR) and a Haida Gwaii community on a project that explores barriers to harm reduction among Aboriginal people using illicit drugs.

"Dylan ranks among the most gifted students with whom it has been my pleasure to work," says Dr. Charlotte Reading, director of the CAHR. "As one of the world's foremost institutions of learning, Oxford is ideally suited to further prepare Dylan as a leader of the world's future."

At Oxford, Collins will pursue the British equivalent of a PhD through the Nuffield School of Population Health. "I'm committed to exploring the interactions between substance use, social determinants, and the broader context of poverty, colonization, culture and trauma."

UVic has produced seven Rhodes winners in the last 12 years, including last year (2013). Full Ring story and video about Collins: bit.ly/uvic-collins

WHY IS ONE UVIC LAB HOPPING WITH EXCITEMENT ABOUT BULLFROGS?

READ IT ONLINE bit.ly/ring-frog

PHOTO: DENNIS CHURCHILL



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day in the life

BY KAITLYN ROSENBURG

Though the UVic campus abounds with talent, Armando Tura has become something of a Renaissance man by pushing his interests to new heights both in the lab and on the field. During school hours, Tura – a PhD engineering grad -- can be found teaching undergrad courses or completing magnetic refrigeration research in one of the integrated energy systems labs. After school, he steps behind the camera as the Vikes official photographer, capturing UVic athletes at their best. And in his spare time, he sails and pilots his own plane, which he built.

Originally from Italy, Tura completed his bachelors, masters and PhD in mechanical engineering at UVic. “I almost completed my degree in engineering in Italy before coming here, but we got the immigration papers before I finished. Once you get that, you go,” he says.

Despite a great deal of academic success, Tura opted not to pursue a faculty position. “I prefer running the lab and teaching at the same time. If you have a faculty position, you end up with more administrative commitments. I’m a hands-on person.”

His students—usually first and fourth year—seem to appreciate his passion. “I love teaching, it’s extremely rewarding being able to help students become enthusiastic with their studies.”

And his photography, which he’s been doing for the Vikes since 2007, has meant he’s noticed in the classroom as well. “In the beginning, I’d get



A gallery of Tura’s photography appears on the Ring website at bit.ly/day-tura. PHOTO: ARMANDO TURA. Inset: Tura behind the lens.

a lot of double takes” from students who recognized Tura on the field. As an instructor, “I think it makes me more approachable,” he says.

Tura’s strong work ethic extends to his classroom practice as well. He expects a lot from his students and in return, they produce extremely high-quality work. “Often, in the beginning of the term, I assign something relatively simple that is worth next to nothing. I mark it really hard. It sets the tone and by the end of the course, the projects are beautiful.”

His dedication to high-quality

work led Tura to develop his photography well beyond the level of most hobbyists. “Photography is something I absolutely love to do. At the same time, I have to do it at a professional level,” says Tura, emphasizing his love for the act. “My enjoyment in photography is *taking* the photos, not *having* the photos.”

Which is why he loves the reaction he gets from athletes’ parents. “My photos get used, they’re appreciated,” says Tura.

As demand for his photos grew, Tura found he needed extra help.

Today, he and fellow engineering PhD Peter Oshkai snap every Vikes home game as AP Shutter Photography.

Much like Tura’s innovative refrigeration research, shooting the Vikes in action is challenging. “You become part of the game. In order to get the right shot, you have to predict what’s going to happen. It’s not just how fast the camera is, it’s you being ready for that to happen at the right place at the right time.”

Tura describes sport photography as being “inside the field,” and get-

ting as close as one possibly could to the game.

Ultimately, Tura’s success as a photographer stems from his insistence it’s not a profession. “I have to keep my photography part of my personal life. If photography is my main interest or profession, it loses that attraction and creativity I associate with it.”

Although Tura refuses to call his photography a profession, he would never deny his deep connection to his subjects. “You really become part of the game.”

The impact of one French tweet

BY TARA SHARPE

Visibilité. The word itself appears on the 1,873th page of *Le Grand Robert* (12th edition), a leading French dictionary. It can mean “impact” or revealing things clearly—and both senses are what Dr. Catherine Caws, chair of the UVic French department, achieved with her class, FRAN400: Advanced Studies in French Linguistics. On Sept. 10, the *Le Robert* editors—without paper or ink and entirely online—reached out impromptu to find out more about the UVic class. Now that’s visibility.

“Here we are on the West Coast of Canada,” says Caws, “teaching French in North America, and one of my students gets retweeted by *Le Robert* in Paris wanting to know about the course. Only Twitter could have this impact.”

The Fall 2013 upper-level course on lexicology and semantics, offered to third- and fourth-year UVic students in the French program, was intended to expose students to other scholars, ideas and sharing of knowledge and particularly by using Twitter (#lexico400). The class met once a week for two hours; students then engaged in discussion on the blog (lexico400.wordpress.com) to address various questions based on additional materials, including scholarly articles but also other coverage as well as video.

The first discussion was on a one-hour video by famous French lexicographer, media personality and *Le Robert* editor-in-chief Alain Rey. The topic caused a flurry of chatter and evaluation and “had a real impact on the students right away,” says Caws. “They got to discover and explore what



The tweet that started it all

it means to be a lexicographer.”

With 40 students in the class, Andrea Brown was the one whose tweet was seen by @LeRobert. She says the class “was a unique and fulfilling experience. It was an excellent opportunity to be able to connect with professionals through Twitter and be able to get an inside view of the world of networking. It was really neat to be retweeted by the dictionary.”

Caws also taught a first-year course that term; she points out nearly every student in the other class was on Twitter, while only two-thirds of her 400-level students already were. She believes the difference is somewhat generational—if the two cohorts can be considered within such a tight timeframe.

“Three years for me is a generation when it comes to Twitter,” she explains. “The concept of ‘generation’ in social media is *very* short.”

And tweets tend to appear, and dissipate, as fast as birdsong. But because Brown’s tweet came to the attention of a dictionary editor in France, now this UVic student has something to tell her own grandchildren—for whom online social connection will have evolved beyond all possible recognition by then.



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