On Feb. 26 at the Crystal Garden, over 400 guests celebrated 21 extraordinary nominees in eight award categories at a special 10th anniversary gala of the Victoria Leadership Awards (VLAs).

UVic is a founding partner of the annual VLA program. This year, Dr. Hélène Cazes and Prof. Donna Greschner received the UVic award. A number of the community heroes celebrated last night are either from, or affiliated with, the university.

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

**Hélène Cazes**
Dr. Cazes is a specialist of humanism. An associate professor in UVic’s Department of French, she is also the faculty coordinator of the Humanities Diploma Program—offered with the Division of Continuing Studies as an alternative curriculum—and the director of UVic’s Program of Medieval Studies. Her research asks such questions as "What is a legacy?" and "How do legacies make communities?" An active member and founder of inclusive research groups (i.e. Early Childhood, History of Medicine, Book Collections), Cazes also works with the library to build free programs, exhibitions and open-access publications.

**Donna Greschner**
Prof. Greschner, former dean of UVic Law, is known for linking the university and community for greater public benefit. She has helped expand the faculty’s clinical programs—in which law students help clients who have limited financial resources—and was instrumental in harnessing the downtown law clinic co-locate with Victoria’s new Justice Access Centre. Greschner has created and improved connections between UVic and the profession, and she speaks effectively for the university in many legal organizations in this city and beyond. She is also a strong advocate in the community on issues about access to justice.

**The VLA partnership**
The VLAs were established in 2004 to recognize the commitment of community champions who work collaboratively to see leadership awards p.3

**US patent for UVic process to battle cancer**
Chemistry professor Dr. Frank van Veggel likes to work with extremely small particles and very big ideas. He’s developed a process whereby nanoparticles, each 10 times smaller than a speck of dust, could someday assist oncologists better identify and target cancerous tumours and, in some cases, eliminate the need for painful and potentially dangerous biopsies.

His optimistic view is shared by the US Patent Office, which granted a patent on Feb. 11 for van Veggel’s patented process involving synthesizing nanoparticles of the lanthanides sodium and fluoride. Lanthanides, which are available in small amounts throughout the world, are a family of 14 elements with unique optical and magnetic properties. While a Canadian patent application is currently being reviewed by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office and will likely be issued in the near future, a US patent can produce bigger rewards.

“The patent gets companies interested in supporting further research,” says van Veggel. “You want to cover the US because the potential market is so big and there’s a greater potential to access venture capital.”

Using one of UVic’s advanced electron microscopes, van Veggel and his team of eight to 10 researchers need about a week to synthesize a vial of lanthanide nanoparticles in water that is then sent to a collaborator at the University of Calgary for further lab tests involving MRI technology. Van Veggel’s patented process provides higher image contrast in research MRIs, opening the door to develop protocols that will later be put to use in hospitals.

"Following injection prior to an MRI, the nanoparticles will not only inform a surgeon as to the location of a tumour but also provide a better image of its shape which helps surgeons determine how much surrounding tissue needs to be removed," says van Veggel. “We hope to make the material so potent that we will be able to find very small tumours.” His new process might even eliminate the need for some biopsies.

Full story online at bit.ly/ring-van
February was a busy month for UVic's Difference Project. March promises to be even busier.

The project, which was publicly launched at the end of February, aims to renew and sharpen UVic's positioning, develop clear, compelling and widely shared answers to the question, "What choose "UVic" for our key audiences, and zero in on the qualities that truly differentiate UVic from its competitors.

Last month saw presentations to a variety of campus groups and an open dialogue on the project for faculty and students, as well as 4,780 responses to a survey of university community members and another 1,250 points from 393 prospective students, their parents and business leaders in BC and other geographic target areas was still in the field as the Ring went to press.

March 17–28 will see a series of in-depth "FutureCast" dialogue sessions for both students and faculty/staff to discuss the scope of the project, a steering project committee for positioning UVic with key audiences such as current and prospective students, faculty, staff, and funders and partners. Strong input from university community members on this part of the project is critically important.

During the president's Campus Conversations process last fall, faculty and staff expressed a desire for a more transparent, data-driven process to provide them with the tools to facilitate and better align resources with university priorities," says Matoz. "The working group's activities represent phase one of Enhanced Planning. Making Choices: an institutional planning initiative—led by Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Roy, and supported by an advisory committee with members of the senate and other faculty and staff. The working group is supported by an advisory committee with members of the senate and other faculty and staff.

Recommendations will be presented to the campus Integrated Planning Committee this spring.

"The long-term goal of these planning processes is to ensure UVic can maintain the quality of its programs and services—education, research and community engagement—in our current financially constrained environment," says Matoz. "We want to develop a set of enhanced tools that will allow decision-makers to assess the quality, resource requirements and other programs and activities in support of the university's institutional priorities. The criteria and data need to be reliable, valid and evidence-based, so they can be consistently applied across campus."

Over the next few months, the working group will be consulting with members of the university community to help it recommend criteria and data sets that will assist current and proposed planning processes. The working group will also review the kinds of information being developed and used by comparable universities.

"We are pleased that the calibre of our research-enhanced learning environment here at the University of Victoria continues to receive international recognition," said UVic’s President Jamie Cassels. "It highlights the strength and reach of the university’s English language and literature, psychology, earth and marine sciences, geography, physics and astronomy, and law," UVic ranks among the top 200 in the world in these subjects, according to the Times Higher Education-Brookings Institution Academic Planning Katy Matoz, Chair of the President Academic Planning Committee, said the group’s task is to recommend an institutional and be available online by the end of March.

Between March 17–28, there will be physical installations around campus, supported by social media, that ask additional and vital questions about UVic’s place in the world. More information about the project’s role in UVic’s future is available at uvic.ca/theuvicdifference.

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The working group’s recommendations will be presented to the Integrated Planning Committee (IPC) later this spring, with some of the information targeted to be available to university students beginning in fall 2014.

The IPC, led by Tremblay, includes UVic’s vice-presidents and associate vice-presidents, sets annual institutional planning priorities to ensure resource allocation across the university is consistent with the objectives of the strategic plan. Phase 2 of the Enhanced Planning: Making Choices process will take place at the faculty and unit level once the working group has finished its work. Deans, managers and VPs will use the information and data gathered by the working group to make planning choices within each department and portfolio.

More info bit./uvic-plan
A BURNING QUESTION

A UVic graduate student smokes out the facts on the health risks of e-cigarettes

BY KIM WESTAD

They’re the latest must-have accessory on the celebrity circuit, have their own slang language and are predicted to outsell conventional cigarettes within 10 years. While electronic cigarettes—commonly known as e-cigarettes—have caught on in popular culture, they’re dividing the medical community.

Some view them as a gateway to increased cigarette use, opening the health community with hard data and accurate information.”

By Sept. 2013, the company where Lik worked was sold to Imperial Tobacco for $75 million (US).

The carrier liquid of propylene glycol and glycerin is called “e-juice.”

One study found that exhaled vapour contained acetone, formaldehyde, ultrafine metal particles and several other chemicals.

“My job as a researcher isn’t to form opinions or be an activist but to look at the data and provide clear information in a way people can understand and make their choices.”

The UVic Family Centre’s 11th annual No Foolin’ event takes place April 4, from 4:30–6:30 p.m. in the Family Centre, Lam Circle family house complex. No Foolin’ is an opportunity for UVic student families, community supporters and local businesses to celebrate the energy and diversity families and their children bring to campus life. The event highlights the vibrant family community on campus and raises awareness about the challenges and barriers student families can face. Parachute games, relay races, ethnic food, pizza and ice cream are all part of the free program. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact family@uvic.ca for more information.
A student’s big vision for small things

Invisible worlds exist all around us. And UVic biology undergraduate James Tyrwhitt-Drake has made it his mission to reveal the smallest of those worlds, with spectacular results.

BY JULIA BOB

The invisibility of microscopic creatures, much like the perceivable immensity that comes with the speeds and flapping of a hummingbird’s wings, requires special equipment to capture and scrutinize. For Tyrwhitt-Drake, that equipment is the scanning electron microscope (SEM) in UVic’s Advanced Microscopy Facility.

Tyrwhitt-Drake’s enthusiasm is contagious: he thinks of himself as a “science artist” and explains the motivation behind his work in grand terms. “I just want to show everyone that the world is beautiful.”

“We use technology as simply a tool for comfort,” he clarifies, “but it can also be used as a window into other worlds.” In this world, the human body can not experience unaided.

The microscope isn’t Tyrwhitt-Drake’s only medium. In his first year at UVic, he downloaded photographs of the Earth taken from the International Space Station and compiled them into a time-lapse video that feels like flying over the planet at night. On YouTube, Tyrwhitt-Drake’s video has been viewed over seven million times. “That’s when I knew I could change the world.”

Turning his attention to smaller scales allowed him to merge his interests in art and cell biology. After attending a workshop offered by the Advanced Microscopy Facility, Tyrwhitt-Drake decided to use the SEM in a similar fashion to an optical microscope. He shares his findings with a wide audience through accessible, beautiful images.

The resulting images are the combination of scientific prowess, artistic vision and commitment to detail. And for all his grand ambition, Tyrwhitt-Drake seems driven at least as much by curiosity. “I want to see just how much information I could extract from the microscope.” Using complex strategies like image stitching and depth stacking, he was able to create poster-sized high-resolution images with hundreds of megapixels and short animations revealing the greater context of his specimens. This has yielded images like that of a single mouse neuron cell, with each biological component painstakingly coloured.

James estimates took a hundred hours of work to produce. Another image, a diatom, a unicellular type of phytoplankton, graced the cover of the Microscopy Society of Canada Bulletin in 2013. An animated version of the same sample finds its way to the website of the Smithsonian. The public seems hungry for just this mix of discovery and infinitesimally beautiful.

Though he could graduate this spring, Tyrwhitt-Drake plans to stay at UVic for an additional year to take directed studies in electron microscopy. He hopes to further his work with the SEM and perhaps even learn to use the most powerful microscope in the world—UVic’s scanning electron transmission microscopy holography microscope—to investigate DNA on an atomic level. Tyrwhitt-Drake’s art is poised to advance in new directions, as well, he’s looking to 3D-printing as a means to produce sculptural representations of biological samples. We can’t wait to see what the future holds.

A gallery of Tyrwhitt-Drake’s images appears online at bit.ly/Tyrwhitt-Drake.
CELEBRATION OF EXCEPTIONAL STAFF

The celebration of this year’s President’s Distinguished Service Award recipients, hosted by President Jamie Cassels, took place on Feb. 20 at the University Club. Reeta Tremblay, U Vic’s vice-president academic and provost, and Kane Kilhey, associate vice-president human resources, made presentations before the announcement of this year’s recipients.

“I am delighted to celebrate the 2013 PDSA winners and nominees,” said President Cassels. “The university’s core strength is its people. All of our employees contribute in important ways to the success of our university, our students and our community and I want to thank the nominees, and all our staff and faculty for your dedication to excellence.”

This year, the Team Award for Innovation was presented to the Laboratory Coordination and Instructional Team in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education. The individual award recipients were Lois Holizki (Centre on Aging), Award for Excellence in Service; Rossi Marx (Department of Biology), Award for Excellence in Service; and Yin Lui (University of Victoria Libraries), The First Five Years: Outstanding Contribution.

More information on recipients and nominees: www.uvic.ca/hr/services/home/recognition/pdsas/event-info/

TEAM AWARD FOR INNOVATION

Laboratory Coordination and Instructional Team

School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education (EPHE)

Students enrolled in any of the 10 EPHE courses requiring labs have benefited from this year’s recipient of the Team Award for Innovation, The members of the Laboratory Co-ordination and Instructional Team (LCT)—Melissa Clarke, Janine Drummond, Greg Mulligan, Holly Murray and Veronica Planella—not only assist 1,000 students annually in their own labs but also provide support when students’ studies take them into the labs of other departments.

Team members go beyond the traditional style of lab experience to engage students and encourage their input to provide an authentic research experience. Students also praise LCT’s efforts to provide access to cutting-edge technologies, preparing students to meet the challenges of employment.

“The implementation of active participation in these laboratories has opened many opportunities for future success and allowed me to become involved in research projects within the faculty that coincide with my interests and experiences,” says kinesiology student Jeremie Elder.

The team members don’t just teach students—they mentor them as well, recruiting volunteer learning assistants (LAs) to assist in the labs.

“When I was approached to become an LA I was deeply honoured,” says kinesiology student Marie-Claude Magnan. “Now I interact with the material in a different way and truly understand the efforts and passions the team puts into their work.”

The LA program was established in the early 1980s and this year’s team award recognizes not only the current LCT members but the legacy of those who went before them.

“This team goes above and beyond the expectations for a laboratory-based course,” says Elder, “and ensures that each individual leaves with a unique and enriched experience that enhances overall knowledge and proves beneficial in pursuing future careers.”

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Lois Holizki
Manager, Centre on Aging
Lois Holizki (formerly Edgar) is the backbone of the Centre on Aging and the person everyone turns to for help. As a gifted administrator and multi-tasker Holizki works with all levels of staff, faculty and students to make sure the centre’s project goals are met on a daily basis.

Holizki has worked at the Centre on Aging for more than 17 years. She supervises staff supporting 89 facility research affiliates representing 18 disciplines in over eight faculties, while maintaining relationships with more than 600 individuals and organizations.

“Her candour, strong work ethic and commitment to high standards, building rapport and respect make her a natural mentor to both staff and colleagues, and a most valuable asset to the knowledge gatherers and knowledge users,” says research coordinator Vincenza Gruppuso.

Over the years, Holizki has developed a strong affinity for promoting and advocating for activities and research that advance the well-being and interests of the older person. “She can be credited with actively supporting and recruiting for activities such as Café Sociologique, International Day of Older Persons’ Lecture and Tea, Meso-lands and Isleados,” says Gruppuso.

“Especially important is Lois’ ability with communications—always concise and comprehensive—and concern for the dignity and rights of everyone,” says Patrick McGowan, professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy. According to Debra Sheets, associate professor, School of Nursing, “Lois is an inspiration to everyone at the centre and those who know her across the university and the community.”

AWARDS SEE PDSA P.8
Teck named 2013 UVic Co-op Employer of the Year

It takes a very special co-op employer to stand out from the nearly 1,000 employer organizations that hired UVic co-op students in 2013, since each and every organization has provided outstanding learning opportunities to our amazing co-op students. So it’s with great excitement that Co-op and Career has named Teck, Canada’s largest diversified resource company, as our 2013 UVic Co-op Employer of the Year.

Teck has hired an impressive 105 engineering and computer science/math co-op students in the past three years alone, welcoming students at every stage of their academic studies, from first year to graduating students. "The company prides itself on providing mentorship; students are placed within a team that includes a lead engineer and engineers-in-training—everyone contributes to ongoing feedback and a holistic approach to learning," says Duncan Hogg, Engineering and Computer Science/Math co-op coordinator.

"Teck is passionate about mentoring students by providing dynamic co-op experiences and having a consistent presence on campus at career fairs and info sessions," says Duncan Hogg, Engineering and Computer Science/Math co-op coordinator. "It’s not surprising that a co-op position at Teck is highly regarded by our students."

The company has also supported experiential learning right here on campus. As a sponsor of UVic’s student-run Formula SAE team since 2011, Teck has given the team the resources to design and build open-wheel race cars that are submitted to the Formula SAE design series each year.

Within the company, Teck has hired students to work on projects as diverse as increasing the reliability and maintenance of haul trucks, to supporting real-time critical information systems. Students have worked at Teck’s operations across British Columbia, including Highland Valley Copper in Logan Lake, the Trail metallurgical complex, and at its steelmaking coal operations in the Elk Valley.

"Across the board, Teck has enhanced student learning," says Norah McRae, executive director of Co-op and Career. "Students reflect on their competency development as part of their work term experience, and regardless of their projects at Teck, they consistently identify teamwork and communication as key competencies valued by the company—these line up perfectly with the skills we encourage students to develop. Teck is also notable for its commitment to communities—we are proud to call our amazing co-op students. So and every organization has provided outstanding learning opportunities to our amazing co-op students.

Kevin Kerr is coming full circle. Now a professor in the Department of Writing, Kerr—an accomplished director himself—has never had the opportunity to tackle Unity (1918). "I was such a generous welcome to the Faculty of Fine Arts," he says. "I grantied, I felt a little funny about directing, as my relationship to it had always been from a writing perspective. And since I’d seen a lot of the other productions, I felt a little intimidated—how do I let go of those other shows, and shake up my own expectations of what the script is?"

That’s a good question for any writer tackling his own material. "Sometimes I say to myself, ‘What was I thinking when I wrote that?’” Kerr laughs. "But overall, I’m enjoying the process of trying to figure it out again, instead of creating it new.” This is also the second time Unity has been performed in Victoria; the first was Theatre SKAM’s 2004 production featuring eight Phoenix alumni in both cast and creative roles.

Kerr, who co-founded and is now artistic director of Vancouver’s Electric Company Theatre, has earned accolades for plays that push the boundaries of theatre itself. And how does he square recent work like the acclaimed film/theatre hybrid, True The Curtain/with an early show like Unity? “This is my ‘straighten’ play, so it lends itself to a particular style of direction,” he admits. “It’s not quite the process I’m most familiar with—a traditional model. “He hints we can still expect a few surprises with the upcoming Phoenix production. “It’s going to have some great physical elements that give us both the strength and scope of the Pantages, but still play with a sense of intimacy.”

Clearly, Kerr is enjoying the process of returning to an earlier work in a whole new role. “For me, it’s the balance between finding the authenticity and naturalism in the acting, but still allowing the piece to really embrace what theatre does—to activate our imaginations or singular as a photograph,” he says. “It’s fun to find those parts in the play.”

Unity (1918) runs March 13-22 at UVic’s Phoenix Theatre. Call 250-721-8000 for tickets, or visit http://finearts.uvic.ca/theatre/phoenix/tickets/

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at the galleries
www.uvic.ca/galleries
250-721-8562

Exhibit. Adolfo: The Movement of Hands. Until April 25. This exhibition centers around the creation and exhibition of the World’s Biggest Button Blanket. Created over the fall 2013 academic term, in collaboration with students at UVic’s Surrey People’s 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 North- west, Art Gallery, 600 Venus St.

Exhibit. Art of the Book. To March 26. Art of the Book 2013 both embodies and defines the traditional definition of what a book can be. The content ranges from calligraphy to blackletter poetry, while the books take on imaginative forms such as type-lapuyo tags or double-sided drawings. Drawing from ancient tech- niques, the artists have represented a full history of book making, including the modern e-book. Organized by the Canadian Booksellers and Book Artists Guild, this 30th anniversary juried exhibit features award-winning work from some of the best makers in Canada and the United States. Legacy Malwood, at McPherson Library.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Other. 6:30 p.m. Open Mind Readings and Ideas with Tomas Mabogunje as part of its literary series. Human & Social Dev. Bldg., A240. 250-721-7020

Saturday, March 8

Studies in Religion & Society Lecture. 4:30 p.m. Joel L. Oppenheimer—From the Great War in the Middle East. Eugene Ragan, Wright Centre Bldg. 250-721-7322

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Music. 11 a.m. UVIC Orchestra-Modesch. Adjunct Chair, conductor. UVIC Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets: 5/17, 5/30. 250-721-8410

Saturday, March 8

Studies in Religion & Society Lecture. 4:30 p.m. Joel L. Oppenheimer—From the Great War in the Middle East. Eugene Ragan, Wright Centre Bldg. 250-721-7322

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Cafe Scientific. 7 p.m. How Can We Maximize Your Health? McKinnon Bldg., 150. 250-721-7020

Monday, March 17

Café Scientific. 8:30 p.m. The Challenges of Bringing Molecular Diagnostics to the Developing World. Dr. Paul Romaniuk (UVIC). 755 View St. 250-721-7744

Tuesday, March 18

CAHR Lecture. 11 a.m. Alexis Kozlowski—Cultural Conservation and Regulation Methods within Traditional Fishing and Hunt- ing. Dr. Jacque Green, Project Manager for the Indigenous Coast Well-being Research Network. First Peoples House—Ceremonial Hall. 250-721-4514

Wednesday, March 19

Music. 12 p.m. Developing Entrepreneurial Skills through Music Outreach. Drive Series in Fine Arts presents guest workshop with Windsync Woodwind Quintet. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8531

Thursday, March 20

Centre for Global Studies Lecture. 12 p.m. Cultural Cosmopolitanism: Contestedness & Contestation. Dr. Antje Wiener. Strong Bldg., C122. 250-721-6145

Monday, March 24


Monday, March 31

Music. 5 p.m. Visual Jazz Spring Show- case. Wendell Clayton, director; MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8664

Wednesday, April 2

Lecture/ Seminar. 3 p.m. Human Rights and Social Justice through Arts and Capacity-Building. Prof Emeritus, David Turner. Strong Bldg. 250-721-8664
BY KATLYN ROSENBERG

Victoria’s restaurant reviewers have some fresh (and easily recognizable) competition, thanks to the Don Ho Dining Club. Formed in November 2012, the club began in a break room shared by the UVic paint and carpentry shops, fittingly, the idea of a monthly restaurant excursion first surfaced up for discussion over lunch. But how would the club stand out? We wanted to make it fun, so we all wear Hawaiian shirts,” says Ken Saunders, paint department supervision. (Despite speculation, the Saunders Annex—home to both units and their lunchroom—isn’t actually named for Ken.) And the club name? Don Ho was a singer from Hawaii, famous for his song “Tiny Bubbles” — and it doesn’t take much coaxing to get the club to sing a few verses.

Mike Puseka takes the uniform seriously, owning 25 unique shirts. Beads, leis and sunglasses are acceptable accessories. “The shirts are a morale booster. Brings camaraderie to the club,” explains Michael Hankshaw, a locksmith.

Each month, the club visits a new restaurant picked by a rotating member. After the meal, a score marked out of ten is submitted. Service, food and bathroom quality are all taken into account, with a rating and photos of each dish posted to their website afterwards.

The February club destination was Pizzeria Prima Strada on Bridge Street. I joined eight Donas—as they’ve named themselves—for a three-course Italian meal, and became “Donna” for the evening. Though we’re far from campus, it’s easy to see that the break room where the club was founded continues to be its anchor: three Donas work in the carpentry shop, and another three are from the paint shop. They’re a diverse lot: the oldest Don, real name Don Donald, is 66; the youngest, Michael, was born in 1978, though he claims to not remember his age. Carpenter Lloyd Thomas will retire in a month. Paul Ward is anti-bunker sticker. One Don rides motorcycles.

Five grow up in Victoria. After leaving UVic, Glen Ashmore remains an honorary member. Ray Adriano—who was given special permission to join, as he works for campus security—suffered a minor disappointment at Prima Strada after discovering the pizzeria didn’t have a ham and pineapple offering. Overall comments about the night’s venue remained positive: “The great taste of Italy without travelling there.” “How do you know? You’ve never been!” “It’s a turn of phrase!” After dinner, talk turns to politics.

Discussion touched briefly on past restaurants, including The Local Kitchen (“burnt ribs”), the Tartan Toque (“an indoor food truck”) and Ithaka’s (“amazing Greek food”).

The final tally for Pizzeria Prima Strada will be posted on the club website at donhodiningclub.victoria.weebly.com. For Hawaiian-shirt-seekers paparazzi and others looking to catch the club in action, March’s location has already been decided: Spitfire Grill will be the next venue to experience the friendship and Hawaiian shirts of UVic’s cheerful and colourful Don Ho Dining Club.

BY MOIRA DANN

Nearly 150 people (mostly women) gathered Feb. 19 at UVic to take part in a Take The Lead live-stream webinar, to address gender challenges to achieving success in the workplace. Take The Lead, a new US-based organization that works to prepare, develop, inspire and propel women to take their fair and equal share of leadership positions, drew half a million web-linked viewers and influenced the scoring process. And some Dons argued they’d receive preferential treatment that would influence the scoring process. And what about deciding on new places to visit? Quantity over quality food produced a lively debate.

After an evening of this club’s camaraderie, it’s hard to believe that some members have opted to leave. “The Hos have fallen on hard times. Some members have decided to become healthy,” quips Michael, whose youthful charm suggests the once-monthly restaurant excursions don’t pose substantial health risks.

Half a million women lean into web event

AWARD FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS – OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Ying Liu

University of Victoria Librarian

Since Ying Liu joined UVic Libraries as a reference and subject liaison librarian in 2008, she has made several outstanding contributions and improvements to the learning environment at UVic.

Ying’s dedication to building a meaningful research environment, and to creating and sustaining international research relationships with a multitude of global partners not only signifies the integrity of her professional dedication as a librarian, but her larger impact as a member of UVic and the local community.

“I can unconditionally state that Ying has been one of the most productive and accomplished librarians at UVic. Glen Ashmore remains an outstanding member. Ray Adriano—who was given special permission to join, as he works for campus security—suffered a minor disappointment at Prima Strada after discovering the pizzeria didn’t have a ham and pineapple offering. Overall comments about the night’s venue remained positive: “The great taste of Italy without travelling there.” “How do you know? You’ve never been!” “It’s a turn of phrase!” After dinner, talk turns to politics.

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Speakers included TTL co-founder Gloria Feldt (author of No Excuses: 9 Ways Women Can Change How We Think About Power) and the laughter-inducing, gospel-music singing Carla Harris (author of Expect to Win), who spoke about the power of authenticity—and had the Victoria audience thousands of kilometres away from the University of Arizona host site singing along with her.

Keynote speaker Sheryl Sandberg—author of the best-selling book Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead, current COO of Facebook and former vice-president of Google—addressed the core challenge: that women’s progress in the workplace and in society has stalled. Sandberg offered ideas about how to give success a jump-start, including encouraging young girls who are disparaged as “bossy” — noting that many women in leadership positions today had to endure similar labels on their path to success.

Referring to TTL as “today’s women’s movement,” TTL strives to be a catalyst for women to embrace power and reach leadership parity. The Feb. 19 launch event was meant to gather and galvanize women in business to redouble efforts to close the pay and leadership gaps.

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Mozart is also a skilled mentor for new instructors and graduate students and a passionate contributor to community outreach activities. She has been the chair of the Vancouver Island Science Fair since 2006, and is responsible for all of her students, says former professor and Canada Research Chair in Deep Oceans, Ying Liu. 

“Ying’s students speak of the impact of herZeal and enthusiasm, as well as her emphasis on critical thinking and excellence. “She made countless efforts to make the time for all of her students,” says former student Fawn Yastremski. “Dr. Marx inspired me to view life in an entirely different way.”

The Ring