University of Victoria

SPEED READING

OCTOBER 7 FEATURED EVENT
President's Campus Update
Join President Cassels on Oct. 7 for the President's Campus Update, where he'll review some of UVic's accomplishments of the past year and address some of the challenges, opportunities and plans for the years ahead. Everyone is welcome to join in this town-hall meeting, which will provide opportunities for questions and engagement. Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2014 from noon–1:15 p.m. in the Michelle Pujol Room of the SUB.

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
UVic ranked among world’s elite universities
On Oct. 1, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings placed UVic on its elite Top 200 list, among the top one per cent of universities around the world. Ranked at #173 globally, UVic is the top-ranked university in Canada without a medical school. Only eight Canadian universities were ranked in the Top 200.

ENROLMENT UPDATE
Welcoming our largest class to date
September brought the largest incoming student class to date at UVic, with 21,255 students enrolled—up 2.4 per cent from last year. Most of the growth is among undergraduates, with notable increases in engineering and business programs. International enrollment also continues to rise. An official count will be conducted in November, along with full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers. Statistically, the year stands poised to record solid, sustainable growth for our campus community.

OCEANS RESEARCH
Ancient technology, meet the future of underwater archaeology

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE
Using some of the newest technologies in underwater archaeology, Quentin Mackie (anthropology) and Alison Proctor (engineering) may have discovered one of the oldest archaeological finds in Canada. Right now all they know for sure is that they’ve discovered a line of basketball-sized rocks on the seafloor. Those rocks may well add to the mounting evidence about the ingenuity of an ice age people who lived and thrived on the west coast of Canada while much of Europe was still under ice. It’s a tantalizing possibility.

Two UVic scholars help debut new national college

BY VAL SHORE
Two University of Victoria researchers—a psychologist who studies how we age mentally and a computer scientist who explores new ways to sort through large amounts of information—are charter members of a new national “college” for outstanding young scholars.

Stuart MacDonald and Margaret-Anne Storey have been elected by their peers into the Royal Society of Canada’s newly formed College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. "To qualify, members must be within 15 years of receiving their PhDs or equivalent. The membership term is seven years. Stuart MacDonald research focuses on cognition—thought, reason and memory—as we age, looking for early indicators for decline and diseases such as Alzheimer’s. He and his team are now able to detect the first signs of cognitive decline up to 10 years in advance of dementia diagnosis. Early detection offers hope of pushing back the onset of disease, by using interventions such as exercise, social interaction and regular cognitive activity. "Living an engaged lifestyle helps us maximize ‘health-span’ and helps us avoid multiple diseases of aging, including vascular diseases which negatively influence cognitive function," he says. Being part of the first cohort in the new college is very gratifying, says MacDonald. “I’m particularly excited by the opportunity to raise regularly with experts from across Canada, with the promise of influencing policy and facilitating successful aging for Canadians.”

As a world expert in software visualization and social technologies, Storey studies how technology can help people explore, understand and share complex information and knowledge. “We’re trying to understand the interplay of technology, human behaviour, cognitive ability and social structure,” she says. “This allows us to design new software tools for interacting with large, complex information resources.” Storey’s research has led to software improvements in many areas, including software engineering, education, security analytics and biomedicine. “My most recent work looks at how social media is revolutionizing how we create and curate knowledge,” says Storey. “Our goal

THE RING

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PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

MacDonald. PHOT0. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

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New HSD centre to support Indigenous student success

By Denise Helm

Shauna Underwood remembers all too well what it was like to be an Indigenous student at UVic—trying to do well in her studies while also being a single parent of three children and having cultural responsibilities in her community. “I felt like I didn’t have anyone to go to. There were individual instructors who were great, but they are not always on campus or available,” said Underwood, now the Indigenous advisor at the newly opened Indigenous Student Support Centre (ISSC) in the Faculty of Human and Social Development.

The centre opened in September to provide students with a welcoming space where they can receive cultural, emotional and academic support. As the faculty with one of the largest numbers of Indigenous students—220, or about one-fifth of all under-graduate and graduate Indigenous students enrolled at UVic—HSD has long understood the importance of providing students culturally appropriate support. It hired the university’s first faculty-based Indigenous advisor, Roger John, in the mid-1990s.

“Our students’ homes communities are usually small, and although systems they are dealing with at home can be complex, when they come here it can be overwhelming and some leave without finishing their studies,” said ISSC Dean Mary Ellen Parkus. “Here, they can talk to someone who understands them.”

Having support at the faculty level can help on-campus and distance students in HSD’s seven schools— nurs ing, public administration, child and youth care, social work, health and information science, public health and social policy, and Indigenous governance—with information specific to their programs.

The centre takes the support to a new level by pulling together Indigenous-related resources, being a central contact for prospective students or communities wanting information about HSD programs, providing faculty with advice on Indigenous initiatives as well as being a physical space where students can socialize with peers, debrief after a tough day, have a snack, attend a weekly talking circle or meet with an Elder.

“The students I’ve been working with are brilliant, they can get really good grades,” said Underwood. “Often the barriers are the other things they are dealing with like a death in their community, such as a suicide. That isn’t easy while also trying to finish a paper that needs to be in the next day. Helping them succeed is very rewarding.”

For faculty members and staff, the centre offers advice and knowledge from a team that includes administrative officer Angela Polifront, formerly with Indigenous governance, administrative assistant Alana Sayers and faculty lead Jeanine Carriers, an associate professor in the School of Social Work and former director of aboriginal student services at the University of Alberta.

“Another centre is for the right schools for the different types of students. We get all different types of requests,” said Carriers. “Working with the School of Public Administration, which has developed the new Diploma in First Nations Governance and Administration is one example.

“The ISSC works closely with the First Peoples House and other Indigenous services on campus, referring students to other resources as appropriate.”

The centre is in the HSD building, room B211, and is open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. More info: uvic.ca/hsd/issc

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Meet our researchers!

Who are our researchers? What do they study? How and is their work relevant to our lives?

Find out in the recently updated Faces of UVic Research video series, in which individual researchers give a short and succinct “elevator pitch” on their work—in everyday language—that quickly gets to the heart of what they do and why it matters.

The ongoing video series is aimed at anyone wanting to learn more about the depth, breadth and impact of UVic’s research talent, particularly prospective students and faculty, public and private sector funders, and the news media.

The third batch of new videos—120 in total, each just over one minute long—are now live online at: youtube.com/FacesUVicResearch. The videos are searchable by name and area of expertise—just enter a name or keyword in the search bar at the top and add “uvic faces.”

There are now 376 UVic faculty members profiled in this video series, plus short profiles of the university’s 18 multidisciplinary research centres.

“Browsing through these videos and you’ll clearly see the range, passion and commitment of our researchers and artists as they seek to better understand our world and make a difference to it,” says Dr. David Castle, UVic’s vice-president research. “It’s this energy and drive that enriches the learning experience for our students and continues to earn our researchers international recognition.”

FACES OF UVIC RESEARCH
Unite to Change with United Way

Two University of Victoria scholars Unite to Change with United Way

NEW ROYAL SOCIETY FELLOWS

Lilburn have been elected by their peers as fellows of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) for their remarkable record for a department, "says Sager. "It is an essential source of information about public policy. Unless we learn from history, we're steering ourselves in the dark."

Lilburn's work has been translated into French, Chinese, Siberian, German, Spanish and Polish, and has been widely anthologized. He gives readings and lectures around the world and is a frequent guest on radio and television. His many awards include the Governor General's Award in Literature in 2005 for Kilise. His most recent book of poetry is Asinboina (2012).

Sager is one of Canada's pre-eminent historians and a long-time crusader for the relevance of history to daily life. He studies the history of families in Canada—what they looked like in the past and how they survived a century or more ago—and the history of income inequality.

"Our understanding of households, families and income distribution depends on the use of historical census data," says Sager. "The census is an essential source of information for governments and the private sector to make informed decisions and offer advice on public policy. Unless we learn from history, we're steering ourselves in the dark."

Sager is the author of two books on the history of sailing ships in Atlantic Canada, a book on workers on Canadian steamships, and a small book on the history of Darwin, Australia. He also co-authored a book on the history of unemployment and families in Canada.

Sager is the sixth UVic historian to receive an earlier decision that granted $137.4 million of the $147 million cut from postsecondary education in 2013—2014 federal budget this week, focusing on enhanced funding for research and innovation, an opportunities strategy for young Canadians and new initiatives to support Indigenous postsecondary education. Details. bit.ly/AUCC-14

The Ring October 2014 Page 3

Provincial and federal budget submissions

On September 19, the Research Universities Canada (RUCBC) presented its submission to the BC Legislature’s Finance Committee, stressing the need for short-term reinvestment and long-term strategic funding for postsecondary education. Online at bit.ly/RUCBC-14

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) also released recommendations for the 2015 federal budget this week, focusing on enhanced funding for research and innovation, an opportunities strategy for young Canadians and new initiatives to support Indigenous postsecondary education. Details. bit.ly/AUCC-14

Texting "wolf" with campus alerts

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported on emergency alert "fatigue" on US campuses, where overwhelming use of text and email alerts for conditions not involving immediate threats to health or safety may be diminishing the effectiveness of alert systems. Full article. bit.ly/aualerts

Alberta to restore some cut PSE funding

The Alberta government announced its 2014 budget will restore $82.5 million of the $134.7 million cut from postsecondary education in 2013—2014 federal budget this week, focusing on enhanced funding for research and innovation, an opportunities strategy for young Canadians and new initiatives to support Indigenous postsecondary education. Online at bit.ly/AUCC-14

The Law Society of BC announced that it will conduct a binding referendum of its members regarding the location of law school at Trinity Western University. Uncertainty has surrounded the school because of TWU's controversial evangelical religious covenant. The covenant, which governs faculty, staff and students at TWU, has long drawn criticism from the GLBTQ community and other advocates for inclusion because it prohibits sex outside traditional marriage. During a special general meeting of the Law Society this June, a 3-to-1 majority of more than 4,000 lawyers demanded the society make an earlier decision that granted approval for the school.
Vanier Scholar advancing FASD diagnostics

BY ANGELICA PASS

It certainly sounds novel: could a smelling test, easy enough to administer to young children, help diagnose Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)?

That possibility is taking shape, thanks to the work done by UVic neuroscience PhD student Christine Fontaine.

Her research is so promising that Fontaine was selected as the university's 2014 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship recipient—a scholarship created to attract and retain world-class doctoral students, which awards $50,000 annually for up to three years.

"It feels amazing and surreal. I wasn't expecting it at all," says Fontaine, who notes that the scholarship also reflects the quality of research happening in the Neuroscience Program. "It's a young program and there are now two Vanier scholars enrolled."

Leigh Wicks-Stordeur and myself, when really incredible.

Fontaine works in Dr. Brian Christi- le's lab, where significant research is being done into how FASD changes the way neurons grow and develop in childhood and adulthood. The goal of this research is to better understand the disease in order to target therapeutic treatments. Early identification means early treatment, but as a spectrum disorder, the structural and functional impairments caused by FASD are not always easy to define.

A simple test for FASD in early childhood could ultimately make all the difference for diagnosis and treat- ment, and that's where Fontaine's re- search comes in. Fontaine studies how fetal alcohol exposure modifies levels of antioxidants in the brain and how this changes neural functions such as learning and memory. Working with rat models, Fontaine has noticed that the study of anti-oxidants from fetal ethanol exposure seems to cause an inability to form smell memories. Rodents see the world through their sense of smell so it's detrimental when anything interrupts this sense, she says.

In terms of the applications for human children, studies have shown that children with FASD have dif- ferently distinct household smells. Therefore, identifying olfactory deficits in animal models opens the door to the potential for diagnosing FASD in human children through a simple smell test. "This would make a novel and easily accessible way to diagnose the disorder," says Brian Christie, Fontaine's advisor and chair of the neuroscience program.

Working with Christie, as well as her desire to stay near the ocean, were Fontaine's primary reasons for coming to UVic. And the campus is lucky she did, explains Christie: "Christine's re- search has been very well received in the scientific community. Already, one of the leading experts in FASD mod- eling and a leading olfactory expert have both expressed interest in being on her thesis committee."

It's great exposure for UVic and the neuroscience program. Fontaine knew from a young age that she wanted to work in a research lab. The Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) chapter in Newfoundland and Labrador, where Fontaine grew up, sponsors a summer program that allows girls to work in research labs for eight weeks. While still in high school, Fontaine partici- pated in this program and worked in a behavioural neuroscience lab, where she got her first taste of lab work. "I was hooked; they actually had to pay me away from the lab to go to social functions," Fontaine laughs.

She is still a director for the WISE summer program and thinks it is important to give back to other young women who might not yet know their passion for science. "I honestly don't know where I would have been with- out this program. My advice to young women is to pursue their passion for science, get involved in every oppor- tunity and ask questions."

ARCHAEOLOGY CONTINUED FROM P.1

Setting discovery in motion

The idea to go looking for ancient fish weirs was, at first, a futuristic dream. But when Mackie came across a picture of an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) with the UVic crest on it, he quickly reached out and found Colin Bradley, director of the Ocean Technology Lab, and the lab's research engineer, Alison Proctor. They'd both been part of the team operating the 3.5-metre long, 81.5-million-dollars Robotics vehicle during the 2012 search for the Franklin shipwrecks.

The engineers loved Mackie's idea. Mackie and Bradley, with help from the engineering's faculty development office, set them up with funding from the Ronald Ramsay Trust. The rest is, as they say, history—recent and ancient, all at once.

A summer lab, at sea

Less than six months later, Mackie and Proctor (as the project's technical lead and AUV operator) are back from a late-summer research trip to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, at the southern end of the Haida Gwaii archipelago. The marine and terrestrial protected area, managed cooperatively by the Government of Canada and the Haida Nation, is also the site of much of Mackie's life's work. Gwaii Haanas threw them full support behind the project, providing a Parks Canada research vessel (Gwaii Haanas III), the skipper and crew, and logistical support.

Along with Fedy and Jacqueline LaMaistre (AUV support technician), Mackie and Proctor spent eight days surveying seven square kilometres of the seafloor with side-scan sonar mounted on the AUV. Very similar technology discovered and provided images of the Franklin shipwreck this summer.

They've been poring over all the sonar imagery in the 150 gigabytes of data, looking for rectangles, straight lines—anything that looks out of place or unnatural. Their short list of promising finds includes a row of rocks in what would have been a stream bed feeding into a river system.

At least, that's what it would have been before hundreds of square kilometres of coastal plain were flooded by the sea, forcing the inhabitants higher into the islands of Haida Gwaii. Place- ment indicates these rocks could be a stone fish weir, a simple and ancient technology used by peoples all over the world to catch migrating fish in rivers. If it were, it would also be the oldest known fish weir in the world.

"Without the AUV, this discovery would have been much more diffic- ult," said Proctor. These locations are too deep for divers and surveying the underwater canyons would have been challenging using a towed side- scan system. AUV-mounted sonar collects crystal-clear imagery, which is especially important when looking for small features in the sonar record, she said.

Mackie will spend this winter por- ing over scans with experts. Next sum- mer, he and Proctor plan to return to a few promising locations, drop a remotely operated vehicle to the same depth, with high hopes they might find stone tools and collect video of the locations.
BY JOHN THRELFALL

It’s a history mystery worthy of its own exhibition. When Dr. Marcus Milwright, of the recently renamed Art History and Visual Studies department, began planning his upcoming exhibit *The Arts of World War I*, he knew there was one item in the UVic Special Collections and University Archives he just had to use: a beautiful two-volume leather diary set illustrated with watercolours and pen-and-ink drawings of life during wartime. There’s only one problem: he has no idea to whom it actually belonged.

“The dedication on the first page says, ‘To my daughter, Adele’ and it’s signed simply J.M.,” says Milwright. “Other than that, there is only the emblem of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, with whom I assume he served. We do know that J.M. survived the war, as there’s a painting dated 1920, and we know he saw active service in the areas of Ypres and Menin, as the paintings are dated and named. But that’s about it.”

Milwright has attempted to track J.M. down through brigade records— but those require at least one name to search, not just initials—and the library itself has no record of where the diaries came from, just that they were purchased from a private seller in Victoria likely between the early 1970s and mid-1980s. UVic Libraries has been trying for some time to solve this mystery as well and is hoping the upcoming Remembrance Day observances will spark some new leads.

Milwright’s theory is that they were sold by a family member, possibly through an estate sale following the death of Adele herself, and he’s hoping someone in the city will recognize either the diaries or the artwork and be able to help solve the mystery. “They’re fantastic images,” he says.

The diaries and their approximately 130 illustrations will be a central feature of a new exhibition, co-curated by Milwright and opened Nov. 7 in the Legacy Malwood (at the Meares Centre—McPherson Library), that will offer examples of books, prints and trench art from Europe and the Middle East drawn from the Legacy Art Galleries, the university’s archives and private local collections. Milwright hopes J.M.’s identity will come to light during the exhibition’s four-month run.

“There is one preparatory sketch, which indicates these images weren’t just spontaneously drawn but actually planned,” says Milwright. “They look to me like book illustrations, so it’s probable that J.M. was a trained painter or illustrator before going into the army.”

If anyone has any information about either J.M., Adele M. or the diaries themselves, please contact Marcus Milwright at mmilwrig@uvic.ca.

**VIEWPOINT**

**Why the First World War still matters—100 years later**

**BY CHANDAR S. SUNDARAM AND MATT POLLARD**

Having moved to Victoria in 2011, I was struck by the imposing sight of the Bay Street Armoury, with the date “1915” emblazoned on its wall. It is a perfect venue for a conference on the Great War.

Having met Matt Pollard through a mutual friend over a year ago, I soon realized our common interest in the tumultuous history of the twentieth century. Matt went to a school whose founder, B.V. Harvey, died of his wounds at the front. His friend’s grandfather remembers witnessing a piano being pushed off the roof of the Kaiserhof Hotel at Johnson and Blanshard during anti-German riots after the sinking of the Lusitania. The First World War not only redraw the borders of Europe and the Middle East and killed millions of soldiers and civilians, it also affected families in one way or another. Such traces exist not only in local landmarks and memorials, but in basements, letters, photos and other artifacts.

The First World War saw Sepoys from India fighting from the Western Front. Australians fighting in Gallipoli, a British officer leading Bedouin Arabs, British expatriates in Canada “flocking to the colours” and Ukrainians caught somewhere in the middle. 2014 is good timing to commemorate not only the centenary, but also to shed light on the forgotten fronts as well as local stories which still need telling.

Dr. Chandar S. Sundaram, a military historian and expert of the colonial and modern military history of India who teaches in the Division of Continuing Studies, and Dr. Matt Pollard, assistant teaching professor and academic program coordinator in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, co-organized two WWI events.

*Free and open to all, the Oct. 2 Lassonde Lecture at UVic and Oct. 3 conference at Bay Street Armoury are hosted by the Faculty of Humanities with sponsorship from UVic’s Centre for Global Studies and other partners. More event info: tinyurl.com/World-WarOneUVic*

**FROM THE GREAT WAR**

**Life in Victoria during the war**

On Remembrance Day last year, UVic launched the web project A City Goes to War (acitygoestowar.ca) offering glimpses into how life in Victoria was changed during the Great War 1914–1918. Under the direction of Dr. John Lutz, a team of six students from UVic’s Department of History developed this site to focus on experiences of Canadian cities during the First World War. The initial site was followed by four additional micro-history websites by student project teams (History 410) working with local archivists and community groups. These new micro sites include studies of the influenza epidemic on 1918, the sinking of SS Princess Sophia, the history of HMCS Rainbow and war resistance. A second course planned for the Spring 2015 term will add additional student projects developing WordPress website development and content management software.

**WWI online at UVic Libraries**

A closer look at how during the First World War was available to scholars and armchair historians alike online. UVic Libraries showcases a variety of digital initiatives on its website (uvic.ca/library/featured/collections) to promote wider access to its unique special collections. The site features a section specifically on military history, and contains archival material and other memorabilia ranging from illustrations and photos to personal memoirs of veterans.

**This UVic collection includes:**

- A military oral history (with transcripts and audio files from interviews of Canadian veterans)
- J.M.’s World War I sketches (see feature story)
- World of Mary’s Wedding: Reminiscences of World War I (a website devoted to the opera The World of Mary’s Wedding—a recent collaboration between Pacific Opera Victoria and UVic Libraries)
- Archie Wills Funds (photos and journals of local resident Archie Wills, who served with the Canadian Forces Artillery in France and worked as a journalist for the Victoria Times and Daily Colonist newspapers)
- Photographs by J.A. Millar (including poignant scenes of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Gaspe Harbour immediately prior to sailing to Britain in 1914. All images were captured between 1914 and 1918 by J.A. Millar, a staff photographer at the Montreal Daily Star.)

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Enhanced safety and quality of life are goals of a Canada-wide study aimed at improving the safety and quality of life for older drivers. The study is called Candrive, a Canada-wide research study aimed at assessing a senior’s ability to keep driving as they age and health issues emerge.

“The currently available guidelines for physicians are not doing a very good job of identifying people at risk,” says Dr. Holly Tuokko, a psychologist with the University of Victoria’s Centre on Aging. “We need a better set of tools.”

Candrive is asking questions such as: “How do seniors get assessed for their driving ability? And what are their attitudes toward driving as they age and health issues emerge?” Current physician assessments of seniors rely on what’s called a “mini-mental state” examination, which asks questions such as: “What day is it? Can you remember these three words?” Can you draw this diagram? But there are other reasons why an older person may have difficulty on the road. They may not be able to move their bodies with sufficient flexibility or not know where their foot is in space, so they hit the gas instead of the brake.

“These kinds of issues are not typically on the radar for general physicians who are trained to identify a medical problem but have little or no training on whether that problem can affect driving,” says Tuokko.

As a result, some seniors who should be going for driver evaluation tests are being missed, while others are not getting the training on whether that problem can affect driving.

By Val Shore

Alumni couple find love and a life together in theatre

BY ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

Not many of us get to bring our spouses to work, but for two U Vic theatre alumni, acting together makes their careers more rewarding.

Mack Gordon (BFA ’08) and Kaitlin Williams (BFA ’09) met 10 years ago as two fresh-faced first-year students in the Department of Theatre. Now married, they return to the stages of the Phoenix Theatre for the Spotlight on Alumni with The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, running October 9-18, 2013.

In 2012, they were cast as Peter and Lucy in Pacific Theatre’s much-loved Narnia tale, and then last winter toured it across BC. “Kaitlin and I are blessed to work together as often as we do,” says Mack. “It’s convenient, working together makes our careers more rewarding.”

Mack is an actor in film and TV and also does his own writing. He also keeps an eye out for a patchwork pay cheque. Kaitlin is an acting apprentice. She now finds acting takes up all her time.

“The skills and connections we gained at UVic helped get us involved in many areas of theatre, not just acting. The skills and connections we gained—all those backstage, studying marketing, working in the box office, or collaborating with community groups—have kept us working in theatre over the years,” adds Kaitlin.

Both actors have busy and multi-faceted careers for what they call their “patchwork pay cheque.” Mack is an actor for theatre film, and TV and also writes his own plays. As a director recently assisting director Mog Roe (BFA ’05) at Bard on the Beach and does simulation acting for training purposes.

Kaitlin has performed on stages around Vancouver and was also the Community Engagement Manager for Pacific Theatre, where she began right after university as an apprentice. She now finds acting takes up all her time.

For Kaitlin especially, this show is close to her heart. As a 12-year-old girl, she attended Pacific Theatre’s adaptation of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe in 1994. pipepersona version that sees the Pevensie siblings return as grown-ups to the room where their adventures began and find themselves reliving their fond memories of Narnia.

Watching the actors transform into the story’s various characters—from Mr. Tumnus and the Beaver, to the evil White Witch and the mighty lion Aslan—inspired Kaitlin to become an actor herself. “It feels like coming full circle—times 10! Not only am I performing in this same play, but I get to perform with my husband at my side, where we met, 10 years later!”

By Adrienne Holierhooke

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The Ring October 2014
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Judy Nazar loves languages—and that passion has led to a long and fulfilling career at UVic. Her linguistic journey began when she traveled to Germany from her hometown of Victoria to attend high school. “With every new country I visited while studying in Europe, I was exposed to many different languages, and the more languages I heard, the more my curiosity was piqued,” Nazar explains.

On returning to Victoria, Nazar’s newfound interest in languages inspired her to pursue a job at UVic’s Humanities Computing and Media Centre (HCMC)—then called the Language Centre. Like the rest of the UVic campus, the centre was quite different back in the ’60s. Instead of sophisticated recording equipment, CDs and quad-core computers, Nazar worked with heavy reel-to-reel tape recorders, vinyl records and a brand new electric typewriter. “It was exciting at the time,” Nazar says with a laugh, “very high tech!”

Nazar temporarily left UVic and moved with her husband to Powell River. When they returned to Victoria in the ’80s, Nazar jumped at the opportunity to once again work in HCMC—an environment where she was exposed to a variety of languages and technology.

As the campus grew, technology evolved. Vinyl was replaced with CDs. “Oh yes, I’ve seen a lot of technological changes in my career over the years,” Nazar says with a twinking smile. She welcomes these changes, seeing them as a chance to learn new skills.

Whether it’s Skyping with her grandkids—or the proud grandmother of four—creating websites for the Faculty of Humanities through the Cascade content management system, Nazar continues to enthusiastically integrate new technology and software into her everyday life. Although she still has a manual typewriter at home—what she mirthfully refers to as a “reminder of the past”—Nazar is living proof that people can adapt and learn new technologies at any age. “It can be a little challenging at first, but it’s very rewarding when you can make a computer work for you. It’s empowering.”

During her time at UVic, Nazar has taken on more than just technological challenges; she is also one of the driving forces behind UVic’s American Sign Language courses.

“Throughout my travels I witnessed American Sign Language being expressed and I was immediately drawn to it,” Nazar explains. “I wondered if courses could be offered at UVic and began researching. I saw it as an opportunity to provide students with sign language skills and an understanding of Deaf culture and community.”

Nazar quickly recognized that in order for her vision to become a reality, she’d need a team. “The contributions and support provided by Drs. Andrew Rippin, Peter Liddell and Sandra Kirkham—and especially my colleague Kristi Falcorn—who was essential to the project’s success,” says Nazar, emphasizing her heartfelt appreciation.

In 2009 the first credit courses for American Sign Language were offered at UVic—“with full registration numbers as well as full waitlists,” Nazar adds with a well-deserved hint of pride. The courses continue to be offered.

“So is retirement in Nazar’s near future? Given her history at UVic, it’s more likely that Nazar will find another workplace challenge, and she’ll tackle it with gusto. “I’m still curious about learning new skills and understanding different languages and cultures,” says Nazar, “and I’m still very happy to be working at UVic!”

**Student Mental Health Strategy Launch Event**

Students, staff and faculty are invited to learn about the new tools, resources and initiatives being launched to support positive student mental health.

**Wednesday, October 22nd**

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Bob Wright Lecture Hall/Foyer (B150)

No charge - No registration (Doors open at 2:30)

**Featured Keynote Speaker**

**MARK HENICK**

TEDx Speaker - National Youth Advocate for Mental Health & Empowerment

**Post-presentation reception with light refreshments**

More info available at studentaffairs.uvic.ca/mentalhealth.php

**OLD AGE DRIVER**

**CONTINUED FROM P.6**

are being sent for tests unnecessarily. Candrie is developing an easy-to-use clinical screening tool that will allow family practitioners to assess medical fitness to drive in older adults. The team is also gathering data on violations and crashes, and tracking the 928 Canadian drivers over time with annual assessments and an in-car digital tracking device.

The device plugs in underneath the dashboard and records when and where they’re driving. There’s also a GPS unit on the dash so that the study team can draw maps based on data such as route, stops and speed. The results can be revealing, says Tuokko. “What people say they’re doing and what they actually do don’t always line up. Given that most doctors depend on patients to self-report their symptoms, these discrepancies are a little surprising.”

The ultimate goal is to encourage drivers to self-reflect and self-regulate, rather than leaving it until someone takes their license away, says Tuokko. “It’s much better for them mentally and physically if they make that decision on their own.”

Mostly, Tuokko hopes the work will lead to increased safety for seniors who drive, and an awareness that older drivers are not necessarily bad drivers. “Age is equated with poor driving but I don’t believe that’s appropriate,” says Tuokko. “The focus should be on safety, not driver age.”

**RSC SCHOLARS**

**CONTINUED FROM P.1**

is to improve the software tools that encourage computer users to think and work together.

Storey is thrilled to be one of the first members of the new college. “I look forward to contributing my understanding and breadth of knowledge to the proceedings,” she says. “The Royal Society plays an important role in promoting learning across many disciplines.”

The new college was created to recognize that 60 per cent of current university faculty members in Canada have been hired since the year 2000. The duties of college members include participation on expert panels, mentoring of promising young scholars, and engagement in Royal Society regional programming.