Vibrant UVic artist honoured with Governor General’s Award

BY JOHN THRELFAUL

Department of Visual Arts professor and nationally renowned painter Sandra Meigs was named one of only eight winners in the annual Governor General’s Awards for Visual and Media Arts on March 24.

"It’s such an honour to be recognized in this capacity for my career as an artist," says Meigs. "You get benchmarks of recognition as you go along…but this is something very ceremonial, very special."

Highly regarded for her expressive interdisciplinary artworks, Meigs has led a distinguished 35-year contemporary art career with over 40 solo and 60 group exhibitions in Canada’s most culturally relevant institutions. "You can call it a lifetime achievement award, but in a way I see it as the beginning of a new lifetime," says Meigs. "Some artists make brilliant work in their last 20 years, so for me it’s less lifetime achievement and more career achievement."

Born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1953, Meigs has lived in Canada since 1973. She earned her BFA at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and her MA in philosophy at Dalhousie University in 1980. A member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Artists who also represented Canada in the Fifth Biennale of Sydney, Meigs has been a professor with Visual Arts since 1997 to 2002.

"We have some of the top contemporary artists in the country here and we have very high standards for all our sessions instructors," she says of the department’s dynamic learning environment. "We focus so intensely on studio practice for the students—we look at everything very carefully and talk about it in a constructive way."

Outspoken conservationist recognized by BC faculty association

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

UVic wildlife expert Dr. Chris Darimont—a research pioneer on BC’s coastal wolves and bears, and a passionate advocate for science-based conservation policy—is this year’s winner of the Distinguished Academics Early in Career award from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC (CUFA-BC).

Darimont, who is the Hakai Raincoast geography professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences, is an interdisciplinary conservation scientist who has conducted groundbreaking research on the importance of wolves and bears to coastal ecosystems and people. For example, he brought new evidence to the grizzly bear trophy hunting controversy by working with locally owned and operated bear tourism companies to take a science-based "inventory" of bears in their area.

Darimont and his students study relationships among wildlife, salmon and people on BC’s central coast, also known as the Great Bear Rainforest. The research is united by strong partnerships with the four Indigenous Nations (Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai’xais, Wuikinuxv and Nuxalk) of the central coast who hold Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Darimont’s professorship and UVic’s Applied Conservation Science Lab are supported by two investors: Hakai Institute and Raincoast Conservation Foundation. The Hakai Institute focuses on long-term ecological and community-engaged research while the Raincoast Conservation Foundation provides Darimont a direct route for influencing conservation policy. He was, for instance, an official intervener and expert witness before the Joint Review Panel regarding the Northern Gateway project.

"I’ve been uplifted by my nominator’s recognition and the support of the professors, lecturers, instructors, professional librarians and other academic staff at five research universities.

"We focus so intensely on studio practice for the students—we look at everything very carefully and talk about it in a constructive way."

SEE MEIGS P. 3
2015/16 budget framework approved

The University of Victoria's Board of Governors has approved a $338 million balanced operating budget for 2015/16 that focuses on student support and areas of enrolment growth.

Budget pressures continue for the university with a decrease in the provincial operating grant following two years of increases in the amount. The fee increase limits to two per cent while the costs of salaries, utilities and library acquisitions continue to rise. This creates a long-term financial sustainability challenge as costs are expected to continue to rise at rates greater than revenue increases.

While financial sustainability challenges are expected to continue, UVic's financial outlook has improved substantially from projections in 2014/15 due to significant growth in international students. Without that enrolment increase, UVic would be facing a budget shortfall this year of $13.5 million and similar shortfalls in the next two years of the Planning Framework's three-year planning cycle.

The areas of focus for aligning resources and priorities are enhancing the student experience and student success, supporting new and existing research and graduate studies, supporting new and existing student demand such as engineering, science and social science.

The budget text outlines a number of initiatives for approval for an increase in student residence fees required to fund renewal of our aging residences with investments as new technologies evolve. UVic Student Living and UVic's two residence service, residence services do not receive government funding and are operated on a cost recovery basis.

The board's vote March 31 followed a discussion by board members about the need for the work to ensure the health and safety of students as well as concern about the affordability of post-secondary education. It was noted that UVic has been recognized for excellence in every aspect of human performance integral to UVic's vision for CARSA. To recruit and retain outstanding students, faculty and staff and to help them reach their full potential, new capital projects and designed academic programs builds on the university's historic strengths as a home of champions that include our elite athletes, our students who value active living and wellness as part of their well-rounded UVic experience and individuals from our broader community.

Allin is not alone in her praise for the new and improved recreation facility built at UVic in 40 years. Consulting project manager Susan Joseph recently oversaw the largest construction project ever on campus, which at its peak employed 250 workers. While admission challenges to CARSA during the multi-year project "when you see the build out and the finish and the quality of the work, it's a job well done."

New generations of athletes are in place with the formal conclusion of the major gifts fundraising campaign, the funding for CARSA, which replaces aging and outdated facilities, has been finalized. University funds, membership fees from donor and sponsorship support, and parking fees will pay for the $877 million project that includes the new home for the Vikes Recreation Health and Wellness Centre, a property with a history of supporting health and wellness.

Registration for CARSA’s inagural spring and summer programs is now open and the full range of options are available at vikesrec.uvic.ca.

Financial planning

Lawyer & Notary Public

* Ask about alternatives to costly litigation

4195 Shelbourne Street
(two blocks north of Foulks Rd)

Retail - Estate - Purchase/Sale

Wattele & Easte Prohate/Administration
Power of Attorney/Representation
Family Law - Diverse & Separation
General Legal Advice & Referral

Bob Reimer

271-2441
Student's community engagement recognized with national award

BY ERIN KIN

UVic student Navavana Smith has been named as one of 10 Canadian undergraduates to win a 2015 3M National Student Fellowship, celebrating outstanding student leadership. Smith's resume reads like an adventure novel. A child of two biologists who ran an eco-tourism company, Smith spent her childhood exploring the remote wilderness of the Pacific Northwest and the High Arctic. Now a third-year biology and environmental studies student, Smith has worked in Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Madagascar in the course of her undergraduate studies. Closer to home, she spent a semester at the Bamfield Marine Science Centre on Vancouver Island. Her travels have given Smith a sense of her position in the world—a deeper understanding of place and perspective.

“The field school in East Africa challenged me as a student and as a human being,” she recalls. “Immersed in addressing environmental and human being, “ she recalls. “Immersed in discussions on land claims, I was challenged as a student and as a place and perspective.

One way to do this make community engagement a priority in course syllabuses. “If more courses had an environmental component—including community-level publications, presentations, and assignments—students might have higher retention and greater investment in the academic material.”

In the meantime, Smith works at the Bamfield Marine Science Centre outside of class. She has coordinated monthly day trips through the Sierra Club for students and community members interested in sustainability themes. With UVic’s student-run environmental magazine, ESSENCE, Smith visited classrooms to create interest in joining discussions on social justice and sustainability issues. She helped to coordinate UVic’s Environmental Round Table (UVERT) and in 2013 was selected to represent UVic at the World Student Environmental Summit in Germany. As part of the fellowship, Smith and her fellow awardees in developing a cross-Canadian collaborative project with the goal of enhancing teaching and learning at the post-secondary level.

This and Smith still manages to excel academically. When asked how she manages, she attributes it with her characteristic quiet confidence. “I’m lucky to be a part of these communities at UVic,” she says. “Life is busy, but it is also beautiful.”

Two outstanding classroom teachers who are known for their dedication and innovation to the teaching process have been given Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. David Blades of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Rebecca Gagan of the Department of English join the ranks of more than 50 outstanding teachers who have received the awards since 2004, her first year as a student and as a human being, “ she recalls. “Immersed in discussions on land claims, I was challenged as a student and as a place and perspective. She began to look for classes that

Dr. Jane Ye (mathematics) has received the 2015 Krieger-Nelson prize for research excellence from the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS). The award recognizes outstanding research by a female mathematician in Canada. As an applied mathematician, Ye develops powerful theoretical tools and designs algorithms to attack some complicated optimization questions.

Dr. Janni Aragon (political science), director of UVic’s Technology Integrated Learning unit, is a three-time fellow of the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), an international society of higher education professionals responsible for high-level planning projects on their campuses. SCUP Fellows complete a planning-related project during their fellowship year. Aragon will focus on the need for increased communication and coordination between academic and service units that support teaching and learning across campus.

MEIGS CONTINUED FROM P1

2015 Krieger-Nelson prize winner, Ye will receive an insuit soapstone sculpture and will present a plenary lecture at an upcoming CMS meeting.
A historian who is increasing our understanding of Islam. An engineer and a computer scientist who are making our lives easier with new technologies. A nurse who is helping the terminally ill and their families cope. And a performing artist who inspires us to better appreciate the world around us.

These are the winners of this year’s Craigdarroch Research Awards, which salute outstanding research and creative achievement at the University of Victoria. Their accomplishments will be celebrated at an evening reception on campus on May 7.

“These five award recipients exemplify the passion and drive that fuels research and creative activity at UVic,” says Vice-President Research David Castle. “Their accomplishments attest to UVic’s commitment to improving lives, advancing knowledge and bettering society through, for example, developing evidence-based public policy.”

The winners are:

DAVID H. TURPIN GOLD MEDAL FOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH
Andrew Rippin, professor emeritus, history
It’s vitally important that we in the West find ways to understand a culture that is shared by one-fifth of the world’s population— and one that has such an impact on global events.” These are the words of Andrew Rippin, an internationally renowned authority on the study of the Qur’an—the Muslim holy book—and its core influence on Islamic civilization. Over his 35-year career, his prodigious writings and passion for scholarship have had a fundamental impact on his field, influencing the career path of many young scholars, and helped increase public understanding of Islam at a time that has never been more important than it is today.

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH
Yang Shi, mechanical engineering
Imagine a world where robotic surgery is performed on a patient in Whitehorse—by a doctor located in Victoria! That world is not far off, thanks in part to the groundbreaking work of mechanical engineer Yang Shi, an expert in the long-distance control of machines and electrical systems, also known as networked control systems. Since joining UVic in 2009, Shi has quickly established himself as an international force in his field. In 2014 he was named by Thomson Reuters as one of the top one per cent most cited researchers in his field in the world—a remarkable accomplishment for such a young researcher.

CRAIGDARROCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION
Yvonne Coady, computer science
Scientists monitoring undersea events for early tsunami detection, astronomers peering into the skies millions of miles away, people with disabilities using public transit, and Aboriginal communities learning about their heritage—all of these rely on innovative software infrastructure. That computer scientist Yvonne Coady and her team are developing. Working closely with industry, community partners and groups on campus, Coady is transforming the way software developers and users tap into the power of the internet. Her work makes advances in computer systems—such as cloud computing—possible, enabling a young researcher.

CRAIGDARROCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION
Kelli Stajduhar, nursing
In her career to ensuring these needs are being met in an evidence-based and stakeholder-engage to inform and transform policy and practice related to end-of-life care in BC, Canada and beyond.

Diversity employer award
UVic has been named one of Canada’s Best Diversity Employers for the fourth year in a row. The winners of the 2015 competition were announced March 31, recognizing 65 organizations across the country for a range of exceptional initiatives to attract and retain employees from diverse communities. UVic was one of only six post-secondary institutions included on the list, and one of two organizations in Victoria. The university was recognized for maintaining a diversity and equity steering committee, hosting an annual diversity research forum, managing a mental health task force, having an Elders-in-residence program to provide students and staff with guidance on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and many other strategic initiatives. Full article: bit.ly/shields-db

Student Mental Health Literacy Training Program
New training sessions have been announced for the Student Mental Health Literacy Program, a campus-wide initiative aimed at enhancing awareness among faculty, sessional instructors, teaching assistants and staff about student mental health issues. Open sessions for faculty and staff with basic training in mental health awareness and response run throughout April and May. The program is part of the Student Mental Health Strategy launched last year in the Division of Student Affairs. For full details and schedule, see bit.ly/mentalt15.
Family Centre marks 20 years

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

Occupying a modest, two-bedroom suite within the Family Housing complex on Lam Circle, the UVic Family Centre was intended as a family health unit. Twenty years later, it has evolved into something much more, says director Elizabeth Quong, “and that’s a good thing.”

“You get hooked on what this place can do for people,” says Quong who has managed the centre for eight years. “This is very compelling work.”

That’s due in large part to the learning that happens there—and not just by students. Parents, children, staff and volunteers, as well as practice students, faculty and researchers can all learn and study the reality of cultural differences, acceptance and inclusion which happens here. The centre offers a range of support services as well as health and early learning programs, student practicums, and hosts social events like pancake breakfasts, meet-ups, and lots of lots of play.

Angie Gray, born and raised in Victoria, is a Child and Youth Care practicum student at the centre and a mom living in family housing. She marvels at how the learning has impacted her two school-aged children. “They are experiencing a level of integration and cultural awareness that I could not give them any other way. We can’t afford to travel the world but here they are gaining a deeper understanding of people with different languages, beliefs and traditions.”


to give performances with major opera companies and symphonies throughout North America.

Inclusion and support

Approximately half of all student families come from far-away places such as Egypt, Indonesia, Libya, Banglasdesh, and Belgium—“to name just a few. ‘For many, it’s their first time experiencing a different culture. We recognize the challenges families face in making that adjustment,’ ” says Quong.

And for most English is a second language. Understandably, some are shy and cautious, aware of their differences and yet connecting significantly around the one thing they have in common: they are families who have invested a great deal toward one parent’s education. Usually the ones in need want and need, “says Quong, “and help with resources and information both on and off campus. Everyone learns and shares.”

Resources include a public health nurse from Island Health who visits monthly to examine the little ones. The practicum program includes students from UVic’s Schools of Child and Youth Care, Social Work and Nursing, as well as from Camosun College. The centre also serves as a rich source of re-

A C R A G D A R R O C H W I N N E R S "F a c e s o f U V i c R e s e a r c h " v i d e o s : b i t . l y / u v i c - c 1 5

For more resources, check the Emergency Management BC website at www.embe.gov.bc.ca

Strategic Research Plan quarterly update

The first quarterly update on the development of the UVic Strategic Research Plan is now available. So far, the team has met with 350 faculty, staff and students. The update outlines some preliminary messages emerging from the engagement process, as well as results from the Office of Research Services’ survey. PDF of the report: bit.ly/research-plan-1

Recreation services to move to CARS A: update on ISC

There will be some service disruption at the Ian Stewart Complex (ISC) as recreation staff and operations relocate to CARS A. All attempts will be made to minimize any disruption to clients. ISC’s Fitness and weight training centre will close Tuesday April 21 to move equipment destined for CARS A, which officially opens on May 1. Members wishing to work out during this time may use the weight room at McKinnon Gym. Between April 21 and May 1, UVic’s campus can present the UVic campus recreation facilities in Recreation and Oak Bay Recreation to gain access to their facilities. ISC’s other facilities, including the squash courts and multi-purpose gym, will remain open until regular closing hours on May 1. Full details: bit.ly/ISC-update

Nominate a sustainability champion

Do you work with someone who’s making a special effort to promote sustainability on campus? Initiatives can include waste reduction, energy conservation, promoting sustainable transportation or any of the other sustainability topics covered in the Sustainability Action Plan. Nominations for UVic’s Staff Sustainability Champion Award are open until April 17 at 4:30 p.m. The award will be presented at the Connect U conference opening ceremony on May 14. More info: bit.ly/green-award

Recruitment services to move to CARS A: update on ISC

The Village Cairn marks 20 years

The Village Cairn was intended as a family health unit. Twenty years later, it has evolved into something much more, says director Elizabeth Quong, “and that’s a good thing.”

“You get hooked on what this place can do for people,” says Quong who has managed the centre for eight years. “This is very compelling work.”

That’s due in large part to the learning that happens there—and not just by students. Parents, children, staff and volunteers, as well as practice students, faculty and researchers can all learn and study the reality of cultural differences, acceptance and inclusion which happens here. The centre offers a range of support services as well as health and early learning programs, student practicums, and hosts social events like pancake breakfasts, meet-ups, and lots of lots of play.

Angie Gray, born and raised in Victoria, is a Child and Youth Care practicum student at the centre and a mom living in family housing. She marvels at how the learning has impacted her two school-aged children. “They are experiencing a level of integration and cultural awareness that I could not give them any other way. We can’t afford to travel the world but here they are gaining a deeper understanding of people with different languages, beliefs and traditions.”

Still, as Quong points out, the centre is more than the sum of its parts.

“Yes, this is a friendly neighbourhood house with a strong international component. We’re offering an intimate meeting place where we can break down barriers, too, in gentle ways.” One of UVic’s multi-faith chaplains, Angela Wood, also connects here and refers people to other faith communities, too.

“The Family Centre staff and volunteers have done a great job in creating a warm, welcoming place that successfully engages student families,” says Laurene Shields, HSD associate dean, who helped prepare the proposal that launched the centre 20 years ago. “This support is precious in that it improves the likelihood for the member of the family to be successfully in their studies. Pretty much everyone involved experiences vast cultural differences, too, which offers profound dynamic learning.”

Catherine Bodson-Verhaegen, a mother who is here with her husband and two children from Belgium, wrote: “How do you feel when arriving from abroad to an empty house with two little ones? Even with loads of info from the website, and established contacts through social media, you still feel lost. The Family Centre was for us a place to meet people from all over the world who were sometimes facing the same challenges. We got all our answers here and that made us feel less far from home.”

around the ring

Nominate a sustainability champion

Do you work with someone who’s making a special effort to promote sustainability on campus? Initiatives can include waste reduction, energy conservation, promoting sustainable transportation or any of the other sustainability topics covered in the Sustainability Action Plan. Nominations for UVic’s Staff Sustainability Champion Award are open until April 17 at 4:30 p.m. The award will be presented at the Connect U conference opening ceremony on May 14. More info: bit.ly/green-award

Strategic Research Plan quarterly update

The first quarterly update on the development of the UVic Strategic Research Plan is now available. So far, the team has met with 350 faculty, staff and students. The update outlines some preliminary messages emerging from the engagement process, as well as results from the Office of Research Services’ survey. PDF of the report: bit.ly/research-plan-1

Recreation services to move to CARS A: update on ISC

There will be some service disruption at the Ian Stewart Complex (ISC) as recreation staff and operations relocate to CARS A. All attempts will be made to minimize any disruption to clients. ISC’s Fitness and weight training centre will close Tuesday April 21 to move equipment destined for CARS A, which officially opens on May 1. Members wishing to work out during this time may use the weight room at McKinnon Gym. Between April 21 and May 1, UVic’s campus can present the UVic campus recreation facilities in Recreation and Oak Bay Recreation to gain access to their facilities. ISC’s other facilities, including the squash courts and multi-purpose gym, will remain open until regular closing hours on May 1. Full details: bit.ly/ISC-update

Checked your emergency kit lately?

May 3–9 is Emergency Preparedness Week, a perfect time to review what to do in the event of a crisis on campus or at home. “Every member of the campus community needs to be personally prepared, and EP Week is a great time to take a few more steps toward being ready for any kind of crisis,” says Daphne Donaldson, UVic’s manager of emergency planning. And if you haven’t registered for UVic Emergency Alerts, visit www. uvic.ca/alerts to add your mobile phone for text messaging—and follow us on Twitter. To view and download the university’s campus evacuation map and emergency procedures poster, visit the Emergency Planning website at uvic.ca/services/emergency.

For more resources, check the Emergency Management BC website at www.embe.gov.bc.ca
BY ERIN KING
The world’s most powerful particle accelerator came back online this month after a two-year hiatus. Already credited with the discovery of the Higgs boson (or “God particle”), the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in the CERN facility at Geneva, Switzerland, holds the key to discovering the origin of mass, the nature of dark matter, and much more.

As excitement is re-ignited about the LHC, U Vic welcomes Dr. Rolf Heuer, Director General of CERN, to UVic and has retained ties to the particle physics group. "The LHC is a 27-kilometre tunnel underground the border between Switzerland and France, protons or lead ions collide at energies approaching the speed of light, effectively recreating the start of the Universe. As the energy dissipates, scientists study the potential for even more discoveries as the LHC comes back online."

"Dr. Heuer is no stranger to Victoria. Dr. Heuer leads CERN, the international research collaboration and facility that hosts the LHC. "Dr. Heuer will explain some of the excitement around the LHC, " says Dr. Rolf Heuer at a LHC lab. Photo: CERN

In what is arguably the most significant position in high-energy particle physics, Dr. Heuer leads CERN, the international research collaboration and facility that hosts the LHC. "Dr. Heuer will explain some of the excitement around the LHC," says UVic physicist Richard Keeler. "This talk will explore the significance of the Higgs boson discovery and the potential for even more discoveries as the LHC comes back online."

Dr. Heuer is no stranger to Victoria. He holds an honorary degree from UVic and has retained ties to the university throughout his career. He returns in April as part of the two-day Alan Astbury Memorial Symposium. "Alan Astbury was a leading international figure in particle physics," says Keeler. "Dr. Heuer did not hesitate when we asked him to participate in an event honouring Alan’s memory."

Directly connected to not one, but two Nobel prizes, Alan Astbury was an influential figure. His work contributed directly to the discoveries of the W and Z bosons in 1983 and later the 2013 Higgs boson discovery, both of which were recognized with Nobel prizes. As Director of TRIUMF 1994–2001, Astbury increased Canada’s influence in international physics research and put the University of Victoria on the map for physicists everywhere.

"The Department of Physics and Astronomy would not be where we are today were it not for Alan Astbury," explains Keeler. "When he joined UVic in 1983, we were an extremely small particle physics group. I think he saw an opportunity here—a more-or-less clean slate on which he built a legacy of world-class physics research."

Dr. Heuer’s talk, "Breaking the wall of the hidden universe—what the discovery of the Higgs boson tells us about Physics, Mankind and the Universe," takes place in B106, Rob Wright Centre on Monday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. The event is free to the public, but registration is strongly recommended.

Full info: uvic.ca/astbury

A deeper understanding of the universe

CERN General Director Dr. Rolf Heuer to give inaugural Alan Astbury Public Lecture on April 27.

BY TARA SHARPE

The Maker Lab at UVic, housed in the Technology Enterprise Facility, is a collaborative space of new techniques and old technologies involving the invention of imaginative and often outsized revisions of objects that don’t always exist in the world. Because its research is innovative, multi-faceted and occasionally intangible, it does not easily fit a simple definition.

The lab is inspired by experimental art, design and DIY cultures. The lab was launched in September 2012 under the leadership of director Dr. Jentery Sayers (English and CSPT), with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund.

"The Kits for Cultural History project is a tangible example of what is created here. For instance, one kit includes a Victorian inno- vation—a late 19th-century decorative stickpin, by fringe engineer and designer Gustave Trouvé, that may never have functioned properly—executed 100 years later by the UVic team. Trouvé’s pin is now glassed off in a display case at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Few people can touch it. The hands-on learning for the UVic team involves one of the main methodologies in the lab to transform analog artifacts into digital content and then back into tactile form. They remake and reimag- inate antiquated technologies by creating high resolution 3D models and manufacturing them with computer-controlled machines."

"The Maker Lab continues to borrow from traditions in cultural criticism. But it also embraces experimentation and consequently reminds us that many technologists of the Victorian period were also, in quote Sayers, ‘brilliant magicians.’"

This year, the team plans to send in to 20 kits via Canada Post to colleagues at universities across North America. The stickpin will be included.

"The lab’s research will ultimately ‘inform policies on the ethics, distribution, licensing and derivation of 3D objects,’ says Sayers, policies which currently do not exist in Canada. The lab also trains students in physical computing and desktop fabrication in non-STEM fields. Sayers points out that fabrication and physical computing are popular in STEM fields, but are virtually unknown in the humanities.

The Digital Fabrication Lab (DFL), an extension of the Maker Lab, is now open in the Visual Arts Building. The DFL is the first lab of its kind to encompass the arts and humanities in North America. "There are far-reaching effects for this type of technology in just about everything we do,” says Department of Visual Arts chair Paul Walde. "Photography was the first area where there was almost a complete paradigm shift towards digital, and we’re now seeing digital technology move into every aspect of visual arts production. This represents a way for us to move forward not only with new sculptural techniques and projects but also printmaking, and even certain kinds of painting.

The DFL will include CNC rout- ers, an industrial grade 3D scanner, a laser cutter, a milling machine and 3D printers, together with various machining tools.

The Maker Lab and DFL are two of several initiatives at UVic which continue to position the university at the forefront of digital humanities.

The Maker Lab team also presents talks, publishes its findings and facilitates workshops.

More: maker.uvic.ca

Incubators for humanities research

Makerspaces Matter

CAMPUS PHARMACY
www.facebook.com/campuspharmacy
Staff & Faculty Pacific Blue Cross Billing • Custom Compounding Products
Personal Medication Management Reviews • Organic Natural Health Alternatives
Free Prescription Delivery • Flu clinics • Professional Service for Professionals

twitter@ rxvictoria
250-721-3400
& post office

Page 6 The Ring April–May 2015
This year’s series of Masterminds free public lectures traverses an eclectic terrain of ideas. A singer, trombone player and a tuba player meet on stage to play music and tell stories about some of their life-changing musical experiences. A computer scientist compares historical and current photo- graphs of mountain glaciers as part of an investigation into the effects of climate change in the West. A medical anthropologist combines research, storytelling and zoomable YouTube videos as part of a cautionary tale of stress in our culture. And a linguist develops software and video to scientifically study how we produce language.

The series is presented by the UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging, with support from the university. The series runs Wednesdays, April 8 through 29, at 7 p.m. in UVic’s Faris Turpin Building, Room A120.

April 15 — Woman in the wild

What has a computer scientist learned from hiking with large-format cameras to shoot remote wilderness vistas and retreating glaciers? Mary Sanseverino leads a visual tour of UVic’s Mountain Legacy Project, which investigates environmental change in Western Canada by recreating classic historical mountain photographs.

April 22 — Zombie Factory: Culture, stress and sudden death

Failing to recognize our patterns of stress can turn us into virtual zombies—or lead to unexplained death. Using narratives of an spy, an executive and a refugee camp worker, author Pe- ter Stephenson draws on his research as a medical anthropologist to talk about how to shake the grip of stress.

April 29 — Seeing speech from the inside

From the mouths of babes to the largescale curricula of human language speakers around the world, these are the frontiers of exploration that linguist John Eding has probed. Eding will lead a multi-language video and audio tour of phonetics, including lipsyncing videos that document speech production from the inside.

Info: uvic.ca/masterminds
You would be forgiven if you believed that Daphne Donaldson had invented the phrase “keep calm and carry on.” For the past 27 years in the life of the university’s emergency planner, she concedes that “the moment I hear a fire truck I hesitate because I wonder if something has occurred. I’m attuned to those sorts of noises.”

“Some people wonder why I like to spend my days thinking about disasters,” she says, “but I think more about being proactive and getting people to recognize that there are simple things they can do to become better prepared. When I see that people are engaged and taking ownership of emergency planning, creating independence, that warms my heart.”

Armed with a BSc degree from UBC and an interest in research, Donaldson was originally hired at UVic in 1985 as a biochemistry/microbiology research assistant working on genetic studies of the parasite that causes sleeping sickness.

When a position opened up in the new Occupational Health and Safety unit in 1988, she shifted gears to become the university’s first chemical/biosafety officer. Following the shootings at École Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989, Donaldson was seconded with a colleague from SFU to develop university emergency plans. “That’s when I first became hooked on this,” she says. “I could see that there was so much that needed to be done—the world of emergency planning was a blank canvas and I felt as if I could make a difference.”

“My job is very diverse,” Donaldson says. “There is no typical day—if the phone rings you need to respond.”

She spends a significant part of her time meeting with staff, students, faculty, colleagues and suppliers, and making sure UVic’s two Emergency Operations Centres, Emergency Call Centre and emergency supplies are ready for action. Donaldson also develops and delivers staff training and emergency exercises, and is a key member of the university’s Emergency Communications Group.

She has developed strong connections with emergency planners in municipalities, Emergency Management BC and other universities. “I monitor disasters going on in the world and try to learn from those. Probably the best part is how much I learn all the time from other people—being in a learning environment and hearing other stories and perspectives. It’s challenging because some people believe that nothing will ever happen. I have to use a lot of persuasion and narrative, and it’s so important to maintain a sense of humour.”

One of the highlights of Donaldson’s career was travelling with a UVic contingent to visit the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand after the 2011 earthquake. “It was very powerful not only to learn from UC about their procedures and protocols but also to see the aftermath in their city, which is so like Victoria—that had a big impact on me.” She also cites the day the emergency shipping container arrived—now packed full of supplies on the UVic playing fields—as “immensely fun and exciting.”

Although Donaldson will retire from her UVic position in June, she will by no means retire her passion for emergency planning. “I will miss everything about my job—the challenges, the people and the feeling that, though I’ve provided a framework, there is always so much more to be done.”

She is looking forward to working with the UVic Retirees Association on emergency preparedness, and to do volunteer work with a non-profit agency for animal welfare. “Animals play a big role in my life and I’d like to be able to help,” she says. She also plans to spend quality time with her family, including her beloved Westie, travel more and indulge her passion for garden photography. “Being immersed in beauty and creating something beautiful is a nice antidote to always thinking about disasters,” she admits.

The former world indoor rowing champion has also dusted off her rower from underneath the emergency kits in her garage. “I’m realizing how important it is to be resilient in a disaster by developing healthy habits, including a good diet, activity and a strong support network.”

Pulling an organic chocolate bar from her bag, Donaldson winks, “And it’s essential to ensure you have emergency chocolate ‘just in case’ for major catastrophes or day-to-day crises—it’s a critical part of keeping calm and carrying on.”

Learning the language of assistance

BY LINDSAY GAGEL

Gerry Luton knows the value of hands-on learning—especially when absorbing something as difficult as grasping a new language. For the past 27 years Luton has been teaching English to international students through UVic’s English Language Centre (ELC) — and his students find success extends far beyond curricula, language tapes and textbooks.

Luton’s students gained an appetite for wider involvement in 2002, after an ESL student was attacked while jogging in Stanley Park. Vancouver. Many of the students identified with the victim, and were deeply affected by the tragedy. “I told them,” Luton recalls, “you can either feel bad about it, or you can do something about it.” So they did something about it.

The students decided to raise money and write condolence letters to the victim’s family. It was an effective motivator for learning to communicate well in English.

“When you have all these students from diverse backgrounds united for a common goal,” explains Luton, “it’s very powerful.” So he decided to incorporate this dynamic learning in his regular curriculum. The ELC’s “Charity Project” began there.

The project’s structure isn’t hard to grasp. Luton provides the students with a list of reputable charities that he knows have user-friendly websites and accessible materials (Save the Children and War Child are two examples). Students are placed in groups and assigned a charity to research and describe to their classmates. Through a process of negotiation, they eventually choose one charity to support from among 6–8 different options.

Students then put together creative presentations which are presented to the other ESL classes (comprising about 300 students of varied English levels) in the English Language Centre. Finally, donations are raised through a two-day bake sale in the Student Union, Clearihue and Continuing Studies Rooms.

The bake sale is the money-maker, but the students are doing a lot more than baking and raising funds. They liaise with the charities, facilitate discussions, design posters, create videos and presentations, deliver public service announcements on CPUV, compose letters to accompany cheques, and write reflective essays.

“This experience definitely made us develop a lot,” wrote Kenzo Kitada, one of Luton’s students, in a thank-you letter to the teachers and students whose classes they visited. “Thank you for listening to our presentation carefully and participating in our presentation positively.”

The two classes during Kitada’s term chose to raise funds for Children of Hope Uganda. Over $1,800 was raised—a record high! Afterwards, Luton received a photo of the Ugandans building a new Assembly Hall / Early Childhood Development classroom in Barlonyo—a project his students’ contribution will help fund.

Luton’s students come from all over the world to learn English at UVic. His most recent classes included students from Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Taiwan, China and Brazil. Not only are friendships formed that can last a lifetime, but many of the students are inspired to be global citizens, taking their experiences organizing for charity back to their home countries.

Since its formal inception in 2004, Luton’s classes have raised over $33,500 for charitable organizations. Ideally, Luton would like to see his students presenting in classrooms all over campus, not just within the ELC. If you’re interested in collaborating, contact Gerry Luton at gluton@uvic.ca.

Navigate the ever-changing market

A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-comers to navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, he will assure smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.