New CFI funding boosts major science projects

BY VALERIE SHORE

UVic’s leadership and participation in several national and international big science projects has been given a huge shot in the arm with the injection of $14.8 million in new funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

The funding was announced on May 29 in Ottawa as part of a $333-million CFI investment in new research infrastructure across the country.

The UVic funding will support researchers who are developing cutting-edge technologies in nuclear medicine, particle physics and ocean observation systems. The bulk of the funding coming to UVic—more than $13.6 million—goes toward phase two of the UVic-led Advanced Rare Isotope Laboratory (ARIEL) at TRIUMF, Canada’s national facility for particles and nuclear physics in Vancouver.

ARIEL will strengthen Canada’s capabilities in particle and nuclear physics, and materials science. It’s also a testing ground for producing critical medical isotopes, which are used to diagnose and treat cancer, heart disease, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s.

The first phase of ARIEL, completed in 2014, constructed an underground beam tunnel and one of the world’s most powerful superconducting particle accelerators, as well as a new building to house them. This second phase will add next-generation technologies to the accelerator to produce a wider variety of exotic isotopes at greater intensities.

“We have designed a one-of-a-kind accelerator that will allow us to pursue the science in which TRIUMF is currently a world leader,” says UVic physicist Dean Karlen, who leads a 39-university ARIEL II consortium.

“It’s exciting for us and for future generations. They’ll come up with new ideas on how to use this technology that we haven’t even thought of yet.”

SEE CFI FUNDING P. 11

Taking academia underwater

BY SUZANNE AHERANE

Education grad Mike Irvine took academia beneath the waves for his scuba-dive thesis defence

When education grad student Mike Irvine first posed his master’s project research question to his advisor, the idea struck Jason Price as a humours oxymoron. Irvine wanted to explore how technology could be used as a tool to reconnect kids to nature.

“A lot of research has been telling us that technology may be responsible for socially isolating kids and creating a disconnect with nature. But Mike,” recalled Price, “wanted to explore how technology might be used to bring kids closer together, and closer to the marine world in particular.”

“I saw the irony,” admitted Irvine, “but I thought that the way to connect kids back to nature might just be the one thing conventional wisdom is telling us is standing in the way.” Irvine got the green light.

For his master’s project in curriculum and instruction, the third-generation scuba diver studied to what extent underwater web cameras could be an effective tool for motivating and engaging students in marine science.

Irvine created a pilot case study, which he conducted in a combined classroom of students from grades four to six. After conducting surveys with a group of students about their marine science knowledge and interests, then facilitating a curriculum unit about the history of a local marine environment (the Inner Harbour and Race Rocks), Irvine turned on a live ocean-to-surface feed from a stationary camera already in place.

“Almost instantly, students started to engage with it,” said Irvine. “They were excited about what they were looking at. They asked more questions. They dug deeper. And then real discussions started to happen.”

That excitement is the hook that’s needed, says Irvine, to engage students in inquiry-based learning that’s more interactive and exploratory than traditional learning.

“Inquiry is like improv,” says the 27-year-old whose undergraduate work at UVic was in Greek and Roman Studies and film. “If someone gives you something, you receive it and pass it on. You don’t just stop it in its tracks.”

“When a student asks a question,” he explains, “you take that question, and redirect it in a way that can guide the student.

SEE IRVINE P. 8

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SEE CFI FUNDING P. 11
“Big data” shows UVic is leading Canada in scientific impact

A data-driven analysis of scientific publications released May 20 by a leading European research centre puts UVic first in Canada for scientific impact in two broad fields—mathematics and computer science and physical sciences and engineering.

The ranking, produced by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University also places UVic third in the country among all universities for overall scientific impact.

UVic was the top Canadian university without a medical school in four of the ranking’s five categories. For UVic to place in the top tier is a remarkable achievement, and to do so without the lift in rankings that a medical school provides is “even more impressive,” says David Castle, UVic’s vice-president research.

The Leiden rankings use multy-year Web of Science publication and citation data in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities to measure the performance of 750 leading universities around the world.

Leiden’s metrics are unusual because they rely on the recognition and respect they bring, and do not include the results of subjective survey responses by industry professionals and academics.

Although the Leiden data can be sorted in many ways, UVic’s strong showing is based on Leiden’s default analysis, which measures scientific impact independently from a university’s size and focuses on publications in the top 10 per cent of most frequently cited work—indicating the value of the work within the scholarly community.

Every year since its inception in 2011, the Leiden rankings have also highlighted an indelible characteristic of our campus—UVic’s global perspective. Our researchers publish a higher proportion of research based on international collaboration than any other Canadian university.

“There is a strong correlation between research excellence and the extent to which the research involves international collaboration,” notes Castle. “As these ranking results indicate, UVic is making a vital impact at home and abroad.”

Of the 750 world-leading universities that Leiden ranks, UVic is 116th for global impact in all sciences, 86th in math and computer science, and 71st in physical sciences and engineering.

Subject-area leadership, even by subjective measures

Another estimate of field-specific scientific leadership released last month, the QS World University Subject Rankings, suggests that opinions in the scientific community are beginning to catch up to what—with UVic’s research performance—has been attractive to QS for 20 years in six key academic fields:

- Earth and marine sciences
- English language and literature
- Geography
- Law
- Philosophy
- Psychology

QS uses a mix of reputation surveys, citations and an impact-and-produc- tivity indicator to measure leadership in each field.

No matter which measures are used, UVic’s performance across its five disciplines continues to be very strong. QS scored the university for world-class performance in 29 of 36 fields it considers.

Research rankings like Leiden and QS are becoming increasingly important not just for potential students in selecting schools, but also in decision-making around research fund-in-g—leading key Leiden scientists to call for more transparency and accountability in the collection of metrics.

“Rankings provide one line of evidence, among many others, about the research performance and impact of a university,” says Castle. “In this case, they tell part of the story of continued strengths and emerging areas of research excellence at UVic, which is attractive to industry, government and graduate schools.”

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff and faculty access to lynda.com

Get ready to do some skill-sharpening! UVic’s annual subscription grants access to vast and ever-growing sets of online video tutorials from lynda.com.

The online university gains access to an inventory of instructional videos covering the latest software, creative and business skills. Use lynda.com for high-quality training in education and e-learning, Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite, time management, HTML coding, business skills, marketing, photography, 3-D animation and much more.

The lynda.com library consists of over 128,000 individual video tutorials, grouped into over 3,329 specific courses. Each course is broken into multiple segments, which allows you to watch as little or as much as you want.

New workshops added weekly, lynda.com is designed for all levels of learners, with nearly endless choices. Exercise files let you follow along with the instruction as you learn, and bookmarks help keep track of what you’d like to watch next. Also, many courses include exercise guides that can assist with your learning.

Individual video tutorials may be as short as four minutes each. With the Playlist feature you can browse the entire lynda.com inventory and build your own learning library which can include entire courses or just individual topics of interest.

These online resources are available from home, office or mobile device to support employees’ professional and personal development.

Why is UVic offering this?

As part of our overall learning strategy for employees, lynda.com complements existing learning opportunities offered through Human Resources as well as support services currently provided by University Systems.

With such an extensive inventory of topics, employees can use lynda.com as a great solution for ‘just-in-time’ learning, and for developing long-term professional and personal skills. UVic has negotiated a one-year offer through Human Resources.

“Big data” shows UVic is leading Canada in scientific impact

New jeans and acting deans announced

Four new academic leaders take up their posts at UVic this summer, with the appointments of Dr. Patricia Mark as dean of human and social development, Dr. Susan Lewis as acting dean of fine arts; Dr. Cedric Littlewood as acting dean of humanities and Dr. Kathryn Gillis as acting dean of science.

Mark will serve as dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development for a term effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. Mark is a specialist in the study of safety and quality issues across health systems and uses knowledge and methods from the field of ecologi-zing research as a key component of her work. She works collabora-tively with students and colleagues across Canada and internationally to build adaptive health management approaches and sustainable health systems. She has deep experience working in distance education and expertise in ethics, including collaboration on projects that integrate ethics into interdiscipli-nary undergraduate and graduate curricula. Mark’s partnerships have included Indigenous communities in BC and Alberta and she has worked within her faculty to establish de-colonized curricula. She previously served as a consult-ant for the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses; an associate professor in nursing at the Univer-sity of Alberta; associate dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Devel-opment at UBC—Okanagan and as professor and director of the School of Nursing at UBC—Okanagan.

Lewis has been appointed as acting dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Lewis currently serves as director of the School of Music and has been acting dean of the faculty since 2010 and 2012. She joined the school as an assistant professor in 2001 and was promoted to associate professor in 2008. Lewis is well placed to take on the role of acting dean while a search is conducted for the next dean of the faculty.

Littlewood will serve as acting dean for the Faculty of Humanities for the period of July 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015 while the Appointment and Reappointment Committee conducts its search for a new dean. Littlewood is an associate professor in Greek and Roman Studies and has considerable administrative experience, having previously held the faculty on Senate. More recently, he acted as associate dean of humani-ties for six months in 2014, and over the past year served on three of the sub-committees that contributed to the current Faculty of Humanities Strategic Plan.

Gillis has been ratified and appointed as acting dean of the Faculty of Science effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Gillis currently serves as associate dean of the faculty. She joined the univer-sity in 1994 as an assistant professor and has served as associate director ECER (2001-2006) and director of SEOS (2004-2011). Dr. Rob Lipson, who was reappointed earlier this year for a further term as dean of science, is on administrative leave from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
The University of Victoria was given a perfect score in the 2015 edition of The Princeton Review’s Guide to 353 Green College, an annual publication spotlighting campuses in the US and Canada with exceptional commitment to sustainability in their policies, initiatives and academic programs.

The scoring is a comprehensive measure of how environmentally responsible a school’s policies are, and how well a school is preparing students for employment in the clean-energy economy of the 21st century as well as for citizenship in a world now defined by environmental concerns and opportunities. The Princeton Review chose the colleges based on “Green Rating” scores (from 60 to 99) that the company tallied in summer 2014 for 861 colleges using data from its 2013-14 survey of school administrators.

Last year, Princeton Review used that data to unveil a shortlist of 24 schools in North America who had achieved a “perfect” score of 99. UVic was the only Canadian school to make that list.

“The new Office of Community University Engagement at UVic reflects our university’s updated approach and deep commitment to socially responsive research, community-engaged scholarship and interdisciplinary innovation,” says President Jamie Cassels. “Matching research and education with societal need is a crucial aspect of engagement at UVic, and this new office will help maintain the university’s position at the forefront of the community-university engagement movement in Canada.”

UVic’s faculty, students and staff have individual, program or research-based connections in thousands of community organizations, workplaces, households, company boardrooms and government operations.

Undertaking research that has a vital impact and providing students with hands-on experiential learning experiences outside the classroom are among the program’s early successes at UVic: that keep it responsive to and deeply connected with the community’s needs and needs.

Under the leadership of Dr. Norah McAlister as director, OCUVic’s work over the next three years will be guided by the following goals: (i) increasing opportunities for all UVic students to have engaged experiences as part of their education; and (ii) leveraging the university’s strengths and strategic commitment to and expertise in social, cultural, and economic development in our local region. These goals, each with specific strategies and outcomes, will take shape and develop in the coming years. “We could not have succeeded on our successes,” says McAlister, who will continue as executive director of UVic’s Co-operative Education and Career Services.

A five-frame approach underpins the UVic community engagement strategy:

Community Engaged Learning (to enhance integration of community experience with student learning)
Community Engaged Research (to strengthen mechanisms and resources to support this level of research)
Good Neighbour (to contribute to the well-being of our local region)
Knowledge Mobilization (to foster a culture supporting knowledge exchange and application for the benefit of society)
Policies and Institutional Support (to focus on internal support of community-university engagement)

The new structure with co-representatives from across campus and the community will be established by the end of this fall. A staff se- natorial of three employees will provide administrative support for OCUVic as well as the Institute for Studies in Community University Engagement (ISICUE).

ISICUE, established in June 2013, will continue as a research cluster studying and building scholarship around community-university engagement, but also as an innovation engine.

“ISICUE is a ‘doing’ think-tank. It will continue to do research on engagement and to nurture innovative projects and as such serves as another reflection of the university’s continued commitment to community engagement,” says Dr. Leslie Brown, who is retiring in June after two years as ISICUE director. A new ISICUE director will be appointed this summer.

A community-university engagement executive, consisting of UVic’s provost, vice president research, vice president finance and operations and a senior external representative, will have overall responsibility for the community-university engagement strategy.

After several months of hard work by both negotiating teams, and facilitated by mediator Trevor Sones, representatives of the University of Victoria and UVic Faculty Association have reached a tentative collective agreement, including a salary and benefit settlement. This is the first agreement since the faculty members and librarians certified as a union. It was approved by the university’s Board of Governors in late May. As the Ring went to press, faculty members were participating in an advisory referendum vote that was set to conclude June 5. The agreement covers the years 2014 to 2019.
CARSA’s grand opening

Just hours into the community open house for UVic’s new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA), every corner of the 190,000 square foot facility was filled with activity.

BY PATTY PITTS

Just hours into the community open house for UVic’s new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA), every corner of the 190,000 square-foot facility was filled with activity.

“It’s awesome,” said third-year student Kolding Larson, taking a break from his workout in the sprawling fitness and weight training centre. Just one of CARSA’s features that support athletic excellence and active living for the campus and community. “I thought it would be good, but it’s way better than I thought it would be.”

During his five-times-a-week visits to the former Ian Stewart Complex (ISC) fitness centre, Larson says he frequently encountered waits to use machines at busy times. “But there are never heard of CanAssist before, and lots of those another look at the brightly coloured holds. “I want to try it again.”

Students, faculty and staff get free access to much of CARSA as part of their athletics and recreation fee or employment compensation. Memberships for the weight/fitness area are available for a cost, which is the same arrangement that was used for the fitness facility at ISC. Community members can purchase a full-access membership.

One of the younger visitors, Helena McQuarrie, 7, expressed what many were feeling after an initial visit to CARSA. After tackling the bouldering area next to the climbing wall she admitted, “it looked cool, but it’s a little hard.” Then she took another look at the brightly coloured holds. “I want to try it again.”

UVic and has invested over $300 million in new and renovated academic facilities. At the same time, athletics facilities were showing the wear and tear of over 40 years of use, and also needed to be renewed, upgraded and expanded.

A hub for sports excellence

UVic has a proud tradition of high-performing student athletes and is among the top five Canadian universities for its number of Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) team championships. Varsity athlete and national field hockey team member Kathleen Leahy thinks CARSA will help UVic add to that total.

“We train hard and compete harder. With CARSA the opportunity to raise our game is endless,” she said at the opening. Leahy added that CARSA provides “extra recruiting appeal” to students considering which university to attend.

Cassels also expressed his pride in the “inclusive nature” of CARSA, where everyone can find “the resources, inspiration and opportunity to be the best that we can be.”

A new home for CanAssist

That inclusive nature is best demonstrated right off CARSA’s main lobby in the new facilities for CanAssist. UVic’s innovative program that develops technologies, programs and services for people living with disabilities.

During the open house, CanAssist staff proudly showed off some of their current technologies in a light-filled facility easily accessible by clients, staff and the public. Electrical design specialist Paul Green said the new location was a vision in 2008.

“About 50 per cent of the people coming through our doors are newcomers who have never heard of CanAssist before, and lots of those are UVic faculty and staff,” he said. “So even on campus we’re raising our profile.”

From vision to reality

At CARSA’s official opening on May 1, UVic President Jamie Cassels said the facility started as a vision in 2008.

“It’s absolutely critical to the mission of a university to provide recreational opportunities for everyone to engage in active and healthy living,” said Cassels, adding that this was “the foundation for academic and life success.”

He pointed out that since 2000, UVic’s student population has grown by more than 4,500 students—more than 30 percent—and that the Peninsula Co-op Climbing Centre

Just beyond the main foyer of CARSA, the Peninsula Co-op Climbing Centre dominates the building and a steady stream of people lined up to scale the 16-metre wall studded with multi-coloured holds that mark the paths of various climbs.

“UVic has purchased 3,000 holds so we can switch them up and change the routes to keep it interesting for regular users,” said Kathleen Wirtanen, a UVic summer camps and program coordinator and one of the many staff conducting building tours.

The dominating wall and its towering enclosures serve a dual purpose. It contributes to CARSA’s LEED gold building certification standards by acting as a funnel, venting warm air up and out of the building like a chimney. Other environmental features include a geothermal system that will save emissions by 340 tonnes annually, and technologies to reduce water consumption by 40 per cent, making it one of the most water-efficient buildings on campus.

Transforming the UVic campus

The $77-million project includes significant renovation to the McKinnon Building, providing much needed teaching and research space for UVic’s School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, as well as a new parkade at McKenzie Avenue and Gabriola Road. The project is funded by the university, donor and sponsorship support, membership fees and parking fees.

“The open house, in addition to a faculty and staff sneak peek on May 1, provided people with an up-close look at the facilities that includes the enormous field house where semi-transparent screens divide the space into separate sections so badminton and pick-up basketball can exist side-by-side with room for ping pong and tennis games.

Students, faculty and staff get free access to much of CARSA as part of their athletics and recreation fee or employment compensation. Memberships for the weight/fitness area are available for a cost, which is the same arrangement that was used for the fitness facility at ISC. Community members can purchase a full-access membership.

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Breaking the ribbon at the opening ceremony. PHOTO: ARMANDO TURA

The new squash courts. PHOTO: ARMANDO TURA

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Shelagh Rogers became the university’s 11th chancellor at the start of the calendar year but it becomes official when she is installed in office in her ceremonial robes while being sworn in by Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon. Chancellor emeritus Murray Farmer will invest Rogers in her ceremonial robes while delegates from other universities will be on stage to witness the installation.

Rogers hosts and produces CBC radio’s The Next Chapter, a weekly program about Canadian writers and songwriters. She is an officer of the Order of Canada for her support of Canadian culture and for her volunteer efforts for mental health and literacy. She is also an honorary witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Co-ops give health info sciences grad a competitive edge

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

For Emily Mailes of Melbourne, Australia, deciding what to study was a daunting process. “I was not one of those people who always knew what they wanted to do.”

Six years post-high school and having relocated to Victoria, Emily decided to pick a path and move forward with her life. “UVic’s School of Health Information Sciences stood out,” she says. “A relative is a grad who now has an interesting and lucrative career. The global opportunities across the tech sector held considerable appeal along with the school’s promise of guaranteed placement upon graduation.”

The School of Health Information Sciences (HINF), based in Human and Social Development, was the first program of its kind when launched in 1981. Today, it’s internationally recognized as a leader in the field of health informatics education.

“I was fascinated, too, by the diversity of the BSc program,” Mailes explains. Studies blend computer programming with healthcare delivery and business administration skills to prepare students for the demands of the health service workplace as well as equipping them with the ability to

SEE MAILES P. 7

Dr. Nassif Ghoussoub
HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE (LLD)
June 12 at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Nassif Ghoussoub is a world-leading mathematician who has played a critical role in building Canadian networks for the support of education and research in mathematical sciences. He is the founder of the Pacific Institute for Mathematical Sciences, the Banff International Research Station, and a co-founder of Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems. PIMS has transformed mathematics among research universities in western Canada by encouraging regional research initiatives. BIRS has gained an international reputation as a premier venue for mathematics conferences. MITACS, an offshoot of PIMS, promotes collaboration among mathematicians working in industry and academia. Ghoussoub, a UBC math professor, is a world leader in the field of partial differential equations.

Convocation 2015

The University of Victoria will present four honorary degrees for outstanding achievements in community-based leadership, public service, legal affairs and mathematics during spring convocation ceremonies.

Ruby Dunstan, HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD) June 9 at 10 a.m.

The first female chief of the Lytton First Nation, Ruby Dunstan was a dynamic leader in the fight to protect the Stein Valley, ancestral territory of the Nlaka’pamux people, from logging. She was a key negotiator in the formation of the Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Provincial Park, co-managed by the Lytton First Nation and BC Parks.

Dunstan was among the first to bring attention to residential school abuses in Canada, helping to mobilize a national campaign that led to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and she was a driving force behind the creation of the Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux School in Lytton.

Don Drummond
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)
June 9 at 2:30 p.m.

Don Drummond, BA ‘76 (Economics), is an economist whose career has been guided by a vision for a Canada that is fiscally strong, educated and inclusive. As Associate Deputy Minister of Finance, Drummond played a key role in the 1995 budget (and subsequent budget) that eliminated deficits that had been the worst of the G7 countries at the time.

After leaving the federal civil service, Drummond continued to influence economic outcomes in Canada as the senior vice-president and chief economist at TD Financial Group. From 2000-2010, he made frequent media appearances, offering informed perspectives on Canadian economic issues and policies. He later chaired the Commission on the Reform of Ontario Public Services.

Hon. Lance Finch
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)
June 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Hon. Lance Finch is the retired chief justice of British Columbia and Yukon Territory, a position he held from 2001-2013. His approach to justice is characterized by wisdom, compassion, and profound concern for the law and its role in Canadian society.

Finch studied at Victoria College, starting in 1955, before completing his undergraduate and law degrees at UBC. An effective and principled leader of the court, Finch has been especially concerned with the impact of the law on less advantaged members of society. He has been outspoken about challenges related to access to justice and has urged the law community to share more responsibility for helping those who can’t afford legal services.

Dunstan, Drummond, Finch, Ghoussoub

SEE MAILES P. 7

The first female chief of the Lytton First Nation, Ruby Dunstan was a dynamic leader in the fight to protect the Stein Valley, ancestral territory of the Nlaka’pamux people, from logging. She was a key negotiator in the formation of the Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Provincial Park, co-managed by the Lytton First Nation and BC Parks.

Dunstan was among the first to bring attention to residential school abuses in Canada, helping to mobilize a national campaign that led to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and she was a driving force behind the creation of the Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux School in Lytton.

Dr. Nassif Ghoussoub
HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE (LLD)
June 12 at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Nassif Ghoussoub is a world-leading mathematician who has played a critical role in building Canadian networks for the support of education and research in mathematical sciences. He is the founder of the Pacific Institute for Mathematical Sciences, the Banff International Research Station, and a co-founder of Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems. PIMS has transformed mathematics among research universities in western Canada by encouraging regional research initiatives. BIRS has gained an international reputation as a premier venue for mathematics conferences. MITACS, an offshoot of PIMS, promotes collaboration among mathematicians working in industry and academia. Ghoussoub, a UBC math professor, is a world leader in the field of partial differential equations.
CONVOCATION 2015

Congratulations, grads!

Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During Spring Convocation, from June 8–12, nine ceremonies will be held to confer degrees, diplomas or certificates upon 3,649 graduating students. Shelagh Rogers will be formally installed as the 11th UVic chancellor during Monday’s ceremony, and four honorary degrees will be conferred in subsequent ceremonies. Congratulations and best wishes to all convocating students. In the following pages, we present profiles of a few of the many outstanding members of this year’s graduating class.

Wild game and words feed inspiration for TV host and Indigenous language revitalization grad

BY TARA SHARPE

Art Napoleon was already a national figure when his TV show, Moosemeat & Marmalade, premiered on APTN in January 2015. He had performed at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, opened for Buffy Sainte-Marie and been interviewed by veteran correspondent Tom Hawthorne for the Globe and Mail in September 2010 for the release of his album Creeland Corn, sung almost exclusively in Cree.

Moosemeat & Marmalade is a “comedic documentary adventure and cultural clash,” says Napoleon, who graduates in June 2015 with an MA from the Faculty of Humanities. (The show, along with several other UVic films, has been nominated for a 2015 Leo Award. More about that on page 12.)

Napoleon was raised on moosemeat and wild game in an inter-tribal community at East Mothberry Lake—in the woodlands of northeastern BC. “To eat traditional food, it’s like you’re tasting a piece of my culture,” he says. As co-host and producer of the new TV series, he hunted moose and foraged for berries then presented his culinary creations—all on camera.

He points out the English word “mousse” comes from the Cree word móosuw. Much like the majestic animal pierced by the sharp tip of a hunting weapon, words can help pin important paradigms in place for broader understanding. Napoleon, a graduate of UVic’s Department of Linguistics as well as Indigenous Education in the Faculty of Education, did his master’s thesis on traditional concepts related to Cree worldview through the lens of Indigenous language and culture. A holistic focus on the Cree language and worldview is part of why he avoids standard dictionary approaches to translation.

“One of this approach is new; what is new is compartmentalization,” explains Napoleon. “The language itself provides clues to our ways of thinking, clues to our past.”

“One example is the Cree word for thunder. You’d need a whole sentence in English to translate our word: ‘The thunderbirds are calling out to one another’.”

“Another example is the English word for green. In Cree, it’s ‘the colour of the land in summer’ or ‘summer-like colour’.”

“I come from a holistic paradigm and I can’t isolate anything from anything else. It is a more of a circle, a circling. And the beauty of the Cree language is that it allows you to see that really clearly.”

Napoleon is the first master’s student in UVic’s Indigenous Language Revitalization program to complete an MA. He describes himself on Twitter as a TV producer, songwriter, adventurist and wild game foodie, as well as a “weekend shape-shifter and extreme berry picker.”

Based in Victoria since 2003, he remains connected to his home territory and his Cree and Dane Zaa roots. As a child, he was “forced to dig in the garden, season the wood and haul it, clean the fishing nets, water and take care of the horses. Every child knew how to make a fire at four years old. And I still feel like the land is able to feed me.” He brings his two youngest daughters home to the Peace region to care of the horses. Every child knew how to make a fire at four years old. And I still feel like the land is able to feed me.” He brings his two youngest daughters home to the Peace region each summer, where he hunts and forages to fill his city cupboards and freezer for the winter.

“My kids swim in the lake and tell stories by the fire. If you asked them whether they’d like to go to Hawaii or Europe for the holiday, they’d say Mothberry.”

He was Chief of the Saulteau First Nation for a short time before moving to the coast. He is a seasoned performer, musician and teacher who tours regularly and also serves as a juror on arts and culture organizations across Canada. He is also a language teacher and a long-time consultant and advisor.

He plans to write a book on aspects of the Cree language and culture, and has a suitcase literally stuffed with ideas and notes for future writing projects. He adds he also has “an ‘activist side, out of necessity.’ He is a conservationist involved in protests against the Site C dam, the proposed project which is ‘at the doorstep of my community and will affect the river’.”

Cariboo were “once like ants” across the land of his ancestral home—also the “heart of moose country”—and he remembers hearing moose bellowing and fighting. “Now it is hard to even find one.”

You can bet a cookbook is very likely in his future. What is not as safe a bet is the continuation of fresh air, clean water and wild game in plenty that once tempted and inspired his ancestors in both song and hunt.
A passport stamped “experience” by Kate Siemens

Electrical engineering grad Sarah Allan explored her personal and professional interests at home and abroad while at UVic—thanks in large part to the co-op program. “Taking part in the co-op program allowed me to explore many of my personal interests,” she says. “It also allowed me to gain industry knowledge that wouldn’t have been possible in a traditional degree program.”

Allan chose UVic largely because of its co-op program, which is mandatory for engineering students. Over the course of her degree, Allan completed work terms with four different employers across three continents.

Allan’s first work term took her to northern Ghana with Engineers Without Borders, where she developed and populated databases and data-driven development in small local communities. Her international interests spurred her second co-op, a placement at HSBC as a global IT intern. At HSBC, she planned and built business tools to support various multinational teams. For her third co-op term, Allan supported Yukon College’s archaeological dig in the Yukon and Ukraine, exploring the possibilities of using virtual reality to analyze artifacts. She also got to practice her French, which she learned before heading to Ukraine and carried forward up to 400-level courses upon her return to campus.

Allan spent her final work term in Edmonton as a field engineer with Willbros Canada, an energy infrastructure contracting company. “While each day started with a 5:30 a.m. wakeup call and a dark, snowy trek out to the field site, Allan enjoyed the opportunity to put her skills to full use in the field and within the environment. “Because it was a field position, where I could work hands-on and learn project engineering,” she says, “it was a new learning experience for me in an industrial setting.”

Allan spent her days in Edmonton coordinating clients, site personnel and quality assurance personnel to ensure projects were on task. She was also responsible for planning review meetings, site inspections and quality assurance audits. “I was able to take on the role of project manager for a project that came her way. The dynamic nature of the job helped Allan build project management and workflow skills and learn from her project manager and gain knowledge about industrial, electrical and instrumentation systems and parts.”

With her co-op experiences under her belt, Allan feels confident heading into life after graduation and has a greater awareness of her interests, strengths and career options. “Each co-op term was another insight into what type of career would interest me,” she says.

“The combined skills I gained from my co-op terms and academic studies also give me the confidence to work in the industries that appeal to me the most,” Allan says. Allan continues her jet-setting—off to Bristo-bane, Australia. She plans to travel the country for a month or two before looking for a position as an industrial engineer-in-training.

Reflecting on her time as an engineering student, Allan is grateful for the support she found throughout her degree. “I had a great time during my degree, and appreciated and took the opportunity to use the many resources available at UVic.”

She suggests new students create their own networking opportunities on campus. “Attend student clubs and interact with as many people as possible. “UVic provides an extensive network and proven connections to the industries,” she says. “Talk to as many people as you can, learn from them and have fun!”

MAILES CONTINUED FROM P5

push the discipline forward.

Encouraged to work while she learned, Mailes arranged her own work terms through contacts she had established with Stanford Children’s Health in Palo Alto, California, KPMG Australia’s Melbourne office, and the Royal Children’s Hospital [also in Melbourne] where she works now as a full-time electronic medical record analyst.

During her work term at Royal Children’s, she helped put together a business case for an electronic medical record software installation. This involved literature reviews, workflow analysis, time-in-motion studies, and developing business requirements. The case was so successful, she was hired to work on the project. In fact, the same team are still working on their work term at Stanford Children’s Hospital was procured by Royal Children’s. Emily’s co-op experience gave her an advantage having worked closely within this program that had yet to be tried in Australia. Reflecting highlights from her time at UVic, Mailes says “I wish I’d realized then just how fortunate I was with different teams and project managers.

Being able to study a few electives online meant she could complete her international co-ops, line-up employment, do some travelling (like cycling from Victoria to her work placement in California), and still graduate on time.

With feet now firmly planted in Australia, Emily has found a way to give back to the program that helped her get her life on track. She’s gearing up to place a HINF co-op student this September alongside at the Royal Children’s Hospital. Not only will she be the student’s main support person, they’ll also be included in work with different teams and project managers.

“I’m really excited to be able to offer this co-op to a fellow HINF student,” she says, stressing how much she values the learning she gained through similar experiences. “I think this will be a fantastic opportunity.”

From Manila to Broadway

Professional director sees MFA as stepping-stone to rest of the world

BY ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

Like many MFA students in the Department of Theatre, director Chari Arespacochaga came to UVic already armed with a strong résumé and extensive experience in theatre. A native of the Philippines, Arespacochaga directed professionally in Manila for many years, casting big foreign stars, and touring shows across Asia. Her resume is touting with major productions of Broadway’s best and most popular musicals including Spring Awakening, Legally Blonde, Avenue Q, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin and Rock of Ages.

So why leave a successful career to travel across North America and return to school? “I didn’t want to rest on my laurels in Manila. Arespacochaga’s heart, for her MFA thesis within a more classical-style play and chose to do my MFA means starting fresh in a new environment,” she says.

“I was taken by the poetry in Shaffer’s writing and believed that the questions this play asks about the nature of art were very important. What is our accountability to our talent? Is it a gift from a God, or can it be developed?” As a director, it’s important to try, “she says. “Talk to as many people as you can, learn from them and have fun!”

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What comes after plastic?

BY ERIN KING

You might not see the results of his research on store shelves in the next few years, but PhD graduate Saurabh Chitnis is helping to change the very makeup of the world around us.

Chitnis is a fundamental chemist working on developing new chemical compounds.

For the past 100 years, popular chemistry has focused on one element of the periodic table: carbon. Combining carbon atoms to make organic compounds results in something that can be used in plastic. These carbon-based polymers are intrinsically unique, they use a large number of different molecules to be made up of hundreds of different types of molecules.

“To think very simply about the production of plastics, the world’s reliance on those polymers has increased exponentially, and currently we are in a cycle of plastic waste and pollution,” Chitnis says.

With this simple notion in mind, Chitnis and his team are developing new ways to create plastic-like materials from other elements.

“Chitnis is exploring the same idea of creating a plastic, but he is thinking of it in terms of a metal, and he’s thinking of metal as a new class of material,” says graduate advisor Dr. Neil McLaren, a professor in the department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

McLaren describes Chitnis’s research as being cutting-edge, using novel materials to create new types of polymers.

“Chitnis’s research is at such a high level, it has yet to be fully appreciated,” says McLaren.

Research like this is at such a high level, so removed from immediate societal impact, that it can be difficult to see the value in it.

However, Chitnis is unusual among chemists like Chitnis focusing on carbon-based polymers over carbon’s 100-year-old cousin, the metal sodium. Research in sodium chemistry has not been as widely explored, but it is an area of great potential, with many companies exploring new metals as alternatives to carbon.

“Research into new metals as plastic alternatives is still in the early stages, but there is a lot of promise,” says McLaren.

Chitnis’s work has garnered an impressive amount of accolades. In 2011, he was awarded an NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship, and in the early 2010s, he was named a Vanier Scholar. He now has two international grants.

In addition to his research, Chitnis has also published dozens of articles in prominent chemistry journals during his PhD, with another three in the works now.

“Because of the things that drew him to UVic is the institution’s reputation for involving undergraduates in research. In the four universi- ties I’ve studied, UVic seems to take undergraduate research the most seriously. Not only have under- graduates contributed directly to my research, but our participation also gave me an opportunity to supervise research.”

Chemistry chair Neil Burford also drew Chitnis to UVic. “I was a member of Neil’s lab at Dalhousie University. When Neil moved to Victoria in 2011, I came with him, says Chitnis. “Neil is internationally renowned as a leader in inorganic and organometallic chemistry, and currently the president-elect of the Canadian Society of Chemistry. He believes in letting students freely design and evolve their research projects based on their intellectual curiosity, allowing them to develop as independent thinkers. It’s not surprising that many of his previous students are now professors and researchers around the world.”

With his PhD now complete, Chitnis embarks on a new chapter as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bristol. For the next two years he’ll be studying a catalytic process that may one day allow chemists to use sodium atoms rather than carbon atoms to make polymer-like materials.

“Really exciting Chitnis to me is his ability to address possibilities. ‘So much is still unknown about chemical compounds. The imagination lags behind what’s possible. Nature can ultimately reveal to us,’ says Chitnis.

Chitnis’s research is already generating lots of buzz this year. “We normally require an oral defence at the end of the academic year. But this year, we’ve deferred it until this summer,” says McLaren. “We feel that this gives Chitnis a chance to fully focus on his work and develop his ideas.”

An oral examination will be held in Chitnis’s lab on Thursday, August 15. Chitnis will deliver a one-hour talk on his research, which will be followed by a questions and answers session. The public is welcome to attend.

“Chitnis’s work is groundbreaking, and he looks set to change the way we think about plastics,” says McLaren.

What can we expect from Chitnis’s research in the future?

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Thai co-op quenches law grad's thirst for international experience

BY JULIE SLOAN

Anna Beatch doesn’t like to plan too far ahead, and that feeds her thirst for adventure. She likes a challenge, which is why she chose UVic Law after receiving her undergraduate commerce and business law degree from the University of Alberta. “I wanted to challenge myself and push my boundaries,” says Beatch. “I also chose UVic Law because the UVic co-op program.”

During her undergraduate degree at U of A, Beatch had the opportunity to study abroad at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration in 2008 and as a delegate with an international study tour in China in 2009. Clearly seeking a broad education and experience, the UVic Law co-op program was an easy choice. She was able to close her home for her first three co-op terms—in the BC Office of the Ombudsperson, the BC Ministry of Justice and a local tax law firm—so a fourth work term in Thailand was a perfect fit.

Chandler & Thong-ek, a Bankok law firm that handles corporate and commercial law, with local and international clients.

Chandler and Thong-ek has hired 62 co-op students from UVic over the past 20 years. The partnership began in 1991 between now-retired Dean of Law Bill Nielsen and Al Chandler, the firm’s founder and senior partner. The partnership has been providing students with an invaluable experiential learning opportunity, and clearly has an impact on career choices for many of the students who have had the opportunity to complete a co-op placement there. Barry Penner—for- mer BC Attorney General, Minister of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation and Minister of Environment—was the first UVic Law co-op student hired by Chandler and Thong-ek. Penner’s experience there left such an impression on him that he returned, 20 years later, to expand Chandler & Thong-ek’s satellite office in Myanmar, where he currently travels.

Beatch’s experience in Thailand also had a profound impact on her. “I was very lucky in Thailand and working at Chandler and Thong-ek was amazing—I grew personally and profession- ally. I was exposed to a new country and a new culture, and got to teach my colleagues about my country and my culture. I was working at a top-tier law firm and being mentored by brilliant lawyers. I was exposed to conducting due diligence for domestic and international investment projects and project financing in the renewable energy and natural resources sectors. I spent every bit of my time exploring and networking with other young professionals from all over the world. I have memories that will last a lifetime.”

Beatch has considered finding her way back to work in Thailand. Al Chandler, who was very fond of Beatch, recommended that she work in corporate law in Canada for four or five years to position herself well for work in the firm back in Bangkok. The Saskatchewan-born Beatch, who graduates this June, has just started articling for MacPherson, Leslie and Tyerman, a law firm in Sas- katoon. As for the future plans of this adventure-seeker: “I tend to not plan my future too far in advance—in this case it keeps exciting it.”

An international career path in law

A global perspective and an international itinerary

BY MOIRA DANN

While many educational experiences are a straight road from enrollment to convocation, some routes are more circuitous. Bader Murad—who graduates this June with a Master of Global Business (MGB) from the Sauder S. Gill Graduate School at the Gustavson School of Business—broke a while to find his way. Convocation isn’t the only milestone for Murad; he has also arrived triumphantly at his first career destination.

Murad’s undergraduate degree in criminology and additional coursework in human resources left something lacking for him—ultimately, he found neither of those spoke to him as careers. Murad heard about the Master of Global Business while working at an outdoor store on the West Coast. He lived in Europe and wanted to get back overseas, so he investigated the internationally focused program.

Without an undergraduate commerce degree, Murad acquired the fundamen- tals in an intensive, 12-week Certificate in Business Administration. It required a big leap of faith: he quit his job to immerse himself in the program—“...in which he excelled” adds MGB Program Associate Director John Oldale. And then another roadblock: Mu- rad’s undergraduate GPA wasn’t stellar. However, there were many other clear and compelling elements in his application, and Oldale and the MGB Admissions Committee “had a good feeling about him.” They weighed his factors against his GPA, and made him an offer of admission.

“It was the right decision,” said Oldale. “He excelled in the MGB, not only academically, but in every other way: socially, cross-culturally [and] in the experiential elements of the program.” Murad was one of the top five graduates in his class.

Murad found his MGB internship with Munich, Germany company, Ma- tao, on a UVic job board. He was later encouraged by a friend to apply to Hit- fox Group in Berlin, where he survived a month-long interview process.

Murad says he got his job because he was able to sell the MGB program. He competed successfully with people with MBAs and experience in consult- ing companies because of what he learned and experienced through the MGB program: “in his words; “I learned a global mindset.” He’s already had the opportunity to travel to Barcelona twice through his job, and is head- ing to London and Madrid. The MGB gave him the skills and confidence to work internationally. He also said the program will have paid for itself in two years.

With his recent promotion to Busi- ness Development Manager at Hitfox venture Applit—and an international iinerary to match his global perspec- tives—Murad says happily, “I am living the MGB life.”
Joyce Underwood

The university lost a dear and valued member of the community on Monday, May 18 with the passing of Joyce Underwood. Underwood was a founding member of the Elders’ Voces program, which brings the stories, songs, language, culture and traditions of Indigenous communities to life at UVic and at Camosun College. Her involvement helped shape the program, bringing elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. She was well known for having a kind word and a smile for everybody she met, and supported the spirit, work and life of the university in ways that are difficult to count.

Farrell was a director of the Society for Participation in Research (SPR), an India-based non-profit with a long history of collaboration with the university. Over the years, Farrell developed many personal and professional connections with the UVic community and programs. She helped develop community development courses for the School of Public Administration and had been adjunct faculty both here and at Royal Roads where she was scheduled to teach later this summer.

Budd Hall (Public Administration, Anthropology) has known Farrell for 25 years. Of his friend, Hall reflected, “Martha Farrell was a joyful, courageous, strong and principled woman. She was a national leader of the movement against violence against women, a great friend of the University of Victoria and will be with us always in our hearts.”

Hall shares the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education with Farrell and President of PRFA Dr. Rajesh Tandon, who received an honorary Doctorate of Laws from UVic in 2006. Farrell and PRFA distance education initiatives have connected with many UVic students. CAPI interns working with Farrell directly, Bobby Rama, internship program manager says that “Martha was an incredibly strong, intelligent and inspiring woman, who worked with a huge impact on many people’s lives.”

Farrell’s death is a tragedy that has brought home to UVic the reality of the violence happening in many places around the world. All who knew her or her work will miss Farrell’s leadership, inspiration, courage and dedication. A celebration of Farrell’s life is being planned for September when Tandon is planning to be in Victoria.

Martha Farrell, a long-time member of the community on Tsawout First Nation gymnasium on Monday, May 18 with the passing of Joyce Underwood. Underwood was a founding member of the Elders’ Voces program, which brings the stories, songs, language, culture and traditions of Indigenous communities to life at UVic and at Camosun College. Her involvement helped shape the program, bringing elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. She was well known for having a kind word and a smile for everybody she met, and supported the spirit, work and life of the university in ways that are difficult to count.

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Mystery of the Franklin Expedition

The truth is out there, if you know where to look. And now, thanks to the dramatic discovery of the sunken hull of HMS Erebus last fall, clues and questions about the ill-fated Franklin Expedition continue to surface, making this historical mystery thrilling... and chilling—nearly two centuries later.

“The Franklin Mystery: Life and Death in the Arctic” is the 13th website in the award-winning Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History series. It aims to help crack one of the oldest cold cases of all. Great Unsolved Mysteries, based in the history department at UVic, is built on the premise that everyone loves a mystery and that students of all ages can be drawn into the study of Canadian history with the allure of solving real stories of historical intrigue.

As project co-director and UVic historian Dr. John Lutz says, “History is too important to be boring.” And finding one of Franklin’s two ships solves one mystery, but opens up many more.

Unsolved questions

The doomed 1845 British mission was the equivalent in its time of sending humans to the moon. But how could 129 men with three years’ provisions not survive when local peoples were living off the land? Did lead poisoning, freezing temperatures, conflict or starvation cause the deaths of the crew? Why did the crew abandon HMS Erebus, or did they? What happened to the other ship, HMS Terror, and its crew? Was cannibalism, a part of the Inuit oral testimony, really the unfortuitous final chapter in these men’s stories?

Research director Lyle Dick, a former president of the Canadian Historical Association who first suggested the 13th mystery to Lutz, explains that the British admiralty’s instructions to Sir John Franklin “included as many orders to collect geomagnetic data as they did requests to search for the Northwest Passage. When Franklin’s ships became beset in the ice, they were only about 100 miles from the North Magnetic Pole. Were they on a mission to discover not only the Northwest Passage but a kind of early forerunner to the modern Global Positioning System?” Thanks to collaborating historian and author Andrew Lambert, who was interviewed in the Franklin Mystery, this is a new question to be explored on the site.

Dick also points out, “The Franklin Mystery can teach us a great deal about how Aboriginal people have survived in the Arctic over many generations while newcomers didn’t, because they were not adequately prepared with knowledge and equipment for the rigors of the Arctic environment and climate. The website is unique among Franklin-oriented sites in that it emphasises the role of Inuit as well as Europeans in this important chapter in Canadian history.”

Toolkit for history sleuths

The Franklin Mystery includes primary historical documents including Inuit testimony, as well as archive photos, paintings, newspaper articles, journal entries, old maps, interactive materials and guides for teachers, and historical interpretations by experts.

Also interviewed for the Franklin Mystery was Inuit hunter Louise Kamookak, a historian in Gjoa Haven. Kamookak, in an interview posted on the Franklin Mystery website, describes his grandmother’s story of when she was “maybe about six or seven. They were travelling, the story was that they were on King William Island, they were travelling to the north part of the island to cut some wood and when they got kind of close to the shore there, it was in this area, they came across a ridge... and they started finding some artifacts; they didn’t know what they were. They were picking up broken things, big things...then she noticed they were from a musket, a rifle. And there were spoons and forks: they didn’t know what they were.”

Bilingual national teaching project

The Franklin Mystery will be available in English and French, with an additional instructional package available in Inuktitut.

Launched in 1997 with one on-site website, the bilingual national teaching project now spans almost 1,000 years of history and draws nearly 2,500 users every day from over 50 countries including Morocco, Japan, Israel and Peru.

More than 5,000 teachers and professors have registered to access its guides and lesson plans. The mysteries, ranging from 1000 AD to the 1950s, include numerous unsolved murders as well as the actual location of the first Viking settlement on the East Coast.

The official unveiling in Ottawa on June 4 included an introduction to the Franklin Expedition by Mr. Dick, remarks by Mr. Kamookak, on Inuit involvement in the story; and a presentation by Parks Canada archaeologist Marc-Andre Bernier. Special entertainment included a musical performance of the Northwest Passage song by Canadian tenor and UVic alumnae Karen Lawing, as well as Inuit throat singing by the Ottawa Inuit Children’s Centre.

www.canadianmysteries.ca/sites/franklin
Advocating for community-access dental clinics

BY KATE HILBRANDT

As a researcher and advocate, social work professor Bruce Wallace has in- vested much of his academic career toward improving access to dental care for those with low or no income. In March, he received a BC Dental Association award of merit for work leading to the creation of Cool Aid’s community dental clinic in 2002. “It’s nice to be an outsider wel-

come,” Wallace says of the award. “I see it as a breakthrough consider-

ing I’ve been critical of the industry, questioning dentists’ responsibility to do more.”

Cool Aid was one of the original community dental clinics in BC. Today, there are about 20 such clinics across the province. While Wallace is happy to see this progress, he feels the real is-

sue remains unaddressed—dental care is not covered by Canada’s healthcare system—so access is on the road for who can pay versus who needs care.

Wallace says he had no grand plan for a dental clinic, but that was before he studied the disparity. It was more than 15 years ago when an advocate at the Agassiz and District Poverty Society (TAPS) asked for his help investigating barriers to dental treatment for people in need.

“It is an extreme need,” Rev. Al Tystad said in 2001, then leading the Open Door Society. He told Wallace that the average street person was seeing the dentist about every six to nine months, while those in the general population saw their dentist once a year, or about every 5 1/2 years.

Europeans, the French in particular, are dental clinics.

said Sydney Adair, clinic administration manager. “It’s a nice feeling when doctors talk to for people in need.”

issue, repeatedly asked regarding oral and health care leaders how they can allow this health inequity to continue. He also presses for policy change in his work with community partners, health care activists, as well as his own social work students and faculty colleagues.

Irene Haigh-Gidora, manager of Cool Aid’s health services program, has worked closely with Wallace not only in developing the dental clinic but also as a fellow community ac-
tivist. “Bruce and I prepared a cost analysis for a full-service clinic with paid staff and dentists that’s what’s needed, not just extractions but also full preventative services, which meant we would need a subsidy from government each year. Bruce was the catalyst that made this dream happen. Full ring article on site by h.t.

CFLI FUNDING CONTINUED FROM P.1

Four other UVic-related projects have also been funded. University of British Columbia professor Robert Bluhm and his team are receiving $8 million to build new elements for the massive ATLAS experiment at CERN, the Large Hadron Collider—the world’s largest science experiment—in Europe.

UVic physicians have a long his-
tory of leadership in ATLAS, which involves more than 3,000 scientists from 130 institutions worldwide. ATLAS, which studies the fundamental building blocks of matter. UVic is one of three universities partnering with Cern on this $680 million upgrade project.

UVic is receiving $200,000 for Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) to help the University of Manitoba develop a new type of oceanographic instrument for a laboratory in Hudson Bay.

The collaboration builds on the success of ONC’s world-leading NEP-TUNE and VENUS cabied observatories, and since 2012, a community of collaborative research in the North.

UVic is also a partner in a new CFLI-
funded project to upgrade beam line 4 at the National Synchrotron Light Source (CLS), a national synchrotron facility located at the University of Saskatchewan.

The project also follows scientists to study the microstructure and chemi-

cal properties of materials. Past research at CLS has defined the molecular basis of chronic disease, defined the role of genes in drug response, and led to a better understanding of protein interactions within living cells.

UVic is one of 22 universities participating in ADPTE, a national “virtual laboratory” led by Queen’s University which gives science and engineering researchers access to world-leading tools, facilities and ex-

perts needed for their research activities (including novel devices and nanotechnology).

Applications of ADPTE tech-

nologies include health care and biomedical devices, transportation, communications, clean technology and cybersecurity.

New CanAssist extends independence

BY ANNE TOLSON

Thousands of British Columbians living with dementia and other chal-

lenging conditions will benefit from a new CanAssist program aimed toward improving access to innovative technologies for people with a range of disabilities. The program was launched in early May with the support of the BC centennial celebrations in 1958

The Ring Summer 2015 Page 11

by the British Columbia Centennial Commission, which allowed CanAssist to develop an innovative technology that will ben-
et thousands of people across the province starting in 2014. CanAssist is working with ministry staff to deter-

mine the theme or focus for this most recent investment, leveraging development of new and innovative technologies.

The funding will also be used to launch a new online service for in-

dividuals and organizations looking for information about existing and emerging technologies that can help people with a range of disabilities.

In March 2014, CanAssist received $2 million from the Health Ministry for the CanStayHome program, which will result in a suite of innovative technologies that support vulnerable British Columbians and others to stay in their homes longer—enhancing their well-

being and quality of life, while at the same time reducing pressure on the province’s health system.

“T he ‘wandering deterrent system’ is one of the technologies being developed and tested as part of Can-

StayHome. Another is the ‘phone-in monitoring system,’ which allows family members and other caregivers to check in on someone with dementia remotely, without invasive monitoring equipment and costly subscriptions.

The system uses basic landline phone connectivity already in the home, along with a small number of sensors. These sensors monitor the individual’s presence in various rooms and also indicate the door leading to outside open.

Simply by calling the home phone and entering a code, the caregiver of a person with dementia gets a summary of activity, such as ‘Mom is in the living room for 10 minutes’ or ‘Mom is in the bathroom; her last activity was detected five minutes ago’ or “There has been no activity for four hours,” and so on.

“We can all relate to the impor-
tance of personal independence, which is why government is committed to ensuring supports for people with disabilities and seniors,” said Lake. “Finding the development of technology to support independence so people can stay safely and comfortably at home puts patients first and contributes to a better quality of life.”

Robin Syme, executive director of CanAssist, said this new funding will help her team extend the benefits of access to these technologies into people with disabilities across the province.

“We’re very excited to work with ministry staff, as well as the five re-

gional health authorities, to begin re-

searching and developing innovative new technologies that will benefit many British Columbians and their families for years to come,” she says.

Software developer: Nathan Kupfers and the wandering deterrent system. PHO TO UVIC SERVICES

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More than just a smile
The writing department’s already no stranger to Leo nominations or productions—an impressive number by writing faculty and alumni received Leo Award nominations, where films courses? Just look to last month’s 2015 department of Writing’s film production 30 Leo Award nominations this year, 26 from writing faculty and alumni.

BY JOHN THRELFALL

This year’s Leo nominees include:

Writing alumus Jason Bouner’s feature film Blockly is nominated for 10 awards, including best motion picture, director, and editing. Writing professor Maureen Bradley’s feature film Two O’One (produced by Fine Arts Digital Media Technician Daniel Hogg) is nominated for six awards—including editing—created by theatre alumni Kat Jeffery. Writing alumus Kate Bateman and Matt Hamilton’s web series The Actress Diones received four nominations. Recent MFA grad Connor George’s film Godhead received two nominations.

The short film Good’s Brother—created by the busy writing alumus team of Jason Bouner, Jeremy Lutter and Ben Robertson—received “Between Working” recognition. Linguistics MA grad Artipelago’s Museum & Mammalise series received one nomination (see page 6).

Reaching a Blue, a CBC documentary on the Salish Sea co-produced by Ocean Networks Canada and ONC Video Specialist Andy Robertson—featuring ONC director Kate Moran, geography professor Chris Doutt and writing alumus Ken Philadelphia—received three nominations.