



EDUCATION
TURNS 100
P.5

THE RING

OCTOBER 2015

*The University of Victoria's
community newspaper*

ring.uvic.ca



**University
of Victoria**

SPEED READING

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Help finalize UVic's Strategic Research Plan

A draft of UVic's first-ever Strategic Research Plan is now available to the UVic community for written feedback. Developed over the last nine months, the content of the plan has been shaped by input from faculty, staff, students and external partners. The plan sets strategic priorities for UVic research—building on existing research excellence and positioning UVic to create or respond to emerging opportunities for research. To review the plan, see uvic.ca/researchplan; feedback is being requested by **Oct. 19, 2015**.

POSTSECONDARY PRIORITIES

President's submission to the BC finance committee

On Sept. 15, UVic President Jamie Cassels gave a presentation to the BC Legislature's Committee on Finance and Government Services as part of pre-budget consultations. In his presentation Cassels highlighted six key policy recommendations—including stable research funding, the reintroduction of a provincial graduate scholarship program and restoration of capital funding—as highly important to maintain quality post-secondary education across the province and at UVic. A PDF of the full report is on the President's website at uvic.ca/president/activities.



Cassels. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Turner in Garry oak meadow on campus. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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NUMBER OF
TRUDEAU
FELLOWSHIPS
AWARDED
TO UVIC
RESEARCHERS
SINCE THE
AWARDS WERE
ESTABLISHED IN
2003

A growing appreciation for Indigenous knowledge

Trudeau Foundation award supports
Nancy Turner's lifelong study of traditional plant use

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

A long-time champion of Indigenous knowledge, UVic ethnobotanist and ethnoecologist Nancy Turner has devoted her career to understanding and communicating the crucial role that plants play in Indigenous cultures and languages, especially with respect to land use, rights and title. To support this important work the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation has awarded Turner a \$225,000 fellowship over the next three years.

"I am very excited to be joining such an

interesting and dynamic group as represented by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Fellows," says Turner. "Already, we have been able to share ideas and perspectives about many pressing policy issues that cross-cut several disciplines. I feel deeply honoured to be chosen to be a part of this wonderful team of scholars."

Turner, environmental studies professor and the Hakai Research Chair in Ethnoecology, is one of the most respected ethnobotanists in the world, specializing in ethnoecological studies with Western Canadian Indigenous peoples—particularly

on BC's central coast.

Ethnoecology is the study of how people understand their environment and relationship to ecosystems. Turner began collaborating with First Nations people more than 45 years ago to document and promote their traditional knowledge of plants, including foods and medicines. Her research and teaching about the relationship between Indigenous peoples and plants, and how that relationship influences the landscapes and habitats of Western Canada, helped establish UVic as

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2015 President's Campus Update

BY LINDSAY GAGEL

During his Campus Update on Oct. 6, UVic President Jamie Cassels summarized UVic's achievements this past year and addressed university priorities for the upcoming year.

The townhall-style event was attended by over 200 members of the UVic community—primarily faculty and staff. Cassels opted to not use any technology for his presentation, making it more of an informal and collegial atmosphere and emphasizing the conversational format of the event. There were multiple opportunities to provide feedback and ask questions.

Cassels touched upon and responded to a wide range of topics important to our campus community, including UVic's Strategic Research Plan, the

Campus Plan, Enhanced Planning, internal communications, The UVic Edge and student success.

In the first half of the conversation, Cassels referenced the backgrounder that was distributed weeks prior, which reviewed UVic's progress within six priority areas over the past year.

He celebrated UVic's achievements and also addressed recent challenges: media reports about employee harassment, pockets of questionable student behaviour during orientation and the sexual assault on campus. These are all reminders of the challenges we face, explained Cassels, and a reminder that we must reaffirm our values and commitment to creating a safe and inclusive campus for everyone.

During the second half of the event, Cassels shifted to our priorities for the year ahead. To

ensure UVic continues to be a university of choice for students, faculty and staff, said Cassels, we need to focus on our mission and create the best possible research-enriched learning environment. This year, we'll be implementing measures identified this past year.

Some of the specific deliverables for students included a focus on new programs—both in response to student interest and social need—and the expansion of experiential learning opportunities. Cassels referred to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, noting that UVic has long been working to fulfil its obligation to empower Indigenous students and close the education gap. Two-way student mobility was also mentioned

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ringers

Dr. Marjorie MacDonald (nursing) was presented the 2015 award for Excellence in Advancing Nursing Knowledge and Research by the Association of Registered Nurses of BC. This award recognizes nurses who conduct research with demonstrated practical applications, serve as mentors to beginning researchers, promote the application of research findings into nursing practice, and consistently demonstrate excellence, inclusion and innovation in the nursing profession. MacDonald is co-director of the Research in Public Health Systems and Services Initiative. Her current research projects include a review of the harm reduction potential of electronic cigarettes and vapour devices. “MacDonald’s heart and soul are in public health nursing,” says Rita Schreiber, associate director for graduate programs in nursing. “Because the importance of public health nursing has become increasingly visible, her work is all the more important for the people of BC and Canada.”

Undergraduate students **Austin Sawyer** (engineering) and **Wylee Fitz-Gerald** (earth and ocean sciences) have been awarded Schulich Leadership Scholarships for their undergraduate studies at the University of Victoria. Created in 2011 by entrepreneur and philanthropist Seymour Schulich, the scholarships are awarded annually to 40 students in Canada pursuing undergraduate studies in STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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Refugees. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Support doubles for
refugees, campus
challenged to do more

History Refugee Committee to
sponsor family from Syria

On Sept. 15, the week after President Jamie Cassels wrote to the campus community about the need for a university response to the international refugee crisis, nine colleagues in UVic’s history department decided to proceed in sponsoring a family from Syria.

Now that number has grown to more than a dozen regular faculty members, two emeritus professors and one adjunct professor—so far. “It’s not an official departmental initiative,” explains Dr. John Lutz, chair of the department and one of the original nine. “This is colleagues in our faculty wanting to bring one family here to Canada.”

The group also wants to “challenge” or invite other departments and units on campus and from history departments at universities across Canada to consider doing the same.

“We knew our efforts could have a huge impact on one family, but wouldn’t touch the larger picture,” says Lutz. “However, it’s not an ‘either/or.’ As a nation, we can’t stop working on the larger front. That doesn’t mean we as individuals should be paralyzed by the enormity of the situation and do nothing.”

“It came up in informal conversations over the summer as to whether we as colleagues wanted to collectively explore support for this idea,” adds Lutz, “but the events of late August and early September pushed us to a place where we felt we had to act now.”

The History Refugee Committee is chaired by Drs. Elizabeth Vibert, Lynne Marks and Martin Bunton. Vibert says, “We hope our effort to sponsor a Syrian family, and our public sessions, help to draw attention to the horrific plight of over 50 million refugees around the world—attention and action.”

“We have been talking to the Inter-cultural Association of Victoria about identifying a Syrian family to sponsor,” adds Marks. “There are some bureaucratic hurdles to overcome first, but we are excited about this opportunity to make a difference.”

As an academic unit, the history department also worked with the

Centre for Global Studies and the European Union Centre of Excellence in co-organizing two panel discussions at UVic in September on the refugee crisis.

New campus initiatives double
refugee support, challenge
community to contribute

UVic as an institution has committed to provide \$300,000 to two new initiatives. The first doubles the number of student refugee spaces at UVic for the next three years through funding to the World University Services Canada (WUSC) UVic Local Committee, which has been in place since the early 1980s. WUSC has many years of experience and expertise working in refugee camps to provide young adults with an opportunity to enter Canada as permanent residents and continue their education at a post-secondary institution.

The WUSC UVic Local Committee is student-driven and depends on UVic students to help provide the sponsored student refugees with support in the community. The spaces cover both educational and living costs, and are available to refugees from Syria and other regions.

UVic’s Division of Continuing Studies has dedicated \$25,000 to work with local refugee aid organizations to provide language and job skills training to refugee families.

The university also created a \$50,000 fund—the UVic community matching fund for refugee assistance—to match the contributions of university community members who want to lend their support to these initiatives. These could further increase the number of spaces for refugee students at UVic in the future.

For more details on UVic’s response and for more information on campus events, activities and forums, local and international organizations working in the field, and how to contribute to the UVic community matching fund, visit: uvic.ca/refugeeresponse.

History “challenge” initiative: facebook.com/HistoryRefugeeCommittee

UVic WUSC Local Committee: facebook.com/wuscuvic or wuscuvic@gmail.com

Going places in an era of
global connectivity

New funding rolled out by President Jamie Cassels has increased support for UVic students to engage in rich and meaningful learning experiences well beyond the campus. The President’s Beyond Borders Fund—with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region and on study and co-op opportunities within Canada—augments existing programs at UVic and offers additional opportunities for students to study abroad or in other parts of Canada.

“With this fund, I’m aiming to increase two-way mobility opportunities for students to broaden their knowledge, cultural understanding and educational experiences—opportunities for domestic students to get to know Canada better or experience another part of the world and opportunities for international students who come here and enrich our campus environment,” Cassels explains. “I’m grateful to the donors whose support provides more access for students who might not otherwise be able to participate in such programs.”

At a total of \$449,000, the funding is available for the next four academic years (2015/16 to 2018/19). Financial support will stream from the President’s Excellence Fund and Asia Partners Fund, which are targeted funds to UVic from donors.

It falls into three categories:

- Two-way student mobility initiatives focused on the Asia-Pacific region: internships, field schools and co-op placements in the region, undergraduate tuition support for students from the region and graduate student support for students studying the region;
- Initiatives designed to increase student mobility within Canada: travel funds for a term at another Canadian university or for a co-op term elsewhere in the country, as well as subsidies for community co-op or internship at a non-profit organization in Canada; and
- Indigenous community work opportunities for students, e.g. subsidies for community co-op term or internship in Indigenous businesses, communities or community groups in Canada.

Each of these categories is proof that learning opportunities know no borders. Six UVic students—Kip Jorgensen, Jessica Round, Siobhan Davis, Yasmine El-Hamamsy, Natasha Marshall and Jason L’Heureux—are great examples of students who have immersed themselves in such journeys of discovery.

Jorgensen (political science) has long held an interest in climate-change related migration. He worked in Bangladesh in 2014 as part of a six-month Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) internship



Jorgensen (right) with a co-worker overlooking Dhaka

with the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit.

Round (biochemistry) aspires to be a physician. She was in Uganda last summer for a 12-week co-op placement with the International Christian Medical Institute, volunteering for a children’s rehabilitation centre, a health administration education course and a rural HIV education program.

Davis (political science) and El-Hamamsy (political science) are current CAPI interns working with a refugee organization in Malaysia, primarily with refugees from Syria, Palestine, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan in a health clinic and a school connected with the centre where they work.

Business student Natasha Marshall (Nuu-chah-nulth) spent two co-op work terms as a mental health supervisor assistant and youth support worker for the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation Tribal Council. She co-facilitated suicide prevention workshops and led an outdoor leadership summer camp for teenagers.

Master of Education student Jason L’Heureux (Métis) arranged a co-op work term near his home in Saskatchewan. He worked as a coach for a Bantam boys hockey team, in line with his ideal career as a hockey coach.

Read about the experiences of these students, online at bit.ly/uvic-mobility

Cassels adds, “Our students are going places, bringing the world and the rest of Canada to UVic and emerging from our campus as engaged citizens ready to flourish in an increasingly connected world.”

As a student, imagine being able to join the next UVic field school to India. Travelling across the Pacific for internships in Nepal, Malaysia or Bangladesh. Or journeying as a co-op student to a region you’ve never visited before in Canada for a community work opportunity.

The increased support rolled out this spring ensures that more UVic students will do more than imagine—they’ll find dynamic learning opportunities across Canada and around the world.

Details: uvic.ca/president/activities/mobility/

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UVSS and Elections

Canada step up access and awareness



UVSS poster on campus. PHOTO: UVSS

The 2015 federal election campaign is in full swing. On campuses across the country, an election presents some distinct challenges—and opportunities.

For many undergrad students, this election is the first one they have been eligible to vote in, and that raises some key questions. “How do I get registered? Where do I vote? Which is my riding—here, or back home? How do I find out what the candidates’ positions are?”

The UVic Students’ Society (UVSS) is helping to answer those questions by building on a recent Elections Canada announcement of a pilot project to open satellite offices at select campuses, friendship Centres and community centres across Canada. UVic was selected for one of these satellite offices, the only one on Vancouver Island.

This week, Elections Canada has been operating UVic’s satellite office in the upper lounge of the Student Union Building (SUB) from 10 a.m.–8 p.m. each day—but today is the last day the office is open. All eligible voters—Canadian citizens who will be 18 or older on election day—can get information, register and vote on site.

For Canadian students who come from different parts of the country, this can make all the difference between voting or not. Unlike advance and election-day polling places, which serve only those whose home is nearby, the office will be open to all voters, no matter where in Canada they call home. The voting will be by special ballot: votes will count in the riding where the voter’s home address is located, wherever that may be.

The UVSS, with support from Student Affairs, has also been addressing other questions students have, and inspiring as many of them as possible to vote.

Through election day, UVSS board members are fanning out across campus, engaging with

students and talking about the election. They will walk them through the voter registration process, help them find their home ridings and candidates, and explain where and when to vote.

As well, they are talking to students about *why* they should vote: why the election matters to their lives and futures.

“Our approach will be strictly non-partisan, but we’ll really be emphasizing how important the youth and student vote is,” explained Kenya Rogers, UVSS director of external relations. “We want our members to understand that this year, students are changing the course of the election.

“Through this campaign—UVicVotes—we’ll be encouraging students to think about the federal issues that affect them, like core funding for post-secondary education, climate justice or support for research and science.”

To help focus students on the issues, UVSS will be running a social media campaign throughout the election period. Members will be handing out coffee cup stickers saying “This year we’re voting for education” or ones that say “This year we’re voting for ...” and let them finish the statement. Pictures will be posted on Instagram and Facebook, with prizes to be won.

Jim Dunsdon, associate vice-president of student affairs, congratulates the UVSS for taking the lead on encouraging student voting. “It’s a great opportunity to have one of Elections Canada’s satellite offices here at UVic,” he said. “And we’re really impressed with the campaign UVSS has planned. Student Affairs will be sponsoring their activities and promoting their events and website wherever we can, but it will be students engaging with students that will really make this election meaningful.”

Full info: UVicVotes.ca



Brand guidelines for the UVic Edge unveiled

The Edge brand guidelines will help us all tell a consistent and unified story about UVic and allow you to get the materials you need to support your unit’s goals by accessing templates and working with University Communications + Marketing. How we use colour, photography and our unique marks and identifiers—along with how

we speak and what we say and do—demonstrate what makes UVic distinct. It’s how we bring the Edge to life, both internally and externally. To supplement the new brand guidelines and tools, public information sessions are also being scheduled.

Learn more at uvic.ca/brand

DRAFT CAMPUS PLAN

Planning the next decade, and beyond: a reaffirming vision

BY JOANNE MCGACHIE

The second phase of the process to update UVic’s official Campus Plan is nearing completion, with the preparation of a draft plan and public engagement sessions this month.

The 2003 Campus Plan is being updated to provide a refreshed vision, guidelines and direction for future campus development, on topics such as building placement and parameters, transportation, and open and natural spaces. It also plays a key role in supporting the university’s academic priorities and commitments to sustainability.

The first phase of the process, in January and February of this year, saw mobile information booths around campus, a speaker’s event and an ideas forum. These were followed by open house sessions for the campus community and the public, as well as a focused workshop with faculty, staff, students and community representatives who explored more specific themes and priorities.

All of the input collected from those sessions was compiled, organized and analyzed, and over the spring

and summer months, a steering committee drafted the plan.

The draft plan presents the vision for the UVic campus over the next 10 years and beyond, by focusing on frameworks in three key areas:

Open space framework: maintain and continue to evolve an open space system which protects and enhances environmentally significant natural areas; provides safe, pedestrian-friendly links throughout the campus; and encourages social interaction through outdoor meeting places, relaxation spaces, playing fields and other outdoor recreational venues.

Land use and built form framework: evolve a land-use and building pattern that supports the university’s academic mission, respects the physical environment, creates a welcoming campus, encourages social interaction and activity into the evenings and all week long, and promotes compact, pedestrian-friendly, and sustainable development.

Mobility framework: encourage increased walking or wheelchair use, cycling, and use of public transit, making these priority modes conveni-

ent, safe and enjoyable for all users; provide safe access (and reduced demand) for personal vehicles, to help manage pressures on surrounding neighbourhoods.

The frameworks represent the three pillars that will form the basis of the final plan, drawn from the extensive input received in the first phase of the process. The second phase will now look at fine-tuning these frameworks, with a second set of engagement events planned for this month:

- Oct. 19–20: a mobile booth will be touring several locations around campus, presenting information on the main elements of the draft plan.
- Oct. 21: public open house sessions in the Michele Pujol room of the Student Union Building, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and again from 6–8 p.m.

The third phase of the process—finalizing the plan—will take place from November to January, and will include a final campus and community open house session and community stakeholder meetings.



DAVE LYNN




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.

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Total Payout to Age 100	\$151,552	\$142,599	\$134,316	\$125,196	\$119,347	\$111,411

Accelerated Payout:

Income over 5 years	.....	\$1,771				
Income over 10 years	.....	\$934				
Income over 15 years	.....	\$656				
Total 5 year payout	.....			\$106,254		
Total 10 year payout	.....			\$112,028		
Total 15 year payout	.....			\$117,999		

* Based on best current GIC of 2.20%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle. Monthly income based on \$100,000

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AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male						
...payments cease at death	\$436	\$476	\$552	\$679	\$797	\$1,052
...10 years guaranteed	\$438	\$473	\$534	\$631	\$688	\$808
Female						
...payments cease at death	\$425	\$444	\$492	\$600	\$687	\$864
...10 years guaranteed	\$422	\$444	\$491	\$574	\$633	\$744
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around the ring

Principles for responsible investment

The University of Victoria Foundation's annual report was recently approved by its Board of Directors and is available on the foundation website. The 2014/15 report highlights the foundation's investment objectives, beliefs and performance, and for the first time includes a section on how the foundation incorporates responsible investing into its decision-making. For full details visit bit.ly/20invest15

Changes coming to office recycling

Facilities Management is implementing a sorting-at-source recycling and waste station system in all office areas on campus. Sorting-at-source recycling is widely accepted as the most effective way to prevent banned recyclable material from being sent to a landfill. Beginning in January, all staff in office areas will be asked to empty their desk-side recyclables and waste into centralized stations on each floor. This will help UVic comply with local and provincial regulations and meet its Sustainability Action Plan waste diversion goal of 75 per cent.

Nominate an extraordinary colleague

Do you know an employee who makes UVic a great place to work and learn? Then why not nominate them for one of this year's President's Distinguished Service Awards? Any UVic employee or recognized student organization can nominate an individual, group or team for these awards. Winners will receive a certificate and \$1,000 (to a \$6,000 maximum limit in the case of team awards). The nomination deadline is November 20, 2015 and results will be announced at a celebration held in February 2016. Additional information on the awards and nomination forms are available at uvic.ca/hr/pdsa

Food Services and your ONECard

Campus food payment options have just expanded, with four new SUB venues accepting ONECard Flex Funds: Bean There, International Grill, Health Food Bar and Munchie Bar. And in case you missed it, Finnerty Express Cafe also accepts the ONECard, and low balance reminders are now available.

Until Oct. 15, Food Services is also running a short survey to get feedback and suggestions to help shape future food services on campus. At the end of the survey, you'll be asked if you want to enter the draw for prizes, including one \$200 GUESTCard and two \$50 cards. (The draw is optional; personal information will be used solely for the purpose of the prize draw and will be deleted following the draw.) Survey: bit.ly/UVicFood15

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Hospital simulation centre enhances health students' learning



Students and staff from the School of Nursing at the new centre. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

BY DENISE HELM
AND KATE HILDEBRANDT

The tension in the operating room was palpable as the patient's heart rate skyrocketed unexpectedly during surgery on her fractured ankle. Julie, the 19-year-old soccer player under local anaesthetic, worriedly asked what was wrong. The medical and nursing team reassured her as they quickly assessed and took action to stabilize her condition.

Despite its location in the Royal Jubilee Hospital, this was not a typical operating room. Nor was Julie a typical patient; she's actually a life-like mannequin. Both are part of the new \$2.9-million Centre for Interprofessional Clinical Simulation Learning, a partnership between UVic's School of Nursing, UBC's Faculty of Medicine and Island Health.

Three labs replicate an operating room, a critical care unit, and a pa-

tient care room. Technicians program the mannequins—each with a name, medical and social history—to simulate unanticipated medical scenarios that help students acquire relevant skills while under considerable pressure. The students also learn how to work as a multidisciplinary team.

"This centre will provide students with first-class simulation tools, training in a realistic hospital environment and allow them to participate in complex simulations that will equip them with the skills necessary to provide the best possible care for patients," says Dr. Valerie Kuehne, UVic's vice-president academic and provost.

"Simulation training is nerve-racking," says Deb Snell, a UVic nursing student. "But I think it facilitates learning. You may be stressed but you know you have the knowledge; you just have to find the best way to apply it within the situation you are facing." "That's exactly what we hope for,"

says Dr. Anne Bruce, professor and associate director of graduate education in the School of Nursing. "Deb's response tells us she has consolidated her knowledge to a point where she can apply her judgment effectively and immediately."

Learners will take part in clinical scenarios that are as close to real life as it gets while allowing them to learn, and make mistakes, in a safe environment, says Dr. Bruce Wright, head of UVic's Division of Medical Sciences and UBC's regional associate dean, Vancouver Island. "The dynamic nature of this technology will help students and professionals alike develop their clinical skills, in real time."

"Research shows team-based simulation learning is one of the most effective ways for us to meet this region's unique needs in serving a growing, aging, and longer-living population," says Dr. Taj Baidwan, executive vice-president and chief medical officer

for Island Health. "We know high-functioning teams improve patient outcomes."

At the Sept. 17 official opening, the contributions of three individuals who were instrumental in establishing the centre were acknowledged: Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, former dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development; Dr. Noreen Frisch, former director of the School of Nursing, and Dr. Oscar Casiro, former head of UVic's Division of Medical Sciences and UBC's regional associate dean.

Among those using the centre will be 128 students in the Island Medical Program, a partnership between UVic, UBC's Faculty of Medicine and Island Health; 366 students with UVic's School of Nursing; and experienced health professionals who want to maintain or sharpen their skills. The centre may also be used to support health research projects.

MODEL UN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

A chance to be the change we want to see

In an early preview of the challenges world leaders face when negotiating international agreements on climate change (such as this December's UN meeting in Paris), two UVic students and a business professor got to embark on an opportunity of a lifetime—travelling to Switzerland to attend the Model United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. This annual international event is hosted by leading business graduate students and professors across Europe and provides the opportunity for scholars studying climate change to engage in mock climate negotiations. These mock negotiations were an opportunity to engage in debate, to strategize towards fulfilling an assigned country's interests and, as a collective, to negotiate a best-draft resolution to climate challenges facing the global community.

UVic attendees Babak Manouchehrinia (engineering) and Anne-Marie Beliveau (public administration) were members of the UNFCCC media team, which allowed them to play a more active, hands-on role in the conference proceedings than many other delegates. Beliveau and Manouchehrinia were responsible for all official reporting, interviewing

and photography for the conference proceedings including the Model UNFCCC blog and Facebook page, which were widely used amongst delegates to stay up to date with the fast-paced negotiations. "During the conference, the challenges and opportunities of climate change were addressed and it was evident that the delegates put in a tremendous amount of effort to reach a final consensus," Manouchehrinia said of the negotiations' end results.

Upon their return, Manouchehrinia and Beliveau, along with Gustavson School of Business professor Dr. Monika Winn, are actively sharing the knowledge and insights gathered at the international event. "The conference provided us with valuable information about the UNFCCC structure and its mechanisms," Manouchehrinia says. "It was an accurate depiction of leaders' negotiations in the real world and it was such a unique opportunity for us to play a role in the model negotiations." The trio are currently writing several articles and reports about their experience in addition to meeting with campus stakeholders to help facilitate increased climate change awareness as well as illustrate potential solutions UVic could consider in helping to tackle this global problem.

INTERNATIONAL FIELD SCHOOL

Lessons in Scandanavian sustainability



Bella Centre, Copenhagen

Northern Europe is famous for sustainability—from cycling in Copenhagen, Iceland's geothermal riches, and offshore wind farms in the North Sea to Germany's investments in mass solar power. This spring, 28 UVic geography students headed to Europe to study those sustainability efforts and more. Their month-long field school took them to Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, bringing them together with community leaders, planners, developers, scholars and others to examine Scandinavian efforts to address the daunting ecological and social challenges facing contemporary societies.

As a broadening example of re-

newable energy, the UVic students returned to Canada inspired to make a positive difference in their own communities—in areas as broad as vibrant public placemaking, local food, active transportation, waste reduction and green building.

In addition, the students have begun sharing their insights and reflections with municipalities and the Capital Regional District, tying the research and practical applied work in with their academic programs.

For more information about the Northern Europe Sustainability Field School, check out <http://field-schools.geog.uvic.ca> or contact Cam Owens at camo@uvic.ca



Ian Walker on Calvert Island, 2014, Hakai Institute. PHOTO: DAN SHUGAR.

Double whammy of weather expected along BC coast

Pacific research shows that extreme weather patterns—both hot and cold—could mean accelerated erosion in BC

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

As storm season approaches, BC coastal communities need to prepare for the possibility of extreme flooding and erosion that come with both El Niño and La Niña weather systems, according to new trans-Pacific research published in *Nature Geoscience*. This is the first study to show how these climate variability events are linked to greater erosion and flooding in coastal regions across the Pacific Ocean. Researchers from 13 different institutions including the University of Victoria analyzed wave, water level and shoreline response data to identify the impacts of both El Niño and La Niña on coastal flooding and erosion, including in BC.

“It’s not just El Niño we should be concerned about,” says Ian Walker, UVic geography professor and co-author of the study. “Our research shows that severe coastal erosion and flooding can occur along the BC coast during both El Niño and La Niña storm seasons, unlike further south in California. We need to prepare not only for this winter, but also for what could follow when La Niña comes.” UVic is a national and international leader in the study of the oceans and climate. Walker, whose research has taken him all along the west coast from Haida Gwaii to California, is an expert in beach and dune systems, dune restoration, coastal erosion and sea level trends. The impact of these storms is not

presently included in most studies on future coastal vulnerability, which look primarily at sea level rise. New research data, from 48 beaches across three continents and five countries bordering the Pacific Ocean, suggest the predicted increase will exacerbate coastal erosion irrespective of sea level rise affecting the region. Researchers from the 13 institutions, including the US Geological Survey, University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales and the University of Waikato (New Zealand) analyzed coastal data from across the Pacific Ocean basin from 1979 to 2012. The scientists sought to determine if patterns in coastal change could be connected to major climate cycles. Data came from beaches in the main-

land United States as well as Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. “Shoreline behavior can be controlled by so many different factors, both locally and regionally, that it’s been difficult to isolate the signal until now. However, utilizing the many years of data we were able pull together in this study enabled us to definitively identify how the major climate drivers affect coastal hazards across the Pacific,” says Patrick Barnard, USGS coastal geologist and the lead author of the study. “This will greatly enhance our ability to predict the broader impacts of climate change at the coast.”

Sustainability Week 2015 highlights travel options

BY PAUL MARCK

The deep-green hues of UVic—from research leadership in ocean and climate studies, to sustainability studies in nearly every academic field—also colour our pride in our natural spaces and sustainable on-campus operations. But we can’t pat ourselves on the back too quickly, either. Unless we’re prepared to turn off the lights and heat on campus, cycling and transit will continue to play key roles in reducing our carbon footprint, individually and as a concerned community. We’ve already made good strides: nearly 8,000 members of the campus community use public transit, pedal power and shoe leather in getting to and from campus every day. And despite significant enrolment growth on campus, there are fewer cars in our parking lots than there were 15 years ago. Cycling, transportation options and personal commitments to reduce carbon footprints are key themes of UVic’s second annual Sustainability Week, Oct. 13-16. The occasion is an opportunity for the university to celebrate its commitment to sustainability through activities and events for students, faculty and staff. Cycling was something runner

Shari Winter left behind until severely injuring her leg while pounding the pavement a couple of years ago. “I was having the best run—and then I tripped,” recalls Winter, executive assistant to UVic President Jamie Cassels. An ambulance rushed her to hospital. The diagnosis: a compound fracture, followed by 18 months of slow, painful rehab. And no more running. Winter became a cycling convert practically overnight, and met the challenge of Bike to Work Week last May. “I haven’t gotten off my bike since,” says Winter. “The ride in the morning really helps get my knee mobile. It’s become a way of life now—something I really enjoy. I’m totally a convert to cycling. I’m getting more confident and it makes me feel a lot better.” Shedding the car also means reducing carbon emissions. Winter previously drove to work for 30 years. “I wish I had done this earlier, but it’s never too late,” says Winter, among more than 2,000 staff, students and faculty members who cycle to campus every day. Sustainability Week, Oct. 13-16, aims at getting people out of their cars to reduce their carbon footprint. Cycling is a major theme, and activi-

GETTING TO CAMPUS — UVIC TRAVEL MODE SUMMARY		
	1996	2014
Cars — drivers & passengers	73.1%	49.2%
Transit users	11.3%	27.1%
Cyclists	6.9%	7.7%
Pedestrians	8.7%	15.7%
Skateboarders/rollerbladers	0.0%	0.2%

Source: UVic 2014 Traffic Survey

ties include a mural art project at the Campus Bike Centre, free bike tune-ups, a bike maintenance workshop and a birthday celebration— with cake—to mark the second anniversary of the Campus Bike Centre. (More information on the week’s activities, including a documentary film on food waste: bit.ly/20green15.) “At UVic, sustainability is our commitment to future generations,” says Kristi Simpson, associate vice president of financial planning and operations. “Our vision builds on the collective action of the university community through planning, shared learning, grassroots activities and institutional leadership.” UVic’s commitment to sustainability suffuses our teaching and research

activities as well. Sustainability is a core part of more than 300 courses and experiential learning programs among many of UVic’s faculties, departments and schools, and we’re home to many key environmental agencies and research consortiums—and the student-led UVic Sustainability Project, as well. Our sustainable operations have also been well-recognized. Last year, UVic was awarded a gold rating by the Association for the Advancement in Higher Education for top marks under the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). And our 2014 Carbon Neutral Action Report shows greenhouse gas emission levels decreased 11.8 per cent in 2014, compared to 2013.

around the ring



Drop, Cover and Hold On! Shake Out drill, Oct. 15

The annual Great BC ShakeOut drill is occurring across the province on Oct. 15 at exactly 10:15 a.m. This drill gives everyone a chance to practice the Drop, Cover and Hold On procedure. Last year, over 740,000 British Columbians took part. Full info: uvic.ca/shakeout

THE POWER OF YOU

United Way campaign kickoff

The 2015 UVic United Way Greater Victoria (UWGV) annual campaign officially kicked off on Oct. 1—and this year, UWGV is focusing on the people who have the power to change lives with each contribution they make, with the goal of increasing the donor base by 2,000 individuals. In support of this target, UVic aims to increase the number of donors by 100 over the next two years. The UVic 2015 fundraising goal is \$246,000. Combined with the fundraising efforts of the UVic Retirees Association (UVRA), we aim to raise more than \$268,000.

Supporting the campaign can be as easy and fun as attending the many fundraising events taking place around campus:

- Plasma Car Races on Nov. 3
- Libraries Book Sale Nov. 17-19
- Holiday Artisan’s Market on Dec. 1

Annual student-led events include the ESS Bug Push on Sunday, Oct. 18, pancake breakfasts hosted by the Commerce Students’ Association, and dunk tanks.

And don’t miss the new event at the Peninsula Co-op Climbing Wall in the CARSA building for Nov. 26— stay tuned for more details. Full info: uvic.ca/unitedway

Create campus surveys, forms and polls with FluidSurveys

Speaking of surveys, FluidSurveys is now available to all current faculty, staff and students as a pilot project through to June 30, 2016. FluidSurveys is a Canadian-hosted web survey tool that can be used to create and manage online surveys, forms, questionnaires, polls and responses. If the pilot is successful, consideration will be given to renewing the service. More info: uvic.ca/surveys

Katharine Maltwood’s legacy illuminated at Legacy Downtown

Longtime residents of Victoria will remember the Maltwood Art Museum on the UVic campus, but may not know much about its namesake, English sculptor Katharine Maltwood and her husband John. In 1964 they left their Tudor-style home in Royal Oak (now the Fireside Grill restaurant) to the university—along with a collection of English furniture, Chinese paintings, Middle Eastern textiles and artifacts collected on their world travels, and an endowment. In the 1970s, the Maltwood museum was unique in North America in its initial Arts and Crafts collecting mandate, with nearly all of the 200 works acquired in the following decade contributing to this focus of the permanent collection.

This October, two exhibitions open at the Legacy Art Gallery Downtown—*Magna Mater: Katharine Maltwood and the Arts and Crafts* (curated by Caroline Riedel, Legacy Art Galleries) and its companion, *Beauty for All: The Arts and Crafts in Europe and North America* (curated by Holly Cecil, art history and visual studies). These exhibits provide an opportunity for visitors to view a significant part of our Arts and Crafts collection and learn about the Legacy Art Galleries’ beginning.

Katharine Maltwood led a remarkable life. One of her earliest accomplishments was a commissioned sculpture for Elbert and Alice Hubbard of the Roycroft Workshops in New York. The Hubbards were leading figures of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, and the fact that they selected Maltwood’s work was significant. While the Arts and Crafts movement’s ideals of simplic-



Primeval Canada Awakening to Her Destiny.

ity and beauty persisted in her work and collecting interests, Maltwood’s complex artistic vision and worldview grew to include interests in astrology, the occult, Eastern religions and theosophy. She claimed to have discovered the Glastonbury Zodiac, a giant earthwork in Somerset that linked the landscape to the legends of King Arthur. She published several books on her theories and even brought a cutting from the original Glastonbury Thorn Tree to Canada, where it now grows outside the University Centre.

Maltwood is also the subject of a novel by Lily Adams Beck, and a play, *Temple of the Stars*, by former UVic writing professor Marilyn Bowering. More recently, her papers have been digitized as part of a digital fieldwork project by University of Washington graduate student Robbyn Gordon Lanning. The Legacy Maltwood Gallery also remains on campus as a space for collaborative interdisciplinary projects.

Celebrating the century: 100 years of preparing educators

BY RALF ST. CLAIR

The UVic Faculty of Education is celebrating 100 years of preparing educators in Victoria with a range of events that began with a forum and celebratory dinner on Oct. 3.

There is an unbroken chain from the current Faculty of Education reaching back a century—and UVic is proud to have many alumni from its earliest years (and from Victoria College) still involved in our work. In every corner of BC and far beyond, our educators serve at many different levels of the school system, government and private enterprises, applying what they learned to make education better for others. Teacher training has grown from preparing teachers for the classroom to inspiring and educating a diverse range of students who study in fields such as exercise science, physical and health education, educational psychology, leadership and Indigenous education.

Before the opening of the Victoria Normal School in 1915, teachers were prepared for the profession in other parts of Canada, including the Vancouver Normal School. The provision of education for elementary teachers on Vancouver Island was a significant step forward for our city and local schools.

As UVic historian Dr. Iain MacPherson waggishly noted in *Reaching Outward and Upward*, his history of UVic, the faculty “grew steadily, partly because, in addition to serving schools on Vancouver Island, it taught many students from ‘beyond Hope,’ as they were colloquially called, because they came from the interior of the province to the



Students in Provincial Normal School library, 1944. PHOTO: UVIC ARCHIVES

east and north of the community of Hope. The faculty developed particularly strong ties with communities in the Okanagan and the Kootenays, in the process pioneering in the development of distance education at UVic.”

Though it sounds strange to modern ears, the term “normal school” does not refer to the people who attended it or worked there; it comes from the French *École Normale*—a college to prepare teachers to deliver course content in a standardized way. The Victoria Normal School building at the corner of Lansdowne and Richmond roads is now a visual hallmark of Camosun College’s Lansdowne campus.

In 1942, the building was converted into a military hospital for service personnel who had been wounded abroad, forcing teacher education to move to a downtown nightclub, and then to Memorial Hall, next to Christ Church Cathedral.

After World War II, the Normal School shared its premises with

Victoria College. In 1956, the provincial government wound down the Normal School, created the College of Education and amalgamated it into Victoria College. When UVic replaced Vic College in 1963, the College of Education became UVic’s Faculty of Education.

As part of its centennial celebration, the faculty is planning a number of future events and will seek enhancement to the Dr. Jean Downie Dey Centennial Scholarship in honour of one of its retired professors. Dey came to campus the same year that UVic became a university, and left a legacy gift that established this scholarship to support full tuition for one or more students who would otherwise find it financially difficult to study. Like other forms of anniversary celebrations, which look backward to find connections to the future, this scholarship celebrates the continuity of preparing educators in Victoria—100 years strong and counting.

TURNER CONTINUED FROM P.1

a national and international leader of ethnoecology and traditional knowledge studies.

“Dr. Turner is a person of deep integrity, social commitment, and eloquence, who has combined scholarship at the highest level with public education, far-reaching contributions to the policy process, and the promotion of dialogue among governments, the public and First Nations peoples,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels.

As part of her fellowship project, Turner has proposed a two- to three-day symposium (planned for early 2017) for interested Indigenous leaders and knowledge holders, legal scholars, ethnobotanists, ethnoecologists and students to discuss the roles of ethnobotany and ethnoecology in policy and legal decision-making in Aboriginal land title. She hopes the symposium will have the potential to assist in deliberations around land rights and title for Indigenous peoples.

“Dr. Nancy Turner has made and continues to make huge contributions to the international understanding of ethnobotany—to the study of how peoples, especially Indigenous peoples, interact with and draw upon their environments,” says UVic Dean of Law Jeremy Webber (a Trudeau Fellow himself). “She will be an ideal Trudeau

Fellow, bringing to the role her deep and respectful collaborations with Indigenous peoples, her amazingly generous support for students and their research, her knowledge, and her wisdom.”

“My research legacy has been to weave together ethnographic descriptions of human plant relationships within a broader framework of Indigenous cultural landscapes and resource management systems that reflect the deep and enduring relationships between First Nations and their territories,” adds Turner.

She is the fourth UVic professor to be honoured with a Pierre Elliott Trudeau Fellowship. The awards are made by an independent jury of researchers and intellectuals and support the winners as they pursue the next stages of their academic research.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation fellowships were established in 2003 to support scholars who have demonstrated the capacity to propose creative solutions to important issues and to encourage initiatives and projects that might not necessarily receive support through traditional funding mechanisms.

For more information, visit www.trudeaufoundation.ca.



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University of Victoria

Emergency Planning

calendar highlights

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

at the galleries

uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

- Exhibit.** 12 a.m. *Celebrating W.B. Yeats* at 150. Until January 18. 2015 marks 150 years since the birth of Irish poet and Nobel laureate William Butler Yeats (1865-1939). This exhibition explores Yeats' work as a poet and a playwright with artwork, rare books, and printed ephemera drawn from UVic's Legacy Gallery and UVic Library's Special Collections and University Archives. Mearns Centre / McPherson Library A023. Free. 250-721-8247.

at the theatre

www.phoenixtheatres.ca
250-721-8000

- Theatre.** 8 p.m. *LOON*. Oct. 14–24. LOON is a love story that whisks a man to the moon and back. Francis is a lonely janitor who is plagued by isolation and tickled by whispers of childhood imagination. He has hit rock bottom and discovers that he has nowhere to go...but up. And up. And up! But will plucking the moon from the sky bring him the love he is searching for? Wordless and whimsical, LOON is brought to you by the acclaimed mask imagineers and physical theatre company whose work has been described as watching a living cartoon. It's a beautifully surprising mix of physical theatre, comedy and pathos and a love story the likes of which you've never seen. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Phoenix Theatre. \$15-\$25. 250-721-8000.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- Lecture/Seminar.** 12:30 p.m. *Gender, Makerspaces, and Laboratory Culture*. Tanja Carstensen, (Hamburg U. of Technology). Strong C116.
- Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic: Piano*. Featuring School of Music piano students in a concert of varied repertoire. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *Addressing Intermittency Issues for Renewables in BC from the Supply and Demand Perspectives*. Joseph Bailey (SFU). ECS 124. 250-721-6120
- Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Cafe Scientifique*. If you found yourself sitting across the bar from one of the world's leading astronomers, what would you ask? Dr. Roberto Abraham (U-Toronto). Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View St. Reservations: 250-721-8745
- Victoria Natural History Society Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Black Bear Denning Habitat: Can We Create New Dens?* Come see what researcher Helen Davis has been doing in the Jordan River to test these ideas. Fraser Bldg. 159.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- Lecture/Seminar.** 5:30 p.m. *Canadian Election 2015: Beyond the Sound Bites*. Panel and Q&A Session include Dr. Joseph Fletcher, Dr. Matt James, Dr. James Lawson, Dr. Jocelyne Praud and Dr. Michael Prince. Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View St. RSVP by October 12 to 250-853-3567
- Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Series presents David Hoffos*. Hoffos has been invited to many international residencies, including three at the Banff Centre. Visual Arts A162.
- Music.** 8 p.m. *Emerging Artists Alumni Series: Hale & Hearty*. Hale & Hearty is husband-and-wife fiddler duo, Rachel Capon

and Eli Bender. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic: Strings*. Featuring School of Music string students in a concert of varied repertoire. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634
- Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *Glacial Isostatic Adjustment in British Columbia*. Thomas James (Geological Survey of Canada). Turpin Bldg. B215. 250-721-7327
- Music.** 8 p.m. *UVic Wind Symphony: Fall Colours*. Dr. Gerald King, conductor. \$5-\$15. UVic Ticket Centre. 250-721-8480

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

- Graduate Colloquium.** 11:30 a.m.: *Three Decades with the Bariai: Reflecting on Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea*. Dr. Naomi McPherson (UBC). Cornett A129.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Tuesdaymusic*. And Oct. 27 & Nov.3. Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- Lecture/Seminar.** 1:30 p.m. *A World of Knowledge in 83 Leaves: Encyclopedic Thinking with Ms.Lat.1*. Dr. Jamie Kemp will explore what we can know about the original owner and function of Ms.Lat. 1. Mearns Centre/McPherson Library A003. 250-721-8247

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

- Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *Irony and Sincerity in Contemporary American Fiction*. Tim Personn (UVic). Strong C118.
- Lecture/Seminar 7:30 p.m.** Dr. Gregory Stock. Stock, a biotech entrepreneur, bioethicist, best-selling author and public communicator, is a leading authority on the

broad impacts of genomic and other advanced technologies in the life sciences. Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets are free of charge, limit of 4 per person. 250-721-8480

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

- Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic: Guitar*. Featuring School of Music guitar students in a concert of varied repertoire. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634
- Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *Vision Sandown: An Opportunity for Applied Geography*. Linda Geggie (UVic). Turpin Bldg. B215. 250-721-7327

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

- VNHS Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *The Fish Eye Project*. Marine night: Mike Irvine recently completed his master's degree by holding his final oral exam underwater. Fraser Bldg. 159.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *Apply Space Geodesy to Multidisciplinary Studies, Examples in Cryosphere and Tectonics*. Yan Jiang (Geological Survey of Canada). Engineering. Comp. Science Bldg. 124. 250-721-6120

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

- VNHS Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *How Birds Do It! Birders' Night*. Dr. David M. Bird (McGill Univ.) Fraser 159

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

- Lecture/Seminar.** 12 a.m. *Lecture With former National Gallery of Canada Curator of Canadian Art, Charles Hill*. Legacy Art Gallery 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

- Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic: Brass*. Featuring School of Music brass students in a concert of varied repertoire. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

- Alain Rey: For love of words.** Alain Rey is to the world of French words what Alan Turing was to the computer world. This month, UVic's Department of French will welcome Rey—editor-in-chief of Editions Le Robert, prolific author of dictionaries and frequent commentator on radio-shows in France—to UVic for a Lansdowne Lecture, “The Science of Words” Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m. (HHB 105), followed by the same lecture in French on Oct. 17 (DSB C122) at 6 p.m. as part of a symposium organized by the Faculty of Humanities.
- Learning Shakespeare at an Advanced Age.** Friday, Oct. 16, 6:00 p.m. Dr. Daniel De Simone of the Folger Shakespeare Library will discuss how the tools he learned as a bookseller and a curator help him study 18th and 19th century editors of Shakespeare. He will place Henry and Emily Folger, the founders of the Folger Library, in a continuum of collectors who were passionate about making Shakespeare and his world available for generations to come. Mearns Centre / McPherson Library 129. 250-853-3612.

CAMPUS UPDATE CONTINUED FROM P.1

—both support for international students and support for domestic students to gain educational experiences elsewhere in Canada and abroad.

We're both research-intensive and student-centred, explained Cassels, and we have to make sure those things work together in a positive fashion. “Our research addresses issues that matter and make a difference in the community,” said Cassels. A draft of the Strategic Research Plan—which will help us to determine how we can enable, support and strengthen research, scholarship and artistic endeavours—is available to the campus community for review and feedback until Oct. 9.

The draft Campus Plan will also be open for feedback later this month. Most urgent among construction priorities are student residences and

a new wing to the Business and Economics Building.

Implementing Enhanced Planning Tools is another deliverable that Cassels identified. “Enhanced Planning is a terrific initiative designed to ensure decision making is evidence-based and transparent,” explained Cassels. The Enhanced Planning website is now live at uvic.ca/enhancedplanning and includes information about upcoming workshops. Data input for decision makers will begin in November.

Cassels also referenced the roll-out of the UVic Edge—our means of describing our strengths and our mission—across campus. Now that we have the language and tools in place, it's time to “take that message out there, to the community and to the world.”

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THE KINGSTON TRIO

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See the world famous trio that launched the Folk revival of the 60s. LIVE!!!

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Oct. 25 at 2:00pm

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THE COMIC STRIPPERS

Nov. 14 at 7:30pm

Male stripper parody and improv comedy show. No nudity, just extreme hilarity!

The Ring October 2015 Page 7

Day in the life

BY ERIN KING

Surrounded as we are by the Pacific Rim’s temperate rain forest, it’s only natural that the field of forest biology would flourish at UVic. At the program’s roots is Brad Binges, a problem solver with a green thumb, who has helped to nurture and grow forest biology at UVic over the past two and a half decades.

Binges manages the Bev Glover Greenhouse Facility and field research compound for the UVic Centre for Forest Biology.

To coordinate the research projects of graduate students and faculty members in the greenhouse, Binges must understand the basics of their research plans—space requirements, type of plant material, timelines. But he’s quick to point out that this does not mean he’s heavily involved in the projects themselves. “If I helped with the research itself, I would have earned 30-40 PhDs at this point!”

Binges is not exaggerating the numbers of researchers he has helped in his many years as manager of the facility. At any one time the Glover Greenhouse has at least six graduate-level research projects, a few undergraduate projects and courses, and some staff and faculty projects on the go—all of which are made possible by Binges’ careful planning and coordination.

This work is a far cry from how Binges first joined UVic as an un-

dergraduate biology student in the mid-’80s. At that time, there were only a few botany professors at UVic, including pioneering forest biologist John Owens. “I took a course with Dr. Owens on micro-technique in my final undergraduate year,” says Binges. “We learned to take samples, preserve them, and section them for research slides. The following summer, Dr. Owens offered me a summer job to help collect and preserve samples for his tree reproductive biology research.”

This summer job laid the roots for Binges’ career in forest biology at UVic. Shortly after the completion of his BSc, Binges was working full time at UVic, coordinating projects in forest biology and providing support to Dr. Owens’ research.

The UVic Centre for Forest Biology was established in 1988 and was originally based in the Cunningham building. Binges fondly recalls their efforts in those first few years to lobby for more space on campus. “We would place potted research plants in and around walkways behind the Cunningham building to demonstrate we were outgrowing our space.”

Their efforts did not go unnoticed and the centre was given a plot nestled beside a research cornfield beyond Mystic Vale on the Cedar Hill Corner property. A more long-term fenced area was established soon after the move, along with the addition of an official Environment



Binges. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Canada weather station. Binges still helps to maintain this forest biology compound, which houses a mix of potted and planted research specimens, as well as a mini arboretum of research trees.

In 2002, the Glover Greenhouse Facility was built across Ring Road from where the Bob Wright Centre is now—and Binges took up his new office space and responsibilities as facility manager. The facility boasts six state-of-the-art climate-controlled greenhouses, a nutrient mixing system, a small laboratory, and 17 growth chambers that support research on diverse topics ranging

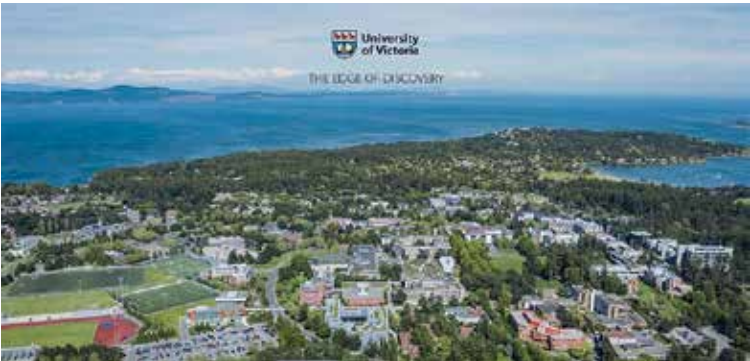
from seedling physiology and disease resistance to tree genomics and molecular biology.

Binges now spends his days training students to safely propagate, plant, grow and irrigate research specimens like native conifers and poplar. When he isn’t orienting new students or coordinating space in the facility, he monitors current environmental conditions both inside the greenhouse (temperature, supplemental light, irrigation and humidity) as well as external factors like sunlight and wind to keep as steady a climate as possible for the facility’s plants. He also manages

maintenance projects, inventory, equipment installation and the centre’s motor pool vehicle.

“The greenhouse has one full-time occupant and you’re looking at him,” says Binges. You might think that a set up like that sounds a little lonely, but not according to Binges.

“I think my favorite thing about this job is the people. Our students come from all over the world to study forest biology. They, along with the outstanding trades people in Facilities Management and the strong leadership at the centre make for a really enjoyable place to work.”



Visit UVic from anywhere in the world, virtually

Hang out on the quad, explore the library, learn about our faculties, and take in the natural beauty of the UVic campus—all without leaving your home.

UVic’s virtual tour, which officially launches Oct. 8, is an interactive on-line tool that provides an authentic and engaging way for prospective students to explore our spectacular campus.

Three UVic students guide visitors through the places they live and learn, including popular spaces, buildings, faculties and programs. There are currently 16 stops, each with video descriptions and photos. Most of the stops include 360-degree panoramas and other dynamic content, and new photos and video can be added at any time to keep the tour fresh and up-to-date.

The new virtual tour is a great way to experience UVic’s extraordinary academic environment from anywhere in the world, and it reinforces our position as a top choice for hands-on, research-inspired learning.

The project is a collaborative effort between University Communications + Marketing and Student Recruitment and Global Engagement. It uses YouVisit’s platform, which can be viewed on desktops, laptops, smartphones, tablets, social platforms and virtual reality headsets. YouVisit is the only product of its kind on the market. It’s used by many universities in the US—including Harvard, Yale and Stanford—and is quickly being adopted by Canadian universities.

Experience the UVic virtual tour at uvic.ca/virtualtour.

Engineering co-op students build tree-planting robot to help fight deforestation

BY VANESSA STOFER

Many students spend their summers tromping through slash-piles and battling blackflies to replant Canada’s forests. Two UVic engineering undergrads took a different approach: they designed and built a tree-planting robot with the idea of supplementing the humans’ hard work.

“TreeRover” is the brainchild of third-year electrical engineering students Nick Birch and Tyler Rhodes. Through an entrepreneurial co-op work term, they formed their own company—Iota Enterprises—to build their robot prototype in Rhodes’ Saanich backyard.

Growing up on Vancouver Island, Birch and Rhodes have always enjoyed outdoor pursuits and electronics projects. “A tree-planting robot seemed like a logical way to combine those interests to create something that could positively impact the environment,” says Birch, “especially given the extent of BC’s forest fires this past summer.”

The bright orange TreeRover

prototype, which carries up to 10 seedlings, has a four-wheeled electric-drive base with an air-powered planting mechanism mounted on top. The robot drives to a planting site, punches a hole in the ground with a hollow metal tube and deposits a tree seedling with a whoosh of pressured air. It then tamps the earth around the seedling with a metal “foot”—mimicking a planter’s heavy boot—to ensure it’s secure.

“The TreeRover has been challenging and fun to build,” says Birch. “Tyler and I learned a lot of practical skills over this work term. Because our team only consists of two people, we were forced to be very hands-on in all aspects of the project.”

UVic students in any program can choose the entrepreneurial co-op option, which allows students to either work for clients (on a self-employed or contract basis) or develop a product or service over a four-month period with input from a mentor and support from a co-op coordinator. For Birch and Rhodes, this work term was their third.

“We chose to do an entrepre-

neurial work term this time for the unique learning opportunities it presented—business, marketing and design experience,” says Birch. “We’d definitely encourage others to try the entrepreneurial option because it’s a low-risk way to try a business idea and gain skills crucial to creating a successful startup.”

While Birch and Rhodes have now returned to their full-time engineering studies, they’re raising funds to upgrade their TreeRover prototype’s planting mechanism, navigation system and powertrain and to allow it to carry more seedlings. Going forward, they’re hoping to continue using their education to develop more sustainable technologies—something they’ve both realized they have a passion for.

“The co-op program has allowed both of us to explore different career options and gain experience in a variety of industries,” says Birch. “It’s a great way to find out what you love to do.”

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/KpPWcFukGIM>



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