New International Summer Institute Brings Danish and Canadian Students and Faculty Together

Following three years of consultations and collaborative planning, UVic will host an innovative international and interprofessional summer institute for students from the University College of Copenhagen (UCC) and UVic.

A core group of faculty representing both universities will integrate their planning and curriculum to provide an institute that will focus on preparing professionals to be effective and innovative global citizens both within their own nations and across nations. Students enrolled in Teacher Education, Social Pedagogy, and Child and Youth Care will study together, under the instruction of UCC and UVic professors.

According to Dr. Wanda Hurren, associate dean of administration in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, “Bringing together a group of students and professors across national, cultural, and disciplinary borders will allow the exchange and creation of deeper understandings of knowledge construction, identities, social responsibilities, and ethics. Cutting-edge theories, practice-rich engagement, and dynamic activities will provide the foundation for this four week institute.” The institute will be offered through a distributed model of delivery combining face to face and community-based engagement with some online activity.

Information about this and other exciting international work underway is available on the Faculty of Education and School of Child and Youth Care websites.
Colonial Legacies Field School in South Africa

UVic students will take part in an exciting new experiential learning program in South Africa on the 20th anniversary of its democracy. The Colonial Legacies Field School in South Africa will see 12 to 15 students visit urban and rural South Africa in April and May 2014. Led by Dr. Elizabeth Vibert and doctoral candidate Megan Harvey (History), the field school will expose students to the living legacies of colonial pasts in sub-Saharan Africa. Based first in Cape Town and then in villages in north-eastern Limpopo Province, students will learn on-the-ground about the impacts of colonial histories on rural and urban landscapes and in everyday life; apartheid and reconciliation; sustainable rural development; grassroots anti-poverty initiatives; community responses to HIV/AIDS; gender and development; land, labour and global economy; and modes of historical memory. Participants from a wide range of disciplines are welcome and will earn 3 units of 400-level History credit (1.5 units for graduate students).

For details, please contact Dr. Vibert at evibert@uvic.ca or visit their Facebook page.

New Anthropology Field School in Eastern Cuba

The Department of Anthropology is organizing a summer field school in eastern Cuba to be held in May 2014. The summer school includes two combined courses, Contemporary Cuban Culture and Field Methods in Ethnography (3 units total). Students will stay with host families in Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Baracoa, and will meet with local artists, intellectuals and cultural agents. Going off the beaten track, this summer school invites students to discover unique cultural practices and social dynamics that characterize the biggest island of the Caribbean. According to Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, “Cuba changes fast; now is the time to explore the only socialist country in the Americas!”

For more information, please contact Dr. Boudreault-Fournier at alexbf@uvic.ca or visit their Facebook page.

Are you involved in or interested in leading an international field school?

We want to hear from you! The International Office is undertaking a project to collect resources and information about leading international field schools, in order to share these resources and provide support to faculty members and staff. Whether you have led a field school in the past and have experience to contribute, or you are intrigued by the idea of establishing a field school for your students but are not sure where to begin, we welcome you to contact us. The project will result in a new webpage on the International Office website, as well as a discussion forum early next year. Stay tuned for more details. Please contact Ms. Silke Klenk at sklenk@uvic.ca or 472-4101 for additional information.
UVic named top university for international collaboration

Leiden University’s Centre for Science and Technology Studies recently released its 2013 rankings, naming UVic the top Canadian university for public research based on international collaborations. This year’s rankings demonstrate that based on 2008-2011 publications, UVic is the Canadian university with the highest proportion of internationally co-authored research. UVic also retains a place in the top one per cent of world universities.

“These metrics underscore the importance that participation in international networks and partnerships plays in demonstrating research quality and impact,” explains Howard Brunt, UVic Vice-President Research. “Our researchers’ penchant for linking with other top scholars from around the world helps explain why UVic is recognized as one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities.”

The 2013 QS World University Rankings by Subject, released on May 8, also recognized UVic’s leadership in a broad mix of academic fields. UVic was identified in the top 200 institutions globally for research in five QS subject areas: earth and marine sciences, geography, law, philosophy and English language and literature.

“The Leiden rankings and the QS subject rankings confirm UVic’s strong research performance and impact on the international stage,” said former UVic President David Turpin. “For a young university, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, it is gratifying to see this international recognition for the world-class research undertaken at UVic.”

*Read more in The Ring.*

UVic research collaborations receive FAPESP funding

UVic research collaborations with Universidade São Paulo (USP) are benefitting from a Scientific Cooperation Agreement between UVic and the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP), the state of São Paulo Research Foundation. Through the Scientific Cooperation Agreement, UVic and FAPESP provide travel and living expenses for collaborative research projects in all fields of knowledge. Successfully funded projects are awarded up to $10,000 by each party, each year, for up to two years. Two UVic professors received funding this year.

Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier (Anthropology) is collaborating with USP anthropologist, Dr. Sylvia Caiuby on a project entitled Images and Sound Making: A Comparative and Collaborative Approach to Visual Anthropology. The researchers will conceptualize and produce an ethnographic film, with accompanying audio-visual text, that looks at issues of youth, music, and identity in the contemporary Brazilian metropolis. The film will be produced in São Paulo in collaboration with visual anthropologist, Dr. Satiko Gitirana Hikiji. The anticipated release date is 2015.

Dr. Rogério de Sousa (Physics and Astronomy) and Dr. Luís Gregório Dias da Silva of USP’s Instituto de Física, bring together a unique set of skills to solve a timely and important problem: conventional electronic devices based on charge currents are reaching their limit in terms of miniaturization as well as energy dissipation. This problem has motivated research on spintronic devices that are based on the electron spin degree of freedom instead of its charge. Spin devices are more sensitive to environmental fluctuations because, in addition to charge noise, they are sensitive to magnetic or spin noise. Research on magnetic noise affecting spintronic devices is still in its infancy, and has been a central theme of de Sousa’s research group.

*Bachelor of Fine Arts student Jessica Blue enjoys cycling in the Scottish countryside during her exchange to Aberdeen*
UVic graduate students Amber Paulson and Kate Donaleshen (Biology) have been busy, contributing to global knowledge of insect invasion while collaborating with world-class biologists and travelling internationally. Both students are supervised by Dr. Patrick von Aderkas, who is the co-leader of a multi-year research initiative focused on *Megastigmus*, an invasive species of wasp.

*Megastigmus* is a chalcid wasp that was accidentally introduced to Europe from western North America through international seed trade. In its new French home this forest seed pest causes major economic losses and threatens to expand its range through continued movement of infested seed. The research program covers a range of biological aspects, including molecular mechanisms of parasitism, endosymbiosis, geographic patterns of species distribution and models of invasion.

Paulson (co-supervised with Dr. Steve Perlman) travelled with French colleagues to collect insect samples from Mediterranean habitats in southern France and Cyprus. Paulson says that the “delightful” trip allowed a “wealth of knowledge” to be gained and for valuable connections to be made with other biologists from around the world. Donaleshen (co-supervised with Dr. Jürgen Ehlting) shared results on seed biology during parasitic attacks with colleagues during a five-day workshop in Avignon, France. During the workshop, much was learned about insect invasion at the global level which demonstrated the importance of international seed trade policy.

French and Canadian biologists have been united through the international project studying *Megastigmus*. The project, entitled *Megastigmus* and conifers – Biology of Invasion (MAC-BI), was funded by the Strategic Project Grants Program of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the French Agence Nationale de Recherche – Programme Blanc International. Von Aderkas (UVic Centre for Forest Biology) provides a wealth of knowledge on sexual reproduction in trees. He is joined by Dr. Alain Roques from the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, a world famous wasp expert lending his entomological expertise to the project. The Canadian team also hosted a workshop at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre last year, providing an opportunity for all of the team members to meet and coordinate their research initiatives.

By taking a cooperative and strategic approach, this integrated research program was able to provide a unified effort on a group of insect parasites that causes a great deal of seed damage to economically important host trees in both countries.
BIG project explores borders in a global world

A new international research collaboration led by the University of Victoria will explore our understanding of borders—real, remote and virtual—in the 21st century.

The seven-year “Borders in Globalization” (BIG) project involves 23 universities and 34 non-academic partners from Canada, the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. It is funded through a $2.3-million Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), as well as $1.4 million from project partners.

“Border gates may not be disappearing yet, but the state’s capacity to enforce or delineate borders is becoming far more complex and powerful,” says lead investigator Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, an associate professor in UVic’s School of Public Administration, director of UVic’s European Studies minor, editor of the Journal of Borderlands Studies (Routledge) and Jean Monnet Chair in EU Border and Urban Region Policies.

This article continues in a media release from UVic Communications. Further information is available in The Ring.

Environmental Studies professor researches marine conservation

Dr. Natalie Ban, assistant professor in the School of Environmental Studies, focuses her research on resource management and conservation. Overfishing, pollution, coastal development and climate change threaten marine biodiversity globally and compromise the services that marine ecosystems provide.

In her recent co-authored paper, “Marine conservation planning in practice: lessons learned from the Gulf of California,” Ban examines the marine biodiversity hotspot of the Gulf of California, Mexico, where there have been seven marine planning exercises in the past decade. “This is such a unique region globally, with an incredible diversity of marine life. Quite a lot of effort has gone into conservation in the region, and we wanted to see how planning efforts compare to one another,” says Ban.

The research paper, co-authored with Jorge G. Álvarez-Romero, Robert L. Pressey, Jorge Torre and Octavio Aburto-Oropeza, investigated the differences in data methodologies and conservation objectives across all seven conservation plans. Their research led them to conclude that despite good intentions, the co-existence of multiple plans can hamper the goal to create a common approach and focus for conservation.

The paper is available via the Wiley Online Library.

Mathematics of the planet Earth

This year, research institutes from all over the world are sponsoring scientific events within the initiative “Mathematics of the Planet Earth.” This summer, UVic hosted the workshop, “Celestial, Molecular, and Atomic Dynamics,” (CEMAD-2013) organized by Dr. Florin Diacu (Mathematics and Statistics). Diacu was also one of the organizers of a previous conference on this theme, held at the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems in Dresden, Germany in 2010.

Top experts from North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia met at UVic to present and discuss their latest results. These related to the mathematical connections

continued next page

Photos taken in the Gulf of California during Dr. Natalie Ban’s research on resource management and conservation
Research  continued

found between the motion of planets, molecules, and atoms - three types of dynamical systems that are very different from each other. Such links are not easy to find since they require not only wide knowledge in various branches of mathematics, but also expertise in astronomy as well as classical and quantum mechanics.

The participants in CEMAD-2013 left Victoria with a deep sense of accomplishment, having learned new things from each other, exchanged ideas and fostered new collaborations that might lead to new breakthroughs in the near future.

UVic hosts Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society conference

This June, UVic hosted the eleventh biennial international conference of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society with participants traveling from as far as Estonia, Egypt, Malaysia and China. The conference aimed to build and identify bridges between scientific research and public policy debates; it included discussion of research on topics such as freshwater ecosystems, climate change, lake dynamics, invasive species, oceans governance and marine ecosystems. A live feed from ongoing Ocean Networks Canada dives drew sustained attention throughout the conference.

The Digital Fishers citizen science initiative, a joint project of Ocean Networks Canada and the Centre for Global Studies, was featured in the discussion of new tools and techniques. Digital Fishers allows the public to contribute to ocean research by watching video clips collected during installation dives and from underwater cameras and by describing what they see using an easy-to-use online interface.

The conference concluded with a session on oceans governance, featuring UVic’s Dr. Rod Dobell (Professor Emeritus, Public Policy), Dr. Judith Sayers (Business and Law) and Dr. Kate Moran (President and CEO, Ocean Networks Canada) along with ecologist Dr. Buzz Holling.

Selected papers from the conference are to be reviewed for inclusion in special issue of the journal Ecosystem Health.

Ecologist Buzz Holling and UVic’s Rod Dobell, Judith Sayers, and Kate Moran were featured in a session on oceans governance.
International Week
Oct. 19-25, 2013 | UVic
UVic will be celebrating International Week from October 19th to October 25th and you are cordially invited to participate. Come out to learn more about the university’s internationalization goals, find out about international opportunities, hear stories of international experiences and meet some of our international students and researchers from around the globe.

A sampling of events being organized include:

2013 African Eloquence Youth Celebration
Oct. 19, 2013, 6:00 pm | MAC A144
Join the 2013 African Eloquence Youth Celebration where local African youth will entertain you and educate you on the diverse and beautiful continent of Africa. The evening also features delectable appetizers and local performances. This is an all-ages event and admission is by donation.

Crossing Borders film with facilitated discussion
Oct. 22, 2013, 3:30 – 5:30 pm | DSB C118
Crossing Borders is a seventy minute documentary that follows four Moroccan and four American university students as they travel together through Morocco and in the process of discovering “The Other,” discover themselves. The relationships formed through shared experiences contrast sharply with the media-shaped views Americans and Muslims have of each other. The film will be followed with moderated discussion from UVic Human Right’s educator, Moussa Magassa.

I-Witness Field School Information Session
Oct. 22, 2013, 4:30 pm | CLE C315
The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Victoria is currently accepting applications for the next I-witness Holocaust Field School (application deadline November 1, 2013). This field school course consists of one week of intensive study at the University of Victoria, followed by three weeks in Central Europe (May 5 – May 31, 2014).

For further information, visit the field school website or contact Dr. Helga Thorson at iwitness@uvic.ca or 250-721-7316.

Creating Spaces: Challenging Privilege and Oppression
Oct. 29, 2013, 1:30 - 4:00 pm | SED C168
Creating Spaces workshops promote anti-oppressive practices, respect for human rights, awareness of power, powerlessness and our own multiple social locations. You will be encouraged to deconstruct “normal” and to focus on building connections and equitable relationships.

The workshop is free and open to all. To register, please contact Moussa Magassa at mmagassa@uvic.ca or 250 472 4114.

Panel Discussion: What are the real costs of a $10 dress?
Nov. 6, 2013, 5:00 - 7:00 pm | HHB 110
On April 24, 2013, Rana Plaza, an eight-story commercial building housing five garment factories, collapsed in Savar, a district on the outskirts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. A total of 1,131 factory workers were confirmed dead, and many others suffered grave injuries and were left in critical condition. This event’s interdisciplinary panel will address some of the multifaceted and interconnected complexities that the Rana Plaza tragedy reveals about precarious labour, contemporary commodity chains, accountability, and global responsibility. Guest moderator for the event is former CBC Bureau Chief Patrick Brown. The event is free and open to the public.

Upcoming Events

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International Opportunities Fair
Oct. 23, 2013, 10 am - 2 pm | University Centre Lobby
Have you thought about studying abroad but don’t know where to start? Or perhaps you are interested in learning more about an international co-op or field school opportunity? Come out and meet UVic students who have recently returned from a time overseas as well as international students currently at UVic. You will receive an overview of UVic’s exchange partner institutions and staff will be available to answer questions. Drop by, explore your options and win raffle prizes!

A full schedule of International Week events is available on our website.
Hispanic and Italian Studies

Two new study abroad programs expand student opportunities

The Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies recently created two new study abroad programs, giving students the chance to live in a country where they can be completely immersed in the language they study on campus.

The department sent the first group of students abroad to Alcalá de Henares, Spain to study at the Universidad de Alcalá during the 2012/13 academic year. Eight students participated in the program for the fall term, seven of which stayed on for the spring term as well. All the students found the program challenged them to improve their language skills, but even more importantly they enjoyed having the opportunity to experience the culture first-hand. One student said, “I learned so much, not only the language, but how to make friends out of strangers and how to enjoy a culture that is different from my own.” The Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies plans to continue sending students in the coming year.

This fall, the department is further expanding study abroad opportunities through the creation of a study abroad term in Quito, Ecuador. The first cohort of students is currently taking courses at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE). These students not only take classes in language and culture, but also have the opportunity to volunteer in their host community. This experiential component gives them contact with residents and guests of the city and challenges them to use their Spanish outside the classroom. Some UVic students are volunteering with students learning English at PUCE, and others are volunteering at the Museo de la Ciudad, the Museum of the City of Quito. The department hopes to expand these volunteer opportunities in the future.

Anyone interested in getting more information about our study abroad opportunities can do so by contacting the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies at 250-721-7413 or by e-mail at spanit@uvic.ca.

Professor makes international connections at home and abroad

During the month of June, Dr. Marina Bettaglio of the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies was involved in several internationalization projects both at UVic and in Europe. As the local organizer for the Canadian Society for Italian Studies during Congress 2013, she was instrumental in the organization of an outstanding piano concert by Italian pianist Cristiana Pegoraro at the Philip T. Young Recital Hall. In her role of Master of Ceremonies, she welcomed her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Judith Guichon, and the Consul General of Italy, Fabrizio Inserra, during a magnificent concert showcasing the vibrancy of Italian culture in Canada.

The following week, she travelled to Bosnia to participate in an international conference organized by AIBA, Associazione Italianisti dei Balcani (Balkan Italianist Association), where she presented a paper on the teaching of Italian literature.

As a specialist in both Hispanic and Italian Studies, she completed her stay in Europe with a research trip to Spain to study the representation of motherhood in contemporary Spanish literature and society. Her trip included archival work at the Hemeroteca Municipal and Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid and several interviews with leading writers and journalists, including Rosa Montero, Laura Freixas, Lola López Mondéjar, and Isabel García-Zarza, authors whose works reflect the controversial status of motherhood in the Spanish context.
International Activities  continued

International Office - Student Experience

UVic students blog about their exchange experiences

Participating in international exchange program is a life-changing experience. Some students kept a blog to share their experience. Here’s a selection:

Diana Lehmann (Physics) admits “I somewhat arbitrarily chose Uppsala University in Sweden, mostly because a lot of famous physicists are from Uppsala. This may seem like a risky maneuver and I was definitely a little scared. As I left Canada, I was wondering why I decided to move to a country that I knew nothing about and only knew two words of the local language. Within days of being in Sweden, I’d fallen in love with the country.”

While on exchange at James Cook University in Cairns, Graham Christie (Geography) learned that “Australia is known for its deadly creatures. Make sure to follow the signs, and don’t do anything the locals don’t do. For example, don’t stand beside rivers, there are crocs (averaging about 5 meters), don’t swim outside of the stinger nets at the beach as again, there are crocs, but also sea snakes and jellies. Don’t stick your hand in dark places as there are spiders, don’t walk in long grass with exposed skin, there are snakes and spiders…you get the idea. If you keep it all in mind though, you can do amazing things! It doesn’t detract from the experience at all.”

After returning from her semester in Aberystwyth, Wales, Laura Davis says that “going on this exchange was honestly the best decision I’ve made in my life so far. It’s amazing to live in a different country for a while, and you end up not only learning about other cultures, but also learning a vast amount about yourself.”

Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives

CAPI welcomes graduate students from Bangladesh

Sharmin Ahmed and Pulak Chakma are graduate students from Bangladesh, currently completing four-month internships at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. Their placements form part of CAPI’s wider Students for Development program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

“We are very happy to welcome Sharmin and Pulak to CAPI and to the university,” says Helen Lansdowne, Associate Director at CAPI. “We’ve already had some great discussions about issues affecting the region. Having Sharmin and Pulak here really adds to the richness of the Centre.”

Ahmed is currently working on her Master’s degree in Development Studies at BRAC University and has a Bachelor’s degree in Social Science from East West University in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Chakma is also pursuing a Master’s degree in Development Studies at East West University. He has an MBA from Pune University in India and a Bachelor’s degree in Leather Technology from Dhaka University.

“UVic is a wonderful resource center for research with very supportive instructors, staff and libraries,” says Ahmed. “It is also a nice, peaceful place to be able to connect with other scholars and work on my thesis.”
Currently CAPI also has six UVic students who are completing six-month internships in the Philippines, India and Bangladesh. Natalia Yang, Sonia Preisler, Elena Lopez, Christine Galipeau, Cory de Vries and Jacquie Day are all working with civil society organizations on issues of migration and development.

To find out more about CAPI's internship program or to check out the latest blogs and podcasts from our interns, see the CAPI website.

CAPI sponsors meeting of the American Oriental Society in Victoria

The Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives sponsored the 2013 meeting of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, held at the Inn at Laurel Point on October 3-5. Scholars from western Canada, all parts of the United States, and China, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Germany, Hong Kong, Switzerland, and Australia presented forty papers on topics exploring pre-modern Chinese literature, philosophy, religion, art, and history.

Computer Science

UVic professor teaches computer science in China

Dr. Mantis Cheng (Computer Science) has taught embedded and mechatronic systems at UVic for over 20 years. He was recently invited to spend a year teaching at the National University of Defence Technology (NUDT) in Changsha, China. NUDT is a leading institute in China’s supercomputer development and the Chinese space program and currently houses the world’s fastest supercomputer, Tianhe-2 (Milky Way 2).

At NUDT, Cheng taught two courses, one on embedded systems to fourth year students, and the other on computer fundamentals to first year students. He also visited the Software Test and Evaluation Center of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation in Beijing, China, where he gave three seminars about his research on verifying real time embedded systems.

In August, he spent three weeks at the Southeast University, Wuxi Campus offering a short course to a group of graduate students about real time embedded systems. They developed software for the Hiveboard, a CPU and embedded system board designed and built by Southeast University. Southeast University is one of only 32 universities directly administered by the Chinese Department of Education, which are considered the top class universities in China.

Cheng says that his Chinese students were very excited to be taught by a foreign, English speaking, professor, whose teaching style and methods were often quite different from their Chinese professors. According to Cheng, “the hands-on projects I used in these courses are some of the most fun projects that these students have ever experienced... they found our projects very interesting but challenging!”
French

New summer field school takes students to Paris

Stories re-told in medieval stained glass, a fact-finding treasure hunt in the Pletzl, visits to African markets and salsa dancing along the Seine: these are just some of the experiences 22 students embraced this past July during the French department’s inaugural UVic in Paris field school, organized and led by Dr. Stephen Martin. The focus for this year’s month-long program was multiculturalism and how it manifests itself in day-to-day Parisian life. Students spent mornings in the classroom discussing multiculturalisms, acculturation, difference and integration, and learning about the various quarters and historical and cultural sites that they visited in the afternoons and evenings. Students lived and cooked with other exchange students in their residence, learning valuable vocabulary and developing stronger speaking and listening skills.

Students were expected to speak only French—even outside of class—and to interact with people who they met in order to develop their final projects, which required a technological component. Students produced blogs, videos, music and Pinterest and Twitter collections on topics as varied as religious difference in architecture, food preparation in the different immigrant communities, the Americanization of the various cultures represented in Paris, religious difference and its expression and on public art and graffiti found in various quartiers.

They also got away from the big city and spent a long weekend in Brittany learning about Canadian history. They visited Saint-Malo, birthplace of Jacques Cartier, and the museum in his home, and had a day excursion to the Juno Beach Centre, which honours the Canadians who served in World War II, and to the Canadian Cemetery. It was a full month, but participants say it was well worth the time, energy and linguistic effort they put in.

Germanic and Slavic Studies

Students take study abroad trips

Seven students from Germanic and Slavic Studies participated in Travel and Study Abroad trips to Russia and Ukraine in the summer of 2013. Shannon Grady, Nadia Hodikin and Victoria Stanek studied at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine; and Stan Bersenev, Rowan Meredith, Jessa Morris and Ryan Earthy-Mousseau studied at the St. Petersburg State University in St. Petersburg, Russia. Morris was the winner of the department’s prestigious Nicholas V. Galichenko Scholarship, which helps to fund international travel to a country of the former Soviet Union.

Germanic and Slavic Studies hosts events during Congress 2013

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies hosted two events during the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted in June 2013 at UVic.

Amundsen Exhibit at UVic

The Royal Norwegian Embassy presented the exhibit Cold Recall- Reflections from the Northwest Passage. Cold Recall featured explorer Roald Amundsen’s photos from Gjoa Haven in Nunavut. Amundsen spent almost two years in Gjoa Haven before he became the first person ever to sail through the Northwest Passage.

Amundsen and the crew on his ship, Gjoa, established a close relationship with the Inuit in the area. His photos continued next page
International Activities continued

are largely a documentation of the life of the Inuit, and reflect the great influence the Inuit’s traditional clothing and skills had on Roald Amundsen’s own development as a polar explorer.

More information is available in *The Ring.*

Celebrating Arthur Schnitzler

The Viennese author Arthur Schnitzler (1862-1931), whom Freud referred to as his Doppelgänger, provided the source material for a two-person dramatic reading, *Arthur Schnitzler - Being Jewish.* The reading, performed by Amanda Lisman and Christopher Britton, consisted of excerpts from Schnitzler’s diaries and letters, interspersed with quotes from the media.

*Arthur Schnitzler - Being Jewish* highlights the ways in which Austrian and Jewish identities were constructed and received in turn-of-the-century Viennese society as well as how this legendary writer navigated his own concepts of Jewishness in his personal writing. Arthur Schnitzler is known for his provocative depictions of sexuality as well as his unique writing style that blurs the boundaries between dream and reality.

Peter Schnitzler, an artist and writer as well as Arthur Schnitzler’s grandson, introduced the reading with a talk titled “The Boy on the Bicycle.” The reading was followed by a short response from a panel of scholars: Dr. Michael Boehringer (University of Waterloo), Dr. Agatha Schwartz (University of Ottawa), and Dr. Helga Thorson (UVic).

Child and Youth Care

Law

Student delegation visits from Japan

UVic hosted a seven member Japanese delegation from Kagoshima University this September. The delegation was led by Dr. Tadahiro Matsuda and comprised of senior students enrolled in the Maritime Law program in Japan.

The delegation visited the English Language Centre (ELC) to receive an overview on UVic’s degree programs and the various programs offered by the ELC. The delegation then jointly made a presentation on Japanese culture and specifically the culture of Kagoshima prefecture. A very important part of this visit was an official meeting to discuss future collaboration and opportunities between UVic and Kagoshima University.

Dr. Rishi Gupta of the Department of Mechanical engineering spearheaded this visit and was the main contact for the delegation at UVic. He would like to acknowledge everyone involved in hosting this delegation, particularly the host team at UVic: Sue Butler, Chris Gambrell, Kyla Jardin, Niki Kihira, Juanita Shorkey, and David Wang.

Early Childhood Development Virtual University hosts workshop in Johannesburg

The Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU) focuses on capacity building and leadership promotion in Sub-Saharan Africa. To date, the program has completed four cohort deliveries and has over 100 graduates in sixteen African countries. External evaluations of the program by the World Bank have been very strong, underlining the many ‘on the ground’ developments achieved by the participants.

The ECDVU has recently expanded its focus to include support for scholars and academic institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. In February, twenty-three scholars from eighteen African countries met in Johannesburg for the launch of meetings designed to advance Early Childhood Development (ECD) scholarly work in Africa. With funding provided by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, the ECD Scholars Workshop was unique in its singular focus and number of countries participating. By the conclusion of the meetings the basis for an African ECD Researchers Network had been formed. More information about this event can be found in EDCVU’s 2013 Newsletter.
Co-op and Career

Twinning model helps students prepare for cross-cultural experiences

Chris Life is one of several UVic students preparing to go to Europe for a co-operative education (co-op) work term through UVic Co-op and Career’s CANEU-COOP program. His work term was secured with the help of his program twin, Rainer Ammer, who recently started an exchange term at UVic’s Faculty of Engineering.

The CANEU-COOP program, established in 2009, enables European students from the Duale Hochschule Baden Württemberg in Germany and FH Joanneum in Austria to complete academic terms at the University of Victoria and the University of Waterloo. In exchange, these European institutions seek out co-op work term opportunities in Europe for students from these Canadian institutions.

In this unique model, European students coming to Canada are ‘twinned’ with Canadian students going to Europe prior to any students starting their exchange term. In many cases, the European student selected for a Canadian exchange term is a co-op student at the company offering the Canadian student a co-op placement. The European student is often involved in the recruitment process for the co-op placement and connects with the Canadian student at this very early stage. This connection evolves into an 8-month partnership where each twin supports the other before and during their exchange terms.

“I have already been able to help my twin Rainer adapt to life in Canada, and I have already learned a lot about what to expect when it is my turn to go to Austria,” says Life. “The biggest things I have learned from Rainer are regarding the work culture, and subtle differences in the way business is conducted in Austria compared to in Canada. I expect this to benefit me hugely when I go to Austria because it will help me to fit into an Austrian professional environment more easily and reduce the risk of my causing problems or offence through my cultural ignorance.”

Rainer, an Engineering student at FH Joanneum in Austria, feels that “the advantage of the twinning program is that I am getting to know people who are studying at UVic before I arrive in Canada and have received a lot of useful advice.”

The eight-month twinning model has proven successful, resulting in solid support systems for students at both ends of the exchange spectrum. The friendships formed through the program have the potential to evolve into long-term professional relationships as the students graduate from their programs and embark on careers in their chosen fields.

For more information on this unique twinning model, CANEU-COOP program, or other international co-op initiatives, please contact UVic Co-op and Career’s international coordinator, Karima Ramji, at ramjik@uvic.ca.

International Commons

The International Commons, located in Room 151a of the McPherson Library, serves international students and supports faculty members, instructors and teaching assistants who work with international students. As the go-to place for international students at UVic, the International Commons provides services such as workshops, conversation cafes, research support, drop-in study space, academic advising, and mentoring opportunities.

For example, this semester the Department of Linguistics is offering a new workshop series, Clear Oral Communication for Academic Purposes, designed for international undergraduate students who speak English as an additional language. These workshops follow the successful English for academic purposes program, held during the spring 2013 semester, which was designed, set up, and implemented by undergraduate and graduate students from the applied linguistics program. Topic areas included academic writing, reading, listing, speaking and vocabulary.

The International Commons is a welcoming space where domestic and international students can intellectually and culturally engage with each other and where international graduate students can connect and collaborate with faculty. The International Commons is always looking for volunteers. More information on current workshops and programs is provided on the International Commons website. Inquiries can be emailed to Academic Program Coordinator Adam Yaghi at iccoor@uvic.ca.
Tools and Resources

Advising offered in the International Commons

The Academic Advising Centre for the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences is pleased to offer Academic Advising in the Marnie Swanson International Commons this fall for undergraduate international students within these three faculties. An Academic Advisor will be available on Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon until December 13th. Students will be able to sign up on a first-come, first-served basis for individual appointments or small group appointments if students are all in the same program area. The Academic Advisor will be able to help students explore potential program areas within the Faculties of Science, Social Sciences and Humanities, to answer questions about degree program requirements, and/or help students determine ways of overcoming difficulties they may be experiencing in their classes. The Academic Advising Centre looks forward to providing this outreach service to our undergraduate international students.

Resources for Visiting Graduate Research Students

Each year, UVic hosts a number of international visiting graduate students. Visiting research students are registered at another university and come to UVic to do research under the supervision of a UVic faculty member. While these students are not required to go through regular admissions processes, they are required to register in GS 504, International Visiting Research Student. (There are no tuition fees charged for GS 504.)

All visiting graduate research students are given access to basic research services (for example, access to the library, e-mail access, and computers.) Basic student services (e.g. recreation facilities), health and other benefits plans, transit passes, etc. can be provided. The usual applicable fees will apply.

Before visiting research students can come to UVic, there must be written agreements between the visiting research students, their home supervisors, and their UVic supervisors concerning issues such as intellectual property, stipend and benefits, travel costs, access to research equipment and supplies, research ethics, space, health insurance coverage, etc. Visiting students who wish to take courses must go through regular admissions processes and be registered as Non-degree Students. Fees will apply.

Please contact Graduate Admissions and Records for more information and to see sample written agreements at garo@uvic.ca.

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Editors: Pamela Vivian, Jenelle Yonkman
Contributors: Marina Bettaglio, Alexandrine Boudreau-Fournier, Daniel Bryant, Mantis Cheng, Kate Conaleshen, Florin Diacu, Catherine Dooner, Heike Edam, Rishi Gupta, Li-Shih Huang, Wanda Hurren, Anne Maclaurin, Stephen Martin, Amber Paulson, Alan Pence, Lisa Pender, Karima Ramji, Rosa Stewart, Megan Swift, Jennifer Swift, Helga Thorson, Elizabeth Vibert, Sherri Williams, Adam Yaghi.

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Page 14: D. Sullivan

International Office
Room B272, University Centre
3800 Finnerty Road
Victoria, BC CANADA V8P 5C2
Tel: 250-472-4644
Fax: 250-721-6542
Email: world@uvic.ca
Website: http://www.uvic.ca/international