



UVic engineers help build world's largest telescope

by Beth Haysom

A minuscule, flexible mirror not much bigger than an eye pupil being tested by University of Victoria engineers will one day help astronomers peer at distant galaxies and watch stars being born.

UVic is part of a flagship North American endeavour to build a 30-metre telescope (TMT), the largest ever built. A team of UVic engineers is designing experimental equipment that will eventually be used in the new telescope. Phase one of the UVic development project will be completed this month.

The gigantic scope—with a light-collecting area nine times the size of the largest existing telescope and 100 times more powerful than the Hubble telescope—will operate like a giant eyeball, allowing astronomers to probe 10 billion light years deep into space.

The \$750-million project is being undertaken by a private-public consortium, including universities in Canada and the United States, and is expected to be operational in 10 to 15 years.

Observations from the telescope will help answer questions about how stars, planets and galaxies form, and about dark matter and energy and the frequency and types of extra-solar planets.

UVic has built a "test bench" of experimental instrumentation needed to develop telescope parts such as a tiny "adaptive optics" mirror that will compensate for optical aberrations of the incoming light caused by Earth's atmosphere.

The project is assisted by \$4 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (for the entire

Canadian portion of the telescope project) and \$2 million from the BC Knowledge Development Fund.

"The first stage of the experimentation project has gone really well," says Colin Bradley, a mechanical engineer who heads the team of engineers, physicists, graduate and undergraduate students involved in UVic's project. "We're helping to create a powerful and sophisticated tool that will lead to a tremendous amount of valuable scientific research."

In phase two of the project, UVic will be involved in the development of cutting-edge, adaptive optics technology needed to operate the scope and the 738 hexagonal mirror segments that span its 30-metre bowl. These work together like pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle to collect the light beaming to Earth from the far recesses of the universe.

UVic is working closely with scientists at the National Research Council's Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics observatory in Saanich. Various sites in the higher elevations of Hawaii, Mexico and Chile are under review as potential locations to build the telescope.

Use of the new telescope will be a huge benefit to UVic astronomers and theorists who are already engaged in high-level cosmology and galactic research.

"Since light travels at a finite speed, then when we look into distant space we're also looking back in time," says Dr. Kim Venn, a UVic astronomer and the Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics.

"The TMT will make it possible to identify and study extremely faint

SEE 30-METRE TELESCOPE P.3



IMP student Kevin Tyler, right, checks out patient Walter Sly, under the watchful eye of Dr. Fraser Black.

What's up, doc?

The Island Medical Program's first class of trainee doctors joins the hospital front lines

by Beth Haysom

The first time Island Medical Program (IMP) student Bjorn Vegsund went "on duty" at Cowichan District Hospital emergency room, he couldn't bear to leave.

"We were only supposed to stay for two hours, but it was so interesting that I stayed for six," says Vegsund. He's one of the first cohort of 24 medical students based at the University of Victoria who are trail-blazing medical education on Vancouver Island.

"This was the first time I was the first person a patient talked to once they were admitted to the ER," says Vegsund. "It was exciting and

definitely nerve-racking, trying to remember what questions to ask, what physical symptoms to look for, what tests might be needed, and the diagnosis for each patient. This kind of experience is far better than all the hours we spend sitting and studying."

In fact, Vegsund and his fellow students, now in their second year of the four-year program, have spent more than a year studying and practising clinical skills with volunteer patients. Now it's time for their one day a week practical training with real patients on the wards and units of Vancouver Island Health Authority hospitals: Cowichan District, Saanich

Peninsula, Victoria General and the Royal Jubilee.

This front-line hospital experience, which began last month, chalks up another first for the IMP, which is establishing undergraduate medical education on Vancouver Island as a distributed program of the University of British Columbia faculty of medicine. IMP students will graduate with a UBC medical degree.

The IMP officially opened its doors at UVic in January 2005, along with the Northern Medical Program at the University of Northern BC, to respond to the need for doctors in ru-

SEE IMP STUDENTS P.5

Strategic plan consultations continue

The process to review and renew the university's strategic plan, *A Vision for the Future*, is in full swing.

Since December, members of the planning and priorities committee, the body that is leading the review process, have met with about a dozen groups across campus. Fifteen more campus consultations are being organized for February—with students, faculty councils, the university's educational and employment equity working groups, and other major constituencies.

Staff members are invited to consultations on the morning of Feb. 21 and the afternoon of Feb. 23 to provide input into the process. Off-campus consultations are being planned for late spring.

In addition to obtaining input through consultations in person, the planning and priorities committee is receiving comments and submissions from individuals and groups via e-mail and on paper.

"We're most grateful for the energy and thought people are investing in the process," says UVic President David Turpin, who chairs the committee. "What we're hearing from members of the university community will be invaluable in reviewing the strategic plan."

Background documents, the full consultation schedule and contact information for the committee are all available on the strategic plan review website at: uvic.ca/strategicreview.

Construction boom on campus—what's happening?

by Natasha Chetty

You've probably noticed the increase in construction crews and vehicles on campus since the new year. Curious about what's happening? Here's an update on the why's and how's of building the future of the university.

UVic is moving forward on a \$130-million capital expansion to add research, learning and office space. The B.C. government has committed to funding an additional 1,900 full-time students at UVic by 2010.

The new buildings will help the university meet the infrastructure needs of its growing student enrolment and research programs, and help ease the critical shortage of teaching and research space on campus.

A new science building will accommodate the school of earth & ocean sciences (SEOS), the chemistry department, an animal health care unit, the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis (CCMA), lecture theatres, offices, labs, meeting rooms and food services,

along with relocation of the physics and astronomy observatory dome and roof-top telescopes. Construction begins this March; the target completion date is March 2008.

A new social science and mathematics building will house geography, environmental studies, political science and mathematics, the e-learning systems group, graphics and photographic services, as well as various labs, lecture theatres, classrooms and administrative offices. Construction begins this spring with a target completion date of February 2008.

The Mearns Centre for Learning library expansion will transform the existing McPherson Library into a more comprehensive learning centre and information commons. The expected construction start is August 2006, with a target completion date of January 2008.

SEE CONSTRUCTION P.4



Artist's rendering of new science building.

Community kudos go to two UVic faculty members

by Maria Lironi

Two UVic faculty members—recently retired mathematician David Leeming and business professor Rebecca Grant—were honoured with Victoria's Leadership Awards last month.

A partnership between UVic, Leadership Victoria and the Rotary Club of Victoria—Harbourside, the awards recognize people who contribute to the community and inspire and mentor others to become involved and participate in the life of the city and surrounding community.

Leeming and Grant were winners

in the University of Victoria Community Leadership Awards category, which acknowledges exemplary leadership in linking UVic and the community for greater public benefit.

Leeming has had a long and distinguished career in research and teaching which culminated in his receipt of a faculty of science Excellence in Teaching Award. However, his involvement in mathematics education goes far beyond the lecture hall.

Leeming has served on Ministry of Education committees that have set the post-secondary mathematics curriculum in B.C. He has brought mathematics to life with the "Math Mania" program, which exposes the fun side of math to K-6 school-children. In addition, Leeming is managing editor of *Pi in the Sky*, a magazine designed to capture and develop the interest of high school students in math.

Grant joined UVic as an associate professor of information technology in 1993, and has been repeatedly recognized for her strong research and teaching in the popular new field of "e-business."

Grant has always been active in the local community, in such roles as a mentor to young entrepreneurs in Junior Achievement and as a leader

in fundraising for the United Way. Grant was elected to the board of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce in 2000, and in succeeding years has willingly taken on more responsibilities.

Other 2006 winners are: Robin Irving (Vancity Youth Leadership Award); Hajimohammed Charania and Dr. Michael Kovacs (Rotary Community Leadership Awards); Robin Irving (Vancity Youth Award) and Fiona Hyslop (Lifetime Achievement Award).

For more information visit www.leadershipvictoria.ca/VLA_Nominees_2006.pdf.



Leeming



Grant



JESSICA GILLES

"Old man" on the move

Volunteers take the thunderbird/whale protection and welcoming pole, affectionately known by its carvers as "the old man," to its final destination—the foyer of the David Lam auditorium in the MacLaurin Building. The pole was moved from the Wilfred Johns Gallery, where it was carved last fall, to its final installation location, where it was celebrated in a Jan. 20 ceremony. Prior to the move, both the pole and those who volunteered to move it were blessed during a traditional ceremony. The pole was the centerpiece of a course offered by the faculty of education to engage students in learning about indigenous teaching and learning. Faculty members and students took turns carving the pole and documenting the process on a website, a video, and through educational materials and ceremonies.

Correction

Last month's *Ring* incorrectly identified the carvers who worked on the thunderbird/whale protection/welcoming pole mentioned above. Fabien Quocksister, a Liekwithout/Songhees master carver, was the lead carver on the project. Songhees carver Butch Dick acted as mentor carver.

UVic invites comment on internationalization plan

UVic is aiming to enhance its international activities and connections across the university community and on the world stage.

Everyone is invited to join in the dialogue for change, which may involve revising curricula, establishing an international space or focal point on campus, and funding more overseas study and research by students, staff and faculty.

"Making a World of Difference," a draft strategic plan outlining 14 objectives for furthering internationalization at the university over the next five years, was released by the office of international affairs (OIA) for consultation with the UVic community this month.

"For many years, UVic has had strong areas of international excellence, but the challenge now is to ensure that this strength and expertise permeates the experience of all our students, staff and faculty," says Jim Anglin, associate vice-president academic and student affairs, who also serves as director of international affairs.

"Our new plan seeks to define

some strategic directions based on UVic's values and commitments, and to create the framework of programs and services necessary to address issues of global consequence."

The internationalization plan is based on UVic's *Vision for the Future* commitment to "a diverse and welcoming learning environment that informs and is informed by global realities and issues." The new international framework and objectives have evolved after a thorough, two-year consultation process with faculty, staff and students and contributions from the OIA working group on internationalization.

These global goals complement UVic's overall strategy that is currently being consulted on and updated.

Among other objectives, UVic intends to: appoint a new full-time director of international affairs; to double the numbers of students from UVic having study or work experiences abroad by 2010; provide project management and resource support for overseas research; and

encourage a broader representation of visa students attending UVic.

"Today's reality is that universities have to achieve excellence on a global scale to attract resources, research funding and the most talented students and faculty," says Anglin. "This plan will help UVic develop the tools for adopting a world-minded perspective and a commitment to human betterment throughout the university's teaching, research and community-based activities."

The 25-page document has been distributed widely throughout the UVic community for comment. A copy is also available online at www.oia.uvic.ca.

Comments and suggestions on the plan are welcome and should be sent by e-mail to world@oia.uvic.ca or in writing to the office of international affairs, Continuing Studies Building, room 300.

The deadline for responses is Feb. 28 so that a final draft of the plan can be submitted to the senate for consideration by May.

Afghan human rights advocate launches new lecture series

A woman who defied the brutally oppressive Taliban to provide health care for women and educational opportunities for girls will present the inaugural University of Victoria guest lecture on "lived rights."

Dr. Sima Simar, former Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan and current chair of the Independent Afghan Human Rights Commission, will deliver her public lecture on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Fraser Building, room 159. A reception will follow her presentation.

Through the Shuhada Organization, a non-governmental, non-profit organization she established in 1989, Simar opened four hospitals, 10 health clinics and numerous schools for Afghan girls and women.

She was recently appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on Sudan and was a recipient, in 2004, of a Profiles

in Courage Award for being "an international symbol of the steadfast courage required to demand basic human rights for girls and women in Afghanistan."

This annual public lecture by an internationally recognized human rights advocate was established to acknowledge and learn more about the courageous and transformative work being done—particularly by women—to turn words on the pages of constitutions and treaties into positive changes in the daily lives of disadvantaged people in conflict and post-conflict zones.

Simar's presentation is sponsored by UVic's centre for global studies, the International Women's Rights Project, the faculty of law dean's advisory committee on ethnicity and culture, the Human Rights Law Association, Telus and Monk Office Supplies.

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Director Bruce Kilpatrick

Managing Editor Valerie Shore

Production Beth Doman

Contributors Natasha Chetty, Beth Haysom, Maria Lironi, Mike McNeney, Patty Pitts, Valerie Shore, Chris Thackray

Advertising Bonnie Light
388-5321 or ringads@uvic.ca

Calendar Mandy Crocker, ucom@uvic.ca

Printer Goldstream Press

The Ring, PO Box 1700,
University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2
Tel: (250) 721-7636 • Fax: 721-8955
e-mail: ucom@uvic.ca • website: www.uvic.ca/ring

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UVic professor is first Scottish studies fellow

by Beth Haysom

Scottish history buff Paul Wood had more than Robbie Burns day to celebrate this year.

The UVic history professor fell for bonny Scotland while conducting research for his doctorate in the Aberdeen archives. Now, years of academic devotion to Scottish culture have led to his appointment as UVic's first-ever fellow in Scottish studies.

UVic's faculty of humanities is supporting a new Scottish Studies fellowship, thanks to an endowment from Marion Alice Small, a former UVic arts professor. She shared a passion for all things Scottish with her husband, Hugh Campbell, and set up the Hugh Campbell and Marion Alice Small Fund in Scottish Studies.

"I'm excited to be doing this," says Wood. "Scottish culture is an integral part of our heritage and continues to be significant. Since the 18th century, Scotland has made a significant contribution to the economic, cultural and intellectual advancement of society. What's more, Scottish universities have always recognized their civic responsibilities, as we do here at UVic."

While his appointment coincided with Robbie Burns Day celebrations, Wood is keen to show the world that Scotland has a rich legacy of culture and intellectual thought, much broader than the poems and songs of the popular poet.

Since he began teaching history in the faculty in 1991, Wood has gained an international reputation for his publications on the Scottish philosopher and scientist. Thomas Reid, and has already taught courses touching on various aspects of 18th-century Scotland. He's currently

writing a biography of Reid, which will be published by Edinburgh University Press.

As the Scottish Studies fellow, Wood is responsible for developing the Scottish studies program and acquiring library resources. In September, about 60 UVic students can sign up for a course on "The Scottish Enlightenment and Scottish Historical Thought 1700-1860." As requested in the bequest, Wood will

also offer a public lecture through the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society of Victoria.

"I'm pleased that Prof. Wood has accepted this fellowship. He exemplifies our commitment to multidisciplinary research and teaching," says Andrew Rippin, dean of humanities. "Ultimately, we intend the study of Scottish literature, thought, culture, society and history to be a focal point of activity in the faculty of humanities."



Wood

Project Nova gears up in time for spring

Faculty, staff and students will soon have a simplified way to access e-mail, news and tools via *uSource*—a convenient, central online "home," or portal.

The portal is part of Project Nova, an ongoing, campus-wide initiative to replace the university's technologically dated and stand-alone information technology systems with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

More than 200 staff, faculty and students across campus (and some off campus) will volunteer to test *uSource* for a few weeks in early February.

At the end of February, Phase I of *uSource* will be launched for the entire UVic community.

Among the features available in Phase I: access to existing e-mail addresses (no addresses will change); campus-wide announcements and "personal" announcements to individualized work or study groups; news about campus life; events at UVic; human resources information and postings; library searches and account management; student registration and records information; a single point of access to online forms from various departments and faculties; and a

feature photo channel.

The finance module will be partially phased-in during March and will feature upgrades of current applications used by UVic's finance department. The first phase of this enhanced technology will allow staff to access online help, to view data by date range, and to use improved filter and query capabilities.

In future finance module roll-outs, *uSource* users will be able to fill out online forms, such as those used for purchasing requisitions, and then track approval online.

Project Nova will be implemented in a succession of releases during the next few years. Eventually, students will be able to track their individual grade averages and financial information, staff will work more collaboratively to solve problems, and faculty will have improved tools to communicate with students via group communication.

The project will not drastically change the way we work. Rather, it will offer improved communication and an easier, more efficient way for users to perform daily tasks and to implement long-term strategies that reflect the overall vision for the university.

Thirty-metre telescope continued from p.1

sources in the very distant universe, when galaxies began to form.

"Many of the stars in galaxies formed shortly after the Big Bang when the universe began," she continues. "By studying those stars

we can treat them like fossils and probe galaxy evolution from the earliest stages to recent times with

unprecedented accuracy. This will help us to understand our place in the universe."

Search for new vice-president begins

A search is underway for the university's new vice-president finance and operations (VPFO), under procedures established by the university's board of governors.

Current VPFO Jack Falk has announced that he intends to step down from the position, effective Sept. 1. He assumed the position in 1999.

The search committee, which is structured under board policy, has begun its work.

The committee, which is being assisted by Dan Birch of Janet Wright

& Associates Inc., is responsible for developing a position profile, establishing selection criteria, advertising the position, seeking the names of suitable candidates, identifying and interviewing candidates, and recommending a candidate to the president. The board of governors makes the appointment decision.

To assist it in the development of a position profile, the committee is seeking input from the university community. A letter from UVic president and committee chair Dr. David Turpin

inviting responses to a number of questions is posted at web.uvic.ca/univsec/. The website also lists the search committee membership.

The vice-president finance and operations is responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership to the university in financial planning and services, human resources, campus planning, computing services, campus security and facilities management. The position also plays a key role with the university's foundations and in the management of its off-campus properties.

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Nineteenth Annual Medieval Studies Workshop

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Spring 2006 Public Issues Community Forum

Thursday, March 9, 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Speaker: Heather Menzies, award-winning author of *No Time: Stress and the Crisis of Modern Life* and the best-selling *Whose Brave New World* and *Fast-forward and Out of Control*.

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Renowned humanitarian speaks on global health and citizenship

Dr. James Orbinski, past international president of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders, will give a free public lecture, "Global Health and Global Citizenship," at UVic on Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in UVic's Farquhar Auditorium.

This is the inaugural lecture in UVic's new Aspreva Distinguished Speaker Series, sponsored by Victoria-based Aspreva Pharmaceuticals, an international company that develops new applications for existing medicines in the treatment of less common diseases.

A veteran of some of the world's most disturbing and complex humanitarian emergencies, Orbinski was Médecins Sans Frontières's head of mission in Goma, Zaire, during the 1996 refugee crisis and in Kigali, Rwanda, during the horrific genocide of 1994. In 1992-93 he was the organization's medical co-ordinator in Baidoa, Somalia, during the civil war and famine.

Orbinski accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of Médecins Sans Frontières in 1999.

In his lecture, Orbinski will focus on health in the developing world, global warming and its effects on health, the role of international governance, civil society, and the role of citizenship.

Orbinski believes that access to health care and essential health technologies are critical global health issues today, especially for the poor.

His research interests centre on: global health and access to health care, medicines and other health technologies; medical humanitarianism, global health research and development policy; and community-based care for people living with HIV in the developing world.

Tickets for the lecture are free to the public and available through reserved seating only. For ticket information, call 721-8480.



Orbinski

Construction boom continued from p.1

A support services building will provide additional space for academic units within the campus core by relocating several service and administrative functions to a central building outside the Ring Road. The building will also provide space for growth in support services. The expected construction start is February 2007, with a target completion date of fall 2008.

Interested in learning more? Tracy Corbett, director of campus plan-

ning and sustainability, is available to make presentations to individual departments, units and faculties. See what's planned and how it will contribute to the development of the university. You'll also have the chance to ask questions regarding the impact of the construction on your daily work routine.

Posters, news articles, memos and other print materials will update the campus community as the construction projects progress.

See the answers to the eight most frequently asked questions about the impact of campus construction. Visit ring.uvic.ca/06feb02/news/construction.html

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Postgraduate



Meays

Water detective

A UVic graduate student tracks the source of bacterial contamination in watersheds

by Valerie Shore

It's hard not to laugh when Cindy Meays tells you how she spent an entire summer working with cow patties—collecting them, blending them, reshaping them and, finally, analysing them.

"The students working with me thought I was a little crazy at first," grins the University of Victoria graduate student. "My friends call me 'Dr. Poo.'"

The joke possibilities seem limitless, but Meays's research is really no laughing matter. For her PhD degree in biology, she has completed a landmark study on the bacterial contamination of drinking water in watersheds.

Many Canadians draw their drinking water from watersheds that are exposed to various land uses, such as agriculture, forestry, mining, urban development and recreation. These activities significantly increase the risk of contaminated drinking water and disease.

As a result, hundreds of communities endure boil-water advisories every year. In B.C. alone, an estimated 300-400 communities are on boil-water advisories at any given time.

"Microbial contamination of source water is a major environmental and health issue with drinking water in B.C., Canada and around the world," says Dr. Asit Mazumder, a UVic aquatic ecologist and Meays's thesis co-supervisor. "Unless we know the source of contamination, we can't control it. Cindy's work is a big step in that direction."

Working near Vernon, B.C., Meays began her study with the cow patties in what is more formally known as a fecal pat experiment. The object of her interest was the bacterium *Escherichia coli*, which occurs naturally in the intestinal tract of most warm-blooded animals, including humans.

"The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that fecal contamination has occurred, so we typically measure it to see what the concentrations are," says Meays. Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless, even beneficial, but some can be deadly. It was a waterborne strain of *E. coli* that killed seven people in Walkerton, Ontario, in 2000.

"It's important if we're looking at watershed management to have some idea how long *E. coli* can live," says Meays. So she placed 200 kg of collected, blended and reassembled cow patties into a variety of controlled conditions and measured *E. coli* survival rates.

In general, shady, moist and cool are optimal for survival, although Meays was surprised at the bacterium's resilience. "By the end of 45 days the patties were very dry and you wouldn't expect any *E. coli* to be alive. But some were."

In the second phase of her study, Meays field-tested a new genetic technique for tracking the source of *E. coli* in a watershed. Known as molecular fingerprinting, or "ribotyping," it identifies the bacterium's host organism—livestock, wildlife or human—from an analysis of DNA fragments.

Meays's study—so far the largest of its kind in the world—analysed

more than 4,800 *E. coli* samples taken from four watersheds in the Vernon area over different time scales, and matched them to collected scat samples. She also tracked whether concentrations and sources of *E. coli* changed over time.

She found that numbers vary, depending on such factors as location, season, elevation, weather and time of day. "This shows managers that monitoring water quality by taking occasional samples won't necessarily represent what's going on in a particular stream," says Meays.

Meanwhile, the ribotyping revealed a wide assortment of animals contributing to *E. coli* contamination—depending on the watershed, everything from birds, deer and rodents, to cattle, horses and domestic dogs. This is a powerful management tool, says Meays.

"It gives us a much better understanding of what's going on in a watershed so that stakeholders aren't just pointing fingers at each other," says Meays. "Instead, they can alter their activities to reduce the contamination risk."

Funders and supporters of the project included Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the B.C. Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund, the North Okanagan Livestock Association, the Agricultural Environment Partnership Initiative, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, three B.C. ministries (Agriculture and Lands, Environment, and Forests and Range) and UVic.

Educator to deliver inaugural Distinguished Professors lecture

University of Victoria Distinguished Professor Larry Yore, one of the world's leading authorities on science literacy, will draw from more than 40 years of experience with schools across North America when he delivers the first UVic Distinguished Professors Lecture on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Fraser 159.

In his presentation, entitled "Science Literacy: A Guide for Parents, Grandparents and Educators," Yore will examine the role of language in learning and doing science. He'll discuss how family and community val-

ues play a significant role in fostering science literacy, which is increasingly necessary for informed participation in public debate on scientific, technological and environmental issues.

Yore has been a pioneer in establishing the field of scholarly enquiry into the role of language in learning science. His research has contributed to our understanding of the characteristics of science textbooks that support effective learning, the differences between girls' and boys' reading in science, and the assessment of reading and writing ability in science.

The title "University of Victoria Distinguished Professor" is the highest academic honour that the university can bestow on a faculty member. The awards program was established in 2002 to recognize faculty who have achieved great distinction in both teaching and research, and who have made a substantial contribution to the university and the wider community.

To date, the title has been bestowed upon eight faculty members (see web.uvic.ca/vpac/news/professorawards.htm).



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She studies how communities can help us get there.

by Jessica Gillies

As everyone knows, it's not always easy to fit healthy living into our hectic lives. But Dr. Joan Wharf Higgins, an associate professor in UVic's department of physical education, is determined to make sure we stay fit.

As the Canada Research Chair in Health and Society, her focus is on health promotion, defined by the World Health Organization as "the process of increasing control over and improving people's health." Wharf Higgins is concerned with the control part of the equation.

"Control over health has a different meaning for everyone," she says. "You're not going to be healthy unless you feel that you have control over your life and your decisions. Some things are completely out of your hands, but making that distinction is empowering as well."

Much of Wharf Higgins' research has concentrated on factors people can't control, and she's interested in how communities can influence public health in areas such as social relationships, health and recreation facilities, and economic climate.

The focus in early health research was on the individual, and in some cases it was believed that people's unhealthiness was their own fault. This isn't necessarily true, says Wharf Higgins. "Despite their good intentions, people are sometimes prevented from living healthy lifestyles because of barriers beyond their control. They don't always have the resources they need."

Communities are not necessarily defined by geography. One study by Wharf Higgins examined the promotion of "heart health" among low-income single mothers by concentrating on prevention instead of the usual focus on the heart disease itself.

"Single mothers are one of the groups at the greatest risk for heart disease," she explains, "because many have low incomes and struggle to eat properly and exercise, as well as feeding their kids."

The study showed that although low-income single mothers were well aware of what they should be doing to stay healthy—such as quit smoking, eat healthy foods and exercise—those lifestyle changes could not be a priority for them because they were too busy trying to make ends meet.

"The mothers recommended that the whole social support system be revamped for single mothers," says Wharf Higgins. "They felt that they didn't have enough money to live on, and that the rules of the system often penalized them for trying to get ahead."

Wharf Higgins became interested in health promotion in between completing a master's degree at UVic and starting a PhD at UBC. "I worked for the Heart and Stroke Foundation as a health education co-ordinator, and that's really where I saw the limitations of an education-only approach. Education is important, of course, but does it really reach the people most at risk? They might not be interested in information because they're dealing with other priorities."

Wharf Higgins wants to create healthy environments for everybody, regardless of age or stage of life, and a number of her current projects reflect this.

She's collaborating with Drs. Vivienne Temple and Patti-Jean Naylor, both from UVic's physical education department, who are leading a project called Healthy Opportunities for Preschoolers. The project is training daycare workers to integrate physical activity and basic physical movements into preschoolers' days.



DIANA NETHERCOTT

Wharf Higgins

With the Canadian Council on Learning Health and Knowledge Centre, she's exploring how to support the learning and health of adolescents when they aren't in school. She's also working with the Action Schools B.C. Project, which is examining how teachers can integrate physical activity into the school day.

At the other end of the age spectrum, she's working with Silver Threads in Sidney to offer a program called "A Taste of Healthy Living." The program helps seniors be more active, eat healthy foods, feel connected to their community, and contribute to their own health or disease management.

The Sidney program is an offshoot of an earlier research project on type-2 diabetes prevention, led by Wharf Higgins. The project

explored how recreational opportunities can engage people at risk for the disease and give them access to educational and community resources for healthier living. The program included such initiatives as a walking program with tribal schools on the Saanich Peninsula, and a pedometer lending program at the Sidney Library.

Ultimately, Wharf Higgins's work is about giving people control from a community perspective.

"In a lot of cases, what's out of control is things like the price of healthy food. Lately, there's a movement in the schools to put healthy options in vending machines or cafeterias that are cheaper than the less healthy options. People now have the ability to exercise some control, and that's what gives them a sense of self-confidence and self-worth."

For more information on Wharf Higgins's research, visit www.educ.uvic.ca/Faculty/wharfhiggins/default.htm. To find out more about UVic's other Canada Research Chairs, visit www.research.uvic.ca/research_UVIC/CRC_List.htm.

IMP students join hospital front lines continued from p.1

ral, isolated and coastal communities. Previous experience has shown that doctors tend to stay and practise in the areas where they are trained.

"The IMP is off to a fine start and we're delighted with our progress so far," says Dr. Oscar Casiro, associate dean of the program and head of the division of medical sciences at UVic. "Our students are doing extremely well, we're developing a strong rapport with UVic and the Vancouver Island medical community, and our much-touted video-conferencing technology is proving up to the task of linking the distributed sites."

UVic's Medical Sciences Building and the sophisticated audiovisual

equipment have been put to the test since the second cohort of 24 students arrived last month to begin their studies. Among the new class, 11 are UVic alumni and nine are originally from Vancouver Island.

"UVic is becoming a gateway to medical education on Vancouver Island," says Jamie Cassels, UVic's vice-president academic and provost. He encourages the new students to follow in the footsteps of the class of 2008, who have become "excellent ambassadors" for the university by participating in several community health initiatives. "This reflects UVic's vision of having our students connected to the real world, contrib-

uting to the betterment of society," he says.

In June, the second-year students will be involved in intensive, real medical-world training when they begin four-week rotations with family practice physicians in rural areas of Vancouver Island. Some of these physicians, such as Dr. Granger Avery of Port McNeill, use a helicopter to reach their patients in isolated communities.

Meanwhile, many of the students share Vegsund's enthusiasm for their current hands-on hospital experiences. Patrizia Moccia is still ecstatic from her first experience in obstetrics, watching a baby boy being born: "It was totally amazing—our physician

tutor talked us through what was happening. Afterwards, the new father shook all our hands."

Kevin Tyler chose to have his hospital practice at the Victoria Hospice palliative care unit at the Royal Jubilee because he wanted to learn what is involved in caring for the whole family. As his hospice sessions wrapped up and he moved on to another unit, he says: "I have a whole new respect for caregivers and everything they do."

Dr. Fraser Black is one of 500 physicians on Vancouver Island who have agreed to teach IMP students and be appointed to the program's growing clinical faculty. He mentored Tyler

during his work at the 17-bed Victoria Hospice in-patient unit.

"I'm very happy to have the IMP students here," he says. "They bring so much enthusiasm and energy. Palliative care was not a big part of our training when I went to medical school, but it's an important part of medicine, so this is a great opportunity for these students and for us."

The last word belongs to Walter Sly, a patient at the Victoria Hospice, who cheerfully cracked jokes while posing for photos for this article with the doctor, Tyler and Rose, his wife of 51 years. "I guess we can still teach these young 'uns a thing or two," he quipped.

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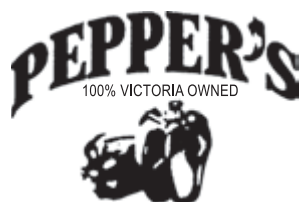
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Indigenous studies prof wins national award

Dr. Taiaiake Alfred, a faculty member in UVic's indigenous governance program, received a 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Award during a ceremony in Vancouver on Jan. 27.

The gala evening was broadcast nation-wide the following evening on the Global and Aboriginal Peoples Television networks. Alfred, who is also the Canada Research Chair in Studies of Indigenous Peoples, was named in the education category, one of the award program's 14 categories.

Alfred is a graduate of Concordia University in Montreal and Cornell University in New York and served as an infantryman with the U.S.

Marines prior to embarking on his academic career. A prolific author of hundreds of articles and three books on indigenous governance, he remains active in indigenous communities as an adviser and strategist to many First Nations governments and community organizations.

A reviewer described his most recent book, *Wasase: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom*, as rejecting "aboriginalism as a legalistic, integrating ideology that destroys individuals and communities, and argues instead for an anarcho-indigenist perspective that is non-capitalist, non-statist, pro-feminist, and based on a sustainable relation to nature."



Alfred

University introduces new course evaluation survey

Along with all-night study sessions and beating the deadline on a term paper, nothing is more inevitable at the end of a course than the student evaluation. Administered across disciplines at both the undergraduate and graduate level, these evaluations provide instructors and their administrators with valuable feedback.

Currently, there is a wide range of assessment tools in place throughout the university, but the office of the vice-president academic and provost is implementing a new survey instrument that senate has asked to be used across all academic programs at UVic.

The course experience survey

(CES) was developed over four years by the learning and teaching centre at the request of senate and in response to the UVic strategic plan. Extensive research and consultation over the past several years—including a literature review of course evaluation theory and practice, on-campus interviews, focus groups and surveys—were part of the CES development.

"We chose to call the tool a 'course experience survey' because, while it will be used to assess teaching effectiveness, the survey can only capture students' perceptions of their experience in the course," says Dr. Jim Anglin, associate vice-president

academic. "The name was also chosen in response to the suggestions of those involved in the instructor and student focus groups."

An implementation task group with broad representation has been formed and will plan and oversee the process of implementing the new survey instrument. This group will address such issues as survey administration and analysis, data access, method of delivery and availability of results.

The CES implementation task group will continue to meet over the coming months and will provide updates as planning for implementation proceeds.

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At the Galleries

www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562

Camosun College Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit (until Feb. 21). A group exhibition featuring the work of current visual arts faculty and technical staff at Camosun. Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery.

At the Theatres

www.phoenixtheatres.ca or
721-8000

Old Trout Puppet Workshop (until Feb. 4) A new production by the theatre company known for its wildly inventive puppet theatre for adult audiences.

Top Girls (Feb. 9–18) Climbing the corporate ladder and the price of success are at the heart of this play by one of Britain's greatest living playwrights.

Friday, February 3

Anthropology Lecture 12:30 p.m. *Back to the Land: The Significance of Permaculture in Creating Sustainable Communities*. Claire Sieber, UVic grad student. Business & Economics 363. 721-7047

Music 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

Symposium Against Poverty 7 p.m. *Disposable Women: Connecting the Dots from Canada to Mexico*. A panel discussing the connections between missing women in Mexican sweatshops and missing indigenous women in Canada. SUB, Vertigo. 370-9112.

Orion Lecture 7 p.m. *Notes on Puppetry in an Atmosphere of Dread*. Peter Balkwill and Judd Palmer, co-founders of Calgary's Old Trout Puppet Workshop. Phoenix Theatre. 721-7992

Saturday, February 4

19th Annual Medieval Workshop 9 a.m. *Nature Tamed and Wild*. Speakers: Dr. Vickie Ziegler, Pennsylvania State Univ; Dr. Jean Givens, Univ. of Connecticut; and Drs. Catherine Harding, Iain Higgins and Helene Cazes, UVic. MacLaurin A144. Tickets \$49.22. 721-8827

Monday, February 6

Distinguished Professors Lecture 7:30 p.m. *Science Literacy: A Guide for Parents, Grandparents and Educators*. Dr. Larry Yore, UVic. Fraser 159. 721-7013

Tuesday, February 7

Linguistics Lecture 6:30 p.m. *Academic Reading and Writing: An Overview*. Joel Murray, Kwantlen Univ. College. Clearihue A206. 472-4665

Wednesday, February 8

UVic Career Fair 2006 10 a.m. (and Feb. 9) Graduate and continuing education info fair hosted by UVic career services and AIESEC. SUB Michele Pujol. 721-8992

Music 12:30 p.m. *Lieder at Lunch*. Cuckoo songs. Sharon and Harald Krebs. MacLaurin B037. 721-7904

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Lecture 4:15 p.m. *Recognition and Marginalization of Religion in the Public Sphere*. Solange Lefebvre, Univ. de Montréal. Hickman 110. 721-6325

Thursday, February 9

Human Rights Lecture 7 p.m. *Lived Rights*. Dr. Sima Simar, former Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan, chair, Independent Afghan Human Rights Commission. Fraser 159. 721-7636

Friday, February 10

Music 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of music guitar students. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

Tuesday, February 14

Centre on Aging & VIHA Workshop 8:30 a.m. *You Be the Judge: What Constitutes Negligence in Facility Care?* Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health Auditorium. RSVP by Feb. 7 to Lindsay Cassie at lcassie@uvic.ca or 721-6369

CEOR Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Beyond the Sea: the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre—Opportunities and Successes*. Dr. Dennis Jelinski, director, Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Cornett B112. 721-8848

Sessions in Spirituality 4 p.m. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Exploring the Inner Journey*. A penetrating look at this well-loved story. Christopher Page, St. Philip's Anglican Church. Interfaith Chapel. 721-8338

Wednesday, February 15

Centre for Studies in Religion & Society Lecture 4:15 p.m. *A Different Kind of Hunger: Modern Irish Catholicism, Literary Anorexia and Women's Salvation*. Christine St. Peter, UVic. Hickman 110. 721-6325

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. *The First English Detectives: Policing London in the 18th Century*. John Beattie, Univ. of Toronto. Hickman 110. 721-7390

Thursday, February 16

Education Learning Commons Lecture 12:30 p.m. *Distributed Learning in B.C., the Current Picture and Emerging Trends*. Tanya Twynstra, B.C. Ministry of Education. MacLaurin D21. 472-4295

Friday, February 17

Anthropology Lecture 12:30 p.m. *Burial Cairns and the Mortuary Landscape of Rocky Point*. A. Mathews, UVic grad student. Business & Economics 363. 721-7047

Music 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of music string students. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

Monday, February 20

Annual Biology Graduate Student Symposium 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (continues Feb. 21). Biology graduate student research goes on display with 15-minute presentations and poster sessions. Hickman 105/110/120. 721-8099

Thursday, February 23

Centre on Aging Community Forum 2006 12 p.m. *Enhancing Capacity in Later Life*. A one-day forum open to health professionals, seniors, faculty, staff, students and the public. Strong C103. Ticket prices vary. 721-6369

Continuing Studies Dine With a Scientist Series 5:30 p.m. *Evolution, Behaviour and Conservation of the Lemurs of Madagascar*. Dr. Lisa Gould, UVic. Ticket price varies. Dunsmuir Lodge. 721-8827

Sunday, February 26

Centre for Studies in Religion & Society Lecture 2 p.m. *Inclusion and Exclusion: Muslim Women at the Intersection of Religion, Law and the Family*. Vrinda Narain, McGill Univ. Registration required. 472-4747

Monday, February 27

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. *The Gift in the Animal: Hunting, Human-Animal Relations and Exchange Theory in Anthropology*. Dr. Paul Nadasdy, Univ. of Wisconsin. Strong C118. 721-7354

Wednesday, March 1

UVic Retirees Lecture 7:30 p.m. *Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren: The Underground Child Welfare System*. Drs. Brian Wharf and Marilyn Callahan, UVic. Hickman 105. 472-4463

Thursday, February 2

Medieval Studies Lecture 10 a.m. *Upward Mobility in Medieval German Literature: The Fortunes of a Faithful Liar*. Dr. Vicki Ziegler, Pennsylvania State Univ. Clearihue A206. 721-6271

Grad Year Connection Workshop 6:30 p.m. *Working Overseas*. Learn about the experiences of students and alumni who have worked or volunteered overseas. For more information visit gradyearorientation.uvic.ca/workshops.html. Hickman 110. 472-4678

Orion Lecture 7:30 p.m. *The Mind's Eye: Seeing, Sight and Gothic Art*. Dr. Jean Givens, Univ. of California. Cornett A129. 721-7942


Winter 2005–06 Ring Schedule

Calendar items should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications (Sedgewick C149, fax 721-8955, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events). For more information call 721-7636.

Publication Date

Copy Deadline



Thursday, March 2 Wednesday, Feb. 22
Thursday, April 6 Wednesday, March 29



Vikes		
Feb 3	Basketball vs. Thompson Rivers U. Wolfpack	6:15 PM and 8:00 PM
Feb 4	Basketball vs. Thompson Rivers U. Wolfpack	6:15 PM and 8:00 PM
Feb 11	Basketball vs. Simon Fraser U. Clan	6:15 PM and 8:00 PM
Feb 11	Men's Rugby vs. Ravens	2:45 PM
Feb 18	Men's Rugby vs. Meralomas	2:45 PM
Feb 25	Men's Rugby vs. Velox	2:45 PM

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Aroundthering

Grey power on campus

In March, discover what it takes to be happy and healthy in your later years without enrolling in a course or leaving the campus. As part of Embrace Aging Month, a citywide festival of events celebrating seniors and the agencies that support them, UVic's centre on aging is hosting lectures, presentations and an art exhibit. Events include an art exhibit by Vermont fabric artist Deidre Scherer at the Maltwood Gallery and a lecture by Scherer on the challenges of aging and dying. Dr. Robert Dalton (education) is giving a lecture entitled "Framing the Past: Senior Stories Illustrated by Youthful Artists." As well, the UVic Retirees Association and the centre on aging are presenting a series of five lectures starting March 1. "Masterminds: A Lecture Series by UVic Retirees" will be held every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Hickman Building, room 105. Plan to arrive early, because seating will be limited. For more information on Embrace Aging Month and the events mentioned above visit www.coag.uvic.ca/events.htm or embraceaging.org.

Co-op programs once again get national affirmation

In December 2005, the accreditation council of the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE) awarded UVic a six-year re-accreditation of its law, recreation and health education, kinesiology, and biology co-op programs. CAFCE launched the accreditation process in 1979 as a means of establishing national standards for co-op education. The CAFCE criteria include high-quality program delivery, proven student and employer support systems, and excellent mechanisms for student preparation and evaluation. Only 22 of more than 80 Canadian institutions hold CAFCE accreditation for their co-op programs; nine of UVic's 14 co-op programs are currently accredited by CAFCE.

Nominate a student for Blue and Gold

Time is running out to nominate an outstanding student for a 2006 University of Victoria Blue and Gold Award. Nominations close March 9 for the awards, which recognize undergraduate and graduate students who make significant contributions to the quality of life on campus and in the community. These students might demonstrate leadership in a volunteer role with community groups, through participating in or coaching athletics or being involved with arts groups or organizations. Two levels of Blue and Gold Awards will be presented this year—three awards worth \$2,500 each and five awards worth \$1,000 each. Details are included in nomination packages available through the student awards and financial aid office in the University Centre or online at registrar.uvic.ca/safa. All nominations and supporting documentation should be mailed by March 9 to the Blue and Gold Awards program, c/o Student Awards and Financial Aid, P.O. Box 3025, STN CSC, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P2.

Three events in one at Career Fair

Are you a student or graduate contemplating your career options? Check out Career Fair 2006, a two-day recruitment event in the Michele Pujol room of the Student Union Building, Feb. 8-9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Representatives of more than 60 organizations will be on campus to help students explore a range of career options. This year, two new events are being added: a Graduate and Continuing Education Info Fair on Feb. 8, and a Community Services Info Fair on Feb. 9. "This year, we're offering more information and networking opportunities for students and alumni than ever before," says Jennifer Margison, manager of career services. For more information, visit www.uviccareerfair.com.

Alumni Association seeks award nominations

The UVic Alumni Association invites nominations for its prestigious Excellence in Teaching Awards and Distinguished Alumni Awards. Nominations will be accepted until Feb. 27 for the teaching awards and until March 31 for the alumni awards. The Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching are in two categories. The Harry Hickman Award is for regular faculty members. The Gilian Sherwin Award is for sessional instructors. Both awards include a \$2,000 prize and photographs of the recipients are permanently displayed in the McPherson Library. The award program was the first of its kind on campus when it was introduced in 1989. Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize outstanding achievement by graduates of the university in categories that include lifetime achievement and achievement under the age of 40. Nomination forms for both awards are available online at the alumni website (alumni.uvic.ca).



Student Ben Rancourt (pictured here in a recording studio, with his mandolin) is taking a combined major in music and computer science.

When music and technology merge

Combined major in music and computer science draws rave reviews from students and instructors

by Maria Lironi

Aspiring video game creators, recording engineers and Foley artists take note—UVic is the only university in Western Canada, and the second in Canada, to blend training in music and computer science into one degree-granting program.

"Today, pretty much the whole process of recording, distributing and producing music is done through computers," explains Dr. George Tzanetakis (computer science) who teaches music information retrieval, the practice of analysing large collections of music in digital format.

Computers are used to create digital audio (recorded and computer-generated), which is used for musical activities such as producing music recordings, music for film and video games, and delivering music in the form of CDs, DVDs, Internet broadcasts and MP3 files for download.

In addition, many live music performances involve computer technology, ranging from sound synthesizers and samplers to three-dimensional controllers for manipulating sound.

The marriage between the two disciplines isn't as odd as it seems. Many computer science students already have an interest in music—many play instruments and some are DJs in clubs. This program is a way of attracting those who might be more intimidated by traditional computer science courses.

During the four years of study, students take the essential courses for both a music and computer science degree, omitting private lessons in voice or an instrument. Courses include: music, science, and computers; recording techniques; acoustics of music; a computer music seminar; audio signal processing; and music

information retrieval.

The students learn from experienced faculty, including the program's newest hire, audio specialist and recording engineer Kirk McNally, who provides technical support for the program and teaches two courses in digital audio. McNally has worked with major international artists—including R.E.M., Bryan Adams and Matthew Good—as a recording engineer.

"If you have a very strong interest in technology and music, this is definitely worth taking."

Although the program has only been running since September 2004, it has a long history. "Back in the 1990s, I worked with the then-dean of fine arts to create a lab for extended media, and it had a presence on the web," recalls instructor Dr. Andrew Schloss (music). "Students asked if they could study it even though we didn't have a program then. This is the culmination of 15 years of work."

Both instructors are excited about the "obvious need" for this program and the student enthusiasm. A good example of the latter is 23-year-old Ben Rancourt, who decided at the last minute to forgo his UVic degree in computer science to enter the combined program.

"I was just about to graduate," recalls Rancourt, who plays the guitar and mandolin. "But then this program

came up and I thought it was worth a couple of extra years to see what happens. Music has always been a main passion, while computer science has been a large interest too. What I'm enjoying the most right now is studying sound recording and computer music. I'm learning very practical stuff.

"It'll be an extra two years until I get my first bachelor degree," he adds. "But if you have a very strong interest in technology and music, this is definitely worth taking."

While Rancourt is just starting his career in the field, Ajay Kapur is already winning awards.

Kapur is an interdisciplinary doctoral student in electrical and computer engineering, music, computer science and psychology. His multimedia presentation, "Digitizing Traditional North Indian Performance," won two awards in 2004—the Distinguished Best Paper Award from the *Journal of New Music Research*, and the Thelma Adamson Prize for the best student paper from the northwest chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Kapur took traditional Indian instruments and embedded computers inside them to capture gestures while he's performing. He also wrote a graphic program that projects different colours onto a screen, depending where the drum is hit. And he did "some crazy experiments" with one drum at McGill University and another at Princeton and then performed a concert over the Internet.

In addition to the joint degree in computer science and music, there's a computer music option in electrical engineering. A total of 43 students are already involved in the two programs. For more information visit finearts.uvic.ca/music/ and www.mistic.ece.uvic.ca/.

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