



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



L-r back row: Devin Arnold (student affairs), Anna Stein (resource centre for students with a disability), Bruno Rocca (student recruitment), Linda Nicoll (alumni services), Tricia Best and Rita Knodel (counselling services). L-r seated: Jennifer Margison (career services), Allison Gain (student transition centre), Sue Corner (student affairs), and Tia Robertson (international and exchange student services).

Outstanding staff honoured with presidential award

by Maria Lironi

Three individuals and an 11-member team have won the fourth annual President's Distinguished Service Awards. The awards were created in 2002 to honour the achievements of UVic's 4,000 staff members.

"This award recognizes UVic employees who go to great lengths to support faculty and students, and who help connect the university to the wider world," says President Dr.

David Turpin. "They make UVic a great place to learn and work. What's more, their enthusiasm and commitment inspires us all."

Employees are nominated in two categories. The Award for Distinguished Service honours up to three employees for their contributions to the university's learning and working environment. The Team Award for Innovation goes to a team or group for innovations that improve an educational, administrative or

organizational process.

This year, the selection committee received 15 nominations for the individual awards and two nominations for the team award. Each recipient received a framed certificate during a ceremony at the president's holiday reception in December.

The individual winners are Yousuf Ebrahim (biology), Rosemary Pulez (chemistry), and Terry Russell (earth

SEE AWARD WINNERS P.5

University seeks your views on its future

The University of Victoria's planning and priorities committee is leading a process to review and renew the university's strategic plan, *A Vision for the Future*.

The process includes seeking advice and feedback from the university community—students, faculty, staff, alumni and others—by Feb. 28.

Two key documents—the "University of Victoria Strategic Issues Discussion Paper" and the "Progress

Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan"—were published in the November 2005 *Ring*. This is a reminder that stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in planning the future direction of UVic via written feedback and consultation meetings.

Visit uvic.ca/strategicreview to see the January/February consultation schedule for campus groups, download the relevant documents and submit written feedback.

Alcohol is nation's favourite and most dangerous drug—report

by Maria Lironi

If you drink alcohol, you may be putting your health at risk, says a recent report by UVic's Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC).

"There's no doubt that alcohol is Canada's favourite drug," says CARBC director Dr. Tim Stockwell, who co-authored the report. "Illicit drugs get more headlines but alcohol causes more harm in terms of premature death, and health, social and economic costs."

The report, titled "Patterns of Risky Alcohol Use in British Columbia and Canada: Results of the 2004 Canadian Addictions Survey," compared drinking patterns in B.C. and Canada against guidelines for low-risk alcohol consumption using the 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS).

The results suggest that most alcohol consumed in B.C. and Canada puts the health and safety of drinkers at risk. Seventy-three per cent of all reported alcohol consumption is consumed at levels above the Canadian low-risk drinking guidelines.

As well, 40 per cent of British

Columbians at least occasionally drink above low-risk levels and put themselves and others at risk of short-term harm. More than 90 per cent of alcohol consumed by young males is above low-risk drinking guidelines.

Low-risk drinking guidelines offer people a way to understand when the risks to health and safety become significant. As defined by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Ontario, they are 14 or fewer standard drinks per week for men and nine or fewer for women with no more than two on any one day. Standard drinks refer to one small bottle of beer, a medium-sized glass of wine, or a measure of spirits—all of which contain roughly the same alcohol.

The report also reveals that most people do not consistently drink in a way that put themselves at increased risk of cancer, liver disease and other chronic illnesses. However, a substantial number of drinkers put themselves at risk of acute harm through occasional bouts of excess.

According to a recent report by

SEE ALCOHOL USE P.4

First Nations pole is focus of unusual education course

by Patty Pitts

When Songhees carver Butch Dick carefully lifts the protective wrap from the partially carved log in the MacLaurin Building's Wilfred Johns Gallery, the aroma of cedar fills the area. A paper note left on the carving is thoroughly dampened from the moisture still escaping the log, months after it was cut in the forest.

Students approach the log with respect and a bit of reverence, as if it's still a living thing. They've nicknamed it "the old man" and it's the focus of a unique course that is transforming both the wood and the students who come in contact with it.

The "Protection and Welcoming

Pole" course—EDU 487/591—uses the pole to engage students in education and other fields in learning about aboriginal culture. The students were divided into teams to take their turns carving the pole and document the pole's and their progress on a website, a video, through educational materials, and ceremonies.

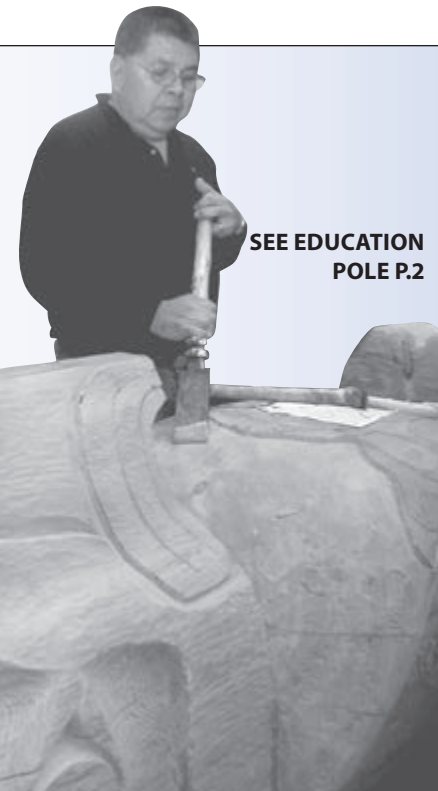
Throughout the process the students heard traditional songs and stories and learned through traditional indigenous methods, sometimes at a pace unlike their regular classes.

"It's a different approach," says education PhD student Joe Karmel. "Here, we're always emphasizing slowing down. It's also an examination of how we look at time."

Val Wasden, a fifth-year education student and Kwakwaka'wakw from Port Hardy, calls the course "a totally different approach to education. It takes us beyond what we had thought teaching and learning was. This is what we should strive for as a good teacher. We should reach for all levels of intelligence."

While the students used traditional methods (rolling the pole on logs) to maneuver the piece of cedar into MacLaurin, they're harnessing the latest technology to tell the subsequent stories of its transformation. Videos and other updates are posted to polecarvers.libsyn.com where team leader Dr. Ted Riecken posts weekly podcasts about the project.

As a thunderbird, whale and wolves emerged from the fragrant wood under the watchful eye of Dick, a sessional instructor and mentor to assistant carver Fabian Quocksister, the students underwent a similar change.



SEE EDUCATION POLE P.2

Songhees carver Butch Dick, working on "the old man."

Ringers

The **UVic local committee** of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) has been awarded the 2005 Local Committee Award, which is given to one group across Canada each year to recognize the outstanding contributions of students to international development and global citizenship. The WUSC UVic group, which receives the award for its efforts during the 2004-2005 year, has more than 40 members and has been successful in doubling the support for the student refugee program, through which they have provided social and financial support to a student refugee from Ethiopia. They've also raised money for HIV/AIDS projects in Africa and co-ordinated Ethical Consumption Day on campus.

Dr. Claire Cutler (political science) has won the 2005 Weller Prize from the B.C. Political Studies Association for her book *Private Power and Global Authority: Transnational Merchant Law in the Global Political Economy*. The award recognizes the best political science book written by a B.C. author. In the book, Cutler examines the trend toward the privatization of global governance and its implications for the future of democratic institutions and processes.

Martin Segger (Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery/community relations) is the new president of the Commonwealth Association of Museums, stepping in for the late president Dr. Emmanuel Arinze. The association, with its secretariat based in Calgary, promotes professional development, exchanges and co-operation among Commonwealth cultural institutions. Membership is open to institutions, associations and individuals from the Commonwealth, as well as associates from outside the Commonwealth.

Art education professor **Dr. Bill Zuk** is the recipient of the 2005 Canadian Society for Education Through Art (CSEA) Excellence Award for his art teaching and research. Zuk has been a faculty member at UVic since 1974. He previously taught in the public school system and in the high Arctic, and at the universities of Alberta and Manitoba. Zuk is the co-author of five art and culture textbooks dealing with aboriginal people in North America and the circumpolar world.

Law professor **Glenn Gallins**, director of UVic's law centre legal education program, was appointed Queen's Counsel in December. The honour is conferred on members of the legal profession who demonstrate integrity and good character in recognition of their exceptional merit and contributions to their profession and community.

"Glenn exemplifies the highest qualities that one could hope to find in a legal professional turned educator," says UVic law dean Andrew Petter. "He has used his legal knowledge to help thousands of disadvantaged people who otherwise would have gone without legal representation, and to educate hundreds of law students to become competent and humane practitioners, possessed of legal knowledge, skills and a keen sense of professional responsibility and ethics."

About 1,800 people receive assistance and representation at the law centre each year and Gallins acts as a mentor to the law students who spend terms there. Gallins is a three-time winner of the law faculty's master teaching award. He was a founding member of the Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society, a founding member and board chair of Divorce Lifeline (renamed the Separation and Divorce Resource Centre), board chair of the Community Diversion and Mediation Centre, and vice-chair of the Capital Health Board.

Vice president to step down this fall

Jack Falk, vice president finance and operations, announced last month that he intends to step down from his position in September 2006.

"Since coming to UVic in 1999, Jack has served the university exceptionally well, providing leadership in a broad range of areas," says UVic President Dr. David Turpin. "His dedication and commitment will be missed by us all."

In announcing his intention to step down, Falk expressed his gratitude to the university com-

munity for the opportunity to serve in his position "for these exciting years at UVic." Turpin added that Falk is open to being involved with UVic in the future and that he will continue to work to accomplish several projects over the coming months. The university will have an opportunity to formally thank Falk and to celebrate his contributions to UVic later in the year.

The search for a new vice president finance and operations will be initiated this month.



Hit the highway with UVic's new research communications package

The University of Victoria is putting the pedal to the metal for 2006 with a new communications vehicle to help researchers communicate their leadership position in a wide range of fields.

It's a suite of print and electronic materials built around a new, central theme for UVic research—"We're going places." The materials use highway imagery to capture the sense of moving forward and reaching critical destinations such as Discovery, Innovation, Partnerships, Knowledge Transfer, and The Leading Edge.

"We're going places" is a metaphor that works on many different levels," says Dr. Martin Taylor, vice president research. "It's a proud and confident statement of UVic's institutional commitment to research excellence and acknowledges the university's growing reputation as a research leader."

The theme connects research communications initiatives with the broader campaign to strategically position

UVic with its key external audiences. The materials echo the distinct UVic "look" that is emerging from the institutional strategic communications planning process.

The first set of materials off the production line includes a 5.5 x 11-inch pocket folder and an extendable deck of cards that focuses on research in eight areas of institutional strength—computational modelling and information processing; fine and performing arts; genomics and proteomics; global change and sustainability; indigenous and cultural studies; matter and energy; oceans and climate; and society and health.

The concept is expandable and

adaptable. New areas and more cards can be added, and the imagery can be adapted to fit the vernacular of other disciplines. For example, a navigation buoy is the iconic image for a new oceans research presentation folder.

The folders, card and concept are available to any UVic department, school or centre that wants to publicize its own research activities. New cards can be within the areas listed above or in others that are more in line with the strengths and specializations of the unit. Communications services will manage the production process, in consultation with the initiating unit and the office of the vice president research.

For more information on how you can produce a research communications card or set of cards for your unit or research area, download your "Driver's Manual" online at www.uvic.ca/research/researchsupport.html or contact Valerie Shore (research communications officer) at vshore@uvic.ca or 721-7641.



Education pole continued from p.1

"There's a transformation of each participant ... and the transformation of our teaching methods," adds Wasden.

Dick, who taught First Nations art and culture for 20 years in the Greater Victoria school district, is pleased with the transformations that are taking place on the pole and with the students.

"We want to get away from the stereotypes and generalizations of First Nations people," he says. "The kids [in school] didn't realize that First Nations people even existed today. They've only seen them in museums and think we're all behind plexiglass. They think we all speak the same language and all have the

same culture."

Dick is pleased that the house pole will reflect the Liekwhouth (north island) and Songhees (south island) styles. When finished, it will be installed in the MacLaurin Building to be a lasting First Nations presence and contribute to a more welcoming atmosphere for First Nations students.

"The course validates and values aboriginal peoples' knowledge and changes the perspective of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal students," says Dr. Lorna Williams, director of aboriginal teacher education.

"Education students and faculty have a very limited knowledge base about aboriginal culture but have

expressed a deep desire to learn more. This course gives future teachers knowledge they can use in the classroom where there is currently very little opportunity for the K-12 student population to learn about the history, languages and cultures of aboriginal people."

"The 'old man' has become a huge part of our lives," says Marlo Paige, a master's student in First Nations environmental education. She brings her two young daughters to the class which, she says, leaves her "literally walking on air. I can feel creation running through my veins. It's something I'll never forget."

The pole will be installed during a special ceremony on Jan. 20.

the ring

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Green economics

A UVic economist proves there's more to saving the environment than science

Cornelis "Case" van Kooten may seem like a fish out of water. He's the Canada Research Chair in Environmental Studies and Climate Change and he's housed in UVic's department of economics.

"It might seem a little odd," he says, "but in fact the two seemingly disparate fields of climate and economics go hand in hand. To study climate change and natural resources, you have to look at economics at the same time."

Van Kooten is widely recognized as a leader in devising effective economic measures for analysing various aspects of the environment. He approaches natural resource issues from many angles. One of his research projects looks at the cost of using terrestrial "carbon sinks" to lessen climate change.

Increased tree growth and better agricultural practices create what scientists call carbon sinks. As the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere leads to a build-up of greenhouse gases, carbon sinks help by sucking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and reversing the effects of greenhouse gas buildup.

His studies have looked at the

cost of tree-planting programs. "One idea is to encourage farmers to plant trees rather than agricultural crops," he says. "We're looking at the cost of doing that, versus getting someone out of their SUV and into a smaller car. Interestingly, it turns out that getting them into a smaller car is much cheaper than trying to plant trees."

He has also examined the use of zero tillage, the practice of not plowing crops into stubble after farmers harvest their fields. "When you plow a field it's more susceptible to decay, and decay releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere," van Kooten explains.

Van Kooten looks at the big economic picture when it comes to climate change. "Scientists have to ask, do you moderate climate change, or do you just let it go and then adapt to it?" he says. "Farmers can adapt by planting more drought-resistant crops, and in places where sea level rise is threatening, engineers can build dykes."

In another branch of his research, van Kooten is studying invasive species, specifically a California plant called the yellow star thistle. "It's

actually quite pretty," he says, "but it sucks up the moisture on dry rangelands, cows don't like it, and it can kill horses if they eat it."

Like Canada's broom, the thistle came to North America in the 1890s and has expanded its range ever since. It now covers about half of California and van Kooten is researching how to control it. "There are different methods you can use, but remember, we're trying to control it from an economic perspective."

Options include chemicals, fire, and integrated pest management. The Canadian Forest Service is interested in the project, he notes. "We've been looking at the economics of using a particular kind of fly that lays its eggs in the seed head and then about 80 per cent of the seeds die."

Van Kooten also studies the economic value of wildlife. "If we want to know what grizzly bears are worth, for example, how do we determine that? Nobody trades them, nobody buys them, there's some hunting of them, but that's not their true value to society," he says.

As an economist, van Kooten wants a framework for valuing wildlife such as bears and is working to refine an existing technique called the "contingent valuation method."

"We propose a program in a questionnaire and then ask people what they're willing to pay for that program," he says. "Given the right questions and respondents, you can know what people are willing to pay for elephants in Africa, or for whales in the North Atlantic."

Other wildlife projects include the economic impact on sage grouse of grazing cattle on public land, and whether trade in ivory is good or bad for conserving African elephants.

In the future, van Kooten will be looking at energy sources as they relate to land use and watersheds to generate economically viable power.

"Economists are usually more theoretical," he says. "I'm trying to relate economics to application, not theory."



Webb with a BioBag.

Campus goes "compost mentis"

Hang on to that apple core, don't trash that teabag and save that banana peel from slipping into the garbage can—a new consumer composting program is being launched on campus beginning this month.

For the past two years, UVic has been composting all food wastes from its restaurants and food outlets on campus. Now the program is being expanded to allow students, faculty and staff to drop food leftovers and "compost-ables" into special green totes located at three centralized recycling stations on campus: beside the Student Union Building; beside the fountain (next to Clearhuc B-wing); and in the quadrangle across from Cornett.

In addition, offices or departments wanting a mini compost bin in their lunchroom can do so if they have a "compost champion"—a volunteer who will commit to educating colleagues and bringing their full biodegradable BioBags of compost to the centralized stations.

About 15 campus departments or units have already committed to becoming "compost mentis."

"We're helping to reduce our impact on the local environment," says UVic sustainability co-ordinator Sarah Webb, who is in charge of the program. "By composting food wastes we can save space in the Hartland landfill and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

To date, over 300 metric tonnes of waste have been diverted from Hartland with the existing program. Organizers hope that the composting expansion will result in an additional 70 to 100 tonnes of waste saved from the landfill each year.

"Compost-ables" include leftovers from meals such as fruit and vegetable peelings, paper napkins, plates or cups, wooden stir sticks or chopsticks, coffee grounds and filters and tea bags.

To become a "compost champion" or for more information, contact Webb at 472-5011 or sarahwebb@fmgt.uvic.ca.

DIANA NETHERCOTT



van Kooten

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Accelerated Payout:							
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Income over 15 years		\$750			\$135,113	

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...10 years guaranteed		\$526	\$580	\$638	\$696	\$798	\$919
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...payments cease at death		\$487	\$532	\$598	\$669	\$815	\$1,000
...10 years guaranteed		\$483	\$524	\$579	\$635	\$740	\$865
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DYING FOR A RIDE HOME

Teens know the tragic realities of drinking and driving. So why do they still do it?



Leadbeater, next to a roadside memorial.

by Jessica Gillies

We've all seen them by the roadside—impromptu shrines of flowers, crosses, photos and messages of grief from friends and loved ones. It's a heartbreaking sight, especially when the car crash being memorialized involved teenagers and alcohol.

Today's teens have grown up with two warnings drilled into them—don't drink and drive, and don't get into a car with a driver who has been drinking. So why do so many of them continue to be injured or killed in alcohol-related car crashes?

Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater, a psychologist with the University of Victoria's centre for youth and society, is looking for answers. She's working with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and the Island Regional Coroner's Office

to find out why teens continue to be involved in alcohol-related car accidents.

The goal of the "Alternatives to Roadside Memorials Project" is to come up with more effective messaging for teens to prevent more tragedies—and the roadside memorials that inevitably follow.

Although alcohol use in B.C. is illegal for youth under 19, research shows that a majority of teens experiment with it at some point. "Abstaining completely from drinking and driving and from riding with others who are impaired is clearly the best approach," says Leadbeater, "but the wisest path is not always the one chosen."

Statistics show that young people between the ages of 16 and 21 make up less than seven per cent of B.C. drivers, but were responsible for 20 per cent of all alcohol-related car

crash fatalities in 2003. In the same year, 243 teenage passengers were injured or killed in cars driven by a drunk driver.

"The 'tough' approach of showing kids car wrecks and taking them through the morgue scares most kids but seems to have little effect on risk-taking," says Leadbeater. "We need to get a better sense of the factors influencing their decisions, so that we can create more positive messages about safe driving and riding."

Who better to ask than teens themselves? Research began with three focus groups in local high schools. "The students are consultants in this project," says Leadbeater. "We treat them like experts, because they are."

Ideas raised in the focus groups are being incorporated into the second part of the study, a questionnaire that will be distributed

this month to about 1,000 local students in Grades 10, 11, and 12. The questionnaire focuses on student experiences with and attitudes toward alcohol, marijuana, and driving.

Pilot test results indicate that most teens try to make good decisions, but circumstances often limit their choices.

"There are real, practical reasons why they get into a car with an impaired driver," says Leadbeater. "Phoning their parents isn't always an option, taxis are expensive and they don't always have the fare, and the bus stops running fairly early. Choosing between accepting a ride with someone who's been drinking versus getting home late, walking or being stranded is not always a straightforward decision."

The project's advisory board has representatives from ICBC, the

police, School District 61, UVic, VIHA, and the Capital Regional District (CRD).

"Everything we learn will go directly to the chief medical officer, Dr. Richard Stanwick, who will make recommendations to ICBC and transportation systems," says Leadbeater. The findings will also be incorporated into a CRD-ICBC traffic safety campaign encouraging teens to make safe choices.

"The overriding message for everyone, young or old, is don't drink and drive," stresses Stanwick. "But the message for youth has to be timely and on-point to have the desired result. We don't just want to reduce the number of roadside memorials. We don't want to see any at all."

The project is funded by the federal Department of the Solicitor General.

Alcohol use continued from p.1

the B.C. Ministry of Health Services, approximately 120,000 British Columbians have a high probability of alcohol dependence and another 224,000 have some indication of dependence. An estimated 173,000 to 200,000 British Columbians experience problems in some area of their life as a result of alcohol consumption.

These statistics are important in regulating the availability of alcohol which, through problematic use, contributes to more than 5,000 premature deaths each year in Canada.

CARBC plans to develop a variety of tools to help British Columbians better assess their own drinking and provide tips for enjoying alcohol in a low-risk way. These include new low-risk drinking guidelines for B.C., as well as an alcohol "check-up" that individuals can use to see how their drinking pattern stacks up against the guidelines.

Other materials will include tips on how to quit or cut down on drinking and how to host a low-risk party.

The centre is also working to present communities with evidence-based options on reducing harm from alcohol use. These include: reforms of alcohol pricing and taxation so that lower-alcohol content beverages are cheaper than high-strength; brief assessment and advice by family doctors and other primary health care workers; improved drinking and driving legislation and enforcement; and restrictions on late night operating hours of establishments with a record of violent incidents.

The report is co-authored by CARBC research associate Jodi Sturge and assistant director of research Scott Macdonald. A link to the report is available online at carbc.uvic.ca/.



Looking to re-energize your course curriculum?

by Robie Liscomb

When the school of child and youth care faced the task of designing curriculum for their new doctoral program, they found help in the form of the popular course (re)design workshop offered by the learning and teaching centre.

And they're not alone. More than 100 instructors from all faculties seeking to create new courses or re-think existing ones have participated in the workshops.

"These workshops are all about the quality of our academic programs," says centre director Dr. Geri Van Gyn. "They provide the structure, environment and support for instructors to examine their courses systematically and plan for achieving specific results."

Based on a model developed at McGill University, the intensive five-day workshops involve about 35 hours of workshop time plus outside reading. They offer an opportunity for peer discussion and critique, systematic reflection and identification of assumptions about course design and student learning.

Participants support each other in

mapping the main concepts included in their courses, developing learning outcomes, matching them with teaching methodologies, and devising an assessment plan for student learning and their own teaching.

"These workshops are all about the quality of our academic programs."

A special version of the course (re)design workshop has concentrated on integrating a global perspective into courses and has attracted national attention for its potential to contribute to universities' plans for internationalization.

Three faculty members from child and youth care took part in the workshop while developing the foundational and research methodology courses for their PhD program.

"By the end of the workshop, we had defined the course objectives and developed the course outlines, assignments and criteria for grading," says Dr. Marie Hoskins, one of the participants.

The workshop was helpful, says Hoskins, as a way of enabling faculty to focus their time and commitment to curriculum development—something that can be difficult without such a formal structure.

She also stresses the value of the collaborative nature of the exercise. "We learned a lot from the other participants. They asked some really hard questions, which stimulated our thinking, and we borrowed some of their ideas."

"Another important factor was the excitement about teaching generated by Geri Van Gyn as facilitator," says Hoskins. "Not only did she lead the process very effectively, she also served as an excellent model for our own teaching."

Faculty members interested in participating in the 2006 spring course (re)design workshop are encouraged to contact the learning and teaching centre at terc@uvic.ca or 721-8571.

President's Distinguished Service Awards

ELEVEN PEOPLE FROM SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS came together to help students make the transition from newbie to grad by forming the Student Transition Centre (see team member names in column at right).

For UVic students who aren't sure who to ask, the centre is there to help. Officially launched in June 2005, the centre provides information and programs for UVic students to help their transition into the university and beyond.

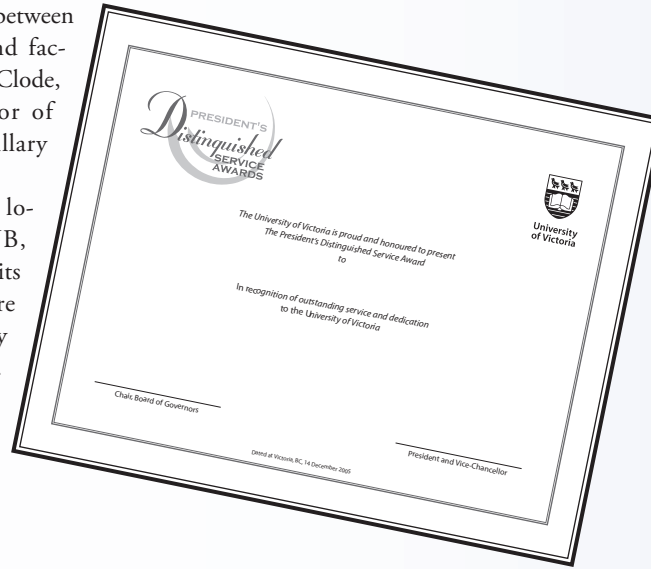
"There's no question in my mind that this group provides

an invaluable service not just to students but to the entire campus community," says graduate studies dean Dr. Aaron Devor. "Students who have had an effective orientation are better at their studies, require fewer remedial services from staff, and are able to make more significant contributions to campus life."

"Sue Corner and her team are creating a model of collaboration at UVic that fosters leadership and community, promotes social responsibility, positive values and sensitivity to diversity and creates invaluable

connections between students, staff and faculty," says David Clode, executive director of student and ancillary services.

The centre is located in the SUB, room B010 and its drop-in hours are Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information visit web. uvic.ca/transition/.

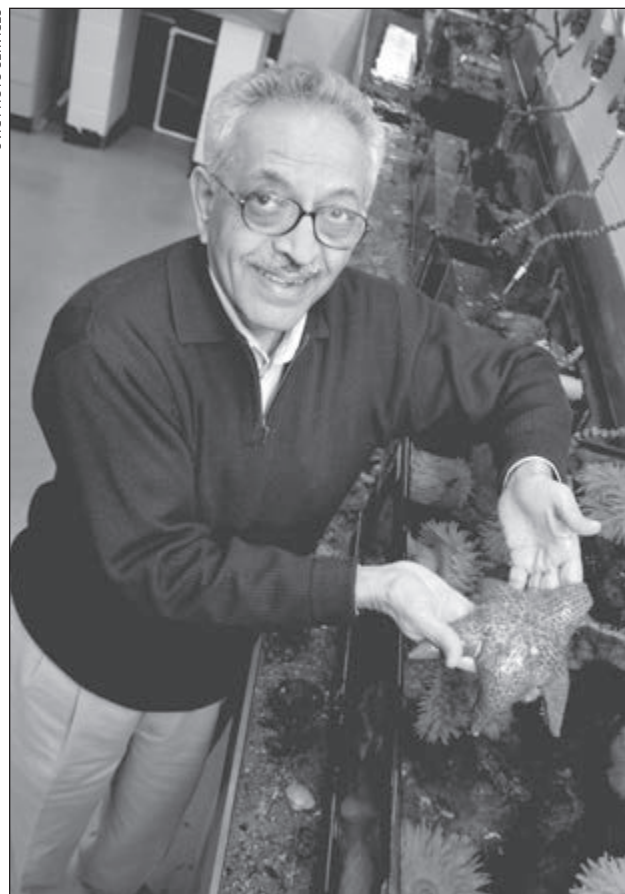


Award winners continued from p.1

and ocean sciences).

The team award goes to the student transition centre team, led by Sue Corner (student affairs). The core team members are Devin Arnold (student affairs), Tia Robertson (international and exchange student services), Anna Stein (resource centre for students with a disability), Sonya Chandler (family centre), Allison Gain (student transition centre), Linda Nicoll (alumni services), Jennifer Margison (career services), Tricia Best and Rita Knodel (counselling services), and Bruno Rocca (student recruitment).

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Ebrahim

DESCRIBED BY HIS COLLEAGUES as the "consummate educator and humanist," Yousuf Ebrahim has been a senior laboratory instructor in the biology department since 1974. He'll be retiring in 2006. However, during a time when many others might be content to coast or wind down, Ebrahim has been progressively escalating his efforts to enrich the education of undergraduates.

His contributions include: organizing and participating in field trips to the Bamfield Marine Science Centre; designing and teaching a popular continuing studies course that explores marine biology from a global perspective; spearheading the Malaysian Field School where UVic students spend six weeks learning about tropical biodiversity and field ecology; and acting as an undergraduate advisor in

the biology department.

Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre's public education coordinator Anne Stewart was an undergraduate when she first met Ebrahim 30 years ago. "Like everyone else in the class I was inspired and intrigued by Yousuf's knowledge and ways of teaching," she recalls. "I was inspired through my contact with Yousuf to continue in marine studies. Now as a member of the centre's staff I, in turn, reach thousands of students each year. The ripple effect that Yousuf creates continues."

"Yousuf's passion for all things biological and his dedication to teaching are highly appreciated by both his students and the faculty," adds science dean Dr. Tom Pedersen. "It's a pleasure to have these qualities recognized by the university through this award."



Pulez

ROSEMARY PULEZ is an administrative officer in the chemistry department. As part of the department's 40th anniversary in 2003, she organized a reunion of chemistry graduates. One of the first challenges was to develop contacts with chemistry alumni, and she conceived the idea of the *Elements* newsletter for chemistry grads.

Pulez developed content ideas, found contributors, assembled the newsletter and oversaw production and distribution. It's a role she continues to take as *Elements* currently reaches more than 700 chemistry alumni.

Her boundless energy and command of organizational details also made the reunion a "stunning success." In the midst of the reunion, the faculty of science held its very successful open house. Again Pulez played a central

role in the planning and implementation of this community event.

"Rosemary's activities these past few years have done more to strengthen our ties to our people and community than at any other time I can recall in 35 years of association with this department," says Dr. Tom Fyles, chemistry chair. "Her dedication, energy and commitment produced the conditions to allow us to discover this for ourselves. It's a remarkable achievement."

"Rosemary is integrally responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sense of community within the chemistry department," adds graduate student Bryan Koivisto. "This sense of community has improved the quality of life and level of education within the department."

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Russell

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1991, the school of earth and ocean sciences (SEOS) has grown from a fledging department into a school with national prominence. Much of this growth has to do with the hard work and organizational skills of its administrative officer, Terry Russell. She has provided the operational framework to make it work, and to attract top researchers and funding.

"Achieving this goal would be difficult enough even if we were all housed under one roof," says SEOS professor Stephen Johnston. "Making this goal a reality given how our faculty, staff, students and facilities are

distributed over half the campus is a true feat of organization."

SEOS faculty and students are commonly involved in shipboard investigations involving every ocean, mapping and sampling rocks on the ocean floor, and exploring mountain systems around the globe. Russell's administrative support makes these field-based research programs run smoothly and efficiently.

"When it comes to knowledge of the university system, Terry is the definitive source and always the first person to approach when questions arise," says SEOS senior laboratory instructor David Nelles.

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Alumnus makes \$100,000 gift for science scholarships

by Chris Thackray

A UVic grad who reached the highest echelons of the oil and gas industry is giving back to the place that gave him his start.

Richard Flury, a UVic alumnus and former chief executive of oil industry giant BP (British Petroleum) has donated \$100,000 to the faculty of science. Flury graduated in 1970 with a degree in physics and made the donation to provide scholarships for university transfer students entering their third year in the faculty of science.

"Richard's gift is a wonderful vote of confidence in UVic and in the kind of educational experience we're delivering," says Dr. Tom Pedersen, dean of science. "We're deeply grateful for his generosity toward our students."

The recipient of the UVic Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement

Award at this year's Legacy Awards, Flury is one of a small number of Canadians to reach great heights on the international business stage. As head of the largest business segment at BP, Flury had responsibility for worldwide gas marketing, trading and renewable businesses.

He had served for 28 years with Amoco before its 1998 merger with BP and held various leadership roles in Amoco's activities in 100 countries around the world. He retired from BP in 2001 and maintains an active interest in the future of the faculty of science.

Flury's career took him all over the globe and he feels his education at UVic prepared him well. "The value in a physics degree is that it teaches you to solve complex problems," he says. "It teaches you to look at the variables, bring them together and look for alternate solutions."



Flury

Business problems aren't really all that different."

UVic's quest for excellence places it among the very best universities, he says. "I can't think of any place better. I've had the international experience, I've lived all over North America, and it's helped me appreciate what I had here."

Nominate a student for Blue and Gold

If you know a student who shines both in and out of the classroom why not consider nominating her or him for a 2006 University of Victoria Blue and Gold Award?

The program was established to 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 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. Award recipients will be recognized at a reception in the spring where they'll receive their awards and certificates.

To be eligible, undergraduate students must carry a minimum of nine units in the year in which they are nominated and must normally have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 5.0. Graduate students must be

enrolled on a full-time basis and have a cumulative GPA of 5.0. The nominees' GPA will be taken into consideration by the selection committee.

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.

Nomination packages are available through the student awards and financial aid office in the University Centre or online at registrar.uvic.ca/safa.

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Calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, see www.uvic.ca/events

At the Galleries

www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562

Art Education Faculty Exhibition Jan. 10–Feb. 2. Recent artwork by art educators in UVic's faculty of education. McPherson Library Gallery.

Camosun College Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit Jan. 16–Feb. 21. A group exhibition featuring the works 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 presents Famous Puppet Death Scenes Jan. 31–Feb. 4. A new production by the theatre company known for its wildly inventive puppetry for adult audiences.

Friday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 10

CEOR Lecture 3:30 p.m. *The Mallik Gas Hydrate Field, Mackenzie Delta, NWT*. Scott Dallimore, Geological Survey of Canada. Cornett B112. 721-8848

Thursday, January 12

Public Administration Lecture 4 p.m. *Scales, Virtual Regions and Structures in City Regional Governance—A North American and European Perspective*. Tassilo Herrschel, Univ. of Westminster, London. Hickman 110. 721-8056.

Friday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 17

Linguistics and the Division

of Continuing Studies Lecture 6:30 p.m. *The Role of the Practicum Teacher and the Supervisor*. Shari Corbin, UVic. Clearihue A206. 721-7424

Friday, January 20

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

Geography Lecture 3 p.m. *Decolonizing Geographies: Digital Media, Repatriation, and Language Revitalization in Northern Athapaskan Communities*. Kate Hennessy, UBC. Sponsored by the departments of anthropology, geography and linguistics. Strong C116. 721-7325

Tuesday, January 24

Lansdowne Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Plagued by Numbers: The Mathematics of Disease*. Mark Lewis, Univ. of Alberta. Clearihue A127. 721-7436

Linguistics and the Division of Continuing Studies Lecture 6:30 p.m. *Vocabulary Learning Strategies: Teaching Students How to Improve Their Vocabulary*. Veronica Armstrong, UVic. Clearihue A206. 721-7424

Continuing Studies Lecture 7:30 p.m. *New Hardy Plant Discoveries in Northern Vietnam*. Dr. Brian White, Capilano College, and Peter Wharton, UBC. Clearihue A127. Tickets \$16. 721-6119

Wednesday, January 26

Public Administration Lecture 4 p.m. *New Forces Bearing on Cities: Victoria and Lille, France*. Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, UVic. Strong C112. 721-8056.

Friday, January 27

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

Tuesday, January 31

Linguistics and the Division of Continuing Studies Lecture 6:30 p.m. *Drama for Intercultural Interactions and Language-Sharing*. Cam Culham, UVic. Clearihue A206. 721-7424

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, Feb. 2	Wednesday, Jan. 25
Thursday, March 2	Wednesday, Feb. 22
Thursday, April 6	Wednesday, March 29

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United Way campaign wraps up for another year

By the time the United Way wrapped up its UVic campaign last month, the campus community had raised \$203,515.95, or 92.5 per cent of the \$220,000 target.

"The campaign went very well and the committee worked very hard," says UVic campus campaign chair Dr. Ron Skelton. "The fundraising events would not have happened without the help of many, many people."

Skelton reports that there were a lot more individual student donors this year, due in part to online donations. Individual student donations totalled \$2,000.

Although pledger numbers were down from last year, their generosity wasn't. Donations per donor rose by about 10 per cent to \$345, he says.

"We realized that contacting



Dr. Cody Poulton, chair of Pacific and Asian studies, won the Acer Travelmate laptop in the grand prize draw on Dec. 14. The prize was donated by the UVic Computer Store. For a complete list of prize winners, visit unitedway.uvic.ca.

someone by e-mail is not the same as getting in touch with them in person," says Skelton of this year's electronic campaigning. "I'm really

proud of the UVic community's ability to contribute more than \$200,000 to the social well-being of Greater Victoria."

Computer scientist wins IBM award

Dr. Margaret-Anne (Peggy) Storey's work with IBM's Centers for Advanced Studies (CAS) has netted her the organization's inaugural Faculty Fellow of the Year award.

Storey, who is currently on sabbatical from UVic's department of computer science, is dividing her time between four of IBM's CAS labs—two in Canada, one in the U.S., and one in Ireland. She also plans to work with the new CAS lab in Victoria.

The award is given to a professor who has had a positive impact in academia on the goals and reputation of IBM and CAS. In particular, Storey is being recognized for her work promoting Eclipse, an open-

source framework for building software tools. One of these tools is Gild, which helps novice programmers learn how to program. Storey developed it, and it's currently being used in several universities around the world.

"A lot of the work I've done in the community has been to promote Eclipse for use in education and research," she says. She has organized several workshops across Canada and the U.S. to promote Gild and Eclipse.

Another project Storey is involved in with IBM is a visualization toolkit known as Zest. "The tools that IBM builds are very complex," she says, "and visualization helps with human understanding of the

technology."

Because computer programs are very complicated, programmers must rely on thinking aids to help them understand and mentally "map" the intricate conceptual relationships in large masses of information.

Storey is also working with the National Centre for Biomedical Ontologies. Ontology in computer science is a way of documenting knowledge that is machine-readable and also understandable by humans—in this case, knowledge about biology and medicine.

"Our role is to develop visualization tools for biologists and clinicians, so they can store biological and clinical trial data," she says.

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Time lapse

A UVic mathematician's new book discusses the extraordinary idea that our calendars are more than 1,000 years off

Diacu

by Jessica Gillies

Happy 2006! Wait, not so fast. Should we really be saying "Happy 942?"

The thought that we're ahead of ourselves chronologically seems far-fetched, but it's the subject of a new book by University of Victoria mathematician Dr. Florin Diacu.

Diacu was at a conference in 1994 when he first heard about a Russian scholar's research in historical chronology. Anatoli Fomenko proposed that the Middle Ages were either much shorter than traditionally thought, or nearly non-existent. He also theorized that many ancient and medieval dynasties actually overlapped, instead of being successive.

Diacu's interest in these theories was rekindled years later when he read an article in *Saturday Night* about Russian mathematicians who believed that 2000 AD was actually 936 AD.

"I started to read Fomenko's works and discovered he was not the only one who challenged the existing historical chronology," he says. "I went deeper into the subject and began to realize that the historical chronology of ancient and medieval times is far from ironclad. It's not as well understood as we're taught in school, and I wanted to understand why."

Diacu admits that an interest in history is unusual for a mathematician, but his research in celestial mechanics—the motion of celestial bodies such as planets and stars—ties the two together. "If you look at

planets today you can see where they were in the past. We can tell their movements with good accuracy for about 20 million years in the past and the future."

In his new book, *The Lost Millennium*, Diacu looks at how historical chronology came into being. "I examine how people in the past looked at calendars and how they fix some basic events in history. If you have a document that tells you where the planets were at that point in time, you can date almost to the day when that configuration took place."

For example, there's Thucydides' account of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta—one of few events in ancient Greek history that can be given a precise date.

"Thucydides describes three eclipses and how much time passed from one to the other," says Diacu. "There are few possible solutions using celestial mechanics. 431 BC is the traditional date for the start of the war, but Fomenko has two other solutions: one in the 11th century AD, and one in the 12th."

Another event is the crucifixion of Christ as described in the Bible. The New Testament describes darkness over the Earth that lasted about three hours. Yet an eclipse that took place on AD April 3, 33, the traditionally accepted date of the crucifixion, lasted only a few minutes.

As with the Peloponnesian War, there is a finite number of possible solutions, says Diacu. Russian

mathematician Nicolai Morozov pointed out a lengthy lunar eclipse in 368 AD that matched the one in the Bible. And Fomenko found another eclipse that matched the biblical criteria in all ways but duration. It occurred AD April 3, 1075.

"There's quite a controversy today about whether the Bible is truth or fiction or a combination of both," says Diacu. "Personally, I don't think that Christ is a good chronological figure because his life, whether he existed or not, is so tainted in legend. There are other events that have more chronological significance."

Diacu takes great pains to remain objective and reiterates that he does not necessarily agree with Fomenko.

"While I did my research, I was sometimes more on one side and sometimes more on the other side. In the end, I realized we don't really know. I've had very different reactions from people who have read the book. Some people come out of it thinking that those who challenge traditional chronology are right, and others think the opposite."

Diacu maintains that, given enough research, we could eventually know the truth. "I don't have the final answer. I tried to write the book such that you can decide for yourself what the answer is. But I know that if we do the right research, we could determine chronology to an accuracy of within 100 or 200 years."

The Lost Millennium (Knopf) is available at the UVic Bookstore for \$35.

Aroundthering

New disc golf course now in use

The UVic Disc Golf Club course is now in play on a portion of the Cedar Hill property (the undeveloped university land along the north side of Cedar Hill Cross Road east of University Drive). The nine-hole course is open only to members of the club, which developed a course layout to minimize interaction with neighbours and other recreational users of the property. Disc golf play is not permitted elsewhere on campus due to property damage and safety issues. Community members wishing to play disc golf can either seek admission to the UVic Disc Golf Club (some community membership is permitted) by contacting the club at DiscGolf@uvic.ca or play other disc golf courses in the area. For further information about disc golf on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands visit www.islanddiscgolf.com.

Your expired bus passes can benefit needy families

Don't throw out that expired monthly bus pass. Instead, consider taking it to campus security. BC Transit has a program that allows transit monthly pass users to trade their expired passes for one free admission at a recreation centre, and campus security will be collecting expired passes to give to the family resource centre on campus. "I thought it would be a great idea to collect these expired passes to give students with families a break," says Pat Shade, an office clerk with campus security. Simply drop your expired monthly pass off at campus security and the passes will be forwarded to the family centre.

Student numbers are up

The University of Victoria's student enrolment climbed to nearly 19,000 this fall, with the Nov. 1 headcount reaching 18,906 students (16,483 undergraduate students and 2,423 graduate students). That total breaks down to 10,757 full time and 5,726 part-time undergraduate and 2,003 full-time and 420 part-time graduate students. In terms of full-time equivalent (FTE) students, UVic enrolled 11,884 undergraduate and 2,097 graduate students for a total of 13,981 FTEs. Last year's headcount enrolment was 18,320 graduate and undergraduate students.

Write through the night

Parlez-vous français? If so, the third annual French Writing Marathon is for you. Francophones and francophiles across campus will gather on Jan. 13 to write creatively in a variety of styles for 24 hours. The marathon is open to all French-speaking students, and although participants are encouraged to stay for the whole marathon it's possible to join individual workshops only. There will be breaks to eat and go swimming. To sign up, contact Hélène Poulin at lnpoulin@uvic.ca.

Office provides assistance to health researchers

If you're involved in aging and health-related research, the centre on aging is home to the regional office of a network that can assist you. Whether you need seed money for health and aging research proposal development or you would like to connect with researchers interested in health and aging from universities, government, community and private sectors, the BC Network for Aging Research (BCNAR) can help. This hub is aimed at expanding health and aging research capacity in B.C. and leveraging new research monies. If you or your organization would like to become a member of BCNAR or would like more information, contact regional liaison officer Reba Chaplin at 721-6290 or rchaplin@uvic.ca.

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Vikes Upcoming Events

Jan 13	Basketball vs U of Saskatchewan 6:15PM (w) 8:00PM (m)
Jan 14	Basketball vs U of Saskatchewan 6:15PM (w) 8:00PM (m)
Feb 3	Basketball vs Thompson Rivers 6:15PM (w) 8:00PM (m)
Feb 4	Basketball vs Thompson Rivers 6:15PM (w) 8:00PM (m)
Feb 11	Basketball vs Simon Fraser U 6:15PM (w) 8:00PM (m)

Recreation

Did you know that RecPlus membership purchases and renewals along with the purchase of add-ons such as Fitness Weight Centre passes and towel service may now be done at the University Ticket Centre? Check them out at www.auditorium.uvic.ca

Full schedule information at www.athrec.uvic.ca

