



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Stellar staff awards announced Dec. 16

Meet this year's recipients of the annual President's Distinguished Service Awards (PDSA) at the President's Reception on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Bob Wright Centre: Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building. Light refreshments will be served. PDSA info: <http://web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa/>

NEW BUILDINGS

Salish artists' work to grace First Peoples House

The university has selected three Coast and Straits Salish artists to create major works for the First Peoples House, now under construction. Doug Lafortune (Tsawout First Nation) will carve two welcome posts to frame the building's main entrance. Xwa-lack-tun (Rick Harry, Squamish Nation) will create a carved entrance door. Charles W. Elliot (Tsartlip First Nation) will carve two house posts to frame the interior entrance to the ceremonial room. More: <http://web.uvic.ca/fphouse/>

FINANCIAL MELTDOWN

President's economic panel posted online

More than 1,100 people attended a UVic-sponsored panel discussion on the world financial situation and its local repercussions Nov. 18 in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Now you can listen to an audio file of the event by going to <http://business.uvic.ca/> and clicking on "Markets, Money and the Meltdown: The President's Panel on the Economy." And watch for online video to be posted soon.

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

UVic keeps its place at the top

The University of Victoria is once again at the head of the class in national university rankings. UVic tied with SFU for top Canadian comprehensive university in the *Maclean's* magazine 2008 university rankings issue and led all other comprehensive universities west of Ontario in research effort, according to the 2008 RESEARCH Infosource rankings. Story on page 3

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

LE,NONET project a success

UVic is succeeding in improving the retention and success of Aboriginal students. So says the interim evaluation report on UVic's LE,NONET project, a pilot program that started in 2005. The project has helped create a welcoming institutional climate for Indigenous students, improved financial aid, enhanced links with First Nations communities and contributed to students' decision to continue their university education. Story on page 3



SEASON'S GREETINGS

THE RING

DECEMBER 2008

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



CROSS. PHOTO: BETH DOMAN

FISHING FOR ANSWERS

11

NUMBER
OF MARINE
SPECIES
BEING GROWN
AT THE
KYUQUOT
SOUND
SEAFARM
FACILITY

Geographer pioneers sustainable ecological aquaculture

Turkeys will be in a prominent place on many dinner tables across the country this holiday season, but Dr. Stephen Cross always puts seafood first. The University of Victoria marine scientist conducts research at a dedicated aquaculture research and development facility in Kyuquot Sound off northwestern Vancouver Island. It is the first licensed SEAFarm in Canada.

Cross has been specializing in BC aquaculture issues for more than 20 years, and he played a lead role in the development of the SEA-system (Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture) on Vancouver Island. Polyculture—an ancient technique of growing one thing from another—has been used

for thousands of years in Asia and is now being applied off our shores by Cross and his team of researchers. Sablefish (black cod) are grown at the SEAFarm but are just the first component in the SEA-system: the organic waste from the cod filters down to strategically placed living organisms that capture the waste and use it as a food source. Shellfish (scallops, mussels, oysters, cockles) intercept fine particulates from the cod; sea cucumbers and sea urchins take the settleable organic particles; and kelp (kombu, nori) extracts the dissolved nutrients. Each species is commercially viable in its own right and also serves a unique function within the ecosystem.

Costly closed containment systems have also been developed in an effort to remove these wastes, but in comparison the SEA-system, according to Cross, treats waste as a resource and is designed as an ecological rather than technological-based system.

"The science is getting the correct balance between the number of fish—typically in the thousands in each fish farm—and the type and quantity of other species that will naturally consume and hence mop up any waste," says Cross.

Cross founded a Coastal Aquaculture

SEE AQUACULTURE P.2

12,764

SIZE, IN
GROSS
SQUARE
METRES, OF
THE WRIGHT
CENTRE,
UVIC'S
NEWEST &
LARGEST
BUILDING

New science building named for "gumboot fisherman"

The University of Victoria's newest and largest building was officially opened on Nov. 24, adding another world-class research and teaching facility to the campus.

The new building—known as the Bob Wright Centre, Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences—is named after the president and CEO of the Oak Bay Marine Group of Companies. Wright, who refers to himself as "just a gumboot fisherman," donated \$10 million toward the cost of the new building, as well as \$1 million for student scholarships.



"A lifelong passion and affinity for the sea has underscored my concern about the impact of global warming on our oceans," says Wright. "As a community and as a country, we must expand our investment in solid scientific research so we can pass on a healthy environment for generations to come."

The total construction costs were \$66.6 million, with the provincial government contributing \$37.5 million and the remainder provided by UVic and other donors.

"The Bob Wright Centre showcases our position as a global centre of excellence in ocean, earth and atmospheric research, and will take our scientific research and teaching to an even higher level," says UVic President David Turpin. "We're grateful to the provincial government for its commitment to scientific research and to this outstanding new facility, and to Bob Wright, whose vision and generosity have made this building a reality."

"Our investment is yet another example of this government's commitment to building world-class facilities at BC's public

post-secondary institutions, giving our students more choices, more access, closer to home," says Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development Murray Coell.

The new building unites under one roof all members of the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences (SEOS), who were previously spread out among seven buildings on campus. It also hosts the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis, a research division of Environment Canada.

"For the first time, this building brings together as a community biological and chemical oceanographers, physical oceanographers and applied mathematicians, and climate scientists and solid-earth geologists," says Dr. Tom Pedersen, dean of science.

"This community of scientists will work together to help answer some of the most compelling questions facing our planet."

The building also houses synthetic chemistry labs, "clean rooms" for meas-

SEE WRIGHT CENTRE P.2

around the ring

Food for fines

The UVic Libraries Food for Fines drive is here once again. Until Dec. 19, for each non-perishable food item donated, \$2 will be waived from your library fines up to a maximum of \$20. Donations of food will go to the Mustard Seed and the UVSS Food Bank and can be dropped off at the Mearns Centre for Learning (McPherson Library) or the Curriculum Library. Last year, 270 library users paid in food totaling \$3,051. This year's goal is \$4,000.

New award for SSM Building

The new Social Sciences and Mathematics Building has received an Award of Merit in the Commercial Division in the Victoria Real Estate Board's 17th Annual Commercial Building Awards program. This prestigious competition recognizes excellence in commercial property development projects that are sensitive to the environment, are aesthetically pleasing and answer a specific developmental need within the community.

Recognize amazing UVic women

Do you know a woman—a co-worker, an instructor, a professor, a colleague, a student, an alumna—who goes the extra mile, is always available and happy to be of service, can answer any question, is a pleasure to be around and is committed to the excellence of UVic? Why not nominate her for a recognition award at the UVic Women's Conference to be held Feb. 18? The deadline for nominations is Dec. 15. Info: web.uvic.ca/womennet/nomination.html

Linguist to receive top Japanese award

Emeritus Chair in Japan and Asia-Pacific Relations and Professor Emeritus (linguistics) Dr. Joseph Kess has been chosen as one of four Canadians to receive Japan's Order of the Rising Sun—the highest honour bestowed by Japan on foreign nationals.

In announcing this honour in Tokyo, His Excellency Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Japan, praised "the contributions of Dr. Joseph F. Kess to greater understanding of Japan [which] have come through all facets of his professional career. His landmark books on Japanese psycholinguistics, his acknowledged excellence as a teacher and his leadership at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives at the University of Victoria stand out among his many accomplishments that have served to increase awareness and knowledge about Japan in Canada."

"My years at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives were probably the

most meaningful of my career at UVic in trying to achieve something for us on the larger world scene," says Kess. "Reminding Canada of its necessary commitment to Asia in general, and Japan specifically, is something that CAPI does well, and it's gratifying to know that the Japanese government has recognized us in this way."

Kess is widely recognized as a leading scholar of psycholinguistics, the study of the native and learned mechanisms that enable humans to acquire, use and understand language. His primary theoretical interests have focused on psycholinguistic aspects of language processing and language performance. His research interests also encompass sociolinguistics and the relationships among language, ethnicity and the discourse of identity. He has worked on a variety of languages including Tagalog and other Philippine languages; Japanese in Japan and Hawaii; Motu and Kuanuan



Kess

from Papua New Guinea; Slovene in the former Yugoslavia; and Ahousaht and Haida in BC.

A fellow of the RSC (Royal Society of Canada), Kess is also a recipient of the Faculty of Humanities Award for Teaching Excellence. He has written, co-authored or co-edited 14 books,

more than two dozen book chapters and over 200 articles, reviews and other scholarly contributions.

The Consul General of Japan will bestow upon Kess the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, at a ceremony in Vancouver on Dec. 10.

Public service careers beckon

By 2012, over 25 per cent of today's public service employees can retire, including almost half of those in executive level positions. Faced with this challenge, UVic and the Government of Canada are working together to attract more students and grads into careers with the federal government.

As part of a unique pilot project that could serve as a model for the rest of the country, the federal government, public administration, co-operative education and career services hosted a free career conference on Oct. 21. "Put Your Talent to Work: Canada's Future Through You" allowed students and

grads to discuss their views on public policy with senior decision makers. They heard 20 speakers—federal deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers and UVic faculty—discuss a variety of topics including climate change, healthcare, homelessness, global trade, human rights and privacy.

Attendees also visited information booths staffed by employees from 33 departments and ministries. There were on-the-spot job interviews, job offers and a chance to hear from UVic students who work for the Government of Canada. In all, more than 2,700 students and alumni attended the conference.

"It was amazing to see the range of work that is necessary to run our country," says Amy VanZant, UVic masters student (French) and one of three co-op students who helped to organize the event. "It was also really neat to meet deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers. I found it fascinating and inspiring to hear about their career paths and the different steps they took to get to where they are now."

The next step in the project is to launch an online portal, which will provide students with a general overview of the structure of the federal public service. It will also list the

kind of competencies being sought, as well as the types of entry-level jobs being offered. In addition, it will inform federal employers about UVic programs and the different competencies students acquire.

A database of UVic students who have experience in the public service through a co-op or other work placement will be designed. This will allow federal departments to quickly pick from UVic talent.

For more information about this pilot program visit www.yourfuturescalling.ca and look for more Government of Canada booths at UVic's career fair on Feb. 4 and 5.

AQUACULTURE CONTINUED FROM P.1

Research and Training (CART) multi-disciplinary network at UVic, along with co-director Dr. Mark Flaherty, a UVic geographer and expert on aquaculture's impacts upon governance and community issues in tropical regions.

The CART research team is taking the lead on this coast—with the SEAFarm facility in Kyuquot Sound as a possible platform—in a five-year national research initiative currently under review by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to explore the environmental and socio-economic issues related to integrated

aquaculture (SEA-systems) on the east and west coasts of Canada. The CART team is also investigating the possibilities of energy alternatives to operate the SEAFarm and the potential for creating bioethanol from the kelp as a clean fuel for the farm.

Aquaculture is not an industry devoid of controversy. Primary concerns are issues of sea lice and interactions with wild fish, human food safety questions related to antibiotic and pesticide use, and the need to use fish meal and oil food pellets to feed the farmed fish.

"Our research doesn't address all of these concerns," says Cross. "Instead, we see a growing demand worldwide for seafood. This method of aquaculture can help enhance production, diversify the seafood industry and evolve best practices. It's in all our interests to design food-production systems to be ecologically sustainable."

Rusty Smith, production manager -
Kyuquot SEAFoods.
PHOTO: S.F. CROSS



WRIGHT CENTRE CONTINUED FROM P.1

uring minute concentrations of elements in water, a rooftop observatory, two large lecture theatres, offices, labs, meeting rooms and food services.

The university's synthetic chemistry group is renowned internationally for its advances in the development of plastic magnets, data storage and the study of genetics and proteins, particularly the roles they play in

mediating diseases such as cancer.

The rooftop observatory will be home to the best academic telescope in Canada (to be installed in late 2009), putting the university at the forefront of astronomy education. UVic is home to some of Canada's leading researchers in cosmology and observational astronomy.



Wright and wife, Yun Klohofer PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

THE RING Vol. 34 No. 11

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper
ring.uvic.ca

Financial support for environmental production values provided in part by UVic's Strategic Alliance partner, Kyocera Mita Canada, Ltd.

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Next issue Jan. 8

The Ring is published monthly except in August by UVic Communications.

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Printed in Canada by Nanaimo Daily News

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40014024

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RESEARCH INFOSOURCE RANKINGS

UVic research still best in the west

The University of Victoria continues to lead all other comprehensive universities west of Ontario in terms of research effort, according to the 2008 ranking of the country's top research universities by RESEARCH Infosource.

In the Research Universities of the Year ranking, among full-service comprehensive universities, UVic placed third behind Ontario universities Waterloo and Guelph. Comprehensive universities are those with a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs.

The three top universities "demonstrated superior achievement both in earning research income and in publishing research in leading scientific journals," says RESEARCH Infosource.

"These data, once again, confirm the excellence of the research conducted at UVic," says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic's vice-president research. "However, the value our research has for the people of the province, Canada and the world goes well beyond these rankings. The contribution of our researchers to the social, cultural, economic and intellectual health of society is the real measure of what makes UVic such a valuable institution."

The rankings are based on the 2007 fiscal year and reflect spon-

sored research income and research output indicators such as number of publications per full-time faculty member and publication impact.

On the blended list of Canada's Top 50 Research Universities, UVic placed 17th, showing a sponsored research income total of \$89.3 million. This total is a drop from 2006, but it has already rebounded—UVic figures for the 2007/08 fiscal year show research income at an all-time high of more than \$106 million.

For the first time, RESEARCH Infosource reported this year on income growth over the previous six years (2002–07). UVic placed second in the comprehensive category, with a growth rate of 84.7 per cent, far above the national average of 46.5 per cent for comprehensive universities and 49.9 per cent for all universities.

The data to determine Canada's Top 50 Research Universities and Research Universities of the Year drew on Statistics Canada and the RESEARCH Infosource Canadian university R&D database.

RESEARCH Infosource Inc, a division of The Impact Group, produces specialized reports from its extensive database. To view the entire rankings and analysis visit www.researchinfosource.com.

MACLEAN'S RANKINGS

UVic stays at the top among comprehensive universities

The University of Victoria has maintained its first-place position for the second year in a row as the top comprehensive university in Canada in the annual university rankings by *Maclean's* magazine, this time tied with Vancouver's Simon Fraser University.

"UVic's consistent high ranking is a tribute to our people, the students, faculty and staff who make UVic what it is today," says UVic President David Turpin. "It also is gratifying every year to see the attention paid to post-secondary education by a national magazine. The annual rankings emphasize the integral role played by universities in a changing world."

Just like last year, UVic scored well in every ranking category and finished in the upper half in

all 13 categories. UVic ranked particularly highly in the categories of faculty awards, medical science grants, research activity, scholarships and bursaries for students and the library.

UVic's annual high ranking is testament to the top calibre of faculty, students and support at UVic. And although it is only one measure of success (the University of Victoria uses various measures such as a regular survey of students and graduates to determine quality of experience), the *Maclean's* rankings serves as a useful resource for students considering a post-secondary education.

More information on the rankings: <http://oncampus.macleans.ca/education/2008/11/10/our-18th-annual-rankings/>



LE,NONET participant Kendra Underwood

LE,NONET project helps Aboriginal students succeed

UVic's LE,NONET project—a groundbreaking pilot project that measures ways of improving the retention and success of Aboriginal students in post-secondary education—is making a big difference in students' lives.

The LE,NONET Interim Evaluation Report, issued Nov. 25, indicates that the project has created a welcoming institutional climate, provided better financial aid, created links with surrounding First Nations communities and contributed to the students' decision to return to school the following year. LE,NONET (le-non-git) is a Sen-coten (sen-chaw-then) word meaning "success after enduring hardships."

"The LE,NONET project has opened up so many doors for me, both culturally and professionally," says Kendra Underwood (history). "It has assisted me to work in my home WSANEC community (Tsawout Nation), and helped me to view my time at the university not just academically but holistically as well."

The majority of the 139 participants (77 per cent) reported that their participation in the program contributed to the development of their sense of self as an Aboriginal person. Even more (87 per cent) agreed that their participation in the programs contributed to their sense of connection to the on-campus Aboriginal community.

LE,NONET comprises four components: bursaries, research appren-

ticeships with faculty and graduate student advisors, community internships in Aboriginal communities and organizations, and peer mentoring, matching upper level Aboriginal students with new students. The project participants each took part in one or more of the components between August 2005 and December 2007. The average age of student participants is 29.9 years old and the majority of the participants are female (69.8 per cent). The LE,NONET program will run until July 2009 and qualitative research will continue until then.

"UVic's support for the project puts it at the forefront of national issues of access to post-secondary education," says Norman Riddell, the Canada Millennium Foundation's executive director and CEO. "The foundation hopes that groundbreaking research of this kind may eventually lead the project to be replicated in other institutions to similar effect." The Canada Millennium Foundation funds the LE,NONET project.

The number of Aboriginal students at UVic has increased by more than 700 per cent since 1999, with over 600 Aboriginal students attending classes on campus.

The executive summary of the LE,NONET Interim Evaluation Report is available at www.millenniumscholarships.ca/en/research/AllPublications.asp. The complete interim report will be available later this month.

around the ring

Walk the labyrinth

Lift some pre-holiday anxiety and ease exam stress by walking in circles. The annual Interfaith Chapel labyrinth is once again in place and offering a calm respite to students, staff, faculty and the off-campus community. It is available from Nov. 24 through Dec. 11 on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The labyrinth takes approximately 30 minutes to walk. A workshop to help deepen participants' experience of the labyrinth will be held at the UVic Chapel on Dec. 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. Registration: 250-721-8338

On the move: Administrative Services Building opens

During early December the offices of the president and vice-presidents as well as other administrative functions such as finance, research services, pension, payroll and institutional planning and analysis will be moving to the new Administrative Services Building, located outside Ring Road near parking lot 4. The move dates have been staggered to reduce the impact across campus, and every effort has been made to minimize service level disruptions. Specific move dates and contact numbers: <http://communications.uvic.ca/uvicino/announcement.php?id=276> or 250-721-7591

Emergency Alerts testing continues

The second campus-wide test of UVic Emergency Alerts took place Nov. 19. Many aspects of the university's new emergency notification system functioned as planned, and the test message was distributed successfully to students, staff and faculty via email, voicemail and the new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones. However, many people received multiple email messages and there were challenges with text message distribution. University Systems is analyzing the test results in order to make necessary adjustments and improvements to the system. Info: www.uvic.ca/alerts

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Researching climate change in Canada's Arctic

BY TARA SHARPE

It's not good news for Santa that the North Pole is melting, and just before the holiday season a trio of researchers affiliated with the University of Victoria returned from a first-hand view of how the ice is responding to climate change. UVic master's student Jen Tyler (biology), UVic master's candidate Cherrisse Du Preez (biology) and Ian Murdoch (Canadian Scientific Submersible Facility) were involved in a 26-day Arctic research cruise and lent their expertise with a specialized piece of underwater equipment.

UVic professor Dr. Kim Juniper, BC Leadership Chair in Marine Ecosystems and Global Change, and UVic professor Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe, Canada Research Chair in Deep Ocean Research and VENUS Project director, have helped develop CHONe, the NSERC Canadian Healthy Oceans Network which, together with the ArcticNet network, provided the trip's funding. On Sept. 4, Tyler, Du Preez and Murdoch joined other science personnel onboard the research icebreaker CCGS *Amundsen*, a mobile platform used by ArcticNet to study the changing Arctic Ocean.

"CHONe is undertaking a major study of the health and marine ecosystems in all three of Canada's oceans, and ArcticNet is providing essential access to coastal seas in the Arctic," says Juniper. "At UVic, we are thrilled to contribute to this vital effort to understand how the disappearance of summertime ice cover will change

marine ecosystems in the North."

It is unique for a Coast Guard research vessel to be fitted with its own remotely operated vehicle (ROV), and the three team members had an opportunity to showcase the dexterity of this expensive robot to others aboard the CCGS *Amundsen*.

Tyler and Du Preez oversaw its deepsea dives, and Murdoch was its chief pilot. The ROV was launched from the vessel's internal moon pool, which acts like a door in the bottom of the ship and allows researchers to send equipment safely into the depths without worrying about stormy weather or the possibility of icebergs sideswiping devices during an unprotected launch from the side of the ship. The ROV is humanlike in appearance—with arms and even a pair of eyes—and it motored down to the seafloor with a bucket and spade

slung in a sack over one arm. The researchers could observe octopuses, squid and cold-water deep-sea corals, and the sediment samples extracted in the ROV's bucket will reveal what has drifted down from the sea's surface to the deeply hidden ecosystem below.

"It's not easy to get down there," says Du Preez, "but when the ROV turns on its lights, the seafloor is teeming with fish of all colours and other creatures that may just look like 'creepy crawlies' to everyone else but are magical to scientists: they can tell us so much about the state of this ocean."

NBC's "Today Show" aired two stories on the ArcticNet trip which include footage of the ROV and scenes aboard the icebreaker: www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/27715698#27715698 and www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/27717730#27717730



(L-R) Jen Tyler, Cherrisse Du Preez and Heike Link, a PhD student at Université du Québec à Rimouski, on their first day aboard CCGS *Amundsen*. PHOTO: CHERISSE DU PREEZ



Doherty with Ugandan boy on her community service work term in Africa

New co-op scholarship gives students a boost

BY JOY POLIQUIN

Last summer, an interest in international development led Anthropology Co-op student Claire Doherty to Uganda as a volunteer for a not-for-profit organization. It was a new experience for Doherty, so it was fitting that her work term was partly funded by a brand new co-op scholarship.

Doherty is one of 32 co-op students who have received the Thouvenelle Co-op Scholarship since May 2008. Named for donor Jarmila Von Drak Thouvenelle, the award is granted to undergraduate and graduate co-op students who engage in work terms related to community development or service learning.

"We are excited to offer this new funding opportunity to students who are pursuing such valuable work experience," says Co-operative Education Program Executive Director Norah McRae. "The award is intended to cover all or part of the co-op program

fee, which can be a big help."

Prior to 2008, there was only one funding opportunity available for co-op students: the Graham Branton Endowment Fund. Recipients of this award now automatically receive the Thouvenelle scholarship, so that they can receive funding to cover both their co-op work term fee and additional costs.

For Doherty, who was a recipient of both awards, the financial assistance went a long way. As a volunteer community-based research officer for the Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS) in Uganda, a not-for-profit based out of Comox, BC, it was important that she focus on the job rather than on her pocketbook. "I was hired to conduct a qualitative evaluation of the Lake Bunyonyi Development Company (LBDC), a Ugandan organization that is affiliated with ACTS," she says. "This means that I spoke with villagers who had received help from LBDC and I worked with a

translator to collect their feedback." At the end of her work term, Doherty provided the LBDC and ACTS with a written report of her findings.

Doherty credits her time in Uganda for giving her a broader global perspective. "I've known since childhood that people in other parts of the world have lifestyles that are very different, and in many cases less privileged than my own," she says. "My experience in Uganda drove this point home and equipped me with newfound insight and valuable skills for a career in international development. I am immensely grateful."

Doherty joins dozens of other co-op students who have received the Thouvenelle Co-op Scholarship for work terms focused on community development. Students have worked for employers as far-reaching as a hospital in Nicaragua, a bird sanctuary in California, a kids' cancer care facility in Alberta and a cultural festival in Victoria.

UVIC UNCOVERS EMPIRE'S CORRESPONDENCE

Old mainframe yields up valuable history files before becoming history itself

BY MARIA LIRONI

More than 7,000 digital files—transcriptions of all the government documents that passed between Victoria and London in the colonial period—are now available for viewing, thanks to staff at University Systems, the library, the Humanities Computing and Media Centre and the Department of History.

As University Systems staff prepared to shut down UVic's last IBM mainframe computer—a technology workhorse that housed all research applications since the late 1960s—they alerted the history department about the existence of some important digital files.

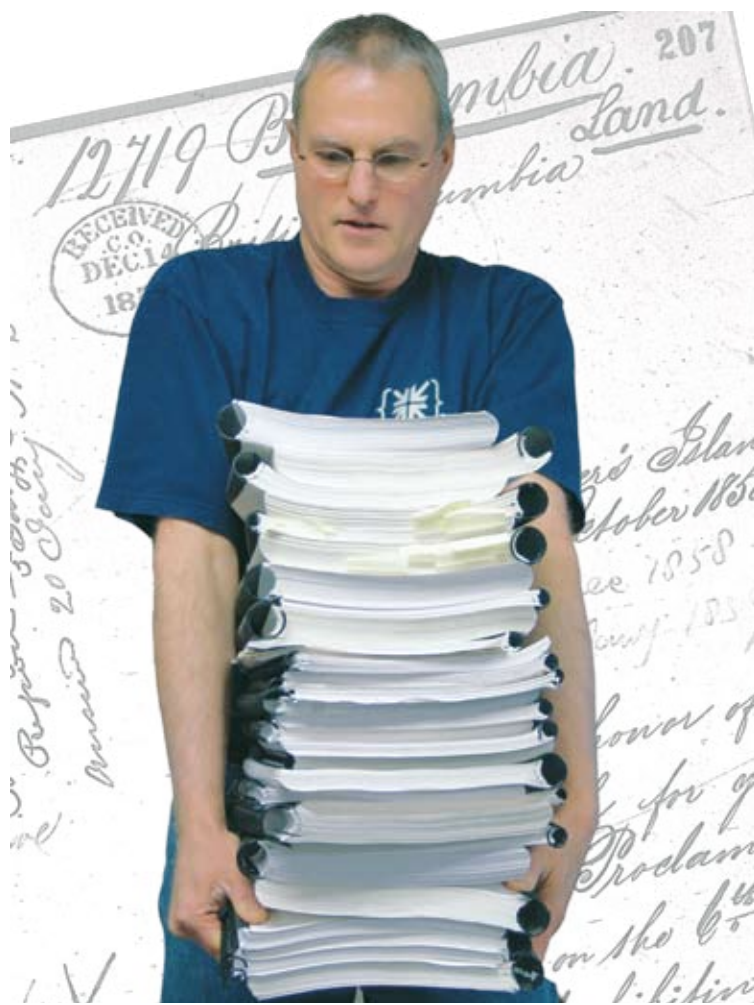
The files contained the transcription from difficult-to-read archival documents of all the Vancouver Island and British Columbia Colonial Despatches—a massive project completed by Professor Emeritus James Hendrickson in the 1980s.

The Colonial Despatches (the 19th-century spelling of *dispatches*) are the most authoritative documentary source available for the gold rush, Aboriginal relations and the colonial

period in BC. They were a special kind of correspondence—communications between the governor of a colony and the Colonial Office in London. Governors were required to report on everything of importance that happened in their colony, and the despatches included related correspondence, maps, legislation and clippings.

Thanks to funding from the Ike Barber Centre (UBC Libraries) and UVic Libraries, Martin Holmes (Humanities Computing and Media Centre) was able to re-encode Hendrickson's transcriptions of the 1858 despatches—which were originally encoded in the pre-Internet era—to current international standards. Now, for the first time, these are being made available on a publicly accessible website (<http://bcgenesis.uvic.ca>). Additional funding is needed to make all of the 1846–71 despatches available.

"The Colonial Despatches paint a compelling picture of the colonial period of BC," says UVic history professor John Lutz. "As we celebrate BC's 150th birthday, the digital publication of the despatches is timely. The despatches also will be a great source for historians. They provide a valuable resource



Holmes holding printed transcripts of the Colonial Despatches

for land title negotiation, and will be a useful teaching tool."

UVic's IBM mainframe will be shut off early next year. All research and administrative applications were once housed on just one of these computers. But now newer, faster facilities are in place. Project Nova will signal the end of the old era by merging the mainframe's remaining administra-

tive applications into a bank of new servers.

UVic will find a suitable retirement home for the mainframe, including as a possible museum piece, but meanwhile there are still a few residual applications on the old mainframe. If you are running one of these and Project Nova is not already replacing it, contact helpdesk@uvic.ca or 250-721-7687.



Navarro with an image from the team's simulation of a dark matter halo. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Shedding light on dark matter

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

The search for dark matter—the mysterious substance that accounts for 85 per cent of the mass of the universe—has dominated cosmology for many decades. With the help of UVic researchers, that search may soon come to an end.

More than 75 years ago, scientists inferred the existence of dark matter from its gravitational effects. Most cosmologists believe that dark matter is a new kind of elementary particle yet to be detected on Earth. It's possible that this particle will be detected in experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Switzerland, once it is operational in the new year. University of Victoria particle physicists and computer scientists have been instrumental in the creation of the ATLAS particle detector at the LHC and the international computer network that will analyze the massive amounts of data created by the collider.

On an intergalactic scale, evidence for dark matter has remained stubbornly invisible to astronomers' telescopes. But research by an international team of astronomers including UVic's Dr. Julio Navarro is providing direction on where best to point NASA's FERMI satellite telescope in the search for the telltale gamma radiation signature of dark matter. They published their most recent results in the Nov. 8 issue of *Nature*.

"There is a tremendous sense of anticipation in the astrophysics community that we may be within a few years of solving one of the main outstanding puzzles in our understanding of the universe: the nature of dark matter," says Navarro. "Our computations provide a clear blueprint for searching for an unambiguous signal from dark matter in the data collected by FERMI."

Called the Virgo Consortium, the team of astrophysicists used one of Europe's largest supercomputers to simulate the formation of the dark

matter halo structure that surrounds a galaxy like our own Milky Way. Gamma rays are produced in such regions of high dark matter density when the particles collide and annihilate each other in a puff of radiation.

The computer simulation took 3.5 million processor hours to complete and showed that by far the most easily detectable gamma ray signal should come from regions 10 to 30 degrees from the centre of the Milky Way. Previously, cosmologists had argued that the Milky Way's satellite galaxies, such as the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, would be the ideal place to search for gamma rays, since their centres should be very dense.

The Virgo Consortium involved scientists from UVic, the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany, the Institute for Computational Cosmology at the University of Durham in the UK, the University of Massachusetts and the University of Groningen in The Netherlands.

ringers

The UVic-based team who created the Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History website has won the 2008 Pierre Berton Award, presented by Canada's National History Society for outstanding work in popularizing Canadian history. "It's like the Pulitzer Prize in our field," says Dr. John Lutz (history), one of the project's three historian co-directors. Unsolved Mysteries [<http://www.canadianmysteries.ca>] invites students to "solve" mysteries plucked from Canada's rich history while developing their research skills.

Dr. Neena Chappell (sociology) is the 2008 recipient of the Canadian Association on Gerontology's Distinguished Member Award for outstanding contributions to gerontology and providing significant support and encouragement to the students who will shape the future of the field. Chappell has spent the last two decades researching care giving, health and social policy from a social perspective. She holds UVic's Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology, housed at UVic's Centre on Aging.

Dr. Nancy Turner (environmental studies) is the 2008 recipient of the William L. Brown Award. Administered through the William L. Brown Center for Plant Genetic Resources at the Missouri Botanical Garden. This award recognizes outstanding individuals in the field of genetic resource conservation and use. Turner's area of research includes the fields of botany and ecology, and the intersection among anthropology, geography and linguistics. She has spent nearly 40 years working with and learning from First Nations elders and cultural specialists in northwestern North America.

Dr. Francis Lau (health information science) has been awarded \$185,000 per year for five years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Applied Chair in Health Services and Policy Research for a project entitled "An eHealth Observatory to Monitor the Effects of Health Information System Deployment in Canada."

Dr. Patrick Nahirney (medical sciences) is co-recipient of the British Medical Association's Best Illustrated Book Award for 2008 for *Natter's Essential Histology*, an important textbook of human microscopic anatomy, co-authored with Dr. William Ovalle of UBC.

Professor Denis Protti (health information science) has received the Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics Award bestowed by Canada's Health Informatics Association for outstanding ongoing contributions. Protti has been an international leader in the field for more than 40 years and was founding director of UVic's School of Health Information Science.

ringers

UVic has attracted six postdoctoral fellows under a new international program supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade—more than any other comprehensive university in Canada. These fellowships offer recent PhDs from other countries the chance to work with a Canadian researcher in the sciences, the social sciences and engineering.

Dr. Gustavo Andrade, from the spectroscopy group at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, is working with Dr. Alexandre Brolo (chemistry) developing light-based sensors for biomolecules using microstructured optical fibres modified with metallic nanoparticles.

Dr. Jayme Garcia Arnal Barbedo, from the State University of Campinas, Brazil, is working with Dr. George Tzanetakis (computer science) on digital audio signal processing. “Since Prof. Tzanetakis is one of the most important researchers on the subject of digital audio, coming here was the natural choice,” he explains.

Dr. Keillah Mara Nascimento Barbosa, from the National Institute of Amazon Research, Brazil, is working with Dr. Maycira Costa (geography) on the use of remote sensing in the Amazon wetlands and floodplain.

Dr. Fabio Iglesias, also from Brazil, is working with Dr. Robert Gifford (psychology) researching environmental attitudes and behaviour, patterns of co-operation and competition for limited resources, and barriers to and facilitators for bicycle use. “I chose to come here because Dr. Gifford is a leading scholar in the field of environmental psychology,” says Iglesias.

Dr. Rinaldo André Mezzarane, from São Paulo, Brazil, is working with Dr. Paul Zehr (exercise science, physical and health education) researching spinal cord neural mechanisms involved in the control and coordination of rhythmic movements of the limbs. “The experience working with new techniques will be very useful for my scientific career,” he says.

Dr. Edward Pope, from the University of Leeds, England, is working with Dr. Arif Babul (astronomy) refining theoretical models of galactic evolution, studying active galactic nucleus feedback mechanisms by which black holes at the centre of galaxies energize gases, keeping them from cooling and forming more stars.

Healthy relationships

Helping youth negotiate the minefield of interpersonal relations

BY EMILY AGOPSOWICZ

A group of fourth-year UVic nursing students is taking a proactive approach to educating youth about healthy relationships.

Your Right to Respect: A Guide to Healthy Relationships and Decision Making is a program aimed at high school students, created by Tamara Sloat and Tamara Barnett during a practicum at St. Michael's University School in January 2007. There are now five nursing students involved in the program, which has been piloted at Claremont and Belmont secondary schools, as well as S.J. Willis alternative school.

“We teach about healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to recognize the signs of both,” says Sloat. “We create a safe place for youth to ask questions and we provide resources for them that come from a nurse's perspective.”

Barnett and Sloat started the project as a class assignment for Nursing 430: Nurses Influencing Change, a course that explores ways nurses can influence and create change for the promotion of societal health. They felt that as nurses there was something they could offer to the current high school curriculum; and when they brought their ideas to their classmates they found others with the same passion for youth health education.

“We wanted to do something beneficial for the community. We talked to our classmates about what they would have wanted in their high school education, and we found that it was more information on relationships,” says Sloat.

The group used their own experiences and classroom material to develop the program.

“We don't teach sex ed. We talk about relationships. We talk about the things that youth want to know about. We draw on our own life experiences,” says Barnett. Sloat stresses that the program is not just focused

on romantic relationships but all aspects of human interaction.

The group works closely with teachers to meet the unique needs of each classroom.

“The program is very interactive,” says Sloat. “We play games, and give lots of time for questions. We talk about how the media influence our idea of how relationships should be.”

They have received positive feedback from students, parents and teachers. One teacher even requested that they bring the program to her own son's class after seeing the positive response from her students.

The program is in constant revision to accommodate community feedback.

“After each presentation we have students write their comments, whether they liked it or didn't like it. We've also had verbal responses—people saying “I need to reevaluate my relationships,”” says Sloat.

“This is a very sustainable program, because it fits in with BC's commitment to healthy schools,” says Maureen Ryan, faculty liaison for the program. She says that the next step is to formally evaluate the program, share what they've learned with colleagues, and develop it into a more substantial program.

“This program helps the community see nurses, younger nurses, interacting with the community. Nurses have a lot to offer the community in a number of ways,” says Ryan. “A part of their education is community empowerment and community development. One of the roles of nurses is to translate the knowledge that they gain into something that is accessible to the community.”



L—R: Emily Turnbull, Tamara Sloat, Tamara Barnett, Meaghan Stein, Angela Robertson and Instructor Maureen Ryan.
PHOTO: EMILY AGOPSOWICZ



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Receiving this scholarship was surprising and exciting. It allowed me to continue to excel and strive for grand successes.
— Nainesh Agarwal



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calendar highlights

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

at the galleries www.maltwood.uvic.ca 250-721-6562

■ **Legh Mulhall Kilpin (1853–1919)** Until Feb. 28. 50 works in oil, watercolour, pastel, etching, and monotype whose contents include portraits, landscapes, Symbolist pieces, and Art Nouveau designs by this relatively unknown but highly competent Canadian artist. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery.

■ **In Search of Lost Time: Cameron Ian MacLeod (1958–1983).** Until Jan. 15. Recently acquired works by Cameron Ian MacLeod, student of such influential painters as Jack Shadbolt, Gordon A. Smith and Takao Tanabe. Includes selected pieces by three of his mentors. McPherson Library Gallery.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

■ **Other** 9 a.m. *Stressed? Come Walk the Labyrinth.* And Dec. 8–11. Find some calm in the midst of a stressful day. 250-721-8338

■ **HELP-UVic Reach Lecture** 5:30 p.m. *From Art Areas to Studio Spaces.* Dr. Sylvia Kind, UBC. Sponsored by the Human Early Learning Partnership at UVic. 250-721-7214

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

■ **Other** 12 p.m. Surplus Furniture Sales. And Dec. 12 & 19. Desks, tables, chairs, shelf units, filing cabinets, VCRs, TVs, trade millwork pieces, random misc. items. HUT L, old tennis courts. 250-472-5148

■ **Sell Out: Holiday Art Auction** 6:30 p.m. Visual Arts Student Association holiday art auction, live auction, open studio tour, food, music and art show. \$5. Visual Arts Building.

■ **Biology Seminar** 2:30 p.m. *Predicting Species and Community Responses to Accelerated Global Change; What We've Learned from Montane Lakes and Ponds.* Dr. Wendy Palen, SFU. Cunningham 146. 250-721-6319

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

■ **Music** 8 p.m. University of Victoria Chorus and Orchestra. Prokofiev's great cantata Alexander Nevsky and Handel's Dixit Dominus (Psalm 109). Guest soloists; János Sándor, conductor; Susan Young, chorus director. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. \$16 & \$12. 250-721-7904

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

■ **Music** 8 p.m. *Tuba Xmas Reprise.* Paul Beauchesne, conductor. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

■ **Seminar** 6 p.m. *Café Scientifique: Your Arm Bone's Connected to Your Leg Bone.* Swans Suite Hotel, 506 Pandora Ave., Collard Room. 250-472-4067

■ **Music** 8 p.m. *O du froehliche Weihnachtszeit!* The UVic Lieder Singers, directed by Angelika Arend. Christmas Concert featuring traditional German Christmas songs. MacLaurin B125. \$6–15. 250-656-0039

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

■ **Other** 10 a.m. *Sustainability Policy and Plan Open House.* Members of the UVic community and the general public are invited to provide feedback on UVic's draft sustainability policy and action plan for campus operations. University Centre Foyer.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

■ **Theatre** 7 p.m. *A Christmas Carol.* Also Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., Dec. 13 at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Victoria Youth Musical Theatre Company presents the Broadway musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. \$15–25. 250-721-8480

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

■ **Spokes Anniversary Celebration** 12 p.m. Celebrate five years of this innovative program that combines recycling with cycling. University Centre Parkade. RSVP to 250-721-6678

■ **Greek & Roman Studies Seminar** 2:30 p.m. *Science and Myth in Nicander's Theriaca.* Brian Moss, UVic. Clearihue B415. 250-721-8514

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

■ **Music** 2:30 p.m. *Victoria Symphony.* Handel's Messiah featuring the Victoria Choral Society director/conductor Giuseppe Pietrarroia with Jennifer Ferrell, William George, Lauren Segal and Benjamin Covey. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. \$15 and up. 250-721-8480

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

■ **Lansdowne Lecture** 8 p.m. Richard Schiff, Univ. of Texas at Austin, scholar of modern art from 19th century French painting to post-war American art. Hickman 105. 250-721-8011

UVic Libraries get 'pataphysical'

UVic Special Collections has acquired a rare complete set of the Collège de 'Pataphysique periodicals from 1950 to 1965.

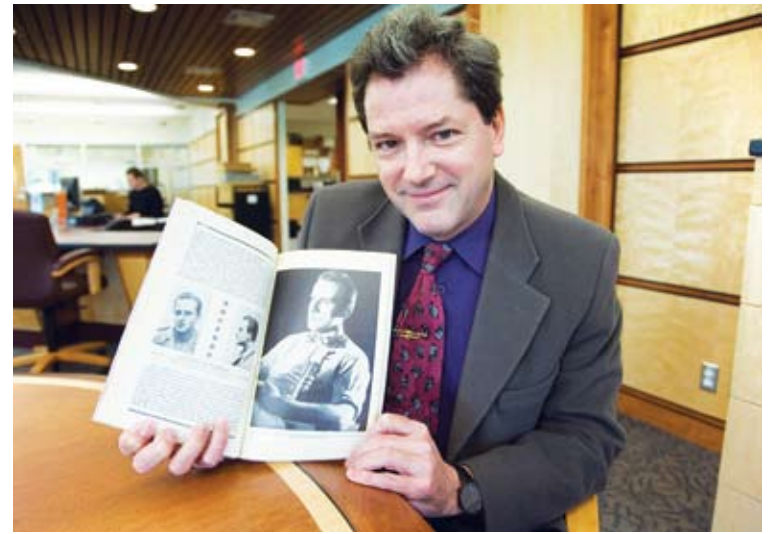
This collection consists of 56 publications and includes writings—many otherwise unpublished—by leading artists including Alfred Jarry, Paul Valéry, André Gide, Erik Satie and Eugène Ionesco. The publications also include many drawings, inserted cards and ephemera. UVic's collection is likely the only complete set in North America, and even in France one can consult this periodical collection in its entirety only at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

Pataphysics, the "science of sciences" and the "science of imaginary solutions," was created at the turn of the 19th century by Alfred Jarry, author of the Ubu dramatic saga. Under the influence of famous artists of the time, a group of writers—all admir-

ers of Jarry—founded the Collège de 'Pataphysique as a parallel movement to surrealism. Between April 1950 and June 1965, the college published a quarterly review with a modest run of only a few hundred copies, never exceeding 1,000 and available primarily by subscription.

"The primary beneficiaries of this treasure will not only be French studies researchers, but also musicologists, art critics, historians and philosophers," says Dr. Marc Lapprand (French), who assisted with the acquisition. Lapprand is a leading scholar of the work and life of Boris Vian, French writer, musician, critic, actor, inventor and engineer, best known today for his novels. Vian figures prominently in the Collège de 'Pataphysique publications.

The "Collège de 'Pataphysique" periodicals will be on display in December in Special Collections in the basement of the McPherson Library.



Dr. Marc Lapprand (French) displays a tribute volume to French writer Boris Vian—part of an extremely rare complete set of Collège de 'Pataphysique publications recently acquired by UVic Special Collections. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



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Feral rabbits are part of UVic campus life, but their activities can have a significant impact on human health and safety, and on plants and property. To help reduce this impact, the university is developing a long-term management plan for rabbits.

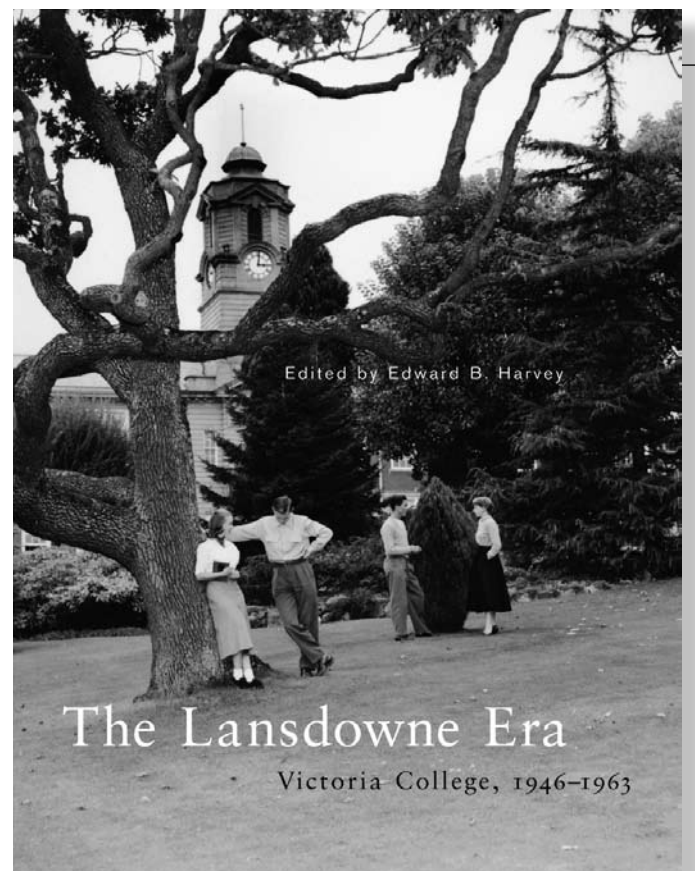
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Viewpoint

The Montréal massacre 19 years later—remembering is not enough

By Susie-Jane Miller

I am the work study student at UVic's Equity and Human Rights Office. Over the past month and a half, I have been coordinating the organization of a commemorative event for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This day was initially declared in response to the 1989 massacre at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique when 14 women were brutally murdered solely because they studied in a male-dominated field. They transgressed gender barriers. I look around today, and I notice that although much has changed, still these invisible barriers exist.

Victoria is a city situated on unceded territory; this means there are no treaties. As I endeavour to plan a campus event focused around inclusion, I start to wonder what it actually means to be a visitor here. Although I self-identify as a woman, and a queer student, which leaves me left out of a lot of conversations and spaces, I notice the layers of privilege that have ensured my ability to attend university, my mobility and my financial security. I notice the generational gap between those of us who remember the massacre and those of us who do not. This personal connection to how it felt to be a woman in the wake of such an awful headline is something I do not have; I was three years old. So I struggle to make meaning of it.

I call myself a feminist. Like many feminists before me, I fight to tell people that the personal is political. Today, unequal gender relations persist in our community. Women at UVic still experience sexualized violence. Prime Minister Stephen Harper makes drastic cuts to funding for women's groups and organizations. Racism, sexism and colonization intersect to create an absence of outrage in response to the disappearance of Indigenous women from the downtown east side of Vancouver. Feminism still carries a stigma. But it goes deeper than that. Those who are marginalized by race, class, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, non-normative gender identity or other 'difference' face exponentially more invisible barriers.

The Montréal massacre cannot be viewed as an isolated incident from the past. We, as a society, raised the man responsible. With this day of Remembrance and Action, I want people to get angry. I want people to be indignant. I want people to act. To reframe the massacre as, not isolated, but a symptom of systemic injustice forces us to look at our own lives, and our own privilege. It is not good enough to remember—we must act.

Views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect those of The Ring or the University of Victoria.



DAY IN THE LIFE

Kurbanova PHOTO: VIVIAN KEREKI

A day in the life of Dinara Kurbanova, research assistant with UVic's Centre for Aboriginal Health Research (CAHR) and communications coordinator for Network Environment Aboriginal Research BC (NEARBC), involves preparing newsletters, maintaining the centre's website, posting events, providing administrative support and answering general inquiries from the organizations' 500+ members.

She has long been interested in working in the health field. "It's about yourself, your body, how it works and how to keep it working well, or how to fix it," she says. "I feel it is a privilege to have that knowledge, and in the future I hope everybody will have access to that knowledge."

Kurbanova has been working at CAHR since July 2007. Originally from Almaty, Kazakhstan, she moved to Canada with her Canadian husband, Mark, in 2003, a year after her graduation from Kazakh State Medical University. She had planned to practise medicine in Canada, but quickly discovered the difficulties that internationally trained doctors have finding residency placements. In 2003, British Columbia had only

six spots available for international doctors, and while that number has since risen to 16, the competition remains high.

Kurbanova enjoys applying her medical knowledge at her job at CAHR while assisting with the production of projects, scientific papers and grant applications. And she feels a connection with Canada's Aboriginal people. "It's familiar to me because the same type of thing is happening in Kazakhstan with minority groups," she says. Her mother is Tatar and her father is Uyghur. "My grandparents were prohibited from speaking their own language. My parents were not able to learn their language and history. Similar things happened in Canada with the Aboriginal people."

When she is not at work promoting the health and well-being of Aboriginal people, Kurbanova, mother of two boys, is busy advocating for her five-year-old son, Timur, who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Since then, Kurbanova has used her research skills to do all she can for Timur. Fortunately, she came across the Autism Research Institute based in San Diego, created by medical

doctors, most of whom have children with autism. The institute approaches autism not only as a developmental disorder but also as a treatable biomedical condition. Kurbanova and her husband put Timur on the institute's recommended diet and a range of supplements, and after 24 hours began to see improvements. In August the developmental pediatrician who diagnosed Timur two years ago discharged him from his care because of his significant progress. "So we have a lot of hope," says Kurbanova.

Kurbanova is clearly committed to the people around her, but she also manages to find some time for herself. She is a serious yogi and an avid dancer who is experienced with many different dance styles, including traditional Russian folk dance, salsa and modern.

The Day in the Life series features the diversity of UVic employees who contribute so much to university life. To suggest someone to profile, contact Robie Liscomb, editor of *The Ring* (250-721-7640 or robie@uvic.ca).

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