



Nobel winner to discuss women's rights



Ebadi

A human rights activist from Iran and a Canadian who became the focal point for human rights abuses in the aftermath of 9/11 will both be coming to campus as part of the President's Distinguished Lectures program.

Shirin Ebadi, the first Iranian and first Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, will speak on March 3 at 8 p.m. in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. The focus of her presentation will be women's rights and religious freedom.

As a lawyer, judge, lecturer, writer and academic, Ebadi is credited as being a driving force behind family law reform in Iran through her work to seek changes in divorce law and inheritance legislation.

In recognizing her in 2003, the Nobel Prize committee noted that she had "never heeded the threat to her own safety" throughout her outspoken campaigns for democratic reform and greater rights for Iranian women and children.

Although her presentation is free and open to the public, seating is reserved and tickets should be booked in advance through the UVic Ticket Centre at 721-8480 or www.auditorium.uvic.ca.

On March 11, as part of another President's Distinguished Lecture, Mahar Arar and Monia Mazigh will participate in a panel discussion on the human rights issues arising from the tightened security measures adopted by governments in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

UVIC TO LEAD NEW CLIMATE INSTITUTE

The University of Victoria will be the home base of a province-wide research institute on climate change solutions.

BC Premier Gordon Campbell announced on Jan. 25 that his government will seek legislative approval for \$94.5 million to create the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), to be hosted and led by UVic.

The institute will be a collaboration among the province's four research-intensive universities, government and the private sector and will focus on finding innovative ways

to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It will also promote the commercial development of climate change solutions and provide the public with information and ideas on how to reduce individual greenhouse gas emissions.

"BC universities have some of the top climate scientists and researchers in the world," said Campbell, who refers to climate change as "the single largest challenge facing our generation."

"This institute will bring together those academics, along with others from around the world, with busi-

ness and the private sector to develop new policy alternatives, to find ways to educate and encourage greener lifestyles, and to develop new, green technologies into products that can be used by consumers around the globe."

"This institute holds enormous promise for British Columbia," says UVic President David Turpin. "It will provide a valuable resource to government and to the private sector—a single window to access the considerable intellectual capacity found in British Columbia's research-intensive universities."

The institute's operations will be guided by an advisory board made up of public and private sector stakeholders. The institute director and secretariat will be housed in existing space on the UVic campus.

"With an advisory board of industry leaders and senior government officials, the institute will be in an unprecedented position to frame questions and provide answers on immediate technological, economic, regulatory and public policy challenges," says Turpin.

SEE PICS P.2

Attitude counts for the environment

By Tara Sharpe

Are you feeling pessimistic about the future of our global environment? Do you think twice about drinking that glass of water, let alone deciding if it looks half full or half empty? University of Victoria psychology and environmental studies professor Robert Gifford is convinced a good measure of optimism needs to be poured into the public discourse about climate change and action.

The recently announced Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (covered in detail in this issue) is a vote of confidence that UVic and BC's other research-intensive universities can lead the way through some of the most critical questions of our time. Gifford's research on public attitudes about the present and future state of the environment indicates that social scientists and psychologists must also play a key role.

"Decision makers must consider people's attitudes about the environment," says Gifford, "or otherwise risk pushing the public over the edge into helplessness and hopelessness."

Gifford and two psychology



TARA SHARPE

Glass half full or half empty? Psychology professor Robert Gifford thinks attitude will make a difference to climate change.

master's students—Leila Scannell and Christine Kormos—have just wrapped up a research project spanning 18 countries and involving 3,330 survey subjects. The survey's 20 questions cover such topics as the effects of greenhouse gases; quality of air; availability of fresh drinking water; state of forests, wilderness, rivers and lakes; management of garbage, etc. University research associates in the 18 countries—from Australia and Brazil to Finland and

India—helped collect the data.

Typically in most traditional North American attitude studies, respondents are overly optimistic about themselves and their abilities—particularly in comparison to others. For instance, someone might think "I will live 10 years longer than average" or "I am better at doing [whatever]." Overestimating one's capabilities is common. However, when asked about themselves and the environment, survey

respondents in this study were pronouncedly pessimistic.

These results demonstrate that empowering appeals are necessary. "Now is the time for social scientists to help find solutions to the many human problems caused by climate change, because together we can figure out how best to communicate crucial environmental messages and create successful policies," says Gifford.

Kudos to local heroes

by Tara Sharpe

UVic was well represented among the six recipients of the 2008 Victoria's Leadership Awards, announced Jan. 23 at the Delta Ocean Pointe Resort luncheon for the many volunteers, front-line activists, professionals and local officials, researchers and talented students who contribute to the vibrant sense of community in Victoria and surrounding municipalities.

UVic faculty members Drs. Sibylle Artz (child and youth care) and Bonnie Leadbeater (psychology, Centre for Youth and Society) were presented with the two University of Victoria

Community Leadership Awards while education undergraduate student Roselynn Verwoerd won the Vancity Youth Leadership Award.

For many years both Artz and Leadbeater have been closely involved in the ongoing resolution of important community issues through their front-line engagement and extensive research in violence prevention. Artz has been applauded once again for her work in the practice of child and youth care, in the constructive use of emotion for the direct application of such care, and on the challenges associated with violence and homelessness. Her work has placed particular em-

phasis on violence among adolescent females and violence as a root cause of family homelessness. In 1998, she was chosen as Academic of the Year by the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC, and in 2000 she was selected as one of BC's 50 most important current intellectuals for her contributions to violence prevention research. Artz has published three books and is currently working with colleagues from the School of Child and Youth Care Drs. Marie Hoskins, Daniel Scott and Philip Lancaster on the international initiative to end the

SEE LEADERSHIP P.7



CHRISTOPHELAGUIGNE

UVic winners of 2008 Victoria's Leadership Awards (L-R): Leadbeater, Artz and Verwoerd

UVic to lead new climate institute

PICS continued from p.1

The proposed \$90 million endowment will provide approximately \$4 million annually. Of this annual sum, \$3 million will go to support the work of PICS for research projects, salaries, and graduate fellowships and internships. The other \$1 million will go to the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium at UVic, a group that produces practical climate information for education, policy and decision-making in the Pacific Northwest.

The government will also provide an additional \$4.5 million for the institute's first-year start-up costs.

The endowment acknowledges the role that universities must play in finding climate change solutions and ensures that long-term independent research can be undertaken, notes Turpin. "This commitment and continuity are critical if BC is to attract, retain and train the best and most innovative climate researchers in the world."

BC's four research-intensive universities are UVic, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern British Columbia. The institute will involve researchers and graduate students from these four universities and have linkages to universities and research institutes from across Canada and around the world.

UVic's reputation as a Canadian leader in climate research played a major role in it being chosen as the institute headquarters. "That our university is poised to lead an initiative of this magnitude is due to the tremendous knowledge, expertise and dedication of faculty, students and staff at UVic who helped make this happen," says Turpin.

Climate research at UVic spans a broad range of disciplines, including climate modelling, energy systems engineering and development,

PICS at a glance:

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions will:

- Conduct research on climate change impacts and solutions
- Assess mitigation and adaptation options, including technology development
- Promote education, capacity-building and technical training
- Communicate the issues to government, industry and the general public.

Did you know?

BC is legally mandated to:

- Reduce its greenhouse gases by 33 per cent below 2007 levels by 2020
- Reduce emissions by at least 80 per cent below 2007 levels by 2050
- Make all provincial government operations carbon-neutral by 2010.

California's bill to limit carbon emissions is expected to bring \$60 million in new investments and 80,000 new jobs to the state by 2020. BC's targets are expected to generate a similar response.

environmental law, energy and environmental economics, social and individual behaviour related to climate change, watershed ecology, oceanography, public policy and international relations.

These strengths are enhanced by close links with several federal laboratories located at or near UVic. The benefits of these links were demonstrated in 2007 when six UVic-affiliated researchers were major contributors to the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—the highest number of any university in Canada.

For more information on PICS and climate research at UVic and its partner institutions, visit www.pics.uvic.ca.

Next steps

The legislative approval for the endowment to fund the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) is likely to be passed before the end of this fiscal year.

The process to establish PICS is already unfolding. "PICS will go to the senate planning committee for approval as a UVic research centre

on Feb. 13. If approved, it will go to senate on March 7," says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic's vice-president research. "The board of governors executive will be convened as soon as possible following the senate meeting."

The governance structures for PICS will evolve in the coming months. An interim executive committee, to be chaired by Turpin, will be established by the middle of February. This committee will include Brunt, a number of UVic appointees, and research vice-presidents (or designates) from each of the three collaborating universities. This group will then begin the process of establishing a steering/management committee and the advisory board.

"The executive committee will initiate an international search for a permanent director as soon as possible," says Brunt, adding that it will be important to find the right person to lead such a major undertaking.

Dr. Rosemary Ommer, the interim director of the Institute for Coastal and Oceans Research and adjunct faculty member in the Department of History, has agreed to act as an interim operational director until a permanent director is found.

Pilot agreement targets labour shortage

By Dianne George

With BC's unemployment rate at a 30-year low and expected to hover at the 4-per-cent mark for the next five years, employers are looking for new ways to fill the ranks and are seeking out UVic students as part of the solution.

A pilot agreement that commits the provincial government to provide a specific number of opportunities each year was recently signed by Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon and University of Victoria President David Turpin.

"This memorandum of under-

standing (MOU) demonstrates how our government is implementing its vision to be an employer of choice," says Falcon. "BC government jobs are exciting, challenging, rewarding and are the perfect fit for UVic business students."

"This is an excellent model that reinforces our links with the government and creates opportunities for students," says Turpin. "It formalizes an existing relationship with our business faculty and provides all parties with a strong level of commitment and support from each other."

The agreement, among the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of

Agriculture and Lands, the Integrated Land Management Bureau and the Faculty of Business, will provide six to 10 opportunities each year to help business students gain career experience through co-op work terms and to support student learning through applied consulting projects and by providing mentors.

"We hope to expand the pilot project to other faculties and involve other government ministries," says Dean of Business Dr. Ali Dastmalchian.

The MOU may be viewed at: www.th.gov.bc.ca/nr/attach/uvic_mou.pdf.

In Memoriam

Robert Bruce Castle-Jansch died with grace and dignity in his home, Dec. 31, 2007, at the age of 58. He was diagnosed with cancer in September and quickly slipped away. He is survived by his wife, Patty, daughters JenniSpring and Robin as well as four grandchildren.

Rob worked in the Department of Biology from 1981 to 1992. He left UVic to work as a lab technologist at Camosun College for a number of years. In 1997, driven by his spirit of adventure, Rob and his wife Patty navigated their 11m sailing yacht *Calypse* across the Pacific Ocean on a four-year journey. Rob joined UVic again in Science Stores in 2001. He was always passionate about music and in the early '90s cofounded the Celtic rock band, Stone Whistle. Rob was a dreamer whose optimism endeared him to those he met. Many were inspired by his vibrancy. Rob's coworkers and members of the Faculty of Science knew him to be friendly, helpful, kind and humorous. Rob will be greatly missed by all.

Contributed by Beverly Scheurle, Faculty of Science

Lucille Mackay passed away from pneumonia on Jan. 16. Lucille had been the manager of Child Care Services from 1976 through to her retirement in 2002. During that time she was the driving force that saw Child Care Services grow from a single house located on McCoy Rd. to renovated huts, to the construction of the current centres on Finnerty Road and the Harry Lou-Poy Infant centre in the family housing complex.

Lucille was a tireless campaigner for affordable, accessible and quality child care and served on many committees dedicated to advancing child care quality. She pioneered the advocacy for integration of children with special needs into child care programs and was a vital force in persuading governments and the university to recognize child care as a key component of success for both students and employees.

Lucille's work in the community with the Esquimalt Community Association, the Boys and Girls Club, Victoria Parks and Recreation, the Regional Child Care Council, the Association of Family Serving Agencies, as well as her work with the Independent Order of Foresters, always had a focus on improving the strength of families.

Lucille was a mentor to countless fellow employees and practicum students who began their careers under her supervision. She inspired many to continue their education and advance to roles of greater responsibility. She constantly sought new ways to expand the professionalism of early childhood educators.

Lucille is survived by her children: Terry, Heather, Glen and Steven, her stepson Chris and seven grand-children.

Contributed by David Clode, executive director of Student and Ancillary Services

New UVic policy standards

University of Victoria policies are getting a facelift. A new document developed by the Office of the University Secretary sets out a framework and standards for university-level policies—those that guide the actions of the university at an institutional level.

A Policy on University Policies and Procedures was developed with input from the university's governing bodies and approved by the senate and the board of governors in November.

The new framework separates policies from procedures, providing flexibility for revising procedures without having to rework the entire policy. To ensure accountability and provide a point of contact, all policies now fall under the authority of designated executive officers.

"This document sets out a consistent process for reviewing and revising

policies," says University Policy Review Officer Carrie Andersen. "The goal is to make university policies more current, relevant and user-friendly."

In the future, policies that are out of date or no longer relevant may be rescinded, while others may be combined or made more comprehensive. Change is already under way, and a number of policies were rescinded by the board of governors in January. The policy website at http://web.uvic.ca/univsec/pol_pro/index.html will also be revamped to make policies more accessible to the university community.

The new policy is available online at <http://web.uvic.ca/univsec/draft-policyonuniversitypolicies.htm>. If you have questions or comments, please contact Carrie Andersen at policy@uvic.ca or 721-6144.

When is the next Ring?

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 information call 721-7636.

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Bob Reimer

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Aroundthering

Help build UVic's community green map

The Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, in partnership with a number of UVic departments and a local non-profit society called Common Ground, is developing a community green map of the university. Community green maps are locally created themed maps that use a universal symbol set to highlight features and assets of a place. The first stage of the project, which is providing hands-on student learning opportunities, will be on the themes of transportation and travel choices and health and wellness. The map will be built up over time, with the first layers slated to be showcased at the CUExpo conference on community-based research in May. If you're interested in finding out more or getting involved, contact Sustainability Co-ordinator Sarah Webb at swebb@uvic.ca or 721-6678.

Atlas shows Southern Vancouver Island is tops in wellness

The Southern Vancouver Island health services delivery area leads the province in overall wellness, according to the recently published BC *Atlas of Wellness*, co-authored by Drs. Les Foster (geography, child and youth care) and Peter Keller (geography). The atlas project compiled a broad range of 120 health and wellness indicators, presenting the data in more than 270 maps and supporting tables. Funded by the provincial government, the atlas is the first such initiative in Canada and will help government and community planners establish policies that further encourage healthy, active lifestyles. The atlas can be obtained through UBC Press and is available online at www.geog.uvic.ca/wellness.

UVic picks the best of the city—senior style

Which business provides the best service to seniors in the CRD? According to UVic's Centre on Aging (COAG), it's the Thrifty Foods Store in Sidney. Last month the store received COAG's inaugural Senior Friendly Business Award, an annual award that honours businesses that provide the most friendly, high-quality services and facilities to customers 55 years of age or better. "The entrance is well marked, there's plenty of parking, the aisles are wide, the staff is courteous and helpful, and it has bathroom facilities for its customers," says Elmer Berlie of the selection committee. Of the 13 nominations the committee received, three were for Thrifty Foods outlets.

Talking military history

The value, collection methods, and influence of military oral history will be discussed at the upcoming international conference, "Between Memory and History," at the Marriott Victoria Hotel Feb. 20–23, sponsored by the history department and the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island (RUSI). For the past three years the department has offered students a veterans oral history project course in partnership with RUSI—the only such university course in Canada. UVic faculty members and history students will be among the presenters, discussing oral history and the role of Aboriginal servicewomen in Canada's military in the Second World War, the not-so-easy life of Canadian military families in the Cold War, and the formative experiences of Canadian bomber crews in the Second World War. The conference is open to members of the public. To register or for further information visit web.uvic.ca/~veterans.

Ringers

Dr. Pat Gregory (biology) has been named this year's Distinguished Herpetologist by the Herpetologists' League, one of three major North American societies devoted to the study of amphibians and reptiles. Gregory, who has taught at UVic since 1973, studies the ecology and behaviour of reptiles and amphibians, especially snakes. He is actively involved in the conservation of these animals and has served for many years on the amphibian and reptile subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Species in Canada. He is also co-author of the 2006 handbook, *Amphibians and Reptiles of British Columbia*.

UVic's Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (OHSE) department

was one of ten winners to clean up at the 2007 Ecostar Awards presented on Nov. 28 by the Capital Regional District. UVic's hazardous waste management program, overseen by OHSE, was honoured for contributing to the protection and preservation of the environment. At UVic, waste water and hazardous byproducts produced or used on campus are properly disposed of. These include acids that dissolve rock samples, organic solvents for chemical experiments, paints and photographic products for visual arts, and printing and duplicating materials. Information about UVic's waste management program is available at <http://ohs.uvic.ca/hazwaste/index.html>.

Dr. Tom Pedersen has been reappointed as dean of the Faculty of Science for a term of five years, commencing July 1. In recommending his reappointment, the review committee noted that Pedersen's strong advocacy for science, his support for education and research, his success in generating the resources to support the faculty's mission, and his energy and enthusiasm have all served the faculty well, and that his strengths in these and other areas should continue to move the faculty forward over the next five years. An accomplished researcher in paleoceanography, Pedersen is internationally recognized for his contributions to marine geology.

UVic psychology professor **Dr. Holly Tuokko** has received the Canadian Association of Gerontology's Betty Haven Award in Longitudinal Research. Tuokko was recognized for her role in a national study on the epidemiology of dementia, which looked at the changing health status of 10,000 elderly Canadians over a ten-year period. Tuokko was the lead researcher for the neuropsychological component of the study.

In January, **51 UVic law students** returned from the 24th annual Law Games in Montréal with \$2,000 in prize money and the coveted Spirit Cup, awarded to the overall winners of this four-day athletic and academic competition. **Chris Funt** and **Mike Doris** won the academic moot and 10 UVic students were the unanimous choice to win the "So, lawyers can dance?" competition. UVic Law teams also qualified for six of the 10 sports semifinals, clinched the ultimate frisbee and ball hockey titles and narrowly missed the waterpolo final. They will donate the prize money to the Victoria Women's Transition House, which offers counselling and shelter to women suffering emotional and physical abuse.



Kushniruk, video taping a doctor-patient-computer interaction

Digital diagnosis

UVic research helps the health care sector cut down on paperwork

By Melanie Tromp

Emergency rooms and doctors' offices are among the few places in North America where computers are still hard to spot. This may not be the case for long. Patient records are going digital, and University of Victoria-based research is helping to ease the transition.

"Record-keeping in health care is one of the most complex areas in which to introduce new technology," says UVic health information science professor Dr. Andre Kushniruk, who has spent 15 years studying how we interact with information systems.

"Once you add a computer to a job it changes a lot of things," he says. "If I'm a doctor using the system, it could have a fundamental effect on how I interact with the patient, the questions I ask, and even how I make my diagnosis."

Many hospitals and medical offices currently use a hybrid system of paper and computers, giving doctors access to records that have often been documented twice and may not always match up. This is known as "double-charting" and can lead to inefficiencies and duplicated information.

The technological shift to electronic health records (EHRs) involves the online documentation of each medical and laboratory visit, includ-

ing symptoms, diagnoses, prescriptions, referrals and allergies. EHRs will streamline the industry, offer easier access to health information for doctors, and increase patient safety.

Kushniruk heads up a team of interdisciplinary researchers who are easing the transition toward digital records in two ways: educating medical and nursing students about the new technology, and pre-testing the different systems available by measuring doctor and patient experiences with the new technology.

The Canadian government has spent billions of dollars promoting these new technologies, notes Kushniruk. However, with the plethora of incompatible programs available, "there are some really good [systems] and some bad ones."

Before new information systems are released publicly, Kushniruk observes and videotapes interactions between the doctor and patient, while the doctor uses the system, to assess the areas where safety is improved.

"Once you have this basic information, you can layer other functions into the program, such as surveillance systems that will help doctors on the front line determine if there is an epidemic and alert others in the health care system," he says.

Automated technology will also alert doctors to patient allergies and allow them to access medical histories.

"The possibilities for improving health care using EHRs are considerable," notes Kushniruk. "These include improving access to vital patient information when and wherever it is needed, streamlining health care work, avoiding duplication of information and improving patient safety."

Through their research, Kushniruk and his colleagues have identified the need for more education on the benefits and pitfalls of technology. With funding from the BC Ministry of Health and support from Hewlett Packard, the team has created the Electronic Health Record Educational Portal, a remotely accessible server that gives students real-life examples of patient cases in electronic format.

"The earlier medical students get exposure to the systems and the different types available, the sooner they'll have a better understanding of how this can work in their practice," he says.

By March of 2008, the web-based portal will be linked to each of the medical and nursing education programs on Vancouver Island, using a record system designed and donated by UVic graduate student Dr. Ron Joe and his colleague Dr. Tony Otto. The School of Health Information Science is the only school in Canada providing this unique training opportunity.



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| Total Payout to Age 100 | | \$256,692 | \$222,620 | \$193,976 | \$165,594 | \$154,497 | \$140,237 |
| Accelerated Payout: | | | | | | | |
| Income over 5 years | | | | \$1,869 | | | Total 5 year payout\$112,067 |
| Income over 10 years | | | | \$1,041 | | | Total 10 year payout.....\$124,872 |
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|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Male | | | | | | | |
| ...payments cease at death | | \$544 | \$603 | \$683 | \$827 | \$947 | \$1,165 |
| ...10 years guaranteed | | \$533 | \$583 | \$652 | \$751 | \$821 | \$941 |
| Female | | | | | | | |
| ...payments cease at death | | \$500 | \$543 | \$609 | \$723 | \$826 | \$1,009 |
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Hot total for 2007 United Way campaign

By Tara Sharpe

The University of Victoria's 2007 United Way campaign has blown the tops off the large billboard thermometers that have been heating up on campus since last September.

As of mid January, total collections had topped out at approximately \$252,500, easily surpassing the university's largest-ever campaign goal of \$250,000.

"We've seen such an incredible degree of enthusiasm and generosity from the campus community," says Clint Hamilton, the UVic 2007 United Way campaign chair and UVic's director of athletics and recreation, "and the result will make a good 'Go Team!' cheer for next year's campaign. Together we can keep the momentum going."

Despite losing a competition with Royal Roads University based on increase in per-capita contributions and participation rates, UVic faculty, staff and students helped drive our campaign to a record level through individual donations and successful fund-raising initiatives.

For individual donations, campaign advocates encouraged one-on-one conversations with colleagues about the United Way. A number of fund-raising events contributed to the successful campaign, including the Dr. Zonk wacky chemistry

show (\$2,016), the annual book sale hosted by McPherson Library staff (\$5,190), the annual Hearts and Hands crafts fair (\$1,485), the Engineering Students Society's VW Rabbit Push (\$1,009), the sale proceeds from local band Two Old Goats' CD (\$1,550), the September barbeque launch event (\$2,395) and more.

At the end of last year, the philanthropic spirit was echoed on campus by the two annual "Food for Fines" initiatives: UVic library staff waived a total of \$3,160 in fines, UVic Campus Security Services reduced a total of 319 fines in December, and both programs resulted in canned goods and food donations to those in need over the holiday season.

Throughout the 2007 United Way campaign, prize draws added to the excitement and sense of friendly competition. Generous prize donations were received from various sponsors; information about the prizes is available at <http://united-way.uvic.ca/prizes.htm>.

The United Way thermometers will be packed away until the next round of United Way campaign giving. But the real winners—the one-in-three Victorians who are helped by the United Way—will have a chance to feel the warmth of what a quarter of a million dollars can bring for many more months to come.

Studentvoice



Chunick (in black shirt) with Margaret Tuhumwire, Director of Entebbe Women Association (left), Canadian visitor Loree Semeluk, and children from a community near Entebbe which benefitted from the association's work.

Letter from Uganda

By Carly Chunick, fourth-year UVic Law Co-op student

Entebbe is a sprawling, sleepy town on the Ugandan shore of Lake Victoria. I was there from September to November as the country was attempting to westernize and impress for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting it was hosting in November. It was the final term of my law degree, and I wanted one last adventure before embarking on my career. So I went to Uganda to volunteer at Entebbe Women Association, a local non-profit organization engaged in a variety of poverty reduction programs aimed at women and children.

Before arriving, I was not exactly sure what to expect of the place or the work. I was hoping to use my legal skills but said that I was willing to do anything that the organization needed. As it happened, what they really needed was someone to spearhead a child labour awareness campaign in the local primary schools.

When people from Western countries think of child labour, we often think of children toiling for long hours in sweatshops. But child labour is so much more than that. It is the five-year-old sent to fetch water with a 20-litre jerry can, the young boy helping his father fish or make bricks, the orphan working 12-hour days

crushing stones, the 14-year-old house girl no longer in school, the children who miss class every Friday to sell food on the roadside and the young boys and girls kidnapped and traded for use as soldiers and sex slaves in areas of conflict.

The program was met with resistance by some of the teachers and school staff afraid that I would impose my Western values on their children. I was told that culturally, African children are expected to work, which is true. The challenge I faced then was to draw that fine line between the type of work that children can do versus the type of work that we call child labour. I had to do this without imposing my own values as a Canadian and yet still maintaining the international standards of children's rights that Uganda has committed to upholding.

Once we started delivering the program, I was thrilled to learn that many children were already familiar with their rights as a child. Unfortunately, few of them had ever heard of the term "child labour" or the idea that certain work is not appropriate for them.

Even more disheartening was the realization that most of the students were involved in child labour in one way or another and that telling them to protect themselves from it was simply not enough. If families are not provided with

other means of generating income to pay for school fees or other necessities, many of these kids will continue to work in conditions not appropriate for children.

When all was said and done, the program was well received by both students and staff. At the end of each school presentation, we helped the students elect child rights support groups in hopes that those groups will provide a means for further dialogue and monitoring of child labour and other forms of child abuse in the schools.

Because this program is completely unfunded, however, the organization will likely face challenges in monitoring and supporting this work in the long term—a common problem for small non-governmental organizations in Uganda that are almost completely reliant on foreign support.

For me, I feel that I gained much more than I gave. Thanks to a variety of funders, including the Student International Activities Fund, One World Scholarship, Department of Justice, Branton Endowment and Devlin Gailus, I met so many beautiful and bright children who never stop trying despite it all, and made many friends that I will keep for life.

If anyone would like more information on the Entebbe Women Association or my work there, please email cchunick@gmail.com.



Tell us all about it!

UVic's community newspaper, *The Ring*, wants your input.

Visit our online survey between Feb. 7 and 17 and give us a piece of your mind. Whether you currently read *The Ring* or not, we value your suggestions on how we can improve the paper. And when you're done, enter our draw to win gift certificates for the UVic Bookstore and Computer Store, and Food Services Dining Cards.

To complete the online survey, click on the Survey link on our website:
ring.uvic.ca

If pen and paper are your preferred input devices, pick up a survey at the kiosk near the University Centre Information Booth or call UVic Communications at local 7636.



University of Victoria

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New UVic website coming soon

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on the UVic website redesign to date. Comments have been flowing in since a link to the “in progress” site (<http://wwwdev.uvic.ca/>) was posted on the UVic home page in January. The site has been tested with several external audience segment, and overall, the reception to the new approach to UVic’s web presence has been positive, with high marks for ease of use from high school students in particular.

Many useful suggestions on the new design have also been received from the campus community. In order

to incorporate your suggestions, and make the site as useful as it can be to UVic’s on- and off-campus communities, the launch of the new site will take place in mid-March. After the launch, current students, faculty and staff will be able to bookmark the Students, Faculty and Staff internal home page, which provides easy access to commonly requested features and services that are currently on the existing university homepage.

The deadline for feedback on the new design is February 15. Please send your comments and suggestions to webcoor@uvic.ca.

New homepage



The new design allows each user group to enter the site via an identified “pathway,” and with one click, arrive at a customized home page. Current students, faculty and staff: click on the Students, Faculty and Staff tab.

New current students, staff & faculty home



The internal home page for students, faculty and staff has many of the features you’re used to finding on the current UVic home page. Based on user feedback, changes to this page are being planned, and after the launch, you will be able to set this page as your home page with the click of a button.



Yeung, Beck and Barclay at Victoria General Hospital

New grad course advances local health research

By Suzanne Smith

When a child ends up in intensive care, they’re not the only ones who need attention. This is also a very distressing time for their parents. Thanks to a new hands-on research course at UVic, psychology graduate student Rachel Yeung has helped the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) begin identifying effective care-giving strategies for parents whose children have been admitted to intensive care.

Last year Rachel Yeung and six other graduate students enrolled in Practicum in Applied Health Research and Knowledge Transfer, an interdisciplinary course facilitated by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Knowledge Mobilization Unit (an initiative of UVic Research and York University that is funded by SSHRC and CIHR). The course, funded by the BC Child and Youth Health Research Network, was developed as a result of a partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

“I took this course because I wanted the opportunity to work collaboratively within the community on a project with the potential to be on-going,” explains Yeung. “This experience allowed me to apply my knowledge in research design and methodology to a real-life problem and learn directly from health practitioners working in the field.”

Yeung’s course assignment involved working with Drs. Amanda Barclay and Raphael Beck, two Victoria General Hospital pediatric intensive care doctors—known in the medical community as pediatric intensivists—to develop a needs assessment survey that measured parent satisfaction. The goal of the survey was to assess whether or not the hospital’s pediatric intensive

care unit, the only service of its kind on Vancouver Island, is currently meeting the needs of parents and children in the region and, if not, what improvements should be made. Specifically the survey was to measure the parent’s degree of satisfaction with the technical skills of the staff, the staff’s ability to keep them informed about their children’s condition, the responsiveness of the staff to the emotional needs of the parents and their children, and the parents’ overall level of satisfaction with the intensive care services.

Yeung conducted an extensive literature review to identify previous measures of parent satisfaction relevant to the questions identified by VIHA and the pediatric intensive care unit. Then, through consultation with Barclay and Beck, she developed other new measures for the survey and developed procedures for administering the survey confidentially within the intensive care unit. VIHA plans to conduct the survey some time this year, and the two pediatric intensivists are pleased with the results. In fact, they have expressed interest in working with Yeung on future research projects.

Course co-instructor Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater (psychology) is thrilled with Yeung’s success and the other impressive achievements of her classmates.

“This class is about doing something real that matters to the community. In classes like this the level of responsibility goes up a notch—both for the instructors and for the students. The students’ work isn’t just being graded, it’s being used to help make the world a better place,” says Leadbeater.

Wayne Mitic, director of chronic disease prevention evaluation with the Population Health Division of

the Ministry of Health and co-instructor of this course, agrees with Leadbeater.

“This course really exceeded our expectations—we are so proud of the students. A course like this gives students hands-on research knowledge and allows them to work directly with people in the field. This kind of experience can only benefit students when they are seeking employment down the road,” says Mitic.

VIHA is also pleased with the students’ results. Peter Kirk, VIHA’s director of research and academic development, explains that by “building VIHA’s research capacity, the students are helping the organization to conduct more research which will ultimately benefit the people of Vancouver Island.”

Some of the other student research projects included a review of best practices for addressing the problems of youth who are suffering from mental health issues and substance abuse; the production of a questionnaire to measure couples’ awareness of the dangers of alcohol use during pregnancy; and an assessment of a position at Nanaimo General Hospital dedicated to helping facilitate the flow of people from emergency to other parts of the hospital.

A second Practicum in Applied Health Research and Knowledge Transfer will be offered in September 2008.

A course with a similar format also facilitated by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Knowledge Mobilization Unit will be offered in May 2008. Entitled Special Topics in Applied Research in BC Wildlife, Ecosystems and Parks, it was developed through a partnership with the Environmental Stewardship Division of the BC Ministry of Environment.

DIANA NETHERCOTT



THE VIEW FROM HERE

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Islands in the Sun

Wednesday, February 13: 7 to 9 pm

Dr. Neville Winchester, Department of Biology, presents a visually stimulating and highly motivating presentation concerned with exploring and conserving global rainforests.

What Is Life, the Universe and Everything Made of?

Wednesday, March 5: 7 to 9 pm

Dr. Michael Lefebvre, Department of Physics and Astronomy will introduce how physicists probe the

very fabric of nature with high-energy particle collisions, and boldly look where no one has looked before.

In a Galaxy Far, Far Away ...

Wednesday, March 26: 7 to 9 pm

Dr. Sara Ellison, Department of Physics and Astronomy takes us on the journey from living in an island universe bounded by the Milky Way to studying distant worlds and other galaxies.

University of Victoria



Continuing Studies

Call 472-4747 to register or visit www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/

Improved online registration system debuts in March

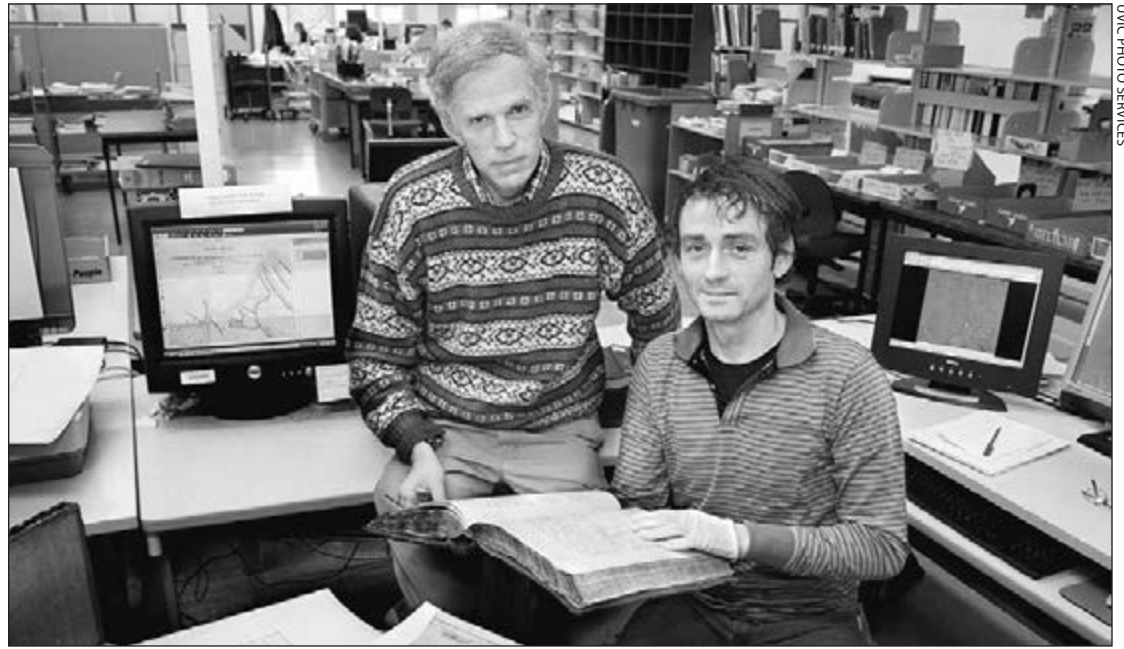
Students registering in March for 2008 UVic summer studies courses will be the first to benefit from a new, streamlined online registration system that replaces several outdated systems. Part of Project Nova, the new Banner system will provide students with one-stop access to registration, course information, student information and personal timetables.

The team behind the new system is identifying more than 200 UVic staff who are responsible for all aspects of the registration and admission process on campus and offering numerous training sessions to address their various needs. Over 70 different sessions addressing

nine different registration and admissions areas are scheduled and registration is brisk.

Students will access the new system via uSource or <http://registrar.uvic.ca>. Online tutorials will assist them with navigation and additional staff and students will be hired to provide more on-line and phone assistance during extended office hours as students adjust to the new format.

Members of the campus community interested in learning the latest about Project Nova's ongoing progress are invited to information sessions on Feb. 14 and 29 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Campus View Room in the Cadboro Commons Building.



Petter (L) and assistant Kim Shortreed-Webb with the Sylvester diary

Clicking back in time

UVic Libraries put BC history online

By Patty Pitts

The University of Victoria's Special Collections and Archives are celebrating the province's 150th birthday by making significant materials in their collections accessible with just the click of a mouse. With the assistance of a grant from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UVic is digitizing books, maps and other documents that are especially relevant to Victoria's and the province's early history.

"UVic's Special Collections is a pioneer in making raw history available online," says Dr. John Lutz (history). "The maps, books and extremely rare ephemera being made available will help students and researchers understand the impact

of the gold rush on Victoria and its subsequent growth. Victoria was the entry point for the British Columbia gold fields and, of all the communities in BC, it benefited the most."

Materials chosen for the project include: five original hand-coloured maps of Vancouver Island circa 1855-9 made by the colony's surveyor-general, Joseph D. Pemberton; six early tourist pamphlets of Victoria, including captioned photographs; *Victoria Illustrated* (1891), a rare book published by *The Colonist* containing many contemporary illustrations and tables depicting Victoria life, people, resources, industry and architecture; and the diary of Victoria pioneer and amateur historian Frank Sylvester (1834-1908) containing

150 entries on contemporary life, travels and ships in Victoria during that period. Other documents and ephemera of Sylvester's, including historical essays, photographs and business records, will also be digitized.

"The Ike Barber grant has made it possible to hire a graduate student who will digitize some very challenging documents," says UVic's Digital Projects Librarian Chris Petter. "The library will in turn store these data in its new digital management system so that users can find specific images and text through a simple Google search."

The documents will be available on the library's image display system at <http://contentdm.library.uvic.ca:8000/cdm4/browse.php>.

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Alumni Week

Celebrating UVic Grads
February 2 – 9, 2008

Alumni Week 2008, presented by the UVic Alumni Association, celebrates the vital role of alumni in our university and our community. We wish to thank of all of our participants and our many sponsors and supporters for helping to make this first annual event such a great success.

For Alumni Week event and prize details, go to

alumni.uvic.ca

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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

Where Art is Born: Artists in Their Studios. Until March 31. Robert Amos. Studio portraits of 33 southern Vancouver Island artists supplemented by original artwork, mostly drawn from the university's collection. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery. University Centre B115.

Annual Art Education Faculty Exhibit. Jan. 15–Feb. 14. McPherson Library Gallery.

At the theatres

www.phoenixtheatres.ca
721-8000

Lionel Feb. 14–23. By Pan Bouyoucas. Directed by Ewan McLaren. An MFA Thesis Production.

Thursday, February 7

Alumni Week Until Feb. 9. A series of campus-based events and lots of great prizes. Visit alumni.uvic.ca for details and event costs. 721-7315

Other 10 a.m. *Body Image Awareness Day—Embracing Your Natural Size.* Art Show and student panel. Student Union Bldg. Michele Pujol Rm.

Institute for Dispute Resolution Lecture 12:30 p.m. *Restoring the Marshes of Southern Iraq.* Maureen Maloney, UVic. Fraser 158. 472-4531

Asia Pacific Initiatives Lecture 12:30 p.m. *One Lifeboat: China and the World's Environment and Development.* Dr. Arthur Hanson, distinguished fellow and former president of the International Institute for Sustainable Development China. Fraser 142. 721-7020

Friday, February 8

Music 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* School of Music chamber ensembles. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

Tuesday, February 12

Career Services 4:30 p.m. *Take ACTION.* Meet the Applied Career Transitions program coordinators and find out how to develop and manage your career. Strong C128. 721-8421

Friday, February 15

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

Thursday, February 21

Centre on Aging's Community Forum 12 a.m. *Life Journey - A Celebration of Life, History and Our Own Story,* keynote address by Dr. Bob Tate, Univ. of Manitoba. Closing keynote *Changes on the Horizon—What You Need to Know About Advance Care Planning in BC.* by Laura Watts, national director of Canadian Centre for Elder Law Studies, UBC. Strong Bldg. Seniors and students \$26.25, others \$52.50. 721-6369

Monday, February 25

Sessions in Spirituality Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Spirituality in the Midst of Suffering.* Reverend Al Tysick, spiritual leader and executive director of Our Place Society. Interfaith Chapel. 721-8338

Tuesday, February 26

Pacific and Asian Studies Lecture 12:30 p.m. *World-Systems Without History: Indigenous Populations of the Asia-Pacific Region.* Christopher Morgan, UVic. Strong C130. 721-7020.

Health Information Science Open House 4:30 p.m. Find out about educational, co-op and career opportunities. Human & Social Development A300. 721-8576

Friday, February 29

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

Monday, March 3

Sessions in Spirituality Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Building a World Beyond War.* Loni and Christopher Bowers, directors of Beyond War Canada. Interfaith Chapel. 721-8338

Tuesday, March 4

Workshop 2:30 p.m. *Returning Home and Reverse Culture Shock.* An opportunity for international students to reflect on their time in Canada and to prepare for the re-entry process. Strong C130. 472-4512

Wednesday, March 5

Studies in Religion & Society Lecture 4 p.m. *Morality, AIDS, and Sex Work in Surabaya, Indonesia.* Hilary Gorman, grad student fellow. Strong C118. 721-6695.

Workshop 6:30 p.m. *Using Virtual Environments (Second Life) as Classroom Meeting Space.* Hickman 128. Register 721-8571

Leadership awards continued from p.1

use of child soldiers, led by Senator Roméo Dallaire.

Leadbeater has also taken the lead in Victoria, by developing and evaluating the influential anti-bullying WITS program (WITS stands for Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, and Seek help) which helps young people both handle and prevent bullying in Greater Victoria schools.

She joined UVic's Department of Psychology in 1997 and is the director of UVic's Centre for Youth and Society as well as co-director of the BC Child and Youth Health Research Network.

Through her leadership, UVic researchers and community partners including the Rock Solid Foundation and Prostitutes' Empowerment Education Resource Society are working together to improve the well-being of young people in our city. Leadbeater has also served as a member of the Victoria mayor's expert panel on homelessness.

Verwoord is currently a bachelor

of education student at UVic. Her passion for education, equality and social justice is demonstrated through her numerous volunteer commitments including with an NGO in New Delhi, India, and with Canadian community organizations including the Women in Need Society, Canadian Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Mines Action Canada.

While volunteering with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Verwoord introduced Little Ravens Reading Hour in 2003, a culturally relevant Aboriginal preschool reading program, and received a Raise a Reader grant to purchase books for the program. She currently sits on the UVic senate.

The nominees from UVic for the 2008 Victoria's Leadership Awards included Trudi Brown, UVic's Board of Governors; Dr. Elaine Gallagher, director of UVic's Centre on Aging; Dale Gann, acting president of UVic Properties;

Jonathan Morris, an international master of arts student in child and youth care; Jessica Page, a fourth-year biology student; Prof. Chris Tollefson, founding executive director of UVic's Environmental Law Clinic; Dr. Holly Tuokko, neuropsychologist and professor in UVic's Department of Psychology and Centre on Aging; Paweena Sukhawathanakul, a fourth-year honours psychology student; and Mark Walsh, a two-term school trustee who recently returned to UVic to complete an honours undergraduate degree.

Leadership Victoria is a local association providing skills development and comprehensive leadership training since 2000. It shares a similar vision with Canada's 16 other community leadership programs, including the initial Leadership Vancouver which was founded in 1991. Information is available at www.leadershipvictoria.ca/home.htm.

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Want to see a great example of how University of Victoria ingenuity is directly improving lives in the community?

Then plan to do your grocery shopping at the Fort and Foul Bay Safeway store on Feb. 16 and March 8.

Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on both Saturdays, members of UVic's CanAssist team will be on hand at the store to greet shoppers and demonstrate some of their many achievements. The team is a partner in the store's 2008 Safeway We Care campaign, which has chosen children and families living with physical and developmental disabilities as this year's community fundraising theme.

CanAssist, formerly known as UVATT, works with individuals, families and organizations to develop customized devices and technologies for people with special needs. The team involves students, faculty and staff from more than 20 departments and programs across campus, as well as community volunteers such as physicians, occupational therapists, retired engineers, seamstresses and machinists.

CanAssist projects include tricycles for children with physical and visual impairments, high-tech wheelchair modifications and eye-tracking communication systems. Clients range from visually impaired children to adults with advanced neuromuscular degenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis and ALS.

Unique in North America, CanAssist responds to community requests from across Greater Victoria and around the world. A significant portion of its funding comes from donations, which are used to develop and deliver assistive technologies that aren't available from any other source.

The Feb. 16 event is "Charity Checkout Day" in which Safeway customers who donate to CanAssist by topping up their grocery bill will receive coupons for Eating Right products. On March 8, customers can purchase coupon books worth more than \$100 in savings, with all proceeds going to CanAssist.

In addition, from now until March 31, money collected in donation boxes at the Fort and Foul Bay store's check-out counters will go to CanAssist.

"This partnership is a tremendous opportunity for the CanAssist team to raise its profile in the community," says Doug Tolson, CanAssist's associate director. "With this exposure, we hope to increase our donor and volunteer base and create greater awareness that CanAssist is available to help families in need. We're very grateful to the staff at the Fort and Foul Bay Safeway store for their wonderful support of our program."

For more information on CanAssist, or to volunteer or donate, call 721-7300, email info@canassist.ca or visit www.canassist.ca.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Nearly one in eight Canadians, or 3.8 million people, has a disability. In BC, 570,000 people, or almost one in seven, live with a disability.
- Since it was created in 1999, CanAssist has developed over 75 new technologies and provided direct assistance to more than 600 clients—infants, children, adults and seniors.

A day in the life



Cosier (R) with the current recipient of Custodian's Trophy, biology grad student David Stuss

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF GREIG COSIER sees him at work from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. As a custodian at UVic for the past 17 years, Cosier works when most people have gone home, but that hasn't stopped him from being an active member of the university community.

Cosier has worked in several campus buildings and is currently located in University Centre. "My work is guided by the policies of health and safety and professional cleaning," he explains. "I clean washrooms, open areas, single offices, kitchenettes, foyers; I also clean windows and do floor and carpet care and I secure the building."

Cosier is interested in the work being done in Admissions and Records, Graduate Admissions and the International Office. "I had no idea what they do until I started to clean there," he says. "And I've come to admire them all for the work they all do."

While working in Cunningham, he started an award for the hardest-working graduate student, based on who was still working at midnight when he was cleaning. Now that he has moved to a different building, several profs choose the recipient, who receives the UVic Custodian's Trophy given by Cosier on behalf of all the janitors. He donates a dinner for 12 to the winner, to enjoy a meal with friends. He also donates bursary funds to microbiology. "I love supporting the sciences," he says, and enjoys attending biology and microbiology symposia "and the parties afterwards."

Cosier's first encounter with UVic was in the 1960s when he was one of the first participants in the psychology department's pioneering rehab centre for learning disabilities. When he returned as a custodian in 1991, he met the centre's head, who was pleased to see him working at UVic.

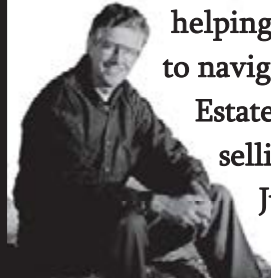
Outside work, most of Cosier's time is spent "giving back to the community" as he describes it. His favourite hobby is being Chuckles the Clown, which he started doing five or six years ago. "It makes people's day," he laughs. Several times a year, he wears his outfit downtown. "The kids follow me, cars honk, parents love it." He creates his costume from things he finds at Value Village, including over-sized shoes that he painted. A dressmaker recently made him some fancy new clown trousers. He wears a big, pumpkin orange wig, but no face paint, as it is too hard to wash off before it's time to go to work.

The Day in the Life series features the diversity of UVic employees who, often working behind the scenes, contribute so much to university life. If you would like to suggest someone to profile, please contact Linda Sproule-Jones at 721-8786 or sproulel@uwic.ca.



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