



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

SWINE FLU

Web page presents latest info on influenza situation

The university continues to monitor the 2009 Influenza A H1N1 (human swine flu) situation and has established an advisory group of representatives from key areas to manage the university's response. Up-to-date information: www.uvic.ca/flu-update

PROVINCIAL ELECTION

UVic students can choose between ridings

UVic students can choose which electoral district (ED or riding) they consider home when casting ballots in the May 12 general election. UVic is in the Oak Bay-Gordon Head ED, so students can choose from candidates in this ED or those in their 'home' riding (where the students usually live). The closest advance and general voting station is at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2121 Cedar Hill Road. Students need to bring identification with them that proves their residency either at UVic or in their 'home' riding. Info: www.elections.bc.ca

SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE

STV panel discussion available as webcast

On May 12 BC voters will be asked to choose between two electoral systems: the current "first past the post" system and the single transferable vote system. To help you sort through the issues, a video of UVic's April 30 panel discussion "BC's Referendum on Democracy" on electoral reform is available on the web. View the panel discussion and the question-and-answer session that followed and learn the results of the straw poll demonstrating the two voting methods. www.uvic.ca/stv

INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS FUNDING

Renos coming to older campus buildings

The federal and provincial governments are providing more than \$42 million to upgrade six of UVic's oldest campus buildings: University Centre, Cornett, Clearihue, Elliot, MacLaurin and Cunningham. The funds, provided through the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program, will enable UVic to raise safety and sustainability standards in these structures. Open house sessions will be held for each building once project schedules are established. Story, page 2

STUDENT AWARDS

Grad student awarded coveted Vanier Scholarship

Child and youth care PhD student Janet Newbury has been awarded a prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, worth \$50,000 a year for three years. It will support her research into social justice approaches to helping children and families. Story, page 3



BIKE TO WORK WEEK

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THE RING

MAY 2009

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



'Grandpa' (John Krich) stubbornly holds onto his car keys despite the protestations of 'daughter Joanne' (theatre student Anne-Marie Cirillo). PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Driving the issue home

New play brings UVic research to the community

BY ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

12.9%

PROPORTION OF BC DRIVERS OVER 66 YEARS OLD; DRIVERS IN THIS AGE GROUP ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONLY 10.5% OF ACCIDENTS CAUSING INJURY OR DEATH.

—ICBC 2006

"It's a man's god-given right to drive, damn it!" These words—uttered in frustration by Grandpa in the play *No Particular Place to Go*—get to the heart of the complex set of issues surrounding older driver safety.

The play, now touring locations around Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, investigates the lives of three generations of drivers: the stubborn and independent 80-year-old Grandpa, played by actor and retired UVic theatre professor John Krich. His concerned but busy daughter Joanne and her teenage son MJ, who has recently had his license suspended for road-racing, are played by applied theatre students Anne-Marie Cirillo and Reid Sparling.

The 50-minute play was written by War-

wick Dobson, University Scholar in Applied Theatre and Chair of the Theatre Department; and is co-directed by Trudy Pauluth-Penner, a UVic alumna, and Yasmine Kandil, an applied theatre doctoral student.

The research which forms the basis of the play was conducted by UVic's Centre on Aging. In a series of focus groups conducted in Victoria, Nanaimo, Parksville and Courtenay, seniors and their families, health care professionals, police, and representatives from the Motor Vehicles Branch and ICBC all expressed their views on the issue of older driver safety. The script was developed at the end of a six-week devising process in which the three actors improvised the scenes that form the basis of the narrative.

"There were thousands of pages of input,"

says Krich. He, Dobson and the devising team pored over the information in order to understand who the characters might be. "Many of the scenes incorporate direct quotes from the focus groups."

"Driving is a highly-charged emotional issue for everyone," says lead researcher Dr. Holly Tuokko of the Centre on Aging. "The play helps illustrate the different points of view that were revealed in the study and hopefully serve as a starting point for conversation."

Performed in community and seniors' centres around the region, the play is affecting audiences old and young. "We're not just standing there spewing facts and figures at people," says Krich. "By creating

SEE SENIOR DRIVERS P.4

Audain's \$2-million gift a boon to visual arts

BY CHRIS THACKRAY

Visual Arts students at the University of Victoria will benefit from a \$2-million gift from BC art philanthropist Michael Audain and the Audain Foundation. The gift will establish the Audain Professorship in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest, bringing a distinguished practicing artist to teach in UVic's Department of Visual Arts.

The Faculty of Fine Arts recognized the gift at a naming ceremony in the Visual Arts Building on April 17. The main public gathering and exhibition space in the building was named the Audain Gallery and Atrium.

"The generosity of Michael Audain will have a tremendous impact on our ability to attract the most promising students to our visual arts program," says UVic President David Turpin. "It will support our goals to advance the study, teaching and exhibition of contemporary and traditional art of the Pacific Northwest and also strengthen all of UVic's arts education programs."

"As a former UVic student in the early 1960's, back when it was called Victoria College, I have

marveled at how UVic has become one of our country's top universities. At the same time it is good to know that UVic respects its roots by widening educational opportunities for First Nations students, and that the arts continue to play a prominent role in campus life," says Audain.

Audain, great grandson of James Dunsmuir, attended Victoria College from 1959 to 1960 and is the chairman of Polygon Homes Ltd. A philanthropist and businessman, Audain is the chairman of the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts in British Columbia and chair of the National Gallery of Canada. He is a generous supporter of visual arts and culture in BC and throughout Canada, with a specific interest in Aboriginal and contemporary art. Audain is dedicated to raising awareness of Canada's artists and is an avid art collector.

"This wonderful gift will provide our students the opportunity to work side-by-side with some of Canada's most outstanding contemporary artists," says Dean of Fine Arts Dr. Sarah Blackstone. "These opportunities will enrich our learning environment immeasurably."

This generous gift will help foster UVic's commitment to providing all visual arts students

with the very best training in contemporary art practice. In particular, the Audain Professorship will help foster the artistic talent of UVic's Aboriginal students in an environment that honors their artistic traditions.



Audain. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

beyond the ring

This new column presents news capsules on post-secondary education issues across Canada and around the world. To suggest items or topics for this column, email ringedit@uvic.ca.

Canadians concerned about research funding

A Harris Decima poll conducted in April indicated that 67 per cent of Canadians are somewhat concerned (34 per cent) or very concerned (33 per cent) about research funding cuts, and 66 per cent felt that research priorities should be set by the scientific community, while 34 per cent said they should be set by the federal government.

2005 grads working, working off debt

A new Statistics Canada survey of 2005 college and university graduates shows that 90 per cent of those who did not pursue further studies had secured employment within two years, about 85 per cent in full-time positions. Approximately half of all grads at all levels had completed their post-secondary studies free of debt. And among grads with student-related debt, more than 25 per cent of had paid it off within two years of graduating.

Combatting academic dishonesty

Simon Fraser University has introduced a new grade: FD (failed for academic dishonesty), which is available to department chairs when a student's behaviour warrants a severe penalty. A centralized record keeping mechanism will help in identifying multiple offenders across departments. The measures are part of a three-year initiative to toughen SFU's policies on academic dishonesty and student misconduct.

Links to online sources for these stories: ring.uvic.ca

Rhodo rarities: Gift helps gardens branch out

BY MIKE MCNENEY

"It was like starting with a blank canvas," says Jeremy Quin, a UVic Grounds gardener, as he guides a visitor through the new "West Coast" bed section of Finnerty Gardens.

Quin, along with co-workers and volunteers from the Finnerty Garden Friends, developed a whole new section to the gardens to accommodate part of a major donation of 126 rhododendrons from the estate of Dora and Bob Kreiss of Sooke.

The Sooke-area gardeners started their rhododendron collection in 1973 and developed it into one of the largest private collections of species rhododendrons on Vancouver Island. ("Species" refers to the original plant as it occurs in nature, as opposed to rhododendrons hybridized by human intervention.)

With the passing of their parents, Kreiss family members are planning to sell the property, and to avoid losing the prized rhododendrons to backhoes or neglect, they opted to donate as many as possible to Finnerty Gardens.

The size of the donation required UVic Grounds staff to open a 280-square-metre section of the gardens west of the Interfaith Chapel by removing blackberry, ivy and underbrush.

In their place is a cultivated bed beneath protective conifer trees—ideal for rhododendrons, which are favoured by gardeners for their spring flowers and varied foliage.

Some of the rhododendrons are native to the Himalayas and feature impressive broad leaves. The donations range in height, with the tallest rhododendron reaching about 8 metres tall.

"It was really a lot of fun," to work with the rich variety of donated rhododendrons, says Quin. "We got to



UVic Grounds staff Jeremy Quin and Rhonda Rose with one of the newly donated Finnerty Gardens rhododendrons. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

play with the size of the leaves, different heights," in deciding which plant would go where.

About half of the Kreiss plants were transplanted to the new bed, while the others were placed throughout the rest of the gardens.

Each of the rhododendrons was removed by hand and a cube van was used to protect them from wind damage during the trip from the Kreiss family's French Beach property to the UVic campus. The process began in February and took about a month to complete.

Finnerty Gardens already included more 1,500 rhododendrons and azaleas, including more than 200 species rhododendrons.

This is the largest single donation of plants to Finnerty Gardens since 1974, when the estate of Jeanne Buchanan Simpson of Lake Cowichan was left to the university. The gardens were founded on the Simpson donation.

The new "West Coast" rhododendron bed will be formally dedicated to the memory of Dora and Bob Kreiss at a ceremony tentatively set for July 31 in Finnerty Gardens.

PLANT SALE DRAWS GARDENING CROWD

The 2009 UVic Plant Sale proved as popular as ever on May 3, with a line forming outside McKinnon Gym well before the 10 a.m. start time. Preliminary totals put the sales total at over \$59,000. Net proceeds from the sale, organized by the volunteer members of the Finnerty Garden Friends, go toward ongoing improvements to Finnerty Gardens.

Renewing UVic's older buildings: ready, set, go

BY MELANIE GROVES

The University of Victoria is benefitting from a stimulus package to support infrastructure enhancement at Canadian post-secondary institutions. More than \$455.1 million in federal and provincial funding for 29 projects at post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia was announced April 8, 2009.

UVic will receive \$42.5 million through the Government of Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program to renovate six buildings averaging 40 years of age: the University Centre and the Cornett, Clearihue, Elliot, MacLaurin and Cunningham buildings.

The projects will extend the useful lives of the buildings while improving safety, increasing energy efficiency and reducing maintenance requirements.

Improvements in each structure will include building envelope improvements (e.g. windows and roofs), seismic upgrades and other safety improvements (e.g. sprinklers and fire alarms), mechanical upgrades to water and heating systems, elevator upgrades and creation of barrier-free access.

Work is expected to begin during the summer, and will be coordinated

by Facilities Management staff. According to the terms of the funding, the projects must be completed by April 2011.

"This funding gives us the opportunity to bring these older buildings in line with current building code, safety and sustainability standards," said Tom Smith, Executive Director of Facilities Management. "What this means for students, staff and faculty will vary from building to building, but we are asking in advance for people's patience. We will try to minimize inconvenience as much as possible and keep everyone informed about what's happening."

Open house information sessions will take place in each building once the project schedule has been established. For current information, please visit the website at <http://communications.uvic.ca/uvicinfor/announcement.php?id=178> or contact Facilities Management at 250-721-7616.

For more information about the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, including a list of the approved projects to date, visit Industry Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program website at <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/696.nsf/eng/home>.

Federal grant assists CanAssist

The University of Victoria's CanAssist program will be able to meet the growing demand for assistive technology equipment for people with disabilities, thanks to \$272,000 in new funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada.

The grant will be matched by CanAssist and used to obtain leading-edge manufacturing and prototyping equipment for the development and manufacture of assistive technologies for people with disabilities.

CanAssist develops technology, programs and services that improve the quality of life of those with special needs. The program has developed more than 125 innovative assistive technologies, ranging from the relatively simple (for example, adjustable umbrella holders for wheelchairs or walkers) to the highly complex (eye-tracking communication systems).

"We're very grateful for this support," says CanAssist Director Dr. Nigel Livingston. "There's a constant and growing demand for our assistive technologies. This much-needed equipment upgrade will allow us to take on more technology projects, pursue commercialization opportunities and better support those with disabilities across the province."

CanAssist's long-term goal is to grow into a province-wide, university-based resource and centre of excellence for the disability community by: expanding its capacity for developing assistive technology devices and services; creating training, skill-building and supported employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and promoting education and awareness of disability issues.



CanAssist client Aizlyn Auckland with a specially adapted video camera and an adjustable umbrella holder. PHOTO: DARCY LANE

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Vikes celebrate a successful year

UVic conferred major athletic awards at the Vikes Celebration of Champions April 1, and women's soccer player Sarah Cameron came away the big winner as recipient of the prestigious President's Cup.

Cameron, a two-time All-Star and Academic All-Canadian, received the President's Cup as the outstanding senior athlete who best combines scholastic achievement and athletic ability. As well, Athlete of the Year awards were presented to Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) double gold medalist Geoff Martinson of the men's cross-country/track team and women's basketball CIS player of the year Kayla Dykstra.

The Vikes used the evening to celebrate one of the most successful seasons in recent years. Six Vikes teams won championships, including national titles by women's golf and women's field hockey.

Six individuals won national titles, 28 were named Canada West All-Stars, 15 CIS All-Canadians and 29 athletes were named to national team rosters.

Prior to the athletic awards banquet, the Vikes also held the induction ceremony for the UVic Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2009. Those being inducted included four-time CIAU men's basketball champion Kelly Dukeshire, two-time All-Canadian and Olympic runner Carey Nelson and the 1983 Men's Rowing team varsity eight that sent eight members to the Olympic Games.

More: <http://vikes.uvic.ca/news/> and <http://vikes.uvic.ca/awards/>



Sarah Cameron with President's Cup

Island brain bank formed

BY MARIA LIRONI

The best and brightest brains on Vancouver Island are focusing their attention on island issues.

In April, the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance (VICRA) was established with a formal agreement among the five publically funded Vancouver Island post-secondary institutions to come together in mobilizing research and knowledge to help local communities. The University of Victoria, Camosun College, Vancouver Island University, Royal Roads University and North Island College are involved. UVic's Office of Community-Based Research—the first initiative of its kind in Canada—has taken a lead role from the concept stage.

"Signing this memorandum of understanding speaks to the shared vision about how we serve our communities," says UVic President Dr. David Turpin. "It's an exciting time that ushers in a new area of collaboration between universities where we work with the communities to do research that is locally relevant and internationally significant."

Under the MOU, the partners will identify priority research issues with an island-wide focus and people in the community who can help with that research. They will also develop research partnerships and share information on best practices; encourage their students to participate in the research; and build on each other's experiences and expertise, drawing on lessons from local, national and global networks/projects.

The partnership is already receiving rave reviews from community groups.

"An organization like VICRA is a fabulous example of collaboration that we can all aspire to and which will hopefully start happening all over the island," says Maureen Young, a VICRA supporter and director for the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance, which spearheads regional economic development for the island. "This alliance recognizes that we can no longer operate in silos. If we work together on island-wide issues we can achieve great things."

More: <http://web.uvic.ca/ocbr/>

Vanier Scholarship to CYC grad student

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

PhD student Janet Newbury (child and youth care) has been awarded a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship—the most sought-after Canadian scholarship for doctoral students.

The federal government scholarships, awarded for the first time this year, provide \$50,000 a year for up to three years to 166 doctoral students from across Canada and abroad. They are intended to attract and retain world-class doctoral students. Their value and prestige put the Vanier Scholarships on par with such highly regarded awards as the Rhodes scholarships in the UK and the Fulbright scholarships in the US.

Newbury's research project, "Contextualizing care: Alternatives to the individualization of struggles and support," will focus on how an emphasis on social justice—not just individualized care—might alter Canadian approaches to helping children and families.

"Most of our initiatives seem to focus on providing services for particular individuals who are struggling, whether it be because of experiences of abuse, addiction, mental illness, poverty, or otherwise," Newbury explains. "But these individuals are



Newbury. PHOTO: GRAHAM LAVERY

supervisor Dr. Marie Hoskins. "She is a gifted writer, has a brilliant mind, an unwavering work ethic and—as if these attributes are not enough—she also has an astute sense of social justice and professional responsibility to those who need support and care."

"I feel extremely grateful for this scholarship," says Newbury. "It is both a really amazing opportunity and a responsibility at the same time. It provides an opportunity to really try my best to make a contribution to

the field. I now have three years to focus my energy in this direction, with lots of support.

"Basically, the scholarship allows me to treat this research as a full-time job, rather than trying to do it off the side of my desk at the end of the day," she explains. "This will enable me to be much more

thorough and attentive to detail. I would like to do research on two levels. One level involves understanding trends in service delivery for children and families, drawing from data collected by various government ministries and NGOs, for example. The other involves understanding the implications of interventions in the lives of children and families. This will include conducting interviews and focus groups. Of course, there are costs involved in pursuing both these lines of research, and the scholarship will really help with those."

She is a gifted writer, has a brilliant mind, an unwavering work ethic and she also has an astute sense of social justice and professional responsibility.

DR. MARIE HOSKINS

around the ring

Nominate your favourite teacher

The UVic Alumni Association seeks nominations for the 2009 Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Regular faculty, artists-in-residence and librarians are eligible for this award, which includes a \$2,000-cash prize. Since the award was introduced by in 1989, photo portraits of all recipients have been permanently displayed in the main stairway of the Mearns Centre for Learning/McPherson Library. As well, a special video biography and award presentation will be part of the formal UVic Legacy Awards dinner in October. The deadline for nominations is May 29. Forms and guidelines: alumni.uvic.ca

Experience Experience UVic

On Sat., May 23, the entire campus—from the president to professors, students and staff—is getting behind Experience UVic/Destination UVic 2009. This is the third year for this popular event that introduces more than 1,000 prospective students and their families to what life will be like at UVic. Volunteer opportunities range from greeting program participants to leading a tour to helping build a balloon trail. There will be training sessions for volunteers on May 14 and 19. More info: 250-472-5329, <http://transition.uvic.ca/experience/>

Olympic spirit comes to alumni AGM

Bruce Deacon, MEd '07, two-time Olympic marathoner and Canadian Olympic Committee staff member, will be the featured speaker at the UVic Alumni Association's annual meeting May 26 in the University Club. As the manager of education and community relations for the COC, he's heavily involved in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. The association's lifetime of distinguished achievement award will be presented to Victoria College graduate Edward Harvey, editor of The Lansdowne Era: Victoria College, 1946-1963. And Moreno Stefani, BA '84, will be named alumni volunteer of the year. The meeting is open to all alumni. Registration: alumni.uvic.ca/events or (250) 721-6000

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DAVE LYNN

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A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-comers to navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, he will assure smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.

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RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS MAY 2009
Monthly Income Based on \$100,000

REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$439	\$633	\$694
Total Payout to Age 100		\$210,604	\$188,865	\$169,969	\$150,626	\$140,602	\$129,767
Accelerated Payout:							
Income over 5 years				\$1,827			\$109,604
Income over 10 years				\$997			\$119,660
Income over 15 years				\$724			\$130,273
* Based on best current GIC of 3.75%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.							
LIFE ANNUITIES							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male							
...payments cease at death		\$579	\$627	\$723	\$860	\$981	\$1,168
...10 years guaranteed		\$577	\$623	\$687	\$764	\$825	\$937
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$539	\$582	\$653	\$754	\$859	\$1,029
...10 years guaranteed		\$538	\$588	\$638	\$704	\$769	\$882
Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed		\$503	\$535	\$586	\$646	\$706	\$815
Various options concerning guarantee periods and survivor benefits available Annuities derived from non-registered capital have tax preferred treatment							
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around the ring

Online Teaching and Learning showcased

UVic is currently running approximately 1,500 (annually) online, distance and blended learning courses and other educational technology initiatives involving more than 1,200 instructors and 15,000 students. More than 120 people interested in online teaching and learning packed the Hickman Building April 28 for the annual Online Teaching and Learning Showcase organized by Learning Systems (University Systems) as well as the Learning and Teaching Centre and Distance Education Services. Featuring panels, poster sessions and discussions, the event was an opportunity to see how UVic instructors are effectively using collaborative spaces for peer review and interaction, facilitating discussions and projects, and integrating multimedia into learning management systems such as Moodle and Blackboard. Poster session abstracts and presenter biographies are available online, soon to be joined by audio- and videocasts of participants and other highlights. More: <http://elearning.uvic.ca/showcase/2009/>

Quit & Win prizes awarded

Congratulations to Quit & Win grand prizewinner Dave Sampson and his buddy Niele Freeborn (both facilities management). After remaining tobacco-free for the 12-week duration of the contest, Sampson and Freeborn each won a weekend trip to Seattle. Six additional UVic employees each received a \$75 HBC gift card for remaining tobacco-free for six weeks during round two of the contest. Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who participated in this tobacco-free initiative. Info: www.uvic.ca/clearair

Up in smoke 2: Smoking survey follow-up for faculty and staff

Take a five-minute survey for the chance to win one of two \$25 UVic Dining Plus cards. Voice your opinion about the campus smoking cessation contest and university smoking policy and help clarify issues related to smoking and support on campus. The confidential survey, hosted in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society, will be available online until May 15. Info: clearair@uvic.ca. Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/uvicfollowup

Student sustainability summit

Leading students in environmental sustainability from around the world will converge on the UVic campus June 25–28 for the the 2009 World Student Environmental Summit. Hosted by the World Student Environmental Network (WSEN) in partnership with UVic, the summit will link the student leaders from across the global academic village to address global warming and generate positive social, economic and environmental change. A completely student run initiative, the summit will result in a proposal that may be delivered to the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, the G8 and G20 summits. To investigate opportunities for student and faculty volunteer involvement, contact mpfraser@uvic.ca. More: www.2009wses.com/



Five of the eight 2009 UVic Blue and Gold Award winners (L-R): Lauren Warbeck, Shantelle Moreno, Jonathan Chui, Krista Hagstrom, Emily Gibson

Blue and Gold winners give back to the community

BY PATTY PITTS

From helping to build schools in the Dominican Republic and teaching hip hop dance to young people in the Victoria Youth Custody Centre to assisting people in distress through the NEED Crisis and Information Line, the winners of this year's Blue and Gold Awards contribute widely to the local and global community.

Eight University of Victoria students who combine strong academic performance with a commitment to community volunteer work were honoured at a special luncheon last month. The awards are presented annually to students who make significant contributions to promoting and improving the quality of life on the UVic campus and in our community.

The following three winners each received a \$2,500 award:

KIMBERLEY BENSON is a third-year microbiology student with past volunteer experience as a UVic Student Ambassador and with the UVic Buddy Program where she worked individually and in group settings with international students. During a Hero Holiday volunteer trip to the Dominican Republic she helped build two schools. Benson remains involved with the Circle K club, is president of its Pacific Northwest District, and was recognized by the club with two awards for her outstanding contributions.

LAUREN WARBECK is a third-year environmental studies and women's studies student who volunteers with both the Women's Studies Equity and Outreach Committee and the Women's Studies Course Union coordinating social,

educational and creative events. Her volunteer work with the Bike Lab Society includes teaching bicycle mechanics at Victoria High School, facilitating future high school workshops and establishing the Free Hub Bike Cooperative—a non-profit community bike shop. She also creates short films through MediaNet promoting the joy of cycling.

CANDACE WITKOWSKY is a third-year social work student and mother of two who has volunteered with the Discovery Program, working with youth who have been suspended from school for substance use, and the Community Social Planning Council, providing support to people with disabilities and low income. She currently volunteers with the Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society as an informal outreach worker and cook, with Together Against Poverty as an advocate for people with disabilities, and with Big Sisters co-facilitating a group called "Go Girl" that fosters healthy body images among pre-teen girls.

The following five winners each received a \$1,000 award:

JONATHAN CHUI is a PhD student and teaching assistant in chemistry who has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours to UVic's peer-helping program, providing one-on-one peer counseling to students on personal and academic issues. He also helps run the program's weekly coffeehouse and maintains the peer helpers newsletter. In addition he is a volunteer with the NEED Crisis and Information Line.

EMILY GIBSON is a third-year political science and environmental studies student who combines

her interest in international development and environmental issues through volunteer work with Engineers Without Borders Canada. Twice she was named the organization's Volunteer of the Year. Last summer she worked on fundraising initiatives for the Permaculture Institute of El Salvador, which teaches subsistence farmers sustainable ways of living and farming.

KRISTA HAGSTROM is a third-year theatre student who volunteers at the Victoria Youth Custody Centre teaching weekly hip hop dance and drama classes and assisting with special events, including choreographing dances for student performances. Hagstrom has also volunteered as a counselor with Operation Trackshoes.

HEIDI KRAHN is a third-year nursing student who spent a year as a volunteer at the Salvation Army in Nelson, BC, with a pilot project providing basic health care services and prevention/harm reduction information to homeless and at-risk people. The project, a result of the Selkirk College/UVic Nursing Program, was designed to create a nursing outreach practicum placement for third year nursing students.

SHANTELE MORENO is a fourth-year women's studies student who volunteers with Antidote, the multi-racial girls' and women's network. In this role she facilitates youth-led initiatives and skill-building programs for racialized and Aboriginal girls ages 10 to 18. She's also an active member of the Women's Studies Equity and Outreach Committee and a former special events volunteer for the Burnside Gorge Community Association.

SENIOR DRIVERS CONTINUED FROM P.1

actual drama, people can relate to the characters and their experiences and understand the issues at a more personal level."

"The loss of independence is a serious issue for many seniors, but it's not the only one," says Dobson. "It affects the whole family. We've tried to illustrate some of the tensions that arise as a family grapples with the question of whether Grandpa should give up driving."

At a performance in Qualicum Beach in April,

Cirillo was approached by several women who identified with her character of Joanne. "It was amazing. One woman told me that the entire family needed to get together to make an intervention to help their father."

"Taking a license away is like taking away years of history. In memory upon memory—your first car, your first date, family holidays—the car has been a central element in our lives," says Cirillo as she recounts a scene in the play where Grandpa

and Joanne look at old photos that bring back memories. "It's an emotional response too."

As an "experienced" driver himself, Krich is also affected by the play. "I find myself extremely aware of how bad the driving is on the road—both young and old! It has made me more conscious of my driving and that of others."

No Place in Particular Place to Go will be performed on campus at the Phoenix Theatre on May 12 at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



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Flushing out unsettling truths about water quality

BY PEIGI MCGILLIVRAY

For Dr. Asit Mazumder (biology), there's a lot more to drinking water than what comes out of the tap.

"Canada has the world's largest source of fresh water," he says. "But more and more, communities across the country are struggling to keep their drinking water clean and safe. Even here, where lakes and rivers are plentiful, we can't take our fresh water for granted."

Mazumder is a world leader in tracking the sources of chemical and microbial contamination of water. He's known locally for his work with the Capital Regional District, where he has helped develop greater scientific understanding of the ecological factors that affect the quality and safety of our tap water. His research team includes graduate and postdoctoral scientists and undergraduate and co-op students.

Southern Vancouver Island provides a unique natural laboratory for this kind of work. There's the Sooke reservoir—which provides Greater Victoria's drinking water—sitting in a pristine watershed that has been protected for more than a century.

And a mere 5 km away there's Shawnigan Lake, an unprotected source of drinking water that is affected by logging, permanent and summer homes, agriculture and various recreational activities.

"Nowhere else in the world can you compare two drinking water sources that are so close and alike, yet so different in water quality," he says.

To assess whether a body of water is contaminated, Mazumder and his team have developed a tool that measures the geochemical, biochemical and microbial signatures, or traces, of septic and sewage outflows.

"One of the chemicals we look for is caffeine," he says. "When we find it, we know that the water is being contaminated by human waste through septic field seepage or sewage input."

Last spring, Shawnigan Lake residents were shocked to find out from Mazumder and his team that detectable levels of caffeine and phar-



Mazumder. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT

maceuticals had been found in their lake.

"Until then, they had no idea they were drinking lake water contaminated by septic seepage," says Mazumder. "The community is much more aware now, and is working on improving the situation. Our simple 'caffeine detection' tool gives them an easy way to assess fecal contamination and associated health risks from their drinking water."

The UVic research suggests that this kind of contamination is common in freshwater lakes, rivers and streams bounded by septic fields or receiving untreated sewage.

"Even sewage treatment—like the system being planned for Victoria—would not remove pharmaceuticals, toxic heavy metal compounds or persistent organic pollutants from the water," stresses Mazumder. "We have to stop these chemicals from getting into the water in the first place."

To date, more than 20 BC communities, 14

Aboriginal communities across Canada, and communities in Bangladesh, Haiti and Cambodia have used the science and tools developed by Mazumder's lab to track sources of contamination and improve water quality.

"Fresh water is one of the world's most precious natural resources. None of us can exist without it," says Mazumder. "Our work at UVic is directly linked to our environment, our health, our quality of life and the future of our communities. It's very rewarding to be involved in research that contributes so significantly to people's health."

UVic's Water and Aquatic Sciences Research Program is a community-based research initiative funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), water departments including the CRD and Nanaimo, several federal departments and agencies, and many small to large communities. More: web.uvic.ca/water/

ringers

Dr. Anne Bruce and **Dr. Laurene Sheilds** (nursing) and **Dr. Anita Molzhan**, formerly from the School of Nursing, are the recipients of the *Nephrology Nursing Journal* Research Writing Award for their article "Learning from Stories of People with Chronic Kidney Disease." The purpose of the study was to explore how people with chronic kidney disease describe experiences of living in-between a promise of treatment and prolonged life and the threat of death. The award was presented in San Diego, California, on April 26, 2009.

Dr. Marge Reitsma-Street (studies in policy and practice) is the 2009 recipient of the National Dick Wieler Award from the Canadian Council on Social Development. The award is presented annually to acknowledge and honour exceptional contributions to community and social development in Canada. It recognizes outstanding dedication to social justice and creative response to social needs in both occupational and volunteer endeavours. Reitsma-Street has bridged academia with the community since the 1970s to advance issues of juvenile justice, poverty, welfare law reform, affordable housing and ways to value women's unpaid work. The award will be presented in Toronto this fall.

Khyl Orser, fourth-year kinesiology student, rolled out of Victoria on April 28 to bike across Canada to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters, the non-profit organization that matches children and youth with mentors. Orser and his cycling partner Travis Taylor set out from Mile Zero and will head east through Hope, Princeton, Medicine Hat and the Rockies then straight on to the Maritimes. They expect to pedal back into Victoria at the end of May or early June after a tire-melting trip of only 36 days. Their fundraising target is \$15,000. Their online donations page can be accessed from their Facebook group: Khyl and Travis's epic adventure across Canada. Blog: <http://trekcanada.tumblr.com/>

UVic has struck silver (twice) in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VIII communications awards program: for the Institutional Case for Support publication, co-ordinated by **Chris Thackray** (development) and for the Student Case for Support, co-ordinated by **Maureen Olson** (development). Both publications were produced under the direction of **Shannon von Kaldenberg**, associate vice-president alumni and development, and designed by Pearl Roberts of Iris Communications.

Dr. Thomas Darcie (electrical and computer engineering) has been elected fellow of the Optical Society of America for his contributions to the understanding, theory and applications of optical communications technology leading to significant advances in broadband optical access systems. The OSA is a scientific society dedicated to advancing the study of light—optics and photonics—in theory and application. Darcie is also an AT&T fellow and a fellow of the IEEE. His research program focuses on systems for communications, broadband access and real-time networks, optical imaging, microwave photonics and terahertz photonics.

Emergency Preparedness Week



This week (May 3–9) is Emergency Preparedness Week across Canada. Emergencies may be disruptive and disturbing, but planning ahead can make a big difference.

UVic's plans include over 500 members of the campus community who are directly involved with emergency response as building and floor emergency coordinators, site response team members, Emergency Operations Centre staff and the executive policy group.

Here are a few pointers to help you improve your ability to respond when and if the unexpected happens.

■ **You can use your cell phone to provide an emergency contact.** Enter the telephone number in your contacts list under "ICE" (In Case of Emergency). If you are injured and unable to use your phone, "ICE" will help a first responder identify and call your emergency contact.

■ **Fourteen new security phones** have been installed on campus, featuring a highly visible red emergency call button that provides a direct link to Campus Security Services. They are free to use and also function as courtesy phones. Location info: <http://web.uvic.ca/security/security/directdial.html>

■ **Disaster Response Route signs** with yellow and black triangles have been posted along major highways. These are not evacuation routes. During a large regional emergency, these transportation lifelines will be the routes used to quickly move emergency responders (e.g. fire, police and ambulance) to areas in need. They will be the first routes to be cleared, and will initially be available only to designated responders.

■ **"Drop, cover and hold"** remains the best response to earthquakes. Remember that there may be significant aftershocks—if the shaking

lasts for longer than a minute, stay away from the shoreline and seek higher ground.

■ **The UVic Emergency Alerts system** will, if a major emergency occurs on campus, attempt to send all members of the campus community messages by email, voicemail, Voice over Internet Protocol phone, and (for those registered) SMS text message. You can sign up for emergency notifications on your mobile phone at www.uvic.ca/alerts. Information will also be provided as appropriate on the web at www.uvic.ca, via the emergency information phone line at 250-721-8620 and on CFUV campus community radio at 101.9 fm.

■ **Why not use Emergency Preparedness Week** every year to check that your home smoke detectors are operational and your emergency supplies are replenished?

For more information: <http://ohs.uvic.ca/emergencymgmt/> or ddonald@uvic.ca

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sustainability snapshots

SPOKES program award

The UVic SPOKES program has received a 2009 CRD EcoStar Award in the category of environmental innovation for its success in promoting the benefits of cycling, diverting waste from the landfill and providing skills. Since 2003, the program has distributed more than 1,000 bursaries—including a refurbished bike, bike lock and free commuter cycling courses—to UVic students, faculty and staff. The volunteer-run program is supported by the Bicycle User's Committee, the UVic Sustainability Project, the Student Alumni Association, the UVic Students' Society, the Graduate Students' Society and the UVic Travel Choices Program. The EcoStar Awards recognize outstanding contributions by local businesses, groups and individuals to enhancing our environment. Info: <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/SPOKES.htm>

How-to workshops focus on healthy planet

Just in time for spring, the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability is pleased to sponsor the following practical workshops: Organic Lawn Care and Landscaping, Sat. May 30, 9 a.m.; Organic Food Gardening, Sat., June 13, 10 a.m. Hosted by the CRD, these free workshops are open to all UVic stu-

dents, faculty and staff. Register: www.uvic.ca/sustainability

Great coffee for a good cause

Finnerty Express, the café on the ground floor of the UVic Bookstore building, is now serving Salt Spring Island Carbon Cool Blend coffee. For every case of Carbon Cool Blend purchased, Finnerty Express donates \$32 to the Sierra Club of BC climate change education programs in schools and communities.

Sustainable purchasing at UVic Libraries

UVic's Purchasing Services recently worked with UVic Libraries to purchase 120 new computers that meet the Gold Energy Star rating and EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) criteria. EPEAT (www.epeat.net/) helps purchasers rank desktops, laptops and monitors in compliance with the latest environmental standards for electronic products. These ratings and rankings are useful tools in making the greenest purchasing choices for the work or home environment.



PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

All charged up and ready to roll

Ross King is one of several carpentry and mechanical shop workers who will be rolling across campus in the newest additions to UVic's environmentally friendly fleet vehicles. Parking services and facilities management have expanded their fleets with two new electric Might-E Trucks. Campus security has also just replaced one of their SUVs with a hybrid version. This initiative is a part of UVic's strategy to become carbon neutral by 2010. The new vehicles add to UVic's growing fleet of bicycles, e-gators, hybrid cars and bio-diesel equipment on campus, helping to save money by reducing long-term operating costs. To submit your success story related to the campus Sustainability Action Plan, visit www.uvic.ca/sustainability.

Eco-audit—sustainability at *The Ring*

Printing *The Ring* on 100-per-cent post-consumer recycled paper instead of virgin fibre results in the following savings:

	8-page issue	12-page issue	Annual total
Amount of paper used	687 lbs/312 kg	1,030 lbs/467 kg	8,929 lbs/4,050 kg
Trees saved ¹	4 trees	6 trees	52 trees
Solid waste saved	373 lbs/169 kg	560 lbs/254 kg	4,851 lbs/2,200 kg
Water saved	411 gal/1,556 L	616 gal/2,332 L	5,341 gal/20,218 L
Electricity saved	536 kwh	803 kwh	6,964 kwh
Greenhouse gases saved	679 lbs/308 kg	1,018 lbs/462 kg	8,825 lbs/4,003 kg
HAPs, VOCs, AOX saved ²	3 lbs/1.4 kg	4 lbs/1.8 kg	37 lbs/16.8 kg
Landfill space saved	1 cubic yd/0.76 cubic m	2 cubic yd/1.53 cubic m	15 cubic yd/11.4 cubic m

¹ Based on trees with a 10-inch diameter. | ² HAPs=Hazardous Air Pollutant; VOCs=Volatile Organic Compounds; AOX=Absorbable Organic Compounds

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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. To be successful, we need campus and community members to do their part:

- don't abandon your pet rabbits on campus
- don't pet or feed the rabbits
- don't chase, harass or handle the rabbits

To learn more, visit www.uvic.ca/rabbits.





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

uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit** Until May 28. *The Lion and The Fox*. The C. J. Fox Collection of Wyndham Lewis art and literary works. McPherson Library Gallery, room A005. 250-853-3612

■ **Exhibit** Until May 29. *Rebels and Realists: 100 Years of the Victoria Sketch Club*. More than 50 of the club's best-known artists including Josephine Crease, Sophie Pemberton, W.P. Weston, Thomas Fripp, Emily Carr, Max Maynard, Jack Shadbolt, Ina Uhthoff, Katharine Maltwood, Stella Langdale and Edythe Hembroff. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery. University Centre. 250-721-6313 or curator@uvic.ca



Carr and friends at Maltwood
Emily Carr, *Windswept Trees*, c. 1938, University of Victoria art collection, gift of Major H.C. Holmes, from the exhibition "Rebels and Realists: 100 Years of the Victoria Sketch Club" at the Maltwood

Univ. of Lethbridge, will speak on traditional Indigenous philosophies of the land and human relationships with the natural environment. Hickman 105. 250-721-6438

THURSDAY, MAY 14

■ **Conference** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (also May 15, 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) *Sharing Stories and Spaces: Community-based Research Institute*. Join community leaders, researchers and other practitioners for field trips, interactive workshops and presentations on topics ranging from Aboriginal ecological restoration and food security to youth voices for change and social issues transformed by theatre. \$100, \$50 for students. 250-472-4171, ocbr@uvic.ca, www.uvcs.uvic.ca/cbr/

■ **Indigenous Speakers Series** 3 p.m. *Aboriginal Education Is More Than Beads to Bannock*. Nella Nelson, district administrator, Aboriginal Nations Education Division, SD61 Victoria. David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin Bldg. 250-721-7826.

■ **Bike to Work Week** 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. *Celebration station*. Water, treats, free bike repairs, draw prizes, t-shirt sales. UVic Fountain. <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

THURSDAY, MAY 21

■ **Cafe Scientifique Lecture** 6:30 p.m. *The Many Faces of Autism*. Dr. Jim Tanaka, UVic. Hosted by the Centre for Biomedical Research and CIHR. Space is limited. RSVP to cfr@uvic.ca. Swans Suite Hotel 506 Pandora, Collard Rm. 250-472-4067

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

■ **Information and Resource Fair** All day. 2009 *Information and Resource Fair for Second Language Teaching*. Representatives from BC TEAL, UVic Continuing Studies, and other guest speakers will be holding seminars and workshops. SUB, Michele Pujol Rm. 250-472-5553



Are you ready to bike to work?

Sarah Webb, UVic's sustainability coordinator, warms up for Bike to Work Week with a bicycle provided by the UVic SPOKES program, winner of a 2009 CRD EcoStar Award in the category of environmental innovation. For more than a decade, the University of Victoria has rolled out its support for the annual Bike to Work Week. This year from May 11 to 17, UVic will join communities across the province in a week-long commuter cycling celebration filled with daily activities. The on-campus events include bike engraving and repairs, prize draws, a "slowest bike race," and a free screening of *The Triplets of Belleville*. See the Calendar Highlights at left. More: <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

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Bob Reimer

MONDAY, MAY 11

■ **Bike to Work Week** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Bike engraving and quick repairs*. Draw prizes, gear sales and giveaways. UVic Fountain. <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

TUESDAY, MAY 12

■ **Bike to Work Week** 6:45 to 8:45 a.m. *Celebration station*. Coffee, treats, free bike repairs, draw prizes, t-shirt sales. UVic Fountain. <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

■ **Lansdowne Lecture** 9 a.m. *Land Asks, 'Do you really know me?'* Dr. Leroy Little Bear, chair of Native American Studies at the

■ **Bike to Work Week** 12:15 p.m. *Slowest bike race*. How slow can you go? How far can you go with only one cycle of the pedals? Prizes. UVic Quad. <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

■ **Bike to Work Week** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Bike engraving and quick repairs*. Draw prizes, gear sales and giveaways. UVic Fountain. <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

■ **Film** 7 p.m. *The Triplets of Belleville*. Special Bike to Work Week screening. Hickman 105. <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>



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The late **Douglas M. Johnston**, Professor Emeritus (law), and his book *The Historical Foundations of World Order: The Tower and the Arena* (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers) won the American Society of International Law Certificate of Merit for a preeminent contribution to creative scholarship.

Anne McHale, fourth-year business student, recently took third place in a sustainability video contest for the 2010 Olympics. Her video "Close the Loop" won in the u-reduce/u-produce category. McHale, who is enrolled in the entrepreneurship specialization, created the video as an assignment for Dr. Monika Winn's COM 362 course, "Decision Making for Responsible and Sustainable Global Business." Her challenge was to make a creative link between business, responsibility and sustainability. To view the video, look for the link on <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/>

There's a shiny silver glow to UVic's redesigned website ([uvic.ca](http://web.uvic.ca)) which has won silver in the Best Institutional Homepage category in the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education's 2009 Prix d'Excellence awards. Congratulations to project manager **Robin Sutherland** and his web team in UVic Communications, and participants from University Marketing, Web Services Office, Student Recruitment and others across campus, who were instrumental in the project's success. Project sponsors were UVic vice-presidents **Jamie Cassels**, **Gayle Gorrill** and **Valerie Kuehne**. CCAE is the professional association for educational advancement professionals.

Dr. Wolff-Michael Roth, Lansdowne Professor in Applied Cognitive Science (curriculum and instruction) has been selected and inducted as a fellow of the American Educational Research Association in recognition of exceptional contributions to educational research.

Stephen Hume (writing) is the winner of a BC Book Prize (<http://www.bcbookprizes.ca/>) for his book *Simon Fraser: In Search of Modern British Columbia*. This is the second time that Hume has won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize category. As one of the co-authors of *A Stain Upon the Sea: West Coast Salmon Farming*, he shared the 2005 prize. The journalist and poet has also won more than a dozen awards for his poetry, essays and journalism, including the Writers Guild of Alberta Literary Award, the Southam President's Award and the Marjorie Nichols Memorial Award. More: <http://harbourpublishing.com/title/SimonFraser>

Dr. Ulf Schuetze (Germanic and Slavic studies) has qualified for the Triathlon World Championships to be held in Queensland, Australia, in September. After a great showing at the national championships in Kelowna last year, Schuetze, an amateur, will compete alongside elite, professional athletes in Queensland.

Day in the life

BY CAMILLA GREGERSEN

A day in the life of Vugar Mehraliyev, programmer analyst in Enterprise Applications (University Systems) includes developing new and modifying existing applications on the university's Banner database. His job involves collaboration with network, system and database administrators across campus.

The range of Banner applications used on campus is quite vast, including everything from student registration, to finance, to human resource modules. Vugar enjoys developing applications. "It's my dream job," he explains, "because it allows me to be creative." Creating each new application is like "trying to make a masterpiece."

Among the many useful applications he has developed is one for the university mail room that records each time a department uses Canada Post, calculates the individual amounts owing, and sends that information to accounting. He has also worked on producing all the staff T4 forms. "Exactly 9,619

employees received them this year," he recalls off the top of his head. He also modified programming code to customize employee pay stubs with the UVic logo and address, as well as each individual's personal information. Vugar worked with a team to make it possible for UVic pay stubs to go paperless beginning mid-April for those employees that receive direct deposit. They will be able to log in and view their pay stubs online.

Vugar is originally from Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, which used to be part of the former Soviet Union. Vugar's background is in mathematics and, coincidentally, one of the world's most noted mathematicians, Lotfi Zadeh, was also from Baku. Zadeh is best known for his development of the "fuzzy logic" theory, an approach to computing based on degrees of truthfulness and falsehood.

In 1991, Vugar won Azerbaijan Republic's Mathematics Olympiad. After graduating from Baku State University, he moved to Turkey and worked as an information technology professional. He immigrated to



Mehraliyev takes a break from programming to play his tar, an ancient instrument and ancestor to the guitar and sitar. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Canada in 2004, living in Toronto for four years before moving to Victoria. "I love how beautiful the city is, and enjoy the mild climate and clean air," he says.

Vugar has many creative interests, one of which is music. He plays the guitar and the tar, an ancient instrument important in Azerbaijani culture and believed to be the root

of instruments such as the guitar and sitar.

Vugar also writes poetry, calling himself a "poet by nature," and enjoys playing chess, a popular past time in Azerbaijan.

Vugar is also a proud father of two sons. One is a teenager, and the other is eight months old and was born here in Victoria.

Community relations director can't stay away

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

Grant Hughes, who took up the position of director of community relations in February, knows from personal experience what a valuable community resource UVic is.

Hughes graduated from UVic in 1976 with a BSc and then, while working at the Royal British Columbia Museum, returned to complete a part-time master's degree in marine biology.

Thereafter, as director of curatorial services at the museum, he found himself managing a diverse staff and taking on more administrative work, so he returned on a part-time basis for his diploma in public administration.

At the museum, Hughes developed and implemented a successful multi-year civic engagement program involving nearly 200 community-based projects throughout BC. After 15 years in that position, says Hughes, "I got to the stage where I was old enough to finish one career and young enough to start a second one." And when the position of director of community relations at UVic was posted, it seemed a perfect fit.

The Ring recently spoke with Hughes about his new role on campus and some recent initiatives he is involved in.



Hughes. PHOTO: ROBIE LISCOMB

HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE HERE?

I serve as a bridge or conduit between all of the fine work that's done on campus and people in the community trying to find out what's happening here. If they don't have an easy way of finding out, they can contact me and I will try to find the appropriate person or expert to help them.

Conversely, for people at UVic involved in programs or activities that they wish to be better known in the community, they can let me know and

we can find appropriate opportunities to work that into some of the meetings that I have with associations and community leaders.

There are 13 local municipalities with 88 elected municipal officials that I have primary contact with, and there are seven neighborhood community associations that we work closely with.

The other half of my job involves the whole initiative around civic engagement and our continuing commitment to be involved in increasing the capacity of communities to solve their problems. That's beginning with the Civic Engagement Steering Council, an initiative spearheaded by UVic's vice-presidents to continue to contribute to the civic life of the community. My office will be the secretariat to the council.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE RECENT INITIATIVES YOU'RE INVOLVED IN?

We organize an annual series of community breakfasts where the president meets with local elected municipal councils. We also plan two- or three-day trips out of town where the president and others from UVic meet and build relationships with community groups and ensure that UVic's role and contributions in the broader context are well known. Most

recently, we had a very successful road trip to the mid-island region in April.

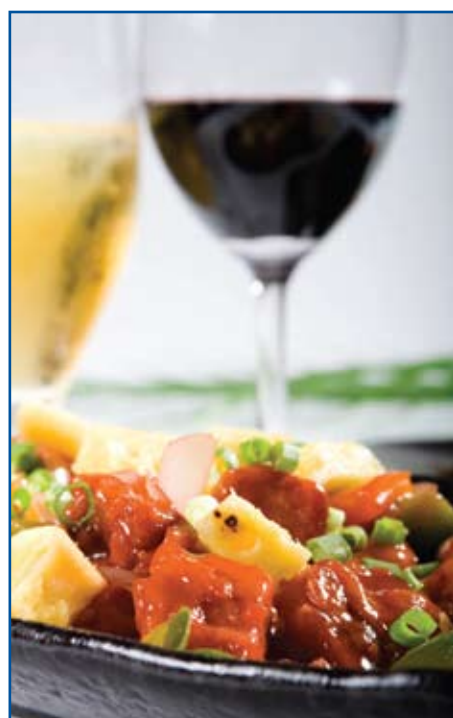
I'm involved with the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance, serving on the conference planning committee for the economic summit that will happen in Victoria this coming November.

And recently I've been facilitating discussions around the memorandum of understanding between UVic and the new Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre in Sidney. UVic is also mounting a temporary exhibit there highlighting the role of UVic and the UVic-based Oceans Networks Canada in research and education on the marine environment.

HOW DOES THE OFF-CAMPUS COMMUNITY VIEW UVIC?

It's hugely positive, from my perspective. Of course, I have been speaking primarily with people who have active links and broad connections with the university.

I think we can always do more, but there's a really good feeling of pride among people I deal with that they have a university like UVic in their community.



Food and drink pairing Wednesday workshops

Dunlop House, Lansdowne

- May 13 – Cider and Food
- May 27 – Beer and Food
- June 10 – A Mexican Fiesta with Margaritas and Daiquiris
- June 24 – BBQ with Summer Cocktails

Check camosun.ca/ce for other pairings and registration details.



Do you know an amazing grad?

We want to pack the June Convocation issue of *The Ring* with profiles of awesome UVic grads. If you know a student graduating next month who has a fabulous story to tell, please let us know. Email the grad's name, contact info and a sentence or two about the grad to: ringedit@uvic.ca.

