



University  
of Victoria

## SPEED READING

### TRANSPORTATION

#### New express and late-night bus service

There are two new transit options serving UVic. Route 15 Express from downtown to UVic is a semi-express (limited stop) service using Fort Street and Foul Bay Road. The #15 runs from Monday to Friday during the school year and terminates at a new bus stop on Ring Road in front of the Student Union Building. BC Transit has also introduced late night service on routes 4 and 14 from downtown to UVic on Friday and Saturday nights for a three-month trial period. More: [www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/](http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/)

### INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY-BUILDING

#### Building bridges with Africa

When Dr. Leslie Brown (human and social development) participated in a short teaching exchange with the United Nations affiliated University for Peace in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2008, little did she suspect that it would lead to a unique model of international community development grounded in local control. But it has resulted in just that—plus construction of a badly needed bridge to help save lives and revive community life in an Ethiopian village paralyzed each year by torrential rains and flooding. Story, p.5

### ADDICTIONS RESEARCH

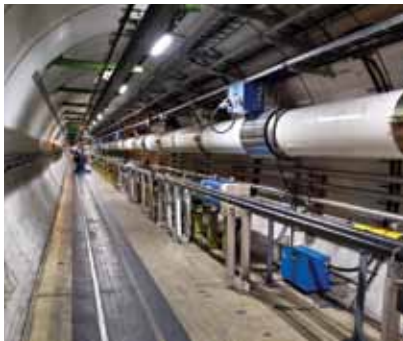
#### Drinking more, hurting more

UVic's Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC) is suggesting that BC's introduction of the harmonized sales tax (HST) provides a golden opportunity to help counteract the decade-long increase in drinking in the province and reverse recent increases in alcohol-related deaths and hospitalizations. Story p.4

### PSYCHOLOGY

#### Watching the brain at work

New technology developed by UVic researchers can show how multiple parts of the right brain dynamically process spatial relationships. UVic researcher Dr. Phil Zeman (psychology), his supervisor Dr. Ron Skelton, and PhD student Sharon Lee, are using Multiple Origin Spatio-Temporal-EEG techniques to improve our understanding of why people with traumatic brain injury have difficulties with spatial navigation and how pharmaceuticals such as antidepressants affect the brain. More: <http://bit.ly/5tBRVI>



# THE RING

JANUARY 2010

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper

[ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)

## NEPTUNE Canada opens window to the underwater world

**\$24M**

**OPERATING FUNDS PLEDGED FOR NEPTUNE AND VENUS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THROUGH THE CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION**

BY VALERIE SHORE

The NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatory and the University of Victoria had two big reasons to celebrate on Dec. 8.

That's the day that NEPTUNE Canada—the world's largest and most advanced cabled ocean observatory—officially turned on the gush of data from hundreds of scientific instruments and sensors installed on the seafloor of the Pacific Ocean.

The launch event also included a public announcement that NEPTUNE Canada and its sister ocean observatory, VENUS, are receiving \$24 million in operating funds over the next two years from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

"This is wonderful news that reinforces the world-leading stature of these two observatories," said NEPTUNE Canada project director Dr. Chris Barnes of the new funding. "We are hopeful that the federal government will soon establish a formal program to provide ongoing support to the operations of all of Canada's major science initiatives."

Led by the University of Victoria, NEPTUNE Canada pioneers a new generation of ocean observation systems that use innovative engineering and the Internet to provide continuous, long-term monitoring of ocean processes and events as they happen.



Iain Black, BC Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, launches the NEPTUNE data flow. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Land-based researchers across Canada and around the world can use NEPTUNE Canada to conduct offshore and deep-sea experiments and receive real-time data without leaving their laboratories and offices.

Every year for the next 25 years, NEPTUNE Canada will amass more than 60 terabytes of scientific data—equivalent to the text in about 60 million books—on biological, physical, chemical and geological processes in the Pacific Ocean.

"We're seeing history in the making,"

said Iain Black, BC Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, minutes before he officially launched NEPTUNE Canada's data flow at the Dec. 8 celebration. "One small click of a mouse—one giant leap toward ocean discoveries that will benefit the entire world."

The backbone of NEPTUNE Canada is an 800-km loop of powered fibre-optic cable installed on the seafloor off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Connected to

SEE NEPTUNE P.2

## Pilot project tests non-lethal rabbit control

The University of Victoria has entered into a pilot project agreement with Common Ground, a CRD-based wildlife damage control company, as the next step toward a long-term management plan for the feral rabbit population on campus.

Under the agreement, Common Ground will test non-lethal approaches to remove at least 150 feral rabbits from areas in and around the university's athletic fields. The pilot project involves live capture, removal from campus, sterilization and relocation to new homes.

The project will also identify the most effective methods and administrative structures for a long-term management plan as well as potential costs, the community's capacity to respond and

support a large-scale initiative, and the level of external resources—such as donations and sponsorships—that can be made available to assist.

"Our athletic fields were chosen for this pilot project because of the safety and potential health issues posed by the presence of rabbits," says Richard Piskor, director of UVic's Office of Occupational Health, Safety and Environment. "If this project proves successful, we will look at how the lessons learned can be applied elsewhere on campus within the context of a long-term management plan to reduce the rabbit population on university grounds to sustainable levels."

The feral rabbits at UVic are pets or descendants of pets that were

SEE RABBITS P.3

## UVic 2009 United Way blasts past \$300,000

BY TARA SHARPE

The UVic 2009 United Way campaign ended well in the red—in a very good way. The UVic community raised \$303,410 for the United Way of Greater Victoria, easily filling the billboard campus thermometers by exceeding the campaign goal of \$275,000, and placing UVic in the number two position for top donors in the city.

A number of fundraising initiatives took place across campus over the 12-week campaign, including the annual kick-off BBQ on Sept. 21 (bringing in more than \$2,200); the annual book sale hosted by UVic Libraries (stacking up a new record-breaking total of \$13,525.50); the two inaugural events organized by UVic commerce students, namely the JDC West dunk tank and Commerce Stu-

dents' Society garage sale (with the sale alone cashing in over \$1,100); the annual Hearts and Hands craft fair (adding nearly \$1,500 to the coffers); the new chemistry show performed by UVic associate chemistry professors Drs. Alexandre Brolo and Scott McIndoe (raising over \$1,400); the second annual Plasma Car Race (collecting a whopping \$3,828.50); and the campus-wide coin drive (collecting \$3,864.44 in big and small change). For a peek at event photos: [www.unitedway.uvic.ca/photogallery.htm](http://www.unitedway.uvic.ca/photogallery.htm)

Throughout the campaign, prize draws added to the excitement and overall sense of friendly competition. Generous donations were received from various sponsors: [www.unitedway.uvic.ca/sponsors.htm](http://www.unitedway.uvic.ca/sponsors.htm)

SEE UNITED WAY P.3



## ringers

**Dr. Larry Yore** (curriculum and instruction) presented a keynote address to the 2009 International Science Education Conference Nov. 24-26 at the National Institute of Education in Singapore. Over 750 science educators from ASEAN countries, Europe and North America attended. His address was entitled "Science Literacy for All—More than a logo or a rally flag!" Yore was also invited to speak to the U.S. National Research Council's Board of Science Education in Irvine, California, on Dec. 8. about the intersection of literacy and STEM (UVic's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Program, which encourages Aboriginal learners to explore possible career paths in these fields).

**Ken Babich** (purchasing) has been selected as a member of the accreditation review panel of the National Accreditation Program (NAP) of the Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council. The NAP provides accreditation of educational programs and courses in supply-chain related topics by universities, colleges, technical institutes, associations and others based on national and international principles and best practices.

## Third diversity research forum explores intersections

Online registration is now open for the third annual diversity research forum—Critical Conversations III: International, Indigenous, Intersectional—on campus Feb. 11 and 12. The conference will bring together faculty, students and community members to share research on diversity, explore opportunities for dialogue and collaboration, recognize research achievements and share critical pedagogy.

Keynote speakers are Budd Hall, director of UVic's Office of Community-Based Research; Lorna Williams, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning; and Christine O'Bonsawin, director of the UVic Indigenous Minor program.

Panel sessions include Street Stories: Building Knowledge and Capacity for Change; Engaging Indigenous Diversity in Academic Research; Challenges to the Heterosexual Matrix; and Relational Theatre Performances in the Spirit of Witnessing. The

conference will close with a session on Ethics and Protocols, Ceremonies and Rituals, led by members of UVic's Elders' Voices in First Peoples House.

"We have an array of diverse and dynamic plenary speakers and presentations on this year's program," says Grace Wong Sneddon, adviser on equity and diversity and chair of the conference planning committee. "I invite everyone to register early, and for faculty to consider bringing their classes to one or more of the sessions."

The free event is open to faculty, staff, students and community members. Pre-registration is required and includes lunch. Conference sponsors include the Vice-President Academic and Provost, Office of International Affairs and Office of Community-Based Research.

More information: 250-721-6143, multi@uvic.ca, or <http://web.uvic.ca/vpac/diversity/forum2010/>

### NEPTUNE CONTINUED FROM P.1

the cable loop are nodes—each the size of three minivans parked side-by-side—that provide power and two-way communications to hundreds of instruments and sensors.

Observations from NEPTUNE Canada will have policy applications in the areas of climate change, hazard mitigation (earthquakes and tsunamis), ocean pollution, port security and shipping, resource development, sovereignty and security, and ocean management.

"This observatory is coming online at a very critical moment in the history of our planet," says Dr. Kim Juniper, a UVic marine ecologist and the BC Leadership Chair in Ocean Ecosystems and Global Change. "The deep ocean is just starting to feel the effects of global-scale industrial activity in a big way."

Juniper is using NEPTUNE Canada instruments to study how deep-sea ecosystems react to disturbance and long-term environmental change. "With this new knowledge we'll be in a better position to predict and manage the impact of an increasing human presence in the oceans," he says.

Marine geophysicist Dr. Ele Willoughby at the University of Toronto is using NEPTUNE Canada to study gas hydrate deposits in Barkley Sound. These peculiar, ice-like deposits are a potential cleaner-burning fuel source. They're also storehouses of powerful greenhouse gases.

"What NEPTUNE Canada allows us to do for the first time," says Willoughby, "is to monitor a large hydrate deposit for years at a time so

that we can see very small changes."

She can also associate those changes with other phenomena, such as earthquake tremors, which are being measured by NEPTUNE Canada's network of seismic sensors.

"This network allows us to do the same kind of studies we're doing on land, but extends them to the deep ocean," says Dr. Garry Rogers, a research scientist with Natural Resources Canada. "The area where NEPTUNE Canada is deployed is one of the most active underwater earthquake areas in the world."

NEPTUNE Canada also features a tsunami array. The instruments in this array can detect sea level changes of 1 mm—the thickness of a sheet of paper—at one-second intervals in thousands of metres of water. The array proved itself for the first time in the hours following the Sept. 29 earthquake off Samoa.

"About 11 hours after the quake the first waves were recorded by the NEPTUNE Canada array," says Dr. Rick Thomson of the Institute of Ocean Sciences. "The first three waves generated are the most pristine records of a tsunami I have seen in my career."

The development phase of NEPTUNE Canada was funded by more than \$100 million from the Government of Canada through CFI, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and CANARIE, and the Government of British Columbia through the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund.

Visit NEPTUNE Canada at [www.neptunecanada.ca](http://www.neptunecanada.ca)

## Hydro exec appointed to UVic board

The Board of Governors of the University of Victoria is pleased to announce the appointment of Bev Van Ruyven as one of its members. Van Ruyven is the executive vice-president, customer care and conservation, of BC Hydro. She joined the company in 1997 as manager of key accounts and was promoted to progressively more senior management positions. Van Ruyven is past chair of the Western Energy Institute and serves on the boards of Accenture Business Services for Utilities, Fraser Basin Council and Vancouver Board of Trade Women's Leadership Circle.



Van Ruyven

In November 2009, she was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women—Top 100. Van Ruyven holds a BA from UVic and completed the Executive Management Program at the Richard Ivey School

of Business at the University of Western Ontario. She is one of the UVic Alumni Association's two nominees to the board of governors. Her two-year appointment began July 31, 2009.

### SOUTHAM LECTURER

## Life on the dead beat

BY MARIA LIRONI

Award-winning author and *Globe and Mail* senior feature writer and chief obituary writer Sandra Martin is UVic's new Harvey Stevenson Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Nonfiction.

While at UVic this term, Martin will lead a course that looks at biographical writing in the digital age. She will mentor young writers and aspiring journalists as they use multimedia to research and write "advance obituaries" for significant individuals who have local or provincial roots.

"Death provides the occasion, but obituaries are really about life," says Martin, describing the best obituaries as biographical sketches, located somewhere between journalism and history. "I'm eager to explore this narrative form with the students—its venerable history and its ethical pitfalls and opportunities in a digital world—in a course that I hope will broaden and deepen their storytelling approaches and techniques."

She will also give a free public lecture—entitled "From Last Rites to the Blog of Death: The Evolving Ethos of Obituaries in the Internet Age"—at UVic on Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the David Lam Auditorium. Martin will talk about the highs and lows of covering the "dead beat," the ethics of soliciting a pre-death interview, balancing journalistic judgment with respect for a grieving family's loss, the differences between eulogies and obituaries



Martin. PHOTO: THE GLOBE AND MAIL

and the future of obituaries in the wired world.

Martin is a past president of PEN Canada. She is the co-author of three books, including *Rupert Brooke in Canada* and *Card Tricks: Bankers, Boomers and the Explosion of Plastic Credit*, which was short-listed for the Canadian Business Book Award in 1993. Her latest book is *The First Man in My Life: Daughters Write About Their Fathers*, an anthology of original essays, which she commissioned and edited for Penguin in 2007.

The annual Harvey Stevenson Southam lectureship is made possible by a \$250,000 gift from one of the country's leading publishing families. Harvey Southam, a UVic alumnus and journalist, was an heir to his family's publishing empire when he died suddenly in 1991. His mother, Jean Southam, made the gift.

*"Death provides the occasion, but obituaries are really about life," says Martin*

## THE RING

Vol. 36 No. 1

The University of Victoria's community newspaper  
[ring.uvic.ca](http://ring.uvic.ca)



Printed using vegetable-based inks on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, Forest Stewardship Council certified, process chlorine free, using 100% Green-E certified renewable carbon-neutral energy.

Next issue Feb. 4

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

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Printed in Canada by Nanaimo Daily News

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40014024

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# UVic in the news: Top stories of 2009

Five 13-tonne subsea nodes on the ocean floor, trillions of subatomic collisions deep underground near Geneva, and an NBA champion as UVic's newest honorary degree holder are just a few of the many reasons UVic was featured in the news for 2009. Details: <http://communications.uvic.ca/releases/releases.php?year=2009>



NEPTUNE Canada project director Dr. Chris Barnes stands inside the frame of a node used in the world's largest undersea observatory.

## NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatory goes live

On Dec. 8, data began flowing from the world's largest and most advanced cabled ocean observatory. Information from hundreds of scientific instruments and sensors installed on the seafloor of the Pacific Ocean is now available 24/7.

## UVic writing student wins Journey Prize

In November, UVic master's student Yasuko Thanh won the \$10,000 Journey Prize, one of Canada's top literary awards for new writers, for her novel *Floating like the Dead*, a fictional account of life on D'Arcy Island, a tiny islet near Victoria that was used as an isolated, segregated colony for people with leprosy.

## Steve Nash accepts UVic honorary degree

Two-time NBA MVP winner Steve Nash accepted an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from UVic at a special convocation ceremony on Sept. 18.

## UVic's Green Car design wins award

In June, the UVic EcoCAR team's fuel-efficient, low-emission car of the future placed second overall at the EcoCAR Challenge student competition in Toronto for the design of this Extended Range Electric Vehicle that runs on electric power and E85 ethanol.

## UVic has sights set on subatomic action

In November, the world's biggest science experiment—the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which accelerates beams made up of trillions of protons into deliberate head-on collisions—powered up again and the subterranean action was in Europe and at UVic. Several crucial components used in two large multi-purpose detectors recording the action were designed and built by UVic scientists.

## UVic scores high in national research ranking—again

In October, UVic was named a "Research University of the Year" in the 2009 ranking of the country's top research universities by ReSearch Infosource. In the annual survey, UVic placed third in the comprehensive category, the highest ranked comprehensive university outside Ontario. UVic has held this position for the last seven years.

## Michael Audain's \$2-million gift benefits visual arts at UVic



In April, UVic announced a \$2-million gift from BC art philanthropist Michael Audain and the Audain Foundation to establish the Audain Professorship in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest. The gift brings a distinguished practising artist to teach in UVic's Department of Visual Arts.

## CanConnect provides better communication worldwide

In April, members of CanAssist demonstrated CanConnect, a one-of-a-kind invention to help seniors and people with cognitive and other disabilities communicate and stay in touch. CanConnect, a simple and user-friendly Skype interface, allows users to make free telephone calls and have face-to-face chats in real time over the Internet.

## Drinking more than your share



In April, the University of Victoria's Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC) announced that 53 per cent of alcohol consumed in Canada is consumed by just 10 per cent of Canadian residents aged 15 years and older. Says CARBC Director Dr. Tim Stockwell, "it is clear that ... restricting the number of liquor outlets and hours of trading will effectively target hazardous drinking by heavier drinkers with minimal inconvenience to lighter drinkers."

## Unnatural selection

Trophy hunting and commercial fishing are driving the most rapid evolutionary changes ever observed in the wild, according to a study published in January in the online issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The study was co-authored by UVic biologist Dr. Tom Reimchen and led by Dr. Chris Darimont, who began the work while a biology PhD candidate at UVic.

# ringers

**Dr. Andrew Weaver** (earth and ocean sciences) has been named one of 10 members of the Expert Panel on Ocean Climate Change and Marine Biodiversity commissioned recently by the Royal Society of Canada. The panel includes experts in fisheries and stock assessment, aquaculture, marine conservation, marine fish biodiversity, ocean climate change and marine law, and will commence its activities in June 2010. It will address matters of climate change, overfishing and biodiversity, all of which are related to various international treaties and conventions to which Canada is a signatory. The panel is expected to release its report to the public in late 2012.

**Dr. N. Ross Chapman** (earth and ocean sciences) has been named a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his contributions to geoacoustic characterization of ocean bottom environments. Fewer than one tenth of one per cent of IEEE members are elevated to fellow in any year.

**Dr. Chris Pritchett** (physics and astronomy) will chair a panel of eminent astronomers and astrophysicists to develop the Canadian Astronomical Society's long-range plan 2010, charting the course for astronomy research in Canada for the next decade and beyond. They will consult widely and survey and assess the state of projects under way and those being planned and provide a prioritized list to help achieve the greatest scientific impact. Canadians are deeply involved in several major projects that promise to revolutionize our understanding of the universe. *More: <http://casca.ca/lrp2010>*

## RABBITS CONTINUED FROM P.1

abandoned on campus by members of the community. Although many people on and off-campus enjoy the presence of rabbits, their activities can pose risks to human health and safety, and cause damage to plants and property. The rabbits are also dispersing into surrounding neighbourhoods.

"Feral rabbits are a region-wide issue that got its start by irresponsible owners abandoning their pets in public spaces," says Piskor. "It affects not only UVic but also properties around the Capital Region and it's going to take a region-wide effort to resolve it—by governments,

municipalities, organizations and individuals.

"UVic recognizes we can play a key role by tackling the issue on our campus. This pilot project represents a significant step toward that goal."

Community members or organizations who are interested in volunteering, providing financial support, or potential new homes for the rabbits captured during the pilot project are encouraged to contact Common Ground through <http://earthanimalrights.org>.

The university is also supporting ongoing efforts by the BC SPCA to encourage local governments to toughen up their bylaws dealing with

rabbit abandonment and to consider banning the sale of unspayed and unneutered rabbits, except to registered or licensed breeders.

UVic is continuing its public awareness campaign to change how people view and interact with feral rabbits on campus. The campaign is aimed at preventing further rabbit abandonment, reducing human-provided food sources for rabbits and preventing harassment of and cruelty to rabbits.

Common Ground was the successful applicant in a request for proposals (RFP) process conducted in September. Since that time, UVic

has been in discussions with Common Ground on elements of the project and has consulted with the BC Ministry of Environment, which has jurisdiction over feral rabbits under the BC Wildlife Act. Preliminary work starts immediately and the project will continue into February.

"The BC SPCA is pleased that UVic is taking this issue seriously and attempting non-lethal control methods as a pilot, but the abandonment of rabbits is a community-wide issue that needs community-supported solutions," says Sara Dubois, manager of wildlife services for the BC SPCA.

"Controlling the rabbit population on campus is in the best animal welfare interest of the rabbits and it is important that surrounding communities assist UVic's feral rabbit management through bylaw changes and public education programs," adds Dubois. "Members of the public need to understand both the responsibilities and rewards of owning a rabbit and that it is not only illegal to abandon their pets, but very inhumane."

More information on the pilot project and the university's rabbit awareness campaign: [www.uvic.ca/rabbits](http://www.uvic.ca/rabbits)

## UNITED WAY CONTINUED FROM P.1

The number of individual campaign donors in 2009 was similar to last year's at 623 donors versus 619 in 2008, while leadership donors (\$500 or more) were up 3 per cent over last year.

"I am so proud of our campaign committee and especially the campus community for its generosity," says UVic's 2009 campaign chair Norah McRae, executive director for UVic Co-operative Education and Career Services. So far, the UVic campus community has raised nearly \$1.3 million for the United Way of Greater Victoria since 2005.

Although UVic 2009 United Way contributions wrapped up at the end of the calendar year, donations will be

accepted for the 2010 campaign which will officially kick-off in September. You can fill out a pledge form from the UVic United Way website at [www.unitedway.uvic.ca](http://www.unitedway.uvic.ca) or for other information, visit [www.uwgv.ca](http://www.uwgv.ca).



McRae and United Way campaign assistant, UVic student Vitaly Kazakov. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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## around the ring

### Pitch your business concept

UVic students can win \$300 in the second annual UVic Pitch Competition by making the best pitch in 90 seconds about an entrepreneurial or social business concept. Pitch teams can be cross-faculty but are limited to three people with only one graduate student per team. Later, students can choose to draw up a business plan and enter the Business Plan Competition. Last year's winner, Jill Doucette (biology), went on to win the national Nicol Entrepreneurial Award Competition for Synergy, her green consulting practice. Register by Jan. 15. Details: [www.business.uvic.ca/pitchit](http://www.business.uvic.ca/pitchit)

### Tough questions again for world's religions

Once again, the University of Victoria's Interfaith Services is sponsoring a forum discussion of 'thorny' questions for religion and faith. The four discussion sessions for the second annual "Tough Questions for Religions" forum take place Tuesday afternoons from Jan. 19 to Feb. 9 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the David Lam Auditorium. Topics range from the impact of free speech on religion to religious effects on people's sex lives. Details: <http://web.uvic.ca/interfaith/toughquestions/index.html>

### Local leaders to be lauded

The 2010 Victoria's Leadership Awards (VLA) will be announced Jan. 28 at a fundraising reception from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. Leadership Victoria is an action and study program dedicated to honing the skills of current and future local leaders. The Leadership Victoria Lifetime Achievement award recipient will be announced in early January. At the reception, the recipients of the Victoria Foundation Community Leadership award, the Rotary Community Leadership Awards, the Vancity Youth Award, the University of Victoria Community Leadership Awards, and the Leadership Victoria Alumni Award—will be announced. Tickets: 250-386-2269 or [layla@leadershipvictoria.ca](mailto:layla@leadershipvictoria.ca). More: [www.leadershipvictoria.ca](http://www.leadershipvictoria.ca)

### Positive Space launch

Celebrate the launch of the Positive Space Network (PSN), a visible network of students, faculty, staff and alumni working to make UVic a safer and more inclusive space for people of all genders and sexualities. Everyone is invited to a launch reception Feb. 4 from 4–5:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Lounge, University Club. Light refreshments will be served and networking is encouraged. RSVP to [psn@uvic.ca](mailto:psn@uvic.ca) by Jan. 15. And on Feb. 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the PSN will host a morning of presentations on academic research entitled Explore Your Space: Gender and Sexuality in Academics in the SUB Michèle Pujol room. More: <http://web.uvic.ca/~psn>

# More drinking, more harm

BY MARIA LIRONI

British Columbians are drinking more than ever. That's just one of the new findings coming out of UVic's Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC).

Alcohol use has been rising in BC for almost a decade and twice as fast as in the rest of Canada. Since 2002, on average, BC drinkers aged 15 and up increased their consumption of alcohol from 475 to 525 standard drinks per year. Recorded liver cirrhosis deaths, most of which are caused by alcohol, have increased 39 per cent over the same period, while total alcohol-related deaths in BC are now approaching 2,000 per year.

Rates of alcohol and tobacco consumption and related harms tend to be higher in the north and the interior of BC, though there are more individual cases of such harm in the lower mainland where the bulk of the population resides.

CARBC is suggesting that BC's introduction of the harmonized sales tax (HST) provides a golden opportunity to help counteract this increase in drinking and reverse recent increases in alcohol-related deaths and hospitalizations. It proposes that the average price of alcohol stay the same and prices better reflect alcohol content, and that the minimum price of alcohol should remain indexed to the cost of living.

"The BC government has a golden opportunity to reduce the many varieties of alcohol-related harm by encouraging drinkers to make healthier choices," says CARBC Director Dr. Tim Stockwell,



Stockwell. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT

who co-authored the CARBC's *Alcohol Pricing, Public Health and the HST: Proposed Incentives for BC Drinkers to Make Healthy Choices*.

The report, which has been shared with Premier Gordon Campbell and members of his cabinet, recommends: setting and enforcing a minimum price per standard drink and applying it to all products (\$1.50 in liquor stores and \$3 in bars and restaurants), altering mark-ups to decrease the price of low-alcohol-content beverages and increase the price of high-alcohol-content beverages, and indexing minimum prices and mark-ups to inflation to ensure that alcohol does not continue to become cheaper over time relative to other goods.

"The government collects liquor taxes with one hand but pays out more for the harms from alcohol misuse with the other," says CARBC Senior Policy Analyst Dr. Gerald Thomas.

CARBC's report is supported by international research showing that consumers of alcohol are very sensitive to price. Rather than proposing across-the-board increases in price, the report recommends targeting cheap high-strength drinks and creating incentives for producers, retailers and drinkers to, in turn, manufacture, promote and drink low-alcohol-content drinks. The BC Liquor Distribution Branch determines the price in its own liquor stores as well as the wholesale price paid by private distributors.

"We have also recommended other evidence-based prevention, policy and harm reduction strategies," says Stockwell. "The pricing issue is critical now with the advent of HST next summer. PST on liquor is now 10 per cent versus 7 per cent for everything so the government must raise all mark-ups by 3 per cent to keep prices the same come July 1, 2010."



Hassler with her student Hawah Balaba in Uganda

## Uganda experience fuels student's dream for a medical career

BY CEARA LORNIE

When UVic microbiology co-op student Julia Hassler was applying for her fourth co-op work term, she knew she wanted to travel. Her previous work terms involved analyzing environmental, food and animal samples in a variety of lab environments, and she was eager to use her skills in a new way.

When she decided to pursue a work term at a medical institute in Uganda, she knew it would be a new and eye-opening experience. She was right—within three weeks of arriving in Uganda, Hassler had delivered her first baby and discovered a real interest in pursuing a medical career.

Hassler's work term was coordinated by the International Christian Medical Institute and was divided into two main roles. The first part of Hassler's work term was spent teaching health administration classes to health-care professionals. The second half involved volunteer work at a local hospital, where she quickly learned how to make herself useful in a stressful, busy and dangerous environment.

"The hospitals are understaffed and under-equipped," she says. "Ugandan women have little access to prenatal care and are asked

to bring their own birth kit to the hospital, including basic items like surgical gloves. It really opened my eyes to the need for resources and support."

During her first few days at the hospital, Hassler helped labouring mothers and assisted the midwives and doctors with births and postnatal care. Soon she was helping women deliver babies on her own. "It was the most incredible and rewarding feeling I've ever felt in my life," she says. "It made me realize that I want to pursue a career in obstetrics or gynecology."

Now in her final year of her bachelor of science degree, Hassler plans to apply to the UVic-based Island Medical Program. Her experience in Uganda has made her appreciate her education even more. "I met people on the streets in Uganda who wanted to go to school but couldn't for economic reasons. People had a real desire for education. I feel fortunate that I have the opportunity to become a doctor and help people."

Hassler hopes to do just that by returning to Uganda to volunteer again. "I had an amazing experience in Uganda. I loved getting to know the students and the mothers and hearing their life stories. I know I can make an impact, and that is so inspiring."

## Your time to shine

Saturday Short Takes – bright, bold continuing education one-day courses. Take a look – [camosun.ca/ce](http://camosun.ca/ce)



## Navigate the ever-changing market

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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# Building bridges with Africa

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN

What began as a sightseeing tour of a small community in Ethiopia has resulted in a life-saving project establishing a unique model for local and international partnerships.

In March 2008, as part of ongoing efforts by the Faculty of Human and Social Development (HSD) to assist with building academic capacity in Africa, Dr. Leslie Brown, associate dean of research, participated in a short teaching exchange with the UN-affiliated University for Peace (UPeace) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, through UVic alumnus Dr. Elias Cheboud, now research coordinator for UPeace, Africa Program.

A visit to Asebe Teferi, locally known as "Chiro," resulted in the identification of a critical need in this community of 413,000. A riverbed that runs through the township often fills to overflowing during the rains, creating hazardous living conditions. Every rainy season, people and animals lose their lives trying to cross the river that divides the community. The development of a well-engineered footbridge for people to access medical services, work, school, community activities and transport goods was essential to help revive community life paralyzed each year by the torrential rains and flooding. Brown and Emma Tang, a UVic School of Social Work student on practicum in Ethiopia, became involved in the fundraising for this vital footbridge, helping create a sustainable solution for the people of Chiro.

With the help of Cheboud, this project gave rise to a unique model of international community development grounded in local control. The mayor and other local leaders were encouraged to set up an organization to manage funds, recruit local volunteers and



L-R: Brown, Bruce Parisian of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Tang and Cheboud. PHOTO: JO-ANN RICHARDS

obtain resources. In order to help improve their image locally, the military were persuaded to assist with community service. Ethiopian engineering students provided the design for the bridge and local carpenters donated their time.

The community was clear it did not want to engage in charity governance and has maintained direction for the entire project locally. "Building networks locally and internationally has allowed us to develop a model of collaboration and cooperation which positively impacts and strengthens the lives in Chiro and the region as a whole," says Cheboud.

Along with UVic, outside partnerships were sought, and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre saw this opportunity as a way to engage Aboriginal youth. The intention is to raise funds

to provide youth an opportunity to visit Chiro, see the bridge, learn from this community model and visit the local high school.

"We see this partnership as a win-win opportunity and an example of a successful relationship model," says Brown. "This is about connecting youth, building capacity and moving beyond charity work."

In addition to the work on the Chiro bridge and academic capacity building, UVic faculty are working collaboratively to explore the development of doctoral and masters' level programs in social transformation and peace building as well as hosting doctoral students who return to their teaching positions in Ethiopia.

The bridge is near completion and will be ready before the rains come in July.

## Indigenous student focused on goals —her own and others'

BY WILL JOHNSON

Natasha Marshall likes to set goals for herself. Inspired by her mother, who began pursuing post-secondary education while Marshall was a teenager, she realized that through hard work and dedication she could make her dreams come true.

"I have to know where I'm going to get there," says Marshall, who has mapped out her career trajectory for the next dozen years. Having completed her diploma in First Nations community studies, Marshall is now working on her bachelor of commerce at UVic, after which she plans to pursue a concurrent master of business administration and law degree.

For two summers, Marshall held co-op positions as a mental health supervisor assistant and youth support worker for the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nation Tribal Council on the west coast of Vancouver Island. A member of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth

Nation, she spent her work terms traveling to different communities within her nation to co-facilitate suicide prevention workshops and provide support in a variety of capacities.

"This experience made me realize that I can help my people in really positive ways. I can apply the skills and tools I have learned at university to create opportunities to empower people and help them grow," she says.

One of her favorite experiences was leading an outdoor leadership summer camp for teenagers. "The kids loved it," says Marshall. "It was a way for them to reconnect with our traditional heritage."

As an Aboriginal student, Marshall says she has run into some barriers but has been encouraged by her relationships with other Indigenous students, including fellow business co-op student and friend Lisa Dewit of the Wet'suwet'en territory.



Marshall. PHOTO: WILL JOHNSON

"She was a big help to me. It was so nice to speak with another student and to see how she coped. Lisa showed me that we can learn and progress without giving up our identity," she says.

She says that a key to her success is her partner Gary, her six-year-old daughter Mercedes

and all her family. "Sometimes I'm only looking ahead. Gary helps keep me in the here and now," she says.

And Marshall's career goals include those of others. "I just want to help people in whatever way I can, to work towards their goals," she says.

## around the ring

### Help Co-op and Career Services and win an iPod

Help UVic Co-op and Career name their new job posting system and you could win an iPod Nano. The job posting system is a web-based database that will allow Co-op and Career staff to post co-op and career positions and other jobs, manage employer profiles and help students and employers to connect. Submissions will be shortlisted in February and the winning name will be announced by March. The new system will launch in 2010. Submit your idea: [www.uvic.ca/coop/namingcontest](http://www.uvic.ca/coop/namingcontest)

### More Victoria secrets revealed

Do you know about the role of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in early Victoria, the architects of St. Ann's Academy, the 150th anniversary of the founding of Freemasonry in Victoria, or Victoria's bicycle craze of the 1890s? UVic history students—as part of the fourth-year course Microhistory and the World Wide Web—have added all this and more to the Victoria's Victoria website, an expanding and authoritative source on the history of Victorian Victoria. [www.victoriasvictoria.ca](http://www.victoriasvictoria.ca)

### Normal School oral histories available

UVic Libraries has just made available digital audio files of the Provincial Normal School oral histories: 19 interviews conducted in 1978 with former instructors and students who attended the teacher training school, which amalgamated with Victoria College, later to become UVic, and now the site of the Camosun College Lansdowne campus. More: <http://contentdm.library.uvic.ca/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uvoh>

### Starring UVic Special Collections

A film crew from the Hungarian/American production company 56Films spent several days in the Special Collections reading room in December photographing material from the László Hudec fonds covering the period from 1913–37. The photographs will be used in a feature-length documentary about Hudec's life and work. The Hungarian/Slovakian architect was active in Shanghai from 1918 to 1945 and was responsible for some of the city's most notable structures, including the Park Hotel and the Grand Theatre. Hudec fonds: <http://library.uvic.ca/site/spcoll/guides/sc132.html>; info on the documentary: [www.56films.com/english/hudec/synopsis](http://www.56films.com/english/hudec/synopsis)

### Nominate your favourite academic

The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC has announced the addition of a new category—the Early In Career Award—to their annual Distinguished Academics Awards. Nominations for the Early In Career Award, Academic of the Year Award, and the Paz Buttedahl Career Achievement Award are open from now until Feb. 5. Information and nomination forms: [www.cufa.bc.ca/awards](http://www.cufa.bc.ca/awards)



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# Sustainability in action

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SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATORS

## Free Car Share memberships

Car sharing is a convenient and affordable alternative to owning your own car. You share cars with other members and only pay (by the hour and distance) when you use a car. The Victoria Car Share Co-op (VCSC) has four vehicles on campus available 24/7 for personal and business use. UVic is pleased to offer a complimentary membership in the VCSC to full-time continuing faculty and staff who work on campus and do not have a parking permit. There are also some complimentary memberships for residents at the Family Student Housing Complex. Details: [www.uvic.ca/sustainability](http://www.uvic.ca/sustainability)

## "Lug-A-Mug" campaign

The UVic community disposes of approximately 3,000 paper coffee cups daily, or close to 1.1 million per year. We can all work to get that number down. Use your own mug. The UVic Bookstore and various cafés on campus offer a great selection of mugs, and you will enjoy a discount when you buy coffee at most cafés on campus. If you must use a disposable cup, compost it in one of the designated compost stations around campus. See the location map on our website. The plastic lids can go into any of the bottles, cans and plastics recycling bins.

Watch for more info on the "Lug-A-Mug" campaign in the months to come.

## Manage what you measure

Under new provincial legislation, UVic is required to be carbon neutral by 2010, which means we need to measure and report on our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To make sure everyone is measuring the same things the same way, the province has developed a software tool called SMARTTool—a GHG inventory framework which defines the scope to include emissions from buildings, fleet, paper use and fugitive emissions. A campus-wide GHG reporting team has been working hard over the last few months to get a handle on the data required. Overall we're in good shape and we expect to have a completed 2009 UVic GHG inventory fairly early in the new year.

## 100% post-consumer waste paper purchasing policy

In January 2008, UVic became the first university in BC to implement a policy mandating that all bond paper (used in photocopiers and printers) be 100 per cent post-consumer waste. Considering that UVic consumes 72 million sheets of paper annually, this policy saves a lot of trees and lowers our carbon footprint and has not resulted in any significant increases in cost. More about UVic's sustainable purchasing policies and practices: [www.uvic.ca/purchasing](http://www.uvic.ca/purchasing)  
More at [www.uvic.ca/sustainability](http://www.uvic.ca/sustainability)

## SMART AND SUSTAINABLE

# UVic Business students create green solutions

BY DIANNE GEORGE

Be innovative and be green—that's the 10-day challenge UVic Business students faced in the faculty's inaugural INFUSE Innovation Challenge held in November.

The winning results include credible business ideas like reducing the number of cars on campus by registering online to share a ride, an electronic alternative to traditional textbooks and web-based tips and video clips on how to save energy and money.

Dr. Monika Winn, associate professor of business strategy and sustainability, introduced the contest to help students exercise their creative capacity and generate positive change through a sustainable business idea. The challenge was undertaken by 123 third-year students studying business and sustainability.

"The students' creativity and enthusiasm were tremendous, even though they faced severe time constraints and competing pressures," says Winn. "In fact, judges and students were unanimous in calling for another round next year. The opportunity to tap into their creative side added a new and powerful dimension to the students' academic experience and contributed greatly to team building."

Two classes of students worked in groups of four to develop a new product, a change to an existing product, a new process, business model or marketing approach. Several projects focused on UVic, and the students' experience may inspire follow-on projects that aim to implement the ideas.



Nanos. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

The creators of "Gym Power" believe that UVic gyms could become self-sustaining and off the grid. "We could harness the energy produced when we're using the bikes and other equipment and re-use it to power lights and electricity," says team member Drew Nanos. "The equipment would be retrofitted with high-efficiency generators and the energy stored and re-used for other purposes."

The RideShare initiative builds on traditional carpooling programs by using the power of social networking. Anyone commuting to UVic on a regular basis could pay a small fee to join the network, complete an online profile and indicate the times they would like to arrive and leave school each day. The RideShare team would match members up to create carpooling groups. "Everyone wins," says stu-

dent Derek Juno. "Students save their hard-earned cash by cutting gas and parking costs and, with fewer cars on the road, members decrease carbon emissions. It's a first step or gateway to living more sustainably."

The idea of capturing the energy produced from everyday living inspired a number of ideas including using the energy required to open and close doors. Several of the groups created three-minute YouTube videos to present their projects, which can be accessed from the UVic Business website at: <http://www.business.uvic.ca/green/student/>.

"We didn't do this alone," says Winn. "UVic's Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability and Office of Student Affairs served as sponsors; faculty, staff and alumni helped judge the projects; and Pacific Carbon Trust and Change! contributed to the launch."



## UVic Emergency Alerts

Have you registered your mobile phone to receive emergency messages?

[www.uvic.ca/alerts](http://www.uvic.ca/alerts)



University of Victoria

Occupational Health, Safety & Environment

## The spotlight's on Alumni.

Come to campus for Alumni Week 2010. It's our third annual celebration of all the great things UVic alumni do in their communities.

- Victoria College Reunion
- Astronomy Lecture
- Distinguished Alumni Awards Night
- Excellence in Teaching Celebration
- Alumni-on-Campus Breakfast
- CanAssist Open House
- Lots more, plus great prizes!

**Alumni Week 2010**  
**February 1 – 7**  
Details at [alumni.uvic.ca](http://alumni.uvic.ca)

University of Victoria

# calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated.

For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at [www.uvic.ca/events](http://www.uvic.ca/events)

## at the galleries

[uvac.uvic.ca](http://uvac.uvic.ca)  
250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit** *Inside Chinatown: Paintings by Robert Amos*. Until Jan. 17. These acrylic paintings resulted from the photographic images that Amos recently published in his book *Inside Chinatown*. Legacy Art Gallery and Café. 630 Yates St. 250-721-8298

■ **Exhibit** *Cross Connections: Four Decades of Contemporary Art in the Pacific Northwest—Works from the Coast Art Trust Collection*. Until Feb. 21. An historical overview of the works and careers of 45 artists who live on the West Coast of British Columbia and who have been active locally, nationally and internationally for at least 25 years. Legacy Art Gallery and Café 630 Yates St. 250-381-7670

■ **Exhibit** *Travels and Treasures*. Until Jan. 29. Presenting two views on foreign travel: Divine Inspirations focuses on artist Katharine Maltwood and her travels to Egypt and Japan in the early 20th century. Treasures of the Turcomans features the Gastrell Collection of jewelry, textiles and carpets made by nomadic women in Iran and Baluchistan (northern India/Pakistan) during the 1930-40s. UVic Centre B115. 250-721-8298

## MONDAY, JANUARY 11

■ **John Albert Hall Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *The Engaging and Slightly Terrifying World of Text Scholarship, or What Agnes and Margaret Did Next*. Janet Soskice, Univ. of Cambridge. Social Sciences & Math A120. 250-721-6325

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

■ **Cafe Scientifique** 6:30 p.m. *Jumping into the Gene Pool: Bringing the Power of Genetics to Aquaculture*. The Strathcona Hotel, 919 Douglas St., Maple Rm. 250-472-4067

■ **John Albert Hall Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Naming God at Sinai, or Is the God of Classical Christianity a Monster?* Janet Soskice, Univ. of Cambridge. Social Sciences & Math A120. 250-721-6325

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

■ **Résumania** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop-in résumé workshops in Clearihue A Wing and ECS lobby.

■ **John Albert Hall Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Climbing Mountains and Following God: From Spirituality to Ethics*. Janet Soskice, Univ. of Cambridge. Social Sciences & Math A120. 250-721-6325

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

■ **ICOR & IESVic Seminar** 10 a.m. *Integration of Wave Energy Into Off-Grid Energy Systems: A Case Study for Hot Springs Cove, BC*. Clayton Hiles, MASc candidate, UVic. Eng. & Computer Science Bldg. 660. 250-721-8848

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

■ **Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives Research Forum** 8:30 a.m. *Women, Entrepreneurship and Institutional Change: Japan,*

*Canada and Beyond*. Cadboro Commons Bldg. McKenzie-Sinclair Rm. 250-721-7020

■ **Beck Lecture** 11:30 a.m. *Beowulf and Grendel: The Director's Take*. Sturla Gunnarsson, filmmaker. SUB, Cinecenta Theatre. 250-853-7656

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

■ **ICOR Food for Thought** 12 p.m. *Do We Need Marine Protected Areas?* Host Dr. Phil Dearden, UVic. The goal of this coastal and oceans focused series is to provide members of the university community and members of the general public an opportunity to listen and talk to a member of ICOR in a small interactive setting. Univ. Centre A180. 250-721-8848

■ **Interfaith Chaplains Services** 4:30 p.m. *Compassionate Action—Humanity's Immune Response to a Planet in Crisis*. Velcrow Ripper, filmmaker and spiritual activist. David Lam Auditorium. 250-721-8338.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. Orion Guest Lecture with Stan Fisher. *Practical advice for achieving financial security in the music business*. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

■ **Music** 3:30 p.m. Orion Guest Lecture with Stan Fisher. *Achieving Success in the Music Business*. MacLaurin. A169. 250-721-7904

■ **Other** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist: Laurie Freeman*. Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

■ **Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy Speaker Series** 4 p.m. *First Nations and Cooperative Environmentalism: Leveraging a Sustainable Landscape*. Dr. James Hopkins, National Chair on Aboriginal Economic Development. Bob Wright Centre, Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Science Bldg. A104. 250-853-3931

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

■ **Centre for Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 7 p.m. *What Does Thinking Have To Do with It? An 8th-Century Buddhist Debate and Its Avatars*. Tom Tillemans, Univ. of Lausanne. Strong C118. 250-721-6325

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

■ **ICOR Lecture** 3:30 p.m. *The Perfect Storm: Ocean and Coastal Research Meets the Fine Arts*. Dr. Sarah Blackstone, UVic. Fine Arts Bldg. 103. 250-721-8848

■ **Centre for Studies in Religion & Society** 4:30 p.m. *Animating Spirituality: The Convergence of Technology, Consciousness and Cinema in Japan*. Irina Novak, UVic. Strong C116. 250-721-6325

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

■ **History in Art Conference** 4:30 p.m. *Visual Impetus 13*. And Jan. 29 & 30. The annual student-organized symposium showcasing graduate and undergraduate students' research. Fine Arts 103. 250-721-7942

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

■ **Music** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. School of Music brass students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-7904

■ **Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *The Ecological Imperative: New Challenges for Catholic Social Teaching*. Tony Clarke, Polaris Institute, Ottawa. Strong C103. 250-721-6325

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

■ **Other** 9 a.m. *Investors Group Walk for Memories*. 6th annual flagship fundraising event in support of the Alzheimer Society of BC. 5 k walk starts at 10 a.m. Register: [www.WalkForMemories.com](http://www.WalkForMemories.com). UVic Centennial Stadium. 250-474-6761

■ **Conversational Cafe** 1:30 p.m. Join us for a discussion on the need to create. In conjunction with *Cross Connections: Four decades of contemporary art in the Pacific Northwest* Works from the Coast Art Trust Society. Legacy Art Gallery and Café 630 Yates St. 250-721-8480.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

■ **Other** *UVic Alumni Week 2010*. Feb. 1 to 7. The annual celebration of everything that UVic grads do for their communities. It's a great time to come back to campus, renew friendships, and bring back some of the old UVic memories. Info: [http://alumni.uvic.ca/events/alumni\\_week.html](http://alumni.uvic.ca/events/alumni_week.html). Various campus locations. 250-721-6000

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

■ **SEOS Seminar** 3:30 p.m. *Fire, Forests and Climate Change*. Dr. Brian Amiro, Univ. of Manitoba. Science Bldg. A104. 250-472-4006

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# beyond the ring

News on post-secondary education across Canada and around the world. To suggest items or topics for this column, email [ringedit@uvic.ca](mailto:ringedit@uvic.ca).

## Queen's reviewing academic priorities

Queen's University, facing a projected \$33-million budget deficit over the next three years, is reviewing its academic priorities with an eye to doing less with less. Queen's Principal Daniel Woolf is calling for a review of the university's academic priorities and a renewal of emphasis on undergraduate education. This is in addition to a 15-per-cent budget cut over the next three years, a salary freeze for senior administration and a review of real estate holdings. *Globe and Mail* story: <http://bit.ly/7dtv43> and Queen's financial update: <http://bit.ly/5lnP90>

## U of A raises tuition, fees to help address deficit

The University of Alberta in December raised tuition (1.5 per cent), residence rent (3.8 per cent) and parking fees (2 per cent) to help combat a projected \$59-million budget shortfall for the next fiscal year. U of A is looking to address the deficit evenly among measures to increase revenues, identify administrative efficiencies and contain costs. U of A *ExpressNews* story: <http://bit.ly/8da6CM>

## BCIT considers layoffs to balance budget

The preliminary budget for the British Columbia Institute of Technology includes plans to eliminate 82 positions in order to deal with a projected \$12-million budget deficit. Job cuts would affect managers, support staff and approximately 20 instructor positions. *Burnaby News Leader* story: <http://bit.ly/5ualGx>



## Research buoys hopes for wave power

A crew from Axys Technologies Inc. eases the WatchMate wave monitoring buoy into a ship waiting to take it out past Amphitrite Point in Ucluelet, where it will provide wind, wave and tidal current data for the UVic-led West Coast Wave Collaboration project, a network of researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs and computer modeling experts investigating the potential for harnessing wave energy. Dr. Brad Buckham (mechanical engineering) is a primary investigator for the project. PHOTO: WESTERLY NEWS

## A week-long spotlight on alumni

The third annual Alumni Week comes to campus from Feb. 1 through 7. The UVic Alumni Association, in partnership with each faculty, is presenting a series of events and prizes to honour all that alumni do for their communities.

Featured events include a Distinguished Alumni night honouring 10 prominent alumni from nine faculties and the Division of Continuing Studies. As well, the alumni association, together with the Learning and Teaching Centre and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, will bring together and congratulate 19 teaching award winners from across campus.

Alumni will also have a chance to win a \$3,000-grand-prize travel package from UNIGLOBE Geo Travel. Details: [alumni.uvic.ca](http://alumni.uvic.ca)

## Advisory group addresses issues of employment equity

The Employment Equity Advisory Group (EMAG) is one of two groups comprising the University Human Rights Committee, an advisory committee to the president on equity and human rights issues. EMAG offers a forum for discussion, and advises and assists in providing information about employment equity and human rights and reviewing equity plans and initiatives, policies and procedures.

Advisory group meetings take place every six weeks between September and May. Twice a year EMAG meets with the Education Equity

Advisory Group and the president to make recommendations for addressing emerging and ongoing issues.

The group's goals are to develop a consistent approach to human rights and equity across all employee and student groups, to enhance communication between groups and committees serving common ends, and to foster the acceptance of individual and institutional responsibility to respect the human rights of all members of the campus community.

EMAG seeks to work through

existing units and structures to address issues or concerns. Temporary groups are also set up from time to time to assist with specific issues. A new group focusing on the issue of ambient violence, or hate messages in graffiti on campus, is being formed.

UVic employees are encouraged to discuss issues of employment equity with their respective EMAG delegates, who are listed at <http://web.uvic.ca/eqhr/uhrc/currentmembership.htm>.

Information: <http://web.uvic.ca/eqhr/uhrc.htm>

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REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100		\$201,321	\$181,179	\$163,509	\$145,162	\$137,820	\$127,945
Accelerated Payout:	Income over 5 years .....	\$1,821					
	Income over 10 years .....	\$991					
	Income over 15 years .....	\$717					
	Total 5 year payout .....					\$109,238	
	Total 10 year payout .....					\$118,891	
	Total 15 year payout .....					\$129,060	

\* Based on best current GIC of 3.55%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

LIFE ANNUITIES							
	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
<b>Male</b>							
...payments cease at death		\$592	\$644	\$720	\$856	\$980	\$1,207
...10 years guaranteed		\$584	\$630	\$691	\$783	\$849	\$961
<b>Female</b>							
...payments cease at death		\$559	\$605	\$666	\$771	\$875	\$1,064
...10 years guaranteed		\$554	\$596	\$649	\$732	\$798	\$912
<b>Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed</b>		\$521	\$551	\$597	\$671	\$734	\$842

Various options concerning guarantee periods and survivor benefits available  
Annuities derived from non-registered capital have tax preferred treatment

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