



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

CONVOCATION 2014

Watch Spring Convocation on the web

The Spring Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live on June 9-12, 2014. If you're not able to attend in person, you can watch the ceremonies on your computer at uvic.ca/convocation. The video of each webcast will be available on this website for six weeks following Convocation. All ceremonies take place in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. For event times and more information, please visit uvic.ca/ceremonies.

SHARED MEMORIES

Grad pics go social

Watch for the new Convocation Photo Booth all during convocation week, located near the west entrance to the McKinnon Building (the temporary site of post-convocation receptions). Members of the UVic Student Ambassadors will be on hand to help grads take photos and post them to Twitter and Instagram. There will be whiteboards for writing graduation messages along with some fun props, and a few cameo appearances by Vikes mascot, Thunder. Remember to use the hash tag #UVic2014 for all of your convocation-related posts.

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

Washington named Distinguished Entrepreneur

On June 4, Dennis Washington, founder of The Washington Companies, was awarded as the Gustavson School of Business Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award (DEYA) for 2014. "Dennis fits the criteria for this award perfectly," says Peter B. Gustavson, founder and chair of the DEYA committee. The Washington Companies comprise more than a dozen affiliated companies—including Seaspam—that are leaders in rail and marine transportation, ship building and repair, mining, environmental remediation, heavy-equipment distribution and aviation.



Mills. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



SHELAGH ROGERS NAMED AS NEXT UVIC CHANCELLOR

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THE RING

SUMMER 2014

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Zhetabi-Oskue. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

3,554

NUMBER OF
GRADUATING
STUDENTS
RECEIVING
DEGREES
DIPLOMAS OR
CERTIFICATES
DURING SPRING
CONVOCATION

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Engineering grad casts new light on nanoscale interactions

BY JULIE SLOAN

Researchers all over the world dream of making new discoveries in well-established fields, but engineering grad Ana Zhetabi-Oskue's path has gone straight to the edge of an emerging field. While studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Tehran, Zhetabi-Oskue became intrigued by optical trapping, a method pioneered in 2009 by electrical engineering professor Dr. Reuven Gordon, a team of UVic grad students and Dr. Romain Quidant at the Europe-based Institute of Photonic Sciences.

Zhetabi-Oskue describes optical trapping as the use of light and nanomaterials "to trap very small particles, on a nano scale, to move, manipulate and study them." She knew that it was the field for her, combining her desire to work in electrical engineering and her love of chemistry. And UVic's Nanoplasmonics and Optronics Lab was where Zhetabi-Oskue knew she was headed.

When Zhetabi-Oskue started research for her thesis in Gordon's lab, optical trapping was done with molecules in one medium—water. She has since developed a new technique to better isolate and study

individual protein molecules and their interactions. This groundbreaking work means that by using optical trapping, researchers can now look at and manipulate, for example, how a protein binds with a virus. Her research has far-reaching implications, extending well beyond health care research. Zhetabi-Oskue's work has attracted the interest of industry partners in optics and pharmaceuticals. Thorlabs, the world's largest optics supplier, sponsored a web-based video about her work.

Zhetabi-Oskue credits Gordon for a

SEE ZHETABI-OSKUIE P.2

New Trudeau Scholar seeks change for Indigenous peoples

BY MARGARET SUDERMAN

UVic Law student Aaron Mills' doctoral work, which explores conflicting legal orders and the workings of contemporary colonialism, has earned him substantial praise and cemented his position as a leading scholar on Canadian constitutionalism and Indigenous law.

Mills is a Vanier scholar and a former Ivy League Fulbright scholar. This May, he was handed yet another honour when he was named a Trudeau scholar—one of only 14 given out this year.

On May 27, 2014, the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation made the much-anticipated announcement of the winners of the most prestigious doctoral award for the social sciences and humanities in Canada.

Mills is currently working towards a PhD in Law and Society at UVic with his dissertation, *Riding Mishibizhiw's Waves: A Theory of Anishinaabe Constitutionalism*.

Like many great scholars, his work has been inspired by his own background. Mills is a Bear Clan Anishinaabe from Couchiching First Nation (Treaty three territory), and from North Bay, Ontario (Robinson-Huron Treaty territory).

His research seeks to respond to the political problem of colonialism in Canada and how Canadian law is used to serve colonialism's end. Mills suggests the problem can be addressed if we empower Indigenous peoples to revitalize their systems of law and are willing to have Canadian law enter into constitutional dialogue with these systems rather than having it assume power over them.

"It is fabulous that Aaron has received this honour. He is an amazing individual: intelligent, engaged, equally knowledgeable about his Anishinaabe legal tradition and non-Indigenous law, with the skills to manoeuvre between them," says UVic Law Dean Jeremy Webber. "He has a wonderful way

of combining a soft-spoken demeanour, respectful of all, with a forthright and incisive commitment to knowledge."

"Winning a Trudeau scholarship affords me an opportunity to share my ideas with an incredible community of thinkers and actors committed to social change," says Mills. "I'll have the opportunity to test and strengthen my arguments with many of Canada's most creative students and leaders dedicated to making Canada a better home for all."

"I think my scholarship also indicates the tremendous contemporary relevance for all Canadians of learning about Indigenous legal orders within their own normative frameworks," he adds.

Prior to coming to UVic, Mills obtained his JD from the University of Toronto in 2010. In 2011, he completed articles at Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP. He later returned to academia and earned an LLM at Yale Law School as a Fulbright Scholar in 2012.

Mills then went on to become a senior researcher for an oral traditions and Indig-

SEE MILLS P.5

around the ring

Engaged scholarship recognized at CUVIC conference

Dr. Bernie Pauly (nursing) and Dr. Val Napoleon (law) have been named the inaugural recipients of the Provost's Engaged Scholarship Award. The newly created awards program is intended to support and enhance UVic's vision for the integration of outstanding scholarship, inspired teaching and real-life, community engagement. It recognizes tenured members of faculty who have achieved great distinction as community engaged scholars. Dr. Reeta Tremblay, VP Academic and Provost, congratulated the first recipients of the award. "Dr. Pauly and Dr. Napoleon both exemplify the attributes of community engaged scholarship at UVic," she said. "They are each, in their own diverse fields, passionate leaders in integrating research and learning with on-the-ground action to bring about positive societal change." The awards were formally presented to Pauly and Napoleon at the CUVIC 2014: Beyond Engagement conference.

UVIC SPEAKERS BUREAU

Ten thousand talks—and counting

More than 30 years ago, UVic established a program that, through the enthusiasm of campus volunteers, delivers expertise from every area of academic inquiry to audiences across Greater Victoria. An early example of the university's deep commitment to community engagement and knowledge mobilization, the UVic Speakers Bureau today is Canada's only university-wide initiative of its kind. And this May, Rosa Stewart, professor of Hispanic and Italian studies, gave the bureau's milestone 10,000th talk: a travel piece focusing on England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Stewart's talk is a good example of what sets the bureau apart. In addition to the wide range of academic topics that expert faculty, staff, graduate students and retirees present in the community, the bureau also offers topics that draw on the personal interests and experiences of its volunteers.

The range of topics offered through the bureau is as diverse as the campus itself. This year, 159 volunteers made themselves available to give presentations on 458 different topics. From travelogues like Stewart's to world-leading expertise on health care or Earth and ocean sciences, the bureau connects the campus to audiences throughout the community.

This past season, volunteers presented 442 talks to nearly 15,000 attendees. The variety of groups booking speakers is impressive: govern-

ment ministries, seniors' residences, churches, libraries, schools (K-12), community centres, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, and many others.

School group bookings have been on the rise, with K-12 speaker requests tripling in the last three years. More talks are now given in schools than to any other audience, including seniors groups. Teachers across the region see the bureau as a tremendous opportunity to expose their students to topics that may fascinate, inspire and point them down new paths.

And it's not just the audience that benefits from the bureau. In 1992, the dean of graduate studies encouraged students to join the bureau as a way to share their knowledge and research with members of the community—and to help grad students prepare for their oral exams. At the time, Dr. Lara Lauzon was completing her master's degree in what is now the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education. Speaking to those community groups had a major impact on Lauzon's academic and professional career and encouraged her to continue on to a doctorate and professorship at UVic.

"It's very rewarding to be able to connect our volunteers with community groups all over the region," says Mandy Crocker, the bureau's coordinator for the last 24 years. "It's fantastic to see the popularity and success of the Speakers Bureau grow each year."

ZHETABI-OSKUIE CONTINUED FROM P.1

great deal of this success. "Dr. Gordon has tons of new ideas every day. I was just the person to implement them." The admiration goes both ways. As Gordon explains, "I have had many excellent researchers in my group. While these students are all highly intelligent and dedicated, what sets Zhetabi-Oskuie apart is her exceptional professionalism in accomplishing her research goals. I think this will play a big role in her future success."

And Zhetabi-Oskuie seems to be successful wherever she goes. She completed an eight-month co-op work term with Blackberry in 2013, during which time she was the primary inventor for a near field communication (NFC) patent.

While overcoming technological hurdles has been Zhetabi-Oskuie's specialty, she found moving so far from home and family to be a big personal challenge. Fortunately, three of her friends from Tehran also came to UVic's engineering program, and two

of her brothers have since moved to Victoria, which has made a big difference for her.

Zhetabi-Oskuie will receive the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal during June convocation for her thesis: *Microfluidic Integration of a Double-Nanohole Optical Trap with Applications*. Her work has been published in four international peer-reviewed journals and she has given talks at two international conferences. Her papers have been rapidly adopted by the scientific community as well, receiving 14 citations in just over a year.

So what's next for Zhetabi-Oskuie? She has her eye on post-doc research, hopefully at the Argonne National Laboratory, one of the most prestigious science and engineering research centres in the world. Given what she's accomplished so far, it's likely we'll be hearing more about Ana Zhetabi-Oskuie in the future.

Shelagh Rogers named as next UVic Chancellor

Nationally recognized broadcaster Shelagh Rogers, OC, was announced May 29 as the next Chancellor of the University of Victoria. The popular national radio host, witness and champion of reconciliation for Aboriginal people, long-time advocate for adult literacy and mental health awareness and an acknowledged "voice" of the country will become the university's 11th Chancellor on January 1.



Rogers. PHOTO: PROVIDED

Rogers' appointment was announced in the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning—McPherson Library. Former UVic presidents and chancellors—along with a crowd of happily surprised and enthusiastic faculty and staff—joined President Jamie Cassels in welcoming Rogers to the position.

In accepting her new role, Rogers' warmth, character and humour were as much a part of the event as her instantly recognizable voice. "I'm thrilled out of my being," Rogers said. "I thank you for making me the Chancellor-designate, and I'm looking forward to serving UVic in whatever way I can."

In choosing to accept the position, Rogers noted the shared values and aspirations that connect her to the university. "I appreciate the values that UVic holds, in particular civic engagement. I really value the Indigenous focus—this is a very powerful thing for me and for the healing of Canada, I believe."

Rogers also spoke about being named an Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in June 2011, and how she saw a correlation with her new role.

"Witnessing is a very, very important thing," she said. "I really believe this is the key part of what a chancellor does: witnessing one of the most important days in the life of a student, that crossroad day, that benchmark day when you turn the corner into your new life and work to build a better country."

Cassels spoke enthusiastically of the experience and qualities that Rogers will bring to the role of chancellor.

"Shelagh Rogers is a distinguished Canadian, an engaged citizen, an outstanding professional and a wonderful communicator," Cassels said. "She possesses an amazing array of talents and abilities and represents the values that align so well with our university's goals and mission."

"She's recognized across Canada as a communicator *par excellence*."

Dedicated to broadening our understanding of the world and each other and dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge, she's perhaps the country's best listener—and education is a lot about listening."

To enthusiastic applause, Cassels captured the sentiment of the room. "Shelagh, you certainly possess the right stuff to be UVic's next chancellor!"

A veteran broadcast journalist, Rogers is currently the host and a producer of *The Next Chapter*, a CBC program about Canadian writers and songwriters. She moved to BC in 2003 after 23 years working on CBC news and current affairs radio programs. In 2011, she was named an Officer of the Order of Canada for her contributions as a promoter of Canadian culture, and for her volunteer work in the fields of mental health and literacy. She has committed herself to working toward reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people from coast to coast.

Rogers will continue as host of *The Next Chapter* while serving as chancellor.

Chancellor Murray Farmer, first elected in 2008, completes his second and, by law, final term at the end of 2014. He was out of the country for the announcement of Rogers' appointment, but his wife Lynda spoke in his place, delivering his message of congratulations.

"I'm delighted to welcome Ms. Rogers to the UVic community," Farmer said. "I look forward to assisting you in any way I can as you make the transition into the role and into the UVic family."

The formal installation of Rogers as university Chancellor will take place during Spring 2015 convocation.

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Director Bruce Kilpatrick, 250-721-7638, abk@uvic.ca

Managing editor Marc Christensen, 250-721-6022, marcdc@uvic.ca

Production Beth Doman

Display ads Bonnie Light, 250-388-5321, adsring@uvic.ca

Calendar Mandy Crocker, 250-721-8587, ucom@uvic.ca

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The Ring, PO Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955 E-mail: ring@uvic.ca

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JUNE 2014

REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)

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Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100		\$163,776	\$152,038	\$141,336	\$129,728	\$124,921	\$118,147
Accelerated Payout:							
Income over 5 years		\$1,779				\$106,718	
Income over 10 years		\$947				\$113,637	
Income over 15 years		\$671				\$120,834	

* Based on best current GIC of 2.60%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle. Monthly income based on \$100,000

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	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male							
...payments cease at death		\$472	\$530	\$593	\$723	\$841	\$1,045
...10 years guaranteed		\$470	\$521	\$574	\$671	\$741	\$853
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$437	\$483	\$540	\$650	\$749	\$923
...10 years guaranteed		\$441	\$478	\$529	\$621	\$690	\$802
Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed		\$409	\$452	\$490	\$560	\$624	\$730

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From drawing board to proving ground

Student team takes modified vehicle to final competition



Jankowski-Walsh. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

UVic's EcoCAR 2 team of engineering students aren't just getting hands-on experience while they study—they're getting their hands dirty.

Since April 2011, close to 60 students in mechanical, electrical, computer and software engineering, and business have been hard at work re-designing and retrofitting a GM-donated 2013 Chevrolet Malibu Eco into a next generation plug-in hybrid electric vehicle.

The challenge is to reduce the environmental impact of the stock vehicle by improving its fuel efficiency and reducing its emissions, while retaining the vehicle's performance and consumer appeal.

After three years of work, the team is taking their new and improved Malibu down from the hoist and shipping it off to the Advanced Vehicle Technology Competition—EcoCAR 2: Plugging into the Future—an elite challenge established and supported by General Motors, the US Department of Energy, Natural Resources Canada, and 28 other industrial and government sponsors.

UVic is one of 15 universities in North America, and one of only two in Canada, invited to participate. And the last stages of this multi-year competition take place at GM's Vehicle Proving Ground in Milford, Michigan, and in Washington, DC from June 1 to 12.

The vehicle retrofit that the UVic student team has done

means the vehicle can run in pure electric mode, or in different hybrid electric modes. In electric-only mode, it can run for 55 kms on a single charge, satisfying the needs of 80 per cent of North American commuters. This kind of hybrid-electric combination is especially suited to places like Victoria, where more than 90 per cent of commuters drive within that daily range, and where BC Hydro provides electricity that is relatively cheap and generated through cleaner technology, says John Jankowski-Walsh, MSc student and Mechanical Team Lead.

Zuomin Dong, faculty advisor and UVic's chair of mechanical engineering, says what's happening in the Green Vehicle Research, Testing and Training Centre—a.k.a. the Green Garage—is bringing the frontier of green technology a lot closer, faster.

"UVic's program is very research-focused," Dong says, "and industry values this very highly." The students who have participated in the EcoCAR program (now six years since the launch of the first EcoCAR) have been in big demand, he explains. "Over the past three years, GM has hired 10 of our past members to work in their hybrid power-train technology research and development, in Michigan and Toronto."

And what's next for UVic's "Green Garage"? Future prospects include hybrid Formula SAE racing cars, as well as marine applications for ferries, tugboats and other ships.



Krull



St. Clair

Academic leadership updates for summer 2014

Four academic leaders will take new posts on campus this summer, with the appointments of Dr. Catherine Krull as dean of social sciences, Dr. Ralf St. Clair as dean of education, Dr. Bruce Wright as head of medical sciences and Dr. Robina Thomas as the inaugural director of Indigenous academic and community engagement.

Krull is currently associate dean of arts and science at Queen's University. A sociologist and member of the Queens cultural studies graduate program, Krull is cross-appointed to the Department of Gender Studies at Queen's. She is also a past editor of Cuban Studies and current editor-in-chief of the Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Krull has a considerable publication history with a focus on Cuba, and in 2009 co-organized a large international conference focusing on 50 years of the Cuban Revolution.

Krull will serve as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for a five-year term effective July 15, 2014 to June 30, 2019.

St. Clair's leadership and administrative experiences stretch from Europe to North America—including roles directing a state literacy centre, First Nations and Inuit education programs, and as dean of graduate studies and chair of a large interdisciplinary department. He has been actively involved in creating international partnerships and recruitment opportunities.

St. Clair's research areas include adult literacy and community initiatives, the formation of aspirations among First Nations youth, and research patterns in higher education. His research includes partnerships at the local, national, and international levels, and over the last five years he has received \$1.4 million in research funding. His current portfolio includes a national partnership study among First Nations communities in several Canadian provinces.

St. Clair's teaching includes educational and social research, adult and continuing education, understanding educational inquiry, and critical influences on educational praxis. He has a long track record of engagement with First Nations education and online and distance learning platforms and approaches.

St. Clair will serve as Dean of the Faculty of Education for a five-year term effective August 15, 2014 to June 30, 2019.

Effective July 1, Wright will begin his term of service as Head, Division of Medical Sciences at UVic (and Regional Associate Dean, UBC Faculty of Medicine). He joins UVic from the University of Calgary, where he specialized in geriatric medicine. He has also recently been involved in international medical curriculum development, including work in Nepal, Laos and Tanzania.

Also beginning on July 1, Thomas—currently Associate Professor in the School of Social Work—will serve as the inaugural director of Indigenous academic and community engagement during an initial three-year term. Thomas' expertise as a teacher and a researcher who has focused her work within the context of Indigenous programs and communities—along with her knowledge of local protocol and her relationships with Indigenous community members—will serve the entire campus in this important new leadership role.

As previously announced in the March issue of the Ring, incoming Vice-President Research Dr. David Castle begins his term on July 1, 2014. Faculty and staff are invited to a reception on Wednesday, June 18 to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Howard Brunt during his seven years as vice-president research. The event begins at 4:00 pm at the University Club. Please RSVP by June 11 to rspv-cere@uvic.ca.

around the ring

Percentage grading has arrived at UVic

Starting Summer session 2014, instructors will submit grades in percentages rather than letter grades. This change will move UVic in line with other Canadian post-secondary institutions, and will improve the interpretation of grades at UVic, across Canada and internationally. The first percentage grades were submitted on May 15, for an undergraduate course of 24 students. More information about the transition and its changes to grading, academic history, transcripts, degree audit, reporting and procedures can be found online at bit.ly/percent-grades.

New staff recruitment system on its way

Posting and applying for UVic jobs will soon be quicker and easier. A new online recruitment system will be available for staff job postings beginning this summer. Job seekers will be able to apply for jobs, save resumés and track the status of their applications anywhere, anytime and from any device. In Phase 1 of the project, the system will be available for CUPE 917, CUPE 951, Exempt Support Staff, Management Excluded and PEA positions. In Phase 2, it will be expanded to include other employee groups, such as faculty and librarians. In order to ensure a successful transition to the new system, resumé and job posting information will remain accessible from the uHire database for a limited period of time. Staff and faculty are encouraged to save any resumé or job posting information stored in uHire as soon as possible. More info: bit.ly/new-recruitment

UVic's transit hub expanding

Construction has begun on 10 new bus bays on the north side of the Student Union Building. The project, a partnership between UVic, BC Transit, government and the transit commission, aims to improve bus capacity issues at peak times and support future service expansions. It is a key component of the university's sustainable transportation efforts to decrease vehicle traffic and encourage alternative methods to get to campus. Metered parking spaces beside the SUB will be removed; alternate parking spaces are available close by. "UVic is pleased to be able to work cooperatively with BC Transit and its partners in adding new bus bays that will benefit the entire campus and the surrounding community," Gayle Gorrill, UVic vice-president finance and operations said. A number of trees must be removed, but will be replaced three-fold as part of the extensive landscaping plan for the project. The Halpern Centre, Cincenta and all the SUB facilities will be accessible and operational during construction, which is expected to be complete by September.

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major medal winners

Governor-General's Gold Medal (best Doctoral thesis)

DR. ANDREW PON

PhD, Department of Physics & Astronomy

Governor General's Silver Medal (top undergraduate student)

JARED GRIFFIS

BSEng, Software Engineering

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (best Master's thesis)

ANA ZEHTABI OSKUIE

MSc, Electrical Engineering

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (Other than Thesis)

ERIN WALLACE

MA, History in Art

Jubilee Medal in Humanities

HANNAH ANDERSON

BA Honours in History

Jubilee Medal in Science

LIYUAN REN

BSc, Financial Math and Economics

Maxwell A. Cameron Memorial Awards

CHARLOTTE GLEAVE RIEMANN

BEd, Elementary Education PDP

GRACE LEACH

BEd, Secondary Education

Certificate of Outstanding Academic Distinction in the Faculty of Human and Social Development

MONIKA NOWATSCHEK

BSN, Nursing

The Law Society Gold Medal

LISA GRANTHAM

JD

Victoria Medal in Fine Arts

SARAH TRADEWELL

BMus, Performance

Jubilee Medal in the Social Sciences

RACHEL LOTT

BSc, Economics

The Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Medal

DOUGLAS THOMSON

BEng in Mechanical Engineering

Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal

DANIEL MCILVANEY

BSc Honours in Computer Science

The IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering

CASS HUSSMAN

BEng, Computer Engineering

The IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering

GRAHAM ALLEGRETTO

BEng, Electrical Engineering

The IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Software Engineering

JARED GRIFFIS

BSEng, Software Engineering

CONVOCATION 2014

Congratulations, grads!



Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During Spring Convocation, from June 9–13, nine ceremonies will be held to confer degrees, diplomas or certificates upon 3,554 graduating students. This spring marks the 50th anniversary of UVic's first convocation ceremony. Members of the class of 1964 will attend the 10 a.m., June 13 ceremony to commemorate their part of university history. Congratulations and best wishes to all convoking students. In the following pages, we present profiles of a few of the many outstanding members of this year's graduating class.

Education grad shows leadership on the learning curve

BY KIM WESTAD

Gulf Islands Secondary students knew they had a different type of science teacher when a lesson on heart function had them running around a room, pretending to be red blood cells.

Nikita Pardiwala created the outline of a huge human heart on the floor of a large multi-purpose room for her Biology 12 students. Then they became red blood cells, running through the heart to the lungs, dropping off carbon dioxide.

Such a lesson combines Pardiwala's teaching loves—biology and physical education—and is the kind of fresh, interactive approach to teaching that saw her with a job offer the day after her teaching practicum finished. She looks forward to teaching this September at Gulf Island Secondary, the same school she graduated from in 2006.

"Every day of my practicum, I tried to do something different and enticing so the students would have fun and learn," said the 25-year-old, who graduates this June with an education degree, specializing in secondary curriculum.

For her practicum, Pardiwala created course content from scratch instead of using the existing resources, and rethought how some things are taught and marked. To gauge leadership, one of the criteria for a physical education mark, Pardiwala drew on an activity she had done in third year.

She had her Grade 9 and 10 PE stu-

dents divide into groups of four, with each challenged to create an activity station for kindergarten students. They had a week to work together to create a station from the ground up, with two area kindergarten classes coming to put them to the test.

"I wanted the leadership to evolve more organically, to have them work collaboratively, problem-solving and learning from each other. The kindergarten students had a blast," Pardiwala said. "From that day forward, my PE class was different from the day before. I think they surprised themselves—they proved to themselves that they were very resourceful."

It also taught students another lesson that Pardiwala views as key—school doesn't exist in a bubble. What is learned in a class impacts others and has a bigger application to the world.

"I try to show students that what they're learning doesn't just exist in the classroom, to show them that what they're learning fits into their world."

Pardiwala loves both biology and being active, so choosing teaching specialties was easy for her. The two also provide balance—something Pardiwala views as essential, regardless of age.

"Growing up, I was very academically focused but that alone is not enough. You need a social life, you need to take care of your body and to eat properly. It is about more than just getting that 'A.' I am a huge believer in



Pardiwala at the Natural History Museum in NYC, building inspiration for her science classes.

finding a balance in life."

Having said that, Pardiwala said she's never worked harder than during the four-month practicum at Gulf Islands Secondary. It paid off with a job offer and notes like the one she

received from a Grade 9 biology student. It said, "You showed me love for a subject I thought I could never love."

It's those kind of small things, Pardiwala said, that make teaching so rewarding.

Planning on a small scale pays off big for grad

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Many people associate municipal planning with large urbanized communities. For geography and environmental studies grad Richard T. Buchan, however, some of Vancouver Island's smaller communities offered much larger opportunities. Living, studying and completing co-op work terms in Port Hardy, Campbell River, Courtenay, Duncan and Cowichan Bay gave Buchan great opportunities for hands-on learning in community planning.

"I think every student should take the co-op option and apply for work in small towns," says Buchan, "you gain work experience and often have more responsibility in a smaller community."

Those big projects in small towns gave Buchan a range of experiences

during his co-op work terms that are directly relevant to his future career goals as a community planner.

During his co-op work term for the City of Campbell River, for example, Buchan was the main driving force behind the city's online food map. The tool connects consumers with their food sources—farmers, stores, restaurants—and with land for growing and gardening. Also during his co-op term Buchan led the development of Harvest Campbell River, a short film showcasing the food map and opportunities for local food growing in Campbell River.

"People don't often think of their community as made up of an energy system, leisure system, health system, economic system, agricultural system, and so on," explains Buchan.

"As a community planner I can look at multiple aspects of our community and create the tools needed to meet overarching goals, such as how we address climate change or how we beautify our city."

It was Buchan's upper-level Environmental Studies and Geography courses that led him in the direction of community planning. "The field work opportunities were fantastic and classes like ES 301 Poli/Ecology really bridged the real world with the classroom." Buchan said interacting with Saanich city planners was not only relevant to his studies but led him in the direction of his chosen career.

"My ideal career is one where I have a meaningful impact on my community, and leave it better for the next generation," says Buchan.



Buchan

Buchan will continue his studies this fall at Waterloo University where he was accepted into a Masters of Arts in planning.

Dr. Brent Mainprize, a professor at the Gustavson School of Business, came up a winner twice in the past month. Mainprize is one of five national winners of a Desire2Learn Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning from The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and Desire2Learn. The award recognizes Mainprize's dedication, and his particularly innovative approach to teaching and learning. It also acknowledges Mainprize's commitment to using his creative skills and teaching talents in Aboriginal communities to design and deliver culturally appropriate entrepreneurship training. Mainprize was also named Entrepreneurship Educator of the Year for the BC region in the Startup Canada awards. UVic was given the award as the Most Entrepreneurial Post-Secondary Institution of the Year at the same event. Both are currently under consideration for the national awards, to be announced in June.

UVic Co-op and Career's international **CANEU-COOP exchange program** has been named a Global Best Award winner by the International education business Partnership Network (IPN). Supported by the Conference Board of Canada, the 2014 Global Best Awards celebrate partnerships between educational institutions, private businesses and other stakeholders that enhance youth employability. UVic Co-op and Career and other winners will be showcased at the 12th annual IPN conference in Brussels, Belgium in Sept. 2014. Launched in 2009, the CANEU-COOP program is a partnership between UVic, the University of Waterloo, FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences in Austria, and Baden-Wuerttemberg Co-operative State University in Germany. CANEU-COOP offers UVic and Waterloo students the opportunity to complete co-op work terms in Germany and Austria; FH Joanneum and Baden-Wuerttemberg students can travel to Canada for academic studies. The eight-month program includes one term spent abroad and one term at home.

The UVic AERO Team—40 mechanical, electrical, and computer and software engineering undergrads who design, build and fly unmanned aerial vehicles—came away from this year's national student unmanned aerial systems competition with a third-place win in the operational phase category. This year, the unmanned aerial systems competition focused on challenges commonly faced by the oil and gas, mining, and agriculture industries. Eleven teams participated in the Unmanned Systems Canada competition at the Southport Aerospace Centre near Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. The UVic AERO team, led by faculty advisor Dr. Afzal Suleman, helps students apply the knowledge they gain from their academic courses by giving them real world and hands-on experience.

Noted children's advocate seeks wider impacts

BY KIM WESTAD

Carolyn Peacock has always been an advocate for children, even when she was one herself.

In grade three, she often went home with bloodied hands after getting the strap at the Edmonton school she attended. Her crime? Defending other children who were being bullied. Those children were usually immigrants and were picked on, as she too had been at school.

Peacock is Cree, a member of the Enoch Nation just outside Edmonton, and grew up with her grandparents in the city.

"I held my head high and wouldn't cry," Peacock, now 57, remembers. "I wouldn't give the nuns the satisfaction of knowing they had hurt me because I didn't think I was wrong."

At the end of the year, she was given the award for best citizenship.

That resilience and sense of justice have followed her throughout her life, leading to a career in social work where she did precedent-setting work in the field of Indigenous adoptions.

Now Peacock has set her sights on teaching. She received one of the top marks in UVic's social work master's program this year and will graduate this June.

And she did this while working full-time and helping raise her 10 grandchildren, one of whom is severely autistic.

Peacock did much of her academic work via distance education, which UVic offers in several faculties. It allows students to do the majority of their studying in their communities.

Peacock worked on her masters while in Edmonton, where she was the executive director of the Yellowhead Tribal Services Agency and later in Hobbema, near Calgary, where she is the executive director of Kasohkewew Children's Society on the Samson First Nation.

"I had to be very disciplined. I went to work, then came home and did housework and cooked supper for my family, and then I sat and studied."

Peacock said she had "wonderful family support" and was determined to finish her masters.

"I loved every minute of it. I can't say enough about the UVic program. It was validating to learn that a lot of the practices and programs that I had developed were already best practice, that they were innovative, creative and culturally appropriate."

MILLS CONTINUED FROM P.1

enous law project organized jointly through the Indigenous Bar Association and UVic's Indigenous Law Research Clinic. Currently, Mills balances his work as a doctoral student with his role as a member of the



Peacock

One of the highlights of the UVic program was the respect and recognition of Indigenous knowledge, Peacock said.

"The things I know as an Indigenous person were recognized and written about. It was clear in the teaching that Indigenous knowledge is something we can learn from."

At the June convocation, 24 of the 44 students being awarded their master's in social work are Indigenous, as are several of the professors and the director of the School of Social Work.

Jacquie Green—also known by her Haisla name, Kundoqk—is the first Indigenous director of any school of social work in Canada.

"Carolyn has been pivotal with respect to support for First Nations child welfare across Canada," Kundoqk said. And Peacock hopes to widen her impact even more by moving to a teaching role after convocation.

Peacock also hopes to see the number of Indigenous graduates from the UVic program increase, and to see the power structure in society become more balanced.

"For so long, so much was written about us, and not from us."

A large group of Peacock's family are coming out to UVic for this June's ceremony, including grandchildren who have never been on a plane before. While they might be most excited about that, their grandma can't wait for them to be on the university campus where Indigenous culture is welcomed.

"I hope for mutual respect between people of different cultures and I think that is happening more. That is what I loved most about UVic—that respect. It wasn't my experience attending school before."

Board of Directors of the Indigenous Bar Association.

Mills is the fourth UVic law student to be named a Trudeau scholar since the faculty's graduate program was first established in 2004.



Falconer. PHOTO: SUZANNE AHERNE

Co-op placements build career options for humanities grad

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

It's probably not on many graduates' lists of what to do after convocation, but it's at the top of Chelsea Falconer's: she's going to get cracking on the post-apocalyptic novel she's had in her head for almost as long as she's been at UVic.

The English major (and Humanities, Fine Arts and Professional Writing Co-op student) promises that no UVic profs will figure in her dystopian fiction, nor will the campus. In fact, she loved her experience here as a student.

One of the best discoveries, she said, was the co-op program. "I knew about co-op programs for engineering and business students, but didn't know that humanities students could do it," said the 29 year old, who transferred from Camosun College two years ago.

When she was 18, she started in nursing at Camosun, since she wanted to do something meaningful and it would also provide her with good career options. "But it just didn't speak to me," she says. After the first year and a practicum, she quit.

Falconer took a few years to think about what she wanted to do next, knowing that whatever it was, it needed to have that magic spark. She knew she needed a degree to go further. While she was considering her options, her mind kept going back to her high school years at St. Margaret's School where she had been a shy kid who, in English class, lost her fear of talking.

"Mostly, it was the modern drama. I can still recite whole lines from Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*," she recalls. "It spoke to me on some kind of fundamental level. It just made me feel more alive."

Sure of her desire, but not sure of a career path, Falconer did two

years of university transfer courses before coming to UVic.

"You hear a lot in the news that humanities degrees are not the most lucrative in today's economy, but I think that's where co-op comes in," says the ginger-haired grad, who describes herself as "bi-coastal," having lived in Pacific and Atlantic port cities growing up in a Navy family.

By the time she started at UVic, Falconer had been out of high school for nearly a decade. "I didn't really have the option of going back home after university, or traveling. I had to start a career right away, and co-op really made that happen," she said.

While she studied, co-op helped her build practical job-seeking skills and provided access to a network of local and national—even international—paid co-op positions.

During her two years in the program, Falconer did eight months of paid co-op work. Her most recent was a 14-week gig as a communications writer at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, a local employer who hires about 50 students each semester across the humanities, business and engineering faculties. She wrote everything from video scripts, web content and press releases to briefing notes for the admiral.

"It was fun putting myself into the mindset of an admiral," Chelsea said. "I'm creative, so it was a great exercise."

And she's found her way to give back to the program she credits with making such a difference in her university experience: she just started a job as a Marketing and Events Coordinator at UVic Co-op and Career. Which still leaves time in the evenings for dreams about dystopias.

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Far from her comfort zone, grad grows and shines

BY LINDSAY GAGEL

As recipient of the Jubilee Medal for the Faculty of Science, Leslie (Liyuan) Ren is finishing top of her faculty. Despite earning a near-perfect 9.0 grade average, for Ren, the university experience was about more than just academics.

"It was a pretty challenging last five years," she admits with a smile. "I wasn't even aware there was an award, so I'm actually pleasantly surprised!"

After completing high school in her native China, Ren was determined to move to Canada, learn English and get a university education. She chose UVic for the climate, beauty and size, and because it was a research-based university. "It was the best decision I ever made," she says confidently.

Ren began liking school more and more as her English improved, and she says her senior year as a financial mathematics student was quite enjoyable. "Language is one of the biggest barriers international students face," she explains, "I worked really hard on it my first couple of years here."

A competitive student, Ren was always on the lookout for a new challenge, and one was provided with the co-operative education program.

During co-op terms, Ren analyzed financial trends at HSBC, worked in the business intelligence department at HootSuite, and worked with subsampling estimators under Dr. Min Tsao as an undergraduate researcher at UVic.

"I am forever grateful to Dr. Tsao," Ren says. "He really went out of his way to help me get an undergraduate research position, and he was interested in my interests, not

just how they complimented his research."

When asked whether she enjoyed co-op, Ren responds with a laugh: "Whoever invented co-op was a genius!" Getting out of her comfort zone and trying something new helped Ren build her skillset and make new networking connections. It gave her more confidence and provided an opportunity for mentorship from supervisors.

Co-op terms also meant leisure time to enjoy some of the finer things in life. "Ice cream and cheesecake are my favourite foods," she explains and her eyes light up. "You can make all sorts of different types of cheesecakes, there are lots of variations." She likes to bake mini cheesecakes and share them with friends and colleagues. "I feel so happy after I eat something good. It's the small things that make you happy. So simple."

Ren is taking some time off of scholarly endeavors this summer to enjoy her accomplishments, but she's staying busy networking and taking Toastmasters classes—something she recommends to all undergraduate students. In August she'll be moving to Ontario to begin her master's degree at the University of Toronto.

Her parents, who have never been to Canada, will be making the journey to see their daughter walk across the stage at convocation this month. "I'm very thankful to have supportive parents who trusted me," says Ren. "My co-op supervisors and the math department at UVic were also extremely supportive and got to know me personally, which made for a really great university experience."

Honoris Causa times two

A pair of Victorians—Pauline Rafferty and David Black—will receive honorary degrees at Spring Convocation ceremonies in recognition of their outstanding leadership and public service.

The UVic Senate selects honorary degree recipients from nominations from the university community and it awards the university's highest honour on the basis of accomplishments in the arts, humanities, public service, social science/social justice, or the sciences.

The first UVic honorary degree was awarded in 1964 to former Victoria College biology professor Jeffree Cunningham, for whom the Cunningham Building is named.

Pauline Rafferty

HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

Presented at 2:30 p.m., Monday, June 9

Pauline Rafferty provided the leadership and vision that enhanced the international reputation of the Royal BC Museum and secured its position as a vital cultural resource.

Appointed in 2001 as the museum's chief executive officer (a position she held until her retirement in 2012), Rafferty oversaw the RBCM's transition from a government agency to a Crown corporation. It was an historic turning point for the institution, with its new corporate structure allowing it to raise its profile and secure a more solid financial footing.

The new organization—incorporating the RBCM, BC Archives, Helmcken House, St. Ann's Schoolhouse, and the Netherlands Carillon—provided the flexibility to plan major exhibits and to embark on fundraising efforts. A number of international exhibitions were launched during Rafferty's tenure and successful partnerships were formed with other leading institutions,



Rafferty



Black

including the British Museum.

As part of the implementation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, Rafferty led the RBCM's unconditional return of 155 artifacts to the Nisga'a territory in 2010.

Rafferty served on the boards of several tourism, business and museum organizations. She also aided the UVic Division of Continuing Studies in developing its cultural sector leadership program.

An archaeologist by training, Rafferty's earlier career focused on practical aspects of uncovering and protecting elements of BC history, including the promotion and financing of heritage sites at Fort Steele and Barkerville.

David Black

HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

Presented at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 11

In 1975, David Black moved to Williams Lake to purchase the local newspaper. Today he's the largest private newspaper publisher in the country, with Black Press producing 170 papers in Canada and the US and employing more than 3,000 staff.

While his newspaper interests continue to thrive, Black has more recently turned his attention to Kitimat Clean, an oil and gas refinery he proposes will eliminate the need to ship unprocessed oil from the BC coast.

Black chaired the bid committee that won the right for Victoria to host the 1994 Commonwealth Games, and he has served as a director of Pacific Sport, a trust that manages the \$15-million training fund generated by the games.

As a philanthropist, he established the Black Press Business Scholarships, annually awarding \$5,000 each to 37 students entering the Gustavson School of Business. He was one of the local business leaders who, in the 1980s, lobbied government and the university's leadership to establish a business school at UVic and he later chaired the school's board of advisors.

He also contributed \$500,000 to the BC Cancer Foundation's Inspire the World capital campaign.

Black is a recipient of the Gustavson School of Business' Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Margaret Hennigar Award for Exemplary Leadership, and he is an honorary life member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association.

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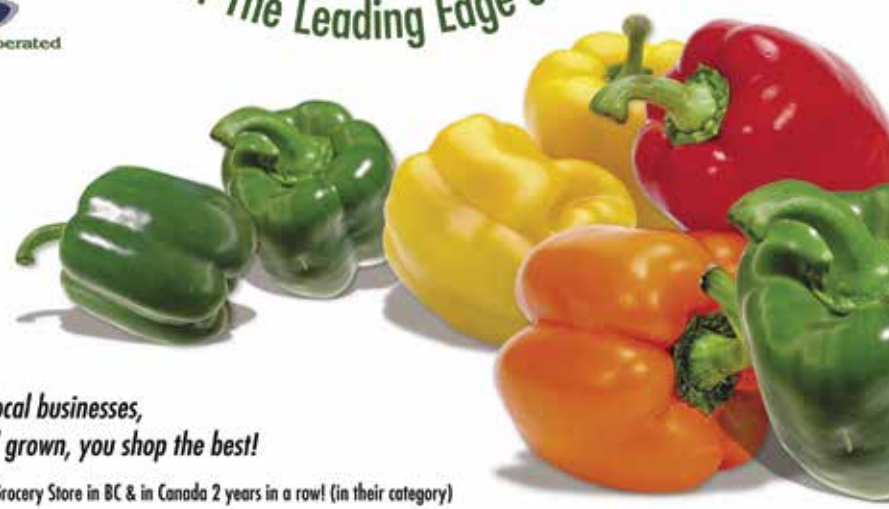
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Theatre grad already in good company

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Few students would be proud of being called a scam artist, but theatre grad Max Johnson is—just note the alternate spelling. Johnson, who has been working for local professional theatrical company Theatre SKAM since 2011 (associates are charmingly dubbed “SKAM artists”), is graduating this June with a double major in writing and theatre. And the practical experience he learned at Phoenix Theatre has made him a valued member of SKAM’s team.

As with many students in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Johnson didn’t wait until graduation to put his experiential learning to work. He was hired into a part-time position at SKAM while only in his second year. “Theatre is a department where you absolutely get out of it what you put in,” says Johnson. “My entire time at university was spent stepping sideways into things that would lead me places I never expected—which is how I got into marketing and Theatre SKAM in the first place.”

Even though marketing and communications wasn’t his first choice as a specialization, that’s where he was needed at SKAM. “They needed someone with writing experience—and I was part of a group where I needed to solve a lot of crises,” he recalls. And when Johnson’s communications team of three lost two members due to illness and the Tohoku earthquake (“one of my group was an exchange student from Japan, so she was out of the picture making sure her family was okay”), he soon found himself as a solo act. “It was a crash course on marketing, publicity, photography and

media relations,” he says. “It definitely acclimated me to the whole trial-by-fire scenario.”

No surprise then, that SKAM thought Johnson would be a good fit when they found themselves in a similar situation: just as they were beginning to plan a tour of their show Cariboo Buckaroo, a medical crisis and an unexpected resignation left them bust in the dust.

While it sounds funny now, Johnson recalls it as being anything but. “I had never planned a tour before, but suddenly I was the sole person responsible for finding venues,” he says. “Then while the show was on tour, I was the only person left in the office. But it turned out to be a very harmonious fit—I got the vibe of the company very quickly.” While he started as a tour coordinator, Johnson is now SKAM’s full-time Administrative Assistant, and soon to be Artistic Associate.

Given the current drumbeat of practical employability, does Johnson ever worry about pursuing a career in the arts? “I took a couple years off after high school to try and come up with something more practical than the arts, but I couldn’t think of anything I wanted to study outside of that,” he admits. “I could have become an electrician, but that’s not where my skills lay.”

Ultimately, says Johnson, studying theatre at UVic revealed his true passion. “I wanted to better myself, and I’m a better person now for having come here. I understand the need to be practical, but we clearly want to live in a society that values creativity. That needs to be encouraged.”



Johnson in the Theatre SKAM office. Behind him are interns Colette Habel and Chase Hiebert—also UVic theatre students.

More convocation profiles online



Denis Luchyshyn, a commerce grad who helped develop a mobile fundraising app for United Way.

bit.ly/bcom-14



Ben McConnell, a law graduate whose success is a life-study in perseverance.

bit.ly/14-persevere



Amy Becker, an anthropology grad whose undergraduate research project is helping to restore First Nations place-names on Vancouver Island.

bit.ly/14-place

Erin Frances Fisher, who graduates this month with an MFA in writing, was announced on May 27 as the winner of the 20th annual Writers’ Trust RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. Her \$5,000-winning short story, “Girl,” was selected from a field of 133 blind submissions and described by jurors “as vast and satisfying as a great novel . . . [she] is a writer you will see again.” Fisher has previously won PRISM International’s 2011 fiction prize and The Malahat Review’s 2012 Open Season Competition. This is the third Bronwen Wallace Award won by writing students; MFA alumnus Garth Martens won in 2011 and BFA alumna Marjorie Celona won in 2008.

Dr. Michael J. Prince, UVic’s inaugural Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy in the Faculty of Human and Social Development, was named Academic of the Year by the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC (CUFA-BC). The awards are presented annually to faculty members from BC universities who use their research and scholarly activity to benefit the larger community. Prince is an expert in federal-provincial relations, disability issues, seniors’ benefits, social discrimination, income security, poverty and housing. His tireless community efforts include volunteerism with Inclusion BC and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, as well as advice to governments and parliamentary committees.



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day in the life

BY JOHN THRELFALL

A decade ago he was recording the likes of A-list rockers R.E.M., Bryan Adams and the Foo Fighters, but these days you'll more likely find Kirk McNally tweaking the levels in the MacLaurin Building's recording studio. But as the Audio Specialist and Recording Engineer for the School of Music since 2004, the best part of McNally's job is that he doesn't really have a typical day.

"I can be teaching a recording class or mentoring a work-study student or collaborating with a faculty member on a creative project," he says with characteristic quiet humour. "Every day is a varied day, and that's a good day for me."

With a Masters in Music from McGill and a professional career working at some of the industry's top recording studios, McNally has spent much of his past decade on campus putting UVic on par with other Canadian institutions. Not only does he teach with the joint Computer Science/Music program, but he also designed and maintains four digital audio studios, trains the technicians responsible for the recording and sound re-enforcement of all School of Music concerts, and supports any faculty, staff or student with audio needs.

Across campus, McNally is also a member of the Computer Advisory Committee and worked in collaboration with the Mearns Centre for Learning to upgrade the library's multi-media rooms.



McNally. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Not that he's given up on his recording background. Just as this interview was happening, McNally was completing his latest CD collaboration with the School of Music's Colin Tilney—an internationally renowned harpsichord, clavichord and fortepiano artist. He's recorded albums for the Lafayette String Quartet and music for filmmaker and composer John Celona as well. "I also work with external people, like Victoria Symphony's Terence Tam and his wife, the pianist Lorraine Min, and Symphony cellist Brian Yoon, as well as Pacific Opera," he says.

What brings this level of classical

talent to UVic, rather than record at the Royal Theatre? "We've got a good recital hall that's quieter than any of the options downtown," he says. "And we've got great pianos in our Steinways."

McNally has also started collaborating with local radio stations CFUV and CBC, the latter of which he assisted with their recent "Blues for Esi" concert supporting Giller Prize-winning author and UVic alumna Esi Edugyan's *Half-Blood Blues* as a contender for the Canada Reads competition. "We sent a student down and by all accounts he did a really great job," he says. "That was

the first inkling that we could be a valuable partner for doing remotes, because CBC simply can't afford to bring people over from Vancouver anymore."

McNally looks at both this kind of community engagement and the increasing popularity of his sound courses—demand for which has more than doubled since he came on board—as evidence that his work here has only just begun. "The studios still have plenty of room to grow," he says.

Given all McNally does at UVic—in addition to his personal creative collaborations as part of the live

electronics trio The Krells—it's almost hard to believe he has time to miss his old rock-and-roll lifestyle. "I miss the environment, and I miss the people who are drawn to work in big studios... The hours, not so much," he laughs. "I do miss the scope of the projects—working on something that goes out to that many people in the world is a pretty cool feeling."

And so is training the next generation of recording artists.

finearts.uvic.ca/music/events/live/

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L-R: Newman and Brown. PHOTO: SUZANNE AHERNE

Witness blanket at CUVIC

The Witness Blanket, created by Kwagiulth artist and Master Carver Carey Newman pictured above with UVic's Dr. Leslie Brown (right), was presented May 20 for the first time during CUVic 2014, a global conference hosted by the university last month to highlight innovative experiences of universities and communities working together.

Inspired by the traditional woven blanket as a symbol of protection and comfort, it is composed of 13 cedar panels containing over

600 objects and artifacts evoking the atrocities of Indian Residential Schools and a national journey toward reconciliation. Seven panels were presented at UVic. The blanket (two metres high and 12 metres wide) will be toured across Canada this year.

UVic has special connections with the blanket (witnessblanket.ca) on several levels.

Visit www.uvic.ca/ring for more on CUVic and the blanket, and to view a photo gallery (bit.ly/14-witness).



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