the ring
University of Victoria
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Prospective students take UVic for a test drive

All signs indicate that the University of Victoria's first "test drive" for prospective students was right on track.

A total of 912 students and family members flooded the campus from as far away in North America as Texas and as far abroad as Gambia for an opportunity to take part in Experience UVic or Destination UVic on May 26.

"I came to experience UVic, just like the theme says," said Grade-12 student Veronica Zapotoczny. "The best part has been getting to know where everything is, meeting the people, getting information about next year and seeing what kind of courses they offer, too."

Never before has UVic held a student recruitment event that attracted more than 500 people.

Experience UVic was a one-day event that provided information about the academic and lifestyle opportunities available. Destination UVic provided the opportunity for students and their families to choose their future residence and stay on campus for the night.

The goal was to increase the number of Grade-12 students who decide to accept their offers of admisson by providing a sample of what makes UVic special. More than 200 volunteer faculty, staff and current students made the welcome message come across loud and clear.

"Even though we've been in Victoria for a number of years and we've been around the university, it's not the same as actually going and listening to the presentations from the faculties and hearing the previous students talk, hearing the president of the university talk," said Megan Pratt, whose son is considering engineering. "I learned it is more than just a beautiful place. I think it's really a great education."

A full evaluation of the program will include surveys with the prospective students, volunteers and faculty involved, and student participants will be monitored to see how this event changes acceptance rates.

"While we don't have the full evaluation, the attendance and great anecdotal comments seem to indicate we're on the right track," says Lynda Wallace-Hulecki, registrar and executive director of student enrolment. "All of the participating faculties and offices deserve a tremendous amount of credit, as well as each and every volunteer. And, of course, special thanks to Sue Corner, Melana Mar, Karen Waugh and Bruno Rocca who were instrumental in organizing this event."

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

L–R: Lauren Matthias and Ben Taylor from Parkland Secondary and Erik English from Stelly's Secondary were among more than 900 people who came to campus May 26 to participate in Experience UVic.

Spring 2007 Convocation

DIANA NETHERCOTT

Graduating psychology student Dave Segal takes a joyous celebratory paddle in a kayak he uses in his work, providing recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. UVic awards 3,143 degrees, diplomas and certificates in convocation ceremonies this month, including Segal's bachelor's degree. More convocation coverage inside.

Grad helps people with special needs 'have a blast' outdoors

By Suzanne Smith

While working towards his bachelor's degree at UVic, Dave Segal discovered a way to combine his passion for psychology and the environment. Through his work with Power To Be Adventure Therapy Society, a charitable organization that aims to improve the lives of people living with special needs, Segal is applying his skills and expertise in wilderness therapy. He coordinates the organization's Adaptive Recreation Program, which aims to improve the physical health and emotional well-being of people with special needs through such recreational activities as alpine skiing, sea kayaking, indoor rock climbing, camping and gardening.

"Since I started coordinating this program, the number of people enrolled has grown to over 300," says Segal. "It makes it possible for people with disorders like muscular dystrophy to get out in a kayak and have a blast just like any other person. These kinds of experiences help boost their confidence and allow them to break through some of the barriers of living with a disability."

When he's not facilitating workshops or debriefing with participants after an outdoor activity, Segal also spends his time working at UVic's Centre for Addictions Research. He started working there as part of a directed study with Dr. Tim Stockwell, and since then Segal has managed to design and implement his own study looking at low alcohol strategies for reducing alcohol-related harm to university students.

His study compares the level of enjoyment and perceived intoxication between participants who are given moderate amounts of unmarked low alcohol beer compared to those who drink regular strength. The results, which Segal hopes to publish next fall, suggest that most participants could not tell the difference between the two strengths of beer. He hopes that this study will help convince policy makers to introduce alcohol taxes and other incentives that will promote low alcohol alternatives, and help persuade breweries to manufacture higher quality, better tasting, low alcohol beer.

Segal is graduating this month with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a focus in environmental studies. He has been accepted into UVic's child and youth care master's program and received a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study wilderness therapy.

More convocation coverage on the web

Spring Convocation 2007 represents the culmination of years of effort and dedication for more than 3,100 University of Victoria students. And each graduate has a story to tell about his or her UVic experience.

In this issue of *The Ring*, we tell some of those stories, and there are even more profiles of amazing graduating students on *The Ring's* website at http://ring.uvic.ca/.

Always a highlight of convocation are the inspiring remarks made by UVic's honorary degree recipients in their convocation addresses. Now, for the first time, their moving speeches are available as podcasts on the web at communications.uvic.ca/podcasting.

UVic makes ocean history off Vancouver

The first phase of the most challenging ocean observatory installation ever attempted was completed early last month in the Strait of Georgia near Vancouver.

The Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea (VENUS) project, led by UVic, is the world's most advanced cabled seafloor observatory. Through a network of scientific instruments and cameras connected to the Internet by power and fibre-optic cable, VENUS provides scientists, educators and the general public with around-the-clock biological, oceanographic and geological data from the seafloor.

The first, three-kilometre leg of VENUS was installed in Saanich Inlet in February 2006 and continuous data has been flowing ever since. When completed, the Strait of Georgia leg will feature 40 km of cable and two central nodes, to which dozens of ocean sensors will be connected.

Ocean observatories provide ocean monitoring and help scientists understand how ocean environments change over time. The Strait of Georgia leg will support studies on long-term ocean change; tides, currents and mixing; fish and marine mammal movements; seafloor ecology; underwater noise; sediment and slope dynamics; plankton biology and Fraser River plume dynamics.

The complex installation process is

SEE VENUS P.3

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Ball and George

Indigenous fathers made visible

By Christine McLaren

Shedding light on the journey of Indigenous fathers was what Dr. Jessica Ball from the School of Child and Youth Care intended when she set out to research Aboriginal fathers' relationship to their children. What surprised her was the number of fathers who volunteered to tell their story and share their joy of fatherhood.

"There was no shortage of fathers who wanted to be involved, which is very unusual for Aboriginal research," says Ball. Her research and the resulting DVD "Fatherhood: Indigenous Men's Journeys" is the first study of its kind in Canada.

Through interviews and footage of the dads interacting with their children in their own surroundings, six Canadian First Nations and Métis fathers, age 27 to 60, speak openly about everything from the challenge of overcoming colonialism and the resulting trauma of residential school to the joys of being a father.

Presenting positive images and actual stories from Aboriginal fathers who have been able to make it as dads were what the fathers wanted to see. Inspiring practitioners to find new ways to include fathers in child care decisions, programs and family services is what they hope to achieve.

"I want to use my education to support Aboriginal people and specifically fathers, who, due to forcible relocation off-reserve, feel the loss of culture, language, family and community support systems," says Indigenous father Ron George (BSW '06), currently working on his master's in education. George, a hereditary chief of the Git'dum'den Clan and former president of the United Native Nations and Native Council of Canada, describes his children as "gifts." "Their future is bright because, contrary to how I was raised, they know who they are, they know they have rights and they absolutely know they are loved," says George.

Since the release of the DVD in March 2007, Ball has been inundated with requests and queries about the DVD and accompanying resource materials. With funding from the United Church Healing Fund, the DVD has been converted to broadcast quality for distribution to such institutions as Ryerson University, the University of Guelph and Camosun College. Workshop requests from the Aboriginal Head Start Program, Community Action Program for Children and the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program and her work with Success by Six, 2010 Legacies Now and LEAP BC (Literacy Education Activity and Play) highlight the significant contributions of her research.

Ball's research on Indigenous fathers is supported by the Father Involvement Research Alliance (FIRA), funded through the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) and the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Ball's internationally recognized work with Indigenous communities, development of training programs and research have been her focus for over 10 years.

For more information on the fatherhood project visit www.ecdip.org/fathers.

Memoir offers hope for better fathers

By Patty Pitts

Some men buy a sports car to mark a mid-life crisis. Others switch careers. Calvin Sandborn, legal director of UVic Faculty of Law's Environmental Law Clinic, wrote a highly personal book about his painful relationship with his now-deceased father. The resulting flurry of interviews about his critique of patriarchy is adding special poignancy to Sandborn's upcoming Father's Day.

"I'm getting a very strong response to the book," says Sanborn of *Becoming the Kind Father: A Son's Journey*. "There's a lot of pain between fathers and children."

Sandborn was 13 when his father, an angry alcoholic man, died. The dissolution of his own marriage and the termination of a job with government prompted Sanborn to consider the impact of his behaviour on his wife, three daughters and "future generations."

He read "about 90 books on male psychology and the effect male role modeling had on men" and realized that very little had been written about how men "could live their lives in a post-patriarchal world.

"I started looking at myself and understood the saying 'Men grow wise against their will.' In writing the book I came to forgive my father and appreciate the good parts of our relationship," says Sandborn.

Since the book was published in April he's given numerous radio interviews. "They're saving them for Father's Day broadcasts that will be heard over several hundred U.S. radio stations." Sandborn has had reviews in the *Vancouver Sun*, *Sacramento Bee*, anticipates another in the *Washington Post* and has been invited to give readings and signings in significant book stores in Seattle and Portland.

But even more gratifying than all the attention for his book will be the attention Sandborn receives from his 16-month-old grandson on Father's Day.

Aroundthering

Challenging all student entrepreneurs

The university's technology transfer office—the Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC)—is looking for students with cool business ideas to take part in the 2007 IDC Challenge. The annual business plan competition promotes innovation and entrepreneurship among students and offers prizes of up to $33,000, thanks to generous sponsors. The challenge began in May and will end in September. The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at UVic, Royal Roads University, Camosun College, Malaspina University-College, and North Island College, as well as Grade 11 and 12 high school students on Vancouver Island. For more information visit www.idcchallenge.com.

More participants needed for research study in support of UNI 102

Participants in an online research project on human perception will not only help two University of Victoria psychologists, they'll also generate funds to support UNI 102—a course for people facing barriers to a post-secondary education. "For every person who participates in our online research project we will donate five dollars of our research funding to UNI 102, a course for people whose economic and social circumstances normally pose obstacles to a university education," says Dr. Stephen Lindsay. Lindsay and colleague Dr. Elizabeth Brimacombe hope to recruit 1,000 participants and contribute as much as $5,000 to UNI 102. To learn more about and/or participate in this research study, visit www.uvic.ca/psyc/investigation2. Participating takes about 20 minutes and involves watching a short video and answering questions about it.

UVic awarded Olympic qualifying tournament in women's field hockey

Next spring the Canadian women's field hockey team and their counterparts from five other nations will converge on UVic's field hockey turf to compete for a berth in the 2008 XXIX Olympics in Beijing. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on April 23 the choice of UVic to host this Olympic qualifying tournament.

"Hosting this tournament at the University of Victoria recognizes the investment the university has made in our field hockey program as well as the links we continue to forge with Field Hockey BC and the Vancouver Island Field Hockey Association," says Clint Hamilton, director of athletics and recreation.

UVic enjoys a strong working relationship with the local field hockey community. For several years, the women's team has run its Rising Stars program, which brings youth onto campus for training sessions with Vikes athletes and coaches, and the men's team has delivered field hockey promotional workshops to middle schools throughout the region since February.

UVic designated a preferred university for China's top graduate students

UVic has received preferred status as a graduate education destination for some of China's top university grads as a result of an agreement signed May 8 in Beijing by UVic President David Turpin and Ms. Zhang Xiuqin, secretary-general of the China Scholarship Council, witnessed by China's Education Minister Dr. Zhou Ji.

"This agreement will provide further opportunities to internationalize our campus by allowing some of the best students in China to come to UVic to work together with students and faculty here," says Turpin.

UVic is the first university in BC, only the second in Canada, and one of a highly select group in the world—including MIT, Harvard and Cambridge—to receive the preferred status designation. It opens the door to a new level of co-operation for students and faculty at UVic and a select group of Chinese partner universities.

Dr. Zuomin Dong, chair of mechanical engineering, brought the China Scholarship Council Program to the attention of Dr. Jim Anglin, director of international affairs, who then pursued it in discussions with the Chinese Ministry of Education.

"The Chinese government is quite selective about this," says Anglin. "But over the years UVic has achieved a high level of visibility and credibility in China."

The agreement enhances UVic's position as a focal point for Asia-Pacific initiatives in North America. The first Chinese students to attend UVic under the agreement will arrive later this year.

"These are top students from only top-tier Chinese universities who are selected especially for their potential to assume roles of academic leadership upon return to China," says Anglin. "Their numbers will be small at first, but there is significant potential for expansion of the program that can contribute significantly to strengthened relations between Canada and China."

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The Ring reserves the right to select and edit all submissions. Story suggestions should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the copy deadline listed in Calendar Highlights on page 11.

UVic research enters *The Fast Lane*

The University of Victoria has a new research publication.

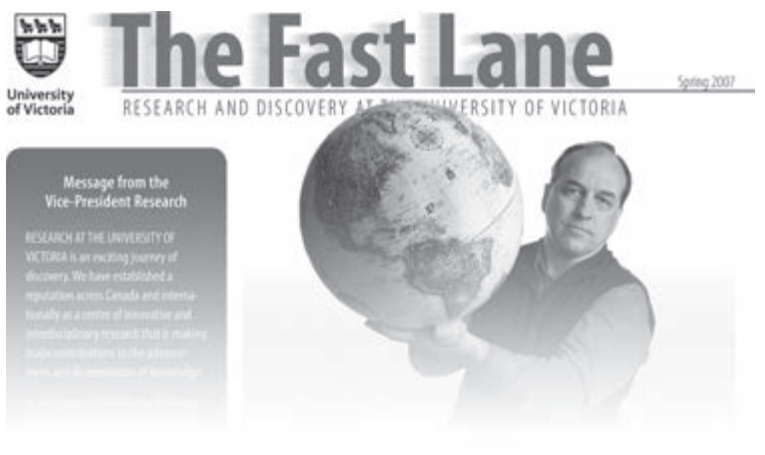
The Fast Lane, an eight-page newsletter on research and discovery at UVic, made its debut recently. Paper copies of the newsletter are currently being circulated around campus; electronic copies are available online in PDF format at www.uvic.ca/research.

The Fast Lane—the name is a play on the university's research communications theme, "We're going places"—is produced by UVic Communications for the Office of the Vice-President Research. It's aimed primarily at decision-makers in government and business, influencers of research policy and funding, current and potential research partners and funders, and the national news media.

"This newsletter is one of the tools we're using to build and sustain UVic's reputation as a leading research university in Canada and demonstrate the benefits to society of UVic research, especially in areas of institutional strength," says Dr. Martin Taylor, vice-president research.

Each issue of *The Fast Lane* will include a selection of short news items on UVic innovations, achievements and milestones that may be especially relevant to the current activities and priorities of the newsletter's primary target audience. The newsletter also provides information on the substantial breadth and depth of the university's research and knowledge transfer expertise.

The newsletter will be published twice a year, in spring and fall. Subscribe to *The Fast Lane* at the website listed above and an email alert will be sent to you when each new issue comes out.



VENUS continued from p.1

taking place in several stages between now and the fall.

"The Strait of Georgia is one of the most forbidding places to deploy an ocean observatory," says VENUS Project Director Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe. "But the high currents, the Fraser sediments, the active seafloor and the busy traffic are all reasons why we need to be there. We're pushing the leading edge of technology to establish a foothold on the seafloor. With full connectivity in the fall, we'll begin to unravel the secrets of the strait."

This phase of the installation laid the 40 km of cable and two node bases in offshore waters just north of the Vancouver International Airport. Working with the VENUS team were industrial partners Global Marine Systems Ltd., which operates the large cable-laying ship *Wave Venture*, and Ocean Works International Ltd. of North Vancouver, which has designed and built the 2.5-tonne nodes.

The cable will come ashore near the Iona Beach Regional Park, where data will travel to UVic over a high-speed network. The connection between the landfall and the existing high-speed network is being built by TELUS as an in-kind donation.

"VENUS is a unique project with fantastic educational and research potential, not to mention the insights it will give all of us into the health of our oceans," says Stuart Turnbull of TELUS Business Solutions. "We're thrilled our broadband data technology can support this important endeavour."

Another partner is the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, which will be telling VENUS stories through exhibits, programs and multimedia presentations.

"As an institution devoted to helping the public understand and conserve our oceans, and a partner in the VENUS project, we're very excited about this installation," says Aquarium President Dr. John Nightingale. "VENUS is providing incredible opportunities, not just for the research community, but for the Canadian public to learn about our oceans."

The VENUS project is funded in large part by $10.3 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund. Visit VENUS online at www.venus.uvic.ca.

ANGELA VOHT

Clarke (left) and Martin in the Campus Community Garden

More than just a garden

By Angela Voht

The Campus Community Garden (CCG) has become a many-splendoured scene. Located on the north side of MacKenzie Avenue, beside the Technology Enterprise Facility (TEF building), it offers campus gardeners the opportunity to grow fresh organic produce and native plants, to exercise and breathe lush garden air, and to learn and socialize over all things earth-bound.

The Environmental Studies Students Association established the garden in 1997, and in 2000 family housing students took over, building 22 allotment plots and offering space for members of the university community to grow their own fruits and vegetables. In 2006, the CCG members formed a governance structure that today includes staff, alumni and students.

The garden has been increased to 45 plots, with two larger community plots, a children's play area, composting and tool shed. Any member of the university community is welcome, seasoned or completely inexperienced, who wishes to spend some time sowing and reaping.

Recently granted club membership by the UVSS, the garden club attracts people from all walks of campus life, from faculty and staff to undergrads and grad students. While the average age of members tends to over 30, younger students are being drawn to the garden and all it has to offer.

Wanda Martin, a registered nurse and UVic sessional instructor in nursing, is the garden's volunteer site coordinator. "The garden has a lot to offer the university community in terms of sustainability, health promotion and community action," she explains.

UVic nursing student Samantha Clarke, in a practicum for her third-year Health Promotion and Community Empowerment class, contributed 78 hours to the garden last semester, where she saw the socioenvironmental model of health applied to the real world. Students in the class were placed throughout the city to learn about small communities and facilitate health empowerment along the way. Clarke and her practicum colleague Melissa Umphrey took part in CCG club meetings and garden work parties, helped with funding initiatives and conducted surveys of members to find the inspiration behind joining.

Most of the members are there, not surprisingly, to grow produce that is fresher (and cheaper) than what is found in store coolers. Others mentioned the benefits of spending time outside with children, family members and friends; taking part in a positive community action network; and getting beyond the limitations that apartments and residence dwelling can impose on student life.

Members have fun, feel productive and accomplished, and get to know other people in the university community that they likely would not have met otherwise.

Although Clarke's health promotion class is finished, she continues to take part in the garden via rental of her own plot. For $30, any member of the university community can rent a plot for the 2007 growing season. The fee goes right back into garden costs like tools and soil amendments. Currently, there is only one plot available for rent, but the community plot is available for volunteer use.

And there are bigger plans for the CCG. "We're hoping to get a biology co-op student for fall," says Martin. "Funding isn't absolutely ensured yet, but we've got the student interest, so hopefully all will go well."

In the long term, the location of the CCG is uncertain, due to its status as a designated building site in UVic's 2003 Campus Plan. Though the garden does have secure tenure in its present location until 2011, facilities management is unable to predict how the garden location may be used beyond that.

"Through the university's sustainability initiatives, we definitely encourage the garden, but we can't pre-determine future campus plans," says Dick Chappell, director of maintenance and operations.

But for now, whether a resource for students to attain their educational goals, or a place to dig one's fingers into the soil and grow some food, the garden offers an excellent way to pass some time and make new connections in the university community.

A day in the life

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PAT BURNS could be spent in almost any department on campus. As a member of Secretarial Services providing temporary secretarial assistance, she has had seven assignments in eight months. Most of her jobs have involved filing and reception work, although she has backgrounds in marketing, researching, written/oral communications and special events chairing.

"It's so varied; it helps to be adaptable. I often get time-consuming jobs that no one else has time for," she says. "You have to be able to multi-task, especially in small departments. It is mostly learn as you go."

She finds that people really appreciate that she is there to help. No matter how busy, they are pleasant to work with and don't mind answering her questions. "I am certainly getting a broad understanding of how this university runs," says Burns, whose aim is to get a full-time job at UVic.

Burns is an Ojibway from Ontario. She was not raised in the culture, but is learning more now. She moved from Toronto to Alberta, where she worked as a respiratory therapist. "Those were the days where you could find a job wherever you ended up." She has been in Victoria for 25 years and has two grown sons also living in Victoria.

Burns in the LE_NONET office

Before UVic, Burns was an English as a second language teacher for seven years before the big ESL schools came into town. "I really wanted to teach immigrant professionals, but there was no funding. Without good language skills, these professionals are driving taxis, working as janitors or in restaurants."

In 2001 Burns was Elections BC's first Aboriginal Liaison Officer.

She serves as the Aboriginal representative for the UVic Alumni Association Board of Directors, sits on the communications and active alumni committees and attends as many Aboriginal events at UVic as she can. She is looking forward to the grad ceremony for Indigenous students. "I am hoping as many as possible will wear traditional regalia," she says. She also intends to get involved in the First People's House.

She appreciates the university's policies on diversity and equity and its supportiveness to Aboriginals.

"I like being privy to cutting-edge technology and knowledge," she says. "And I love the beautiful campus and the bunnies."

UVic grad and prof awarded Canada Research Chair

By Maria Lironi

A UVic engineering professor is bringing triple prestige to the university by not only being a UVic alumnus and professor, but also the recipient of its 34th Canada Research Chair.

Dr. Aaron Gulliver, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is the new Canada Research Chair in Advanced Wireless Communications. As a tier-one recipient Gulliver is considered one of the "stars of today" and his award will provide him with funding for seven years and can be renewed indefinitely. The position is jointly funded by the Canada Research Chairs Program ($1.4 million) and the Canada Foundation for Innovation ($166,651).

"Wireless technology has evolved because people are inherently mobile and have a need to interact and participate in a community regardless of where they are," says Gulliver. "Wired systems have advanced to the point where very high-speed multimedia services are available in the home and elsewhere, and it is natural that mobile users demand similar service levels. This demand for better wireless services, faster, cheaper, more reliable and secure, requires new efficient, high-capacity communications systems."

Gulliver's research will focus on the development of key enabling technologies for these new wireless systems. "The wired world is becoming the wireless world," adds Gulliver. Before long, he says, the nest of wires that link the average home entertainment system will be a thing of the past.

Gulliver completed his doctorate in electrical engineering at UVic in 1989 and joined the faculty 10 years later. In the intervening decade he was a faculty member at Carleton University and the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

In 2000, he was awarded a research fellowship by the British Columbia Advanced Systems Institute. In 2002 he won the Faculty of Engineering's Award for Teaching Excellence and was made a fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

The author or co-author of over 300 published papers, Gulliver is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and a member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia. For more information visit www.ece.uvic.ca/~agullive.

UVic gets its place among the stars

Looking for directions to UVic?

No sweat. Hop on a space shuttle and head for the middle of an asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. A mere 416 million km from Earth you'll find a 3.5-km chunk of rock hurtling away from the sun. Welcome to UVic.

That's the new official name of an asteroid discovered by Dave Balam, a research associate in the University of Victoria's Department of Physics and Astronomy. The name was published on May 31 in the Minor Planet Circulars of the International Astronomical Union, which formally approves and registers newly discovered celestial objects.

Balam "accidentally" discovered the asteroid in 1996 while using the telescope at the National Research Council of Canada in Saanich to track near-Earth comets and asteroids.

It took 11 years to calculate and confirm the asteroid's orbital path before Balam was able to exercise his naming rights. "Good things take a lot of time," he says, "and so I felt that the most fitting name should be 'UVic' in honour of the institution where I've worked for more than 30 years."

UVic is the ninth university in Canada to be immortalized in the heavens, and the first one in British Columbia.

More properly known as (150145) UVic, the asteroid orbits the sun every 5.43 years and is currently in the constellation of Leo. It will emerge from behind the sun in May 2008 when it will be 332 million km from Earth.

ROBIE LISCOMB

Beyak

Top fine arts grad a picture of success

By Robie Liscomb

Jocelyn Beyak radiates an infectious enthusiasm. It's a trait that's helped her develop her photographic art to a high level and earn a Jubilee Medal for top standing among this year's graduates from the Faculty of Fine Arts.

In her photography, the visual arts honours student deftly explores themes of personal and family history, memory, identity and place, creating images that intrigue and beckon to the viewer.

In one series, Beyak meticulously recreated old photos of her grandmother, using herself as the model. "I haunted the thrift stores to find exact copies of dresses she wore in the photos," says Beyak, who then recreated the original poses and printed the resulting images in nearly life-sized format.

For her honours project, she traveled to Melab, MB, to revisit the area where her great grandparents settled after immigrating to Canada from Ukraine and Poland. She created a series of self-portraits with the now-dilapidated barn and stone house that they built, using her art to document and explore her experience of time, place and family identity.

Beyak became interested in photography at an early age, growing up in Chilliwack, where her father used to have a side-job taking wedding photos. A teacher at the Langley Fine Arts School ignited her interest in the serious pursuit of photography, which she studied for a semester at Langara College before coming to UVic.

While attending UVic, Beyak held down several outside jobs and was a major force in the Visual Arts Students Association, helping organize a black-tie art auction, a Halloween exhibition and fashion show, and serving as the organization's treasurer. She also worked as photo editor at the UVic student newspaper, *The Martlet*.

Her work has been featured in a recent solo exhibition at Fifty Fifty Gallery and The Ministry of Casual Living, an artist-run gallery, both in Victoria.

Beyak plans to pursue a Master's of Fine Arts degree after taking some time off from academia. "I need to take the time to think of a 'grand idea,'" she explains, "something that I want to devote two years of graduate work to."

Her work may be seen on her website: www.jocelynbeyak.com.

Honorary MP3s

If the well-chosen words of an honorary degree recipient inspire you to seize the day, remember you can recapture that inspiration through convocation podcasts.

Listen to the speech again, as well as the remarks of other honorary degree recipients, as they take to the air via podcasts posted on UVic Communications Services web site.

Each available speech is posted in MP3 format—just click, play or take it with you in your portable MP3 player. You can also subscribe to future addresses using the embedded RSS feed (instructions on the site).

This year's Spring Convocation speakers will be posted at communications.uvic.ca/podcasting.

Five honorary degrees awarded

The University of Victoria is awarding honorary degrees to five outstanding leaders in the arts, human rights and the environment at the eight convocation ceremonies this month.

The honorands are:

The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, who became became B.C.'s 27th lieutenant governor in 2001 after careers in broadcasting and public service that were distinguished by her dedication to human rights and social justice.

Musician and social activist Bruce Cockburn, who has recorded 20 gold and platinum albums and is widely regarded for his work for the welfare of the less fortunate, expressed through decades of activism around the world.

The Honourable Miria Matembe of Uganda, member of the Pan-African Parliament, who has confronted widespread corruption in Ugandan society and urged her culture to come to terms with human sexuality and disease in light of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Author, educator and human rights activist Mary Okumu, who trains African women in mediation, conflict resolution and survival skills, has held executive posts with key international aid organizations and is best known for her work with Women Waging Peace, a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating conflict in Africa.

Conservationist William (Bill) Turner, who revolutionized the preservation and restoration of the natural and cultural heritage of BC when he co-founded The Land Conservancy in 1997.

Honorary degrees are awarded by the Senate of the University of Victoria based on nominations received from the university community. Criteria include distinction in scholarship, research, teaching, the creative arts or public service.

When permission is granted, honorary degree recipients' inspiring addresses to convocation are available via podcast at http://communications.uvic.ca/podcasting.

Cockburn

Campagnolo

Turner

Matembe

Okumu

MAJOR MEDAL WINNERS

Governor General's Gold Medal
(top PhD, all faculties)
Dr. Gregory Poole, physics and astronomy

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal
(top master's, thesis, all faculties)
Agnes Zay, biology

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal
(top master's, other than thesis, all faculties)
Connie Morey, art education

Governor General's Silver Medal
(top undergraduate, all faculties)
Kyle Mathewson, psychology

Jubilee Medal for Humanities
Jennifer Hyde, French/Hispanic studies

Jubilee Medal for Science
William Philip Rempel, mathematics

Jubilee Medal for Social Sciences
Kevin Daley, sociology

Law Society Gold Medal
Christine Joseph

Victoria Medal in Fine Arts
Jocelyn Beyak, visual arts

Maxwell Cameron Memorial Medals in Education
Leigh Pharis (Elementary)
Sarah West (Secondary)

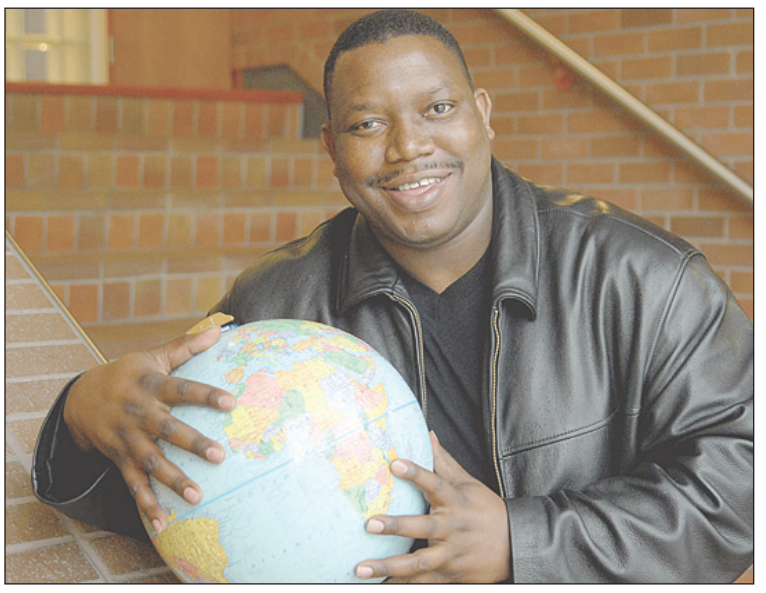
Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Medal
Michal Osusky

Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal
Dapeng Gao

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering
Jason Jia Wei

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering
Geoffrey Shew

PATRICK DUNNE



Chibwana

Grad student's passion for children creates change in homeland

By Christine Roulston

Khama Chibwana made a big difference in his native Zomba while living a world away in Victoria. Chibwana, who recently completed his master's in child and youth care, devoted his time on campus to finding solutions to child care problems in Zomba, Malawi, a rural African municipality, where the effects of AIDS and poverty have left many residents struggling for basic resources.

Chibwana was teaching at the University of Malawi when he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship in 2005. He chose to come to UVic and immediately focused his studies on the problems with child care in Zomba. "I was interested because of the magnitude of need," he says. "I thought this must be studied. There is a need for authorities to be involved."

Chibwana says vast differences in resources exist between community-funded child care centres and those that also receive funds from outside organizations.

"At this stage there isn't any systematic assessment of child care centres, so it's hard to know what communities are in need," he says. Part of Chibwana's thesis involved selecting a random group of child care centres in Malawi and comparing their resources, from the condition of the facilities to play materials available.

While in Victoria, Chibwana helped spearhead Zomba KIDZ, a project that began as part of Saanich's Centennial celebrations and focuses on improving early childhood development in Zomba.

He worked to help educate Saanich employees about child care situation in Zomba. The group has raised over $50,000 to build a community facility where children in the region can go to play, learn and receive basic nutrition and healthcare. Chibwana helped the group forge a partnership with Chancellor College, a campus of the University of Malawi, to deliver the program.

Chibwana has returned to his job at the University of Malawi and is working with government and non-profit groups to help shape policy on childcare in the region.

Medal winner follows his interests

By Suzanne Smith

Kevin Daley, this year's winner of the Social Sciences Jubilee Medal, believes the secret to academic success is finding a discipline that really engages you.

"I started out my studies at UVic intending to get into law school, but by third year I got really interested in social justice and the sociology of law," says Daley. "I found the sociology department very supportive, and I was especially impressed by Dr. Helga Hallgrimsdottir who later became my honours supervisor."

Daley advises new undergraduates to "take a lot of electives, at least in your first two years in order to find out what you really enjoy learning. Focus on learning, and the good grades will follow."

Daley took his own advice and, inspired by his interest in law, decided to compare patterns of crime control among Canada, the US and the UK. He discovered that Canada, as compared to the other countries, has remained more committed to rehabilitation than punishment. It's not that Canadians are less concerned about crime, according to Daley, but that Canada's criminal justice system partially insulates penal officials from the sort of direct control exerted by elected officials in those other countries.

Daley says that he felt incredibly prepared for grad school after finishing his honours research. He's now three months away from completing his master's in sociology at McGill University. He plans to pursue his PhD, but not before exploring some non-academic things. "After all," he says, "I've been in school since kindergarten."

Law medalist heading to Supreme Court

By Patty Pitts

Last March, after a day of back-to-back interviews with six Canadian Supreme Court Justices and a flight home from Ottawa, UVic law student Christine Joseph was looking forward to sleeping late the next day. Instead, her ringing phone woke her up early.

"It was good news," says Joseph in an interview from Vancouver.

On the other end of the line was Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin offering this year's UVic Law Society Gold Medal winner a position as her clerk.

Joseph won't make the move to Ottawa until 2008 after she completes a term as a clerk with the BC Court of Appeal in Vancouver in September.

Her road to the country's highest court began in Alberta. Joseph was born in Edmonton and raised in Lethbridge where she graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a degree in political science.

"I decided to apply to the best law school. I did a fair amount of research and the only school I applied to was UVic as an early admission student," says Joseph.

While at UVic she participated in the UVic Association of Women in the Law and wrapped up her studies with a term at the downtown Law Centre, the only full-time, clinical program offered by a Canadian law school. She describes the experience as "amazing. You learn so much about everything. You're handed 40 files and they're all yours. I did a criminal trial and a two-week human rights hearing."

Spending the summer working at the law firm of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin puts Joseph in the same city as her husband after the pair spent a lot of time on BC Ferries for two and a half years. He hopes to be able to arrange a job transfer to Ottawa to coincide with her Supreme Court clerkship.

Joseph says she "loved every minute" of her time at UVic law, praising the "amazing" faculty who took time to prepare her for her Supreme Court interviews and helping her with her résumé.

"You wouldn't see that anywhere else," she says. "I'll miss UVic immensely. I couldn't have made a better choice."

ROB KRUYT

Joseph

Top undergraduate contributes to brain research

By Suzanne Smith

We've all experienced the frustration of learning a new sport, like swinging a golf club for the first time, but have you ever thought about which parts of your brain help you to learn?

This year's recipient of the Governor General's Silver Medal Award with top marks for an undergraduate, Kyle Mathewson, is fascinated by neuroscience and the way the brain functions, so for his undergraduate honours research in psychology he decided to study the brain areas involved in learning a series of movements.

"I studied a part of the brain that is believed to use information about mistakes to adjust your actions in the future," explains Mathewson.

Working in UVic's Brain and Cognition Laboratory with his supervisor, Dr. Clay Holroyd, Mathewson recorded the brain activity of 30 undergraduate volunteers using an electroencephalogram. The students were asked to learn a sequence of button presses by trial and error and then perform the button sequence as quickly as possible.

DIANA NETHERCOTT

Mathewson with an electrode cap used in his research.

"While the student volunteers were learning the sequence a specific part of their brains became activated when they were told they had made a mistake," says Mathewson. "Later on when the students had learned the sequence this same part of their brains became activated the moment they made a mistake, but this time they no longer needed to be told they had made an error," continued Mathewson. "This shows us that once we learn a series of movements we can begin to monitor our own behaviours without requiring feedback."

Mathewson explains that brain research on learning helps us to better understand and help people with brain injuries or disorders, and it provides valuable information for educators to use in adapting their teaching styles to the processes of the brain.

Mathewson is starting a PhD program this fall at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in cognitive neuroscience. He plans to work as a researcher and professor at a Canadian university.

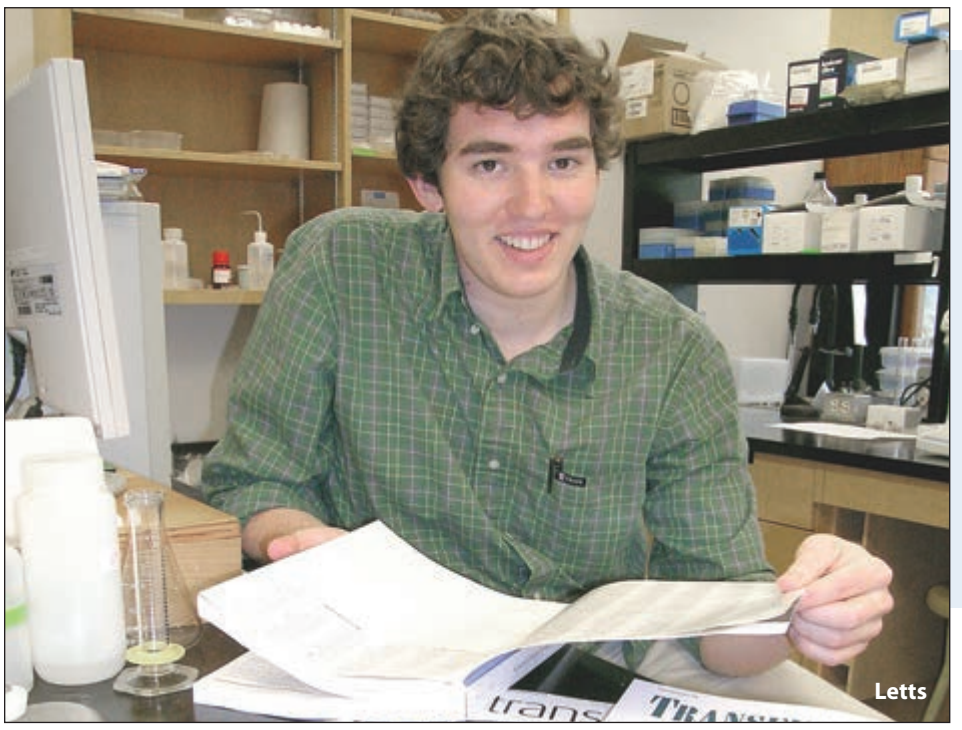
Spring 2007 Convocation

Co-op students make their mark

By Amy Geddes

Look out world here they come! With undergraduate transcripts chock-full of co-op work experience and glowing references from employers and faculty members, plus a host of other personal and academic achievements, these grads are not only leaving a legacy behind them at UVic—they're moving on to make their mark on the world.

AMY GEDDES



Letts

James Letts is an accomplished Métis student whose co-op work terms with UVic's Department of Biochemistry led to a number of important discoveries on the x-ray crystallography of proteins.

He's already been published three times in the leading scientific journals in his field, and one of his recent articles has just been accepted into *Acta Crystallographica*, a respected biochemical journal.

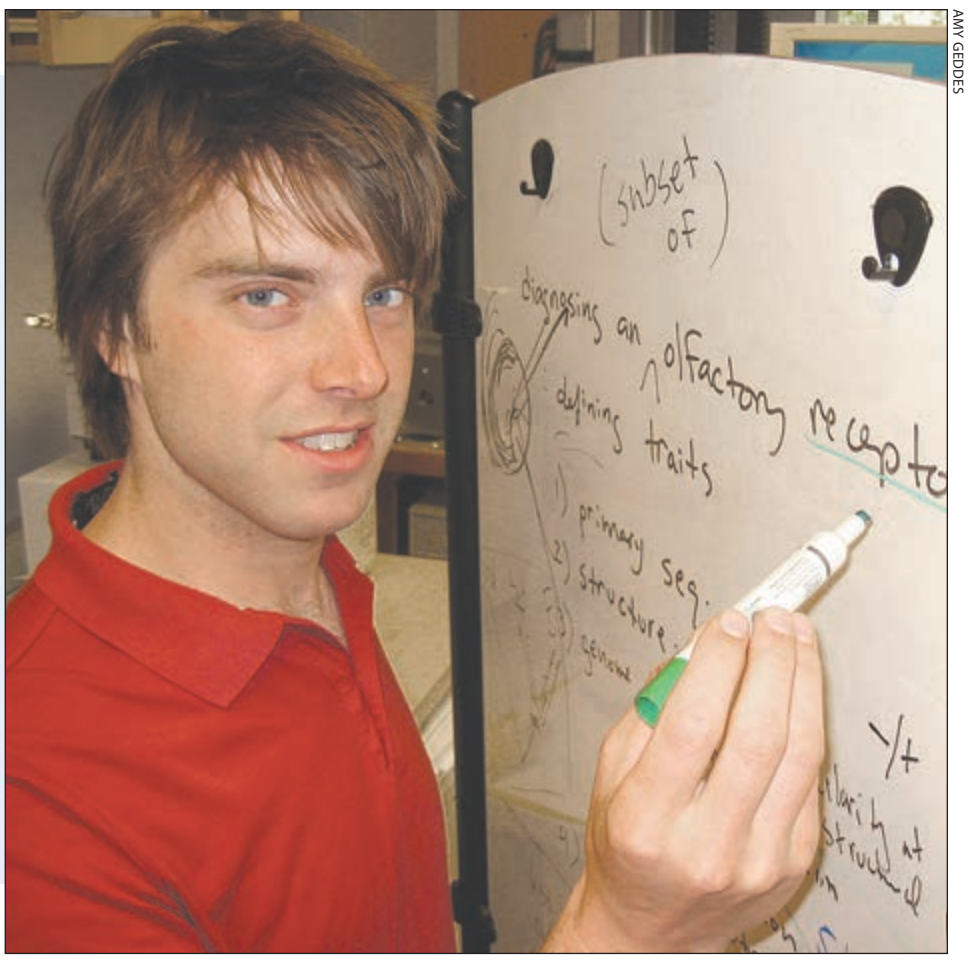
Letts attributes his success in part to the co-op program that gave him the chance work alongside Dr. Stephan Evans, his co-op supervisor.

"I didn't know anything about x-ray crystallography before I started working for Dr. Evans," says Letts. Evans soon had Letts flying to places like Denmark and Honolulu to complete co-op work terms and to collaborate with other leading researchers within their field.

When it came time to apply to graduate school, Letts caught the eye of Rockefeller University in New York, who offered him a full scholarship to pursue his doctorate with Dr. Roderick Mackinnon, winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Letts accepted the offer and is looking forward to continuing his work with the x-ray crystallography of proteins in New York.

AMY GEDDES



Cooper

Chemistry and economics graduate **Matt Cooper** will be heading to Montréal this fall for a year-long research position with his most recent co-op employer, Merck Frosst. The pharmaceutical company was eager to hire Cooper back as an intern after he proved his research abilities during his work term. He will continue the force field design research (exploring how virtual molecules interact) that he began as a co-op student.

"By working with Merck Frosst I was able to prove that I could transfer my research skills and academic knowledge into the workplace," says Cooper. "I was interested in the internship program, and co-op allowed me to make the connection."

Cooper completed more co-op work terms than required, building up an impressive and diverse résumé in the process. His chemistry-related work experience with UVic's Department of Chemistry, Boehringer Ingelheim (Montréal), Syncitium (Victoria), University of Waterloo (in an atmospheric chemistry project supported by Canadian Space Agency) and Merck Frosst (Montréal) gave him the competitive edge that helped him secure his internship.

This desire to go above and beyond is nothing new to Cooper. He has also been incredibly active in campus life as well as the larger community. While maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 7.54, Cooper volunteered at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, worked as a teaching assistant with University 101 providing a taste of university to students facing barriers to education, served as an elected representative of the UVic Senate and was a director-at-large for the UVic Students' Society.

Cooper has been awarded a number of scholarships throughout his UVic career and was recently recognized with a UVic Blue and Gold Award, honouring him for the significant contributions he has made in promoting the quality of life on the University of Victoria campus and in the community at large.

JO-ANN RICHARDS

Richardson and daughter Montana

This ability to make a significant impression on the world is shared by co-op graduate **Jennifer Richardson**. The business student inspired retired business professor Bill Buckwold to include her name on the financial award being established by UVic Business to recognize his contribution to the teaching profession.

The award is called the "Bill Buckwold 'Jennifer Richardson' Award" because Richardson's perseverance in completing her Bachelor of Commerce degree while raising her daughter and working nearly full-time represents the essence of the award.

When Buckwold first met Richardson, he was immediately impressed by her ability to juggle a very busy schedule. "At the beginning of the term Jennifer was struggling, but it wasn't from lack of interest," says Buckwold. "It was from lack of sleep." No wonder—Richardson's schedule was incredibly hectic: she would come to class, go home to complete her assignments, go to work for four hours, come home to play with her daughter and then sleep for four hours.

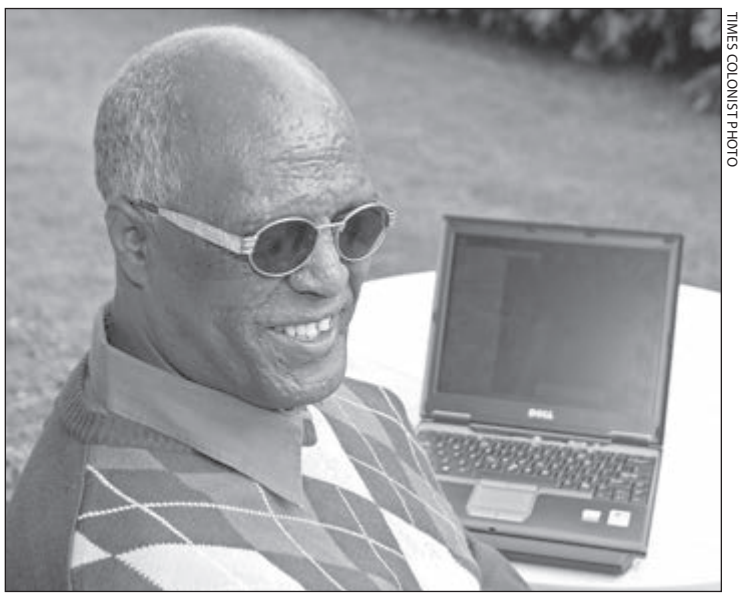
Her work initially suffered as a result of her schedule, but once she had Buckwold's support, her grades improved. Richardson also participated in the Business Co-op Program, working for BMO Financial Group for all her work terms as a customer service representative. The co-op positions helped her put her degree to practise and also helped with her schedule—the regular hours were much more accommodating than her previous job working the graveyard shift as a casino host.

"My co-op experience was a period of discovery," says Richardson. "It allowed me to experiment with different roles and challenges and provided an opportunity to uncover what it is that I wanted to pursue as my first career."

Since completing her course work last December, Richardson works as an analyst for the Ministry of Community Services. She is optimistic about the future and hopes her ability to persevere will inspire others. "It is such an honour for the award to be named after me. I hope it will encourage others to hang on to their dreams and not let anything get in the way."

Shedding light on the lives of blind immigrants

By Anitra Winje


TIMES COLONIST PHOTO
Teklu

On June 6, Abebe Abay Teklu, a student in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, became the first blind person to graduate from a BC university with a PhD.

Teklu's doctoral research was inspired by his own experience as an educated immigrant who has faced many barriers to employment in Canada because he is blind. His dissertation, "The Voices of Ethiopian Blind Immigrants and their Families: Facing the Challenges of Life in Canada," asserts that albeism keeps disabled people unemployed and impoverished in this country.

"Canada has one of the worst records in how it treats disabled people" he says. Teklu says that disabled people are inadmissible to Canada unless they score high on a point system that rates factors such as education and work experience.

As part of his research, Teklu interviewed immigrants to Canada who had attained high scores but were still unable to find work. Teklu says the reality is that 98 per cent of disabled immigrants are not employed in this country, despite their levels of education. He thinks if disabled immigrants knew the reality of life in Canada, many of them would not have come here.

"We're wasting human capital. These people have a lot to offer. Employers are unaware of what these people can do," he says. "This lack of awareness extends to government, where it translates into poor policy."

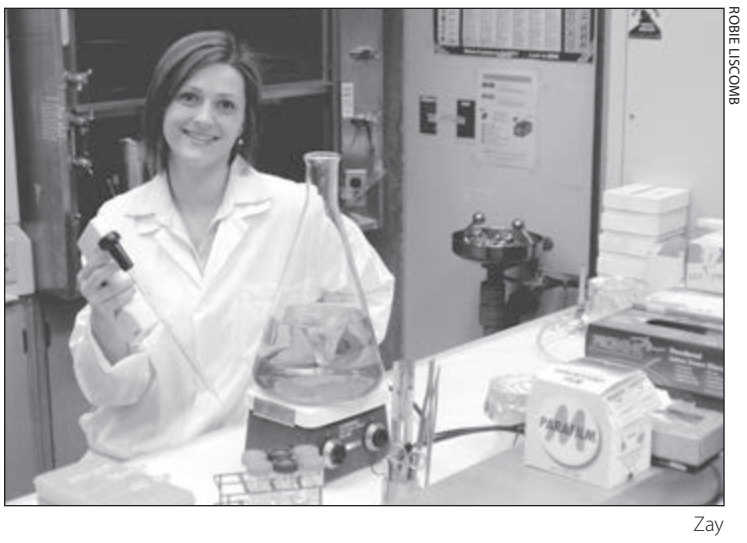
Teklu's journey to UVic began in a small village in Ethiopia where he worked as a teacher, musician, poet, playwright and social activist. In the mid 1980s his opposition to Ethiopia's Provisional Military Government (Derg) led to his imprisonment. With the help of Amnesty International, he was released from prison after a year. He and 1,000 other Ethiopians then fled the country, trekking 2,000 miles on foot into Sudan. At one point, the Derg sent a gunned helicopter after the group, opening fire and killing 600 people. Once in Sudan, Teklu helped found a school for the blind.

Teklu eventually came to British Columbia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in social work. However, when he applied for work with the Ministry of Children and Families, he was denied a position because he could not drive. Teklu continued his education, earning a master's in social work from UVic in only two years. Again, frustrated that he could not find work, Teklu returned to UVic to pursue his PhD, which he completed in two and a half years.

With a young family to support, Teklu admits he's concerned about being able to provide for his children in a society that doesn't value its disabled citizens. But he maintains a positive outlook, declaring that "if there's willingness and persistence, disability shouldn't be a deterrent from achieving your goals."

Grad develops early diagnostic tool for genetic disorder

By Jennifer Cador


ROBIE LISCOMB
Zay

Agnes Zay confides that she was surprised to learn she'd won the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for her master's thesis research into a rare genetic disorder.

"My project is very technical, so it's not sexy science, as they call it," she laughs.

Sexy science, according to Zay, is what we read about in the newspaper, like cancer vaccines or climate change. But Zay's work is unquestionably important.

She studies an often fatal genetic disorder called glycine encephalopathy, most commonly seen in babies. People with the disease cannot break down glycine, an important neurotransmitter in the brain. Left untreated, babies with the disease sustain severe brain damage, suffer from seizures and usually die in their first year.

But diagnosis, at least until Zay's research, has been difficult. Doctors have had to take a liver biopsy from the newborn, which involves surgery, or take a chorionic villi sample during pregnancy.

Zay's work promises to change that situation. In her research, Zay zeroed in on one of the proteins in the complex that breaks down glycine and is working to see if it can diagnose the disease through a simple blood test. There is no cure, but symptoms can be treated with drugs.

While the disease is rare, Zay points out that the knowledge acquired can be applied to other diseases.

"The reason why you start with diseases like this is because they are what's called 'single gene disorders,' so there's a single defect that causes the disease. In diseases like cancer, a lot of different things interact with each other. Understanding this helps us move on to the more complicated diseases, like cancer."

Zay is now considering a PhD in human genetics. In her off hours, she volunteers at the BC Cancer Agency and Habitat for Humanity, building affordable homes from the ground up.

"When you're working your brain all week, you need to get outside and do something active. And one day, if I need to build my own house, I'll know how to do the siding."

Spring 2007 Convocation

Study of cosmic collisions garners gold medal

By Jennifer Cador

As a kid in Ontario, he used to lie on his back on starry summer nights and gaze up at the sky, pondering the endless celestial wonders above. As an adult, Dr. Gregory Poole is still intrigued with the cosmos, and his groundbreaking research on galaxy clusters has earned him the highest honour the Faculty of Graduate Studies bestows, the Governor General's Gold Medal.

Poole is interested in the big picture: galaxy clusters are the largest structures in the universe, and their collisions with each other to form new, merged structures will reveal, in the coming decades, much about how the universe works.

Poole explains that one of the most intriguing problems astronomers are focusing on is dark matter, evidenced where structures like galaxies behave as if they have more mass than is visible. The research strongly suggests that galaxies are sitting in balls of dark matter, and Poole says his work with the hot gases swirling within those structures reveals a lot about the nature of the dark matter itself.

ROBIE LISCOMB

Poole

Understanding the workings of the universe could lead to new knowledge of processes on earth. Poole points out that nature has a very compact set of rules.

"You can study breast cancer tumours or you can study the collision of galaxy clusters. You're using the same language, the same knowledge, the same set of principles to do both, and those principles could fit in a book."

The Governor General's Gold Medal caps off a stellar academic career for Poole in which he achieved a perfect 9.00 GPA, picking up major awards and fellowships along the way.

But new horizons beckon. Poole is headed for Melbourne, Australia, this summer to study in detail the life and movement of 400,000 galaxies. And who knows what might come out of it?

"Discoveries are made in the most unexpected places. Astronomy is a voyage into the unknown. The hope is that in illuminating the unknown, we'll empower ourselves to do and build and perceive things we otherwise couldn't."

Indigenous graduate a community builder at heart

By Christine McLaren

Even as a young girl growing up in her traditional Nuu-chah-nulth community of Ehattesaht (Zeballos) on Vancouver Island, Dawn Smith knew that getting an education would be a significant part of her path in life.

"While I was growing up I constantly heard the word 'education' from everyone who was important to me," says Smith, who celebrates her fourth graduation ceremony at UVic with a Master of Arts in Indigenous governance.

Her education began with a certificate in administration for Aboriginal government followed by a diploma in public sector management and then a degree in political science in 2003.

Smith, whose Indigenous family name "Tahehsoomca" means "to be held by the principles, beliefs, values and spirituality of the family," was elected band chief in her community in 1998. "Community building is where my heart is at," says Smith, who was compelled to ask, "what is my contribution back to my community and how can I make things better?"

The results of residential school trauma on her family and her community created numerous personal challenges for Smith. Despite the suffering, the love and acceptance of her family brought her great joy. Raised by her great-grandmother and her grandmother, she was given an Indian nickname that meant "to greet people with joy."

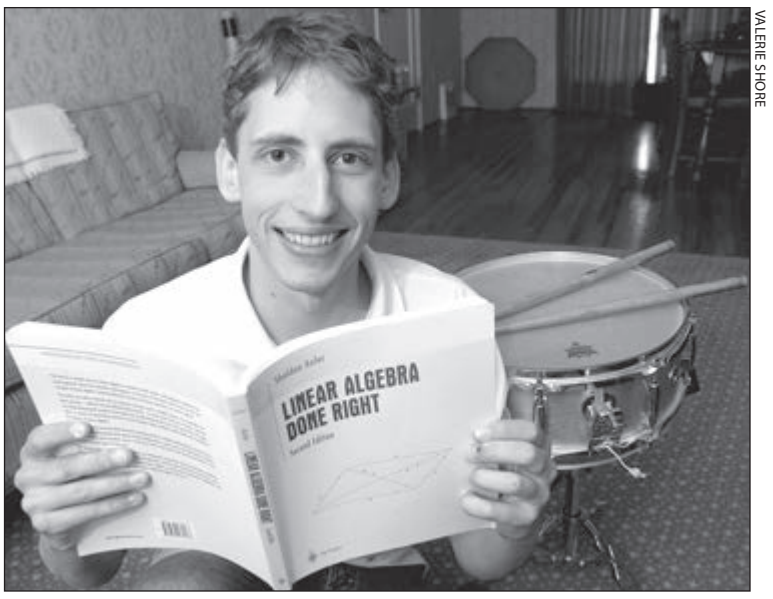
She credits the strength to stand up for herself and her community to her Grandpa Mosses, who was active in Indigenous politics for over 60 years. The Indigenous Governance Program provided valuable networking and leadership skills that will ultimately benefit her family and her community.

Smith is currently working as Indigenous student advisor in the Faculty of Human and Social Development, a position that has allowed her to "spread my wings and successfully institute change." Having recently been re-elected to the band council, she will continue to use her gentle but determined leadership qualities to support the women in her community to find their own voices.

ROBIE LISCOMB

Smith

VALERIE SHORE



Rempel

Two passions, two degrees, two medals

By Valerie Shore

It may seem like déjà vu all over again for Philip Rempel at his June 5 convocation ceremony.

In June 2005 Rempel earned a Bachelor of Music degree and the Victoria Medal as the top undergraduate in the Faculty of Fine Arts. Now he's back to claim a second undergraduate degree and another medal—this time as the top student in the Faculty of Science.

Both medals caught the Victoria native by surprise. "The first time I didn't know they gave medals out," he says. "This time, I didn't know how well I'd done compared to other people, although I was kind of wondering."

Rempel graduates this month with a BSc in mathematics, the Jubilee Medal in Science, and a GPA of 8.90. A perfect GPA is 9.0.

"I've always enjoyed doing math, but it's nice to have something artistic to do as well," said Rempel in 2005. If anything, that dual passion for music and math has intensified over the last two years. He still can't decide which one to pursue as a career.

"My original plan was to teach math at a college," says Rempel, who started off in music to satisfy a lifelong interest in percussion instruments, notably the snare drum, marimba and timpani. "I enjoyed it so much I decided to finish the degree."

Math was never far away, though. He took most of his first- and second-year math courses while completing the music degree. How do the two subjects compare? "With math, you can study but there comes a point where you feel you know it pretty well," he says. "With music, you're never really finished. There's always more you can do."

A third degree, a master's, is most likely in Rempel's future. But will it be in music or math? Rempel plans to get a job until he figures it out. "I love both so it's not as though I would feel stuck if I picked the wrong one," he grins. "It's just something I want to think about before I take the next step."

Way ahead of the game

By Patty Pitts

While other medical school hopefuls scramble to finish their application essays this fall, Steve Moore will be somewhere across the sea, backpack wearing thin from a five-month jaunt through Europe and South East Asia.

At 22, the biology grad and well-known co-captain of the Vikes basketball team is ahead of the game.

"I want to have [the essays] done before I go," says Moore, whose trip will follow a jam-packed five-year UVic career.

Aside from leading the Vikes to a second-place finish in the '06 nationals, Moore has won the President's Cup (for athletes skilled in combining their sports with their studies), the Provost Award (for the Vike with the highest GPA—8.67, in this case), and a Blue and Gold Award for community involvement.

Between hoop-shooting and study time, the (now) former Vikes shooting guard also coached basketball in a league for 12–13 year olds.

"I enjoy helping people," he says, "and passing on some of the things I've learned."

In preparation for applying to med school, Moore has reflected on his volunteer work at the BC Cancer Agency, a position he took on after working as a research assistant there in the summer of 2005 (a class on cancer's molecular basis piqued interest in the field). Helping to organize doctor-patient meetings at the ambulatory care unit gave him a weekly glimpse into the patients' experience with cancer, as well as the workings of a particular medical environment.

"Moving into medicine," he says, "it's pretty interesting to see that whole dynamic."

While juggling sports and academics has been challenging for Moore (he remembers cramming for exams while on the road for three-day tournaments) he says committing to his responsibilities keeps him motivated.

"I learned at an early age that a lot of great things in life take a lot of work. They don't necessarily fall into your lap."

Ringers

Craig Beaucamp, UVic Vikes men's basketball head coach, has been named assistant coach to the national junior men's basketball team, which will be competing in the 2007 FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball Amateur) Under-19 World Championships July 12 to 22 in Serbia. The championships are held every two years and are considered the world's most prestigious basketball youth championship. Canada will be among 16 teams competing.

Karin Borzel, a doctoral student in the School of Child and Youth Care, has been awarded a $10,000 Canada-China exchange scholarship and will begin her studies in September at the China Youth University in Political Science in Beijing. Borzel is breaking new ground by being granted permission from the Chinese government to conduct research on the problems faced by street children in China. With senior scholar status she will have access to information related to her research and an opportunity to spend time with the children, which are estimated in the millions.

Dr. Laurence Coogan (earth and ocean sciences) has won the Young Scientist Award from the Mineralogical Association of Canada. The award goes to a young scientist who has made a significant international research contribution in a promising start to a scientific career. Coogan's research concentrates on the formation and cooling of the Earth's crust under the oceans.

Dr. Rebecca Grant (business) and UVic BCom alumnus **Mike Tan** have been named to the Telus Victoria Community Board to assist with handing out $250,000 a year in charitable funding. Grant and Tan sit on a 13-member board who will seek out worthy causes and community organizations that could use a little seed money. Selected organizations will also receive training and advice on how to run a charitable organization. The community board program is part of the Telus philanthropy program and makes up to $20,000 in one-time funding available for projects in the areas of health and well-being, education and sports, and arts and culture. The criteria for funding can be found at www.telus.com/community.

Patty Pitts, manager of media relations with UVic Communications, shared an Award of Excellence at the 2007 Best of the Northwest Video Awards with Shaw TV's Daphne Goode. The pair collaborated on a tribute to the late Michael Williams which was broadcast last fall in conjunction with the unveiling of a statue of Williams in Old Town and the announcement of a new UVic dowtown gallery to house the art collection Williams left the university when he died in 2000.

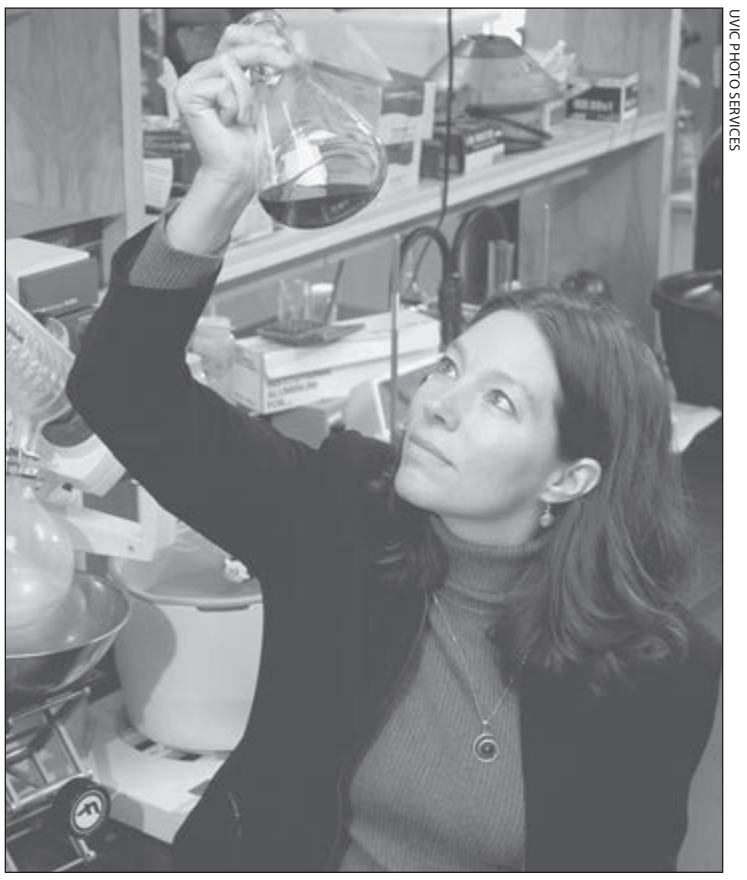
The award was in the informational feature category and was chosen from entries from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The feature recounted Williams' life, showcased some of the art from his collection and recounted his determination to restore many buildings in Victoria's Old Town which he also left to the university.

A paper written by **Dr. Steve Tax** (business) and published in 1998, was recently ranked in the top 20 most influential papers in service marketing literature. The paper, entitled "Customer Evaluations of Service Complaint Experiences: Implications for Relationship Marketing", was published in the 1998 *Journal of Marketing.*

Dr. Amy Verdun (political science) has been recognized as a success story by the European Commission for her accomplishments as UVic's Jean Monnet Chair. Verdun is featured in their celebratory brochure as one of 20 stories selected from Jean Monnet programs throughout Europe and the world. Verdun is the founding director of UVic's Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and has held the Jean Monnet Chair position since 2001. The centre provides a variety of services including conferences, a PhD lecture series, roundtables, funding for student trips to European Union institutions and community outreach. For more information, visit http://web.uvic.ca/europe/jmce.html.

Pushing electronics into fast forward

By Christine Roulston



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Dr. Natia Frank examines a solution of photomagnetic materials.

When Natia Frank says it's important to approach a problem as a whole, she means it. The Canada Research Chair in Multifunctional Materials Design has spent her life combining seemingly divergent subject areas in the search for the best solution.

Growing up in a household of artists and musicians in upstate New York, Frank developed a keen interest in both art and science. Rather than viewing the two subject areas as separate, she saw how they could complement one another. Frank even completed her undergraduate studies with a triple degree in math, music and chemistry.

"What attracted me to chemistry is that it is very much an art," says Frank. "A lot of creativity that is similar to music is involved in the designing of structure and the understanding of how structure affects reactivity in chemistry."

Frank's ability to break down barriers between disciplines has led her to become a leading researcher in "spintronics," one of the hottest new areas of science.

Conventional electronics makes use of the charge state of electrons, while spintronics takes advantage of the "direction" of spin of an electron (the clockwise or counterclockwise rotation of an electron relative to an external magnetic field) as well as its charge state.

Spintronic devices are currently used in mass data storage devices and hold great promise for the development of microelectronics that require orders of magnitude less power to run.

"One of the most obvious uses of spintronics is in expanding the amount of data a computer hard drive can store," says Frank. "But because traditional data storage media involve magnet grains or films, the density of grains or 'bits' must be so high that it can cause 'random flips' in the spins, which can lead to improper or slow functioning of the computer."

To get around the problem, Frank and her team of seven UVic scientists are combining magnetic, optical and conducting functions into hybrid materials to advance electronic data storage.

Frank is also keenly interested in quantum computing, an application of spintronics which is still in its infancy. The science allows computers to conduct complex calculations simultaneously, such as climate change mapping and the encryption of data at a very high level, which would improve security for many items from credit and identity cards to top secret government documents.

Frank joined UVic's Department of Chemistry in January 2005, after four years at the University of Washington. Her education and career has taken her to leading universities and research institutions across North America and France.

Her research program at UVic also involves working on photomagnetic systems, in which exposing organic and inorganic compounds to a laser beam of light leads to changes in the magnetic properties of the material.

Frank's excitement for the evolution of spintronics is palpable. "Magnetism and conductivity aren't well understood. Significant computational, synthetic and intellectual challenges are involved, and that's exciting," she says. "I enjoy being part of three different scientific communities—the magnetism, optical and conductivity community all working towards a common goal."

Integrating research and teaching

New video helps share UVic's expertise

By Courtney Tait

Five years after Quinn Matthews completed Physics 220, he still remembers the day Dr. Michel Lefebvre—the expert physicist teaching the course—brought the concept of special relativity closer to home.

"After a theoretical and mathematical proof of Lorentz's equations, which form the mathematical basis for special relativity," says Matthews, "he explained that they were used to design the exact shape of the cyclotron at TRIUMPH, Canada's national particle physics lab at UBC."

Lefebvre's ability to make a complex concept relevant by relating it to his research expertise in particle accelerator design deeply impressed Matthews, now a master's student in medical physics.

"The integration of research into the curriculum was a major reason I decided to pursue physics," says Matthews. "I feel I landed in a great field I may not have discovered otherwise."

Lefebvre is one of three award-winning UVic professors who discuss ways to merge research and teaching in a new video produced by the University of Victoria's Learning and Teaching Centre (LTC). A collaboration with Office of the Vice-President Research, "Integrating Research and Teaching" also features interviews with political scientist Dr. Amy Verdun and nursing professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Dr. Gweneth Doane.

"Traditionally for professors and instructors, teaching and research are seen to conflict," says LTC director Teresa Dawson. "If you do research it takes away from your teaching, if you do teaching it takes away from your research. What we're trying to say is that they actually support each other."

All three professors emphasize in the video ways their students inform their research process, revealing a natural synergy.

"The questions of students are often some of the best research questions," says Doane. Her work with students in New Zealand on family health promotion led to co-authoring a text currently used at both the undergrad and graduate level. "Through listening to their stories and questions," she says, "it became evident what wasn't being articulated in the literature."

Verdun—who supplements course readings with works she has authored and often has research collaborators assist in teaching—says, "The more students feel you're closer to the research material, the more they'll listen carefully to what you have to say."

> UVic has a strength in integrating research and teaching that should be shared, says Dawson.

One of the goals emphasized in UVic's 2007 strategic plan is to ensure the university's strong research culture is brought into the classroom. Many Canadian universities claim to integrate research and teaching, but, according to Dawson, UVic has a strength in the area that should be shared.

LTC Associate Director Mary Sanseverino presented clips of the video to an enthusiastic audience at the McGraw-Hill Ryerson National Teaching, Learning and Technology conference in Saskatoon last November, prompting discussion from professors across the country.

"It was very well received," she says. "People really want to know how this is done."

The 45-minute video will be available for faculty to view in fall 2007. The LTC plans to add clips of it to their website, as well as promoting it at the new faculty orientation and making it a component of future workshops.

When is the next *Ring?*

Calendar items should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications (Sedgewick C149, fax 721-8955, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events). For information call 721-7636.

Publication Date	Copy Deadline
Thursday, July 5	Wednesday, June 27

Calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, see www.uvic.ca/events

At the Galleries

www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562

Exhibit *Fine Furniture 20-Year Retrospective*. June 15 to Aug. 20. Fine art furniture from graduates of Camosun College's Fine Furniture Program. McPherson Library Gallery, main floor. **721-6562**

Exhibit *Cascadia: Studio Furniture from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska*. June 15 to Aug. 20. A Fine Furniture Society juried collection of fine studio furniture from the Pacific Northwest. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery, University Centre. **721-6562**

Tuesday, June 12

Lecture 7 p.m. *Transportation Problem Solving for Healthy Communities.* Todd Litmann, executive director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute. Part of the series *Roads, Rails and Trails: Planning a Transportation Network for the Island*. Engineering/Computer Science 123. **884-0183**

Thursday, June 14

Other 12 p.m. *President's Fit Walk.* Join us for a 2.2 km walk around Ring Road. Light refreshments afterwards. University Centre main entrance. **472-4038**

Monday, June 18

Other 9 a.m. *UVic Engineering Graduate Innovation Forum '07.* UVic engineering graduate students showcase their research work. MacLaurin A110. **853-3258**

Conference 12 p.m. *The Digital Humanities Summer Institute 2007.* Discuss, learn about and advance skills in new computing technologies influencing the work of those in the arts, humanities and library communities. Registration for members of affliated institutions for this one-week institute, $600 for faculty and $250 for students. Humanities Computing and Media Centre, Clearihue Bldg. **472-5401**

Tuesday, June 19

Division of Continuing Studies Lecture *City Making in Paradise: A Conversation with Mike Harcourt.* A discussion of the ways in which the daily choices we make as leaders, activists and citizens influence our capacity to build livable and resilient communities. David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin Bldg. **721-6119**

Tuesday, July 3

Asia Pacific Initiatives Lecture 11 a.m. *Islamic Finance in Malaysia.* Speaker: Dato' Dr. Nik Norzrul Thani, Legal Counsel, Malaysia. Fraser 142. **721-7020**

Spring 2007 Convocation

From toy cranes to aerospace engineering

By Courtney Tait

Michal Osusky launched his engineering career early, with the help of a toy set called Merkur.

"You could build whatever you wanted with it," says the winner of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering medal. "I was always interested in hands-on stuff."

His projects have come a long way from the toy cranes he constructed as a young boy in Trencin, Slovakia. While completing his BEng—which included a work term at UVATT (UVic's Assistive Technology Team, a group of researchers who build devices for people with disabilities)—Osusky helped design a low-rider wheelchair, a signaling system for the hearing-impaired, and an underwater glider (think mini-submarine with wings).

"The nice thing about engineering is that you usually work in groups," he says. "Even if you can't come up with an idea right away, someone else will point you in the right direction."

Osusky moved to Victoria with his family in Grade 7, excelling in woodworking and physics throughout high school. He won an entrance scholarship to UVic, and in 2006 was nominated for a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford (he was a finalist). One of the criteria for the scholarship was success in sports, which he demonstrated playing on the Vikes basketball team for two years.

Through engineering's co-op program, he has sharpened his skills at both Vancouver's Pulp and Paper Research Institute and Petro-Canada's Calgary office.

This fall, Osusky begins a master's degree in the University of Toronto's aerospace program.

Destined for NASA, perhaps?

"That would be a pretty nice place to work," he says. "I'm keeping my options open, but whatever I'm doing, I'm trying to do the best I can."

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Osusky

Wonderful ways of knowing

By Jennifer Cador

If there's one thing Connie Morey has learned from her own life experience, it's that there is more than one way of knowing. The Ontario-born mother of two is right at home with the idea of multiple truths co-existing. This is partly, she says, because of her cross-cultural marriage which has allowed her to look at life from a non-Western standpoint and partly because of motherhood itself.

Morey has been awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (for excellence in a non-thesis master's program) for her master's in art education program on the role of wonder in the learning process. Her passion shines through as she explains that wonder is a natural catalyst for learning—it makes kids want to know—but it doesn't lend itself to tidy, fixed answers.

"It's not about measurement. It's a way of understanding or exploring the world in a way that is not reductive," she says. "It doesn't reduce a whole body of knowledge into one single conclusion or logical 'right answer.' It opens up possibility."

Admittedly, such an approach can be scary because it rejects simplistic solutions and instead embraces complexity. But having lived in her husband's homeland of Malaysia in the past, Morey says she has seen how Western concepts of logic and evidence-based learning are often at odds with Indigenous knowledge systems.

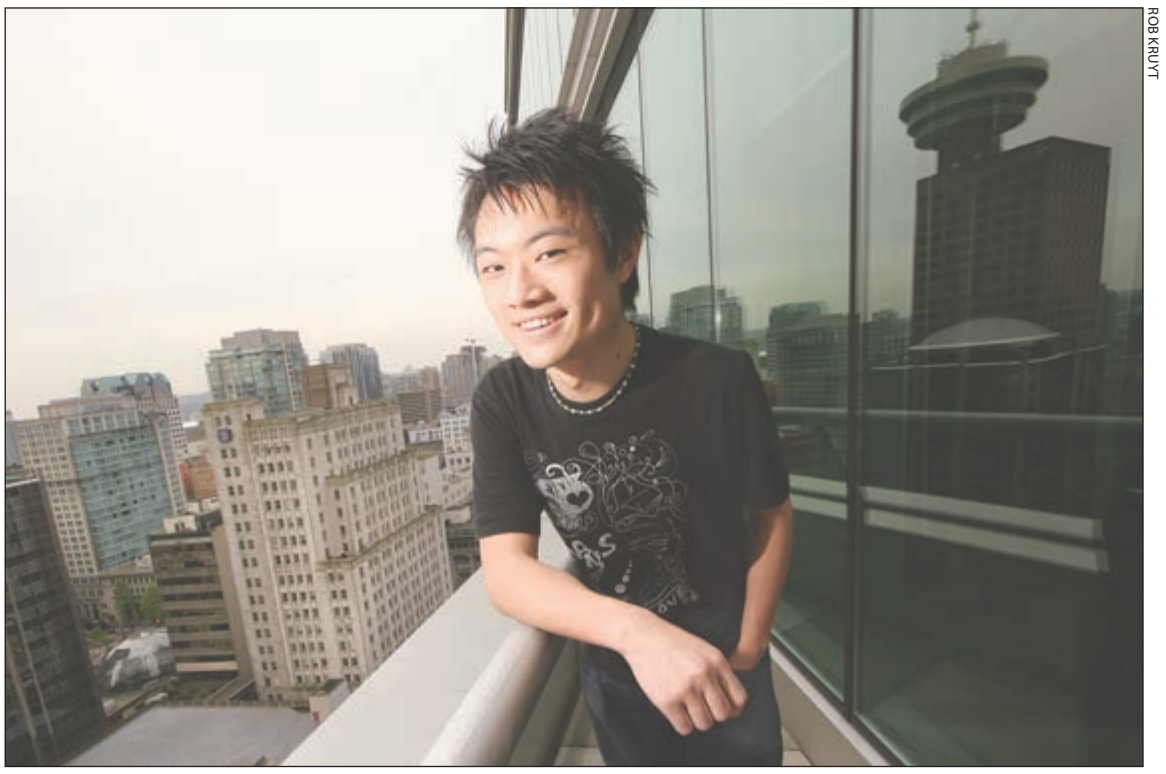
"A shaman or practitioner of traditional medicine has a completely different way of looking at the world but it is still important."

In Morey's view, there is value in every knowledge system. In order for children to learn how to think, they need to be allowed to pursue the diverse paths that wonder opens up for them.

Her supervisor, Dr. Robert Dalton, says he has rarely seen work so compelling."She makes a convincing case for curiosity, raising questions, allowing for multiple and even contradictory explanations and other aspects of learning that run counter to the predetermined outcomes and high stakes testing that rule our system."

Morey's personal path is leading her in exciting new directions where she hopes to put her research into practice. She has just accepted a job as a Grade-2 teacher at an international school in Malaysia, which means that while her husband finishes up his PhD at UVic, Morey will be busy packing boxes in preparation for the move. It also means a future of fostering a lively and inquisitive sense of wonder in the next generation.

ROB KRUYT



Zhang

Work's a game for computer science grad

By Courtney Tait

As a five-year-old boy in Haikou, China, Liuguo Zhang received a gift that would shape his future.

"My dad bought me the Nintendo entertainment system," says the computer ace, now 22. "Working in the game industry has been my wish since I was very young."

One of UVic's top students in the computer science program, Zhang is living his dream as a software engineer at Need For Speed (NFS) in Vancouver, a developer of electronic sports games and franchise of Electronic Arts, the world's largest computer game publisher.

Hired in his fourth year through the computer science/math work experience program, Zhang has since been promoted to Platform Lead, making him responsible for ensuring every aspect of the game developed functions properly.

"It's the process of creating a piece of art work," he says.

Zhang—whose English name is John—learned computer programming basics in elementary school. By Grade 11 he had passed all the tests to be a Microsoft Certified Engineer and won several national programming competitions. Wanting to see more of the world, Zhang left China at 17 to study at UVic. He discovered his talent for game programming in 2005, through playing "Lumines" on his Playstation Portable.

"My girlfriend and I liked the game so much we had to fight over who got to play next," he says. "All of a sudden I thought, I could just write a PC version with network capability, so two of us can play against each other." Without any prior game programming experience, Zhang taught himself to write a version almost visually identical to Playstation's.

"I had hardly any sleep that week," he says, "but I found something that really interests me."

When he's not debugging programs or managing memory at NFS's Vancouver-based studio, Zhang enjoys weekend drives, checking out the coastline views.

His future? "I'm still at the learning phase," he says. "I'll try my best to learn as much as fast as I can."

Campus Construction Projects—Summer 2007

Four new buildings are currently under construction on campus to provide essential research, learning and office space. Underground heating, water, gas, electrical, sewer and treated waste water services for the new facilities will be installed this summer.

Ring Road between the Cedar Hill Cross Road intersection and Finnerty Road will be closed during July and August in order to redirect the sewer from the Oak Bay system to the Saanich system. Parking lots 1, A, B and C will also be closed. Other projects require temporary disruptions of pedestrian paths (see map for details). UVic is committed to your safety—please use caution near construction areas.

Projects have been scheduled together in order to minimize disruption to the campus community and will be completed by fall 2007. For more information, visit www.uvic.ca/construction/.