

TORCH

THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2006



MINDS WITHOUT BORDERS
UVic on a global scale

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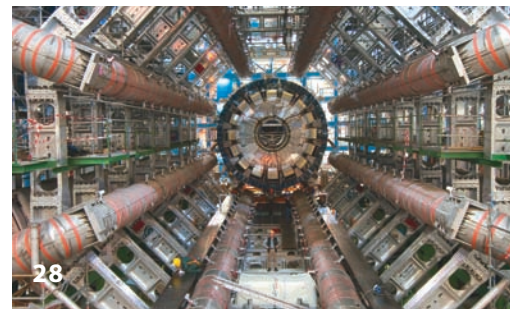
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By Alexandra Sears, BA '04

Food for Thought

UVic people and the art of learning and discovery across a wild, conflicted, beautiful planet.

A UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE EDITOR WHO IS WAY MORE ADEPT AT THIS BUSINESS THAN I WILL EVER be gave me a piece of advice a few years ago that has always stuck with me. If you want a way to organize the content of your magazine, she said, approach it the way a chef would design a menu. Don't overwhelm a reader with all of the entrées all at once; lead into the heart of the meal with appetizers, round it out with tempting desserts and something to linger over.

I've since tried to look at magazine-building in that way. Thus the presentation you have before you. Consider yourself invited to graze on our Ringside news pieces from campus and our communities. Work your way up to our centrepieces—our main features. We hope you'll find them compelling and meaty (only in the figurative sense, vegetarians and vegans). Round out your meal with the news and notes from the dozens of grads who took a moment to send us a note about what's going on in their lives. We'll send you on your way with something to think about in our back page Vox Alumni column.

A word about the ingredients: As the planning of the current issue of the magazine developed, it quickly became apparent that it was time to turn our focus beyond our borders to the incredibly diverse ways that UVic people are fully engaged internationally.

An amazingly varied and inspiring crop of stories soon rose to the surface. Before we knew it, writers and photographers in Sarajevo and São Paulo were onboard with stories of courage and compassion. We found young people anxious to tell their stories of grueling but rewarding adventures in far off places like Delhi. One student's international study exchange took him right in the path of Hurricane Katrina.

Around campus we found mind-opening, horrifying, heartwarming stories about learning and discovery and artistic challenges.

The international flavour of this issue of the *Torch*, from cover to cover, reflects the many ways the people of this university—in grand gestures and small ones—are trying to think outside of themselves, their neighbourhoods, and their home country. Through each story there's a common thread of coming to terms with being a citizen of this wild, conflicted, beautiful planet.

You may notice a few changes from previous editions of this magazine. We've grown. We've added eight pages that give our features more room to breathe and enable us to bring you more news about fellow alumni. We're also pleased to introduce "Best Light"—a regular, two-page photo feature that will capture faces, scenes, or moments that reflect the UVic spirit.

And, we are very honoured to welcome President David Turpin to these pages as a regular contributor. His "President's Perspective" page will provide you with his personal thoughts on the direction of the university and how it's taking on the many ambitious objectives for teaching and research.

One final note: our mailbox is empty. This is always troubling for any editor. You, as a reader, are of course by no means obligated to comment on what you see in these pages but we depend on your feedback. But a healthy magazine relies on contributions from its readers. If we deserve criticism, let us know. If you have something to share based on what you read here, let us know. We want the *Torch* to be a lively meeting place of people and ideas. Please participate. Send an e-mail message to torch@uvic.ca. It's important.

So here you have it, reader. The kitchen staff members have done their best to please the palate, to nourish the heart, soul and mind. Dig in.

MIKE MCNENEY
EDITOR

TORCH



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The University of Victoria, established in 1963, is one of Canada's leading universities, offering students and faculty a unique learning environment. It is recognized for its commitment to research, scholarship and experiential learning and for its outstanding social, cultural, artistic, environmental and athletic opportunities.

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Expanding Horizons

When it comes down to it, an international education begins from the first moment on campus.

BY DAVID H. TURPIN



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

SEVERAL YEARS AGO my then seven-year-old son came home and announced that in addition to speaking both French and English, he was going to have to learn Chinese. This wasn't a passing phase as three years later he joined me on a trip to China. Even at that age, he saw the importance of global literacy and at dinner one night he surprised Dr. Jianpan Wang, the President of East China Normal University, by asking how old he would have to be before he could attend ECNU to learn Mandarin.

As with my son, there is a growing recognition in all sectors of society that our horizons must expand and that we must all endeavour to become truly global citizens.

For over two decades, the University of Victoria has been a leader in providing our students opportunities for international engagement. And today, our alumni are making a difference in their communities around the world.

I believe that the ability to have that impact begins the first time a student comes to our campus. More and more, our academic programs and the work of our faculty are linked to the global community.

Our growing international engagement is something that the University of Victoria has wholeheartedly embraced. Our strategic plan, currently undergoing a formal review, affirms our commitment to global concerns. We recognize that the social, environmental and economic issues we face are global in nature and that global citizenship and engagement are fundamental to our mission.

We are growing our international student body. Our faculty members are increasingly diverse and conducting research with colleagues around the world. Through both our students and faculty, we are bringing the world to our campus.

We are also encouraging and assisting our students in pursuing opportunities to study and work abroad equipping themselves with the tools they need to be global leaders and citizens.

As we move forward, we will continue to look to ways to enhance the international dimension of our educational and research activities.

More and more, our academic programs and the work of our faculty are linked to the global community.

This edition of the magazine highlights the level of commitment to global engagement that our faculty, students, staff and alumni are pursuing every day—whether it involves international research collaborations or the challenging act of one student embarking on an internship halfway around the world. †



Golden Moment

Focus. Courage. Determination. They're what Lauren Woolstencroft, BEng '05, says she gets from elite athletic competition. At the Torino Paralympic Games, the 24-year-old added another chapter to a brilliant alpine skiing career when she won a gold medal in the Giant Slalom and silver in the Super G. Born without legs below the knees and without her left arm below the elbow, she uses prosthetics (and a definite competitive streak) to race with the best of them.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENOIT PELOSSE/CPC



No Doggin' It

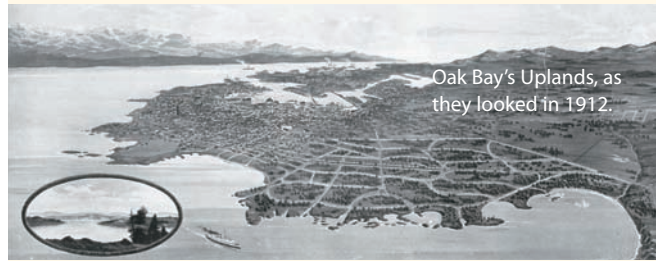
THE IDEA FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT FIRST CAME TO PROF. RYAN Rhodes, a behavioural medicine specialist, on one of those regular early morning walks, coffee in hand, Sydney his golden retriever on a leash in the other hand. They were never alone, always joined by other dog-walkers in the neighbourhood.

Coincidentally, Shane Brown, a master's student and the owner of a dog named Charlie, got to thinking the same thing: with all of these people and their canine companions, there must be a difference in the amount of physical exercise they receive compared to non-dog owners.

Thus their research project was born, a directed studies project for Brown. Now, with results published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, the dog-walking scholars have generated widespread attention for their findings, namely that most people who own a dog get twice the physical activity of people who don't have a dog. The survey of 1,000 Greater Victoria residents is the first to focus exclusively on city-dwellers.



Shane Brown and Ryan Rhodes: directed studies project measures health benefits of dog ownership.



Oak Bay's Uplands, as they looked in 1912.

Happy Birthday Neighbours

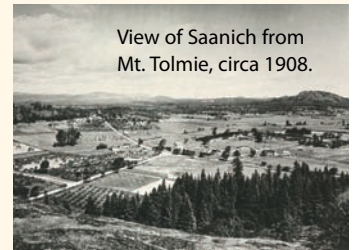
The University of Victoria enjoys a kind of dual citizenship: bisecting campus is the border between Saanich and Oak Bay, two municipalities which this year celebrate their centennials. The *Torch* enlisted Prof. Larry McCann, a 1966 graduate of the university and urban geography guru, to provide a snapshot of some of the milestones in the history of Saanich and Oak Bay.

1906

Saanich and Oak Bay incorporated as "rural" municipalities to foster orderly growth. North Saanich, Central Saanich created 50 years later. Uplands becomes the first planned subdivision in Canada.

1920s

Oak Bay Arena hosts 1925 Stanley Cup finals as the Victoria Cougars defeat the Montréal Canadiens. Shelbourne Street is designed as treed-boulevard in the style of City Beautiful planning.



View of Saanich from Mt. Tolmie, circa 1908.

1940s

Three airfields mark Saanich: Lansdowne, Gordon Head and Patricia Bay. Streetcars fade from the landscape; tracks are still visible at Midland Circle in the Uplands.

1950s – 60s

Robert Blandy, long-time municipal clerk of Oak Bay (aka "Blandyville"), retires. Improved water supply from the Sooke Hills feeds post-war building boom. The "Army of Anti-High Rise Housewives" stop apartment construction near UVic.

1970s

Nellie McClung, the country's best known early feminist and Gordon Head resident from 1934 until her passing in 1951, graces a Canadian stamp. The Guinness family takes control of finishing Broadmead, the "new Uplands."

1980s – 2000s

Abandoned rail beds become the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails. Oak Bay records the highest ratio of financial outlets per 1,000 population in Canada. (And no gas stations).

DOON PERCEC/UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

UPLANDS PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY MCCANN; MOUNT TOLMIE PHOTO COURTESY OF SAANICH ARCHIVES.

Rookie of the Year

IN HIS FIRST SEASON WITH THE VIKES, JACOB DOERKSEN—a 6-foot-7 forward—was named CIS rookie of the year and very nearly led his team to its first national championship since 1997. The Vikes claimed the silver medal, losing to Carleton, 73-67. Doerksen led a veteran squad in scoring and rebounding in his first season, averaging 12.9 points and 5.5 rebounds in conference play. His performance at the championship earned him a spot on the tournament all-star team.

While the men's basketball team came painfully close to the title, three other Vikes teams brought home championship banners this year. The women's soccer team won gold after silver and bronze performances in the previous two seasons. The women's rowing team took the Canadian championship. And the golfers on the men's team were tops among Canadian universities and colleges.



ADRIAN LAM PHOTO



New Foundations

Crews are working on two big additions to campus to relieve pressure on class and lab space. A science building (see illustration) is going up near the Elliott Building. It'll consolidate the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences from various locations and a campus landmark—the astronomy observatory—will be relocated to the new building. A social sciences and mathematics building will occupy a former parking lot near the Sedgewick Building. Four departments and a water/climate research group will be housed there. Both buildings should be ready by autumn 2008.



Heat Stress: Easier to Swallow

By swallowing tiny radio transmitters, City of Victoria firefighters are helping UVic researchers monitor the stress that comes with fires and accident victims. Occupational physiologist Lynne Wolski (in photo with firefighter Darrell Deane during a training exercise) is using the ingestible devices to track firefighters' core body temperatures during physically demanding episodes. Currently, the standard practice is to use an ear thermometer to determine when an overheated firefighter is safe to return to duty. The new, real-time method, promises greater accuracy and could ultimately lead to improved working standards for firefighters.



Heard On Campus

"In confronting global health issues, engaged citizenship and humanitarian action can be a kind of a living poetry that can help us see ourselves as we are and as we can be. These can be an imagining and an awakening. It is as Ben Okri, the contemporary Nigerian poet has said, 'An awakening in the midnight hour...freeing ourselves from our smallness and giving ourselves our own greatness.'"

-DR. JAMES ORBINSKI,
FORMER PRESIDENT,
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS
ASPREVA DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER,
MARCH 4

HEAT STRESS PHOTO BY DIANA NETHERCOTT

Close-knit Group

A popular knitting circle brings together students and helps them through the transitions of campus life.

BY BETH HAYSOM

PHOTOGRAPH BY HÉLÈNE CYR

IT WAS LIKE GRANDMOTHER'S KITCHEN FROM YEARS AGO, EXCEPT THIS was downstairs at the Student Union Building on a Friday afternoon. A pot of chamomile tea sat brewing while the clack, clack of knitting needles punctuated a gentle buzz of conversation. Suddenly there was a howl of dismay: "Oh no, I've got a hole!" Experienced knitters rushed to rescue Richa Sharma, a second year anthropology student, who was tackling knitting for the first time and had hit the dreaded dropped stitch. Among her companions was her boyfriend Nick Fodor, third year psychology major and veteran knitter.

Men who knit? "Why not, dude?" replies Tyler Becker, headphones askew playing music in one ear while he concentrated on knitting a green scarf that was already snaking impressively over his knees. "It's much fun creating something out of a tangle of thread, very relaxing," says the third year physics student.

Welcome to Knitting 101—one of the new, free workshops run by the Student Transition Centre, established last September to help students through the various stages of the UVic experience. Student Affairs coordinator Sue Corner, BFA '79, trailing her yarn behind her, linked everyone—literally and metaphorically—in a cat's cradle of companionship: "We're here to answer questions, to help students who may be having difficulties or simply to offer a place for them to meet, chat and share ideas."

Transitions—from learning the ropes of campus life to graduation—come with student life, where the only constant is change. "Some people handle that better than others," says Corner. "A lot depends on personality and background. Our goal is to help ease the way so that they don't feel like they're just one of 18,000 people."

The UVic Alumni Association is among seven UVic groups supporting the Student Transition Centre. Other workshops, such as salsa dancing, opportunities for working overseas, improv acting and sustaining UVic's environment, are also offered. Word is getting around. About 250 students dropped in during January.

The centre is helpful for overseas students, too, says Tia Robertson, BSc '03, of the International and Exchange Student Services office. "We're expecting that this will be a great place for us to build bridges between different cultural groups and to foster a sense of community."

Back at the knitting group, the plan appears to be working. Michiyo Sugiyama and Asumi Yamada, both fourth year linguistics students from Japan, erupted in peals of laughter as they shared some knotty knitting problems with the group. "I didn't expect to learn to knit here," says Sugiyama. "My mother will be happy!"

Now that they have everyone knitting up a storm, centre organizers have an idea in the works for a cookbook with favourite recipes from international students. What's next in the array of traditional arts, calligraphy? "Now there," says Corner, "is an idea." †



Student Affairs coordinator Sue Corner (left) with knitters Richa Sharma and Nick Fodor.

Wet Lab

The VENUS project boots up, extending the Web to the depths of Saanich Inlet.

OCEAN SCIENTISTS—OR ANYONE ELSE WITH AN INTEREST IN WHAT LURKS beneath the surface of Saanich Inlet—now have an Internet-age set of exploration tools at their disposal. VENUS, that's the Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea seafloor observatory, powered-up in February. Live data now flows from instruments at the bottom of the inlet (west of Victoria Airport) to the university.

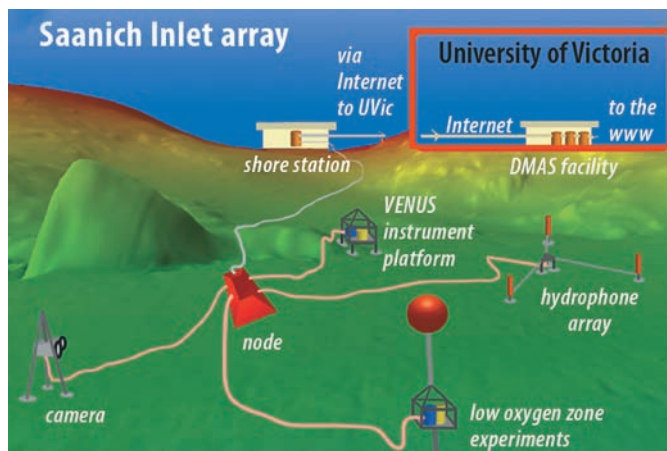
There are five components: an array of scientific instruments connected by underwater cables to a central node; fibre-optic cable linking the node to shore; a shore station providing power and two-way communications to the instruments; a data man-

agement, archive and distribution centre; and a network operations centre at UVic. There's also a hydrophone array to monitor and track marine mammals, and a high-resolution digital camera.

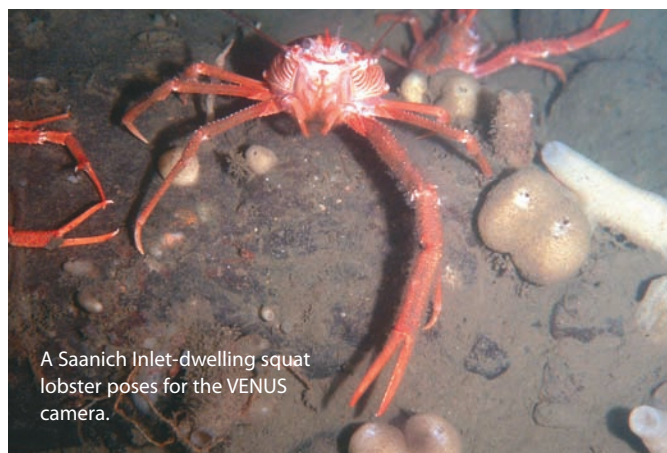
To install the array, the main node was lowered 100 m to the bottom of the inlet, about 3 km from shore. The fibre optic/power cable was then deployed from a ship, attached to floats, and pulled to shore with the help of dive teams. Later, the instrument platform was lowered, not far from the node.

Real-time data, acoustics and imagery from Saanich Inlet are online at venus.uvic.ca. ↑

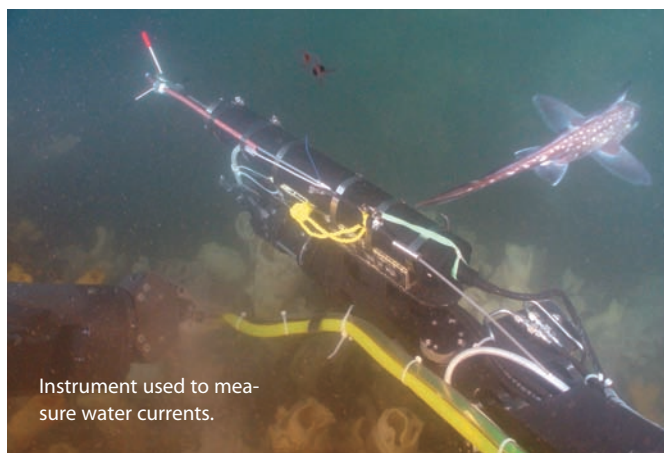
— MIKE MCNENEY, WITH FILES FROM VALERIE SHORE



VENUS' 2.5-tonne central node prior to installation.



A Saanich Inlet-dwelling squat lobster poses for the VENUS camera.



Instrument used to measure water currents.

Mysteries of History

Three new puzzlers join a popular Web-based suite of interactive history lessons.

BY TOM HAWTHORN

CANADIAN HISTORY CAN SEEM NUMBINGLY DULL, A DREARY GATHERING OF bewhiskered men in top hats around a table debating tariff policy. Yet the building of the nation didn't come without drama and bloodletting—the War of 1812, the Northwest Rebellion, Vimy Ridge. It's just that the classroom presentation of such rich material has a reputation for being as dry as the Dust Bowl Prairies.

"It's not hard to teach," Prof. John Lutz says of Canadian history. "We just taught it badly for generations."

He had little interest in the subject in high school, but became fascinated by the Doukhobor communities of the Kootenays while working a summer job as a young man. Ever since, he has been driven to explore the stories of what came before.

A few years ago, Lutz, MA '89, and fellow historian Ruth Sandwell, MA '81, hit on a winning idea: "Let's put the mystery back into history."

Backed by the support of a small army of contributors across the land, the two are co-directors of a project called Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History. A series of sites based on intriguing cases are available for study on the Web, complete with extensive guides for teachers. The sites, found at www.canadianmysteries.ca, are rich in maps, images, and documents for high school and university students—or amateur sleuths.

While researching land use on Salt Spring Island for her dissertation, Sandwell came across the case of William Robinson, who was murdered in 1868, one of three black Americans to suffer a similar fate. The project's inaugural Web site—titled "Who Killed William Robinson?"—intrigued students and teachers alike.

The mysteries do not have pat solutions. The goal of the exercise is to have students think critically, to examine contradictory evidence and narratives and come to their own conclusions. And while Canada's past does not lack for terrible crimes or other mysteries, the cases selected for the project address larger questions of class, racism, and gender.

Three new mysteries, set in Quebec (launched in Montreal by



Doukhobor leader Peter "The Lordly" Verigin, circa 1912.

PHOTO: DOUKHOBOR DISCOVERY CENTRE, CASTLEGAR

Governor General Michaëlle Jean), Ontario and BC (launched by Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo at the Royal BC Museum), came online in April.

In 1734, Marie Angelique, a slave, was accused of setting a fire that destroyed much of Montreal. She confessed, after torture, before being hanged and then burned. The questions to be contemplated by students: Did she start the fire? What does her case tell us about slavery?

In 1880, vigilantes attacked the Donnelly farm in Upper Canada, killing the inhabitants and destroying the family's property. Was it a case of mob rule, or did residents have to take the law into their own hands?

In 1924, an explosion in a passenger car on the Kettle Valley Railway killed Doukhobor leader Peter "The Lordly" Verigin, a 17-year-old female companion, a member of the legislative assembly, and others. Was the blast an accident? Who had a motive to kill the aristocratic leader? Could his own son have been responsible, ordering an assassination from the far away Soviet Union?

Lutz believes stories of our past are essential for understanding the present. Born in Montreal to a father in the air force, he grew up in France and Germany, as well as several Canadian provinces. "Most of us are a bit rootless, which helps explain the genealogy craze," he says. "For me, it's all about finding home." ¶

Prof. John Lutz is the 2006 recipient of the university's Craigdarroch Research Award for Research Communication.



Lending an Ear

How good grammar leads to good friendships.

BY BETH HAYSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY JO-ANN RICHARDS



Carmen Smith and Hitomi Hama: pronounced bonding through informal language tutorials.

THE AGE DIFFERENCE DISAPPEARS THE MOMENT YOUNG TONY (Donghee) Lee of Korea sits down to chat with Carmen Smith, a volunteer at the UVic English Language Centre’s informal tutorial sessions.

There’s a rising hubbub of larynxes struggling with English syntaxes in the crowded room, but Lee only has ears for Smith. She’s helping him to master homework questions and Lee, anxiously leaning forward, his eyes glued to Smith’s kindly face, doesn’t want to miss a single syllable.

“These questions are hard—I need her help. It’s good for me to study here,” says a worried looking Lee, who has a degree in economics but has come to Canada to improve his English for work in international commerce.

These gatherings offer a welcoming place for ELC students to get practical one-on-one help with their studies, to work on pronunciation and English skills, or simply to meet and talk to Canadians with willing ears. About half of the more than 2,000 students taking ELC classes each year make a point of going to the sessions.

Watching Smith and some of the other 60 volunteer tutors, it’s evident that it’s about more than just learning English. Together, Lee and Smith wrestle some of life’s intriguing enigmas: scientific research on animals, mixed marriages, why it’s socially acceptable to eat insects in some cultures but not others and, for good measure, the global issues that need to be addressed to achieve world peace. Lee gets good dollops of Smith’s life experience and philosophy along with her language lessons.

“Fascinating topics, but rather tough for international students,” says Smith, who used to teach history in Manitoba. Although she says she has been retired “forever,” she clearly relishes the challenge of language tutoring. “I like doing this, it’s very rewarding. Frankly at my age, many of my friends are gone. I really enjoy the personal connections with the individual students.” Like many of her fellow tutors, Smith has developed lasting friendships. Former students visit her at home, or phone her from overseas to chat.

“I wanted the atmosphere to feel more like a club than a study room but sometimes it does get a bit chaotic,” says coordinator Veronica Armstrong, BA ’93, who is sorry to be coming to the end of her two-year term. “This has to be a dream teaching job, the students choose to be here so they’re all really motivated.”

Peter McGill, just back from Brazil for the wedding of a former student, finds himself amused by an ironic twist his life has taken. “When I was at UVic studying for a degree in education, I couldn’t wait to get out and find a teaching job in the real world. Now,” says the retired elementary school teacher, “I’m back here making an impact internationally and loving every minute of it. Who’d have thought?” †

Language by Numbers: UVic’s English Language Centre was established in 1970. • 2,100 students from 35 countries now enroll annually. • 34 instructors teach short term (4 to 6 weeks) or intensive (12-week) programs. • 1,200 students (ELC and regular students) live with 700 Victoria “host” families. • 200 students take ELC programs via Englishworld.ca. • The ELC has an estimated annual economic impact of \$14.5 million. • For more, see: continuingstudies.uvic.ca.

Leaving Kakuma

A Sudanese refugee student turns the page on a tragic youth for a new start in life.

BY MIKE MCNENEY

PHOTOGRAPH BY JO-ANN RICHARDS

JOK GAI IS FITTING IN. IN HIS FIRST YEAR OF ELECTRICAL Engineering studies, he's a typical student in a lot of ways. He lives on campus in cluster housing, enjoys sports and games, hangs out with friends and attends his share of parties. He's got a part-time job. But there's a difference.

Jok Gai is from Sudan. When he was 10 years old he witnessed the murder of his parents. In fact, the country's brutal 20-year civil war claimed most of his family. He is one of three survivors in a family of eight. A childhood that began with hope became a desperate youth spent in the United Nations' Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, along with 90,000 others. The camp, with its food-rationing, crowds, poor healthcare and constant threat of violence, proved even worse than his war-torn home. In 2003, 14 of his friends were killed when the camp was raided by members of a neighbouring Kenyan community.

There didn't seem like much of a future, little chance of putting to use his natural affinity for mathematics or the English language skills he developed through his school years. Then he got his big break.

The World University Service of Canada and its Student Refugee Program brings dozens of people like Gai to Canada each year. Gai was selected by a group of UVic students working with the WUSC. Funding from the student fees and the university will support his first year of tuition and accommodation.

"I was open-minded about coming here," says Gai, who is instantly likeable. During a photo session at the Student Union Building for this story, several students either say hi or stop to chat. "I didn't find (living here) hard. The most difficult part of the transition was the classes."

The class work has been going better in second term and his biggest budget challenge is to manage the cost of his long-distance phone calls back to Africa. Sudan is a place he would like to go back to, but for now that return is a long way



World University Service of Canada UVic student rep Ashley Heaslip with Jok Gai: "Things just work out."

off. His sights are set on completing his degree and pursuing a master's.

Ashley Heaslip is the UVic coordinator of WUSC and has known Gai since he first set foot in Canada. "Jok is truly amazing. His energy and smile are so resilient that I sometimes forget what he's been through in his 25 years of life," says Heaslip. After she graduates this spring, Heaslip intends to travel to Kakuma as part of her long-term plans to work with refugees and the displaced.

Heaslip is heartened by the results in March of a student referendum in which students overwhelmingly approved (by a margin of five to one) a dramatic increase in the amount they pay to the students' society to support student refugees. Up until now, only one refugee student was brought to UVic every two years. With the approved fee increase to \$1.50 per term from 50 cents, two refugee students every year will be sponsored. The university administration has also started contributing \$10,000 each year to the program.

But, as Heaslip will remind you, more support is always needed. While UVic is improving, it lags behind what other universities offer for something that benefits more than just the refugee student. "(Sponsored students) are incredibly important to UVic," says Heaslip. "Their perspective enriches classes and conversations. They are what resilience and determination looks like on a face-to-face level."

At 25, Gai is enjoying his new life, far removed from bloodshed and the sources of past heartbreak. He carries with him a simple philosophy about the fortunate twists of fate and those horribly bad ones: "Things just work out." †



More Than Just Poor

Jutta Gutberlet leads an international effort to help the *catadores* of São Paulo find dignity and an economic foothold in the South American metropolis.

BY FRANCES BACKHOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANCISCO ROJAS



WHOEVER FIRST SAID that one man's garbage is another man's treasure, probably wasn't thinking about environmental sustainability or fighting poverty. But that's the new spin Jutta Gutberlet is putting on the old truism, through her work with people who eke out a living by extracting valuables from their more affluent neighbours' rubbish. Motivated by a desire "to build a more just and more sustainable world," the University of Victoria social geographer leads a six-year international development project in São Paulo, Brazil that aims to generate and redistribute income for the city's most economically disadvantaged residents, while cleaning up city streets and reducing the waste of precious resources.

São Paulo, South America's largest city, is familiar territory for Gutberlet, who moved there from Germany with her parents at age 12. However, it was not until the mid-1990s, when she was conducting research in marginal squatter settlements on São Paulo's periphery, that she first encountered the city's *catadores*, or collectors, roaming the streets with their carts or horse-drawn wagons and retrieving marketable items from curbside trash piles.

Gutberlet's response to this sight came from both her head and her heart. "My intellectual reaction [was] how wasteful and consumption-oriented our society is and what an important service these people are doing in separating at least some of the resources," she recalls. "My emotional reaction [was that] these people are more than just poor. They are socially excluded and something needs to be done to recover their citizenship."

When Gutberlet joined the UVic Geography Department in 2000, the *catadores* were still on her mind and she was soon at work on a project proposal in collaboration with colleagues at the Centro Universitário Fundação Santo André and other Brazilian partners. Last May, they received a \$1-million funding commitment from a Canadian International Development Agency program for partnerships between universities in Canada and developing countries.

GUTBERLET'S COMMUNITY-BASED RECYCLING PROJECT FOCUSES ON FOUR municipalities—São Paulo, Diadema, Santo André and Ribeirão Pires—within greater metropolitan São Paulo. As in many megacities, especially in poorer countries, the number of São Paulo residents who support themselves by salvaging from garbage has grown dramatically in recent years, for several reasons.

"First of all, there is a lot of poverty and unemployment and also unskilled people," explains Gutberlet. "For many people it's the last option to make a livelihood." There is also the increase

in consumerism that comes with urbanization. "It is proven that with the switch from a rural to an urban lifestyle, people generate more disposable waste."

The rise of informal recycling is a natural response to the widening gap between haves and have-nots in a throw-away society, but it doesn't adequately address either environmental or poverty issues. Vast quantities of recyclable materials remain unrecovered—officially, up to 90 percent of the total waste in the project's target municipalities ends up in landfills. And the unofficial status of the waste pickers leaves them vulnerable to exploitation by middlemen and businesses that buy from them, and unprotected against occupational health risks, such as exposure to microbes and chemicals or injuries from handling sharp metal and broken glass.

In São Paulo, many *catadores* have taken steps to improve their lot by joining forces in co-operatives and associations, which generally range in size from 20 to 40 members. Gutberlet and her partners want to help develop and reinforce these groups, both for the benefits they offer individual recyclers and for the role they can play in tackling urban environmental problems. The team members work with eight co-operatives in Santo André, Ribeirão Pires and Diadema and about 30 in São Paulo. They are also conducting appraisals and surveys to try to determine how many autonomous recyclers are operating within the four municipalities, which have a combined population of about 12 million people.

"If recyclers commercialize their materials together, they get much better prices than if they sell individually to the middlemen," says Gutberlet. "We are helping them organize so they can sell collectively to industries." To this end, the project offers training to the co-op members on technical aspects of collecting and sorting recyclables, gender awareness, small business and co-operative development, micro-credit, group dynamics

and participatory methodologies. Equally important, is education to raise awareness of health hazards and promote safe work habits.

Indeed, support for a participatory approach to waste management has come from the highest level of government. Last December, Brazilian president Lula Ignacio da Silva enthusiastically endorsed a recycling pilot project launched in Diadema. Under this scheme, the co-operatives have taken responsibility for collecting recyclables in different districts. The municipality pays for their services with money that otherwise would have been spent on garbage pick-up, and the recyclers earn additional revenue by selling the salvaged materials.



IN MANY REGARDS, THE DIADEMA EXPERIMENT RESEMBLES OUR OWN blue box program. The big difference, says Gutberlet, is that the work is not performed by a private firm or public employees. The involvement of the co-operatives makes it an inclusive venture that accommodates those living on society's margins. "Our project is committed to this kind of approach," she says. "We have been actively working on the design and implementation of this (public) policy."

Besides working with the recyclers and government agencies, the team also plans to engage the wider community in discussions about responsible consumption, waste generation and how to effectively participate in recycling programs. While there may be some resistance, potential benefits include a less polluted urban environment, more sustainable use of resources and a decrease in poverty-driven crime.

By the time the CIDA-funded project wraps up in 2011, Gutberlet and her partners anticipate having strengthened the skills, knowledge and opportunities of at least 1,000 members of collective recycling organizations in São Paulo. They also share their experiences and findings with other municipalities in Brazil and beyond, including Canada.

"There are similar problems of social exclusion and poverty in Canada, especially in the big cities like Vancouver," says Gutberlet. "Governments everywhere should be looking for creative solutions." With the international perspective that comes of having lived, studied and worked in half a dozen countries, she is well aware that those solutions might be found anywhere in the world. It's just a matter of seeking them with an open mind and an open heart. †

Internship to India

Enduring a four-month posting in Delhi can be an extreme challenge. Overcoming it can change everything.

BY MIKE MCNENEY
PHOTOGRAPH BY HÉLÈNE CYR

WHEN I MEET ROSELYNN VERWOORD IN THE COFFEE SHOP AT THE MacLaurin Building it's almost lunch time and the tables are all taken. So we grab three stools by the window. Keeping one seat between us, we agree, is so Canadian. "Everybody," she says, "needs their personal space here."

It's the kind of thing she's been noticing since coming back from Delhi. In a metropolis of 15 million people, personal space is pretty much non-existent. The fourth-year student in the Faculty of Education found that out fast enough when she went to India on an internship funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. She was posted with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia but it was the day-to-day challenge of living in India last September that really had a deep, sometimes overwhelming, impact.

The energetic and driven 21-year-old—someone who has "everything planned"—found herself instead living from day-to-day, often struggling to cope with the new culture and bouts of homesickness. She stepped off the plane into 40-degree heat and air pollution that makes your skin and throat burn. She was later hospitalized with "Delhi Belly," and if it wasn't for an invitation to go to a friend's place, she would have been at one of the city's popular public markets they day they were bombed by terrorists in late October.

"She had to stand on her own," says her mom, Joan Verwoord, BA '79. "I was a little concerned but it was never on the table for her to return early. She's a person of commitment and when she sets out to do something she does it, come hell or high water."

Through e-mail and phone calls Joan watched her daughter go through the stages of culture shock—the urge to flee, the neutral feeling of just coping, and finally the acceptance and embrace of the new place. Knowing about those stages—passed along by Roselynn's internship advisor—helped Joan under-



Roselynn Verwoord and her mom, Joan Verwoord, BA '79: "life-changing" experiences in Delhi.

stand what Roselynn was going through. It helped her deal with her own worry as a parent. Having come through it, she says her daughter, who had never been away from home, is now "more clear on her needs, pro-active and much more independent."

How to make sense of her experience in India, to place it in the context of life back in Victoria—those are things that have been frustrating for the younger Verwoord. "It has been a slow process of redefining myself. When I first came back to Victoria, I felt frustrated at having to be back in class, and my daily life seemed so irrelevant compared to what I had experienced. I was frustrated by people worrying about their appearance and the newest and latest fashions rather than thinking about the world beyond the surface. I felt alienated.

"I hadn't prepared myself to deal with any of the feelings that I was having. I also felt frustrated by people who would ask me questions like: How was your trip? What was the most important thing you learned? I'm not sure that I have those answers."

If anything, an immersion in Indian culture and a chance to witness the country's different education system (divided according to economic class) has deepened her social conscience.

"I have an even stronger and renewed sense of passion for working for equality," says Verwoord. "I have learned to see things from another perspective, and to always question my own thoughts and ideas. My four months in India were life-changing."

Tougher, more sophisticated, Verwoord is all set for a return trip. She'll spend the summer in India on a teaching practicum and volunteering with ANK, an organization that offers education and health services in the slums of South Delhi. †



World-minded Teaching

With most students completing all of their coursework on campus, new ways of teaching are helping to bring the world into lectures and course materials.

BY FRANCES BACKHOUSE

PHOTOGRAPH BY JO-ANN RICHARDS

GLOBALIZATION gets more entrenched with each passing day, raising a question that's being posed on campuses all across Canada: How can universities help students become internationally knowledgeable and inter-culturally competent for life in the 21st century? Part of the answer is found in the Learning and Teaching Centre's groundbreaking Course (Re)design for Internationalization Workshop—a week-long immersion in what leaders Sabine Schuerholz-Lehr and Geraldine Van Gyn call “teaching for world-mindedness.”

“Many of our students will never go abroad for a truly international experience,” says Schuerholz-Lehr, the assistant director of UVic's Office of International Affairs. In fact, only five to 10 percent of Canadian students work or study in another country during their university years and few are away for more than a month. That puts the onus on campus-based learning to provide the stay-at-home majority with a more global outlook. Yet few existing courses offer an international perspective and instructors are often daunted by the prospect of redeveloping them.

“Designing a course without the right conceptual tools is like trying to build a table without a hammer or nails,” says Van Gyn, director of the Learning and Teaching Centre. Her remedy is a workshop which puts those tools (things like concept maps, learning outcomes, instructional strategies and assessment methods) in the hands of instructors and shows them how to use them. When Van Gyn and Schuerholz-Lehr created their curriculum internationalization workshop, they used the same model.

The pair's first teaching-for-world-mindedness workshops were attended by instructors from a cross-section of faculties and departments including Sociology, History in Art, and Computer Science. Such a multiplicity of interests might seem unwieldy at first glance, but it's exactly what Schuerholz-Lehr

had hoped for. “Internationalization of the curriculum is not about creating a new major in international studies,” she explains. “We are trying to infuse the notion of internationalization across all disciplines.” Exactly how that happens depends on individual instructors rising to the challenge.

RACHEL WESTFALL, A DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY SESSIONAL LECTURER found the internationalization workshop provided the impetus to change the readings for her third-year course in human sexuality. “I felt the textbook I'd been using was too American,” she says, “so I switched to one that had a more international focus. It was also too American, but it had more articles that showed other perspectives. Ideally, I would like to come up with a text that really does look at sexuality from an international focus, but right now there isn't such a thing on the market.”

Westfall has other “big plans” for internationalizing her course and is frustrated by logistical constraints that have kept her from acting, but Schuerholz-Lehr actually prefers a gradual approach. “People will be overwhelmed if they try to do it all at once,” she says. “It's better to start slowly, maybe with getting to know the international students better or incorporating two



Wider view: Geraldine Van Gyn and Sabine Schuerholz-Lehr help re-design courses to embrace international perspectives.

readings that come from a very different angle, and building incrementally over time.”

The study of 17th-century Italian art could be considered intrinsically world-minded, but History in Art Prof. Erin Campbell sees greater possibilities for the third-year course after attending the internationalization workshop. “In Europe, in the early modern period, there are all kinds of travel, exploration, exploitation on a global scale,” she says. “I’m working on bringing that into the course content.” She is shifting her focus from “very insular, very culturally specific” developments in 17th-century Italy to more cross-cultural developments, such as how foreign travel by Italians influenced the art being produced in their home country.

Meanwhile, Campbell has spiced up the course by inviting three students who recently returned from Europe to talk to the class about art and opportunities for study abroad. “This isn’t just art four or five hundred years ago. You can go and visit and experience this stuff right now. I want to encourage the idea that the classroom is preparation for going out into the world.”

Besides generating excitement about internships, cultural courses and self-directed learning in Europe, the exchange also

revealed that many class members were more familiar with the art they were studying than they’d been willing to admit.

The students in Elsie Chan’s statistics courses are also talking about new ideas these days, after Chan attended the workshop and realized that cultural biases can affect statistical surveys. Now when teaching questionnaire design, she challenges her students to consider how respondents from various ethnic communities might perceive survey questions. The ensuing dis-

Internationalization is not about creating a new major in international studies.

cussions have been “eye-opening” for everyone, says the popular sessional lecturer, who won the alumni association’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2000.

Another change for Chan is an increased commitment to finding out about her students’ backgrounds as a means of fostering



Global link: Grad students in Computer Science Prof. Daniela Damian's global software development course learn with colleagues from universities in Italy and Australia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROF. DANIELA DAMIAN

internationalized learning. As an immigrant herself—she moved here from Hong Kong at 15—Chan was surprised to realize she'd been disregarding the diversity in her own classroom. "I always talk about how to be inclusive and make sure the international students understand but I forgot that they will think differently."

WHILE CHAN, CAMPBELL, WESTFALL AND OTHERS ARE FOLLOWING Schuerholz-Lehr's advice to build incrementally toward world-minded teaching, Computer Science Prof. Daniela Damian has already designed an entirely new course.

"Global software development is a very hot topic nowadays and a business necessity," says Damian, "but our graduates don't have the necessary skills to be able to work in global teams." She decided to offer some real-life experience in developing software with overseas partners.

Last spring, under Damian's direction, 12 UVic graduate students collaborated with peers from the University of Technolo-

gy in Sydney, Australia and the University of Bari in Italy—without anyone leaving home. They were divided into teams and assigned two software projects: in one, they took the client role, and in the other, they were developers. Geographical separation meant the clients and suppliers never met in person and had to contend with time zone disparities, as well as cultural differences and language barriers.

Grad student Luis Izquierdo rates the global software development course as "one of the most exciting courses" he has ever taken. Besides improving his technical skills, he says it gave him valuable practice in working with colleagues in other countries and overcoming the challenges it entails.

Izquierdo's enthusiastic assessment is typical, says Damian. "The students loved it. They were so excited about learning about another culture and environment and they had so much fun." And they gained valuable experience that will stand them in good stead when they leave UVic and head out into a world that's not as big and wide as it used to be. †

Letter Home

Mika Oshige, BA '03, finds new interpretations—of life, in academics—as told in a letter to her sister in Nagoya, Japan.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HÉLÈNE CYR

DEAR NAO,

IT'S BEEN ALREADY SIX YEARS SINCE I BEGAN STUDYING IN Canada. Do you remember that I came here to study English to become an interpreter? Who could have imagined that I would instead pursue a graduate program in educational psychology? Life is a mystery.

At first, the different cultural practices and value system frustrated me. Everything is opposite here. The roads, the grammar, and the manners! Surprisingly, men, even strangers, hold a door for you when you walk through it. It took me awhile to figure out how the Canadian cultural system works without thinking these men like me!

Living in Canada has been filled with new discoveries and re-discoveries about culture—and me as a person. When I came here, I felt like a baby. Whenever people asked me questions, I froze and could only answer them in simple sentences. I had common sense and knowledge as an adult, but my English ability didn't allow me to articulate my thoughts in the way adults would respond. Even ordering coffee took courage and practice so that I would get as few questions as possible! I don't know how many times I had cried with humiliation and frustration over my limited ability, especially when I was doing school work and exams. It seemed impossible to overcome this challenge no matter how hard I studied.

But later I realized that this linguistic discrepancy led me to truly understand what it's like to be a minority both ethnically and cognitively. My disadvantage turned into my advantage in both my academic work and my life. I have insights on what people in ethnic and cognitive minorities might experience on a daily basis and can now empathize with their struggles. Thankfully, this realization added depth to my personhood and also became the essence of who I am.

I didn't realize how much my native cultural values were intertwined with my beliefs and governed my behaviour until I left the country. Objectively and subjectively observing both cultures, I am now able to perceive phenomena from two different systems simultaneously and contribute to class discussions, bringing new perspectives into the topics. In Canada, this "creative" perspective is appreciated. Because of my unique experi-



ences, I became interested in studying how cultural, societal belief systems influence human social development. I believe that deciphering cultural mechanisms will contribute to further understanding of human behaviour.

Although I still feel scared to publicly share my opinions, since this is against my traditional culture, this Canadian academic experience not only led me to grow as a person but also gave me a sense of personal success. I am thankful for this experience and also looking forward to other discoveries and re-discoveries, as well as people I will meet in the future. In the end, my original goal of becoming an interpreter took a different form. I'm an interpreter of human minds, rather than human languages.

Love,
Mika

Mika Oshige was named the 2005 "International Student of the Year" by the Canadian Bureau for International Education for an earlier version of her "Letter Home." She's pursuing her master's degree in educational psychology.



Justice After Wartime

Prosecuting the organized crime rings of post-war Bosnia means chasing corrupt senior government officials and adjusting to life under “close protection.” Worth it? Completely.

BY BETH KAMPSCHROR

PHOTOGRAPH BY SINISA PONJEVIC

WHEN JONATHAN RATEL, LLB '89, first came to Sarajevo to work as an international prosecutor he thought he was a bit of an expert on the mostly-rebuilt Bosnian capital—to the extent that he wasn't even fazed by the war-ravaged ruin that was to become his office. “It was literally a bombed-out shell—50-caliber machine gun holes throughout the building, mortar rounds that had exploded against the building.” Then he deadpans, “It was about what I expected.”

While the 44-year-old North Vancouver native—who'd been to Bosnia before in a previous assignment—wasn't bothered by the physical scars of Bosnia's brutal 1992-95 war, he soon discovered the more disturbing undercurrents of organized crime that would be his job to help stamp out.

On the surface, Bosnia's recovery amazes the casual visitor. The smart shops springing up in Sarajevo, the repaving of some of the country's notoriously potholed roads and the rebuilding of the blasted villages in the countryside all point to a country well on the way back from its devastating war. Pitting the country's Croats, Muslims and Serbs against each other, the conflict left 150,000 dead and half the country refugees. But the US-brokered peace agreement deeply divided the country into two mostly ethnic entities—a Federation of mostly Muslims and Croats, and a Serb Republic. Both kept their own parliament, police and court system. Without state control over the police and courts, the same well-connected criminals and gangs that either committed war crimes or profited from the war were able to move into prostitution, drug trafficking, customs fraud and counterfeiting—with impunity. The same corrupt politicians that led the Bosnia into war also flourished. It wasn't until 2002 that the Office of the High Representative—the international organization that's run Bosnia as a de facto protectorate since the war's end—decided to create a state-level court that could take on

Bosnia-wide organized crime, economic crime and corruption.

That's how Ratel, who's on leave from the BC Crown counsel's office, came to Bosnia. After a two-year stint in the prosecutor's office at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, he was approached to join Bosnia's new state court. He arrived to work alongside both Bosnian and other international prosecutors and judges. Colleagues say he cuts an eloquent black-robed figure in court. Outside court, with reporters, he chooses his words carefully, with responses ranging from “I can't tell you that,” to “You're on the right track,” to “Bingo.”

Ratel put a large prostitution ring behind bars in 2004. He's now prosecuting a former Bosnian Serb justice minister, Momcilo Mandic, and three other powerful Bosnian Serbs for allegedly ruining Mandic's bank by funneling depositors' money into the accounts of political parties. Ratel will also try to prove that money also went to the shadowy network of safe houses and bodyguards that have kept the UN war crimes tribunal's most-wanted fugitive—former Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic—on the lam for more than 10 years.

“The work I did at The Hague tribunal is mirrored now with the same targets and suspects. I was surprised that they were all still operating,” Ratel says. He was also caught off guard by the reach of organized crime into the highest levels of government in the region.



Law graduate and international prosecutor, Jonathan Ratel: "Stunned" by the influence of organized crime in Bosnia.

For example, Ratel got a less than warm welcome in neighbouring Serbia when he asked a top justice official there to arrest the bank suspect Mandic, who was hiding out in the Serbian capital Belgrade at the time.

"(The official) asked me to leave his office, take my warrant for arrest and background materials, and to leave Belgrade immediately and never return," Ratel says. "He said, 'It is clear to me that you do not know who you're talking about, because if you did, you would not have come to this building, to this ministry.' That indicated to me that (Mandic) owned half the people in that ministry. I was actually stunned. I didn't realize that the penetration of organized crime was at senior levels of government."

RATEL SOON FACED A MORE SERIOUS THREAT THAN being kicked out of a Belgrade ministry. He'd been in Bosnia for about a year when international peacekeeping troops in Bosnia received information about a man who'd entered Bosnia from its western neighbour Croatia. The man was a local assassin ordered to do away with both Ratel and another Canadian colleague. Nearly immediately both prosecutors received what's known as close protection—a handful of trained local police who act as drivers, bodyguards and constant watchful companions.

"It's very invasive, it's a loss of privacy," he says. But in Sarajevo, where most diplomats and VIPs have entourages of Subur-

bans and large men sporting earpieces, Ratel says he's got used to his more modest security detail, even to the point of joking, "Leaving the country is like being permitted off leash."

His colleague Steve Kessler, a resident legal advisor for the US Justice Department, says that they leave when they can—whether it's skiing at the former Olympic resorts around Sarajevo or going bowling at the military base outside town, or traveling, all of it helps take their minds off work.

As a prosecutor, coming to Bosnia is like arriving in a target-rich environment.

Ratel finds little time to study the villainously difficult local Slavic language; Kessler and others once gave Ratel a hard time about it at his favorite restaurant in Sarajevo.

"The waiter made a bet that he'd buy Jon a steak if he knew 10 words, and Jon couldn't come up with anything besides dobar (good), dan (day), molim (please), racun (bill)," Kessler says, laughing. "But since then he's learned a little more."

Kessler says Ratel has risen to the occasion in the face of the complicated criminal code and limited resources. At the same time, he has become a mentor to the young Bosnian lawyers with whom he works. With international prosecutors expected to leave Bosnia within five years, Mirza Hukejlic, a 26-year-old Bosnian legal associate with the state court, says the foreigners have brought renewed confidence in the judiciary. Besides the bank suspect Mandic, the court is also currently trying a former presidency member and a top-ranking judge. "These are people that everyone thought were untouchable," Hukejlic says. He also notes that the ethnic tension has died down since the court's early days, when, for example, a powerful Bosnian Croat politician's arrest brought an enormous outcry from his compatriots.

"The climate has changed big-time," Hukejlic says. "It's the best thing that could have happened to this court. If people are arrested not because they're Croats, or Muslims or Serbs, but because they've committed crimes, then our role here has been fulfilled. Mandic has influence that we can't even imagine. (When he was arrested) we were scared, God knows what could have happened, but in the mainstream nobody reacted."

Mandic showed off an expensive suit and a cocky attitude to the packed gallery at his arraignment on Feb. 21—and pled not guilty to all charges. His trial begins this spring and should conclude about nine months later.

"Without justice there's no peace," Ratel says. "Before I came (to Bosnia) I understood the importance of justice for individu-

als. Now I see the importance of justice in public life." Despite the difficulties, Ratel says he would do it all over again. "As a prosecutor, coming to Bosnia is like arriving in a target-rich environment," he says, grinning.

And Bosnia's targets—whether they're suspects in government corruption, mafia-type crime, or war crimes—are usually inter-related. Mandic has long been under suspicion for war crimes as well, because of his powerful role in the wartime Bosnian Serb government. And Mandic himself, Ratel hints over a coffee at the rebuilt state court's noisy café, had no idea whether he would end up in the Sarajevo court or The Hague war crimes tribunal. Mandic had made the mistake last August of leaving Serbia for the neighbouring coastal republic of Montenegro, where he was arrested and driven to the border with Bosnia. Ratel and his team flew to the border in peacekeepers' helicopters to bring Mandic back to Sarajevo.

"He was in a high state of panic, and when he saw me, he was highly relieved and extremely emotional," Ratel says. When the reporter across the table, who'd interrupted several times with questions but got nowhere, asks why, Ratel asks a question of his own.

"Well, do you know why?"

The reporter makes a stab. "Because he thought he was going to The Hague instead of Sarajevo."

"Bingo." †

Greeted by Katrina

An international exchange student lands in the path of the hurricane.

BY MIKE MCNENEY
PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE ROUSE

JUSTIN LAFLAMME HADN'T BEEN AT THE University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg for his year-long study exchange for much more than a week before the path of Hurricane Katrina came straight through campus. The third-year history student from Duncan had chosen Southern Miss out of his interest in American foreign policy. He wound up in the middle of the country's worst natural disaster.

"Most of the school emptied when the hurricane warning came in," Laflamme recalled in a phone conversation from his campus dorm. "There were only about 20 of us left, mostly exchange students or students who couldn't go home to places like New Orleans."

Ordered to stay in their dorms, Laflamme (the only Canadian in the group) and his roommates started feeling the hurricane at about ten in the morning on Aug. 29. In a couple of hours the power was knocked out and radio stations went off the air. "It went right over us and lasted several hours. We couldn't really see much of what was going on but it made the windows rattle and they were leaking from so much rain. I wasn't really scared. We didn't have any idea of magnitude. They had told us a hurricane was going through, and to expect just a little wind and rain..."

It was a different story after Katrina passed and Laflamme was able to get out to have a look around. "There was debris everywhere, more than half of the telephone poles snapped right in half. There was no power unless you had a generator. Trees were through houses, onto cars."

Laflamme and the other students banded together and helped wherever they could. They evacuated the international studies coordinator from her home, where a tree fell across the place. He survived on days of dry turkey sandwiches and water rations



Exchange student Justin Laflamme with remnants of Katrina, near the University of Southern Mississippi.

until the university's power was restored, in about five days. The rest of town was without power for nearly three weeks.

The main campus in Hattiesburg lost a lot of trees and had wind damage to roofs. Alumni House was damaged from falling trees, as were a few other buildings. The roof of the university's coliseum had to be replaced. The worst damage was 60 miles south of campus where the school has teaching sites and a research lab along the Gulf Coast. The marine education centre and aquarium were destroyed. The total bill for damages approaches \$300 million US.

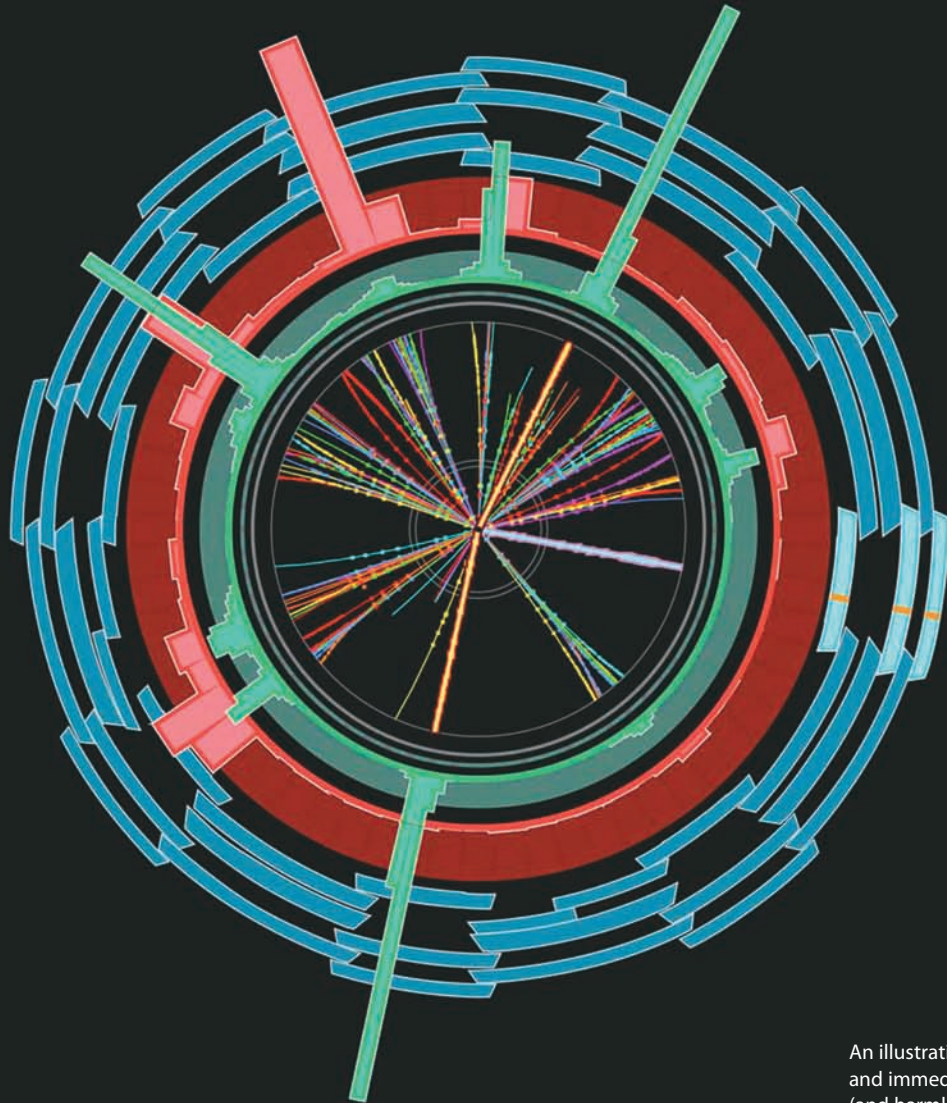
"People were in disbelief," Laflamme says, "nobody had seen this kind of thing before. Definitely living through that sort of disaster makes an impression. But we really didn't know the extent of the damage in New Orleans until quite a while after. It made us feel lucky." †



When Protons Collide

ATLAS, set to begin in 2007, is the next big thing in the highly collaborative world of subatomic physics research.

BY MIKE MCNENEY



An illustration of the production and immediate decay of a tiny (and harmless) black hole, one of the potential results from the proton-proton collisions at ATLAS.



ONE DAY NEXT YEAR, pairs of protons will begin zipping in opposing directions around a 27-km circular tunnel beneath the French-Swiss border. Propelled to nearly the speed of light by a series of super-conducting magnets, those tiny particles will collide head-on. The microcosmic wreckage that they produce may take us crucial steps closer to explaining the fundamental how's and why's of the physical laws of nature.

From miniature black holes to exotic particles like those that occurred fractions of seconds after the big bang, the ATLAS experiment is designed to probe some of the most fundamental yet elusive answers to questions about nature and energy and the origin of the universe: Why do particles have mass? How can the presence of “dark matter” be explained? Is there more than meets the eye, phenomena that haven't even been considered yet?

More than a decade in planning, entire research careers have been dedicated to this, the next big thing in the minute world of high-energy physics. >>

ATLAS involves an international league of some 2,000 particle physicists, all doctorate-holders, and all independent thinkers yet team-focused with a single purpose in mind. Sociologists have done studies on how it is that such a diverse group from 34 countries and 160 institutions is able to agree on anything, let alone the direction of a massive scientific enterprise.

“It’s like an army of generals—it’s not perfect but we’re moving forward,” Prof. Michel Lefebvre noted recently in his office on the second floor of the Elliott Building, where his old basketball team photos line the wall above an academic’s typical nest of research journals, papers and filing cabinets.

It’s what Lefebvre calls the “cross-pollination, culturally and scientifically” that those involved in the collaboration are really

proud of, although it’s not without its challenges. It’s an effort to work effectively with research colleagues spread across the globe. Phone and Web conferencing can be efficient but they’re not a substitute for face-to-face meetings. And while much of the engineering and construction of the LHC and ATLAS is complete, there remains a massive amount of computer software code to be written that is “pushing the envelope of complexity with hundreds of people writing different parts at the same time,” says Lefebvre. “Imagine writing a book with 50 different people writing each chapter.”

PERHAPS NO ONE ELSE IN CANADA’S PHYSICS COMMUNITY HAS BEEN AS closely involved in ATLAS (the largest particle physics experi-

The Power of Grid Computing

The computer data sets generated by the ATLAS experiment will be mind-boggling in their sheer volume. When the proton-proton collisions start in earnest, data will be produced fast enough to fill a CD every two seconds, or nearly three million CDs every year.

Physicists quickly realized that there was no way the computing resources at CERN or any other single institution could handle that much complex data. The solution: grid computing. By connecting computing resources around the world with ultra-fast fibre-optics, the grid will provide fast, flexible data access for ATLAS researchers in any of the 30-plus countries in which they reside.

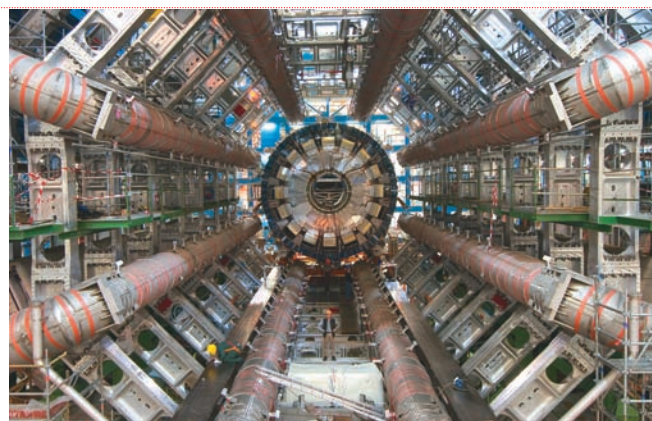
“We don’t think we can do it any other way than by doing it with the grid,” says Randy Sobie, a UVic adjunct professor and researcher with the Institute of Particle Physics. “That’s sort of brought a lot of people together at CERN, in the US and around the world. Effectively, we’re building a single computing centre out of resources that

are distributed. So, to the user it looks like one computing facility. He doesn’t know, if he submits a job, where it’s going to run. That complexity is hidden behind the grid.”

The grid analogy comes from electrical power grids. Plug a toaster in the wall and you have no idea where the electricity comes from. The same holds true for a researcher submitting a computer job to the ATLAS grid.

UVic will be part of the ATLAS grid, linked to the TRIUMF facility in Vancouver, which in turn will be linked to CERN with cables that will deliver data two or three thousand times faster than a typical household’s high speed internet connection.

These days, Sobie sometimes feels as much a computer scientist as a physicist, given the reliance on computers in modern research. “It’s quite substantial. When our grad students arrive, one of the first things we do is train them in computing because they don’t get much of that as undergrads. But it’s critical—for their analysis, and physics in general.”



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CERN

Part of ATLAS’ inner detector. UVic designed and built 55 cryogenic feedthrough components that will deliver data from the proton collisions.

The Racetrack and the Camera

The Large Hadron Collider is the particle accelerator, a 27-km underground “racetrack” that will create the proton-proton collisions. The LHC forms the backbone of the ATLAS project, one of four experiments slated for the collider.

The LHC is operated by CERN, the European particle physics lab in Geneva. Canada, via the UBC-based TRIUMF facility, has contributed about \$40 million to building the LHC.

At the point where the protons will collide, the ATLAS detector has been installed. It’s a five-storey tall “camera” that will measure and monitor the rare particle tracks and other information produced in the billionth of a second after each collision.

NSERC, the Canadian science and engineering research-funding agency has allocated about \$30 million to ATLAS since 1992. Some \$4 million of that funding came to UVic, where key feedthrough components of the detector were designed and built in the Physics Department. Six UVic faculty members, three post-doctoral students and usually about four grad students are involved in the ATLAS experiment.

Several physics alumni are also involved in ATLAS, including Prof. Brigitte Vachon, PhD ’02, a Canada Research Chair-holder at McGill.

ment yet) as Lefebvre. Since arriving at the university in 1991, he has been at the forefront of the country's involvement in ATLAS-Canada, serving as its founding spokesperson. His excitement and anticipation for what ATLAS holds becomes immediately apparent. After years of planning, after countless flights back and forth to Geneva, the weekly videoconferences and the endless writing of computer code, ATLAS is nearly ready to begin and Michel Lefebvre is utterly enthused. He is his own force of nature, a diminutive scientist on the verge of seeing years of preparation finally become reality, promising not just a whole new chapter but volumes upon volumes of raw research material. Observers speculate that at least two Nobel Prize-worthy discoveries will come out of the smashed protons of ATLAS.

The Standard Model summarizes current knowledge of particle physics. It includes the theory of strong interactions and the theory of weak and electromagnetic interactions. What it doesn't explain is how particles get their mass. "That needs to be squared away," says Professor Emeritus Alan Astbury. "There is a Higgs mechanism, a Higgs particle. So what you might call the Holy Grail is to find the Higgs, if it exists—and that's a very big demand on a detector."



Lefebvre at a testing station for components built at UVic for the ATLAS project.

Astbury looks back on his 50 years in physics research and thinks of all of the advances. Yet, it can seem that the more we know, the less we know. "Things have changed in that time. We were looking for the constituents that really make up matter, you and me and this table and everything around it. But as we've understood more and more about the universe, this kind of matter seems to be only a small fraction of what there is—five or 10 per cent. It's just possible, at the LHC, that the very exciting discovery that may be made is a new form of matter, which accounts

for a significant amount of what they call the dark matter that is out there. This is not predicted, and it would be an extremely important discovery if it was made, but it certainly doesn't have a probability of zero."

It's that promise of the unknown that, when it comes down to it, seems to drive the enthusiasm for the ATLAS project that leading researchers like Michel Lefebvre exude, even in the face of another 10 or 15 years of data collection and analysis. "I hope we're going to be so confused by what we find that it's going to keep us busy for a very long time. There are no guarantees (of what we'll find). All you can do is go have a look." †

DIANA NETHERCOTT PHOTO



Inside Tact

Former senior diplomat Gordon Smith and his Centre for Global Studies are influencing Canadian foreign policy on security, climate change and children's rights—to name a few not-so-minor world conundrums.

BY TOM HAWTHORN

PHOTOGRAPH BY JO-ANN RICHARDS

GORDON SMITH has been a diplomat and a deputy minister, an ambassador and a prime minister's sherpa as Jean Chretien's personal representative at G7 and G8 summits. For those many years he was a player, in on meetings and able to directly contribute to policy decisions. These days, as head of the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria, he is an outsider with an insider's perspective.

Within days of the election of Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government, Smith stood atop a soapbox provided by the *Globe and Mail* to offer some advice to the incoming prime minister. In a single column, he touched on many of the urgent matters faced by the new government: Deal with Hamas and political Islam; reverse the decision to separate the departments of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; create a made-in-Canada policy on climate change with an energy policy ensuring the greatest benefits from technological advances; supply Canadian diplomats and soldiers with the tools they need.

Further, he pointed out how security issues are seen differently by the rest of the world than by the United States. "Many more people are killed in internal conflicts by AK-47s and machetes than by terrorists," he wrote. As well, the world has too many poor people. It is not a surprise to learn the training camps of al-Qaida are populated by those from the poorest regions of Pakistan.

The suggestions were wide in scope and optimistic for someone who has spent most of his life wrestling stubbornly resistant challenges.

"We're interested in having an impact on policy," Smith says of the work of the Global Studies Centre, "and on the lives of people."

At 64, he remains keen on influencing decision makers. From experience he knows problems and their solutions. And he knows that the unintended consequences of decisions can often be better perceived from a distance, away from the exercise of power.

Smith displays a diplomat's graciousness in manner, as well as the slight pause of one accustomed to weighing words before speaking. These traits, combined with a rigorous intellect honed at McGill University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, made him a formidable presence in the foreign

affairs department. He also served as Canadian ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Those were jobs exercised in the corridors of power, where outsized desks, fine carpets, and private government jets came with the post. At UVic, his office is found in the Sedgewick Building, just another of a warren of modest workplaces.

The Centre for Global Studies was created in 1998 as a think-tank in which campus scholarship would be wedded to real-world policy-making. The model has been to create "a centre of centres" sharing resources while addressing such issues as technology, globalization, climate studies, human security, and child rights. The centre's operations depend on continually finding sources of revenue, an entrepreneurial undertaking responsible for providing 90 cents of every dollar spent. "No one's salary, including mine, is secure," he notes.

SMITH CONSIDERS CANADA A "LARGISH MIDDLE POWER" ON THE WORLD stage, a nation not seen to be burdened by an agenda of self-interest, nor to be motivated by long-standing grudges.

Still, he wants Canada to go beyond being a bridge between factions on the world scene. "What do you do with bridges? You walk on them," he says. He would like to see a continuation of innovative approaches, whether engaging non-governmental organizations in an anti-landmine campaign, or doing an end run on the US State Department to lobby congress to deal with acid rain.

Smith came to public service and security issues as a birthright. His maternal grandfather was Gordon W. Scott, provincial treasurer in the government of Quebec Premier Louis-Alexandre Taschereau. After the outbreak of the Second World War, Scott joined Munitions Minister C.D. Howe as financial adviser as one of the dollar-a-year men working towards the war effort. Scott, Howe and industrialist E.P. Taylor were aboard the Western



Prince, bound for Britain with a cargo including aircraft for the Royal Air Force when the liner was struck by a torpedo fired by a U-boat about 400 miles off the coast of Ireland. Scott, 52, managed to get aboard a lifeboat, but it overturned and he was lost.

“Conflict and human suffering have always engaged my attention,” Smith says.

As a boy, he received a memorable lesson about the divided world of the 1950s. He was travelling in Europe with his family, passing through Checkpoint Charlie and visiting both sectors of a Berlin yet to be riven by a wall. He brought out his Leica at a graveyard for Soviet soldiers killed in the war. As he snapped a photograph of a bust of Stalin, a worker at the site spat in disgust. The antipathy towards the Soviet dictator was not lost on young Smith. “That had a real impact on me.”

It's urgent that the world do more to control nuclear weapons.

Later, Smith was enduring an unhappy spell of studies at the University of Chicago when news of the placement of Soviet missiles in Cuba reached the public. He remembers stories of yachts being stolen as desperate citizens fled the city and its feared date with nuclear incineration. The release of archival material in recent years has only served to show how much closer the world was to nuclear war than was appreciated in the aftermath of the crisis.

At MIT, where he completed a doctorate in 1966, Smith's thesis advisor suggested a study of bomb-damage estimates produced

by the Royal Air Force after Germany re-armed in the 1930s. The RAF came to the alarming conclusion the German air force was capable of landing a “knockout blow” against Britain in the first 24 hours of war, in part, because the RAF had made its own unrealistic estimates about damage it could inflict on German industrial capacity.

“Did (the estimates) have an impact on buying more Spitfires and Hurricanes? No. It had a stronger role in (British prime minister Neville) Chamberlain believing he had to sue for peace.”

THE PAGES OF HISTORY ARE FILLED WITH CATASTROPHES IN WHICH SUCH distortions led to unintended consequences, from Vietnam to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to the US conquest of Iraq. A wider purpose of the centre, as a think-tank, is to contemplate and warn of such fiascos before they occur.

One area in which Smith is pessimistic is the proliferation of nuclear weapons. A.Q. Khan, known as the father of the bomb in Pakistan, admitted selling nuclear technology to Iran, Libya, and North Korea.

“It's urgent that the world do more than we're doing now to control nuclear weapons and nuclear knowledge coming out of the former Soviet republics,” he said. “That costs money, but it is money well spent. We need to make sure there are no more A.Q. Khans out there.”

The result of failure could be the detonation of a nuclear device in a major city.

“I think it is a matter of time before this does happen,” he said. “Maybe a decade.”

There was a pause in the conversation, as the unthinkable was contemplated over coffee at the genteel University Club. It gave one pause for hope that Canada's voice of sanity on the world stage might prevail. †

Exchanging Words

LAST YEAR LORNA CROZIER, THE POET and chair of the Department of Writing, invited four students at the University of Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico to take part in a poetry exchange with four UVic writing students. The result: *Assembling the Bones/Ensamblar Los Huesos* (Sockeye Press), a chapbook of eight poems in English and Spanish.

For Anne-Marie Turza, in her fourth year of the UVic writing program, “translation is like assembling a collection of bones. You hope you’ve found enough of them to make a skeleton...You hope to be congratulated on assembling what is almost (but not quite), a full set of its teeth.” The translator of her poem, *If There Is Forgiveness*, was Nadia Escalante Andrade, poet and researcher of Hispanic poetry.

If There Is Forgiveness



Anne-Marie Turza

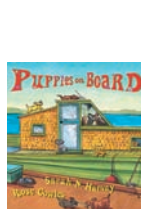
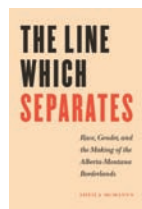
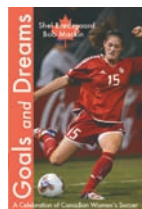
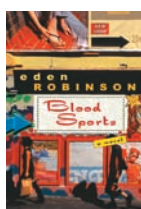
Snow, forgive our boots their trails on the hardwood tiles, forgive our sodden gloves. It was your job to be cold, to fall outside the house and our concern. We’d been outdoors, we’d been playing; now, still in our snowsuits, we touched our father’s cotton sleeve. Unsure. His body on the kitchen floor. It was winter and the afternoon and we were children. Caught in being human and abandoned. In the snow-filled yard, a clash of men and angels. A flurry. Snow, forgive us. We drew you in, transformed.

Si El Perdón Es Posible



Anne-Marie Turza (*Traducción de Nadia Escalante Andrade*)

Nieve, perdona nuestras botas, su rastro en la duela del hogar; perdona nuestros guantes que gotean. Era tu deber ser fría, caer afuera de la casa y de nuestro afán. Estuvimos al aire libre, hemos jugado; ahora, aun vestidos de frío, tocamos la tibia manga de algodón de nuestro padre. Tímidos. Su cuerpo tendido en la cocina. Era el invierno y la tarde y éramos niños. El ser humanos y la orfandad nos sorprendieron. En el patio cuajado de nieve, un estrépito do ángeles y hombres. Ráfaga de hielos. Nieve, danos tu perdón. Te hicimos cruzar el umbral, transformada.



Send forthcoming book notices to torch@uvic.ca

Air Quality in Airplane Cabins and Similar Enclosed Spaces

Martin Hocking,
Chemistry Prof. Emeritus
Diana Hocking, MA '91, eds.

Twenty-three experts contribute views covering aspects of interest to aircraft operators and passengers that could assist in flight decisions to improve their health, comfort, and safety. Comparisons are also made with air quality concerns of cruise ships, rail, bus, and automobile travel, submarines, and spacecraft.

Springer-Verlag, 2005 • 254 pages • US\$179.00

Blood Sports

Eden Robinson, BFA '92

Robinson’s second novel—vividly violent, shocking and set in East Van—evolves from her earlier work in the novella *Contact Sports*. The *Globe and Mail* calls Robinson “one of the half-dozen highly

disciplined, fiercely determined younger novelists in this country who are radically revising the face of our fiction by abandoning Northrop Frye’s puzzled question, ‘Where is here?’ in favour of...a genuinely amazed ‘What is here.’”

McClelland & Stewart, 2006 • 288 pages • \$32.99

Goals and Dreams

Shel Brødsgaard, BA '98

In their celebration of women’s soccer, Canada’s national goalkeeping coach and sports writer Bob Mackin follow the development of the Under-19 Women’s National Team against international competition at World Championships in Edmonton and Thailand. Featured interviews including Burnaby’s Christine Sinclair, two-time winner of the NCAA collegiate player of the year award during her career at the University of Portland.

Nightwood Editions, 2005 • 120 pages • \$14.95

The Line Which Separates

Sheila McManus, MA '94

Drawing on sources ranging from government maps and reports to oral testimony and personal papers, McManus explores the uneven way the border between Alberta and Montana was superimposed in Blackfoot country in order to divide a previously cohesive region in the late 19th century.

University of Alberta Press, 2005 • 300 pages • \$34.95

Puppies on Board

Sarah Harvey, BA '87

Rose Cowles

For kids, ages 4-8, comes the story of a girl, her floating home, and how to deal with the arrival of 11 “wriggling, noisy, hungry puppies.” It leaves them wondering: “How many puppies does it take to capsize a boat?”

Orca Book Publishers, 2005 • 32 pages • \$19.95

Throwback, 1965



(PHOTO: J.J. PHILLION/UVIC ARCHIVES 04.5.1003)

The richly traditional Japanese art of Judo (“the gentle way”) is not enjoying quite the same popularity as other martial arts these days: the campus judo club is in a dormant period. But around 1965 there was no lack of interest, demonstrated here in an image from the old gym.

For technical analysis, we called upon Prof. Kees van Kooten, who—apart from his expertise in economics, natural resources and climate change—is also a fourth dan

(black belt), having started in judo about the same time this picture was taken.

He explains that the throw seen here “is a variation of a standard hip throw (O goshi) with the twist that, rather than having the hand placed on the lower back, the thrower (tori) has gripped his opponent (uki) under the armpit. Other than that, standard hip throw.”

If you happen to know (or be) anyone in the photo, how about letting us know? Send a note to torch@uvic.ca.

KEEPING IN TOUCH torch@uvic.ca

1965

ROGER BARNESLEY, BA, is the president of Thompson Rivers University and was recently awarded an honorary degree from St. John’s University in Bangkok for his leadership in education. He earned his PhD from McGill after finishing his psychology degree at UVic and he led TRU’s transition to full university status last year.

1968

PETER ARMSTRONG, BA, seeks help in tracking down a friend: “Up until a year or more ago, Ivor Alexander and I were in touch with **SANDY GRAHAM**, BA ’66, by e-mail. He then retired from his last consular post in Hong Kong and was to get back to me with his new address. I am indeed worried about what may have happened.” Anyone knowing Sandy’s whereabouts can reach Peter at parmstrong@uol.com.br.

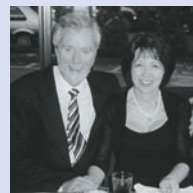
1969

RIK HALL, BSc, retired as the manager of instructional technology from the University of New

Brunswick in July of 2005. After spending the summer sailing with wife Linda, he is now doing eLearning support and teaching for St. Thomas University in Fredericton during the fall and winter and sailing during the summer. Rik and Linda have two married children and three grandchildren.

1970

ROBIN PATERSON (Rasmussen), BA, and her partner Victor operate Bluewater Bait Corporation of Victoria. They went to China last September and October to seek out business investment opportunities and experience the country.



VICTOR FAIRHOLM & ROBIN PATERSON, '71

Arts and Culture. His work is found in the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization and many other important public and private collections. • **NEIL RAWNSLEY**, BSc, is a managing broker with Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty in Victoria. • **PHIL WATT**, BEd, retired after 34 years with the Victoria School District and now works as the coordinator of school experiences (secondary education) in the Faculty of Education.

1977

RICK WALKER, BSc, is the president and CEO of WorldSkills Calgary 2009. He directs the planning of the 40th international competition of the WorldSkills organization to be held in Calgary in September 2009. The Olympic-style competition will host 1,000 international competitors from 42 countries, competing for medals in all aspects of technical and polytechnic skills. Cuisine, IT/PC support, Web design, cabinet-making and aircraft maintenance are among the



ROGER BARNESLEY, '65

1971

ROBERT DAVIDSON, BA, Hon. DFA '92, known worldwide for his Haida carvings of totems and masks, received a 2005 Vancouver Arts Award from the City of Vancouver and the Alliance for

Rooted in Our Past

BY LARRY CROSS, BEd '64

PRESIDENT, UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WHEN I WAS A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS IN 1964 we tried to think of an appropriate gift to our university. It seemed a gift of trees, to help landscape the new campus, would be a very good idea: they would last a long time and they were inexpensive. So, during our convocation we planted six London Plane trees along one of the roads on campus. We then all went our separate ways and probably none of us gave the trees much more thought.

At least not until a few years ago, when the class of '64 had a reunion. It was a nostalgic time for us all, and in this spirit we decided that we would go see how our trees were doing. So we trundled along to the location we remembered. We could find no trees. It seemed to us all that the trees had been removed to make way for construction. No record, no acknowledgment. It was the one sour note in what was a wonderful weekend.

When I became president of the UVic Alumni Association, I decided that the university had to right this wrong. The trees had to be replaced with appropriate recognition to the class of '64, and possibly the dedication of a campus tree for each of Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. I went to various university officials and they responded as I knew they would—the university would fix the wrong and provide an appropriate ceremony to recognize the original gift.

But a subsequent meeting with university representatives began rather badly for me. The director of facilities reported that the grad class' recollection of the location for the trees was somewhat faulty—no doubt the product of the passage of time

and a radical change in the appearance of the campus since 1964! The trees still stood, in the meridian of Finnerty Road, between the Student Union Building and the UVic Bookstore.

So our grad class had been needlessly upset. I tried to gain some ground by pointing out that no one could safely get near them, and in any event there was no acknowledgment of the grad class gift.

But this story has a very happy ending. Something even better has emerged from our discussions with the university.

I AM DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT THE "UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA ALUMNI Garry Oak Meadow" will be officially dedicated to the many thousands of graduates of our university. We will also use the site to formally and permanently recognize our distinguished alumni. You may be familiar with the site of the meadow. It's near the south entrance to campus, next to Finnerty Gardens, and facing Cedar Hill X Road. For some time now, university staff and students have been doing a wonderful job nurturing the meadow and bringing it back to its natural state.

The alumni association's directors are ecstatic about this outcome. We want to extend our thanks to everyone involved in turning my grad class' faulty memory into a wonderful tribute to all UVic alumni.



40 individual competitions. Married with four children, Richard lives in south Calgary.

1978

DEV DLEY, LLB, was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2005. He has been in private practice in Kamloops since 2000 after previously working in various capacities including general counsel with the Western Hockey League and vice-president for the Canadian Hockey League.

• **GREGORY RIDEOUT**, LLB, has been appointed judge of the BC Provincial Court. He had 25 years of private practice in the areas of criminal and family law, and civil litigation.

1981

BRIAN PARROTT, MPA, has been named to the board of directors of the Canada-America Society of Seattle. He is currently consul and senior trade commissioner for the Consulate General of Canada in Seattle.

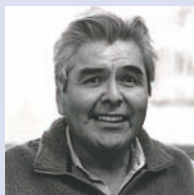
1982

JOHN JAMES O'BRIEN, BA, writes from Hong Kong: "I have just wrapped up my term as direc-

tor, government records service, for the Hong Kong SAR government. The new focus is R&D to launch irmstrategies.com, my independent consultancy offering human and information resource management with online education services. Exciting times to be in Asia! Great to have visits from BC friends including classmate **ROD NOBLE**. Looking forward to more travels in the region now that time is on my terms! Drop a line if in Hong Kong."

1983

MARGARET POWERS, BA, writes from her home in Whitby, Ontario: "I graduated from the Faculty of Human and Social Development and I have many fond and very happy memories of my life on the Coast, as we easterners refer to Victoria. I would be more than remiss in not recognizing the many opportunities, professionally and personally, that I would never have experienced had I not graduated from the University of Victoria—most notably the invaluable wisdom, dedication and support of my professors from the faculty—that has enabled me to provide a private



ROBERT DAVIDSON, '71

foster care program in the Greater Toronto area since 1987."

1984

DEAN N. HENDERSON, BSW, is the pastoral care coordinator at Mount St. Mary Hospital and pastoral assistant at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria. He sends this update: "Since leaving UVic in 1984 I have pursued an adventurous life of ministry and domestic life. Linda and I married in 1986 and have been blessed with five children, all of whom are in the Catholic school system this year. Immediately following UVic I went on to graduate studies and was ordained an Anglican priest at Christ Church Cathedral in 1990 and served parishes in Parksville and Nanoose Bay. In 1999 I was received into the Roman Catholic Church and spent three years in the Comox Valley ministering within both the parish and local hospital, moving most recently (and we pray for the last time in a long time) to Victoria in 2002. It's good to be back and resume connections with many old friends and acquaintances."

Toronto Alumni: St. Patrick's Shindig

UVIC ALUMNI IN TORONTO TURNED OUT TO SHARE IN SOME ST. PATRICK'S Day cheer and to do some catching up at the Original Motorcycle Cafe downtown Toronto in March. The event was co-hosted by Kara Flanagan (President, UVic Alumni Toronto Branch) and Tim McGuire (President, UVic Business Alumni Toronto). This was the first time that the two groups held an event together.

"Based on the limited number of Business alumni in Toronto, it just makes sense to hold some joint events. It also allows for business grads to have expanded networking opportunities," McGuire says. The UVic Alumni Branch had been dormant for three years in Toronto, when Flanagan contacted the alumni office about getting the group going again. "I think the alumni association is a great way for all UVic grads to stay connected with each other and with a great university," says Flanagan.

Attendees varied from recent graduates, to another who attended UVic's predecessor, Victoria College. Also, there were a variety of degree holders representing a great mix of faculties. The group of 35 attendees really bonded. The atmosphere was fun, interesting and relaxing, just like a typical West Coast party. In true St. Patty's style, green beer was served with an assortment of West Coast and contemporary appies including smoke salmon pizza. In addition to the mingling, drinking, eating and pool playing, three lucky alumni celebrated with some fantastic one-of-a-kind door prizes donated by the alumni association.

Based on the success of this event, another event is planned for the National Yacht Club in August. Stay tuned...



Anu Singla, BSc '00, and Nancy Frank, BMus '02 (top).



Kara Flanagan, MA '04, and Tim McGuire, BCom '98 (right).

Sunny Sodhi, LLB '02, and Munira Jessa (below).



1985

ARLENE HERMIONE HENRY, LLB, was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2005. She practices in the areas of corporate/commercial, real estate and wills and estates, with an emphasis on providing legal services to First Nations. She runs her practice in Vancouver. • **BRENT ENGLAND**, BSc, and **GILLIAN ENGLAND** (Mitton), BA '84, report: "(Brent) has now been a chartered accountant for almost 10 years and is a partner at Hutcheson & Co. Chartered Accountants. We have three young children (ages nine, six and four). Brent enjoys travelling and scuba diving and tries to go on at least one trip per year to a tropical destination before dreaded Tax Season arrives. Now that our children are more involved in extracurricular activities we are trying to get used to our new role as a chauffeur service. We think back often to our years at UVic and how much we enjoyed them, though it is certainly hard to believe that this thriving, growing,



DAVID WONG & FANCY CHING, '86

bustling place was once the sleepy little campus we remember!"

1986

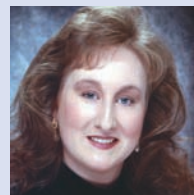
FANCY CHING, BA, and **DAVID WONG**, BSc, have now been happily married for 17 years and are living and working in Victoria. Fancy is a certified financial planner who was involved in the UVic Alumni Association, having served on the board of directors for a term. David owns and operates the oldest pub in BC (est. 1855), the Six Mile Pub.

1989

BOB DIXON, BSW, just started a new social worker position in child, youth and family services in Baie Verte, Newfoundland and Labrador. •

MICHAEL GEOGHEGAN, BA, writes: "After a three-year stint on CFAX Radio and a six-month stint as CEO of the BC Construction Association back in 2003, I've returned to my first love: gov-

ernment and media relations consulting." • **CATHERINE KEAN** (Lord), BA, updates us: "Drawing from my double major in English and history and my antiques and fine art training from Sotheby's auctioneers in London, I have begun an exciting new career: historical romance writer. My debut medieval historical romance *Dance of Desire* was published by Medallion Press in March 2005. My book's also unique in that it is published with two different covers, thanks to a cover-voting contest my publisher ran earlier in the year which ended in a tie, thus Medallion printed both designs."



CATHERINE KEAN, '89

1991

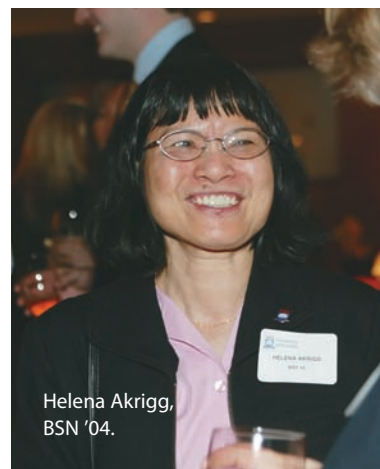
RASMA BERTZ, BMus, sends news from the UK: "I live in the northeast of Scotland and have established a successful complementary health clinic as a sekhem and biofeedback therapist. I also teach voice lessons and am hoping to start an ad hoc 16-voice choir for fun."

A Night at "The Garage"

VANCOUVER-AREA alumni had a great time at GM Place in March. Over a reception and dinner in the Captains Club they made new contacts, renewed old ones and were treated to an engaging talk by Chris Hebb. He graduated from the Linguistics Department in 1980, went on to a career in sports broadcasting and is now the vice-president in charge of broadcast and new media for the Vancouver Canucks and Orca Bay Sports and Entertainment. Watch for future events with the alumni association and send your e-mail address to alumni@uvic.ca to make sure you hear about what's happening where you are.



Featured speaker Chris Hebb, BA '80, talked about the ways his degree in linguistics helped him reach his job in the Orca Bay front office.



Helena Akrigg, BSN '04.



Mike O'Brien, BSc '05, and Tim Moshanski, BA '88.



Leslie Saxon, Chair of the Department of Linguistics.

PHOTOS BY KIM STALLERHECHT

1992

BRUCE DOIG, BEd, and **DAWN DOIG** (Young), BSc '88, have news: "Since our last update, we have returned from England to Yellowknife. However, due to a phone call from out of the blue, we are now in the process of making yet another move— this time to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It will be a welcome change from the seven months of winter here in YK! Dawn has been hired as senior audiologist at the King Fahad Medical City in Riyadh, where she will oversee the department startup. Our children, who experienced Kuwait with us, are excited about moving again. We would love to hear from our university friends. Feel free to drop an e-mail: shadocg@yahoo.com."

1993

DAVID A. MACFADDEN, BEd, writes: "I married **CATHERINE WILLING**, BA '92, and moved back to Port Alberni after my BEd grad in 1993. Worked as a teacher on call, then in career counselling field beginning 1997. Currently working with a non-profit career centre providing job-search support services, with emphasis on gathering, analyzing

and presenting information on labour market trends. Catherine works part-time for the local community care services office as a scheduler of home support workers. Our son, Justin, was born in June 2001."

1994

DAVID GARRISON, BEng, and **SHANNON HUNT**, MA '93, publishers of *YES Mag, Canada's Science Magazine for Kids*, marked 10 years in the magazine business with the addition of a new publication: *KNOW*. The new magazine is targeted at younger readers between the ages of six and nine. **ADRIENNE MASON**, BSc '88, is the editor of *KNOW*. • **PHILIP EVANS**, BA, is a pilot and sends an update: "After finishing university I completed a two-year aviation diploma at Selkirk College in Castlegar. I have been a pilot ever since, working and living all over northern and western Canada. I have just taken a position with WestJet Airlines and have moved my family to Calgary."



JOHN LEE, '96

1996

CONSTANTINE (Dino) **ASPROLOUPOS**, BA, writes from Australia: "I am currently managing a three-year pilot project to increase literacy and numeracy outcomes for Indigenous Australians in remote and regional communities." • **CLAUDE A. GIROUX**, BFA, has been appointed artistic director of Theatre New Brunswick. He takes the helm of the regional company nine years in the US where he completed his MFA at the University of Maine and worked extensively all over the country. Most recently he had been at the helm of Playhouse Merced in California. Claude is extremely happy to finally be back on Canadian soil and looks forward to reconnecting with his Canadian colleagues and UVic alumni. • **BARNEY HICKEY**, BSN, gives an update from Vancouver: "Since finishing my BSN at UVic, I went on to complete my MScN at UBC, where I completed a major essay on "HIV/AIDS-Psychosocial Issues: Implications for Nursing Leadership and Nursing Practice in Canada." I also switched focus from working many years in

Alumni Travel Picks

Nature of Alaska by Tall Ship

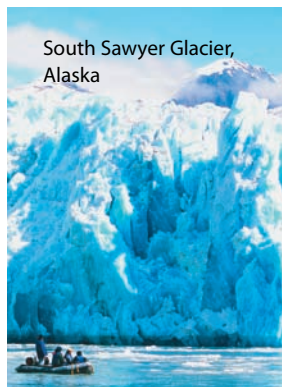
LIKE TO SEE ALASKA'S NATURAL GRANDEUR WITH JUST a few (rather than few thousand) others? Cruise on the classic West Coast tall ship, Maple Leaf. These small-ship trips, offered by Maple Leaf Adventures, focus on Alaska's natural and cultural history. Instead of casinos and stage-shows, entertainment is offered by the dolphins that play in the ship's wake. Camaraderie is the laughter and discussion of the day's adventures over fresh prawns and tiramisu.

Maple Leaf trips take a small groups, with expert naturalists and chefs. Stops include Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka, as well as visits to estuaries with wild beaches, forests and plenty of wildlife watching.

Getting there: May 30-June 10 or June 12-23; \$4,500 includes accommodation, meals and shore excursions. Call 1-888-599-5323 or visit www.mapleleafadventures.com.

Mystical Allure of Japan

A 20-day tour of Japan with Adventures Abroad is an excellent introduction to the classic sites of this fascinating land, with some relatively unknown, special places that help reveal the true nature of its sophisticated culture. The tour begins in fascinating Tokyo then continues to the ancient capital of Kyoto. Visit Hiroshima before leaving the island of Honshu for the southern island of Kyushu, truly a world apart from the rest of Japan.



Though Japan has a reputation as an expensive place to visit, an extensive use of the famously efficient rail system keep costs in check, and adds an element which for many becomes a highlight of the experience.

Getting there: Oct. 2-21: \$5,571 (land only). Call 1-800-665-3998 or visit www.adventures-abroad.com/uvic.php.

The Way of Saint James

There has been overwhelmingly positive feedback for Adventures Aboard and their walking tours of the well-worn paths and lanes of El

Camino de Santiago, a thousand-year-old route of pilgrimage through the peaceful hills of Northern Spain. The 16-day tour covers about 124 km of el camino by foot and road with accommodation in quaint country inns and paradores.

Other highlights include the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao as well as Pamplona and San Sebastian. This is a nicely-paced ramble with mostly two-night stays, vehicle support, and well-spaced non-walking days to soak it all in.

Getting there: Oct. 3-18; \$3,472 (land only). Call 1-800-665-3998 or visit www.adventures-abroad.com/uvic.php.

Visit www.alumni.uvic.ca/travel for the complete 2006/2007 Destinations Guide. The UVic Alumni and Friends Travel program generates financial support for students and alumni programs.

psychiatric and mental health nursing to occupational health nursing." • **JOHN LEE**, MA, the freelance travel writer (and regular *Torch* contributor) has won the Tourism Media Award from Tourism BC. His coverage of the province has been extensive and his stories have been picked up by nearly every major newspaper in the English-speaking world. • **LAISHA ROSNAU**, BA, received the 2005 Acorn-Plantos Award for People's Poetry for her debut collection, *Notes on Leaving* (Nightwood Editions). "When someone who doesn't usually read poetry—a great aunt, a friend who's a scientist—reads my work and lets me know they enjoyed it and can relate to it, it is always a great compliment," she said.

1997

DOUG BLACKIE, MPA, and **DORI BLACKIE**, BA '94, send news: "Doug has recently been appointed director, primary care services for the Interior Health Authority in the North Okanagan with responsibility for primary health care, chronic disease management and wellness

programs. Dori is the new coordinator of the adult literacy program at the Vernon campus of Okanagan College. Doug and Dori relocated back home to the North Okanagan in the spring of 2005 after seven (cold) years in Alberta." • **MATTHEW SCOTT**, BCom, attended law school at UBC and, in 2001, moved to Toronto to join the law firm of Groia & Company. He focused on securities litigation and worked on some

of Canada's leading securities cases over the last few years including the corporate governance disputes at Hollinger Inc. Late last year, Matthew joined a start-up securities litigation boutique in Toronto, Crawley Meredith LLP. Matthew is married to Meghan Whittaker-Van

Dusen and they have two children.

1998

PHIL FROST, BA, writes from Florida: "Last December I earned my master of science degree

in social science from Florida State University. I recently returned to teaching and accepted a position with Chipley High School. In addition to my teaching duties I am coaching football and soccer at Chipley High. I'm also working as a sports correspondent for the Washington County News writing about prep football games. This semester I changed my major at Florida State University from criminology to education and hope to start working on an education specialist degree in the spring (time permitting)." • **ERIN WAGG**, BCom, is going into law enforcement: "I was hired by the Municipality of Saanich in December 2005 and am currently in the police academy at the Justice Institute of BC in New Westminster. I'll graduate in July 2006 as police constable after eight months of schooling and on-the-job-training."

1999

SAMANTHA REYNOLDS, BA, is president of Echo Memoirs, a Vancouver-based company specializ-



LAISHA ROSNAU, '96



ERIN WAGG, '98

Science in Business

New scholarships reflect exec's roots in physics.

AN ALUMNUS WHOSE PHYSICS DEGREE WAS A SPRINGBOARD TO PROMINENCE in the international oil and gas industry is now lending his support to new generations of science students at the University of Victoria.

Richard Flury, BSc '70, former chief executive of oil industry giant BP (British Petroleum) has established a \$100,000-fund to provide scholarships for university transfer students entering their third year of science studies.

"Richard's gift is a wonderful vote of confidence in UVic and in the kind of educational experience we're delivering," says Dean of Science Tom Pedersen. "We're deeply grateful."

Creating scholarships is a fitting reflection of Flury's own experience as an undergrad when he worked part-time, earned scholarships and relied on student loans on the way to his honours degree. He and his wife Liz also had their first two of three children during that time. Friends say his commitment to hard work and family, firmly founded in education, are his personal trademarks.

His career began in the oil fields of Alberta, as a geophysicist for Amoco. He rose through the ranks, eventually being transferred to the US. In 1996 he was appointed executive vice-president responsible for worldwide exploration and production and more than 15,000 employees in 100 countries. When Amoco merged with BP in 1998 (the largest industrial merger to that point), he moved to London, just one of two Amoco executives retained by BP.

Recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement, Flury's rise to the top of international business circles is something few other Canadians have matched. As head of the largest business segment at BP, Flury had responsibility for worldwide gas marketing, trading and renewable businesses.

On the surface, a background in physics may not seem like the most obvious starting point for an ascent to a seat in the boardrooms of massive corporations. But look again. "The value in a physics degree is that it teaches you to solve complex problems," Flury says. "It teaches you to look at the variables, bring them together and look for alternate solutions. Business problems aren't really all that different."

He retired from BP in 2001 and has returned to his hometown of Victoria. He says that coming home has given him a fresh perspective on his UVic education and a career that took him throughout the world—from Brazil to Egypt, from China to Chile. "I've had the international experience, I've lived all over North America, and it's helped me appreciate what I had here. I can't think of any place better."



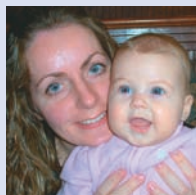
Richard Flury,
BSc '70

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

ing in writing, designing and printing the life stories of individuals and companies. Her clients have included Jim Pattison, Tony Parsons and Todd Bertuzzi. *Business in Vancouver* magazine named her one of its Top Forty under 40 for 2005.

2000

KELTIE WATSON (Conover), BCom, reports: "I am excited to announce the birth of our beautiful baby girl, Keira Fae, in July 2005. She was born happy and healthy and I am enjoying my maternity leave. Since graduating, I went on to earn a Diploma in Computer Systems Technology at Camosun and now work as a software developer at IBM (formerly PureEdge Solutions)."



**KELTIE WATSON, '00
& KEIRA FAE**

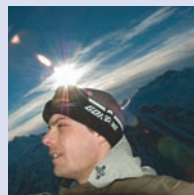
2001

GORAN JOVANOVIC, BSc, writes from Massachusetts: "I've been working at UMass Medical School for almost a year. I'm involved in a national evaluation of the implementation of the 6-Core Strategies to reduce the use of restraint and seclusion in psychiatric hos-

pitals. I wanted to say that I owe all of my success and knowledge to the great work done by the faculty and staff in the Psychology Department at UVic. I have been proud to make people here in the USA know that I am a UVic graduate!"

2002

SONYA CHANDLER, BSN, was elected to Victoria city council in November 2005, as a member of the Green Party. • **KRISTY DELLEBUUR O'CONNOR**, MA, and **PAUL O'CONNOR**, PhD '05, are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Declan Joseph Dellebuur O'Connor, on March 4, 2005. Declan weighed 9 pounds 9 ounces at birth, and he is a busy, giggly bundle of energy. Fellow grads of CYC or Chemistry interested in contacting Paul or Kristy can e-mail kristy.dellebuur@alumni.uvic.ca. • **MORAG WEHRLE**, BA, writes: "Having obtained my MA



DAVE WEBB, '03

from University College London in museum conservation, I was recently named the new heritage collections officer for the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in Steveston. This makes me a collections manager, curator, conservator, registrar, archivist, librarian, exhibit developer all rolled into one. I have this job because of the exceptional education I received at UVic, and I'm pretty much a poster child for the (former) Arts and Writing Co-op program, which gave me museum experience in locations as diverse as White Rock, Prince Rupert, and a small town in Greece. Now I work in a very cool industrial site full of machines, and a diverse collection of some 12,000 artefacts."

2003

DAVE WEBB, BFA, tells us what's new: "Since 2004, I have been the editor of two national outdoors magazines at OP Publishing: *Western Sportsman*, and *Adventurous*. *Western Sportsman* is in its 38th year of publication, and *Adventurous* is a start-up publication in its first

Alumni Calendar

- May 7 UVic Plant Sale, McKinnon Gym (10 am – 1 pm)
- May 30 Alumni Association Annual General Meeting, University Club (7 pm)
- June 6–9 Spring Convocation
- June 15 Faculty of Education Alumni Chapter event with Raffi, MacLaurin Building (7 pm)
- July 22 Victoria All Canadian Alumni Picnic, Beaver Lake picnic shelter (Noon – 3pm)
- Aug. 9 University of Victoria Golf Classic, Uplands Golf Course
- Sept. 25 Faculty of Business Alumni Chapter event, Toronto
- Sept. 30 Student Ambassador Association 10-year celebration
- Oct. 11 Roy Romanow, President's Distinguished Lecture/Saanich—Oak Bay Centennial Lecture, University Centre Farquhar Auditorium (8 pm)
- Oct. 20–21 School of Social Work 30th anniversary
- Oct. 27–29 Rowing Alumni Weekend

For event details and registration, visit
www.alumni.uvic.ca/events



**University
of Victoria**



Branching out in Nanaimo

THERE'S A MOVE AFOOT TO ORGANIZE ALUMNI IN THE NANAIMO AREA INTO a formal branch of the UVic Alumni Association. If you live in or near the Harbour City and you're interested in being part of a vibrant, active network of fellow UVic grads, there are a couple of things you can do. First, contact alumni programs manager Linda Nicoll at lnicoll@uvic.ca. You can also tell us about your interests by completing a short survey. It's online at alumni.uvic.ca/surveys. An alumni sweatshirt will be awarded to one survey participant. You can reach the UVic Alumni Services office at 1-800-808-6828. Thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you.

year. I also write a freelance column in *TV Week* magazine, called 'Driver's Seat,' where I test and review new cars."

2004

DAVE MOSSOP, BA, is an award-winning photographer and filmmaker whose latest project is an avalanche education DVD for backcountry skiers. It's a project close to his heart—as a teenager, four of his friends lost their lives in an avalanche while skiing in the Rockies. • **LARA SCHULTZ**, MA, recent graduate of the counselling program in the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, won the Outstanding Masters Thesis Award from the Canadian Counselling Association. The award was presented at the group's national conference in March. • **STEVE SLAVIK**, MA, writes: "After having spent two years in Vancouver, I am returning to Victoria to set up a practice of counselling individuals facing the challenges of retirement."

2005

ANDREW ANTONOPOULOS, BA, checks-in from Down Under: "After completing my undergradu-

ate degree I began studying law in Australia. I have received a partial scholarship from the law school and will be finished a fast-tracked degree in two years. We'll see where my political and legal education takes me. I wish all UVic graduates the best!"

IN MEMORIAM

LAWRIE WALLACE, VC '30, PNS '31, respected civil servant and community leader, passed away Jan. 12, 2006 at the age of 92. He served as deputy minister to former premiers W.A.C. Bennett and Dave Barrett. Lawrie received the alumni association's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003.

PERCY WILKINSON, PNS '26, passed away Jan. 1, 2006 at the age of 102. A proud alumnus, Percy was known as a "teacher among teachers" and remained actively involved with PNS and UVic Alumni groups. He was granted an honorary doctorate from the university in 2004.

D. ALLAN NICOLSON, VC '46, passed away in Vancouver on June 13, 2005. A former member of the college basketball team, he entered a contest to name the school's sports teams and won with his suggestion: "Vikings." He was a supporter of the university for years.

KEITH TRUEMAN, BSc '80, succumbed on August 15, 2005, at age 57, to leukemia. He leaves two sons, Andrew and Christopher, their mother Diana Lokken, his sister, brother and mother. Some of Keith's most rewarding times were spent learning at UVic.



LAWRIE WALLACE, '30

PATRICIA VAN TIGHEM, BSN '90, died Dec. 14, 2005. Nearly mauled to death by a grizzly bear in 1983, Patricia wrote a widely acclaimed, best-selling account of the attack, *The Bear's Embrace*. In subsequent years she suffered post-traumatic stress, 30+ surgeries, and chronic pain. †



Exercising Generosity

THE MCKINNON BUILDING'S LATEST EXERCISE EQUIPMENT IS A STATE OF the art multi-station resistance training centre donated by the Student Ambassador Association. The \$6,600 Life Fitness station was purchased from funds raised by the SAA during its diploma frame and flower sales at convocation ceremonies. "We were looking for (a service project) with wide benefits. We thought this would be perfect," says SAA President Jeremy Wallace. The student group is affiliated with the alumni association. In the photo: Strength and fitness programmer Tyler Goodale (centre) with SAA members (clockwise) Jeremy Wallace, Jennifer Wingert and Erica Grainger.

What's Up?

New job? New town? New chapter in your life? You send it, we print it and your UVic contacts keep in the loop. **It's so easy.**

Do it by e-mail: send your update to torch@uvic.ca. Include your name, degree and grad year. If you've moved, send us your new address.

Say it with pictures: e-mail high resolution photo files (300 dpi, at least 5cm wide) along with your text update.

We also welcome news about fresh babies, new marriages — even election to public office. All updates may be edited for style, clarity and length.

POST: UVic Torch Alumni Magazine,
PO Box 3060, STN CSC,
Victoria, BC V8W 3R4

WEB: uvic.ca/torch

E-MAIL: torch@uvic.ca

FAX: (250) 472-5955



UVic Alumni Association 2006 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 30, 2006 • 7 pm
University Club



Agenda

- Financial statements
- Committee Reports
- Volunteer Appreciation Award
- Honorary Alumni Presentation
- Reception

Please visit the UVic Alumni Web site (www.alumni.uvic.ca) for important information about a proposed bylaw amendment. You will also find nomination criteria for the board of directors. Nominations must be received at least seven days before the annual general meeting.

RSVP to UVic Alumni Services by **May 24**
721-6000 or 1-800-808-6828
or register on-line at alumni.uvic.ca/events



Learning to Help

Discovering the difference between the theory and practice of HIV/AIDS prevention in South Africa.

BY ALEXANDRA SEARS, BA '04



IMAGES OF THE SMALL SOUTH AFRICAN VILLAGE OF LUJIZWENI ARE AS clear in my mind as the day I arrived: chickens darting through mud huts, robust women working corn crops with crying babies on their backs, skinny children playing in the dusty earth, the smell of burning garbage, and the bluest sky imaginable. I had gone there as a volunteer for Student Partnership Worldwide to teach HIV prevention and health promotion to young people.

At the University of Victoria, where I majored in sociology and anthropology, I found my courses incredibly interesting but I was frustrated by the detached perspective of academic work. The question of what we could actually do to make the world better never seemed to come up. So after graduation, I set out determined to “save the world.” I wanted to see what impact one idealistic person could have. I wanted to help where I was most needed, which I eventually decided was Africa.

Last January, after four weeks of training, I was paired with Sibongile, a local Xhosa-speaking volunteer. We held youth-friendly HIV workshops in the village and at the nearest clinic (90 minutes away by foot). We established a health promotion resource centre. In other words, we did what we had been trained to do.

The people in the village generally knew about HIV and AIDS but they were preoccupied with their daily lives. Even though one of every four people in the village had contracted HIV, the disease was rarely talked about. I had to find out why.

Sibongile and I went from hut-to-hut asking about barriers to a better quality of life. I thought that if I could understand their immediate needs I could understand the factors behind the HIV prevalence. From my university background, I expected answers like “gender inequality,” “teen pregnancy,” or “alcoholism”—which would’ve meant more workshops in those areas. But the actual responses were: “no access to clean water,” “no way to make money,” and “no local clinic.” I was stunned. I hadn’t been trained to do workshops in those areas. Their needs were so basic.

I began to see the village in the context of decades of Apartheid oppression. The Xhosa people were uprooted from all over the country, placed into a homeland, and given self-government (which really meant widespread neglect of large groups of black people). After 1994, there was reluctance to criticize the same government that had freed them from Apartheid, but conditions hadn’t improved. When we held a workshop on “goal-setting” not one young person understood what we meant. Or when I tried to explain “self-awareness” I discovered it doesn’t translate into the Xhosa language. That’s when I realized that if young people see little or no opportunity in life, why would they care if they contracted HIV?

From that point my work became much more effective. I decided to involve the community in developing themselves. I asked my Grade Nine girls (nearly half of whom became pregnant during the time I was there) to form a soccer team. Thirteen of them joined and proceeded to win championships, building great team pride.

I helped a group of women generate income by selling chickens. Seeing their success, another group asked me to help them start a sewing centre. Both groups are profitable, but more importantly they have gained self-esteem. And with the community’s involvement, Sibongile and I petitioned the municipality for clean water and toilets.

After nine months, I discovered that an idealistic person really can achieve something. And so did the people of Lujizweni. Before I left, the whole village held a going-away party, thanking Sibongile and me for “helping them to make things happen.” By listening to what they needed, and helping them reach their goals, I was able to help them empower themselves. And empowered, informed people are more likely to choose safe sex and reduce HIV prevalence in Lujizweni, and elsewhere in Africa.

As for saving the world, I figure I’ve made a good first step—and I plan to try as hard as I can to make another. †

