

Effects of endowment losses minimized

University of Victoria students and faculty are pleased that the effects of endowment losses have been minimized. The university's endowment fund, which provides a significant portion of the university's operating budget, has experienced a decline in value due to market volatility. However, the university's financial management team has implemented strategies to minimize the impact of these losses, ensuring that the university's operations remain stable and its commitment to providing high-quality education is maintained.

RESEARCH ON AGING

Really getting to know Canadian seniors

A new study from the University of Victoria's Centre for Research on Aging (CRA) reveals that many Canadian seniors are not getting the support they need. The study, which surveyed over 200 seniors, found that a significant number of respondents reported feeling isolated and lonely. Additionally, many seniors expressed concerns about their financial stability, with some reporting that they were struggling to make ends meet. The CRA is currently working on developing programs and services to address these issues and provide better support for Canadian seniors.

TEACHING TECHNOLOGY

Clickers in the classroom

The University of Victoria is embracing technology in the classroom to enhance the learning experience. Clickers, small handheld devices that allow students to interact with their instructors, are being used in a variety of courses. This technology enables students to participate in class discussions, take quizzes, and receive instant feedback on their work. The use of clickers has been shown to increase student engagement and improve learning outcomes. The university is continuing to explore new ways to integrate technology into its teaching and learning processes.

CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH

The next wave in energy production?

Researchers at the University of Victoria are exploring innovative ways to produce clean energy. A new study focuses on the potential of wave energy, a renewable source of power that is abundant in coastal areas. The researchers are developing advanced wave energy converters that can efficiently capture the energy of ocean waves and convert it into electricity. This technology has the potential to revolutionize the energy industry and provide a sustainable source of power for coastal communities. The university is committed to advancing clean energy research and promoting sustainable development.

For more information, visit <http://communications.uvic.ca/releases/>



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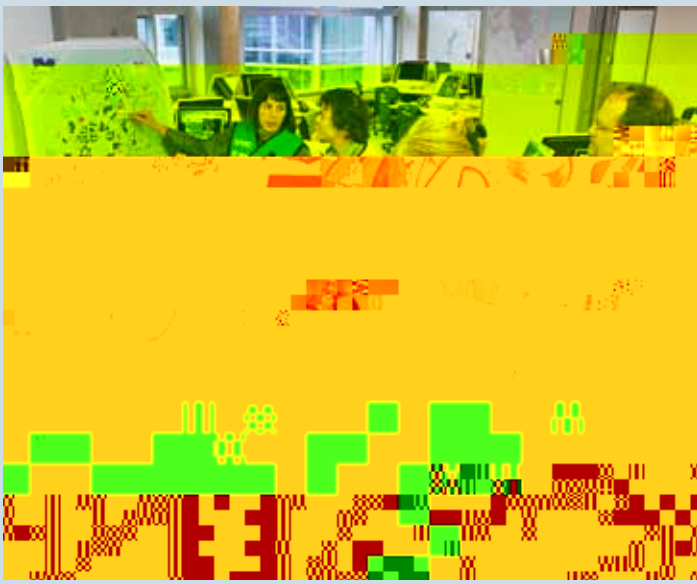
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Experience the difference!





SSO a es

Trying out UVic's new Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) are (L-R) Michele McDonald (budget and capital planning), Wendie McHenry (library), Rick Sykes (geography), UVic Manager of Emergency Planning Daphne Donaldson (occupational health, safety and environment) and John Verreault (network services). The EOC is used to help support emergency

response at the scene during a major campus emergency. Sixty UVic staff and faculty members on the EOC team participate in training and exercises throughout the year. Members of UVic's EOC gathered on May 12 to host an orientation and open house in the new space in the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building—within the geography department's geomatics lab.

BY DIANNE GEORGE

UVic is renowned for its focus on experiential learning, and the Faculty of Business, with its philosophy of integration, has developed new ways to transfer workplace learning back into the classroom, to complete the learning circle.

In addition to making co-operative education a required element of the BCom and MBA programs, business also established Canada's first experiential learning officer position in 2006. Jennifer Gill, who now fills that role, works with students on their co-op learning journey.

"I give them ideas on how to connect and leverage their academic and co-op learning experience to prepare for future career paths."

Gill also works with faculty members to share student co-op reports and has developed an online teaching resource site for business instructors. Her most recent initiative encourages final-term students to share their experiences and insight gained through their academic studies, co-op work terms and international exchanges with prospective employers in a poster exhibition event.

Earlier this year, Dr. Lynne Siemens, who had redesigned her Business and Government Relations (Com 440) class, put some of Gill's ideas into practice. Siemens started by assigning 5 per cent of the final grade to the co-op integration project. The assignment included a written paper in which students reflected on an issue related to business-government relations that they encountered while at work. She held in-class discussions about the issues and strategies students used

to manage the issue.

"I was really pleased with the results," Siemens says. "I had students from different faculties in the class, but they all had a co-op or other work experience. This assignment helped to build common ground."

Teresa Sims, a fourth-year BCom student, found the assignment engaged her in unexpected ways. "We do a lot of cases in the program, but I really liked talking about something that I had actually experienced," says Sims. "A case is four or five pages, whereas a work-term is four months. It made the assignment more interesting and opened the door to conversations I might not have had with other students."

In addition to in-class discussion, professors have incorporated the experience in other ways. Some post questions on Blackboard, where

students are asked to relate course concepts to their co-op work term; another invited students to blog about the structure of their co-op organization.

And all that is music to Gill's ears. "Engaging students in discussion about issues that arise in the workplace adds a reflective element. It helps cement their learning and builds critical thinking skills," says Gill.

More than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students participate in co-operative education at UVic, linking their academic studies to real-world experiences.

UVic faculty members can learn more about integrating student co-

BY ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

After graduation, most theatre students expect to have to work hard and “pay their dues” to make it big. But this summer, six graduates from UVic’s Department of Theatre will get an amazing opportunity to break into the national theatre scene with Victoria’s newest professional theatre company, the Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre.

Blue Bridge’s mandate is to mentor young theatre artists with established professionals, offering them the chance to perform major roles alongside of some of Canada’s most respected theatre artists. The idea of founding artistic director and theatre professor Brian Richmond, the theatre company also works closely with the

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BY VIVIAN KEREKI

UVic will surely miss Sarah Mead-Willis, this year's winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for best non-thesis graduate paper. The Edmonton-born English student will return to her home town in July to begin an unusual job as the rare book cataloguer at the University of Alberta. "I'm excited but a little nervous," says the 27-year-old.

It was her exposure to a West Coast artist and writers' exhibit during an internship at the same rare book library that sparked her interest to study literature in BC. Armed with a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in library sciences (both from the UofA), Mead-Willis came to UVic to complete a master's in English. "After my undergraduate degree in English, I felt there was some unfinished business, some academic work to be done," she comments.

As for the prize-winning essay, Mead-Willis discussed the works of Canadian poet Don McKay, specifically looking at the way he represents

nature in his poems and the idea of the sublime. Though Mead-Willis is a self-described "city person", she says she has always been interested in the way non-human things are represented in literature.

Mead-Willis acknowledges her supervisors Drs. Jamie Dopp and Nicholas Bradley were extremely responsive and supportive during her studies and the countless drafts of her paper. "They were absolutely bang on with all their suggestions.... I might have had more challenges had it not been for them." Mead-Willis thinks having fun with her topic may have helped her paper emerge more readable than some. "I didn't use words like 'problematize,'" she says with a chuckle.

Mead-Willis enjoyed her time in Victoria but admits she gets very focused when in school, leaving little time for serious hobbies. "I'd love to tell you I'm into urban hang-gliding." Instead, she practices "casual enjoyment," biking and hiking, and preparing dishes from her current

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RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS

JUNE 2009

Monthly Income Based on \$100,000

REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)

AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *	\$238	\$278	\$333	\$439	\$633	\$694
Total Payout to Age 100	\$216,612	\$193,640	\$173,560	\$153,119	\$142,579	\$131,247
Accelerated Payout:						
Income over 5 years	\$1,833					
Income over 10 years	\$1,003					
Income over 15 years	\$730					
Total 5 year payout					\$109,928	
Total 10 year payout					\$120,368	
Total 15 year payout					\$131,390	

* Based on best current GIC of 3.875%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

LIFE ANNUITIES

AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Male						
... payments cease at death	\$617	\$668	\$749	\$885	\$981	\$1,189
... 10 years guaranteed	\$604	\$645	\$702	\$783	\$831	\$941
Female						
... payments cease at death	\$573	\$609	\$662	\$767	\$859	\$1,044
... 10 years guaranteed	\$567	\$598	\$643	\$718	\$782	\$893
Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed	\$523	\$561	\$598	\$667	\$719	\$824

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



J. MARK GOUW
CFP, CMAA, Ch. 2

View the Life Income Fund (LIF) figures available upon request. Ask us for a personalized illustration or a copy of Your Guide to RRIFs and Annuities

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BY DIANNE GEORGE

By any measure, Wet'suwet'en student Lisa deWit is an inspiration. She not only graduates this June with a business degree (with distinction), but she is also close to achieving a certified general accounting designation, something normally earned post graduation.

She accomplished this while running a small bookkeeping practice, volunteering and parenting her 11-year-old daughter.

"I had a lot of support from many people, including the Native Student Union," says deWit, who served as their finance counsellor. "They were my family away from home."

In recognition of their support, and in her cultural tradition, she made and gave the NSU her first button blanket, which now hangs in their office.

DeWit says she treated school as a job and completed assignments and studied between classes during the day. "That was the only way for me, because I needed the evenings free for family time." She also held group meetings at her house, and swapped babysitting with other

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Calendar highlight

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TUESDAY, JUNE 16

■ **Film** 7:30 p.m. *Hawaiian Starlight— Exploring the Universe from Mauna Kea*. Film and commentary by astronomer/ filmmaker Dr. Jean-Charles Cuillandre (Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope). The film takes the audience on a spectacular tour of the world's premier astronomical observing site. Science Bldg. B150. 250-721-7744

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

■ **Lansdowne Lecture** 7 p.m. *Restoring the Earth: Avoiding "Peak Soil"*. Dr. Jim Harris (Cranfield Univ., Bedfordshire, UK). Strong Bldg. 103. 250-472-4387

MONDAY, JUNE 22

■ **Conference** *BC Healthy Minds-Healthy Campuses*. Showcasing leading-edge initiatives, programs and practices designed to nurture the development of mentally healthy campus communities in BC. MacLaurin Bldg. Registration deadline June 12. \$30-\$120. 250-721-6474

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Dr. Hans Tammemagi

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Air: Our Planet's Ailing Atmosphere,

Half-lives: A Guide to Nuclear Technology in Canada

Cole McFarlane,
Kayla Dykstra

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University

Climate Change June 17-21, 2009

Register Now!