

harnessing, entertainment for the dead, technology of the time, etc.

**MARCH 24 (Tuesday), 10:30 a.m.
Victoria Hospice and VIHA**

Presentation. UVic Commons Block (Campus View Room). Registration by: March 17. Charge: \$14/person. Parking: Lot 5 (off Sinclair Road): Permit, Dispenser, Meter. We seem to live in a death-denying society, but death is even more certain than taxes. This presentation will show us how Victoria Hospice, along with VIHA Community Care, provide care, services, and programmes for the dying and those who love them.

**APRIL 29 (Wednesday), 10:00 a.m.
Guided Tour. New Buildings on UVic**



Masterminds: The 2009 Lecture Series by UVic Retirees

It's not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity, and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging—with support from the university—are presenting four lectures in April and May, 2009. Each lecture will take place at 7 p.m. in the Hickman Building, room 105. Please register by calling 250-721-6369 and plan to arrive early because seating will be limited. There is a \$2 charge for parking in all campus parking lots during evenings and on Saturdays.

April 15, Dr. Edward Ishiguro— What Everyone Should Know About Listeria, Salmonella and Other Food-Borne Infectious Pathogens

Dr. Ishiguro, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, is a

warfare, and religion and justice. Currently, he is an Associate Fellow at UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, having shifted his focus from 'government sponsored violence' to 'government prohibited violence.' His work as director of an interdisciplinary and multifaith team project resulted in the publication of

for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, Director of International Programs, and Associate Dean of Business. He is a well-known teacher, speaker, and writer. Among his awards and honours are the Award of Excellence for Outstanding Teaching in the Faculty of Business (2004) and Canadian Faculty Advisor of the Year, Golden Key International Honour Society (2005)

2008 Campus United Way Campaign: Final Report

When the UVic Campaign Committee set a goal of \$265,000.00 (\$15,000 higher than last year), we wondered what effect the deteriorating economic situation might have on the campaign. We need not have worried. The response of the UVic community has been magnificent. The campaign has raised \$297,000.00 and UVic was declared the winner of the United Way Post-Secondary Challenge at the United Way Spirit of Enterprise Awards. We placed third overall in the city, behind the DND and VIHA.

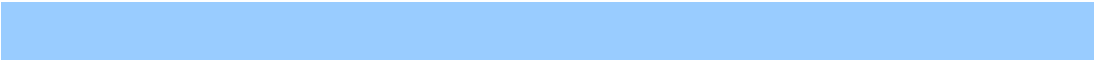
A heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed. Because of your generosity the United Way will be better able to assist the growing numbers of those in need in the coming year.

Victor Neufeldt
UVRA Representative, UVic United Way Campaign Committee

Lake Cowichan – a Love Story, submitted by Helen Kempster

What is the connection between a lakefront property at Lake Cowichan, the University Finnerty Gardens, and Dracula? At first glance not too much but read on and let's see how they link up.

This is really the story of two women named Susan: one was Susan Stoker and the other Jeanne Suzanne Simpson, known to friends and family as



“Susie”. They came from diverse backgrounds and met at what was then a remote part of Vancouver Island early in the twentieth century. So who were these women?

Susan Stoker was English, an amateur botanist and watercolorist, who met and married the physician Richard Stoker in the 1880s. Dr. Stoker served as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the India Army and while there Susan was able to indulge her love and study of flowers and plants, in particular the native rhododendrons of

the more exotic plants from Nepal and India. It is not too farfetched to state that the propagation of most of the species rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest started first with Susan Stoker and later continued through combined efforts with her friend Jeanne Simpson.

Even in the 1930s, forest practices were raising concerns and when her husband died in 1931 Susan Stoker returned to England saddened by what she perceived as the degradation of the area; she died a few years later. The Simpsons also left the area and returned to France but later, thanks to an inheritance, were able to purchase the original 25 acre Stoker property and return to Lake Cowichan. During the next twenty years the garden was reclaimed and returned to its former glory. For Susie Simpson it was an act of love for her friend Susan Stoker.

So what does this have to do with UVic? The Simpsons had no children so Mrs. Simpson offered the estate to the university upon her death to be used as an area for scientific observation and study. Jeanne Simpson died in 1973 at the age of 87. The Jeanne S. Simpson Field Studies Resource Centre was formally opened in 1976 at Lake Cowichan and later a wharf was added. Interestingly the forest industry – so often perceived in a poor light by both Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Stoker – showed a different side. The Centre building was a generous gift of Crown Zellerbach Canada Limited and Western Forest Industries donated the wharf. Before she died Mrs. Simpson also arranged for many of the rhododendrons to be moved to the university grounds. Those plants form the centerpiece of the present Finnerty Gardens. I am sure the two Susans would approve of the Gardens today.

Oh yes – Dracula? Almost forgot. Well Richard Stoker had a writer brother whose name was Bram and it is documented that he did visit Lake Cowichan!!

* The above article owes a great deal to Trevor Matthews, Roger Wiles and the Kaatza

People in the News:

Dr. Joseph F. Kess, Emeritus Chair in Japan and Asia-Pacific Relations and Professor Emeritus, Linguistics, University of Victoria, has been awarded one of Japan's most prestigious honours, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. This award was bestowed on the recipient in recognition of his service and dedication to facilitate better understanding between Japan and Canada. Mr. Seiichi Otsuka, the Consul General of Japan in Vancouver, hosted an award ceremony for Dr. Kess at the Consul General's official residence on Wednesday, December 10th.