“As VIU grows, so will the economy, vitality and culture in our communities.”
— Wahid Ali, chair of the Vancouver Island University Foundation
Vancouver Island University: a centre of excellence for teaching and learning

Through our ongoing evolution and growth, VIU is proud to have contributed to the development of Vancouver Island and British Columbia’s cultural, economic and knowledge base for more than 70 years.

Our roots date back to 1936 when Jack Macready began his work to establish Nanaimo’s first vocational training school. Since then, VIU has evolved into a dynamic, internationally respected university supporting a student population of almost 20,000 full and part-time learners and employing just over 2,300 full and part-time employees.

This rich history and connectedness to communities has provided VIU with a solid foundation on which we continue to grow. This ongoing growth has been consistently supported by committed citizens and decision-makers who recognize the value added to communities when individuals have access to education.

VIU’s four campuses, including a main campus in Nanaimo and regional campuses in Duncan, Powell River and Parksville-Qualicum, provide students with a supportive learning environment designed to inspire excellence. VIU is also the proud owner of Milner Gardens and Woodland in Qualicum Beach, named one of the top 10 public gardens in Canada by Canadian Geographic Travel magazine.

A diverse range of training and education that includes basic literacy, vocational programs, trades, undergraduate and graduate degrees, makes VIU unique amongst Canada’s universities. At VIU we encourage students to explore their potential, discover more about their world and excel in both life and learning. This encouragement is demonstrated through VIU’s support services, access to applied research opportunities, small class sizes and stunning campus settings on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

Since 1936 our institution has graduated over 45,000 students, employed over 15,000 individuals and contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to local economies.

This State of the University report presents a snapshot of the 2009/10 academic year and celebrates our success as one of BC’s new universities. We invite you to share our journey and discover how VIU is changing lives and making our mark on the world through first-class education, research excellence, economic and social development initiatives and as a leader in sustainability.

We believe education is a community asset—an asset we are committed to ensuring remains relevant, responsive, innovative and accessible to the citizens we serve now and in the future.

“VIU has given us more than just an education, it has given us the tools to shape our lives—knowledge to convert our dreams into reality.”

— Rajvir Kaur Grewal, MBA graduate and valedictorian, May 2010
The 2009/10 academic year was one of celebration for VIU, British Columbia and Canada as we cheered on athletes from around the world at the BC-hosted 2010 Olympic Games. The spirit of the Olympics was felt across all VIU campuses as our students and employees attended the games or gathered around TV and computer monitors to share moments of victory and defeat. On behalf of the VIU Board of Governors, Senate and administration, I would like to acknowledge and thank VIU students and employees who served as goodwill ambassadors for VIU in their roles as Olympic volunteers.

I would also like to acknowledge all VIU employees for their ongoing commitment to quality teaching and learning as we have continued to implement the processes related to achieving university designation in 2008. This past year, VIU achieved the largest growth in student enrolment we have ever seen. VIU will continue to adapt to new policies and the mechanics that come with full university status. We have come a long way in a short period of time and I am grateful for the diligence and professionalism that has been demonstrated through this period of transition.

Planning was a key theme during this past academic year. VIU engaged in the most comprehensive and consultative planning process ever undertaken by the institution. Our university will continue to be challenged by political and economic influences so it is important that we have academic and operational plans in place that respond to a constantly changing world. A series of institutional plans will roll out in 2011 and will chart a new course for VIU. Our plans will clearly articulate a strong commitment to the communities and students we serve. A significant moment in our planning process came when the VIU Students’ Union voted unanimously to support the Integrated Planning Process. VIU and our student body are clearly on the same path and committed to the same end – providing a student-centred learning environment where students thrive and excel. I would like to thank our Students’ Union for their support and participation in integrated planning at VIU. I am also pleased to welcome their contribution to this year’s State of the University report.

As VIU continues to evolve, we will reach out to new national and international partners to find innovative solutions to the economic and environmental challenges facing our world. Creating these partnerships beyond BC will continue to be key as we work with our communities to reshape the economic landscape of Vancouver Island and the BC Coast. To support VIU’s efforts in this direction I am extremely pleased with the progress of several key projects that are highlighted in this report. These projects include the establishment of VIU’s sustainability office, a renewed focus on employee and student wellness, several capital projects including the construction of VIU’s $26.6-million Cowichan campus, the largest capital project we have ever undertaken.

Another critical factor as VIU moves forward will be ensuring our academic programs, services and research environment are well aligned to our planning process and relevant to society at large. Shaping our efforts in this direction will be VIU’s new Vice-President, Academic and Provost, Dr. David Witty. I would like to thank Dr. Witty for taking on this leadership role. I know our employees and students join me in welcoming Dr. Witty to the VIU family.

VIU continues to add value to our communities through our work in the areas of Aboriginal engagement, cultural enrichment, environmental sustainability, financial responsibility, economic development and research excellence. VIU will continue to focus on these key elements, which I believe are core to creating a rich educational experience for our students as well as advancing the well-being of the communities we serve.

On behalf of all of us who are privileged to work at VIU, I would like to thank the communities of Vancouver Island and the BC Coast for your valued support. It is an honour to serve the region on your behalf.

Thank you,

Ralph Nilson, Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor
Vancouver Island University
During the 2009/10 academic year, VIU embarked on an extensive project to document the evolution and history of our institution.

With the assistance of VIU Alumna Laura Mann, the Communications and Public Relations Department at VIU developed an online historic record and visual representation of our past. The outcomes of this project will be unveiled later in 2010 as a prelude to VIU’s 75th anniversary in 2011.

To the hundreds of alumni, retirees, employees and community members who participated in focus groups and interviews related to this project, thank you!

We look forward to reporting on the activities of our 75th anniversary celebration in next year’s State of the University report.

Important dates in VIU’s history

1936 Trades training was first offered in a workshop at Machleary and Campbell Streets by Jack Macready

1938 The trades school was officially named the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Centre

1945 Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Centre moved to 4th Street and Wakesiah Avenue

1959 The school was renamed the BC Vocational Training School, Nanaimo

1969 Malaspina College opened in Nanaimo’s old hospital building on Kennedy Street

1971 Malaspina College melded with the BC Vocational Training School under the name Malaspina College Vocational and Technical Institute

1973 Malaspina College classes started at locations in Cowichan Valley, Powell River and Parksville-Qualicum

1976 Nanaimo’s college campus on 5th Street was officially opened

1978 Malaspina College Vocational and Technical Institute was named Malaspina College

1983 Powell River campus moved to the former Gordon Park Elementary School

1987 Cowichan opened a campus in Duncan

1989 Powell River campus was enlarged and renovated

1989 Malaspina College was designated Malaspina University-College

1990 Malaspina University-College’s Parksville-Qualicum Centre moved to Mill Street in Parksville

1995 Malaspina University-College gained independent degree-granting status

1996 Milner estate in Qualicum Beach was donated to Malaspina University-College

2001 Parksville-Qualicum Centre moved to Jensen Avenue East; partnership formed with City of Parksville and School District #69

2003 Centre for Shellfish Research was launched

VIU’s roots date back to 1936 when Jack Macready began his work to establish Nanaimo’s first vocational training school. Since then, VIU has evolved into a dynamic, internationally respected university.
2004  Powell River campus building was purchased from School District #47
2008  University designation was granted and Malaspina University-College became Vancouver Island University
2009  Vancouver Island University Senate was established
Celebrating the journey

The VIU Paddle
The image of the paddle has been used as a prominent icon through this report. It reminds us that we are rowing together with our communities, our students and our employees with an aim to advance the prosperity of region we live, work and learn in. Chief Shawn Atleo gifted each of VIU’s four campuses with a spectacular hand-carved First Nations paddle when he was installed as chancellor in September 2008. The yellow cedar paddles were designed and carved by Vancouver Island artist Brian Bob, from the Qwuyutsaputh people, Coast Salish and are prominently displayed during VIU celebrations and events as a reminder that we are on a journey together, with our communities, our students and our employees.

As Vancouver Island University prepares to mark 75 years of excellence in education, we have many reasons to celebrate. The 2009/10 academic year was filled with memorable highlights of student successes, achievements of our Mariner athletes, the 2010 Olympics, discoveries in science and aquaculture, several funding announcements, new facilities, program recognition and the constantly expanding contributions of outstanding alumni who are adding value to our West Coast communities and beyond.

Creating a culture of celebration is essential as VIU promotes a learning and work environment that motivates and inspires students, staff and faculty to strive for excellence. With this end in mind, we are pleased to dedicate these next few pages to celebrating the spirit of VIU.

VIU graduate Laura Booi received a Canada Graduate Scholarship worth $17,500.

Canada Graduate Scholarship for student examining aging
VIU graduate Laura Booi (Bachelor of Arts with Distinction, 2009) received a $17,500 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. She is working on her master’s degree in the Health Psychology graduate program at the UBC where she is studying aging. While at VIU, Booi completed an undergraduate research project related to dementia.

Students win $75,000 for innovation
Five VIU Master of Business Administration students received $15,000 each from the BC Innovation Council for their work in developing an innovative product or process. Jim Yen-Chun Cheng, Harikrishnan Jayaraman, Ethan Yi-Fu Lin, Jennifer Schofield and Zoe Xiang Lan Wan, all in the Master of Business Administration Program (MBA), were selected by the council.

Mature student experiences ‘rebirth’ in Italy
Single mom Kim Moes is an inspiration to anyone thinking about returning to school. She dropped out of high school 20 years ago, but resumed her studies as a mature student at VIU. She made the Dean’s list for outstanding academic achievement, won a scholarship and participated in a “life-changing” study abroad program in Florence, Italy.

VIU named World Leisure Centre of Excellence
It’s official – VIU is a World Leisure Centre of Excellence. The prestigious designation comes from the World Leisure Organization.
(WLO), a non-governmental agency affiliated with the United Nations. As a World Leisure Centre of Excellence, VIU’s Recreation and Tourism Management department will advance international scholarship, graduate education, research and service focused on innovation and sustainability. VIU is one of two sites in the world with this designation – the other is a university in the Netherlands. VIU was also granted approval by BC’s Ministry of Advanced Education to begin offering a new Master of Arts in Sustainable Leisure Management in August 2011.

**President’s scholarships assist students**

First Nations student Meagan Stewart was thrilled to receive a President’s Entrance Scholarship. The awards are offered to top academic students from each Vancouver Island and Powell River high school. Each year, eight awards are available for scholar athletes. The Chancellor Scholarships for Aboriginal students are also available to six students per year.

**Unique wood-fired oven constructed**

VIU is the first teaching institution in Canada to have an operating wood-fired oven. The oven is fired daily and students in the Culinary Arts and Professional Baking programs use it to make fresh baked bread, bagels and pizza. The wood-fired oven is a joint project of VIU’s Culinary Institute of Vancouver Island (CIVI) Baking and Pastry Arts program, the Baking Association of Canada (BAC) BC Chapter and the BAC Vancouver Island Committee.

**VIU signs bilateral agreement**

A new partnership between North Island College and VIU means better access to education for residents of the north Vancouver Island region. The two institutions will collaborate on programming and research. Dual admission will be introduced, making it easier for students to move freely between schools to complete degree requirements.

**Christmas Magic at Milner Gardens**

Music, food, crafts and 50,000 lights attracted thousands of visitors at the 7th annual Milner Gardens and Woodland Christmas Magic event. The festival raises funds to support a variety of programs at the picturesque site at Qualicum Beach. Milner Gardens, one of the top 10 public gardens in Canada, was acquired by VIU in 1996 to provide learning and research opportunities in the art and science of horticulture. The gardens are a popular venue for outdoor concerts by VIU music students.

“The most important quality of this institution is the relationship that develops between faculty and students. It is the time that teachers spend with students that allows the richness of the learning experience to develop.”

— Ralph Nilson, VIU President and Vice-Chancellor
Celebrating the journey

Snuneymuxw totem unveiled
Master carver James Johnny and his son James Johnny Jr. unveiled a 10-metre tall totem at VIU’s library. The blessing ceremony for the cedar carving included drummers, Elders and the artists, as well as VIU students, staff, faculty and members of the Board of Governors. Sharon Hobenshield, Director of Aboriginal Education at VIU, said the totem is a symbol of the Snuneymuxw First Nation welcoming all students of all nations.

Grad puts Golden on the map
As Manager of Development Services for Golden in southwestern BC, Tourism graduate Cleo Corbett helped the town win the 2009 Leadership and Innovation award for small communities from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Corbett represents a new breed of town planners. She organized a musical jam night, free public skating, school events and a guerilla marketing campaign to get feedback on Golden’s official community plan.

Campbell River mom earns degree with family support
It took eight years, but De Robertson of Campbell River achieved her dream. Robertson was among 112 graduates of VIU’s post-baccalaureate Education degree program in December 2009. “If you’re dedicated, you can make anything happen,” said Robertson. She returned to school when her youngest child was three and commuted daily to VIU’s Nanaimo campus.

VIU supports multi-generational learning
Attending VIU was a family affair for Irene Kopec, TJ Bickerton and Deb Bickerton. Three generations—grandmother, mother and daughter—studied here at the same time. TJ Bickerton, 28, was a third-year student in the Bachelor of Science program while her mom Deb was a third-year Fisheries and Aquaculture student. TJ’s 81-year-old grandmother, Irene Kopec, completed a beginners computer course through ElderCollege.

“Just as a farmer plants new trees so that the next crop is strong, just as a hunter will only take half of the deer standing so the next generation is strong, I encourage you to give something back to your communities in the form of service.”
— Lieutenant Governor of BC, The Honourable Steven Point, addressing VIU’s spring convocation
Art of Teaching DVD inspires passion
Vancouver Island University educators Neil Smith and Nancy Randall believe innovative, engaging and risk-taking approaches to teaching are worth sharing with the rest of the world. As associates of VIU’s Teaching and Learning Centre, they collaborated on producing and distributing *The Art of Teaching*, a 45-minute DVD that has been presented at seminars and conferences in Canada and internationally.

Students display creative talents
Graphic Design students Faye McCoole and Josephine Duffy scooped up the 2009 Cady/Marshall Student Scholarships from the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada (GDC), Vancouver Island Chapter. Students Jeff Westnedge and Pip Knott each won $500, while Monica Rush won $1,000 in another GDC scholarship competition.

Physical education grad wins national service award
Curtis Vizza (Bachelor of Arts, Physical Education) gives new meaning to the term ‘well-rounded.’ He’s a student, athlete and volunteer who received national acclaim for outstanding community service. As a popular player with the Vancouver Island Raiders football team, Vizza received the 2009 Past Commissioners Community Service Award from the Canadian Junior Football League (CJFL).

Students earn national medals at winter convocation
VIU graduates Elizabeth Plant and Raymond Anthony are among the top students in Canada. Plant (Bachelor of Arts, Psychology) received the Governor General Academic Silver Medal while Anthony, (Child and Youth Care, First Nations diploma) received the bronze medal for achieving grade point averages of 9.96 and 9.53 respectively.

Teacher wins multiple scholarships
Nanaimo teacher and VIU student Laura Tait received a $10,000 provincial scholarship from the New Relationship Trust, an independent non-profit organization dedicated to supporting First Nations students in BC. Tait used the money to complete VIU’s Master of Education in Educational Leadership. She also received $1,500 from the Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund and $3,200 from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

“Helping others and seeing their progress is rewarding. I absolutely love the VIU program, from learning about the body and leadership, to learning about myself. There has been a lot of opportunity to work in the community and make an impact.”
— Curtis Vizza, Community Service Award Winner

Teacher Laura Tait earned provincial and national scholarships.
**Students recruited for One of a Kind Show**
Visual Art students were invited to participate in the One of a Kind art show for the second year in a row. One of a Kind is a massive sale by over 200 artists from Vancouver to Washington and beyond. Talented VIU students displayed original artwork in a commercial setting including screen prints, drawings, collages and illustrations.

**Culinary grad competes for global glory**
Fourteen years after graduating and starting his apprenticeship, Culinary Arts graduate Chris Thomson competed for a world title in Santiago, Chile for top honour and 12,000 Euros in the Global Chefs Challenge. He didn’t win, but competing in the world title event against top chefs from the Americas, Asia, Pacific Rim, Africa-Middle East and north, central and southern Europe was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thomson is executive sous-chef at The Banff Centre.

**Students, faculty and staff raise funds for Haiti relief efforts**
Students in Steven Earle’s Environmental Geology course had just started studying the causes and characteristics of earthquakes when Haiti was hit by a devastating 7.0 earthquake. The class was among several groups that organized fundraising events to support Red Cross and other relief efforts in the region. In total, they raised over $5,000.

**Employees honoured for long service**
A long service celebration recognized career milestones of 225 VIU employees celebrating 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service. Employees are the university’s most valuable asset, says President Nilson. Gwen Bailey and Lucy Colby were honoured for 35 years, while Patrick Carpenter, Don Cohen, Maria Gomes, Connie Long, Les Malbon, Darrel Mansbridge and Mary Wood celebrated 30 years at VIU. Says Malbon: “I retain a tremendous amount of gratitude for VIU. As a native son of Nanaimo, I have borne witness to the powerful interface VIU has with the community. It has afforded me the opportunity to give back and in return receive many blessings.”

**VIU students and employees launch good neighbours project**
VIU launched the “Good Neighbours” initiative to forge positive relationships between the institution and the adjacent Harewood community. Faculty, staff and students adopted 19 families in need at Christmas, including teen moms with children at Little Ferns daycare program at John Barsby Secondary. Hampers filled with basic necessities were delivered to the families to help make their Christmas season extra special.

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**“Without dreams, nothing will happen. When I dream, I believe I’m rehearsing my future. Music was a vehicle for my dreams.”**
— Will Millar, successful recording artist formerly with the Irish Rovers, during a guest lecture for Cheryl Krasnick Warsh’s History course on North American Popular Culture since 1970
TD Bank Financial Group among donors to Shq’apthut: A Gathering Place

A traditional First Nations feast honoured TD Bank Financial Group for its contribution of $50,000 toward Shq’apthut: A Gathering Place, the new Aboriginal centre on the Nanaimo campus. President Nilson praised TD Bank Financial Group and other community partners for playing a key role in the creation of Shq’apthut: A Gathering Place.

520 degrees awarded in spring convocation

VIU awarded degrees to 520 students from 13 programs in May and June. Three programs recognized their first graduating classes – Bachelor of Hospitality Management; Bachelor of Interior Design; and Master of Education in Educational Leadership. Highlights of convocation included greetings from the Lieutenant Governor of BC, The Honourable Steven Point; valedictory addresses by Rajvir Kaur Grewal, Lynn Decker and Naomi Macrae; and the presentation of a Governor General Gold Medal to Barbara McLaughlin, who completed a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. Presentations were also made to Rebekah Shoop (Alumni Horizon Award) and Laura Buzzard (Governor General Silver Medal).

Extreme Science show raises cash for Africa

The second annual action-packed Extreme Science show featured a variety of exciting stunts, demonstrations and science experiments. The brainchild of Physics professor Ray Penner, Extreme Science is a fundraiser for a charity called LED Africa. The nonprofit organization aims to provide solar-powered lighting systems for secondary schools in rural Malawi, Africa.

“My goal is to install LED lights in the whole country [of Malawi]. The key for me is that the project is built by Malawians and maintained there. I’ve already been contacted by over 80 rural schools. They all want the lighting system installed to help improve study pass rates.”

— Physics professor Ray Penner, organizer of the Extreme Science show
Celebrating the journey

“My decision (to attend VIU) was about more than small class sizes. I knew from attending Philosophers’ Café events in the community that VIU professors are caring, intelligent people who nurture students’ individual ideas and ability to think critically and communicate ideas. I established life-long relationships with students and faculty.”

— Laura Buzzard, Bachelor of Arts, Major in Liberal Studies and Minor in Women’s Studies, Governor General’s Silver Medal winner

Science radio show wins national honour

VIU’s Not Rocket Science radio show reached new heights with a National Campus Community Radio Association annual award for Outstanding Achievement in Current Affairs. The bi-weekly radio show produced by members of VIU’s faculty of Science and Technology was in competition with 60 radio stations across Canada. The campus-based radio show — a low-key version of CBC’s Quirks and Quarks — has been running for three years.

Vancouver Island institutions sign collaborative agreement

Camosun College, North Island College, Royal Roads University, the University of Victoria and VIU signed a memorandum of understanding intended to foster collaboration related to the post-secondary education and training needs of Vancouver Island and the BC Coastal region. The purpose of the agreement is to provide a broader range of learning opportunities and supports to residents and communities of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the BC Coastal region by developing an integrated and synergistic educational strategy.

Music instructor shaped sound of the Olympics

Music professor Dr. Alex Tsisserev played a key role in shaping the musical experience of athletes, dignitaries, members of the media and others at the Olympics. The music industry veteran programmed original and distinctive playlists for use at six venues in Whistler and Vancouver. The concept is called sonic branding. As an interior designer creates a visual personality of a space, Tsisserev created a musical personality for Olympic village venues. “It’s as exciting as it is overwhelming,” said Tsisserev, who had the role of “sonic branding architect” for the Games.

Olympic spirit alive and well at VIU

As the world’s top athletes converged on Canada’s West Coast, hundreds of VIU students, staff and faculty participated in the Olympics and Paralympics as spectators, hosts, drivers, guides and other support workers. Steve Van Schubert, Athletic Therapist and instructor in VIU’s Physical Education department, was assigned to the medical team at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Physical Education student Luke Couture, of St. John, New Brunswick, was a volunteer on the ice crew at Canada Place amid the hockey excitement. Theatre instructor Eliza Gardiner took a Nanaimo troupe of singers and dancers to entertain crowds at the Whistler Sliding Centre, where the luge, bobsleigh and skeleton competitions took place. “We’re very proud we had so many professional and dynamic individuals representing our organization, community and province during such an important time in BC’s history,” says President Nilson.

VIU employee David Ross volunteers at the 2010 Winter Olympics.
**Prehistoric fish inspires artist-in-residence**

Margaret Kenway Haydon, VIU’s first visiting artist-in-residence, turned her obsession with sturgeon into unique ceramic art during a four-month sabbatical from teaching duties at the University of Wyoming. Working out of studio space provided by VIU’s Visual Arts department, Haydon created several interesting pieces of art relating to sturgeon. Her presence on campus was the catalyst for a unique and unprecedented cross pollination between the Visual Arts department and the Fisheries and Aquaculture department, says Scott Leaf, visual art technician and ceramics instructor. “It’s eye-opening for students to see a professional artist making her living through art.”

**Poet Laureate of Britain reads her work at Nanaimo campus**

Carol Ann Duffy visited VIU’s Nanaimo campus in October as the 2009 Ralph Gustafson Chair of Poetry. Duffy is a poet, playwright and freelance writer who currently holds the prestigious position as Britain’s top poet. The Poet Laureateship is a 10-year appointment by Queen Elizabeth. Scottish-born Duffy entertained students, faculty and the public with her creative work during a special evening celebration.

**Mariners scoop All-Canadian awards**

Twenty VIU Mariner athletes received National Scholar Awards from the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) for the 2009/10 season. Three Mariners won Academic All-Canadian awards, including Jacqueline Doleman (women’s volleyball), Rafal Korkowski (men’s volleyball) and Andrew Kaban (men’s basketball). This award requires excellence in the classroom and being named a league all-star.

VIU’s Andrew Kaban, Robbie Cochrane and Chris Arnett also picked up three CCAA All-Canadian awards for outstanding athletic achievement. Cochrane earned seven shutouts as the Mariner men’s soccer team goaltender, leading his team to a silver medal at the provincial championships. Arnett was the offensive force for the Mariner men’s soccer team and Kaban, from the men’s basketball team, averaged 20 points a game to earn the title of top scorer in the league.

**Another winning season for VIU Mariners**

VIU’s athletics program was named best in BC by the British Columbia College’s Athletic Association (BCCAA) for the fourth year in a row. VIU won provincial silver medals in women’s volleyball, men’s basketball, badminton and men’s soccer. A bronze medal went to the women’s basketball team.

“This celebration of Canadianism has really been amazing. For years we joked that Canadians didn’t know the words to our national anthem but evidently we do now because we break out and sing it all the time.

A whole new generation now has a shared hockey moment of their own to talk about.”

— History professor Tim Lewis, reflecting on national pride during the Winter Olympics and Canada’s gold-medal hockey triumph
Excitement is building as VIU continues to develop a vibrant and sustainable campus community. With Board approval of the award-winning Nanaimo Campus Master Plan, students, staff, faculty and regional community partners are now engaged in a broader Integrated Planning Process. Extensive consultation has taken place and feedback received from a broad range of VIU partners will ensure the university provides students with exceptional opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

Board approves campus master plan
After a year of extensive community consultation, VIU’s Board of Governors approved a bold new vision for the growth of VIU’s Nanaimo campus.

“The Nanaimo Campus Master Plan (NCMP) is an exciting step towards creating a sustainable future for VIU,” says Ric Kelm, executive director of Facilities Services and Campus Development. “The NCMP is a blueprint to guide future growth using efficient and sustainable approaches to building and land use. We expect that this plan will save considerable facilities and infrastructure costs well into the future through our commitment to green building design.”

The NCMP proposes $198.8 million in capital expenditures, including $169.3 million for new buildings and $29.5 million for campus infrastructure.

A revamped transit exchange outlined in the NCMP recently opened at the Nanaimo campus, making transit safer and more efficient for students. Several new buildings are nearing completion including the International Centre for Sturgeon Studies, a trades training centre in Powell River, Shq’apthut: A Gathering Place for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in Nanaimo and the $26.6-million Cowichan Campus development, the largest capital project undertaken by VIU to date.

Other NCMP recommendations include a university, student and community centre and continuing replacement of older academic buildings in favour of modern, green-built, energy-efficient space. The plan also places a priority on green space, walking and bicycle paths, a wildlife corridor through the campus grounds and health and wellness facilities for students and employees.

“The NCMP is a model for the most efficient and sustainable building schemes ever developed on university grounds in British Columbia,” says President Ralph Nilson.

“The synergistic nature of the NCMP is key to the university’s ability to be successful in building a dynamic and diverse educational organization. It will aid VIU in creating a superior learning and teaching environment for students, staff and the entire community.”

Master plan wins international award
VIU received international recognition for its innovative approach to planning.

The Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) honoured VIU with the 2010 Award for Institutional Innovation and Integration for work on its Nanaimo Campus Master Plan, a process that involved consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders.

The award recognizes and honours the achievement of higher education institutions or teams of individuals whose work demonstrates “innovative thinking, planning and implementation in an integrated fashion.”

“The administration and Board of Governors at VIU extend our deepest appreciation to the wide range of stakeholder groups who consulted with us during this process,” says President Nilson.

“The productive and meaningful relationships forged within the community are bolstered by the fluidity and transparency of the plan. These positive relationships will provide a solid foundation for the development of a sustainable and vibrant campus and community.”

Charting a course for the future
The development and implementation of the campus master plan is a key component of VIU’s Integrated Planning Process (IPP).
The IPP will help clearly articulate the university’s purpose, values, vision and objectives.

The process is ongoing and continues to involve the engagement of students, faculty and staff as well as external stakeholders such as First Nations, municipal and provincial governments, community associations and individual members of the community.

**Extensive consultations during IPP**

During the 2009/10 academic year, more than 115 public consultation meetings were held with faculties and departments, service areas and community groups up and down Vancouver Island to obtain feedback and identify the university’s key strengths and areas for improvement. Student input was collected through a Student Support Survey which attracted more than 1200 responses.

**Planning committees hard at work**

Four planning committees are sifting through feedback from extensive consultations. The committees will create draft recommendations and plans for VIU by early 2011.

Ric Kelm sees the master plan as key to sustainable growth.
The goal of the Academic Plan is to provide a strategy and framework that will enable VIU to continue to offer a diverse range of relevant and responsive programming to regional communities. The plan will build on the traditions of VIU as a community-based institution with a focus on relevant teaching, learning and research.

The Outreach and Community Engagement Plan will focus and define VIU’s regional role in all areas including teaching, research, service and coastal prosperity.

The Strategic Enrolment Management Plan will provide a framework and process that supports the growth targets assigned to VIU by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Adjustment. The committee will examine organizational structure, policies and business practices, and how to align those practices and structures with VIU enrolment goals.

The Technology and Systems Infrastructure and Service Plan will provide a framework and strategy for the continued enhancement and maintenance of the technology and systems that support students, faculty and staff at VIU.

As the ideas come together and plans take shape, information is shared across the university and posted on VIU’s Integrated Planning website. For more information, please refer to viu.ca/integratedplanning.

Why is VIU undertaking such an extensive process?
VIU is a diverse and complex organization employing thousands of faculty and staff and supporting the needs of thousands of students. The University has reached a size where critical questions need to be examined regarding how we manage growth, community and student engagement and our program profile.

With a budget in excess of $120 million annually, coordinating activities and planning is both financially responsible and an operational necessity.

How will integrated planning impact students, faculty, staff and communities?
At the end of the Integrated Planning Process, VIU will have focused plans aimed at responding to the needs of communities and students. Coordinated planning will provide faculty and staff with a clear vision of where the University is going and will lead to an improved bottom line.

When will the plans start to shape the future of VIU?
The goal is that VIU will begin implementing ideas and concepts emerging out of the Integrated Planning Process by the end of 2011.
Aquaculture at VIU: enhancing our nation’s aquatic resources — contributed by Dr. Bill Pennell

**FACTS ABOUT STURGEON**
VIU is the only academic institution in western Canada to have captive white sturgeon broodstock—fish old enough to spawn.

Sturgeon have prehistoric origins and are often called living fossils. They are the largest freshwater fish in the world. Sturgeon can live for up to 150 years.

Nine species of sturgeon are found in North America, including two on the Pacific Coast — green sturgeon and white sturgeon.

White sturgeon can grow to over five metres and weigh over 770 kilograms.

Sturgeon eggs, known as true caviar, are a gourmet delicacy and widely prized. The caviar industry worldwide generates about $100 million in annual sales.

In BC, white sturgeon provide a catch and release sport fishery worth $15 million annually in the lower Fraser River.

Fisheries and Aquaculture has long been an area of specialization at VIU. Dr. Bill Pennell has played an important role as one of the founders of the program and the Centre for Shellfish Research. “Ecosystem-based management and community-based decision-making will be integral in all future approaches to aquatic resource management,” says Pennell. “This implies a high level of interdisciplinarity which means that there are opportunities for participation by faculty and students across the campus.”

Much has happened at VIU during the last year within the field of aquaculture. Dr. Sarah Dudas has officially joined the Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR) as a Canada Research Chair. Dudas will begin a long-term research program that will include work in Baynes Sound investigating shellfish aquaculture ecosystem interactions. She will work out of the CSR on the Nanaimo campus as well as at the new Deep Bay Field Station, which is nearing completion. Her work will include collaboration with other universities, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the BC shellfish industry. Dudas comes to VIU from Oregon State University where she was a post-doctoral fellow. She did her PhD work at the University of Victoria.

Research on shellfish genomics
Also at the CSR, Dr. Helen Gurney-Smith is continuing her research on shellfish genomics in her new laboratory on the Nanaimo campus. Funding for this state-of-the-art laboratory came from Western Diversification. One of Gurney-Smith’s long-term goals is to identify biomarkers for stress responses in molluscs, which will have significant applications for shellfish farmers, managers of wild shellfish stocks and for ecosystem health assessments. She has also collaborated with researchers at the Pacific Biological Station to determine the genetic lineage of several mussel stocks found on BC farms and to examine the impact of aquaculture husbandry on genetic diversity and resilience. This is important because the three species of blue mussels now found on the BC coast can interbreed creating hybrids of uncertain origin and varying performance characteristics.

Gurney-Smith is also completing successful research on the culture of the native cockle, a species of great interest to many First Nations communities as well as one having a large potential for national and international markets.

The CSR will be hosting several graduate students and post-doctoral fellows over the next few years to participate in research programs and other projects. The CSR also hosts many undergraduates each year from the Biology and Fisheries and Aquaculture departments.

Sturgeon research aids conservation
Don Tillapaugh, Director of the CSR, was named interim Director of the new International Centre for Sturgeon Studies (ICSS). Tillapaugh, working with the VIU Office of Development and Alumni, successfully raised funds to complete the new building which will be ready for occupation later this fall. The Centre for Coastal Health will also have laboratories and offices in the ICSS. The ICSS will concentrate on white sturgeon research with an aim to better understand the physiology of sturgeon grown on farms or in hatcheries used to aid in wild sturgeon conservation through release of cultured fish.

Because the ICSS will have a highly developed water re-use system, both research and training in recirculation technology will be possible. The tank systems and laboratory instrumentation being set up for sturgeon studies will also be useful for work on other species including salmonids, cyprinids and other fish.

Aquatic foods innovation
In the Institute for Coastal Research (ICR), Dr. Grant Murray, Canada Research Chair, has a wide-ranging research program including several aquaculture projects. VIU is in negotiations with a non-profit society to fund an initiative that will seek new approaches to the management of aquatic foods including capture fisheries, aquaculture and traditional First Nations
foods. This interdisciplinary endeavour will be housed in the ICR, but will include several faculties, departments and research centres. A program coordinator will be hired to direct and build this program. Other sources of funding are also being explored to support this endeavour.

An overarching VIU goal is to find ways of building synergy among the CSR, ICR, ICSS and university faculty members with an interest in marine and freshwater resources. Collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the province, other universities and researchers will be a key to achieving this.

Deep Bay Field Station promotes sustainability
VIU’s Deep Bay Field Station goes beyond promoting sustainability for the shellfish aquaculture industry. The field station, with its distinctive clamshell shape, is also providing a model for green design and integrated regional development. The field station at the south end of Baynes Sound between Qualicum Beach and Courtenay is set to open in 2011 and will provide leading-edge teaching and research facilities as an extension of the university’s Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR).

“We're taking a terrestrial agricultural field station model and applying it in a very unique way to the marine environment,” says Brian Kingzett, Manager of the Deep Bay Field Station.

The 13,000-square-foot structure, which sits on a three-hectare waterfront site, has been designed and constructed to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Platinum rating. It represents the highest standard in the internationally recognized certification program. “We intend to demonstrate how we can minimize our environmental impact in the coastal zone.”

The field station will be accessible to the public and visitors can get a sense of the wide variety of programs that VIU offers — whether they are tasting seafood dishes prepared by Culinary Arts students, touring the grounds rehabilitated by forestry and horticulture students or riding in the Chetlo, the durable craft built by students in the Welding and Aluminum Boat Building programs.
VIU recognizes the need for well-educated workers to meet the demands of society in transition. Human Services programs are preparing students to support some of the most vulnerable members of society in areas such as early childhood development, child and youth care and community support. BC’s aging population is creating shifting needs in health care and human services.

“It’s really about individual, family and community well-being. Our students and graduates support people in all phases of their lives,” says Laureen Styles, who served as Dean of Health and Human Services until the spring when her commitment to post-secondary education led her to a new role. Styles was seconded to serve as Executive Director of the British Columbia Academic Health Council (BCAHC).

Styles’ leadership in the field of education will be a valued asset to the council which emphasizes that: “BCAHC’s driving force is the recognition that a coordinated and collaborative approach is needed to minimize the predicted shortage of health professionals to enable delivery of required health care services, now and in the future.”

Two key factors have been identified in boosting requirements for health and human service graduates. As the workforce ages, there is a growing need to fill jobs created by retirement. At the same time, the growing proportion of older adults in society is adding to the demand for health and human services.

Health-related occupations represent the strongest area of growth in employment demand over the next four years in central Vancouver Island. Projections from BC Stats estimate a 2.7 per cent increase in health occupations between 2009 and 2014. Additionally, the need for social services workers will also remain strong in the region with a projected 2.3 per cent increase during the same period.

VIU meets the challenge

Close to 1,100 students are enrolled in an array of programs from a six-month certificate to four-year degrees that are preparing them to meet many of society’s most essential needs. VIU is proud of our graduates who serve society as direct care staff, managers and emerging leaders in fields such as nursing, early childhood education, social services, family services, child and youth care, elder care and community health.

Nursing graduate honoured for rural health work in Guatemala

Rebekah Shoop grew up in Alert Bay and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at VIU in 2002. Her education at VIU and the University of Victoria, where she studied Biology, was not restricted to campus. Like many post-secondary students are finding, the whole world is a classroom.

Shoop’s life was changed when she travelled to the impoverished rural community of Comitancillo, Guatemala. When she experienced the hardships in the area, she was inspired to put her skills, education and commitment to work to make a difference and founded ALIANZA, a non-profit organization that runs five successful rural community health projects in the region.

“For a long time, I felt overwhelmed by all the things I couldn’t fight against — environmental threats and social injustices that I learned about as an undergrad and during my travels,” says Shoop.

“Rebekah’s commitment to health care as a fundamental human right is an inspiration to us all. Her work in Guatemala is an example of what one individual can accomplish with patience, persistence and compassion.”

—Philosophy and Religious Studies Professor Robert Pepper-Smith

FACT

In 1971, BC residents under the age of 19 outnumbered those 65 and over by four to one. By 2021, those segments of society will be close to equal.

“The shifting age structure of the province will have serious impacts on both the economy of British Columbia and its social organization. Population increases (of older adults) will likely lead to increased demand for social services irrespective of economic conditions.”

— BC Stats report on Consequences of an Aging Population
VIU paid tribute to Shoop’s ongoing work for the people of Comitancillo with the 2010 Alumni Horizon Award at spring convocation. Thanks to initial funding from the Duncan Rotary Club, Shoop opened ALIANZA’s first nursing station in Comitancillo in February 2005. Today, five projects operate in Guatemala under the ALIANZA umbrella, including the Women’s Health Program. Shoop, who has gone on to complete medical school at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, plans to return to Comitancillo for six weeks in January and February 2011 to complete a community pediatrics elective course.

For further information about ALIANZA, visit alianza.kics.bc.ca.

Students launch Faces of Addiction website

“There are many myths concerning people with addictions,” says nursing student Guillaume Jacques. “Society is quick to make judgements. However, we must look at the context within which a person has become addicted. Usually they are dealing with physical or emotional pain, often stemming from childhood. They need compassion and understanding.”

Jacques was part of a VIU student-led action group called Faces of Addiction. Third and fourth-year students created a new website to raise awareness about substance abuse and increase compassion towards people with addictions. “We want to promote public education and awareness to reduce prejudice and misunderstandings towards people with addictions,” says Jacques.

The website includes a detailed listing of local psychologists, counsellors, treatment centres and other agencies that provide support for people with addictions and their families. The site also includes a discussion forum and links to videos, documentaries and other research by VIU nursing students.

The Faces of Addiction group was started by VIU nursing students three years ago. It evolved into a permanent student-led group with a mission to facilitate “community awareness regarding addiction, while improving access to services and resources for individuals with addiction issues.”

Visit the Faces of Addiction website: FacesOfAddiction.ca
VIU is a vibrant contributor to the global community whether it’s supporting international students to learn English as they prepare for further studies or linking peers to assist newcomers from around the world as they pursue high school, undergraduate and graduate level programs. Students and faculty are committed to making a difference and their success is measured in their contribution to others. The VIU Students’ Union and the Faculty of International Education sponsor refugees who seek to build a new life in Canada and the campus communities rally quickly to aid relief efforts in the wake of international disasters such as the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

Social and cultural enrichment
There were 1,536 international students from 71 countries who invested in their education at VIU in 2009/10. In terms of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs), they made up more than 11 per cent of the student population and their numbers grew by more than 11 per cent from 2008 to 2009. VIU will continue to attract strong international participation through creative partnerships and recruiting initiatives.

“Our estimate is that international students contribute $25 million to $30 million per year to the local economy in tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses,” says Dr. Graham Pike, Dean of International Education. “In addition, and perhaps just as important, is the contribution they make in social and cultural terms, through their interactions with homestay families, with various community organizations and with their Canadian peers.”

More than 470 students from China attended VIU in 2009/10 and the strong contingent of Chinese students will be bolstered as a result of VIU’s partnerships with institutions such as Zhejiang Ocean University, Shandong Institute for Business and Technology and the Beijing Hospitality Institute.

Solid numbers of students from Japan, Saudi Arabia, India, Korea and Germany are also attracted to the high quality of education at VIU as well as an array of support programs that assist students and ease their transition into Canadian and campus life.

“Students have many options to choose from including the Peer Helper program, Cultural Connections program, new student orientations and choices from a wide range of campus and community activities,” says Tami Mullaly, receptionist for International Education.

“When students first arrive, we encourage them to get involved and meet other Canadian and international students as quickly as possible to lessen the impact of culture shock or homesickness. Usually we’re the first people the students meet outside of the airport so they connect with us very quickly. They often think of us as family away from home.”

New initiatives
“While we have a significant number of international students on campus, we’re looking for more diversity,” says Bruce Condie, Director, International Marketing, Recruitment and Business Development.

In recent years, China, India, Korea and Japan have consistently represented the major countries for international students heading to Canada. Due to its government sponsorship, Saudi Arabia is now a major source country. There are signs that students from Brazil are becoming more aware of the opportunities in Western Canada and VIU is among several BC universities that have prepared initiatives to strengthen ties with South America’s largest country. VIU offers an appealing combination to students, who...
can pursue their studies on campuses in smaller centres combined with easy access to Vancouver and Victoria.

“International students provide a culturally rich learning environment which enhances the development of well-rounded citizens. They make significant contributions to the economy while studying and living here, or bringing their extended families here to visit,” says President Ralph Nilson.

While VIU is proud to welcome students from around the world, the university is equally committed to provide international learning experiences for students through field schools, research projects, study tours and international exchanges. Financial support is available through several Study Abroad awards.

**Cross-cultural team of MBA students**

In 2009 four Master of Business Administration (MBA) students worked in the Arctic Circle on a nationally funded research project to help one of Canada’s oldest First Nations communities improve living and working conditions and stimulate the economy.

The students travelled to Aklavik in the Inuvik Region of the Northwest Territories on an MBA internship. “We’re helping the community of Aklavik develop an economically sustainable development plan,” says VIU student Abdulkader Mahairi. The team represented an impressive blend of cultures and backgrounds. Mahairi is a pharmacist from Saudi Arabia. Edwin Kolausok is a photo-journalist from Aklavik, while Arvind Chauhan, an aerospace engineer and Gaganjot Singh, a mechanical engineer, are both from India.

As the students headed toward graduation, the information they produced helped create an economically sustainable development plan to assist the community advance towards its socio-economic goals.

**Ghana Canada Partnership for Environmental Education**

The Ghana Canada Partnership for Environmental Education continues to show the value of international collaboration and partnerships. The partnership is a five-year initiative spearheaded by VIU’s Department of Recreation and Tourism Management and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), through the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

Dr. Ken Hammer and Dr. Rick Rollins initiated the project in 2006 as a collaboration between VIU and two post-secondary institutions in Ghana, the Sunyani Polytechnic and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science. The partners are working together on community development projects to reduce household waste, improve forest fire management, reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and develop ecotourism.
Degrees of success: students excel in a rich learning environment

As demand grows for well-educated post-secondary graduates to meet the needs of a world in transition, VIU is committed to students’ success. Our grads will provide the skills, creativity and leadership to enrich society and meet challenges in their communities — whether it’s adding a new voice to a philosophical debate, aiding a special needs child in school or composing a work of jazz.

Value of lifelong learning

For some, graduation marks the start of their careers in fields such as resource management, law enforcement, sports management and business administration. Others are committed to further studies as they invest in additional formal education. As part of the VIU community, all are encouraged to recognize the value of lifelong learning.

Laura Buzzard of Nanaimo, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Major in Liberal Studies and Minor in Women’s Studies, plans to work for a book publisher for a year before pursuing a master’s degree. Buzzard won a Governor General’s Silver Medal for her academic achievements at VIU. She had the opportunity to attend a larger university but chose VIU. “My decision was about more than small class sizes. I knew from attending Philosophers’ Café events in the community that VIU professors are caring, intelligent people who nurture students’ individual ideas and ability to think critically and communicate ideas.”

Quality of VIU education recognized

VIU’s commitment to excellence ensures that the credentials of our graduates are valued across Canada and internationally. VIU’s School of Business was awarded accreditation by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), the leading specialized accreditation association for business education celebrating teaching excellence.

“We are happy and proud to receive this accreditation,” says Mike Mann, retired Dean, Faculty of Management. “It was a long process that involved many people. We have been working towards accreditation for three years. It’s a vote of confidence in our faculty, staff and students and it says a lot about all the services at VIU, both inside and outside of the School of Business.”

VIU is among the institutions that have earned BC Education Quality Assurance (EQA) designation. The classification, established in November 2009, provides a vital tool for post-secondary students in Canada and around the world to ensure they make the right choice for their learning environment, says President Ralph Nilson.

“EQA is a symbol of quality that will strengthen the reputation of VIU as a centre of creativity, innovation and social responsibility,” Nilson says. “VIU is committed to excellence and providing students from all countries with a stimulating educational experience that enhances the quality of their lives in a setting that is second to none.”

Teacher excels in role of master’s student

The first 25 graduates in the new Master of Education in Educational Leadership received their degrees at spring convocation. It was a day of particular pride for Barbara McLaughlin, an English and Learning Support teacher in Parksville-Qualicum.

McLaughlin graduated with a perfect grade point average of 10 and became VIU’s first recipient of a Governor General’s Gold Medal for academic achievement. “I can’t say enough about the program, the faculty and the amazing cohort of students I had the pleasure to study with,” says McLaughlin. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do. I’ve worked with a lot of young, talented student teachers from VIU’s Education program and I’ve admired them. When I heard a Master of Education would be offered locally, I jumped at the chance to return to school.”

VIU offers a wide range of programs as part of the university’s commitment to meet the evolving needs of students and employers on the West Coast.

VIU’s Master of Education in Educational Leadership began at the Nanaimo campus in September 2008. The two-year program,
delivered part-time, allows teachers to enhance their practice with a clear focus on the BC context and engage in active research of importance to themselves, their students and their schools. It’s the first program of its kind offered in the mid-Vancouver Island or north Island region by a local post-secondary institution, according to Dr. Harry Janzen, Dean of Education.

“Many American universities have offered Educational Leadership degrees, but these programs are not embedded enough within the BC context,” says Janzen. “Vancouver Island school districts had been asking for a made-in-BC program for years. This program will help address the expected shortage of school principals and vice-principals in BC. The Ministry of Education predicts 1,400 vacancies over the next five years.”

“I’ve worked with a lot of young, talented student teachers from VIU’s Education program and I’ve admired them. When I heard a Master of Education would be offered locally, I jumped at the chance to return to school. I can’t say enough about the program, the faculty and the amazing cohort of students I had the pleasure to study with.”

— Barbara McLaughlin, Governor General’s Gold Medal Winner, Master of Education in Educational Leadership
Since 1936, when a group of eight eager automotive students gathered for instruction in Jack Macready’s garage, trades training at VIU has supported thousands of skilled and innovative workers in their educational journey. As it evolved, the institution adopted new names such as the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Centre, BC Vocational School, Nanaimo and Malaspina College. While the names have changed, the goal has been consistent — to provide the skills training that will support students in meeting the changing needs of employers and communities throughout the West Coast and around the world. Our graduates have achieved remarkable success and have a significant impact on the social and economic realities of their communities.

VIU is committed to strengthening partnerships and ensuring programs are relevant to the demands of the workplace. More than 1.1 million job openings are expected to be created in BC over the next decade. Trades and equipment operators are expected to be among the occupations with the highest demand and, according to the BC Labour Market Outlook, Vancouver Island will be one of the strongest regions for employment growth in the province.

**Powell River carpentry students gain hands-on experience with fieldhouse**

Through a win-win partnership, 18 VIU carpentry students gained hands-on experience working on the foundation and framing of a two-storey fieldhouse while School District 47 (Powell River) received support in constructing the multi-purpose facility. The team of student carpenters included 12 enrolled as dual-credit students, who earned high school and university credits at the same time.

“It was a great opportunity for our students,” says instructor Gary Huculak. “We’re always looking for projects to get involved in and the fieldhouse has a lot of interesting features with its green design.”

“It’s been an excellent project for our students to work on,” says Troy Marshall, who co-ordinates dual-credit programs for School District 47 and VIU. “We try to bring in real-life elements in all our trades projects whether it’s carpentry, welding, automotive, hairdressing or culinary arts.”

**Parksville-Qualicum esthetics “boot camp” offers tender touch**

VIU’s eight-month, full-time Esthetics Certificate program began at the Parksville-Qualicum campus in May 2009 with the first cohort graduating in December. Two rooms at VIU’s Parksville-Qualicum campus were upgraded last spring to ensure the training program prepares students to meet the needs of salons, spas and day clinics on Vancouver Island and beyond. Students volunteered their services for a variety of community events performing facials, massages, body scrubs, waxing, manicures, pedicures and makeup application. More than 650 clients enjoyed the benefits of the program’s practical training as students logged more than 500 hours of practice.

VIU students shared health and beauty tips at an esthetics “boot camp” for Ballenas Secondary School students. It was a chance for students to practise their skills in shaping eyebrows and applying makeup and offer advice on well-being. “It’s good experience for our students,” says Lesley Osborne, chair of VIU’s Esthetics certificate program. “It also gives them ideas on how to take care of their bodies through exercise, hygiene and a healthy diet.”
Outstanding Service Award recognizes heavy duty support for VIU
Ross Somerville retired in January 2009 as Sales and Marketing Director at Cummins Western Canada after 30-plus years of service. During his career, he supported the VIU Trades and Applied Technology department by arranging donations to the Heavy Duty Mechanics program from Cummins Western Canada. The total value of these donations is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Donated items range from software to a 700-horsepower diesel engine with computer-controlled engine systems. The donations were mainly focused on the Heavy Duty/Commercial Transport Mechanics program, but the Power Sports and Marine Technician program also recently received a complete new diesel engine/stern drive package valued at $35,000. Somerville also developed and taught two courses in Leadership and Supervisory Skills in the Trades program for two separate cohorts, in addition to his regular job with Cummins Western Canada.

“Ross not only did an amazing job in the development and instruction of these courses but he took the salary he earned from VIU and put it back to VIU students through a bursary,” says Fred MacDonald, Dean of Trades and Applied Technology. “He is a person who has demonstrated in word and action his dedication to student learning and to VIU.”

VIU recognized Somerville’s contribution at spring convocation with the Outstanding Service Award.

Automotive Service Technician grad puts her skills to work
In high school, a career in trades was the farthest thing from Zabrina Peters’ mind. But five years later, much to her surprise, she’s a certified Automotive Service Technician working for Tim’s Automotive in Nanaimo. Peters was among 250 graduates from VIU’s Trades and Applied Technology programs celebrating their achievements at spring convocation. Peters also received the NAPA Autoparts Most Improved Student Award. On average about five females a year sign up for the Automotive Technician program, which runs two classes of 18 students each.

“Zabrina was quite green when she started the program,” says instructor Dean Cadieux. “She knew nothing about the automotive industry. Through sheer determination and hard work, she excelled. She’s a great all-around student and I am confident she will enjoy a long, lucrative career in the automotive industry.”

Zabrina Peters: Most Improved Student
The Office of Development and Alumni is the university’s primary fundraising source for private investment, while creating meaningful relationships with alumni, students, friends and donors. The office includes the annual fund, major gifts and legacies and alumni relations divisions.

**Annual Fund**
The Annual Fund division raises funds to support VIU students through annual and endowed scholarships, awards and bursaries and, importantly, through unrestricted gifts to the university, which can be used in areas of most urgent need. In 2009/10 total cash gifts increased slightly to $1,694,430. Fund sources included annual gifts, new endowment revenue, McLotto (staff lottery), Festival of Trees, Business Breakfast and third party events.

VIU disbursed 713 scholarship awards and bursaries to students valued at $478,382; 498 awards were disbursed from annual donations and 215 awards were disbursed from the 2009 endowment funds. The VIU Foundation Board froze the endowment funds in October 2009 to protect the principal balances due to the changing economic conditions. VIU contacted 282 donors advising them of this and requested a onetime gift to continue the awards. More than 35 per cent responded favourably and generously contributed $61,500.

The Festival of Trees netted $105,000 with sponsorship and attendance remaining strong even though many other community events struggled in the weakened economy. The Business Breakfast sold out to 300 community supporters and we secured Telus as a major presenting sponsor.

The Annual Fund division will continue to focus on increasing scholarships, awards and bursaries, raising unrestricted funds, enhancing donor communications, regionalizing the fundraising activities and events, and developing clear policies and procedures for the annual fund. We will be focusing on increased annual giving to support student needs while the endowment funds recover from the economic downturn.

**Major Gifts and Legacies**
The Major Gifts and Legacies division is a vital core member of the Development and Alumni department that is transforming to meet the growing needs of VIU and the community it serves.

The division will continue to fundraise for capital priority projects as determined by university leadership and prepare the groundwork in anticipation of a significant capital appeal in support of the Nanaimo Campus Master Plan’s top priorities in the coming year.

Since its inception in 2009, the Major Gifts program has raised $1.8 million for capital and legacies projects including Shq’apthut: A Gathering Place and the International Centre for Sturgeon Studies and secured five new planned gifts valued at an estimated $700,000 to $1 million.

**Alumni relations**
Chairied by Nathan Thornton (BA Transfer ’87-’90) the VIU Alumni Association represents more than 30,000 VIU, Malaspina and Vocational Trade School alumni through leadership, advocacy and service. The Association is preparing for VIU’s 75th anniversary and encourages all alumni to be a part of the celebration and share their stories, pictures and memorabilia from their time on campus or to consider organizing a reunion.

The Alumni Association also plays a role in the governance of VIU and recommended an alumni representative for Senate, Stephen Littley (BA ‘01). The association also endorsed alumni reps on the VIU Board of Governors, Ann Scott (Business ‘79) and Bill Yoachim (BA ‘04).

VIU is reaching out to alumni around the world. The first event for international students was held at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan in October 2009. President Ralph Nilson and Dean of International Education Graham Pike hosted a large group of alumni who networked with fellow classmates and shared their stories and memories of VIU.

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_“We have an ambitious goal to increase our endowments substantially over the next three years. One big step is to have Vancouver Island University in the forefront when people think of the quality of life in the regions we serve. I want people to think about what they can do for VIU and what the university does for them.”_  
— Wahid Ali, Investment Advisor TD Waterhouse, Chair of the Vancouver Island University Foundation
Two issues of VIU’s alumni magazine, *Journey*, were produced in 2009/10 featuring award-winning entertainment producer and 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Terence Fitzgerald (Arts ’92) and nurse Kirsten Schuld (BSc ’04) who travelled to the front lines of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

VIU alumni continue to distinguish themselves in their careers and this year we were proud to recognize two of them for their achievements. Warren Erhart (Hotel and Restaurant Management ’76), president of White Spot Restaurants, received the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his successful career in the restaurant industry. For her work in enhancing health care in rural Guatemala, Rebekah Shoop (BSc Nursing ’02) received the Alumni Horizon Award.

*Ladysmith boy collects twoonies for sturgeon*

Every donation counts. Five-year-old Alden Thom of Ladysmith was so impressed by a visit to the sturgeon tanks at VIU, he decided to raise money at his 5th birthday party to help the endangered species. Alden collected twoonies from his friends and donated $35 to President Nilson and Dr. Harald Rosenthal, president of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society. Rosenthal happened to be on campus to review plans for VIU’s International Centre for Sturgeon Studies (ICSS), slated for opening in 2011.

“VIU relies on the generous support of donors. We are extremely grateful for all the donations we receive. Big or small, they all add up to opportunities for students to achieve their goals.”

— President Ralph Nilson

Alden Thom, near right, donated $35 to President Ralph Nilson, far right, for the International Centre for Sturgeon Studies.
With more than 1,500 Aboriginal students enrolled in programs at four campuses, VIU has one of the highest Aboriginal post-secondary participation rates in BC and across the country. This strong participation reflects the positive relationships that exist between VIU and First Nations on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. Aboriginal-focused programs at VIU include Aboriginal University Bridging, Aboriginal Construction, Arts One – First Nations and Child and Youth Care in First Nations. Here are some highlights in Aboriginal Education at VIU during the past year.

VIU alumnus elected Chief of Snuneymuxw
VIU graduate Chief Douglas White is carrying on a family legacy of community service. White left his fast-paced job in Vancouver as a lawyer with one of Canada’s top Aboriginal law firms to run as Chief during the Snuneymuxw First Nations elections December 2009. He won the right to represent over 1,600 Snuneymuxw people. White completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in First Nations Studies with distinction at VIU in 2000, followed by a law degree from the University of Victoria. His mother, Joyce, helped develop the First Nations Studies program at VIU alongside Dr. Richard Atleo, father of Shawn (A-in-chut) Atleo, VIU’s first Chancellor and National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

One of White’s first official acts as Chief was signing a Memorandum of Understanding with VIU and School District #68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) in support of the House of Learning program to promote educational collaboration between the partners and continued support for the Snuneymuxw First Nation adult learning program.

“The House of Learning program can transform the lives of students by providing them with skills, knowledge and education,” White says.

Lt.-Gov. Steven Point lauds VIU for advances in education
Lt.-Gov. Steven Point praised the first graduates of VIU’s Aboriginal Construction program for completing their 10-month program and their work on a new gathering place for Aboriginal students.

Shq’apthut: A Gathering Place is located on the Nanaimo campus and due for completion in 2011. It includes a student lounge, elders lounge and office space for VIU’s Aboriginal Student Services department.

Shq’apthut: A Gathering Place has special significance for the 10 graduating students of the Aboriginal Construction program who were trained through a partnership between the University and the Coast Salish Employment and Training Society (CSETS). The class of 2010 gained hands-on experience working on the foundation and timber supports for the distinctive structure designed by First Nations architect Alfred Waugh.

Marlene Rice, Executive Director of CSETS, says the apprenticeship aspect of the Aboriginal Construction program will be valuable for Aboriginal students who are seeking long-term employment in the construction industry.

Students win Canada Post award
First Nations students Wanda Good and Jennifer White have demonstrated unwavering determination and drive. In spite of challenging life circumstances, both women distinguished themselves as strong role models in their community. Their ability to persevere and their contribution to their family and community were recognized with $1,000 Canada Post Education Incentive Awards. Both Good and White are from the Snuneymuxw First Nation and are pursuing careers in Child and Youth Care and Social Services at VIU.
Powell River Elder-in-Residence receives Honorary Doctorate Degree

Elsie Paul, known on Vancouver Island for bridging cultures between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from VIU in January. Paul is known in the Coast Salish region by her traditional name, Qazustala’s, which means a welcoming person with a wealth of knowledge.

“Elsie is one of the few remaining Elders of Tla’Amin First Nation who is fluent in the Tla’Amin language and who has dedicated her life to creating healthy communities through learning,” says Arlette Raaen, Campus Principal at VIU’s Powell River Campus.

Paul’s career has focused primarily in the area of social work and she’s been a strong advocate for social change. She was one of the founding member of Tsow-Ten-Lelum House treatment centre, a healing lodge for Aboriginal people established over 20 years ago. Through her work as Justice of the Peace, in Victim Support Services and Aboriginal policing, she has made a lasting contribution to the well-being of First Nations communities.

Her current role, as Elder-in-Residence at the Powell River campus for the past two years, is a reflection of the inspiration she brings in support of learning and higher education.

Grad named national Aboriginal ambassador

VIU grad Carol Bob spent part of the summer and fall of 2009 getting young people excited about science.

Bob, originally from the Naneese First Nation or Snaw-Naw-As, was one of two recipients of a $5,000 Aboriginal Ambassador award from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). As a national Aboriginal Ambassador, Bob travelled to Aboriginal communities in Alert Bay, Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands) and Kincome Inlet (north of Powell River) to motivate and inspire young people.
Michele Patterson, VIU’s new manager, environment and sustainability, overseas the sustainability program at VIU. Patterson is charged with developing a comprehensive sustainability program that includes setting measurable targets in partnership with an advisory committee and building constituency and profile for VIU’s increasing sustainability commitments and accomplishments. “I came to VIU because I was excited about the high-level commitment to sustainability in place here,” says Patterson. “Once I arrived, I was very happy to find out how much was going on and how keen the VIU community is to play a leadership role in achieving sustainability on our campuses and for Vancouver Island. My new position brings solid resources and capacity to an already enthusiastic effort.”

Sustainability is a high priority at VIU and we have seen significant achievements in many areas over the past year, particularly in the establishment of a new VIU Sustainability Office in January 2010 within the Facilities Services and Campus Development department.

Because universities are places with large geographic footprints, having many buildings, operations and people, the first priority for the newly launched sustainability office is reducing our environmental footprint. This will be done through a combination of integrated campus development, operational improvements and behaviour change activities. As a public sector institution, VIU is now required, under BC law, to be carbon neutral. We will achieve this in 2010 through extensive retrofits in lighting, heating and air conditioning systems, and through the purchase of carbon offsets from the BC Carbon Trust. As well, VIU is installing electricity, gas and water meters in more of our buildings to better track resource consumption and identify where we can make further reductions in resource use. Our environmental footprint will also be reduced in other areas as we create strategies for improving our waste management diversion, reducing single occupancy vehicle transportation to our campuses and sourcing greener products.

Campus planning and development continues to be one of our strongest sustainability achievement areas. VIU received international recognition for developing our Nanaimo Campus Master Plan. (See details on page 16.) Other campus development projects underway will also set high standards for integrated planning and green building construction. The new Cowichan Place campus in Duncan is set to open in 2011 and will be certified as LEED Gold. The new Powell River Trades Centre will replace a current out-of-date and aging trades building with a new facility that will increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions meeting LEED Gold or equivalent standards. The Deep Bay Field Station will be one of only a handful of showcase LEED platinum buildings in BC.

“Modelling a sustainable society on our campuses and advancing a sustainable society in the communities we serve and around the world is a significant responsibility. VIU’s commitment to sustainability is a core university value and will be coupled with a robust sustainability strategy that puts us on a transformative path that will benefit Vancouver Island and the people who call it home.”

— President Ralph Nilson

VIU is also advancing sustainability through our teaching, research and community engagement. For example, Dr. Richard Lane, English Professor and Director of the Literary Theory Research Group, has implemented a new sustainability-focused curriculum in his university composition courses. Students look at theories about peak oil, post-hydrocarbon technologies and esthetics, the need for policies and governance in the area of sustainability and the psychology of climate change denial, among other related topics and approaches.
They undertake in-depth research projects and are encouraged to be innovative in their synthesis of sustainability concepts and to be creative in developing new models and applications. “I believe it is critical,” says Dr. Lane, “that my students explore sustainability in the context of the humanities. Sustainability learning outcomes can be developed in any discipline and students also benefit from interdisciplinary courses where they can focus on generating both immediate and more long-term solutions to global, regional and local environmental and humanitarian problems.”

**Symposium on food sustainability**

VIU’s Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre sponsored a symposium on food sustainability in partnership with the Institute for Coastal Research and the Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation. This was the third event in the Biosphere Conversation Series and involved Vancouver Island experts and researchers in food security and food sustainability participating in seminars looking at the philosophical, ethical, social and political dimensions of food.

**Powell River initiative**

VIU’s Powell River campus is also playing an important role in advancing regional sustainability by leading development of a sustainability charter for their area, in partnership with local and regional government as well as other community members.

“Modelling a sustainable society on our campuses and advancing a sustainable society in the communities we serve and around the world is a significant responsibility,” says President Ralph Nilson. “VIU’s commitment to sustainability is a core university value and will soon be coupled with a robust sustainability strategy that puts us on a transformative path that will benefit Vancouver Island and the people who call it home.”

Notions of sustainability are deeply imbedded within VIU’s Recreation and Tourism department. Within the undergraduate curriculum this is evident in several courses, including Environmental Stewardship, Community Development, Management of Parks and Protected Areas, Heritage Interpretation and Tourism Policy. The notions of “triple bottom line sustainability” are woven throughout the entire undergraduate curriculum as one of the defining elements of the department’s mission statement. A Master of Arts Degree in Sustainable Leisure Management, due to begin in August 2011, will focus on the intersection of sustainability and leisure services.

Michele Patterson promotes initiatives such as composting. Photo: Chris Bush, Nanaimo News Bulletin
Financial management
VIUSU had a successful year financially due to growth in membership fee revenue and responsible management of cost inflation. The additional financial capacity was used by the Board to pay down more than $250,000 of the principle of the Students’ Union building loan, a move that will save tens of thousands of dollars in interest charges.

Governance
General elections were held in October 2009 and February 2010 and a general meeting was held in November 2009. At the February election, the Board held a referendum that proposed two resolutions to change VIUSU bylaws. The first proposed changing references in the bylaws of “Malaspina University-College” to “Vancouver Island University”. The second proposed a structural change to VIUSU’s Board to convert the program representative structure to a faculty representative structure that would better reflect the structure of the university. Both referendum questions passed.

Staff relations
The Board negotiated a renewal of the collective agreement with the VIUSU’s staff, represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, plus an additional Memorandum of Understanding to re-organize VIUSU’s resource staff. The highlights of both agreements include more student job opportunities, increased wages for student staff, improved management structures and greater staff resources devoted to providing services to members.

Clubs and events
A variety of events were organized by VIUSU including:

Nanaimo:
• Summer barbecue for members attending class in summer.
• Open Mic Nights - Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters.
• FROSH September 2009 featured a walk-in movie, concert, beer garden, information and vendor market and a free pancake breakfast.
• FROSH Week 2010 welcome-back events in January included an all-ages concert.
• Dr. Dennis Rancourt from the University of Ottawa was presented as a guest speaker in October and lectured about academic freedom.
• A year-end barbecue and concert in April featured a performance by hip-hop legend Del the Funky Homosapien.

Regional events were also held in Powell River, Parksville-Qualicum and Cowichan.

Club and course unions
VIUSU sponsored more than 40 clubs, including five activist clubs, two partisan/religious clubs, 20 course unions and 16 general interest clubs. An estimated 1,500 students were involved in a club or course union.

World University Services of Canada (WUSC) student refugee program
VIUSU sponsored the creation of a WUSC Club at VIU. In its first year the club sponsored a student refugee with the support of VIUSU, the Office of the President and the Faculty of International Education. Based on the success of the program, the club and VIUSU held a successful referendum to create an annual fee to support ongoing participation in the Student Refugee program.

Advocacy and government relations
The following campaigns were the main focus of VIUSU’s advocacy agenda:

Campaign Against Violence Against Aboriginal Women
VIUSU joined with Aboriginal groups, student groups, women’s organizations and other social justice agencies across Canada to support two days of action to bring attention to the issue of violence against Aboriginal women in Canada.

Campaign for a Common Grading Scale
In 2009/10 students from the Faculty of Science and Technology requested that VIUSU lobby for a unified grading scale to ensure that all faculties and departments were using the same system to equate
percentage grades to letter grades. Working with student representatives on Senate, VIUSU was successful in having a common grading system adopted.

**Education Shouldn't be a Debt Sentence**
VIUSU participated in the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia campaign to reduce tuition fees, reduce interest rates charged on student loans and increase grant funding available to post-secondary students. As part of the campaign, VIUSU gathered signatures on a province-wide petition, held campus events in Nanaimo and Cowichan, made several presentations to the university's Board of Governors and made a formal submission to the BC Standing Committee on Government Finance and Service.

**WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit**
VIUSU actively engaged in the province-wide campaign for improved transit. In 2008/09 the campaign successfully pressured the BC government to commit to a standardized Universal Bus Pass program for the entire province and in 2009/10 VIUSU worked with fellow students across BC to ensure the proposed program became a reality. VIUSU also advocated for improvements to the local transit system.

**Students for Sustainability**
VIUSU organized several events and advocacy initiatives to support increased awareness of environmental issues and improve sustainability of campus activities. A major focus was on issues relating to water security and privatization.
VIU’s research activity continues to grow. Two major multi-year research projects began during 2009/10 and the institution remains committed to undergraduate research, inquiry and engagement. Here are some of the key highlights:

Researchers net $1 million for international study
VIU researchers received $1 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to spearhead a five-year study in Canada, Ghana and Tanzania called “Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction: A Canada-Africa Research and Learning Alliance”. In addition, researchers and community organizers in the partnering countries received $1 million from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

“It is a partnership that brings together 17 universities, community organizations and government agencies across Canada, Ghana and Tanzania,” explains Liz Hammond-Kaarremaa, VIU’s Director of Research Services. “The study aims to address challenges of reducing rural poverty in and around protected areas, while finding ways to increase environmental sustainability. In Canada, our researchers are working closely with the communities involved in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Tribal Parks in Tofino.”

The principal investigator is Dr. Grant Murray, a Canada Research Chair in Coastal Resource Management at VIU. “The study includes four main questions or streams of inquiry,” says Murray. “How do we maximize cost benefits of protected areas to local communities? How do we best manage human interactions with wildlife in and around protected areas? How do we improve the management of these areas and how can we best transfer knowledge between academic researchers, community organizations, visitors and managers?”

The project will involve more than a dozen students from undergraduates through to post-doctoral researchers.

Study aims to examine the potential role of sea lice as a vector of fish pathogens
The second major research project launched in 2009/10 looks at defining the ecological and immunological role of sea lice in the propagation and progression of pathogens among farmed and wild salmonids in British Columbia. Both topics are of special interest to communities in our region.

Dr. Duane Barker received a three-year $413,000 federal research grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) – the largest single, non-equipment grant ever awarded to a VIU researcher.

Barker, an expert in fish health diseases and fish parasites in the Fisheries and Aquaculture department, says undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral researchers will play a huge role in the study. Co-investigators include Dr. Simon Jones, Dr. Kyle Garver and Dr. Stewart Johnson, all of the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo.
Research and Innovation chairs
It was a milestone year at VIU with the creation of the first Research and Innovation Chairs Endowment which will fund the ongoing positions of two BC Regional Innovation Chairs. BC government support for the Chairs is provided through Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF) established in April 2002 to encourage social and economic development in the province.

As BC Regional Innovation Chair in Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development, Dr. Nicole Vaugeois is helping rural and remote communities in BC to incorporate amenity-based industries into their economic base.

Although rural BC communities enjoy some of the most spectacular surroundings in the world, tourism potential is often untapped due to lack of knowledge and resources, accessibility and community isolation.

“This position provides ongoing support to communities throughout BC to incorporate tourism into sustainable development goals,” says Vaugeois, a professor in Recreation and
Tourism Management at VIU. “Our team is helping rural communities capitalize on their natural assets by providing resources to guide tourism development.”

Vaugeois, who has a PhD in tourism planning and development from Michigan State University, has worked with regional and community tourism organizations to identify opportunities to expand tourism in the region.

The Chair is part of VIU’s Faculty of Management. Its research program includes developing and delivering customized management training, helping regions and communities with their planning needs and promoting long-term sustainable development opportunities.

**Aboriginal Early Childhood Development**

As BC Regional Innovation Chair in Aboriginal Early Childhood Development (AECD) at VIU, Linda McDonell welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with First Nations communities. McDonell will lead a new collaborative approach that combines action research with community-based practice in interactive, reciprocal partnerships with Aboriginal communities, practitioners and students.

The research and innovation agenda will be collaboratively set, actively involving Aboriginal practitioners, students and educators in research and curriculum development adapted for their individual communities. The result will be increasingly innovative, high quality and culturally relevant community-based programs and services.

McDonell, who has worked as a frontline early childhood educator and more recently at VIU as a researcher and instructor in the field, sees her role as built on community vision. This will be reflected on campus and in First Nations communities with an emphasis on strengthening the quality, accessibility and cultural relevance of education and professional development opportunities in First Nations programs.

McDonell’s work supports the provincial government’s goals of helping to build healthy families through early childhood development and supporting an Aboriginal approach that is more inclusive and reflective of Aboriginal cultures and traditions.

**Other key highlights**

- In 2009/10, four students received NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Awards and worked for 16 weeks in the state-of-the-art Applied Environmental Research Laboratories.

- Computing science student Kyle d’Oliveira received a $17,500 NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship and is now pursuing his master’s degree at UBC.

- Nursing students Paul Smith, Brittany van Viegen and Heather Shaw each received $2,125 from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

**Students learn new skills through field work**

Sometimes the best learning takes place outside of the classroom. Just ask the students in Marilyn Funk’s third-year...
Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection Advanced Field Skills class.
The students learned boat handling skills on Lake Cowichan, how to use a GPS system and how to conduct a residents’ survey – all while working on a research project for the BC Ministry of Environment and other partners.

“I strongly believe in experiential learning opportunities for students,” says Funk.

The students practised boat handling skills on Lake Cowichan while inspecting the water for the aquatic invasive plant species, Eurasian Watermilfoil. On dry ground, they surveyed lakeshore residents to examine the environmental attitudes and habits of residents.

The ministry and other partners, including the Cowichan Valley Regional District, mayor of Lake Cowichan and various water stewardship groups, hope to use the survey results to design educational materials promoting environmental awareness about lakeshore living.

$50,000 grant for climate change awareness group
VIU students and graduates will step up efforts to educate others about the science of climate change. The student club Awareness of Climate Change through Education and Research (ACER) received a $50,000 PromoScience grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to continue their work promoting scientific literacy and encouraging high school students to pursue post-secondary education and careers in science and engineering.

VIU professor inducted fellow in prestigious research consortium
Dr. Guy Le Masurier, professor of Sport, Health & Physical Education, was honoured for his research by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD).

Le Masurier was among six candidates inducted as Research Consortium Fellows at the AAHPERD convention and exposition in Indianapolis, Indiana last spring. He joins approximately 375 Fellows in the Consortium, a member group of more than 5,500 research scholars and other members who have a strong interest in research.

“I’m passionate about engaging with students in community-based research and programming that positively impacts the health of children and adolescents,” said Le Masurier. “I believe undergraduate research is a transformative teaching and learning tool because it rekindles students’ hunger to discover and apply knowledge.”

“Working in VIU’s Applied Environmental Research Labs is an incredible learning experience. People usually don’t think of science as creative, but when you’re given a question and have to create an experiment to figure out how you’re going to answer it, science becomes creative, interesting and exciting. The science faculty at VIU love teaching. They go out of their way to help students.”

— Megan Willis, undergraduate student, is working towards a double minor in Chemistry and Math.
Research: a catalyst for innovation

Undergraduate research at VIU
Undergraduate research plays a pivotal role in the student experience at VIU. With small classes, dedicated faculty and a variety of research centres and labs, students studying at VIU have a tremendous opportunity to enhance their education with hands-on learning through research.

VIU’s Research and Scholarly Activity Office continues to work closely with the Teaching and Learning Centre – now part of Innovation and Excellence in Learning @ VIU – and faculty researchers to provide a wealth of opportunities for students.

VIU’s increased focus on undergraduate research is being recognized by national funding agencies. Increasingly, a number of undergraduate student researchers receive scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). Each NSERC scholarship is valued at approximately $4,500 and gives selected undergraduate students the opportunity to work in various research labs on campus during the summer months alongside notable and experienced faculty researchers and mentors.

VIU is also averaging four post-graduate scholarships per year. These scholarships are worth approximately $17,500 each and serve as a tremendous financial boost to help VIU grads pursue master’s degrees.

Financial Impact of VIU Research Activities on Students

*Data for Student Salaries compiled from research cost centres and students employed as research assistants through the Campus Career Centre.
As a special purpose, teaching university, VIU has a mandate to provide relevant, responsive and innovative programs and services to support the needs of the region we serve. In order to achieve this end, we must focus on fiscal responsibility that is well-aligned with the strategic priorities of our government and the economic needs of our region.

Post-secondary education will play a critical role in re-shaping local economies and strengthening communities as they emerge from the current economic downturn. As a publicly funded institution operating in a climate of economic uncertainty, it is important that we manage our financial resources in ways that are prudent, strategic and demonstrate a high degree of ethical responsibility.

The percentage of total revenue provided from the provincial government has declined steadily from a high of 80 per cent in the 1980s to the current level.

In 2009/10, funding from provincial government contracts and grants represents 49 per cent of the University’s gross revenue on an annual basis with the next highest contributor to total revenue being student tuition and other fees at 33 per cent.

VIU’s operating fund over recent years has become dependent upon significant “profit-targets” in international and domestic contract service areas and business operations.

VIU must continue to strengthen its financial position and stay focused on our fiscal responsibilities if we are to keep pace with expected growth and the downward trend in government funding.

**Sources of Revenue for 2009/10**

- **Tuition and Other Fees**: 33%
- **Sales of Goods and Services**: 8%
- **Instructional Contracts**: 2%
- **Amortization of Deferred Contributions**: 3%
- **Investment Income, Gifts, Interest & Other**: 4%
- **Other**: 49%
- **Government Grants & Contracts - Fed**: 1%

**Percent of Total Revenue from Province**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.49</td>
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</table>

**Tuition Rates 09/10**

- Tuition/credit hour: $123.65
- Full-time vocational program/month: $370.95
- Full-time university program/semester: $1,854.75
- International tuition/semester: $5,900
Enrolment

Increased student demand at VIU led to an overall increase in enrolment of eight per cent across all VIU programs during the 2009/10 academic year. The increase applied to both domestic and international students, with a seven per cent increase in domestic enrolment (513 FTE students) and an 11 per cent increase in international enrolment (101 FTE students).

International students came from 71 countries to attend VIU, with the greatest growth in students from the Middle East, Europe, South Asia and Africa. However, the largest numbers of international students attending VIU continue to come from East Asia, primarily China and Japan.

Enrolment growth in 2009/10 was universal across all program areas at VIU with the exception of Trades, which remained stable despite provincial budget restrictions. The greatest growth was in bachelor’s degree programs, with an overall increase of 276 FTE students or eight per cent.

Bachelor’s degrees remain the single largest area of enrolment at VIU. While no new degree programs were implemented in 2009/10, there was significant enrolment growth in the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Science and the Bachelor of Interior Design, first introduced in 2008/09.

Another area of significant growth was developmental programs, including Adult Basic Education, Adult Special Education and English-as-a-Second-Language. There was an increase of 113 FTE students or nine per cent in these programs, which help students to upgrade their skills and prepare them for entry into university-level programming.

There was slightly less, but still noticeable, growth in short skills programs, one-year certificates, two-year diplomas and post-degree diploma programs. New certificate programs introduced were Esthetician, Nail Technician and Community Leadership, as well as a post-degree diploma in Languages and Culture. Enrolment in many existing certificate and diploma programs also increased.

VIU continued to offer a very successful MBA program, which increased by 53 FTE students or 33 per cent in 2009/10. There was also growth in the new Master of Education in Educational Leadership program, first offered in 2008/09.

The most significant factors affecting enrolment at VIU continue to be the regional economy and university designation. It is a well-known fact that when the economy weakens, people return to school for further training and education, therefore the recession has been

### Distribution of Expenditures for 2009/10

- **Scholarships & Bursaries**: 1%
- **Cost of Goods Sold**: 4%
- **Amortization of Capital Assets**: 7%
- **Supplies & Services**: 17%
- **Salaries & Benefits**: 70%
- **Interest on Long-term Debt**: 1%

### Enrolment Trends at VIU Year-to-Year by Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ALMD Funded</th>
<th>ITA Funded</th>
<th>International</th>
<th>(FTE) Full-Time Equivalent Total</th>
<th>ALMD Target</th>
<th>ALMD Performance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>5,616.6</td>
<td>959.7</td>
<td>904.4</td>
<td>7,480.7</td>
<td>6,510</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>5,526.4</td>
<td>1,021.0</td>
<td>904.7</td>
<td>7,452.1</td>
<td>6,566</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>5,567.6</td>
<td>1,114.1</td>
<td>818.0</td>
<td>7,499.7</td>
<td>6,664</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>5,900.2</td>
<td>1,281.6</td>
<td>909.2</td>
<td>8,091.0</td>
<td>6,636</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>6,443.0</td>
<td>1,251.6</td>
<td>1,010.6</td>
<td>8,705.2</td>
<td>6,652</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Change**
- ALMD Funded: + 9%
- ITA Funded: - 2%
- International: + 11%

**Notes:**
- ALMD: Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
- ITA: Industry Training Authority
- Fiscal Year: April 1 to March 31
- A full-time equivalent (FTE) student is the equivalent of one full-time student in one program in one year.

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instrumental in motivating students to attend post-secondary. At the same time, VIU has seen a very positive response to its designation as a special purpose, teaching university through provincial legislation in 2008. This has been an important factor in the decisions of both domestic and international students to attend VIU.

Moving forward
VIU is shaping our communities in very real and positive ways. Universities are not immune to the effects of the economic downturn; we expect to face increasingly complex financial challenges in the next few years. The university met past financial challenges through reallocating resources, fiscal frugality, growth and depletion of reserves. As the University strives to achieve its vision for the future, it acknowledges a need to strengthen its financial position, diversify its revenue streams and find cost-effective solutions.

Governance at VIU
Vancouver Island University’s governance structure is “bicameral” which means “two governing bodies”—the Academic Senate and the Board of Governors. The Board and Senate each have distinct responsibilities within VIU’s bicameral governance structure as defined by the University Act. The mandates of the Senate and Board are accomplished through the use of standing committees.

Role of the VIU Senate
The VIU Senate was fully constituted in January of 2009. The Senate is responsible for the academic governance of the university and deals with matters that bear on education and research in the university. The University Senate conducts its work through the following six standing committees:
- Curriculum Committee
- Planning & Priorities Committee
- Educational Standards Committee
- Awards & Honours Committee
- Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Committee
- Elections Committee

Membership of the Senate
- chancellor;
- president, who is its chair;
- academic vice-president or equivalent;
- deans of faculties;
- chief librarian;
- registrar;
- two faculty members for each faculty, elected by faculty members of the faculty;
- four students elected by the students;
- one alumni member who is not a faculty member, appointed by the president on nomination by the Alumni Association;
- two support staff elected by the support staff;
- one non-voting member of the Senate, is appointed to the Senate by the Board to serve for one year.

Role of the VIU Board of Governors
The Board of Governors oversees the management, administration and control of the property, revenue, business and affairs of the university. The Board membership is comprised of 15 members as follows:
- chancellor;
- president;
- two faculty members elected by the faculty;
- eight persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, two of whom are to be appointed from among persons nominated by the Alumni Association;
- two students elected by the students;
- one person elected by and from the employees of the University who are not faculty members.
This State of the University report is being released at a time when our province and our country begin to emerge from a world-wide economic crisis unlike anything we have experienced in our history. This report also reflects on a year that was one of great pride and celebration as British Columbians, Canadians and First Nations people welcomed the world to the 2010 Olympics. These two diametric events brought our university community together albeit in different ways.

It will be educated minds, innovation, research and collaboration across cultures that will assist communities in identifying solutions to the economic and societal problems facing our world. I hope that the spirit of celebration that we felt so strongly during the Olympics and Paralympics will serve to remind us how important it is to work together while celebrating and respecting our differences. It is these values of respect, achievement, celebration, collaboration and cross-cultural appreciation that we commit to at VIU and make me proud to serve as Chancellor.

In the roles I have held throughout my career, I have dedicated a great deal of time and focus on the priority of education. I believe that education is a powerful means to the attainment of sustainable prosperity for all communities. Education is a critical factor as we rebuild our world’s economy and re-stitch a societal fabric where so many still lack access to the basic ingredients that define quality of life, such as education and accessible social infrastructure.

It is clear when I review the highlights of VIU’s 2009/10 academic year that VIU is on a steady course aimed towards strategic and relevant growth. The work VIU is undertaking to develop an integrated plan focused on the well-being of students and communities is further evidence that VIU is on the right track. Under the leadership of Dr. Nilson, the planning efforts of the university have won VIU international recognition. I would like to congratulate Dr. Nilson and the VIU team for receiving the 2010 International Award for Institutional Innovation and Integration from The Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) for VIU’s work to develop its Nanaimo Campus Master Plan. Well done.

I continue to believe that the enthusiasm and commitment of those who teach, support and lead the University will ensure that the communities and students VIU serves will thrive in our new economy. To Dr. Nilson, the Board of Governors, members of the university Senate, faculty and staff, I say thank you for your steadfast commitment to the well-being of VIU, our students and our world. It is your strong sense of purpose that I know continues to guide your decision-making and will shape the educational and economic landscape on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

VIU’s future looks bright and it is an honour to have the privilege to serve as Chancellor for such an extraordinary organization.

Thank you,

Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
Chancellor,
Vancouver Island University
Like the communities we serve, VIU is changing to meet the needs of a diverse global economy, a technology savvy populace, world-wide environmental concerns and a societal demographic that is constantly shifting. Our ongoing transformation will continue to be shaped by these influences as well as the political decisions that are made at the local, provincial and national levels. The one thing that will not change is VIU’s commitment to provide relevant and responsive training that will address the needs of our students, Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and the world.

We are committed to you and committed to grow our position as:

• A centre of **excellence** for teaching and learning
• A centre of internationally respected **research**
• A provider of high **quality** graduates who are in demand
• A major **contributor** to the culture, economy and knowledge base of Vancouver Island and the BC coast
• An institution that values a **diverse range of training and education**
• An institution that offers an enriched and intellectually **stimulating environment** for students and employees
• A university that provides **access** to all
• A leader in environmental **sustainability**
• A valuable **community asset**

**Acknowledgements**

This document was a collaborative project between VIU’s departments of Communications and Public Relations, Financial Services and Educational Planning. Many thanks to those who contributed reports. Comments or questions about its content can be directed to Toni O’Keeffe, Executive Director, Communications and Public Relations at: Toni.Okeeffe@viu.ca

Photo: Bill Pennell