

# University of Victoria Research 2004

Working at the forefront of a broad range of disciplines, researchers at the University of Victoria are creating new knowledge, refining our understanding of the world and generating results that enhance the social, cultural and economic well-being of people in Canada and around the world.

Educating the researchers of tomorrow (page 6)

University  
of Victoria



*challenge minds  
change worlds*



# herschers of tomorrow

by Katherine Gibson, MEd, '90

Rickert, who coordinates the project based at the Panorama Recreation Centre, chose UVic because she knew of Wharf-Higgins' work and because "I liked the prospect of linking theory with the workplace."

"This project is a success because of the cadre of co-op students who have worked on it," say Wharf-Higgins. "I have tried to offer them meaningful tasks. In my mind, that is what makes all the difference."

## Drawings from the past

**"When I started working with Abi it was pretty much a one-way street, with me giving her direction," says Andrea Walsh (Anthropology) of her**

mentorship relationship with undergraduate work-study student Abi Godfrey. "Now it's a two-way conversation. We're both learning together. I want to show her that research is not just the stuff that gets into journals."

Walsh and Godfrey are studying rare drawings created by Nk'Mip students from Osoyoos and Oliver who attended the Inkameep Day School during the 1930s and 1940s. The drawings provide a compelling insight into the lives of the young Aboriginal children who sidestepped the tyranny of residential schools. Instead of suppressing his students' Native heritage, teacher Anthony Walsh (no relation to Dr. Walsh) encouraged them to celebrate their culture.

Some of those drawings won awards at a wartime competition in London, and the Queen Mother purchased two pieces for Buckingham Palace. But when Anthony Walsh left the school, the replacement teacher considered the artworks "pagan" and began destroying them. "These drawings would have disappeared if not for the quick action of a community member," says Walsh. "They were stored under a bed until 1963 when they were sent to the Osoyoos Museum."

Walsh is seeking to understand how the children used art to communicate their identity to others. Abi has become an integral part of the research. "I knew about Abi's skills in cultural anthropology and her strong cultural studies background," says Walsh who created a co-op position for Godfrey.

"We work together very intuitively," says Godfrey. "I do what needs to be done. Through working with Andrea, I have learned to apply the theoretical knowledge I've gathered. And I have a 'high-seat look' at the research process. This experience has also made me aware that I definitely want to learn more, and motivated me to go on to do graduate work."

*[On the cover: Abi Godfrey and Andrea Walsh. "This experience motivated me to go on to do graduate work."]*

## The fluid dynamics of ancient aqueducts

**In the unspoiled desert region of southern Jordan lie the ancient ruins of Humayma. Sandstone formations and Bedouin camps punctuate the**

semi-arid landscape around the once-thriving settlement. UVic archaeologist and classics scholar John Oleson (Greek and Roman Studies) and his team are excavating the site, where they have discovered Nabatean and Roman houses, a Roman bath and fort, an early Islamic manor house and mosque, and an ingenious water supply system.

This summer, PhD student Milo Nikolic will assist Oleson in Humayma. Together they will investigate the technology used to construct ancient aqueduct systems in the area. Nikolic, who holds a degree in engineering, is using leading-edge computer technology to uncover the challenges these pipelines posed to Roman engineers. He will also work closely

with Ned Djilali (Mechanical Engineering), whose areas of expertise include fluid dynamics, a key component of Nikolic's research.

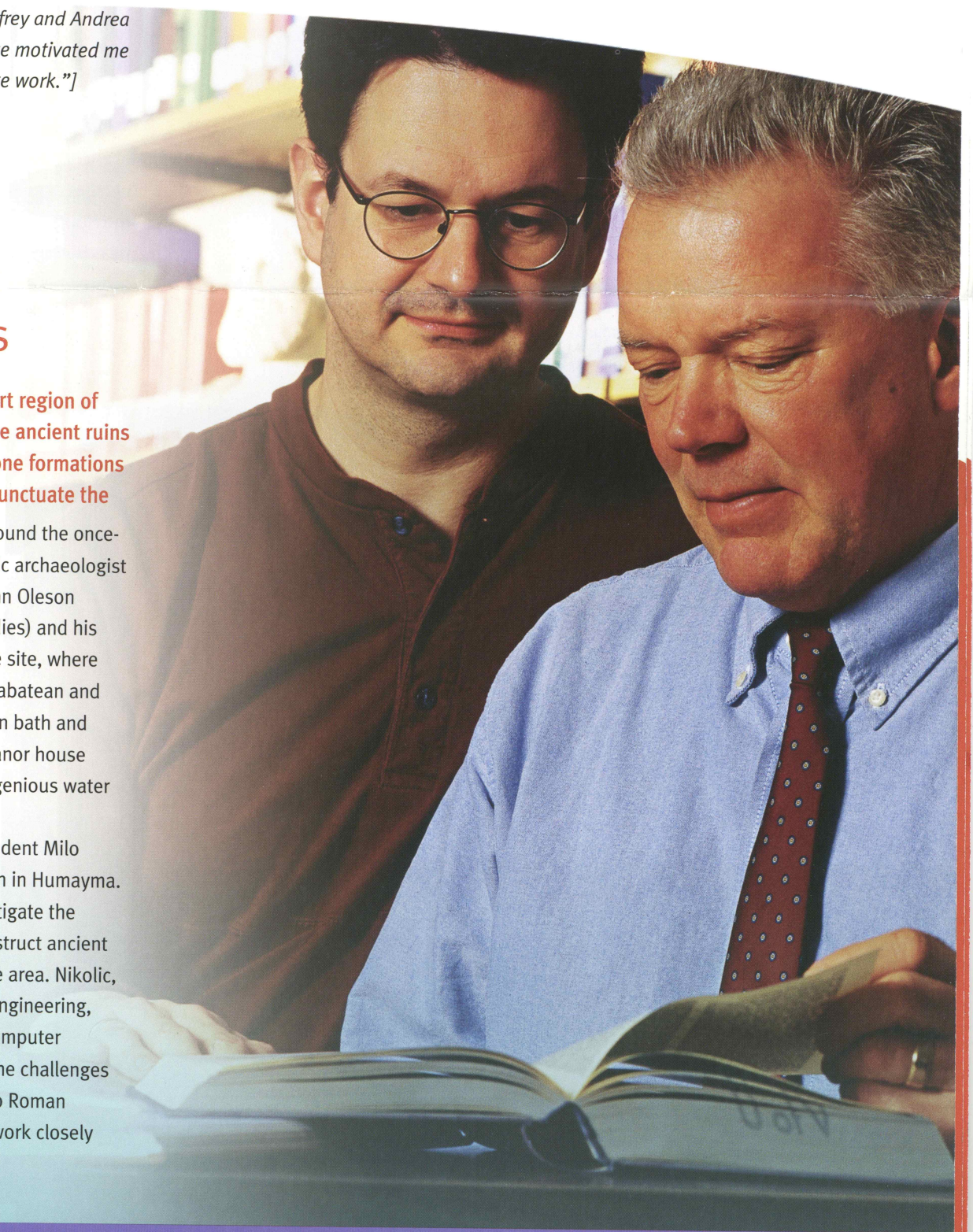
Nikolic selected UVic because of Oleson's reputation and his special interests in hydraulic technology. "Our relationship is new," says Nikolic, who began his program in September 2003. "But already I find Dr. Oleson to be patient, understanding and approachable." Nikolic feels he and his mentor have a unique situation due to their overlapping research interests.

Oleson believes that students should experience the professional environment. "I create opportunities

for them to become involved in my excavations. I encourage them to publish, learn while out in the field, and I give them plenty of responsibility."

Nikolic will supervise the excavation of a pressurized water system in the settlement this summer. "Milo's expertise and interests are a natural complement to my research," says Oleson. "It's a good combination, one that will benefit the project and further Milo's professional goals."

*Milo Nikolic and John Oleson. "I create opportunities for them."*



But student involvement in original research is not confined to graduate studies at UVic. The university's strategic plan mandates increased opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research activity as part of their academic programs, and many faculty members involve students in full-fledged research projects as part of the undergraduate curriculum.

UVic's co-operative education program provides both undergraduate and graduate students with extensive experience in research settings. UVic has Canada's third-largest university co-op program, integrating academic studies with relevant paid work experience in more than 40 academic areas. In 2002/03, UVic co-op students completed 2,813 work term placements — 60 per cent of which involved participation in research projects in private companies or the public sector.

The quality and high promise of student researchers at UVic is reflected in the impressive number of major provincial, national and international awards they have garnered. UVic students have been chosen to receive the Rhodes Scholarship for BC for each of the past four years and they regularly win a wide range of highly competitive doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships.