



# Department of Biology Newsletter

Friday, December 19, 2014

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

## Biology Symposium 2014

The Biology Graduate Symposium is an annual two-day event held during the Fall Term Reading Break.



This year marked its 26th anniversary and as always, it was a great success.

It is organized by our graduate students, and is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to showcase their diverse research.

45 graduate students gave talks on their research. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this symposium, including all the students that presented and helped organize the symposium, the session chairs and faculty judges, the generous donors, and everyone who attended.

**Congratulations to the award winners:**

Justin Suraci (best overall talk),  
Rebecca Westley (best MSc talk),  
Finn Hamilton (best PhD talk).

See you next year!

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## Upcoming Seminars

**Biology**

**Laura Braden**  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Biology  
University of Victoria

"TBA"

Friday, January 9, 2015 at 2:30 pm  
CUN 146

**Biology**

**Dr. Julie Keister**  
University of Washington

"TBA"

Friday, January 30, 2015 at 2:30 pm  
CUN 146

**Division of Medical Sciences**

**Dr. Milica Radisic**  
University of Toronto

"TBA"

Friday, January 30, 2015 at 12:00 (noon)  
MSB 160

## Calendar

### Important Dates:

<b>Monday, January 5</b>	Second-term classes begin for all faculties
<b>Friday, January 9</b>	Senate meets
<b>Wednesday, January 21</b>	Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term



## Bamfield Marine Science Centre

### Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference

Join other Scientists at our 36th annual student conference to present new and exciting research.

Dates: February 27th to March 1st, 2015

Registration opens January 1st, 2015

For more information go to: [www.peec.ca](http://www.peec.ca) or email [peec2015@gmail.com](mailto:peec2015@gmail.com)

Facebook group (PEEC)

## Café Scientifique Seminar Series

This season's Café Scientifique will be held at Hermann's Jazz Club at 753 View St. (Ages 19 and up)

Next session will be on Tuesday January 20th, 2015.

Title: "Why we do the dumb things we do: The neuroscience of human decision making"

Speaker: Olav Krigolson, University of Victoria

Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Start time: 6:30 pm.

Light appetizers and menu items available to order

Taking names on a wait list at this time.

To RSVP contact [cfbr@uvic.ca](mailto:cfbr@uvic.ca) or call 250-472-4067

For more information visit: [www.uvic.ca/cafesci](http://www.uvic.ca/cafesci)

## Mock MMI

### Mock Multiple Mini Interview Sessions at UVic (Hosted by UVic Career Services)

We are once again offering our very popular **Mock Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)** sessions at **UVic Career Services**. These practice sessions help UVic students and alumni who have been invited to interview for medical schools, physiotherapy and other health related programs that use the **MMI format** for assessing applicants.

- UVic Students and Alumni who have received a letter/email inviting them to a MMI style interview are eligible to participate
- Our group Mock MMIs will be held on Friday January 16th, Friday January 30th, and Friday February 27th.
- There are no charges for these sessions
- Individual practice sessions (one-on-one Mock MMI questions) may be arranged if the group sessions are full or have already taken place

To register for a Mock MMI, please contact UVic Career Services: [careers@uvic.ca](mailto:careers@uvic.ca) or 250.721.8421.

## Provost's Diversity Research Forum

### Privilege and Prejudice: Assumptions in Learning

The Provost's Diversity Research Forum welcomes courageous conversations that explore assumptions, privileges and prejudices behind learning in all its forms. Through theatre performances, engaging keynote speakers, innovative panel discussions and facilitated conversations, many concepts of difference will be explored: gender, gender identity, sexuality, cognitive abilities, social class, poverty, religion, ethnicity, race, mental health, Indigenous issues, global worldviews, and the complex interactions between them.

Keynote speakers:

**Drew Hayden Taylor** is a prolific and award-winning Ojibway writer known for his imaginative plays, witty comedies and poignant dramas. His novel *Motorcycles & Sweetgrass* (2010) was a finalist in the Governor General's literary Awards

**Joe Guppy** is a well-known writer/performer on the Seattle comedy show *Almost Live*. He is now a psychotherapist in private practice who works with adults and couples, and leads workshops on creativity, communication, sexuality, anger management, suicide prevention and more.

Everyone welcome: students, faculty, staff and community members. Registration is FREE.

All rooms are accessible: First Peoples House and Student Union Building.

Sponsors include: Campus Security Services, Human Resources, Office of the Research Services, and Student Affairs.

Save the date: January 29 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm and January 30 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

For more information visit [uvic.ca/diversityforum](http://uvic.ca/diversityforum) or contact [diverse@uvic.ca](mailto:diverse@uvic.ca)



## Summer Graduate Course

### Summer Graduate Course at Friday Harbor Laboratories, WA, USA

Fish Swimming: Kinematics, Ecomorphology, Behaviour and Environmental Physiology

July 20 to August 21, 2015

5 weeks: M-F 8-5; S 8-12

FHL/FISH 528 B (9 credits)



Instructors: Dr. Paolo Domenici (CNR, Italian National Research Council, Italy)

Dr. John Steffensen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Course description: Fish swimming is a multidisciplinary area of research that encompasses biomechanics, physiology, ecology and behaviour. Knowledge of fish swimming is relevant both for students interested in mechanism of locomotion, and those interested in locomotor adaptations to the environment.

Subjects:

1. The kinematics and performance of swimming in fish using various locomotory modes
2. The ecomorphology of fish locomotion
3. Locomotor strategies
4. Metabolic aspects of fish swimming
5. The effect of various environmental factors on fish swimming

These topics will be treated in lectures and laboratory sessions. Students will learn technique of video analysis, kinematics, energetics and respirometry. The first half of the course will have an emphasis on lectures and explanations of technique for studying fish swimming in the laboratory. In the second half of the course, emphasis will be placed on laboratory work.

Students will pursue independent research projects. Enrolment will be limited to 15 graduate students.

For additional information contact: [paolo.domenici@cnr.it](mailto:paolo.domenici@cnr.it) or [jfsteffensen@bio.ku.dk](mailto:jfsteffensen@bio.ku.dk)

Information for applicants (including tuition and financial aid) can be found at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2015.html#SumB-3>

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentApplicationInfo.html>

[http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/stu\\_index.html](http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/stu_index.html)

<http://depts.wahisngton.edu/fhl>



If you have an event or story you would like to share in the Biology Newsletter, please e-mail: [biology@uvic.ca](mailto:biology@uvic.ca) or [bioclerk@uvic.ca](mailto:bioclerk@uvic.ca)

## Doctoral and Master's scholarships

### **'Predicting the "root-priming effect" from plant functional traits'**

Project description: I am offering a scholarship of \$20,000 x 3 years for a PhD. project, or \$16,000 x 2 years for 2 M.Sc. projects, all focusing on the "root-priming effect". The project is based on manipulation of stable isotopes to study the effect of root exudates on soil organic matter mineralization. This project aims to highlight the interaction between the chemical quality of humus and plant functional traits that control the mineralization of soil organic matter. So far, this issue has been treated only from a biochemical perspective and we would be the first to do so in an ecological context. The practical benefits are many, especially in agriculture, forestry, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Students will be co-directed by Dr. Eric Paterson of the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen (<http://www.hutton.ac.uk/>) and will have 1-2 research internships in Scotland. We are looking for motivated students with good academic records, prior research experience, and proficiency in English.

### **'Predicting annual allowable cut in a changing world'**

Project description: We are looking for four MSc Students (scholarships of \$16,000 x 2 years and 2 PhD students (scholarships of \$20,000 x 3 years) to start this project as soon as possible. Seven researchers, based at 3 universities and the Quebec Ministry of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks, were recently awarded an NSERC strategic project grant. Our project will study effects of global changes (e.g., climate, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, air pollution) and their interactions with various silvicultural treatments on the nitrogen cycle and performance of spruce-moss forests. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Forester of Quebec, the OURANOS research consortium, and the engineering firms WSP Canada Inc. This last partner is providing scholarships for our students to participate in practical training courses for forest planning. We are looking for motivated students with good academic records and prior research experience. Students would benefit from advantages and opportunities offered by the Centre CEF, the Centre SEVE, and the Consortium for Research on the Boreal Forest.

French is the working language of Quebec, but applicants with limited French proficiency can still undertake graduate studies at francophone universities in the province.

Interested individuals should contact: Robert Bradley (Professor)

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Sherbrooke, Quebec

Canada J1H 1E6

or Email: [Robert.Bradley@USherbrooke.ca](mailto:Robert.Bradley@USherbrooke.ca)

Did you know the UVic Retirees Association puts out a quarterly newsletter? Visit their link below for more information <http://web.uvic.ca/retirees/newsletters.html>

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