High-tech training for tsunamis

UVic researchers and graduate students are at the forefront of scientific and commercial breakthroughs, in our community and around the world—powered by the UVic Edge.

Virtual-reality game uses ocean data and immersive experience to predict and prepare for tsunamis.

When began as an educational virtual-reality game based on Port Alberni’s 1964 earthquake and tsunami, it has surprising potential as an adaptable and innovative tool for emergency preparedness, says University of Victoria computer scientist Yvonne Coady, whose research lab developed the game.

Coady, Derek Jacoby and Tina Lado Ijames and historical data from the Alberni event to create VR tsunami, which immerses players in a seven-minute scenario during which they experience the earthquake and have minutes to prepare for the coming tsunami.

The game, which involves participants through virtual-reality goggles, smartphones, tablets and laptops, draws on data from UVic’s Ocean Networks Canada to model the rising six-levels that would occur in Alberni tidal in the event of a tsunami.

The team imagined the game as a fun way to learn for people into the immersive experience of virtual reality creates a whole other level of understanding, notes Coady.

“There are so many examples of unforeseen problems that occurred during actual emergencies. Maybe this science could help with better outcomes, and help citizens do better planning.”

The research is funded jointly by Tusk and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Kinesiology grad helps seniors access fresh air and exercise

There’s nothing quite like looking across the ocean and feeling the fresh salty air filling your lungs as you ride your bike along Dallas Road. And Carson Jago, who graduated with an MA in kinesiology this month, has been offering senior citizens in Victoria and beyond the opportunity to reconnect with nature through free bike rides, via the Cycling Without Age program. “We’re trying to reduce social isolation and loneliness for older adults,” says Jago, who helped pilot Cycling Without Age in Victoria—the sixth chapter in Canada and BC’s first. In May 2017, the first trike-arrival, a custom-made three-wheeled bike with two seats in the front for passengers and a back seat for the pedaller. More: bit.ly/cycle-age

Kinesiology grad helps seniors access fresh air and exercise

There’s nothing quite like looking across the ocean and feeling the fresh salty air filling your lungs as you ride your bike along Dallas Road. And Carson Jago, who graduated with an MA in kinesiology this month, has been offering senior citizens in Victoria and beyond the opportunity to reconnect with nature through free bike rides, via the Cycling Without Age program. “We’re trying to reduce social isolation and loneliness for older adults,” says Jago, who helped pilot Cycling Without Age in Victoria—the sixth chapter in Canada and BC’s first. In May 2017, the first trike-arrival, a custom-made three-wheeled bike with two seats in the front for passengers and a back seat for the pedaller. More: bit.ly/cycle-age

Supporting the Cane language and culture in Quebec

Margaret Freeman understands that language upholds her culture. Without language, oral traditions and wisdom passed down from her Cane ancestors would be lost. Language, she says, is closely tied to the land.

So when Freeman, a residential school survivor and then-manager of Chiswui Heritage and Cultural Centre in northeastern Quebec, was searching for a program to bolster the preservation of her community’s language of James Bay Cree, she chose carefully. Freeman turned to UVic’s Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (CALR) program to support her workplace’s efforts to sustain the first language of Chiswui’s nearly 4,000 members.

The centre staff at the Chiswui Heritage and Cultural Centre, all of whom speak James Bay Cree, enrolled in the CALR program, which teaches new approaches and practical strategies to strengthen language revitalization while honouring traditional knowledge and practices.

This week, 14 of the graduating students made the three-day journey to UVic, driving 16 hours from Chiswui, on the edge of James Bay, to Ottawa, before boarding a flight to Victoria to attend convocation. Their work reflects the community’s determination to ensure their culture and language flourishes. More: bit.ly/cw-healing

Supporting the Cane language and culture in Quebec

Margaret Freeman understands that language upholds her culture. Without language, oral traditions and wisdom passed down from her Cane ancestors would be lost. Language, she says, is closely tied to the land.

So when Freeman, a residential school survivor and then-manager of Chiswui Heritage and Cultural Centre in northeastern Quebec, was searching for a program to bolster the preservation of her community’s language of James Bay Cree, she chose carefully. Freeman turned to UVic’s Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (CALR) program to support her workplace’s efforts to sustain the first language of Chiswui’s nearly 4,000 members.

The centre staff at the Chiswui Heritage and Cultural Centre, all of whom speak James Bay Cree, enrolled in the CALR program, which teaches new approaches and practical strategies to strengthen language revitalization while honouring traditional knowledge and practices.

This week, 14 of the graduating students made the three-day journey to UVic, driving 16 hours from Chiswui, on the edge of James Bay, to Ottawa, before boarding a flight to Victoria to attend convocation. Their work reflects the community’s determination to ensure their culture and language flourishes.

Making memorable music

Rita Goodman was nine or 10 years old when she first started singing songs about bluebirds flying over the white cliffs of Dover and the long, long road to Tipperary. Then, she was being led in song by nuns in the basement of their Liverpool orphanage to drown out the sounds of the German Luftwaffe bombing the British port city during the early years of WW II. Now, she’s 89 and singing in the basement hall of St. Joseph’s church in Victoria along with her daughter and about 10 others.

Goodman is part of “Voices in Motion,” an intergenerational combination of persons with dementia, their family caregivers and high school students. The choir is also a UVic research study led by nursing professor Debra Sherrill and fellow research affiliate of UVic’s Institute for Art and Lifelong Health. “These two year study is examining how participation in an intergenerational choir might foster social engagement and caregiver well-being, improve quality of life for persons with dementia, and reduce some of the stigma surrounding memory loss.”

Making memorable music

Rita Goodman was nine or 10 years old when she first started singing songs about bluebirds flying over the white cliffs of Dover and the long, long road to Tipperary. Then, she was being led in song by nuns in the basement of their Liverpool orphanage to drown out the sounds of the German Luftwaffe bombing the British port city during the early years of WW II. Now, she’s 89 and singing in the basement hall of St. Joseph’s church in Victoria along with her daughter and about 10 others.

Goodman is part of “Voices in Motion,” an intergenerational combination of persons with dementia, their family caregivers and high school students. The choir is also a UVic research study led by nursing professor Debra Sherrill and fellow research affiliate of UVic’s Institute for Art and Lifelong Health. “These two year study is examining how participation in an intergenerational choir might foster social engagement and caregiver well-being, improve quality of life for persons with dementia, and reduce some of the stigma surrounding memory loss.”

Creating vital impact and dynamic learning opportunities in an extraordinary academic environment—that’s the UVic Edge.