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Masterminds lecture series continues
Retirement has rarely stopped UVic professors from sharing their rich intellectual knowledge and experiences with communities on- or off-campus. And if you missed sociologist Fong Wilson’s talk on April 9, take heart; three talks remain in the 2014 Masterminds free public lecture series. On April 16, mathematician Pauline van den Driessche lectures on how math can help combat medical epidemics. On April 23, Andrew Rippin looks back at four decades of change in the academic study of Islam. And on April 30, exercise physiologist Martin Caffs will look at health, humour and happiness to suggest some ways we can all learn to—no not only laugh, but well.

Upgrade your ID card
You can do what with 8? Sign up this month to upgrade to the new UVic ONECard and you might be surprised what you can do with one thin strip of plastic. ONECard will immediately support all the functionality of current ID and food services cards, including tap-and-go payment technology at all University Food Services locations. The new technology also presents a secure technology pathway for the adoption of new services. Sign up for your new card beginning Monday, April 14 at the University Centre Photo ID booth. Full story, page 2.

Psychology student wins UVic’s first Three Minute Thesis competition
Don’t take our word for it: you’ll want to watch the online video to see psychology student Jessica Rourke, a PhD student in psychology, condense years of research into a stunning three-minute presentation. As part of this year’s research into a stunning three-minute story, page 2.

Three new Canada Research Chairs announced
Improving aircraft design, understanding the ocean’s critical role in climate change, and finding new ways to deal with vast amounts of medical imaging data—these are the pressing societal challenges being tackled by the University of Victoria’s three newest Canada Research Chairs.

The three UVic chairs were announced on March 28 by Ed Holder, Minister of State for Science and Technology as part of a national announcement of 59 new chairholders across the country.

A Canada Research Chair designation brings reputational and funding benefits to the researcher and his or her host university. For Tier 1 chairs, which go to researchers considered world leaders in their fields, the university receives $200,000 annually for the seven-year term. Tier 2 chairs go to emerging researchers who have the potential to lead in their field, and the university receives $100,000 annually for five years.

A greener future for aviation
“Faster, greener and safer”—that’s the new mantra these days for aerospace systems engineers such as Azaf Suleman. As the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Computational and Experimental Mechanics, he’s using advanced computational tools to develop state-of-the-art, sustainable designs for the next generation of aerospace transportation systems.

Air traffic in Canada is expected to double every 16 years, which means environmental factors—such as noise and emissions—will play a dominant role in future aircraft design,” says Suleman, who is director of UVic’s Centre for Aerospace Research. “The challenge is to design more environmentally and economically efficient aircraft, while improving public safety.”

SEE CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS P7

Humanities undergrad leads way as 2014 3M National Student Fellow
BY TARA SHARPE
The 3M national fellowships traditionally reflect inspirational teaching talent from across the country. Launched two years ago, a new 3M National Student Fellowship award now also makes 3M a mark of outstanding leadership at the undergraduate level.

UVic student Tye Landels is one of only 10 students in Canada to receive a 2014 3M National Student Fellowship. Academic distinction in a variety of disciplines—from English and art history to urban planning and environmental studies—is only a small part of the story for this top scholar and community innovator.

Landels exemplifies what it means to be a champion of equality and social justice and an inspiration for other students across the post-secondary environment: as current president of the UVic English Students’ Association (ESA) and spearheading change in the first weeks of his tenure as a research assistant for UVic’s Map of Early Modern London (MoEML) and setting up encoding practices and standards for this constantly evolving digital encyclopedia; and as a student with physical disabilities who has developed and advised on note-taking programs, academic policies and the use of audio-visual technology in the classroom.

Landels was instrumental in doubling the size of the ESA within one semester, after first galvanizing its membership to change the name from the ELITists (which struck him as particularly elitist) to its current, more democratic name.

He adds, “The ESA model, with its culture of inclusion, collaboration, communication and inspiration, has the potential to help students in all disciplines. By building such networks and generating culture and community, students can rejuvenate and reform the undergraduate experience at universities across Canada.”

The fellowship is presented by 3M Canada in partnership with the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE). It includes a $5,000 prize, as well as an all-expense-paid trip to Kingston for the STLHE conference in June 2014. The STLHE gathering also includes a full-day retreat for all 10 student fellows to work on a collaborative project related to post-secondary education.

The long-standing 3M National Teaching Fellowship for university professors was used as a model for the 3M student fellowship.

An in-depth interview with Landels is posted online at uvic.ca/3mt.
On April 1, the University of Victoria Board of Governors approved a $323 million operating budget framework for the university with no budget reductions for 2014/15. The university was able to develop a balanced budget for the fiscal year starting April 1 despite a reduction in government funding and an increase in expenses, due to reductions implemented in 2013/14, cost containment measures, and strong growth in student enrolment.

"This current year of no budget reductions is possible because of decisions made by all facets of the university and the strong performance by faculty and staff in making this a ‘zero based’ budget that allows us to continue attracting the resources we need to deliver on our mission of research and education," says President Jamie Cassels. "We’re not out of the woods yet, but we are working together to build on our current planning processes to face new challenges." The 2014/15 budget framework was developed through the university’s integrated planning process led by Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Tremblay. Its goal is to ensure that the university’s financial resources are aligned with institutional priorities and areas of strategic focus.

The priorities for 2014/15 include student recruitment, success and faculty engagement, retention, the quality of academic and research programs, education, communication and engagement, and strategic research and excellence and funding among others. Over the next year, a working group will be recommending to the integrated planning committee a set of criteria that can be used by decision makers to assess quality and align activities in support of institutional priorities as outlined in the strategic plan and the president’s Campus Conversations Report that followed his campus-wide consultations.

2014/15 budget details
The university’s operating budget is supported primarily through the provincial government operating grant, student fees and other fundraising sources. UVic estimates its total revenue for 2014/15 to be $322.86 million, including a decrease in the provincial operating grant of $1.9 million. As in previous years, and consistent with Ministry of Advanced Education policy, tuition fee increases are limited to 2 per cent – the rate of inflation.

Expenditures are budgeted at $322.86 million and include new allocations of $2.2 million for contractual compensation, $9.04 million to support higher student costs and $20.32 million to support other target areas and $1.6 million to meet regulatory or other requirements.

Multi-year planning
Since 2007, the university has developed its annual budget framework, financial models and plans within the context of a three-year planning process. The planning horizon provides a more realistic time-frame for the development of university initiatives and provides greater flexibility than permitted within an annual process.

The budget projections for 2015–16 and 2016–17 estimate budget shortfalls of $1.8M and $0.5M respectively. While the University of Victoria will continue the trend of addressing annual budget shortfalls given the university has made budget reductions of 9 per cent of its last four budget cycles, these projections are more positive than previously expected. This can be attributed to the following:

- International enrolment targets that were projected to be achieved over three years were instead achieved in one year.
- This framework assumes that the provincial government will fund compensation costs resulting from collective bargaining whereas the previous budget framework did not.
- Salary and benefit changes have been updated to reflect provincial mandates.

These projections could change significantly if government funding for compensation is different than the full funding currently anticipated within this context. The budget cycle is designed to provide the actual amount of any reduction in the provincial operating grant is not yet known for 2015–16.

More details about the university’s priorities, the components of the budget framework approved by the board on April 1, and the budget planning process can be found in the 2014/15 planning and operating statement framework found online on the budget planning website at uvic.ca/budgetplanning/index.php.

Navigating the ever-changing market
A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and newcomers navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, he assure smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.

Retirement Income Options
A new ‘Social Progress Index’ released on the month ranks Canada second in the world in the category of ‘opportunity’—largely due to Canada’s achievements in supporting access to advanced education. Canada also scored second globally. The Index, which tracks countries’ achievements in areas such as education, health, and environmental sustainability, was released this month. The Index ranks Canada second in the world in the broad category of “opportunity”—largely driven by the country’s performance in education, a category in which it also scored second globally. The full study, led by a Harvard University research group, was published in Nature.”

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Get the latest technology with the best service.

We're on Twitter @uvicring

Say hello to the UVic ONECard

BY MELANIE GROVES

UVic is launching the ONECard, a new photo identification card for all members of the UVic community on May 1, 2014. Offering the services of multiple cards in one, the ONECard will be the official identification card for members of the campus community. ONECard will support the functionality of current ID and food services cards, including tap-and-go payment technology at all University Food Services locations.

“In the future, your ONECard will have the capacity to integrate access to other campus services, including vending, building access, and making payments at campus businesses such as the Bookstore and UVSS food outlets,” says Jim Forbes, director of student services. “ONEcard is more streamlined, flexible and secure than our current ID card system, and there will be no changes to employee or student numbers.”

In order to maintain access to campus services it is important for all current students, faculty, staff, retirees, alumni and affiliate members to obtain a UVic ONECard. There is no fee to switch over to the ONECard. The card upgrade is required as the existing ID card software is 20 years old and no longer supported.

Get a ONECard: For faculty, staff and spring/summer students Monday, Apr. 14—Wednesday, Apr. 23, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Visit the Photo ID Centre in the University Centre lobby to have a new photo taken. Please bring one piece of government-issued identification (e.g. driver’s license) and your UVic employee or student number (V00#####). The new cards will be ready for pickup beginning Thursday, Apr. 24.

Students enrolled in spring/summer studies who have had new photos taken will be able to pick up their cards beginning Apr. 24. Those enrolled in the fall term can pick up their cards when they return to campus in August.

“We will be processing new cards for staff, faculty and spring/summer students first, in an effort to reduce line-ups,” says Forbes. Those who apply for the ONECard before Apr. 23 have a chance to win $50 worth of ONECard Flex Funds, for use at any University Food Services outlet. Three winners will be randomly chosen.

Current Food Services cards, including balances on UVic ID cards, will no longer operate after April 30. If you have a Food Services balance on your staff or faculty identification card, it will be transferred automatically to your ONECard account. As of May 1, you will be able to add funds to your ONECard online via the ONECard website.

More information: uvic.ca/one-card

Say hello to the UVic ONECard

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Long before settler culture attached the names of explorers, businessmen and political leaders to the mountains, rivers and landscape we now call Vancouver Island, the traditional names used by First Nations carried a wealth of information about those places—information that anthropologist student Amy Becker has been working to preserve.

Becker, recipient of a 2013–14 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (CURA), explains “Indigenous place names are embedded in the culture, landscape, language and identities of the people who use them.” A place name may contain information about environmental conditions, cultural knowledge and heritage, as well as historical information.

Becker discovered her passion for research and community-based projects while taking an ethno-graphics mapping course taught by Dr. Brian Thom (anthropology). “It was my first introduction to Indigenous place names, mapping, and traditional use studies,” says Becker. “Dr. Thom also showed us how to use Google Earth and how to incorporate multi-media into a map.”

It was a natural next step for Becker to apply what she learned in class to a grassroots, community collaboration between the Stz’uminus First Nation and Project Reel Life, a Ladysmith-based community program that works with youth. Becker’s goal was to introduce a focus on place names to the existing collaboration and make a digital atlas of about 20 Hul’qumi’num’ language place names in Ladysmith using videos of elders’ stories.

“The goal of the project was to embed videos of elders’ place-based stories into a digital map so community members can continue to listen to the names and stories through computers, laptops and mobile devices,” says Becker.

The Stz’uminus Storied Places Digital Atlas project is a great example of what can be gained through community-based collaboration, bringing elders, youth, and university students and researchers together. For Stz’uminus youth, meetings with elders are a rich experience. “The youth really enjoy recording and listening to elders’ stories about place names,” says Becker. “I think they view their elders as stars in their community.”

Becker is making the Stz’uminus Storied Places Digital Atlas available for viewing on a smartphone platform, this project acknowledges the need for up-to-date technologies to address community needs, Becker adds, “especially at a time when youth are becoming increasingly engaged with their phones.”

Becker will be holding a Google Earth mapping workshop for Stz’uminus youth in May so they can “put their hands” on the mapping technique used by researchers. Becker hopes the project can continue with further funding to answer such questions as “in what ways is a digital map effective and ineffectual as a tool for mobilizing traditional knowledge within the Stz’uminus community?”

As she looks ahead to graduation this June, Becker feels a renewed confidence in her research skills and is pleased with her experience in the digital mapping project. She credits her mentor in professional writing for giving her practical hands-on skills in editing and web design, and reflects that her co-op terms were also valuable, adding real life work experience to the mix. And wherever life takes her next, her JCURA research project with the Stz’uminus community means that Becker will continue to listen for the names of the places she goes.

Thrus Day... around the ring

UVic wins inaugural community impact award

Community spirit is alive and well on campus, and it was recognized on March 26th at the United Way’s 2013 awards ceremony at the Empress Hotel. UVic was the recipient of the inaugural Community Impact Spirit Award, which recognizes the campaign that has made the greatest impact on our community. While UVic didn’t raise the most money overall, we raised the largest amount (52143, 483, or 52 per cent of our total). To identify the United Way for its key impact areas: kids, community and poverty. The remaining eight percent was designated to other specific charities, by donor request. Dr. Mary Ellen Perkins, Chair of UVic’s 2013 United Way Campaign, accepted the award on behalf of the university. “We had a great team for this campaign and our donors responded to our call to give back to our community and generosity every step of the way,” she said. “Well done!”

New “digs” for popular plant sale

The UVic Plant Sale is moving outdoors, to the lawn adjacent to the Finnerty Garden entrance at the Interfaith Chapel. The sale is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, with free parking nearby in parking lot 23. The smaller sale will offer a specialized selection, including rhododendrons, perennials and other plants. Music, garden tours (the sale coincides with the height of rhododendron season), growing advice from the volunteer members of Finny Gardens Garden Friends, and refreshments will be available.

The Finny Garden Friends have organized the annual UVic Plant Sale since 1978, raising funds for the ongoing development of Finney Gardens. Thousands of visitors—from campus and the community—visit Finny Gardens each year for its spectacular rhododendron collection and more than 4,000 varieties of trees and shrubs. The gardens are open year-round and admission is always free.

Temporary online jobs site launched

Due to technical difficulties with their temporary online job posting site, uHire, a temporary online job management system has been introduced. A new permanent online job management system is expected to be launched in summer 2014, which will allow students the experience of applying for employment at UVic as well as administrators and hiring committee members. To apply, follow the online instructions at uvic.ca/hr/admin/hradmin@uvic.ca. Once online, please contact Human Resources at hradmin@uvic.ca.

Lawyer & Notary Public

*Ask about alternatives to costly litigation*

4195 Shelbourne Street
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Two UVic graduate students have been rewarded for their creative use of video to tell the story of how their academic research is impacting the world.

Genevieve von Petzinger and Bernadette Perry are among 25 winners of the national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) video content competition, Research for a Better Life: The Storytellers Challenge, involving universities across Canada. The challenge required students to distill their research into a compelling three minutes of narrated video, describing how their SSHRC-funded research is making a difference in the lives of Canadians.

Bernadette Perry—a linguist and master’s student in the French language, literature and culture program—created a mobile app called Explorez that allows more French-language learning to happen outside the classroom. Explorez bridges the gap between education and gaming through quiz-based learning and augmented reality. Perry’s video describes the GPS technology that turns the UVic campus into a virtual francophone world as a learning aid for first-year French students—and, she explains, it’s adaptable for high school French students.

Perry describes the app as a “virtual treasure hunt” where the player is hired as a personal assistant to a fictional Francophone celebrity. Players interact with game characters who give them clues and choose-your-adventure type options for game play. These interactions take place in the form of written text, audio or video encouraging students to develop both their written and oral language skills.

As Perry’s video explains, the app provides language students with an immersive and fun experience that makes new language acquisition more relevant and engaging.

Genevieve von Petzinger’s research goes all the way back to the beginnings of human civilization. With video camera in hand, the PhD anthropology student and TED Senior Fellow has spent years crawling through caves of western Europe, evaluating what the ice age drawings of ancient people might tell us about some of our biggest questions. What does it mean to be human and why is it so important to us that we share our ideas with other people?

In her video, von Petzinger takes viewers to see some of the oldest cave symbols in the world. “What makes film such a wonderful medium to work in,” she says, “is that it allows me to take people to me into places they normally never get to, and it gives me a chance to show them what I’m doing in my research. It’s very important to me to share what I do with the public.”

The Storytellers competition uses online video and social media sharing to excite young people about the kinds of research being done at universities all over Canada, and for the students producing the videos, communicating their research “will act as a catalyst for forging important relationships and future partnership around the globe,” says Jennifer Corriero, executive director of TakeITGlobal and 2014 Storytellers judge.

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The top 25 receive a prize of $3,000 and trip to the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University. They will also compete in the Storytellers Showcase—with the final five winners featured at SSHRC’s 2014 Impact Awards ceremony in Ottawa this fall.


Boyd noted that it was difficult to see lawyers for the federal government tap into “well worn out negative tropes” about people who use heroin and how governments are quick to mention Canada’s drug policy is punitive, class-based, gendered and racialized—making some groups of people more vulnerable to discrimination and arrest.

“Many researchers make valuable contributions to the improvement of health and security for people living in circumstances of social disadvantage—but few of those who have engaged in that work as effectively as Dr. Boyd,” says Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development. Purkis adds that few professors “have influenced so many graduate students to advance this important work, and few have committed themselves to developing networks that ensure the voices and experiences of those living in difficult circumstances are not only heard by policy makers, but that their experiences are taken into account in the development of new policy aimed at reducing social inequities.”

Boyd uses her work outside the university to enhance teaching in her courses, which include critical theory, research methodology and drug policy. “I really feel that my volunteer work complements what I do in the classroom and what I do with my students.” Her students inspire her to learn. In return, Boyd hopes they’ll instill one thing: “A love of knowledge. Knowledge is actualized, it doesn’t just sit on a dusty shelf in the library. We can link activism to knowledge, and it becomes more available to everyone.”
In June, Dr. Francis Zwiers, president and CEO of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) at U Vic, will be heading to London, Ontario, where he’ll be awarded an honorary degree by the University of Western Ontario at the PCIC’s spring convocation ceremonies. Zwiers is an internationally recognized expert on climate variability and change and was among a group of scientists connected with UVic who shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He was an elected member of the bureau of the IPCC for its fifth global climate assessment, which is being released in stages this year.

What would your first question be to a Nobel laureate? Biochemistry and microbiology PhD student Michelle Tonkin will find out this summer. She’s one of 600 aspiring young researchers from almost 80 countries who has been selected to take part in the 2014 Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany late June and early July. The students—all doctoral or postdoctoral—will attend lectures, panel discussions and master classes with 17 Nobel laureates as a way to promote dialogue among generations, cultures and nations. This year’s event is dedicated to medicine. Tonkin was nominated for the opportunity by the Canadian Student Health Research Forum.

Christopher van Bommel, a master’s student in mathematics and statistics, has won an NSERC 2013 André Hamer Postgraduate Prize from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). Valued at $10,000 each, the prize is awarded to five of the most outstanding candidates in NSERC’s master’s and doctoral scholarship competitions. Van Bommel’s thesis research is addressing knowledge gaps in combinatorial design theory, a basic science that underpins the statistical experiments, algorithms and codes used to design puzzles, networks, cryptography, drug trials and lotteries.

Beginning July 1, the new director of TRIUMF—Canada’s national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics, will be Dr. Jonathan Bagger, vice-provost for graduate and postdoctoral programs at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Bagger is the Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Johns Hopkins, where his research has centered on high-energy physics at the interface of theory and experiment. Located in Vancouver, TRIUMF is a leading construction of a new electron accelerator at the facility.

Whether they’re helping us understand the complexities of politics and public policy, laying the mathematical groundwork for everyday devices and processes, giving us a greater appreciation for musical expression, or helping Indigenous communities revive their endangered languages—this year’s Craigdarroch Research Award recipients are making our world a better place.

That passion for making a difference is a hallmark trait of all our previous and new Craigdarroch recipients,” says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president research. “They are all leaders in their fields, exemplifying UVic’s commitment to excellence and the open exchange of knowledge with leaders in their fields, exemplifying UVic’s commitment to excellence and the open exchange of knowledge with the wider community.”

This year’s four Craigdarroch Research Award recipients will be honored at an evening ceremony on May 1. They are:

**BY VALERIE SHORE**

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**2014 CRAIGDARROCH RESEARCH AWARDS**

**Peter Dukes, Mathematics and Statistics**

It was surely a sign of exceptional things to come when Peter Dukes completed his BSc at UVic with three published academic papers already under his belt—in two different fields of mathematics. That was in 1997. Since then, he has continued his meteoric rise and is now considered a world authority on a branch of math known as algebraic combinatorics. But his expertise is diverse. The 40 peer-reviewed papers he has published so far in his young career cover areas such as astrophysics, statistics and engineering. In 2007, he won the Kirkman Medal for outstanding achievement from the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications.

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**Leslie Saxon, Linguistics**

The traditional languages of First Nations peoples are under constant pressure from mainstream North American culture. For 30 years, linguist Leslie Saxon has been a leader in the exchange and application of linguistic and cultural knowledge, working with Dene people in the NWT to document and revitalize their endangered languages. She has a particularly close relationship with the Tłįcho Nation, where she has partnered with the community to develop a range of resource materials—including an online dictionary and app (known as Yati). At UVic, she guided the creation of the largest network of community-linked Indigenous language teaching programs in North America.

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**Harald Krebs, Music**

Scholar, pianist, author, artistic collaborator and professional speaker—Harald Krebs is one of Canada’s finest music theorists. He is recognized internationally as an expert on musical meter and rhythm, especially in 19th-century German art song known as Lieder. In his 34-year career, he has produced two groundbreaking books, a steady stream of peer-reviewed articles and collaborative performances fusing scholarship and musical practice. At the core of this work is his talent as a pianist, which he shares regularly with the broader community of music lovers. He was named a UVic Distinguished Professor in 2010. The Craigdarroch Research Awards were established in 2003 to recognize outstanding research-focused and creative contributions at UVic. They were named for Craigdarroch Castle, the estate that was once home to UVic’s predecessor institution, Victoria College, from 1921 to 1946.

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**James Tully, Political Science**

Jim Tully has shaped the foundational concepts of several disciplines across political theory, law, history and philosophy and has inspired generations of graduate students, many of whom now teach in universities around the world. He is one of those rare scholars who has achieved global influence while also speaking to and drawing inspiration from a distinctively Canadian experience. His work has implications for virtually all major areas of public policy—including democracy, federalism, multiculturalism, Indigenous rights, and environmental responsibility. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Trudeau Foundation and was named a UVic Distinguished Professor in 2003.

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**Leslie Saxon, right PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES**

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A feast for your brain, as well as your eyes

BY JOHN THRELFALL

When it comes to advanced academic work, few would expect to spend five minutes examining a graduate student’s work in biochemistry, neuroscience or mechanical engineering and really “get it.” Yet people occasionally turn away from the work of Visual Arts MFA students simply because they don’t immediately understand or appreciate it.

Just ask Paul Walde. A professor of painting and media practices in the Department of Visual Arts, Walde is the graduate advisor for UVic’s 11 Visual Arts MFA students. He’s also a busy intermedia artist on the leading edge of contemporary practice, so he knows well what he speaks. “If you walk into a play or open a book and just spend five minutes with it, you’re probably not going to have a good sense of what the total accomplishment is,” he says. “That’s the same with visual arts—you have to spend a little reading around it. Sometimes the content of the art is such that a level of understanding will have to preface it in some way.”

This year’s MFA exhibit, In Your Eyes, will feature work by six graduating MFA candidates: Megan Dyck, Ethan Lester, Neil McClelland, Kaitlynn McQueston, Carley Smith and Jeroen Witvliet. “It’s really like six solo exhibitions,” says Walde. “Six people are taking over the entire facility, and some take up three or four rooms. The amount of work they produce is staggering; you’ll only be seeing a fraction of what they’ve produced in the past two years.”

Kaitlynn McQueston was attracted by the independent studio focus of UVic’s MFA program. “I love the idea of a program that focuses more on practice-based research,” she says. “Graduate students have a little more control over what you read and research...most programs are just partial studio, and you spend a lot of time writing papers. This is more independent.”

While a perpetual sense of misunderstanding seems to go hand-in-hand with being a contemporary artist, Walde doesn’t let it rattle him. “Artists generally don’t want to confound audiences: they’re trying to convey messages in ways that are comprehensible in some form,” he explains. “But people expect it to work like advertising. With advertising, you’re driving by a billboard and you instantly get it, then it’s gone—whereas a good work of art will hopefully engage you and linger longer, more along the lines of a good novel or a good play.”

More MFA preview information:

In Your Eyes runs May 2–10 throughout the Visual Arts building. The opening night reception is from 6–9 p.m., with opening remarks beginning at 7 p.m.

CARSA takes shape

The new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities is rapidly taking shape near UVic’s playing fields and is set to open its doors next year. See uvic.ca/carsa for more info. Photo: UVic/Photo Services

A good novel or a good play. “Most BFA students arrive here not really knowing what contemporary art is, then they have to go through the process of figuring it out and engaging with it,” says visual arts professor Paul Walde. “Then they have to decide what they want to work on and move forward with that. This final year really is the tipping point where you see massive development in a student’s work. That’s why UVic is such a great incubator for artists: it gives you time and space, and it has great facilities and a great faculty.” Split runs April 17–26 in the Visual Arts building, with the opening reception beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 17.
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

Suleiman is an international leader in the fields of smart materials and aerodynamical design. He’s also director of UVic’s Centre for Aerospace Research, which works closely with industry and academic partners on the design of unmanned air vehicles for uses such as precision agriculture, wildlife conservation and oceans monitoring.

The science of ocean change

Where does carbon go in the ocean and why? Where will it go next? As the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Ocean Carbon Dynamics, oceanographer Roberta Hamme measures dissolved gases in the ocean to answer these questions about the ocean cycle, which is critical to life on Earth.

“Few people realize that the ocean ultimately controls atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO2), and that it currently absorbs about one-third of the excess CO2 that human produce,” says Hamme. “Determining how that absorption is evolving and what factors control it is essential to predicting the progression of global climate change.”

Hamme studies air-sea gas exchange, biological productivity, and the transport of gases from the surface to the deep ocean. In 2010, she was lead author of a high-impact paper that linked iron fertilization by a volcanic eruption to the largest phytoplankton bloom ever recorded in the subarctic North Pacific.

Data-driven medical mathematics

The rapid advancement of modern biotechnology is creating a major challenge for medical researchers—huge and complex datasets. As the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Bioinformatics for Spatial and High-Dimensional Data, statistician Farouk Nathoo is developing new models and computational methods for processing these datasets, particularly those related to 3D imaging.

“Scientists studying how the brain works and how genetic variation influences the brain need new tools to understand the vast datasets, which are increasingly coming from multiple imaging sources,” says Nathoo. “For example, within the field of imaging genomics, it’s not unusual to conduct over one billion statistical tests to identify the genes that influence the brain.”

Nathoo is internationally recognized as a rising star in the field of spatial, environmental and medical statistics. He applies his work within a wide range of disciplines, including neuroscience, ecology, epidemiology, geography and environmental science. “Being able to apply statistics to all of these areas is very satisfying,” he says.

Now in its 14th year, the Canada Research Chairs program helps Canadian universities attract and retain the best scholars in the world and build on existing areas of research strength. The program also gives students the opportunity to work with researchers who are world leaders in their fields. The March 28 announcement also includes the renewal of UVic philosopher Margaret Cameron as the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in the Aristotelian Tradition. UVic currently has 34 filled Canada Research Chairs. 


calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at events.uvic.ca.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Lecture/Seminar. 4 p.m. Share the enthusiasm with David Mason in conversation with Paul Whitby. Come inside the world of rare books. David Mason, eminent Toronto antiquarian bookseller and author of The Pap’s Bookshop, is a giant in the book trade. Meares Centre/McPherson Library 102, 250-971-8162.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11


MONDAY, APRIL 14

Other. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Walk the Landscape. More...
BY MARGARET SUDERMAN

When people ask Renee McBeth what she does for a living, she often gives the same answer:

“If I’m an organizer,” she says with a laugh. “I depend on post-it notes and to-do lists.”

Indeed, as someone who holds dual positions at UVic’s Faculty of Law, her daily balancing act requires a high degree of prioritization and time management.

Since August 2010, McBeth has worked as the coordinator of the Consortium on Democratic Constitutionality (DEMCON)—a group that promotes scholarly exchange and collaboration on questions of constitutional theory, design and practice. McBeth handles the communications, promotions and bookings for all of the major conferences hosted by DEMCON.

She is also the lead administrator of an annual six-part seminar series of the faculties of law, humanities, and social sciences—the Victoria Colloquium in Social, Political and Legal Theory. The series invites world-class theorists to present their current research at UVic, promoting exchange among faculty and students in a “pre-seminar” and then the main seminar itself.

And in 2012, McBeth assumed the role of coordinator for the faculty’s Indigenous Law Research Clinic—an initiative that partners with communities to research different areas of Indigenous law.

On the day of her interview with The Ring, McBeth was in the throes of planning a workshop for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission taking place in Edmonton later that week. These final preparations—filled with more post-it notes and to-do lists—gave proof to McBeth’s busy schedule.

“Though the majority of her time is split between communications and coordinating the logistics of research projects and events, McBeth isn’t afraid to tackle spontaneous projects when the need arises. “Last Friday I helped weave cedar bark mats for the Indigenous law student graduation,” she says. “And I’ll be doing more weaving this afternoon for hat bands that will be used at the ceremony.”

McBeth came to UVic to do graduate work after earning her BA from the University of Western Ontario. After completing her MA, the transition from student to staff was almost immediate.

“I always worked while in school and I got hired in this job a week before I defended my master’s,” says McBeth.

She even credits her university experience for inspiring her initial interest in the DEMCON job. “I love critical thinking in a community of people who are trying to deal with social and political issues,” explains McBeth. “My favourite part of the job is the space I am given to help initiate creative projects that connect with those issues.”

Perhaps the best example of this exercise in creativity is the graphic novel recently presented by the Indigenous Law Research Clinic. The book, Mikomosis and the Wetiko, was the brainchild of McBeth and Prof. Val Napoleon. It tells the story of Mikomosis—a great hunter of the Nehiyaw (Cree) people who was charged with murder in 1878.

To date, the reception to the graphic novel has been stupendous. “The UVic Bookstore has been selling out and we’ve been asked to provide more copies about six times,” says McBeth. “We’ve had people take it to Spain, France and Belgium, and it’s being used in law schools and high schools across Canada.”

Though McBeth is quick to describe herself as an organizer first and foremost, it is obvious that her creative flair and passion for social and political issues underlie every post-it note and to-do list.

**In the US, 34 states have made transgender people legally protected in some way.**

**Despite this, there have always been people who have spoken honestly both about how hard it is to be trans in this world, and about the fantastic gifts and strengths that being trans can bring with it. Activists and researchers have worked to educate and agitate so that transgender people can be fully engaged and productive members of society.**

“DEMCON’s mission is to support social and political initiatives,” she says.

McBeth’s research interests include Indigenous law, constitutional theory, design and practice. McBeth handles the communications, promotions and bookings for all of the major conferences hosted by DEMCON.

*By Margaret Suderman*

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![Image of a storage unit]

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**Moving Trans* History Forward**

BY AARON DEVOR

In a matter of decades, transgender people have gone from near-invisibility to the covers of glossy magazines and into leading roles in popular TV shows and movies. One of biggest hits on Netflix, Orange is the New Black, features Laverne Cox as a trans woman jailed in a women’s prison.

In the US, 34 states have made transgender people legally protected in some way. Despite this, there have always been people who have spoken honestly both about how hard it is to be trans in this world, and about the fantastic gifts and strengths that being trans can bring with it. Activists and researchers have worked to educate and agitate so that transgender people can be fully engaged and productive members of society.

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