



University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

CUVIC 2014

Community-university conference seeks abstracts

This May, UVic will host CUVic 2014, a three-day international conference on community-university engagement. Abstracts are being accepted through Feb. 14. Faculty are invited to showcase some of UVic's outstanding community collaborations, and volunteers are also being sought to support the conference. Celebrated humanitarian Stephen Lewis will kick off the conference May 20 with an evening presentation. Additional speakers include former provincial court judge and BC's 28th lieutenant-governor Steven Point, and UVic's Hakai Chair in Ethnoecology and renowned ethnobotanist Dr. Nancy Turner. Call for proposals/abstracts: uvic.ca/cuvic2014

LABOUR RELATIONS

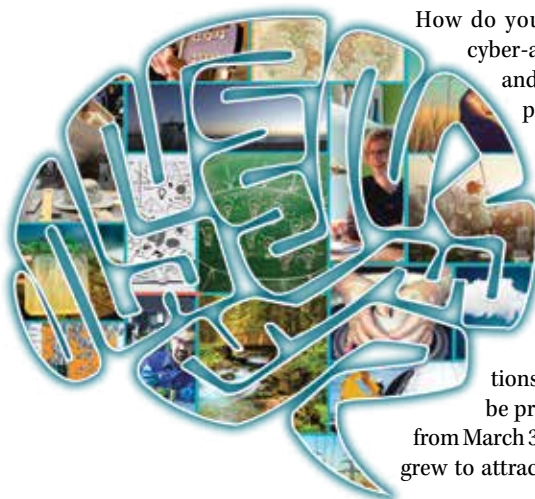
Faculty and librarians vote for unionization

In January, members of the UVic Faculty Association voted to certify as a labour union. The online vote, using the system offered by the university, had an 83-per-cent voter turnout and faculty decided 448 to 263 to unionize. As a result of the vote, the Faculty Association will be certified as a union under the BC Labour Relations Code. The administration and Faculty Association must now begin negotiation of the first collective agreement. Until the first collective agreement is in place the terms and conditions of the Framework Agreement will continue to apply.

WHAT SETS UVIC APART?

UVic Difference project

This month, UVic launched *The UVic Difference: Positioning for Success* project to renew and sharpen UVic's reputation and messaging to reflect how our university and our world are changing. The university is looking for shared, compelling answers to the questions "What makes UVic different?" and "Why choose our university?" for the students, faculty, staff, donors, partners and collaborators we hope to attract. As part of this project, UVic has engaged a national public opinion research firm to conduct a short survey of students, staff and faculty. All survey responses will be kept strictly confidential, and students will have an opportunity to enter their names in a draw for a cash prize of \$500. bit.ly/dif-survey



WORLD'S LARGEST BUTTON BLANKET AT THE DIVERSITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

P.5

THE RING

FEBRUARY 2014

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Bradley and UVic digital media technician Daniel Hogg. PHOTO: NIK WEST

NOW PLAYING: THE UVIC WRITING PROGRAM

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FESTIVAL-BOUND
STUDENT AND
ALUMNI FILMS
SHOT USING
THE WRITING
DEPARTMENT'S
RED CAMERA

Film production class makes for award-winning, reel-life learning

BY JOHN THRELFALL

The tools writing professor Maureen Bradley uses with her students may not immediately leap to mind when most people think about research at the University of Victoria. But for Bradley, lights and cameras are very much the focus of the action when it comes to film production.

"Research is the creation of new knowledge," she says, "and literature, art and film are knowledge. Those images and stories explain to us who we are, and how we function as humans."

Bradley has been teaching film-based courses at UVic since 2004, but her real success began with the creation of the writing department's CFI Hi-Def Story Incubator Laboratory in 2009.

Thanks to nearly \$350,000 in funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the BC Knowledge Development Fund and UVic's Office of Research Services, the Story Lab continues to have great success with their experiential "class as crew" model.

Their inaugural effort—*Freshman's Wharf*, a light-hearted, 10-episode web series looking at the first-year student experience—won a 2010 Leo Award, presented annually to the best in BC's film and television industry.

Bradley and her writing students have since gone on to create three other short films: *Stuck*, *How Socrates Bought the Farm* and *Til Death*—the latter of which won a pair of awards at the Vancouver Short Film Festival in Nov. 2013 and will screen at the

Victoria Film Festival in February.

With students taking on all the jobs of a film crew, from lighting and continuity to set decoration and film editing, Bradley has created a hands-on course that teaches how film production really works. "It's just such a fantastic experience," she says. "They love being on set."

But while there's clearly talent aplenty among the 20-odd students who enrol in her class each year, Bradley sees the writing department as the key to their success.

"Film is just a development of writing's already well-known streams—fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction and drama," she says. "I don't know anywhere else in the country where this is happening. There are

SEE BRADLEY P.3

IDEAFEST, MARCH 3-8

Festival topics run from timely to timeless

BY BRAD BUIE

How do young people use and respond to cyber-aggression? How can the diagnosis and treatment of concussions be improved? Why are our brains better than the smartest computers for certain kinds of tasks? And why do we respond to the music of one artist over another: is it the beauty of the melody, a special harmonic sound, or something else?

Some answers to these questions—along with dozens of others—will be presented at UVic's annual IdeaFest, from March 3 to 8. Now in its third year, IdeaFest grew to attract thousands of participants from

on and off-campus in 2013. Although this year's events are compressed into six days, nearly equal attendance is anticipated.

IdeaFest events show off the wide variety of learning environments across campus. Event venues include UVic galleries, labs, recital halls, library vaults and forests. Prominent this year will also be student research, ranging from a display of the remarkable e-magazines produced by undergraduate students from the Department of Writing, to graduate students describing their research in "The Three-Minute Thesis": a fast-paced, jargon-free presentation in front of judges Bob McDonald, the host of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, Dave Obee, editor-in-chief of the *Times Colonist* and Janet Rogers, Poet Laureate for the City of Victoria.

"Student and faculty researchers, scholars and artists are eager to present their discover-

ies, insights, and creative projects to our on and off-campus communities," says Vice-President Research Howard Brunt.

"I encourage people to schedule in events throughout the IdeaFest week. This festival really demonstrates that ideas are for all of us to question, debate and collectively use to benefit society."

A sampling of other ideas up for discussion during the festival include strategies to end homelessness, master classes in making music, impacts of learning in the workplace, democracy and tolerance, the controversies surrounding e-cigarettes and the latest on solar energy advances and challenges.

The full program of more than 50 events is formatted for easy online browsing on any device at uvic.ca/ideafest. A video about the event appears at bit.ly/idea-vid.

around the ring

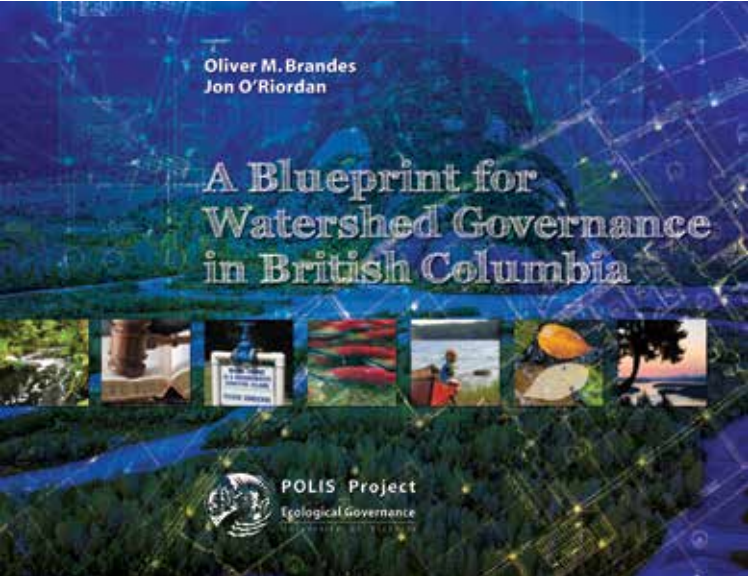
Talking mental health

Two upcoming sessions in the *Let's Talk Mental Health* series, sponsored by the UVic Mental Health Task Force, will allow participants to discuss their own experiences, and learn from resource people and those living with mental illness. A round-table conversation on *Substance Use* will take place Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. in the Engineering Graduate Lounge (ECS 660). The final discussion, *Indigenous Understandings of Mental Health*, is scheduled for Mar. 5. "The *Let's Talk Mental Health* series is an effective way to break the silence and move towards the elimination of stigma and discrimination against people who struggle with addictions or mental health issues," says Cindy Player, chair of the Mental Health Task Force and director of the Equity and Human Rights Office. "Students, staff, faculty and community members are welcome to come to listen or to join the conversation." Admission is free and pre-registration is not required. For more information visit web.uvic.ca/eqhr/mhtf.htm or call 250-721-8786.

New model proposed for BC water management

BY LAURA BRANDES

The provincial government has committed to a new *Water Sustainability Act* by early 2014, and researchers at UVic's POLIS Project on Ecological Governance say that BC has the potential to become a standout example for sustainable freshwater management and protection. Over the past few years, the provincial government has led significant discussions about water management and policy reforms. The new policy report from POLIS, *A Blueprint for Watershed Governance in British Columbia*, takes the discussion a step further by addressing the complex details of who makes the decisions, and how decision-makers can be held to account for the benefit of BC's fresh water. "This could be a real opportunity for positive change—particularly when it comes to engaging local communities in critical watershed decisions. It has the potential to ensure basic ecological health, such as minimum flows in rivers to keep fish alive and thriving," says the report's co-author Oliver M. Brandes, co-director of POLIS. The report proposes that water-management decision-making be aligned with the ecological boundaries



of watersheds—instead of political lines on a map—as the best way to achieve positive, long-term ecological, social and economic outcomes in BC. "The transformation in governance proposed in our blueprint will likely take a decade, at a minimum, but with these changes BC could have the potential to become a national, and even global, leader in freshwater protection and sustainability," says Brandes. The POLIS report draws on leading examples of watershed governance from across Canada and around the globe, and applies them to the BC context.

"The blueprint sets out a strategic 10-year program and proposes nine winning conditions to ensure success," says co-author Dr. Jon O'Riordan, POLIS advisor and former deputy minister of BC's Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. "Recognizing the unique institutional, legal, cultural, and geographic challenges of BC, we provide a clear timeline for successfully moving towards watershed governance to improve ecological resilience across the province." A copy of the report is available at poliswaterproject.org/blueprint

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA COMMERCIALIZATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE

On Jan. 10, The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of State (Science and Technology), visited UVic to highlight \$4.4 million in new funding recently awarded to the Ocean Networks Canada Innovation Centre—one of three Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR) that were awarded federal funding. Last November, Rickford announced \$22.2 million over five years through the CECR program for the renewal of three centres: the Ocean Networks Canada Innovation Centre, the Green-Centre Canada and the Canadian Digital Media Network. "The CECR program endeavours to bridge the gap between ideas and the marketplace," explained Rickford, "by providing support for product and business development early in the innovation process and by strengthening relationships among private sector, academic and government players." Established in 2009, the Ocean Networks Canada Innovation Centre commercializes marine monitoring technologies used in underwater ocean observatories. The Innovation Centre also works with partners to market a suite of products and services designed to benefit sectors as diverse as marine safety and security, energy, and transportation management. Through the CECR program, the Innovation Centre received a funding extension of \$4.4 million over five years, bringing its total funding support to nearly \$11 million.

"We're very grateful to the Government of Canada for its continuing support of Ocean Networks Canada and its pioneering work in ocean science and technology," says University of Victoria President Jamie Cassels. "With this new funding, the Innovation Centre will continue to mobilize its expertise to support growth in the Canadian ocean technology sector over the long term."

UVIC UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN 2013

United Way campaign brought fun and funding together on campus

The colourful banners have been packed away, the last red balloon has been popped and the United Way thermometers have been taken down; the 2013 United Way Campaign at UVic has wound up, having successfully raised a total of \$255,297 for the community. The UVic United Way campaign, which runs from October to December each year, is a time when volunteers canvass donors and organize events, raising the profile of United Way in our community and inspiring generosity. The decision to move to continuous payroll deduction for UVic faculty and staff, eliminating the need for committed donors to complete new pledge forms each year, was the biggest change in 2013. The benefits of this change will be realized in future campaigns when donors will only need to contact payroll about their donation when they wish to change their gift.

Canvassing and Special Events While staff, students and faculty engaged with United Way right across the campus, volunteers in political science, science, engineering, business and the UVic Development Office stepped up their campaign activities this year – spreading the United Way message through presentations, events and conversations about the volunteers' personal commitments to United Way and community. This year's events—including the book sale, plasma car race, chemistry show, craft fair, bug push and Chillin' for Charity—raised record amounts of money and created awareness. Staff, students and members of the public had fun, indulged a passion or learned for a great cause. The Welcome Centre hosted a kick-off event attended by the Vikes mascot, Thunder, who posed for dozens of fun photos. New President Jamie Cassels demonstrated his generous

support by leading a lunchtime walk, dedicated to United Way, around the Ring Road. And a leaders' breakfast brought leadership donors together at the University Club. **You can still give** Led by Dean of Human and Social Development Mary Ellen Purkis and supported by Co-op student Miriam Moore, the UVic Campaign Committee enthusiastically embraced the "Agent of Change" theme and pursued the mission to change lives and build community. The need for support in our community exceeds our donations to date and we encourage you to give to the campaign if you have not had an opportunity to do so. To give to United Way and become an Agent of Change, go to bit.ly/uvic-way. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the UVic campaign! Your community thanks you, too!

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Total Payout to Age 100		\$167,631	\$155,076	\$143,682	\$131,386	\$126,321	\$119,224

Accelerated Payout: Income over 5 years \$1,784
 Income over 10 years \$952
 Income over 15 years \$677

* Based on best current GIC of 2.71%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle. Monthly income based on \$100,000

LIFE ANNUITIES

	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
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...payments cease at death		\$501	\$554	\$635	\$766	\$885	\$1,089
...10 years guaranteed		\$495	\$544	\$613	\$711	\$780	\$890
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$458	\$512	\$582	\$692	\$792	\$966
...10 years guaranteed		\$455	\$506	\$569	\$661	\$730	\$840
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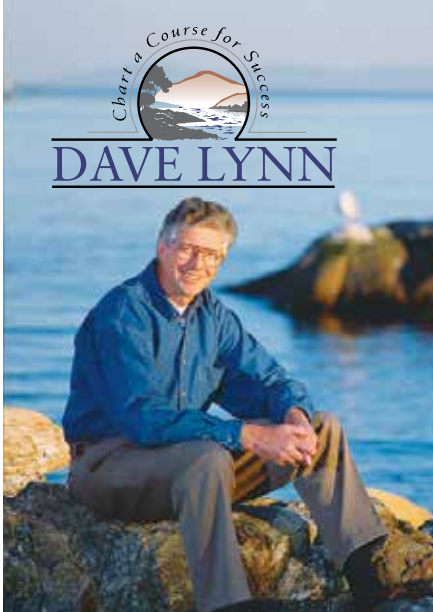



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good student films being made, but they’re not being driven by faculty-led courses.”

Bradley has spent the past four years building up the technical equipment and supporting talent needed to create professional-quality 10-minute short films.

“Drama and film are really applied forms of learning,” she explains. “A screenplay and a play are not final products, and they’re always open to interpretation. Students need to see how hard it is to make a film, how to adjust the writing as the film is made, how to write with a budget in mind.”

With no other Vancouver Island college or university offering film production classes, UVic’s writing department is uniquely situated to help fill a gap locally and nationally.

“I think we have the best student screenwriters in Canada here,” she says. “This is a unique situation where the production comes through the writing first.”

“I’ve seen beautiful films at student screenings across Canada, but the story is usually lacking, so it’s really exciting to see story and surface come together here. Why make a film if there’s no heart to it?”

OTHER UVIC FILM PROJECTS

Previous Story Lab student films have played at the Whistler Film Festival, the Vancouver Short Film Festival and the Victoria Film Festival. Current master’s student Connor Gaston’s short film, *Bardo Light*, had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2012.

Til Death screens at the Victoria Film Festival as part of the “Love & Danger” short film series (8:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Vic Theatre, 808 Douglas Street). “It’s quite extraordinary for a student film,” says Bradley, “and it’s really exciting seeing it screening at a local festival.”

Bradley will start shooting her film *Two For One* locally in February. It’s a transgender romantic comedy produced by Story Lab partner Daniel Hogg and featuring 10 former and current film students working on the set. Bradley sees *Two For One* as delving into new territory. “Living life as a transgendered man is not something most people know anything about,” she says. “But people are open when they laugh and might take in new ideas. I want to reach a broader audience with this one.”

Writing department alumni Jeremy Lutter, Ben Rollo, D.W. Wilson and Daniel Hogg took their latest short film *Floodplain* to the Cannes Film Festival in 2013. *Floodplain* recently won two awards at the Vancouver Short Film Festival, and was produced with support from the National Screen Institute and BravoFACT.

Bradley’s Faces of UVic Research video is also online at bit.ly/reel-film

Online course shows how to put the brakes on climate change



BY ROBYN MEYER

It all began with a request from government. Could the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), which is hosted and led by UVic, come up with an informative yet engaging way to explain the complicated science behind global warming? As a result, world-leading climate scientists—who were fortuitously based in Victoria—got together to create the first free, interactive online course in PICS’s Climate Insights 101 series, Climate Science Basics, which was launched by then-Environment Minister Terry Lake in August 2011.

Fast-forward more than two years, and the audience has stretched well beyond its intended base of BC civil servants. People from more than 150 countries are now using the course to understand why the earth’s climate is changing. And as of Jan. 23, 2014, a new course in the series tells us what we can do about it.

The three-part Mitigation Needs and Action and Government Tools and Initiatives Part 1 and 2 course outlines the practical ways, and policy options, to combat human-induced climate change. Course “graduates” gain a

solid understanding of how energy efficiency, energy conservation and carbon sinks are the key strategies for reducing the amount of heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs) we put into the atmosphere.

And what are the specific tools in the toolkit? Topics explained and critiqued include: carbon pricing through carbon tax and cap-and-trade schemes, environmental regulations including vehicle tailpipe and low carbon fuel standards; carbon capture and storage technology; carbon sinks; renewable portfolio standards; and clean energy incentive programmes and technologies.

Part two examines the mixed results of regional and international cooperative efforts toward achieving global GHG emissions reductions. Approaches under the microscope include emissions trading schemes, regional emissions caps, and the historic United Nations climate agreements from Kyoto, Copenhagen, Durban and Doha. The course also profiles countries with leading-edge policies that are successfully fighting the causes of climate change. All parts of the course contain “test-your-knowledge” sections.

PICS executive director Tom Pedersen says human society is on track for perhaps four or more degrees of warming by the end of this century due to rising GHG emissions, well beyond the threshold seen as dangerous. However, he says, if urgent action is taken there is still time to prevent this happening—and the new Mitigation course explains how.

Dr. Pedersen says there is no single solution to global warming, but this course shows there is an array of actions that, if taken, will transition society from fossil-fuel dependency to a low-carbon renewable energy future.

Who should take this course? The relevant audience is wide, indeed global, in its scope: climate change knows no borders. Educators, policy-makers, members of the media and indeed anyone wanting a solid understanding of what works in climate change mitigation—and what doesn’t—will benefit from this course.

And stay tuned—the third and final course in the Climate Insights 101 series, Regional Impacts and Adaptation, is scheduled for release by PICS in spring 2014.

Online course available at bit.ly/pics-course2

New European Union centre announced

BY TARA SHARPE

The University of Victoria is one of Canada’s leaders in European studies and is now home to one of two new European Union Centres of Excellence (EUCE) announced last month by the Delegation of the European Union to Canada.

There are only three other EUCEs in Canada and 37 worldwide. It is a prestigious designation and involves building further awareness and understanding of the EU and its policies in BC. The centre announcement includes a grant of 300,000 euros (equivalent to \$445,000 CAD) to coordinate lectures, workshops, summer schools, student travel and research grants.

UVic public administration professor and political scientist Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly is director of the new centre. “We are honoured with

this very public recognition of UVic’s international reputation for excellence in the area of European studies,” he says. “I am very proud to head the new centre and look forward with anticipation to the many activities at UVic to help make EU policies better known in BC. Specifically, colleagues from five faculties will organize more than two dozen research, teaching and outreach activities over the next three years including high school events and professional summer schools.”

Two tangible examples of the types

of support and activities of UVic’s new centre include direct funding for student participation in UVic’s I-witness field school program and a new workshop bringing together leading scholars and researchers on contentious politics, to explore the local and global impacts of grassroots protest in Spain, Italy, Greece and Iceland.

The faculties of social sciences, human and social development, humanities, law and the Gustavson School of Business are participating in this new centre. More info about the I-witness field school: bit.ly/i-witness

around the ring



Chancellor search underway

Nominations and suggestions are being sought for candidates to become UVic chancellor, after Murray Farmer completes his second and final term at the end of 2014. The chancellor is an ambassador and champion for the university, and serves as the titular head of the institution. She or he is the chair of convocation, confers degrees and performs other ceremonial functions, and holds a seat on the Board of Governors and Senate. The university is seeking a leader who exemplifies the values of our institution, with outstanding achievement in his or her field, who will be highly respected within the university and the external community. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and other members of the university and the broader community are invited to submit nominations or suggestions.

A web-based form has been created for confidential submissions: uvic.ca/chancellorsearch

New emergency procedures poster—just in case. . .

All UVic employees will soon receive a copy of the new and improved UVic Emergency Procedures poster. Take the time to review the procedures for each type of emergency—just in case. The look of the poster has been refreshed, in addition to the information. It’s important to remove and recycle copies of the previous version and post the new one in your work area. For a wallet-card version to carry with you, contact Emergency Planner Daphne Donaldson. On the flip side of the poster is information for faculty, instructors and facilitators to help you be better prepared when you’re teaching a class or lab, or presenting to an audience. For more information or to download the poster visit uvic.ca/services/emergency.

Student and staff sustainability awards

Nominations for this year’s UVic Student and Staff Sustainability Champion Awards are now open. If you know a student or staff member who has done an outstanding job over the past year promoting sustainability on campus, consider nominating him or her for this fabulous opportunity to be recognized. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m., with an awards ceremony planned for March. Find out more by contacting action@uvic.ca and download the applications from the awards tab on uvic.ca/sustainability/involved.

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around the ring

Recognizing outstanding employees

All faculty and staff are invited to attend the President's Distinguished Service Awards presentation, Feb. 20 from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at the University Club. This event celebrates outstanding contributions of university employees to the betterment of the university and its community. Light refreshments will be served; RSVP at bit.ly/pdsa-rsvp. A list of the 2013 PDSA nominees and more details about recognition event are available at uvic.ca/hr/services/home/recognition/pdsa.

Celebrating local leaders

The 10th anniversary of Victoria's Leadership Awards (VLA) will be celebrated Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Crystal Garden. The VLAs honour outstanding local heroes every year whose contributions inspire us all to work collaboratively in bringing positive change to our communities. UVic is one of three founding partners of the awards program. The 2014 VLA reception begins at 4:30 p.m., with award presentations, hors d'oeuvres and beverages from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Cost per seat is \$65. Event Information at leadershipvictoria.ca

Gear up to Graduate program launched

Students who are graduating this June can find everything they need to transition to the workplace during **Gear up to Graduate**, which launched Feb. 1 at uvic.ca/coopandcareer/grad. Co-op and Career is offering workshops, one-on-one career development support, resources, job postings and more.

Transgender history symposium on the horizon

With the assistance of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the University of Victoria Libraries, the *Moving Trans* History Forward Symposium* invites scholars, activists, archivists, and all interested people to share and participate in discussions about the history of trans* research and activism. The symposium takes place at UVic March 21-23, 2014 and will feature panel discussions, keynote speakers, exhibitions, and screenings devoted to the acquisition, preservation, and access of trans* history and archival materials. Learn more and register at: transgenderarchives.ca/symposium

The blanket arrives, as invitation and metaphor



PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BY JOHN THRELFALL

It's said that many hands make for light work, but it was more a case of many hands making the art work when it came to the creation and raising of the world's largest button blanket. Witnessed by a standing-room-only crowd at First Peoples House, the Big Button Blanket received its inaugural performance during the opening ceremonies of the Provost's Diversity Research Forum on January 29.

Created in collaboration with Tahltan Nation artist Peter Morin and History in Art professor Carolyn Butler Palmer, as well as their students and local Indigenous button blanket makers over the Fall 2013 semester, the six-metre by six-metre, 4,000-button blanket is now the central feature of the exhibit *Adasla: The Movement of Hands* at UVic's Legacy Art Gallery Downtown. More than just the chance to earn a world's record from Guinness (confirmation currently pending),

the Big Button Blanket offers an opportunity to start new conversations about Indigenous art forms and the traditions surrounding them.

"I want people to understand and think differently about button blankets," says Morin. "This is an art form that has been practiced for more than 150 years over a large geographic region. They are just as beautiful and significant as totem poles—and, in fact, I wanted to make a button blanket the size of a totem pole so people can see them better. It's an invitation to see this art form differently."

Morin, now with the Visual Arts faculty at Manitoba's Brandon University, will return to UVic on February 22 for a free public performance with Governor General's Award-winning Anishinaabe artist Rebecca Belmore. "Button blankets are used as teaching tools—younger artists get told its story, how it was made, what it was made with, who made it, the importance and significance of it in relation to the larger community—so our collabora-

tion will be about acknowledging the blanket as a metaphor for Indigenous knowledge practices," explains Morin.

Belmore, who held the inaugural Audain Professorship in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest with the Department of Visual Arts in 2010, has long been a mentor to Morin. "Her art has fundamentally changed how I see the world," he says. "A lot of my practice is about the places where Indigenous and western knowledge intersect or collide, so it's exciting we can work together on this."

For both Morin and Butler Palmer, the exhibit *Adasla*—a Tahltan word referring to the act of creation—hinges on the lack of general knowledge surrounding button blankets. "It's a textile art form, and that's often associated with women, and textile arts have been suppressed in their recognition in art history, as has Indigenous art forms," explains Butler Palmer. "Even if they are recognized, they're often configured more as 'craft' than art. So we're challenging both the

absence and suppositions of button blankets as an art."

Ultimately, Morin sees the Big Button Blanket as an opportunity to further the importance, and understanding, of Indigenous learning. "We are changed when we come into contact with Indigenous knowledge," he says. "In some communities, the buttons on one side represent the present and the stitching on the other refers to the past—grief or death, loss or ancestors. But in the Legacy Gallery, the blanket is purposely hung so you can see both sides: you can experience it as an art piece, but you're also automatically participating in the Indigenous knowledge practice—whether you know that or not."

Peter Morin and Rebecca Belmore will perform at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 22, at UVic's Legacy Art Gallery Downtown, 630 Yates Street. Adasla: The Movement of Hands continues to April 25 at Legacy Downtown.



L to R: Housty and Whittington. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Provost's Advocacy and Activism Awards

Congratulations to Barbara Whittington and Jessie Housty, recipients of the inaugural Provost's Advocacy and Activism Awards, presented at the *Provost's Diversity Research Forum: Arts, Allies and Activism* on Jan. 29.

Jessie Housty, a master's student in English, is an advocate and activist for Indigenous rights, founder and director of the Thistalal Memorial Library, director of traditional ecological knowledge for the Qqs Projects Society, campaigner to end trophy hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest, educator on tankers and pipelines on the BC coast and co-teacher of UVic's Geography 453 course at the Hakai Beach Institute.

Barbara Whittington, associate professor in the School of Social Work, is a pioneer of equity and diversity work. She was the first sexual harassment advisor at UVic and worked to establish UVic's employee and family assistance program. She is also a strong advocate for UVic's Family Centre. bit.ly/advo-14

DO GOOD, FEEL GOOD

Students learn first-hand how helping others changes lives—theirs included

BY KIM WESTAD

At the end of the Fall semester, Lara Lauzon's office looked like that of many a hard-working professor—jammed bookshelves, thank-you cards on the window sill and final exams stacked in piles.

And then there were the boxes of food.

These are not so typical, but the tins of soup, fruit, jars of peanut butter, crackers and other non-perishables are evidence of students having taken the lesson of "giving back"—a key component in a unique course taught by Lauzon—to heart.

All the food was donated by Lauzon's students during December's final exams—destined for the University of Victoria's Food Bank. There, from a small room tucked in the basement of the SUB, students in need can count on finding the basics to feed themselves.

This holiday giving is in addition to the Community Legacy volunteer projects students did as part of course work in EPHE 142, "Personal Health, Wellness and Potential," a first-year course in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, where Lauzon is a professor.

The course features an element that is a bit out of the comfort zone for many students, but often ends up a life-changer—they must all volunteer



Lauzon at the UVSS Food Bank, with student volunteer Laura Janssen. PHOTO: DIANA NETHERCOTT

in the community. The projects must be done in groups—so that students learn to work co-operatively with others, often strangers—who then go out to do good and make a difference.

"Volunteering makes you see the world and fellow humans in a more compassionate way," says Lauzon, who plans to do further research on the impact the volunteer projects have on the students and the community.

"The research shows that by helping others, we start living with a little more gratitude and that is a terrific lesson for anyone."

The project acts as a catalyst for social and community connection, says Lauzon, who has taught the course for 15 years and has seen its popularity grow dramatically. A class of 130 usually has dozens more students on the waitlist.

Full story: bit.ly/Lauzon



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MASTER’S PROGRAM IN COMMUNITY COUNSELLING

L to R: John and Delaronde. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Bringing Indigenous knowledge to counselling

BY KIM WESTAD

Lindsay Delaronde’s plans are as big as they come: she wants to take what she’s learning in Canada’s first Indigenous master’s degree program around the world.

The 29-year-old woman from the Mohawk Nation in Quebec is one of 14 students taking part in the University of Victoria program—the first in the country to offer a master’s degree in Indigenous Communities Counselling, leading to provincial and national certification.

The UVic-led and developed program provides coursework consistent with national counsellor education guidelines and certification requirements for professional counsellors, but is grounded in Indigenous approaches to the world. It will include courses in spirituality and healing, counselling across generations, and instruction on the importance of ceremony, language and communal healing.

Delaronde said she wanted to work with Indigenous communities with Indigenous ways of knowing. She also sees taking that knowledge to people

anywhere.

“It is ancient knowledge that influences not only Indigenous people but people around the world,” Delaronde explains. “The more knowledge counsellors have of others, the more we can help people of all diversities.”

Education professor Anne Williams co-chaired the initial advisory committee that led to the program, along with Dr. Lorna Williams. For years, Williams, the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning, had heard about and seen certified counsellors arrive in Indigenous communities without knowing how to work effectively and respectfully with Aboriginal clients. Williams wanted to change that.

After extensive consultation with faculty, mental health professionals and Indigenous community members, the master’s program was developed. It is delivered by the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, in partnership with Indigenous Education.

A pilot program saw 19 students graduate with master’s degrees in 2011 and 2012. Delaronde is part of a new group that began classes in

“The more knowledge counsellors have of others, the more we can help people of all diversities.”

—LINDSAY DELARONDE

late January. The three-year program takes place on weekends, so students don’t necessarily have to leave home full-time.

Classes take place mostly in First Peoples House on campus, with fieldwork done in the community as well. A 400-hour practicum is also part of the comprehensive program.

On the first day of classes, the 14 students and Roger John, the academic advisor for the program, sat in a circle around several drums, stones and artifacts.

John, a member of the St’at’imc Nation, asked students to bring whatever they would like from their homes to share with others. While the major-

ity of students are Indigenous, they are from different Nations, so there’s a wide range of practices they learn from each other.

Those differences add another dimension to the program, said Delaronde, whose Mohawk name Katsitsakatste means “Lasting Flower.”

“I have a lot of similarities with people here but also a lot of differences. We can all learn from those.”

John said the impact of colonization is still felt in the Indigenous community, including poverty and post-traumatic stress disorder. There is also great strength, he said, and counselling psychology is one of the best ways to access those strengths.

Delaronde says combining the positives of both the Indigenous and western worlds is an alliance that can extend to many areas.

“I think there is a resurgence of unity, where people are coming together to recognize that we have a huge amount of knowledge when we work together,” she says. “To have it supported in an educational institution and have it then infiltrate the community—I’m really glad to be a part of that happening.”

2014 PROVOST’S DIVERSITY RESEARCH FORUM — A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Shared stories shape extraordinary experiences

BY KAITLYN ROSENBERG

When *The Ring* asked me to cover this year’s Provost’s Diversity Research Forum, I accepted on the condition I could profile the event from the perspective of a student questioning the role of diversity in Canada.

As a middle-class Caucasian female in the last semester of an undergraduate degree, diversity had become a buzzword thrown around in textbooks. Was I actually diverse? And more importantly, did I live in a diverse space where I could practice social responsibility?

Now in its seventh year, the theme of the 2014 diversity forum was *Critical Conversations: Arts, Allies and Activism*. Like the word diversity, I knew the standard definition of these terms, but I wanted more.

The opening reception was held in First Peoples House. After four years on campus, that was my first time inside. As the ceremonial hall filled

with guests, I realized the conference would be a series of first experiences.

Guests were told to hang up their political ideals, as we’re all just people. UVic Vice-President Academic and Provost Reeta Tremblay spoke about the university constructing “a space for the role of diversity.” Examining ourselves was the first step.

It’s difficult to pick just one standout moment from the night to focus on.

The dance of the big button blanket was truly a community occasion, though. Three first nations singers shared their songs as the audience hoisted the world’s biggest blanket to the rafters.

And with a shared responsibility to keep the blanket from touching the ground, Peter Morin, the project lead, asked participants to be brave enough to grab the blanket and feel its weight—knowing the blanket was too heavy for most to hold aloft on their own, and too wild a force for one

person to control.

While this moment was remarkable, and visually stunning, I was also moved by the sound of thousands of buttons gently jingling against the blanket. It sounded like water churning over rocks.

Denise Chong’s keynote address was a candid conversation touching on multiculturalism, her time working for Pierre Trudeau and her writing career. She asked us all to consider that our first ally is our self—and we have a responsibility to choose our own identity.

I felt picking my own identity would be difficult. Instead, I reflected on how pleased I was that of the presentations at the reception, all but one was given by a female. I wondered if this thought added to my identity, and moreso, shaped my view of diversity? I think yes, but the conference emphasized the importance of not rushing into assessments.

The next day, I attend *From the*

Heart: How Arts, Allies and Activism all Converged in One Unconventional Theatre Production. Will Weigler and Krystal Cook led a discussion on their reconciliation theatre project aimed at a settler audience.

Through participatory action research, the theatre medium allowed actors and audience members to witness and experience stories of reconciliation. Weigler and Cook discussed art as a means of investigation. I learned that respect for a story must exist before sharing with others and I was overwhelmed with the level of communication our session demonstrated. I know now that diversity hinges on engagement.

I left the conference with a renewed identity—perhaps not greatly different from before, but more carefully defined. I am a settler Canadian. I am a female concerned with gender equality. I am a writer who has the ability to share stories.

Like this one.

ringers

In January, theatre historian **Dr. Jennifer Wise**’s play *The Girl Rabbi of the Golden West* was announced the winner of the 2013 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition by the Miles Nadal Centre in Toronto. Her play depicts the amazing true story of how, in 1895, in Victoria, Miss Ray Frank became the first woman to serve as rabbi for an orthodox synagogue throughout the High Holidays. Commissioned as part of Congregation Emanu-El’s 150th anniversary celebrations, the play was performed last spring to a packed audience in the very building where the historic events occurred. The play will be presented in Toronto next fall at the 2014 *Between Stages* series with the original director, Liza Balkan.

This month, **Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe** (earth and ocean sciences) will receive the 2014 Murray A. Newman Award for Significant Achievement in Aquatic Research and Conservation from the Vancouver Aquarium. The award goes to leading researchers and conservationists who have made invaluable contributions to understanding and conserving ecosystems in western North America. Tunnicliffe, who from 2001-12 served as founding director of the VENUS observatory (part of Ocean Networks Canada), has pioneered research methods and observation technologies that have significantly influenced the study of our local waters and the world’s oceans in general. As the Canada Research Chair in Deep Oceans Research, she is one of the world’s leading authorities on deep ocean life.

To the cheers of a tight game and the applause of a packed house, UVic songwriting instructor **Colleen Eccleston**’s song was performed and declared the winner of the School of Music / Vikes Nation rally song contest. With 18 submissions from across campus—including entries by students, faculty and administration alike—the top three finalists were performed live at half-time by fourth-year music student and rising star **Josh Lovell**. And while the crowd enjoyed the first two songs by **Kyell Erickson** and **Kevin Grout**, they clearly cheered the loudest for Eccleston’s song. Attendees of future games will hear a recorded version of Lovell’s rendition before the starting lineups of each Vikes home game.

The **Sardul S. Gill Graduate School MBA program** in the Gustavson School of Business ranked in the top 50 in North America by QS, a leading international provider of business higher education information, communication and events organization. “We are very pleased about this acknowledgement from QS,” said Saul Klein, Dean of the Gustavson School of Business. “It’s a well-deserved nod to all the hard work we’ve done over the years to keep our MBA program both rigorous and relevant.” As well, the Gustavson JD and MBA program is ranked in the top 50 in North America by Eduniversal Best Masters.

beyond the ring

Granting councils consider mandatory open access

The Canadian higher-education magazine *University Affairs* reports that two of the major federal funding agencies (NSERC and SSHRC) are looking into sharing research results more widely and faster by adopting an open-access policy for peer-reviewed journal articles linked to research they fund. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research have already adopted an open-access policy, as have public funding agencies in many other nations. bit.ly/research-access

UNB faculty strike ends after 21 days; Mt. Allison strike reaches second week

Classes resumed Feb. 3 at the University of New Brunswick, ending a 21-day strike by faculty. March reading week at the university will be cancelled and classes extended to make up for much of the time lost. A provincially appointed mediator helped the two sides reach a tentative agreement. The agreement was still subject to ratification as *The Ring* went to press. The main issue between the two sides was the magnitude of future wage increases.

A strike by faculty at Mount Allison University, which began on Jan. 27, has dragged into a second week. Classes at the university have been suspended. On Feb. 5 a provincially appointed mediation officer met with the parties to help the university and striking faculty re-open negotiations. Salaries, pensions, benefits and workload are the key issues.

Liberal arts prepare graduates for long-term success

A new US study reports that liberal arts graduates might begin their working careers at a lower salary than those in professional and pre-professional programs, but that by mid-career the majority of the salary and unemployment gaps have been closed. bit.ly/AACU-lib

Foreign-student push leads to worry over spaces for Canadians

In January, the federal government announced a new plan to nearly double the number of international students in Canada by 2022. Reaction to the proposal included concern about how higher education institutions would be able to serve the needs of so many new students without diminishing Canadian students' learning experiences. bit.ly/intl-14

Co-op students of the year announced

BY JOY POLIQUIN

They may study disparate subjects, but Connor Bildfell, Angus Rittenburg and Ross Prager have something in common: they've all been named UVic Co-op Student of the Year by their respective co-op programs.

Connor Bildfell (BCOM 2013) is the 2013 Co-op Student of the Year for the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business Co-op and Career Centre. He completed three work terms over the course of his degree, including two as a staff accountant at KPMG LLP, and one as special events and activities coordinator at Corvallis Parks and Recreation in Oregon State.

While working at KPMG, Connor was recognized for his exceptional work ethic and team-building initiative. He spent his spare time volunteering for the Immigrant Services Society of BC, where he used his Mandarin to support recently immigrated Chinese families. Throughout his degree, this straight-A student was recognized with more than 12 UVic and external scholarships and awards and made an incredibly positive impression on his peers, colleagues, employers and Co-op and Career staff. Connor is currently enrolled at the UBC Faculty of Law.

Angus Rittenburg (mechanical engineering) is the Co-op Student of the Year for the Engineering Computer Science and Mathematics/Statistics Co-op Program. Eager to embark on a wide range of workplace experiences, Angus has completed six work terms with five separate engineering organizations, where he worked on electric bikes (Grin Technologies in Vancouver, BC), low cost cars for Africa (Mobius Motors in Nairobi, Kenya), rockets (SpaceX in Hawthorne, California), electric car batteries (Tesla Motors in Palo Alto, California), and large scale robots (eatART in Vancouver, BC).

Angus has selected work terms that allow him to contribute to positive change, whether that's developing cleaner power methods, increasing safe transportation methods for rural communities, or stimulating socio-



Prager, on the roof of Vancouver General Hospital.



Rittenburg.

economic growth. He is known for his positive attitude and endless energy; in his spare time Angus has been an active volunteer with UVic's ecoCAR and ECOSat teams.

Ross Prager (microbiology honours) is the Co-op Student of the Year for the Optional and Professional Co-op Programs. Ross has leveraged his co-op experiences to explore the intersection of his academic studies and personal interests, and has impressed his colleagues and mentors along the way. His first work term was with St. John Ambulance Victoria, where he volunteered as a Medical First Responder in the community around Victoria.

Next, his interest in neuroscience led to him to work in Dr. Swayne's molecular and cellular neuroscience laboratory here at UVic, first as a volunteer and then on an NSERC-funded work term. Ross is currently completing an honours thesis related to this research under Dr. Swayne's supervision.

Finally, Ross spent last summer as a paramedic with the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) working in both rural and metro centers. He brought patience and humour to the position that saw him do everything from answering emergency calls in Vancouver's east side to helping deliver a baby. His work experience has led him to focus on a future in healthcare, where he can combine his interests in the clinical, interpersonal and research-related aspects of the discipline.

Setting the stage for a Picnic



PHOTO: KATE LOOMER

On Feb. 1 the Department of Theatre opened its doors to a record crowd of high school students at the annual "I Want To Be in Theatre!" open house. Over 80 attendees were treated to a rehearsal scene of the Phoenix Theatre's upcoming production of *Picnic* (Feb. 13-22), introduced by director Peter McGuire and his cast and crew. McGuire speaks at a free pre-show lecture on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. about the play and the joy of working with students.

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calendar highlights

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

at the galleries

www.uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit.** *Adasla: The Movement of Hands.* Jan. 16 to April 25. This exhibition centres around the world's biggest button blanket. Created in collaboration with students at UVic's First Peoples House, the blanket invites new conversations about Indigenous button blanket makers and the artistic traditions that surround them. A project of the Williams Legacy Chair in Modern and Contemporary Art of the Pacific Northwest. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St.



■ **Exhibit.** *Art of the Book.* To March 24. Organized by the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild, this 30th anniversary juried exhibit features award winning work from some of the best makers in Canada and the US. Content ranges from calligraphy to blackout poetry, while the books take on imaginative forms such as luggage-style tags or DNA's double helix. Legacy Maltwood, at McPherson Library. Image: Fractured Terrain, Karen Kunc.

at the theatre

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■ **Theatre.** *Picnic.* Feb. 13-22. On the last day of summer in small town Kansas, unfulfilled dreams and repressed desires come to a head when a charismatic young drifter arrives in town. His combination of rough manners and titillating charm sends the tiny community reeling. This 1953 Pulitzer Prize winning drama is an American classic from the post-war/pre-feminist era which speaks to the timeless themes of lost aspirations and the heart's yearning to leave everything behind for a new adventure.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *The Study of Modernized Buddhism: What Are the Issues?* Victor Sögen Hori (McGill). Strong C122. 250-721-6325

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* And Feb. 21/28. Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert featuring School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *Rockfall, Warmer Temperatures and Risk in High Mountain Recreation.* Jim Gardner (UVic). Turpin B215. 250-721-7327

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *UVic Wind Symphony.* A joint concert with The Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy. Eugene Dowling, conductor. UVic Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets \$5-\$14. 250-721-8480

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

■ **Other.** 9:30 a.m. *Life Drawing Sessions.* Feb. 15/22, March 1. Participants must bring their own drawing materials. \$5 drop-in. Visual Arts Bldg., A150. 250-721-8011

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

■ **Cafe Scientifique Lecture.** 6:30 p.m. *Ocean Pollution in Canada - a Whale of a Tale.* Dr. Peter Ross (Vancouver Aquarium/UVic/DFO) will lead the discussion. Reserve seats at bit.ly/sci-11. 753 View St. 250-721-7744

■ **Victoria Natural History Society Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *The Dead Keep Talking.* Leah Ramsay, Program Zoologist at the BC Conservation Data Centre. Fraser 159. 250-479-6622

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

■ **Other.** 1 p.m. *Mindfulness Meditation.* And Feb. 19/26 & March 5. Chapel. Register 250-721-8338

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

■ **Music.** 2:30 p.m. *Victoria Symphony presents: Cheng Plays Mozart.* Tania Miller, conductor. UVic Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets \$18-\$55. 250-721-8480

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Tuesdaymusic.* Also Feb. 25 & March 4. Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *What Controls Atmospheric CO₂ Levels on Long Timescales?* Dr. Laurence Coogan (UVic). Wright Centre A104. 250-721-6120

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

■ **Conference.** 4:30 p.m. *Take The Lead Challenge launch event.* View this event via a free online livestream. Engineering & Computer Science Bldg. Rm. 125. To reserve a seat: 250-472-4447

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artists Series.* Christof Migone (Western). Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Religious Laws: Do We Need "You Shall"?* Robert Gibbs, Director of the Jackman Humanities Institute; Prof. of Philosophy, Univ. of Toronto. Strong C122. 250-721-6325

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *A Sea-surface-Height Control Barrage at the Strait of Gibraltar.* Jim Gower (Institute of Ocean Sciences & UVic) Turpin Bldg., B215. 250-721-7327

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

■ **Other.** 2 p.m. *Dance of the World's Biggest Button Blanket.* Internationally recognized Indigenous performance artist Rebecca Belmore (Anishinaabe) joins artist and curator Peter Morin (Tahltan). Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-472-5619

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

■ **Other.** 1:30 p.m. *Centering Meditation.* Facilitators: Henri Lock, United Chaplain, Multifaith Services, Joyalle Bunyan-Maynard, Contemplative Society. Chapel. Register: chaplain@uvic.ca or 250-721-8338

MONDAY, FEB. 24

■ **Victoria Natural History Society Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *From Boat to Beach: Using Drift Cards to Improve Our Knowledge of Ocean Currents and Oil Spill Trajectories.* Fraser 159. 250-479-6622

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *Wherefore Art Thou Technical? On the (Happy?) Marriage of Literature and Digital Humanities.* Michael E. Sinatra (Université de Montréal). Elliott 162. 250-472-5401

■ **CAPI Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Shark Truth: Bridging the Worlds of Environmentalism and Culture.* Claudia Li, founder of Shark Truth and co-founder of the Hua Foundation. Hickman 105. 250-721-7020

■ **Victoria Natural History Society Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Raptors of Canada.* John Neville presents the sounds and images of the raptors of Canada. Fraser 159. 250-479-6622

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artists Series.* Liz Magor. One of Canada's most important contemporary sculptors, Magor is winner of the Audain Prize and the Governor General's Award. Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 12 p.m. *4Humanities for Whom? Contexts, Motivations and Examples of a Grassroots Humanities Advocacy Collective.* Stéfan Sinclair (McGill). Cornett B135. 250-472-5401

■ **Studies in Religion & Society Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Islam in Contemporary America through the Lens of Arab American Literature: Are We Witnessing Samuel P. Huntington's Civilizational Clash in Action?* Adam Yaghi (UVic). Strong C122. 250-721-6325

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

■ **Conference.** All day. *Medieval Secrets and Mysteries.* To March 1. Keynote: Andrew Gow (U-Alberta). Strong C116. 250-721-7367

■ **Greek & Roman Studies Lecture/Seminar.** 2:30 p.m. *Plautus and the Antilean Today.* Wade Richardson (UVic). Clearihue B414. 250-721-8522

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *Small Grounds: Intimate Domestic Geographies and Colonialism in British Columbia.* Sarah de Leeuw (Northern Medical Program, UNBC). Turpin Bldg., B215. 250-721-7327

MONDAY, MARCH 3

■ **Other.** 12:30 p.m. *Medieval Minutes.* A session of very short stories and presentations performed around the round table in the Multipurpose Rm. Mearns Centre/McPherson Library A003. 250-721-7367

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

■ **Other.** 11:30 a.m. *JCURA Research Fair.* Join us in celebrating some of the outstanding research produced by the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards scholars. Register for the event at: bit.ly/JCURA-14. SUB, Michele Pujol Rm. & Upper lounge. 250-721-8572

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artists Series.* Rita McKeough (Alberta College of Art and Design). Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

■ **School of Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education Lecture.** 7 p.m. *Fit to Be Tried.* The latest fitness and exercise ideas to maximize your health. McKinnon 150. 250-721-8377

■ **CAVI Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *The Crafts of Damascus at the Dawn of the Modern Age.* Marcus Milwright (UVic). University Centre, A180. 250 721 8514.

FEATURED EVENT: FEB. 20-22

Literary festival takes root on campus

The campus will be teeming with lit lovers and writers alike from Feb. 20-22 as the *Malahat Review* hosts WordsThaw 2014, the second-annual spring symposium put on by UVic's renowned literary quarterly. Participants will mingle, learn and delight alongside 38 featured poets, novelists, short-story writers and journalists from Victoria and beyond.

"*The Malahat Review* is thrilled to be able to bring Victoria's vibrant writing scene together, with a few welcome guests from elsewhere, as we celebrate the power of words," says editor John Barton.

Daphne Marlatt opens WordsThaw with her talk *Liquid (i) city: Vancouver Transitional*. Marlatt—a seminal figure in Canada poetry who edited the groundbreaking West Coast journal *TISH* and was appointed to the Order of Canada for her work—will explore links between language, place and memory in her remarks. Part of the Faculty of Humanities' Lansdowne Lecture Series, "Liquid (i) city" is free to the public on Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in David Turpin Building A120.

Friday evening's event promises to be spine-chillingly memorable, as eight new and established writers lend their voices to *Words on Ice: Evolution of the Author*. UVic notables include David Leach, director of professional writing, and Benjamin Willems, a fourth-year writing student. Doors at 7:00 p.m., reading at 7:30 p.m, HSD A240.

Saturday gives WordsThaw pass holders a menu of four panel discussions, also in HSD. Embracing the switch to digital, panelists Sarah Petrescu, Emily Shorthouse and Will

An intellectual icebreaker at the cusp of spring
#WordsThaw 2014

Johnson present *Author as Avatar: Social Media and Blogging*. UVic writing faculty Tim Lilburn, along with Jane Munro and Marita Dachselsel, dig deep with *The Inner Life of Our Words: Writing and the Human Spirit*. For those with an interest in setting, *Spirit of Place: Writing Local History* should hit the spot. And for those who like a strong dose of political urgency and commitment in their writing, *Shining a Light: Writer as Witness* brings local MLA (and UVic climate researcher) Andrew Weaver together with poet Gary Geddes and author Monique Gray Smith to address activism in art.

Full-pass holders looking for a more personal experience can sign up at no extra charge for "Brief Encounters," a lunch-hour program of one-on-one consultations to discuss samples of their own poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or children's/young-adult literature. Gain insights from Dede Crane, JoAnn Dionne, Catherine Greenwood, Matthew Hooton, Steve Noyes, Aaron Shepard, Robin Stevenson and Christine Walde.

WordsThaw passes may be purchased in advance for \$40 (\$30 for students and Friends of the *Malahat*) or \$50 (\$40 for students and Friends) during the symposium; pass holders receive a one-year *Malahat* subscription. Tickets for *Words on Ice* only may be purchased at the door for \$10 (\$5, students and Friends).

For more detailed information, go to malahatreview.ca/wordsthaw, email WordsThaw at malahat@uvic.ca, or call 250-721-8524.



MARCH 3-8

Ideas that can change everything.

Explore over 50 ideas worth celebrating at the University of Victoria's third annual IdeaFest.

This year's festival shines a spotlight on the diverse research, creativity and passion for knowledge found in every corner of campus, with topics ranging

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Come be inspired and engage with ideas that really can change everything.

www.uvic.ca/ideafest



day in the life

BY TARA SHARPE

The first thing Louise Peters says, during a break in an otherwise busy day as one of nine assistants in UVic’s undergraduate admissions office, is that she tries to bring her mug whenever she buys coffee at the Biblio Café. So it is no surprise Peters is a keen proponent of her department’s transition to a paperless office.

A single filing cabinet of records is all that is left of thousands of pages of paperwork. The office now only keeps hardcopy files from out-of-country or college and degree holders; the rest are either scanned or submitted electronically.

Peters admits “people still like getting an acceptance offer by formal letter. It’s really exciting to get that piece of paper in the mail.” Other correspondence and incoming questions are handled by email. “Some students still call us, but it’s really the parents who are more likely to pick up the phone.” So a good portion of the day is focused on her inbox.

“We receive a lot of questions by email. We have to answer as if it’s the very first time we’ve heard that question, even if it’s the 15th time that week. The most common is, ‘When will I know if I’ve been admitted?’”

“You have to have empathy,” Peters adds. Even if a student’s GPA is not high enough, “we never really tell anyone ‘no.’ We always give them advice, to keep the door open.” This includes details on how to transfer to UVic after one year in college.



Peters. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

When she is not helping to address the multitude of daily queries, Peters is meticulously verifying student applications in UVic’s Banner database. Admissions assistants must ensure nothing is missing and everything is coded correctly—“it’s all the little things to make sure the applications are complete.”

It is obvious her passion for the job extends to great customer

service. The team—including seven admissions officers—is often told UVic “has a ‘real personal touch.’ Students don’t feel like they’re just a number to us.”

Peters explains that the team is rotated every two years within the full suite of faculty portfolios: “It means we always learn something new, it keeps us fresh and we can cover for each other.”

Peters clearly loves her job. It is also vitally important to her to sustain the wider community and “this means supporting local businesses and local farmers, and being a part of the Block Watch in my neighbourhood.”

Every September, Peters takes part in the pledge-based Kayak for a Cure fundraiser at Willows Beach in Oak Bay, which anyone can join. She

and her partner live near the Gorge waterway and are enthusiastic kayakers. He even has a blog (kayakyak.blogspot.com), which Peters sometimes posts to.

One Sunday last month, “we rolled our boats on their wheels down to the water and went for a paddle.” Two guesses whether she also scooped up any sea-bound plastic for recycling.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Student chemistry symposium builds skills, confidence and elemental connections

BY JULIA BOBAK

The exchange of ideas at major conferences is a chief driving force of scientific progress. Conferences and symposiums provide opportunities to share one’s work with the global scientific community, to learn about and be inspired by emerging research and, perhaps most importantly, to network with other scientists.

On Jan. 30, the UVic Department of Chemistry hosted the Chemical Institute of Canada’s 2014 Vancouver Island Section Student Symposium—a regional symposium offering a scaled-down conference experience to student researchers without the financial hurdles of registration fees and travel.

This year’s event featured students from UVic, Vancouver Island University and Camosun. Each student presented a 15-minute talk on a chemistry topic of general interest, and fielded audience questions for another five minutes. UVic graduate student Brian Coleman, sporting pink and blue locks, kicked off the evening with a funny and informative talk titled “Exposing the Big Cover-Up: A Brief Introduction to the Science of Hair Dye.” Camosun’s Erin Bayus followed, inspiring the audience to consider the production of environmentally friendly biofuel. Larissa Richards of VIU gave an excellent and, in the context of

this year’s Nobel Peace Prize award, timely presentation on detoxification of chemical warfare agents. The final speaker, UVic undergraduate Mark Bracken, wowed symposium judges and audience alike in extolling the benefits of silicon chemistry.

In much the same way more advanced researchers are evaluated at national and international conferences, judging at this student symposium was based on scientific content, presentation quality, and replies to questions. UVic departments and local businesses provided cash prizes and sent representatives to hear the talks and participate in judging. In the end, the well-deserved top prize was awarded to VIU’s Richards. The evening wrapped up like most other conferences, with mingling over refreshments serving as an informal networking opportunity between participants and local members of the chemistry community.

Despite a drop in participant numbers in 2014, this annual symposium continues to be an excellent on-campus opportunity for both graduate and undergraduate students. Brian Coleman, UVic’s lone graduate representative this year, says that these smaller competitions allow him “to be a bit less formal and more candid, while still honing presentation skills.” He also notes that by presenting on

a topic of interest, rather than one’s own research, student participants are given the opportunity to learn something new as well as to interact with a more general audience. Given the common challenge that scientists face—to communicate meaningful results to non-scientists—this is a skill that cannot be overvalued.

Although many undergraduate students rarely have an opportunity to attend major conferences, events like this can provide them with both the drive to pursue graduate studies or a research career as well as the résumé and contacts to do so. Second place winner Mark Bracken, who plans to pursue a master’s degree after completing his BSc, says “by participating in an event like this we’re put under a spotlight, like all chemists who submit journal articles or attend conferences. Without taking risks and accepting criticism, self-improvement is impossible. Meeting other chemists, putting this event on a CV, and learning about other chemistry topics is icing on the cake.”

This symposium is not the only event UVic is hosting this year to encourage up-and-coming chemistry researchers. This May, students from across Western Canada will also arrive in Victoria for the 28th annual Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference.



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