A curriculum of care at Our Place

Two UVic collaborations serving vulnerable populations provide learning opportunities for students

Many people across Greater Victoria volunteer to improve the lives of our community’s most vulnerable people. UVic collaborations in nursing and business go a step further, shaping learning experiences in the spirit of service.

The longstanding Foot Hygiene Program delivered by fourth-year UVic nursing students at Our Place began by recognizing that the most vulnerable people often face the greatest barriers to wellness. That’s why the program is so valuable, explains Dr. Judy Burgess of the UVic Faculty of Human and Social Development. “Everyone benefits from this program and in many different ways.”

The key to the curriculum? By offering foot hygiene services, students also learn about other health factors these clients face and offer advice and referrals. Nursing student Yana Vashuk wanted to do her fourth-year practicum at Our Place because she felt it was meaningful and worthwhile. “Street people are prone to foot problems. They walk so much in search of food and shelter. In winter, their feet get wet and in summer their feet become dry and calloused.” Twenty minutes with the Foot Hygiene team puts a smile on their face and makes them feel better, says Yana, also noting improved skin quality in repeat clients.

Burgess began working with Rev. Allen Tysick in 2008, then executive director of Our Place and now founder of the Victoria Dundieion Society, to create this innovative training program. The Our Place Society serves Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable including working poor, impoverished elderly, the mentally and physically challenged, those living with addictions, and the homeless. Students are prepared to interact with their clients in a way that is non-threatening.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR MCKINNON?
P.5

February 2015
The University of Victoria’s community newspaper
ring.uvic.ca

IN THE COMMUNITY

FOXY peer leader thrilled by Arctic Inspiration Award

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Makeenzie Zouboules, third-year UVic honours political science and writing co-op student, is something of a celebrity in her hometown of Yellowknife, NWT. Last month, along with FOXY co-founders Candice Lys and Nancy MacNeill, Zouboules accepted a $1-million Arctic Inspiration Prize for their work with northern youth. Originally part of Lys’ PhD dissertation on public health promotion, FOXY (Fostering Open eXpression among Youth) is a participatory research project aimed at talking with young people about their health and acceptance issues that affect them. By offering foot hygiene services, students also learn about other health factors these clients face and offer advice and referrals. Nursing student Yana Vashuk wanted to do her fourth-year practicum at Our Place because she felt it was meaningful and worthwhile. “Street people are prone to foot problems. They walk so much in search of food and shelter. In winter, their feet get wet and in summer their feet become dry and calloused.” Twenty minutes with the Foot Hygiene team puts a smile on their face and makes them feel better, says Yana, also noting improved skin quality in repeat clients.

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SEE OUR PLACE P.4
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For more information, visit uvic.ca/connectu
Registration to open April 1, 2015 (no fooling!)
The Ring
February 2015
Page 3

Residence renewal proposal planned

Residences Services is proposing a 10-year plan to address significant needed improvements to the university’s aging student residences and a shortage of campus housing.

Among the needed work are new roofs, mechanical systems, and the removal and replacement of water-damaged building exteriors. An increase in residence fees, which are currently up to 30 per cent less than comparable Canadian universities, is proposed to pay for the maintenance projects as well as construction of a new residence in the coming years.

Universities must fund the construction, repair and operation of residence buildings on a cost-recovery basis because residences are an ancillary service not funded by the BC government.

“We know that affordability is a critical issue for students,” says Director of Residence Services Kathryn McLeod. “In developing the renewal plan, we carefully considered the costs for students while also looking at how we can get this work done and deal with the demand for safe, affordable campus housing.”

In addition to the existing student financial support available through scholarships, bursaries and work-study positions, a new bursary program is being developed by Residence Services for eligible students.

Fees for residences have risen by three per cent annually for several years to cover increased costs due to inflation. A proposal will go to the Board of Governors later this spring for incremental increases over 10 years.

The proposed increases are 13 per cent for 2015/16 or the equivalent of $86 a month for a single room and $52 a month for a double room. Increases in the subsequent years are six per cent for 2016/17 and six per cent in 2017/18 and four per cent in each of the next six years. These increases would be on the accommodation portion of housing fees, not the meal plans.

UVic’s average residence rates are competitive with other comparable institutions throughout the 10 years.

Despite annual spending of $1 million to $2 million annually on upkeep, a recent, comprehensive facilities review found that more extensive maintenance is needed due to the age of many of the residence buildings.

Some maintenance on buildings has been deferred to the point where delays will increase costs and resulting safety issues may result in loss of affordable housing units. The estimated cost of renewal work is currently valued at $81 million.

The new fee structure would also support construction of new campus apartments, a priority identified in the university’s 2012 Strategic Plan.

First-year students coming to UVic directly out of high school are guaranteed a place in residence, which means there are few spaces available for upper-level students (only 100 to 150 spaces in 2014/15). The current number of beds in single student housing is 2,291 while the number of applications for 2014/15 was 5,000.

Navigate the ever-changing market

A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new owners navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, help assure smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.
Life for a university student isn't just essays, exams and ramen noodles—although those are a big part of it. There are also yoga raves, nights of uninterrupted Netflix marathons, awkward icebreakers and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Whether you're a high school student wondering what it's like to be an undergraduate student at UVic or a current student looking to share in your classmates' experiences, you'll find something new in a blogging project that spotlights student life at UVic.

*My UVic Life* follows the experiences of 18 UVic students through weekly blog posts. The students share reflections of 18 UVic students through one blog post at a time.

The students have dedicated the last three months of their academic year to preparing for their final presentations in Davos, Switzerland. They have focused on environmental recommendations, including a mock presentation and a Q&A session with local pharmaceutical veterans Noel Hall, co-founder and president, Aspenra Pharmaceutical and Martin Thornton, director and head of human resources (North America), Vifor Pharma, both of whom were peppered with challenging questions from instructors, colleagues, friends and spouses. Shenton explained, "We're looking at about $600 per year, not including the cost for socks."

The students' service-oriented business study was both challenging and rewarding, resulting in recommendations that they feel confident will help streamline operations, reduce overhead, and allow the society to further extend their reach, says Heather Ranson, a professor in the Gustavson School of Nursing.

### Business students take top prize at Davos

**MBA students claim top prize at Corporate Knights’ “Business for a Better World” case study competition**

BY KRISTA BOEMMERT

It’s a proposition few MBA students would pass up: an opportunity to compete on the world stage—at the World Economic Forum—no less—in a case competition that focuses on business, sustainability and social impact. The best part? The Corporate Knights’ “Business for a Better World” case study competition allowed contestants to present business solutions to pharmaceutical heavy-hitter Novartis. Teams focused on environmental recommendations, as well as social and governance initiatives that, when implemented, would help improve Novartis’s standing on the Corporate Knights Global 100 ranking.

UVic’s MBA team, comprised of Gill Graduate School students Jessah Shah, Andrew Spence, Susan Laijlaw and Karin Felkamp, have dedicated the last three months of their lives to preparing for their winning moment at the prestigious competition held in Davos, Switzerland. Advancing from three intense rounds of competition—which saw Davos down 25 teams from universities around the world to just three finalists—the quartet competed for a $60,000 top prize.

In the lead-up to their final presentations in Davos, the group underwent rigorous training, including a mock presentation and a Q&A session with local pharmaceutical veterans Noel Hall, co-founder and president, Aspenra Pharmaceutical and Martin Thornton, director and head of human resources (North America), Vifor Pharma, both of whom were in the audience to provide counsel and advice for the students. The practice session with Hall and Thornton was the perfect send-off for the team, helping them refine their presentation for the Davos audience, which included Eric Cornut, the chief of ethics and compliance and policy officer for Novartis.

“The presentation itself went by in a flash,” Jessah Shah said in a blog post about his experience. “It was exciting to present our recommendations to someone from Novartis and to hear his feedback on our proposal. The Q&A session was nerve-racking but it was clear that our practice paid off. Thanks to all our instructors, colleagues, friends and spouses who peppered us with challenging questions during our lead-up to Davos.”

### Our Place 

**Continued from p1**

While nursing students were thinking feet-first about the health needs of Our Place clients, students from the Gustavson School of Business made a business case to improve one of the society’s most recognized and widely used services: meal service.

“The scale of the problem is large, and unfortunately it’s getting larger,” explains Heather Ranson, a professor in the Gustavson School of Nursing. "In 2014, Our Place provided space as well as socks, gloves, towels, and cleaning supplies. UVic’s School of Nursing funds all other costs. "This includes high-quality tools and equipment, disinfectants, soaps, moisturizers and socks."

The students found that working with Our Place was both challenging and rewarding, resulting in recommendations that they feel confident will help streamline operations, reduce overhead, and allow the society to further extend their reach, says Heather Ranson, a professor in the service management specialty in the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business.

“Many MBA programs are built around immersive experiences like ‘live case’ projects, helping to drive long-lasting relationships between our students and groups within the community,” the students’ service-oriented business study provided several recommendations including:

- extending meal service to 90 minutes from the current 60 minutes
- using software to track volunteer hours and reward volunteers individually
- developing a tracking system for food donation
- providing conflict management training for all kitchen volunteers
- inviting volunteers, when there are sufficient in number, to sit, have a conversation and eat with guests, and
- using music and lighting to make the facility more welcoming at meal time.

Not only was this an opportunity for the students to engage first hand with the most vulnerable citizens of Victoria, it was a unique experience for everyone at Our Place Society," says Le-Ann Dolan, director of operations at Our Place. “It was wonderful to engage with the university and the rewards were more than we were expecting.”

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**New site collects the online lives and reflections of 18 UVic students**

BY LINDSAY GAGEL

Student life, one blog post at a time.

Life for a university student isn’t just essays, exams and ramen noodles—although those are a big part of it. There are also yoga raves, nights of uninterrupted Netflix marathons, awkward icebreakers and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Whether you’re a high school student wondering what it’s like to be an undergraduate student at UVic or a current student looking to share in your classmates’ experiences, you’ll find something new in a blogging project that spotlights student life at UVic.

*My UVic Life* follows the experiences of 18 UVic students through weekly blog posts. The students share reflections of 18 UVic students through one blog post at a time.
The whole idea of building a new gym, Thunder will wave a fuzzy non gym, small weight room and pool will continue to be used for sports and recreation by students, faculty and staff when CARSA opens.

The renovations to McKinnon will take place over the next two summers with the anticipated start of the fall term, 2016.

There are three main parts to the renovations: major construction will be taking place in the apparatus gym—a two-storey space housing three research labs and one teaching lab and the last two squash courts will be converted into a new teaching lab space on the top floor and a grad student work space on the lower level (some EPHE grad students now work on the top floor). Students whose mandatory student athletics and recreation fee is accessed through tuition, faculty and staff will have access to the mammoth CARSA fitness and weight facility at CARSA can opt to pay for an enhanced membership. Vikes FIT passes will provide access to the Peninsula Co-op Climbing Wall is $175 per term. Three labs in McKinnon will in- crease in size and/or be modernized. This includes the Physiology Lab and Exercise Physiology Lab that are used for analyzing the effects of exercise on human tissues and fluids and the Anatomy Lab where there is a shortage of teaching space and inadequate stor- age for the dozens of skeletal models which currently stand shoulder-to-shoulder besides shelves full of bones, skulls and plastered organs.

**CARSAs memberships on sale March 2**

CARSA opens in May to replace UVic’s aging and heavily used recreational facilities, but students, faculty, staff and community members don’t have to wait until then to purchase membership to access the centre’s state-of-the-art workout facilities and climbing wall. Vikes FIT and All-In passes go on sale March 2. Brochures with information about the new fee structures and benefits are currently available in both the McKinnon and Ian Stewart Complexes and will be available by mid-month in the Bookstore, Student Union Building and the Welcome Centre. Information is also available online at uvic.ca/carsa.

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The whole idea of building a new athletics and recreation facility was the dream of Clint Hamilton, Vikes athletics and recreation Director, says Rick Bell, director of EPHE. “From the very beginning the school’s needs and the needs of athletics and recreation were looked at in conjunction with each other.”

The link between the two units is their focus on physical activity and healthy living. Front of mind for Bell and Hamilton is their shared interest in making the most of CARSA to nurture the relationship between the school and Vikes athletics and recreation.

The work that’s next for McKinnon?

“I have been happy with what we have accomplished since the original six) will be removed and a floor constructed to create an upper level. The new space will mean for his lab and our increasing numbers of intervention studies in community-based stroke participants. Also, hav- ing my trainees and I located more closely to other colleagues will be very welcome.’”

Bleich’s exacting work about the new space will mean for his lab and contingent of 25 to 20 students and staff. “The extra room for our fitness- testing and training equipment as well as workspace will be wonder- ful,” he says. “It’s also great that my grad students will be able to work closely with the other exercise science graduate students when we are all under the same roof. The Faculty of Education has been a gracious host for my lab for 12 years, but it will be nice to return home. And our new lab is above ground so we are all excited to see sunlight!”

The dividing wall between the last two squash courts in McKinnon (of the original six) will be removed and a floor constructed to create an upper and lower level. The Motor Learning and Biomechanics Teaching Lab will be located in the upper space and the EPHE graduate students will relocate from H Block into the lower-level space. Dr. Vivonne Temple’s Motor Skills Laboratory in the Institute of Applied Physical Activity and Health Research

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Uvic filmmaker brings trans issues to the Victoria Film Festival

BY JOHN THRIFLALL

After 25 years of queer activism, writing professor and filmmaker Maureen Bradley is still changing the world—she’s just having more fun doing it now, thanks to her debut feature film, Two 4 One. Billed as the first transgendered romantic comedy, Two 4 One offers a bittersweet look at a couple in an unimaginable predicament: after an ill-advised one-night stand, Miriam and Adam both wake up married.

While the while the word seems farcical, writer-director Bradley has more than laughs in mind. “If my radical 25-year-old self saw this movie, I would definitely have thought I was selling out,” she says, noting her first film debuted at the Montreal Gay & Lesbian Film Festival in 1991. “But it was a very different world then; a lot has changed in the past 25 years—queer films are now seen at cineplexes now. I’ve learned that people are more receptive when they’re laughing than when they’re being yelled at. I’ve seen the subversive power of humour and, as a director, I’ve learned the importance of humour—I need to laugh more.”

After enthusiastic screenings at four other Canadian film festivals (Calgary, Vancouver, Montreal and Whitehorse), Two 4 One will have its local debut at the Victoria Film Festival (VFF) on Feb. 14 and 15—a festival Bradley finds especially sweet, considering the film was both produced and students attending her classes. “There are a lot of amazing filmmakers making locally now, and many are coming out of the writing department,” she says, noting the likes of alumni Connor Gaston, Stacey Ashworth, Amanda Verhagen, Jason Bourque and Scott Amos. “It’s engaged learning at its finest; my students learn so much from being on set in my classes. Plus, they’re good writers.” The department creates great poets, great fiction writers, great comedic nonfiction and now, we’re getting great screenwriters. (Indeed, recent MFA Connor Gaston just wrapped his own locally lensed debut feature, The Devout, and his short film Godhood will be seen at the VFF this year, as will the short Gard’s Brother, created by writing alumni Jeremy Lutter, Ben Rollo and Daniel Hogg, and the feature documentary Gone South: How Canada Invented Hollywood, co-directed by theatre alumni and instructor Leslie D. Bland.)

Unbeknownst to her when she started working on the script two years ago, Bradley also now finds herself part of the current transgender zeitgeist—as evidenced by the likes of Laverne Cox in Orange is the New Black, 2014 Eurovision contest winner Conchita Wurs, Chaz Bono’s appearance on Dancing with the Stars, Jared Leto’s transformation for his trans character in the Dallas Buyer’s Club and UVic’s own groundbreaking Transgender Archives. “I’m blown away at the speed with which the mainstream discussion of transgenders is happening,” she says. “Obama even said the word in his recent State of the Union address! There’s a post-internet velocity that has led to widespread discussion of transgenders issues that other civil rights movements in the west new had access to.”

Noting that “it’s pretty mainstream to be queer in the western world now,” Bradley is pleased that audiences are so accepting of Two 4 One. “I thought the content might be too much for people, to really get the idea that a person who looks like a man could still have a uterus,” she chuckles, “I was completely surprised by the fact that a lot of straight men are really liking it.”

This year, Bradley was one of the featured panelists at UVic’s Elders’ Voices in First Peoples Education. “The past, present and future are connected to everything we do,” she says, adding: “It is still not safe to be an indigenous woman, an indigenous man, an indigenous non-binary person. The panel discussed their experiences the following day included ‘Hot Buttons in the Classroom—Limits, Learning and Living Together’ and ‘What Should be Shared and How?’ Ownership, Authority and Authorship in Collaborative Research’.”

“I decided on ‘Navigating Gender and Sexual Diversity in the Learning Environment’,” she says. “What I experienced was amazing and personal. I always ask my students, ‘Who is in your movie? Who isn’t there?’”

For discussion the following day included “Hot Buttons in the Classroom—Limits, Learning and Living Together’ and ‘What Should be Shared and How?’ Ownership, Authority and Authorship in Collaborative Research’.”

“I decided on ‘Navigating Gender and Sexual Diversity in the Learning Environment’,” she says. “What I experienced was amazing and personal. I always ask my students, ‘Who is in your movie? Who isn’t there?’”

Another discussion, “No More Stolen Indigenous Sisters: A Renewal of Hope” explored diversity beyond the classroom. “It is still not safe to be an indigenous woman, an indigenous man, an indigenous non-binary person.”

“People propose in all sorts of different ways, explains Hoplock. “A common proposal is to ask both proposals where the person says yes and proposals where the person says no is for the proposal to bring their hands together.”

“Once you propose different, that’s the person who says yes will often then hug and kiss the proposer, whereas the person who says no will always then walk or run away from the proposal quickly.”

Hoplock hopes to have her data collection and research completed in about a year.
**Calendar Highlights**

- **March 1** – **March 7** - IDEAFEST 2015
- **March 4** – **March 7** - 110 Ideas That Can Change Everything
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4** – Landsdowne Lecture: 9 p.m. 
  El Odyssey, a modern retelling of the Greek myth of Odysseus, explores the meaning of home and the consequences of losing it.

**IDEAFEST 2015**

**MARCH 2 – 7**

110 IDEAS THAT CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.

**Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards Fair | March 4, 2015**

**11:30 – 3:00 P.M. | Student Union Building Fair (Upper Lounge and Michele Pajouh Pulpit)**

Join us in recognizing the outstanding research produced by 110 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards scholars.

Find out more ideas that can change everything at uvic.ca/ideafest
The day in the life of a cultural resource assistant

BY JOHN THRELFALL

If proof of a rich life is the cultural treasures by which you surround yourself, then Iona Hubner is wealthy beyond measure. As the Visual Resources Curator for the recently renamed Department of Art History and Visual Studies, Hubner has been immersed in the vast and bountiful cultural riches of the entire world for the past 19 years. Her daily task? “It’s always changing, and I love the history in the art. That’s what our department gives people: that extra added visual literacy of looking at the world and seeing it in different ways.”

Changing with the times

That ability to see the world differently is what drew the Victoria-born and-raised Hubner away from an intended classics degree and into art history after taking a single under-graduate elective back in 1990. “One thing I liked—and still like—about our department is the cultural diversity,” she says. “It’s not just the European canon: we’re one of the only places in Canada that specializes in Islamic art, for example. That’s important for visual literacy, because we’re not always referencing European traditions.”

An investor in student work study position led to being hired after graduation as the assistant curator of the library in 1995. A title that changed to Visual Resources with the transition to digital in 2004. But with over three millennia of global art, architecture and material culture at her fingertips, much of Hubner’s time this past decade has been spent organizing some 64,000 of those slides into digital images.

Indeed, the former Department of History in Art’s 2014 name change to Art History and Visual Studies reflects the changes in both society and pedagogy. “It’s essential for people to increase their visual literacy,” Hubner insists. “We need to understand the meaning behind an image—why it was chosen, what it means, what it represents—as well as the past cultures it references.”

From video games and albums covers to costumes, fabrics, stamps, coins, ceramics, architecture, films—the list is seemingly endless—she reminds us of the importance of an artist’s choices. “If you just see an image as a pretty picture or an interesting design, you’re missing so much. Looking at contemporary artists like Ai Weiwei and being able to reference back to the Renaissance or Russian Constructivism enriches everything.”

Not surprisingly, if you bump into Hubner off campus, she’s likely to be doing the same thing she does at work: looking at what the galleries and museums are still is, a passion, even after 20 years of art management. But rather than be stymied by the changes and challenges of digitalization (“Talk about lost art forms—I know how to mount a slide behind glass,” she quips), the eminently good-natured Hubner sees shifting technology as a means of making resources more accessible: “Because art history is based so much on the visual, and visual literacy so important, it’s essential to have a functional visual database. It’s what we use to access our slides are so valuable they can even be thought of as primary resources, because we’re not always referencing primary resources essential to their research and teaching.”

On this particular day, Hubner’s desk is cluttered with art books encompassing 15th century Burgundy, the camera lucida, Renaissance tapestries, world architecture and British artist David Hockney. One of her computer screens is open to the DIDO digital image database she manages for fine arts, and the numerous cabinets in her visual resource collection hold over 150,000 photographic slides—outdated technology, perhaps, but many of which still offer unparalleled images ranging from neolithic cave art to rare Qur’an pages that cannot be found online.

“I sincerely love what I do,” Hubner croons. “It’s always changing, and I love the history in the art. That’s what our department gives people: that extra added visual literacy of looking at the world and seeing it in different ways.”

Future plans for BikeMaps.org include new and existing support from partners such as NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council), CAA (Canadian Automobile Association) and the CRD, as well as Mitacs. Nelson says they will be launching a mobile app due to a partnership with Mitacs and CAA. And it appears that governments are starting to ask how to access the data, which means better cycling planning and paths for the city. Nelson points out that the City of Victoria and CRD are both very receptive to the BikeMaps.org initiative.

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