



ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA TO GATHER IN VICTORIA

P. 3

THE RING

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

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University
of Victoria

SPEED READING

SUSTAINABILITY

Top marks for green operations

The 2015 *Sustainable Campus Index* released by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education recognized UVic as a top performer in sustainability practices. In the report, UVic was highlighted in the top five internationally for sustainable air and climate practices (reducing pollutants and greenhouse gases), food and dining, and purchasing.

ALUMNI

UVic trio named to cabinet

Canada's new team of federal cabinet ministers includes three UVic alumnae. Jody Wilson-Raybould—former B.C. regional chief on the Assembly of First Nations, former Crown prosecutor and recipient of the Faculty of Humanities Distinguished Alumni Award—is the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Law alumna Carla Qualtrough, a Delta-based lawyer and paralympian, is the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. Patricia Hajdu, executive director of a homeless shelter in Thunder Bay, is the Minister of Status of Women. She holds a Master of Public Administration, to be awarded in absentia during Fall Convocation.



Anaïssia Franca. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

1,330

NUMBER OF
STUDENTS WHO
WILL RECEIVE
DEGREES,
CERTIFICATES
OR DIPLOMAS
DURING FALL 2015
CONVOCATION

Fuel cell-powered studies

Co-ops confirm international student's career choice in engineering

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

When Anaïssia Franca transferred to UVic after the second year of her engineering science program in France, communicating was her biggest challenge.

"I had a good understanding of English—but trying to contribute my ideas in group projects when you're the only woman *and* there's a language barrier? That was very hard," she says.

"It forced me out of my comfort zone but in the end, I see that it was the group projects that contributed the most to my learning," says Franca, who graduates with her mechanical engineering degree this

month. "That, and the co-ops."

Wanting international experience, Franca was drawn to UVic for its co-op program.

"No one in my family was in engineering. I knew nothing about it really," she says. "So how could I really know if I wanted to be an engineer?"

For her first co-op work term, she worked with Dr. Ned Djilali, Canada Research Chair in Advanced Energy Systems Design and Computational Modeling. Franca learned to program and use mathematic tools to do simulations and post-processing of data for research about bringing wind power into the

electrical grid.

She won the Jamie Cassels Undergrad Research Award and, for the second part of her co-op, worked on modelling fuel cells. That led her to Automotive Fuel Cell Corporation (AFCC), the Ford-Daimler joint venture in Burnaby.

At AFCC, she took on design-oriented projects to predict the performance of fuel cells.

"I'm not much of a hands-on person, I'm more of a theoretical person," says Franca, who prefers simulation tools to parts machining—an anomaly in mechanical

SEE FRANCA P.8

UVic in strong position to respond to TRC recommendations



A soon-to-be-released UVic-produced video highlights the Port Alberni Residential Art School project, led by anthropologist Andrea Walsh, which saw the artworks returned to residential school survivors and their community.

When the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final 11-page set of recommendations, one of the commission's overarching goals loomed so large, it seemed poised to walk right off the document.

"The idea is that all we have learned is not to become stored and dusty," explains Commissioner Marie Wilson. "It is a call to action."

That call—especially as it relates to education—is being heeded nationally by Universities Canada (formerly AUCC) and on our own campus as well.

UVic President Jamie Cassels—who helped shape the 13 principles on Indigenous education recently adopted by Universities Canada—has also said that the

TRC recommendations are an opportunity "to renew our commitment and redouble our efforts" to contribute to reconciliation and help close the educational achievement gap. (President's update on the TRC report: bit.ly/uvic-TRC)

Widening attention and growing momentum

During the six years that the TRC gathered testimony from more than 6,750 people as it travelled across the country, what Wilson saw has her hopeful that the time for real change has come.

At the TRC's first national event in 2010, about 10 per cent of the people attending were non-Indigenous. At their seventh

and final national event in 2014, that number had jumped to 60 per cent.

"That speaks to momentum—to people paying attention," Wilson says. "I saw the shift in numbers. I saw people who had no obligation to be in those rooms listening to the survivors speak and who put themselves in that place."

It speaks to a willingness among Canadians to listen and to create a future that learns from—and respects—the past, Wilson believes.

Along with that willingness come practical steps to make sure the TRC's 94 recommendations aren't forgotten.

The recommendations call for change

SEE TRC P.10

ringers

Just seven months after winning the Governor General's Award for painting, Department of Visual Arts professor **Sandra Meigs** has been announced as the winner of the \$50,000 Gershon Iskowitz Prize at the Art Gallery of Ontario. In addition to the cash award, the prize comes with a solo exhibit at the AGO and a further \$10,000 towards a publication on Meigs' work. Describing winning the prize as "a career highlight," Meigs says the timing for it is ideal. "It couldn't come at a better time for me . . . I am now ready and fresh to start something anew." Full *Ring* article at bit.ly/meigs-AGO

Law professor **John Borrows** has been appointed as Nexen Chair in Indigenous Leadership at the Banff Centre. The Nexen Chair leads research and reporting on critical success factors among Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada at the Peter Lougheed Leadership Institute at the Banff Centre. Borrows, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, will remain on the UVic campus. Borrows teaches in the areas of constitutional law, Indigenous law and environmental law, and is Anishinabe/Ojibway and a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation in Ontario.

International award salutes researcher's science outreach activities

BY VALERIE SHORE

University of Victoria neuroscientist E. Paul Zehr remembers the precise moment when his research career shifted gears and science communications became a major part of his activities as a scholar and academic.

"It was a Friday afternoon in 2007 and I was searching Google Scholar for publication information on one of my papers," he recalls. He was pondering how many people his work actually affected. His most cited paper at the time had about 150 citations. But what if that meant only 150 people had read it? Was that acceptable impact?

"For me, the answer was no," he says. "I decided then and there that I wasn't satisfied with standard measures of academic productivity and impact and instead wanted to reach larger groups more directly."

That epiphany led Zehr on a path that last month won him the Society for Neuroscience's prestigious Science Educator Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in public education and outreach in the field of neuroscience.

With nearly 40,000 members in more than 90 countries, the society is the world's largest organization of scientists and physicians devoted to understanding the brain and nervous system. And it's a pretty safe bet that none of them communicate their research in quite the same way as Zehr does.

His field of expertise is how the nervous system controls movement and rehabilitation of walking after stroke or spinal cord injury. In particular, he looks at how our arms and legs are coordinated when we walk, swim or cycle.

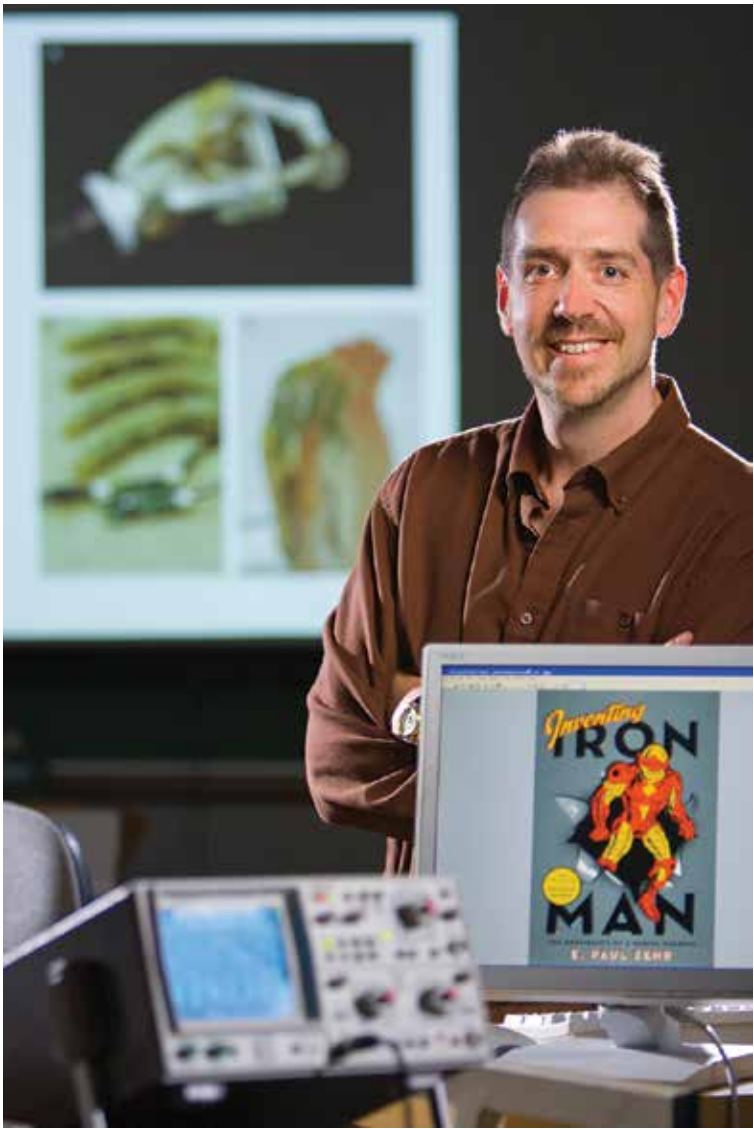
To communicate his work to the wider world, Zehr turned to an unorthodox source—comic book superheroes. They have a lot to teach us about how our bodies work and the untapped potential of our physical and technological abilities, he says.

"Science fiction and superhero movies represent opportunities for exploring scientific concepts in a pop-culture setting that's comfortable and familiar," says Zehr, who has authored three bestselling books: *Becoming Batman* (2008), *Inventing Ironman* (2011) and *Project Superhero* (2014). A fourth book, *Something Superhuman*, is due for release in fall 2016.

In addition, Zehr reaches many other audiences through live presentations, book chapters, blogs, radio and TV appearances, and the UVic Speakers Bureau.

In 2008, in his other role as director of UVic's Centre for Biomedical Research, Zehr organized Victoria's first Café Scientifique, an informal discussion series that gives the public the chance to hear local medical researchers discuss current research. Over 45 cafés have been held since and they are routinely filled to capacity.

"Winning this award is confirma-



Zehr. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

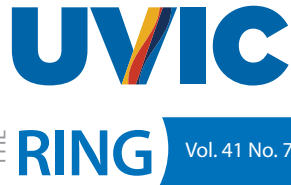
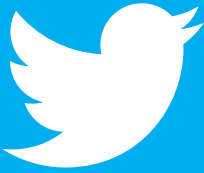
tion from my peers that my decision to use pop culture to promote science was the right way to go," says Zehr, who urges his research colleagues to make every effort to explain to the public what they do.

"Scientists have a special role in

that our society continues to rely more and more on science with fewer and fewer people understanding it," he says. "We don't own the science; we just got it first. It's up to us to share it with others if we really want to make a difference."

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UVic joins city trade mission to San Francisco

Industry partnerships, co-op opportunities and connections with alumni were top-of-mind issues for UVic representatives joining Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps' "Team Victoria" delegation in late September. The 31-person, multi-stakeholder trade mission to San Francisco included BC Technology Minister Amrik Virk and representatives from UVic, VIATeC, Tourism Victoria and the Greater Victoria Development Agency.

"It's an extremely important geographic area for the industry," says Alumni Relations Director Terry Cockerline. "And our alumni are doing amazing things down there. We've reaffirmed those relationships with our alumni and have begun cultivating new ones."

In addition to Alumni Relations, UVic representatives included staff from Co-operative Education Program and Career Services, Research Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization (RPKM) and the Faculty of Engineering—as well as three faculty members, supported by Research Services.

The trip helped UVic and all of

Team Victoria enhance strategic relationships within the North American high-tech industry and showcase Greater Victoria's role and potential in that sector.

"We wanted to show the city that we support their economic development plan," explains Dean of Engineering Tom Tiedje. "We really raised UVic's profile with city officials and leaders in Victoria's growing tech sector." In addition to strengthening relationships with the city, it was an opportunity to connect with potential partners and highlight UVic as technology innovators.

Cockerline explains it was partially a fact-finding mission to understand what our alumni are up to, helping Alumni Relations figure out how to better connect with and support them.

The trip was also meant to support alumni and students closer to home. Co-op and Career staff connected with a range of alumni and employer organizations to generate interest in creating new co-op positions, career opportunities and internships.

Full story: bit.ly/city-SF

It's never too early to have 'the talk'

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

Most children receive their first sexual information from a source other than their parents or teachers. The main source: the Internet. As children become tethered to electronic devices at a younger and younger age, parents need to have "the talk" earlier and earlier, says Jillian Roberts, child psychologist and associate professor of educational psychology at UVic.

Roberts wanted to write a book to help parents and educators begin conversations with young children in a way that is respectful and culturally sensitive, *before* they see too much online.

Where Do Babies Come From: Our First Talk About Birth, just released by Orca Book Publishers, is Roberts' first in the "Just Enough" series, designed to make difficult topics easier for parents and educators to start difficult conversations with four- to seven-year-olds. Other volumes will deal with death, divorce and diversity.

Ideally, parents should be the guiding hand helping children navigate the complexities of life, she says.

"And an essential component of keeping kids safe in the Internet age is a strong parent-child relationship with open lines of communication from the very beginning of life."

"Early sex education is one of the ways we can keep children healthy. Our research tells us that children are at risk when they don't have information, and they grow into sexually healthier adults when they have it early," she says.

Roberts says, it's not meant to be exhaustive. It doesn't explain intercourse, for example. There is no nudity and body parts aren't named. Its strength, she says, is in modeling early parent-child and educator-child conversations in a way that is respectful and culturally sensitive.

"I'm not a prof of creative writing and I didn't get into my career as a psychologist to write children's books," she says. "But what I find really exciting is that as a researcher, ways of disseminating information are changing. I want to adapt the way I share my information to reach out to the community in new ways."

Full story: bit.ly/earlybooks

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Canada’s academic stars to converge on Victoria

Hey Victoria, get ready to host almost 400 distinguished academic guests—the Royal Society of Canada is coming to town!

The Royal Society (RSC) is Canada’s national academy dedicated to promoting learning and research in three main streams: the arts and humanities; the social sciences; and the sciences.

Every year, the RSC holds its annual general meeting in a different Canadian city. This year, RSC fellows and college members from across the country will converge on the Victoria Conference Centre/Fairmont Empress

Hotel on Nov. 26–28. The University of Victoria is the sponsor institution.

“We’re very pleased to be the presenting sponsor for this event,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “This is an opportunity for UVic to welcome Canada’s eminent scholars, to witness the induction of UVic’s fellows and medal winners in our own city and to celebrate our long-time relationship with the society.”

The AGM includes several events open to the public, kicking off with a symposium on Canadian marine biodiversity on Thursday, Nov. 26. UVic geographer Phil Dearden and Kate

Moran, president and CEO of Ocean Networks Canada, will co-chair the symposium. UVic marine biologist Julia Baum is one of several experts slated to speak.

Pre-registration is required for the symposium—\$33 for students and \$78 for the public. The registration deadline is Nov. 20. Details bit.ly/CVENT1

On Saturday, Nov. 28, a selection of new fellows and college members from across the country will discuss their research in a series of snappy seven-minute presentations. Among the UVic presenters—composer Dániel Péter Biró, chemist Frank van

Veggel and playwright Joan MacLeod.

Cost for attending the café events is \$35/students and \$60/public and the registration deadline is Nov. 13. For a full list of presenters and to register visit bit.ly/RSC-cafe.

“This is a golden opportunity for everyone—including faculty, students, staff and the general public—to hear from and interact with some of the sharpest minds in the country,” says David Castle, UVic’s vice-president research. “We encourage everyone to attend if they can.”

For general information on the AGM visit bit.ly/RSC-AGM.

UVic researchers in the spotlight

BY VALERIE SHORE

Whether they’re improving cancer treatments, motivating us to get off the couch to exercise, exploring the cosmos, or helping us better understand ourselves through theatre, music, creative writing and philosophical discourse, the eight UVic faculty members in the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) spotlight this month exemplify vital impact.

The eight—three new fellows, three new college members and three award-winners—will be formally acknowledged at RSC ceremonies on Nov. 27.

“We congratulate our new fellows, college members and medal winners from the faculties of humanities, fine arts, science and education,” says David Castle, UVic’s vice-president research. “This incredible breadth of expertise and impact really speaks to UVic’s research strength as a whole.”

The three new fellows join an elite club of more than 2,000 scholars elected over the years by their peers for remarkable lifetime contributions to their discipline and public life. Fellowship in the RSC is Canada’s highest academic distinction.

The new fellows are:

Celebrated playwright **Joan MacLeod** (writing) has 10 plays under her belt, all of them rooted in issues revolving around social justice, and often inspired by current events.

Her first play, *Jewel*, was about the 1982 sinking of the Ocean Ranger oil rig off Newfoundland. Another focused on the death of Victoria teenager Reena Virk. And her current play looks at policing and mental illness.

MacLeod’s style is consistently praised for its clarity, humour, emotional honesty and a steadfast dedication to the empathies that transform us. Among her many national achievements are the Governor General’s Award in Drama (1990) for *Amigo’s Blue Guitar* and the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre (2011).

Frank van Veggel (chemistry) is an international leader in the design and study of new photonic nanomaterials—extremely small materials that interact with light. The research has applications in health, computing and telecommunications.

Van Veggel’s current research focuses on ways of using optical and magnetic nanoparticles to enhance diagnostics for prostate, breast and brain cancer. “Finding cancers early is important to increase the success of therapy,” he says. “And getting better information about the size and location of a tumour helps a surgeon do a more effective job.”

James Young (philosophy) is a leading authority on the philosophy of language, art and ethical issues in the arts, such as those raised by cultural appropriation—the practice of borrowing from other cultures.

Young has authored five books,



L–R: Young, van Veggel and MacLeod. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

edited two more and written over 50 articles in refereed journals in fields as varied as philosophy, literature, archaeology, musicology and psychology.

“Who wouldn’t want to be a philosopher?” he asks. “I can’t think of a better life than one that involves reflection on the fundamental questions. Everyone has a little philosopher in him or her. I have the privilege of being paid to be one.”

Three other UVic faculty members have joined the ranks of RSC’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, which represents “the emerging generation of scholarly, scientific and artistic leadership in Canada.”

The new college members are:



Biró. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Dániel Péter Biró (music) is a composer and music theorist who has earned national and international acclaim for his compositions, which integrate elements of ancient chant traditions with cutting-edge technology.

During his career, Biró has explored a wide range of ethnic musical traditions. He has won major awards from several countries in Europe and North America and his compositions have been commissioned by major festivals and ensembles in Canada and around the world.



Rhodes. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Ryan Rhodes (exercise science, physical and health education) is an internationally renowned exercise psychologist who studies the psychology of physical activity and sedentary behaviour.

“We look at how to promote physical activity and strategies to reduce the amount of time we spend sitting,” says Rhodes, noting that physical inactivity is associated with at least 25 chronic conditions including the big killers such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

Over the past 13 years, Rhodes has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and 20 book chapters, and has contributed to key reports including the BC Physical Activity Strategy, which outlines the province’s plan got physical activity promotion.

Described as “one of the most energetic and productive researchers in astronomy and astrophysics in Canada with major worldwide impact,” **Sara Ellison** (physics and astronomy) couples observations from powerful telescopes with computer simulations to understand how galaxies form and evolve over time.

“Astronomy is one of those very exciting sciences that appeals to many

people because it allows us to understand the important questions of who we are and where we came from, and where the universe is ultimately going,” says Ellison.

Ellison ranks highly in terms of productivity and global impact. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers since 2000, and these studies have been cited more than 5,000 times.

A photograph of a woman with short brown hair and glasses sitting on a rocky shore. She is wearing a dark top and a patterned skirt, looking towards the camera.

Ellison. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

The medal winners are:

At the AGM, Ellison will also be presented with the 2014 Rutherford Medal, which recognizes outstanding achievement in any branch of physics. Two other UVic faculty members will also receive awards. Emeritus Professor **Jack Hodgins** (writing) wins the 2014 Pierce Medal for his achievements in imaginative literature. His fiction, for which he has received the Governor General’s Award, a BC Book Prize and the Commonwealth Writers Prize, explores the history, people and places of the coast of BC.

And **Julio Navarro** (physics and astronomy), one of the world’s leading cosmologists, wins the 2015 Tory Medal for outstanding research. Navarro has made groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of the formation of structure and galaxies in the universe.

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Political science PhD candidate **Sam Grey** has been awarded a Fulbright Canada student grant to conduct research at the University of Minnesota in 2015–16 on her project, “Irreconciled and Unforgiven: Emotion, Virtue and the Politics of Reparation in Mini Sota Makoce.” Grey received her MA in Indigenous Governance from UVic and holds prior degrees in philosophy, Indigenous studies and international development from Trent University. She has published on food systems politics, Indigenous women’s rights, bioethics and the ontology of health, Indigenous political thought, solidarity politics, decolonization, historical injustice, and peacemaking; and edited three books on Indigenous knowledge and rights-based advocacy. Grey’s primary research interests are political virtue, the politics of emotion, Settler-colonialism, and reparations for historical injustice. These converge in her dissertation on ‘unforgiveness’ and ‘irreconciliation’ in Mini Sota Makoce (Dakota Homeland).

Thi Hong Phuc Dang, a PhD student in UVic’s Social Dimensions of Health program, has also been awarded a Fulbright Canada student grant to conduct research at the University of Kentucky on her 2015–16 project, “Are We Measuring Up? Exploring Public Health Performance and Health Equity in the US and Canada.” Dang enrolled in UVic’s Equity Lens in Public Health (ELPH) program to study health equity in BC. As a Fulbright scholar, Dang will further explore how accountability structures and measures influence core public health activities that impact health equity, using data from the US National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems Instrument combined with demographic and health status surveillance data. Her work has previously been recognized with the ELPH Doctoral Fellowship, Academy Health Public Health Systems Research Student Scholarship, President’s Surgite Award, Ontario Graduate Scholarship and the Ida Marietta Houston Graduate Scholarship.

Health information science PhD candidate **Helen Monkman** placed second in this year’s International Medical Informatics Association student paper competition, for a paper co-authored by Janessa Griffith (U-Toronto) and Dr. Andre Kushniruk (health information science). Monkman’s paper was one of eight shortlisted in the worldwide competition. “It is always a good news story to have a student win such a prestigious, global award for her valuable research. We are very proud of Helen’s success,” said Elizabeth Borycki, associate professor with the school and vice chair of the association’s patient safety working group. In the paper, the authors developed a novel set of design guidelines which can be used to evaluate health applications for consumers and the general public.

Tom Pedersen Q & A

After six years as executive director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), which is hosted and led by the University of Victoria, climate scientist Tom Pedersen is moving on to other opportunities. “It’s been challenging at times but it’s always been fun,” says Pedersen. “I took this job because I wanted to build something, to make a difference in an area I feel passionate about. I think we’ve made some progress.”

In a recent interview with The Ring, Pedersen reflected on his years with PICS:

What was your first task when you took the helm at PICS in 2009?

To build consensus about the direction of the institute. It’s taken time to do that and we’ve been very careful not to alienate anyone, including the fossil fuel industry, which is represented on our external advisory board. It’s very helpful to have insight into the industry’s perspectives.

The research mission of PICS has shifted timespan. Why did it shift?

The five original research themes were good ones but lacked an integrated focus on solutions across disciplines. By early 2012 we realized we were having limited policy impact. We were too diffuse, trying to be all things to all people in the research world.

What did you do?

We refocused. We came up with five major projects, each addressing an issue of compelling importance to BC’s future—natural gas, carbon management in forests, energy efficiency in buildings, transportation futures for BC and integration of the Western Canada electrical grid. It took a lot of

time and effort to get the community to agree, to build the teams, to put the key questions together and to fund them.

How far along are those projects?

The five teams are already producing some leading-edge research and policy recommendations geared toward a low-carbon, prosperous BC. It’s an exciting time.

Why is an interdisciplinary approach important?

We’re not going to make any progress on climate change unless the knowledge we provide in support of solutions considers social, economic and physical implications. For example, we can’t say “Let’s change our vehicle fleet to electric” without thinking through the cultural, behavioral and infrastructural changes needed, and the costs. We have to consider how all these things fit together.

What other PICS initiatives stand out for you?

We’ve produced 29 white papers on a wide variety of solutions-oriented issues aimed at government decision-makers. We’ve funded 91 young graduate fellows who are investigating a range of climate-change related research topics. And our popular intern program has placed 84 students from the four PICS universities in a wide range of government and NGO climate-related jobs for four-month terms.

What about public education and outreach?

This is a big part of our mandate. I’m very proud of the online climate science courses, Climate Insights 101, which were a joint effort with our



Pedersen holds a car charger plug located outside Campus Security. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

downstairs neighbours, the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. Our popular Climate News Scan offers a weekly analysis of major climate-change related news for BC decision-makers, businesses and the general public. And we hold multiple public events—82 in the last two years—almost all of which were live webcasted.

What challenges lie ahead for PICS?

We need to maintain our momentum while navigating a shifting political landscape. And we must vigorously continue to communicate issues and solutions to the BC public. Our research program will soon yield a broad array of policy-relevant results. It then falls on our politicians to act on the new knowledge. I like to think optimistically that they’ll run toward the better future in front of us.

What do you think will galvanize political and societal action on climate change?

We must elect wiser, more visionary leaders. On that front, the results of last month’s federal election give us hope for Canada. But in general, global action will happen only when broader society “gets mugged by the realities of climate change,” to quote former US foreign secretary George Schultz.

Do you get the sense that people are overwhelmed by the scope of the climate change problem?

People often hear about the doom and gloom of climate change but they don’t hear enough about the opportunities— to do things better, to generate new economic opportunities and to move toward a more sustainable society. We have all the pieces to do that.

What’s next for PICS?

Our new research program is firmly focused on BC’s future. We’re widely seen as constructive, non-partisan and able to produce high-quality research. Recognition for PICS is strong nationally and we’re working hard to strengthen our international presence. I’m happy with where PICS is now. I think it’s the right time for me to step out of the picture and for fresh thinking to take PICS to a higher level.

What’s in the future for Tom Pedersen?

In the near-term I plan to write a book on BC’s climate action agenda. It will address two simple questions: Why did BC become a climate action leader? And I’ll be devoting more time to the Canadian Climate Forum, which I’ve chaired since July 2014. Beyond that, we’ll see.

Leading environmental scientist to head climate solutions institute

BY ROBYN MEYER

Following a comprehensive international search, the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions enters a new leadership era.

A renowned scientist who is an international leader in investigating the causes of environmental change is the new executive director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) based at UVic.

Dr. Sybil Seitzinger assumed leadership of institute on Nov. 1, succeeding leading climate scientist, Tom Pedersen, whose term ended after six years. Seitzinger has also been appointed a professor in the UVic School of Environmental Studies.

Seitzinger joins PICS from her immediate past position as executive director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) based in Stockholm, Sweden. Prior to that, she was director of the Rutgers/NOAA Cooperative Marine

Education and Research Program and visiting professor at Rutgers University in the US. She served as president of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography from 2006 to 2010.

Seitzinger’s experience leading globally coordinated environmental research will be invaluable for advancing PICS’ critical climate solutions agenda for BC and beyond, says David Castle, UVic vice-president research and chair of the search committee.

“Bringing together experts across a range of disciplines and institutions to collectively work on climate change solutions is a core mandate of PICS,” he says. “I’m delighted that Sybil will be building on the excellent work carried out so far by the institute and is bringing her international experience to further enhance its outreach and influence.”

PICS is a knowledge network that brings together leading researchers from BC and around the world to study climate change impacts, and advise on mitigation and adaptation

measures. It is hosted and led by UVic in collaboration with Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia.

Collaboration was also the hallmark of Seitzinger’s work at the IGBP, which involved facilitating and integrating the work of scientists and researchers across Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe on global environmental change, as well as working with the United Nations and governments on sustainable development. As a pioneering scientist, her work at Rutgers centred on land-atmosphere-ocean biogeochemistry, with a focus on changes in the global nitrogen cycle and how humans are affecting it.

Seitzinger holds a PhD in biological oceanography from the University of Rhode Island, is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been awarded an honorary PhD from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She is highly cited,



Seitzinger. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

with more than 130 peer-reviewed publications to her credit.

Seitzinger says climate change is already affecting BC, the nation and the world, with signs of degradation and change visible in provincial forestry, water resources and rising sea levels.

“As executive director of PICS I’ll continue to advance the institute’s mandate to develop informed solution options for climate change mitigation and adaptation for BC,” she says. “I

also look forward to developing more partnerships and linkages between PICS and other world climate change institutes who are tackling similar issues, as we face this critical global challenge together.”

On a personal level, climate positive action is something she does daily, such as relying on an electric bike for transportation, conserving energy where possible, and choosing low-impact activities such as kayaking and hiking.

Astronomy research centre capitalizes on Victoria’s star power

Adaptive optics system among research projects that put UVic at the head of major international collaborations

Today, Canadian astronomy expertise—and leadership in international “big science” projects like the \$1.6-billion Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT)—is securing valuable research time for Canadian scientists at these new facilities while also drawing millions of dollars of high-tech contracts to BC.

As a leading and founding member of the TMT project, Canada has had an outsized role in the project’s development—including \$70 million for adaptive optics instruments and components to be built by UVic adjunct professors at NRC-Herzberg and \$150 million more for the sophisticated dome construction in Port Coquitlam.

The federal investment means Canadian astronomers will have observation time at the TMT to make tomorrow’s discoveries—exploring even the faintest stars in other galaxies, and the signatures of the formation of our universe .

The TMT is also expected to further accelerate the pace at which exoplanets (planets around other stars) are discovered, and make it possible to scan their atmospheres with much greater precision.

Advances in instrumentation like the Victoria-designed adaptive optics systems that are destined for the heart of the world’s next generation of telescopes are just part of why UVic’s Astronomy Research Centre (ARC) was founded. (Read more about the adaptive optics system at bit.ly/adapt-optic.)

As ARC Director Kim Venn explains, “there’s enormous expertise for designing and building cutting edge instrumentation in Victoria. The concentration of expertise to create these new systems has been incredibly important for the TMT.”

Gathering together the expertise of UVic faculty in engineering, physics and astronomy and the scientists and engineers at the NRC-Herzberg will help keep Canada at the forefront of similar international collaborations including the space-based James Webb Space Telescope (successor to the Hubble Space Telescope) and next-generation long-wavelength observatories such as the Square Kilometre Array.

A twinned history

Thanks to UVic and NRC Herzberg, the Victoria region is home to one of the largest concentrations of astronomy talent in Canada. Long before 2012—when Canada was recognized as having the highest research impact in astronomy of any G7 nation, astronomers in the Victoria region were already having a high impact internationally.

The Plaskett Telescope at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Saanich was designed to be the largest telescope in the world when it was completed in 1918, though a swiftly constructed US facility kept it from securing that record. Later in the century, as the first head of UVic’s physics department, John Climenhaga was adamant that a telescope be built on campus. Constructed on the roof of the Elliott building, it served as an important precursor to the 32-inch DFM telescope now atop the Bob Wright Centre—the largest on-campus telescope in Canada.

World-class facilities have gone hand-in-hand with scientific achievement, as UVic astronomers and engineers are now world-renowned for their work on galaxy evolution, star formation and stellar evolution, exoplanets and cosmology. The first adaptive optics system—delivered to the Gemini Observatory—was built by Victoria-based astronomers. Among other feats, it helped estimate the age of the universe, based on stellar lifetimes.

That kind of expertise has also spurred major international scientific collaborations that rely on Victoria-based researchers to design, staff and conduct research programs at the next generation of astronomical facilities, including the TMT, the Atacama Large Millimeter Array in Chile, the Square Kilometer Array in Australia and South Africa, and the powerful James Webb Space Telescope, scheduled for launch in 2018.

Whether you’re a skywatcher or not, breakthroughs in astronomy are making an impact on Earth as well. Astronomy has consistently driven terrestrial progress in imaging technology—providing significant advances in medicine, as well as the sensors in modern digital cameras, wireless networking and image processing.



Back from the grave: Maker Lab brings spooky 19th century skull to life

The Maker Lab in the Humanities at UVic launched its first Kit for Cultural History last month, which reinvents a skull cravat pin from the 1860s. The “boxed anthology” is a tangible example of how the Maker Lab combines cultural research with digital fabrication. The Kits for Cultural History will be presented Nov. 20 at 12:30 p.m. in room C116 of the David Strong Building and physical copies of the kits will be sent to universities across North America. More info: bit.ly/skull-pin

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Inspiring resilience recognized at convocation

BY MIKE MCNENEY

The University of Victoria will present two honorary degrees for outstanding achievements in Indigenous advocacy and public service during fall convocation ceremonies.



Dick

Baptiste (Skip) Dick, Honorary Doctor of Education (DEd)

NOVEMBER 10 | 10 A.M.

Skip Dick—through his decades of work in education and youth athletics—has influenced countless individuals in the Songhees Nation and in communities around the province, impressing upon them the need to “live, speak and work with a good mind and a good heart.”

After a childhood in which he was taken from his home in Victoria and placed in a residential school in Kamloops, and despite everything he experienced in that time, he has made it his life’s work to ensure a positive impact on people he meets, helps or mentors.

At UVic, his involvement in the Elders’ Voices program has supported students, staff and faculty members. His presence has also been felt at Camosun College (starting from the 1970s, when he was the Aboriginal student counsellor) and in schools across Vancouver Island.

He co-founded the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, the Victoria T-Bird Soccer Club and, in 1989, he was named Manager of the Year by the BC Lacrosse Association.



Greene

Captain Trevor Greene, Honorary Doctor of Education (DEd)

NOVEMBER 10 | 2:30 P.M.

Captain Trevor Greene is perhaps the best-known non-fatal Canadian casualty of the conflict in Afghanistan.

His life nearly ended in 2006. During a meeting between peacekeepers and village elders, Greene set aside his weapon and removed his helmet as a sign of respect. A 16-year-old boy approached from behind and struck him with a stone axe, shattering his skull and injuring the areas of his brain that control movement and walking.

It seemed he would remain minimally conscious, requiring long-term care. However, primarily with the aid of his wife Debbie Greene, he has made remarkable progress and is able to walk with the use of a walker. He is an effective advocate and inspiration for brain injury survivors.

As well, Trevor and Debbie have been long-term collaborators in brain injury research conducted at UVic and Dalhousie University, primarily through the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

He and Debbie co-wrote the book, *March Forth*. Prior to joining the army, he wrote *Bad Date: The Lost Girls of Vancouver’s Low Track*, an early account of the serial murder of prostitutes on the Downtown Eastside.

around the ring

United Way events continue

This year’s United Way campaign is in full swing, and with the Plasma Car Races and the bug push complete, more great opportunities are right around the corner. The UVic Libraries Book Sale takes place in the SUB from Nov. 17 – 19 (with donations due Nov. 6). And on Nov. 26, you can join the crowd in the CARSA building as the president, vice-presidents and deans’ ‘Power Up the Tower’ on the Peninsula Co-op Climbing Tower. By supporting these events, members of the campus community are also supporting United Way Greater Victoria as they build a stronger, more vibrant community.

uvic.ca/unitedway/events/

Champions of a cause

Know a tenured faculty member who displays exemplary community-engaged scholarship? UVic made a strong commitment to community-university engagement initiatives through its research, academic and external relations programs. The title Provost’s Engaged Scholar will be awarded to tenured members of faculty who have achieved great distinction as a community engaged scholar. Nominations are being accepted for the award through Dec. 11. Nominees must be tenured regular faculty members. Up to two engaged scholar awards will be granted this academic year.

bit.ly/community-engaged

Take the Digicaster survey

Win \$100 for taking a five-minute survey about the UVic digital signage network—Digicaster. Complete the survey by Nov. 20 at 4:30 p.m. and you can enter to win one of four \$100 MasterCard gift cards. The results of this confidential survey will help us improve the Digicaster campus communications channel and support university-wide efforts to enhance participation and engagement on campus.

uvic.fluidsurveys.com/s/digicaster/

Sunny, with a chance of weather balloons

From Nov. 10 to Jan. 22, folks in and around UVic may be surprised to sight some UFOs—unusual floating objects—in the skies above campus. There’s no cause for alarm: Environment Canada is launching dozens of instrumented weather balloons from their weather station in the forest biology compound on UVic’s Cedar Hill Corner property. The data-collecting balloons are part of the Olympic Mountains Experiment (OLYMPEX) project, led by NASA and the University of Washington. OLYMPEX is measuring precipitation levels around the complex terrain of the Olympic Peninsula and coastal mountains, using ground, aerial and satellite technologies.

olympex.atmos.washington.edu



Venn with graduate student Masen Lamb. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Martens in the Ugandan community where she supports women's economic empowerment and the Living Hope program.

Aligning community, contribution and commerce

BY GAELLE MADEVON

Brina Martens is an aspiring entrepreneur, a trailblazer, a dedicated philanthropist, and a storyteller. She is also one of the Gustavson School's latest commerce grads, and through the years she's taken the business school's pillars to heart: her latest project, *ethreeone*, is every bit of an international, integrative, innovative and socially responsible business.

At its core, *ethreeone* is a network that empowers women in the professional world through fashion. Martens came up with the idea of creating a community of fashion-forward, business-minded and authentic women during the third year of the commerce program as she learned about social

ventures and their far-reaching impact in society. The *ethreeone* blog, born out of her passion for female empowerment and fashion, features goal-oriented businesswomen and offers styling tips for females wanting to look, feel and be the part. Launched in August 2014, the blog has quickly become popular, with more than 38,000 visits in its first year alone.

Innovative by nature, Martens envisions bigger plans for the *ethreeone* community. While completing her entrepreneurship specialization this summer, Martens developed an elaborate business plan for a brick-and-mortar *ethreeone* boutique. Supported by her Gustavson professors and fellow BCom peers, she pitched her proposal to Victoria community

members and local entrepreneurs this past August.

If operating her own business wasn't bold enough, Martens is chasing multiple dreams at once. After participating in Gustavson's international work-study in China last December, and visiting multinational companies such as Google and Unilever in Shanghai, Martens has been yearning to explore other avenues of international business.

That journey has already taken her to Africa, where she has been giving her time and talents to empower vulnerable women in Uganda. For the past two months, she has been applying the business skills she learned in the classroom to help launch a women-operated startup in the Afri-

can country. Through Martens' market research and operational logistics analysis, Living Hope's new merchandise line will be ready to launch next year. In Martens' words, she "could not have found a better opportunity that required [her] to put into practice the past two years of theory and skills [she] acquired from Gustavson."

Ever the businesswoman, Martens was able to leverage her humanitarian experience to further market her network. Prior to leaving for Africa, she launched a new *ethreeone* campaign titled *Blazers 4 Uganda*, which encouraged her online community to donate gently-used blazers that would be offered to the women in the Living Hope program. Brina's spirited call-to-action amassed close to a hundred

business jackets in two short weeks; more than that, it allowed for symbols of confidence to be shared from one successful businesswoman to another hopeful one.

Martens cites a Frank Ocean lyric as her credo: "work hard in silence, let success be your noise." In striving to create a community where women inspire each other, she is, in fact, serving as a positive model for many—creating an impactful business with a social conscience, and building a community of women who align commerce with contribution.

Core values fuel Saanich officer's lifelong learning

Distance education program serves the needs of busy professionals—even those who live close to campus

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

Asking Andy Stuart about his aspirations as a child, he recalls spending many hours playing with a specific group of Lego blocks while growing up in Gordon Head. "The police station was my favorite."

Later, in his teens, he met and fell in love with his future wife, Andrea. Her father was a police officer and for him, that sealed the deal. "It wasn't exactly the coolest thing to say in high school you wanted to be a police officer, but Andrea's dad inspired me."

Stuart also found inspiration at home; both parents have graduate degrees and encouraged him

to invest in education at an early age. "I always enjoyed learning," he says. Now a police sergeant with more than 14 years of decorated service—including a Meritorious Honour Award from the Lieutenant Governor—Stuart graduates this month with a master's degree in public administration.

Stuart's postsecondary career began in criminal justice at Camosun College, followed by a BA in sociology from UVic. He joined the Saanich Police Department in 2001 as a uniform patrol officer and went on to serve with the child abuse investigations team for three years. "This was by far the most rewarding work of my career because I felt I was truly making a difference in the lives of children and their families."

Commitment to family remains Stuart's priority, with two young sons

in elementary school and active in local sports. His daughter attends university in Florida on a rowing scholarship.

Stuart wanted to complete his graduate studies as well—but was unsure how to fit in studies with work and home life.

After extensive research, he found what he needed at UVic. "The on-line public admin program was well-recognized," he says, and the distance education model was ideal for managing shift work and young children at home.

He didn't always enjoy the writing, however. "Returning to university after more than 10 years of police work, let's just say my professors challenged me to write in a more concise and clear way." Stuart's 'aha' moment came when he realized, "the economy of writing was essential to

my being successful."

What better way to master one's technique than by entering a writing contest—and winning? Stuart tied for second place in UVic's 2013 Diversity Writing Contest. His essay, "Diversity, Equality and Inclusion" argued that these three core values are interrelated and can't thrive independently.

It's analogous to the way a close family, happy home, promising career, and a safe community can make for the best life, explains Stuart. "I grew up in the same house where my parents live today. I see the many benefits of living in Victoria and raising a family here—to an extent where I've never considered living anywhere else."

His parents instilled in him, too, a belief that education of any kind was important for building a broader



Stuart

perspective in life. "This degree has definitely helped me reach that goal, to achieve that deeper understanding, and to prepare for career advancement."



Branion-Calles.

Mapping his own path forward

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

A lifelong love of maps led Michael Branion-Calles to the master's degree he receives this month in geography. But his path was not straightforward—it started in English.

"I began my undergrad degree at UVic in English," says Branion-Calles, "but once I took an elective geography class I quickly changed my degree path." He says his appreciation for maps goes back to his childhood and as a kid he always liked maps—an affection that eventually pointed him to the spatial pattern analysis and research (SPAR) lab in the geography department.

"I really enjoyed the intro geographic information system course and applying practical skills to solve problems was a lot of fun," says Branion-Calles. It was so much fun that he finished his undergrad degree in geography and jumped right into grad studies with geography professor, Trisalyn Nelson, a spatial pattern analysis expert.

"The best thing about the geography program and the geomatics stream is that the technical skills you can gain and the methods you learn are very broadly applicable to a wide range of different areas of research, and, at UVic we have excellent instructors," says Branion-Calles. "To do GIS work you need a lot of patience, skill with computers, and a high degree of attention to detail," he adds.

During his master's thesis research Branion-Calles applied these skills as he worked with the BC Centre for Disease Control (BC-CDC) on a project involving radon, a carcinogenic and radioactive gas.

Radon is odorless, tasteless and found naturally in the environment—produced by the decay of uranium found in soil, rock, water. Branion-Calles developed a novel method of mapping indoor radon risks by creating a model for the entire province of BC. Since radon can travel in the open atmosphere, high concentrations can accumulate in homes with longterm exposure—causing lung cancer, and an increased risk especially for those who smoke.

"I worked with a senior scientist in Environmental Health Services at BCCDC who helped guide my initial research questions and shared invaluable advice and expertise on the interpretation of my results," says Branion-Calles.

When he is not studying, Branion-Calles spends quality time with friends, family and his significant other. "My friends and family keep me sane," he says.

Despite loving UVic and Victoria, Branion-Calles has moved to the mainland to pursue a PhD at SFU in Health Sciences. Among other research areas, he will be working on modelling cycling safety in Vancouver in partnership with UVic BikeMaps.org.

Asked about what advice he would give first year students, Branion-Calles, says "improve your time management skills. In my experience, as my time management skills increased, my grades improved and my stress levels decreased," continues Branion-Calles. "The ability to prioritize tasks and work efficiently can help prevent a lot of unnecessary stress and actually give you the ability to make time to interact with those important to you in the midst of a busy semester."



Kruger's dance regalia is a fusion of Syilx traditional dancing and modern interpretive, with pow wow influence. PHOTO: DARREN ELK

Gifts of learning

"Without art, I would never have discovered I was a teacher."

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

At first, she thought she was being punished when her father sent her up into the mountains. Robyn Kruger was a mouthy 12-year-old, and her dad didn't really know what to do with her.

When Kruger looks back on it now, she sees what neither she nor her dad recognized at the time—those days on the mountains were a gift, one that would inspire the course of her life.

"I'd hike to the highest mountain overlooking Skaha Lake and Okanagan Lake and spend all day there sometimes. I'd pray and ask questions about who I was and what I was going to do with this life," she says.

Kruger—who graduates this month with a master's of education in curriculum and instruction—is a member of the Penticton Indian Band, but she wasn't raised with any ceremonial practices or speaking the Syilx language of the Okanagan Nation. Neither were her parents, being students of residential and day schools back in the days when, she says, "we didn't celebrate being Native people."

So it wasn't until she started talking to one of her grandmothers about her dreams of seeing Sasquatches and of transforming into a sea creature with gills that she started seeing those trips to the mountains for what they were: a vision quest.

"Those walks helped form my identity. I had the determination back then to climb those mountains," says Kruger, 38. "It's a kind of metaphor for what I decided to do for my life."

When still a teenager, she took ballet and modern dance and steeped herself in multi-disciplinary cultural

training at the En'owkin Centre in Penticton.

After obtaining her certificate at En'owkin, Kruger found her credits were fully transferable to the visual arts program at UVic—so, with her young son, she left her job to make a different life for them both. "I didn't want a fake life when I knew I was an artist," she says. In 2011 she graduated with a BFA, with a focus on media arts.

"Art led my identity, it helped drive me to be who I am. Without art, I would never have discovered I was a teacher. I thought it was art for so long. But it was both," Kruger says. Following her art degree, she got her bachelor of education.

When she walks across the stage in her regalia to receive her degree, she will have spent a total of six years on campus.

"I've done a lot of growing up here and even though I've had some discouraging moments, I feel that I wasn't alone and that I had a purpose—to represent the Okanagan Nation in a university setting. That's how much I love where I come from," she says. Her son is now almost grown up too and will be graduating from an Esquimalt high school this year.

c'ac'awet—a name given to her at 19 meaning "misty sunbeams shining through the clouds"—came to UVic in 2009, the year First Peoples House opened. It made a big difference for her—mostly, she says, because it gave her a place to sit down and connect with people. "They replace your family for a time," she says.

"My hands are up to the efforts they're making with regards to educational student success while at UVic," she adds of the support she received through Indigenous Education. Over the years, she received financial sup-

port from Indspire and the New Relationship Trust Foundation as well as several UVic-based bursaries.

Eventually, she learned to sing the Okanagan Nation song, and to speak and teach some of the Syilx language. She still wanted to better frame her Indigenous art practices with child-centred teaching methodologies.

Kruger's master's work in curriculum and instruction was to create a set of culturally inclusive guides to "decolonize and Indigenize curriculum." She called her thesis project Gifts of Learning—a title chosen in gratitude for the gifts she received on the mountain and from the many special people in her life.

"I feel that this is a really good time to be a curriculum designer," she says, "especially in tribal schools."

"These schools are really young and people are just starting to figure out this educational movement. I'd like to be there to support and contribute and figure out what it's all going to mean to the new generation."

Kruger's thesis project online: giftsoflearning.ca

**CONVOCATION
WEBCAST**
Watch the Fall 2015
convocation ceremonies
online at uvic.ca/convocation





LeDoux

International co-ops chart a path to med school

BY ERIN KING

From touring animal shelters in South Africa to analyzing cells from human blood or harvested mouse spleens in Vancouver, Stacey LeDoux’s UVic experiences have been a little different than most.

LeDoux graduates this month from UVic, and as she waits to hear back about her med school applications, she’s reflecting on her time as an undergraduate. “UVic not only gave me the opportunity to travel, but to explore my interests, develop my skills, and apply my learning,” she says.

LeDoux is one of the thousands of UVic students every year who’s benefited from the co-op program. “I joined co-op because I thought the experience would allow me to explore my options in science and help me decide what I wanted to pursue in my future.”

LeDoux’s first co-op work term at UVic drew upon her love for animals. She travelled to Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa where she volunteered for FurKidz, an organization that supports local domestic animal shelters. Together with a team of international volunteers, she spent

time with the animals in different shelters and created profiles of those up for adoption. “It was a great cultural and social experience,” says LeDoux. “I gained a greater awareness of poverty, political strife, and the after-effects of apartheid. South Africa is a beautiful country and I’m grateful to have lived there.”

Back at UVic, LeDoux’s interests began shifting towards biochemistry and microbiology. “After taking my first microbiology class in second year, I fell for the micro-world of cells and proteins. The material fascinated me and I enjoyed the practicality of the early lab work.” These interests led her to a co-op term at the Genome BC Proteomics Centre followed by an eight-month stint at STEMCELL Technologies in Vancouver. An NSERC undergraduate research award funded her work at STEMCELL.

“STEMCELL is a private biotechnology company that develops and improves products used in life science research. The project I was working on was to develop a better particle to be used in their cell separation kits – the kits help researchers isolate a particular cell type of interest in order to continue on with their work.” Through

the course of her work at STEMCELL, LeDoux developed a high throughput assay to test a higher number of particles at once. Her work will help to improve the methods by which researchers work with cells in the future.

Somehow, LeDoux also finds time to volunteer. “I have always balanced my school, and now work, with volunteer work,” says LeDoux. “I help with fundraising and riding events for the Victoria Therapeutic Riding Association. It’s an organization that gives disabled children an opportunity to interact with horses.”

Now that she’s completed her studies at UVic, LeDoux’s sights are set on medical school. “My experiences helping vulnerable animals in South Africa, helping an organization bring joy to families who have gone through some hardships, and working with a variety of people throughout my volunteer and co-op work terms have definitely all drawn me to medicine,” she says.

With such a breadth of experience, enthusiasm for health research, and genuine caring, those goals don’t sound too far off the mark for one of UVic’s newest alumni.

Propelled by a passion for public service

BY JULIE SLOAN

Summarizing and reviewing court transcripts for the defence. Analyzing evidence and disclosure from the prosecution to the defence. This might seem like a typical day of work for a law intern, but when you’re doing it at The Hague’s International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, it’s anything but normal.

From May to August 2013, Joash Fang—who graduates this November with his UVic law degree—worked as an intern with the standby defence team assigned to Radovan Karadzic, the former president of the Serbian National Party. The prosecution alleged that Karadzic supported crimes against humanity, genocide and forcible transfer of populations during the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s. He was a fugitive until 2008, when he was arrested in Belgrade and extradited to The Netherlands to stand trial at The Hague.

Fang, who secured the internship largely through his own efforts, understood the magnitude and importance of the work he was doing.

“The case was enormous—one of the largest in international criminal law history. The trial chamber heard sworn testimony from over 1,200 witnesses and entered over four million exhibits into evidence,” explained Fang. “My role as an intern involved summarizing and reviewing court transcripts for the standby defence team. I was also required to analyze evidence and disclosure from the prosecution to the defence.”

As a student of law, the opportunity to watch how trial counsel prepared and conducted direct and cross-examinations of witnesses was invaluable training for Fang. “I also enjoyed being able to see the day to day workings of an international criminal tribunal. It was a truly international work environment with legal counsel,



Fang

staff, and interns from every corner of the globe.”

Fang is no stranger to international life. Born in Singapore, he moved to Vancouver when he was 12. Fluent in French, he also speaks German and Mandarin.

Fang’s experience at The Hague had a significant impact, encouraging him to pursue a legal career in the public interest. However, those seeds had already been planted when he was a clinic assistant at one of Access Pro Bono Community Legal Clinics from 2006-09. In 2014 he also worked as a mental health advocate with Access Pro Bono’s mental health team, representing patients who had been involuntarily detained under BC’s Mental Health Act. “I interviewed patients and reviewed medical documents, and made submissions at mental health review board hearings on behalf of patients,” Fang recalls. “I also conducted direct and cross-examination of witnesses and medical professionals during the hearings.” His contributions did not go unnoticed, and he was awarded a Law Foundation Public Interest Award in 2015.

Fang takes a wealth of international and pro-bono experience with him into his current work articling with Legal Aid Ontario in Toronto, where he hopes to sit for the Bar exam in 2016. While he remains open to many career possibilities, he says he’d be very happy to permanently practice law with Legal Aid Ontario.

FRANCA CONTINUED FROM P.1

engineering.

Franca—an auto-didact at heart—says she prefers not to ask questions. “When I figure it out by myself, I remember it and it’s inside of me and it creates a natural path to recall next time,” she says.

The only undergrad in her team at AFCC, she taught herself a coding language and, when she was tasked with figuring out why a 3D printer wasn’t working, she fixed it.

“For my final co-op, I wanted to work in a start-up. And,” she says, “since I was a mechanical engineer after all, I needed some hands-on experience!”

She found a great match with Revolution 3D Printers, a local start-up bringing a 3D printer to market. They’ve since relocated to a commercial space, but when Franca interviewed for a co-op job there this spring, headquarters was the basement of CEO Warren Strome’s Sidney home; it had the air of Steve Jobs’ proverbial garage. She saw 3D printers and parts everywhere and an exciting opportu-

nity to diversify her skills.

In short order, she set up the company’s help desk, wrote tech support documentation and an operations manual, and used her design skills to create a 3D-printed cover for the 3D printer’s power supply.

Franca has already entered grad studies, working at the UVic Institute for Integrated Energy Systems, looking for ways to integrate a large fleet of electric vehicles into a smart-grid system.

Franca’s observation about the value of group projects extends beyond the math and mechanics of engineering. Back in the corridors of the engineering office wing, she also discovered a comfortable couch and an empty room that used to house the defunct UVic chapter of Engineers Without Borders. She and two others restarted the club—and now she and more than 20 of her colleagues are also using their engineering skills to address broader issues of poverty and systemic problems around the world.

Convocation teaching awards—Fall 2015

FACULTY OF LAW TERRY J. WUESTER TEACHING AWARD

- Prof. Gillian Calder

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

- Dr. Eileen van der Flier-Keller (Earth and Ocean Sciences)

PETER B. GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

- Dr. Brent Mainprize

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

- Dr. Alex Thomo (Computer Science)

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

- Dr. Rishi Gupta (Mechanical Engineering)

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

- Dr. Simon Devereaux (History)

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

- Dr. Brian Starzomski (Environmental Studies)



Mathison in Thailand.

Thai exchange proves all the world’s a stage

BY JOHN THRELFALL

The best way to gauge the impact of your work is always to test it in the field. For Fine Arts undergrad Clare Mathison, that meant getting out of UVic’s Phoenix Theatre and onto the world stage—in Thailand.

Mathison was only the third student to participate in the Department of Theatre’s exchange with Bangkok University, established in 2013. Now graduating with a BFA (with distinction), Mathison spent the first five months of 2015 living and working in Bangkok, where she helped design sets and lights for a number of different productions, ranging from classics like *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Hedda Gabler* to the recent Broadway hit *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*.

“It was a really great experience being immersed in such a hands-on learning environment,” she recalls. “It was a big adjustment learning how to work ‘the Bangkok way’—which meant learning how to work effectively in another culture.”

While the theatrical basics may not dramatically change from stage to stage—the design skills she developed working on such recent Phoenix productions as *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Picnic* and *Unity 1918* would work just as well in Thailand as in Canada—Mathison did have to adjust to the different environment, and language.

“They have so much patience in Thailand, and tend to be more understanding with the people they work with,” she says. “They are incredibly kind and generous hosts for international students; it honestly would have been so much easier for them to just work with other Thai students, but they always included me in their projects.”

Theatre professor and exchange leader Allan Stichbury has high praise for Mathison. “Clare was an exceptional student both here

and in Bangkok. The chair of Bangkok University’s Performing Arts department told me how thrilled he was to have her designing in their department, and said that she brought the importance of attention to detail to a new level for their students.”

Describing her as “a great ambassador for the theatre department, UVic and Canada,” Stichbury was told that Mathison “helped Bangkok University students understand that you can stand up for what is right and or important while at the same time being respectful, open-minded and adaptable.” Mathison also makes it clear how she also benefitted emotionally from her time overseas. “It was invaluable to learn from them, and then try to implement it back here—learning how to roll with the punches instead of letting everything stress me out.”

And while what she describes as “the awesome program, facilities, faculty and staff” of the theatre department have prepared her well for what she hopes will be her next step—designing lighting for the music industry—the Richmond, BC-raised Mathison also realizes the opportunities that came with studying at UVic. “The Bangkok exchange was so much more than I ever hoped for—I learned so much more about myself and the world than I thought I was going to.”

Her advice for future theatre students? “Don’t get discouraged,” she says. “You’re on the bottom of the heap in first year and it may seem like you’re not getting to do the stuff you want, but you soon realize it’s an essential foundation to bring everyone up to the same level. After that, you’ll work your butt off.” Final thoughts? “Go on exchanges!” she says with a quick laugh. “Go to Bangkok!”



Meredith, studying abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Passion for travel brings a humanities grad full circle

BY TARA SHARPE

Rowan Meredith misses the rain. The Slavic studies major, who graduates from UVic in November with the highest GPA in her faculty, has trudged the empty rail beds of former concentration camps in Central Europe and visited Russia in the throes of Olympic mania—but now she is in Los Angeles for graduate studies and “misses the rain desperately. It never ever rains here. Having grown up on BC’s west coast, it seems bizarre to me. I’m not dealing well without rain.”

Dealing firsthand with complex and transformative topics is something Meredith does exceptionally well. Meredith is a Slavic Studies major who took every opportunity to enrich her education by exploring the world while earning a consistently high GPA and several awards at UVic.

Meredith was born in Toronto, but her family moved to Vancouver when she was two. She always planned to attend a BC university and was drawn to the Russian language. “What brought me to UVic in 2012 was the Slavic studies program. It is the only one on BC’s coast that offers a major, not just a minor.” And although she felt the strong compulsion to travel abroad, she fondly recalls the UVic campus community as “warmly enclosed. The greenery and Ring Road made it feel like home, especially coming directly from high school. I partly chose UVic because I wanted to be somewhere not overwhelmingly large.”

In 2013, Meredith was recognized with a UVic JCURA award to conduct research on the topic of the Sochi Olympics and LGBT rights in Russia. She also participated in the Russian study-abroad program in St. Petersburg and, the following year, in UVic’s I-witness Holocaust Field School in Central Europe. Those were followed by a summer co-op internship at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland as one of the first two UVic students in the position, as well as a semester at Phillips University in Marburg, Germany.

Chair of UVic Germanic and Slavic Studies Dr. Helga Thorson, co-founder and a director of the Holocaust field school, recalls Meredith as “demonstrating a high degree of rigorous scholarship combined with sincere emotional engagement in helping to understand the world

and work for change.”

Meredith is now in her first year of law school at UCLA. She credits her humanities degree as “extremely beneficial for any other sort of graduate study, particularly for critical thinking, reasoning and writing skills.”

She continues to practice highland dance (she’s half Scottish) after teaching it as a student at UVic. When she wasn’t taking classes herself at UVic or tightly packing her clothes once again for another long flight, she was involved in martial arts, rugby and yoga.

Meredith is contemplating “two very divergent paths” after she graduates from UCLA: she is still interested in international human rights but also in entertainment law. The latter will at least keep her close to the west coast—with Hollywood in the same city as her current university and the Vancouver film industry beckoning from home. If she does a fourth year in law studies as a transfer, she can be certified in both California and BC.

Rain or blazing sun, on the west coast of North America or on a completely different continent, it’s likely a safe bet Meredith will keep her passport updated and her well-worn travel bags close at hand wherever she calls home.

Related: Meredith’s reflections on the 2014 Holocaust field school, published last year in the Ring: bit.ly/1GCie3m



Bradley in the active-learning classroom. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Technology bends the academic curve to promote dynamic learning

BY PAUL MARCK

Call it learning 360.

When writing professor Maureen Bradley teaches digital media for storytellers, her venue is a departure from the typical university lecture hall: no podium, desk seating or front of the classroom.

Instead, tables with roller-wheel chairs line the room, with a multimedia teaching island in the centre. Each table is a five-student pod, equipped with a 48-inch wireless video screen, audio speakers, laptop plug-ins and writable white board. Bradley displays video or broadcasts audio to any or all dozen screens in the room, or shows individual or group projects on every screen.

“The design is quite brilliant, it’s a stunning space,” says Bradley. “When I teach, I find myself walking around, not just lecturing as the ‘sage on the stage.’”

UVic installed four active-learning classrooms last summer as part of a three-year, \$3-million upgrade program to create more opportunities for dynamic learning. The impetus behind it, says Catherine Mateer, associate vice president of academic planning, is to address changes in pedagogy by better integrating technology into classrooms.

“There are some really interesting ways to disseminate information using digital technology. Whether you are a fiction writer, a poet, a journalist or a filmmaker, these are your tools,” says Bradley.

Today’s academic challenge goes beyond distilling information that is already ubiquitous in the digital frontier. The focus is

teaching students to apply their research, language and learning skills through fingertip technology—creating new knowledge along the way, says Bradley.

The classroom and collaborative learning format suit Aleesha Koersen just fine.

“It’s a really cool space,” says Koersen, a student in Bradley’s third-year class. “I like working in groups and collaborating with people. It’s a learning style I can really get in touch with.”

While some students find discussing their works in front of an entire class daunting, bouncing ideas off each other in group work seems natural, says Koersen. “You’re engaging in the conversation, there’s the comfort of a small group and it builds courage for you.”

The four active learning classrooms are widely used to teach sciences, engineering and a variety of courses for experiential learning that transcends textbooks and lectures. Each room has a different configuration, adapted for typical small lecture, seminar, and larger lecture. Additional classrooms will be similarly upgraded over the next two years.

Staying competitive as a post-secondary educator is a priority for UVic. Research and consultations with faculties about students’ different learning needs helped trigger the project for technology-enhanced classrooms. “This allows us to take research-connected learning and active learning and combine them in dynamic ways,” says Technology Integrated Learning Director Janni Aragon.

Full story: bit.ly/active-lab

VIEWPOINT

Courageous conversations: a community response to the TRC

BY ONOWA MCIIVOR

This year, a week-long celebration in sunny Ottawa marked the formal conclusion of a six-year nation-wide process. June 2015 brought the unveiling of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s work and the issuing of 94 recommended Calls to Action. Many of these actions are aimed at government, particularly federal, however many pertain directly to post-secondary teaching and research. Social media was abuzz—people were moved, and paying attention. As summer’s lull rolled in, my mind and heart kept returning to the Calls to Action. Something kept pulling at me, lingering in my mind. What now? What next? What does it all mean now that the TRC process was “over”?

I began to have conversations,

privately and in public spaces. I sensed many others felt similarly. Fearing lost momentum I felt an urgency to *act*, even though July-August is a traditional vacationing time in Canada, and September is overfull in most academic environments. On Oct. 7, more than 200 students, staff, faculty, administrators and community members came together at First Peoples House to ask, “*What does reconciliation mean to me? What can I do? Who might I be able to work with to have an even greater impact?*”

That day, we shared information about the responses already underway at UVic. These include work such as repatriation of the artwork of children who attended residential schools, and new courses created with the intention of introducing this history to undergraduate students in creative

ways. I felt tremendous hope leaving that day. We left with the challenge to have “courageous conversations”—and to not forget about the TRC or what it means for our country. I have had dozens of follow-up messages from all corners of the campus offering their enthusiasm, their ideas and reporting out new connections and events that have emerged from the Oct. 7 gathering. The event was meant to be a spark: we accomplished that and more. The embers are strong—let us together build a fire of reconciliation that will help us endure, and grow together in community.

Onowa McIvor is an Assistant Professor in the Indigenous education program in the Faculty of Education, and one of the organizers of the Oct. 7 TRC commemoration.

TRC CONTINUED FROM P.1

to varying levels of government, faculties and institutions of learning and schools, the business community, media, the justice system, courts and child welfare.

Owning our shared commitments

Robina Thomas, the Director of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement at UVic, hopes all Canadians take up the call to reconciliation in the report.

“It is very thoughtful, respectful and well-articulated,” says Thomas, whose position at UVic serves as a link between Indigenous communities and the university with respect to the development and delivery of programs and research of mutual interest and value.

But so was the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, she adds.

“If the report gets shelved, it is not even worth the paper it was written on. We must take up the responsibility to breathe life into this report.”

The TRC wants to attach “champions” to each call to action, so responsibility and ownership become part of the community. It is also hoping that social agencies and institutions step forward and say they will take on responsibility.

Educational institutions have been called upon to engage with Indigenous communities, be leaders in reconciliation, create opportunities for Indigenous students, integrate Indigenous knowledge, perspectives and worldviews into curricula, programs and services, and educate all

students about the history and legacy of residential schools.

“We were pleased in reading the report that many of the recommendations made and many of the ways of thinking about engaging with our students and with Indigenous communities are ones we value,” says Catherine Mateer, associate vice-president of academic planning at UVic.

Says UVic Provost Valerie Kuehne: “The report reaffirmed the responsibility of universities in closing the gaps in education for Indigenous people—and in sharing what we know about the enduring effects of the residential school system on Indigenous people, families and communities.”

Strong foundations guide future work

At UVic, this work will extend a long history of welcoming Indigenous students, working in partnership with Indigenous communities, and promoting reciprocal learning opportunities between Indigenous and academic knowledge—in academic programs and research partnerships alike.

“Indigenous education and a commitment to working with Indigenous communities are essential elements of the university’s strategic plan,” Mateer says.

That commitment has led to a more-than-tenfold increase in Indigenous student enrolment since 2000. In 2014, Indigenous enrolment at UVic included 794 undergrads and 212 grad students—with many others enrolled in certificate programs offered by

Continuing Studies.

Academic programs with a strong Indigenous focus can be found all across the campus. Social work and child and youth care were early leaders in this area, as was UVic’s program in Indigenous education. UVic was one of the first universities to offer programs in Indigenous Language Revitalization. The law school has built an extensive record of leading the country in Indigenous legal traditions and scholarship, and the Gustavson School of Business has developed training in economic development and entrepreneurship in Indigenous communities.

In addition, many of UVic’s distance education programs allow Indigenous students to achieve their goals without having to leave their home communities—including groundbreaking programs in child and youth care, nursing and the Akitsiraq law school in Nunavut.

(More about UVic’s Indigenous focus and commitments: bit.ly/uvic-focus)

Cassels also noted “the inspiration of the TRC recommendations is timely and welcome,” as the university develops its first Indigenous Academic Plan. UVic’s academic leaders are also reviewing the TRC to see how best they can continue to provide Indigenous education and support Indigenous students and communities. The 2016 Provost’s Diversity Conference, on Jan. 21-22, will feature presentations and workshops that address understanding, reconciliation, and ways to move forward.

DAVE LYNN

Navigate the ever-changing market

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

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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

[uvac.uvic.ca](#)
250-721-6562



■ **Exhibit.** *Beauty for All: The Arts & Crafts Movement in Europe and North America.* Until Jan. 9. Curated by Holly Cecil. An exhibition and film project featuring work by some of the best-known designers of the time: William Morris, C.R. Ashbee, the Roycroft Workshops, Tiffany Studios, Frank Lloyd Wright and Edward Burne-Jones, all from the nationally recognized permanent collection at UVic. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St.



■ **Exhibit.** *Celebrating W.B. Yeats at 150.* Until Jan. 18. 2015 marks 150 years since the birth of Irish poet and Nobel laureate William Butler Yeats (1865–1939). This exhibition explores Yeats’ work as a poet and a playwright with artwork, rare books, and printed ephemera drawn from UVic’s Legacy Gallery and UVic Library’s Special Collections and University Archives. Mearns Centre/McPherson Library A023.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *The Warm Blob, El Niño and Pacific Oscillations.* Richard Dewey (Oceans Networks Canada). Bob Wright Centre A319. 250-472-5573

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic: Chamber Singers.* Eternal Light: A Requiem. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

■ **Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Natural history night.* Author Briony Penn will read from the official biography of early naturalist/biologist/conservationist Ian McTaggart-Cowan, who was documenting biodiversity, climate change, logging, pesticides and conservation issues before most of us were born. Lecture to include clips from McTaggart-Cowan’s early TV shows—the forerunner to David Suzuki’s *The Nature of Things*. Fraser 159.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

■ **Lecture.** 12:30 p.m. *Performative Constitutionalism: Constitutional Debates and the Politics of Public (Dis)Engagement.* David Williams and Cris Shore (U-Auckland, New Zealand). Fraser faculty work room.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic: Woodwinds.* Featuring School of Music woodwind students in a concert of varied repertoire. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

■ **Music.** 2:30 p.m. *Faculty concert series: Lafayette String Quartet.* UVic’s acclaimed quartet-in-residence. MacLaurin B125. Tickets \$25. 250-721-8634

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

■ **Lecture.** 1 p.m. *The Indigenous Child Welfare System & the Sixties Scoop.* A history of the Indigenous child welfare system, and families’ lived experiences of adoption, as seen through the lens of three Indigenous adoptees. Cornett A120. Contact: educommunity@uvic.ca.

■ **CAVI Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Orpheus Crosses the Atlantic: Native Americans Writing Latin in the Colonial Period.* A close look at a letter written in Latin by Caleb Cheeshahteamauk—a young Wampanoag man who graduated from Harvard College in 1665—as a creative and strategic response to a new “antiquity” freshly encountered. Craig Williams (Univ. of Illinois). Strong Bldg. C116. 250-721-8514

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

■ **Other.** 9 a.m. *Libraries’ book sale.* November 17–19. Pick up some great used books at the annual Libraries’ book sale in support of the UVic United Way campaign. SUB Michele Pujol Rm. 250-853-3613

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *Sewage in the Strait of Georgia: How Big is the Problem and What Can We Hope to Achieve by Treatment?* Sophie Johannessen (Institute of Ocean Sciences, Fisheries & Oceans Canada). Engineering / Computer Science 124. 250-721-6120

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 4 p.m. *The Anthropocene: Nature’s Final Bow?* Michael Soulé (U-California, Santa Cruz). HSD A240. 250-721-7327

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

■ **Lecture.** Noon. *The Lost World of Telidon: Challenges in the Conservation of Glenn Howarth’s Digital Art.* John Durno (Library Systems). Clearihue D132.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic: Voice.* Featuring School of Music voice students in a concert of varied repertoire. MacLaurin Bldg. B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *Linguist Meets Geography: Documenting Tłı̨chǫ Knowledge of Place through Place Names.* Prof. Leslie Saxon (UVic). Turpin Bldg. B215. 250-721-7327

edge of Place through Place Names. Prof. Leslie Saxon (UVic). Turpin Bldg. B215. 250-721-7327

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Tuesdaymusic.* And Dec. 1. Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634.

■ **Seminar.** 3 p.m. *School of Earth and Ocean Sciences seminar.* Gwyn Lintern (Geological Survey of Canada). ECS 124. 250-721-6120

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 1:30 p.m. *Early Music in UVic’s Special Collections and Archives.* Susan Lewis (UVic). Mearns Centre/McPherson Library A003. 250-721-8247

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 8 p.m. *Visiting Artist Series presents Stephen Schofield.* The materials, procedures and subject of Schofield’s sculpture, drawing and performance practices spring from the laboratories and private spaces of the home: the kitchen, the bathroom and the garden. Visual Arts A162. 250-721-8011

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *The New “End-of-World” Novel: Judeo-Christian Apocalypticism in Contemporary American Fiction.* Is our voracious appetite for imaginary disasters driven by our psychological need for narrative closure? Or is the genre fueled by our perverse desire to witness catastrophe from the safety of an armchair? Emily Arvay. David Strong C118.

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 6:30 p.m. *Anti-Colonialism, Post-Industrialism and the Arts and Crafts.* Allan Antliff (UVic). Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *Satellite Earth Observations in Support of Arctic Operations and Environmental Stewardship.* Doug Bancroft (UVic). Turpin Bldg. B215. 250-721-7327

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *Negative Ecological Consequences of Open-net Pen Salmon Aquaculture.* Lawrence Dill. Fraser 159.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

■ **Other.** 10 a.m. *Holiday Artisan’s Market.* SUB Michele Pujol Rm. 250-721-6533

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** Noon. *Patient Safety through Intelligent Procedures in Medication—A European Human-Factors User-Driven Design Project.* Christian Nøhr (Aalborg University, Denmark). HSD A170. 250-721-8576

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 1:30 p.m. *A Faithful Portrait: Hugh Thomson, Pride and Prejudice and Reading Illustrations.* Caroline Winter (UVic). Mearns Centre/McPherson Library A003. 250-721-8247

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* Featuring new music by School of Music composition students MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:30 p.m. *Legal Officials at the Heart of Legal Theory: the Practice of Role-Morality.* Nicole Roughan (National University of Singapore). Fraser 152.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *Awash with Opportunity: Putting “Sustainable” in BC’s New Water Laws.* Oliver Brandes and Rosie Simms (UVic-POLIS) will focus on BC’s ongoing effort to implement the Water Sustainability Act and improve water governance. The talk will highlight key lessons from California’s devastating drought that could help inform an effective approach to groundwater management in BC. Fraser 159

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *Tuba Christmas Reprise.* Paul Beauchesne, conductor. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

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■ **Theatre.** 8 p.m. *The Threepenny Opera.* November 5–21. By Bertolt Brecht. Music by Kurt Weill. Directed by Brian Richmond. “You may proclaim, good sirs, your fine philosophy, but till you feed us, right and wrong can wait!” Part biting satire and part sheer theatrical innovation, this iconic work by Brecht and Weill is a landmark of modern theatre. Borrowing from the 18th century *The Beggar’s Opera*, Brecht takes aim at the bourgeoisie—revealing a society where law is fickle, money corrupts and crime pays. This musical saga follows the villainous but irresistible Mack the Knife (and his marauding thieves) as he marries the impressionable and innocent Polly Peachum—much to the displeasure of her parents—while continuing his illicit relationship with his mistress, Pirate Jenny. Phoenix Theatre. \$15–\$25. 250-721-8000

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day in the life

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

The university’s heart is its students—and though Shauna Underwood is no longer a student, she glows with the awareness that in her first year on the job, she’s contributed to significant student success as an Indigenous student advisor in the Faculty of Human and Social Development (HSD). Underwood sees herself as a traditional person, valuing her Coast Salish culture. Underwood is from the Tsawout Band in W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich), a member of the Samish Tribe in Washington, and has traced her roots to the Nez Percé Tribe in Idaho.

At HSD’s Indigenous Student Support Centre (ISSC), Underwood works within the only faculty-based centre of its kind on campus with a large Indigenous student cohort, faculty and relevant programs. A day in her life is a mix of the routine and the unexpected. “I never know what’s going to come up,” she says—and that’s okay with her.

At the beginning of each school term, Underwood emails her vast network to connect with school directors and to welcome their Indigenous students and explain the centre’s services. She and her fellow ISSC team members work with students to support both their studies and their personal lives.

Centre activities have ramped up since ISSC opened last September, and the ISSC team has established trust, says Underwood. There are meetings, planning sessions, and assorted events to host including advocacy work, traditional ceremonies and a monthly soup day to help students connect with one another. More are attending, exploring the services on offer, and asking for help.

“When I wanted to quit, she was my motivator to keep going,” recalls

Mavis David of her student experience at UVic’s School of Child and Youth Care (CYC). Her relationship with Underwood was invaluable. “She would say to me, ‘Don’t give up. You’re almost there.’”

David’s father barely survived his years in the residential school system and was simply unavailable to his daughter during her formative years. Those memories, along with academic expectations, were getting in the way of David’s learning and so she reached out to Underwood.

“If a student thinks they can’t manage, I support their decisions,” says Underwood. “I also encourage them to keep believing they can find a way to make this work.”

David says no one truly knew what she was going through as well as Underwood. That’s because Underwood is also a CYC grad and had walked that same path herself only a few years prior. “It was tough!” Underwood recalls—on many different fronts.

Part of the learning at CYC requires students to prepare for the challenges that come with the caring profession. “The belief is that you have to take care of yourself first,” says Underwood, “before you can take care of others.”

That was a tall order. Underwood faced challenges herself as a single mom and sole provider for three children. She felt pulled to meet their needs above her own, and to honour her strong ties to the Tsawout Nation—let alone meet the added financial pressures of paying tuition on limited income. Underwood had to return to work in order to provide.

“I tried to do it all without having to borrow money,” she says, so it took more time complete. “But I completed,” she says. “So many Indigenous students don’t.”

Who better to advise those coping with similar issues, asks Jeanine Carriere, faculty lead for ISSC and assistant professor with the School of Social Work. “When Shauna assists a



Underwood at the entrance to the First Peoples House. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

student, she’s also assisting that student’s family and community,” says Carriere. “Everyone benefits, even more so when that student graduates and goes on to be successful within their chosen profession.”

“We’re learning,” says Tricia Marck, HSD Dean, “and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission require for all of us to do more.” Emphasizing UVic’s longstanding work in supporting Indigenous students, she points out the LE_{NONET} project has shown that teams like the ISSC staff “can make a real difference in reducing the cultural, economic and other undue hardships that so many of our Indigenous students endure as they

work to realize their academic goals.”

Marking life events and seasonal transitions are a prime example where awareness is needed, says Carriere. “Some profs see these events as time-consuming obligations that take Indigenous students away from their studies when, in fact, they are an honour and a privilege that trumps school work.”

“In our community,” says Carriere, “you cannot say to your grandmother that you won’t be attending your grandfather’s death ceremony, which is his transition to the spirit world.” It’s our responsibility as educators to accommodate these students, says Carriere, and to respect their choices.

“I have seen the impact of colo-

nization here and in the US,” says Underwood. “I know what it does to Indigenous families.” She has long wanted to help heal those displaced children and broken families, to help bring back the traditions and forgotten languages.

On November 9, 2015, Underwood will get a glimpse of that healing when Mavis David formally accepts her BA degree at the fall convocation ceremony and “stands strong on that stage.”

More about ISSC: bit.ly/uvic-issc

Stó:lō Ethnohistory Field School in its second decade

BY TARA SHARPE

The only ethnohistory field school in Canada to offer a firsthand learning opportunity involving traditional knowledges of oral history and research of historical documents has been immersing students every second spring since 1998 deep within the Stó:lō community.

Stó:lō traditional territory extends from Yale to Langley. The area now called the Fraser River Valley and Fraser River Canyon was home to the Stó:lō people thousands of years before explorer Simon Fraser first followed the river’s course.

“Stó:lō” is the *Halq’eméylem* word for the river; it thus means “the river people.” Place names are integral to the teachings of long-time educator and Stó:lō cultural advisor Naxaxalhts’i (whose European name is Dr. Albert “Sonny” McHalsie, the holder of a UVic Honorary Doctor of Laws). He points out many Stó:lō community members “don’t speak the language, but we still go out and use the land and end up using the English names.”

Naxaxalhts’i takes students on interpretive trips of the river and ashore—with original place names dropping like stones into water with a ripple effect reaching well beyond the four-week course. “It changes their whole perspective,” he says. “The land becomes alive.”

“The course is transformative,” adds John Lutz, chair of the UVic history department. “Students see the practical value of applying scholarship to people’s lives.”

The field school is a collaboration between the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre and the history departments at UVic and the University of Saskatchewan, along with the Stó:lō Nation and Stó:lō Tribal Council. Students board for one week with Stó:lō families and then live for three weeks in a traditional cedar longhouse.

Under the direction of Stó:lō knowledge keepers, as well as Lutz and co-teacher Keith Carlson (USask), students undertake projects interpreting historical issues identified by the community as having important contemporary significance. Previous topics include: identity, politics and Stó:lō ancestral names; routes of access to Stó:lō fishing sites; metaphysical tunnels in Stó:lō spiritual geography; and the lives and biographies of Elders.

The urgency of time passing is reflected in the gravity of the last topic. “We have a list of various Elders and political leaders, but we do not have the funds to hire researchers,” explains Naxaxalhts’i. “But we still need it to be done.”

He also looks ahead to the benefits of mobile apps on historical and cultural place marking. MA student



Naxaxalhts’i (centre) teaches about the ancient village *Xelháłh*, which protected the Stó:lō’s richest salmon fishery. PHOTO: DAVIS ROGERS

Sabina Trimble (history) attended the May 2015 field school and chose this topic for her research paper; digital mapping for the Stó:lō is now the focus of her master’s thesis. Final research papers are submitted at the end of summer to the Stó:lō Nation Archives.

Trimble found the enthusiasm in which the results of her research paper were received when she returned

to the community “reconfirmed the value of it and the very fruitful work in bridging university and communities.”

During the final week, the students host a potlatch feast where they formally thank all community members who assisted by presenting them with gifts.

Naxaxalhts’i keeps a photo taken of himself on Pitt Lake by a former

field-school student. She is caught in the reflection of his sunglasses, as is the lake behind her.

In Stó:lō tradition, one must not look into the water for fear and respect of the super-natural *stlalaqum* inhabiting the lake. Naxaxalhts’i jovially points out it is the student’s reflection that can be seen in the mirrored surface of his glasses.