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 absentia during Fall Convocation.

The recommendations call for change that learns from—and respects—the past, it speaks to a willingness among Canadians to listen and to create a future that we have learned is 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, the 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.”

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.

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The University of Victoria—Canada’s new team of federal cabinet ministers includes three UVic alumni: 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 aluma 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 of Women. She holds a Master of Public Administration, to be awarded in

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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 neuroscience.

“We want our science to be shared, and we want it to be familiar,” says Zehr, who has authored three bestselling books: Inventing Ironman (2014), a fourth book, Becoming Superman: The Science and Technological Abilities of Superheroes (2017), and Project Superhero (2014), a fourth book, Something Superhuman, which 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.

“When a researcher presents their work at a café, it can be really exciting,” says Zehr. “People come out and they are routinely filled to capacity.”

“Winning this award is confirmation 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.”
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 oldest learned society, 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 Davenport and Kate Moran, president and CEO of Ocean Networks Canada, will co-chair the symposium. UVic marine biologist Julia Bauman 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 at: bit.ly/1CNYT7I.

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 Vegel and playwright Joan MacLeod. Cost for attending the café events is $35; students and 460 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 for general information on the UVic AGM visit bit.ly/RSC-AGM.

BY VALERIE SHORE

Whether they’re improving cancer treatments, motivating us to get off the couch to exercise, exploring the cosmos, or helping us 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. 26.

“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 research as a whole.”

The three new fellows join an elite club of more than 2,000 scholars elected by their peers for a lifetime of remarkable 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 teen-ager 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 emplatives that transform us. Among her many national achievements are the Governor General’s Award in Drama (1990) for Amigo’s Blue Guitar and the Toronto Star Prize in Theatre (2011).

Frank van Vegel (chemistry) is an internationally renowned expert in the study of new photonic nanomaterials—extremely small materials that interact with light—research which has applications in computing and telecommunications.

Van Vegel’s current research focuses on ways of using optical and magnetic nanoparticles to enhance diagnostics for prostate, breast and bowel cancer. Understanding the phenomena is important to increase the success of therapies, he says. “And getting better information about the accumula- tion 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, as well as those raised by cultural appropriation—the practice of bor- rowing from other cultures.

Young has authored five books, edited two more and written over 90 articles in refereed journals in fields as varied as philosophy, literature, archaeology, musicology and psychology.

“Who wouldn’t want to be a philo- sophier?” 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 do it.”

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

The new college members are:

Rhyan Rhodes (exercise science, physical and health education) is an internationally renowned exercise psychologist who studies the psychol- ogy of physical activity and sedentary behaviour. “We look at how to promote physi- cal activity and strategies to reduce the amount of time we spend sitting,” says Rhodes, noting that physical in- activity is associated with at least 25 chronic conditions including the big killers—cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

Over the past 13 years, Rhodes has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and 20 book chapters, and has contributed to key reports including the BC Physical Activity Strategy. Which outlines five-year action plan got physical activity promotion.

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

“Astrology is one of those very exciting sciences that appeals to many people because it allows us to under- stand the important questions of who we are and where we came from, and where the universe is ultimately going,” says Elliston.

Elliston 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.

The new college members are:

The winners are:

At the AGM, Ellison will also be presented with the 2014 Balfour Medal, which recognizes outstanding achievement in any branch of physics. Two other UVic faculty members also receive awards. Emeritus Profes- sor Jack Hodgins (writing) wins the 2014 Pierce Medal for his achieve- ments 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 lead- ing cosmologists, wins the 2015 Tory Medal for outstanding research.

Navarro has made groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of the formation of structure and galax- ies in the universe.

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, “Inconcealed and Unforgiven: Emotion, Virtue and the Political in Post-Confederation Mini Sota Moxie.” 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, human rights and the ontology of health, Indigenous political thought, solidarity politics, decolonization, historical injustice, and reparations for historical injustice. These converge in her dissertation on ‘unbelievers’ and ‘inconcealment’ in Mini Sota Moxie (Dakota Homeland).

Thi Hong Phong 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? Measuring Public Health Performance and Health Equity in the US and Canada.” Dang enrolled in UVic’s Equity in Public Health program to study health equity in BC. As a Fulbright scholar, Dang will further explore how accessibility, structures and measures influence core public health activities that impact health equity, using data from the 2012-2013 National Survey of Public Health Systems Instrument combined with demographic and health status surveillance data. The work has previously been recognized with the ELPIF Doctoral Fellowship, Academy Health Public Health Systems Research Student Scholarship, President’s Summer Award, Ontario Graduate Scholarship and the Haida Marnita Houston Graduate Scholarship.

Health information science PhD candidate Helen Miekkainen placed second in this year’s International Medical Informatics Association student paper competition, for a paper on ‘reducing patient safety working group. “We are very proud of Helen’s achievement,” said Elizabeth Borycki, associate professor with the school and the director 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.
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?**

“Building consensus around the direction of the institute. It’s taken some 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 in-house program has placed 84 students from the five PICS universities in a wide array of companies and NGOs in 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 downtown neighbours, the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. Our popular Climate News Scan offers a weekly analysis of major climate-change-related research, policy and events. We have all the pieces that help 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 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 the institute on Nov. 1, succeeding leading climate scientist, Tom Pedersen, whose term ended after six years. Seitzinger has also been appointed the chair of 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 under Tom’s leadership; 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 biogeochemical 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, 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 forests, water resources and rising sea levels.

“As executive director of PICS I’ll continue to advance the institute’s mandate to develop informed solutions 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

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 $870 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-optics.)

As ARC Director Kim Yen 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’s 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 Stacama 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 on the campus of UVic, launched its first Fall for Cultural History last month, which presented a small (but great) pop-up from the 1980s. The “Skull 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

Inspirating resilience recognized at convocation

BY MIKE MCMENELY

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

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

Skip Dick—through his decades of work in education and youth athlete development—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’ Views 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 1999, he was named Manager of the Year by the BC Lacrosse Association.

Captain Trevor Greene, Honorary Doctor of Education (DEd)

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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 entrepreneurship and 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 Uni- lever in Shanghai, Martens has been yearning to explore other avenues of international business.

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.

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

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

By Suzanne Ahearn

At first, she thought she was being punished when her father sent her up into the mountains. Bobyn 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 Penticon 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 grandmother’s about her dreams of seeing Sasquatch and of transforming into a sea creature with gifts 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. “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 draw 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.

“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: giftsforlearning.ca

Gifts of learning

"With my passions, 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.
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 Stazczomski (Environmental Studies)

FRANCA CONTINUED FROM P1

FRANCA

FRANCA—another anti-deficit at heart—says she prefers not to ask questions. “When I figure it out by myself, I re- member it and it’s inside of me and it creates a mental path to recall next time,” she says.

The only undergrad in her team at ANCF, she taught herself a coding lan- guage 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 com- mercial space, but when Franca reviewed for a co-op job there this spring, headquarters was the basement of CEO Warren Strome’s Sidney home—he had the air of Steve Jobs’ proverbial keg.

She moved to Vancouver when he was 12. Fluent in French, she also speaks German and Mandarin.

Fang’s experience at The Hague had a significant impact, encourag- ing 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 mental health team, representing patients who had been involun- tarily detained under BC’s Mental Health Act. “I interviewed patients and reviewed medical documents, and made submissions at mental health review boards on behalf of patients,” Fang recalls. “I also conducted direct and cross- examination of mental health 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 interna- tional and pro-bono experience with him into his current work as 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 be- yond 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.

Propelled by a passion for public service

BY JULIE SLOAN

Summarizing and reviewing court transcripts for the defence, analyzing evi- dence 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, Joachim Fang—who graduated this No- vember 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 intern- ship through his own efforts, understood the magnitude and im- portance of the work he was doing. “I was overwhelmed—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 was reviewing court transcripts for the defence team. I was also required to analyze evidence and disclosure from the prosecution to the defence.”

As a student of the law, the oppor- tunity to watch how trial counsel prepared and conducted direct and cross-examination 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, staff, and interns from every corner of the globe.”

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

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Convocation

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 FundKidz, 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.” Those interests led her to a co-op term at the Genome BC Protonetics 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 biotechnol- ogy 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 partic- ular 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 re- searchers work with cells in the future.

“Somehow, LeDoux also finds time to volunteer. “I have always balanced my school, and now work, with vol- unteer 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 stud- ies at UVic, LeDoux’s sights are set on medical school. “My experiences help- ing 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.

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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.
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. New graduating with a BFA (with distinction), Mathison spent the first five months of 2013 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 emotionally from her time overseas. “It was invaluable to learn from them, and then try to implement it back here—learning how to roll the punches instead of letting everything stress me out.”

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 Alan 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 UVic,” Chair of UVic Germanic and Slavic Studies Prof. Karen Gabler to the recent Broadway hit Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.

By Tara Sharpe

“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.”

“Go on exchanges!” she says with a quick laugh. “Go to Bangkok”

Rowan Meredith misses the rain. The Slavic studies major, who graduates from UVic in November with the highest GPA in her faculty, has trudged through 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 was the 2012 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 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 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 Phillip University in Marburg, Germany.

Chair of UVic Germanic and Slavic Studies Prof. 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—although Meredith does exceptionality 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.

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Call it learning 360.
When writing professor Mau- non Bradley teaches digital media for storytellers, her venue is a de- partment from the typical university lecture hall no podium, desk seat- ing or front of the classroom.

Indeed, tables with roller-wheel chairs line the room, with a multi- media teaching island in the centre. Each table is a five-student pod, equipped with a 48-inch wireless video screen, audio speakers, lap- top 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 on the ‘stage’.”

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

“There are some really interest- ing ways to disseminate infor- mation 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

Technology bends the academic curve to promote dynamic learning

BY PAUL MARCK

This year, a week-long celebration in sunny Ottawa marked the formal conclusion of a six-year nation-wide process. June 2015 brought the unveil- ing 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 re- search. Social media was ubiquitous—but peo- ple were moved, and paying attention.

As summer’s lull rolled in, my mind began to wander, and to not forget about this “Call to Action 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 intent of introducing this history to undergraduate students in creative

CONTINUED FROM P.1

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

Ownining our shared commitments

Robina Thomas, the Director of Indig- enous Academic and Community Engagement at UVic, hopes all Cana- dians 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 communi- ties 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 Commis- sion 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 “champi- ons” to each call to action, so respon- sibility 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 in Indig- enous communities, be leaders in reconciliation, create opportunities for Indigenous students, integrate Indigenous knowledge, perspectives and worldviews into curricula, pro- grams 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 recommen- dations made and many of the ways of thinking about engaging with our students and with Indigenous com- munities are ones we are already in practice,” says Ermine Mateer, associate vice-president of academic planning at UVic.

Says UVic Provost2 Valerie Kuehne: “the report reaffirmed the responsibil- ity of universities in closing the gaps in education for Indigenous students 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 op- portunities between Indigenous and academic knowledge—in academic programs and research partnerships alike.

“Indigenous education and a com- mitment to working with Indigenous communities are essential elements of the university’s strategic plan,” Matarie says.

That commitment has led to a more than-tenfold increase in Indig- enous student enrollment since 2000. In 2016, UVic’s Indigenous enrollment included 794 undergraduates and 212 graduate 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 lead- ers 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 established a focus on Indigenous law in 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 dis- tance education programs allow Indig- enous students to achieve their goals without having to leave their home communities—including ground-breaking programs in child and youth care, nursing and the Akiskalq law school in Nanaimo.

(See more of UVic’s Indigenous focus commitments bit.ly/uvic-focus)

Cassels also noted “the inspiration of the TRC recommendations is timely and welcome,” as the university devel- ops its first Indigenous Academic Plan. UVic’s academic leaders are also re- viewing the TRC to see how they can continue to provide Indigenous education and support Indigenous students and communities.

The 2016 Provost’s Diversity Conference, on Jan. 20-22, will feature presentations and workshops on address understand- ing, reconciliation, and ways to move forward.
calendarchecklist

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

Exhibit. *Myths of the Mind: Fifteenth Century Landscape Engravings and Mythological Imagery, 1508–1572.* Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

**WHAT TO DO**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12**


Friday, 19:00 p.m. Friday night fun: program details will be posted on the UVic Unions website. UVIC Union, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

Lecture. 1 p.m. The Indigenous Child Welfare System and the Sproat Lake Story: A history of how and why Indigenous children were removed from their families, and the strategies that helped them succeed. Sproat Lake Residential School, Duncan. 250-721-8000

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

Music. 20:30 p.m. Pop quiz concert series: Labyrinth String Quartet. UVic’s acclaimed quartet-in-residence. MacLaurin B125. Tickets $20-

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

Lecture. 1 p.m. The Warm Strait of Georgia: How Big is the Problem and What Can We Do About It? Craig Williams (Univ. of Illinois). Strong Bldg. C116. 250-721-8514

Music. 20:00 p.m. Texana. University of Victoria. UVic, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

Lecture. 12:30 p.m. Musicology and Performance: The Art of Collaboration. Craig Scott (University of Victoria). UVIC Union, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562


Music. 19:00 p.m. Friday night fun: program details will be posted on the UVic Unions website. UVIC Union, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19**


Music. 19:30 p.m. Friday night fun: program details will be posted on the UVic Unions website. UVIC Union, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

Lecture. 12:30 p.m. Fridaynight Fun: Musicology and Performance: The Art of Collaboration. Craig Scott (University of Victoria). UVIC Union, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

Lecture. 20:45 p.m. Myths and Mythology. Discussing fifty-odd knowl-
The university’s his 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 the Croatian (Stó:lo) community, a member of the Salish Tribes in Washington, and has traced her roots to the Nes Perce Tribe in Idaho.

For ISSC’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.”

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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 knowledge holders of oral history and research of historical documents has been immersing students every second spring since 1996 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 Naxaxalhts’i (whose European name from Yale to Langley. The area now called the Fraser River Valley and Fraser River Canyon was home to Naxaxalhts’i (whose European name is Dr. Albert “Sonny” McHalsie, the educator and Stó:lō– cultural advisor and co-teacher Keith Carlson (USask), points out it is the student’s reflection that can be seen in the mirrored surface of his glasses.

The urgency of time passing is reflected in the gravity of the last topic. “We have a list of various Elders and frontier 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 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.

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