



THE RING

JANUARY 2016
The University of Victoria's
community newspaper
ring.uvic.ca



University
of Victoria

SPEED
READING

INFORMATION SESSION

Jan. 13 Campus Update

The next campus update session will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 13 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall (MacLaurin B125). Vice-President Academic and Provost Valerie Kuehne, Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill and Vice-President External Relations Carmen Charette will provide updates on strategic processes happening across campus including the Indigenous Academic Plan, Strategic Research Plan, the financial outlook for 2016/17, internal communications and the UVic Edge. There will be opportunities to ask questions of the presenters and participate in discussion about the university's initiatives.

WEBSITE UPDATE

A fresh look for uvic.ca

Starting on Jan. 19, the UVic home page and audience landing pages will be sporting a new look—updated to better serve our audiences and to visually embody The UVic Edge. More details on page 2.



Pearson at the SISCAPA lab. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

75+

NUMBER OF HIGH-
TECH START-UP
COMPANIES
EMERGING FROM
UVIC

Just one drop: simplifying blood tests

A small six-person team of scientists and lab technicians is leading a global revolution in medical diagnostics—from right here, in Victoria.

BY ERIN KING

Healthy or not, all of us at some time have been subjected to one of the most common forms of medical diagnostics—the dreaded blood test. But what if there was a way to avoid this uncomfortable process?

A team of researchers based at UVic is poised to revolutionize medical diagnostics with new, less-invasive methods that

can be applied to a variety of diseases and wellness monitoring.

With the current system for disease diagnosis, each biomarker test—which refers to measurements of specific proteins in the blood associated with specific diseases—requires large, separate blood draws. Now, UVic biochemists Terry Pearson and Leigh Anderson, along with their start-up company SISCAPA Assay Technologies Inc., have developed a technique that can measure more than 25 different biomarkers at once in just one drop of dried blood.

“This is a far more efficient and economical method for the health care system,

and has the added benefit of being far less invasive for the patient,” says Pearson.

SISCAPA's core technology has already been adopted by the Mayo Clinic and ARUP Labs in the US—and the company is exploring similar opportunities in Canada, China and Europe.

Individuals can prepare their dried blood spots at home and accumulate samples—eventually sending them to a lab where doctors or scientists can monitor the patient's baseline levels of various biomarkers over time.

SEE SISCAPA P. 5

2016 PROVOST'S DIVERSITY RESEARCH FORUM

A wealth of critical conversations

BY JOANNE MCGACHIE

As Grace Wong Sneddon works on final details of the upcoming Provost's Diversity Research Forum, (Jan. 21–22) she marvels at where the time has gone. “It's hard to believe this will be the ninth forum we've held,” she says. “Each year I think we can't top the last, and each year I'm proven wrong.”

The 2008 inaugural forum, simply titled *Critical Conversations about Diversity*, was conceived from the desire to bring together UVic faculty, staff and students to explore, discuss and participate in how research can benefit the social justice movement in areas such as gender, race, faith, sexuality and Indigenous culture.

“We put that first conference together on a wing and a prayer,” recalls Advisor to the Provost on Equity and Diversity Wong Sneddon, who has chaired the forum's committee from the beginning. “But the feedback was incredibly positive. People within and outside of UVic wanted to know more

about how our research can, and does, benefit the broader community, as well as making our campus more welcoming and inclusive.”

Preparations for the annual conference begin several months in advance, and the first challenge is to identify a theme. Working with as broad a canvas as “diversity,” there is never a lack of options. Past conferences have focused on such themes as living social justice; privilege and prejudice in the learning environment; and arts, allies and activism.

“We want a theme that ties the conference together,” Wong Sneddon says, “but we ensure the theme is then discussed within the contexts of gender, race, spirituality, sexuality and Indigenous culture. That's where the conversations come to life.”

The planning committee didn't have to look too far for the theme of this year's conference. The recent release of the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission report provided the obvious springboard to explore the relationships between

people of different cultures and backgrounds.

“This year, the ‘critical conversation’ of our forum is ‘Reconciliation and Resurgence.’ The focus will be on creating an engaging space to learn more about our relationships with each other as settlers, international students, immigrants, refugees, visitors and Indigenous people,” Wong Sneddon says.

The forum begins on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 21 in First Peoples House, with keynote speaker UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, a committed advocate for reconciliation between Canada's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and an Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Chancellor's speech will be followed by the Victoria premiere of *Mia*—a short animated film that challenges the format of conventional documentaries, presenting Indigenous oral traditions as truth rather than legend.

SEE DIVERSITY FORUM P. 5



One of the artworks from the Port Alberni Residential School art project, which will be on view as part of the Provost's Diversity Research Forum.

ringers

Local artist and chief of the ‘Namgis First Nation **Rande Cook** has been named the 2016 Audain Professor of Contemporary Arts of the Pacific Northwest. A rising force in the West Coast’s contemporary Indigenous art scene, the Alert Bay-born multidisciplinary artist has studied and exhibited across Canada, the US and Europe. During his time at UVic’s Department of Visual Arts, Cook will be working with students on a public art project dedicated to missing and murdered Indigenous women. As well as specific carving techniques and teachings that bridge contemporary and traditional indigenous art practices, Cook’s students will learn about the importance of this issue and be encouraged to develop their own work in relation to these teachings.

Reuven Gordon (electrical and computer engineering) has been elected as a 2016 Fellow of the Optical Society of America, honouring his innovative optics work on light at the nanoscale. Gordon is the Canada Research Chair in Nanoplasmonics—the study of how light behaves in the presence of tiny metal structures. He works with light beams and apertures a million times narrower than the smallest camera aperture to trap and manipulate nanoparticles such as viruses, proteins and single molecules. Gordon’s biomedical research has the potential to advance the pace of drug development and cancer detection.

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Wider rotating banners

What makes UVic different

News and social media story grid

UVic website update

Beginning Jan. 19, the UVic home page and main audience landing pages will have a new, cleaner look and feel. Top-of-page banner images will be larger (full-browser-width on the front page), and tile-based navigation will help promote news and social media together on the main page. Current faculty and staff should continue to use uvic.ca/current-faculty-staff/ as their home page.

Board of Governors 2016

The University of Victoria Board of Governors is one of two primary governing bodies of the university (the other being the UVic Senate). The board is responsible for the management, administration and control of the property, revenue and business affairs of the university.

The board consists of the chancellor, the president, two elected faculty members, one elected staff member, two students elected from the university’s undergraduate or graduate student societies and eight members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. New members who have joined the Board for 2015-2016 include:

DAPHNE CORBETT
Order-in-council appointee

Daphne Corbett is an independent businessperson with over 20 years experience in the financial industry. From 1981 to 2003, Corbett worked in various senior and executive positions with HSBC Bank including head of audit Canada, head of audit Latin America with HSBC Brazil, senior vice-president BC Region, and senior vice-president and business manager wealth at Tax Advisory Services in San Francisco. She served as a director of emergency communications for Southwest BC Incorporated for seven years and as its chair from 2008 to 2010. She has been an independent director of Pulse Seismic Inc., a TSX-listed company, since June 2004 and is Chair of its Audit Committee. She was appointed to the board of the Royal BC Museum in July 2011 and chairs its finance committee.

CATHY WHITEHEAD MCINTYRE
Order-in-council appointee

Cathy Whitehead McIntyre is Principal of Strategic Initiatives, a Victoria marketing research firm. Her background includes more than 25 years of sales, marketing and communications management experience, and more than 15 years of board service. A chartered director (CDir), Ms. McIntyre currently chairs the board of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation and serves on the boards of Peninsula Co-op and the Canadian Arthritis Society. She is a former director of the United Way of Greater Victoria, the United Way of Canada and the CMA Society of BC, among others. She is a past president of the UVic Alumni Association and recently completed a three-year term as a convocation senator on UVic’s academic Senate. She was acknowledged as one of UVic’s “50 Alumni Who Made a Difference” in 2013 and received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

BRONTË RENWICK-SHIELDS
Elected student member

Brontë Renwick-Shields is in her fourth year of a political science degree at UVic. She is currently serving as the chairperson of the UVSS. In her time at UVic she has been involved in the Colonial Legacies Field School in South Africa, spent a year studying abroad at the University of East Anglia and previously was the culture editor for the *Martlet*. Renwick-Shields is dedicated to student issues on- and off-campus including advocating for accessible post-secondary education, mental health and affordable housing.





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2015 Co-op Students of the Year

Each year, UVic’s Co-operative Education Program and Career Services recognize three co-op students who have made outstanding achievements in their academic achievement, workplace performance and community involvement. The 2015 Co-op Students of the Year are:

FRANCIS CHARBONNEAU
(electrical engineering)



Francis Charbonneau is passionate about making the world a better place. The fourth-year electrical engineering student has completed six co-op work terms with organizations committed to sustainability and renewable energy. His most recent two work terms were with SgurrEnergy as a renewable energy consultant. In addition to managing projects assessing wind resource and power performance of wind turbine generators, Charbonneau provided technical reviews of wind farm cabling, compiled risk matrix reports for various projects and was involved with assessing wind resources at proposed and operational wind farm sites. He did such a good job that he was offered a full-time position with SgurrEnergy after graduation.

AINSLEIGH HILL
(physics and biochemistry)



Although Ainsleigh Hill is only 19 years old, she’s demonstrated a passion for problem solving and an aptitude for science well beyond

her years. After graduating from high school at 16, Hill followed her love of math and science to UVic, where she is pursuing a degree in physics and biochemistry. For her first two co-op work terms, she joined the bioinformatics team at the BC Cancer Agency’s Terry Fox Laboratory, and immediately impressed her co-op supervisor by teaching herself how to program in C++ and R within a week—skills that come in handy when her team analyzes mass cytometry data for B Cell lymphoma using computer algorithms. Hill quickly proved herself able to brainstorm as an equal with the postdocs and bioinformaticians on the team. When a standard mathematical expression commonly used to measure data was yielding inappropriate values, she was able to modify the expression to remedy the issue—the new expression is now referred to as the “Ainsleigh index.” Her contributions to the team will earn her authorship on at least two papers next year.

KARLEY SKARET
(business)



Learning through work experience was a key factor in Karley Skaret’s decision to attend the Gustavson School of Business. She knew that the mandatory co-op program would give her the opportunity to apply theory in real-life workplaces, and with two co-op work terms under her belt, she has already learned a lot. Her first work term was with Calgary Wildfire Management, where she organized events to promote the Government of Alberta’s Sustainable Resource Development and created an organizational system to track and manage the office’s promotional material. Last summer, she was hired as an office accounting clerk with RGO Office Products, and was quickly promoted to work on a strategically important business processes improvement project. Skaret was tasked with mapping internal processes, reporting areas of improvement and developing solutions to help guide the strategic direction of the company.

Full stories: bit.ly/coop-15

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Front row: Dr. Catherine Mateer and College of the Rockies Vice-President Academic and Applied Research Stan Chung. Behind them are COTR Dean of Instruction Darrell Bethune, Director of Student Affairs Doris Silva and Dean of Instruction Jack Moes. PHOTO: COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES

A student pathway from the Kootenays to the Coast

Guaranteed admission agreement provides access to UVic undergraduate studies for students already enrolled at College of the Rockies.

Last December, UVic signed two agreements with the College of the Rockies (COTR) on guaranteed student admissions.

The partnership guarantees admission for COTR students after their second year to complete their degree programs at UVic. The dual-admission agreement allows high-school graduates to apply for admission at both institutions through a single application. Those accepted for dual admission are guaranteed seats in select degree programs at UVic after successfully completing their first two years at COTR.

The guaranteed admission agreement provides access to UVic undergraduate studies for students already enrolled at COTR.

Catherine Mateer, UVic associate vice president for academic planning, says the agreements benefit students and institutions both.

“The University of Victoria is delighted to build on its longstanding partnership with College of the Rock-

ies in developing new innovative admission agreements providing more accessible degree pathways for students in southeastern BC.”

UVic’s experience has shown BC college-trained students are well prepared to succeed in university life. The ability to transfer to UVic from COTR also enables college students to save money by living at home and working towards their goals, Mateer says.

“At College of the Rockies, we recognize that each student has their own path to follow when pursuing post-secondary education, and we are committed to creating new opportunities for students in the East Kootenay region to reach their goals,” says College of the Rockies President and CEO David Walls. “These new agreements give our students additional options to continue to succeed.”

Most UVic undergraduate programs in sciences, the humanities and social sciences are included in the agreements.

Gift from Sisters of St. Ann builds UVic Youth in Care award

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

Tuition waivers for up to 15 students each year for those from government care

Lilia Zaharieva whispers her question with genuine awe. “They gave how much?” she asks, hearing about the \$2-million donation from the Sisters of St. Ann earmarked for the University of Victoria’s Youth in Care award. As a recipient herself, she knows firsthand the life-altering significance of such generosity.

“What an amazing gift to give,” she says. “What fantastic help.”

Zaharieva is in her second year of the bachelor program with the School of Child and Youth Care at UVic. She is dedicated to learning due in large part to her drive, her mother’s influence and a determination to not be defined by a difficult upbringing.

Zaharieva is fascinated by the sisters’ long history of educating and caring for children, many orphaned or in need of care. She also hopes to study the sisters’ earlier work across BC.

Sisters established schools and hospitals

From their arrival in Victoria in 1858, the Sisters of St. Ann led the way educating and providing relief to the most vulnerable to deliver quality education and health care. The Roman Catholic women’s order dedicated themselves to establishing schools and hospitals across the province, freely providing these services to underprivileged new Canadians and Indigenous peoples.

“This generous gift from the Sisters of St. Ann is a legacy that will enable disadvantaged youth to pursue their life’s dreams through higher education,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “The sisters have ministered to community needs in BC for more than 150 years. The University of Victoria enjoys a long history with the Sisters of St. Ann and we are privileged to further their mission to educate young people who would not otherwise have access to post-secondary education.”

Gift to benefit many students

Heartened by kindness, Zaharieva knows this gift will help more students benefit from the UVic tuition waiver, just as she has done.



Lilia Zaharieva. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Zaharieva was moved into foster care at the age of 14. Born with cystic fibrosis, she was prone to respiratory infections due to a diminishing lung capacity, requiring special care. She also depends on medication to address an enzyme imbalance that interferes with her body’s ability to absorb nutrients from food.

Zaharieva was relocated to five different homes over four years of foster care. Frequently confronted by what she calls the shaming, invisible “foster child stigma,” Zaharieva now advocates for those in or from government care, and dedicates time “strategizing to eradicate the stigma of mental illness through education, outreach, and strategic partnerships.”

Zaharieva has been recognized for community activism, and is deeply focused on “building strength and taking action.” Like her mother, whom she visits often, Zaharieva wants to learn and continue to grow by helping others.

Sisters’ links with UVic

The Sisters of St. Ann have helped advance health and education at UVic since the early days of the university and former Victoria College. Many Sisters are alumnae. One was a faculty member of UVic’s initial School of Nursing—the first in the city. The sisters created endowments for teaching and nursing students, donated property, and over the years built lasting friendships with many UVic leaders, professors, and faculty members.

“We share many values and convictions and have similar concerns for the world,” says Sister Marie Zarowny, provincial leader of the Sisters of St. Ann. “As we looked at

our future, we made decisions to divest and sell property while still seeing to our own,” Zarowny says of the 36 sisters in BC, most in their senior years.

“Our vow of poverty means that once our needs are provided for, everything else we have goes to serve those who are poor and vulnerable in our society, in response to our founding mission.” A discerning approach, Zarowny adds, guides their allocation on who might best administer these funds. UVic is among the most trusted and the sisters see the university as a partner who helps others “grow into the fullness of life.”

Pilot project launched program

Youth who have been in government care often have few financial resources. Two years ago, UVic provided \$100,000—matched by a private donation—that established a pilot program for youth in care. This commitment was in response to a challenge from BC’s Representative for Child and Youth to provide tuition waivers for students who have difficulty paying for post-secondary studies. The fund provided tuition waivers for an initial five students.

“Knowing that someone has invested in me, in my life, and in my future just makes me want to bring that gift forward,” says Zaharieva.

Last year UVic provided more than \$18 million in direct financial support to students, including \$7.8 million in undergraduate scholarships and more than \$2.4 million in undergraduate and graduate bursaries.

The University of Victoria extends its sincere gratitude to the Sisters of St. Ann for their generous gift.



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| Total Payout to Age 100 | \$154,509 | \$144,878 | \$136,016 | \$126,326 | \$120,161 | \$111,860 |

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| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------|--|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| Income over 5 years | | \$1,453 | | Total 5 year payout | | \$104,689 |
| Income over 10 years | | \$838 | | Total 10 year payout | | \$110,664 |
| Income over 15 years | | \$608 | | Total 15 year payout | | \$116,852 |

* Based on best current GIC of 2.32%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle. Monthly income based on \$100,000

LIFE ANNUITIES (PER CANNEX BASED ON INITIAL INVESTMENT OF \$100,000)

| AGE | 55 | 60 | 65 | 71 | 75 | 80 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Male | | | | | | |
| ...payments cease at death | \$446 | \$494 | \$565 | \$692 | \$808 | \$1,012 |
| ...10 years guaranteed | \$450 | \$492 | \$558 | \$643 | \$699 | \$812 |
| Female | | | | | | |
| ...payments cease at death | \$432 | \$451 | \$506 | \$613 | \$705 | \$881 |
| ...10 years guaranteed | \$433 | \$455 | \$504 | \$591 | \$652 | \$761 |
| Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed | \$400 | \$416 | \$466 | \$531 | \$587 | \$689 |

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around the ring

Mental health matters

The next UVic Student Mental Health Initiative event—“From surviving to thriving: increasing positive mental health on our campus”—will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 19, from 4-6 p.m. in the Bob Wright Centre. Chancellor Shelagh Rogers will emcee the event that will feature keynote speaker Dr. Shimi Kang—mental health specialist, award-winning doctor, researcher, best-selling author and popular TEDx speaker—plus a personal reflection by UVic student and Olympic medalist Gillian Carleton. Open to all students, staff and faculty. No charge, no registration required.

New Campus Plan nearly complete

The ‘i’s are being dotted and the ‘t’s are being crossed as the Campus Plan update draws to a conclusion following a year of planning, consultations, public engagement, workshops, drafting and redrafting. The final plan has been prepared and a summary is available online at uvic.ca/campusplanning and at a drop-in information table on Jan. 13 in the University Centre lobby. UVic’s Board of Governors is scheduled to consider it for final approval at the end of January.

Foundation to consider fossil fuel-free fund

The University of Victoria Foundation continues to stay apprised of activities and initiatives at universities and other public bodies with respect to responsible investing and divesting of fossil fuel investments. At the foundation’s November board meeting, board members discussed the possibility of providing an option for donors to have their donations invested in a fossil fuel-free investment fund. In February, the foundation board will consider a detailed proposal for a pilot project to launch a fossil fuel-free fund for new donations.

Mapping the world’s precious groundwater

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

Groundwater is one of the planet’s most exploited, most precious natural resources. It ranges in age from months to millions of years old. Around the world, there’s increasing demand to know how much we have and how long before it’s tapped out.

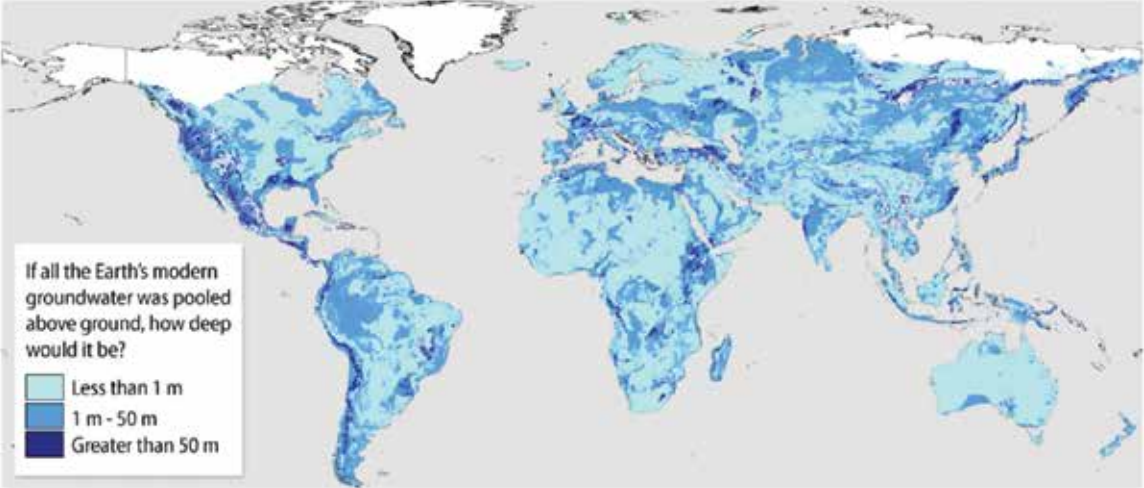
For the first time since a back-of-the-envelope calculation of the global volume of groundwater was attempted in the 1970s, an international group of hydrologists has produced the first data-driven estimate of the Earth’s total supply of groundwater. The study, led by UVic hydrogeologist Dr. Tom Gleeson with co-authors at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Calgary and the University of Göttingen, was published last November in *Nature Geoscience*.

The report shows that less than six per cent of groundwater in the upper two kilometres of the Earth’s landmass is renewable within a human lifetime.

“This has never been known before,” says Gleeson. “We already know that water levels in lots of aquifers are dropping. We’re using our groundwater resources too fast—faster than they’re being renewed.”

With the growing global demand for water—especially in light of climate change—this study provides important information to water managers and policy developers as well as scientists from fields such as hydrology, atmospheric science, geochemistry and oceanography to better manage groundwater resources in a sustainable way, he says.

Using multiple datasets (including data from close to a million watersheds), and more than 40,000 groundwater models, the study estimates a total volume of nearly 23 million cubic kilometres of total groundwater, of which 0.35 million cubic kilometres



is younger than 50 years old.

Why is it important to differentiate old from modern groundwater? Young and old groundwater are fundamentally different in how they interact with the rest of the water and climate cycles. Old groundwater is found deeper and is often used as a water resource for agriculture and industry. Sometimes it contains arsenic or uranium and is often more salty than ocean water. In some areas, the briny water is so old, isolated and stagnant it should be thought of as non-renewable, says Gleeson.

The volume of modern groundwater dwarfs all other components of the active water cycle and is a more renewable resource but, because it’s closer to surface water and is faster-moving than old groundwater, it’s also more vulnerable to climate change and contamination by human activities.

The study’s maps show most modern groundwater in tropical and mountain regions. Some of the largest deposits are in the Amazon Basin, the Congo, Indonesia, and in North

and Central America running along the Rockies and the western cordillera to the tip of South America. High northern latitudes are excluded from the data because satellite data doesn’t accurately cover these latitudes. Regardless, this area is largely under permafrost with little groundwater. The least amount of modern groundwater is not surprisingly in more arid regions such as the Sahara.

“Intuitively, we expect drier areas to have less modern groundwater and more humid areas to have more, but before this study, all we had was intuition. Now, we have a quantitative estimate that we compared to geochemical observations,” says Dr. Kevin Befus, who conducted the groundwater simulations as part of his doctoral research at the University of Texas and is now a post-doctoral fellow at the United States Geological Survey.

The next step in painting a full picture of how quickly we’re depleting both old and modern groundwater is to analyze volumes of groundwater in relation to how much is being used and depleted.

In a previous study that ultimately led to the investigation of modern groundwater, Gleeson’s 2012 groundwater footprint report in *Nature* mapped global hot spots of groundwater stress, charting rates of precipitation compared to the rates of use through pumping, mostly for agriculture. Some of these hot spots are northern India and Pakistan, northern China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and parts of the US and Mexico.

“Since we now know how much groundwater is being depleted and how much there is, we will be able to estimate how long until we run out,” says Gleeson. To do this, he will be leading a further study using a global scale model.

This story triggered significant media coverage around the world, including by the CBC, *USA Today* and the *LA Times*.

The global volume and distribution of modern groundwater: nature.com/articles/doi:10.1038/ngeo2590

STUDENT BLOG POST

Culture shock within your own country

BY ERIN COLQUHOUN

“I left my province for school because I wanted a change of pace and I got more change than I bargained for.”

When someone says culture shock, you likely think about going across the world to a country with languages and cuisines that are decidedly foreign.

But really, culture shock can come in many forms. Born and raised in Alberta, I grew up travelling to and from both the west and east coasts of Canada.

I’ll tell you something most Canadians probably know, and something most foreigners probably don’t: Canada is not a homogenous country. BC is different from the Prairies, different from the central region and different from the Maritimes. Leaving the Prairies to start my first year of university in Victoria came with an unexpected experience that can only be described as culture shock.

Like most first-years who aren’t from Victoria, I chose to live in residence. I was prepared to miss home, I was prepared to struggle with my newfound independence and I was



prepared to have difficulty balancing my course work. What I was not prepared for however, was for the differences between Victoria culture and Edmonton culture to be so significant.

Here is a quick list of some things I’ve noticed:

Attitudes toward the environment

Edmonton has a state-of-the-art recycling depot, but until now I’ve never experienced a level of commitment and encouragement for ethical approaches to preserving the environment.

Public transportation

Edmonton is landlocked, and we have trains in addition to buses. Also, Vancouver Island means ferries. Ferries!

Common abbreviations

This is mostly localized to the university, but things like CARSA (the gym), CL (community leaders in residence), and the SUB (student union building) take a hot minute to learn.

Weather

This is a biggie. The prairies have notoriously temperamental weather. The summers can heat up to +30°C and the winters can drop to -40°C. Also winter typically goes from October to

April. Victoria is much more temperate, even with the rain. For reference, it’s mid-November in Victoria as I’m writing, and it feels like mid-September in Edmonton, even before the chill hits.

As I said, I was prepared to be homesick, but I thought it would have more to do with missing my friends than missing the familiarity of local culture. The adjustment period probably took just over a month for me; it’s not always easy, and it really doesn’t need to be.

After I recognized *how* things were different and was able to *accept* those differences, I began to appreciate both cultures, here and back home. The distinct difference between Victoria and Edmonton wasn’t weighing on me as an impossible obstacle, but rather offered new perspectives and attitudes that encouraged me to rethink my own ideas and behaviours.

I left my province for school because I wanted a change of pace and I got more change than I bargained for. The best thing is, I always have my home culture to return to when I’m missing it, but now I have this new culture to be a part of as well.

I tell all my friends currently taking gap years that they simply *must* leave Alberta for university if they’re able because I think everyone should get a healthy dose of culture shock every now and again to shake things up.

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Top 10 stories of 2015



As UVic welcomes the start of another great year, we are also celebrating all the memorable moments and compelling stories of 2015.

Prosthetic devices for amputees in the developing world, a study of the Earth's hidden groundwater and a grad student who delved deep to defend his master's project were some of the many captivating UVic stories in 2015.

Here are just 10.

Immersion was the Edge for UVic grad student

At UVic, every student is immersed in dynamic learning. Mike Irvine took the UVic Edge to new depths to defend his master's project when he donned flippers and leapt into the Salish Sea, taking academia underwater.

3D technology brings better prosthetics within reach

UVic engineer Nikolai Dechev works with students in the Biomedical Design Lab to make low-cost 3D-printed prosthetic hands and get them to amputees in the developing world where they're needed the most.

CARSA is open to all

Just hours into the community tours of UVic's newly opened Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) in May 2015, every corner of the massive facility was filled with activity. Then, in September, Vikes fans passed for the first time through the recently unveiled Lynda and Murray Farmer Walk of Excellence for the first game in the new gym.

Ancient human footprints discovered on BC central coast

UVic archaeologists Duncan McLaren and Daryl Fedje, also researchers with the Hakai Institute, were digging for prehistoric stone tools and bones – only to discover what could be the oldest human footprints in North America.

ONC's 'most exciting' expedition yet—aboard the Nautilus

The “most exciting expedition” yet for Ocean Networks Canada involved two ships and a world-class team of experts (one of whom helped discover the Titanic) visiting eight underwater sites over three weeks in the Salish Sea and Pacific Ocean, measuring under-

water landslides, detecting whales, understanding ship noise, mapping the seafloor and more.

Are humans the ultimate predator?

Wildlife extinctions, shrinking fish sizes and disruptions to global food chains can largely be blamed on the world's ‘super predator’ – humans. A team led by UVic geographer Chris Darimont and biologist Tom Reimchen points to extreme human predatory behavior as a culprit.

Healing through connection: UVic responds to TRC recommendations

UVic has a long history of working in partnership with Indigenous communities and promoting reciprocal learning opportunities, and the university responded to heed the call to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A new UVic video also captured the resonance behind a decades-old collection of children's paintings.

Study is first to map Earth's hidden groundwater

A study led by UVic hydrogeologist Tom Gleeson produced the first data-driven estimate of the Earth's total supply of groundwater. The report shows that less than six per cent of groundwater is renewable within a human lifetime. (See facing page.)

A single drop of blood for medical diagnostics

A research team based at UVic and led by biochemists Terry Pearson and Leigh Anderson is poised to revolutionize medical diagnostics with a new method involving just one drop of blood. (See cover story, page 1)

Sisters of St. Ann gift creates \$2-million endowment

A \$2-million donation by the Sisters of St. Ann extends their legacy of educating those most in need with the creation of the UVic Youth in Care Student Award, which will cover tuition costs for up to 15 former youth in care students each year. (See page 3)

Complete stories, videos and links to media coverage at uvic.ca/top2015

DIVERSITY FORUM CONTINUED FROM P.1

The evening will also feature the presentation of the Provost's Advocacy and Activism Award, followed by the presentation of awards and readings from the Diversity Writing contest. Lastly, the winning entries of the Diversity Spoken Word contest will be performed.

The following day kicks off with the opening plenary: a discussion, critique and analysis of reconciliation and resurgence, from the perspectives, experiences and knowledge of key players within a post-secondary framework.

Over lunch, participants will be invited to view a collection of decades-old artwork from the Port Alberni Residential School Art project, led by UVic anthropologist Andrea Walsh and residential school survivor Wally Samuel.

Other sessions include:

- Applying Theatre to the University Classroom and Beyond
- Decolonizing Pedagogies
- Global and Indigenous Perspective on Mental Health
- Beyond Allyship: Solidarity in Action

Wong Sneddon loves the depth and range of the sessions and the passion of the presenters. “Each speaker gives us a gift of understanding and learning from their perspective. It's quite amazing.”

Every year, the conference inspires and impacts the people who attend, as well as those who plan it. One committee member, Paula Ceroni, manager of UVic's homestay program, has been involved in the forum since 2010. As a one-time international student herself, she knows the challenges faced by many students of diverse backgrounds, and the importance of finding places to meet people, share with others and feel welcomed.

“The diversity conference provides an inclusive space for international students and helps them feel they are not alone,” Ceroni says. “It allows them to have encounters with like-minded people and helps them identify allies on campus. It's amazing for making those needed connections.” (Read more about Ceroni in this month's *Day in the Life* column on page 8.)

Register for the Provost's Diversity Research Forum at uvic.ca/diversityforum (open to everyone and free of charge).

SISCAPA CONTINUED FROM P.1

The diagnostic potential of this new technology is limitless, says Pearson. For example, studies show that knowing the normal levels of a biomarker for ovarian cancer in a woman's blood is an effective tool for monitoring her health. But long-term monitoring is even better.

“Increases of the ovarian cancer biomarker over her baseline, not simply a comparison with the average levels in a population of women, will reveal changes—a flag that cancer might be present—much earlier on,” he says. “The same can be said for long-term monitoring of many other diseases as well.”

Not only does longitudinal testing allow earlier detection and monitoring of diseases such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, it also allows for monitoring of personal wellness. In fact, SISCAPA technology was used with Brazilian elite athletes during the 2015 PanAm Games to monitor a large set of biomarkers associated with training, stress and performance—work that will continue during the 2016 summer Olympics. Pearson says the technology will also allow individuals to monitor how a change in diet affects their overall health.

SISCAPA recently won the Human Proteome Organization's Science and Technology Award, which recognizes

the team's efforts in making the technology widely available. That's not bad for a small start-up company that's less than three years old.

SISCAPA was developed at UVic 13 years in partnership with Anderson in Washington DC and the company was officially formed in 2013. Undergraduate and graduate students were involved in much of the ongoing technology development, design and automation.

“Three of our six-person team are UVic alumni who started with us as students,” says Pearson “They're the ones who will ultimately usher in this exciting new era in medical diagnostics.”

The SISCAPA technology was developed from research supported by the Canary Foundation (California), the National Cancer Institute (US), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (Canada) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

At three years old, the SISCAPA lab is still relatively small—but it's not alone. It's just one of more than 75 start-up companies emerging from UVic that have helped push high-technology ahead of tourism as one of Greater Victoria's primary industries.

Full *Ring* story including video at bit.ly/one-drop-test

beyond the ring

BC degrees drive employment outcomes

There are no guarantees in an uncertain economy but the surest path to career success begins with a university education, according to a December study of student outcomes released by the Research Universities' Council of BC. The report underlines the importance of a university degree in today's economy, showing that graduates get the jobs they want, in the regions where they want to work, and are paid competitive salaries that escalate over the course of their careers. Key findings include:

- Two years after graduating, the median salary for the Class of 2012—the most recent surveyed—was \$50,000 per year, well above the average for other young people entering the workforce.
- 92 per cent of university graduates are satisfied or very satisfied with their education and 93 per cent give top marks to the quality of instruction they received.
- A significant majority of graduates from BC's regional research universities choose to stay in the communities where they were educated.

This report represents five years of data collected by BC Stats.

UK and US lead international student satisfaction, but Canadian enrolment is rising faster

A December report commissioned by the UK agency responsible for higher education shows that Canadian universities grew their international student cohorts at a faster pace than the UK, US, Australia, Germany or New Zealand from 2007-2014. Canada's 70 per cent growth rate led the US (52 per cent) and the UK (46 per cent) even though satisfaction was higher among those educated in the UK and US. Canada may be on the right path, however, with a steady rise in international student satisfaction since 2000.

More: bit.ly/uk-study-15

Two more U-Windsor residence halls to be demolished

The mounting costs of deferred maintenance are being cited for the decision to demolish two more residence halls at the University of Windsor. The university announced that Clark I and II residence buildings, built during the 1980s, are now slated to be taken down, following the October 2015 demolition of Electa Hall. The university said “the age of the buildings, the extensive nature of renovations needed, and the shifting demographics of students seeking residence accommodation” were driving forces behind the decision.

2015 United Way campaign a resounding success

BY CANDACE WOYWADA

Together, the UVic community has propelled the 2015 United Way campaign past its goal of \$269,000. As of Dec. 29, the tally of funds raised during the campaign was \$273,455—all made possible by the generous contributions of donors and supporters.

For the last six years, UVic has been the second-highest grossing United Way workplace campaign in the region. And cumulatively since 1994, UVic has raised a whopping \$4,246,314 for United Way Greater Victoria thanks to contributions from employees, retirees and students, and from events organized by members of the campus community.

“This is truly an amazing contribution,” says UVic Dean of Law Jeremy Webber, co-chair of the 2015 UVic United Way campaign. “The United Way helps people throughout our community: our friends, neighbours, often our co-workers. It has a direct impact on the quality of

people’s lives throughout the region.”

This year’s campaign featured many familiar campus events, like the Libraries Book Sale, as well as the first-ever Power Up the Tower event—where UVic President Jamie Cassels, senior administrators, deans and staff scaled the Peninsula Co-op Climbing Centre wall. Many units across campus also organized their own fundraising efforts as did numerous student groups, including the Engineering Students’ Society, Law Students’ Society, JDC (Jeux du Commerce) West, and Commerce Students’ Society. Combined, these fundraising efforts contributed over \$32,000 to the 2015 campaign.

The campaign’s success was also due in part to the support of UVic Retirees Association members, who contributed nearly \$19,000 toward the campaign total.

The 2015 UVic United Way campaign is formally over, but the community is encouraged to make a gift to United Way Greater Victoria any time of year.



United Way campaign kickoff event. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Only taste can tell

Popular culture steps into the spotlight with 2016 Southam Lecturer

BY JOHN THRELFALL

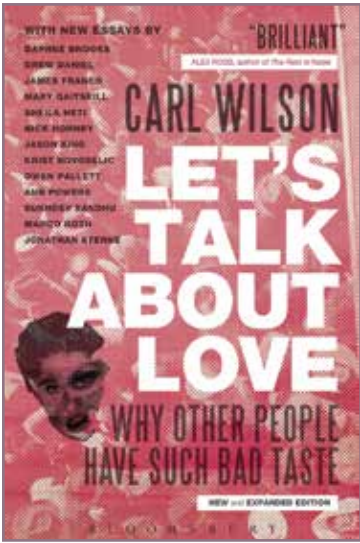
When it comes to writing about popular culture, Carl Wilson’s heart will always go on. As a music critic for *Slate* and *Billboard* magazines, Wilson is deeply passionate about the impact music can have on everyone’s lives—but it’s also because his book about Céline Dion struck a chord that rivaled the power of love.

It’s all coming back to us now

Originally published in 2007, Wilson’s *Let’s Talk About Love: A Journey to the End of Taste* deftly deconstructed Céline Dion’s dichotomous popularity and vilification. *Let’s Talk About Love* prompted readers to second-guess what they like and dislike, and to really consider what they value or scorn.

“Different forms of culture are lenses through which we can look at our lives and society,” says Wilson. “It’s more about engaging in dialogue with the work than a knee-jerk thumbs-up/thumbs-down reaction. When you’re writing about music or movies or books, you can write about anything; it potentially encompasses all experience.”

As the 2016 Harvey Stevenson Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Nonfiction for the Department of Writing, Wilson will be offering students the benefit of his experience as a contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Pitchfork*, *The Nation*, *Exclaim!*, *Spin* and others—including nearly 15 years as a feature writer and editor at *The Globe and Mail*.



“One of the reasons I like to work in pop culture is that it’s a more immediately accessible and relatable form,” he says. “Whether or not you’re deeply versed in the history of those forms, it’s a medium you have direct access to that works as a conversation with other people through this common experience of popular culture.”

This course will go on

With his class running in the winter semester and a public lecture planned for the end of February, Wilson intends his course to be “a collective workshop on approaches to critical writing about popular culture. It will be really hands-on—I want the students to read a lot of things that will give them ideas and then try to put those ideas into practice.”

Reprinted in 2014 as a stand-alone edition subtitled “Why Other People Have Such Bad Taste,” *Let’s Talk About Love* now includes additional essays by the likes of novelists Nick Hornby and Sheila Heti, musicians

Owen Pallett and Krist Novoselic (Nirvana), cultural critics Ann Powers and Sukhdev Sandhu, scholars Daphne A. Brooks and Jonathan Sterne, and many others. And while not quite as popular as Dion herself, Wilson’s book has sparked debates about taste in the music-writing community as well as on blogs and podcasts, in cultural studies departments and across the media—from *The Village Voice* to *The Colbert Report*. It even got a shout-out from actor James Franco on the red carpet at the 2009 Oscars.

Wilson does admit to being “kind of excited and scared” about teaching. “I feel like academia was the shadow life I never had,” he says. “I intended to stay in school, but that never happened. But a lot of the work I do is academically informed—I read a lot of cultural studies, because a lot of the questions that interest me are broad theoretical questions and to do that work you have to know what’s been done before, and what you can add to that.”

Of course, it helps that *Let’s Talk About Love* has become academically popular. “One of the really surprising things is how much it’s been adopted as an academic text,” he says. “It’s been taught in a lot of places and courses have been designed around it, which I never considered at all when I wrote it. But I’ve spent a lot of time in classrooms over the past few years because of that.”

The big question, then, is whether or not he’ll be using his own book in class. “I’m still deciding,” he says with a laugh. “It’s slightly hubristic to make your own text required reading—but, on the other hand, it does deal with the same questions we’ll be dealing with in the course.”

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Coal extraction in Tumbler Ridge, BC. PEACE PHOTOGRAPHIC, COURTESY OF PICTURE BC

A closer look at the fossil fuel industry

Who is steering fossil fuel extraction in Western Canada and what influence do they wield?

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Questions about the fossil fuel industry’s reach and influence are driving a six-year research and public engagement initiative, *Mapping the Power of the Carbon-Extractive Corporate Resource Sector*, with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The project brings together researchers, civil society organizations and Indigenous participants to study the oil, gas and coal industries in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

“We’ve seen a rapid acceleration of fossil fuel extraction in recent years,” says Dr. Bill Carroll, UVic professor of sociology and co-director of the partnership. “Yet our knowledge of the companies involved and how they influence decision-making about our publicly owned carbon resources is remarkably sparse.”

“Over the coming year, we’ll be taking a close look at who the key players are in these industries—the companies themselves, but also the many industry associations that work to influence the decisions Canadians and our governments make about oil, gas and coal resources,” says Shannon Daub, who co-directs the partnership on behalf of Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, BC.

“There are dozens of industry groups to look at, some better known to the public, like the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and others that most people have never heard of, that form a powerful lobby for fossil fuel interests,” says Daub.

Hosted by UVic, the partnership is jointly led by the university, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

(CCPA) BC and Saskatchewan offices and the Parkland Institute at the University of Alberta. In addition to the \$2.5-million SSHRC award, the project is also supported by \$2 million in matching contributions.

The partnership’s work will focus in four key areas:

A systematic mapping of how the carbon-extractive industry is organized—which companies are involved, who runs them, who owns them and how they connect to broader international corporate networks.

Analysis of the sector’s influence on public debates and policy making—such as efforts to secure social license, and corporate links to governments, political parties, lobby groups and private foundations.

Case studies of contentious “flash-points”—such as the expansion or development of new mines, pipelines, oil fields or export facilities.

Development of an open source, publicly accessible corporate database—along with a training program for citizens and civil society groups, many of whom will contribute and update data.

“Canadians know how much economic power the fossil-fuel energy sector wields, but we don’t have that much knowledge of the actual way power is organized within that sector, and how the sector wields influence over other aspects of Canadian society, such as lobbying, media and education,” says Carroll.

“We are at a climate crossroads,” says Trevor Harrison, director of the Parkland Institute. “The decisions we make today about what to do with our remaining oil and gas resources will have consequences for generations to come.” Adds Simon Enoch, director of the CCPA’s Saskatchewan office, “It is vital that we make these decisions democratically—and that requires transparency and a level playing field.”

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.** *Celebrating W.B. Yeats* at 150. Until Jan. 18. Exhibition explores William Butler Yeats’ (1865–1939) 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. 250-721-8247

■ **Exhibit.** *PRAXIS: Studio/Classroom*. Jan. 16 to Feb. 5. Current work by art educators from UVic. Approximately 20 art educators are featured in the exhibition. Teaching in studio areas as diverse as ceramics, digital arts, sculpture and photography, the studio work is rich and varied. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2 p.m. *Modern Math in Medieval Islamic Architecture*. Peter J. Lu (Harvard). MacLaurin D110. 250-472-4271

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

■ **UVic Campus Plan.** UVic is unveiling the new Campus Plan—learn all about it and enjoy some treats at the info booth in University Centre Lobby. 250-507-7361

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *The Scarlet Ox and the Black Madonna: Exploring Italy’s Modern Festivals and their Creative Histories*. CSRS Artist-in-residence Annabel Howard will read from her manuscript. HSD A240

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic*. (Also Jan. 22 & 29.) Enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students. Admission by donation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

■ **Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Lieder at Lunch: Selections from Hugo Wolf’s Italienisches Liederbuch*. Sharon Krebs, soprano, and Harald Krebs (UVic), piano. MacLaurin B037. 250-721-7904

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 11:30 a.m. *Political Dimensions of Indigenous Place Names: Resurgence in the Era of Aboriginal Title*. Brian Thom (UVic). CLE D132. 250-721-6634

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *Satirizing the Sacred in Early Modern Art: The Power of Humor in the Cult of Saint Joseph*. Anne Williams (U-Virginia). HSD A240

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 12 p.m. *Southin Lecture*. Prof. Emeritus Hamar Foster (UVic) will give the Southin Lecture discussing Aboriginal title and treaty cases in BC, Yukon and Ontario. Fraser 158



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day in the life

BY JOANNE MCGACHIE

Paula Ceroni probably knows how to say “hello” and “welcome” in more languages than just about anyone else on campus. That’s one of the perks of her job in the English Language Centre, managing UVic’s homestay program. Each year the program places over 1,600 students from as many as 30 countries into 600 host families (and they are always looking for more hosts).

“I love my job!” says Ceroni. “I love the people I work with, the level of creativity my work affords me, and how quickly we can implement new ideas.”

The work is very diverse, Ceroni notes. “I get to work with students of all levels, teachers, staff and community members. And each day is varied—no two are the same.

“I spend a lot of my time doing interviews of prospective hosts, so I get to meet community members I wouldn’t otherwise meet, and visit them in their homes. Actually, that’s another perk of this job: I get lots of great remodelling ideas by visiting homes, and I keep discovering new neighbourhoods—little gems of Victoria.”

Ceroni says she is constantly amazed at the level of enthusiasm and commitment of the host families and individuals. “These are people who genuinely want to meet others and have a meaningful exchange. They’re perfect strangers thrown together to live as family, which can be hard, but I’m in awe of how our hosts make connections with their

students, and build relationships that last long past the placement.”

The work is not always easy though, Ceroni says. “Sometimes we have to do some conflict resolution between our hosts and students. Often, they’re dealing with cultural misunderstandings or miscommunication, especially if there’s a language barrier. And sometimes we’re faced with more serious issues such as accidents, assaults or mental health concerns.”

Having been an international student herself—from Chile—Ceroni knows a lot about the difficulties that students can face when coming to UVic from another country. When she began working on campus, she

was interested in finding ways to help students share their experiences about choosing a university from abroad and coming to Canada.

“There are so many challenges our international students can face, from creating community to the academic,” she says. “Feeling like you belong in a place is paramount in making or breaking your educational experience.”

The desire to help international students deal with issues of diversity and inclusivity led Ceroni to get involved with the Provost’s Diversity Research Forum, first in 2010 and most years since.

“The diversity conference provides spaces for people to share,

for others to hear and learn, and to hopefully come away with a better understanding of the myriad of perspectives and lived experiences that are found within our campus,” she says. “Despite the fact that the conference topics are challenging, and often the discussions make us feel unsettled and out of our comfort zone, they are needed. They help us and allow us to recognize ourselves in others, and through this experience make an authentic commitment to advocate for change.”

Ceroni’s own career at UVic has revolved around international students, in one way or another. She first came to Victoria in 2002 when her now-husband was accepted into

the Indigenous governance master’s program, and she was hired to fill a maternity leave as an admissions officer and international student advisor at the Gustavson School of Business. From there she became an international student recruiter and admissions officer in the Office of the Registrar, then on to a stint in the Office of International Affairs before moving into her current role with the homestay program.

“I’ve enjoyed all the jobs I’ve done at UVic,” she says. “Regardless of the work itself, it’s the people I’ve had the chance to work with that have been wonderful. There is a sense of community here at UVic that makes it a very special place to work.”



Ceroni. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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