

# NOVEMBER CONVOCATION

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# THE RING

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper

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University  
of Victoria

## SPEED READING

CONVOCATION 2016

### Watch Fall Convocation on the web

The Fall Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live on Nov. 9–10. If you're not able to attend in person, you can watch the ceremonies at [uvic.ca/convocation](http://uvic.ca/convocation). The video of each webcast will be available for six weeks following convocation. All ceremonies take place in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. For event times and more information, visit [uvic.ca/ceremonies](http://uvic.ca/ceremonies).

### UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

### UVic strengths highlighted in national rankings

In late October, *Maclean's* magazine and *ReSearch Infosource* confirmed UVic's leadership in Canadian education and research with updated national rankings. UVic retains its third-place standing in *Maclean's* comprehensive university category, with top-three finishes in seven of the 14 key performance indicators used to calculate their rankings. UVic was also recognized in the 2016 *ReSearch Infosource* "Winners Circle," taking third place in the comprehensive category for research income from 2000–2015. Full rankings info at [uvic.ca/rankings](http://uvic.ca/rankings).



Nick Schwaiger in Formula racer. PHOTO: ARMANDO TURA

# 1,379

NUMBER OF  
DEGREES,  
CERTIFICATES  
AND  
DIPLOMAS TO  
BE AWARDED  
DURING FALL  
CONVOCATION

## On the fast track to the future

UVic engineering grad outraces  
"driver's seat" metaphor, speeding  
from UVic Formula team to Tesla

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

When Nick Schwaiger was 13, he got his first job at a houseboat company in Sicomous, BC where his dad was a mechanic. He started helping out servicing engines and power systems in the company's fleet of 120 houseboats, plying the waters of nearby Shuswap and Mara lakes. After a while, he was doing oil changes on engines, changing propellers and troubleshooting.

"It was a great way to start on the mechanical side of things," says Schwaiger on the phone from France, where the

German-born electrical engineering grad is currently testing autonomous vehicles at a track near Reims. "And the money at that young age wasn't bad either," he laughs.

Since Schwaiger finished course work in the summer, he's been working as a vehicle engineer for Bosch at the Research and Technology Centre in Palo Alto, California on the team designing self-driving vehicle prototypes. "Ever since I worked at Tesla, for my third engineering co-op term, my interest was piqued in self-driving vehicles," he says.

### Student team builds formula racer

Schwaiger thinks back to one of the longest

drives he's ever done, when he was team lead for UVic's Formula Motorsport team—a student-run club where they design, manufacture, assemble and compete with an open-wheel Formula-style race car in the world's largest collegiate design competition in the world, Formula SAE. This May, Schwaiger drove for 38 hours towing their entry to the competition in Detroit. "Even switching off with a friend, it was exhausting," he says. "It would have been nice for the truck and trailer to tow itself."

Apart from the long drive to the international competition, where they finished 27th among 120 teams, Schwaiger says that being part of the Formula Motorsport

SEE FAST TRACK P. 3



Benoit. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

## Sociologist among nation's top gender equity champions

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Recognized by Status of Women Canada for her work in gender equality, Dr. Cecilia Benoit has devoted 25 years as a researcher to advancing the social rights of marginalized populations, especially women. On Oct. 18, Benoit and five other women were recognized with the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

"The women we honour today... are strong leaders and inspiring role models," said Status of Women Minister and UVic alumnus Patty Hajdu in a statement. "As professionals, volunteers, and advocates, they have demonstrated how people with passion and commitment can change the lives of women and girls for the better."

Benoit grew up in a large working class family during a generation where women were expected to serve men. From a very young age, Benoit watched how gender is closely connected to health

inequities among marginalized groups.

"Gender is a fundamental factor because it mediates access to key resources: knowledge, money, power, prestige and social connections," says Benoit. "My research places gender on equal footing with other important factors determining health outcomes, including indigeneity, race and socio-economic status," continues Benoit.

The Governor General's Award is more about validation for Benoit—validation of her community-based research that has brought visibility to hidden populations, such as midwives, urban Indigenous women, street-involved youth, pregnant women who use substances and face other challenges, and adults involved in sex work.

"This recognition validates my research but also the goals I hold dear—including justice and equality for everyone, regardless of their social location or identity," says Benoit.

Benoit has had a significant impact on national,

provincial and local policy and social health programs, including the legalization of midwifery and education for midwives in most provinces and territories, public funding of midwifery services, community outreach for Indigenous women, health care hubs for street-involved youth and substance-using pregnant women, and peer-led social-service programs, education and employment for sex workers.

"Cecilia is somebody who has made Canada a better place through her work. She has made us more accepting of vulnerable populations," said Dr. Tim Stockwell, director of UVic's Centre for Addictions Research of BC. "She is acutely aware of societal attitudes and stereotypes, especially where they could take us. Her research has given voice to people who are not usually heard."

Benoit's energy, expertise and passion for

SEE BENOIT P. 3



# around the ring

## President's submission to the BC finance committee

On Oct. 11, UVic President Jamie Cassels delivered a presentation, “UVic’s Vital Impact: BC’s Investment in Ideas and People,” to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Cassels highlighted the need for additional operating and capital funding, government support for more student residences and continued investment in Indigenous post-secondary education. A PDF of the full report is on the President’s website at [uvic.ca/president/activities](http://uvic.ca/president/activities).

## United Way campaign in full swing

We’re halfway through the annual UVic United Way campaign, and the campus spirit is going strong. Deans have been dunked and plasma cars raced, but the best is yet to come:

- **ESS Bug Push**—cheer them on as engineering students push a VW bug around Ring Road for a full 12 hours. Nov. 6, 6 a.m.–6 p.m.

- **Power up the Tower**—who can make it to the top of the CARSA climbing tower fastest? Give them your support on Nov. 24, noon–4 p.m.

- **The Great Debate:** quirky questions, serious professors (new)—UVic profs face off to argue the pros and cons of some not-so-serious topics. Nov. 30

- **Holiday Artisans Market**—a favourite annual event on campus to kick off the holiday season and get started on that shopping. Dec. 1 in the SUB.

Visit [uvic.ca/unitedway](http://uvic.ca/unitedway) for details on all events, and to donate to UVic’s 2016 United Way campaign.

# Coming of Age: a balancing act between work, school and life

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

When you hear the word ‘teenager’ do you imagine someone closed up in their room obsessed with their phone, text messages and social media? Or is it someone trying to balance work, school, health/stress, volunteering and family relationships? Recent research has proven the latter: the vast majority of teens care deeply about others and are involved in their communities. At the same time, many are facing very adult issues such as debt, finding affordable housing, stress and hypertension.

These results are part of a first-of-its-kind study, *Changes and Challenges: A Decade of Observations of the Health and Well-Being of Young Adults in British Columbia*, which was released last month by Island Health and UVic. It spans a decade (2003–2013) of repeat interviews with 662 young people from Greater Victoria as a random-sample cohort of youth from ages 12 to 18.

“This snapshot in time of people now 25 to 31 years old is applicable to any youth right now,” says UVic psychologist and lead author Bonnie Leadbetter. “Being 12 to 18 years old is the time in life where young people are establishing a foundation for lifelong well-being. This study carries impor-



Leadbetter with student. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

tant national messages about the need for better policies and changes in attitudes and actions to improve youth self-care, promote health and reduce stress in this age group.”

Public depictions often focus on millennials’ socially active lifestyles, lack of sleep, alcohol use and time spent on electronic devices. The new study calls for a whole-person approach that views young adults as connected to parents and romantic partners rather than as independent and isolated.

“Far from the carefree, party-oriented youth culture of the advertisements that target them, many youth in this study were found to be juggling education, work, lack of sleep, mental health and relationship problems,” says Richard Stanwick, co-author

and chief medical officer of Island Health. “Hypertension and obesity are also threatening the long-term health of more than a third of these young people.”

The study outlines the health, social and financial factors and also notes the need for improved self-care through adequate sleep, physical activity, healthy eating and stress regulation. It found that many of the youth pursued higher education—with 45 per cent completing a university degree, 23 per cent obtaining a college diploma and 19 per cent becoming certified in a trade.

Murray Fyfe, second co-author and a medical health officer with Island Health, adds, “A public health approach with an emphasis on healthy public policies can have wide-reaching

effects. This includes policies related to income, post-secondary education, affordable housing, transportation and access to healthy food. While the health and well-being of young adults may not often be at the forefront of our minds, support for this age group does deserve more attention.”

The next time you imagine the life of a teenager, consider taking an extra moment to appreciate the delicate balancing act they are performing between work, school and life. Coming of age in the 21st century is a struggle for many young people, but most are staying connected to their families and communities, and most are healthy. The study argues for a shift in public policy to focus support for youth to help manage stress, debt, work and school as they transition to adulthood.

# New “2+2” international degree program in economics

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Students study abroad for all sorts of reasons—to gain cultural experiences or expand their personal views, for instance—and for some it will be to study economics at UVic. On campus, the Faculty of Social Sciences hosts the largest number of international students according to UVic’s new International Plan, and last month, Dean of Social Sciences Catherine Krull, in the spirit of fostering collaboration and global engagement, travelled to China along with UVic VP External Relations Carmen Charette and student recruitment director Carolyn Russell to sign a third partnership agreement with Soochow University.

“Soochow University is a critical Chinese partner for UVic and I am delighted that our deepened partnership now crosses three faculties at UVic,” says Krull. “Their students rank very high in our courses; clearly Soochow

University is preparing students well for studies abroad. International students studying in our community allow for an exchange of ideas across cultures and contribute to our local region.”


The new agreement allows Soochow University students who complete two years of study in Suzhou and then transfer to UVic’s economics program for the remaining two years to receive a double degree in economics from both Soochow University and UVic.

The visit to Victoria’s Twin City Suzhou was part of an eight-day mission led by Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps along with 18 delegates including UVic officials, with a goal of exporting innovation and furthering tourism and educational opportunities between Victoria and its twin city. This is the third “2+2” agreement between UVic and Soochow University; the first is in business, the second in chemistry.



Charette (seated at right) at signing ceremony with representatives from the City of Victoria, Soochow University and UVic.

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Forster. PHOTO: DARREN STONE, COURTESY OF TIMES-COLONIST

## A fight for women’s place: currency and culture on par

BY TARA SHARPE

Merna Forster, executive director of the UVic-led *Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History* project, will receive a Governor General’s award at the end of this month in recognition of her successful national campaign to depict women on Canadian banknotes.

Forster will be awarded the 2016 Governor General’s History Award for Popular Media, also known as the Pierre Berton Award. Her campaign resulted in a petition of more than 73,000 names and a commitment from the prime minister to feature a woman from Canadian history on banknotes in 2018.

Forster is the author of *100 Canadian Heroines: Famous and Forgotten Faces* (2004) and *100*

*More Canadian Heroines* (2011), and created the website *heroines.ca*.

As Forster pointed out to Canada’s History, the national charitable society administering the award, there remains a large gap in knowledge of the history of important Canadian women: “In 2004, when CBC ran a contest to identify the greatest Canadian, the top 10 were all men. In 2015, when Canadian Heritage surveyed 12,000 Canadians to identify the top 10 Canadian heroes, the list was again all men. So things haven’t changed very much.”

The Berton Award is no stranger to Forster. In 2008, three years after Forster joined *Great Unsolved Mysteries*, the project won the Berton Award for outstanding work in popularizing Canadian history.

## BENOIT CONTINUED FROM P.1

social justice makes her an inspiring role model for many of her students who go on to successful careers in public service. She has mentored 40 graduate students and received numerous awards and honours. Even so, what remains is her top priority: to reduce barriers to social inclusion in Canadian society posed by stigma and discrimination.

Benoit notes that this award is due in no small part to the contribu-

tions of her dedicated colleagues, including her husband, Mikael Jansson, as well as her community partners and the hundreds of people who have been her research participants/co-researchers.

“They have contributed valuable knowledge that has enriched me enormously and positively impacted policies and practices in need of change in our society,” says Benoit.

# Acting chair assumes office for UVic board

The University of Victoria has a new acting chair of its Board of Governors: Daphne Corbett, a UVic alumna (BA 1970) and former member of the Certified Management Accountants of British Columbia, who has been vice-chair of the board since July 2016. Corbett has served in senior and executive positions with HSBC Bank, as well as in the roles of director and chair of emergency communications for Southwest British Columbia, Inc.

Corbett succeeds Tracy Redies, who stepped down in late October from the role of board chair, and who will be resigning from the board as of Dec. 31, in order to seek nomination as a candidate in the May 2017 BC provincial election.

“We’re very grateful to Tracy for her many contributions to the university as a board member and chair, and appreciate that she is staying on the board until the end of 2016 to assist us with the transition,” says Corbett.

Redies was appointed to the UVic board through Order-in-Council in Sept. 2013. She is a UVic alumna with a BA in Economics and Pacific and Asian Studies. Redies received

a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Faculty of Social Sciences and was recognized as one of “50 Alumni Who Made a Difference” during the university’s 50th anniversary in 2012–13.

“As a student, an alumna, a parent and a board member, I’ve seen and experienced UVic’s great strengths,” says Redies. “When I joined the board, it was a huge pleasure to reconnect with the university and see how it had evolved—keeping its culture and character, and building tremendous academic and research programs. Over the past three years, I’ve had the opportunity to work with wonderful people on the board and throughout the university. I’ll miss them all as I pursue this new form of service.”

Corbett, who has been a member of the board since July 2015, will serve as acting chair until the election provided for in the board procedures can take place later this year. At that time, the board will then elect a chair to serve until the next regularly scheduled election in June 2017.

Board of Governors members are volunteers who receive no remuneration for their duties.

## FAST TRACK CONTINUED FROM P.1

team was “the best experience I had at UVic.” He joined the team in his first six months in the engineering program and spent more than four years on it. Schwaiger worked on the vehicle’s brake system design team, then moved on to the electrical team, and eventually led the entire team. Being part of the team complemented his degree and gave him a more well-rounded experience, he says.

“It’s cool to see people from different backgrounds branching out of their comfort zones. We were all willing to pick up a book and learn something we didn’t know much about, and learn from each other,” Schwaiger says. The vehicle is entirely built by students, with faculty supervisors Drs. Nikolai Dechev and Stephanie Willerth.

## Around the world in co-ops

The co-op program, Schwaiger adds, is central to getting into the industry you’re keen on and to gaining practical experience between semesters. Schwaiger’s first co-op, arranged through UVic’s co-op and career office, was close to home at VMAC in Nanaimo—designers and manufacturers of vehicle-mounted air compressors for use in remote areas. “It was probably the best co-op job I could have hoped for,” he says. He worked on mechanical, electrical and software design projects.

During his second co-op in Germany, Schwaiger found the experience as an intern very different from his Canadian and US internships. “Students aren’t highly regarded there,” Schwaiger says. They don’t get paid much, the work hours are very rigid and he found the work wasn’t very challenging.

The move from Germany to Silicon Valley to work at Tesla for his third co-op was a big adjustment, and very different in terms of work hours, culture and environment. It took three interviews to nail the internship, the work was rigorous and 11-hour days were the norm. The main goal of his internship was to develop an automated testing system for the vehicles’ charging interface so firmware updates could be done over the air, similar to the way you can download a new update to your phone, Schwaiger explains.

Canadian engineering students are highly regarded there, Schwaiger says, and Tesla has hired on at least three UVic grads after their internships.

He hasn’t been in the driver’s seat of a self-driving vehicle yet, but “even in the passenger seat,” he says, “it’s a bit eerie. It’s a lot different from cruise control.”

Right now, he says, Schwaiger wants to learn as much as he can to keep up with what he calls “an incredibly steep learning curve” at Bosch. “I’m still fresh out of school, and the amount I’m learning from the people around me is amazing,” he says. “I want to help as much as I can to get this automated vehicle functioning and on the road.” Even if right now, the road is still the test track.

# around the ring

## Call for nominations to recognize vital impact

Calls for nominations for both teaching and research awards are now open. Nominations for the UVic Teaching Awards are welcome in five categories: the longstanding Harry Hickman and the Gilian Sherwin teaching awards, as well as awards for graduate supervision and mentorship, research-inspired teaching and teaching for experiential learning. Nominations are open until Jan. 16, 2017, with information available at [bit.ly/teach-awd](http://bit.ly/teach-awd).

The five categories for the Craigdarroch Research Awards include: career achievement, research excellence, artistic expression, knowledge mobilization and research partnerships. Nominations are open until Jan. 30, 2017. Further information is available at [uvic.ca/craigdarrochawards](http://uvic.ca/craigdarrochawards).

## District Energy Plant open house

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, visit the SUB upper lounge from 3–6 p.m. to find out more about UVic’s plans to build a new energy plant to replace the aging energy heating infrastructure on campus. The new natural gas-fired plant will boast more efficient boilers which, in combination with new control systems and ultra-efficient energy transfer stations across the campus, are expected to produce significant energy savings. The energy plant will be in the southwest corner of Parking Lot 6, north of the Interfaith Chapel and Finnerty Gardens. Construction of the new plant is slated to begin in the Spring of 2017. [uvic.ca/campusplanning](http://uvic.ca/campusplanning)

## Changes to UVic Child Care Services delayed

Changes to the operations of UVic Child Care Services are on hold until the university holds further consultations with the Faculty Association and students. The university proposes adding new spaces to full-time child care, which represents the biggest demand for services from parents in the university community. The care expansion is part of a strategy that includes \$1.7 million in Child Care Services facility renovations, scheduled to begin July 1, 2017. The consultation process is also examining the future of the After School Care program.

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Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$440	\$485	\$568
Total Payout to Age 100		\$141,774	\$134,501	\$127,679	\$120,029	\$115,019	\$108,084
Accelerated Payout:							
Income over 5 years.....			\$1,748		Total 5 year payout.....	\$104,867	
Income over 10 years.....			\$915		Total 10 year payout.....	\$109,823	
Income over 15 years.....			\$639		Total 15 year payout.....	\$114,927	

\* Based on best current GIC of 1.91%. 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
<b>Male</b>							
...payments cease at death		\$422	\$472	\$546	\$673	\$775	\$973
...10 years guaranteed		\$421	\$464	\$531	\$627	\$685	\$796
<b>Female</b>							
...payments cease at death		\$390	\$430	\$487	\$595	\$683	\$848
...10 years guaranteed		\$394	\$430	\$483	\$570	\$631	\$740
<b>Joint Life: 10 yrs guaranteed</b>		\$360	\$389	\$440	\$514	\$568	\$675

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# ringers

Chancellor **Shelagh Rogers** was honoured as the recipient of the Margaret Trudeau Mental Health Advocacy Award at the fifth annual Mad about Margaret's gala event in Toronto on Oct. 21. The award recognizes individuals whose leadership efforts have been notably effective in advocating for a fruitful and ongoing dialogue about mental health issues, and for advancing the needs of people with mental illness to the forefront of national concerns. The event and award were presented by the Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services agency, founded in 1984 by Margaret Frazer. Margaret Trudeau is the agency's honorary patron. The agency provides a continuum of housing and support services for individuals facing mental health challenges through innovative programming, advocacy and education.



Donaleshen and Robinson's winning image of Douglas fir seeds

Biology graduate students **Kate Donaleshen** and **James Robinson** have been awarded second prize in Science Exposed, an image contest run by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Their image is an x-ray of Douglas-fir seeds, many of which were infected by the larvae of a parasitic wasp. This wasp lays its eggs in the seeds of the tree, where the larvae hatch and consume the content of each seed. Since there are no external signs of damage until the adult emerges from the seed up to five years later, X-rays are used to identify infected seeds.



L-R: Thomson, Matt Phillips, Hof and grad student Aman Dheri at Phillips Brewing. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

## Buzz builds over beer chemistry collaboration

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

Excitement is brewing over a partnership between a UVic chemist and a well-known Victoria craft beer manufacturer.

UVic's Fraser Hof, a medicinal chemist, is working with scientists at Phillips Brewing and Malting Co. to improve commercial brewing processes. The collaboration aims to develop a precise method of identifying when brewer's yeast has been "exhausted" and can no longer be reused.

Decisions about when to reuse or discard yeast are made by highly experienced brewers through taste, smell and simple alcohol measurements—but this process is far from foolproof. Up to two per cent of all beer produced is dumped because this process can be imprecise. Considering that Canadian breweries produced over 2.2 billion litres of beer in 2015 alone, that's a lot of suds—and money—going down the drain.

"We want to develop a molecular analysis that can identify signs of yeast exhaustion and deliver clear decisions to brewers," says Hof, who studies how molecules bind together as the Canada Research Chair in Supramolecular and Medicinal Chemistry.

Hof and Phillips scientist Euan Thomson came up with the idea for this project one evening over a beer or two. They'd been brainstorming ways to use their collective chemistry expertise to improve their beverage of choice, and this project was a perfect fit.

"The yeast cells that we use as early models in medical research are similar to those used for brewing," says Hof.

"We recently developed a chemical enrichment method that is perfectly suited to this project. That's the magic of chemistry. A single discovery can

have so many different applications. It's incredibly satisfying to use the research I do in the lab to connect to my community."

Phillips Brewing was happy to hop on board. "We're always looking for new tools to make better beer," says Thomson. "This partnership with Fraser and UVic is a great opportunity to immerse ourselves in the complex problems that come with beer production."

Funding for the project is being provided through an Engage Grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

## Fighting Zika on two fronts

UVic chemist Alexandre Brolo is looking to one of society's most precious metals—gold—and the cutting-edge science of nanotechnology to create low-cost test strips that detect the presence of Zika in saliva. He's also working on prevention efforts, by creating a smartphone camera app to detect and geotag mosquito larvae in standing water.

Originally from Brazil, Brolo knows what an outbreak of mosquito-borne illness looks like. "I grew up seeing dengue fever. Every year the authorities struggle to control outbreaks, using the same strategies." This summer, Grand Challenges Canada awarded

\$50,000 to Brolo for his dual research efforts to alleviate the spreading Zika public health crisis.

"When metals become very, very small their properties change. We can manipulate these properties and learn how to translate them to new technologies," says Brolo, who is director of UVic's Centre for Advanced Materials and Related Technology (CAMTEC).

Brolo's team is creating low-cost plastic strips coated with gold nanostructures—microscopic bits of matter 10,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair—that change colour when they come into contact with infected saliva. These screening

strips would be used by on-the-ground health workers to detect infection trends.

Brolo aims to take this inexpensive, easy-to-use detection method directly into the neighbourhoods and regions where Zika and dengue fever are prevalent, and the mosquitoes that cause them are most likely to breed.

He's already conducted a pilot project in his native Brazil with 30 strips that proved 60 per cent accurate in detecting dengue fever. By the end of this year, he hopes to conduct a more extensive test with 200 strips involving collected samples from suspected Brazilian Zika patients.

"Right now, Zika tests are blood-based so the samples have to go to labs, but tests involving saliva can be done in a neighbourhood clinic by health workers," says Brolo. "The idea is to use hand-held devices, like cell phones, to feed data about the contaminated individuals to a Google-based map. This will provide a real-time record of the infestation, allowing government officials to respond quickly."

"If we can provide the right tools to help control the Zika mosquito vector, the outbreak and the infection," Brolo says, "then we can start to solve the problem."

### RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH

## Funding supports research into wave energy

On Oct. 6, the BC government announced funding to the West Coast Wave Initiative (WCWI) at UVic to support research into the potential of ocean waves to generate clean, renewable and affordable electricity.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines is providing \$150,000 from the Innovative Clean Energy fund to purchase a new wave energy measurement buoy (the fifth entry in the fleet)—making it one of the largest buoy fleets used for wave energy resource assessment in the world. Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services Amrik Virk made the announcement at UVic. "Our BC coast is not only one of the province's most beautiful resources,

its waves could also be a source of clean energy, and research like this furthers our understanding of wave patterns and energy potential," said Virk, who toured WCWI's operations at the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems at UVic (IESVic).

Since its inception in 2007, WCWI has grown to become the centre of Canadian wave energy research and development. The WCWI is a multi-disciplinary group of academics and industry members investigating the feasibility of wave energy conversion in BC.

Watch a UVic-produced video about the project at [bit.ly/uvic-waves](http://bit.ly/uvic-waves)



"Beverly," a wave buoy being lowered into the Pacific ocean.



# Banting fellows shed light on Indigenous language, orca survival

An endangered Indigenous language and an endangered West Coast wildlife icon stand to benefit from the work of two new Banting Postdoctoral Fellows at UVic.

Valued at \$70,000 per year for two years, the fellowships are intended to groom Canada’s next generation of research leaders. The program is administered by Canada’s three federal granting councils.

## An endangered Indigenous language

Linguist **Heather Bliss** is using her fellowship to continue work with members of the Siksiká and Kaináá nations documenting and preserving Blackfoot, a Plains Algonquian language spoken in southern Alberta and north-western Montana and one of 87 endangered Indigenous languages in Canada.

Bliss has spent more than 15 years studying sentence structure and contemporary expressions of the language. Now she’ll build a digital archive of Blackfoot texts, with people’s personal stories and conversations including audio clips, transcriptions and analysis.

According to Bliss, there are approximately 3,500 speakers of Blackfoot but the majority are now in their senior years. No children, to her knowledge, currently speak the language fluently.

One of Bliss’s more surprising moments was literally “seeing” two soundless vowels. Using a portable ultrasound device (similar to equipment used during pregnancy or injury), she was recording the minutiae of tongue movements when she witnessed the speaking subject’s tongue articulating one of two vowels (like an ‘a’ and ‘i’), with no audible sound.

“I’ve been trying to learn the language for so long and I didn’t know for certain those soundless vowels were there. The ultrasound settled it.”

Bliss says the Banting fellowship is fulfilling a goal she’s had for a very long time—to give back to the community. “And it’s the right time now, too,” she says. “I needed to uncover certain aspects of the language for it to fully click for me. There were puzzles that I wanted to answer.”

## An endangered West Coast wildlife icon

For his fellowship research, bio-mathematician **Andrew Bateman** will investigate the social and ecological influences on birth and death rates (demography) among BC’s resident (fish-eating) killer whales.

BC’s northern resident population of killer whales—numbering about 250 animals—is listed as “threatened,” while the southern resident population—totalling only 80 animals—is listed as “endangered” by both Canada and the US. The two populations do not interbreed.

“We know that the fate of these whales is tied to the health of chinook salmon populations, and we know that the social groups in which the whales spend their time affect how well they fare,” says Bateman. “We know less about how these social patterns affect population growth and decline.”

To find out, Bateman will develop mathematical models using data collected by whale researchers in BC and Washington State waters for more than 40 years.

“Whale researchers can tell a lot by being on the water—who is alive, who just gave birth, who is hanging out with whom. But someone needs to interpret all that information. That’s where I come in—I’ll try to make sense of year-to-year patterns as part of the bigger picture.”

Chinook salmon records are an essential part of that big picture. “Without considering chinook I’d have a tough time teasing apart the effects of sociality,” he says. “The whales share individual salmon with each other—a pretty amazing behaviour that’s an important feature of their complex social lives.”

Understanding the forces that affect a population is critical for protecting it, says Bateman.

“We’re seeing alarming trends in the southern resident population, and to help them we need to be as informed as possible. They’re important ecologically, socially and economically. Protecting them helps ensure a healthy coastal ecosystem overall.”



Karlen at TRIUMF facility in Vancouver. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

# UVic-led particle physics facility moves closer to completion

Major advances in medical imaging for diseases such as cancer, new technologies and materials for industry, and fresh insights into the fundamental nature of matter—these are the expected outcomes of Canada’s newest addition to the world of international accelerator science.

The Advanced Rare Isotope Laboratory (ARIEL) is a two-phase expansion at TRIUMF, Canada’s national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics, located in Vancouver. The ARIEL facility is led by UVic, working with 18 other university partners across Canada.

In October, the BC government announced its contribution of \$8.7 million to ARIEL’s second phase through the BC Knowledge Development Fund, adding to significant contributions already made by the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

“This research funding unlocks a whole new realm of possibility, not only for our university, but for the world of science,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “BC is one of the few sites in the world that has the capacity to work in this highly skilled sector, and we’re excited to see how this innovative work changes lives.”

In total, the federal government, several provincial governments and other partners and in-kind contributors, have invested approximately \$100 million in the two phases of ARIEL, which will advance Canada’s

leadership in the production of isotopes for use in medicine, industry and science.

## Powerful tools

An isotope is a variant of a basic element, as determined by the number of neutrons in its nucleus. Every chemical element has more than one isotope.

Rare isotopes are powerful tools for scientific discovery with a broad range of real-life applications, from medicine and life sciences to advanced industrial manufacturing. The value of the global isotope market is estimated to be several billion dollars and growing.

Rare isotopes are not typically found in nature, but are produced by particle accelerators in a handful of laboratories around the world, including TRIUMF. ARIEL will triple TRIUMF’s output of rare isotopes for research and will also expand the range of isotopes produced.

Of particular promise is ARIEL’s ability to identify and develop the next generation of medical isotopes for imaging applications and targeted therapy for tumours.

“These isotopes will be used by leading medical researchers in BC and across Canada,” says UVic physicist Dean Karlen, lead scientist for ARIEL. “As soon we’ve demonstrated their value, there will be business opportunities for building and operating facilities for manufacturing them.”

At the heart of ARIEL is Canada’s first high-powered, superconducting radio frequency electron linear accelerator (e-linac) which produces some of the most powerful beams in the world for isotope creation.

## Industry partnerships

TRIUMF worked closely with industry partners to develop this made-in-BC technology, which has since been marketed successfully by those partners to several countries around the world.

The first stage of ARIEL, funded in 2010, built the e-linac, an underground beam tunnel, and the building to house them. The second phase, to be completed over the next six years, will enable the e-linac to produce a wide variety of exotic isotopes and deliver them to multiple experiments simultaneously.

ARIEL is expected to reinforce TRIUMF’s role as an international hub for rare isotope research, strengthen research collaborations across Canada and internationally, catalyze new industrial partnerships, and generate more opportunities for training the next generation of scientists, engineers and technicians.

“It’s exciting for future generations,” says Karlen. “In the coming years, physicists will come up with new ideas on how to use ARIEL that we haven’t even thought of yet. It opens up a whole new realm of imagination in science.”



(L-R) Beatrice Bullshields of the Kaináá Nation and Bliss. PHOTO: PHIL WU.

# A Fresh Tradition

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# CONVOCATION 2016



## Congrats to our Fall 2016 graduates

Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During Fall Convocation on Nov. 9 and 10, ceremonies will be held to confer 1,379 degrees, diplomas and certificates.



### Fall Convocation webcast

All Fall Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live. If you're not able to attend in person, you can watch the ceremonies at [uvic.ca/convocation](http://uvic.ca/convocation). The video of each webcast will be available on this website for six weeks following Convocation.



### Venue

All ceremonies take place in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. For event times and more information, please visit [uvic.ca/ceremonies](http://uvic.ca/ceremonies).



### Social media

Join the conversation by tweeting, posting and sharing your #uvic2016 stories.



## Hishuk ish tsawalk—everything is one

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

“There’s a concept in Nuu-chah-nulth culture called *hishuk ish tsawalk*,” says Marcena Wika Louie, one of the first cohort of the Indigenous Communities Counselling Psychology (ICCP) program graduating in November. “It means everything is connected, everything is one.”

“That’s the basis of my holistic approach to counselling,” Louie explains from her office in the University Centre where she interned and is now a counsellor for Indigenous students at UVic, along with her mentor and ICCP instructor, PhD candidate Roger John.

### The need for Indigenous perspectives

When Louie studied psychology at UVic in the early 1990’s, she recalls that she was often the only visibly Indigenous person in her classes, and theory was based almost exclusively on western mainstream perspectives. “My world view wasn’t reflected in the curriculum.”

Louie went on to work in Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island and at Camosun’s Eyē? Sqá’lewen—Centre for Indigenous Education and Community Connections as community liaison, Indigenous advisor and faculty member. She took what she calls an “eclectic approach” to supporting people using elements of western psychology theory and practices that fit with her Nuu-chah-nulth worldview. “It’s clear that mainstream methods weren’t adequately meeting the needs of Indigenous community.”

“I wanted more skills and knowledge to work in Indigenous communities to help people work through their challenges. I have a core belief in the value of education that my grandparents encouraged because they saw it as a tool to be able to

help us navigate through these two worlds that we walk in,” Louie says. “I’ve had the experience of seeing how education is healing, and healing is education.”

When she heard about UVic’s first intake of the Indigenous communities counselling program—a pilot cohort that was offered from 2008 to 2011 through the department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies in partnership with Indigenous Education—she thought, “that’s exactly what I want to do.” Several years later, she applied and was accepted into the first cohort of ICCP, Canada’s only graduate-level program focused on Indigenous community counselling leading to provincial and national certification.

### A program to fill the gap

The part-time community-based program—created in consultation with community, and designed for people already working in mental health and helping fields within Indigenous communities—takes place on weekends and in intensive summer institutes on campus and in community locations. The sacred and spiritual dimensions are integral to the curriculum; drumming, singing, ceremony and the inclusion of elders are an integral part of the program.

“What was really exciting about our program was that the majority of our instructors were Indigenous, working from a strength-based focus,” Louie says. “They were powerful role models, they shared their stories, were encouraging and they understood our reality, being Indigenous students in a western institution.”

“It’s really important to know how colonization has impacted the wellness in our community. We discussed concepts of historical trauma versus the western concept of post-traumatic stress disorder,



Louie and Beverly Williams, Pauquachin elder-in-residence in First People’s House. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

which doesn’t adequately describe the impact of hundreds of years of colonization and residential school,” Louie notes.

As an academic, she says, it was “inspiring and exciting and invigorating” to read the growing body of literature by Indigenous scholars around the world looking at how to facilitate wellness.

Louie points out that across cultures, the common theme is a holistic, cultural, strength-based approach to counselling, rather than a medical approach focused on deficits. “What we all have in common is that we’ve all experienced colonization... so you can see similar challenges in each of the communities,” Louie adds. “As Indigenous scholars, we ask what is going well, what’s helped us survive, and why are some communities doing better at maintaining their cultural identity and sharing it.”

“For my masters project, I tried to access as many Nuu-chah-nulth resources as I could and find as many examples of wellness and how my culture continues to support well-being. Although we’re dealing with the aftermath of colonization and residential schools, there are many people in my community who still have cultural knowledge, and who promote wellness from a cultural way,” she observes. “I started with a Nuu-chah-nulth cultural framework to examine the strength, resiliency and healing practices that facilitate wellness and identity development, noting that that Indigenous communities have a holistic perspective of wellness and can contribute to both their own community and western therapeutic practices.”

“I really value the cohort model because inevitably the students create a support system and a level of understanding with each other

because we’re peers and we’ve gone through the same lived experience. At times that cohort support can help you get through the rigors of academia while balancing the rest of your life as well.”

“I’m passionate about effecting change in education,” says Louie, whose grandfather, the late George Wikinash Louie, was a UVic honorary degree recipient who worked with UVic linguist Thomas Hess in the creation of an Ahousaht dictionary. “Knowing who I am, knowing the history of what’s happened to my community and having an understanding of how that’s affected everyone, I can support students in their identity development. I have a holistic approach to supporting a person, to look at their life and look at what their strengths are and help them find balance in all realms of their self.”



# Chasing the nearly impossible neutrino

High-tech particle physics detection projects bring UVic student into the orbit of Nobel-winning research

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

Jordan Myslik can trace his interest in physics back to grade three, when he became enamoured with the idea of UFOs.

“It’s a bit of an embarrassing origin story,” says Myslik, who receives his doctorate this month, and recently started work as a postdoctoral fellow in neutrino physics at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. “But my fixation on UFOs led me to an interest in astronomy, which in turn compelled me to learn more about physics.”

Myslik grew up in Sudbury, Ontario where the world-renowned Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) turned on its detector and began taking data. “It was a huge deal,” says Myslik. “SNO was producing the results that eventually led to a Nobel Prize. Having SNO nearby was a major inspiration for me. Combined with my family’s encouragement and my experiences



Myslik. PHOTO: PROVIDED

produced as one of these flavours are later observed to have a different flavour. (This is sort of like serving yourself a bowl of chocolate ice cream, and then when you sit down to eat it, finding that you have a bowl of strawberry ice cream.) Discovering neutrino oscillations (and showing that that neutrinos have mass) won Takaaki Kajita of Super-Kamiokande and Arthur B. McDonald of SNO the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics. Experi-

“UVic is known for its particle physics program. With its connection to the TRIUMF laboratory and with T2K so close to commissioning and taking data, it was a great time to join.”

volunteering at Science North (the local science centre), I became increasingly interested in pursuing a career in experimental particle physics.”

Myslik did his undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, heading back to Sudbury each summer for research experiences at Laurentian University, working at SNO on supernova neutrinos and background quantification. “Neutrinos are everywhere,” says Myslik. “Each second, roughly 100 billion solar neutrinos pass through just one of your fingertips. However, neutrinos have no charge and a very low probability of interacting, which makes them very difficult to study.” Through his experiences at SNO, Myslik began to develop as a researcher, using specialized equipment and building skills in computer programming.

Coming to UVic gave Myslik the opportunity to build on those experiences. “UVic is known for its particle physics program. With its connection to the TRIUMF laboratory and with T2K so close to commissioning and taking data, it was a great time to join.”

T2K (Tokai to Kamioka) is a neutrino experiment that runs 295 kilometers across the width of Japan. A beam of muon neutrinos or antineutrinos is generated from the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex on the East coast in Tokai and directed across the country to the Super-Kamiokande detector in the mountains of Kamioka, allowing researchers from around the world to investigate the phenomenon of neutrino oscillation.

Neutrinos come in three types (called flavours): electron, muon and tau. In neutrino oscillation, neutrinos

ments such as T2K continue to clarify the mysteries of neutrino oscillation and in turn, the secrets of the formation of the universe.

The world leading subatomic physics laboratory TRIUMF played a key part in setting up T2K. Myslik worked with experts at TRIUMF in Vancouver preparing equipment and temporarily moving to Japan. Once there, he helped set-up and operate the Time Projection Chambers (TPCs), a detector project led by UVic. These three gas-filled detectors allow researchers to precisely reconstruct the properties of charged particles produced in neutrino interactions.

Myslik’s research focused on ND280, a detector (that includes the TPCs) 280 meters away from the proton beam target, where he contributed to T2K’s first measurements of antineutrino oscillations, including comparisons of how neutrinos and antineutrinos oscillate. “It was an amazing experience. I was collaborating on cutting edge physics with researchers from UVic and around the world.”

Today at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Myslik continues his research into the properties of neutrinos on the Majorana Demonstrator Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Experiment in the Sanford Underground Research Facility in South Dakota. There he works with a team of physicists attempting to determine whether the neutrino is its own antiparticle.

“It’s a different set of challenges from the work I did on T2K, but the experiences in hardware, software, and physics analysis on T2K at UVic prepared me well.”



Mishkin with an eagle in Mongolia. PHOTO: PROVIDED

## Globetrotting commerce grad sets her sights on social entrepreneurship

BY SASHA MILAM

Every year, the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business welcomes students from around the world. Many of them are attracted to the school for its commitment to international learning: You can start here, and go anywhere. Ariel Mishkin, BCom ’16, was definitely one of these.

“The Gustavson program interested me because it’s so focused on sustainability and international work,” said Mishkin. “Living abroad

European roots.

Mongolia was her first independent expedition outside North America.

“I chose Mongolia because the internship I was offered at Nan’s Cashmere gave me opportunities you wouldn’t get for years at businesses in other parts of the world: the chance to be second-in-command and have the freedom to implement the projects I wanted to, and manage a budget. I had never met anyone at the company, even

Estonia”), confirmed Mishkin’s intentions. “I’d be thrilled to work for the UN, or the Canadian government abroad or an NGO on a larger-scale project. Ideally, I want to be involved in women’s rights issues.”

With this passion driving her and her last semester wrapped up, Mishkin is ready to get back on a plane. “I gave myself a little break after travelling for over a year and finishing my last semester,” she said. “But I am applying to a number of different positions now, both locally and around the world. I’m also seriously considering a master’s in international relations. It just depends what opportunities present themselves; I know I will ultimately end up living and working abroad for a cause I believe in.”

As this chapter of her education comes to a close, she reflects on her time at Gustavson. “The biggest gift Gustavson gave me was learning how to navigate interpersonal dynamics. Strong personalities, tense group work under pressure, tight deadlines; it’s something I would never have chosen before. Compromise is not an option for me, so I’m thankful that these experiences helped me see the bigger picture when working with groups, and especially when working on cross-cultural teams. Learning about other peoples’ cultures and work ethics is a really powerful skill that I will be using my entire career.”

Safe to say, she’s emerging from the program this November with the academic chops, internal compass and work experience to become the international leader she envisioned.

“I’d be thrilled to work for the UN, or the Canadian government abroad or an NGO on a larger-scale project. Ideally, I want to be involved in women’s rights issues.”

has always been part of my plan. So I thought, why not take the opportunity to go to school and travel the world at the same time?”

Mishkin, originally from California, entered Gustavson five years ago with the conviction that her place was in the international community, despite previously having limited opportunity to travel. Since then, she’s worked in Mongolia, Poland and India, studied at Poland’s Kozminski University, travelled the Trans-Siberian Railroad, tried her hand at Mongolian throat singing, pursued her love of photography, won five scholarship awards, and kept up an A average while doing it all. She has developed friendships with people around the world, and connected with her own Eastern

by Skype, when I got on the plane.”

Nan’s Cashmere, run by Mongolian fashion designer Nansalmaa Sanjmyatav, also appealed to Mishkin because of its emphasis on social sustainability. “The company is run entirely by women. Some of the funding comes from the UN, because [Sanjmyatav] is empowering single-income mothers and providing them with a food network, English language classes, and other opportunities.” Working with a company that built success on cultural integrity and the welfare of its employees was a powerful opportunity that solidified her interest in international development and social entrepreneurship.

This, and her experiences in Eastern Europe (“I fell in love with





Clark. PHOTO: PROVIDED

## On the road with new travel-writing field school

BY JOHN THRELFALL

When it comes to learning how to be a travel writer, you can't get much more hands-on than doing it on the road. And if that road happens to be in Nicaragua, says graduating master's student Heather Clark, better still.

Clark, a veteran tour guide and former publications coordinator for the European Association for International Education, has spent upwards of six months a year for the past 16 years traveling the

pany I've created ticks every box."

Born in Canada but raised in Holland, the Spanish-speaking Clark started backpacking at 18—with a trip to Kenya, among other places—before deciding to study in Canada at 21. After touring BC looking for a place to live, she came to Victoria and decided to stay. "I immediately felt at home here," she says, "which is also why I came back for my master's degree. UVic is more than a university—its vibe and welcoming atmosphere make it the perfect place to nurture my

is based on her experiences as a professional tour leader. "So much happens on these trips that people often say, 'You should write a book about this.' And what better way to do that than with expert guidance as a master's student?"

A blend of memoir, personal essay and what she calls "straight-up travel writing," *Unpacked* features adventures and anecdotes from 40 trips to nine countries over a five-year slice of Clark's life. "The chapters range from safety and ethical travel to the sense of longing—and belonging—that long-term travelers often have."

Learning to see the world through different eyes and then translate it to the page is one of Clark's key goals for the field school. "But it's not just about the writing, it's the soft skills as well; I am who I am because I've been traveling for 16 years. What employer doesn't look at your international experience, your ability to function as part of a team, and your stress resistance? I have a two-page list of skills students can gain with the right guidance."

Never one to sit still for long, Clark is off to Holland for two months immediately following convocation, then will be heading down to Central America to lead three more trips. "I like encouraging other people to really achieve their dreams," she says. "It takes patience, but all your talents end up fitting in somewhere."

business and let it sprout."

Proposed for summer 2018 ("and hopefully every year after that," says writing chair David Leach), the 26-day field school would offer between 10 and 15 undergrads a 3-unit summer elective, with destinations including a coffee plantation, a cloud forest eco-lodge and a pair of isolated islands known for their pristine beaches and Creole people. "Nicaragua is one of those rare countries that isn't overdeveloped yet, so they'd be getting a very authentic experience."

Cost per student? "\$7,000, all in," says Clark. "That's flights, food, tuition, accommodations, tips and optional excursions. The structure's already there—it's literally an email away from happening."

Up first, however, is an on-campus travel-writing elective in 2017—which Clark hopes to be teaching, given that her MFA manuscript

world. That's in addition to completing two degrees here at UVic: a BA in Hispanic studies (with a professional writing minor) and an MFA in writing. Now she's putting all that experience to work with her new company, Cross-Border Education, and a proposed travel-writing field school for the writing department.

"My five-year plan was to merge my two biggest passions—travel and education—by starting a business enabling universities to offer their students adventure-study abroad without the stress of the logistics," Clark explains. "Part of that plan was to do my master's degree so I can teach the courses and not only be the tour leader; I've now completed my master's, and this is year five, so I'm launching the business. I'm very well versed on the internationalization plans of higher education, and this com-

## Bridging legacies and supports

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

When her job as a Youth Care Worker with the Cariboo-Chilcotin school district was cut last June, Mikara Pettman, 42, was worried. A happy, productive woman—an equal family partner, mother to two teens and active in her community—suddenly halted.

Thankfully, with coursework completed toward her bachelor in Child and Youth Care, opportunity opened shortly after uncertainty struck.

"A job opened up with the Ministry of Children and Family Development," she says. Unsure at first, she applied to serve as a child protection worker for the Province. When she spoke to the Ring at the end of October, Pettman had been on the job nine days.

"I feel right at home here," she says. "There's lots to learn and I'm still in that honeymoon phase but I'm using my learning and I'm working with a terrific team." Pettman completed her degree online from her home in 100 Mile House and will travel to campus for this month's convocation.

### Advocacy and community support

A self-described helper by nature, Pettman has always been involved with youth in some shape or form. She started Cariboo Proud Parents, a support group for parents and caregivers of LGBTQ2 and their offspring. "We created a welcoming place for families," says Pettman, be they straight, lesbian, bisexual, gay, queer, trans or Two-Spirit.

She speaks fondly of those awkward teen years as a powerful time of transition and growth. "It's a dynamic time, too, when we start defining our own identities. I wanted to be there as a guide and a mentor. I really like that role."

Cariboo Proud Parents helped to create a safe place for her son to come out to the community, she adds. "We talk about what it means when a young person 'comes out' and honours their true self. We talk about our perceptions of how they might be treated, and how we want to support parents to transform their thinking from fear to celebration." Most have been fairly accepting, says Pettman, grateful to governments and leaders who encourage others not to discriminate. Her son is happy and doing well in grade 11.

Being active in the community comes naturally to Pettman who, in addition to owning and operating her own local toy and gift store for 16 years, was a La Leche League supporter, an elementary school Parent Advisory Committee volunteer, a board member with the local arts centre, and an avid arts supporter since childhood.

### Arts and history as bridges to Indigenous knowledge

"My parents made their living from art," she says. Her father, Graham Pettman, is a celebrated First Nation sculptor and painter whose soapstone carvings remain highly collectible. Her mom painted and did print work. Both are gifted artists and worked steadily when she was growing up, says Pettman.

"The idea of supporting and nur-



Pettman in 100 Mile House. PHOTO: PROVIDED

turing our young people, who will grow up and look after us all, is very important to me." While she was able to embrace these values while completing her degree, she says, the program also marked the start of her learning about her own identity as a First Nations woman in Canada.

"This was not something I had learned at home or in school, so, I started to research my own history and Canada's history," adding that knowing who you are, knowing your value systems, is essential for success in a caring career.

To fully embrace her studies, Pettman took a leave from work, which made the financial cushion of scholarships so valuable. A proud recipient of the Tolmie-Wood Award, the Minerva Award, and the Inspire Award, Pettman says this support helped her find that second gear when course work became intense.

"I have a pretty high level of tenacity," she admits. "I wanted this degree, and I didn't really know what I was going to do with it until I fell in to the Indigenous learning stream. That's when my transformation began." Pettman learned about her urban Alberta Aboriginal roots; her dad is of the Tallcree First Nation in Fort Vermilion. Her mother is Ukrainian born and raised in Vegreville.

"When I feel certain tensions, that's the sweet-spot of my learning. It may come as I interpret my dreams, conflict with academia, conflict with myself and my Indigenous and settler ways of knowing, being and doing. Even so, that is where these crossroads exist and, if I properly navigate these tensions, healing can take place."

Sticking with her education also boosted her strength. She recalls the deep conversations she shared with fellow students as one of the great gifts of the program. "They taught me to go forward, to have faith in myself, to learn experientially, and to remember to set good boundaries."

CYC professor Shanne McCaffrey says Pettman was a brilliant student who consistently came to her schoolwork "in a balanced way"—recognizing that balance and good practice go hand in hand. "Her wisdom, experience and maturity made a mark on all of us at CYC," says McCaffrey. "We are proud and grateful to have her in our family and circle. The legacy of her practice with others will ripple outwards in all the circles she may step into."

Jin-Sun Yoon, also a CYC professor and a national 3M teaching award recipient, concurs. "She was one of those students who was so generous, intelligent, caring, and wise. From her first post, I knew I had someone really special in my class."





# Mapping with the Stó:lō

BY TARA SHARPE

Sabina Trimble—who graduates this month with an MA in history—will don a mortarboard on Nov. 9, but her fondest memory as a student was being blanketed and given a hand-woven cedar hat, in a traditional Coast Salish honouring at her defence in August 2016.

In spring 2015, Trimble was a participant in the Stó:lō Ethnohistory Field School. Now well into its second decade as the only ethnohistory field school in Canada, it offers firsthand learning opportunities combining traditional knowledge, oral history and research with historical documents. A collaboration between the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre and the history departments of UVic and the University of Saskatchewan, along with the Stó:lō Nation and Stó:lō Tribal Council, the ethnohistory field school has been immersing graduate students every second spring since 1998 deep within Stó:lō communities and territory.

Stó:lō (Xwélmexw) traditional territory extends from Yale to Langley. Students board for one week with families and then reside for three weeks in a traditional cedar longhouse.

During Trimble’s thesis defense at UVic on Aug. 22, she wore a traditional cedar hat woven by Gracie Kelly, a Soowahlie First Nation community member, knowledge-holder and cedar-worker whom Trimble describes as being “really central to the success” of her master’s project.

Her thesis supervisor, department chair John Lutz, was also at the defense and helped launch the field school 18 years ago.

Trimble’s thesis project was a collaborative map-making effort with the Stó:lō community of Soowahlie First Nation. She and community members have worked together over the last three years to produce a digital, layered map of Soowahlie’s reserve and traditional lands. After Trimble’s defense was complete, Kelly sang an

honour song for Trimble’s work on the mapping project.

The community as a whole honoured her in a similar way separately, in the Soowahlie Band office on Sept. 1.

“The most important thing to me after I finished thesis work was that the community approved of the map,” adds Trimble. “Knowing they were happy with the final product, and being honoured in this way for the work, is even more important to me than walking the stage to receive my parchment at convocation.”

The map, containing over 110 sites from northern Washington to Chilliwack Lake, is hyperlinked with audio, visual and textual media telling stories about places of importance. “The map is intended to give voice to the importance of place to this community,” says Trimble.

“It also provides an alternative historical narrative to the common, colonial history of the settlement of the Fraser Valley.”

“It is meant not only for The’wá:lí to use as they wish, but also to engage a larger, non-Indigenous audience in rethinking their perceptions about where they live and about the peoples with whom they share their histories and land.”

Trimble first arrived at UVic in 2014. Holding an undergraduate degree in history from Mount Royal University, she was drawn to Victoria and our university by the exceptional Indigenous and environmental focus, as well as the glorious weather.

If she could explain to other students the significance and impact of her field school experience, she’d sum it up in one word: “transformational.”

Her plans include working outside of academia for a year and then applying for PhD programs for the fall of 2018.

Read January’s *Ring* story for more on the field school at [bit.ly/2flwBk4](http://bit.ly/2flwBk4).



McDonald. PHOTO: PROVIDED

## Poli Sci grad hopes to positively shape Canadian public policy

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

When Brody McDonald arrived at the University of Victoria he immediately fell in love with the beautiful campus—even though he had initially chosen UVic for its professors and research. Not long after the start of classes he connected with a community of people who shared ideas, resources, and opportunities that would last throughout his degree.

“My favourite memories of UVic are sitting in small classes and seminars with eight or 10 other students discussing new ideas and debating which was best,” says McDonald.

Throughout his political science major Brody gained international experience by representing Canada at the United Nations in New York, and attending conferences in Washington DC, Berlin and Malta.

“As a Global Shaper with the World Economic Forum, I have had

the chance to work closely with other young leaders from around the world and learn about their culture and beliefs,” says McDonald.

“Gaining an international perspective is one of the absolute best parts of the UVic experience,” continues McDonald, “and I think every new student should try to study or travel abroad at least once during their studies.”

McDonald found a passion for political science and a fascination with the interconnectedness of philosophy, politics and economics.

“The thing I love most about UVic is the unique academic environment—no questions are off limits for academic inquiry,” says McDonald. “I was encouraged to do a lot of one-on-one work with my professors, including opportunities to conduct original research and examine manuscripts firsthand,” continues McDonald.

McDonald loves to hike, travel, look for rare books and (attempt) to

learn new languages when he isn’t studying or working part-time to cover expenses. During his undergraduate degree he had the chance to work as a Community Leader for UVic; a Junior Research Fellow for NATO Council of Canada, and as a researcher for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and other Crimes Against Humanity in Ottawa.

“Even though I had to work part-time it taught me a lot about personal responsibility and gave me some great work experience in my field,” says McDonald. “I am also grateful to have received the Barry Industries Entrance Scholarship and bursaries from the Government of Canada which really helped me pay for my tuition.”

In the future, McDonald hopes to continue his work on interfaith dialogue and bridging the gap between different faith and political communities.

## MEET THE HONORANDS

Four leaders from the fields of computing, telecommunications, public service and athletics will accept honorary degrees—the university’s highest academic honour—during fall convocation ceremonies.

**Lynn Conway** (honorary doctor of engineering, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.) is a computer scientist and engineer who helped to pioneer modern information technology and is a leading advocate for transgender rights.

Conway did foundational research in computer architecture at IBM in the 1960s. The company fired her in 1968 as she underwent gender transition and she had to rebuild her career in “stealth” in a new name and identity.

A decade later she was teaching at MIT, co-authoring with Carver Mead the seminal engineering textbook, *Introduction to VLSI Systems*, innovating an Internet e-commerce system for rapid silicon-chip prototyping that led to today’s industrial models for microelectronics design and production, and receiving many high honors

for that work.

Conway came out upon retirement in 1999 as emerita professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the University of Michigan. A tireless voice for trans people, she was included in *Time* magazine’s 2014 list of 25 transgender people who have influenced American culture.

**Darren Entwistle** (honorary doctor of laws, Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m.) is a Canadian telecommunications industry leader whose entrepreneurial spirit is matched by his commitment to community involvement and corporate social responsibility.

Entwistle became president and CEO of Telus in 2000, at the age of 37, and began the work of growing the company into a global leader in data and wireless services. He navigated industry, regulatory and competitive challenges in the most turbulent period in Canadian telecommunications history.

Telus has been named one of Canada’s Top Diversity Employers

and the company is recognized for its ability to nurture talent and engage its employees. It has also been recognized internationally for its corporate social responsibility, sustainability and philanthropic efforts.

**Mike Harcourt** (honorary doctor of laws, Nov. 10 at 2:30 p.m.) is a champion for sustainability and, largely due to personal circumstances, for people living with physical disabilities.

Harcourt served as Vancouver’s mayor for six years beginning in 1980, a period highlighted by his participation in planning Expo 86. Harcourt worked with the province to safeguard the city from debt while welcoming 22 million visitors to the world’s fair.

As BC premier from 1991-96, Harcourt’s legacy includes the introduction of new guidelines for forest management, the resolution of land-use conflicts and a commitment to protecting 12 percent of the province’s land base.

Since leaving politics, Harcourt has intensified his interest in sus-

tainability issues, holding a variety of leadership positions and co-authoring the urban development book, *City Making in Paradise*.

In 2002 he suffered a severe spinal cord injury, and spent time in rehabilitation to regain 80 per cent function. In the book *Plan B; One Man’s Journey from Tragedy to Triumph*, he offers his story of recovery. He also became involved in the Rick Hansen Foundation and the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries.

**Simon Whitfield** (honorary doctor of laws, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m.) is a four-time Olympic triathlete who reached the pinnacle of his sport and became a role model and mentor, particularly for young people.

Whitfield surprised the world when, at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, he earned the first gold medal in triathlon. Eight years later, at the Beijing games, he pulled off another unexpected performance, claiming a silver medal. He was Canada’s flag bearer at the opening of the 2012

London Olympics in recognition of his athleticism and commitment to fair play.

Since retiring from competition, and apart from being a devoted father and business owner, Whitfield has remained an ambassador for sport and health. He works with KidSport and PowerToBe, organizations focusing on youth and healthy living programs. He frequently visits schools to talk to students about finding their passions and setting goals.



# Phoenix Theatre celebrates 50 years with style

**BY JOHN THRELFALL**

While the martlet is the mythical bird most associated with UVic, there is another legendary winged creature deeply tied to the university's history: the phoenix. And this month sees the Department of Theatre and their Phoenix Theatre marking 50 years of outstanding education and great productions.

“Our success begins with a deep passion for theatre shared by faculty, staff, students, alumni and our amazing audiences—present and past,” says theatre chair Allana Lindgren. “The people who started our department were fearless in their vision and commitment. They transformed one of the old military huts on campus into a stage and that ‘can do’ attitude has never left.”

From that volunteer-built 80-seat theatre in 1965, the fledgling program bloomed into what is arguably Canada's leading comprehensive theatre program. Housed since 1982 in a sophisticated purpose-built theatrical complex that remains the envy of most post-secondary institutions, the Phoenix—a fitting moniker for a building that rose from the remnants of an old military hospital, morgue and chapel—has long been recognized for not only its rigorous academic environment but also for its combination of training and entrepreneurship.

"Our students roll up their sleeves and work together to create amazing productions throughout the year," notes Lindgren. "That ingenuity and



1978 Phoenix Summer Theatre. PHOTO: PHOENIX THEATRE

work ethic gives them an advantage when they start their careers.”

Not everyone has to leave campus to find success, however: consider instructor and Audiences Services Manager Sandra Guerreiro, whose life has been intimately shaped by the Phoenix. Not only has she worked at the theatre department for 30 years, but her husband, Charles Procure, is also head of scenic construction and one of her sons, Nicholas Guerreiro, is a current student. Oh, and she's an alumna. "The first show I did at Phoenix was actually the last show in the old huts—*The Madwoman of Chaillot*, back in 1981," she says.

While that particular production

was a high school summer intensive, Guerreiro then transferred to the theatre department in 1982, graduated in 1985, and was hired on a part-time contract in 1986, which soon led to her full-time position. This affords Guerreiro a rather unique perspective, given her connection with every graduating class over the past 30 years. When asked what the theatre department's biggest impact is, she doesn't hesitate. "It's the community, the people," she says. "After 50 years, there's a huge network of Phoenix people across the country and it still feels really strong."

All of which makes Guerreiro the ideal point-person for the Phoenix's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebra-

tions. Now that October's Alumni Festival performance series has wrapped up, Guerreiro is gearing up for the upcoming Alumni Reunion weekend. Running November 11-13, close to 200 people will be returning to the Phoenix to help mark the occasion.

“Our alumni Facebook page started with four people and, as of today, it’s up to 513,” she says. “People are really excited, there’s a lot of talk on there. We’ve got folks coming from England, California, Oregon, Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, lots from Vancouver . . . and from all the different eras.”

As well as catching performances of their latest mainstage production, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, guests at

the Alumni Reunion weekend will also attend a mix 'n' mingle in the McIntyre Studio, a decade-by-decade lunch, Saturday night dinner and dance, a family fun run, farewell brunch, and archival displays both in the theatre lobby and at McPherson Library. (Visit [phoenixtheatres.ca/50th](http://phoenixtheatres.ca/50th) for full details and an interactive timeline highlighting key points in the department's history and many of their notable alumni.)

Despite the months of planning and inevitable scheduling hiccups, Guerreiro is still looking forward to reconnecting with her “Phoenix phamily” at the reunion. “It’s been really fun,” she says. “So many people have been messaging me, posting pictures . . . it really is exciting.”

# UVic, First Nations journey together to return ancestral remains

In a solemn ceremony in early October, members of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations and the University of Victoria journeyed together to return ancestral remains that had been stored in the Department of Anthropology to their community of origin on Lekwungen traditional lands.

Twenty-three pallbearers each carried a small cedar box with blanketed remains from the Cornett Building to a waiting vehicle. A police escort led a convoy of vehicles to the Esquimalt First Nations cemetery where the ancestral remains were interred. A traditional ceremony followed at the Esquimalt Long House.

UVic has been working with First Nations communities on Vancouver Island over several months to return ancestral remains that have been stored in the department from decades past. Other universities and museums also have repatriated ancestral remains and artifacts in recent years.

"We knew from the outset that we wanted to undertake this process carefully and respectfully and with the advice of First Nations," said Ann Stahl, chair of the Department of Anthropology.

The department, in keeping with contemporary perspectives in the study of humans and their societies, wanted to transfer the remains to their First Nations communities of origin or work with those communities to make other arrangements for their long-term care.

In a ceremony in May, First Nations elders blanketed the remains kept in a private, secure area at UVic.

The remains come from 21 sites around Vancouver Island, mostly removed under provincial permits to save them from damage and destruction at construction sites or places threatened by erosion. None of the remains were unearthed for research purposes or used for research.

### Several First Nations bands visited

UVic over the summer to bring the remains home to their communities. Others have asked UVic to continue its stewardship in the short term while arrangements can be made.

It was through discussions with representatives from several Vancouver Island First Nations that the department wanted to ascertain what ancestral remains might be included among other materials collected from archaeological sites across Vancouver Island. A careful inventory was done which indicated the ancestral remains came to UVic in a variety of ways.

Most of the remains were removed under permits issued by the BC Archeology Branch in the 1960s and 1970s from Vancouver Island construction sites and places threatened by erosion so that the remains would not be damaged or destroyed. A member of the department at the time was contacted to excavate the remains, which were brought to UVic where

they were stored.

In other cases, a temporary instructor in the department worked under contract for various provincial agencies, recovering ancestral remains threatened by erosion or development. Also, fragments were found among faunal, or animal bone, collections.

The remains came from five main areas around Vancouver Island—Courtenay/Comox; Qualicum; Buckley Bay/Tsable River (Fanny Bay) and Deep Bay Spit; Oak Bay; and the Gulf Islands.

Most of the sites had a small number of bone fragments. The largest number of remains, eight individual burials, came from a site affected by expansion of a ferry terminal mid-Island in the early 1970s.

The consultation plan on how to respectfully proceed with repatriation was considered by people within the department with relevant knowledge and experience as well

as Robina Thomas, UVic's director of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement, Ruth Young, director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Lekwungen elders from the Esquimalt and Songhees nations. Stahl, Thomas and Young then travelled to the different individual First Nations communities to inform them in person about the ancestral remains and respectfully invite their advice about how they want to proceed.

Those from UVic attending the interment and cultural ceremonies in addition to Stahl, Thomas and Young were Vice-President Academic and Provost Valerie Kuehne, Associate Vice-President Academic Planning Nancy Wright, Dean of Social Sciences Catherine Krull, and Associate Dean of Social Sciences Rosaline Canessa.

UVic will continue to work with the First Nations communities to respectfully return all the ancestral remains to their communities of origin.

## February 6–12, 2017

# ALUMNI WEEK



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Vikes for Life Basketball Night | Talks, Workshops and Get-togethers

University  
of Victoria



# calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at [events.uvic.ca](http://events.uvic.ca).

### at the galleries

[uvac.uvic.ca](http://uvac.uvic.ca)  
250-721-6562

- The Averted Eye Sees: The Life and Work of Glenn Howarth – Part II.** Until Jan. 7. Curated by Jenelle Pasietchnik. Glenn Howarth—an innovative creator and inspired teacher—was a pillar in Victoria’s arts scene from the late 1970s until his death in 2009. His work was often infused with surrealistic imagery which recalls the work of Francis Bacon. Howarth was also responsible for innovations in computer graphic art in the early 1980s working on the Telidon system as an artist-in-residence at UVic’s engineering department. The Averted Eye Sees draws on UVic’s significant collection of Howarth paintings primarily from the Michael C. Williams estate, as well as writing, sketches, ephemera and digital files from UVic Libraries’ Archives and Special Collections. Legacy Art Gallery Downtown, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562
- Continuance.** Nov. 5 to Jan. 29. Curated by Josie Greenhill (UVic). Local architects Samuel Maclure (1860-1929) and John Di Castri (1924-2005) shaped Victoria’s cityscape in distinct ways and their structures reflect two very different eras and design aesthetics in our city’s history. This exhibition compares selected designs by Di Castri and Maclure and compares them to the theories of organic architecture articulated by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Legacy Art Gallery Downtown, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

- In Defiance.** Until Jan. 7. This exhibition emerged from Iroquois Mohawk artist and collaborator **Lindsay Kat Katsitsakatste Delaronde’s** photographic project “Squaw” which, in utter defiance of the negative word used to denigrate Indigenous women, seeks to break down the stereotypes. The photographs create an empowering series that deconstruct, challenge and defy mainstream ideologies of identity and its link to sexuality. The artist’s motivation was to “seek to create a project to reclaim and empower First Nations women and their capability to express their natural sovereign powers of eroticism, sensuality and vulnerability through their presence over time.” Legacy Art Gallery Downtown, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

### at the theatre

[phoenixtheatres.ca](http://phoenixtheatres.ca)  
250-721-8000

- Theatre.** 8 p.m. *Les Liaisons Dangereuses.* (November 10–26), Christopher Hampton. From the novel by Choderlos de Laclos. To the rich and bored French aristocracy, seduction is a sport and sex a weapon. When Merteuil challenges her former lover Valmont to prove his seductive powers, an innocent bride-to-be and the virtuous Madame de Tourvel are caught in the middle. But while these aristocrats sabotage others’ hearts and reputations, their own are even more fragile. This award-winning play, adapted into the Oscar-winning film, tells a chilling tale of sensual decadence and revenge played as a high-stakes game of life and death. Phoenix Theatre. Tickets \$15-\$26. 250-721-8000

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *Documenting Treasures in the Early Christian Church.* Erica Dodd (CSRS/UVic). Strong C118.
- Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *Going Steady: Sex, Desire, Consent and Assault in Postwar American Youth Sexual Culture.* Rachel Cleves (UVic). Clearihue A303. 250-721-7385.

- CAVI Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Slavery, Gender, and Healthcare in Elite Roman Households.* Fanny Dolansky (Brock). Clearihue A212. Info: [bburke@uvic.ca](mailto:bburke@uvic.ca)

- Beck Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *What Defines Survival? The Seawomen of Iceland.* Margaret Willson (U-Washington). Clearihue A203.

- Bishops Distinguished Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Justice in Canada: Perspectives on Truth, Compassion & Indigenous Peoples.* Steven L. Point (Xwe li qwel tel) First Peoples House Ceremonial Hall. 250-721-8339

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* And 18 & 25. Enjoy an afternoon concert featuring UVic School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

- Geography Lecture.** 2:45 p.m. *Digging Deep into the History and Ecology of the Human-driven Near-extinction of a North Pacific Marine Predator.* Russell Markel (Outer Shores Expeditions). Turpin B215. 250-721-7327.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- Music.** 8 p.m. *Orion lecture: Italian Opera and its Singers.* Prof. Emeritus Damjana Bratuz, piano. MacLaurin B037. 250-721-8634

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- Music.** 12:30 p.m. *Tuesdaymusic.* And 15/22/29. Concert featuring UVic School of Music students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 250-721-8634

- Lecture/Seminar.** 3 p.m. *The Path of the Jaguar.* Novelist and critic Stephen Henighan. Turpin A110.
- Victoria Natural History Night Lecture 7:30 p.m.** Badgers: The Misunderstood Mustelids. Fraser 159.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- Other.** 8 p.m. *Astronomy Open House.* Wednesday evenings until April 2017. Your chance to discover everything you’ve wanted to know about the sky. Wright Centre fifth floor.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *An Evening with Deputy Librarian of Congress David S. Mao and UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers.* Belfry Theatre, 1291 Gladstone Ave. Tickets: [belfry.bc.ca/tickets](http://belfry.bc.ca/tickets). 250-721-8217

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- CFGS Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Visualizing South Africa Through an American Lens: Margaret Bourke-White.* Rick Halpern (U-Toronto). Turpin 118. 250-721-7286

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- Music.** 1 p.m. *Orion lecture: Music and Emotion: A Composer’s Perspective.* Peter Golub. MacLaurin B120. 250-721-8634

- CSRS Lecture.** 4:30 p.m. *Open Arms: The Moral and Social Functions of Merchant Family Shields in Late-Medieval Italy.* Brian Pollick. Strong C118.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- Music.** 11:30 a.m. *Orion lecture: Music Technology Meets Hollywood.* Peter Golub. MacLaurin A169. 250-721-8634

- Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *What Do We Know About Near-surface Winds, and How Do We Know It?* Adam Monahan (UVic). Turpin B215. 250-721-7327

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- Lansdowne Lecture.** 3:30 p.m. *Boeotian Inscriptions in Epichoric Script: A Conspectus.* Nikolaos Papazarkadas (U-Cal Berkeley). Clearihue A127.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- Lecture/Seminar.** 12:30 p.m. *Ainu Language Policies, Past and Present.* Uwe Makino (Chuo U., Tokyo). Hickman 120. 604-721-7020

- Lansdowne Lecture.** 3:30 p.m. *The Epigraphic Habit(s) in Fourth-Century Boeotia: Hegemony and Acculturation?* Nikolaos Papazarkadas (U-Cal Berkeley). Strong C118.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- Victoria Natural History Night Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Saving Endangered Shrikes.* Cayla Naumann. Fraser 159.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- CSRS Lecture/Seminar.** 4:30 p.m. *Victorian Agnostic Networks.* Bassam Chiblak (UVic). David Strong C118.

- CAVI & Lansdowne Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Beyond the Acropolis: Producing a National Archaeological Landscape in the Kingdom of Greece.* Nikolaos Papazarkadas. Clearihue A212.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *UFO Conferences as Centres for Learning and Teaching.* Paul Kingsbury (SFU). Turpin B215. 250-721-7327.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- Victoria Natural History Society Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. *Science Friction: Salmon Farming in BC.* John Volpe (UVic). Fraser 159.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- Music.** 8 p.m. *Orion Concert: Chloe Meyers, baroque violin.* MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8634



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# NO VACANCY:

## How Vancouver housing affordability is impacting homelessness

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE AND JONATHAN WOODS

The relationship between Vancouver’s real estate boom and the crisis of homelessness is more than just a trickle down effect, according to a new report co-written by Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC) researchers Bernie Pauly and Geoff Cross in collaboration with Vancouver’s Union Gospel Mission (UGM).

Released with an accompanying UGM video that illustrates the precarious situation of many Vancouver-area residents, the report also suggests homelessness is increasingly beyond an individual’s control.

The report, *No Vacancy: Affordability and Homelessness in Vancouver*, provides evidence of the correlation between rising housing costs in Vancouver, the diminishing supply of low-end rental housing, dropping vacancy rates and the growing number of people who are increasingly vulnerable to homelessness.

While there have been positive steps taken and growing investments made in homelessness outreach, rent supplements and subsidized housing units, the report’s authors explain the investment is not proportionate to the need in the current environment in Metro Vancouver.

Data from the new report suggest Vancouver is entering a ‘new reality’ in its struggle against homelessness: lack of affordability is driving people onto the streets, creating backlogs in shelters, and preventing others from entering services like addiction recovery.

The report developed out of UGM’s experiences and growing awareness of the difficulties being faced by those accessing their services. UGM provides emergency shelter, housing, alcohol and drug recovery, and education to people struggling with poverty, homelessness and addiction.

In trying to understand and quantify their observations, UGM reached out to Pauly, associate professor with UVic’s School of Nursing . In collaboration with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Pauly had already developed a community-level framework for monitoring indicators



Pauly in Vancouver. PHOTO: JEFF VINNICK

that drive homelessness, and has produced similar reports in Victoria beginning in 2010.

Among the researchers’ principal findings was that increasing market rents and decreasing vacancy rates were occurring especially at the lower end of the rental market—the units most affordable for people at risk of homelessness. In fact, while the number of bachelor suites and one-bedroom apartments in Vancouver has increased modestly over the past five years, the number of units renting at or less than \$750 per month has declined; since 2010, supply of these units dropped from 1,728 to 843. The vacancy rate of bachelor suites at this price in the City of Vancouver now stands at a 0.1 per cent.

Other findings from the report corroborate the squeeze at the lowest

end of the housing spectrum. While the rental market has become tighter and more expensive over the last five years, the level of financial resources of low-income households has remained relatively stagnant, pushing more people towards social housing, assistance, and out onto the streets. Currently, 10,278 people in Metro Vancouver remain on the BC Housing Registry, seeking suitable housing.

The percentage of women in Metro Vancouver shelters grew from 28 per cent to 32 per cent over the past five years. Low-income seniors have also been hard hit; the number of senior applicants on BC’s Housing Registry has increased by 38 per cent. Meanwhile, occupancy rates at emergency shelters have remained at or above 97 per cent over the last four years. This means there is very little avail-

able space in emergency shelters for those in need.

“The question is not whether we are doing something but whether we are doing enough,” Pauly says. “When we look at the current numbers of people who are homeless, the answer is no. Sadly, this makes the job of moving off the streets difficult and has the potential to push people into homelessness.”

Pauly has observed similar dynamics at play in Victoria, having identified this in reports for the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness.

“Victoria shelters have routinely been running at over 100-per-cent capacity, market housing is unaffordable and unavailable to people on low incomes and social housing has long waiting lists,” says Pauly. In Victoria, the hope is that this trend will change given the recent investment of \$60 mil-

lion (by CRD and the Province of BC) into a Housing First Strategy.”

In a *BC Globe and Mail* op-ed, Pauly and UBC colleague Penny Gurstein advocate for several things: the inclusion of people with experience of homelessness in government policy-making to ensure that all housing needs are considered; an immediate increase in income assistance rates and abolishment of time limits on rent supplements; and a national housing strategy that addresses the full range of housing affordability. This situation requires a municipal, provincial and federal policy response, the authors say.

UGM’s Derek Weiss also contributed to the report, which can be found, along with a video and data supplement, at [ugm.ca/affordability](http://ugm.ca/affordability).

## Victoria’s Bell Jar

BY TARA SHARPE

Oct. 27 would have been the 84th birthday of influential 20th-century poet Sylvia Plath. She died in 1963, and was the first poet to be posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1982.

Plath’s daughter, Frieda Hughes, once held a copy of *The Bell Jar* published under Plath’s nom de plume, Victoria Lucas, and decided to ‘mend’ damage to its front cover and inside pages with a series of lively and profound sketches. Now researchers and students can also hold this incomparable volume in their own hands.

The rare first edition came to Hughes following the death of her brother Nicholas in 2009, a decade after the death of their father and former British poet laureate Ted Hughes, who had passed it to Nicholas. UVic Libraries acquired it after Christine Walde, a UVic librarian who saw the pending sale by a US rare bookseller via Twitter, touts it as “the Victoria copy of the ‘Victoria Lucas’ *The Bell Jar*.”

The book’s front board has a large split running down the centre, a

crease which carries through to the first few leaves. Plath’s daughter drew a zipper up the inside cover, “stitched up” the adjacent leaf and added small sketches of a mouse and crocodile.

“It is extremely unusual to find a Lucas copy, with a dust jacket. But what makes it unique too is that it was owned by the family and includes profound marginalia added by Plath’s daughter. It’s an auspicious provenance,” says Director of Special Collections and University Archivist Lara Wilson.

Now available for access through arrangement with UVic special collections staff, people can witness for themselves the volume’s very personal treatment in the hands of Hughes—thereby adding not only a tangible exploration of the book and textual analysis of the story within its covers, but also as an accent to the lives of both author and daughter.

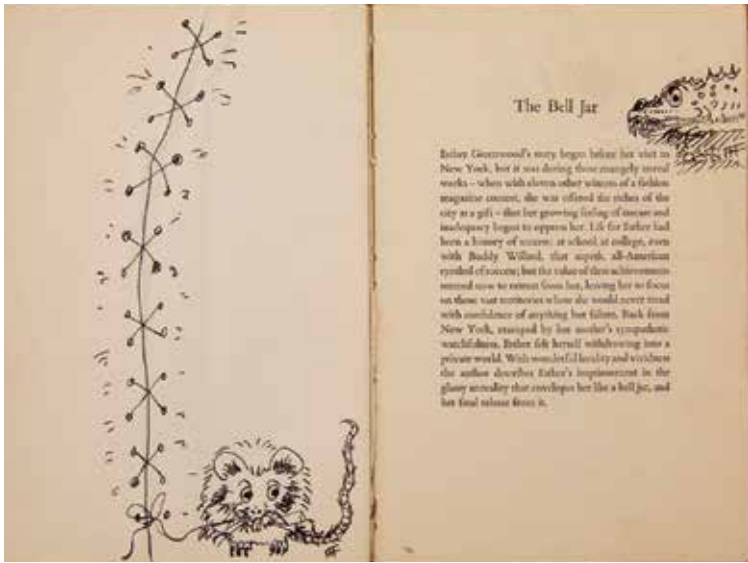
As part of last month’s announcement of the acquisition, leading Plath scholar Peter K. Steinberg visited from Boston for a public talk on Plath’s birthday as part of the “Treasures and

Tea” series at the library. He maintains the oldest continuously updated website on Plath ([www.sylviaplath.info](http://www.sylviaplath.info)) and it was his tweet which caught Walde’s eye.

UVic Special Collections and University Archives hold an extensive array of exceptional objects and rare print and archival materials ranging from Egyptian hieroglyphics and a centuries-old British genealogical roll of parchment, to digital artworks by the late artist Glenn Howarth and movie promotional material for *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

The library’s most recent publication, *Fronts of Modernity: The 20th-Century Collections*—created by UVic English assistant professor Matt Huculak in honour of the 50th anniversary of Special Collections and University Archives this year—was featured last month in the *Times Colonist*.

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First leaves of UVic’s *The Bell Jar*, showing the mouse sketch and continued “stitching” on the verso of the front fly-leaf, with the crocodile sketch on the half-title. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Spine and dust jacket of the Victoria Lucas edition. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Damage to front book board. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES