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 Sicamous, 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 team was "the goal I hold dear—including justice and equality for everyone, regardless of their social location or identity," says Benoit.

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 when 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 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...
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 hypertoners.

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 is 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 Leadbeater. “Being 12 to 18 years old is the time in life where young people are establishing a foundation for lifelong well-being. This study cares impor-
tant national messages about the need for better policies and changes in att-titudes 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-ori-ented youth culture of the advertise-
ts that target them, many youth in this study were found to be juggling education, work, 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 ac-
itivity, healthy eating and stress regula-
tion. 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 Frye, 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 be- tween work, school and life. Coming of age in the 21st century is a struggle for many young people, but most are stay-
ing 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 Re-
lations Carmen Charette and student recruitment director Carolyn Bussell to sign a third partnership agreement with Soochow University.

Soochow University is a critical Chinese partner for UVic and I am de-
lighted 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 Soo-
chow University students who com-
plete two years of study in Suzhou to then transfer to UVic’s economics program for the remaining two years to receive a double degree in econom-
ics from both Soochow University and UVic.

The visit to Victoria’s Twin City Suzhou was part of an eight-day mis-
ion led by Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps along with 18 delegates including UVic officials, with a goal of exporting in-
novation 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.

Navigating the ever-changing market

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

Bob Reimer
Lawyer & Notary Public

- Real Estate—Purchase/Sale/Mortgage
- Estate Litigation
- Will & Trusts
- Probate/Administration
- Power of Attorney/Representation
- Family Law—Divorce & Separation
- General Legal Advice & Referral

4195 Shelbourne Street
(two blocks north of Feltman Rd.)
250-721-2441
The University of Victoria has a new acting chair of its Board of Governors. Daphne Corbett, a UVic alumnus (BA 1978) 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 alumnus with a BA in Economics and Pacific 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 prepare for my new form of service.”

Corbett, who has been a member of the board since July 2015, will serve as acting chair until the election procedures for 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.

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 R. Koch Award, the Gillian 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. 30, 2017. Further information is available at uvic.ca/campusawards.

District Energy Plant open house

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, the UVic Sub upper lounge from 3–5 p.m., to find out more about UVic’s plans to build a new energy plant to replace the aging heating energy infrastructure on campus. The new natural gas-fuelled plant will boast more efficient boilers which, in combination with new control systems and ultra-efficient energy turbines, will save the university millions, and 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 Foynery Gardens. Construction of the new plant is slated to begin in the Spring of 2017.

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 of Social Sciences 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 compensation plan is 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.
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 re-use 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 50 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 soda—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’ve 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 those 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 on-the-ground to help determine Zika 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.”

“Energy,” a wave buoy being lowered into the Pacific ocean.

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 $1.5 million 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 (IIES). 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/unic-wave.
Banting fellows shed light on Indigenous language, orca survival

An endangered Indigenous language and an endangered West Coast wildlife icon

For his fellowship research, bio- mathematician Andrew Bate man 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 popula tion 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 de velop mathematical models using data collected by whale researcher s 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 whole 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 society,” he says. “The whales share individual salmon with each other—a pretty amazing behaviour that’s an im portant 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 popula tion, and to help them we need to be as informed as possible. They’re important ecologically, so cially and economically. Protecting them helps ensure a healthy coastal ecosystem overall.”

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UVic-led particle physics facility moves closer to completion

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

The Advanced Rare Isotope Labo ratory (ARIEL) is a two-phase ex pan sion at TRIUMF, Canada’s national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics, located in Vancouver. The ARIEL facility is led by UVic, work ing with 18 other university partners across Canada.

In October, the BC government an nounced its contribution of 84.7 mil lion 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 capaci ty to work in this highly skilled sector, and we’re excited to see how this in novative work changes lives.”

In total, the federal government, several provincial governments and other partners and in-kind contribu tors, have invested approximately $100 million in the two phases of ARIEL, which will advance Canada’s leadership in the production of iso topes for use in medicine, industry and science.

Powerful tools

An isotope is a variant of a basic ele ment, 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 ad vanced 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’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 physi cist Dean Karlen, lead scientist for ARIEL. “As soon we’ve demonstrated their value, there will be business op portunities for building and operating facilities for manufacturing them.”

At the heart of ARIEL is Canada’s first high-powered, superconducting radio frequency electron linear accele rator (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 part ners to several countries around the world.

The first stage of ARIEL, funded in 2010, built the e-linac, an under ground 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 Cana da and internationally, catalyze new industrial partnerships, and generate more opportunities for training the next generation of scientists, engi neers 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.”
“There’s a concept in Nuu-chah-nulth culture called ‘hishuk ish tsawalk,’” says Marcena Wiha 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 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 Squlyówn 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 counsellings 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, 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.”

“Four our masters project, I tried to access as many Nuu-chah-nulth resources as I could and find as many examples of wellness and how our culture continues to support wellness. 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 Wikanimish Louie, was a UVic histori- ory 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.”

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

“Hishuk ish tsawalk—everything is one”

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

Venue

All ceremonies take place in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. For event times and more information, please visit arcura.ca/ceremonies.
Each second, roughly 100 billion solar neutrinos were producing the results that were so close to commissioning and winning research. Jordan Myslik can trace his interest in neutrino physics back to when he was a teenager. "I became interested in pursuing a career in experimental particle physics."

After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, Myslik headed 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."

Thru 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."

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

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

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

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Myslik's research focused on Nv2b2, 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 Demonstration 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."

"I would 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, Myslik 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 use 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.

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, connected with her own Eastern roots.

Mishkin with an eagle in Mongolia. PHOTO: PROVIDED

“European roots. Mongolia was her first independent expedition outside North America.”

Mishkin pursued a postgraduate degree in business administration at the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, BCom ’16, at the University of Victoria. The program’s transnational focus drew her to the school, where she was able to work on a team of physicists attempting to determine whether the neutrino is its own antiparticle. "It was an amazing experience. I was collaborating on cutting edge physics with researchers from UVic and around the world," says Myslik.

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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, connected with her own Eastern 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

by Skype, when I got on the plane.”

Nan’s Cashmere, run by Mongolian fashion designer Nasnulmaa Samjamtsetseg, 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 [Samjamtsetseg] 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.

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

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

volunteering at Science North (the local science museum) in Sudbury, 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."

"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."

Myslik's research focused on Nv2b2, 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:"
CONVOCATION

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, graduating student’s master 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 world. “That’s in addition to completing two degrees here at UVic: a BA in Hispanic studies (with a professional writing minor) and an MA in writing. Now she’s putting my two biggest passions—travel and education—by starting a 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’re 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 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.”

"The chapters range from safety and ethical travel to the sense of longing—and belonging—that long-term travelers often have."

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, he straightly, "for gay, queer, trans on Two-Spirit.

She speaks fondly of those awkward days and nights as a powerful time of transition and growth. “It is 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 discrimi- late. “Her wisdom, experience and caring, and wise. From her first post, I knew I had someone really important to me. “While she was transforming our young people, who will turn out fitting in somewhere.”

"I have a pretty high level of tena- city,” 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 studies stream. That’s when my transformation began.”

Pettman learned about her urban Alberta roots, she discovered she’s a direct descendent 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 properly navigate those tensions, healing can take place.”

Sticking with her education also boosted her strategy. 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.”

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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 her first trip to 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 I was working on,” Trimble says. “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 narrative to the colonial history of the settlement of the Fraser Valley.”

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. Trimble plans to continue to explain to other students the significance and impact of her field school experience, she’d sum up her UVic experience 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 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 ethnographic field school has been immersing graduate students every second spring since 1996 deep within Stó:lō communities and territory.

Stó:lō (Dwellme) traditional territory extends from Yale to Langley. Families and then reside for three years in a traditional cedar longhouse.

When the UVic field school was in session, Stó:lō (Dwellme) traditional territory is where Trimble describes as being “really central to the success” of her master’s project.

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. She designed a computer chip for Intel as she underwent gender transition and then had to rebuild her career in a male-dominated field under her new name and identity.

A decade later she was teaching at MIT, co-authoring with Roger Mead the textbook, Principles of Digital Design, and developing HyperText to VLSI Systems, innovating an Internet e-commerce system for rapid silicon-ship prototyping that led to today’s industrial models for microelectronics design and production, and receiving many high honours 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 law, Nov. 10 at 2:30 p.m.) is a champion for sustainability and 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 of corporate social responsibility, sustainability and philanthropic efforts.

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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 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 cultures 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.”

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

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. He frequently visits schools to talk to students about finding their passions and setting goals.
Phoenix Theatre celebrates 50 years with style

BY JOHN TRELAFALL

While the marlet 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 Aliann 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 that ‘can do’ attitude has never left.”

From that volunteer-built 80-seat theatre in 1965, the fledging program bloomed into what is arguably Canada’s leading comprehensive program for the arts, given the university’s history and its oversight by the University of Victoria. From that volunteer-built 80-seat theatre in 1965, the fledging program bloomed into what is arguably Canada’s leading comprehensive and one of the most diverse academic environments but also for its combination of training and entrepreneurship.

“Phoenix to help mark the occasion. All of which makes Guerreiro the ideal point-person for the Phoenix’s upcoming 30th anniversary celebration. Now that October’s Alumni Weekend will also attend a mix ‘n’ mingle in the McIntyre Studio, a decade by decade brunch, Saturday night dinner and dance, a family fun, farewell brunch, and archival displays both in the theatre lobby and at McPherson Library. (Visit 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 family 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 collaborated to return ancestral remains that had been stored in the Department of Anthropology to their community of origin on Lekwungen traditional lands.

Twenty-three paleoanthropologists 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 community where the ancestral remains were interred. A traditional ceremony followed at the Esquimalt Long House.

UVic is now 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.

“A ceremony in May, First Nations elders blessed the remains kept in a private, secure area at UVic. The remains come from 26 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 unearred 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.

“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 Archaeology Branch in the 1960s and 1970s from Vancouver Island construction sites or 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 institutional department 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/Table 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 Leekwungen 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 Kuchek; 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 re-

“UVic’s First Nations journey to return ancestral remains

In Conversation, with Chancellor Shelagh Rogers | Distinguished Alumni Awards

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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 (CAREBC) researchers Bernie Pauly and Geoff Cross in collaboration with UVic’s Union Gospel Mission (UGM).

Released with an accompanying UGM video that illustrates the precarity of many Vancouver-area residents, the report also suggests homelessness is increasingly beyond an individualized solution.

The report, No Vacancy: Affordability and Homelessness in Vancouver, was the first poet to be posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1982. Lucile Plath’s daughter, Frieda Hughes, published under Plath’s nom de plume, “says Director of Special Collections and University Archivist Tara Sharp.

“For these reasons, the report is significant. It 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 subsidised 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 UVic’s School of Nursing. In collaboration with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, the nursing students already had developed a community-level framework for monitoring indicators 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 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 available 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 million (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 Gurrstein advocate for several things the inclusion of people with experiences 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.

UGMs Derek Weiss also contributed to the report, which can be found, along with a video and data supplement, at ugm.ca/affordability.

Victoria’s Bell Jar

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. Lucile Plath’s daughter, Frieda Hughes, published under Plath’s nom de plume, “says Director of Special Collections and University Archivist Tara Sharp.

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BY TARA SHARP

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

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

Damage to front book board. PHOTO: UBC PHOTO SERVICES

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