SPEED READING

PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT
Affirming tolerance, respect and inclusion
UVic President Jamie Cassels released a statement on Jan. 30 following the Jan. 29 Quebec City murders and the Jan. 27 US government executive order on immigration and refugees. The statement emphasizes the university’s commitment to the promotion of tolerance, respect and inclusion, as well as identifying campus counselling and other support resources available for those impacted.
bit.ly/uvic-affirms

A STELLAR CHOICE
UVic oceanographer could add “astronaut” to his vitae
Out of almost 4,000 applicants, UVic chemical oceanographer Jay Cullen is among 72 candidates remaining in the Canadian Space Agency’s rigorous competition to recruit two new astronauts. “I’ve always dreamed of going into space,” says Cullen, who sees his background in science, education and exploration as preparing him well for the job. The winners will be chosen this summer.

THE RING

BEYOND BORDERS

STUDENT FUNDING FEEDS INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES—P. 5

Ocean Networks Canada
CFI FUNDING A LONG-TERM BOOST FOR OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA

BY VALERIE SHORE
Community observatories along the BC coast, earthquake early warning sensors in the deep sea, and the first 24/7 subsea instrument platform in the Arctic—these recent accomplishments are among many that have made the University of Victoria’s Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) the world-leading ocean science facility it is today.

Now, a five-year, $46.6 million investment from the Canadian government—through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)—will ensure that ONC continues to lead the world in ocean observatory science and technology.

The new funding is awarded to UVic through CFI’s Major Science Initiatives program, which supports a portion of the operating and maintenance costs of selected major science facilities across Canada. These facilities serve communities of researchers nationally and internationally, support leading-edge S&T, and promote the transfer of knowledge for the benefit of society.

“This is terrific news for ONC and for the future of ocean science globally,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “These funds will support ONC’s ongoing transformation of ocean science and its applications to public policy, economic development, environmental stewardship and public education—for the benefit of Canada and the world.”

ONC pioneers ocean observatories that stream live data 24/7 to researchers across Canada and around the world to study everything from ocean change and fish abundance, to plate tectonics and tsunamis, deep-sea ecosystems and ocean engineering.

The long-term observations being collected by ONC instruments have wide-ranging policy applications in areas such as ocean and climate change, earthquakes and tsunamis, pollution, port security and shipping, hazard mitigation, renewable resource assessment, sovereignty and security, and ocean management.

“With the longest coastline in the world, Canada has made an unprecedented investment over the past 16 years in building

SEE OCEAN NETWORKS FUNDING P. 3

The Phoenix Theatre at 50

BY JOHN THRELFALL
It’s no exaggeration to say that Victoria is well known for its diverse and dynamic theatre community. With 60 local theatre companies and national acclaim regularly bestowed upon the likes of the Belfry, Phoenix, Pacific Opera Victoria and Intrepid Theatre, Victoria has earned its reputation as one of Canada’s cultural capitals.

Much of that credit belongs to the University of Victoria’s Department of Theatre. Peek behind the curtain of almost any production in town and you’ll find a theatre graduate.

For 50 years, the theatre department and Phoenix Theatre—its public performance wing—have helped shape the development of local and national theatre by producing celebrated alumni and innovative productions.

The department’s international exchanges, applied theatre, and theatre education programs are renowned for affecting social change and transforming the way theatre itself is taught.

Growing from a volunteer-built, 80-seat theatre into Canada’s leading comprehensive theatre program, the Phoenix is now one of the best educational theatre facilities in the country. Three stages and extensive backstage facilities—including set construction and wardrobe shops—let students create almost any environment imaginable.

Whether they’re mounting modern classics or performing Shakespeare, students are at the heart of every award-winning production—not only acting, but also designing sets and costumes, operating the lighting and sound, and handling front-of-house and audience services.

This hands-on approach to learning balances practical skills with traditional academic courses and has set the tone for the kind of dynamic programs now common across campus.

“Our success begins with a deep passion for theatre shared by faculty, staff, students and audiences—past and present,” says department chair Allana

SEE PHOENIX P. 2
Research investment supports new UVic ocean and climate hub

The University of Victoria is paving the way for creation of an ocean and climate hub for collaborative faculty and student research to enhance the university’s capacity to build knowledge of marine environments.

A Jan. 17 joint announcement by the federal government through the post-secondary strategic infrastructure fund and UVic will see $8.5 million invested in the former Queenwood property in Cadboro Bay. With a federal contribution of $5.1 million, augmented by UVic’s contribution of $3.9 million, the one-time Sisters of St. Ann 130-year-old residence building at Abutus Road will be renovated into office and laboratory space.

Ocean Networks Canada is the first occupant of the ocean and climate hub. ONC will work with about 100 faculty members, staff and graduate students into the refurbished Queenwood building by June 2018.

“Support is pivotal for the growth of UVic’s world-leading facilities in ocean sciences and climate change research,” UVic President Jamie Cassels told an audience in University Centre during the announcement. “The funds will create and expand interdisciplinary homes for UVic researchers to expand their capacity and work collaboratively with their partners to contribute to Canada’s innovation agenda.”

UNC President Kate Moran said a dedicated ocean and climate change research space at UVic is unique to Canada and will further the study of such areas as plate tectonics, tsunamis, deep-sea ecosystems and ocean engineering.

“The Queenwood location will enhance collaboration and allow for the advancement of research that links the ocean’s vital role in understanding and adapting to climate change,” Queenwood’s building footprint remains the same. A significant part of the makeover project will bring the structure up to current seismic standards and an application has been made to the District of Saanich to modify existing zoning to accommodate the renovations.

John Aldag, Member of Parliament for Langley City-Cloverdale, announced the federal investment on behalf of Science Minister Kirsty Duncan.

“Minister Duncan has been so instrumental in putting science at the forefront of the government’s agenda — to the benefit of world-class institutions like the University of Victoria and our community,” Aldag said. “We understand that investments in scientific research lead to good jobs and sustainable economic growth for all Canadians — all the while strengthening our middle class.”

The government and university also announced support for upgrades to the Bamfield Marine Science Centre (BMSC) on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The $5.1-million project involves a federal infusion of $1.5-million. The consortium of five institutions that own and operate BMSC — the universities of Victoria, BC, SFU, Alberta and Calgary — are contributing a total of $1.5 million.

Brad Asholt, director of BMSC, thanked the government and member universities for their investment in Bamfield’s future.

“It will improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of our electrical grid and auxiliary power, it will improve the capacity of our IT systems, and will help meet our commitment to ethical animal care by improving our seawater system and our animal holding facilities,” said Asholt.

BMSC conducts collaborative international research and education in ocean science and marine life as the only marine science facility on the west coast between Washington State and Alaska.

Continued from P. 1

Lindgren. “Many of our alumni become theatre professionals, while others apply the skills they’ve honed to a wide range of careers. All are united by their creativity and intellectual dexterity.”

Many alumni have learned these skills with internationally known designer-professor Mary Kerr. Her work is so respected that she’s the only set and costume designer ever named to a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and many of her designs are included in the two-volume World Scenography collection which she uses as textbooks in her classes.

“Many people don’t think of theatre design in such lofty terms. While I am a costume and set designer, I try to approach stage design as kinetic sculpture.”

Kerr is committed to changing the way design is taught. Her hope is to move beyond the conventional “short-order cook” approach where designers may simply fill out the director’s “menu” of separate set, costume and lighting ideas. In a new course, students are paired up in designer/director teams to develop a more cohesive approach to a play.

“The idea is to have a unified vision, to build an imaginative bridge between the playwright’s text and the director’s ideas of it,” she says. Creative and academic innovations like these will assure the theatre department’s place in the spotlight over the next 50 years, as the next generation of alumni make their impact on the ever-evolving world of theatre.

“People who started our department were fearless in their vision and commitment, and that ‘can do’ attitude has never left,” says Lindgren. “Our students roll up their sleeves and work together to create amazing productions.”

PHOENIX CONTINUED FROM P. 1

In celebration of their anniversary, the Department of Theatre invites UVic faculty and staff to the Phoenix Theatre on Wednesday March 8 at 6:30 p.m. for a special evening with back-stage tours and a dessert reception, followed by an 8 p.m. performance of the Inspector. Specially-priced tickets for the evening’s events are only $8. Call the Phoenix Box Office to reserve at 250-721-8000.

The Phoenix performed to packed houses when it opened in 1962. Since then, the Theatre has been located in the former Queenwood Hall, which on March 6-11 with the week-long festival, UVic’s week-long festival ideas that can change everything. Thea ring around the ring - Ideas that can change everything. Idealdest, UVic’s week-long festival of research, scholarly and creative work, returns March 6-11 with 40+ outstanding events. This year’s festival features hundreds of speakers presenting on topics ranging from angry populism and ocean sustainability to innovations in cybernetic technologies and Indigenous resurgence. Full program: uvic.ca/thea ring.

Save the date for Connect U

The next Connect U professional development conference for UVic employees is coming up May 3-4. Make sure to block off the time in your calendar, check the website for this year’s line-up of sessions, speakers and tours, and get ready for a fabulous learning and networking opportunity. Registration will open in early April at uvic.ca/connectu.

Navigating the ever-changing market

A long-time 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.

Dave LIIIY
Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty
250-592-4422 | dave@davelynn.com

A Fresh Tradition
Pepper’s Foods has been serving Victoria as a full service, independent grocery store for over 50 years. We are committed to continuing the same traditions begun in 1962: the freshest, highest quality products at the lowest possible prices. Local is always our first choice. Our independent non-chain status allows us to listen to our customers and give them what they want.

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10% Off All Home Delivery Orders:
Critical conversations at a crucial time

BY JESS HARVEY

For many of us, a dark shadow has been cast over the international political stage due to the vast networks of contamination. Following the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States, not only American citizens, but the entire world felt a gusty cloud of intolerance, bigotry, xenophobia and misogyny. During this time—now more than ever—I felt that I needed a reminder that the greater percentage of people aren’t made up of one part Chauvinists and two parts haters. With this thought in mind, I eagerly accepted an invitation to attend this year’s Power and Privilege: “Like a light at the end of the tunnel, the conference was exactly what I needed for my post-inaugural hangover.”

The opening ceremony was held on January 26 in the First Peoples House and began with a presentation by Elder Sam (Teitlip Nation) and Elder Skip Dick (Songhees Nation). The message of every presenter held equal weight, yet the welcoming words of UVic President Jamie Cassels stuck with me most as he highlighted why conversations are necessary now more than ever. These conversations shape the country we become, and we will stand for, as we live alongside seven billion neighbours. Knowledge can never be correct without the experience of everyone through an international, intercultural understanding. In the words of Jamie Cassels, “diversity is also our excellence.”

There were many fascinating sessions to attend on the second day of the conference, and my first was “Social Justice, Diversity and Advocacy.” This panel, moderated by Jo-Anne Lee (gender studies) reflected on politics of change, disability advocacy and digital media activism—all through an interlational lens. With the current political changes in mind, panelists Nathalie Down (digital media studies) addressed social media, and its ability to give a voice to everyone—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. Down spoke on how the internet and social media has become the new civil rights movement. Black Lives Matter, Standing Rock, and most recently the Women’s March—each are grassroots movements that began with everyday people making a difference with the click of a button. Dr. Adam Jonathan Con of UVic’s School of Music facilitated the last session I attended, on “Gender Bias and Music.” The presentation centered on the hidden gender and sex stereotypes that feed false perceptions and assumptions that reaffirm sexism in our education system. While I am not a music student nor could I pick up and play an instrument without destroying a listener’s ear drums, what I took away from the session was an awareness of a wider societal gender bias ingrained in all of us, even me. While most of us would like to assume society’s perspective on gender has progressed significantly by 2017, sexism persists. The only way to make sexism a thing of the past is to identify these problems and openly discuss them.

The Diversity Research Forum was a breath of fresh air in a civic environment that I feel has been recently and unexpectedly polluted by hateful rhetoric. The most important thing about the conference was that it gave a platform to talk about diversity. To our best advantage, UVic’s School of Music facilitated the last session I attended, on “Gender Bias and Music.” The presentation centered on the hidden gender and sex stereotypes that feed false perceptions and assumptions that reaffirm sexism in our education system. While I am not a music student nor could I pick up and play an instrument without destroying a listener’s ear drums, what I took away from the session was an awareness of a wider societal gender bias ingrained in all of us, even me. While most of us would like to assume society’s perspective on gender has progressed significantly by 2017, sexism persists. The only way to make sexism a thing of the past is to identify these problems and openly discuss them.

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For over two decades, CFI funding has had a profound impact on research at UVic.

BY VALERIE SHORE

Twenty years ago, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) was created to provide funding for the tools—the labs, facilities and equipment—that Canadian researchers need to move ideas, discoveries and inventions forward for the benefit of society and the world around us.

It looks like a transformative moment for Canadian research—and one that has helped shape the direction, depth and global impact of research here at the University of Victoria.

“Over the past two decades, CFI has been an essential component of the research landscape in Canada,” says David Castle, UVic’s vice-president for research forward for the benefit of society and the world around us.

“For over two decades, CFI funding has had a profound impact on research at UVic.”

Aiming for the stars

For mechanical engineer Colin Bradley, CFI funding has been essential to the development of a state-of-the-art astrophysical instrumentation laboratory, allowing it to participate in major international astronomy instrumentation programs, such as the Thirty Meter Telescope and the European Southern Observatory Extremely Large Telescope projects.

“The results of this program will assist in the design of future instrumentation for the next generation of ground-based, extremely large-diameter optical telescopes,” he says.

Coastal connections

CFI support has kept geographer Colin Tietjen, project manager in Baum’s lab, on Kiritimati Island in the middle of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The study—which recently reported a massive coral die-off during a prolonged El Nino warm water event—as providing fresh insights into the effects of climate change and rising ocean temperatures on marine ecosystems.

“Our research is critically dependent on funding for equipment,” says Tietjen, who with CFI support built UVic’s Brain and Cognition Laboratory to study human brain electrophysiology.

“In this lab we’re able to see millisecond-by-millisecond changes in neural activity as measured by electrical voltages on the scalp as a human participant learns a new task,” says Tietjen, whose more recent work focuses on the brain activity of individuals on the autism spectrum.

“CFI funding has been essential for helping us understand the mind-brain connection in human learning, and has opened up exciting new avenues of research.”

Physics of the future

In the world of subatomic physics, CFI’s role in keeping Canada competitive has been pivotal—investments of more than $100 million over the last 15 years on scientific instrumentation and national research facilities. One of these facilities is ARIEL, a major expansion at TRIUMF, Canada’s national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics.

“CFI funding for ARIEL ensures that Canada remains a global leader in the production of rare isotopes for discovery and applications in the physical and health sciences,” says UVic physicist Dean Karlen, the lead scientist for ARIEL. “The scientific demand for rare isotope beams far outstrips current capacity. With ARIEL, TRIUMF will be able to deliver three simultaneous beams instead of one, and will have the unique capability to produce neutron-rich species.”

CFI programs play an essential role in Canada for funding large research infrastructure like ARIEL, adds Karlen. “Without CFI funding, I don’t believe ARIEL would have been possible.”

REACHING HIGHER, THINKING BIGGER

BY VALERIE SHORE

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BY VALERIE SHORE
Maps of the world are a familiar sight on dorm room walls, with pins marking the spots for overseas adventure and life-changing learning opportunities. Thanks to the four-year President’s Beyond Borders Fund initiated in 2015 by UVic President Jamie Cassels, our students have visited even more points on the globe and journeyed deep into communities well beyond the borders of our campus. The initiative is one of several at UVic supporting coursework abroad, field schools and internships, student exchanges and volunteer services, research and foreign work experiences.

This fund—which echoes key principles of the new UVic International Plan—helps support students of all backgrounds, including those who may not otherwise be able to participate, to advance their journeys beyond UVic as emerging global citizens.

The primary stream of the fund focuses on the Asia-Pacific region; the other two focus on placements within Canada, including for Indigenous community work opportunities.

The leading edge of overseas experience

Since 2015, the Beyond Borders fund has supported UVic students who have immersed themselves in work, cultural and life experiences in China and Malaysia, Japan and the Philippines.

One UVic student who recently benefited is Xinbei (“Kishi”) Zhou. A fifth-year economics student, Zhou traveled to Thailand last fall to work as a co-op intern with Western Digital. During her five months there, she developed strategies to build strong relationships between local employees and international staff members, and also volunteered at local primary schools to promote intercultural awareness.

Zhou was born in Wuxi, near Shanghai in eastern China, transferring from Snowooh University in September 2014 to finish her undergraduate degree at UVic. She says, “In most Asian countries, volunteer work isn’t as popular.” In Thailand, during a program called the UVic Students on Suranaree University of Technology, she asked if anyone had done volunteer work. Only three had.

She wanted to share her enthusiasm for volunteering and education with others. Her trip “made one reall y want to explore something more and not limit myself, and also to be open-minded, with a global mindset. And I feel it’s quite important for the younger generation to devote an effort to change education for the next generation too.”

Experiential learning and student mobility

A year before he launched the fund, President Cassels helped spearhead a panel of Canadian university presidents on experiential learning and student mobility.

“The aim of this panel is to take me down into another culture, learn from other traditions, examine my own misunderstandings and assumptions, and develop my field of study from an entirely different perspective.”

“The knowledge and understanding I gained was invaluable, and this remains the most intellectually liberating experience I have ever had. For our students to have similar opportunities will vastly enrich their education and open up vistas and pathways they have never imagined. And equally importantly, will enrich our campus, our communities and the world.”

One of the first students to secure the funding was Daemen Korkoras. In her final year of her master’s degree in global business, Korkoras traveled to Japan in fall 2015 to work as a planning and analytics intern for Sony and Sony Joint Venture in Tokyo. Born in Calgary, Korkoras had visited the Netherlands and Peru as part of the global business program in the Sauder School of Business. But she had never been in Japan.

“Whether you’re an engineer, teacher or business executive, every line of work is now global,” she says. “This type of international experience takes off the training wheels.”

“And the world is changing at such a rapid pace—whether it’s robots or currency, humanity is constantly being shocked by new news and most people aren’t just going to find themselves in only one country anymore either. It’ll be the norm in the years ahead and UVic, instead of straying away from this, embraces it.”

Other students have worked in an array of placements in the Asia-Pacific region including hospital and hostel settings and in humanitarian affairs and intellectual property law. Emma Baker, a fifth-year student at UVic’s School of Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education, was in San Filipe, Philippines last spring for a co-op term at the Circle Hostel Zambales, four hours northwest of Manila.

“It was a very small town and a surfers community,” she said, and she learned to surf while there.

What she learned in the UVic classroom about program development helped prepare Baker for her international work placement: she covered two front-desk shifts—two hours in the morning, two in the early evening—then spent the rest of her work day organizing tours for hostel guests, directing them toward activities, developing new tour packages including assessments for risk management and pricing, and also planning and implementing a special library program at the hostel for book donations from guests to children in the area. She even started a compost and a garden project.

But one of her favourite memories—swimming with whales and sharks in Southeast Luzon—comes from being on a tour herself. “It was amazing to swim near these huge gentle giants. At one point, it was just me and a shark swimming together for 10 feet. If I could have cried under water, I...”

Input invited on draft sexualized violence policy

Sexualized violence is unacceptable and prohibited at UVic. It is work to address sexualized violence as a significant and systemic societal and campus issue, the university is inviting comment on a draft policy to be released Feb. 6, which will apply to all campus members.

For all students, faculty and staff have worked together over several months, consulting widely and conducting extensive research, to draft the Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy.

The policy will be available online at uvic.ca/info/sexualizedviolencepolicy. Campus members are encouraged to read the document and provide comments by March 10.

Procedures on how the policy will be implemented will be provided for comment later this spring. A final policy draft and recommendations will go to President Jamie Cassels in April and to the Board of Governors in May. You can provide input at an open house, by email or through an online form.

Two open houses are being held for different campus members, however anyone is welcome at either session.

For more on this opportunity to enrich your experience or learning opportunity. Applications are due Feb. 15. For guidelines, examples of past projects and application materials, visit bit.ly/green-project.

President appointment committee finalized

Consistent with the university’s policy G1000 Procedures for the Search, Appointment, or Reappointment of the President and Vice-Chancellor, an appointment committee has been composed. Its membership is listed at bit.ly/uvic-prez-appt. The first task of the committee, which will begin meeting early in February, will be to review the requirements of the presidency and establish criteria for the next appointment. The position description and candidate profile/ criteria developed in 2012 are available at bit.ly/uvic-prez-appt.
When it comes to passing on their skills, the Lafayette String Quartet believe in playing it forward

BY KRISTY FARKAS, WITH FILES FROM JOHN THRELFAUL

Learning an instrument is largely guided by both oral and aural traditions. From one generation to the next, teachers pass along the skills and techniques instilled in them by their mentors. Now, the School of Music’s internationally acclaimed Lafayette String Quartet (LSQ)—violinists Ann Elliott-Goldschmid and Sharon Stanis, violist Joanna Hood and cellist Pamela Highbaugh Aloni—will honour their next, teachers pass along the skills and mentors. Now, the School of Music’s performance cycle of all 15 string quartets by famed composer, Dmitri Shostakovich, with a rare performance cycle of all 15 string quartets by 20th century Soviet composer, Dmitri Shostakovich.

More than three decades ago, as graduate students at Indiana University, members of the LSQ were coached by Dubinsky, the founder of the famed Borodin Quartet. The Borodin Quartet had the unique opportunity of working directly with Shostakovich and, as a member of the Borodin for over 30 years, Dubinsky performed 13 of the 15 Shostakovich quartets before emigrating to the west in 1976.

"Studying with Dubinsky transformed the way we play Shostakovich," says Hood. "His style of teaching—his use of the bow, concept of sound, the rigorous coaching of our 'musical father,' who continued to support and encourage the quartet until his death in 1997. "We have a unique contribution to these quartets," says Hood. "It's important that we pass this down to our students and to share it with our audiences.""

The cycle of 15 quartets documents Shostakovich's life during an important period of history, spanning his compositional career from the late 1930s until his death in 1975. "His creative life was profoundly influenced by Soviet communism and the Cold War—two factors that dictated the conditions Shostakovich himself—have become an essential part of their teaching and performance repertoire. "Our origins are deeply connected with Dubinsky...his connection with Shostakovich, and his patient teaching of this music in our formative years, proved to be the foundation upon which we have built this cycle," explains Elliott-Goldschmid. "His adamant words to us—'Keep the Quartet'—have been our burden and joy." Indeed, the LSQ see it as their responsibility to share the intense and rigorous coaching of their 'musical father,'" he withheld some of his compositions from publication and public performance—often on the advice of his friends—until the regime changed, for the very reason that he feared for his life and for the safety of his family," says Elliott-Goldschmid. "So terrible were the times that even music had the power to threaten the governing regime."

Unfortunately, the composer's health began to deteriorate in the 1960s and his later work reflects an increasing preoccupation with his own mortality. "Every single one of Shostakovich's quartets stands with the greatest string quartets ever written," says Elliott-Goldschmid. "Each quartet tells its own story with its own personalities and expressive colours. This is why his music is so powerful and why we love working on it so much. Every day we discover something new and remarkable."

While a massive undertaking, for the performers, as well as a significant commitment for any listener, the timing for the concert is ideal, given that the LSQ are currently celebrating both their 25th anniversary as UVic's quartet-in-residence and their 30th anniversary as a quartet—still the only all-female string quartet in the world to feature all four original members.

Ironically, recent political events have also added a fresh dimension to these works. "When we were planning this cycle a couple of years ago we could never have known how fitting and relevant this music would be in these extraordinary times, with 'alternative facts'," says Elliott-Goldschmid. "Shostakovich warns us and challenges us to cherish and protect our freedom."

Schedule of concerts and pre-concert talks:

See Insurance Different!
Study suggests link between HIV therapy and syphilis outbreaks

Drugs used to prevent and treat HIV could be contributing to a dramatic rise in syphilis cases, according to a new study co-authored by a University of Victoria microbiologist.

Syphilis cases have risen sharply in recent years, primarily affecting men who have sex with men. This increase has been attributed to more-risky sexual behaviour, but the increase of syphilis is outpacing that of other sexually transmitted diseases.

The study, which includes UVic microbiologist Caroline Cameron, theorizes that this increase might be partly connected to drugs used for treatment and prevention of HIV infection.

“At the galleries

at the galleries

voc.uvic.ca

250-721-6692

Exhibit, Until April 1. Ellen Herr, The First Woman Totem Pole Carver. This exhibition celebrates the career of Kwa Kwa’kawala (Kwa Kwa’kawala) carver Ellen Herr (1916–1966), the first woman carver of monumental totem poles. Further, it acknowledges Herr’s influential role as a professional artist and her contribution towards the recognition of Northwest Coast Indian art as a contemporary art form. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6692

Exhibit, Until April 1. The Mystery of Golden Gilt: Brown, Race, Art and Landscape in Twentieth Century British Columbia. Brown (1894–1981) was one of the first professional landscape artists to work in the Pacific Northwest. His fine regional paintings that surveyed our visual world into the world of British Columbia and BC. How did this African-American artist succeed at a time when racial prejudice prevented most Blacks from missing any skilled profession? Guest curated by Dr. John Lutz (UO) with Emerald Johnston Bedell (Art) and Caroline Riedel (Curator) in partnership with Legacy Art Galleries and the UVic University Department of Art, with curatorial support from the Royal BC Museum. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6692

at the theatre

www.phoenixtheatres.ca

250-721-8000

Theatre, 8 p.m. Feb. 9–18. Gut Girls by Sarah Gavron. Directed by MVP candidate Ali Reynolds. Final mounted and brash, an unrefined group of young women toil in the cattle market slaughterhouses. But not everyone thinks this is an appropriate way for women to earn a living, and the cattle sheds are closed down when a well-to-do lady decides to improve their lot in life by training them as models. The ‘gut girls’ quickly realize that this newfound employment comes at a high price. With sharp dialogue and dashing humor, Gut Girls cuts right to the heart of women’s struggle for equal pay. Appropriately for ages 14+. Tickets 250-721-6692

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Lecture/Seminar, 3:30 p.m. The South China Sea and US-China-ASEAN Relations. Chair: Victor V. Ramraj (UVic) and various panelists. Fraser 265. 250-721-7020

Lecture/Seminar, 5:30 p.m. Little Cities of God! Examining the Shrine Complexes of Southern Spain in Medieval Iran. Atri Hatef. CSWS Graduate Fellow (UO). Strong C128. 250-721-6692

Landsdowne Lecture, 5:30 p.m. The Omara — World Cultural Heritage: Building Children’s Resilience to the Catastrophe of Holocaust. Jawantai Ojida (MGAI). Strong C128. 250-721-6692

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Other, 2:30 p.m. Beyond White Supremacy: Workshops for Change. (UVIC) Settling the Land, Working for Change. First Nations, Asian Canadians and their allies came together in a roundtable First Peoples House. 250-721-8772

Lecture/Seminar, 1:30 p.m. Black History Month. John Lutz (UO) and art historian Robert Chandler will speak about the life and art of Gailaum Tyer Brown. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6692

FUNCTIONAL TRAINING: SETTLEMENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Saturday, February 4

Other, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Beyond White Supremacy: Workshops for Change. (UVIC) Settling the Land, Working for Change. First Nations, Asian Canadians and their allies came together in a roundtable First Peoples House. 250-721-8792

Lecture/Seminar, 1:30 p.m. Black History Month. John Lutz (UO) and art historian Robert Chandler will speak about the life and art of Gailaum Tyer Brown. Legacy Art Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6692

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Music, 8:30 p.m. Dimitri Shostakovich Symposium. The Lafayette Quartet celebrates its 30th anniversary with the complete cycle of Shostakovich’s 15 String Quartets. Stony page 6. MacLaurin Report. 250-721-8904

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

BY MELANIE GROVES

Brad Bue considers himself a lucky man. As the Awards Facilitator for the Office of the Vice-President Research and secretary of the Alumni Association board, his life revolves around the university, and he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“Being a part of the alumni board is an honour and privilege because I’m representing alumni,” he notes. “Our mission is to engage alumni with the university, to keep and grow that connection.” Bue says that addressing graduating students at Convocation is one of his favourite duties. “The connection I make is that every student is a future alumnus, and it’s really an honour to be able to meet and congratulate them at Convocation.”

During Alumni Week, Feb. 6–12, Bue will take in as many events as he can, and encourages other alumni to join him. “I’m looking forward to celebrating with my fellow alumni week-long campus at the kick-off on Feb. 6 (11:30 a.m., University Centre). He also singles out Distinguished Alumni Awards as one of his favourite annual events. “The idea that UVic recognizes our alumni and the amazing contributions they’re making around the world is pretty meaningful,” he says.

Bue’s work as awards facilitator for the Office of the VP Research also allows him to contribute to the recognition of UVic community members. “I coordinate and craft nominations for faculty for national and international awards, mainly research awards,” he says.

Victoria-born Bue joined UVic as a writing coach for the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business in 2008 before moving into an international student advisor role a couple of years later. Since becoming Awards Facilitator in 2012, he has worked on nominations for a wide variety of awards, including the Royal Society of Canada, IAM and Orders of Canada, plus national student fellowships. “I enjoy working with the nominees and their colleagues. It’s never the same team twice. There’s so much talent—these researchers are at the height of their fields,” he says. “I really like it when we are recognizing people who fly a bit below the radar—and for the university to be recognizing our own people is really important.”

Clearing the air around e-cigarettes

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

Fears that “vaping” is a gateway to tobacco smoking are unfounded, according to a new comprehensive review of available evidence on electronic cigarettes.

When Renee O’Leary, a PhD student in the Social Dimensions of Health, started casting about for a thesis topic, her first research question was a heavy one: what’s the single biggest public health threat in the world? The answer: tobacco smoking. The then-60-year-old wanted her work to have maximum impact, so she began her research.

In 2013, Tim Stockwell, director of UVic’s Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC), suggested she look into e-cigarettes. Invented in 2003 by a Chinese pharmacist as a smoking cessation device for himself, e-cigarettes didn’t hit the export market until 2006. By the time O’Leary started her research, global sales had already exceeded US $4 billion, with no more than a few dozen scholarly studies written about the harms and benefits of electronic or e-cigarettes and vapour devices—released in January by CARBC in a report called “Clearing the Air.”

The researchers surveyed the rapidly increasing academic literature on e-cigarettes and found evidence that vaping is replacing—rather than encouraging—the smoking of tobacco cigarettes among young people. The CARBC researchers identified 1,622 articles on the topic, of which 170 were relevant to their review. Evidence shows that tobacco use by youth has declined while use of vapour devices has been increasing.

“Fears of a gateway effect are unjustified and overblown,” says principal investigator Marjorie MacDonald. “From a public health perspective, it’s positive to see youth moving towards a less harmful substitute to tobacco smoking.”

Among their other observations, CARBC researchers found strong evidence that the vapour from e-cigarettes is less toxic than tobacco smoke. Vapour devices do not release tar, and vapour emissions contain only eighthundred of the 79 toxins found in cigarette smoke. Almost all substances tested were substantially lower, or not detected, in vapour devices compared to cigarettes.

In addition, vapour from electronic devices is airborne for less than 30 seconds compared to 18 to 20 minutes for tobacco smoke, substantially reducing the time of second-hand exposure.

Researchers caution, however, that some vapour devices may contain potentially concerning levels of metals and particulate matter, noting that there has been insufficient research regarding some significant carcinogens that may still be present.

Finally, they found encouraging evidence that vapour devices could be at least as effective as other nicotine replacements as aids to help tobacco smokers quit.

“Many people think they are as dangerous as smoking tobacco but the evidence shows this is completely false,” concludes Stockwell, co-principal investigator.

The team, including Dan Reist, CARBC assistant director, recommends that Canadian regulations of vapour devices be informed by the best available evidence and with a view to improving public health; that more accurate information about their risks in comparison with tobacco use is provided to the public; and that strategies are developed to help people who wish to quit smoking have affordable access to the safest forms of vapour devices.

“As happy as I am to see the harm reduction potential of vapour devices, it’s not the whole solution,” notes O’Leary, adding there are now hundreds of different devices on the market and global sales now exceed $8 billion US.

“That’s great,” she says, “but we’ve got to get combustible tobacco out of the commodity chain, out of the reach of kids and adults. So until we can get cigarettes off the table entirely, this helps and it’s a harm reduction methodology—but it’s not the full tobacco end game. And that’s what I want to see.”

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