A world-leading ocean laboratory
Saanich Inlet research sheds new light on ocean dead zones

BY VALERIE SHORE
Oceanographers from around the world are hoping to learn more about the science of "dead zones," thanks to a UVic-led research project currently taking place in Saanich Inlet.

Every two weeks since September, a research team on the UVic research vessel MSV John Strickland has been venturing into the inlet to collect water samples at various depths—roughly 300 litres per day—to measure the levels of everything from dissolved gases and trace metals to phytoplankton and microbes.

"The inlet is a natural dead zone, meaning it has low to no oxygen content for most of the year," says Jeff Sorensen, a postdoctoral researcher in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences. "We're seeing dead zones expanding around the world, and that changes what species are able to live there, including a lot of fish and shellfish that people depend on to eat."

While Saanich Inlet remains anoxic for much of the year, every fall water flows in over the sill and replenishes the oxygen supply. Marine life flourishes for a few months, but wanes again as the water's oxygen content gets used up. "In other locations where this kind of water exists there is no renewal process—there's consistent anoxic water," says Sorensen.

Because of the inlet's unique topography—it's a deep glacial fjord separated from adjacent waters by a shallow sill that restricts water inflow—it's widely known as a natural laboratory for studies of "anoxic" or dead zones, areas in the ocean that are devoid of oxygen and marine life.

The only lifeforms that can exist there are bacteria. "The inlet is a natural dead zone, meaning it has low to no oxygen content for most of the year," says Jeff Sorensen, a postdoctoral researcher in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences. "We're seeing dead zones expanding around the world, and that changes what species are able to live there, including a lot of fish and shellfish that people depend on to eat."

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Celebrating a decade of critical conversations

BY MEL GROVES

Since 2007, the UVic Provost’s Diversity in Research Forum has created space for critical conversations about diversity and social justice topics and engaged more than 1,000 participants. In 2016, the Forum continued this tradition, focusing on race and citizenship. This year’s conference, titled Race and Citizenship, will be held Thursday and Friday, 16 and 17 June. The conference will explore the intersections of race, citizenship, and social justice, with a focus on the history and legacies of anti-black racism and anti-immigrant racism in North America.

New Genome Canada funding boosts two UVic proteomics projects

A project co-led by University of Victoria biostatistician Christopher Borcherds and UVic chemist Fraser Cassels, which recently received a new funding from Genome Canada Inc. and provided as a service to all researchers around the world, will further advance a tool developed by Borcherds and UVic chemist Fraser Cassels, which has the potential to replace an existing technology, saving on running costs for rapid analyses of 1.8 million probe interactions per sample. The new technology will be commercialized by Victoria-based MiMiR Proteomics Inc., and provided as a service to all researchers around the world.

The funding comes from Genome Canada’s Disruptive Innovation in Genomics (DING) program, which invests in transformative technology that has the potential to replace existing technologies, disrupt an existing market or create a new market.

Also funded in UVic chemist Fraser Hel, who receives $238,000 to investigate “metabolite” - the small molecules of biochemical control switch that has big implications for how our cells function, especially as disorders such as cancer. This project will further advance a tool developed by Yau and team that could revolutionise drug development, drug discovery and research relevant to a variety of cancers.

Not to be missed is an April symposium titled “The Feedback to this event has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Wong Swann. The conference provides a safe-space for conversations that can be difficult but are so necessary. We can only move forward together to make our country and our communities truly welcoming and inclusive if we talk about these issues.

New research shows that UVic adds a deliciously diverse lunch. Everyone is welcome, faculty, staff, students and community members—all and more are welcome. Register now—for one or all of them—in space is limited.

www.uvic.ca/diversity

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Ringers

We know you have incredible research at UVic, so always put your best forward when someone outside the university provides unsolicited evidence. The UVic’s Ferkul Family Impact Awards are now accepting new applications.

The Ferkul Family Impact Awards, administrated by the UVic’s Pacific Institute for Climate Climate Change, are an international recognition of excellent performance and leadership in the field of climate change. Up to four awards are available, and will be based on the amount of research completed in the last three years. Awards range from $2,000 to $5,000.

The awards will be presented on 27 June 2017 during a special event during UVic’s UVic’s 2017 Celebrate UVic, an international university-wide event celebrating excellence and innovation. The awards will be presented in the following categories:

1. Climate Change: Water
2. Climate Change: Health
3. Climate Change: Agriculture
4. Climate Change: Art

For more information or to apply, visit: www.uvic.ca/awards

The Ring

January 2017
Bullying and harassment awareness training
As you may recall, WorkSafeBC introduced legislation to address workplace bullying and harassment through Bill 14 and added occupational health and safety rules. As part of this legislation, all employers, ECs are required to provide mandatory training to these employees, and supervisors to recognize the potential for bullying in the workplace, take appropriate preventative steps, and know the processes for responding to and resolving bullying incidents or exercises in the workplace. South Vancouver council is in Council's roles to address these same issues. As a result, University of British Columbia’s Human Resources...
Timely actions by many keep campus safe

Preparedness, notification and quick responses by campus community members pay off in arrest of suspect.

Personal safety on UVic’s campus is a shared responsibility— a point demonstrated by events in 2016. Looking out for each other should be an everyday occurrence. And on top of preparedness and preparedness, there are times when quick thinking and rapid responses also play a key role in keeping the campus safe.

Last spring and summer, Saanich Police received numerous reports of an individual believed to be on the move in the Gordon Head and Mount Doug- lass areas, about a general area near the university. Police were investigating several isolated incidents where a young man exposed himself or groped women in several areas, on park trails and near schools. In most instances, the reports con- cerned a suspect on a bicycle, who then fled the scene.

As part of its response in safe- guarding campus, UVic published the poster warning on MyPage for students, staff and faculty. Then on this evening of Sept. 10, a similar ar- rial occurred on the campus chip trail and was reported to Campus Security. Again, the suspect escaped by bicycle.

Based on the location of the ar- rial, Campus Security responded quickly to alert the community. By the next morning, the entire UVic campus was posted with a notice about the attack, with Campus Security contact information prominently displayed. More than 100 copies of the notice were posted on all buildings, including residences, and sawing trails. University Com- munications and Marketing also used online notifications and social media to spread the message.

“When we identify a risk to our university community, we evaluate what type of communications we need and then work really every- one on an as quickly as we can,” says Tom Downie, director of Campus Security. “Posting notices along the trails was first among our priorities, given the risk and history of these incidents.”

During early evening that same day, around 6 p.m. and maybe a bit later, the suspect entered a one- story chip trail of Gordon Head Road took note of the posters as the began to run. Shortly thereafter, he was running down the trail and began applying himself and then fled off on a bicycle. The witness spoke quickly to Campus Security and the person involved had been working on the surrounding bike path.

Saanich Police did an excel- lent job accessing the heat and cold its own micro- climate.

The body doesn’t know how to deal with that heat, it’s been exposed to the elements. It’s a safe and effective treatment. It’s our body utile.

The suspect said that he was working with the UVic community to help and support the community, and to foster a supportive, inclusive campus environment.

The security officers quickly and accurately identified and located the suspect, then contact- ed his family immediately.

The suspect faced charges under the Criminal Justice Act.

Books as treasures across the ages
UVic Libraries will host 21 rare medieval and early modern manuscripts as the first and only Canadian institution in an innovative partnership with a firm based in New York, Chicago and Paris.

UVic Libraries will host 21 rare medieval and early modern manuscripts as the first and only Canadian institution in an innovative partnership with Les Enluminures—a firm based in New York, Chicago and Paris which has the largest inventory of treasured manuscripts and illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

These books will be available for study and research until 2017.

The manuscripts, known as the Flandern Iv manuscripts, have been sponsored by the Bell Let’s Talk campaign, which raised over $30 million for mental health ser- vices and has been hosted in news outlets such as the Huffington Post, MTP, and CUSN.

In addition to Bell’s key research, a group of courageous UVic students will be sharing their personal experiences with mental health through a story-telling performance. Attendees will also learn more about the UVic Student Mental Health Strategy and the various mental health and wellness initiatives happening on campus during a community update at the event.

The reception will feature complimentary refreshments and refreshments from a number of different campus groups, and community organizations will be held in the UVic Library prior to and after the event. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from these organizations to learn more about the services and resources they offer and how to get involved.

The past success of the annual Mental Health Awareness Event has led to the introduction of the UVic’s First Mental Health Awareness Week this year, which takes place from January 16-20. Throughout the week, a different campus group will be hosting activities and events centered on the role of mental health and wellness for all, and a comprehensive list of the Mental Health Awareness Week events, visit uvic.ca/mentalhealthawarenessweek.

Activist comedian to headline mental health awareness event
BY REBEKAH ERICTION

Students, faculty, staff and members of the greater community are invited to attend UVic’s 3rd annual Mental Health Awareness Event on Jan. 18 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Rob Wright Centre 119B.

In an initiative of the UVic Student Mental Health Strategy, this annual event began as a way to raise aware- ness of the mental health-related issues many students face, while inspiring community action to decrease stigma surrounding mental illness and foster a supportive, inclusive campus environment.

In addition to the keynote speech, an overview around mental health issues will be presented by the University of Victoria’s Campus Security, who will discuss the challenges of responding to mental health emergencies. Attendees will learn about the UVic’s Student Mental Health Strategy and the various mental health and wellness initiatives happening on campus during a community update at the event.

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A typical day for Gillian Booth as the newest member of Legacy Art Galleries is never predictable. “Exhibitions are always changing,” says Booth who, as the new academic and community programmer, helps to grow and enhance links with the broader community.

Booth has “always been a maker and a writer” — with an eye on art. She graduated from UVic with a BA in 1993 (geography and environmental studies), a BFA in 2003 (visual art) and an MA in 2005 (curriculum and instruction).

Booth is continually exploring new ideas for cross-disciplinary learning opportunities which invariably take many forms on the UVic campus both in classrooms and the campus gallery space Legacy Maltwood, as well as in UVic’s free public art gallery Legacy Downtown.

She researches and surveys the UVic art collection on a regular basis to determine what is available “to choose works for particular workshops” for UVic students. And she designs those workshops using art from the collection to teach transferable skills in the contexts of “critical thinking, cultural competencies and object-based learning … and to decolonize how we see art.”

“So much of what we do at Legacy Art Galleries is focused on the Indigenous art collection and what’s happening in Indigenous communities. Teachers are looking for ways to teach First Nations culture. Gallery exhibitions are a great way to do that.”

Booth was born in Victoria and was part of the first cohort to take French immersion in Victoria from kindergarten to grade 12, graduating from Mt. Doug. Booth spent several years overseas after obtaining her first undergraduate degree. “I wanted to apply my degree experientially and it was life-changing. I studied in France and worked in Hungary, Egypt and Ukraine, as well as working with street-youth programs back in Victoria and, while a UVic student, as a supervisor at Cincenta and with the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability. She also volunteered for Canadian Crossroads in a midwifery clinic in Mali. Now most of her spare time is spent enjoying life with her son, who joined her family when he was eight months old from Kinshasa, a city of 20 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2017, Booth will be developing two grade-school programs to address curricular needs of local school boards for meeting BC social-sciences curriculum enhancements with respect to Indigenous history, cultural practice and traditional knowledges. “It feels like a great fit to be back with UVic again. And I love that we’re downtown. I call it a ‘storefront’ — people can walk in off the street. I really want to help make the art gallery a community space.”

The UVic collection is comprised of approximately 20,000 objects and serves the university and all communities through exhibitions, programs, events, teaching and research. What has surprised Booth most in these first few weeks in her new role is “just how much significant art there is here — in the gallery spaces and throughout campus in the offices, and more public hallways and classrooms.” “The gallery is not just about putting art on the walls. The conversations we have around art are one of the most important things we do.”