The important thing is not to stop questioning, Albert Einstein once said. "Curiosity has its own reason for existing."

The first-ever Indigenous translation of the original Douglas Treaties, also known as the Vancouver Island or Fort Victoria treaties, was a key element in a historic three-day gathering in Victoria last month. Hosted by the Songhees First Nation and the University of Victoria’s Department of History and Faculty of Law, the Feb. 24-26 symposium is also the first of four signature series events by UVic to mark Canada’s 150th anniversary.

At the Songhees Wellness Centre, more than 300 people came together from local First Nations, as well as the campus and wider communities, to explore the significance, misunderstandings, impacts and repercussions of the Douglas Treaties. The gathering was an opportunity for enhanced understanding about Indigenous views of colonial history and specifically the treaties, as well as insights into the historical significance and meaning of the treaty texts. The treaties were produced by British colonists in the years 1850 to 1854 and were the only ones signed in southern BC.

The agreements of the treaty texts. The treaties were carried Elliott’s comments about it being “easy to see now how First Nations interpreted the treaties as peace agreements. Tensions were growing as settlers cut down forests to build their forts and settlements and a young First Nations man was killed without reason.”

John Lotz, chair of the UVic’s history department, a member of the organizing committee and an historian who focuses his research on the study of Indigenous-settler relations in the Pacific Northwest, says the translations “are a great legacy from this gathering and will be available here to stay, together,” will ask what we can do as individuals and communities to support the goals of reconciliation and inclusiveness. Other
UVic celebrates Canada’s 150th

To mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation, the university will hold a series of events under the theme “The Edge of what’s next.”

These special initiatives will include a series of signature events, arts and cultural exhibitions, and faculty and department events that capture the key opportunities and challenges facing Canadians over the next 50 years leading up to the country’s 2067 bicentennial.


Upcoming signature events:
- Marking the fourth annual conference hosted by UVic’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems.
- “Indigenous Peoples’ Land Rights and the Roles of Ethnoecology and Ethnobotany,” May 2-5. This symposium is hosted by the School of Environmental Studies.


UVic is Canada 150’s official university partner and is working closely with Parks Canada and the City of Victoria to help bring the Canada 150 celebrations to life.

A new website, Canada150.bit.ly, will be launched on Feb. 22 to help celebrate Canada 150. The website will contain sections on Canada 150, Canada in the 21st century and the Canada 150 logo. The website will also focus on the Canada 150 partnership with UVic and Parks Canada.

Parks Canada has mentored more than 230 UVic co-op students since the summer of 2009, including 18 students on their first work term. Co-op students are often hired from the Faculty of Engineering and have contributed to projects that have made a real impact in communities across Canada. An example is the T’Souk First Nation Solar Project, which involved the installation of solar panels on various buildings throughout the T’Souk First Nation community.

“As a former UVic co-op student, I understand the value to both employers and students that comes from the co-op program. At HES PV we continue to recognize the important role co-op students can play in our organization,” says Daniel Partridge from HES PV. “Our co-op students work on projects ranging from designing new photovoltaic systems to helping on projects that create a new model for sustainable energy. HES PV has also supported experiential learning at UVic by participating in engineering classes on the topic of sustainable energy systems, and by taking part in the Co-op Student Day shadowing initiative, which invites students who are interested in co-op to spend a day with co-op employer organizations. We’re so thankful to HES PV and Parks Canada for the mentorship and incredible learning that they provide to our co-op students,” says Norah McAra, executive director of UVic Co-op and Career. “Their commitment to supporting our students’ personal growth and their focus on fostering community across our region and beyond are just a few of the reasons that we’re proud to partner with these organizations.”

HES PV and Parks Canada were formally recognized at Co-op and Career’s Employer Appreciation Reception on Feb. 22.
Winning co-ops contribute to vital research

Innovative, aspiring and motivated to make a positive impact—these are the qualities shared by three extraordinary students who were recognized for their outstanding work ethic, initiative and engagement by being named as the 2016 Co-op Students of the Year.

Each year, UVic’s Co-operative Education Program and Career Services recognize co-op students who have made outstanding achievements in their academic achievement, workplace performance and community involvement. One student is selected from each of three major co-op program groups.

The 2016 Co-op Students of the Year are:

PAUL KIM (biochemistry)
Co-Student of the Year – Optional and Professional Programs
Paul Junhyuck Kim has always been motivated to better the world around him. Inspired to contribute to the field of public health by a family member’s battle with cancer, the fourth-year biochemistry student secured his first co-op work term performing research at the Centre for Microbial Diseases and Immunity Research (funded by the Centre for Blood Research). After receiving a Science Undergraduate Research Award from UVic, he was offered the chance to work alongside Dr. Julian Lum at the BC Cancer Agency’s Dorley Research Centre, where he conducted research involving lymphocyte infiltration in tumour micro-environments—research that could contribute to streamlining cancer treatments in the future. Paul’s work not only added a great deal of understanding on the role of lymphocyte biology, but also provided Lum’s lab with a strong backbone for future research grants. A believer in hands-on learning and a vocal proponent of co-op on and off campus, Kim looks forward to building strong relationships in his future co-ops to ultimately generate large-scale impact in the medical field.

NICHOLAS PINEAU (business)
Co-Student of the Year – Business Co-op Program
Driven by an appetite for knowledge, business entrepreneurship student Nick Pinseau has proven himself an outstanding example of a Gustavson student both in and outside the classroom. Motivated to study at UVic because of the co-op program, Pinseau used his first work term performing treasury and risk management with Elbow River Marketing in Calgary; where he completed credit reviews and daily financial statement analyses. Last summer, he secured a position with Nexen working in accounting and finance, where he focused on variance analysis, budgeting and cost allocation in the oil and gas industry. His colleagues were impressed by his analytical skills as well as his high level of professionalism and eagerness to engage with staff across the whole organization. Outside the workplace, Pinseau has dedicated himself to student engagement by helping fellow classmates with their job searches, organizing workshops to contribute to students’ professional development, coordinating speaker series and assisting in business co-op events.

ANIRKA BELL (mechanical engineering)
Co-op Student of the Year – Engineering and Computer Science/Math Co-op Programs
A passion for environmental sustainability and renewable energy has led fourth-year student Anika Bell to new heights while studying mechanical engineering at UVic. From completing a work term with the UVic ECOSat team—where she helped design a first-place satellite for the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge—to working on renewable energy projects with the Environment Department of the Vancouver Airport Authority, Bell’s co-op placements have offered diverse and enriching opportunities for hands-on learning. At her most recent work term with the BC Ministry of Environment Climate Action Secretariat, Bell stepped into the role of Climate-Resilient Buildings Intern. Tasked to complete a climate risk and resilience assessment of a public sector building in BC, Bell far exceeded the expectations set out for her. Developing a novel assessment method, she completed assessments for not one but three buildings and building sites over the course of her four-month term. Bell’s accomplishments led to her being sought out for a fourth work term with BC Housing, where she’s creating a tool to assess buildings for climate change resilience.
The Ring

What's it like to be a UVic student? Will I fit in? Is university for me? For the past two years, there's been a resource that provides first-hand answers to these questions and many more.

MyUVic Life is a blog for students, by students. A diverse team of undergraduate student bloggers create first-person stories—articles, listicles, videos and/or photo essays—that are posted to the UVic-hosted website as an accessible and widely read collection.

Since the project launched in January 2015, there have been over 500 blog posts uploaded. 63 student voices featured and one million pages viewed by visitors.

Among the most popular posts are Rachel François’ “My First Memorable Moments of Residence: A Flashback,” Leat Aharon’s “Seven things I wish I knew before coming to Canada” and Jess Nelson’s “The Value of Varsity Athletics: A Rebuttal”—a varsity athlete’s perspective on balancing academics and sport that was shared widely by Rugby Canada.

The elements of success

The project is an ongoing partnership coordinated by Crystal Bergerson, a communications officer in Student Recruitment and Engagement and Cathie Walker, a web content strategist in University Communications + Marketing.

Walker, who uploads the students’ stories to the website and makes minor copyedits when needed, emphasizes that she and Bergerson don’t censor the students as long as they follow the general guidelines. “We tell them, ‘What you write goes up so make sure it’s something you’d be proud to have a potential employer read.’”

“Everyone has a unique pathway to future careers. Mine just happens to involve love for a sport paired alongside academic pursuits. I... I can do both successfully. Many do. You needn’t choose. They augment each other. Still not convinced? Just watch me.” — Jes Melson (political science) from “The Value of Varsity Athletics: A Rebuttal” MyUVic Life blog post.

From Bergerson’s perspective, this is why the blog is so successful. “People read the blog because it’s authentic, it’s real,” she says. “And that’s the beauty of it. It shows how it is to really be a student here.”

Bergerson’s role in the project is to manage the bloggers and organize monthly meetings. She explains that prospective students are looking to see that they’re going to fit in here. Can, for example, an international high school student interested in athletics see herself/himself? Can a domestic student interested in traveling abroad see herself here?

“As part of the student recruitment team at UVic,” says Bergerson, “I try to think about everyone who may want to come here, and do my best to make sure they’re represented.”

And the UVic blog certainly delivers. The 63 students—including writers who submit blog posts throughout the year and guest writers who submit only one—represent all faculties on campus. And that’s just the beginning. International students, transfer students, co-op students, exchange students, athletes, artists, foodies and so much more all have offered their unique perspectives on life as a UVic student.

Emily Beaudoin (recreation and sport education) is a nature enthusiast and travel writer who has written several posts sharing her personal experiences from why she chose UVic to how she contributed to the community in traveling abroad. She explains why she loves being a blogger: “It’s kind of exhilarating to be able to share your experiences with students. It’s a reflection of me, but I also want what I write to be applicable, relevant. If it keeps me up at night, it’s probably worth blogging about.”

She gestures to a print-out of her blog post. “Everything is not okay—and that’s okay,” in which she shares her loneliness and isolation she felt while on an exchange semester in France. “That’s a part of me.”

In addition to being a valuable recruitment tool, the blog is a way for current students to communicate with one another, to share ideas and thought and to show fellow students that they’re not alone in what they’re feeling or experiencing. Bergerson says that her fellow bloggers’ posts are validating. “Reading their blogs make me feel better about where I’m at in life,” she says.

Before joining MyUVic Life last year, Hiscock had never shared any of her personal stories. “It’s a way of being honest about how you feel,” she says.

Kate Hiscock is a MyUVic Life blogger who has written several posts sharing her personal experiences, from why she chose UVic to how she contributed to the community in traveling abroad. She explains why she loves being a blogger: “It’s kind of exhilarating to be able to share your experiences with students. It’s a reflection of me, but I also want what I write to be applicable, relevant. If it keeps me up at night, it’s probably worth blogging about.”

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Shaping our future

There’s a kind of contagious energy shared among the bloggers. When so many young, talented and creative minds get in a room—which they do on a monthly basis to brainstorm ideas, learn, socialize and share a meal together—it’s evident that these may well be the future leaders of our communities and beyond.

“In order for something to be ‘life changing’ you have to go through some really uncomfortable emotions, emotions that don’t go away overnight.”

— Kate Hickox (chemistry) from “Everything is not okay, and that’s okay.”

Both Walker and Bergeron don’t hesitate to say that working on the MyUVic Life project is the best part of their jobs.

“I typically got to work with staff,” says Walker. “The bloggers remind me I’m here. They’re all so awesome. I don’t think I was that awesome when I was that age!” she says with a laugh.

“She’s read every one of the 500-plus posts but couldn’t possibly choose a favourite. ‘It changes every day’ she would be like picking a favourite child. We have some really beautiful writers.”

Despite their different backgrounds, hobbies, interests and areas of study, there’s one thing that seems to unite the student bloggers: the desire to make the world a better place.

“I keep learning from them,” says Bergeron. “They’re passionate about this place and the world and what they can do. It’s inspiring reading their blogs and watching their videos. Just read what they’re saying, read what they’re doing. These students are going to make a difference in the world.”

“Facing Canada’s future: reflections from Converge 2017”

BY MAXWELL NICHOLSON

This February, I had the incredible opportunity to represent UVic at Converge 2017—a conference where leaders, students, politicians and university executives came together to develop a vision for what we wanted Canada to become. Looking forward to 2067, we talked about innovation, reconciliation, pluralism and inclusivity in a rapidly changing global landscape.

Discussing the future of Canadian innovation was intriguing. Dominic Barton of McKinsey & Co. outlined that as Canadians, we are amazing researchers. Many great ideas originate in Canada, but as a country we are poor at keeping Canadian businesses Canadian. Often, Canadian ideas are bought out by other countries, Governor General David Johnston suggested that the solution includes each one of us encouraging and promoting a culture of innovation in our friends and children.

Reconciliation was another important focus. Roberta Jamieson discussed how as Canadians we need to continue to open the door to new immigrants, but respect the long-standing history of the First Nations. We explored a history of Canadian discrimination against First Nations and were energized to pursue decolonization through expanding our education to include this very important perspective, and teaching how First Nations culture has lessons for architecture, science, innovation and more.

The highlight of the event was hearing from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on what defines Canada. He clearly explained how openness to immigrants was a competitive advantage for Canada. He stated that we are a society that has understood that defining ourselves based on ethnicity, language, religion, and so on simply doesn’t work. He emphasized that there is no “typical” Canadian and that we have figured out how to make difference a source of strength.

There were many amazing speakers at the conference, but one of the best parts of the whole experience was the conversations that were had and the relationships that were built. Whether it was staying up until 1:00 a.m. eating poutine and discussing reconciliation, or exploring Ottawa with some new friends, connections between future leaders were built, and we left optimistic to work together to shape Canada as a world leader in the next 50 years.

Maxwell Nicholson is the UVSS director of campaigns and community relations and a second-year economics student.

IDEAFAST CONTINUED FROM P1

Indigenous-led research is featured throughout the week.

“IDEAFAST has become a highly anticipated week for the on-campus and broader community,” says Vice-President Research David Castle. “It’s gained importance for providing real forums for people to come together for thoughtful, critical conversations.”

I encourage everyone to visit the website and check out the full schedule of events.”

Browse the full program of 40+ events at uvic.ca/ideafast. All events are free and open to the public, though some require registration. See website for details.

Art by Em Broadden (recreation and health education)

Author: Maxwell Nicholson

Photo: UVic was well represented at Converge 2017.

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Sources: UVic, http://uvic.ca/ideafest/
Our women have always carved

Exhibit seeks to correct gendered colonial myths with works by Ellen Neel, a woman carver of the Northwest Coast

BY TARA SHARPE

Ellen Newman Neel (Kwagiulth, Kwickwasutaineuk and ‘Namgis) is often described as the first Northwest Coast woman carver. A prolific artist, she was only 49 years old when she passed away in the 1960s. But her defiance of gender barriers and federal law carries deep resonance for all Canadians to this day—and her artistic legacy lives on in the work of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The first exhibition of Neel’s work in more than 50 years is now showing at UVic’s Legacy Art Gallery Downtown. Curated by Carolyn Butler-Palmer, UVic’s Williams Legacy Chair in Modern and Contemporary Arts of the Pacific Northwest, the exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of Neel’s birth and 50th anniversary of her death.

Butler-Palmer was assisted throughout the process by two advising curators, Neel’s grandchildren David A. Neel and Lou-ann Ika’wega Neel, and the exhibit includes artwork from six generations of the family.

Born in Alert Bay in 1916, Neel learned during the 1920s to carve from her grandfather—the eminent master carver Yakuglas/Charlie James—at a time when carving was banned in Canada. She then launched her artistic career in the 1940s during the potlatch prohibition when carving was rare and the idea of a woman carver was even rarer still.

Butler-Palmer (art history and visual studies) worked for 15 years on research in support of the exhibit. “Ellen Neel was a remarkable woman,” she says. “Seven decades before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission published its findings, Neel graciously and very publically supported the rights of Indigenous people, to fish, to fair wages, to an education and to make art.

“It is hard to imagine the Northwest Coast art world today without the foundation laid by Neel in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s.”

Director of UVic’s Legacy Art Galleries Mary Jo Hughes adds. “We are honoured to be able to facilitate this exhibition and be able to mobilize the important research by Dr. Butler-Palmer and the Neel family. This project brings to public notice Ellen Neel who played such a pivotal role in the art of the northwest.”

Neel opened a retail outlet in Stanley Park, The Totem Arts Shop, in 1951 where she taught her children to make art. They carved hundreds of items destined for the tourist market. She also produced monumental and miniature memorial poles, including The Wonderbird Pole of 1953 for White Spot Restaurants, as well as an extensive collection including masks, hand puppets, textiles, jewelry and totemware ceramics.

Neel designed the famous Totemland Pole too, which was a commission from a tourism organization with hundreds of miniature poles gifted to visiting dignitaries, as well as other people beyond BC including Bob Hope and Katharine Hepburn.

As she told a UBC audience in 1948: “Only when there is an adequate response to efforts to retain the best of our art will it be possible to train the younger generation to appreciate their own cultural achievements.”

The exhibit runs through April 1.

Legacy Gallery: uvac.uvic.ca

Upper left: Donzaqua Mask. Above: Neel in her studio
Welsh (gender studies), and written The Thinking
A new documentary, women have sustained the Hleketani
Hleketani translates as “thinking” in
midst of repeated droughts, poverty
plants seeds of hope
faced the challenges of climate change
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ing story of South African women
historian and writer Elizabeth Vibert
ter: @thinkinggarden

BY TARA SHARPE
Hleketani translates as “thinking” in the local siXhosa language of northern Limpopo Province in South Africa. A new documentary, The Thinking, has given South African audiences a chance to think about how women in a small South African village have faced the challenges of climate change and poverty through a unique farming collective.

For 25 years, three generations of women have sustained the Hleketani Community Garden—which in turn has fed their families and built a strong sense of community in the northeastern Limpopo Province in South Africa—were the focus of the rural portion of an innovative UVic field school and the film’s assistant director, Wiebe Nijland. Turpin B247. 250-721-6562

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“This study is about a side of hockey that’s often overlooked,” Crippen says. “Today, especially with our knowledge of concussions, it’s critical to change hockey’s image.”

“Daniel and Henrik lead by example, using strong values and an unparalleled work ethic,” said Trevor Linden, Vancouver Canucks President of Hockey Operations. “They demonstrate the finest qualities of character both in the game and as community leaders to future generations of players and fans.”

Crippen hadn’t expected to find the leadership philosophy that she studies—mostly within corporate and organizational cultures—in hockey, at least not until the Sedins and their playing style caught her eye when she moved to BC from Manitoba in 2009. As she described in an earlier study in 2013, the Sedins stood out for their civil, respectful approach to their teammates, coaches, opponents and officials. She came to see them as the ‘culture carriers’ of the team, a term used by Canucks GM Jim Benning in an interview with Vancouver sports writer Ed Willes.

Opioid substitution patients write guide to help others

BY SUZANNE AHEREANE

In BC alone, more than 16,700 people receive opioid substitution treatment (OST) as a way of reducing harms from illicit opioid dependence. Patients face stigma and multiple levels of bureaucracy in the medical system to access information and treatment.

To help navigate this, U Vic’s Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC) produced a users’ guide to the world of prescription opioids (such as methadone and suboxone) treatment and recovery. The handbook, Patients Helping Patients Understand Opioid Substitution Treatment, was co-written by a group of OST patients, supported by funding from the Province of BC.

The handbook reflects patients’ experiences as well as current science and the medical system. Through CARBC’s work on health promotion related to substance use, they’ve learned that resilience—and thereby, health—is built through connections and relationships, as well as by having high self-expectations and by having opportunities to contribute to solutions in a meaningful way. CARBC Assistant Director Dan Reist calls the handbook “an important tool in the face of BC’s overdose epidemic.”

“These are products of the collective experiences of the patients who have contributed to the handbook,” Reist says. “It’s a product of the joint effort of patients, researchers, clinicians and others who have worked on adding meaning to the lives of those who experience addiction.”

“A Case Study of Servant Leadership in the NHL,” published in Interchange, a Quarterly Review of Education in the NHL, “published in March 2017. The original beliefs, values and norms established by Pat Quinn and Trevor Linden during his time as a player, team leader and now as an executive, continue through the Sedins. Because of their longevity and stable history (18 years) with the team, she asserts that they’ve been disseminated and reinforced a culture of civility and skill-based play that’s now embodied within young players.

“Youth, aspiring professional hockey players and those involved in hockey and sport in general, may be influenced by their willingness to serve the team and their community through relentless hard work, integrity and accountability, and caring for children, special needs and outreach to the local and provincial community,” Crippen says.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH

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A self-funded research project seven years in the making, Crippen’s qualitative study includes hundreds of hours of close observation and analysis of games broadcast between 2009 and 2016, as well as at a number of live games and practice sessions; a lengthy interview conducted with the Sedins twins and, more recently, with Trevor Linden—Canucks President of Hockey Operations—and two Vancouver sports writers; archival news research; and data analysis.

Daniel and Henrik Sedin, she found, demonstrate accountability, responsibility, proficiency, diligence, empathy, civic values, inclusivity and continual growth of self and others. “All of these traits contribute to building better serving communities, both on and off the ice,” she says.