

FALL CONVOCATION 2017

PAGES 5–9



THE RING

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

*The University of Victoria's
community newspaper*

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**University
of Victoria**

SPEED READ

CONVOCATION ONLINE

Follow your mouse to Fall Convocation

Can't make it to the Farquhar Auditorium for Fall Convocation ceremonies Nov. 14–15? The ceremonies will be webcast live at uvic.ca/convocation. The video of each webcast will be available for six weeks following Convocation. For event times and more information, visit uvic.ca/ceremonies

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

UVic rises to second place in *Maclean's* rankings

UVic has risen to second place in the comprehensive category in *Maclean's* magazine's Canadian university rankings. Among various categories and distinctions, UVic topped all comprehensive universities in medical/science grants per faculty member; ranked second in scholarships, bursaries and student awards; and ranked third in faculty awards, citations and total research dollars. And in ReSearch Infosource's annual ranking of Canadian universities, UVic placed second among 15 universities in the "comprehensive" category for publication impact, and scored third place for research intensity (total research income per faculty member) and research income per graduate student.



Francois. PHOTO: ARMANDO TURA

1,396

**NUMBER OF
DEGREES,
CERTIFICATES
AND DIPLOMAS
TO BE AWARDED
AT FALL 2017
CONVOCATION
CEREMONIES**

Award-winning athlete sprints her way to graduation

BY ALI BAGGOTT

In January, 2011, the Vikes announced that a track runner from St. Albert, Alberta, had committed to run for the cross country and track program at the University of Victoria.

Little did head coach Brent Fougner or the Vikes community know then that it would be the start of one of the most prolific athletic careers in UVic history and bring a key contributor to student life to campus.

"Throughout my undergrad, I found it challenging to balance being a 'normal' student and being a varsity athlete," said Rachel Francois, who graduates this month with a major in history and a minor in pro-

fessional writing and journalism.

It didn't take long for Francois to make her mark at UVic. In her first year she was named both Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) and UVic female Rookie of the Year after breaking the school record in the 600-metre and winning gold in the 600-metre and 4 x 800-metre CIS events.

Fast forward four seasons later and Francois has logged four straight 600-metre CIS gold medals and finished her university athletic career with 20 total conference and national medals, 11 of which were gold, along with six Canada West all-star nods and four CIS All-Canadian team honours. She was also named UVic's female Athlete of the Year in both 2014 and 2015.

It was a learning curve to live the "lifestyle" of an elite athlete, she says. "I have many friends who aren't athletes, so it was tough to separate myself and learn that weekends were for resting, all-nighters for studying were not an option, and I would have to miss many events and functions that my friends went to because I was always on the road.

"It wasn't a sacrifice by any means—it was certainly a choice—but I had to learn how to fully commit to the life of a varsity athlete to see the success that I was working so hard to achieve."

Outside of her university training,

SEE FRANCOIS P. 6



PHOTO: KRISTY FARKAS

Music school celebrates 50 years of sparking our musical imagination

BY JOHN THRELFALL

When maestro Timothy Vernon raises his baton at the School of Music's gala 50th anniversary concert on Dec. 2, it won't simply be in recognition of the honorary Doctorate of Music he received at spring Convocation.

Instead, his performance with the UVic Chorus and Orchestra can be seen as the culmination of five decades of academic expansion, faculty excellence, alumni achievement and dedicated community

outreach by the school itself.

"I heard a funny story when I was in Berlin," says School of Music director Christopher Butterfield. "People were talking about where the interesting musical centres are on the west coast of North America and somebody said, 'Well, there's Los Angeles...and Victoria.'"

An alumnus himself, Butterfield began his studies back in 1971 at what was then simply the music department. "It was very small," he recalls. "We had three classrooms in the MacLaurin A-wing and

all of our concerts were held in the David Lam, as the Farquhar Auditorium wasn't built until 1978."

Music courses were first offered back in 1964 as part of UVic's fledgling arts and humanities department, before it evolved into the division of music in 1967 and earned full department status in 1969. But it wasn't until the construction of the purpose-built MacLaurin B Wing—complete with the 220-seat Phillip T. Young Recital Hall—that

SEE MUSIC SCHOOL P. 3

around the ring

Malahat Review celebrates golden anniversary

One of Canada’s leading literary journals is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Established in 1967 by UVic English professors Robin Skelton and John Peter, *The Malahat Review* has featured emerging and established writers, discovered promising new talent and presented perceptive critical comment on other works. On Nov. 8, the launch of the anniversary edition—celebrating Victoria’s literary scene—took place at Munro’s Books. Never-before-published works from late Canadian writers Emily Carr and P.K. Page appear alongside present and future literary masters. UVic Libraries and Legacy Art Galleries are also planning, respectively, a limited-edition publication about the journal and an exhibition devoted to the journal’s history and significance.

Amazing Race rounds out United Way events

Ever wondered how you stack up against Vikes varsity athletes? On Nov. 22, the UVic United Way campaign’s newest event, Vikes Amazing Race, will take over CARSA. Pledge your support for your faculty’s varsity athletes and try out the multi-sport challenges on race day. Don’t miss the other annual fundraisers: Bug Push on Ring Road on Nov. 19 and the Holiday Artisans Market in the University Centre on Nov. 21, featuring the work of artists and crafters from the UVic community. The UVic campaign aims to raise \$275,000 by year-end. Payroll donations, one-time gifts, and proceeds from event pledges and raffle tickets directly benefit United Way Greater Victoria. Visit unitedway.uvic.ca for details.

Forgotten letters reveal stories of dispossession and injustice

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Vancouver resident Judy Hanazawa’s life began in 1947, in the shadows of her Japanese Canadian family’s internment and dispossession during the Second World War.

Born in Merritt soon after her parents and sisters left their internment site at nearby Bridge River in BC’s interior, Hanazawa, now 70, knew little about her family’s experience in the camp.

After the war, Hanazawa’s father returned to work as a commercial fisherman. She grew up in Vancouver, going onto university to become a social worker and human rights advocate, determined the wartime treatment of 22,000 Japanese Canadians would never be repeated.

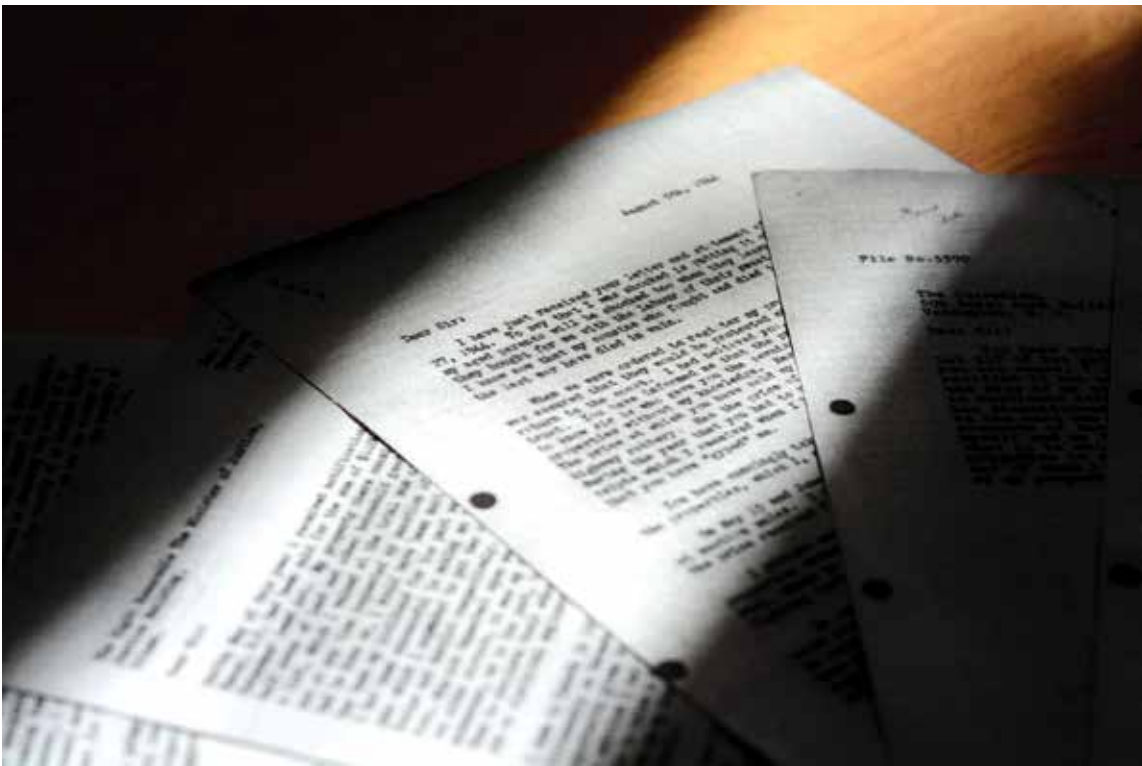
Now, a discovery by UVic humanities researchers is helping give Hanazawa some of her family’s history back.

Some 300 forgotten letters of protest from Japanese Canadians whose homes, belongings and businesses were sold have been uncovered as part of the seven-year, multi-partner, multi-million dollar Landscapes of Injustice project led by UVic.

Hanazawa’s father wrote one of the letters, disputing the \$14.68 he received in compensation for the unauthorized sale of cherished family possessions including Hanazawa’s mother’s sewing machine and Japanese doll.

“I’m proud of what he did,” Hanazawa says. “There was so little my parents spoke openly about so I appreciate this letter very much.”

Project leader and UVic historian Jordan Stanger-Ross came across the letters while researching at Library and Archives Canada. He says federal officials ignored the letters 75 years



Letters. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

ago, and then they were forgotten.

“I’ve never encountered a historical source quite like these letters,” Stanger-Ross says. “While many in Canada today know that Japanese Canadians were interned, too few realize that the Canadian government—unlike that of the United States—seized and sold all their possessions.”

Stanger-Ross says the forced sales occurred from 1943 to 1950, with Japanese Canadians losing everything they owned. The sales took place despite government officials’ assurances to the contrary and continued after the war ended. In today’s currency, the losses would amount to at least one billion dollars.

Authors of the letters include the owners of a successful dry-cleaning business in Victoria, an internee whose cousins died in France serving Canada during the First World War and a man who put two of his Canadian-born children through medical school.

Stanger-Ross wants people to understand how much this history still matters. “We risk overlooking the most important lessons of our past if we do not hold deep conversations about the legacies of 20th-century racism,” he says.

Since 2014, Landscapes of Injustice has involved 16 universities, museums and community organizations.

Now nearing the end of its research phase, the project will soon begin to communicate its findings to the public through schools and exhibitions.

Vancouver partner institution Nikkei National Museum will curate an online exhibition of the letters, including Hanazawa’s story, which will be made public in 2019 through the Virtual Museum of Canada.

Landscapes of Injustice is funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council and \$3 million in matching funds from participating institutions.

Find out more: www.landscapesofinjustice.com/

Grad student promotes the value of basic research to Ottawa decision-makers

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

A UVic chemist was in Ottawa last month to talk to government officials about her innovative approach to early concussion diagnosis.

Doctoral candidate Armita Dash was one of three early-career researchers chosen to be part of the Universities Canada delegation. The trip was part of an effort by Universities Canada to emphasize the importance of funding fundamental science by providing examples of research that matter to Canadians and people around the world.

Dash’s research is one such example. Her work provides an early detec-

tion method of diagnosing concussion or traumatic brain injury through the use of nanotechnology.

While rates of traumatic head injury continue to rise throughout North America, particularly for children and young-adults, effective diagnosis of concussions has remained elusive. “Concussion patients don’t have consistent symptoms, and the injury is often invisible on standard brain scans,” says Dash. “This can lead to misdiagnosis or underdiagnoses.”

Correct diagnosis can be a matter of life-and-death when it comes to concussions. If a patient receives an additional brain injury before recovering, the result can be permanent

disability and death.

Dash’s system of diagnosis uses a nanoparticle-based marker that she designed. The marker is permeable to the brain’s membranes and targets a protein called “tau” in live brain cells. In a patient suffering from concussion or mild traumatic brain injury, tau is abnormally deposited in high amounts throughout the brain, killing healthy brain cells. Dash’s marker allows the effects of a concussion to be more easily seen in a brain scan.

While in Ottawa, Dash took part in a panel where she presented on the details and impact of her research to parliamentarians and senior government officials. She discussed the potential

of this innovation to improve patient care and advance related research, as well as the importance that funding has made to her work.

Dash is no stranger to public speaking. In fact, she’s the first UVic student to make it to the nationals of the 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) challenge, a Canada-wide competition that challenges graduate students to present the complexities of their research in an engaging and accessible way.

“3MT gave me the opportunity to learn how to effectively and concisely explain my research to a non-academic audience,” says Dash. “Being part of this delegation was an exceptional opportunity to use that skill to help persuade the federal government of the vital importance of investing in university research like mine.”



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Dash



The University of Victoria's community newspaper
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Printed using vegetable-based inks on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Next issue Jan. 4

The Ring is published eight times a year by University Communications + Marketing.

Executive Director Bruce Kilpatrick, 250-721-7638, abk@uvic.ca

Managing editor Valerie Shore, 250-721-7641, vshore@uvic.ca

Production Beth Doman

Display ads Bonnie Light, 250-388-5321, adsring@uvic.ca

Distribution Mandy Crocker, 250-721-8587, ucam@uvic.ca

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The Ring, PO Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955
E-mail: ring@uvic.ca

Printed in Canada by Black Press

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement
No. 40014024



Higgs

Student observes unprecedented neutron star collision

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

A UVic doctoral student now knows what it feels like to be in the right place at the right time.

While visiting the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, Clare Higgs was involved in the observation of the first recorded gravitational wave signature caused by a neutron star collision.

The Aug. 16 observation by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and Virgo detector, and over 70 ground and space-based telescopes, is transformational to our understanding of the universe.

This is the first time that both light and gravitational waves have been observed simultaneously, providing astronomers with a new way to observe the universe. It proves that the collision of neutron stars is the source of heavy elements such as gold and platinum.

Higgs happened to be at the Chile observatory, having arrived earlier that day to survey dwarf galaxies. But when the observatory was alerted by LIGO regarding an

unusual “target of opportunity,” Magellan telescopes housed at the facility refocused on the region of sky where LIGO suspected the activity was coming from.

“It was totally unexpected and chaotic,” says Higgs. “At first, it wasn’t even clear that we were looking at the right galaxy.”

Higgs was at one of the first telescopes in the world to focus on the collision, which visibly changed in brightness and colour in a matter of hours. Over the course of that night and several more that followed, Higgs assisted the team by taking observations of the quality and colours of light created by the neutron star collision, which were used in two *Science* papers.

“Astronomers will be studying these observations for years,” says Higgs. “It was a thrilling and fortuitous opportunity to observe something that has never been seen by humankind before. I feel incredibly lucky to have been present and to have played a very small role in this unique and groundbreaking detection.”

MUSIC SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM P.1

the school was formally established in 1979.

Since then, the School of Music has continued to expand, adding new faculty (including Butterfield himself in 1993), new programs (such as jazz in 1990), permanent artists-in-residence (the Lafayette String Quartet in 1991) and prestigious designations, like being Canada’s only all-Steinway School (2008) and offering the country’s only music and computer science degree (2011) and master’s in string quartet (2016).

While focus and demand have changed and grown, Butterfield says one essential aspect remains the same. “You have to give people the confidence to think like artists. There’s no manual; they need to find their own voice and interests, find out what sustains and feeds them. The payoff comes when you see them making lives for themselves as artists.”

Whether that’s a noted composer like Tobin Stokes, who had one of his pieces performed for Queen Elizabeth II—and sung by fellow alumna Eve Daniell—as part of Canada’s official 150 celebrations this summer, an acclaimed pianist like Eve Egoyan, or an award-winning music teacher like Mark Reid, the School of Music has more than its share of accomplished alumni.

Indeed, many of them will be returning to campus for the 50th anniversary reunion weekend running Dec. 1–3, which will also include the gala concert with maestro Vernon.

“Bringing Timothy in is a way of recognizing our commitment to the community, as well his honorary

degree,” says Butterfield of the concert, which will also feature faculty pianist Arthur Rowe and trumpeter Merrie Klazek as soloists. “We wanted to make him part of this experience by having him choose the music and work with our students.”

“PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT WHERE THE INTERESTING MUSICAL CENTRES ARE ON THE WEST COAST OF NORTH AMERICA AND SOMEBODY SAID, ‘WELL, THERE’S LOS ANGELES... AND VICTORIA.’”

Butterfield feels it’s this connection between city, faculty and creative practice that sets the School of Music apart. “We’re never going to be the place for everybody, but the people who do come here soon realize we’re punching way above our weight.”

Gala Concert

The UVic Chorus & Orchestra Gala Concert featuring guest conductor Timothy Vernon runs 8–10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets are \$10–\$25 and are available at the UVic Ticket Centre, online or by phone at 250-721-8480. Can’t make the show? You can always tune in on the School of Music’s Listen! Live page at bit.ly/uvic-livemusic



CBC's Rick Mercer visits campus

Canadian comedian and satirist Rick Mercer was happily mobbed by students while on campus Oct. 31 shooting an episode of the Rick Mercer Report—scheduled to air on CBC this month. This is the show’s 15th and final season. Mercer had his brain function tested by neuroscientist Olav Krigolson, checked out the Victoria Hand Project, tried on a “smart bandage” in the Laboratory for Innovations in Microscale Engineering, and got an opera lesson from Benjamin Butterfield in the School of Music. PHOTO: BETH DOMAN

Federal investment in ONC enhances coastal monitoring

UVic’s world-leading Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) received \$7.2 million in new funding from the federal government last month to continue its work monitoring Canada’s ocean and coasts.

The new investment, announced by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, is funded through the \$1.5-billion Oceans Protection Plan and will be used by ONC to augment its current network of oceanographic radars and underwater hydrophones in key coastal locations.

Oceanographic data collected on sea-surface currents will inform navigation and emergency response on diverse fronts ranging from ships in distress to oil spills. Acoustic data measuring underwater noise in specific marine mammal habitats will provide a compilation of data over time and help inform mitigation strategies.

The federal Oceans Protection Plan aims to create a globally recognized marine safety system that provides economic opportunities for Cana-

ans today while protecting coastlines and clean water supplies for future generations.

Established in 2007 as a major initiative of UVic, ONC operates ocean observatories for the advancement of science and the benefit of Canada. The observatories collect data on physical, chemical, biological and geological aspects of the ocean over long time periods, supporting research on complex Earth processes in ways not previously possible.



WHAT GETS YOU ROLLING?

Take the UVic Cycling Plan interactive survey before Nov. 24.

However you get around—on foot, wheelchair or transit... by car, bicycle or skateboard—we want to hear from you!

The university is developing its first Campus Cycling Plan, to make cycling on campus safe and accessible for everyone and guide the development of future cycling infrastructure.

Survey and project updates:
uvic.ca/cyclingplan





Willerth. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

BC grants ignite two innovative projects

Two University of Victoria researchers working with industry to develop and apply new technologies have been awarded BC Innovation Council Ignite grants for their research on the protection of endangered species and the future of personalized medicine.

Molecular biologist **Caren Helbing** receives a \$185,000 grant for her work with environmental consulting firm Hemmera Envirochem and environmental laboratory Maxxam Analytics to refine a method of detecting the presence of aquatic animal species through environmental DNA (eDNA).

The method will allow ecologists to determine the geographical range of threatened and endangered species by identifying the specific eDNA that every animal leaves behind in the waters and soil of its habitat.

Determining whether a species is at risk currently comes down to human observation, a costly and often destructive method of verifying a species' presence. Helbing's eDNA technology allows researchers to simply analyze a scoop of water or soil to determine whether a species is present in a particular habitat.

Funding from BC Ignite to refine eDNA methodology will allow for

systematic, reliable and standardized testing methods, and the creation of the first commercially available eDNA test in BC.

Biomedical engineer **Stephanie Willerth** receives \$139,700 for her work with Aspect Biosystems that uses 3-D printing technology to print human neural tissue. Willerth and Aspect have already been working together to re-engineer human skin cells into pluripotent stem cells, which have the capability of forming any cell type found in the body.

The new project will see the engineered tissue printed using Aspect's specialized bio-ink formula, producing neural tissue that can be used to recreate the pathology of spinal cord injury and neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease.

Willerth's work also aims to create a human-cell platform for testing new drugs to treat such disorders, which holds significant promise for personalized medicine applications in the future.

BC Ignite grants are awarded twice a year and are intended to cover a third of project costs. Successful recipients are then required to secure remaining funds from industry or other government sources.

Private donation funds dementia research, patient care

BY JODY PATERSON

A Greater Victoria family with a personal connection to cognitive health issues has donated \$2.5 million to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation for a five-year project on dementia diagnosis and treatment. The project brings together researchers at the University of Victoria, Island Health and the University of BC.

UVic and other partners in the Neil and Susan Manning Cognitive Health Initiative have worked with donors Neil and Susan Manning for two years to finalize details of the innovative project, which will integrate leading-edge research and care for patients living with cognitive health issues on Vancouver Island.

"This donation creates an exceptional opportunity to advance health research collaborations on Vancouver Island and represents the way of the future for research partnerships," says UVic President Jamie Cassels, who spoke at the announcement in early October.

The initiative will see UVic researchers, medical professionals, and Island Medical Program educators and students working together as teams on cognitive health re-



Hofer. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

search. The teams will incorporate their learning into practice so that people living with cognitive health disorders can quickly benefit from the research.

Research that supports healthy aging is a priority and strength at UVic, where roughly a quarter of faculty engage in health research. The university's Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, led by Scott Hofer, is an interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to improving lifelong health

and quality of life for a diverse and aging population.

"Cognitive health researchers at our centre study the health of the brain and its overall function," says Hofer. "This includes looking at brain functions like memory, judgment, language, intuition and the ability to learn. Our goal is to better understand and ultimately improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients living with cognition-related disorders."

Technologies shine spotlight on climate role of undersea canyons



"Wally" the deep-sea crawler. PHOTO: ONC

sources around the world is critical for predicting global warming levels. De Leo and colleagues showed that in winter, sinking organic carbon—such as dead phytoplankton—is transported from the ocean surface to the deep sea and permanently sequestered in seafloor sediments. Up until now, carbon transfer during winter was presumed to be insignificant in the global carbon cycle compared to spring and summer.

With some 9,500 submarine canyons around the world, "these carbon storage numbers add up and could be globally important for Earth's carbon budget as it relates to climate change," says De Leo.

Wally is equipped with sensors that measure water currents, fluorescence and turbidity and is connected to ONC's cabled observatory. Remotely controlled via the internet by a research team in Germany, the crawler has an onboard webcam providing detailed views of seafloor sediments and local marine life.

NASA's MODIS satellite measures ocean surface dynamics and tracks changes over time from space.

The study was co-authored by scientists and researchers from universities and institutes in Canada, Germany, Spain, Italy and the US, and published in *Nature* magazine's *Scientific Reports* in September.

ONC is a UVic initiative funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the governments of Canada and BC, CANARIE and IBM Canada.

wellings—the sinking of dense, cold water beneath lighter, warmer water.

Wintertime phytoplankton blooms observed by MODIS from outer space disappeared from surface waters off the west coast of the Island and reached Wally at an 870-metre depth in Barkley Canyon within 12 to 72 hours.

"Data from Wally and MODIS supports that these canyons play an important role in rapidly transferring carbon to the deep sea during winter," says De Leo. "This new understanding of canyon transport of organic matter, combined with improved carbon budget models, can help climate scientists better predict global warming scenarios."

Understanding the fate of carbon

BY GREIG BETHEL

Unprecedented high-resolution data from undersea canyons off Vancouver Island's west coast is helping us understand the importance of these canyons as rapid-transit corridors for carrying carbon from the ocean surface to the deep sea.

An international study co-led by Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) staff scientist and University of Victoria biologist Fabio De Leo uses synchronized real-time data from "Wally" the deep-sea crawler and NASA's MODIS satellite for the first time to measure carbon transport from the sea surface to the deep ocean. The technologies observe wintertime ocean circulation, canyon rim eddies and down-



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FALL CONVOCATION 2017



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

Hundreds of UVic students and their families will gather on campus this month to celebrate reaching an academic milestone. A total of 1,396 degrees, certificates and diplomas will be conferred.



Smith. PHOTO: HARRISON SMITH

Studies point grad toward Indigenous health career

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Cheyenne Smith is determined to do her part to improve the health of Canada's Indigenous populations, especially HIV/AIDS rates, after she graduates this month with an undergraduate degree in anthropology and a minor in French.

"Health is a major factor of reconciliation and I hope to be a part of this movement," says Smith. "HIV/AIDS continues to be an issue among the Indigenous populations of Can-

ada—a fact that I believe represents a significant oversight on the part of the Canadian government."

While growing up in Squamish, BC, Smith not only earned her pilot's license at age 17 (through Canadian Air Cadets), but also developed an interest in medicine and health policy in Indigenous populations. She was introduced to First Nations history through the school curriculum but it wasn't until UVic that she was exposed

SEE SMITH P. 6



Kirk

Hockey helps score a career path

BY HOLLY HEUVER

For new kinesiology graduate Dale Kirk, connecting hockey and academics made sense as he was considering post-secondary education. "I always thought I'd be the guy running out onto the ice helping an injured player off," he says. Kinesiology seemed like the answer to blend his love of hockey and his interest in helping people.

Although Kirk grew up in Edmonton, he developed a fondness for the BC coast during summer road trips. That's why UVic seemed like an obvious choice for him. "One thing that really stood out was the number of co-op programs that are incorporated into degrees," he says.

The co-op program became an essential part of Kirk's academic career. His first work term led him

to CBI Rehabilitation in Motion in Courtenay, BC. The clinic focuses on injury rehabilitation, often resulting from a WorkSafe BC claim. His second work term was at Parkwood Place, an independent retirement community in Victoria, where he implemented recreational activities for residents.

"I worked with a wide range of fantastic individuals," says Kirk. "We had occupational therapists, doctors, physiotherapists and kinesiology students working as an interdisciplinary team to ultimately improve physical function and awareness."

Kirk's passion for helping people from all walks of life grew as he went through his kinesiology program and co-op placements. Working individually with CBI clients and Parkwood residents, and seeing their progress, made him realize a desire to focus on cardiac or neuro-

logical rehabilitation with diseases affecting mobility such as multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's.

"There's so much about those conditions that I don't know and it's very humbling to be working with those populations. It allows me to gain perspective and realize how fortunate I am to function the way I do."

Officially graduating this month, Kirk now knows his future will involve more than helping hockey players off the rink.

"I'd like to help as many people as I can—to help them keep moving and realize that they don't have to stop living because they've been diagnosed with a condition."

Beyond contemplating the idea of pursuing a master's degree in occupational therapy, he also plans to hit the ice as often as he can. After all, hockey is where his journey began.



Poole. PHOTO: PAUL WALDE

Visual arts degree takes grad on journey from worker to working artist

BY JOHN THRELFALL

While university may be the logical choice for many high school students, not everyone finds their path right after graduation. Many opt to spend some time working or travelling before deciding on a specific field of study.

Brandon Poole made just such a choice, spending his 20s as a carpenter and electrician, hitchhiking across Canada, living on a sailboat. And the classes he did take—philosophy, photo journalism—didn’t lead to any specific path.

It wasn’t until he decided to shoot a series of photos in downtown Vancouver’s back alleys that he had his academic epiphany.

“I was trying to find a way of resolving my myriad of skillsets without leaving anything behind,” says the 31-year-old Poole, who graduates this month with a BFA in visual arts. “I like working with my hands, and I need an output that’s not just about writing and concept; it needs to be combined into a more overarching mode of work.

Art school solved all those problems.”

Accelerating through his degree in just three years, Poole put his time in the visual arts department to good use. More than just taking classes, he also applied for (and received) BC Arts Council funding, took on a variety of work-study positions—including darkroom technician, faculty studio assistant and lab assistant in the Studios for Integrated Media.

He also launched his first solo gallery exhibit at the local Fifty Fifty Arts Collective, was the undergrad representative on a faculty hiring panel, and was nominated for Vancouver’s inaugural Phillip B. Lind Emerging Artist Prize in 2016.

He spent a good part of this past summer working with department chair Paul Walde on his latest site-specific intermedia project, *The Tom Thomson Centennial Swim*. Poole travelled to Ontario’s Algonquin Park where he put his camera skills to work as the primary videographer documenting Walde’s complex project, as well as handling logistics and equip-

ment purchases.

“All of these opportunities provided me with a well-rounded understanding of what’s possible in an academic situation for arts-based work, as well as the outside opportunities that exist,” he says. “It’s simply more skills to bring to the table for whatever I choose to do next.”

As for what’s next, Poole says the next logical step is pursuing an MFA back east. “I draw a lot of strategies from journalism, from photography, from the building industry and architecture, and the outputs of those are videos, photographs, sculptures and drawings, all of which get tied together in a specific space. The works aren’t enough on their own; the space is always highly considered.”

For a guy who never would have described himself as an artist before attending UVic, Poole has indeed found his path. “I really think the undergraduate program here is fantastic,” he says. “It’s especially useful for encouraging the cohesion of skills and interests.”

FRANCOIS CONTINUED FROM P.1

Francois was continually working hard to qualify for the Olympics. She ran her first Olympic Trials in 2012, was a gritty competitor at the annual Vikes International Track Classic in Victoria year after year and was a close contender for the Canadian contingent that went to the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

An eight-foot rendering of Francois in action is plastered to the wall of the RBC Blue and Gold Room in the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA), joining a collage of notable Vikes national champions including basketball’s Eli Pasquale and swimmer and 19-time Paralympic medal winner Stephanie Dixon.

Francois says juggling sports and academic work helped her manage

her time well. “I do feel that having the balance of both helped me, as studying was a way to be mentally stimulated, and my training was a fun break from school.”

Somewhere in that hectic schedule she also found time to contribute to the campus community. In 2013 and 2014, she was a key face for the communications campaign leading up to the construction and opening of CARSA. She was also a go-to keynote speaker for multiple events, where she enjoyed describing life as a student-athlete and her pride at being a Vike.

In 2015, Francois was one of the inaugural writers for the “My UVic Blog” and served as a front desk staff worker for CARSA membership services. She was often the first to volunteer for

events happening on- or off-campus involving UVic or the Vikes.

Although it’s now time to move on to other challenges, Francois she’ll miss her Vikes family. “I’ll miss the team aspect the most,” she says. “The team becomes your family, they see you at your best and worst, and the insane workouts that you get through together certainly bring you closer.”

What’s on the career horizon? Francois says she’s interested in communications, event coordination, connecting people and being in leadership roles. “I’m diving into different professional areas to see what I like the best. I’m excited to make my career one that is authentic to who I am, and is very dynamic, always changing. I want to work with people.”

Grad finds her niche in informatics

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

Michelle Wright’s decision to enrol in Health Information Science (HINF) was influenced by three key factors—word-of-mouth, the internet and personal satisfaction.

Born and raised a stone’s throw from campus, she spoke with a few friends who had graduated from the program. One close friend told her about the strong rate of hire for HINF graduates and the ability to make an impact in the health care field through technology, adding, “I know you love math, which means you’ll love informatics.”

Wright was intrigued.

She then did some online research on careers for graduates and on the HINF faculty. She was impressed on both counts. “Good teachers make all the difference in my ability to learn,” she says.

She also rated her own career needs; business, people and management attracted her most. While nursing was appealing, she wasn’t sure she’d withstand the emotional pressures.

So, she decided to give HINF a try for one year. When that year was up, she still wasn’t convinced informatics was the right fit. All that changed after she completed her first co-op work experience supporting a high-tech joint overhaul of the billings and accounts receivable records system for Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care.

“I loved it,” says Wright. “I felt really comfortable there.” Manager Theresa Volk, also a HINF grad, helped her grapple with project specifics and mentored Wright. “Everything turned around in those four months,” she says. “That co-op cemented my desire to stick with it.”

Wright returned to HINF determined to complete and graduates this month—a success story she shares with HINF co-op coordinator,



Wright. PHOTO: MALIA MOORE

Dave Hutchinson.

“She’s brilliant,” says Hutchinson, noting Wright was the school’s Co-op Student of the Year in 2016. “And I mean that in every respect, not just as a student. She’ll really go places.”

Wright is currently completing a seven-month contract as an analyst (employed before graduation, earning a competitive wage) with Island Health’s Home Health Monitoring Program, a free service that enables people with heart failure or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) to manage their condition from home.

When that contract is over, more choices await. Employers are calling. There’s the master’s in health information science, which she wants to pursue. Yet she dreams of taking a break and travelling, having been with HINF for four years fresh out of high school.

“There are too many opportunities,” she says, smiling, as if to say that’s the best problem to have when you’re 22 years old.

SMITH CONTINUED FROM P.5

to the deeper issues surrounding Canada’s treatment of Indigenous peoples.

“I’m encouraged by UVic’s commitment to reconciliation,” says Smith. “While I was a member of the Anthropology Course Union we participated in the repatriation of ancestral remains to the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. This repatriation really signified UVic’s commitment to reconciliation.”

For her honour’s thesis—titled “Disease does not discriminate: HIV prevention initiatives within Indigenous communities”—Smith explored the differences between Canada and Australia’s approach to prevention campaigns targeted at high-risk groups within respective Indigenous communities.

“Indigenous people in Canada are 2.7 times more likely to contract HIV than non-Indigenous people,” says Smith. “Health issues in Indigenous communities have largely been overlooked and I want to use my education to help address this oversight.”

Smith’s original interest in medicine lead her to enroll in first year sciences at UVic. “I chose UVic because of the science program. I knew a lot of people who had come to UVic and were majoring in sciences,” she says. “I also heard a lot of good things about the campus environment and smaller class sizes.”

Smith quickly discovered public health and anthropology were a better fit for her interests. After her first-year class with anthropology professor Erin McGuire, Smith felt like she had “found my people.”

“Dr. McGuire showed us how to apply anthropology, especially how we could use it in our careers.”

As a co-op student, Smith worked during her degree and gained job experience on land claims research with a company that works with First Nations communities, industry and government. She hopes to continue working in this area while she pursues a graduate degree in public health—with the ultimate goal of working with Indigenous communities.



Green. PHOTO: TIM MATHESON

Bringing positivity, perspective and leadership to public service

BY SASHA MILAM

Alana Green, BCom '17, Ch'nook Scholar valedictorian and positive-minded change-maker, takes her role as public servant very much to heart. Green, a member of the Cree community of Duncan's First Nation in northern Alberta, began the BCom program with previous career experience and currently works for the Canadian Coast Guard.

"In every avenue of government I've worked with (municipal, provincial and federal) and in my experiences with First Nations governments, there's a focus on the well-being of people," says Green. "The questions often asked are: 'What can we do to serve people better?' 'Is this the best way we can do this for the public?' I like the focus on improving lives."

This interest in the public sector pre-existed her studies at UVic's Gustavson School of Business, but like many students, Green was undecided on her future career when she started her degree. "I hadn't ruled out accounting," says Green. "But I'd seen public service life modelled by my parents, and my co-op work terms [one of which was with the Coast Guard] helped me learn more about what I enjoy doing."

"Ch'nook Scholars was another defining element," she adds. Open to Indigenous business students at post-secondary institutions in BC and Alberta, the scholarship program develops leadership skills, builds relationships and shares knowledge.

"I enjoyed being with a group of people who understood the chal-

lenges of being an Indigenous business student," she says. "Ch'nook really enhanced my education because it provided a new layer to think about, which is how my education will enable me to serve my Indigenous community better."

"I know Indigenous youth, like myself, hold great responsibilities to support our communities and preserve our culture, land, language and heritage. I hope to be someone who can bring people together and create a stronger partnership for a better future for everyone."

In the Ch'nook program, where she was voted valedictorian of her graduating class, and at Gustavson, Green placed great value on her connections with fellow students.

"It was such an eye-opening opportunity to be studying the same concepts with people who see things so differently from each other. This melting pot of people, partnered with Gustavson's cohort study system, meant I made valuable, lasting connections with people."

Much as she values consensus-building, however, Green is also not afraid to walk her own path. When she saw that going on an exchange would disrupt her full participation in Ch'nook Scholars, she chose to stay in Canada and says she has no regrets.

"As an Indigenous woman working for the Government of Canada, I can see how my voice and culture, partnered with my education, can help me make a difference. I hope the skills and leadership I developed through Gustavson will help me find an even stronger voice working in public policy."



Newell. PHOTO: ANGELA KREWDA

Geography PhD creates virtual environment for coastal planning project

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

What if you could experience the beauty of Sidney Spit (at the northern tip of Sidney Island) without leaving your home? Robert Newell has applied cutting-edge technology to develop a virtual reality experience that takes visitors on a tour of the park, over land and underwater, using visualization tools.

"Geographic visualization helps us see and interact with our environment in a virtual way," says Newell, who graduates from UVic this month with a PhD in geography.

"By using GIS (geographic information systems) mapping technology and video game development software, I developed an immersive experience of Sidney Spit."

Newell is passionate about coastal planning and says geovisualization is a promising tool for engaging the public and decision-makers when it comes to parks and urban development.

"I could show you what a coastal

place would look like if, for instance, there were offshore wind farms or a new marina or dock," he says.

Growing up in Vancouver, Newell has always been drawn to the coast. Prior to starting his PhD, Newell had not experienced the beauty of Sidney Spit. That all changed as he developed his research project. He spent hours doing fieldwork in the park, sometimes camping overnight. When not working, Newell's preferred activity was to take long walks.

"I've developed a hobby of going for lengthy walks," he says. "After submitting a draft of my thesis, I did a 16-day walk from Victoria to Port Hardy (552 km)." <https://youtu.be/i-XDavULX2U>

"Part of this bizarre hobby," says Newell, "is designing the routes. I use Google Earth and record my paths with a Garmin GPS unit. I've probably always been a geographer at heart."

Newell quickly realized how interdisciplinary geography is as his project involved spatial sciences, hu-

man environments and collaborative management. When he met his PhD supervisor, Dr. Rosaline Canessa, he was immediately excited about working with her on coastal geovisualization research.

"When reviewing research around people and place, it occurred to me that I have a strong attachment to the Pacific Northwest," says Newell.

"I love the coniferous trees, the ocean and trails, and with such a connection it becomes easy to see the importance of planning the use of parks together."

He thanks the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, UVic's Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship program and the Sarah Spencer Foundation for their support.

Newell currently holds a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship and is continuing his visualization research in an urban planning context at Royal Roads University.

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around the ring

Get ready for Giving Tuesday

After the sales of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving, a time to celebrate and encourage philanthropy. UVic is taking part in Giving Tuesday for the second time, hoping to raise \$25,000 to enhance the student experience and to involve the entire campus community in this fun, sprinkle-themed day of activities and giving. On Tuesday, Nov. 28 at the fountain, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., look out for hot chocolate, whipped cream and sprinkles, cookies, zorbing (a giant “hamster ball”), the “sprinkle trike” and a giant snow globe full of sprinkles. You can also participate in Giving Tuesday online at uvic.ca/givingtuesday or through social media using #AddSprinklesUVic.

Call for nominations: President's Extraordinary Service Awards

Do you know UVic employees who deserve a round of applause? Nominate an individual or team who makes UVic a great place to work and learn. Any UVic employee or recognized student organization can nominate an individual or team in one of the five categories: Navigator, Innovator, Collaborator, Cultivator or Connector. Nominations open on Nov. 20 and those interested in submitting a nomination are invited to register for a Nominator's Workshop on Jan. 10. The nomination deadline is Jan. 29, and results will be announced at the Cause for Applause event in May. Visit uvic.ca/pesa for full details and nomination forms.

Honorably speaking

An honorary degree—the university's highest academic honour—will be presented to four exceptional individuals at Fall 2017 Convocation.



**BARNEY WILLIAMS JR.,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
LAWS (LLD)**

November 14 at 10 a.m.

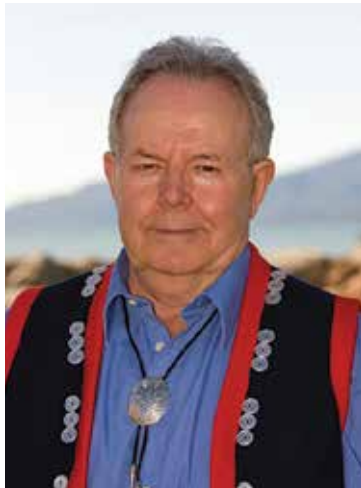
Barney Williams Jr. is Nuu-chah-nulth and a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. A registered clinical counselor and a survivor of the residential school system, he was an invaluable contributor to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

From 2008 to 2015, he served as a member of the commission's Indian residential school survivor committee, providing cultural and spiritual advice.

When he was five, Williams was removed from his home and taken to the Christie Residential School in Tofino. Like many of the 150,000 children placed in residential schools, he was punished for speaking his own language and was severely abused. He suffered post-traumatic stress, turned to alcohol and attempted suicide. But in 1966, and still in his early 20s, he began his recovery and has been sober ever since.

As a registered clinical counsellor, Williams has provided training, healing and workshops for individuals and communities in mental health, crisis intervention and addictions.

Williams served for 60 years as the traditional keeper of the beach for the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. He's also an Elder-in-Residence at UVic and provides advice on the university's role in reconciliation.



**NEIL STERRITT,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
LAWS (LLD)**

Tuesday, November 14 at 2:30 p.m.

Neil Sterritt was a driving force behind what is arguably the most important court decision in the history of Indigenous land claims in Canada.

Sterritt was president of the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council when in 1984 he and a group of elders, frustrated by a lack of progress on land claims in meetings with Canadian first ministers, filed a statement of claim in Smithers.

They turned to the courts to give substance to Aboriginal treaty rights and self-government based on their laws, traditions and governing structures. The subsequent trial lasted 374 days and Sterritt testified for 33 days. Hereditary chiefs and Elders gave testimony in their own language about their culture and relationship to the land.

The Supreme Court of Canada confirmed the existence of Aboriginal title in BC and ruled that when dealing with Crown land, governments are obligated to consult with and may have to compensate First Nations whose rights are affected.

In the early 1980s, Sterritt and other Gitksan leaders worked with UVic to form an innovative First Nations teacher education program that was delivered in Hazelton and in the Faculty of Education.



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

**DAVID FLAHERTY,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
LAWS (LLD)**

November 15 at 10 a.m.

In 1993, David Flaherty became BC's first Information and Privacy Commissioner, writing some 320 orders under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act and putting the province on the map in terms of increased transparency and accountability of public institutions.

He's played a central role in the development of information and privacy law and policy at the national level and, internationally, he's been a crucial figure in discussions surrounding privacy and access to information.

Starting in 1980, he was at the forefront of a new focus on Canadian legal history, which until then had been mostly dominated by the history of English common law. In the next decade, a new generation of legal scholars pursued research in all areas and periods of Canadian law. Flaherty was at the centre of that transformation through his work as a historian and editor.

More recently, Flaherty has been a patron of the arts in Victoria through his philanthropy and volunteerism. He led a four-year fundraising campaign that established new rehearsal and office space for Pacific Opera Victoria. From 1999 to 2006, he was a UVic adjunct professor of political science.



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

**SHERIDAN SCOTT,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
LAWS (LLD)**

November 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Sheridan Scott's legal career has been characterized by professionalism, leadership and technical mastery—skills that have influenced Canadian broadcasting, telecommunications and competition law.

After becoming the first UVic law graduate to serve as clerk to Chief Justice Bora Laskin of the Supreme Court of Canada, Scott joined the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) where she served as legal counsel. During that time, she was involved in major decisions about long-distance competition in telecommunications, cable television rates and national broadcasting regulations.

Scott joined the CBC in 1993, serving as vice-president of regulatory affairs and corporate development where she was involved in the CBC's decision to create an all-news French language service. In 1994, she was appointed Bell Canada's chief regulatory officer, overseeing all activities involving the CRTC, the Copyright Board and the Competition Bureau.

In 2004, the federal government appointed Scott as Commissioner of the Competition Bureau of Canada. On completion of her term at the bureau in 2009, she joined one of Canada's top business law firms, Bennett Jones LLP, as a partner and co-chair of the firm's competition and antitrust practice.

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Enríquez. PHOTO: CHORONG KIM

Humanities grad helps revitalize Galician language

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

One could say that humanities graduate student Ildara Enríquez was born for her role as a linguistics researcher.

Growing up on the Iberian Peninsula in the northwest region of Spain, Enríquez spoke her native language of Galician at home. At school, she conversed in Spanish. Both were official languages, but as a teenager, Enríquez made a decision.

“I started speaking Galician everywhere,” she says. “I have a choice, and I choose to speak Galician, which is my language.”

Some 2.5 million people speak Galician, a language that dates back to the 10th century and was at one time banned under General Franco’s dictatorship. That repression, combined with the continued dominance of Castilian Spanish today, has resulted in a decline of Galician speakers. “Fewer younger people speak Galician,” she says. “They tend to want to use Spanish only.”

Although Spanish and Galician are similar, there are important grammatical differences. Galician’s use of seven vowels, instead of the five found in standard Spanish, help set Galician apart, says Enríquez.

In recent years, Galician has enjoyed a resurgence among older Spanish speakers who want to learn their native tongue. But their use of Galician has prompted controversy about the purity of the

language and whether Spanish is influencing how it’s being spoken.

As part of her research for a master’s in linguistics, Enríquez decided to test these criticisms. She interviewed 15 new speakers of Galician, gauging their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

She focused on a unique grammatical feature of Galician, the clitic system, which marks information like singular versus plural, and the object type. The results of her research were surprising.

“New speakers born and raised in the region seemed to have more Spanish influence in their speech,” Enríquez says. “But those speakers who did not grow up in Galicia seemed to master the clitic system at the same level as native speakers.”

Enríquez says variation in language is healthy and inevitable. She adds that those who were raised outside Galicia perhaps felt a stronger need to assert their Galician identity through language.

Enríquez, who graduates with a master’s degree this month, is continuing her research for a PhD. Linguistics professor Alexandra D’Arcy describes Enríquez’s research as cutting-edge—“the first of its kind for Galician.”

Enriquez, meanwhile, credits the linguistics department for helping her examine her native language’s revitalization. “Galician has always been part of me and part of my life.”



Korolyk. PHOTO: KALI MORENO

Grad blends passion for conservation with community-based citizen science

BY LISA ABRAM

Eventually every child is asked the question: What do you want to be when you grow up? Stephanie Korolyk has been able to answer it since Grade 2, inspired by nearby tide pools and beaches along the BC coast where she lived—she wanted to be a biologist.

Today, she’s working at her dream job as the executive director of the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society on Haida Gwaii, after completing a degree in biology and environmental studies at UVic.

Korolyk is studying the ancient murrelet in the K’uuna Gwaay Heritage Site and Conservancy outside Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, where half the global breeding population of the small seabird lives.

In 2015, she was the recipient of the Bob Wright Undergraduate

“IT’S EXCITING TO BE FURTHERING A CAUSE THAT’S IMPORTANT TO ME AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.”

Scholarship, given to students who have demonstrated their passion for ocean studies. This helped inspire her to continue on the biology path.

Korolyk further supported her studies as a student assistant with UVic Libraries, following in the footsteps of her mother who works in circulation services.

While working at the help desk, Korolyk’s caring nature was invaluable in handling many stressful situations. Her first-line troubleshooting helped students at exam time with printing problems and finding accidentally deleted essays.

But she knew she always wanted to live on Haida Gwaii. Finding work as the circulation supervisor at the library there bridged the gap from academia to her chosen profession.

“It can be difficult to break into the biology field,” says Korolyk. “Working at UVic and Haida Gwaii libraries helped me build a skillset that I now use.”

Part of that skillset was building relationships with the community, which is a big part of her job now. Research at Laskeek Bay relies heavily on the dedication of community volunteers and Korolyk knows without them, the field work under her watch would not be as successful.

“Working at UVic Libraries taught me the importance of lifelong learning, and making educational resources accessible to everyone. This guides me as I engage with the new biologists of all ages who volunteer at Laskeek Bay. It’s exciting to be furthering a cause that’s important to me and the local community,” Korolyk adds.

And thanks to the support of scholarships, the UVic co-op program and work with UVic Libraries, Korolyk is able to graduate debt-free—another major accomplishment for a young biologist making her mark in the world.

Share your convocation memories

- Tag your photos with #uvicgrad to see your photos on the digital screens in the University Centre.
- Follow these accounts for convocation photos and stories:



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Board of Governors 2017–2018

The University of Victoria’s Board of Governors is one of two primary governing bodies of the university (the other being the UVic Senate). The board is responsible for the management, administration and control of the property, revenue and business affairs of the university.

The board consists of the chancellor, the president, two elected faculty members, one elected staff member, two students elected from the university’s undergraduate and graduate student bodies and eight members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in

Council. For more information about the Board of Governors, visit uvic.ca/universitysecretary/governors/
New members who have joined the board for 2017-2018 are:



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RIZWAN BASHIR
Elected non-faculty staff member

Rizwan Bashir is the elected non-faculty employee on the Board of Governors. Bashir joined UVic in 2007 as a programmer analyst and is currently employed as manager of production and technical support services in University Systems, managing the university’s enterprise software systems and applications. Convocation elected Bashir to the UVic Senate in 2015 where he’s acquired an extensive knowledge of the university’s vision, mission and strategies. In addition to a BSc in computer science, Rizwan holds a master’s certificate in project management, a project management professional credential and an executive leadership certificate.



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

ELIZABETH BORYCKI
Elected faculty member

Elizabeth Borycki is a professor in the School of Health Information Science, director of the Social Dimensions of Health Program and director of the Health and Society Program in the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies. Borycki holds a PhD from the University of Toronto and a master’s in nursing from the University of Manitoba. She leads an internationally recognized research program in health information technology safety, human factors and patient use of health technologies. In 2017, Borycki was elected as a founding member of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics as one of the top 100 health informatics researchers in the world.



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

PETER DRIESSEN
Elected faculty member

Peter Driessen, first appointed in 1985, is a UVic engineering professor with cross-appointments in music and computer science. He spent 10 years part-time at AT&T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey and five years working for technology companies in Vancouver. His academic interests include music technology, sound recording, wireless communications, radio wave propagation, signal processing and multimedia. Driessen has over 100 publications and 15 patents, and holds research funding from several granting councils. He earned a BSc and PhD from UBC and has undertaken professional development in governance via the Institute of Corporate Directors. He also serves on the UVic Senate.



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

DAVID ESO
Elected graduate student member

David Eso is an editor, writer and PhD candidate in the Department of English who researches the cultural activities and contributions of Canadian poets during “the long 1970s.” His SSHRC-Bombardier-supported doctoral thesis concerns two literary clubs founded in Fredericton, New Brunswick, by poet Alden Nowlan: an International Flat Earth Society and a group seeking restoration of the Stuart monarchy. This work combines cultural studies, history, literary criticism and archival research. Eso serves on the editorial board for UVic’s *Malahat Review* and publishes his own academic and creative writing, as well as forgotten works from archives.



KATE FAIRLEY
Elected undergraduate student member

Kate Fairley is an economics student completing a BSc in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Having grown up in an Indigenous community, she’s skilled at understanding and appreciating diverse cultures and backgrounds. Working for the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts, she engaged with youth from diverse cultural backgrounds. Fairley has a passion for organization, leadership and mentorship. In her hometown, she was a founding member and co-chair of the Sardis Student Forum, a group that advocated for students to the school administration. She’s worked extensively in the non-profit sector and has served as a director-at-large on the board of the UVic Students’ Society.



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When galaxies collide: Searching for supermassive black hole pairs

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

A team involving University of Victoria astronomer Sara Ellison has discovered an inspired method of finding the elusive pairing of supermassive black holes that mark merging galaxies, a discovery that may provide clues to the future of Earth's own galaxy.

As galaxies near each other, they distort in shape, breaking and reforming the orbits of the billions of stars within them. The two galaxies then spiral toward each other, eventually colliding.

The supermassive black holes that are at the centre of each galaxy are drawn together in the collision and ultimately form a single, bigger supermassive black hole.

But before they merge, the two black holes exist in relatively close proximity, feeding from nearby matter. The formation is known as a dual active galactic nucleus (AGN).

“Supermassive black hole mergers take place over hundreds of millions of years,” says Ellison. “The more pairs that are found, the better we can understand how these formative interactions happen.”

But dual AGNs have been frustratingly difficult to spot. After a decade of systematic searching by researchers across the globe, only 10 had been discovered and confirmed with X-ray observations.

Seeking a more effective method to find dual AGNs, Ellison and her collaborators analyzed data from sky surveys, looking for dust and gas that are stirred up in the late stages of a black hole merger, in combination with the bright light produced by dual AGNs.

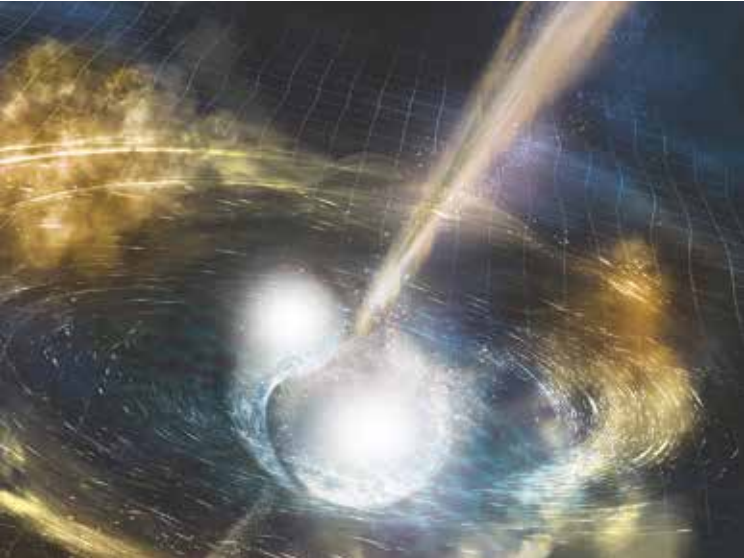
That work, backed up by observations from the NASA Chandra X-Ray Observatory, has led to the identification of five new AGN pairs in the last six months.

“UNDERSTANDING DUAL AGNS AND THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN GALAXY MERGERS COULD GIVE US INSIGHT INTO THE FATE OF THE MILKY WAY.”

Researchers have predicted that in four billion years, the Milky Way—the Earth's galaxy—will collide with the much larger Andromeda Galaxy.

“Understanding dual AGNs and the role they play in galaxy mergers could give us insight into the fate of the Milky Way,” says Ellison.

Ellison's work was funded through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and was published in the September 2017 issue of *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. The *New Scientist* has also written about her research.



Artist's illustration of two merging neutron stars. CREDIT: NSF/LIGO/SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY/A. SIMONNET



Ellison. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

around the ring

New symposium series on current global issues

UVic's Pacific Centre for Technology and Culture launched VECTORS Symposium Series this fall. The series challenges our thinking about global issues, such as pipeline politics, Indigenous resurgence, and robotics in the age of AI. All events take place at UVic's Technology Enterprise Facility. Info: ctheory@uvic.ca. Speakers include William Carroll (sociology), Shannon Daub (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives), Taiaiake Alfred (Indigenous governance), Cody Poulton (Pacific and Asian studies), Warren Magnusson and Arthur Kroger (political science).

“20,000 pings under the sea”

UVic astronomer Jon Willis went from outer space to the deep ocean to write a story for the November issue of *Physics World* magazine about Ocean Networks Canada's 2017 Wiring the Abyss expedition off the west coast of Vancouver Island. In the blog, titled “20,000 pings under the sea,” Willis describes his experiences on the exploration ship *Nautilus* looking for the mineral-rich “black smokers” that support life in conditions mimicking those on Jupiter's icy moon Europa. Willis has a keen interest in astrobiology—the search for life beyond Earth. Read the blog at bit.ly/uvic-20kpings

Changes are coming to the online Ring

The University of Victoria is one of Canada's leading universities. Our researchers are consistently driving change around the world, and our students are actively participating in hands-on “dynamic” learning.

Now, we've created a better way to share their stories with the world.

Later this month, the university will be launching a new online hub for campus news, which will gather in one place all the great UVic news stories you know and love, as well as administrative notices, news releases and articles about UVic published by external news sources.

UVic News will serve to inform the campus community and project the mission of the university to the world. In time, we hope to include stories from more campus publications.

In addition to gathering multiple types of stories in one place, we've improved the design and organizational structure of the site. Stories can be found by topic, faculty or through the search function.

Keywords generate suggestions for

related stories, helping readers get a broader picture of, for example, all the great ocean research happening in our departments and centres. Or UVic's combined efforts to build healthy and prosperous communities. Or student stories from field schools and other dynamic learning opportunities.

Visitors will also be able to search and find stories related to specific researchers and staff members.

University Communications + Marketing (UC+M) and University Systems have imported *Ring* articles dating back to 2003 into the new system. UC+M worked with Victoria-based web company AppColony to research best practices, conduct a review of industry standards, talk to users and develop a website structure to support our desire to proudly show and share UVic stories.

Look for UVic News at uvic.ca/news by Dec. 1. For information about *Ring* policies or advertising in the print *Ring*—or if you're looking for PDFs of back issues—visit UC+M's website at uvic.ca/uc+m

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Innovation grants support UVic observatories

BY JODY PATERSON

Two University of Victoria projects with the potential to change how the world interprets the forces of nature have taken a major step toward reality with \$6.3 million in funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

Jody Klymak (Earth and ocean sciences) receives \$3.8 million toward a \$9.5-million project to build a robotic ocean-observing platform in BC coastal waters. The platform will one day provide invaluable data on weather, climate change, fish populations and clean-energy solutions such as wave energy through a better understanding of the dramatic changes occurring in the northeast Pacific Ocean.

The world's oceans are becoming warmer, more acidic and are losing oxygen. Those factors drive unexpected changes in ocean currents, weather and marine eco-systems, says Klymak, who will work with scientists at Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the University of BC on the project.

The Canadian Pacific Robotic Ocean Observing Platform (C-PROOF) aims to produce the data to quantify and predict these ocean changes. It also plays a vital role in the growth of BC's marine-energy technology sector through wind and wave moorings capable of continuous measurement of wave energy.

Kate Moran, president and CEO of UVic's Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), will put \$2.4 million in funding toward a \$6.1-million project to build an observatory in the Northern Cascadia subduction zone that will provide critical information on seismic and tsunami risks in BC.

The Northern Cascadia Subduction Zone Observatory will be operated on ONC's offshore NEPTUNE observatory off Vancouver Island's west coast, which crosses the major fault zone between two converging tectonic plates. The observatory will equip scientists with the tools and data needed for comprehensive studies of the tectonic plates—massive portions



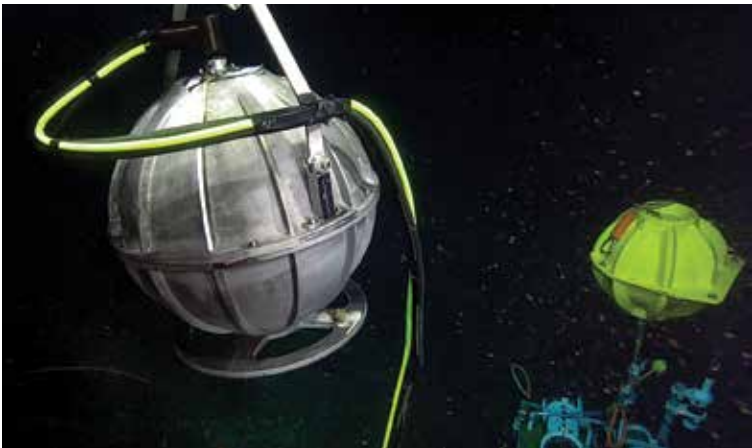
Gliders like this one will be deployed as part of C-PROOF. PHOTO: DAVE DUFFUS

of the Earth's crust—that meet in the Cascadia zone and whose movements trigger earthquakes and tsunamis.

Even a few years of data from the observatory could provide critically important information on tectonic plate movements where it matters most—in the ocean where the plates collide. “This new marine geodesy technology is a breakthrough for advancing our knowledge of mega-thrust earthquakes,” says Moran.

UVic researchers are also collaborators in four more CFI-funded projects led by other universities:

- High-performance computing platform able to access massive volumes of administrative data collected by business and government and kept at the Canadian Research Data Centre Network. Led by McMaster University; UVic project leader is Douglas Baer (sociology). CFI grant: \$2.7 million.
- New national facility for seismic imaging of critically important structures in the Earth. Led by Dalhousie University; UVic project leader is Stan Dosso



Seismometers already deployed in Cascadia Basin.

- (Earth and ocean sciences). CFI grant: \$5.6 million.
- Upgrades to the ATLAS Detector at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), one of two detectors that record data from proton-proton collisions at the LHC. Led by the University of Toronto; UVic project leader is Richard Keeler (physics and astronomy). CFI grant: \$30 million.

- Creation of a scientific instrument for the Gemini Observatory providing follow-up for the James Webb Space Telescope when it launches in 2018, and supporting second-generation instruments for the Thirty Meter Telescope when it becomes operational in 2024. Led by the University of Toronto; UVic project leader is Kim Venn (physics and astronomy). CFI grant: \$5 million.

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UVic is well-represented on the BC government's new Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council, with two of the 22 appointees having UVic affiliations. **Sybil Seitzinger** and **Judith (Kekinusuqs) Sayers** were named Oct. 23 to the new council, which will provide strategic advice to government on climate action and clean economic growth. Seitzinger is executive director of the UVic-led Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), and a professor in UVic's School of Environmental Studies. Sayers is a member of the Hupacasath First Nation and adjunct professor in UVic's School of Environmental Studies and the Gustavson School of Business. She's also president of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and serves on Clean Energy BC's board of directors.

In other PICS news, **Ged McLean** will be the institute's associate director effective Nov. 15. McLean, an expert in clean energy systems, has spent 13 years as a professor of mechanical engineering at UVic, including four years as director of the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic). He's led more than 80 patents with research contributions in areas including design methods, energy systems, art databases, embedded systems and image processing. McLean is currently director of strategic planning with IESVic, sits on the advisory council for UVic's School of Environmental Studies and is on the advisory board for CanAssist.

Yesterday's hottest summers to be tomorrow's new norm

The world's hottest summers on record will be the new norm within 20 years due to human-influenced climate change, says the president of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium at the University of Victoria.

Climatologist Francis Zwiers co-authored a study confirming that sweltering summers as gauged by wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) have become at least 70 times more likely over the past four decades. By 2050, virtually every summer will be hotter than any experienced to date.

WBGT is an indicator that takes temperature and humidity into account and is often used as a long-standing measurement of human heat tolerance.

“We're more than 95 per cent certain that human emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are the primary cause. The evidence is extremely strong,” says Zwiers, whose study found that even the hottest summers since 1973 will be just typical summers within two decades.

Hotter summers were evident in all 10 regions studied. In East Asia, the record hot summer of 2010 would have been a rare event occurring only once in 1,000 years four decades ago, but now occurs every four years.

People working outdoors in summer will likely be exposed to rapidly rising risks of heat stress in regions with the most significant rise in WBGT, says Zwiers.

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