

# MAKING NOISE AT THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM

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PHOTO: FLICKR USER FUNKMONK

# THE RING

FEBRUARY 2018

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper

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University  
of Victoria

## SPEED READ

### EMERGENCY ALERTS

#### How can you get an emergency notification?

The tsunami warning to coastal BC late last month was a wake-up call for all of us. How will you hear about a regional emergency in Greater Victoria? The municipality where you live may have a notification system that you can subscribe to. The UVic Emergency Alerts notification system is only used if an emergency directly affects the UVic campus. Find out more about local, provincial and national notification systems with our FAQs at [bit.ly/uvic-2018alerts](http://bit.ly/uvic-2018alerts)

### RESEARCH FESTIVAL

#### Ideafest 2018 is almost here!

Mark your calendars! Ideafest, UVic's popular week-long festival of research, innovation and creative activity, runs March 5–10, with 40-plus outstanding events for you to choose from. This year's festival features exhibits, performances, a video night, tours and a wide range of speakers on topics ranging from climate change and chamber music to Indigenous law and antibiotic resistance. All events free and open to the public. See the full searchable schedule at [uvic.ca/ideafest](http://uvic.ca/ideafest)



Theatre students Lucy Sharples, Sophie Chappell and Sara Jean Valiquette in a scene from *Crimes of the Heart*, which opens at UVic's Phoenix Theatre on Feb. 15. PHOTO: VICTORIA TIMMIS

## Learning is at the heart of Phoenix plays

BY ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

240<sup>+</sup>

NUMBER OF  
MAINSTAGE  
PRODUCTIONS  
AT THE PHOENIX  
THEATRE IN ITS  
51-YEAR HISTORY

Just like a family, Department of Theatre students know how to pull together during a time of need. While audiences watch a play for enjoyment, each Phoenix Theatre production is a hands-on learning opportunity for up to 150 students enrolled in 10 to 15 different courses.

Such is the case with Pulitzer Prize-winner *Crimes of the Heart* (Feb. 15–24), in which the Magrath sisters return home after years of going their separate ways. Meg pursued her Hollywood dreams; Babe married an ambitious lawyer; and Lenny remained at their granddaddy's side in Mississippi.

Now reunited, hilarity and a few inappropriate giggle fits ensue as personalities clash, relationships evolve and deep wounds are soothed by the tenderness of family.

At the heart of the Phoenix production is the Victorian-era Magrath family kitchen, complete with running water, working toasters and southern charm. Designed by fifth-year student Stefanie Mudry, the set represents months of research: creating models, drawing blueprints and designing the colour pallet to see her ideas realized on stage.

Third-year student Madeline Lee's costumes, inspired by research into 1970s

fashions, are managed during the play's run by a team of students who ensure they remain pristine and exactly as the designer envisioned.

But that's just part of what the audience sees. As well as two or three weeks of performances, student actors commit to six weeks and over 150 hours of rehearsal—far more rigorous than any other course.

Actors also investigate their characters through intensive research. "The text reflects how a person from that time and place would speak," says fourth-year student Lucy

SEE THEATRE STUDENTS P. 6



Hammerhead sharks. PHOTO: SIMON PIERCE

## Shark feeding habits revealed

BY TARA SHARPE

For sharks, it's more *where* they eat than *what* they eat—at least when it comes to feeding patterns.

Scientists have known little until now about the foraging habits of the world's 500 or more shark species. Now, thanks to a new study co-authored by University of Victoria biologists Francis Juanes and Amy Teffer, it's clear that coastal sharks have very different ways of feeding than sharks in the deeper ocean.

The conservation implications for globally declining shark populations are significant.

The international team—led by UK

researchers Christopher Bird and Clive Trueman, and representing 73 scientists from 21 countries—used carbon signatures to show on a global scale where sharks get most of their nutrients.

The results indicate that shelf-dwelling sharks living near coastlines feed locally across a range of areas, but deeper ocean sharks get most of their food from specific areas of colder, productive water in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

This knowledge will help shark conservation by emphasizing how much they rely on coastal habitats and mid-latitude open ocean areas, which in turn will be

SEE SHARK FEEDING P. 5



# ringers

**Laurene Sheilds** has been appointed executive director of the Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation, after serving as interim executive director of the division and as director of the Learning and Teaching Centre over the past two years. Prior to those appointments, Sheilds was a professor in the School of Nursing, interim director of the School of Public Health and Social Policy and associate dean academic in the Faculty of Human and Social Development. Sheilds has a distinguished record as a teacher, administrator, researcher and leader with an emphasis on learning and teaching in higher education, curriculum development, and the social determinants of health and public health practices.

**Qwul'sih'yah'maht (Robina Thomas)** has been appointed executive director, Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement after serving as director for the past three years. Qwul'sih'yah'maht is a member of Lyackson First Nation and has ties to both Snuy'ney'muxw and Sto:lo through her mother and grandparents. Prior to this appointment, Thomas was an associate professor in the School of Social Work. During her early career, she was a youth and family counsellor for Hulitan Social Services Society and a First Nations counsellor in Greater Victoria School District #61. Thomas has a distinguished record of achievement as a teacher, researcher, administrator and leader with an emphasis on teaching excellence and student success as well as community engagement.



## Brain teaser

In case you missed it: Rick Mercer was on campus last fall shooting an episode of CBC's *Rick Mercer Report*. The show aired Jan. 16 but you can watch the UVic clip online at: [bit.ly/2n5iq4Y](http://bit.ly/2n5iq4Y). In it, Mercer gets a brainwave assessment in Olav Krigolson's neuroeconomics lab (pictured), test-drives a 3D-printed prosthetic at the Victoria Hand Project lab and attempts to sing opera with music professor Benjamin Butterfield and master's student Taylor Fawcett. The show's final bumper features a loud send-off from the hundreds of students, faculty and staff who showed up at the fountain on Oct. 31 to greet one of Canada's favourite comedians. PHOTO: JOHN STURGE/RICK MERCER REPORT

## Thank you from the UVic United Way campaign

Thanks to generous donations from individuals and well-attended campus events, the fundraising tally for the 2017 UVic United Way campaign is almost \$229,000.

"I offer a heartfelt thank you to our UVic community members whose generosity and strong support has allowed us to contribute more than \$4.7 million to United Way Greater Victoria since 1994," says Campaign Chair Cedric Littlewood.

"Our annual campaign succeeds because of the commitment of our leadership donors, staff, faculty, students and retirees who give through payroll and one-time donations, and the many people who organize and come out to support campaign events."

The Plasma Car Race celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2017, with 15 teams competing for the Hubcap Trophy in crazy and creative costumes. The Artisan's Market, which

featured 16 local artisans, brought holiday shopping into University Centre.

The first-ever Vikes Amazing Race event saw 21 Vikes athletes face off in fun athletic and fundraising challenges, while the UVic Libraries Booksale is now ongoing at the UVic Bookstore all year long.

Many units and student groups across campus also organized their own fundraising efforts, including the Engineering Students' Society, Law Students' Society and JDC (Jeux du Commerce) West. Combined, these initiatives added more than \$14,500 to the 2017 campaign.

UVic Retirees Association members also generously contributed more than \$29,000. Thank you to everyone who coordinated and supported these initiatives.

For more information or to get involved in the 2018 campaign, visit [uvic.ca/unitedway](http://uvic.ca/unitedway).

## Sale of Dunsmuir lands and lodge completed

All conditions have been met to complete the transfer of the Dunsmuir lands from the University of Victoria to new ownership.

Sale of the 100-acre Dunsmuir property in North Saanich closed Jan. 2, with Homewood Health acquiring a lodge building and 28 acres of forest and road. In a separate agreement, the Pauquachin First Nation's Boke'cen Xaxe (Sacred) Society acquires the remaining 72 acres of woodlands and wetlands.

The Dunsmuir lands were part of the non-academic property portfolio managed by UVic Properties on the university's behalf.

The District of North Saanich granted rezoning of the lands in the summer of 2017 and subdivision approval in late 2017. A final condition of the transaction in spring 2018 will see UVic contract for the construction of public trails on rights-of-way on Homewood's property and on land donated by UVic with the co-

operation of the Pauquachin.

The trails, part of UVic's commitment to the community to provide access to John Dean Provincial Park, will become part of the District of North Saanich's public trail system.

UVic had held continuing discussions for the Dunsmuir lands with the Pauquachin First Nation since the lodge closed in 2009. Homewood Health expressed interest in early 2015 to acquire and restore the lodge as a mental health and addictions facility.

Homewood entered into an agreement with the Pauquachin First Nation to collaborate on recognizing the historical and cultural heritage of the location, and provide opportunities for employment, education and health services. The neighbouring communities of Tsawout, Tseycum, and Tsartlip First Nations have also been given an opportunity to participate in the agreement.

Pauquachin Chief Rebecca David says acquisition of the land called ŁÁU,WELNEW in the SENĆOTEN language, or Place of Refuge, is a significant achievement for First Nations people.

"The Pauquachin want to protect and preserve this land as a sacred place for the future of our nation, as part of our traditional territory," she says. A key part of the agreement is to foster a relationship with Homewood for employment and to provide improved mental health and addictions treatment for First Nations peoples.

After more than 20 years of operation as a conference centre and location for continuing education courses, UVic closed the lodge in 2009 due to decreased use and significant future investments to upgrade and maintain the property. The late George Poole donated Dunsmuir Lodge and its 100 acres of surrounding woodlands to UVic in 1985.



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# Wildlife politics: a numbers game

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

In a recent opinion letter published in *Nature*, UVic conservation scientist Chris Darimont applauded the BC government’s ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting in the province. He described it as “an end to the co-opting of science to justify questionable policies.”

On a related topic, a group of five international conservation scientists, including Darimont as lead author, published a scholarly opinion paper on Jan. 24 in the peer-reviewed journal *Conservation Biology*.

Their review of case studies in four countries revealed that wildlife population sizes, trends and associated policies reported by some governments lack supporting evidence.

“Questionable policies can be built on unreliable population data that inflate the numbers of large carnivore populations,” explains Darimont, a faculty member in UVic’s geography department and the science director at Raincoast Conservation Foundation. “We refer to ‘political populations’ when the data on wildlife populations are absent and a political interest is potentially being served.”

The large carnivore case studies that inspired the researchers to coin the term “political populations” are wolves in the US and Sweden, and grizzly bears in Romania and Canada (specifically, BC).

“An era of open access data and increasingly quantitative wildlife science allows unprecedented opportunity for researchers to ‘look under the hood’ of wildlife management,”



Grizzly and salmon in Bute Inlet. PHOTO: J. SLATKOFF

adds Darimont. “Such independent inspection can reveal the potential for politics to influence policy.”

According to Darimont and two co-researchers—Paul Paquet, a senior scientist at Raincoast, and Kyle Artelle, a Simon Fraser University researcher and Raincoast biologist—the former provincial government publicly dismissed scientific concerns about the grizzly bear population, claiming healthy numbers despite a lack of supporting evidence.

Darimont and his colleagues

are calling for academic research to expose political populations and the possibly risky policies built upon those numbers, as well as the potential political drivers behind both unreliable population data and associated policy.

He adds: “Increased scrutiny could pressure governments to present wildlife data and policies that are crafted by incorporating key components of science: transparent methods, reliable population data and intelligible decisions emerging from them both.”

## Real students. Real money. Real-life experience.

BY DENISE HELM

Students are getting real-life experience investing \$500,000 on the University of Victoria’s behalf while learning how to make investment decisions that incorporate environmental, social and governance factors.

In a new fourth-year course, students manage the funds in close coordination with academic and industry support to learn about investing responsibly as well as fiduciary duty.

Students must first take Applied Investment Management, a third-year non-credit course offered through Continuing Studies taught by practising industry professionals. The students build the skills necessary to manage investment assets in the fourth-year credit course, Applied Portfolio Management.

Within defined guidelines, stu-

dents gain real-world experience undertaking investment research and making investment decisions. An investment advisory committee of industry professionals volunteers its time and oversees the decisions.

Key learning outcomes include managing to an investment policy statement, understanding fiduciary duty and developing a strong understanding of ethics within investment management and the integration of environmental, social and governance factors. The students are enrolled in the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Gustavson School of Business.

“The program is a great example of how UVic provides experiential learning opportunities for students, and the focus on socially responsible investing is aligned with Gustavson’s commitment to social responsibility

and sustainability,” says Pat Elemans, assistant dean of the school.

“Additionally, there’s significant demand from employers for students with this knowledge and applied experience. It’s a winning program all around.”

The program’s director, Jordie Hutchinson, along with Johann Kuntze, both from the Chartered Financial Analyst Society of Victoria, were key drivers in establishing the program.

“Our mission is to provide students with investment education, hands-on experience and industry exposure, while simultaneously advancing the best interests of our donors, our mentors and the investment community,” Hutchinson says.

The students are investing the funds on behalf of the Gustavson School of Business and the university.

## Join in the Alumni Week festivities, Feb. 1–7

More than a dozen events—including talks, awards, athletic events and musical entertainment—highlight the University of Victoria’s annual Alumni Week, Feb. 1–7, a community celebration that focuses on the economic, social and cultural impact of our graduates locally and around the world.

Since UVic was founded, more than 130,000 people have graduated from the university. More than 40,500 of them live in Greater Victoria.

“Alumni, students and friends of UVic are all invited to take part,” says Terry Cockerline, director of alumni relations and annual giving. “The title of this week might suggest that this is exclusively for alumni. However, many of the events are open to anyone who would like to join the celebration.”

The week kicks off on Thursday, Feb. 1, as the Vikes women’s and men’s basketball teams take on their UBC rivals at the Vikes for Life Basketball Night.

Musical entertainment runs Feb. 2–4 with the New Music & Digital Media Festival. The UVic orchestra, faculty, students, alumni and other special guests will entertain with their innovative musical compositions throughout the weekend.

On Feb. 5, the Distinguished Alumni Awards at the Songhees Wellness Centre will feature the accomplishments of 13 outstand-

ing UVic grads, including Ry Moran (BA ’02), the first director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation; and Julie Angus (MSc ’01), a scientist, best-selling author and one of North America’s leading adventurers.

Two other Distinguished Alumni Award-winners are Carli and Julie Kennedy (BMus ’08), identical twins who formed the small-town roots country music duo, Twin Kennedy. The pair will perform their award-winning acoustic singles in an up close and personal concert on Feb. 7.

On Feb. 6, Chancellor Shelagh Rogers will interview Daniel Sieberg (BFA ’98), author of *The Digital Diet* and a former Google executive, on breaking the tech addiction. The presentation takes place at First Metropolitan United Church.

Legacy Art Gallery hosts “Trans Hirstory in 99 Objects: The Transgender Archives meets the Museum of Transgender History & Art.” The exhibit brings together art and archival material from UVic’s world-renowned Transgender Archives to narrate an expansive and critical history of transgender communities.

Alumni Week is supported by the UVic Alumni Association and organized by the Office of Alumni Relations. Admission is free unless otherwise specified. To see the full listing of Alumni Week events, visit [bit.ly/UVic-Alumni-Week](http://bit.ly/UVic-Alumni-Week)

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around the ring

ONC sensors monitor Alaska earthquake

In the early morning hours of Jan. 23, a magnitude-7.9 earthquake occurred off Alaska, generating a tsunami warning for coastal BC, and alerts and evacuations on Vancouver Island. As the tsunami wave moved over Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) sensors connected to its deep-sea offshore observatory, ONC staff surged into action interpreting real-time data, working with emergency planning and response authorities, and interacting with the public on social media. This open-access data helped show that the tsunami was relatively small—monitored by ONC sensors at three centimetres—due to a side-to-side-motion strike-slip earthquake, not a vertical-motion subduction zone earthquake. The tsunami warning was cancelled shortly after. A wave of national media interest followed with ONC staff delivering interviews on tsunami science, technology, detection and modelling. ONC, a UVic initiative, monitors sea state 24/7 for severe marine conditions and tsunami activity, and is currently developing an earthquake early warning system for the BC government.

Engineering programs get funds to expand

UVic will use \$400,000 in start-up funding from the BC government to expand its undergraduate computer science and engineering degree programs—including electrical, computer, software, civil, mechanical and biomedical. Prospective students can look forward to an additional 500 undergrad spaces by 2022–23. This is expected to result in 125 additional engineering and computer science grads from UVic per year by 2023. The funding also supports key technology labour market demands in Victoria and throughout BC.

New visual arts prof creates Avatar Grove film project

Internationally acclaimed artist and new visual arts professor Kelly Richardson will be one of five digital media artists featured in the upcoming XL-Outer Worlds large-format film project, which will be shooting at Port Renfrew’s Avatar Grove/T’l’oqwxwat in summer 2018. The Ontario-born artist has been living in England since 2003 and teaching at Newcastle University since 2013, but decided to move to Vancouver Island and join UVic after seeing BC’s old-growth forests first-hand. Highly in demand as an artist, in 2017 alone Richardson was involved in 14 solo and group exhibitions across Canada and in China, France, the UK and the US. Her film is set for a 2019 release on IMAX screens across Canada.

New seminar increases visual literacy for first-year students

BY JOHN THRELFALL

From large lectures and working with TAs to a lack of one-on-one time with professors, there’s no question first-year classes can seem overwhelming to students.

The Department of Art History and Visual Studies is broadening its first-year opportunities with both a new classroom and a new class concept. AHVS 101—a seminar focusing on art, images and experience—launched last month and anchored in the department’s new art collections classroom.

“The idea is to create a context in which students transitioning to the university can have an experiential education by interacting with the instructor and their peers in a small group,” explains AHVS professor and course creator Victoria Wyatt. “My job is to create an environment that encourages them to engage actively.”

AHVS 101 is open to just 20 students from any faculty and is already proving popular: the debut semester filled up fast.

Wyatt notes that first-year students are hoping for something beyond the traditional “sage on the stage” model, where they sit passively while taking lecture notes. “They used to rely on the instructor as a source of information . . . now they look it up on their smartphones,” she says.

“Rather than receiving information from an authority, they want to play an active role in navigating that information, actively discussing it. [This seminar] gives them some tools that will be transferable to whatever discipline they end up majoring in.”



Wyatt, right, with AHVS undergrad Baylee Woodley in the new art collections classroom. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

Featuring purpose-built display and storage cabinets, pull-out painting racks and a hanging wall, a dedicated print cabinet and rolling furniture for a flexible learning environment, the art collections classroom allows students to engage with the paintings, prints, sculptures and other objects in UVic’s 19,000-plus art collection in an entirely new way.

“This new class was designed with the room in mind, and I believe it’s the first small-numbers, seminar-style class to be offered to first-year UVic students,” says AHVS chair Erin Campbell.

As well as having hands-on interaction with art and meeting guest professionals, AHVS 101 students will develop blogs and hold workshops on visual thinking strategies, Photoshop and 3-D design and printing.

“We’ll be working with some Indigenous artworks from the Arctic and the Northwest Coast, which will bring some awareness to Truth and Reconciliation,” adds Wyatt.

She feels increased visual literacy is essential for first-year students given the diverse contexts in which we encounter art and images today.

“I’d like them to gain experience in how to think about and manipulate visual images in different contexts so they develop greater acumen in looking at websites. How would they use the artwork if they’re a curator at a gallery, for example, or use it as a background in retail, or put a banner photo on a website or a thumbnail on social media? How would they photograph it? What would they say about it?”

An open house featuring these new interactive learning spaces will take place on March 7 as part of UVic’s Ideafest. Info: [uvic.ca/ideafest](http://uvic.ca/ideafest)

Funding strengthens UVic's national leadership in protein research

Improved diagnosis and treatment of a range of diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer’s is the goal of more than \$18 million in funding awarded last month to two national platforms in which the University of Victoria plays a key role.

The funding from Genome Canada and Genome BC will strengthen connections between academia, industry and clinicians, helping them to more efficiently translate research results into new approaches to diagnosis and treatment within hospital settings.

UVic’s Christoph Borchers, an internationally recognized protein chemist and director of the UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre, is leading a new pan-Canadian proteomics research platform. Other partners are the proteomics centre at the University of British Columbia, and two new nodes at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and McGill University’s Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

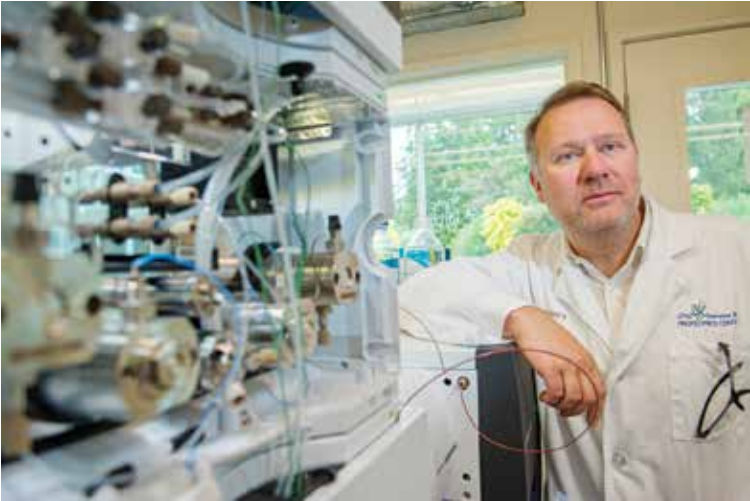
Funding is also going to an expansion of the Metabolomics Innovation Centre at the University of Alberta, which provides Canadian scientists and trainees with access to cutting-edge metabolomics services and technologies. UVic is a founding member of the centre, which is co-led by Borchers.

Proteomics focuses on understanding the structure and function of proteins—how they interact and contribute to basic life processes. Metabolomics is the complementary study of the molecules used and pro-

duced by cellular processes.

“This funding is terrific news for UVic, for proteomics research across the country and for Canadian health care in general,” says David Castle, UVic’s vice-president research. “The research conducted by these facilities will transform how we diagnose and treat a wide range of diseases and, in particular, expand the possibilities for the rapidly advancing field of personalized medicine.”

The UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre is the most advanced proteomics research facility in Canada, used by academic, government and industry researchers from across the country and around the world. It also serves as a national facility for large-scale research projects funded by Genome



Borchers. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

“The research conducted by these facilities will transform how we diagnose and treat a wide range of diseases and, in particular, expand the possibilities for the rapidly advancing field of personalized medicine.”

—DAVID CASTLE, VP RESEARCH

BC and the Canadian government.

The UVic and UBC proteomics centres currently work closely with the pharmaceutical industry, environmental companies and non-profits such as the Gates Foundation and the Jain Foundation to solve problems

ranging from the biological mechanisms behind muscular dystrophy to the development of inexpensive tools for screening the health of newborn babies.

With the BC partnership expanded to Toronto and Montreal, proteomics research is now a pan-Canadian effort, enabling researchers to work with clinicians to deliver improved diagnostic techniques, understand complex disease and support the development of new treatments. Expansion of the metabolomics centre in Edmonton augments this national effort.

“Extending the proteomics and metabolomics centres into a Canada-wide network provides additional and complementary capacity and capabilities in these areas,” says Borchers, who is also the Proteomics Chair at the

Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

“This means faster sample processing time and allows our customers, clients and collaborators to have their valuable samples analyzed at a ‘one-stop shop,’ while working with the top experts in this field in Canada.”

The new pan-Canadian network has already secured more than 60 projects, worth more than \$7.8 million, for 2017 to 2022.

UVic researchers are world leaders in the development, use and application of genomics and proteomics technologies. Their research lays the groundwork for disease diagnosis and treatment, and the design of new drugs and therapies. Other applications of proteomics research include forestry, fisheries, agriculture and environmental remediation.





Anthropology student Matthew McDonough looks on as museum visitor Leah Hiscock listens to his sound composition.  
UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

# Anthropology students turn up the sound at Royal BC Museum

BY CHELSEA FALCONER

University of Victoria students are making noise again at the Royal BC Museum. Last fall, 39 students in Alexandre Boudreault-Fournier’s third-year anthropology course worked with learning program developers at the museum to create soundscapes that have brought sonic life to many objects on exhibit.

Over the years, UVic anthropology students have created soundscapes for several permanent exhibits at the museum including the “seashore diorama” and the natural history gallery, as part of Boudreault-Fournier’s “Anthropology of Sound” course.

Students choose objects on display at the museum and receive training on how to collect, produce and edit a soundscape. The sound compositions encourage museum visitors to take a deeper look at an object or exhibit they may not otherwise notice.

While Boudreault-Fournier has

run this course in partnership with the museum for the past three years, this year marked a significant advancement. The UVic team acquired a 2017 Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) grant from UVic’s Office of Community-University Engagement (OCUE).

“In this course, students are exposed to an entire universe that they never thought existed—the sonic world that we too often take for granted,” says Boudreault-Fournier. “As they develop a soundscape, they learn practical hands-on skills and discover how their work can influence the experience of museum visitors.”

The CEL grant supported the installation of two listening stations in the museum’s galleries as well as the creation of an online playlist showcasing 84 student compositions produced by the previous three anthropology classes. This infrastructure provides a home for the students’ sound compositions.

Several years ago, a student in the course developed a soundscape for a glass buoy in the “Becoming BC” gallery. “Listening to the soundscape of water and boat sounds, skillfully shaped, took me to another place,” says Chris O’Connor, learning program developer at the museum and project partner with Boudreault-Fournier. “I had never noticed that object, even after years of working at the museum. That’s the power of this project.”

Listen to the online playlist of student sound compositions at [soundcloud.com/rbcmsoundscape](https://soundcloud.com/rbcmsoundscape)

CEL funding provides UVic faculty and staff with an opportunity to develop or expand courses to include a community engagement component. Grants are facilitated by OCUE with funds provided by the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost. Find out more about past recipients and how to apply for a grant at [uvic.ca/ocue/celgrant](https://uvic.ca/ocue/celgrant)

# Ethnobotany class revives a tiny but significant plant on campus

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Experts tell us the path to mental wellness is leaving behind our devices and enjoying the outdoors, especially the greenery. Once spring arrives, take a moment to appreciate the diversity of trees and other plant life on campus.

There’s more here than you might think.

“We’re fortunate to have a campus with so many native plants,” says ethnobotany PhD candidate Fiona Hamersley Chambers, pointing to Garry oak and historic camas meadows, Oregon grape, salal, grand fir, Douglas fir, black cottonwood and especially springbank clover—a food that was traditionally cultivated by First Peoples.

Following in the footsteps of world-renowned ethnobotanist Nancy Turner, Hamersley Chambers has led environmental studies students across the campus since 1999, using it as a living classroom as they study the relationship between people and plants.

Springbank clover was originally cultivated by Indigenous peoples near and around Clover Point before the arrival of James Douglas in 1842. Since that time, Clover Point has undergone many land use changes and



Springbank clover.  
PHOTO: FIONA HAMERSLEY CHAMBERS

none of the original springbank clover remains on the site.

In their class, students learn how to cultivate the clover following Indigenous practices of weeding, harvesting and tilling. The clover roots are a rich carbohydrate source with a sweet pea sprout taste. Indigenous peoples would use the root in their cooking, along with other root crops like silverweed and rice root, and berries like salal and red huckleberry, which are still found on campus.

Hamersley Chambers shows her students how to prepare, plant and tend a plot of newly planted springbank clover at the side of UVic’s First People’s House.

“UVic—especially Lalita Kines at the First People’s House and Bentley Sly in facilities management—has supported my class project by providing the space to plant the clover as well as tarps, mulch and a fence to keep the deer out,” she says.

The students learn about the different types of clover (introduced European varieties and springbank) and apply this new knowledge and hands-on experience to the practices of stewardship, reciprocity and reconciliation.

“Learning about the relationships between plants and people is something that must become more prevalent in our modern lifestyles if we’re to have healthy and reciprocal relationships with the environment,” says undergraduate student Maasa Lubus.

The course has been taught at UVic for 27 years, with Hamersley Chambers leading it for the last seven. She’s excited at how receptive UVic is to expanding garden plots and hopes this is just the start of introducing other root crops such as silverweed and rice root to campus.

“As a farmer, I believe in a reciprocal relationship with the land,” she says. “If we take what we need in a respectful and knowledgeable way, in return the land produces more.”

# Enrolment management planning underway

BY LINDSAY WINDECKER

The timing is right for the University of Victoria to begin development of its first strategic enrolment management (SEM) plan.

“We’re currently in a stable and relatively strong enrolment position, making this an ideal time to enter into this process,” said Vice-President Academic and Provost Valerie Kuehne at a kick-off session for deans, associate deans and other members of the campus community on Jan. 18.

“SEM planning will allow us to thoughtfully and strategically implement key objectives of the strategic plan related to student enrolment, retention and success.”

Associate Vice-President Student Affairs Jim Dunsdon is leading the planning process, which will draw on expertise from across campus through the Enrolment Management Working Group (EMWG) and four project committees.

EMWG and committee membership includes academic administrators, faculty representatives as well as staff in key areas related to undergraduate and graduate student recruitment and retention.

“The SEM planning process will help guide our recruitment and retention efforts for the next five to 10 years,” says Dunsdon. “This is an important initiative for our univer-

sity and it’s critical that we receive input and participation from across the campus community.”

AACRAO Consulting, an industry leader in SEM work in North America, has been contracted to support the plan development. The consultants visited campus in January to assist with the kick-off and begin training staff and faculty for the work ahead.

“We’re coming in as partners with UVic in this process,” says AACRAO senior consultant Stanley Henderson. “Our role is to be your coach throughout this process, facilitating and guiding. But this is UVic’s plan, and will be developed by your team in line with your institutional culture and strategic plan.”

The first task is to develop six to eight goals that will form the basis of the SEM plan. These will be informed through extensive consultations conducted during the planning process, as well as the international and Indigenous plans. Data will inform every stage of the process.

Consultation with the campus community is scheduled for late March and early April. AACRAO will return to campus in April, June and October to continue facilitating the work, with the final plan scheduled for completion before the end of 2018. Info: [uvic.ca/SEM](https://uvic.ca/SEM)

# Two new members join Board of Governors

Two new order-in-council appointees have joined UVic’s Board of Governors.

**Merle Alexander** is a partner with Miller Titerle + Co. and practises Indigenous resource law, focusing on Indigenous sustainable development. Active within his community, Alexander is a former director and president of the Vancouver Native Housing Society Foundation, has served as the chief negotiator for a UN Indigenous Caucus and was a director and president of the Vancouver Child Family Services Society.

Alexander holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from UVic. He’s a recipient of *Business in Vancouver’s* 2009 “Top Forty Under 40” award and a UVic Distinguished Alumni Award. He’ll serve on the board until the end of 2019.

**Kasari Govender** is executive director of West Coast Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (West Coast LEAF) and the founding president of Rise Women’s

Legal Centre. She was previously an adjunct professor of law at the University of British Columbia and served as co-chair for the Coalition for Public Legal Services and co-treasurer for Pivot Legal Society.

Govender has appeared as counsel in multiple constitutional, human rights and public interest cases involving equality rights before every level of court in BC and the Supreme Court of Canada. She holds a graduate degree in law from the University of Oxford, a Bachelor of Laws from UVic, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto. Her term on the board runs to the end of 2018.

The 15-member 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.

Info: [uvic.ca/universitysecretary/governors/](https://uvic.ca/universitysecretary/governors/)

## SHARK FEEDING CONTINUED FROM P.1

used to plan marine protected areas and reduce fishing pressures on shark populations around the world.

“Participating in this internationally collaborative study to describe where sharks eat and move means a lot, especially as a graduate student,” says Teffer. “I’m excited to see how our findings will contribute to global shark conservation.”

An international PhD candidate in biology at UVic, Teffer was born in the US and earned an MSc in 2012 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where Juanes was her advisor. Teffer and Juanes, along with former UMass Amherst PhD student

Michelle Staudinger who is also a co-author on the new study, published a paper in 2014 that led to the two UVic researchers joining the study on global shark ecology.

“The strength of the results is the compilation of studies, bringing together researchers and global perspectives on a vital conservation concern,” says Juanes, who joined UVic’s biology department in 2011.

The paper, “A Global Perspective on the Trophic Geography of Sharks,” will be published in the February issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.



# DIY video games inspired by English lit

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Forget zombies or vampires—instead, University of Victoria English students turned to literature for inspiration to create two indie video games for their graduate class.

“Open the Arcade,” hosted in McPherson Library’s Digital Scholarship Commons in December, showcased two student-produced video games, *Somapo* and *Adventures of a Sticky Leaf-Dweller*.

English professor Jentery Sayers asked students in his fifth-year digital literary studies course to engage in the do-it-yourself culture they were studying around indie games, even though they had little to no coding experience. “With indie cultures, you see games function as jokes, letters, gifts, performances and even activism,” Sayers says. “They don’t need to be packaged AAA games from large studios producing content for popular audiences.”

Master’s students Kailey Fukushima, Kaitlyn Fralick and Talia Greene turned the UVic campus into a game with their app, *Somapo*, using mapping software created by Vancouver studio *Motive.io* to guide students around familiar locations such as the quad.

They drew on the creative techniques of Oulipo, a term coined in the 1960s by a group of French writers and mathematicians who imposed constraints on their work. *Somapo* asks players to use an app on their phone while wandering around UVic’s campus. In the process, players pick up “constraints,” which prompt them to act in certain ways, such as smiling, sitting or walking backwards.

“We welcomed the opportunity to challenge our classmates’ perceptions of their daily routines through a personalized video game that centred



Fukushima and Fralick test out the campus-based game, *Somapo*, on their mobile phones. PHOTO: STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

around the willing adoption of rules and constraints,” Fukushima says.

Absurdism, meanwhile, inspired students who created the 2-D game *Adventures of a Sticky Leaf-Dweller*, which Donny Kimber, Ashley Howard, Jodi Litvin and Mairi Richter described as anti-capitalist and doesn’t involve accumulating points or items.

Players guide the character, Twiggy, as it collects and throws fallen leaves in the air. The focus is on playing for fun, rather than competing.

“It corresponds with the myth of Sisyphus, which interested [20th-century writers] Samuel Beckett and Albert Camus,” says Sayers. “When you

play as Twiggy, tasks can’t be completed and actions aren’t heroic. The trick is to find some humour when you can’t find explanations—to not be too earnest or purposeful about games.”

Fukushima says she found the process of creating *Somapo* difficult but rewarding, and hopes the group will keep developing the game.

“I was drawn to this course because it offered a unique hands-on approach to studying digital media and literature that I hadn’t encountered before,” she says.

Anyone interested in playing *Somapo* can email somapogame@gmail.com for details.

# Top entrepreneur award goes to Slack and Flickr co-founder

Technology innovator Stewart Butterfield, co-founder and CEO of Slack, is the Gustavson School of Business 2018 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year (DEYA).

“Stewart is a true innovator, helping to move forward the role that technology plays in improving communication, collaboration and teamwork for all,” says Peter Gustavson, chair of the DEYA committee.

Slack is an enterprise communications platform with more than nine million weekly active users around the world. Its mission is to make people’s working lives simpler, more pleasant and more productive. Slack is used by small and medium-sized businesses, and more than 40 per cent of Fortune 500 companies.

In addition to developing Slack, Butterfield also co-founded Flickr, the image and video-hosting website that was acquired by Yahoo! in 2005.

In Butterfield’s two decades working on the web, he’s become a top designer, entrepreneur and technologist. He’s the first DEYA recipient to also be a UVic alumnus, graduating with a BA in philosophy in 1996. He later earned a master’s degree in philosophy from the University of Cambridge.

“Stewart’s entrepreneurship is an inspiration to our students and our city,” says Saul Klein, dean of the business school. “It’s wonderful to be able to celebrate a home-grown



Butterfield. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY SLACK

talent at our 15th annual gala.”

*TIME* magazine has named Butterfield one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World.” He’s also been listed as one of *Business Week’s* “Top 50 Leaders” and as the “Technology Innovator of the Year” by the *Wall Street Journal* and has been featured on *Vanity Fair’s* “New Establishment List.” In 2008, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the UVic Alumni Association.

Butterfield is heavily involved in philanthropic endeavours, including pledging personal shares of Slack to advance science literacy in BC.

Butterfield receives his award on May 11 at the Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Gala at the Victoria Conference Centre.

## THEATRE STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM P.1

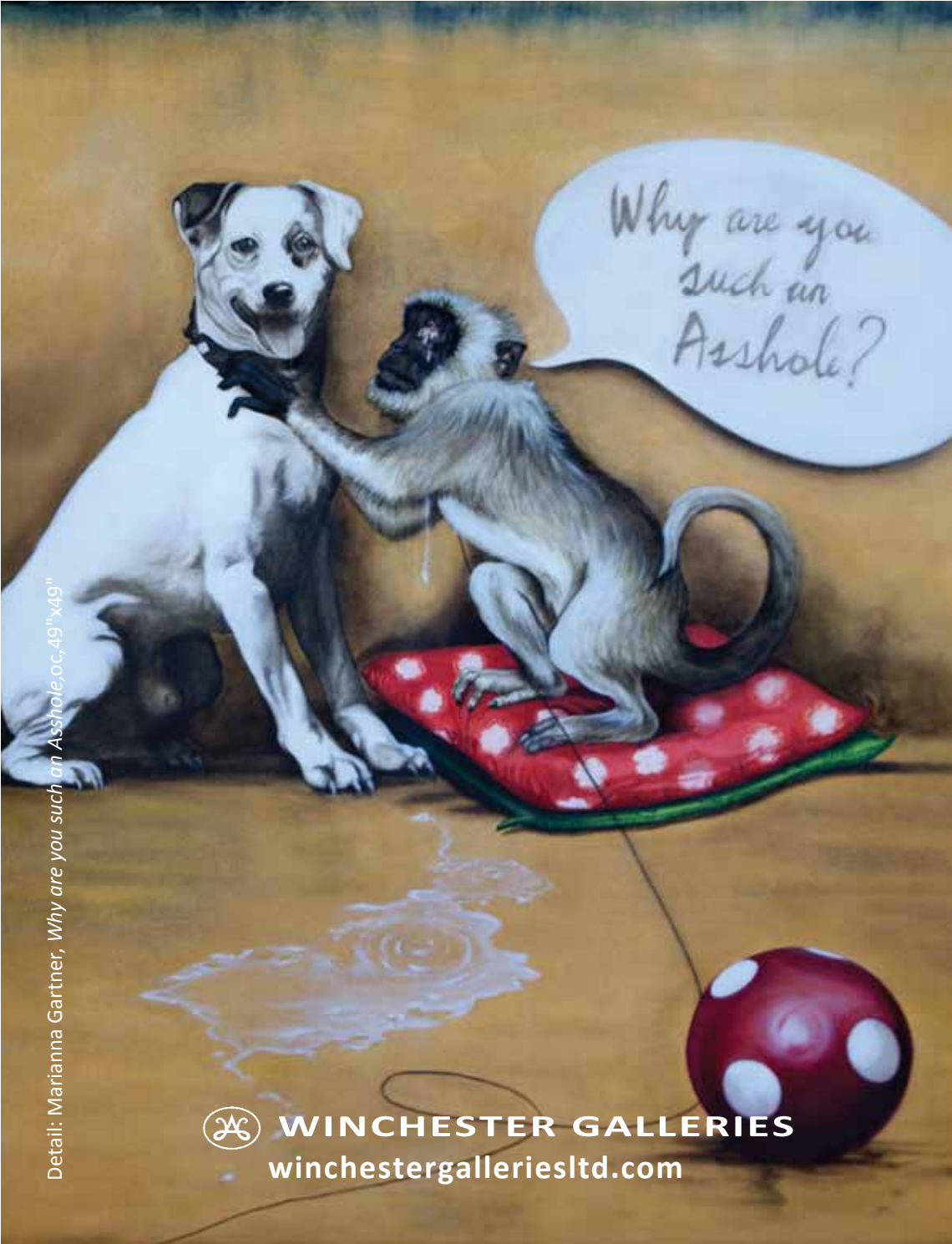
Sharples, who plays Babe. “It’s more real than anything I’ve done before.”

Theatre professor and director Peter McGuire challenged his actors to capture the complex relationships of sisterhood.

“I’ve got five sisters, so when I watch these characters interacting—loving each other, fighting—I think, that’s me sitting in our kitchen watching my sisters coping with their lives. Whether they’re working or not working, functioning or not, at the heart of sibling relationships is love.”

McGuire chose this play with the students in mind, aiming to offer richer roles for the women actors in the department. “It’s a 35-year-old play, but the news has shown us that it’s more important than ever to tell women’s stories,” he says.

Sharples agrees, but says the play offers even more. “Yes, the play is set in a time when women are lacking agency—we still struggle with this today—but it shows us that in times of sadness, fear, hate and suppression, we can still find hope.”



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# Global consortium trains community-based researchers

The University of Victoria and UNESCO are working together to create and deliver community-based research training to tackle local and global health and education needs.

The initiative is being led by Budd Hall, professor of community development in UVic's School of Public Administration, and Rajesh Tandon, founding president of Participatory Research in Asia. They're UNESCO co-chairs in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education.

Now entering a second four-year term, Hall and Tandon are continuing their work assisting countries around the world to build knowledge societies through training in community-based research (CBR).

To move their work forward—training young researchers at the local level—Hall and Tandon have launched a multi-partner global consortium. "Knowledge for Change" (K4C) was unveiled in Ottawa in December and in New Delhi in November.

At the Ottawa event, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and UVic discussed plans to enable local CBR training hubs in Brazil, India, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Indonesia, Europe and Canadian First Nations communities. The Ottawa event featured seven keynote speakers

including Sebastien Goupil, secretary general for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and David Castle, UVic's vice-president research.

"UVic has a strong history with community-based research," says Castle. "Engaged scholarship is an important component of many of our disciplinary and sectoral areas. There is significant potential for co-construction of knowledge and action in response to the complex challenges facing our communities, be it locally or globally."

"It's essential for us to share the good work we're doing here at UVic and internationally," says Hall, who moderated the Ottawa event. He adds that UVic is seen as a world leader in CBR through its support of UNESCO's global agenda.

The 21-week training program began in January with 25 learners from Canada, Indonesia, Italy and India. Hall and Tandon are teaching the first cohort. Research will be based on local needs such as sanitation, water pollution, waste disposal—all real-life problems that can be framed and shared as case studies for policy-making.

"The overall perspective here," says Tandon, "is one of making democracy work for all through knowledge and research."

# Renewed agreement celebrates relationship with faith communities

BY MEL GROVES

On a typical day at the Interfaith Chapel, a Catholic mass might smoothly transition to a drumming circle, followed by Zen meditation, Muslim prayers or yoga. It's a remarkable feat of organization, as the team from Multifaith Services juggles schedules, office and storage space as well as the varied requirements of 13 faith communities.

"Most days see at least four or five services and activities taking place in either the main chapel area or meditation rooms," notes Rita Knodel, director of Multifaith Services and Counselling Services. "It can be quite the challenge, but everyone works together to make sure it runs smoothly."

On Jan. 18, the representatives of 11 faith communities came together to sign a renewed memorandum of understanding (MOU) honouring the enduring value of their evolving and diverse relationships with the university. The ceremony, attended by Multifaith Services chaplains, students, faculty, staff and community members, embraced song, story, poetry and incantations from diverse spiritual traditions.

"What we've learned at the university is that we are better together," said Reverend Shana Lynngood (Unitarian). "We're at our best when we remember that."

The original MOU was signed in 1977 by UVic and the Catholic, Anglican and United churches, which had established a joint ministry in the late 1960s to provide pastoral care to the university community. The signatories to the renewed agreement represent the Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, Christian Science, Jewish,



Cassels with Buddhist representatives Osho Kosen Eshu Martin, Reverend Soshin McMurchy and Reverend Hoyu. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Lutheran, Muslim, Unitarian and United Church communities.

"This agreement reflects the university's understanding of the important role of spirituality in student health and wellness, as well as the diversity of our campus community," says Knodel.

Special guest Bishop Remi De Roo, retired Canadian Roman Catholic Bishop of Victoria and a driving force behind the original agreement, congratulated UVic on its successful multifaith services model.

"To my knowledge there is no other multifaith group that is this large and this effective," De Roo said. "You're not only making history, but developing the cause of interfaith collaboration as few organizations are."

UVic President Jamie Cassels acknowledged the chaplains for their ongoing commitment to the spiritual health and education of students, faculty and staff. "Your contributions of time and resources,

as well as your encouragement and involvement in thoughtful reflection and dialogue, have a significant and positive impact on our university community," he said.

"This space is special, because it is a space for reflection, a space for contemplation, a space where different faith communities come together to serve students, faculty and staff members," said Ambreen Hussaini, PhD candidate in art history and visual art. "As students and as newcomers to Canada, we are lucky to be embraced by this special community."

Multifaith Services provides spiritual and mental health care for interested students, staff and faculty, including pastoral counselling, prayer and meditation groups, learning circles, religious education, retreats and workshops on a variety of topics. Multifaith Services is now located in the Interfaith Chapel building. Info: [uvic.ca/multifaith/](http://uvic.ca/multifaith/)



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around the ring

Put yourself on the map

Faculty and staff are invited to submit community-engaged projects, partnerships and initiatives to the UVic community engagement map. The map displays more than 1,300 unique entries that showcase how UVic is working with communities in 85 countries to enrich lives and promote positive social change. Explore the map to see if your project or initiative is listed or submit a new record via the online form. Info: [uvic.ca/ocue/engagement-map/](http://uvic.ca/ocue/engagement-map/)

Share your thoughts on UVic's equity video

A new employment equity video provides perspectives on UVic's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion for all employees. It was developed by Equity and Human Rights (EQHR) and released in 2017. EQHR would like to hear from you to help assess the effectiveness of the video, learn more about your perspectives and identify ways to advance diversity and inclusion at UVic. Take the survey by Feb. 13. Info: [bit.ly/equity-video-survey](http://bit.ly/equity-video-survey)

Take time to give blood

Canadian Blood Services will host a blood donor clinic on Monday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Michèle Pujol Room, Student Union Building. Book an appointment at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca), by downloading the GiveBlood App or by calling 1-888-236-6283. A limited number of walk-in spots may be available.

Contemporary Controversies: a panel discussion

How can universities and members of the university community navigate the complexities, tensions and possibilities associated with freedom of speech and academic freedom in an environment that values equity, diversity and inclusion? Hear reflections and experiences at "Contemporary Controversies: Diversity, Freedom of Speech and the University," a panel discussion co-sponsored by the offices of the president and the dean of humanities, Feb. 5, 3–5 p.m. in Hickman 105. Info: [bit.ly/2rNGePj](http://bit.ly/2rNGePj)

A MEANS TO MEASURE

PhD student develops a program to help researchers calculate alcohol-related harms

BY AMANDA FARRELL-LOW

How much does alcohol cost? Think beyond the price of a bottle of wine; how many deaths per year are due to alcohol-related colon cancer? How about hospitalizations due to impaired driving accidents?

Estimating these larger costs related to alcohol use involves a lot of complex calculations, which means a lot of time and effort. This is why Adam Sherk, a PhD student and research associate with UVic's Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR), developed the International Model of Alcohol Harms and Policies, or InterMAHP.

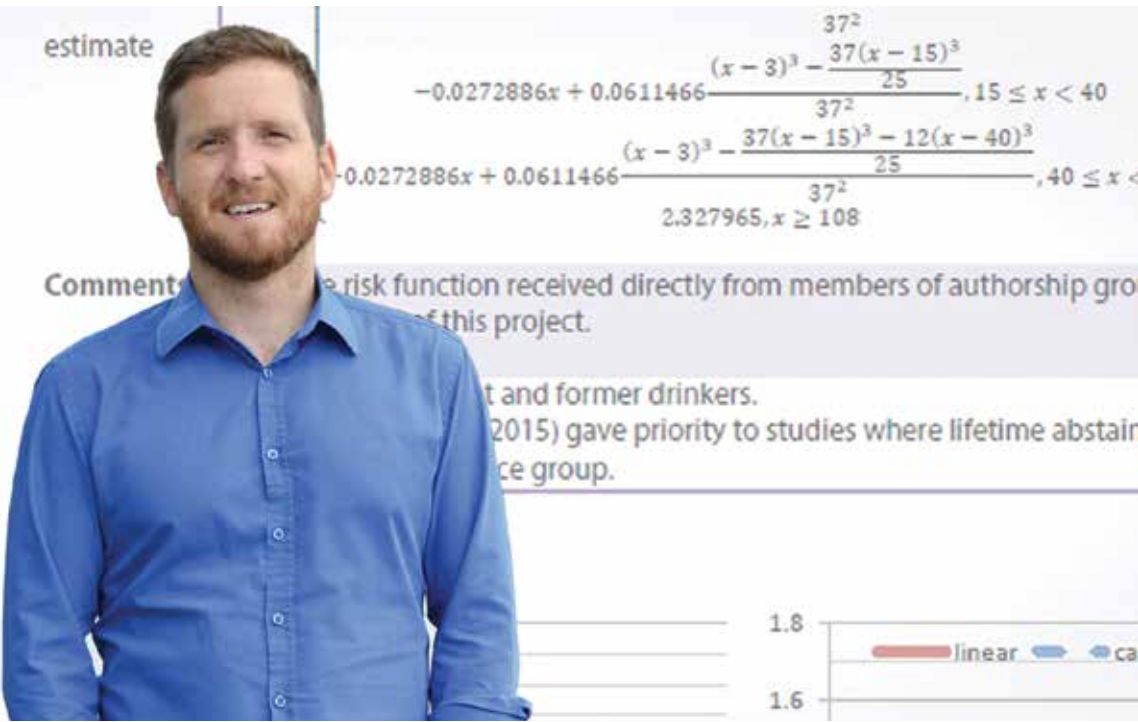
Sherk got the idea for InterMAHP when he noticed that CISUR was handling several projects that involved estimating the harms caused by alcohol—in particular, around hospital visits and fatalities that could be attributed to drinking.

"My idea was to automate and standardize some of the complex methodologies behind these estimates, while at the same time providing a flexible tool that countries and provinces can use to study the alcohol harms in their region," he says.

InterMAHP, which is free to download and comes with an extensive user manual, allows researchers, policy-makers and others to calculate something called an alcohol-attributable fraction, or AAF. Sherk points to the example of liver cirrhosis, a condition often associated with alcohol use.

"Some but not all of the cases of liver cirrhosis in a population occur because people are drinking alcohol," he explains. "But what percentage is caused by alcohol drinking? Is it 25 per cent, 50 per cent or 75 per cent?"

Here's how the tool can help determine that. InterMAHP makes use of region-specific data around alcohol



Sherk. PHOTO: JONATHAN WOODS

consumption and drinking patterns, as well as for 40 alcohol-related health conditions (everything from certain types of cancer to car accidents), sorted by gender and age.

"My idea was ... to provide a flexible tool that countries and provinces can use to study the alcohol harms in their region."  
—ADAM SHERK

InterMAHP can then calculate what percentage of harms in a region are due to alcohol (the AAF)—calculations that used to take weeks. InterMAHP also offers some consistency in how these values are calculated. The AAF can then be used to figure out how much a government is spending on alcohol-related hospital visits per year.

To develop the tool, Sherk worked with CISUR director Tim Stockwell and programmer John Dorocicz, as well as Jürgen Rehm and Kevin Shield from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, who are responsible for producing the World Health Organization's Global Status Reports on Alcohol and Health and Global Burden of Disease (of alcohol) studies.

Sherk and others are already applying InterMAHP on a global scale. Sherk will be attending three international alcohol research conferences this year. The tool is currently being used on alcohol policy projects in Finland and Sweden, as well as for two provincial projects (in BC and Quebec) and for a national study estimating the harms of substance use in Canada.

Other jurisdictions are starting to use it, too; InterMAHP is being used

to drive the relative risk estimation in the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Alcohol-Related Disease Impact online tool.

"We're very fortunate to have a doctoral candidate of Adam's calibre dedicating his studies to the development of this valuable resource," says Stockwell. "InterMAHP is a wonderful example of the kind of interdisciplinary and applied research that UVic's Social Dimensions of Health program was set up to accomplish.

"Adam is combining his background and skills in economics, mathematics and public health to create a world-class resource that will contribute to improved global health and safety."

For more info on InterMAHP visit [uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/projects/intermahp](http://uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/projects/intermahp)

New funding for two UVic health researchers

Addressing gaps in Indigenous health data and assessing susceptibility to bacterial infections are the goals of two UVic projects recently awarded funding by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Health geographer **Aleck Ostry** receives more than \$508,000 to investigate the critical health data gaps that exist for Indigenous communities in BC. After 10 years of conducting dozens of community health impact assessments with over 30 First Nations in the province, Ostry and his team have discovered that critical health data is limited or missing.

"Accurate and culturally appropriate health data that is under the control and ownership of Indigenous communities is essential to determine overall health and possible changes in health," says Ostry, "especially as these communities increasingly face difficult environmental health challenges due to climate change and industrial development."

Ostry says the CIHR grant will help develop a system of health indicators that are adapted to best fit the unique conditions faced by Indigenous people in some of BC's most remote communities.

Microbiologist **Lisa Reynolds** will use her \$459,000 grant to identify factors affecting vulnerability to intestinal bacterial infections, which are a major cause of illness, hospitalization and death around the world.

Food-borne bacterial infections, such as some types of *E. coli* and *Salmonella*, cause an estimated 245,000 illnesses, 1,800 hospitalizations and 65 deaths each year in Canada. As well as causing acute symptoms, some bacterial infections may trigger or exacerbate symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease.

Reynolds' research aims to understand the factors that promote intestinal colonization by disease-causing bacteria. She's particularly interested in revealing how certain immune cells or microbes present in the gut change susceptibility to bacterial infection.

"By determining the factors that predispose people towards intestinal colonization by disease-causing bacteria, we'll be able to identify those who are most at risk of infection," says Reynolds. "We can then start to design methods to prevent intestinal colonization by these bacteria."

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