

40+ EVENTS AT IDEAFEST 2018

PAGE 2



PHOTO: TAVISH CAMPBELL

THE RING

MARCH 2018

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

ANNUAL REVIEW

What sets UVic apart?

Every year, UVic's *Annual Review* features stories of discovery, accomplishment and engagement with our global community, along with significant institutional facts and figures. In the new 2018 edition, just published, read about the past year's highlights and see how our world-class scholarship, teaching and research continue to make an impact on people, places and the planet. Visit the online edition at uvic.ca/annualreview/. If you or your unit would like printed copies please contact University Communications + Marketing at mcrocker@uvic.ca or local 8587.

OPEN HOUSE

Share your ideas on new student residence

UVic is moving ahead with planning for a new residence facility, which will provide much-needed student housing for undergraduate and graduate students (see story p. 6). Students, faculty and staff are invited to an open house on March 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Centre lobby. Drop by to learn more about the project, ask questions and share your ideas on early design principles. Info: uvic.ca/campusplanning/current-projects/new-student-residence



Constabel, next to some low-lying salal bushes near First Peoples House. In the spoon are (l-r) frozen ripe berries, young berries and blossoms. Salal is one of the stops on the Ideafest guided tree walk on March 8, co-hosted by Constabel. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

37

NUMBER OF
INDIGENOUS
LANGUAGES IN
THE PACIFIC
NORTHWEST
THAT HAVE
NAMES FOR
SALAL

New research yields berry interesting results

BY VALERIE SHORE

Move aside blueberries, cranberries and strawberries, there's a new contender for the title of healthiest berry for us to eat. And you won't find it in the grocery store.

Recently published research led by University of Victoria plant biologist Peter Constabel shows that salal—a wild berry common to coastal areas of western North America—is an antioxidant superstar, packed with higher levels of health-promoting plant chemicals than most other berries out there.

Studies suggest that foods high in antioxidants have long-term benefits to human health, including a reduced risk of cancer, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases, as well as anti-inflammatory effects.

"Salal berries may not be widely known or consumed today, but they were a staple traditional food for northwest coastal peoples, who mashed and dried them into cakes and fruit leather for winter use," says Constabel, who studies how and why plants produce biologically active compounds.

Salal is a leathery-leafed shrub in the

heather family that grows to about five feet in height. Its spring flowers are tiny fuzzy white bells. The small berries—which ripen in late summer—are a dull blue-black and are also slightly hairy. Berry flavour varies with soil and sun conditions but can be described as an earthy cross between blueberry and blackcurrant.

Five years ago, Constabel became the first in the world to reveal, at the molecular level, how blueberries ripen and produce a group of antioxidant compounds known as

SEE SALAL BERRIES P. 2



Carving by Ben Davidson. PHOTO: DAVID KOPPE

UVic to offer world's first Indigenous law degree

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

A new law program at the University of Victoria is the world's first to combine the intensive study of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous law, enabling people to work fluently across the two realms.

Students will graduate with two professional degrees, one in Canadian common law (Juris Doctor or JD) and one in Indigenous legal orders (Juris Indigenarum Doctor or JID).

Their education will benefit areas such as environmental protection, Indigenous governance, economic development, housing, child protection and education—areas where there is currently an acute lack of legal expertise to create institutions that are grounded

in Indigenous peoples' law—and to form productive partnerships across the two legal systems.

"This program builds on UVic's longstanding commitment to, and unique relationship with, the First Peoples of Canada," says UVic President Jamie Cassels. "The foundational work for this program has been underway for several years, building on Indigenous scholarship for which UVic is known internationally."

"This joint degree program is also a direct response to a call to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to establish Indigenous law institutes for

SEE INDIGENOUS LAW PROGRAM P. 3

ringers

UVic music professor and researcher **Dániel Péter Biró** is featured in the new Universities Canada publication *Canadian Excellence, Global Recognition: Canada's 2017 Winners of Major International Research Awards*. He's the only UVic faculty member and the only arts researcher included in this prestigious group. Biró was also the recipient of a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship in Music Composition. The publication was launched at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in February, and will now be shared with MPs, senior government officials, international embassies in Ottawa, heads of Canadian diplomatic missions around the world, and senior administrators at universities across Canada.

Elaine Humphrey, lab manager for UVic's Advanced Microscopy Facility since 2009, has been named a Fellow of the Microscopy Society of America (Class of 2018) for her "significant contributions to the advancement of the field of microscopy and microanalysis." Election as a fellow represents major recognition by peers in her field. Humphrey's citation reads: "For advocating for science in education by making microscopy accessible to researchers and the public through her skills in facility management, instruction and creative outreach." Hear Humphrey talk about some fascinating microscopic detective work at the March 7 Ideafest event, "Unravelling history using advanced microscopy." Info: uvic.ca/ideafest

Seven years strong: Ideafest returns, March 5–10



BY BRAD BUIE

Are you ready to be intrigued, enlightened and inspired?

Ideafest is back on Monday, March 5 through Saturday, March 10, with over 40 events that celebrate creativity and discovery from across the University of Victoria. Events include presentations, panel discussions, performances, exhibits and often a combination of formats.

Topics range from controversial, contemporary issues to quests of curiosity.

In *Art and optimism in an age of worry*, art history and visual studies faculty and students will argue how art can generate hope and positive action.

In *Unravelling history using advanced microscopy*, researchers from

the Centre for Advanced Materials and Related Technology tell the story of unlocking the mystery of fibres in an ancient Coast Salish blanket.

At *Shakers, breakers and craters in the Pacific Northwest: Are you prepared for geologic hazards?* researchers from the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences and Natural Resources Canada address what causes geologic hazards and how to prepare and react.

Most events take place on campus, although a few venues are in Victoria's downtown, including *The role of the sacred in Indigenous law and reconciliation*. With the BC government's recent announcement of funding for UVic's joint degree program in Canadian and Indigenous law, scholars John Borrows and Val Napoleon will have much to say about the relevance

of the "sacred" to all Canadians.

At the Belfry Theatre, UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers will lead a conversation with three mental health leaders at *Beyond mental illness: Rethinking mental health and wellness*. Specifically, they'll explore the shift toward a more holistic approach to wellness.

As always, student research looms large at the festival, with over 15 events featuring student-led research. For environmental studies grad student Karine Lacroix, Ideafest offers a platform of exchange with the public.

"We want feedback from the public on our research," says Lacroix, who will present at the event *Is apathy about climate change the greatest threat to the planet?*

"Specifically, my work explores

people's experience of forest fires in Canada," says Lacroix. "We want to know how these experiences have changed people's perceptions about climate change."

For geography undergraduate student Ilona Mihalik, presenting at the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA) Fair is an opportunity not typically available to undergraduates.

"I get to step into the graduate world through the fair," says Mihalik. "I've been passionate about wildlife conservation since I was young. My research seeks to understand what motivates hunters to pay high prices to kill rare species."

See the program of 40+ events at uvic.ca/ideafest. All events are free and open to the public, although some require registration.



The Cuarteto Chroma quartet is featured in the March 6 event, *String quartets at UVic*. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



WHAT GETS YOU ROLLING?



TAKE THE UVIC CYCLING PLAN INTERACTIVE SURVEY BEFORE MARCH 23

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



Sustainability in action.



University of Victoria

UVIC

THE RING Vol. 44 No. 3

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper
ring.uvic.ca

Printed using vegetable-based inks on
100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Next issue April 12

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

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Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

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Printed in Canada by Black Press

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement
No. 40014024



Historic federal spending on research

Budget 2018 has the largest investment in science and university research in Canadian history to support researchers and their facilities.

“This budget’s major investments in fundamental research demonstrate the central role universities have in shaping Canada’s future,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels.

Reflecting the core recommendations of the 2017 Fundamental Science Review, which called for significant investments in research, Budget 2018 provides \$925 million in new funding for investigator-led research through Canada’s three

federal research councils over the next five years.

An additional \$231.3 million over five years is targeted for the Research Support Fund, a critical program that assists universities with the institutional costs of research, such as facility costs and technology transfer supports. Budget 2018 provides the Canada Foundation for Innovation with \$763 million over five years, starting in 2018/19, to provide the tools researchers need.

Budget 2018 will also establish a tri-council fund to support research that is international, interdisciplinary,

fast-breaking and higher-risk, with \$275 million over five years to be administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

As well, granting councils will be required to increase tri-council collaboration, and support for interdisciplinary research and diversity among funding recipients—including women, early-career researchers and other under-represented groups.

The federal budget was delivered as The Ring was going to press. For details and more information: bit.ly/2EZDCEj

BC budget supports UVic initiatives

The provincial government’s Budget 2018, tabled Feb. 20, includes support of a UVic law program that will be the first of its kind in the world (see separate story, p. 1), funding for tuition waivers for former youth in care, and a change in the policies for financing student housing, which will help with the construction of a new UVic residence.

In a change in the policies related to the financing of student housing, the budget allows post-secondary institutions to borrow money directly from the government, benefitting from the province’s low borrowing rates.

UVic started consultations and planning last year to meet the demand for campus accommodation, which far exceeds availability.

“This will allow UVic to proceed confidently with plans for a new two-building student residence that will

add about 600 new beds and a new dining hall,” says Kristi Simpson, associate vice-president of finance and operations.

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training’s budget will increase by \$57.9 million from 2017/18 to 2018/19, including an increase of \$6 million over three years for tuition waivers for former youth in care. UVic is among BC post-secondary institutions that had set up awards, bursaries and other supports to help former youth in care cover the costs of their education.

The ministry’s budget also includes \$2.6 billion in capital spending at post-secondary institutions over three years for housing and current and planned investments in infrastructure.

In January, the government had announced additional funding to expand UVic’s undergraduate engi-

neering and computer science programs. The province is investing \$11 million in funding to post-secondary institutions to support programming in computer science, engineering and information technology, bringing their total commitment to \$36 annually by 2020/21.

In other areas, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has earmarked \$50 million for Indigenous language revitalization through the First Peoples Cultural Council.

Another \$5 million over three years will support the government’s enhanced mandate to establish a clear, cross-governmental vision of reconciliation, which includes progress on the TRC’s Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and treaty transformation.

Project aims to improve global reputation and rankings

In September, President Jamie Cassels launched a Global Reputation and Rankings Project to ensure that UVic’s global impact is being accurately assessed by international university rankings such as QS and *Times Higher Education*.

World rankings play a key role in attracting talented and high-quality faculty, students and staff to UVic, and influence perceptions of the quality of teaching and research at universities. They also reinforce the value of UVic degrees for graduates and inform the choices to engage our university by potential partners, governments and other decision-makers.

With heightened competition in the sector, universities must take an increasingly proactive role in ensuring they’re being properly assessed by the ranking agencies.

Since the fall, a project team led

by Vice-President External Relations Carmen Charette and project manager Tony Eder (executive director, academic resource planning) has been working with Illuminate Consulting Group (ICG) to help UVic identify ways to optimize the university’s participation in rankings processes.

“Our aim is to improve the university’s international standing by ensuring that our rankings submissions are complete, comprehensive and in line with post-secondary education best practices,” says Eder. “We’re looking at how to align our data practices to optimize our performance on the measures used by ranking agencies.”

In phase I of the project, ICG worked with the steering group that includes academic, research and administrative leaders on a rankings capability strategy, to determine where UVic’s ranking submissions could

be improved. The first phase also included UVic’s first set of outreach communications to international partners, to encourage participation in reputation surveys.

Phase II will focus on further development of a reputation enhancement strategy that will highlight UVic’s impact and influence as a high-quality and dynamic research institution, and develop a long-term reputation-building roadmap within the landscape of global reputation surveys.

“It takes years of consistent, dedicated effort to move the reputational dial in international rankings,” says Eder, “but we’re confident that the work we’re doing now will pay off in the long term.”

Key findings will be communicated when the project wraps up in fall 2018. Learn more about UVic and rankings: uvic.ca/home/about/facts-reports

INDIGENOUS LAW PROGRAM

CONTINUED FROM P.1

the development, use and understanding of Indigenous law.”

The provincial government included funding for the new program in BC Budget 2018, delivered on Feb. 20 (see separate story at left). It’s another step in BC’s commitment to work with Indigenous peoples to build true and lasting reconciliation, anchored by the government’s commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

“We appreciate the provincial government’s support for this unique and transformative program whose graduates will be leaders in numerous fields in their communities in BC and across Canada,” says Cassels.

The JD/JID program was conceived by two of Canada’s foremost Indigenous legal experts, both of whom are at UVic: John Borrows, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, and Val Napoleon, Law Foundation Chair in Aboriginal Justice and Governance.

Borrows describes the difference between common law and Indigenous law this way: Indigenous law looks to nature and to the land to provide principles of law and order and ways of creating peace between peoples; whereas common law looks to old cases in libraries to decide how to act in the future.

“Indigenous law is the most vital and exciting legal work being done in the world right now,” says Napoleon, director of the Indigenous Law Research Unit. “This degree program will equip our students to take up that work at

every level—local to national, private to public, and beyond. This is the very first law degree of its kind, and it’s going to be a vital part of rebuilding Indigenous law to meet today’s challenges.”

The four-year JD/JID program includes mandatory field studies in Indigenous communities across Canada, introducing students to a diversity of Indigenous legal traditions. The first intake of students is being planned for September 2018, subject to approval under BC’s Degree Authorization Act.

The program will be supported and complemented by a new Indigenous Legal Lodge, to be built to house the JD/JID program and the Indigenous Law Research Unit. It will act as a national forum for critical engagement, debate, learning, public education and partnership on Indigenous legal traditions and their use, refinement and reconstruction.

The design will reflect and honour the long-standing relationships between the law school and local First Nations communities.

“[The joint program and lodge] are precisely what we had hoped would follow from the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” says Senator Murray Sinclair, former judge and Chief Commissioner.

“They promise to form the very best of legacies—a set of initiatives that reject and reverse the pattern of denigration and neglect identified in our report, and that establish the conditions for effective action long into the future.”



ideafest

MARCH 5-10



Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards Fair

March 7, 2018 | 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Student Union Building

Join us in celebrating the outstanding research produced by 110 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards scholars.

uvic.ca/learningandteaching



University of Victoria







University of Victoria

VOTE FOR YOUR UVIC CONVOCATION SENATORS

Members of the University of Victoria Convocation are invited to vote in the election of four members of the senate, for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2018.

Members of the Convocation are eligible to cast ballots in the election to be conducted using the university’s secure electronic voting system, WebVote, at webvote.uvic.ca.

Convocation members include alumni, past and present members of senate and the board of governors, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members holding a university degree who have been employed for at least 12 months, and those who completed one full year at Victoria College prior to 1963.

VOTING PERIOD:
March 5, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. to March 20, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. (PT)

OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY SECRETARY
For information about voting or voting eligibility
uvic.ca/universitysecretary | 250-721-8101 | usec@uvic.ca

around the ring

Get involved in “5 Days of Action”

The role of words, narratives and stories are central themes of “5 Days of Action,” an initiative led by the Office of Equity and Human Rights the week of March 19–23. It’s an interdisciplinary event aimed at addressing systemic forms of racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism and religious intolerance, alongside other forms of oppression. The week explores intersecting sub-themes related to race and ethnicity, sex and gender, disability, sexuality, and religious affiliation. Explore how social location shapes our capacity to identify and address barriers to inclusion. Contact EQHR to suggest events or share how you want to participate. An event schedule will be announced soon at uvic.ca/equity/education/5-days-action/

Retirees and UVic sign historic agreement

There were smiles and handshakes all around Feb. 2, as UVic President Jamie Cassels signed a Letter of Understanding with the UVic Retirees Association (UVRA). Current UVRA President Peter Liddell signed on behalf of the association, which has a membership of about 680, the largest of its kind in BC. The agreement solidifies the university’s collaborative relationship with the group, which formed as a society in 1994 and welcomes both staff and faculty.

Get the dirt on waste reduction and recycling

UVic hosts its third university-wide waste audit on March 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. outside the library near the fountain. Waste reduction staff and environmental studies students will count up items from campus trash, to determine how close the university is to achieving our goal of a 75 per cent diversion rate of waste products from the landfill. Waste reduction experts will be on site to answer questions. Visit UVic Recyclepedia (uvic.ca/recyclepedia) for a new video and info on how to appropriately dispose of recyclables at UVic.

PROVOST'S ENGAGED SCHOLAR AWARD

PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Two social sciences researchers demonstrate how community engagement leads to positive societal change

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Geographer Jutta Gutberlet and psychologist Jim Tanaka have devoted their careers to helping others—especially children and families and those who live in poverty.

As the 2018 recipients of the Provost’s Engaged Scholar Award, Gutberlet and Tanaka’s commitment to communities locally and internationally will be celebrated at a March ceremony.

The award honours tenured faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship in their field, as well as inspired teaching and community engagement. Gutberlet and Tanaka will hold the five-year title of University of Victoria Provost’s Engaged Scholar and receive a one-time award of \$10,000 each to support their research, teaching and community engagement.

“Jutta and Jim are wonderful role models for community-engaged scholarship at UVic,” says Valerie Kuehne, vice-president academic and provost. “Their collaborative approach with individuals, families and communities to create lasting solutions to important challenges highlights their passion for leading positive societal change.”

Community activist

For over 20 years, Gutberlet has passionately conducted community-engaged research with poverty-stricken communities in Brazil and other countries in the southern hemisphere.

As a community activist and engaged scholar, Gutberlet has gained the trust of some of the most vulnerable members of society and part-



Gutberlet and Tanaka. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

nered with them to create stronger communities.

Her waste diversion and recycling projects in São Paulo, Brazil, have been so successful that many recyclers have organized into cooperatives and networks, are engaged in municipal waste diversion programs and have turned recycling into a livelihood and a way to provide for their families.

In Victoria and Vancouver, Gutberlet and her team have had similar success with marginalized groups by exploring the livelihoods of recyclers (locally known as “binners”) and finding solutions to poverty and

homelessness, and ultimately to help the environment.

Technology innovator

Tanaka, an internationally recognized expert on facial recognition, has devoted his career to improving the lives of children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Research has shown that many people with ASD have difficulty recognizing faces and facial expressions, which can create difficulties in their everyday lives.

Through the UVic Centre for Autism Research, Technology and

Education (CARTE), which he created, Tanaka and an innovative team made up of UVic faculty, students, community professionals and families are dedicated to the research and development of facial recognition tools for children and adults with ASD.

This work is supported by a range of hands-on outreach activities, successfully bridging research, education and community engagement.

By creating “different tools for different minds,” Tanaka and his team have improved the lives of thousands of individuals with ASD and their families.

Global gathering moves trans history forward

BY TARA SHARPE

Two sets of events this month promise to embolden dialogue, creativity and reflection by building a better world for trans, non-binary and two-spirited people, based upon decades of inspirational work by early pioneers, educators, advocates, academics, artists and allies.

The four-day Moving Trans History Forward (MTHF) conference will celebrate the stories, records and discussions of the past and help forge new paths forward. Earlier in the month, the LA-based

Canadian artist Cassils makes their debut here.

World-renowned artist coming to Victoria

UVic’s Legacy Art Galleries is bringing Cassils, an internationally renowned performance artist from Montreal who now lives in the US, back to Canada for a special performance of “Becoming an Image,” originally conceived in 2012.

Pushing their body to the extreme, Cassils evokes the struggle for self-defence and self-preservation against

threats of violence and erasure. Their unforgettable performance—which unleashes an attack on a 2,000-lb. clay block in total darkness except for illumination from a photographer’s flash—takes place March 7 at 7:30 p.m. in room 150 of UVic’s Visual Arts Building.

The performance is presented in collaboration with Open Space Gallery and UVic visual arts, with support from the BC Arts Council, UVic Libraries, Camosun Visual Arts and the Transgender Archives at UVic.

Cassils will also present a public talk March 8 at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of Open Space at 510 Fort St.

Moving trans history forward

Approximately 300 people from the Americas, Europe and Asia will converge on UVic March 22–25 for the third biennial Moving Trans History Forward (uvic.ca/mthf2018) conference, hosted by UVic’s Chair in Transgender Studies.

“This is a uniquely interdisciplinary and intergenerational meeting of trans community members and academics exploring the past, present and future of trans, non-binary and two-spirited lives in all their diversity,” says Aaron Devor, Chair in Transgender Studies, a UVic sociologist and former dean of graduate studies.

Isabel Rose, a singer, performer and activist based in New York, will speak at the opening ceremonies as the mother of her trans child.

Several conference events are open

to the public by donation, including keynote addresses by Minneapolis-based Andrea Jenkins, the first African-American trans woman elected to political office in the US, and celebrated two-spirited artist Kent Monkman, a Canadian of Cree and Irish ancestry whose work is displayed in numerous private and public collections including at the National Gallery of Canada.

“While the internet allows trans people to find and form virtual communities online, a multi-day face-to-face gathering of such a wide range of gender-variant people provides a rare and very special opportunity for trans, non-binary and two-spirit people to step out of their usual life of being ‘the only one’ and experience a few days where they’re the majority—no explanations necessary,” adds Devor, who is founder and academic director of the Transgender Archives.

Registration for MTHF2018 is open until March 15 and available on a sliding scale.

Encouraging dialogue on issues that matter

Several other offerings by Legacy Art Galleries coincide with the buildup to the conference, including *Trans Hirstory in 99 Objects*, a groundbreaking exhibition at Legacy Downtown running until March 29 with art by contemporary Canadian artists, with still images of “Becoming an Image” and archival material from the Transgender Archives.

COMFORTABLE, PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR UVIC RETIREES SINCE 1988

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Cui during her work term in Beijing, where she worked for China Everbright Bank.

CO-OP STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Agents of positive change

BY JULIAN SKETCHLEY

Collaborative, innovative and driven to make a positive impact—these are qualities shared by the three 2017 Co-op Students of the Year, who were recognized by their respective co-operative education programs for their outstanding contribution in class, in the workplace and within the community.

Miaoxin (Cheryl) Cui (business)

BUSINESS CO-OP PROGRAM

Miaoxin Cui has always been someone who thrives on bringing people together. A fourth-year business student, she currently mentors two second-year students in the Gustavson mentorship program, actively volunteers with UVic’s International Conversation Café and has helped more than 20 UVic students find international internships and volunteer opportunities as vice-president of the youth leadership organization, AIESEC.

It’s no surprise that Cui carried the same dedication to others into each of her co-op positions. During her last work term at the China Everbright Bank in Beijing, she took it upon herself to develop an English Q&A resource to help employees who were working with non-Mandarin-speaking customers. She also helped develop a professional LinkedIn page for the branch and spent her after-work hours creating a training package for future interns.

Cui is thankful for the foothold that co-op has helped her make in the financial industry.

“The structure of many companies makes it nearly impossible to connect with employees if one does not work there,” she says. “Having the privilege to work in a bank as part of the co-op program has provided me with so many networking opportunities.”

Brianna Carrels (biomedical engineering)

ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE CO-OP PROGRAMS

Biomedical engineering student Brianna Carrels is always looking to take her learning to the next level. Not only has she achieved an impressive 8.73 GPA, but she also found time to compete on the Vikes’ women’s golf team and volunteer in the stem cell research laboratory on campus.

Carrels carried that same dedication to her most recent co-op work term at the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, where she helped develop a method for detecting Type 1 diabetes in children by measuring tiny levels of a hormone made by insulin-

producing cells in the pancreas.

Carrels secured this work term by reaching out to researcher Bruce Verchere to discuss how she could contribute to his lab. He was intrigued by Carrels’s background and previous volunteer experience researching stem cell biology.

“It was risky for me to hand such an important task to an undergraduate student,” says Verchere. “But Brianna’s systematic, diligent and careful approach brought immediate improvements to the project.”

Today, Carrels encourages others to follow in her footsteps. “Having experienced the benefits of co-op work terms, I never give up an opportunity to encourage other students to pursue at least one co-op term during their degree.”

Gabrielle (Ga) Grant (law)

OPTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CO-OP PROGRAMS

For Ga Grant, studying law has been a way for her to advocate for human rights, social justice and equality. She’s been a strong supporter of queer legal rights through events she’s organized as president of the UVic OUTLaws

club, and she’s shared her voice at workshops and panels on the topics of consent and human rights.

Grant’s passion for reconciliation led her to complete a co-op term at the Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society on the lands of the Gitxan and Wet’suwet’en peoples in Hazelton, BC. This experience had a profound impact on her view of the legal system.

Grant worked to support Indigenous parents and grandparents of children taken into care, and spent her term developing and reforming legal aid services to support Indigenous people.

She hopes to turn her experiences into a career that makes an impact in the community, and credits much of her devotion to the mentorship she received from her supervisor at Upper Skeena.

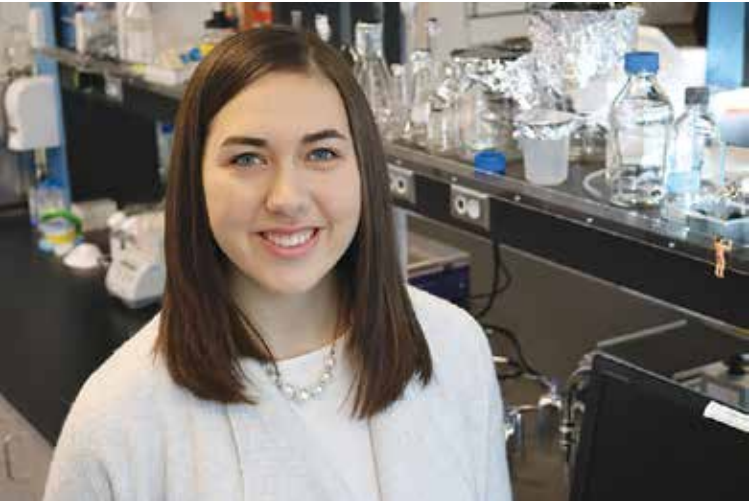
“I had a mentor unlike anyone I’d ever met,” she says. “I learned that one person who brings her heart into all that she does can really make a difference in the community.”

Details about the recipients can be found at uvic.ca/coopandcareer/studentaward.

Watch the students discuss their experiences in a co-op-produced video: bit.ly/uvic-coop-2018



Grant displays a poster she developed while working with the Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society in Hazelton, BC.



Carrels in the stem cell research lab on campus

Grants fuel community engagement and student learning

BY CHELSEA FALCONER

Six UVic faculty members leading projects that strengthen community partnerships and provide engaged-learning opportunities for students have been awarded \$30,000 in Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Grants. Approximately 280 to 480 students will benefit from these curriculum development projects.

The grant recipients are working on a wide-range of projects across campus:

Daniela Damian (computer science) is redesigning a core software engineering course that teaches students critical business analysis skills, software management, project estimation and teamwork in collaboration with the local software industry.

Donna Feir (economics) and **Ruth Young** (social sciences) are building relationships with the Esquimalt First Nation, whose members will identify opportunities for economics students to work on Indigenous-led community projects.

Rebecca Gagan (English), **Alison Benner** (co-op and career) and **Lisa Surridge** (English) are developing a course that partners English students with community organizations undertaking a major research project.

David Leach and **Annabel Howard** (writing) are redesigning a course that provides second-year graduate students with teaching

experience. Students will develop and lead writing workshops for high school students at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

Kathy Sanford (curriculum and instruction), **Rhianna Nagel** (social sciences) and **Lisa Mort-Putland** (Volunteer Victoria) are collaborating with local community organizations to develop workshops and resources that support UVic faculty members interested in including community-based learning in their course and program curriculum.

Elizabeth Vibert (history) and **Charlotte Schallié** (Germanic and Slavic studies) are developing a curriculum module that explores how small-scale historical acts and processes can lead to massive human rights violations. The modules will be co-taught to high school students at Victoria High School by Vibert, Schallié, and graduate and undergraduate students.

CEL grants support the exchange of knowledge and resources with UVic’s local and global communities. These relationships contribute to enhanced student learning as well as a more sustainable, just and healthy world. Learn about completed grant projects at uvic.ca/ocue/celgrants

Funding for CEL grants is provided by the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost. The grants are facilitated by the Office of Community-University Engagement.

FAIR TRADE

UVic achieves another sustainability milestone

The University of Victoria is now officially a fair trade campus.

The Canadian Fair Trade Network presented the designation certificate at an event at BiblioCafé on Feb. 21. The celebration co-incided with UVic’s Love-A-Mug Week, an annual campaign to reduce the consumption of single-use coffee cups on campus.

The Fair Trade Campus designation is a reflection of UVic’s strong commitment to sustainability, as outlined in its 2014–19 Sustainability Action Plan.

“Achieving the designation has been a collaborative campus-wide effort,” says Jim Forbes, director of campus services. “The Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, University Food Services, the UVic Students’ Society and other student groups have all worked together toward this important goal.”

Student groups Engineers Without Borders-UVic Chapter and the UVic Sustainability Movement hosted fair trade education and awareness events over the past two years in the lead-up to official designation.

“UVic has been a fair trade-friendly campus for many years, stocking certified products like coffee, tea and chocolate, so it feels great to officially recognize those practices with this designation,” says Susan Kerr, sustainability coordinator.

Fair trade is a promise that ensures farmers or producers of a product receive fair compensation

for their goods and services. For a product to achieve fair trade certification it must meet high standards set by Fairtrade International or other similar bodies. Standards include a stable wage for the farmer or producer, safe working conditions and multiple sustainability requirements.

The university supports sustainable purchasing by carrying fair trade products in all campus food outlets, including Doi Chaang Coffee, Kicking Horse Coffee, ReSIP-rocate Coffee, Numi teas and Alter Eco chocolate.

UVic’s Fair Trade Steering Committee, comprised of staff and students, focuses on increasing the availability of fair trade products from Vancouver Island, and promoting fair trade as part of the campus sustainability culture.

“Buying fair trade products might seem like a small thing that each of us can do each day, but in reality, it’s an important decision that can make a world of difference for those producing,” says Torrye McKenzie, Canadian Fair Trade Network program manager. “When an entire university commits to offering fair trade products, the impact can be huge.”

UVic maintains a gold rating with the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), the second highest-rated university in Canada, and was recognized as one of Canada’s Greenest Employers in 2017.

around the ring

2018 Southam lecturer rocks documentary talk

Award-winning documentarian Judith Pyke will offer a public lecture titled “Discovering Documentary: A Filmmaker’s Journey Through the Foundational Aspects of Documentary-Making” at 7 p.m. on April 5 in HSD A240. As the 2018 Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Nonfiction, Pyke is currently teaching a course on documentary film and television for the writing department. The Vancouver-based UVic alumna (BA ’94) says her own undergrad writing classes were very formative for building her creative confidence. “As soon as I started at UVic, I knew I wanted to be a documentary filmmaker,” she says. “Some of those courses really set me up for having a creative life and career.”

Cyclists, we want to hear from you

UVic’s first-ever Campus Cycling Plan is taking shape thanks to input from our campus community. Get involved and learn about the proposed strategies to make it easier to bike and walk on campus. Complete the survey to have your say on draft cycling network designs, and learn about suggested end-of-trip facilities and policy development ideas. The survey closes March 23. Info: uvic.ca/campusplanning/current-projects/campus-cycling-plan

Managed alcohol programs: out from under the radar

BY AMANDA FARRELL-LOW

The practice of providing alcohol to people with severe alcohol dependence is a complex and sometimes controversial approach to harm-reduction, and it’s one that many communities in Canada have tried—some very publicly and some quietly under the radar.

These programs, which give alcohol in measured, regular doses throughout the day, usually along with housing and other supports, are known as Managed Alcohol Programs, or MAPs.

For the first time, a peer-reviewed journal has compiled the largest collection of peer-reviewed articles on MAPs. Its intent is to bring this radical harm-reduction strategy out into the open and shed light on how, in their different forms, these programs contribute to the health and well-being of participants.

This special issue of *Drug and Alcohol Review* features four papers by researchers at UVic’s Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) from the Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study (CMAPS), which looks at data from approximately 380 individual MAP participants and controls across the country. It’s the largest study ever conducted on the topic.

The issue’s co-editors, principal investigators Bernie Pauly and Tim Stockwell from UVic, say this represents the most significant publication of findings related to MAPs to date and is a significant step forward in developing knowledge to inform best policies and practices.

“It’s intended to stimulate debate and focus future research on strate-

gies to improve outcomes for this vulnerable and often under-served population,” they write in an editorial accompanying the research findings.

The work highlights the diversity of MAPs across Canada. Pauly’s paper looks at 13 MAPs and finds that they all had a common goal of preserving dignity and reducing harms of drinking while increasing access to housing, health services, and cultural connections.

However, they varied widely in how they were implemented, who was eligible to participate, whether permanent housing was provided and if a gendered lens or Indigenous world-views informed program development and delivery.

“The initial results are promising in reducing acute and social harms as well as economic costs,” says Pauly. “But more research is needed on long-term chronic harms.”

Another study, led by CISUR research affiliate Clifton Chow, looked at how four MAPs recorded and managed drinking outside the program. Two proved to have effective measures to reduce outside drinking. However, participants at the other two MAPs told researchers they were drinking twice as much alcohol as they were administered

“Alcohol is one of the most dangerous psychoactive substances with many physical and mental health co-morbidities, so it’s imperative that all MAPs find a way to reduce drinking outside of the program and help minimize alcohol-related harms to clients,” says Stockwell.

To learn more about CMAPS, visit cmaps.ca.

Planning for new student residence seeks feedback

UVic is moving ahead with the planning for a new residence facility, which will increase much-needed student housing for undergraduate and graduate students.

The proposed residence will provide housing for an additional 600 students currently living off-campus, bringing the total number of spaces for students living in residence to 2,900.

UVic guarantees a place in residence for eligible first-year students, which has resulted in few available spaces for upper level, co-op and graduate students.

“UVic is a destination university with more than 70 per cent of our students coming from outside Victoria,” says Kristi Simpson, associate vice-president financial planning and operations. “The demand for on-campus housing has exceeded the available space for a number of years, and the addition of more student housing is an important strategic objective for the university.” There’s also an acute need in the region for increased rental housing.

Following pop-up engagement sessions with students in the fall, on-campus and neighbourhood consultations are taking place in March to seek input on the proposed building site principles and to identify opportunities and concerns.

The new residence will help to achieve UVic’s vision as a vibrant and sustainable community that nurtures student experience and well-being. The residence experience assists Canadian and international students with their transition to campus, providing secure and convenient accommodation plus academic and social programming and support, while fostering friendships and a strong sense of belonging within the UVic community.

The student residence project is the first significant capital project since UVic’s Campus Plan was renewed in 2016 after extensive on-campus and community consultation.

“The Campus Plan guides the physical growth and change on campus,” says Mike Wilson, director of campus planning and sustainability. “Over the past year, our UVic project team has narrowed the potential development sites that

ON-CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE
University Centre lobby
Thursday, March 8, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
Gordon Head Recreation Centre auditorium, 4100 Lambrick Way
Saturday, March 10, 1–4 p.m.

were identified—with community input—in the Campus Plan, to a preferred site within the current residence precinct.”

The site is near Ring Road and adjacent to the Student Union Building. The new facility would include two buildings, with a modernized dining facility on the ground floor. Consistent with the objectives of the Campus Plan to retain green space and promote a pedestrian-friendly campus, the university is exploring opportunities to develop taller buildings in core areas of the campus.

A variety of room types and layouts are being considered including traditional dorm rooms and “pod”-style clusters, which feature single rooms with a shared kitchen and living area.

The impact on campus parking availability is expected to be minimal, as demand for parking from students in residence is very low. The university has engaged a transportation engineer to conduct a comprehensive review of the university’s current parking supply, as well as future parking demand.

The recommended building program and associated business case will be presented to the Board of Governors in late March. In keeping with UVic’s Community Engagement Plan, there will be several opportunities for students, staff, faculty and community members to provide input on the project over the next several months.

For more information about the project, contact Mike Wilson, director of campus planning and sustainability, at 250-472-5433 or ocpsdir@uvic.ca. Public engagement opportunities and project updates will also be posted on the project website at: uvic.ca/new-residence

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COASTAL CONNECTIONS

UVic’s national ocean observatory facility takes its innovative science to BC’s coastal communities

BY JODY PATERSON

The ocean is changing around the world—less oxygen, warmer water, higher acidity. The ability to quantify and observe those changes has never been more important, says Maia Hoeberechts, a scientist with the University of Victoria’s world-leading Ocean Networks Canada (ONC).

ONC launched in 2006 with the installation in Saanich Inlet of Canada’s first “wired” seafloor observatory. Since then, it has expanded to six observatories and more than 50 instrument platforms, with 900 km of fibre-optic cable now installed on the seafloor.

Since 2014, ONC has been installing smaller community observatories on Vancouver Island, along the BC coast and in the Arctic, partnering with First Nations and coastal communities to measure ship traffic, weather, underwater acoustics and more.

“An important aspect of understanding changes in the ocean is baseline monitoring,” says Hoeberechts, who is also associate director of user services for ONC. “You can’t evaluate change until you know what’s there already.”

On Vancouver Island, ONC has a community observatory in Campbell River and another planned for Alberni Inlet. There are already community observatories in the Arctic, Prince

Rupert and Kitamaat Village, where a major concern is the impact of industrial development on marine mammals.

ONC tailors data collection to community priorities, notes Hoeberechts. For example, increased ocean acidity caused by higher levels of atmospheric carbon is suspected of causing massive die-offs at shellfish farms south of Campbell River. As a result, ONC will install a pH sensor near the Campbell River observatory to measure ocean acidity.

In Port Alberni, there’s a concern that warming of the upper level of seawater in the inlet combined with loss of oxygen at lower levels is squeezing migrating salmon into a narrowing band of water that makes it difficult for them to reach their spawning grounds.

“Our plan is to install a community observatory there, including acoustic instruments to gauge the number of migrating salmon,” says Hoeberechts.

Establishing trust in communities asked to host an observatory is essential, she adds. People are generally welcoming once they see that ONC respects Indigenous knowledge and culture, and that it’s committed to openly sharing data. Raw data is shared with anyone wanting it for non-commercial purposes, allowing communities to “reach their own conclusions.”

The community observatories



ONC project engineer Ryan Key (in red) and marine equipment specialist Ian Beliveau at work on the Kitamaat Village community observatory platform. ONC PHOTO

were built through a three-year project funded by Western Economic Diversification. Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) now cover ongoing costs through regular operational grants to ONC.

A new federal funding stream for communities to lead their own ocean monitoring projects opens up more possibilities. An example is the

instrumentation now being used by the Kitsumkalum First Nation in the Skeena River to measure the temperature and turbidity of the water column from seafloor to surface.

A similar project is taking place in the Strait of Georgia in partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation to map water quality in critical salmon habitat.

More Vancouver Island com-

munities could do the same, says Hoeberechts, eventually monitoring water quality all around the island to gather data for modelling fish behaviour.

“ONC is a pioneer in ocean science, and a pioneer in the way we’re working with communities,” she says. “Together, we’re establishing the science that will underlie the policy decisions of the future.”



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FEELING LIKE HOME

It’s time for more “heart-centred” approaches to residential care for older adults

BY JODY PATERSON

Research starts in the brain but works its way to the heart, says a University of Victoria health geographer whose studies of dementia and care across the lifespan have made her a passionate advocate for quality of life as people age.

“One of the wisdoms I hold is that communities that care for the most vulnerable persons are healthier for everyone who lives in them,” says Denise Cloutier, whose research into how people experience life—and death—in long-term care is done in partnership with residents, families, health authorities and other academic researchers.

Health geographers like Cloutier specialize in exploring the impact of physical surroundings and communities on our lives and sense of well-being. Nobody dreams of spending their last years in a care facility, acknowledges Cloutier. But much could be done to increase the feeling of “home” in those facilities, which house almost a third of Canadians over age 85.

“So much of the residential-care system is focused on quality of care not quality of life, on tasks instead of time spent with residents,” says Cloutier. “Personally, I think that having someone to talk to—to hold your

hand, take you to social activities, help with meals—may be more important than other tasks.”

The trend to contracting out food services is a perfect example, she says. It might make budgetary sense, but denies residents the familiar aromas of food cooking associated with “home.”

Of the 22,000 British Columbians in residential care interviewed in a recent report from the BC Seniors Advocate last fall, Cloutier notes that only 57 per cent reported that their facilities felt like home. Forty-six per cent said no one living with them felt like a close friend. Fewer than half said staff had time for friendly conversations.

“We need to find ways to help care workers address issues of quality of life more fully, encouraging them in their daily work to make a real difference in the lives of older persons. Insufficient budgets and evaluating staff solely on tasks completed or number of medications handed out interfere with that goal,” says Cloutier.

“Many staff go the extra mile every day to support quality of life for residents. But going the extra mile for quality of life needs to be the goal every day, not the exception. And staff need to be better supported in this aim.”

As a professor in UVic’s Department of Geography and Institute on



Cloutier at the Royal Jubilee Hospital Patient Care Centre. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Aging and Lifelong Health, Cloutier has researched the trajectories of urban and rural residents in long-term care; explored strategies for increasing hands-on care in facilities; and compared behavioural responses in people with dementia transitioning to new facilities.

Two current research projects are evaluating approaches to improve end-of-life care in residential care on Vancouver Island, and building capacity to promote healthy aging

in the central Kootenay village of New Denver.

BC’s health authorities, the Michael Smith Foundation, and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research are primary funders of Cloutier’s work.

“With limited new resources, our approaches to healthy aging need to be much more strategic and creative in working toward real change,” says Cloutier. “We’ve been talking about this for decades. The time is now for more heart-centred approaches to care.”

The caregiver journey

Making the decision to relocate a parent, spouse or relative from home into residential care can be daunting. A caregiver information help sheet developed by Cloutier’s research team offers some guidance. Visit bit.ly/uvic-care-help

Campus workshop brings trauma-informed training to front-line staff

BY LINDSAY WINDECKER

Sexualized and domestic violence can be difficult subjects to talk about, but 300 members of the UVic and Greater Victoria communities came together on campus last month to do exactly that.

On Feb. 13-14, UVic and the Saanich Police Regional Domestic Violence Unit, in partnership with the BC Post-Secondary Counsellors Association, invited clinical psychologist Lori Haskell to campus for a two-day workshop on trauma-informed approaches to working with survivors of domestic and sexualized violence.

Haskell, an academic research associate at the Centre for Research

and Education on Violence Against Women and Children, focuses her research and practice on victimization and its effects, violence prevention and the effects of trauma on psychological and physiological development.

The workshop was attended by front-line and student services staff from UVic as well as local police, members of the legal community, psychologists, counsellors, social workers and other human services professionals from across the province.

“I attended this workshop to better support my team in working with the complex and sometimes confusing ways that students who have experienced trauma might present themselves at our centre,” said Tricia Best,

associate director of International Student Services

Workshop attendees learned how trauma can affect the structure of the brain and how these neurobiological changes can impact a survivor’s memory and sense of time and order.

“The actions survivors take, even though they may seem illogical to an observer, can be perfectly logical considering the effects that sexualized violence can have on a survivor’s brain,” said Roger John, counsellor for Indigenous students at UVic.

“Friends, family and professionals who try to support survivors are often unaware of the physical and neurological effects of trauma and may

view the actions of survivors as being inconsistent, illogical or consensual.”

A trauma-informed approach to supporting survivors also takes into account how social response can re-victimize and stigmatize survivors, even when that response is well-meaning.

“Recovery from a traumatic event is an act of courage,” says education professor Tim Black, one of Canada’s leading specialists on post-traumatic stress disorder. “A trauma-informed approach to support helps increase an individual’s resilience in their process and helps protect from future harm due to stigmatization.”

“The learning from this workshop will directly support our ongoing

assessment of student conduct investigations and student outreach, and support processes to ensure that our work with students is trauma-informed,” says Emily Waterman, manager of investigations and training in the Office of Student Life.

The information that Dr. Haskell presented on the neurobiology of trauma has increased my understanding of how I can implement trauma-informed approaches into the interactions I have with students involved in conduct processes.”

UVic community members can find more information on sexualized violence initiatives on campus at uvic.ca/services/studentlife.



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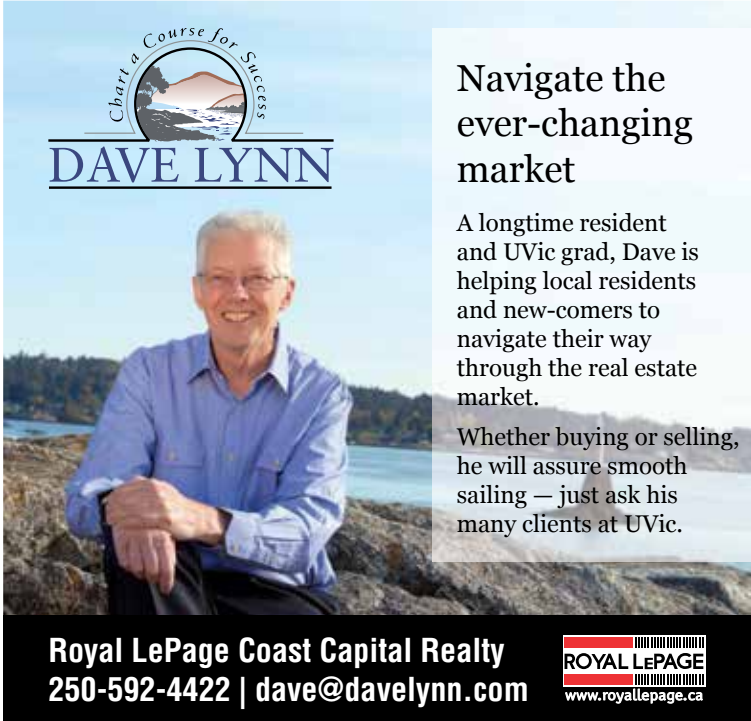
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