



CONVOCATION

PAGES 5–7

THE RING

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

*The University of Victoria's
community newspaper*

ring.uvic.ca



**University
of Victoria**

SPEED READ

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE

National Day of Remembrance and Action

Everyone on campus is invited to join in UVic's annual commemoration of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Under the theme of "A Walk to End Gender-Based Violence," the organizing committee recognizes that gender-based violence affects many people in many ways. Community members are invited to gather outside the Student Union Building at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 5 for a short program followed by a walk. Returning to the Haro Room in Cadboro Commons by 12:20 p.m., participants will be invited to enjoy hot drinks, mingle and write validations in support of those who have experienced violence.

FOOD SERVICE OPTIONS

Starbucks coming to campus

UVic will open and operate a licensed Starbucks in fall 2019 within the UVic Bookstore in the location occupied by Finnerty Express. Surveys with students, staff and faculty have identified Starbucks as a desired brand that they are seeking to experience on campus. The current staff will transition to the Starbucks location and all employees will continue to be members of CUPE 951.



Chorong Kim and her father Chong Su Kim. PHOTO: JAKE SHERMAN

1,493

**NUMBER OF
DEGREES,
CERTIFICATES
AND DIPLOMAS
AWARDED
DURING FALL
CONVOCATION
CEREMONIES**

Father-daughter duo finds home at UVic

Chorong Kim and Chong Su Kim will cross the stage at convocation in November, marking the end of nine years together—and two degrees each—at UVic.

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

You could call them a team. Chorong Kim and her father Chong Su Kim will cross the stage at convocation in November—Chorong to collect a Master of Arts and Chong Su to receive a PhD.

The father-daughter duo has cultivated an intellectual partnership that started with home-schooling and culminated with examining each other's academic papers at

UVic. They have shared a few brown bag lunches along the way, as well as stressful moments as graduate students.

Chorong studied German fantasy fiction for young adults as part of her thesis in Germanic and Slavic studies, while Chong Su focused on political science, researching democratisation and social movements in South Korea and Taiwan.

"We both have very specific niches," Chorong says with a laugh.

Chorong was born in Germany, where her parents lived for seven years. Chorong's mother, Sung Hee Park, sought asylum in Germany from South Korea, where she was a student political activist when the country was under authoritarian control.

In 1998, when Chorong was five, they returned to a now democratic South Korea, but the family decided to home school their daughter.

"The school system in Germany was very different. South Korea was more hierarchal and disciplined," Chong Su says.

Chorong's mother instructed her on history and various other subjects, while her dad, who worked as a journalist in Germany, focused on teaching her English. Chorong grew up reading many books and developed an interest in German literature.

The family moved to Canada when Chorong was a teenager. After a year of

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DYNAMIC LEARNING

Drawing local lessons from European lives

City of Victoria planner joins sustainability field school to co-teach and share in immersive discovery of sustainable practices abroad.

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

As an innovator and advocate of experiential learning, Cam Owens elevated awareness about the value of field schools when he joined UVic's Department of Geography in 2012, from Calgary. Owens brought an infectious optimism for field school programs, truly embracing the adage, "out of the classroom and into the real world" of

learning.

Seven years later, the department has added five field-based schools to its undergraduate program and the popular Sustainability Field School has two programs: the Cascadia Field School and the Urban-Europe Field School.

"The Cascadia Field School is probably my favourite, as it is more directly relevant, exploring sustainability in the context of our own greater bioregion," says Owens, "but the Europe Field School is a little more exotic."

The Cascadia Field School travels down the west coast through Seattle, Portland

and on to San Francisco meeting with urban planners, activists and scholars—grappling with the social and ecological challenges facing cities in this region (bit.ly/18-cascadia).

This year, the Sustainability Field School took geography students to Europe—traveling by train, bus, ferry and bike to study innovations in urban sustainability in Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen and Malmö.

Owens also added a new element this year. In partnership with the City of

SEE FIELD SCHOOL P. 9



Cycle-sharing in Copenhagen.
PHOTO: ALEXANDER MA

Bill Gaston (writing) has won the 2018 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize for his 2017 short-story collection *The Mariner's Guide to Self Sabotage* (Douglas & McIntyre). Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps and co-sponsor Brian Butler presented Gaston with the \$5,000 prize at a gala event on October 17. A set of 10 cautionary tales showcasing Gaston's range and narrative versatility, *The Mariner's Guide to Self Sabotage* earned the praise of judges for his ability to move “seamlessly from the funny to the poignant to the surprising and absurd.” Gaston previously won the Victoria Book Prize in 2007 for his short-story collection, *Gargoyles*.

Two UVic professors were honoured with a Teaching Award of Excellence by the Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia at their annual conference last month. **Brad Buckham** (mechanical engineering) was singled out for his knack for conveying complex concepts, his ability to explain material through metaphors and links to real world examples, discussion of impacts on society, and his mentorship of students. Buckham complements his teaching with leadership of West Coast Wave Initiative, which has enhanced UVic's visibility in sustainable energy. **David Nelles** (School of Earth and Ocean Sciences) was awarded for his work as SEOS senior lab instructor. Many of his students noted that the reason they pursued earth science was because of Nelles' enthusiasm for earth's complex geological structure and his intuitive and rigorous approaches to observation and interpretation.



Architectural rendering of the south view. PHOTO PROVIDED

Feedback invited on student housing and dining designs

Proposed designs for UVic's newest buildings will be on display at campus and community open houses in November. Following a year of consultations, the designs for the two student housing and dining buildings will be open for comment before the project moves to the municipal approval stage with the District of Saanich.

Situated outside of Ring Road south of the Student Union Building, the buildings will be the tallest on campus, and will feature a variety of room types for more than 600 undergraduate and graduate students, a modernized dining hall, meeting rooms and classrooms. The revitalized residence area will provide welcoming outdoor spaces and be linked to campus via the pedestrian and cycling paths of the Grand Promenade.

“This is our final check-in with the community before applying for a development variance permit,” says Mike Wilson, director of campus planning and sustainability. “We appreciate all of the engaged input we’ve had from students, faculty and staff, which is reflected in the updated building and landscape designs.”

OPEN HOUSES

Campus open house:
Nov. 21 from 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
in the McPherson Library foyer

Campus pop-up:
Nov. 22, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at Cadboro Commons

Although major construction is not targeted to begin until 2020, the project team is exploring the possibility of tackling early site preparation work in 2019, allowing for an expedited schedule once the project is underway.

The student housing and dining project is the first significant capital project since the renewal of UVic's Campus Plan in 2016. Living on campus assists students with their transition to university, provides academic and social programming and support, and nurtures a strong sense of belonging in the UVic community.

Visit uvic.ca/new-student-housing for project details.

HELP
SHAPE THE
PLANS FOR
NEW STUDENT
HOUSING

UVic is planning for new student housing that will provide much-needed housing and a dining hall for over 600 students currently living off campus.

Learn more and share your ideas on the proposed building designs and landscape design.

OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, Nov. 21 | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
McPherson Library Foyer

CAMPUS POP-UP
Thursday, Nov. 22 | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Cadboro Commons

uvic.ca/new-student-housing

University of Victoria



UVic hosts 2018 Building Reconciliation Forum

UVic is this year's host for the fourth annual Building Reconciliation Forum, in partnership with Universities Canada, the national organization for Canadian universities. The forum (Nov. 15–16) brings together close to 250 thought leaders from universities, Indigenous governing bodies and communities, and federal and regional government officials to consider how universities are answering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

This year's theme is Ts'its'u'watul tseep, meaning to help one another. The teachings of Coast Salish First Nations guide us to “work together in a good way”

and “to be prepared for all work to come” so that universities across Canada make a difference in the lives of Indigenous students and their communities.

Panels over two days are addressing TRC topics such as child welfare, language and culture, education, health and justice. Participants will be discussing how universities and their partner institutions can work with Indigenous communities to answer the Calls to Action, obstacles to answering these Calls, and how universities can make a positive difference for Indigenous students and communities. Forum discussions will be compiled into an open-access report.

The following associated events are open to anyone in the campus community:

NOMAD

Wednesday, Nov. 14,
12–1:30 p.m.
Chief Dan George Theatre,
Phoenix Building, UVic

Inuk singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark presents a musical and visual journey through Inuit history, shedding light on some of the psychological and cultural impacts of the rapid change in Canada's North. No registration necessary but seating is limited.



Aglukark. PHOTO PROVIDED

First Nations Art Practice & Reconciliation

Thursday, Nov. 15, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
Baumann Centre for Pacific Opera
Victoria, 925 Balmoral Road

A panel discussion by local artists, administrators and activists about how Victoria's arts community can advance decolonization and reconciliation. Hosted by Susan Lewis, dean of Fine Arts. No registration necessary but seating is limited.

Indigenous Artisans Market

Friday, Nov. 16, 1:30–3:30 p.m.
Ceremonial Hall,
First Peoples House

More than 20 artisans from UVic and local communities will be selling their work. Cash only.

Full info: uvic.ca/BRFevents

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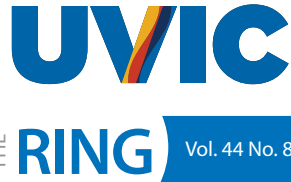


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Mclvor, at SNAKE, the SENĆOTEN name for the Cadboro Bay/Mt. Tolmie area. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Supporting Indigenous language revitalization efforts across Canada

BY TARA SHARPE

ÁSW. KENI. KŁO,EL. Seal, seagull, camas —these are the English translations for these three words in SENĆOTEN, the language of the WŚÁNEĆ peoples whose traditional territory includes what’s now known as the Saanich Peninsula. SENĆOTEN and Lkwungen, which is the language of the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples, have been spoken here long before the first Norse seafarers arrived on the east coast.

A new guide by UVic researcher Onowa Mclvor invites everyone to embark on an Indigenous language learning journey. “The most powerful act of reconciliation that anybody could do in terms of Indigenous languages is to learn the Indigenous language of the land they are on,” says Mclvor, whose maternal family is maskėkowak (Swampy Cree) from Northern Manitoba (Norway House and Cross Lake Cree Nations), with Scottish-Canadian settler ancestry on her paternal side.

“The essence of our work is supporting Indigenous communities who are working really hard to reclaim, revive and maintain their languages,”

adds Mclvor. “But there’s also a part of our project that is about raising the profile of Indigenous languages for all Canadians. That’s what this new guide is all about.”

Supporting the revitalization of Indigenous languages

Mclvor compiled the guide, together with UVic MA graduate Nicole Davies, for the Canadian Commission on UNESCO. Launched in September on the 11th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it outlines how anyone can support Indigenous languages in their community.

Download the guide at bit.ly/uvic-language-guide.

Mclvor points to the vital need for language learners to hear the words spoken. “These languages hold different sounds than English. You’ll hear people say, ‘WAH-SAH-NICK’ [rather than ‘WHA-SAH-NICH’ for WŚÁNEĆ] because they’re reading it in English. When using Roman orthography—the alphabet we know as A, B, C—people

try to pronounce it in English.”

The area now called British Columbia is less than 10 per cent of the total land mass of Canada, yet is home to approximately 60 per cent of all Indigenous languages in this country.

Mclvor says with Indigenous language revitalization, we have to start somewhere. One way can be with landmarks. “You can learn how to say the name of the territory or the name of the mountain that is close by,” suggests Mclvor.

For example, the original name for Mount Newton is LÁU,WELNEW—the high point of refuge for the WŚÁNEĆ peoples during the time of the “great flood.”

“If you learn a greeting and a response, now you’ve had a conversation,” adds Mclvor. “And that’s the start of something, isn’t it?”

NETOLNEW, doing things as one

NETOLNEW is another SENĆOTEN word. It translates as “one mind, one people” or “doing things as one” and is the name of the six-year \$2.5M research

project (netolnew.ca) being led by Mclvor with Skwxwú7mesh First Nation linguist Peter Jacobs who joined UVic in 2012 and is now at SFU. It is the first national project of its kind in Canada focused on Indigenous language revitalization.

Mclvor and Jacobs are collaborating with nine Indigenous-led partner organizations to further strengthen the revitalization of Indigenous languages across Canada.

In an earlier project, they conducted the first-ever study of a popular adult language learning method. The focus on adult language learners is a unique and ongoing feature of the NETOLNEW project.

Following a path of language learning

Mclvor was Director of UVic Indigenous Education from 2008 to 2017 and, as a graduate student at UVic, served as the liaison for First Nations communities partnered with UVic’s School of Child and Youth Care from 2000 to 2004 to deliver a two-year diploma program in early childhood

care and development.

Throughout her academic career, Mclvor has studied and helped develop best practices for revitalizing Indigenous languages; explored the influences and learnings that have been woven into Indigenous languages and passed on generationally; and worked to understand and enhance contributions by Indigenous adults to language revitalization, as well as its links to health and well-being of Indigenous communities and families.

NILLA, a new online space

NILLA is an exciting new online web sharing portal and part of the NETOLNEW project. “It is a place where Indigenous communities can connect with one another, and all Canadians can learn more about Indigenous languages and their continuation” adds Mclvor.

The NETOLNEW project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

More info on Indigenous language revitalization at UVic: uvic.ca/future-students/indigenous/language

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UVic to honour four outstanding leaders

Four inspiring citizens will receive an honorary degree—the university’s highest honour—during fall Convocation.



CINDY BLACKSTOCK, HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)
Tuesday, Nov. 13 | 10 a.m.

Cindy Blackstock, a member of the Gitksan First Nation, is a social activist, social justice pioneer and dedicated advocate for Indigenous children with 30 years of social work experience in child protection and Indigenous children’s rights. Blackstock is a professor in McGill’s School of Social Work and an Adjunct Professor and Director of the First Nations Children’s Action Research and Education Centre at the University of Alberta. She also serves as Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

Blackstock’s work included proving that First Nations children on reserves receive far less funding for services compared to other children in Canada. Blackstock and her advocacy group battled for years to win a ruling from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordering the federal government to equitably fund First Nations child welfare and implement Jordan’s Principle, a child-first policy to ensure First Nations children can receive the public services they need when they need them. Over 111,000 services have been provided to children in need under Jordan’s Principle since the ruling in 2016.

She also serves as a Commissioner for the Pan American Health Organization Commission on Health Equity and Inequity.



JUDITH GUICHON, HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)
Tuesday, Nov. 13 | 2:30 p.m.

Judith Guichon is a strong voice for sustainable farming and ranching in British Columbia. Before being appointed BC’s 29th Lieutenant Governor in 2012, she owned and operated Gerard Guichon Ranch Ltd. in the province’s Interior. Guichon’s family had owned land in the Nicola Valley since 1878 and maintained a tradition of farming, ranching and related community service.

Guichon’s contributions include serving as president of the BC Cattlemen’s Association; as a member of the Provincial Force on Species at Risk; as a part of the Ranching Task Force of BC and the BC Agri-Food Trade Advisory Council; as a member of the Fraser Basin Council; and as the director of the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC. She and her family have long promoted holistic management, an approach to farming that seeks to preserve ecosystems, maintain plant species, protect water quality and reduce use of fossil fuels.

Guichon received the Order of BC in 2012. In her role as Lieutenant Governor, Guichon developed priority programs reflecting her background of stewardship, including creating Stewards of the Future, which aims to reconnect high school students with the natural world.



PETER MOSS, HONORARY DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (DED)
Wednesday, Nov. 14 | 10 a.m.

Peter Moss, Emeritus Professor at University College London, is renowned for his international work in early childhood education and the relationship between employment, care and gender, especially parental leave policies.

Moss coordinated the European Commission’s expert group on childcare and other measures to reconcile employment and family responsibilities.

In 2004, Moss co-founded the International Network on Leave Policies and Research, which today brings together experts from 40 countries with a shared interest in a policy area that has become a central issue in today’s welfare state.

For a decade, Moss co-edited the book series *Contesting Early Childhood*, which provides an important platform for alternative voices and new ideas in the field of early childhood education. The series builds on previous work Moss had undertaken with UVic Prof. Emeritus Alan Pence, including the seminal book *Beyond Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care*.

Moss has had a direct influence, through personal presentations and publications, on the curricula of the UVic School of Child and Youth Care, particularly its early years stream. His ideas also influenced the BC Early Learning Framework, which guides the provision of early childhood services in the province and is recognized internationally for its emphasis on diversity.



MITSUKO SHIRAI, HONORARY DOCTOR OF MUSIC (DMUS)
Wednesday, Nov. 14 | 2:30 p.m.

Mitsuko Shirai is regarded as one of the world’s great interpreters of the German lied, a form of poetic art song that is set to classical music. Born and raised in Japan, she began her vocal studies at the Musashino Music Academy in Tokyo and continued her training at the Hochschule der Künste in Stuttgart, Germany.

Shirai is one of the most frequently recorded lieder singers of modern times, distinguished not only by her many stellar concert performances and recordings, but also by her illustrious teaching career. For over 27 years, she has been teaching at the Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe, one of the top professional music institutions in Germany, where she has attracted major talent from around the globe. She has conducted numerous workshops in Germany, Austria, Finland, the United States and in Japan. Many of her students have become the bright lights of today’s concert stages.

The mezzo-soprano has received many awards, medals and orders of merit for her extraordinary achievements. For example, Japan awarded her the Shiju Hoshō, a distinction given to only five musicians over the past 50 years. In addition, she was awarded the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany) in 2010.

KIMS CONTINUED FROM P.1

living in Vancouver, both Chorong and her dad decided to study at UVic.

“My parents and I stick together almost like a team,” Chorong says. “Going to a different university would mean I might be separated from them.”

At age 15, Chorong enrolled in biology at UVic and also studied German. Chong Su undertook a master’s in political science. UVic was Chorong’s first experience in a formal school system and her first time fully communicating in English.

“I was thrown into English-speaking society,” she says.

Her dad naturally provided support, the two of them negotiating the demands of student life together.

“We would sometimes take the same bus or bump into each other at university. My dad often packed sandwiches for me,” Chorong says.

Chong Su is grateful for the camaraderie his daughter found at UVic, especially in the



Chong Su and Chorong look through Korean newspapers. PHOTO: CHORONG KIM

Germanic and Slavic studies department, where Chorong would later pursue a master’s degree.

“She met some excellent supervisors and her profs were very kind to her,” he says. “I was glad

she could find a second home at UVic.”

After two degrees each and nine years together at UVic, the Kims are ready to move on.

Chorong, who takes photographs and pro-

duces films in her spare time, hopes to study filmmaking further in the future. (She won best student documentary film at the 2016 Montreal World Film Festival.)

And Chong Su plans to continue his research and apply for teaching positions, working to fulfill a goal Chorong remembers her dad talking about when she was a girl.

“He has been a wonderful teacher and I feel so proud of him,” she says. “I hope he can continue to pursue his childhood dream to teach and inspire others as he was inspiring to me.”

The other third of the team, Sung Hee Park, may be most relieved her husband and daughter are leaving the tribulations of student life behind.

“There was an air of stress in the house,” Chorong says. “She was so patient with both of us and gave us a lot of emotional support.”

February 1–7 | 2019

ALUMNI WEEK

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University
of Victoria



CONVOCAATION 2018

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During Fall Convocation from November 13–14, ceremonies will be held to confer 1,493 degrees, diplomas and certificates.



Guochen Wang. PHOTO: CHORONG KIM

A shifting focus: from photography to film

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Like many outstanding students, the term “overachiever” is a good fit for graduating international visual arts major Guochen Wang. Born and raised in Taiyuan, a mid-sized city in China’s central Shanxi province, Chen went to a local international high school before looking for overseas post-secondary options. And his reasons for choosing UVic over an institution in the US, England or Europe may not be surprising, given his home city’s population of 4.2 million. “I visited Victoria when I was 12 and remember really liking it,” he recalls. “I liked the trees and the quiet.” He was also attracted by the contemporary practice of UVic’s visual arts program, as well as its metaphorical appeal. “I was already doing high-fashion commercial photography in China, which I enjoyed, but I wanted to try something new,” he explains. “Visual arts looks at photography as a tool to go somewhere else.” An award-winning photographer before leaving China, Chen continued to find success during his undergrad years: not only did he mount two solo exhibits at local galleries, but he also picked up awards at both the Sidney Fine Art

Show and the Victoria Arts Council’s LOOK show. “I like taking pictures of people on the street and telling a story through the lens,” he says. Yet his future interdisciplinary path started to come into focus in his first video art course and the writing department’s popular film-production elective, where he worked on the short film *Fear or Favour*. “I just fell in love with the medium,” he says. “Visual art is more about the individual—how you approach the work, creating on your own—but film is different. It’s more collaborative, where everyone is working towards the same goal. It feels different when you achieve something together.” Fusing his artistic passion with tangible career goals, over the past four years Chen has founded the UVic Film Club, joined the CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers, started his own commercial production company, joined CHEK TV’s production team (where he helped create over 20 commercials), served as the director of photography and camera operator for local company Bottega Creative Ltd, worked as a sessional in-

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Rodney. PHOTO: TAMIKA SIANEN PHOTOGRAPHY

At your service: BCom grad discovers new purpose in service management career

BY SASHA MILAM

Tamika Rodney, BCom ’18, was completing a hospitality management diploma at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology when a fateful need for caffeine and some eye-catching island photos conspired to redirect her toward UVic’s Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, and a complete life change—though she didn’t realize it at the time. “The Gustavson BCom recruiter just happened to be set up in the building where I had class, right next to the Tim Horton’s—so naturally, I had to walk right by because I was definitely getting tea,” laughs Rodney. “I was caught by these stunning photos of the island. I had to stop and learn more.” And what she learned in that stop clicked for her. Rodney was finishing her two-year certificate and realized a bachelor’s degree would be an advantage when applying for jobs in the future. “As a mature student with a family to support, I couldn’t afford to spend another four years at school,” she recalls. “With Gustavson’s

two-plus-two structure I wouldn’t have to do that. It just made perfect sense that in four years I would end up with a hospitality diploma *and* a business degree.” In practice, the two-plus-two format means that BCom students spend their first two years completing pre-requisites and exploring elective coursework. In third year, they enter the intensive “core” year of the business program that immerses tight-knit cohorts of students in foundational business courses. Students like Rodney, who have completed two years in a qualifying hospitality diploma program, can enter directly into third year. “Gustavson was the only program I applied to,” says Rodney. “I’m not the student who went looking for the school; I really feel like the school found me.” Fall 2016 saw Rodney and her young son packing up and relocating to Victoria. It was a significant lifestyle adjustment. Born and raised in Alberta, Rodney loves that in Victoria, her son

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Saville

Of pale ales and proteins: a biochemist’s journey though research co-ops

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

When faced with no samples and spotty access to laboratory equipment, some chemists might throw up their hands in frustration.

That’s the scenario biochemistry undergraduate James Saville faced when heading into the last weeks of his final co-op with UVic chemist Jeremy Wulff. He was tasked with collaborating with Red Arrow Brewing Company to optimize the use of hops in their IPA. But the samples from the brewery were late in arriving. And the instrumentation that he would be using to test the samples was tied up, leaving Saville with seemingly nothing to do.

So Saville got to work. “None of this slowed him down at all,” says Wulff. “He did an awesome job of researching protocols and developing his methods so that when samples did finally arrive he could immediately collect high quality data within a day or so.”

Through his research, Saville was able to help the Duncan brewery optimize the recipe for their IPA—determining the best hop type and timing to maximize flavour, while spending less money on the expensive ingredient.

“It was a great way to end my degree,” recalls Saville, who has already begun master’s studies at UBC. “Working with Red Arrow brought together the experiences I had through my other co-ops in both academia and industry, while giving me a preview of what it’s like to be a grad student.”

This final experience topped off a co-op degree where he worked with the world’s larg-

est chemical company in Germany, a yeast producer in Montreal, and the UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre.

“Each co-op gave me a different perspective on what research can look like in different labs, companies and countries,” he says. “Successive work terms allowed me to build on my skills from the previous experiences.”

It was during his co-op at the Proteomics Centre that Saville discovered he was fascinated by mass spectrometry, a technique that allows researchers to characterize and quantify samples, such as proteins, based on the masses within a given sample.

“Using mass spectrometry, researchers can compare the proteins in samples to make accurate and early diagnosis of diseases,” Saville says.

The Proteomics Centre is home to the highest concentration of mass spectrometers within Canada and a world leader in the field of proteomics. Here, Saville worked on producing protein standards that future health researchers could use to compare their samples to.

In his graduate research at UBC, Saville hopes to continue research using mass spectrometry, this time fine-tuning techniques that could make research into membrane proteins—biological components which perform functions vital to organisms—easier to conduct.

“I didn’t have a feel of exactly what I wanted to do when I came to UVic,” says Saville, who started out as an undeclared general science student. “The co-op program definitely helped me figure out what I am interested in.”

Finding self, reclaiming space through Indigenous social work

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

Corrina Sparrow wanted more out of her post-secondary education experience. While she was excited for the learning, she yearned for something she believed post-secondary education could help her develop: an historic understanding and a stronger sense of Indigenous identity.

Of the Musqueam and Pentlatch People, yet raised outside her communities, Sparrow was searching for that rich understanding of self, about her own Two Spirit identity and experiences, as well as a sense of place, belonging and responsibility in Indigenous community.

She found what she was looking for largely through UVic’s School of Social Work, completing a bachelor’s and now a master’s degree with an Indigenous specialization. Sparrow now leads the social development department and community wellness division of the Musqueam Indian Band.

“I wanted to make sense of what was going on in my own family, my own communities and experiences, and I believed going back to school was the best way to start that.” Returning to school at age 25 to obtain high school equivalency, Sparrow enrolled at Camosun College where she accessed Indigenous student supports and found guidance through their approachable model.

“Camosun offered a really nice transition into UVic, which I thought was unattainable for me at that time,” she says. “Both schools offer a sense of family and community to Indigenous students. They’re tight-knit and work closely together, which is a huge benefit for those students who have to study away from home.”

Taking UVic courses while attending Camosun also enabled Sparrow’s entry into academia. As did the anti-oppressive thinking and Indigenous approach of her educators, which Sparrow found so welcoming. “UVic has always just felt like home to me.”

What stands out is her reconnection to her Indigenous communities and finding the strength to work and live within her Musqueam community in positive ways. “The skills and knowledge I gained through my master’s degree studies helped me contribute in ways that directly benefit my relatives and culture.”

In her first few weeks on the job with Musqueam Indian Band, Sparrow dedicated her time to talking to people of the community, to Elders and Knowledge Keepers. She asked about their expectations of her as a leader, and their needs, learning that healing support was top of the list. The other most requested help was the development of traditional cultural activities for young people and families.

The Musqueam people are stewards of the Fraser River and the waters, Sparrow explains, “and we needed a canoe.” She dreamed of rebuilding a burned-down carving shed and the community’s canoes, also lost in the shed fire, put away years prior in honour of a respected

local carver who drowned in a fishing accident. Sparrow envisioned, too, a new canoe journey for youth, hoping to spark interest in carving, canoeing and other vital Musqueam traditions.

She and colleague Shelly Johnson with UBC secured a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant for \$500,000 in 2014, ranking fifth across all submissions in Canada. Their application was highly recommended by reviewers because they secured a \$90,000 commitment from the Musqueam band to support the project, gathered more support letters than the digital application system could upload, and also because they were the first canoeing proposal in SSHRC’s history.

It wasn’t until September 2015 when they found a 350-year-old, 40-foot cedar log that would be carved and built into a journey canoe. Many songs were sung to awaken the spirit of ‘The Old Woman’ log, so named to honour the circle of Indigenous women who made the project possible.

According to Dickie Louis, a Musqueam carver, the last canoe carved in the community was in 1985. By August 2016, Sparrow was paddling with fellow community members in the journey canoe’s maiden voyage on the Fraser River.

“I continue to look to our Coast Salish knowledge, cultures and methodologies,” says Sparrow, “and I see these processes in action every day. As researchers, we must draw upon this knowledge, to help other Indigenous people find their own voice and visibility through this work.”

Just as her own learning continues, Sparrow is enrolled at UBC in a First Nations Endangered Languages course, studying how to speak the Musqueam hən̓q̓əmiṇəm language. She is also preparing to start her PhD in fall 2019.

As she prepares to cross the stage this month, Sparrow points to UVic faculty, staff and fellow students—many she considers kin—who, as she puts it, “bring all these gifts together to create powerful learning for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike. I am grateful to UVic for making space for this.”



Sparrow

RODNEY CONTINUED FROM P.5

can ride his bike everywhere and spend most of the year outdoors. The fit with Gustavson proved to be similarly felicitous.

“In retrospect, I didn’t do the full research one should do, but it wasn’t long after I arrived at Gustavson that I realized my instinct had been right: this was the school for me.”

A big part of this fit was due to Rodney’s own industry experience. She had spent 12 years with ATB Financial, starting in the call centre and working her way to a credit underwriter position before going back to school.

“Because I had work experience prior to Gustavson, I knew the opportunities that were available to me as a student were things I would never get my hands on if I weren’t in this type of program,” she says. “Things like access to co-op

positions with organizations like Tesla, BlackBerry and the government, no less, to networking opportunities, professional development courses—these were incredible opportunities that I fully appreciated, knowing what I did of the world outside school.”

Having completed two co-op terms with the Department of National Defense, Rodney began a full-time position as a project coordinator with British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI) this September.

As she pointed out herself, none of these roles are in the hospitality industry. When asked what caused the shift in her career trajectory, Rodney answers without hesitation: the business operations class during her core term and service management specialization.

“I took the service management specialization assuming I was going to pursue a career in hospitality, because as soon as you say service, you naturally think hospitality,” says Rodney. “But that turned out to be the biggest, most wonderful shock: the service management specialization showed me that service management wasn’t just hospitality. It was business operations, HR and marketing and how these should be strategically aligned in industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, and yes, hospitality.”

“I just remember when we started talking process mapping and continuous improvement—all the things I love to do and had worked on unofficially in my past work experience—I had that ‘aha’ moment of ‘There’s a *career* in this!’”

Although still fascinated by how service

management principles can optimize hospitality experiences, Rodney’s attention was caught by the discovery that operations itself was a career. By embracing every opportunity that the BCom program sent her way and applying her own industry knowledge to her new understanding of theory, she struck onto a path that incorporates her passion for service management in a context she couldn’t have imagined when she started her BCom journey.

“The BCom office, the school, they have given me so many opportunities,” says Rodney. “From co-op and personal branding guidance, to putting my name forward to attend the networking event that ultimately got me my job at BCI—they have been incredible in supporting my journey.”



Benning

Between worlds: exploring ways of knowing

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Growing up as an avid soccer player in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Brigitte Benning knew UVic was a great place to play—but she didn’t expect to fall in love with the campus community, staying to complete both a BA and MA in sociology.

“There were so many interesting classes to take and so many teams and friends, I couldn’t leave,” says Benning.

Sociology caught her attention with its diversity of issues on gender, mental health, the environment, Indigenous methodologies, feminist studies and religion. As a Métis woman, Benning grew up in a tight-knit family with a strong maternal role model who taught her how to advocate for the rights and recognition of Indigenous people.

“I have inherited the Métis experience of being between many worlds and navigating a hidden (and for myself) not stereotypically ‘visible’ identity,” says Benning. “My research experience played a big role in my continual journey to understand my own identity, culture and people.”

After completing an Indigenous methodologies course through UVic’s LE,NOTET program, Benning continued the idea for her master’s thesis, which was inspired by her friend the late Nelson Mayer. She went back to her community in Grande Prairie to examine the Indigenous practices at the On-Campus Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College.

The On-Campus Friendship Centre is a space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to gather and join cultural and social programs, explains Benning. She enjoyed the space as a student at Grande Prairie Regional College, and is especially grateful for the teachings of Elder Loretta Parenteau-English, a Blackfoot woman from Piikani Nation. Benning hopes her research will help other institutions improve the ways they support Indigenous students.

“I was very intentional about the way I went

about my research—I wanted to create a research project that exemplified the beauty of the Métis way of being between multiple worlds,” says Benning.

Benning created a Métis Sash research framework that she says, “dances between the Indigenous world I live in and the non-Indigenous sociological field I work in.”

She credits the mentorship of UVic sociology professor Garry Gray for her pursuit of further education. Gray understood that Benning was determined to give back to her Grande Prairie community and to return to her family.

“Dr. Gray was innovative in finding ways to ensure my research journey was meaningful to me as an Indigenous student,” says Benning. “To have a supervisor who truly has your best interests at heart is a wonderful gift.”

Benning adds that her life was changed by the choices she made to study at UVic and to continue on to graduate school. She plans to publish chapters from her thesis and hopefully collaborate on a book with Gray on their experience of navigating Indigenous and qualitative research methodologies.

She is currently enjoying her new position as Indigenous Educator with Peace Wapiti Public School Division in Grand Prairie. “I could not be more grateful to have found a job that connects to my education and experiences so much,” adds Benning.

Benning says she was also extremely fortunate to receive financial support from the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and scholarships from Indspire and Rupertsland Institute.

She graduates this month with an MA in sociology. Benning’s thesis, “Exploring the Role of Indigenous-based Support in Post-Secondary Education: The On-Campus Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College,” will be published next summer.

CHEN CONTINUED FROM P.5

structor for the Beifang International Education Group and volunteered on a number of independent films shot locally—all while finishing his undergraduate degree.

“I like the freedom to create,” he says. “Everyone in Victoria is very welcoming, and everyone in the independent film community seems to know and like each other, and the crews are very nice.”

Clearly no slacker, Chen applied for and was accepted as a screenwriting major in the writing MFA program for the 2018 fall session.

His intention is to develop a web series that uses humour to explore cross-cultural understanding. “I believe that comedy—which is itself a kind of international language that helps to

connect people—is a good way to express my own feelings, inspire international students and bring together both Canadian and Chinese audiences in an understated way,” he says. “It allows cultural differences to be easily understood and it builds on shared human values by non-threatening means.”

While working on his MFA, he’s now getting hired for local film shoots, both independent and union (*Pupstars: Christmas*), as well as writing and directing his own work, like the short film *Drownings*. “There’s a difference between writing something in visual language as a screenplay than watching the visual language on the screen,” he explains, “but the only way you can see that is to make it.”



Quinn

Connecting active living and special needs education

BY RYANN ANDERSON

When Paige Quinn first moved to Vancouver Island from North Vancouver in 2013 to start her undergraduate degree, her intention was to become an elementary school teacher. She had always loved working with children and grew up with a mother who taught first grade. But taking one of UVic’s Exercise Science, Physical Health & Education (EPHE) classes hooked her on the program; she graduates this month.

For Quinn, the health and recreation education program offered by EPHE was the perfect way to combine an active lifestyle with her love for all children and turn them into a career.

She especially loved the co-op element of the program. Quinn travelled to Wales to be an activity leader for four months, where she took children and students with special needs on adventures like kayaking, rock climbing and even exploring a castle. Quinn also worked at Recreation Integration Victoria for eight months, leading their volunteer program by pairing students with disabilities with volunteers in the community. She was also able to do two directed studies with the same organization.

Quinn is keeping herself very busy since finishing school. She is currently working as an education assistant for the Victoria School District. “I’ve always loved kids and, during my years at UVic and in high school, I was always working with people with disabilities,”

she says. “It made sense to go into this job because it’s in a school and it’s with kids with disabilities so it’s kind of ideal for me.”

Right now, Quinn is working at South Park Family School in a kindergarten class. “Kindergarten is where I belong,” she laughs. “I just love it! They’re so innocent and pure. There’s no judgement in kindergarten. They’re just excited to learn.”

She also works with children with special needs on her own, leading them in recreational activities after school, and through Community Living Victoria as a behaviour interventionist. There, Quinn is also part of a committee for increasing healthy foods in their after-school programs.

One of the things she loves most about her work is having the opportunity to connect with students on a one-on-one basis. “It’s a really rewarding job.”

On top of her many roles working with kids in the community, Quinn is training for a Half Ironman triathlon. She credits the EPHE program for teaching her how to balance a busy work schedule with a healthy active lifestyle.

Quinn also hints at potential plans to return to UVic. “I don’t feel done,” she says. She’s considering a master’s degree in educational psychology, to be able to take on more duties than she is currently able to as an education assistant. She is also considering pursuing recreational therapy. Both programs would help her apply her special skill of combining physical activity and educational support.

Share your convocation memories

- Share your moments with #uvicgrad and see your photos featured on digital screens in the University Centre and on UVic’s social channels.
- Follow these accounts for convocation photos and stories:



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Health hackathon produces collaborative, crowdsourced solutions

International MBA students at UVic make strides in coordinating timely support for sexual assault survivors

BY JODY PATERSON

When brilliant minds come together, tough problems get solved. Just ask Island Health, which now has a new way to address an issue affecting hundreds of vulnerable Vancouver Island residents after a team led by international business students in the Sardul S. Gill Graduate School at UVic’s Gustavson School of Business cracked the case.

Collaboration was a key element at the first Victoria Health Hackathon this fall. UVic biomedical engineer Stephanie Willerth organized the weekend event specifically to bring together diverse people with wide-ranging experiences and expertise for 24 heated hours, tackling one of five health-related problems.

The problems ranged from developing a monitoring system to stop hospital patients from falling out of bed, to creating new adaptations for the hand/arm prostheses built by UVic’s internationally acclaimed Victoria Hand Project. Teams picked the problem of their choice and were given three weeks to mull it over, then came together for an intense weekend of trying to find a “hack” to solve the problem.

Team Vivek—named after team member Vivek Pissay, a UVic MBA student—settled on a particularly sensitive challenge: to identify a better method for notifying on-call forensic

nurses when cases of sexual assault, abuse or domestic violence presented at any of 11 hospital emergency wards on Vancouver Island.

Island Health’s Forensic Nurse Examiner Program (FNEP) responds to more than 300 such calls every year. But the program still relies on pagers to call in a nurse from the 30-member FNEP team to the emergency room. Missing a page is a common problem, especially for nurses in more remote parts of the Island.

With no record of a page being sent or received and no mechanism for escalating paging to a second level of respondents, calls were being missed. Frustrated patients fed up with waiting were leaving the hospital before they’d been seen by a forensic nurse. Opportunities were being lost to gather physical evidence for possible criminal charges against assaulters, and to connect assault survivors with legal services.

Team Vivek went to work on the challenge, digging into the issues at the root of the problem.

“We knew from our MBA studies that we would want to ask as many questions as possible to start off with, to get to the core of the problem,” says team member Jayesh Vekariya, one of four UVic MBA students on the five-person team. “It’s like being an anthropologist.”

After several conversations with the Island Health managers who had brought the problem to the hackathon participants, the team identified three key issues: “The paging system is old technology, there’s no way to handle escalation of the process to find a



(L-R) Team members Vekariya, Phutane, Pissay, Finke and Krempel. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

second nurse if the first nurse doesn’t respond, and there’s no reporting process in place,” explains Pissay.

“Having worked in the field of healthcare internet technology (IT) in the past, I knew this was a very similar problem that you see in IT when a system goes down,” says Pissay.

“So we looked into how IT systems manage these kinds of problems, and found a platform, xMatters, that we were able to customize for health-care use. It had to meet all concerns around health-care privacy, cost point, ability to escalate calls, user friendliness. It had to be simple enough that you don’t

have to be tech-savvy to use it.”

The new system connects to the on-call nurses’ cell phones. It creates a record of all calls, and automatically escalates a missed call to a second nurse and then a third if the initial call isn’t responded to. Island Health was so pleased with the proposed solution that it plans on implementing the customized xMatters system early in the new year and has already begun staff training.

And the hackathon judges were so pleased that they awarded Team Vivek the top prize—\$750 to be shared among the five team members (Pis-

say, Vekariya, UVic MBA exchange students Maximilian Krempel and Merle Finke, and software quality analyst Pallavi Phutane). Challenges were scored based on their uniqueness, scalability, user-friendliness, and creativity.

“It was great to win, but what we also enjoyed about the hackathon was the chance to meet so many people who we never would have met otherwise,” says Vekariya. “Some of those connections have already led to further meetings to identify ways to work together on other projects. We love the collaboration at UVic.”

From the Olympics to the Phoenix

New adjunct professor heads up Canadian-born Broadway hit

BY ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

“Mix ups, mayhem and a gay wedding! Of course the phrase ‘gay wedding’ has a different meaning now... but back then it just meant fun. That’s all this show is—fun!” says the Man in the Chair as he reads the record cover of his favourite musical from 1928, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. This fictitious musical is the foundation for the real 2006 Broadway hit of the same name, running at the Phoenix Theatre throughout November.

Internationally renowned director and choreographer Jacques Lemay agrees that it’s the perfect antidote to the stresses of everyday life. “If you’re wanting to escape reality and have a good belly laugh, this show is the perfect solution for you,” he says. “*The*

Drowsy Chaperone is pure and simple escapism.”

The Drowsy Chaperone is the biggest song-and-dance show the Phoenix has presented in well over a decade: so much so that an entire set of dance shoes were needed for the 19-person cast. “The entire department has been anticipating this production since it was announced last spring,” says Theatre Chair Alana Lindgren. “Jacques has such an impressive history—from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to the opening ceremonies of two Olympics and Commonwealth Games—[so] we know are in good hands.”

The five-time Tony Award-winning musical has been performed everywhere from Broadway to London’s West End, making toes tap and capturing the hearts of musical lovers around the world.

And while the show is based on

The Drowsy Chaperone

Phoenix Theatre
November 8 – 24, 2018
phoenixtheatres.ca
Tickets \$30 (discounts on weekdays)
at 250-721-8000

a fictional musical, the Broadway nostalgia parodied in *The Drowsy Chaperone* is very real, as theatre historian Anthony Vickery will discuss at the free preshow lecture starting at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9.

Ultimately, the Phoenix production—complete with a custom-built propeller plane—will literally do, as the Man in the Chair says, “what a musical is supposed to do: it takes you to another world.”

Provide your feedback on the Strategic Enrolment Plan

After ten months of working group and committee meetings and a range of engagement opportunities for different university constituencies, UVic’s first Strategic Enrolment Plan (SEM) is ready for broad campus feedback. Faculty and staff are invited to an open house session on Dec. 3 to learn more about this important initiative, ask questions and provide input.

Since January 2018, members of the Enrolment Management Working Group and four committees—focused on graduate recruitment and retention, undergraduate recruitment and conversion, undergraduate student retention and success, and data analysis and benchmarking—have been working with consultants to develop goals, strategies and short-, middle- and long-term tactics for this inaugural plan.

“The feedback we’ve received from the campus community so far has been integral to the development of our SEM plan, and we want to give as many faculty and staff as possible the opportunity to provide input as we finalize our plan,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Valerie Kuehne.

AVP Student Affairs Jim Dundson, who has been leading the plan’s development, adds: “Many members of our community will be actively engaged in implementing the plan, and it’s important for us to make sure we’ve heard from them about the action plans that will be directly impacting their work.”

The goal of the SEM process is to align the university’s Strategic Framework with student recruitment goals and retention and success initiatives—optimizing resources while maintaining overall

student enrolment at about the current size.

The plan’s six high-level goals focus on quality, composition (including diversity) and student success:

- Strengthening the entering domestic undergraduate class
- Improving undergraduate retention and progression
- Experiential learning
- Strengthening the international undergraduate population
- Increasing graduate enrolment and
- Increasing the Indigenous student population.

Each goal is supported by a number of strategies and specific action plans for implementation.

Consultation opportunity

The Dec. 3 open house begins at 1 p.m. in Cadboro Commons (Haro room) with an overview of the SEM process and an introduction to the recommended goals, strategies and tactics. From 1:30-3:30 p.m. participants will be encouraged to review and provide feedback on the 15-20 action plans associated with each SEM goal.

Members of the SEM committees and AACRAO Consulting, industry leaders in SEM work in North America, will be available to answer questions.

If you’re not able to attend the open house, your input is still welcome. Please feel free to email semplanning@uvic.ca or contact any member of the Enrolment Management Working Group. A list of working group members along with more information on the SEM process to date is available at uvic.ca/sem.

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Community-university engagement a top priority at UVic

From ecocultural experiential learning on traditional Lkwungen territory and a new choir for seniors with dementia in Victoria to participatory videos for mapping waste and recycling in Kenya—these are only three of the many examples of community-engaged initiatives taking place on campus, throughout BC and around the globe.

“Community-university engagement is a core value at UVic and one of the top six priorities of our Strategic Framework,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Valerie Kuehne, who is chair of the newly formed Community Engagement and Partnerships Executive Committee (CEPEC), which provides direction and overall coordination with representation from academic, research, and external relations portfolios.

“This summer, we took the next step in the evolution of community-university engagement at UVic by transitioning from the Office of Community-University Engagement to a broader, more closely integrated, institutionally driven structure,” adds Kuehne. “This decision helps strengthen the university’s commitment to civic engagement, collective impact, community-engaged learning and community-based research. And new structures, processes, people and resources are already being put in place.”

The university is building on a solid foundation created by the efforts and initiatives of many researchers, staff, advocates, community partners and others over the years.

UVic geographer Crystal Tremblay—who conducted research on recycling cooperatives in Brazil and the economy of binners on the Down-

town Eastside of Vancouver while a UVic grad student—was appointed Special Advisor on Community-Engaged Scholarship in January and will provide leadership and research to support the community-engaged research portfolio.

“What’s exciting is finding this common vision across campus in engaging community in a reciprocal way,” says Tremblay. “For instance, we are exploring the most useful ways of sharing knowledge for the benefit of society. How do we think about impact, beyond peer-reviewed articles? One component includes exploring how to provide capacity-building around the rewarding of scholarship and tenure. And how are we involving community in having input into what that might look like?”

Vice-President Research David Castle notes that UVic’s strengths in community engagement are not only deep, but also broad-based. “It’s an extraordinary feature for community engagement initiatives to span all faculties at a university, and to have such widespread and deep impact, as they do here at UVic.” A small selection include:

- **The Victoria health hackathon** (see story on page 8)
- **Mapping Waste Governance:** a community-based action research project on waste governance and social innovations led by Jutta Gutberlet (geography) with the implementation of multiple case studies on waste picker initiatives including production of participatory videos and photography—in



Members of the ‘Mapping Waste Governance’ and ‘Recycling Networks’ projects gather for a field visit at the local landfill in Kisumu, Kenya. PHOTO: CRYSTAL TREMBLAY.

Buenos Aires (Argentina), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Kisumu (Kenya), Managua (Nicaragua), São Paulo (Brazil), Vancouver and Montreal—exploring some of the challenges and social innovations in waste governance in those communities.

- **Green transportation research:** UVic’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic) has been working with industry partners such as BC Ferries for more than a decade on hybrid propulsion, low carbon fuels and electric vehicles.
- **Voices in Motion:** a UVic research study led by Debra Sheets (nursing) that is investigating how participation in an inter-generational choir with seniors, caregivers and high schools can impact quality of life for persons with dementia, caregiver well-being and reduction of stigma surrounding memory loss.
- **HighTechU:** a youth skill-development academy launched by the Department of Computer Science in collaboration with industry

partners, school districts and community partners to build the skills needed to succeed in higher education and the tech industry and reduce diversity gaps in the fields.

- **The Living Lab Project:** a collaboration between UVic, the WSÁNEĆ and Songhees Nations, the CRD, local non-profits and local schools. It provides Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth with real-life lessons in environmental stewardship and ecocultural restoration efforts, with a focus on water quality and biodiversity. Approximately 40 youth are currently involved.

Two new positions, the Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Coordinators, have been created within UVic’s Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI) to support instructors in developing more hands-on dynamic learning opportunities in the community for our students.

UVic alumna Rhianna Nagel was appointed in July as the university’s

first campus-wide CEL coordinator.

“We are pleased to be offering CEL supports for faculty, students and community members to enhance experiential learning and to continue to foster strong relationships between UVic and our broader community,” says LTSI Executive Director Laurene Shields.

UVic continues to make a difference in local and global communities. According to a recent study, 71 per cent of community engagement occurs on Vancouver Island and 21 per cent of all engagement has an Indigenous focus. Twelve per cent of community engagement occurs internationally.

The new structures, processes and activities will be integrated into existing community-focused initiatives at UVic including those within the Research Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization Unit, the Department of Community and Community Relations, and Co-operative Education and Career Services.

More info about community-university engagement: uvic.ca/cue

FIELD SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM P.1

Victoria, he invited Planning Director Jonathan Tinney along to experience part of the course.

“Tinney joined our group as a co-instructor and co-learner,” says Owens. “He brought a unique point of view to our discussions as a city planner—the students learned a lot about the opportunities and challenges of implementing ideas back home in Victoria.”

Owens intends to further the partnership with the City of Victoria so each year a planner or urban designer can join the program.

Owens truly believes by taking students out of the classroom and into the real world you give them an immersive learning experience that sticks with them much longer than reading a textbook.

“Students reflect on the power of immersion,” says Owens, “of direct experience, place-based and emotional learning, of learning from multiple perspectives and of being part of a supportive learning community.”

The travel-study program focuses on innovation in urban sustainability and, more generally, cultural geography with the students practicing critical thinking skills through continuous individual and group debate and social interaction.

According to Owens, the course balances structured activities with individual exploration and group reflection. Each student keeps a detailed field journal and contributes to a multi-media blog.

For fourth year geography/gender studies student, Justine Bochenek, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join the Urban-Europe field school.

“I feel incredibly lucky to have gone through this experience,” says Bo-



Students work together with local activist Diana Krabbendam to brainstorm new ideas for community engagement in Amsterdam, NL. PHOTO: ALEXANDER MA

chenek. “We met with urban designers in Copenhagen and Amsterdam who have incorporated the philosophy of designing in the community for the community.”

Upon return, each of the 17 students developed a legacy project, investing their new knowledge and enthusiasm in something that gives back to their local community. Bochenek was inspired by a project in Amsterdam and is hoping to create something similar in Victoria. She wants to create a space where community can come together for discussions on urban issues, asking “what does an anti-racist city look like?” or “what does a city without displacement look like?”

Fifth-year geography student Alexander Ma’s legacy project documented the trip using photos and videos with a focus on student interaction with the local community. His images are now being used in a variety of promotional contexts by the department.

“I enjoyed learning about the largely unseen ‘spaces between buildings,’ says Ma. “I gained a different perspective about the cities from our local guides—something I would have missed if I was there as a tourist.”

A course highlight for fifth-year geography and environmental studies student Zoe Kamis was the opportunity to learn from inspiring people working at the local level on important sustainability projects.

“We visited roof top gardens, foraged for our own mussels in the Baltic Sea and cycled down the bike-centric streets of Amsterdam and Copenhagen,” says Kamis. “If you are interested in urban sustainability this course is an enlightening experience that extends beyond the classroom.”

Registration for the next year’s Sustainability Field School is already open, with travel planned through Spain, France, Germany and The Netherlands.

To learn more watch and read the student VLOG: bit.ly/green-europe



Strawberries and sunflowers about an urban pathway. PHOTO: ALEXANDER MA

around the ring

Nominate a faculty member for a Provost's Engaged Scholar Award

Do you know a tenured faculty member who is making a difference through outstanding community-engaged scholarship? Nominate them for the Provost's Engaged Scholar Award by Dec. 7. Recipients receive a one-time award of \$10,000 to support community-engaged teaching and research. Download the nomination package at bit.ly/18-pesa.

The Edge is here video available

A new video showcasing what makes UVic distinct—the unique combination of dynamic learning and vital impact in our extraordinary academic environment—is available for all faculty and staff to use for presentations, conferences, recruitment, orientation and more. Watch the video on YouTube: bit.ly/edge-vid

Continue to bring an extra layer

Temperatures in campus classrooms, offices and labs will continue to be 2–3 degrees lower during the day due to reduced natural gas supply throughout the province. Please be prepared to wear warmer clothing. bit.ly/18-gas-heat



DAY OF THE DEAD



Latin American Studies celebrated Día de Muertos last week with music, art, food, face painting and an altar to honour people's late loved ones. The event included music from Mexico's Chroma String Quartet, who are studying at UVic, as well as complementary hot chocolate and baked bread from the Latinos Without Borders Student Club. Latin American Studies program director Beatriz de Alba-Koch says Día de Muertos, which draws on Indigenous Mexican and Catholic traditions, has grown in popularity in recent years in Mexico, where the occasion is no longer necessarily about going to church or visiting grave yards.

Upper left: During Día de Muertos people often paint their faces to look like skulls. PHOTO: JAKE SHERMAN

Upper right: Latin American Studies program director Beatriz de Alba-Koch says the Day of the Dead celebrates life as well as death. PHOTO: JAKE SHERMAN

Lower left: Cellist Manuel Cruz and Ilya Ivanov, who are part of the visiting Chroma String Quartet, performed at Día de Muertos. PHOTO: JAKE SHERMAN



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Turn down the dose

Lower-energy radiation could increase access to common cancer treatment

Every year, more than 200,000 Canadians develop cancer, with radiation therapy recommended for almost half those cases. The research of University of Victoria medical physicist Magdalena Bazalova-Carter is striving to improve access and effectiveness of that vital therapy while reducing its harms. Radiation requires extremely expensive machines housed in specially built rooms to contain the harmful radiation waves. Unfortunately, both those factors make the treatment very costly, and significantly limit its availability even in middle-income countries.

Bazalova-Carter has been working with a US radiation oncologist for the past seven years to develop a new kind of X-ray machine. A prototype resembling a CT scanner is being built in Nevada, and a scaled-down version of the machine is being assembled in the UVic lab where Bazalova-Carter conducts her research, the X-ray Cancer Imaging and Therapy Experimental Lab (XCITE). “What we are proposing is a lower-energy beam that would be delivered from multiple directions at the same time,” says Bazalova-Carter, who is working with graduate student Dylan Breitkreutz on the project. “There’s a larger volume of irradiated tissue but at a lower dose, which should have little impact on healthy tissues, while the tumour receives the same dose.” Better still, the new machine—



Bazalova-Carter and grad student Dylan Breitkreutz are researching how to reduce the cost of radiation therapy. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

which could be commercially available within five years—can be built for a fraction of the cost of high-voltage X-ray equipment. That’s important in light of the need for greater access to radiation therapy around the world, says Bazalova-Carter, Canada Research Chair in Medical Physics. The high-energy machines currently used for treatment sell for upwards of \$5 million each. They require rooms with two-metre-thick concrete walls to protect others from the impact of radiation waves, and a team of engineers to maintain them. The machine Bazalova-Carter is helping to develop is expected to cost one-tenth of that. Its energy emissions can be contained with nothing more than one-centimetre-thick lead walls. “It’s not a solution for all radiation

therapy cancer treatments, because some tumours are deep in the body and you need that high voltage to reach them. But if you’re talking about lung or breast cancer, it could be a good option,” says Bazalova-Carter. “Having lower-cost equipment would mean easier access to cancer care all around the world. Even in Canada and the UK, the demand for radiation therapy is not being met. The goal is to end the lineup for radiation, as 10 low-energy machines could be bought for the price normally paid for one, with less space requirements, less concrete, less technical support.” Bazalova-Carter will also be researching radiation therapy using gold nanoparticles, each smaller than a cell nucleus. The nanopar-

ticles can be injected into cancer patients as a means of concentrating radiation in a tumour while reducing damage to healthy tissue surrounding it. “You target radiation more effectively with less impact on the body,” she says. Known as “dose-enhanced radiation therapy,” gold nanoparticles are most effective in combination with the low-energy radiation that Bazalova-Carter is studying. Her research is funded through her Canada Research Chair grant and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, with support from the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program that funds the work of Breitkreutz, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and the BC Knowledge Development Fund.

Salmon at stake

Project investigates what young salmon need to grow and thrive as they enter the ocean

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

Salmon returning to the rivers of Vancouver Island to spawn have always had a long and perilous migration route. But in the past 10 years their time away has become deadlier than ever, with populations dropping precipitously. This decline has led to the restriction or closure of culturally and economically important fisheries, and is threatening the survival of species that depend on salmon, including the iconic and endangered southern resident killer whales.

While many factors have contributed to the dwindling numbers of salmon—historic overfishing, warming ocean temperatures, reduced river levels, hatchery competition, freshwater habitat destruction, and disease—it’s difficult to pin down the most significant causes. “If we don’t know why the returning numbers of Pacific salmon are so low, we can’t take effective measures to protect them and the many species that depend on them,” says Francis Juanes, a University of Victoria fisheries ecologist and Liber Ero Chair in Fisheries Research. Juanes believes that many causes of salmon mortality occur early in life. “Juvenile salmon leaving freshwater and entering the Strait of Georgia are undergoing major physiological changes as they adapt to the ocean,” he says. “It’s a stage where they’re very vulnerable to changes in their environment and that’s a stage we know very little about.”



Juanes and grad student Angeleen Olson examine the contents of a fish’s stomach. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Through the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project—a bi-national initiative to determine the primary factors affecting the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead in the region—Juanes and his team are working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and others on Cowichan River chinook salmon to discover what they’re eating and how they grow. They’re also tagging the fish to track their migration patterns and detect if and when they return to spawn. In addition, the team is looking at how the salmon use nearshore foraging habitats such as eelgrass meadows and kelp forests. Good nourishment from these habitats allows them to grow quickly enough to avoid predators and survive into adulthood.

Unfortunately, these vital habitats are being rapidly degraded by shoreline development, overwater structures such as docks and marinas, and more subtle forms of human disturbance, such as climate change. “Food sources may be responding to climate change in different ways than the salmon themselves,” says Juanes. “This could cause a mismatch between when young salmon are entering the ocean and when their food is available.” To test how sockeye and chinook salmon are responding to climate change, his team uses a combination of lab tests and examination of a structure in a fish’s inner ear known as an otolith. Researchers can learn a lot about a salmon’s life from an oto-

lith—from its daily growth to when it entered salt water. “There’s a distinct mark on the otolith showing that change,” says Juanes. “We can even see how fast they grow and infer how quickly they migrate.” Juanes is also looking at how noise pollution may be impacting salmon health and survival. Sounds of marine traffic and underwater mining echo throughout the ocean, interfering with the ability of salmon to communicate, find prey and avoid predators. “Salmon are fascinating species, beyond how good they are to eat,” says Juanes. “We’re just beginning to understand the complexity of their life cycles, and this understanding is irrevocably linked to their recovery.”

around the ring

Giving Tuesday

UVic is once again celebrating Giving Tuesday—a global day to celebrate philanthropy. On Tuesday, Nov. 27, join Giving Tuesday volunteers at the fountain for hot chocolate, whip cream and sprinkles, or purchase a Giving Gram at the University Centre for someone who makes your UVic experience special. Participation is key—last year, our campus and alumni community gave \$25,000 to support student clubs and activities. This year, donate any amount online at uvic.ca/givingtuesday or text “sprinkle” to 20222 to give \$5. Engage on social media using #AddSprinklesUVic. For every use of the hashtag on Twitter and Instagram or Facebook post share, the Alumni Board will donate \$2. Thank you for adding sprinkles to the student experience at UVic.

Pathway lights go LED

During November, Facilities Management is working with Raylec Power to replace campus pathway lighting with new LED lights in various campus locations. Some sidewalks may be closed temporarily while work is underway—please watch for signage. As lighting accounts for 25 per cent of the university’s electricity consumption, LED lights present one of the best opportunities to reduce the electricity bill. New LED technology can provide up to a 60 per cent reduction in electricity use compared to traditional lighting, and last up to 50,000 hours, lowering repair costs over the long term. The upgrade project supports the goals of UVic’s Sustainability Action Plan. bit.ly/18-LED

Instructional grants available

The Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI) provides many different types of support for instructors. Grant applications for course design/redesign and a separate community-engaged learning grant are due by January 7, 2019. Contact Joe Parsons (Itsidircr@uvic.ca) for course design, or Rhianna Nagel (celc1@uvic.ca) for community-engaged learning. bit.ly/LTSI-grant



United Way campaign update

There’s still time to show your local love for UVic’s United Way campaign. On Nov. 22 look for Vikes athletes doing random acts of kindness in the quad during the Vikes Amazing Race. This year United Way has secured donors who will match the total amount of a first-time donation. If current donors increase their gift by 15 per cent or more, that portion is also matched. The United Way depends on people like you who show your local love by giving back to this place we call home. Donate today at bit.ly/UVic-uway.

day in the life

BY MEL GROVES

When Alicia Kaiser arrived at UVic in 2007 to pursue her degree in English and professional writing, she didn't have a clear plan for the future. Eleven years later, she has found her niche as a member of the university's core communications and marketing team, and UVic's first and only digital signage coordinator.

A fateful meeting with the co-op coordinator for the humanities and fine arts in her third year led to a series of co-op terms, including one in University Communications + Marketing (UC+M) as a marketing assistant. "I owe my career path to UVic Coop & Career," she says. "It showed me what I didn't want to do as much as what I did. When I got to the marketing job, I really liked the variety and how all the different pieces fit together."

After graduating with a BA in 2013, Kaiser jumped at the chance to apply when a full-time position opened up in UC+M. As UVic's digital signage coordinator, she is the person behind UVic's Digicaster network of digital screens—and a strategic marketing coordinator. "My job is difficult to explain," she says. "I'm a coordinator for two completely different things: strategic marketing and digital signage."

"The Digicaster is a cross-campus internal communications tool that started from nothing in 2013," Kaiser says. "We're now at 92 displays shared between 34 units." In the first two years, she managed the project to get the system up and running—planning for installations in departments across campus, coordinating software and hardware in partnership with University Systems and Facilities Management, developing guidelines and standards, and onboarding and training departmental users.



Kaiser. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Now, with only a few displays added each year, her role involves ongoing maintenance and training for users, as well as troubleshooting to make sure all her "babies" are operating smoothly.

Kaiser also curates the content for the central content channel on the digital displays, reviewing and scheduling slides that are submitted by campus users—more than a thousand annually. "It's a free and sustainable option for campus communications, so it's pretty popular," she says.

Wearing her strategic marketing hat, Kaiser coordinates marketing projects for internal campus departments. "Every project starts with a

strategy—meeting with partners to find out what their marketing objectives are and gathering information, and then coming up with recommendations through the lens of UVic's institutional priorities and brand, which may involve writing and presenting a project or creative brief," she says.

"After that, I coordinate the design of all pieces of the project, and am the go-between between the department and our stellar designer team. I'm not the creative person but I do a lot of consultation, translating and reviewing to get the project from an idea to the finished product." Recent projects have included the university's Indigenous Plan and Strategic Framework,

and events such as Connect U and the REACH Awards.

In an average day, Kaiser shifts gears many times between meetings, project work and email correspondence. "I always like working with different people," says Kaiser. "I also feel like I can make recommendations that get heard, and see my input being used. Since my position was new, I've been able to carve out a job that's perfect for me."

Originally from Shawnigan Lake, Kaiser calls herself a "gigantic nerd" with a penchant for board games and trivia quizzes. She plays a five-hour Dungeons & Dragons game every Sunday with a "guild of adventurers" and enjoys slipping into the role of

someone else, especially in the sci-fi and horror genres.

She also loves to "lift really heavy things" and finds weightlifting not only makes her feel strong but improves her overall health. A dog lover, she is looking forward to a future that includes a multiple-dog household, as well as more international travel.

"I'm proud to be here," she says of UVic. "I'm a bit of a smalltown girl, but I've always felt safe and comfortable at UVic and find it a really welcoming place to be. I'm close with my team and really happy with what I'm doing."

Last month's Day in the Life column, about Libraries' Shahira Khair, was written by Lisa Abram.

Campus food allergy program a collaborative effort to reduce risk

Kylie Lauzon knows the fear of food allergies. The third-year UVic English student has an arm's length list of ingredients—running from soup to nuts to carrots and sunflower seeds—that she can't eat without triggering an anaphylactic reaction, constricting sore throat, or severe itching.

"I have an abusive relationship with food," she says. "I love it so much, but it hurts me. I thought it was normal to be in pain when you eat." Lauzon has suffered severe reactions after unknowingly ingesting food allergens and carries an Auvi-Q auto-injector device. Similar to the more common EpiPen, it delivers epinephrine to counter the allergic attack. Untreated, anaphylaxis can become fatal within minutes due to respiratory distress and a catastrophic drop in blood pressure.

As not everyone with severe food allergies always carries an epineph-

rine device, UVic Food Services, Student Health and Campus Security Services have collaborated to provide stock-epinephrine—to save lives in the event that someone suffers a reaction and isn't carrying medication. UVic Food Services dietitians Nicole Fetterly and Leanne Halligey initiated the "stock epi" program.

"EpiPens get forgotten, they expire yearly and someone may have never experienced this severe a reaction prior, so many not know they need to carry an EpiPen," says Fetterly. "Stock epinephrine is then the best practice to save a life in the event someone doesn't have their own EpiPen or they possibly need a second dose."

Campus Security Services responds to more than 400 medical emergency calls every year.

So Student Health Services got involved in training security officers as first responders in using epinephrine.

There have been numerous incidents of anaphylaxis on campus in the past and it's estimated that as much as seven per cent of the population suffers from severe food allergies, says Fetterly. If someone suffers an allergic reaction, responders can now quickly administer a dose of epinephrine.

"Our department is proud to be part of this initiative," says Tom Downie, director of Campus Security Services. "By having the ability and more importantly, the accessibility to administer epinephrine, Campus Security will be better equipped to serve the university community for these types of emergencies."

There has never been an allergy-related fatality at UVic, but a Queen's student died in 2015 as the result of a severe allergic reaction and a lack of epinephrine to treat it quickly.



Fetterly, Lauzon and campus security officer Derek Yeo. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

"It's a comfort to me to know there's an EpiPen around," says Lauzon.

"Stock-epinephrine is becoming more common in community centres, shopping malls, schools, summer

campus, ski resorts and other public places across the country," says Fetterly. "UVic will be a leader in taking steps to treat this potentially fatal reaction and save lives on campus."

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