



ARE ARTIFICIAL REEFS CONSERVING AT-RISK MARINE POPULATIONS?

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THE RING

APRIL/MAY 2019

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

CAMPUS UPDATE

Learn more about UVic's 2019–20 budget

All UVic faculty, librarians and staff are invited to join university leaders on Thursday, April 18 from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin Building A144, for an overview of the recently approved 2019–20 Planning and Budget Framework. They'll also share news on Strategic Framework investments and other initiatives. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas. uvic.ca/campusupdates

STAFF AWARDS

Cause for Applause celebrates UVic employees

The celebration of this year's President's Extraordinary Service Award (PESA) nominees and recipients, hosted by President Jamie Cassels, will take place on April 30 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the McKinnon Building lobby. Sixty-eight individuals from across campus—representing six teams, eight individuals and five employee groups—were nominated for the 2019 awards. All staff and faculty are invited and encouraged to attend the Cause for Applause event to recognize the commitment and contributions of all the nominees and recipients. Please RSVP to attend at bit.ly/19-rsvp by April 25. Light refreshments will be served. uvic.ca/pesa

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Register now for Connect U

Connect U, the university's biennial all-staff conference, is back with a new location and format for 2019. Keynote presentations and meals will take place in the Michèle Pujol Room in the Student Union Building, and sessions will take place in the Clearihue Building C and D wings. Come when you can, learn about UVic and meet your colleagues. Registration for the May 22–23 event is free and open to all UVic employees. Full story on page 4. Check out the program and register early: uvic.ca/connectu



Field school on Salt Spring Island. PHOTO: MIKE MORASH

\$9.1

FEDERAL
FUNDING, IN
MILLIONS,
TO SUPPORT
CONSTRUCTION
ON A NATIONAL
CENTRE FOR
INDIGENOUS
LAWS AT UVIC

Federal government invests in new centre for Indigenous law and reconciliation at UVic

The construction of a national centre for Indigenous law and reconciliation at the University of Victoria received major funding support on March 19 with the federal government's announcement of \$9.1 million for the transformative project.

This national centre of excellence for the study and understanding of Indigenous laws will house the world's first joint degree in Indigenous legal orders and Canadian common law (JD/JID), launched at UVic last September. The design of the building will reflect modern and traditional values

of the Coast Salish peoples—welcoming students, academics and community members from all nations for engagement, debate and public education.

Budget 2019 states the federal government will contribute the funds over three years starting in 2019/20 to support the construction of “an Indigenous Legal Lodge at the University of Victoria, a leader in this field.”

“We are grateful to the federal government for its support of the University of Victoria and this national centre for

Indigenous law which will play a vital role in helping to grow a more just and inclusive Canada—socially, economically and legally,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “This learning and research centre and UVic's Indigenous law degree program are part of UVic's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Report and Calls to Action to establish Indigenous law institutes for the development, use and understanding of Indigenous laws.”

SEE INDIGENOUS LAW P.6



Bringing the Strategic Framework to life

The third in a series of articles that explores how staff and faculty across campus are implementing the university's Strategic Framework.

BY JENNIFER KWAN

Q AND A: DR. JOAQUIN
TRAPERO, DIRECTOR OF
INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS

Tell us about your
work at the university.

Our team is housed within the Office of Research Services. We are a small but highly visible team and we have two main goals: attract and retain top research talent and bring leading infrastructure

to our campus so UVic researchers have cutting-edge technology to support their work. As director of Institutional Programs, I oversee UVic's participation in several key programs that fund research, including: Canada Foundation for Innovation, the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund, Canada Research Chairs, Canada 150 Research Chairs and Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Our team helps coordinate major research projects across faculties and research centres. From idea to implementation, in a process that can take several years, we collaborate with staff and faculty across campus on multiple projects at different phases. I would characterize our team as an important hub of information and collaboration.

My team will also be helping with the recruitment of the UVic Strategic Framework Impact Chairs. This new \$1.2-million

initiative will fund four five-year chairs to lead the way in dynamic learning, respect and reconciliation, sustainable futures, and engaging locally and globally.

Research is central to the university. Research links students, staff, faculty and community, and how we contribute to making the planet a better place. It is fundamental to UVic's vision, as spelled out in the Strategic Framework.

How do you see the Strategic
Framework helping or connecting to
your work, and the work of your unit?

Our team lives and breathes strategies 2.1 to 2.5 to advance research excellence and impact, which ultimately means we strive to be in the top tier of the world's research universities. Each strategy is a carefully

SEE FRAMEWORK P.4

around the ring

Learning and teaching grants for instructors

Thinking about designing or redesigning a course? Interested in Indigenizing or internationalizing curricula? Or doing research on your teaching? Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI) offers grants to fund these activities. Grant funds support academic units and educational leaders implementing course and curricular reforms and innovations as well as faculty and staff undertaking the scholarship of learning and teaching (SoTL) in their discipline. Scholarship funds support participation in scholarly activities that improve teaching and learning. Application deadlines are in May 2019. bit.ly/19-teach

Exam dates and Food Services hours

Final exams (April 8-27) and the Easter weekend (April 19-22) mean changing hours for Food Services outlets. Some outlets will be closing for the summer as of April 8, and Bibliocaf  will offer extended evening hours during the exam period. Food Services hours: bit.ly/UVic-food

Open Educational Resource grant

Interested in replacing expensive undergraduate texts or materials with open, freely accessible and customizable alternatives? The 2019 UVSS Grad Class Executive, LTSI and UVic Libraries have collaborated to offer a new grant for adopting, adapting or creating Open Educational Resources. Learn more and apply by May 23: bit.ly/19-teach

Board of Governors approves 2019–20 operating budget

The Board of Governors approved a \$401-million operating budget for the 2019–20 fiscal year at its March 26 meeting, balancing revenues including the BC government grant and tuition, with expenditures that include scholarships, fellowships and academic programming.

The three-year Planning and Budget Framework ensures alignment between the university’s Strategic Framework 2018–23 and the academic and operational priorities for the next three years along with their associated resource commitments in the upcoming year.

Areas of focus represent the Strategic Framework’s priorities and strategies in its six key areas: cultivate an extraordinary academic environment; advance research excellence and impact; intensify dynamic learning; foster respect and reconciliation; promote sustainable futures; and, engage locally and globally.

In keeping with the university’s mission, 80 per cent of the total operating budget is allocated to academic areas including faculties, research, library, student financial aid and awards and student services. The other 20 per cent covers operating expenses in areas such as physical plant maintenance and information technology.

The range of expenditures includes direct support to each faculty; building on the commitment to experiential education; meeting student demand in engineering, Indigenous law, business and social sciences; support of research chairs; student health services and housing; the campus sustainability plan; educational and research partnerships with Indigenous communities; and enhancing research infrastructure and supports.

On the revenue side, the provincial grant for 2019/20 is expected to increase by \$15 million. This funding is to cover compensation increases for employees under the Public Sector Employer’s Council mandate, the net cost of the new employer health tax and funding for expansion of the engineering/computer science and JD/JID programs.

Increased student fees reflect increases of two per cent for domestic students; four per cent for international graduate students; four per cent for international undergraduate students who enrolled before April 2018 (grand-parented at a lower increase) and 15 per cent for international undergraduate students enrolled after April 2018.

As a publicly supported research university and consistent with Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training policy, domestic stu-

dent tuition fee increases at UVic are limited to two per cent. As provincial funding does not support international undergraduate students, UVic has a responsibility to ensure that international students pay the full cost of their education and contribute positively to the university’s long-term financial stability and commitment to academic quality.

The decision to proceed with the increase, part of a two-year plan initiated last year, was made after careful consideration and evaluation of alternatives. To ensure international students could plan for their finances while in Canada, students who applied last year received a letter noting the approved increase for 2018/19 and the proposed increase for 2019/20. Applications from international undergraduate students to UVic continue to increase. The university will continue to look for opportunities to both increase the socio-economic diversity of our international student population and implement programs and services to better support their success while on campus. This will be done through strategies set out in the recently approved Strategic Enrolment Management plan and further discussions including at upcoming board meetings.

After the increase, international tuition fees will continue to be lower than peer BC universities. UVic provides international students with a wide range of financial supports that include scholarships, bursaries, emergency loans, as well as work study opportunities.

For 2019–20, other fee increases include an increase of four per cent for standard student housing; four per cent in residential meal plans; five per cent in parking fee and a two per cent increase in child-care fees. Ancillary services operate on a cost-recovery basis.

The Board of Governors had to adjourn and relocate their meeting from the Senate chambers due to loud, ongoing interruptions by students opposed to the planned increase to international student fees and by students urging the university to divest from fossil fuels. The board will receive an update on the student request at a future meeting.

The board chair expressed multiple times during the meeting that the board wanted to conduct the business in open session with the students present before deciding to adjourn after about 25 minutes to continue board discussions in a different building. Minutes of the meeting are expected to be posted as usual along with the next board meeting’s agenda.



Site prep begins for student housing and dining project

Although construction for the university’s student housing and dining project won’t kick off until 2020, early preparation work at the site will begin this spring and summer. Starting in May, watch for selective deconstruction, road and utility work around the Cadboro Commons and SUB buildings. Exterior concrete pedestrian walkways, stairs and walls at Cadboro Commons will be deconstructed, and the access lane from Sinclair Road to the rear of the SUB will be widened—with the addition of an improved, marked crossing for the Alumni Chip Trail. Full info: bit.ly/site-prep

University unveils Strategic Enrolment Management Plan

The university’s inaugural Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Plan was unanimously approved by Executive Council and brought to Senate and Board of Governors for information in March 2019. The plan—which aligns student enrolment goals with UVic’s Strategic Framework and other key institutional initiatives—is now available at uvic.ca/sem.

“We are very pleased to be launching our SEM plan, following a year of productive work and extensive consultations with our community,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Valerie Kuehne. “The plan positions the university to achieve our enrolment priorities well into the future, and lays out a clear pathway for reaching our goals.”

During 2018, members of the Enrolment Management Working Group and four committees—graduate recruitment and retention; undergraduate recruitment and conversion; undergraduate student retention and success; and data analysis and benchmarking—worked with AACRAO Consulting, SEM leaders in North America, to

develop the plan’s six goals, supporting strategies and implementation tactics. The plan aims to maintain student enrolment at about the current size, while optimizing resources.

“The engagement of faculty and staff was integral to the development of our SEM plan,” says AVP Student Affairs Jim Dunsdon. “We’re looking forward to the implementation phase, and working together to support student recruitment, retention and success in the years ahead.”

As part of the campus engagement strategy for the plan’s implementation, a series of presentations will occur throughout April and May prior to the official launch of the plan in May 2019. A copy of the presentation outlining the high-level implementation strategy can be found at uvic.ca/sem.

During 2019, a five-year implementation plan and committee structure will be developed.

An annual SEM summit will continue to advance the plan and provide an opportunity to report on implementation progress to the UVic community.



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uvic.ca/news



Federal funds for indigenous law centre
Media release



Rainforests of the ocean
Media release



Patrick Lane: Rest in Poetry
Media release



Competitive spirit propels student athlete
Media release



Co-op Employers of the Year
Media release



New archive of acclaimed writer
Media release

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Ancient ways of knowing help heal, bring dignity to Indigenous youth

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

How does one “speak back” to violence experienced by Indigenous girls, young women, Two-Spirit youth, even whole communities impacted from centuries of oppression?

This question frames the work of Sisters Rising, an Indigenous-led, community-based research project in its third year of embracing one overarching intention: to honour Indigenous youth who have experienced sexualized, gender-based violence by offering traditional land- and arts-based teachings.

Shezell-Rae Sam, a graduate student with University of Victoria’s School of Child and Youth Care, has worked on the frontlines of Sisters Rising for the past two years. Sam is Nuu-chah-nulth of Ahousat and works with a team to engage Indigenous youth using traditional methods and materials. Rather than focus on trauma, participants are supported to speak to their strengths through learning and experiencing Indigenous knowledge systems involving spirit and land.

“We ask participants, ‘What do you need to lift yourself up?’ They tell us they want to connect to their culture. They want to feel appreciated and respected. They want basic supports for health and community involvement, but they want that support from people who have lived their same story,” says Sam.

A key finding, says Sam, is that all participants state their claim for connectivity. “They want to feel happiness, to find their families, to learn their first language. This involves ‘re-centring,’ which is the focus of my thesis.”



UVic graduate student Shezell-Rae Sam pictured in a cedar hat made by her grandmother. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Sam is completing her master’s thesis with Sandrina de Finney, a child and youth care researcher and the principal investigator for Sisters Rising. Sam’s learning has shaped her identity as a “knowledge seeker,” committed to helping Indigenous young people find their way back after experiencing sexualized trauma. To date, Sisters Rising has conducted workshops involving around 350 young people. The team also works with community leaders to help them deal with youth suicide, violence and self-harm.

Sam recently applied for her own research grant to continue leading workshops with Indigenous girls and local Elders within her community.

“These girls are afraid, withdrawn,

ashamed and exhausted. Their testimonials often speak to feelings of a deep ugliness where their sadness turns into anger.” Sam strives to counter their oppression with a narrative of resiliency. “We must acknowledge our strengths; we are still here being who we are.”

Such connections can be life-altering, she explains. When an Elder tells a girl about her people’s history with cedar—used for housing, clothing, canoes and carvings—then shows her how to make a cedar rose as her ancestors did, the spark of identity is lit as teachings are handed down. As with wool, land-based materials carry forward ancient stories of Coast Salish women crafting ceremonial head-

dresses or knitting Cowichan sweaters to help feed their families.

“While sharing stories is valuable,” says Sam, “some cannot articulate what they’ve been through.” Using land-based materials encourages the participant to express herself using art as her people have done. “When a girl realizes she is part of an ancient way of knowing,” Sam explains, “our findings show this connection can heal and regenerate a young life.”

Sisters Rising is part of the Networks for Change and Well-being study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada with the International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies initiative.

around the ring

Become a UVic Homestay host

The UVic Homestay program is looking for new hosts. If you have ever considered hosting an international student, contact us! Our award-winning program staff will support you every step of the way so that you can enjoy this rewarding cultural experience, while receiving a monthly stipend of \$950. bit.ly/19-homes

Campus tours for employees

If you are a new employee or have yet to experience a tour of campus, register now for a 90-minute VIP tour. Our new enclosed golf cart means we can offer you a great experience rain or shine! Explore campus, meet new faces and learn more about our extraordinary work environment. Register for a campus tour: bit.ly/VIP-tour

BC Transit spring service changes

As of April 8, BC Transit has made service level adjustments to some routes serving UVic, including seasonal cancellation of route 16 Uptown/UVic and minor changes to route 4 UVic/Downtown. See the BC Transit website for full details: bctransit.com/victoria

Federal budget boosts funding for TRIUMF

Canada’s 2019 federal budget, unveiled March 19, also included substantial funding for TRIUMF, Canada’s particle accelerator centre, which was co-founded by UVic 50 years ago and continues to be a substantial nexus for UVic-led research. There are currently 18 TRIUMF scientists serving as adjunct faculty members at UVic in particle physics and its related fields.

The five-year federal funding of \$292.7 million represents the largest single investment in TRIUMF to date.

In addition to bolstering TRIUMF’s commercialization initiative, the funding will support two major research platforms at TRIUMF: the Institute for Advanced Medical Isotopes and the UVic-led Advanced Rare Isotope Laboratory (ARIEL).

“UVic is a founding partner of TRIUMF,” says Vice President Research David Castle, “and our scientists’ research areas including particle physics, accelerator physics, medical physics and nuclear astrophysics. This five-year funding boost ensures that TRIUMF and UVic can continue to lead in cutting-edge research to advance science, medicine and business.”

ARIEL is the highest-power rare isotope facility of its kind for producing isotopes for fundamental research in nuclear physics, quantum materials and applications in medicine. ARIEL’s high-powered, superconducting radio frequency electron linear accelerator will support researchers in their pursuit of critical advances in the understanding of isotopes while shedding

light on some of the most fundamental questions in science, like:

- How and where are the heavy elements—from iron to uranium—produced in the universe?
- What are the best quantum materials for next-generation superconductors or batteries?
- How can we use rare isotopes in the fight against cancer or Alzheimer’s disease?

Funded advances in isotope target and ion-source technologies at ARIEL will enable the production of entirely new isotopes, while tripling TRIUMF’s output of rare isotopes—with associated benefits in science, medicine and business.

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 University of Victoria

Register soon as space is limited
uvic.ca/connectu

Caroline Cameron (biochemistry and microbiology) has received the Genome BC Award for Scientific Excellence, as part of the 2019 LifeSciences BC Awards, for her work using advanced technologies to study the pathogen that causes syphilis. Cameron is one of the world’s leading experts on this sexually- and vertically-transmitted infection that has seen an alarming global resurgence in recent years, including within BC. The Cameron Lab is one of only a few labs in the world, and the only lab in Canada, that is working to understand the basic science of the pathogen that causes syphilis, *Treponema pallidum*. In the lab, Cameron and her trainees focus on development of novel vaccine candidates and diagnostic tests for syphilis. The LifeSciences BC Awards are presented annually and celebrate the full spectrum of life science research in BC from discovery to commercialization, recognizing individuals and companies who are successfully advancing health outcomes locally and on a global scale.

On April 1, geographer **Chris Darimont** and his PhD student, **Erin Rechsteiner** (who is also a Hakai Institute researcher), were honoured at the 24th annual Ocean Awards for marine science and conservation. The awards recognize invaluable contributions to understanding, conserving and communicating the diverse and irreplaceable aquatic ecosystems of western Canada and the species that inhabit them. Darimont received the Murray A. Newman Conservation Award for highly significant recent work and/or an entire career of important, field-leading contributions in ocean conservation, and Rechsteiner received the Michael A. Bigg Award for highly significant student research advancing knowledge related to the oceans. Darimont, who is recognized as one of the top large carnivore scientists in Canada and internationally, is the Science Director for the Raincoast Conservation Foundation and holds the Raincoast Chair in Applied Conservation Science at UVic. Trained broadly, Darimont and his research team use ecological, evolutionary and social sciences approaches to confront real-world conservation problems and opportunities. Collectively, his body of work is making significant contributions to coastal research, and the growing body of knowledge on the interface between species and habitats that bridge land and sea. Rechsteiner’s research on sea otters, their prey and relationship to humans is breaking new ground for its originality, breadth and striking findings. Capitalizing on 30 years of census information from the Central Coast and a natural experimental context of sea otter sites that range from one to 30 years of occupation time, Rechsteiner is asking questions about sea otter foraging that were not possible before.

Sue Paish named 2019 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year

Innovator and entrepreneur Sue Paish, QC, CEO of Canada’s Digital Technology Supercluster is the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business 2019 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year (DEYA).

“We are thrilled to recognize Sue Paish as our 2019 recipient,” says Peter Gustavson, chair of the DEYA committee. “Sue is a true inspiration, always working towards making the world better – whether it is through technological advancement, innovations in healthcare, or law.”

Paish will receive her award on May 22 at the Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Gala, held at the Victoria Conference Centre.

Canada’s Digital Technology Supercluster is one of five business-led innovation superclusters, which facilitate and fund ambitious, collaborative technology leadership projects that develop products and platforms. Projects approved and supported through the Digital Technology Supercluster will foster economic growth across Canada through delivering globally leading digital technologies developed by strong industry-led consortia who will support the scaling of small enterprises while delivering jobs, increasing GDP and advancing Canada’s competitiveness.

The Supercluster’s postsecondary network, which includes UVic, provides platforms to work with multiple private sector partners simultaneously—accelerating the commercial opportunities for their research while creating work-integrated learning opportunities for students.

Under Paish’s leadership, the Supercluster has positioned Canada as a global leader in digital technologies by bringing together small, medium-sized and large companies, post-secondary institutions, research organizations and non-profits.

In addition to the Supercluster, Paish has led transformative change in her previous position as president and



Paish. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

CEO of LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services where she grew the company to be the nation’s leader in diagnostic services. Prior to that, in her role as CEO of Pharmasave Drugs (National) Ltd., she implemented new dispensary management technology that has become the Canadian standard.

“Sue’s ability to lead companies and people through technological transformations with great success is a quality we’re excited to celebrate,” says Saul Klein, dean of the business school. “Our students and business leaders will learn from her exceptional leadership, teamwork and innovation skills.”

Paish has received an Influential Women in Business Lifetime Achievement Award from *Business in Vancouver*, Women’s Executive Network has named her to their Hall of Fame for Canada’s Top 100 Most Influential Women, and the Public Policy Forum has honoured her with the Peter Lougheed award for Public Policy. Paish holds an honorary doctorate from the British Columbia Institute of Technology and is an appointee to Queen’s Counsel in BC.

FRAMEWORK CONTINUED FROM P.1

crafted roadmap that will help UVic fulfill its vision. A key focus is to make strategic investments in existing and emerging areas of research strength that may open doors to opportunities for global impact.

As a former astrophysicist, I know personally the great ups and downs, needs and worries of being a researcher. With so many things to juggle—research, teaching, mentoring, communicating, administrative paperwork—I feel great pride in being a connector and helping UVic’s researchers with project management so they can focus on research. Within our team, we also support researchers by directing them to the right people, helping develop research agreements

and helping communicate project results.

Does the work you do correspond to particular strategies in the framework?

I interact closely with the university executive to implement strategy 2.1—identifying and taking necessary strategic risks to invest and support opportunities for collaboration, innovation, partnership and external research funding in emerging research areas.

A really good example of bringing strategy 2.1 to life is UVic’s focus on materials science. Materials science is generally the development of new

Connect U coming to campus May 22–23

Connect U, the university’s all-staff conference, is back with an all-new location and format for 2019. Registration for the May 22-23 event is free and open to all UVic employees.

“We encourage staff who have never been to Connect U to come and see what it’s all about this year,” says conference co-chair Sarah Hood. “It’s a great way to meet your colleagues while learning more about the university. People are welcome to come when they can—whether that’s for a meal, a visit to the info fair or to take in a session or a tour that piques their interest.” This year’s program showcases how departments and units are embedding the priorities of the university’s Strategic Framework in their day-to-day work.

A full day of conference sessions takes place on day one (May 22) from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Kick the day off with a hot breakfast and join UVic Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill for a keynote presentation in the Michèle Pujol Room, including the Staff Sustainability Champion Awards. Don’t forget to drop off your postcard entry form at the registration table for a chance to win fantastic prizes, including gift certificates, swag and group tours.

Then head off to the wide range of sessions in the Clearihue Building, or an experiential tour at a variety of campus locations. Try out a dance lesson, explore Finnerty Gardens, learn about the Witness Blanket project, remove invasive ivy from Mystic Vale or pick up a paintbrush for the community mural art project in the Campus Bike Centre. Sit and listen or get your hands dirty—it’s your choice! Enjoy lunch with President Jamie Cassels, as he shares how UVic is working to implement the Strategic Framework priorities.

On day two (May 23), bring your walking shoes and coffee

mug to enjoy a progressive outdoor breakfast with the UVic leadership team. Then choose from a range of experiential and walking tours, including getting behind the scenes at Printing Services, Ocean Networks Canada, the Campus Community Garden and the new music digitization studio, among other unique UVic locations.

From 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Michèle Pujol Room (day 2 only), you’re welcome to drop in to the info fair, featuring displays from units across campus (no registration required).

The event wraps up with a lunchtime barbeque and the ever-popular scavenger hunt in the quad. Now an official part of Connect U, the game starts at 12:15 p.m. and will end in time for the barbeque. Players will compete as teams to accomplish a variety of weird and wacky tasks. Talk to your colleagues now about forming a team: to register, contact gamemaster John Threlfall (johnnt@uvic.ca).

A team of staff volunteers will again be helping the event run smoothly. Two-hour volunteer shifts for tour assistants, room hosts and other roles are still available at events.eply.com/connectU2019volunteers. Please sign up by April 12.

“This is my first Connect U experience. I’m excited to attend some of the cultural events and to meet co-workers I wouldn’t normally meet from across campus,” says Sarah Grindlay (continuing studies). “I’m especially looking forward to taking part in the community mural art project, and going on a Coast Salish art walking tour.”


Employees are invited to register for a single session or a full slate of activities. Register early as space is limited, and popular sessions fill up quickly. Full info and registration at uvic.ca/connectu.



Trapero. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

excellence and impact at UVic, and other priorities of the framework including intensifying dynamic learning, promoting sustainable futures, and engaging locally and globally. It is a research facility where researchers from multiple fields can conduct fundamental and applied research in advanced materials. CAMTEC sustains an environment that promotes research excellence, education and training for the next generation of world-class researchers and leaders. I am extremely proud to lead the team that is helping make all this happen.

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eDNA tool a leap in progress detecting endangered frog species in BC

BY JENNIFER KWAN

A new genetic tool developed by UVic researchers can detect an endangered species’ DNA from water, making environmental impact assessments more effective and reliable.

The eDNA—or environmental DNA—technology detects the presence of a species in a matter of days. Traditionally, it can be weeks in the field for researchers to make direct observations for site assessments undertaken for a variety of reasons such as tracking invasive species or identifying possible constraints for natural resource development.

“Ecological survey methods can be logistically challenging, time-consuming and expensive. With eDNA, a researcher can scoop up water samples and basically do ‘CSI for fish and wildlife,’” says Caren Helbing, a UVic professor of biochemistry and microbiology. “The technology allows us to see the unseen. It is a game changer for science as it allows researchers to determine a higher detection success rate in a very short period of time, while cutting costs, time and impact on the environment.”

eDNA refers to the genetic material that an organism releases into the

environment such as skin cells, feces and mucus. The eDNA technology features the use of an IntegritE-DNA test that can be used by regulators, resource developers and First Nations for enhanced detection reliability, says Helbing. “The ultimate goal is for broader regulatory and public acceptance of eDNA.”

Helbing and her co-workers at UVic and Hemmera Envirochem Inc. used the technology, which has a patent pending, to confirm the presence of the coastal tailed frog west of Lillooet, BC. The innovation helped identify the existence of tailed frog DNA at a rate 10 times higher over the course of five days compared to traditional surveying methods conducted previously over a four-year period, according to research recently published in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE*. This resulted in a tripling of the known range of this species.

From 2000 to 2013, four previous studies examined 292 sites using traditional ecological survey methods in multiple regions west of Lillooet. The occurrence of frogs was low at about 7.9 per cent. Helbing’s research, conducted over five days in 2016, detected tailed frog DNA at a higher rate of 76 per cent.



Helbing. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

A big problem in detecting eDNA is making sure that the test is working properly, says Helbing. Thinking that a species is not there when the DNA is actually too degraded or contaminated with impurities could have serious

consequences. IntegritE-DNA determines that the DNA quality is good enough for testing to achieve more reliable and less biased results. The technology can be applied to a broad range of fish and wildlife species.

The work was funded by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

UVic geography PhD student joins International Year of the Salmon study

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Trawling through international waters in search of salmon had its ups and downs according to geography PhD student, Perumthuruthil Suseelan Vishnu, who spent six weeks aboard the Russian vessel, the Professor Kaganovsky.

“The first week was great,” says Vishnu, “but I struggled with seasickness the entire time, so working with above-water hyperspectral sensors was often challenging.”

The Gulf of Alaska expedition set sail on Feb. 16 with 21 international scientists aboard who had one mission in common—to better understand the winter ecology of Pacific salmon. The expedition covered a large area of the northeast Pacific Ocean that is crucial to BC salmon stocks, and is a feeding ground for the majority of Pacific salmon who migrate there in the winter.

For Vishnu, it was an exciting opportunity to focus on using optical remote sensing techniques to identify and characterize the phytoplankton community composition in the Alaskan waters. He was tasked with acquiring in-situ data water spectra in the Gulf of Alaska for validation of ocean colour satellite images.

“Phytoplankton is the basic building block of all life in the ocean,” he explains. “We have never sampled this area before so it was the first time we could assess the habitat condition, abundance, distribution, and the biological status of all five species of Pacific salmon.”

The idea of the salmon study originated with Richard Beamish, an emeritus scientist originally with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Executive Director of the Pacific Salmon Foundation Brian Riddell. Both led the funding drive that raised \$1.2 million to charter the Russian vessel, Professor Kaganovsky.

According to the expedition website, “The major scientific objective is to ultimately discover the fundamental mechanisms that regulate salmon



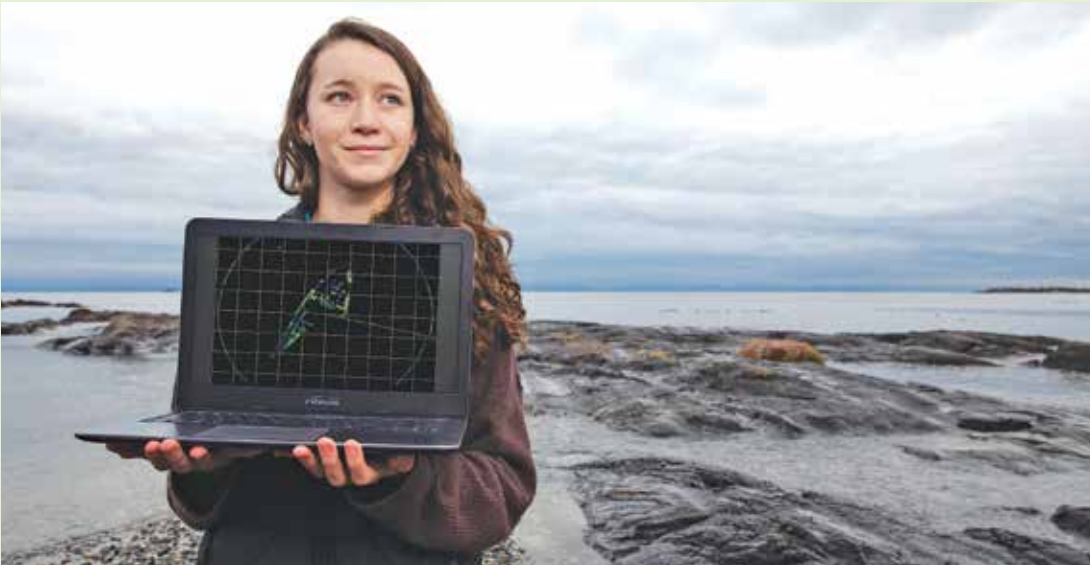
Vishnu on board the research vessel. PHOTO: PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION

in the northeast Pacific Ocean. The expedition will be the first comprehensive study of the stock abundance, composition and condition of all stocks of all species of Pacific salmon at the end of their first ocean winter.”

“It was a privilege to join the expedition,” says Vishnu. “It was a collaborative exercise so hopefully our data will be used to support stronger salmon populations in the future.”

Vishnu’s supervisor, UVic geographer Maycira Costa, has been using satellite imagery to measure ocean productivity for 15 years out of her SPECTRAL Remote Sensing Lab. Costa will work closely with her grad student to analyze the data collected during the voyage. Their hope is the findings will be used to understand how climate and the changing ocean environment affect salmon survival.

The International Gulf of Alaska Expedition was supported by donations from the BC Salmon Farmers Association, the governments of BC and Canada, Harmac Pacific, the Pacific Salmon Commission, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Sitka Foundation and Tony Allard.



UVic master’s student Desiree Bulger with a sonar image of the G.B. Church wreck near Sidney. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Are artificial reefs conserving at-risk marine populations?

BY VALERIE SHORE

Over the last 27 years, eight ships and one airplane have been intentionally sunk off the BC coast for the enjoyment of recreational divers—and to enhance habitat for local marine life.

Yet artificial reefs remain controversial. Advocates say they provide new habitat opportunities for fish and eventually mimic natural reef settings. Critics dismiss them as dumped garbage, saying there are more effective ways to enhance critical fish habitat.

So which is it? Desiree Bulger, a master’s student in the University of Victoria’s School of Environmental Studies, set out to find some answers.

“As I learned more about artificial reefs around the world I discovered how variable their effectiveness is,” she says. “Review papers suggest that only 50 to 60 per cent of conservation-focused reefs are meeting their goals.”

For her study—the first of its kind to assess the conservation effectiveness of BC’s artificial reefs—Bulger targeted groundfish, especially rockfish, found on rocky reefs along the south coast.

“Rockfish are in the middle of the food chain and affect a lot of other species,” she explains. “They’re also a

fish we want to eat and are very susceptible to being overfished. Several species are listed as threatened or of special concern.”

Underlying her research were three basic questions: How do BC’s artificial reefs compare to natural rocky reefs? Are they effective in supporting groundfish communities? And what features make a good artificial reef?

Using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) supplied by UVic mechanical engineer Brad Buckham, along with multi-beam sonar technology, Bulger surveyed nine artificial reefs and nine natural reefs at sites from Sidney to Campbell River to the mainland. Depths ranged from 10 to 45 metres.

She and her field crew of five—four undergraduates plus one engineering graduate student—ran the ROV along transects at each site, shooting video and documenting depth, current, slope, roughness of surfaces, and nearby habitat quality.

Mapping software was used to select natural reef sites, which ranged from underwater ridges to boulder fields and rocky walls. They were situated as close as possible to the artificial reefs.

The oldest artificial reef surveyed was the steamship Capilano, which foundered near Powell River in 1915.

The newest was the navy destroyer Annapolis, which was intentionally sunk in Howe Sound in 2015.

Bulger later slogged her way through hours of video counting groundfish. “I got very good at identifying fish-shaped blobs in poor visibility,” she laughs.

In all, she observed 14 groundfish species, eight of them rockfish. Most striking was the difference between abundance and biodiversity at reef sites.

“Artificial reefs had very high numbers of rockfish or not many at all. Natural reefs consistently had a medium number of rockfish and greater diversity—more species.”

Bulger is now using the sonar data to create high-definition 3D maps of each site. “I’m looking at more fine-scale physical characteristics that may be driving fish patterns. This could have implications for future artificial reef design.”

More studies need to be done to better understand how artificial reefs impact an ecosystem before moving forward, advises Bulger.

“This study suggests that human-made habitat may be useful in the conservation of some threatened species. But to get diverse ecosystems, preserving older, more heterogeneous natural reefs may be the best option.”

ringers

Susan Duncan, director of UVic’s School of Nursing, and **Kelli Stajduhar**, nursing professor and researcher with UVic’s Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, are recipients of Centenary Medals of Distinction from UBC’s School of Nursing. One hundred such awards will go to people who have brought high honour to the profession and to the school. Duncan and Stajduhar are UBC both nursing alum who have made profound contributions to the profession through research and public speaking, influencing policy change and public opinion, and advancing knowledge through collaboration and curriculum review.

Digital Scholarship Librarian **Matt Huculak** is part of a small editorial team that won the Association of American Publishers PROSE Award for Innovation in Journal Publishing, for work creating a hybrid model of publication that is online and open access while being fully subsidized by the print journal. As the founding managing editor of the Modernism/modernity Print Plus platform hosted at Johns Hopkins University Press, Huculak was on the development and design team that oversaw the development of the first four journal volumes. Developed in 2013, the website allows scholars of modernism, who study the period of electronic media, to supplement their print work with relevant film, audio and other media clips, and provides forums for scholars to write peer-reviewed articles that are in conversation with one another.

INDIGENOUS LAW CONTINUED FROM P.1

The centre will also house the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU), which is a world leader in the study and application of Indigenous law. ILRU has partnered with over 50 Indigenous communities across Canada on legal research questions related to lands, water, governance, citizenship, gender and human rights, harms and injuries, and child welfare, and works with institutions across the globe to revitalize and rebuild Indigenous legal orders.

“Figuratively and literally, this commitment will enable us to build a strong, stable foundation from which to teach and study Indigenous law as one of the great legal traditions of the world,” says Val Napoleon, director of the ILRU and the JD/JID program.

UVic is committed to continuing its work with other institutions to share knowledge, curriculum and course materials to help them develop their own versions of the JID/JD and ILRU.

The centre, to be built as an addition to the current UVic law building, will be designed to reflect and honour the long-standing relationships between the law school and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples. It will include public lecture theatres, faculty and staff offices, an Elders’ room and spaces for gathering, ceremony, and sharing of histories and knowledge.

The building’s state-of-the-art digital capabilities will enable students to connect with their home territories and allow communities to share their legal traditions with one another. It will also allow UVic to host conferences, public workshops, research and partnerships for faculty, students and visitors. Planning for the building is in

the early concept stage. The development and 2018 launch of the JD/JID program relied on consultations with and support from a wide range of stakeholders across Canada. The BC government invested \$2.5 million in the program’s operating costs in Budget 2018. Also last year, Vancity contributed \$1 million and the McConnell Foundation donated \$500,000.

Response to the TRC

This national centre for Indigenous law and reconciliation is fundamental to the fulfillment of Calls to Action numbers 27, 28 and especially 50 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

“In keeping with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal organizations, to fund the establishment of Indigenous law institutes for the development, use, and understanding of Indigenous laws and access to justice in accordance with the unique cultures of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.”

Senator Murray Sinclair, former judge and Chief Commissioner of the TRC, said of the centre for Indigenous law and reconciliation and the joint JD/JID program:

“They are precisely what we had hoped would follow from the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and 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.”

Momentum builds behind UVic’s respect and reconciliation commitments

Securing funding for a new national centre for Indigenous law and reconciliation, and launching the world’s first Indigenous law degree program, are just two of the significant steps UVic has taken this year to advance its commitment to fostering respect and reconciliation.

Other initiatives over the past 18 months to further both this Strategic Framework priority, as well as the goals of UVic’s Indigenous Plan, 2017–22, include:

- Two new academic programs that address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action: a Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency, and the Indigenous Studies Major in the Faculty of Humanities, with Lisa Kahaleole Hall, a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) scholar, as its first director;
- Five Indigenous faculty members appointed to newly funded tenure-track positions in humanities, law, nursing and public administration, and 20 Indigenous staff hired;
- Kwagiulth/Coast Salish artist Carey Newman’s appointment to a three-year term as the Audain Professor of Art History in the department of Visual Arts;
- Nineteen new scholarships and awards for Indigenous students, totalling \$1.4 million in additional support;
- Further expansion of UVic’s International Indigenous Cooperative Education Program, unique globally, through two new partnerships with Australian universities and the creation of a new Indigenous co-op coordinator position;
- Renewal of the Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE);
- Creation of the Department of Indigenous Education in the faculty of Education, with Jean-Paul Restoule, an Anishinaabe scholar and educator, as chair;
- Appointment of Qwul’sih’yah’maht, Robina Thomas, as the inaugural Executive Director of the Office of Indigenous and Academic Community Engagement;
- Launch of the Indigenous Youth 3C Challenge, a new, non-credit entrepreneurship program to encourage Indigenous youth to engage in the economy in their own terms, with \$3.4m in federal funding for the National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development (NCIED) and Gustavson School of Business to work in partnership with the BC Association of Friendship Centres;
- Twenty-three Indigenous-focused academic programs offered across campus ranging from undergraduate certificates to doctoral programs.

Watch for more details in a progress report on the implementation of UVic’s Indigenous Plan later this year.



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2018–19 UVic Student Ambassador team.

Students Ambassadors donate \$2,000 to help students in financial need

BY MEGAN LOWRY

After a busy year of classes and volunteering across campus, this year’s cohort of UVic Student Ambassadors met at the University Club to celebrate their achievements.

“We are so proud of the work we did,” says Kayleigh Erickson, Student Ambassadors co-president. “We not only supported students through recharge events with free hot chocolate and cupcakes but this year we gave directly to students who need financial help the most.”

Using profits from selling flowers and frames at convocation, the

student-led group is donating \$1,000 to the Student Emergency Fund. The fund offers support to students who are in financial crises and need immediate assistance.

“An emergency is something you can’t plan for,” says Dipayan Nag, Student Ambassador co-president. “Knowing that we can help a fellow student pay tuition or fly home to see loved ones during a family crisis is really rewarding.”

Established through the Alumni Association in 1996, the Student Ambassadors have given more than \$42,000 to campus initiatives.

“Our mission is to improve student

life on campus through service projects and philanthropy,” says Erickson. “Part of that is also helping students through the transition to alumni by showing them how to remain connected to campus.”

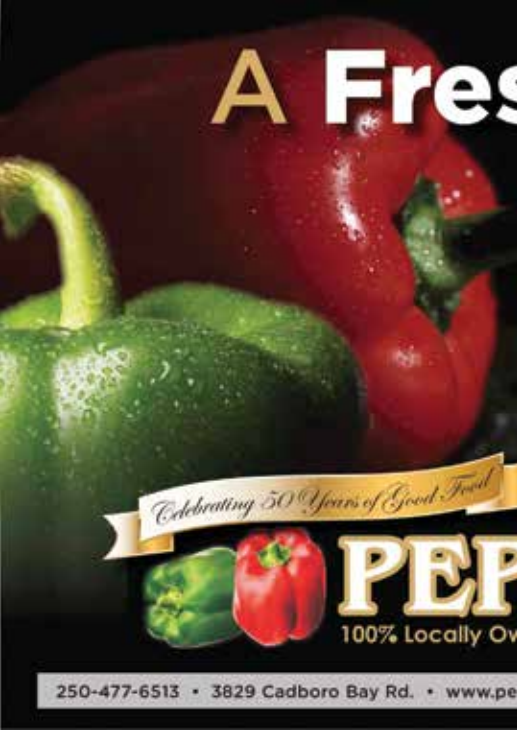
So, it’s fitting that an anonymous alumni donor surprised the group—matching their contribution to the Student Emergency Fund this year, making their total gift \$2,000.

“It was a complete surprise to us,” says Nag, “But it shows us the power of a collective community coming together to make a difference, and that will hopefully continue to inspire giving across campus.”



BFA show

If it’s April, it must be time for the annual Department of Visual Arts BFA exhibition, this year titled *Scatter*. Work by 29 graduating student artists will fill the Visual Arts building with painting, photography, sculpture, performance, digital media and installations. Don’t miss the always-popular opening night reception, starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 18. *Scatter* continues 10 a.m.–6 p.m. daily to April 28. (Exhibition will be closed Easter Sunday and Monday.) Painting by Rain Cabana Boucher



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Solid (pedagogical) ground for field school experiences

New book gathers expertise of UVic field school instructors to learn from—and extend—off-campus teaching opportunities

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

As field schools become more popular, both at UVic and in higher education generally, the publication of a first-of-its-kind book, *Out There Learning: Critical Reflections on Off-Campus Study Programs*, is timely. Edited by a team of UVic faculty members across five faculties, the book is unique in its multi-disciplinary scope.

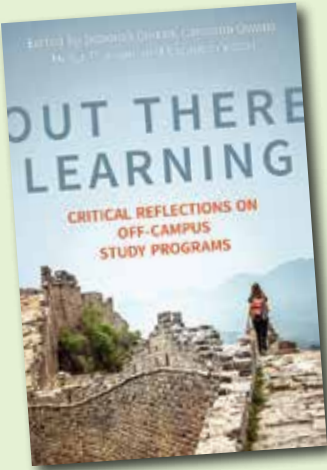
Cameron Owens, an Associate Teaching Professor from the Department of Geography, and Associate Professor Deborah Curran, who is cross-appointed in the Faculty of Law and School of Environmental Studies, were among the scholars who contributed to the book, which was launched in March at the Legacy Gallery.

“The process of collaboration with this book was unique,” says Owens. “All of the contributing authors met face-to-face for a workshop to discuss their chapters, which I think leads to a more coherent and integrative read; a community was built” he adds.

Owens hopes the book sparks a discussion about the value of short-term off campus study programs. It is often assumed these programs have great pedagogical benefit but Owens and other authors wanted to subject this claim to critical scrutiny. Importantly, there is the question of how students can work with communities they visit rather than extract from them. Owens’ field programs include a component where students invest the knowledge and enthusiasm gained in the field into projects that will benefit the community.

Co-editor and law/environmental studies professor, Curran teaches the only interdisciplinary field school based in law in Canada.

“This book recounts that exploration of the power and potential



of learning through field school experiences from student- and community-centred perspectives, and challenges us all to more carefully craft learning experiences that connect people, place, history, emotion and ideology,” says Curran.


The book includes three sections on the pedagogy of field schools, implications of place-based learning and assessing short-term study abroad programs.

Helga Thorson (Germanic and Slavic studies) and Elizabeth Vibert (history) were the book’s other two editors.

“This is the first book of its kind to delve into critical issues related to off-campus learning. Some disciplines—such as geography and geology—have long-standing traditions running field schools, whereas in other disciplines—for example, law and history—off-campus study programs are relatively new,” explains Thorson.

“I’m really proud of the way the book brings together insights into field schools in Indigenous spaces, Global South spaces, and elsewhere. I’m also very proud of the integration of student voices in the volume,” says Vibert.

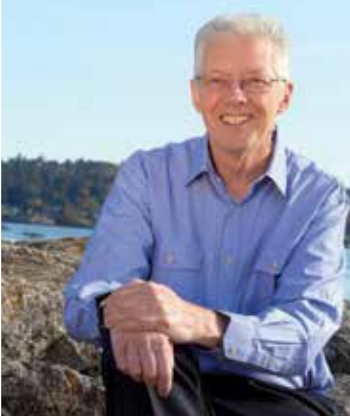
Out There Learning also includes 13 student-written vignettes about their experiences. One student writes, “What you can’t get from a textbook: a field course in the context of a legal education is a chance to learn more than the black and white of a statute or case decision. It provides the colour that gets bleached from the pages of our textbooks and brings life back to the law.”



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BY KIM DIAS

In 2008, Annette Fraser graduated from UVic with her master’s degree in dispute resolution. A decade later, in September 2018, she returned to the campus as the university’s ombudsperson.

An ombudsperson works under three guiding principles: impartiality, independence and confidentiality. Fraser is neither a UVic employee nor a student advocate. “My role is to always be looking at the issue of fairness,” she says. Acting as a neutral third party, Fraser looks into administrative fairness, which she calls “the key component in ombuds work.” She makes sure that appropriate processes are followed, that policies are applied correctly and that all parties involved in the dispute have the opportunity to be heard. Overall, Fraser describes her job as “holding the university accountable to its policies and its practices.”

But that description doesn’t accurately represent how much outreach Fraser is currently doing at UVic. One of her top priorities is making sure all UVic students know that—well, that UVic even has an ombudsperson. Right now, the majority of students she has seen have told her, “I didn’t even know you existed.” Because of that, one of Fraser’s top goals this year is to increase awareness of the ombuds office.

Fraser’s predecessor at UVic was Martine Conway, who had been the university’s ombudsperson for 18 years. Because she’s still fairly new to this position, Fraser is still exploring what unique aspects she can bring to the ombuds office. “Martine did a lot of great work,” Fraser says, “and now that I’m here, I’m also looking at what I can infuse into that work as well.” She is currently putting in a lot of time meeting with faculty and staff at UVic, researching different ways to connect with students, and trying to become



Fraser. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

as visible as possible.

One of Fraser’s favourite parts about her job is how much interaction she has with people on a daily basis. In one of her jobs for the provincial government, Fraser was working from home, which she said did not fit with her personality at all. “It wasn’t positive for my overall well-being,” she says. Now she consistently has students coming to her office. She loves that she gets daily interaction with people and still works independently. She dictates how her days go and sets aside time for appointments, research and outreach as she needs it. She calls it “the best of both worlds.”

The most common problems students come to Fraser with are requests for academic concessions (the student has extenuating circumstances that

have affected their academic performance); review of assigned grades (the student does not feel the grades they received match up with the assignment description); and course delivery (the student is concerned about the way a professor is teaching a course).

A lot of what Fraser does with students is coaching. “I want to help students,” she says. “I want to empower them with the skills to feel comfortable with having that sometimes-difficult conversation with their instructor.” She generally prefers not to intervene in student matters until she has seen that students have done all they can to try resolve the matter—but she also makes sure they aren’t alone during that process.

“I try to give them the tools they need for each conversation,” she says.

“I always advise them on what their rights and responsibilities are. I give suggestions on how they should outline their personal statements so that they read well to whoever who would be making the decision.”

The last thing Fraser wants is for students to be scared of speaking up for themselves. Fraser’s vision for her work is a university committed to fairness, and an important part of that is making sure that students and faculty alike are empowered to speak up against any perceived issues or unfairness. “The university wants students to succeed,” she says. “But if students don’t raise their concerns about things that aren’t working, then the university will assume things are going completely to plan.” She emphasizes that students’ voices are integral

to UVic’s success.

Will she be here for 18 years? Fraser isn’t sure. But right now, she is throwing herself into her work at UVic, making sure students know she exists and that they aren’t alone in difficult administrative situations. Even when she can’t help a student herself, Fraser always makes sure they leave her office knowing how to contact the person who can help them. “I operate under the concept of an open-door policy,” she says. “I will never turn a student away.”

Fraser can be contacted either by phone at 250-721-8357 or by email at ombuddy@uvic.ca. Her office is in the Student Union Building, Room B205, and she can be seen by appointment or during her walk-in hours.

uvicombudsperson.ca

Romeo Dallaire receives UVic’s first-ever Public Humanist award

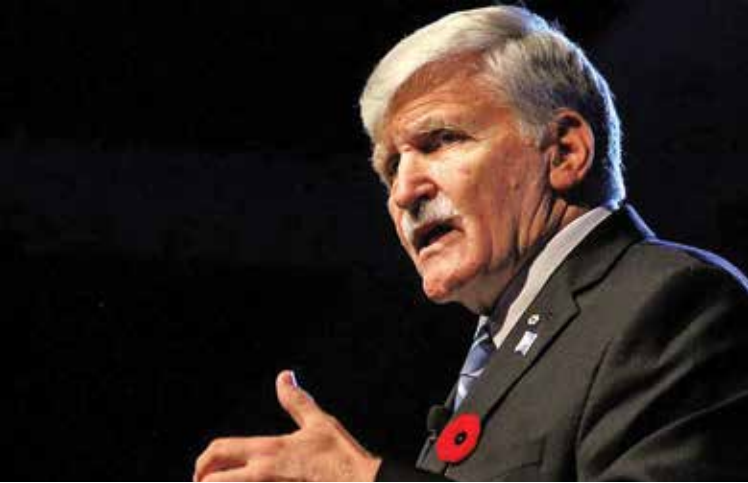
BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Retired lieutenant-general, former Canadian senator and best-selling author Roméo Dallaire received the first-ever Public Humanist award in March from UVic’s Faculty of Humanities for his tireless efforts to change the world for the better.

Dallaire’s deep humanitarian commitment evokes the spirit, impact and importance of the humanities. His life’s work enriches human dignity, provokes critical inquiry and inspires humane feelings. As commander of the United Nations’ peacekeeping-mission during the Rwandan genocide 25 years ago, Dallaire tried to protect the country’s vulnerable minority Tutsi population even as world leaders ignored his warnings of the coming violence. Some 800,000 people were killed.

Since Rwanda, Dallaire has dedicated his life to humanitarian efforts and is striving to eradicate the use of children in conflict. He has also worked tirelessly as an advocate for veterans returning from combat.

UVic Dean of Humanities Chris Goto-Jones says the retired lieutenant-general embodies the ethos of the faculty’s newly launched Humanitas Awards. “He’s well known as a humanitarian and a leader, but also as an accomplished writer and a generous, honest observer of the human spirit. Through his cultivated commitments and his actions, Dallaire has sought to



Dallaire. Photo: Michelle Campbell, CEO, St Joseph’s Health Care Foundation, London Ontario.

change the world for the better, which is precisely what we seek to recognize with these new awards.”

Dallaire’s integrity and courage in the face of unimaginable horror have made him one of Canada’s most admired citizens. He has co-written three books, including *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, which won the 2003 Shaughnessy Cohen Award for Political Writing and 2004 Governor General’s Award for nonfiction.

Dallaire accepted the Public Humanist award at an evening gala on March 15. Science fiction and fantasy writer Ursula K. Le Guin and UVic alumna Ashli Akins were also be honoured at the event.

Le Guin, the late and esteemed American novelist who passed away last year at age 88, was posthumously honoured with the Historic Humanist Award for her visionary work as a thinker and writer of more than 50 books, which defied genre and inspired legions of artists. Akins, who graduated from UVic in 2009 (Latin American studies and environmental studies), received the Emerging Humanist Award. Akins founded the non-profit initiative Mosqoy, which has collaborated with Indigenous Quechua communities of the Peruvian Andes since 2006 to support the post-secondary education of more than 70 students and promote the artisan work of 150 women through fair trade.



Vikes women’s rugby team. PHOTO: REUBEN POLANSKY

Women’s rugby 7s team claims national title

BY BRAEDAN WILLIS

On March 24—exactly three weeks after claiming their second-straight Canada West banner—the Vikes women’s rugby 7s team captured the 2019 National University 7s championship title in Kingston, Ontario. The Vikes went undefeated in the tournament, reaffirming their place as one of the premiere women’s rugby schools in Canada.

“I am so proud of our teams effort all season and this was the perfect way to cap it off,” says Vikes head coach Brittany Waters. “This was some of our best and most consistent rugby all year. We played

to our strengths all weekend and stuck to our game plan, which was to play a wide game, maintain possession off restarts and to play a fast tempo game.”

“The part of the weekend that impressed me most was how the girls continued to build off each game and kept elevating their performance,” says assistant coach Mandy Marchak.

The national title caps off a very successful year for the squad whose accolades include a Canada West silver medal, a fifth-place finish at the 15s national championships, and the Canada West 7s banner for a second consecutive year.