Field school founder wins top teaching prize

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

"Think higher, feel deeper."

When Helga Thorson heard Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel speak those words in Vancouver in 2012, she felt affirmed as a teacher. A year earlier, she had launched UVic’s first i-witness field school, the only one of its kind at the time for undergraduate students at a Canadian university, which brought UVic students to Europe to explore Holocaust memorialization.

Wiesel himself was a survivor of Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. His words for young audience members resonated with Thorson.

"Listening to someone whose work I had frequently read and taught, I realized that he had just captured—in four simple words—the very essence of my teaching philosophy," she says.

Thorson’s vision for and commitment to Holocaust education was honoured this week with Canada’s most prestigious award for excellence in leadership and teaching. Thorson is the third UVic scholar in five years to become a 3M National Teaching Fellow, and one of only 10 higher educators in Canada to earn the distinction this year.

"I am very honoured. I have never aspired to be a leader," Thorson says. "It happened because I’m passionate about teaching and because I’m passionate about what I teach."

SEE THORSON 3M P. 8

Ideafest is coming, March 4–9

BY TOM DEAS

Do whales have culture? What would it feel like to be part of an orchestra? How does a rise in asylum seekers affect Canada? These are just a handful of the thought-provoking questions you can expect to be answered at Ideafest 2019.

From March 4–9, UVic’s annual festival of research, art and innovation returns with over 40 unique events on campus and beyond, showcasing the brightest minds and the latest inspiring ideas. Some plan to utilize performance to tell their stories in novel ways. If you favour the arts and performance-based events then Write on: A night out with new writers is not to be missed; the always-popular Ideafest fixture provides the chance to hear the latest work from five of UVic’s graduate authors. All Ideafest events are organised by faculty, staff and students and some plan to utilize performance to tell their stories in novel ways. Reimagining justice: Art, law and social change features an interpretive dance performance from UVic law students and aims to challenge audiences to explore the role art can play in legal education. Living in the margins of higher education seeks to showcase more about machine learning and intelligent systems and the impact they are making on our everyday lives at "Alexa, please explain machine learning."

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CONTINUED FROM P.1

we’re looking to expand that project to the rest of campus.

The District Energy Plant is another good example. It’s a high-efficiency system that will be the backbone of the campus heating system when it comes online this spring. It’s expected to result in about a 10 per cent reduction in energy use and 

emissions.

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

I think it gives us support and commitment from the highest levels of the university. We use it as a reference in our service and work plans, and it guides our decision making. The framework also helps us to fine-tune and prioritize those decisions. All of our planning in the future will point to the framework. When we come to update the Sustainability Action Plan, we’ll certainly be looking at the Strategic Framework for guidance.

I keep a printed copy of the Strategic Framework sections on my bulletin board to remind me of what we’re working toward. The framework helps set the agenda for me, particularly the Promote Sustainable Futures section (strategies 5.1-5.5). Planning for energy use is a long-term activity, and the framework holds me to a commitment to meet the “highest standards of sustainability.”

It’s a huge achievement that the new student housing and dining facility will be designed to Passive House standards—using 80 per cent less energy than standard buildings. It sets a precedent and is anticipated to be the largest Passive House building in Canada. Even with a net increase of 660 new beds, we’ll see a net reduction in energy use and emissions because the new buildings are so much more efficient than the buildings they’re replacing. This shows great leadership, which is directly linked to the Strategic Framework.

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

I think about all of the “Promote a sustainable future” strategies. Strategy 5.3 points to financial sustainability, and I spend a lot of time considering how to reduce the university’s greenhouse gas emissions in a financially feasible way. We have to take a holistic perspective to help us decide over the long term where to spend resources to optimize energy use. You can’t control what you can’t measure, and quantifying energy use provides clarity for the decision-making process.

Related to strategy 5.4, I engage students in the Faculty of Engineering in sustainable design projects. In one class we asked students to design a carbon-neutral campus where I provided the energy and infrastructure data and greenhouse gas reduction targets. It’s a really interesting way of giving students an idea of what the realities and constraints are when it comes to energy management. Future students and staff members who have received funding from the Campus Sustainability Fund to look at technology that can reduce campus CO2 emissions. Viable options include using biomass as a heat source for the large-scale grid battery system, a sustainable energy microgrid that will help reduce electricity use at times of peak demand and save money. This travel and emergency assistance (5.1) in energy storage has promising off-grid applications that, coupled with renewable energy, could potentially power remote communities.

We’ll also continue to consider partnerships with BC Hydro, FortisBC and other agencies (strategy 5.5) that can assist us in implementing energy conservation projects.

New registry supports international travel

UVic students, faculty and staff can pack extra peace of mind when they travel overseas, thanks to a new travel registry and emergency medical and travel assistance service. UVic has partnered with International SOS—a global medical and travel security assistance service—to provide pre-departure education, trip registration and emergency travel assistance to UVic faculty, students and staff participating in university-sponsored activities. International SOS is the travel security provider of choice for many Canadian universities, including uvic and uvic.

“We’re very pleased to be able to offer the International SOS service to our campus community,” says UVic Academic Planning Nancy Wright. “Not only does it enhance our ability to educate UVic community members about travelling safely, but in an emergency it will help us locate and communicate with faculty, staff and students if they’re outside Canada on university business.”

Through International SOS, UVic community members now have access to a web-based travel registry that alerts registered travellers to medical, security and other travel advisories associated with their destinations. In the event of a security incident or natural disaster in a particular region, the registry will assist the university by providing the registered locations of UVic students, faculty and staff in that area.

“We urge students, faculty and staff to register their university-related travel with International SOS before any international trip,” says Wright. “It’s a free service that’s there to help ensure our trips go smoothly.”

International SOS offers access to 24/7 worldwide medical, security, travel and emergency assistance services. Travellers can call and receive unlimited advice from multilingual nurses, doctors, logistics and travel security experts, for issues ranging from lost wallets to medical evacuations. Members can also sign up for health and security alerts, and download a free Assistance App to access online reports and information.

The Off-Campus Activity Risk Management Policy (as2200) has been revised to reflect the availability of the International SOS registry and resources, which is initially being offered on a two-year pilot basis.

The new policy and service are the result of recommendations made in 2016 by the Ad Hoc Off-Campus Travel Committee, reporting to the UVic Academic Planning and UVic Human Resources.

Visit the UVic Travel Safety website uvic.ca/international/travel-safety for more information about travelling internationally for faculty, students and staff.

Visit to China explores renewal of existing agreement

UVic continues to strengthen its global commitments in an era of complex geopolitics. Pictured: President Jamie Cassels and Director of Student Recruitment and Global Engagement Carolyn Russell on the Great Wall of China, Dec. 21, 2018, during a visit to Beijing to renew existing collaborations, specifically for scholarship and student exchange. See uvic.ca/ring for full story.

FRAMEWORK

Visit the Ring online (ring.uvic.ca), The Current Faculty and Staff page (uvic.ca/current-faculty-staff) and look for biweekly Campus Checklist emails to keep up-to-date about our campus.
SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

A dark future for chocolate

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Chocolate is on the mind of many people this month for Valentine’s Day, but new research by geographer Sophia Carodenuto has revealed troubling questions about the sustainability of this sweet treat.

Her findings offer specific recommendations for the future of cocoa farming in some of the world’s key cocoa-producing countries—Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon—amidst the pressures of climate change, soil erosion and excessive forest loss.

Since 2012, Carodenuto has been working with government agencies and cocoa farmers to identify options for improving the sustainability of cocoa in the three West African countries, where roughly three-quarters of the world’s cocoa is produced by an estimated two million cocoa farmers.

Ten years ago, 12 of the world’s leading cocoa and chocolate companies made a collective public commitment to end the deforestation associated with the global cocoa supply chain.

“Raising consumer awareness of chocolate’s origins, the deforestation it may be causing and the poverty-stricken cocoa farmers is a priority,” explains Carodenuto.

She points to the lack of basic labels indicating the origins of the cocoa in most store-bought chocolate bars and boxes of chocolate, and also to the type of significant campaign that was used to draw public attention to the origins and fair trade of coffee beans.

“There is a long way to go in the struggle towards deforestation-free cocoa and chocolate,” adds Carodenuto. “We need to think beyond niche labels such as Fair Trade to address the sustainability of mass-produced chocolate in our cereals and cheap chocolate bars.”

Carodenuto also outlines a number of other recommendations that will help cocoa farmers, governments and businesses to work together toward sustainable cocoa production.

Her paper, “Governance of Zero Deforestation Cocoa in West Africa: New forms of public-private interaction,” was published Jan. 28 in Environmental Policy and Governance.

IDEAFEST CONTINUED FROM P.1

the often overlooked voices of those in higher education from poverty and working-class backgrounds through spoken word, video and discussion. One reason the organisers chose this approach is to allow a greater level of audience engagement. “Because we are living in the margins, expressing our ideas through performance will help the audience enter into the shared space of our lived experience, engaging with our stories from the heart as well as the mind,” says Elaine Laberge, a member of the coordinating team from the Department of Sociology.

The festival offers a great chance for thousands of visitors to access the university campus. At Tremendous Trees, the Centre for Forest Biology invites guests to discover carnivorous plants and the secrets held by pollen in a tour of its greenhouse.

Visitors of all ages will be offered a warm Welcome to the 21st century library for a day of 3D printing, VR headsets and pop-up books.

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

Inaugural cycling plan approved

UVic’s first ever Campus Cycling Plan is now in action. The plan provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to support cycling as a safe, enjoyable and convenient mode of transportation for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

As a guide for future cycling infrastructure, the plan covers bicycle parking, cycling paths, showers and change rooms. It also provides policy direction on strategies to improve levels of comfort and safety on shared paths and roads. Implementation of the plan’s policy recommendations and cycling network improvements centers on four key strategies: transportation planning priorities; shared space and safety; an expanded cycling network; and end-of-trip facilities.

The graphic above indicates planned cycling network improvements at UVic and on neighbourhood approaches to the university. Read the complete plan at uvic.ca/cyclingplan.

IDEAFEST
IDEAS THAT CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING 4-9 MARCH

Join UVic thinkers, innovators and artists for a free week-long festival of world-changing ideas.

Let your curiosity guide you
uvic.ca/ideafest
Trojan Women at the Phoenix Theatre

Euripides’ tragedy reminds us that the casualties of war are not abstract concepts but living, breathing, suffering people.

BY JOHN THRELFAI

It’s a sad contradiction of the human condition that the only thing as timeless as war is our simultaneous desire for peace. That makes Phoenix Theatre’s mainstage production of Trojan Women as current as when it was first performed in 415 BCE.

“The play is as relevant as this morning’s Twitter feed,” says director and Department of Theatre professor Jon Wood. “Turn on the news and you’ll find another instance of Trojan Women being played out in the world.”

Running Feb. 14–23, Euripides’ tragedy follows the perspective of the wives, mothers and daughters of the defeated Trojan warriors as they struggle with grief, uncertainty and, ultimately, courage—while their fates are decided by the conquering Greeks.

“I like to think art has the power to change things, but this play proves that it has,” admits Wood. “If we’re not learning the lesson that war is bad, then it must be teaching us something.”

Phoenix Theatre’s production incorporated the power of that loss into the hands of the next generation of theatre artists, thanks to the 27-per-cent all-student team of cast, crew and designers. “They know what’s important for the audience, and the easier my job becomes, the more my actors feel comfortable in those hands,” says Wood. “I am definitely an actor’s director.”

“We try to create an atmosphere where people have the freedom to create and follow their passion, and we need to trust that.”

Ultimately, Wood feels the real impact of Trojan Women shouldn’t be felt on the stage. “As an audience, we bear witness, not only to lives lost but to the capacity of humanity to move forward in times of great darkness.”

The public is also invited to a free pre-show lecture by Laurel Derochers and his team channelled through Manulife Securities Insurance Agency. "The winners excelled at both the practical proposals and the analysis of human behaviour," says Fitzsimmons.

"Often people look at problems related to technology and data as purely technical problems, with purely technical solutions," Instead the Gustavson students looked at how they could apply the data they analyzed to help real people and real communities.

"Our students looked at the challenge with a different perspective—that’s what gave them an advantage," says Fitzsimmons.

Although Gustavson students placed highly, it was not that they were just prioritising their ideas—they were not there simply to win. "Participating in the Future Innovator Challenge taught me that solving local issues is the basis of creating a sustainable world around us," said third-year BCom student Alex Sawers, a Victoria Connect team member. "Innovation starts with understanding your local surroundings and where change can occur. Being able to improve our community is the start towards a more sustainable path for everyone, and the Future Innovators Challenge provides students with the platform to make a difference.”

ON JUN. 1, THE SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PROJECT (SIPP) HOSTED THE FUTURE INNOVATOR CHALLENGE, A COMPETITION FOR THE REGION’S HIGH SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS. SIPP’S INTENT WAS TO CHALLENGE THE YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CHIEF HUMAN TOPICS AFFECTING THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING: HUMAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS, HUMANITY’S RELATIONSHIP TO TECHNOLOGY AND DATA, ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, HOUSING AND MOBILITY, AND PORTION AND MOBILITY.

THREE TEAMS OF GUSTAVSON STUDENTS WERE AWARDED FIRST-PLACE PRIZES FOR THEIR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THESE MAJOR ISSUES. THE SEQUOIA TEAM, A POST-SECONDARY TEAM, DEMONSTRATED THEIR INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DELIVERY SOLUTION, ULTIMATELY WINNING THEM THE $1,500, $750, OR $500, OFFERING A SUBSIDIZED DELIVERY OPTION.
From supporting Syrian refugees’ arrival to Victoria, to curating interactive exhibits and identifying opportunities for a clean tech market, this year’s UVic Co-op Students of the Year are positive change makers. Each of them leveraged their co-op education programs for their meaningful and outstanding contribution to multiple areas of their life including class, the workplace and the greater community.

Andreas is a brand champion for Babcock, which was above and beyond what was expected for the role,” says his supervisor Steven Holmes, Manager of Human Resources. “Andreas actively took it upon himself to get involved in projects and drive new initiatives.” This included helping to facilitate a meeting between Babcock’s President and UVic’s Dean of Engineering. “His work had a meaningful impact not only to the organization but also to Agreos. “I am certain that the achievements gained through co-op have significantly impacted multiple areas of my life,” says Agreos. “Co-op has created meaningful turning points in my academic experience, career development and personal growth.”

Anona Wiebe (electrical engineering)

Co-op Student of the Year—Engineering and Computer Science Co-op Programs

Anona Wiebe is always looking to make a positive impact. From helping Universities System develops a cybersecurity awareness program for students, to supporting Syrian refugees’ transition to Canada, the third-year engineering student has made a lasting impression.

Wiebe has a knack for linking human behaviour with systems design, making her the perfect candidate for her co-op position with University Systems, where she developed a unique online program to help students develop cybersecurity awareness. The resulting project has seen huge success, with more than 2,000 students having accessed the online training since August.

Nicholas Rounthwaite (anthropology and human dimensions of climate change)

Co-Student of the Year—Optional and Professional Co-op Programs

As a fourth-year student of anthropology and human dimensions of climate change, Hallie Rounthwaite is passionate about the intersection between culture and community. On top of having an impressive 8.5 GPA, Rounthwaite has been actively engaged in “Victoria’s Good Food Summit,” a knowledge-sharing initiative focused on good food work in the Capital Region. She also recently curated and developed an interactive exhibit that connected archaeology with modern food sharing practices at the Royal BC Museum, as part of a project with her archaeology and storytelling class. (That project appears on the Museum’s new learning portal at https://rbc.museum.)

For her last co-op work term, Rounthwaite worked with the Beecher Bay First Nation to load a youth program centered around food security and the revitalization of cultural food systems. This included developing strategies to engage youth with traditional food harvesting and preparation, building a community garden, and teaching youth about budgeting and cooking. Rounthwaite also provided peer guidance and support for youth in the community.

Rounthwaite’s commitment to and enthusiasm for her work were recognized by her supervisor Denise Chevka, a social development worker with the Beecher Bay First Nation. “Through her hands-on and experiential approach to educating, strengthening and empowering children and youth, Hallie has inspired youth to have fun while learning, which has been priceless,” says Chevka. Throughout her work term, Rounthwaite developed relationships with the community and grew her understanding and interest of food security and Indigenous foods. “My co-op term literally changed my life, and the direction of my academic studies,” she says. “I learned so much from the people of Beecher Bay First Nation and have continued to stay connected.” Rounthwaite intends to continue her studies with graduate research in ethnobotany and hopes to continue working closely with Indigenous communities.

De Haas in the Interface Fluidics lab at the National Institute of Nanotechnology in Edmonton. The company’s engineering co-op program was integral to helping De Haas prepare for his role as co-founder of Interface. He completed several terms, including with two global engineering and construction company Worley Parsons, and another in Germany with Energy Solutions.

“De Haas was a brand champion for Babcock, which was above and beyond what was expected for the role,” says his supervisor Steven Holmes, Manager of Human Resources. “Andreas actively took it upon himself to get involved in projects and drive new initiatives.”

“---For mechanical engineering alumnus Thomas De Haas, a chance encounter and a lot of hard work were ingredients for success—and UVic played a major role in both. The Chief Operations Officer and co-founder of Interface Fluidics, an Alberta-based start-up that uses nanotechnology to reduce the environmental impact of oil production, can trace his path back to his first day at UVic.

De Haas met his future business partner, Stuart Kinnear, in UVic residence when they were paired together as roommates. De Haas was pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering while Kinnear was studying music—“an opportunity to become an active member of our community,” he says.

Agreos also volunteered as business-advisor for UVic’s Submarine Racing Club and was part of the team that represented the university at the 2019 European International Submarine Races in the United Kingdom.

Rounthwaite’s commitment to continuing her studies with graduate research in ethnobotany and hopes to continue working closely with Indigenous communities.

Richard of the ring
You’re invited to Connect U, May 22–23
Save the dates in your calendars now for Connect U, the university’s all-staff conference. Connect U 2019 will take place May 22 and 23 in the Student Union and Clearihue buildings. It’s free and open to all UVic employees. “Connect U is a great chance for our employees to hone their skills, network with people from different areas of campus, and have fun,” says Conference Coordinator Rob Reimer. “This year’s program is linked to how departments and units are embedding the priorities of the university’s Strategic Framework in their day-to-day work, so it’s a great learning opportunity.” In addition to keynote speakers and panel discussions, the conference will feature a campus scavenger hunt, behind-the-scenes tours of UVic’s buildings, services and facilities, and a drop-in fair for with displays from services across campus. “We encourage people to come when they can—they can sign up for just one session or take as much of the programming as they’re able,” says Hood. Registration is free and will open April at uvic.ca/connect.
BY HEATHER CROFT

Eddie Mukahanana has been graced with the likes of a Zimbabwe national team uniform and a professional football career in Russia. A quick Google search for his name takes you to a Wikipedia page that makes you wonder what it’s been like to go from being an international student on a sports scholarship to his current position as an Admissions Officer at UVic.

It started out with practicing longer and harder than any of his teammates—and ignoring doubters who didn’t think he could combine a love of sport with rigorous academic pursuits.

That diligence has led Eddie to an 11-year career at UVic, a second job as the athletic director for the Bays United Football Club in Victoria and the ownership of two organic farms in Africa. In between lies a degree in finance, a serious injury, and a whole lot of support from coaches, teammates and family.

These days, Eddie starts his day at 6:45 a.m. to get his three children out the door to hockey and figure skating practice. Even on days where the family has a break from early-morning organized sport, they still get up early to train together. He gets into the office between 6:45 and 7 a.m. to put in an hour of work before a quick break to shuttle his kids to school. Then Eddie returns to campus to check in with his admissions team and to strategize on how to tackle the mountain of undergraduate applications they evaluate each week.

As an example, leading up to the start of Fall 2018 classes, 1,175 applications for the Gustavson School of Business crossed his desk. Most evenings, after he turns off his computer at work, Eddie then heads to the turf, where he shapes the development of 2,000 young soccer players.

Eddie’s skill as a young athlete led to 15 caps (official games played) with Zimbabwe’s junior and senior national teams and gave him the opportunity to play matches in 20 countries. While Eddie was balancing classes and midterms as a scholarship student with a part-time job helping out with international admissions, his friends were earning massive paychecks as professional athletes on the biggest European teams. Eddie considers himself lucky to have completed a university degree, realizing that “you have to fill your life with something” once a career in sport comes to an end.

Planning ahead for the end of his sports career—even before it had fully taken flight—led Eddie to purchase two farms in Zimbabwe. He sends a portion of his coaching salary to build irrigation for the farm and has delivered thousands of organic seeds to help ensure economic and food security for friends and family who are still in Zimbabwe.

Eddie’s elite status as a player also allowed him to tap into the highest level of coaching training available. This training comes into play as he anticipates and deals with challenges at work as well as how he supervises his team. “You can ask leading questions or use guided discovery to teach people how to solve problems themselves,” he explains.

Eddie is also an enthusiastic ambassador for Zimbabwe. It’s clear that his success is the product of focus and desire that is unlike that of many people. He maintains strong ties to the community he grew up in and acknowledges with humility that giving back is the right thing to do.

His personal affirmation comes from a 1998 interview, where Kobe Bryant reflected on something Michael Jackson once said to him: “Don’t change . . . . You have to stay focused. If you wanna be one of the all-time greats you have to study the all-time greats. You have to be obsessive about what you do and how you do it.”
Made-in-BC blueprint for overdose prevention

BY AMANDA FARRELL-LOW

When the BC government began opening overdose prevention sites (OPS) across the province two years ago, it was an unprecedented response to the overdose crisis. Unlike supervised consumption sites (SCS), which were subject to lengthy (and often onerous) approval processes, OPS were rolled out quickly and led by community members on the front lines of the public-health emergency.

In the early weeks of the sites being established in Victoria, researchers with UVic’s Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) collaborated with several community agencies to learn from these innovative overdose prevention strategies.

Now, the initial findings from this research have been published in the International Journal of Drug Policy. The open access paper was led by principal investigators (and CISUR scientists) Bruce Wallace (social work) and Bernie Pauly (nursing), as well as CISUR research coordinator Flora Pagan. Their interviews with staff at the sites focused on their perceptions of how OPS had been rolled out.

“We found that these sites were a novel and nimble response to the overdose crisis which has affected communities not just across BC, but around the world,” says Wallace. “Our hope is that the international community will look to this model as a way to quickly and effectively save lives—and use it beyond a public-health emergency context.”

More than 20 OPS were established across BC in the first year alone, with approximately 550,000 visits. There were no overdose deaths at any site. While federally sanctioned SCS have since begun to open in communities across Canada, BC’s OPS model is unique in that they are approved at the provincial level, while SCS require federal approval. Currently, 20 OPS are operating in BC, in addition to 10 SCS.

The authors found that the legislative process which BC used to implement OPS was unprecedented, sanctioning injection-witnessing services as a measure under a declared public health emergency. Sites were up and running within weeks, and people who used drugs were involved in planning, implementing, and delivering the services. The researchers concluded that these sites combine the benefits of state-sanctioned injection-witnessing services with community-driven implementation.

“This research questions the federal governments’ restrictive sanctioning processes, which have limited the expansion of SCS internationally and are not necessarily aligned with the needs of people who use drugs,” says Pauly. “These sites should be seen as not just a stopgap until an SCS receives approval in an area, but as an alternative or complementary service to the SCS model.”

AVI’s Vancouver Island (AVI) was one of the community agencies with which researchers collaborated for the project. “Our experience running OPS in three communities on Vancouver Island confirms the research findings: these services prevent overdose death, provide practical supports for people who use substances, and connect those who experience stigma and isolation to peer support and other health and social services,” says Heather Hobs, AVI’s manager of harm reduction services.

BC remains the only jurisdiction in the world to take this approach to overdose prevention. While similar sites exist in Ontario, that province recently announced it would not be allowing any new sites to open, and they would be rolled in with SCS and repurposed as Consumption and Treatment Services.

The January edition of UVic Knowledge Edge also features a national harm reduction study conducted by Berni Pauly and co-director Tim Stockwell on Managed Alcohol Programs. Read it online at uvic.ca/knowledge.

HARM-REDUCTION RESEARCH

A decade of support for undergrad research

BY JENNIFER KWAN

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) have supported 1,500 undergraduates in every discipline on research topics ranging from how mindful meditation affects stress, attention and exam performance, to the biological impacts of a transition to solar energy.

Established in 2009 by the Vice-President Academic and Provost—a position then held by UVic President Jamie Cassels—the goal of the $1,500-a-year award is to encourage undergraduates to pursue innovative and original research, laying the groundwork for graduate studies or a research-related career. Senate named the awards at the end of Cassels’ term as Provost in recognition of his commitment to the integration of teaching and research.

UVic’s vision is to integrate outstanding scholarship, engaged and real-life involvement to contribute to a better future for people and the planet. The JCURA awards program is one way to achieve that vision.

“UVic has invested in this program over the past 10 years because we are committed to providing students with a rich, highly engaged research experience they can take forward in their academic careers and the community,” Cassels explains. “The awards reflect our commitment to being Canada’s leader in research enriched and experiential learning.”

Annual JCURA event now a fixture of Ideafest

The program can open other doors as well. Last year, three UVic students received the 3M Canada National Student Fellowship, helping the university clinic an unprecedented triple win. It was the first time in the award’s history that three students from the same post-secondary institution won in the same year. Two of those recipients—economics student Maxwell Nicholson and anthropology and environmental studies student Michael Graeme—were also JCURA recipients.

For 2018-19, 128 students were funded—more than double the number of awards granted in the program’s first year. The 10th annual celebration of these awards takes place during this year’s Ideafest on Wednesday, March 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the SUB Michelle Pujol Room and Upper Lounge.
Field school participants have gone
Sherman credits his award-winning
Sherman says. Life-changing experiences
emotion played as central a role in
result has transformed students’ lives
The repatriation work began with the Alberni ms,” says Walsh, “and our collaborative work to build research partnerships has extended
cross the country’s history, to fulfill our commitments
to reconciliation and to meet the challenges
that face, especially with respect to Indigenous language revitalization. The
will be an obvious acknowledgement of the
traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, the land upon which UVic stands.”

The FNEF also noted that the new pole will be
installed at UVic by the end of this year with
the traditional territory of the Lkwungen-speaking peoples upon which the university stands.

Language Revitalization Pole info: fnef.ca/UNInternationalYearofIndigenousLanguages info: info@fnef.ca

UVic chosen as national location for UNESCO project

One of the biggest projects of its kind for the UVic International Year of Indigenous Languages — a Language Revitalization Pole commissioned by the First Nations Education Foundation (FNEF) — will be located at UVic as a symbol of the country’s commitment to the work of decolonizing and Indigenousizing the university. The pole will be carved from an ancient cedar, taken in Huu-ay-aht territory during a westem 50 to 70 years ago and weighting as much as a tremendous whale, in Port Alberni by Huu-ay-aht carver Tim Paul.

“We’re honored that UVic was chosen as the permanent host of the Language Revitalization Pole,” said President Jamie Cassels. “It will stand as a powerful reminder of our need to embrace the truth of our country’s history, to fulfill our commitments to reconciliation and to meet the challenges that face, especially with respect to Indigenous language revitalization. The pole will be an obvious acknowledgement of the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, the land upon which UVic stands.”

The FNEF announced the project on Jan. 28 to draw attention to the importance of Indigenous language revitalization. The

Field School program at UVic

The 3M Innovation Award 2019 went to a team of students from the Faculty of Social Work, led by Dr. Helge, who is also the director of the School of Social Work. The team developed an app called “Learning Bridge,” which connects Indigenous students with Elders and mentors in their home communities.

Dr. Helge said the app was inspired by the experience of his own family, who were forced to attend residential schools.

“If we can provide Indigenous students with the support they need to succeed, we can help break the cycle of poverty and violence,” he said. “This app is a step in that direction.”

The app includes a variety of features, including mentorship, peer support, and access to cultural events and resources.

“The Elders’ expertise and close involvement in the work to repatriate
the art and then decide if it is

Repatriation of residential school art extends across Canada

By Anne MacLaurin

In an ongoing effort toward reconciliation, Andrea Walsh, visual anthropologist and one of UVic’s Engaged Scholars, has been on a
decade-long journey to repatriate residential school art work. Her community based research work began in 2008 with a gift to UVic of 700 children’s paintings created during the years 1956-69 when artist Robert Aller volunteered to teach weekly art classes at the Alberni

International Residential School.

“The repatriation work began with the Alberni ms,” says Walsh, “and our collaborative work to build research partnerships has extended
cross the country’s history, to fulfill our commitments
to reconciliation and to meet the challenges
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NEtOWrK Indigenous Language Learning Atlas

In coordination with the official launch of UNESCO’s International Year of Indigenous Languages in Park on Jan. 28, UVic was the host for a two-day language forum at First Peoples House. The event was a kick-off for Gplay McPhail’s SSHRC-funded project, Developing the NEtOWrK Indigenous Language Learning Atlas (NLLA) — an online sharing space for networking across Indigenous language work in Canada. Photo: UVic Photo Services

Thorson 3M

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Life-changing experiences

Through the 3M field school, Thorson says she sought to create an educational experience in which emotion played as central a role in learning as intellectual rigor. The result has transformed students’ lives and career choices.

Recent history MA graduate Jake Sherman credits his award-winning work in photojournalism to Thorson’s encouragement.

“Helga, quite literally, changed my life. Her teaching on the field school helped me to transcend my own personal limitations, and push my studies, my research, and my own craft beyond what I thought possible,” Sherman says.

As a result of their experiences, field school participants have gone on to law school, programs in Indigenous governance and international relations, and co-op or practicum placements ranging from London’s

Helen Bamber Foundation to the Auschwitz memorial museum, and

President Jamie Cassels (law) in 2002; Jin-Sun Yoon (child and youth care),
United Way campaign a success

You’ve done it again, UVic! The 2018 UVic United Way campaign raised $230,665 for United Way Greater Victoria (UWGV). The university campaign has contributed more than $4.5 million to UWGV-funded programs in the region, particularly as these funds stay in Greater Victoria and assist almost 90,000 individuals every year. A special thanks to our UVic Retirees Association, whose generous support through payroll or one-time donations, and UVic’s United Way campaign events and the special events so successful.

Campaign campus events and initiatives in 2018 included the Plasma Car Races, Oktoberfeast, Vikes Amazing Race, Bug Push and Plasma Car Races, Oktoberfeast,
Booksale continues year-round at the UVic Retirees Association, whose

Many thanks to the faculty, staff and students who supported the campaign this year, and gave generously through payroll or one-time donations. Special appreciation to the UVic Retirees Association, whose members generously contributed almost $22,000.

For more information or to get involved in the upcoming campaign, visit uvic.ca/unitedway.