



COMMUNITY INNOVATION IDEAS FROM GUSTAVSON STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHT

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FEBRUARY 2019

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca

University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

FUNDING CHANGE

Strategic Framework Impact Fund opens

Earlier this month, UVic President Jamie Cassels launched the Strategic Framework Impact Fund, designed to support initiatives that accelerate the implementation of the framework. If you have an innovative idea that will advance the framework's priorities and strategies, please submit a Notice of Intent form by March 1. See bit.ly/SF-impact

RESEARCH IMPACT

Health sciences initiative

VP Academic and VP Research are working on a joint health sciences initiative to raise the profile of UVic health research, programs and activities. Come share your thoughts at a town hall meeting on Feb. 19 from 3–4:30 p.m. in the Medical Sciences Building, room 150. RSVP to hsi2018@uvic.ca. Learn more about the health sciences initiative at bit.ly/2019-hsi



2019 3M National Teaching Fellow Helga Thorson says she never aspired to be a leader. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

12 Field school founder wins top teaching prize

NUMBER OF UVIC FACULTY NAMED 3M NATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWS SINCE THE AWARDS WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1986

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 works 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 to earn the distinction this year in Canada.

“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

Bringing the Strategic Framework to life

A new series of articles explores how staff and faculty across campus are implementing the university's Strategic Framework.

David Adams, Energy Manager
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Tell us about your work at the university.

I am the energy manager in Facilities Management, I see myself as the ‘energy accountant’ for the campus. We are a staff of two in the energy management program, and we're looking to add another person soon. Our objective is to reduce the environmental impact of fuel, natural gas, electricity and water use on campus.

It's a diverse role and I get involved in a lot of different things, including monitoring campus energy use, conservation projects, working with staff to tune up the energy systems in campus buildings, sustainability committee work, and strategic planning to create a long-term strategy for campus energy use, particularly to target deep reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Some projects have a much bigger impact than I expect. For example, updating the shower and sink fixtures in the residence buildings to low-flow faucets in 2018 has resulted in savings of 7 million litres of water a year. That's huge, and



SEE FRAMEWORK P. 2

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 for its 8th action-packed year. With over 40 unique events on campus and beyond, showcasing the brightest minds and the latest inspiring ideas, you will struggle to find something that doesn't pique your interest.

Those that like to keep up-to-date on the latest technologies should head to *Changemakers: Bright minds and big ideas*, where you will hear from three of UVic's Canada Research Chairs making big changes in the fields of cancer therapy and personalised medicine. Or learn



more about machine learning and intelligent systems and the impact they are making on our everyday lives at “*Alexa, please explain machine learning.*”

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

SEE IDEAFEST P. 3

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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.

INTERNATIONAL

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 UBC and SFU.

“We’re very pleased to be able to offer the International SOS service to our campus community,” says AVP 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. 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 email alerts, and download a free Assistance App to access online reports and information.

The Off-Campus Activity Risk Management Policy (AD2210) has been revised to reflect the availability of the International SOS registry and resources, which are 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 AVP Academic Planning and AVP Human Resources.

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

stay informed

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.

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 22–23

CONNECT

UVic's all-staff conference

Free and open to all UVic employees. Sign up for a single session or come for both days—build a conference schedule that works for you.

Learn more about our university, build skills, network with your colleagues, have fun!

SESSIONS & TOURS

BREAKFAST & LUNCH KEYNOTES

INFO FAIR

SCAVENGER HUNT

University of Victoria

Registration opens in April
uvic.ca/connectu

FRAMEWORK 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 GHG 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 strategies 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

Adams. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

660 new beds, we’ll see a net reduction in energy use and GHG 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 5.5 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 expend 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 with students in the Faculty of Engineering on 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 interest-

ing way of giving students an idea of what the realities and constraints are when it comes to energy management.

I’ve worked with masters students who have received funding from the Campus Sustainability Fund to look at technology that can reduce campus GHG emissions. Viable options include using biomass as a heat source for the campus, or converting to electric heat pumps instead of natural gas. Students in future classes will continue to refine these ideas, and it’s a valuable way for them to learn about both social and environmental sustainability.

I’m also working with the Faculty of Engineering and the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVIC) on a potential partnership for a large-scale grid battery system, a sustainable energy microgrid that will help reduce electricity use at times of peak demand and save money. This world-leading research (strategy 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.

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Field work meeting at cocoa farm in Cameroon, West Africa. UVic geographer Sophia Carodenuto is pictured on the left. PHOTO: DUNCAN GRUMKO

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.

Two 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.



University of Victoria

The University of Victoria

is pleased to announce the appointment of Marilyn Callahan to the Board of Governors



Marilyn Callahan has held leadership positions in academia, the non-profit sector and government. As a professor in the School of Social Work at UVic, she coordinated the first distance education degree program in social work in Canada including an off campus degree program for Indigenous social workers. She was the co-director of a Canada Europe exchange program, served as director of the School of Social Work, an advisor to the vice-president academic, and was a member of several university wide committees. Callahan was the president of the BC Association of Social Workers, chair of the Capital Health Board and AIDS Vancouver Island, a member of the Judicial Council of BC and the National Board of Accreditation for Social Work Education. She was named a Commonwealth Scholar by the government of Australia and won the annual Canadian Association for Social Work Education Award for Excellence. She holds a BA, BSW and MSW from UBC and a PhD in social policy and administration from the University of Bristol, UK.

UVic is Canada’s most extraordinary environment for discovery and innovation—an edge created by fusing dynamic, hands-on learning with research that’s vital to people, places and the planet.



CAMPUS PLANNING

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 centres 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



University of Victoria

SSHRC CRSH

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

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TIMES COLONIST

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 THRELFALL

It’s 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 Jan 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 hasn’t,” admits Wood. “If we’re not learning the lesson that war is bad, then it must be teaching us how remarkable our ability to survive is.”

Apart from Wood and movement director Treena Stubel, who is both a Phoenix alumna and current instructor, this production of *Trojan Women* is firmly in the hands of the next generation of theatre artists, thanks to the 27-person all-student team of cast, crew and designers. “They know what’s happening in the world. They’ve seen the images and they’ve incorporated the power of that loss into the piece,” says the director. “Young people today are at the forefront of enacting real change in the world. Our survival depends upon it.”

Wood feels the intentionally timeless war-torn set and costume design helps the nearly 2,500-year-old play feel current for today’s audiences. “When I see those boatloads of Syrians coming onto the shore, I think about refugees wandering with no destination,



Wood

being forced out by war,” she says. “One of the things I’ve tried to do with this production is talk about the resilience of the human spirit, and its ability to move forward: how do we go on when our families have been devastated? How do we walk forward into the future? How do we survive?”

A performance professor at UVic since 1996 and an accomplished actor and director in her own right—many will recognize Wood from her on-stage work at the Belfry, Blue Bridge Theatre, Bard on the Beach or the Stratford Festival—this show actually marks Wood’s directorial debut at the Phoenix.

“I am definitely an actor’s director,” she says. “I try to create an atmosphere where people have the freedom to create and follow their instincts. Theatre is a collaborative art form: during rehearsals, the more my actors feel comfortable giving, the more I have to work with, and the easier my job becomes. After all, that’s why we got into this business—because we have instincts, a creative desire and a passion, and we need to trust that.”

Ultimately, however, Wood feels the real impact of *Trojan Women* shouldn’t be felt on the stage. “As the 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 Bowman of Greek and Roman studies at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, where she will discuss how the play would have been originally received by an Athenian audience of largely military personnel who were in the middle of a 30-year war between Athens and Sparta.

STUDENT-DRIVEN INNOVATION

Community-impact ingenuity shines at South Island challenge



The winning Gustavson team—Lug—at the Future Innovator Challenge. PHOTO: ISLAND SAVINGS

Three teams of Gustavson students sweep regional competition’s post-secondary category

BY MACKENZIE FORD

On Jan. 13, 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 with this challenge: to engage young innovators in helping to improve the quality of life for citizens of the region. Run for the first time this year, the challenge saw a high degree of involvement from the Greater Victoria community, receiving over 80 proposals from local high schools and post-secondary schools including Camosun, Royal Roads and UVic.

The top three prizes in the two age groups came with seed funding of \$1,500, \$750, or \$500, offering a substantial reward to teams who could present the most innovative solution for one of the following themes: transportation and mobility, housing and affordability, economic resilience and inclusion, environmental health, and human health and wellness.

“If you look at the region’s most pressing issues, some of them are very big, macro issues that require innovative thinking,” says Dallas Gislason, Director of Economic Development at SIPP. Instead of seeking the “magic bullet” for these enormous issues, Gislason and SIPP believe that the power of this challenge lies in the conversation and involvement it inspires. “The

biggest success is gaining interest and engagement on these problems and getting people to approach them with passion and their own life experience.”

Student teams from UVic’s Gustavson School of Business swept the competition, taking the top three spots of the post-secondary category. Their creative thinking and entrepreneurial spirit were on display throughout the event, which is perhaps not too surprising given the school’s focus on developing innovative and socially responsible leaders.

Landing at the top of the podium were Gustavson students Audrey Wright, Cyrus Lee, Josh Desrochers, Magnus Kristensen, Tyler Arseneault and their product Lug, a person-to-person delivery service that connects community members, thus eliminating excess shipping waste and saving costs. One can browse local “for sale” sites and connect with community members heading to their destination that can pick up an extra item along the way. “I first came up with the idea for Lug in my ENT 100 course,” says Desrochers. “I was looking on Kijiji for used furniture and was disappointed when I found the perfect piece at the right price, but a two-hour drive away. With no means of picking it up myself or having it shipped at a low cost, I had to let it go.” Months later, Desrochers and his team channelled their own experiences to create this innovative and sustainable delivery solution, ultimately winning them the competition.

Taking second and third place were Gustavson students Jarl Whist, Sophie Eckard, Ian McGavin, Sydney Blackwell, Juan Castillo with Shared-

Spaces, a website to connect students with vacant properties in the region’s rental market; and Clio Hoffer, Gavin Kratz, Alex Sawers, Annie Washington and Ian Zhong with their idea Victoria Connect, a platform connecting the region’s non-profit organizations.


When asked about Gustavson’s strong performance, Professor Stacey Fitzsimmons touched on the school’s holistic approach to business.

“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 at the competition, it was apparent that each student was passionate about their idea—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.”



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2018 Co-op Students of the Year

BY MOLLIE GREEN

From supporting Syrian refugees’ arrival to Victoria, to curating interactive exhibits and identifying opportunities in the labour market, this year’s UVic Co-op Students of the Year are positive change makers. Each student was recognized by their co-operative education programs for their meaningful and outstanding contribution to multiple areas of their life including class, the workplace and the greater community.



Agresot

Andres Agresot (business)

Co-op Student of the Year—Business Co-op Programs
Commerce student Andres Agresot believes in the power of connections. As an international student from Colombia, he embraced every opportunity to become an active member of his community within the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business.

Agresot has also volunteered as business advisor for UVic’s Submarine Racing Club and was part of the team that represented the university at the 2018 European International Submarine Races in the United Kingdom. Recently, Agresot found another connecting role during his co-op work term at Babcock Canada. As a marketing/human resources co-op student, Agresot was charged with leading Babcock’s STEM strategy, as well as identifying gaps in the current Victoria engineering labour market.

“Andres 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. “Andres 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 Agresot. “I am certain that the achievements gained through co-op have significantly impacted multiple areas of my life,” says Agresot. “Co-op has created meaningful turning points in my academic experience, career development and personal growth.”



Wiebe

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 University Systems develop 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; more than 2,000 students have accessed the online training since August. Nav Bassi, Director of University Systems, credits her hard work and technical skills for much of the project’s success. “Her efforts were so successful that we were able to develop a case to continue the program on an annual basis,” he says. “This co-op gave me the opportunity to develop my career by showcasing and strengthening my leadership skills,” Wiebe says. “It’s piqued my interest in project management; I’m excited at what comes next.” Outside of class and work, Wiebe is an active volunteer, splitting her spare time between coaching tennis and supporting Victoria’s efforts to welcome Syrian families to the city. She was also recently elected as an Engineering student representative to University Senate.

Hallie Rounthwaite (anthropology and human dimensions of climate change)

Co-op 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 RBCM learning portal at bit.ly/RBCM-spoon.) For her last co-op work term, Rounthwaite was hired by Beecher Bay First Nation to lead a youth program



Rounthwaite

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 children and youth in the community. Rounthwaite’s commitment to and enthusiasm for her work were recognized by her supervisor Denise Chewka, 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,” she says. Throughout her work term, Rounthwaite developed relationships with the community and grew her understanding and interest of food security and Indigenous food systems. “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 ethnecology and hopes to continue working closely with Indigenous communities.

From co-op student to co-op employer

Two alumni, and a technology start-up that drives environmental impacts down.

BY CARLY GRABHER

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—later completing his MBA at UVic. The combination of their respective talents in engineering and business would prove to be lucrative years later, when De Haas recognized a gap in the oil production industry: testing safer bitumen extraction methods before applying them in the field. “I knew that we could do better—that there were alternate methods that could minimize the impact of the process,” says De Haas. So with their

collective engineering and business experience, De Haas and Kinnear launched Interface Fluidics in 2015 along with former UVic engineering professor David Sinton. Interface’s research lab mimics the heat and pressure of an oil well in order to develop processes that minimize the impact on the environment. The company’s microfluidic devices allow companies to develop safer extraction processes before applying these in the field. “This technology allows for new methods to be inexpensively screened before being used in the field,” says De Haas. “The types of big changes that Interface hopes to enable are water-free fracturing for shale reservoirs and bitumen extraction without steam.” As De Haas admits, it took a lot of hard work to get here. Kinnear and De Haas took a risk by walking away from steady jobs at Canada’s largest companies—Canadian Natural Resources and Suncor—to get their company off the ground. Between loans, funding from friends and family and small cash prizes at various entrepreneurial competitions, the trio were able to afford lab space, but it took six months before he and his business partners were making a personal salary. Their three-year-old company now has projects across North America and Europe, employs 14 staff and was voted Alberta’s Top Technology Start-up in 2017. UVic’s engineering co-op program




De Haas in the Interface Fluidics lab at the National Institute of Nanotechnology in Edmonton.

was integral to helping De Haas prepare for his role as co-founder of Interface. He completed several terms, including two with global engineering and construction company Worley-Parsons, and another in Germany working for Dynetek Europe. “The co-op program emphasized the real-world application of what I was learning in school,” says De Haas. “I learned what I was and wasn’t looking for in my future career, and I learned about diverse management styles and work culture—this has been invaluable for my work with Interface. Now it’s my turn to support the next generation of co-op students.” Completing the circle, Interface Fluidics hired its first UVic co-op

student in 2017, and plans to post a position on UVic’s Co-op and Career portal later this year.

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around 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 build some skills, network with people from different areas of campus, and have fun,” says conference co-chair Sarah Hood. “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 Info Fair with displays from services across campus. “We encourage people to come when they can—they can sign up for just one session or take in as much of the programming as they’re able,” says Hood. Registration is free and will open in April at uvic.ca/connectu.

New courses for faculty and staff

New courses have just been added to HR’s Employee Learning Calendar. Learn how to write effective goals for work, work on your public speaking, improve your collaboration skills and much more. New courses are continually added and registration is open throughout the year. Access the Employee Learning Calendar at uvic.ca/hr/learning-development/calendar/

Join the UVic Alumni Connect network

UVic Alumni Connect is an exclusive networking and mentoring platform that brings UVic students and alumni together for meaningful career conversations. Expand your network, share your experience and learn from others in your field—either online or in-person. Alumni can join the community at bit.ly/alum-c

Reading Break Feb. 18–22

The university is closed on Feb. 18 for the Family Day holiday. Reading Break is Feb. 18–22. Some offices and services, including Food Services and Athletics & Recreation, have reduced hours. bit.ly/19-rbreak

The Ring February 2019 Page 5

day in the life

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 6:15 a.m. to get his three children out the door to hockey and figure skating practise. 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 puts 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 one 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,



Mukahanana

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."



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Wallace at one Victoria area overdose prevention site. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

HARM-REDUCTION RESEARCH

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 11 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 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.”

AIDS 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 Hobbs, 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 also features a national harm reduction study conducted by Bernie Pauly and CISUR director Tim Stockwell on Managed Alcohol Programs. Read it online at uvic.ca/knowledge

A decade of support for undergrad research

Annual JCURA event now a fixture of Ideafest

BY JENNIFER KWAN

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) have supported 1,013 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 learning 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.”



Geography student Kiera Powell Smith with her JCURA presentation on tree rings..

The program can open other doors as well. Last year, three UVic students received the 3M Canada National Student Fellowship, helping the university clinch 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 3:00 p.m. in the SUB Michèle Pujol Room and Upper Lounge.

ideafest
MARCH 4-9



Chantal Adams, 2017-18 JCURA recipient

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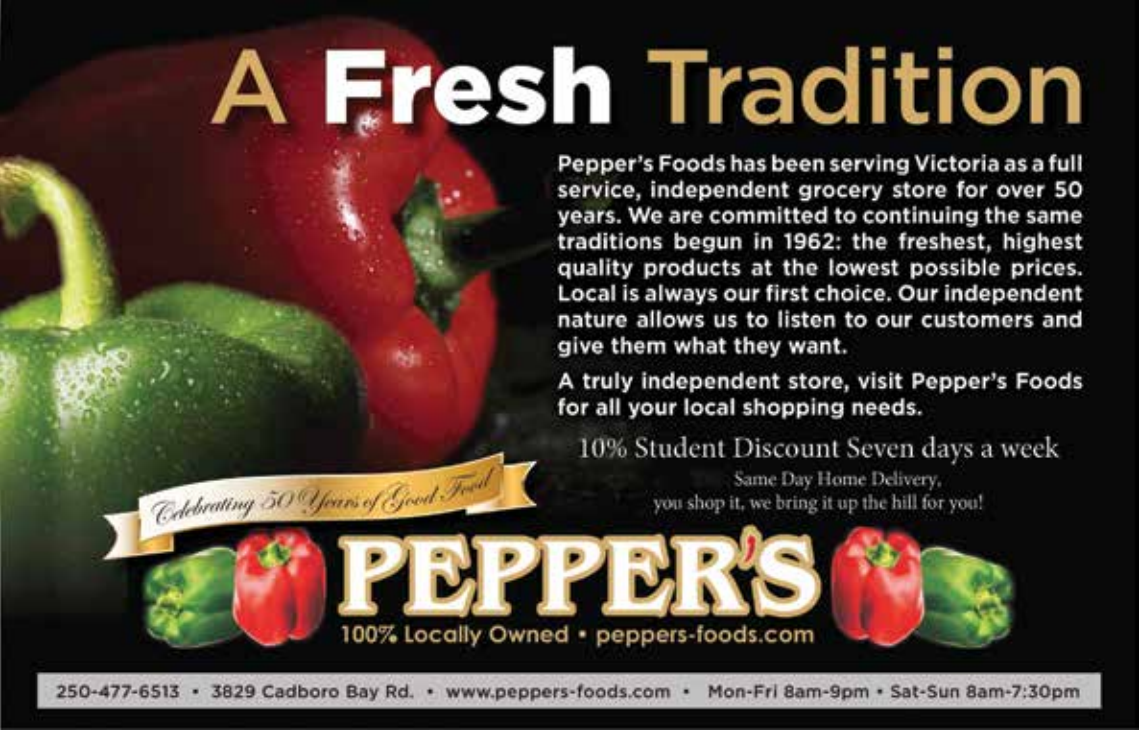
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(L–R) The renowned Nuu-chah-nulth artist, Master Carver Tim Paul, and Edward Johnson Jr., program manager for Huu-ay-aht First Nations, with the windthrown tree in Huu-ay-aht territory on Jan. 23, 2019. PHOTO: DALE DEVOST

UVic chosen as national location for UNESCO project

One of the biggest projects of its kind for the UN International Year of Indigenous Languages—a Language Revitalization Pole commissioned by the First Nations Education Foundation (FNEF)—will be located at UVic as a centrepiece of the year and a significant point of reflection for UVic’s ongoing commitment to the work of decolonizing and Indigenizing the university. The pole will be carved from an ancient cedar, fallen in Huu-ay-aht territory during a windstorm 50 to 70 years ago and weighing as much as a humpback whale, in Port Alberni by Nuu-chah-nulth carver Tim Paul.

“We’re honoured 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 lie ahead, especially with respect to Indigenous language revitalization. The pole will also be a living 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

FNEF also noted that the new pole will be installed at UVic by the end of this year with the blessing and support of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations, and that it has also received the patronage of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

The site of the Language Revitalization Pole will be determined in the near future and will be a prominent location at UVic, on the traditional territory of the Lkwungen-speaking peoples upon which the university stands.

Language Revitalization Pole info: fnef.ca
UN International Year of Indigenous Languages: info: en.ijil2019.org



Lorilee Wastasecoot (Peguis First Nation) (left) shows Amelia Wavey Saunders (York Factory First Nation) her childhood painting that she created in Robert Aller’s art class at the MacKay Indian Residential School. The paintings were brought back to Manitoba for the first time in almost 60 years as part of a joint presentation between the University College of the North and UVic at a Truth and Reconciliation Conference at UCN in Thompson, Manitoba in 2017.

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 project began in 2008 with a gift to UVic of 700 children’s paintings created during the years 1958-60 when artist Robert Aller volunteered to teach weekly art classes at the Alberni Indian Residential School.

“The repatriation work began with the Alberni IRS,” says Walsh, “and our collaborative work to build research partnerships has extended across the country to smaller northern institutions in Manitoba and Ontario.”

After securing a SSHRC Insight Development grant in 2012, Walsh was able to set up a long-term national project to locate collections of children’s art from Indian residential and day schools, as well as inform Survivors who created the art, or their communities, about the existence of the artworks. Her team of Elders, Survivors and their families, faculty members, students, and UVic’s Legacy Art Gallery all contributed to locating and returning artwork to survivors of the Alberni Indian Residential School in 2013. Since that time, they have collaborated on five exhibitions of the Alberni IRS paintings, alongside art from other collections of residential and day school art, as part of their community based curatorial work.

“The Elders’ expertise and close involvement in the work to repatriate the art and then decide if it is put onto public exhibition is what makes this project special,” says Walsh. “Often it is the Elders leading this project, and we work to carry out their vision.”

In August, Walsh collaborated with Dr. Jennie Wastesicoot of the University College of the North in Thompson, Manitoba, along with two former UVic students, Lorilee Wastasecoot (POLI, BA 2017) and Dr. Jennifer Robinson (ANTH PhD 2017), to bring together over 40 Dene and Cree Survivors at a reconciliation gathering in Dauhpín, Manitoba. The gathering, “Coming Home—Survival and Resiliency Through Art. MacKay Indian Residential School Childhood Memories,” was funded by a SSHRC Institute Connection Grant awarded to Wastesicoot as the lead investigator and Walsh as co-applicant.

“The SSHRC Connection Grant is significant because it demonstrates our collaborative work to build research partnerships and capacity in smaller northern institutions with Indigenous colleagues as leads on the applications as well as working across institutional and community contexts,” says Walsh.

Walsh is working to continue her repatriation work with Indigenous communities in northern Ontario in partnership with another former UVic student—Laurentian University assistant professor Celeste Pedri-Spade, who received her UVic PhD in 2016.



NETOLNEW Indigenous Language Learning Atlas

In coordination with the official launch of UNESCO’s International Year of Indigenous Languages in Paris on Jan. 28, UVic was the host for a two-day language forum at First Peoples House. The event was a kick-off for Onowa McIvor’s SSHRC-funded project, Developing the NETOLNEW Indigenous Language Learning Atlas (NILLA)—an online sharing space for networking across Indigenous language work in Canada. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

THORSON 3M

CONTINUED FROM P.1

Life-changing experiences

Through the I-witness field school, Thorson says she sought to create an educational experience in which emotion played as central a role in learning as intellectual rigour. 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 various other international human rights organizations.

“There’s something about the field school where the students gain so much academically in terms of their confidence as scholars,” Thorson says. “It also just opens their mind to what it means to be a human being with their own responsibilities in the world and leads them to contemplate what they want to do with their lives.”

Overcoming indifference

The I-witness field school, the next of which will take place in 2020, has changed Thorson too. She now approaches teaching differently and says she incorporates more hands-on research activities into her classes. Thorson’s innovations have also led to the creation in UVic’s Faculty of Humanities of the first and only graduate-level Holocaust studies stream in Canada, also one of only a few in the world.

Thorson cites another famous quote from Elie Wiesel as inspiration

in the classroom: “The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.” Thorson wants her students to overcome indifference.

“I want them to have a better understanding of the world around them, to possess the confidence to assess their own values and perspectives, and to care enough to work for change,” she says.

Past 3M winners

Thorson says she is most excited to meet other 3M National Teaching Fellows and to follow in the footsteps of past UVic winners, including UVic President Jamie Cassels (law) in 2002; David Blades (education), 2016; and Jin-Sun Yoon (child and youth care), 2015.

“These are all people I admire very much. They have this passion about teaching and learning that is pretty magnificent,” Thorson says.

The 3M National Teaching fellowship was established in 1986 through the generosity of 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

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 since 1994.

“I’d like to express a heartfelt thank you to our UVic community members whose generosity and strong support for United Way make our annual campaign a success year after year,” says Campaign Chair Rachael Scarth. “We’re very proud that UVic has the second-largest workplace campaign in the region, particularly as these funds stay in Greater Victoria and assist almost 90,000 individuals every year. A special thanks to our campaign committee members who provide their time to make the

campaign and the special events so successful.”

Campus campaign events and initiatives in 2018 included the Plasma Car Races, Oktoberfest, Vikes Amazing Race, Bug Push and Samosa Sale. The UVic Libraries Booksale continues year-round at the UVic Bookstore—look for the sale cart in the foyer.

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 \$42,000.

For more information or to get involved in the 2019 campaign, visit uvic.ca/unitedway.