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CONVOCATION STORIES

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THE RING

SUMMER 2019

The University of Victoria's community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca

University of Victoria

SPEED READ

CONVOCATION 2019

Watch Convocation online

Spring Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live on June 10–14. If you're not able to attend in person, you can watch the ceremonies on your computer at *uvic.ca/convocation*. Video of each webcast will be available for six weeks following Convocation. For event times and more information, visit *uvic.ca/ceremonies*.

PHILANTHROPY

UVic exceeds fund goal

UVic surpassed its fundraising goal by $3 million this year, raising $18.9 million from 4,795 donors. The funds increased the number of students supported by donor-funding with 89 new awards. 3,052 UVic students received a donor-funded scholarship or bursary in 2018/2019. "The UVic community should all be extremely pleased that donors are willing to invest in our university at this level. It is a clear indication of their confidence in the quality of research and creative pursuits of our faculty and the calibre of our students." says AVP of Alumni and Development Tom Zsolnay. Read more at *bit.ly/fund-grows*

Roff

3,777

NUMBER OF DEGREES, CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS TO BE AWARDED DURING SPRING CONVOCATION

A "can-do" approach to commerce

MBA grad's mobile canning business helps Victoria microbreweries get their brew on the shelf

BY SASHA MILAM

It's unlikely that many of Vancouver Island's craft beer brewers got into the business because of an abiding interest in machinery and production logistics. Fortunately for them, that's exactly why Zac Roff, who graduates this month with an MBA from UVic's Sardul S. Gill Graduate School, has set up shop. Roff recently purchased what he believes to be the only mobile canning equipment for hire on the island, and began offering his services to local brewers under the name Valkyrian Canning.

"I think that to be an actual brewer in the industry, you really need to have a passion and creativity for the chemistry side of things," says Roff. "Whereas I am a mechanical engineer by background, so for me, operating and maintaining the machine is the more interesting side of things."

Roff made note of the mobile canning market opportunity while studying at UVic. Factors such as the cost of acquiring canning equipment and renting facilities to store the cans can be prohibitive for many small breweries as they first start out.

"For someone to start a brewery, which is already very expensive, to have to then also buy a canning line is often too much for people to afford," says Roff. "Breweries can't really expand their reach if they're only selling at the brewery with tap beers. At that stage, they need to bring in someone like myself to help can their beer and get it out to as many shops as they can. As

SEE ROFF P.6

Framing the conversation through art

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

BY TARA SHARPE

Q and A: Mary Jo Hughes

Q. Tell us about your work at the university.

Seven years ago, one thing that drew me to the position of director of UVic Legacy Art Galleries is that UVic has more art on public display than any other Canadian university.

Currently, we have approximately 3,000 works of art on display, from a total collection of nearly 20,000 objects.

As director, I provide vision for how the collections can serve UVic's goal and strategies. Within this overarching role I get to do a huge variety of things from the repatriation of children's art to residential school Survivors, to the return of precious art glass windows to the original building designed by celebrated architect Frank Lloyd Wright, to speaking to community groups and students about our collection and project managing our current exhibition, *Myfanwy Pavelic: Mirrored Selves Within and Without,* which opened May 25 at Legacy Downtown.

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

The framework priority nearest and dearest to our hearts is fostering respect and reconciliation. We have already been doing a lot of Indigenous programming for years, but having it be an area that the whole university is dedicated to really helps us to know we're going in the right direction.

Two exhibits that spring to mind are *There Is Truth Here: Creativity and Resilience in Children's Art from Indian Residential and Day Schools*, curated by UVic anthropologist Andrea Walsh, which taught us a lot of new lessons and emphasized the importance of true collaboration with Survivors, and last year's exhibit, *Testify: Indigenous Laws + the Arts*, where we realized the value of relinquishing control to allow space for the voices of others.

In this regard, we are continually focusing on our own learning and listening. We seek out

SEE FRAMEWORK P.2

around the ring

Campus Cycling Plan earns national award

The Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability received an Award of Merit in the New and Emerging Initiatives category from the Canadian Institute of Planners for the university's new Campus Cycling Plan. The plan focuses on increasing cyclist and pedestrian safety, and identifies short and long-term goals and the infrastructure needed to complete the entire campus cycling network. Read the plan at *bit.ly/18-cycle*

New outdoor recycling stations

Facilities Management will be expanding the campus recycling and composting program over the summer by installing new outdoor zero-waste stations. The zero-waste stations will make it more convenient to recycle and compost no matter where you are on campus, and help the university meet its overall waste diversion target of 75%. There are currently more than 200 outdoor litter containers on campus, which produce approximately 20 tonnes of landfill waste per year (3.5% of UVic's total). A 2018 waste audit showed that more than 72% of the materials deposited in these containers could be composted or recycled.

Humans of UVic Science

During the month of June, to celebrate the convocation of students from all over the world, with their own unique journeys, the Faculty of Science Instagram account (@uvicscience) will feature profiles of its graduates, highlighting their favourite memories of studying at UVic. Profiles can be found under the hashtag #HumansofUVicScience.

2019 Leiden Rankings

One of UVic's longstanding research strengths was confirmed again in May by the 2019 Leiden Rankings: UVic-based researchers wrote a higher proportion of top-performing papers based on international collaborations than any other university in North America. In the nine years the Leiden Rankings have been released, UVic has claimed this spot eight times.

The Leiden Rankings are unusual among global university ranking systems because they are based solely on scientific performance. As each year's Leiden results are based on a four-year span of publication information, the results tend to fluctuate less than other ranking systems.

Leiden's rankings track proportions of top-cited publications (PP) in addition to the total volume of publications produced at a single institution, allowing the overall research performance of small, medium and very large universities to be equitably compared. As Alex Usher, of Toronto-based Higher Education Strategy Associates wrote about the Leiden results, "Victoria punches way above its weight," on research impact.

This year, UVic ranked fourth in Canada across all sciences for research impact—the fourth year in a row it has held that position. UVic's field-specific highlights include: #1 in Canada for mathematics and computer science (for the fifth consecutive year); #3 in Canada for social sciences and humanities; and #5 in Canada for biomedical and health sciences.

This year, the Leiden Rankings added a new category for Open Access publications as well—showcasing UVic's strength in making science and scholarship's findings accessible and affordable. Nearly half of all UVic publications (46.7 per cent) circulate legally and sustainably in open access journals and repositories—putting UVic just behind McGill and ahead of the University of Toronto in this emerging domain.

FRAMEWORK CONTINUED FROM P. 1

workshops and experiences that will help gallery staff recognize such things as how our values, daily practices and words are steeped in colonial power structures.

We hold monthly meetings that we call "decolonial check-ins" where we share what we are learning and ideas for modifying our practices.

And these efforts also extend to how we catalogue the collection. We're currently updating our collection's database, including trying to find out the names for Indigenous artists who have for so long been listed as anonymous. And we are researching traditional Indigenous place names.

Hughes. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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

The UVic art collection reflects our extraordinary academic environment, especially with its distinctive strengths visible on campus in Pacific Northwest Coast and contemporary Indigenous art.

We're really interested in bringing Indigenous art to life so that when people come to campus, they'll be able to engage with the cultural meanings and be reminded that they are standing on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples.

As for intensifying dynamic learning, that's something we are really proud of—we give students real-world experiences. Whether it is curating, collections management or programming school tours, the students have something tangible when they leave us that they can point to as being their own significant contribution.

With respect to promoting sustainability, we now use recyclable materials. For example, we switched from foam core to paper products for displays. More significantly, we see our contribution in promoting healthy dialogue around issues that matter to society as working toward healthy social sustainability. And our recent collaboration with UVic's Transgender Archives allowed us to explore with the public how society can grow to be more welcoming to the wide spectrum of genders.

Our new database and our on-line projects allow the collections and the research of faculty and students to have a reach globally, engaging curiosity, inspiring artistic pursuits and providing learning opportunities well beyond the gallery walls.

National STEAM award goes to UVic math student

BY BARBARA TODD HAGER

Cockney-Goose

Tyra Cockney-Goose heard the ping of an incoming email at 5 o'clock one morning in early April 2019. The message was from the Ingenium Foundation in Ottawa, three times zones away. Still half-asleep, Cockney-Goose tried to focus on the words on the white screen. "We are pleased to inform you…." it began. When it dawned on her that the email was informing her that she was one of five STEAM Horizon Award winners, which included a $25,000 scholarship, she was instantly awake.

Sleep—or lack of it—is one thing that Cockney-Goose, a second-year UVic math student, is somewhat of an expert in. Her research project on sleep deprivation won a gold medal at the Beaufort Delta Regional Science Fair in her senior year, and a bronze medal at the Canada-wide Science Fair in Ottawa in 2018.

Her research project had only one subject—herself. Like many teenagers, after doing her homework she would often spend a few hours watching YouTube videos and checking social media sites.

The impact of technology and late night studying on productivity, alertness and hand-eye coordination was something she wanted to analyze. "Lack of sleep really affects your quality of life," she discovered while conducting research for the project. "Now I get eight or nine hours of sleep every night."

First Inuit recipient of the award

The STEAM Horizon Award, supported by three national museums and NSERC, among others, honours youth who promote positive changes throughout their communities using science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM).

Born in Inuvik to Mae Cockney and Louie Goose, Cockney-Goose is the second youngest in a family of six girls and three boys. She became interested in science and math at an early age and considers her mother, a nurse, her main inspiration. "My mother always tells me that my accomplishments are my own and that I should be proud of them."

When Cockney-Goose was in grade 10, she wrote an article for *Tusaayaksat Magazine* that included an interview with her father, who grew up in Ulukhaktok, a small Inuit community on Victoria Island. "I look at my situation and sometimes wonder how differently past generations spent their spare time before the invention of smart phones, tablets and computers," she ponders in the article.

When she asked her father about his thoughts on technology and its impact on traditional Inuit culture, he told her, "Technology benefits us and it is something that is going to happen. However, it has to be used wisely so people don't get too lazy and spoiled."

Cockney-Goose graduated in 2018 from Inuvik's East Three Secondary School and was the class valedictorian. Her plan was to take a year off school before starting university. To make her mother happy, she applied to one post-secondary institution: UVic.

"UVic was my only choice," Cockney-Goose said. "The weather is warm, they have a great Faculty of Science and I liked that there is a First Peoples House." Once enrolled, she attended Indigenous gatherings and events at the house, and considers it one of the primary reasons for choosing UVic.

For the second summer in a row, Tyra is back home in Inuvik working for the Inuvaluit Regional Corporation as a climate change and environment policy assistant doing research related to the Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment.

She is looking forward to starting her second year of studies at UVic, without having to worry about raising funds to cover the costs. Her long-term goal is to return home after graduating from university to teach math. "I want to be a mentor for young Indigenous youth, especially in the North."

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Executive Director Bruce Kilpatrick, 250-721-7638, abk@uvic.ca

Editor Marc Christensen, 250-721-6022, marcdc@uvic.ca

Production Beth Doman

Display ads Bonnie Light, 250-388-5321, adsring@uvic.ca

Distribution Mandy Crocker, 250-721-8587, ucam@uvic.ca

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The Ring, PO Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955
Email: ring@uvic.ca

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uvic.ca/news

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Moving the dial on sustainable transportation options

More than 50 teams of UVic cyclists—including 54 first-time riders and 496 overall—pedalled more than 17,400 kilometres during Bike to Work Week (May 27-31). Cycling is just one of several active transportation options for faculty, staff and student commuters that reduces both the number of single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs) travelling to campus, and overall greenhouse gas emissions.

A recent comprehensive review of UVic's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program showed that during 2018, 62.38% of commuters took advantage of sustainable transportation options (cycling, walking, carpooling, etc.)—including a 1.8% increase in the number of pedestrians and 0.9% increase in the number of cyclists. There was a corresponding 2.3 % decrease in SOV trips to campus. This is the first time since the university began monitoring transportation patterns in 1996 that the number of commuters using sustainable options has topped 60%. The volume of trips by pedestrians and cyclists also increased between 2016 and 2018, by 18% and 10.8% respectively.

While these numbers are impressive, staff in the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability are exploring additional measures to nudge the transportation modal split to 70% non-single-occupancy vehicles, the target of the Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2014-2019.

"TDM looks at ways to reduce travel demand and redistribute travel volumes, while still meeting the transportation needs of the campus community," says Mike Wilson, director of campus planning and sustainability. "As we move into renewing our sustainability action plan, we'll be considering a range of robust TDM strategies to help us meet our goal of having 70% of students, staff and faculty choosing sustainable travel options."

"We're looking at using a combination of push and pull strategies—incentives and disincentives," says Susan Kerr, campus sustainability coordinator. "We already have a strong range of incentives to make active transportation more convenient, safe and available, so we may also need to look at adjusting our parking strategies in order to influence people's behaviour toward more sustainable choices."

The TDM review revealed that many staff, faculty and student parking permit holders live within a 5- to 7-kilometre radius of campus. "We need to do more work to understand the barriers that prevent this group of students, faculty and staff from using the student Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) and the employee bus pass program, cycling or walking," says Kerr. A follow-up parking survey will be released this summer.

Sustainable travel choices: Did you know?

The UVic employee bus pass offers a 50% saving over regular BC Transit pricing (available only to those who do not purchase parking permits).

Staff and faculty can try out the new U-Bicycle loan program for three months free of charge this summer. The SPOKES bicycle loan program is also available.

The 2019 Campus Cycling Plan will guide policy and infrastructure development to improve comfort and safety for cyclists and pedestrians. The plan won the Canadian Institute of Planners 2019 Award of Planning Excellence Merit: New and Emerging Planning Initiatives.

Driving alternatives

UVic offers Modo car share memberships to employees and family student housing residents without parking permits, with three Modo vehicles available on campus. Zipcar vehicles are also available at discounted UVic rates.

UVic now has seven electric vehicle charging stations available to the public.

A "fair-weather rider" parking permit is available in the winter months (Nov. 1–Feb. 28) for those who commute by other methods in the warmer months.

Learn more about the university's sustainable transportation program: *bit.ly/uvic-transport*

Student housing and dining project schedule fast-tracked

An accelerated schedule for the university's new student housing and dining project will propel it to completion in early 2023, 16 months earlier than originally scheduled.

The student housing and dining project—the first significant capital project since the Campus Plan was renewed in 2016—will create housing for an additional 621 students currently living off campus and help to address the acute regional need for housing. The two new LEED Gold and Passive House-certified buildings will feature a 600-seat dining hall, two 225-seat classrooms, an Indigenous student lounge, and meeting and conference spaces. Early site preparation work began this spring, at the site between the Student Union Building and Cadboro Commons.

After exploring options to expedite the original four-year construction schedule, the university has adopted a one-phase construction approach. The expedited schedule means that Cadboro Commons, Margaret Newton Hall and Emily Carr Residence will be deconstructed at the same time, in summer 2020, prior to the start of construction.

A modular dining facility—to be located in Parking Lot B, between the Bob Wright Centre and McPherson Library/Mearns Centre—will be installed to replace the Commons Kitchen during the construction period. Installation will begin in January 2020. The modular facility will become operational in fall 2020 and remain in place until summer 2022, when the new dining hall opens.

The 550-seat temporary facility will maintain the same hours and high standards of food services as the Commons Kitchen. Degrees Catering services will also be maintained throughout the construction period.

"We're excited about the opportunity to have these buildings up and running more than a year earlier than we'd originally planned,"says Mike Wilson, director of campus planning and sustainability. "Though there will be some short-term inconvenience and noise associated with such a large construction project, we appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we work to achieve our long-term goal of providing additional student housing and increasing the vibrancy of our campus."

Although reserved parking in Lot B will be unavailable from January 2020 to fall 2022, the university's 2018 parking study showed that ample reserved parking is available in nearby lots. Accessible parking will continue to be available in Lot C, adjacent to the Clearihue Building, and two additional accessible stalls will be added in Parking Lot 1. Annual permit holders will receive more information from Parking Services with their permit renewal packages.

"We will work with anyone with a parking permit who is impacted by this work, to find the best solution for their parking needs on campus," says Patrick Seward, manager, parking and transportation.

Visit the project website for details, and updates as the construction phase gets underway:

uvic.ca/campusplanning/current-projects/new-student-housing

around the ring

Alumni gift helps student race team cross the finish line

The student-driven Formula Motorsport Team in engineering managed to finish ahead of the curve this May, finishing in 57th place out of 120 teams at the Michigan International Speedway. You may have already heard their story of adversity, as the team suffered from the theft of key pieces of equipment just a few weeks before the competition. The other part of the tale, about a gift from the UVic Alumni Association to get the team back on the road, can be read at *bit.ly/FSAE-gift*.

Formula Hybrid team takes first place in competition

In a separate competition that pairs speed with fuel-efficiency, UVic's Formula Hybrid student team placed first at this year's international SAE Formula Hybrid competition in the US. The UVic team won first prize in the design category and got a special award for their pneumatic antiroll technology. This was the fifth time UVic has entered a team and the second time it has won. From the competition grounds, Chad McColm, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student, told the *Times Colonist* that the big advantage for UVic vehicle was the lighter weight of their capacitor-based system compared with lithium-ion batteries.

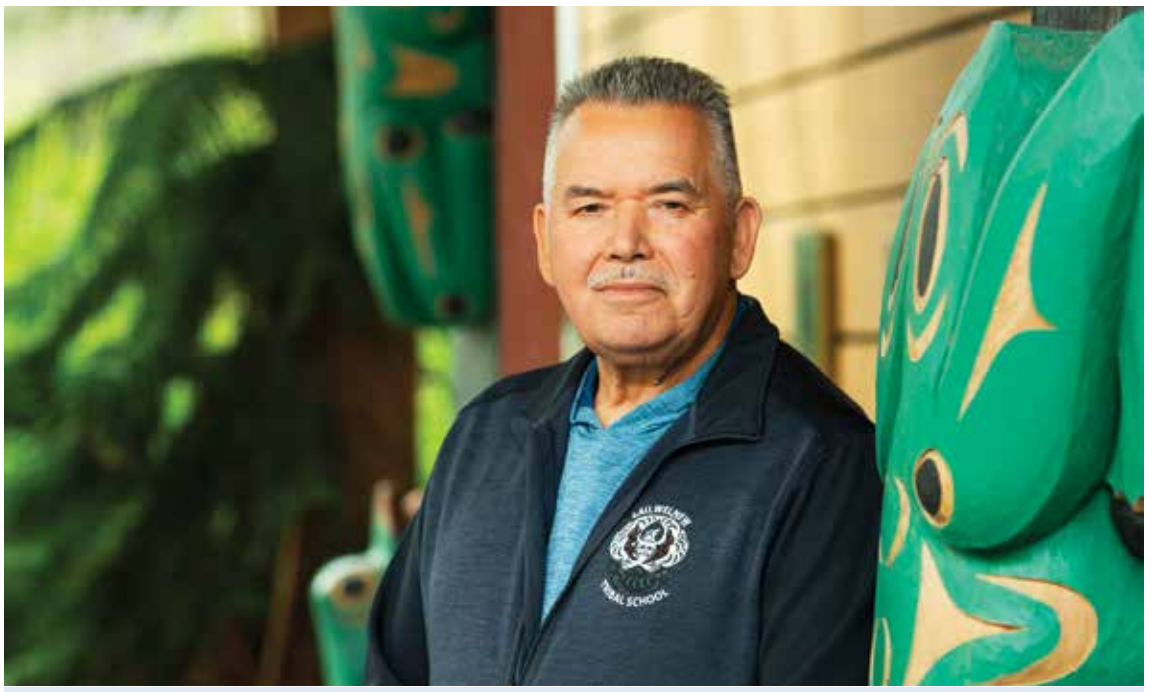
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

UVic honours six inspirational leaders

A group of extraordinary individuals will receive an honorary degree—the university's highest academic honour—during June convocation ceremonies.

Honorands include:

- **an Indigenous language activist**
- **an expert in mathematical biology**
- **a trailblazer in Indigenous governance**
- **a law-education innovator**
- **a pioneering marine naturalist**
- **a teacher devoted to revitalizing an Indigenous language.**



Elliott. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

STOLQEŁ John Edward Elliott Sr., Honorary Doctor of Education (DEd)

June 10, 2019 | 2:30 p.m.

STOLQEŁ John Elliott is a respected Elder from the WJOŁEŁP Tsartlip First Nation who played a pivotal role in the preservation and revitalization of the SENĆOŦEN language. He is a historian, mentor, language warrior, traditional knowledge keeper and a gifted teacher. He taught at the ŁÁU,WELṈEW Tribal School for 40 years, immersing students from kindergarten to Grade 10 in the SENĆOŦEN language. He now teaches adult students who are working on their education degrees through UVic and the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board. Over the years, he also taught classes and supported many projects at UVic and Camosun College focusing on Indigenous knowledge, culture and language revitalization.

In 1999, STOLQEŁ co-founded FirstVoices, a ground-breaking online Indigenous language archiving and teaching resource. He paved the way for the Tribal School to employ nine full-time SENĆOŦEN immersion teachers from pre-school to Grade 5. He served for many years as a member of the BC First Nations Education Council sub-committee on language and on the board of First Peoples' Cultural Council.

STOLQEŁ continues to model the Coast Salish teachings of humility and of honouring the Elders and his ancestors. He is tireless in his service to the W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich) people.

Levin. PHOTO: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Simon Asher Levin, Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc)

June 14, 2019 | 10 a.m.

Simon Asher Levin is a pioneer and world leader in mathematical biology, an interdisciplinary area that broadly applies mathematical models and computational tools to understand and answer questions in many areas of biology, including ecology, epidemiology, environmental studies and evolution.

After graduating with higher degrees in mathematics, Levin began his career at Cornell University, where his interests broadened to include biology and ecology. He applied his mathematical insights to understanding a variety of biological systems, including modelling disease, population dynamics and community processes.

Levin's research focuses on the evolution of diversification, the mechanisms sustaining biological diversity in natural systems and the implications for ecosystem structure and functioning. More recently, his attention has been directed to the evolution and ecology of collective behaviour, from the movements of flocks of birds and schools of fish to human decision-making. He is concerned with improving policymaking to address global environmental challenges and the creation of more collaborative social systems. Levin has received many awards, including the National Medal of Science, an honour bestowed by the President of the United States.

Gallagher

Joe Gallagher, k̓ʷunəmɛn, Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)

June 11, 2019 | 10 a.m.

Joe Gallagher, k̓ʷunəmɛn of Tla'amin Nation is an outstanding leader and a trailblazer for First Nations self-determination and governance in BC and Canada.

As the inaugural chief executive officer of the First Nations Health Authority, Gallagher implemented the BC First Nations Health Governance structure. Gallagher helps advance the shared vision of "healthy, self-determining, and vibrant BC First Nations children, families and communities." This work led to the formation of the First Nations Health Authority. Gallagher's leadership paved the way for the Declaration of Commitment to Cultural Safety and Humility in health services for First Nations and Aboriginal people in BC.

Gallagher was chief negotiator in his own nation's treaty negotiations though the Sliammon Treaty Society. He also served as director of programs at Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, BC Region.

Gallagher earned a BA from UVic in 1987 and played on the Vikes soccer team. Gallagher also played soccer for Team BC at the 1993 North American Indigenous Games. The BC Coroners Service also recognized Gallagher for his advocacy on behalf of his late niece, Makara, which led to systemic changes for all children and families in BC.

Gold

Neil Gold, Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)

June 11, 2019 | 2:30 p.m.

Neil Gold has had a profound impact on the way law is taught in Canada through his innovative approaches and inspired teaching. He challenged students, legal educators and practitioners to become thoughtful, engaged citizens and leaders. Gold, a professor emeritus with the University of Windsor, was an early innovator in experiential learning, notably in clinical legal education.

In 1975, Gold was recruited to the UVic Faculty of Law as a member of its founding group of law professors and became the founding director of the Law Centre Clinical Law Program. This was the first clinical program in Canada to provide law students with a full-time intensive experiential learning opportunity. The program provided advice and representation to numerous disadvantaged people each year in a fully integrated legal services environment—combining the services of the local bar, the Community Action Group as well as social support services through UVic's School of Social Work.

Gold has made many other contributions, including developing innovative teaching techniques. He argued that legal education must include the teaching of lawyering skills such as interviewing, counselling, drafting, negotiation, mediation and litigation processes. He also pioneered the blending of interdisciplinary expertise and learning in the delivery of legal services.

Lamb

Andy Lamb, Honorary Doctor of Education (DEd)

June 13, 2019 | 2:30 p.m.

Andy Lamb is a pioneering marine naturalist who co-authored the authoritative species identification guides for waters of the Pacific Northwest. His books—*Coastal Fishes of the Pacific Northwest* (1986 and 2010), and *Marine Life of the Pacific Northwest* (2005)—have sold thousands of copies and are essential resource materials for any marine enthusiast, be they recreational divers or leading researchers.

Lamb, who earned his BSc in zoology from the University of British Columbia in 1971, received his National Association of Underwater Instructors certification in 1967 when diving was in its early days and few people ventured underwater. He worked for the Vancouver Aquarium and the West Vancouver Laboratory of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in various roles including aquarist, fish culturist and educator. He was named a fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society to honour his contributions.

Throughout his career and in retirement, Lamb has been an enthusiastic and tireless educator. He influenced thousands of students through the marine-life identification course and programs at the Vancouver Aquarium. He continues to volunteer his time, participating in local education events where he often dives to create a mini aquarium exhibit to teach people—especially children—about marine life.

Peter

Sti'tum'at Ruby Peter, Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)

June 10, 2019 | 10 a.m.

Sti'tum'at Ruby Peter of the Quamichan First Nation has dedicated her life to documenting, teaching and revitalizing the Hul'q'umi'num' language. As a young woman, Sti'tum'at saw a shift in her community from speaking Hul'q'umi'num' to English. Concerned by this trend, she and her three sisters approached UVic in 1970 to develop Indigenous teacher training. The women's push to acquire the literacy and linguistic skills needed for their work led UVic to develop the first community-based programs in North America to support Indigenous language teaching, including the Native Indian Language Diploma Program and the Native Indian Language Teacher Training Program.

In addition to teaching students at many levels, Sti'tum'at has a long history of research on the Hul'q'umi'num' language, including her co-authored *Cowichan Dictionary* (1995), the most extensive work of its kind. She also served as a language consultant and translator for dozens of projects and is still actively engaged in partnerships between universities and the Hul'q'umi'num' Language and Culture Centre. Sti'tum'at's knowledge spans not only the elements of language needed to communicate in Hul'q'umi'num', but also cultural teachings related to traditional stories, weaving, dance and longhouse ceremonies.

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During Spring Convocation from June 10 to 14, ceremonies will be held to confer 3,777 degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Sly. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

The sounds of silence

Acoustic ecologist Kaitie Sly explores the unheard world of ambient sound

BY JOHN THRELFALL

We've all heard the old proverb: "What we don't know can't hurt us." But, as the research of emerging acoustic ecologist Kaitie Sly shows, what we can't hear might indeed be hurting us.

Graduating this month with a master's in music and a specialization in music technology, the Vancouver Island born-and-raised Sly has developed a research creation project focused on the impact of inaudible human-generated sound in Greater Victoria. By creating an interactive map of the region, she has highlighted specific areas showing the location of infrasonic and ultrasonic noise.

"The point is to communicate the significance of these frequencies in our everyday lives by allowing people to experience and hear the inaudible noise that's around us all the time," she explains.

Infrasonic sounds exist below the human ability to hear (20 hertz and less), while ultrasonic sounds soar above our listening range (20 kilohertz and up). And while there are naturally occurring frequencies of both infrasonic (thunder, strong winds, earthquakes) and ultrasonic (tropical rainforest, bats, mice), we're more likely to encounter them through human-generated activities like aircraft, wind turbines and ventilation systems (infrasonic) and industrial tools, wireless chargers and vehicle parking sensors (ultrasonic).

"You may hear the audible frequencies, but there's a lot of sound happening above or below that," she says—and therein lies the problem. "Developments in neuroscience indicate that sonic stimuli can significantly affect the human body without our awareness, which is why I wanted to study infrasonic and ultrasound specifically. There's this assumption that what we can't hear can't affect us—but my research suggests that, depending on different frequencies and pressure levels, these sounds actually produce significant effects on human well-being."

An easy comparison, says Sly, is the carbon monoxide detector. "Carbon monoxide is odorless and tasteless but it's very dangerous, so we've created carbon monoxide detectors to

SEE SLY P. 6

Alamchandani and Graumann. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

GREEN AIMS FOR GRADS

A pair of civil engineering grads aim to make artisanal mining safer and more sustainable

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

UVic's green-focused civil engineering program attracts a lot of pragmatic idealists. Keri Graumann and Dheeraj Alamchandani—who both graduate this month—are prime examples, using the tools and techniques of engineering as a way to advance social justice and global sustainability.

The pair—from Kelowna, BC and from Jaipur, India, respectively—bonded over a group project they developed into their final engineering design project, which may yet become the focus of one of their master's work down the road.

As part of Heather Buckley's greener design course, Graumann and Alamchandani designed a system to reduce mercury contamination arising from the gold-mining practices used in much of the developing world.

"I was driven to be part of the project not only because it involved technical concepts from engineering, chemistry and biology," recalls Alamchandani, "but because it was about people who don't have the privilege to use technology for mining." All the group projects involved finding solutions to toxic mineral remediation but, he says, "this project had the biggest social aspect to it."

Around the world, this type of mining is referred to as artisanal gold mining (AGM). The term is a bit misleading. To hipster ears, it sounds like a low-impact, bespoke process—but it's anything but. Although the method is low-tech and involves very little mechanization, the practice of using mercury to extract gold from ore impacts air and water systems all around the world.

Unlike large-scale gold mines where the precious metal runs in veins, or in rivers where it's found in flakes or nuggets, this form of mining collects gold dust from ore. Miners, often in family groups, excavate the ore, grind it with a hand mixer, then pour mercury into the ore where it binds with the gold. The mercury-

SEE MINING P. 10

major medal winners

Governor General's Gold Medal
Danielle Claar—PhD, Biology

Governor General's Gold Medal
Justin Karr—PhD, Psychology

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (thesis)
Jennifer Magel—MSc, Biology

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (other than thesis)
Su Yen Chong—MA, Art History & Visual Studies

Governor General's Silver Medal
Rai Goyal—BSc, Mathematics & Economics

Jubilee Medal for Humanities
Novella Nicchitta—BA, Greek and Roman Studies

Jubilee Medal for Science
Jamie Kihira—BSc, Computer Science & Mathematics

Jubilee Medal for Social Sciences
Jenna Matijevic—BSc, Psychology
Maxwell Nicholson—BA, Honours in Economics

Law Society Gold Medal
Andrew Tigchelaar, JD

Certificate Distinction in the Faculty of HSD
Rebecca Steel—BCYC, Child and Youth Care

Victoria Medal in Fine Arts
Laura Gildner—BFA, Visual Arts

Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology Undergraduate Student Award
Katelyn Jeffries—BSc, Kinesiology
Kristen Leech—BSc, Kinesiology

Canadian Society for Mechanical Eng. Medal
Noah Varley—BEng, Mechanical Engineering

Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal
Mohammed Abousaleh—BSc, Computer Science
Kulvir Sekhon—BSc, Computer Science & Mathematics

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering
Jiefei Li—BEng, Electrical and Computer Engineering

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering
Lyden Smith—BEng, Electrical Engineering

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Software Engineering
Rhiannon Tully-Barr—BSEng, Software Engineering

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Biomedical Engineering
Toren Huntley—BEng, Biomedical Engineering

A web of support fosters new leadership in inclusive education

BY JULIE RÉMY

Rochefort. PHOTO: MIKE MORASH

For Dominique Rochefort, a citizen of the Métis Nation, the journey to become an empowered teacher was mined with self-doubts and life challenges.

As a single Indigenous woman and mother of two young children facing an unstable future, Rochefort didn't believe she could realize her dream to become a teacher. She was a survivor raising her children in a life of poverty, yet she was determined to show them that there was something better.

Four years later, a lot has changed.

This month, Rochefort graduates with a UVic BEd in elementary teacher education—and will receive a Maxwell Cameron award from the BC Teachers' Federation for the outstanding quality of her practice teaching, her top GPA and engagement in social justice.

Rochefort is already working as a teacher-on-call in the Saanich and Victoria school districts and is completing a diploma in personalized learning.

She reflects that she's gained so much confidence and control over her life since she opened her acceptance letter from UVic four years ago. "I was sitting at Gyro Beach and I started to sob. I knew that this was my chance to change my life."

Her first year at UVic felt terrifying. Imposter syndrome kept creeping in and she felt less deserving than others. When handing her first completed exam to her professor, she commented about how she thought she did poorly.

"I didn't believe that I was qualified, that I was smart enough, that I was capable enough."

Her professor shook her head—making a small step to help her realize how smart she was.

Another step came when a donor, who quickly became a mentor and a friend, understood the challenges being a single mother attending university could bring. Generations ago, the donor had also struggled as a single mother trying to complete her teacher education.

Rochefort came to feel she was not alone. Every time she started to doubt, solutions came to her and a solid network started forming around her.

"I started to realize that if the university and the donors believed in me enough to make a significant contribution to my education, then I should really start believing in myself."

Rochefort shares openly with her students that she was diagnosed with mild developmental coordination disorder (DCD). Unlike some of her students, it was caught later in life and slid under the radar.

"My personal experience, navigating the world with an atypical brain, gives me tools for connecting to students who have unique learning needs. Differentiation for student abilities is not easy, and it takes knowing your students and their strengths—it takes time. I was lucky, my mom worked as an education specialist and was able to create ways for me to feel successful most of the time. I believe that every child deserves someone in their court who believes that they are capable of success even if that success looks different than for someone else."

"When inclusive education is done properly you have the chance to change a child's life. I have been so lucky to work with incredible education assistants (EA), and other education specialists, who make this possible. As a teacher, having an EA to support students is vital. The teamwork between the EA and teacher allow for the needs of an individual student to be more readily met. It is important that the teachers create opportunities for all students to be successful."

Beyond her interest in helping children with special needs, Dominique discovered a passion for STEM while working with Science Venture, especially with Indigenous youth.

"I never imagined that I would be teaching STEM. I was incredibly fortunate to work with Indigenous youth, a segment of the population who are less likely to go into STEM fields and post-secondary. I found this work so meaningful as I had never seen a role model who was from my culture when I was a child."

The experience and connections she made at UVic during her teacher program changed not only her life, but the life of her children. "They know that they can do anything if they work hard, because they have seen me do it."

Now, at the end of her undergraduate journey, instead of doubt she carries goals. Rochefort plans to become more fluent in Michif (her Metis language) and pursue education in language revitalization as well as a masters in special education.

ROFF CONTINUED FROM P. 1

more and more people recognize their brand, they can then justify buying their own canning line and ramping up production if that's the way they want to go."

"For the vast majority of my clients, I'm actually hoping to put myself out of business. The idea is that they use me while they're growing, but hopefully they get to the stage where they're like, 'we've built our business, we're going to invest in our own canning line, and we won't need Zac anymore.' And at that time I'm hoping there's some other up-and-coming little brewery that's reaching their growth stage and wants to hire me to start the cycle again."

Canning equipment, of course, is not exclusively applicable to the beer industry. Roff mentions kombucha as another emerging opportunity for his business, as well as possibly canning wine. In theory, the larger local breweries occasionally also have use for his equipment when canning a smaller run of a seasonal beer, or to augment the capacity of their own machines.

A customer-needs mindset is thoroughly integrated throughout Roff's business model, and it mirrors the perspective that drew him to UVic's service management specialization instead of the seemingly more applicable choice of entrepreneurship. As he put it, "I already knew I was going to do this canning machine operation, so I thought to myself that what I really needed was to focus on the fact that every industry is a service industry. There was a huge emphasis on seeing things from the customer's point of view in the coursework, which I found fascinating, and also very useful now."

Province-wide, BC is closing in on 200 breweries, and Vancouver Island is keeping pace by fostering microbreweries of its own. Roff has no interest in being one of them—all he knows about beer is that it's delicious, and how to get it into a can. But he is happy to be part of the industry, and may yet become an integral part of the island's iconic and popular brewing scene, all without a degree in chemistry, experience brewing in his basement, or even strong opinions about taste.

"You should see brewers during the canning process," he says. "They're amazing at judging precise carbonation levels and flavour. They taste it and say 'ah, I'm getting notes of cherry.' And I'm like, 'yeah, it's delicious. That's all I can tell you.'"

SLY CONTINUED FROM P. 5

protect ourselves. But why haven't we done the same thing for these types of inaudible frequencies? If you have a headache, you won't automatically attribute it to inaudible sounds—but that's worth questioning that if you live near a highway, wind turbine, industrial centre or anti-loitering device." Consider wind turbines, which are known to produce infrasonic sound. "A lot of people who live near wind turbines have experienced adverse health effects—insomnia, anxiety, hypertension, panic attacks—but the turbine industry says infrasonic sound is below the audible threshold, and therefor of no consequence," she says. "More research is needed to explore the connection between inaudible sounds and health concerns."

Sly uses a specific high-definition omnidirectional microphone that records both the infra- and ultrasonic ranges, then runs those recordings through software that reveals a spectrogram analysis of the resulting sound. Her map project focused on data collection and analysis over a four-month period, using field recordings of specific Greater Victoria locations: the airport, the McKenzie interchange, a construction blasting site in Colwood and an antiloitering mosquito device in Sidney. The resulting map uses an interactive ripple effect to display the type and intensity of the inaudible sounds.

"One of the scary things about infrasonic sound is that we can't really protect ourselves from it: even if we use hearing protection, it won't stop it from having an effect on our bodies, as the soundwaves impact the entire organism," she explains.

As an acoustic ecologist, Sly hopes to raise awareness about the impact a soundscape can have on both humans and the wider ecosystem. "Acoustic ecologists work with urban planners or landscape architects to be more aware of both the adverse and beneficial effects sound can have on our health and well-being," she says. "It's a field where you're trying to find ways to harmonize humans with their acoustic environment."

Ultimately, says Sly, we all need to be more aware of what we hear—and don't hear—around us. "It's not just about the risks; sound can have a very beneficial impact on our life. Whatever your profession, think about sound in everything you do."

Nicholson

Econ grad hired by top global consulting firm

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Honours economics grad Maxwell Nicholson grew up in a small Kootenay town where he started his own cake-making business while still in high school.

"I was thinking of going to school to become a pastry chef, but my parents convinced me to apply to at least one university," says Nicholson. "I applied to UVic since my brother was already enrolled in the school," he adds.

As a self-starter entrepreneur, Nicholson says his dream of culinary school was exchanged for a new dream of making a difference in the world through innovation and business. The study of economics made the most sense to him since he says almost everything in our culture has an aspect of economics to it.

"Economics gave me a useful framework to try and understand our complex world," says Nicholson. "All decisions have trade-offs and not everything is black and white. Most things are more nuanced than they seem."

Nicholson quickly caught the attention of his first-year professor, Emma Hutchinson.

"Max is exceptional," says Hutchinson. "He got 100 per cent in ECON 103 the semester he took my class. No student before or since has achieved a perfect score."

She adds that hiring him to be a teaching assistant when he was in second year was a "no-brainer." "Max is beloved by his students and is one of the best TAs I have ever had the pleasure of working with," continues Hutchinson.

During his time at UVic, Nicholson was involved with local student politics and ran for a seat in the UVSS student election. His slate, Encompass UVic, beat out the incumbents and won every seat in the general election.

"My favourite memory was the day we won," says Nicholson. "We cheered so loud that the department chair had to come and quiet us down."

When he wasn't involved in student politics or travelling to Singapore during an exchange, Nicholson was trying to make a difference in the classroom through open textbooks—texts authored by professors for the specific purpose of being used and taught from without charge. Nicholson successfully convinced Hutchinson to author and use one of these textbooks in her course.

"Unlike some other schools, where you feel like a number in a seat, at UVic it is very easy to seek and implement the changes you wish to see," he says. "In my studies, I was able to work closely with many of my professors, and ultimately collaborate with Dr. Hutchinson for the open textbook project," says Nicholson.

Last year, Nicholson was one of 10 students across Canada awarded a prestigious 3M National Student Fellowship, in recognition of his future potential to enhance teaching and learning at the post-secondary level.

Nicholson, who graduates this month with a BA honours degree in economics—and will be awarded the UVic Jubilee Award in Social Sciences during convocation—says leadership is all about taking action to bring about change.

"Leadership is realizing that you can't do everything yourself. It is building partnerships with others who share common goals and collaborating to achieve results. This focus on action and collaboration are core to my style of leadership," says Nicholson.

Nicholson plans to apply his skills to his new position with McKinsey & Company, a global management consultant firm where he interned last summer. McKinsey is regularly ranked as the best consulting firm in the world by Vault, and Nicholson is the first student hired from UVic directly out of an undergrad program. Nicholson says he values the company's culture of openness and their emphasis on personal development.

Nicholson's next chapter begins later in June after returning home from some travel in Southeast Asia. In the future he hopes to pursue a MBA at a school in the US.

Deciphering the history of the world's oceans

Cultural perspectives on ocean science stand out for new doctoral grad

BY CLARE WALTON

Zhen Li

Zhen Li's optimism and positive attitude are striking. A self-described mature student, Zhen earned both her bachelor and master's of science degrees in China before relocating to Victoria to pursue a PhD at the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences.

With a research focus on paleoceanography—studying the oceans' history to understand its physical, chemical and biological makeup—Zhen came to the university familiar with the waters of the South China Sea and open to learning more about the Pacific Ocean and its coasts.

Working for four years in Vera Pospelova's paleoenvironmental group, Zhen gained a strong understanding of ocean conditions and how the actions of humans influence and accelerate changes to the ocean environment. Learning to put more focus on the relationship between humans and nature represented a big shift in thinking for Zhen, who describes the Chinese relationship to the environment as being more focused on resource extraction and development than on protection and conversation. "Understanding culture differences was a challenge for me when I first arrived in Canada," says Zhen. "In order to be successful, I needed to understand the different ways Canadians think about nature and how this affects the ways in which they conducted their research."

Pursuing a doctorate degree is a challenging task for any student but moving to a new country where you don't speak the language and have to learn the culture is a whole other challenge in itself. In order to thrive in her new home, Zhen familiarized herself with local culture while also committing to her academic work. "You can't just focus all your energy on your research, otherwise you will become isolated," she says. "It was just as important to me to do my research on Canada. To read lots about the country's history, become involved with my community and make the effort to strengthen my English language skills."

Returning to an academic setting later in life can be scary but Zhen hopes that by sharing her story she can help other students make the decision to pursue their academic goals. "I hope that other students from different cultural backgrounds can see me as a positive example of what is possible if you remain open to new experiences," says Zhen. "Although there are challenges to completing a degree in a foreign country there are also many rewards as long as you remain confident in yourself."

During her time at the university Zhen was the recipient of a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) scholarship to support her research. She continues to remain connected to UVic as she pursues a NSERC-supported post-doctoral fellowship at UBC, continuing her palaeoceanographic research into the waters surrounding Vancouver Island.

Healing through language

Margaret Erasmus, of Yellowknives Dene First Nation, researched the mental and physical health benefits of learning one's language as an adult

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Margaret Erasmus has had a lifelong thirst for language and culture.

Erasmus, who belongs to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, lives in Ndilǫ, on the edge of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. As a young girl, Erasmus assisted her mother, who taught classes in Tłı̨chǫ, the first language of some 2,500 people.

"Ever since I was 12 years old I wanted to speak my language more fluently," Erasmus says. "It's important for me to be recognized as Dene and what I do as Dene."

Erasmus, who holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education, will be graduating in June with a Master in Indigenous Language Revitalization (MILR). The program, the only one of its kind in Canada, is a collaboration between UVic's faculties of humanities and education. Erasmus's thesis, "Healing Our Languages, Healing Ourselves: Now is the Time," focused on the powerful mental and physical health benefits of learning one's language as an adult.

For her research, Erasmus conducted in-depth interviews with eight fellow students enrolled in the master's program. Research participants had their own stories to tell, but Erasmus said the commonality was clear: each person had an enriched sense of identity, purpose and wellbeing after learning their language. Some even reported physical benefits such as weight loss.

"As their language learning ramped up, so did their health," Erasmus reported of one participant. "The further they went into their language learning journey, the more their health improved and continued to improve. I was able to perceive improved health as a consequence of fluency."

Erasmus used Indigenous methodology for her research, following Dene protocols, values and laws. She says immersive, land-based learning in one's own community would help threatened languages, such as her own, thrive.

"One of my dreams is we can have our education in our languages. I think that's where we need to go," she says. "We need to go onto the land, we are part of the land, that's where we do most of our teaching and learning that's authentic."

Three of Erasmus's children flew to Victoria for her thesis defense in April, including a daughter completing a PhD in Alberta, a son studying in Vancouver and another son living in the Northwest Territories. Erasmus will return to her community after convocation and share her research with others, especially teachers working in language revitalization.

As always, being true to her Dene language and culture will be the centre of Erasmus's mission.

"We've had so much taken away from us and appropriated. We need to be recognized for our scholarly past," Erasmus says. "Language programming needs to be developed by us from the ground up and delivered by us."

CONVOCATION 2019

Wong

A dream made real through learning

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

As a kid growing up in Hong Kong, Ka Wong was hooked on Wuxia, a superhero genre of hugely popular books and multimedia about modern-day martial arts warriors. Graphic novelists of the 1980s and '90s crafted stories of altruistic, imperfect, mythical heroes who travelled the world to right historic wrongs and rescue innocent victims.

"In our culture, heroism is a very big thing," says Wong, now 36 and preparing to graduate with a BA in Health and Community Services, specializing in Indigenous health, from UVic's School of Public Health and Social Policy.

At 13, Wong experienced his own big adventure when his family moved from Hong Kong to Canada. "It was a huge culture shock," says Wong—made more so after living through his first Winnipeg winter. Picked on at school, being the only Chinese student who could not speak English, he struggled with his studies for years. "My parents gave up on me becoming a doctor."

Renamed Tony, "my Canadian name," he coped as any teenager might, imagining a future for himself of superhero proportions. That's when he decided he wanted to be a policeman. While his parents' response was lukewarm, he says, "they agreed I should have the freedom to try."

Wong has served with the Winnipeg Police Service for 12 years now. He worked for eight years as a beat cop and spent the past four years in community policing. While he still gets picked on, he sees such behaviour stemming from a lack of understanding. "It's not malicious."

"Bullying and racism are small matters to me," says Wong. He is confronted daily by much bigger wrongs that cannot be righted because of policy and law, and the lack of opportunity for unemployed people living in poverty.

"There's so much I want to do. I see situations and I want to help, but often that's not the role of a police officer. I find this difficult to accept." Working night shifts, with limited time with family—Wong and his wife, Christa, have three sons under 10—pressures began to feel overwhelming.

"Some things just stay with you," he confides.

As with the tragic murder of Angela Poorman, a 29-year-old Indigenous woman who was stabbed to death on the street one winter morning in 2014 after an argument with a young man. Wong was one of the first officers on the scene.

"It was such an undignified death," he says, shaking his head.

Police tracked down Poorman's killer, who was under 18 at the time of the stabbing. During the sentencing hearing, Poorman's mother and daughter addressed the court and forgave the young man.

"Their forgiveness changed that guy," says Wong. "He broke down, apologizing for what he had done. At that point I just went 'wow.'"

"You know, I'm not Indigenous but I certainly know what racism is, and this killing was something I just couldn't grasp. People say that's just the way it is and I keep thinking, no, there must be something I can do."

Wong chose to go back to school, a decision his family supported wholeheartedly. After two years of evening classes at the University of Manitoba, wife Christa, a dental assistant, went searching online for a distance degree program her husband could complete while still working.

"My amazing wife. She's so supportive. She's the one who found out about UVic and this BA program," says Wong. Haunted by old fears of failure, Wong had the opposite experience and soared. "All I had to do was work hard and I say that with all sincerity."

The learning, he says, was a "game changer."

"This program made me feel like I woke up, like something inside me finally became alive. I discovered a different kind of thinking. I learned what it really means to be an ally. This was the driving force that led me to apply for a law degree."

Wong was recently accepted at Osgoode Hall Law School with York University and is in the process of relocating his family to Toronto. He starts this September and upon completion in four years plans to practice law for social justice.

"I learned through the community engagement work I did later in my policing career that helping people is about doing things with them, not to them or for them; that's the difference between the dominating factor of heroism—that us-against-them mentality—and the communal factor of serving as an ally, a reflective partner. That's my dream now."

MacFarlane

Honing the craft of storytelling—in journals, verse novels and archives

Samantha MacFarlane defended her dissertation on the same day that she won a prestigious award for designing a digital exhibit about Johnny Cash.

BY LISA ABRAM

The old adage goes: If you want something done, ask a busy person. Within the span of a few months, Samantha MacFarlane successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in humanities; helped to edit a new publication for UVic Libraries' award-winning imprint; and won a prestigious North American library award for an online exhibit about the archives of Saul Holiff, Johnny Cash's manager in the 1960s and early '70s.

"I have received comments about how challenging it must have been to complete my PhD while working in the libraries, but I found them mutually enriching experiences," says MacFarlane. My background as a graduate student and instructor in the Department of English led to the opportunity to work as editorial assistant for the libraries' academic journal and its publication series, but my work in the libraries also informed my dissertation writing."

First hired in February 2017 as editorial assistant for the academic journal *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies*, MacFarlane's role was to support the day-to-day building blocks of the libraries' peer-reviewed, open access journal, established by University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson.

Later that year, MacFarlane transitioned to a co-op position as publications assistant for the libraries' publication series devoted to its archives and special collections where she worked with General Editor Christine Walde and former *Malahat Review* editor John Barton on the libraries' sixth publication, *Canada's Iconic Literary Journal: The Malahat Review at 50*. MacFarlane was also responsible for developing a digital exhibit for the series, and was tasked with highlighting key aspects of each publication in an interactive and engaging way.

MacFarlane also didn't shy away from the challenge of designing the digital exhibit about Holiff and Cash, and in 2018 she began the six-month process of building the narrative about an archive in Special Collections and University Archives that contained thousands of rare and unique items.

When asked how she managed to work multiple library jobs while staying focused on her PhD research on women poets and the late Victorian verse novel, MacFarlane explains that "editing for *KULA* and the publication series was valuable because I was able to apply that editorial perspective to my own writing. And curating for a general audience in the Holiff digital exhibit made me think more carefully about the audience for my dissertation. So I gained a more acute critical awareness about my work by toggling between these projects."

"Sam's profound range of interdisciplinary knowledge, editorial expertise, and academic and scholarly experience—as well as her acute professionalism and precise attention to detail—makes her a joy to work with, as well as being a trusted and treasured colleague across many units in the libraries," says Walde. "Sam understands the creative and critical intersections between libraries, archives and the humanities, and brings that understanding into all the work she does."

MacFarlane adds, "I think I was a good fit for this project because I have always been interested in storytelling. That fascination is what led me to study literature. In literary studies, you get to examine the structures and mechanisms of different kinds of stories—how stories are told—and then you tell a story of your own about that story. It's a kind of narrative building.

"Designing the Holiff exhibit was a similar process. My task was to create a compelling narrative based on the archives, which involved determining our audience (something you have to think about in academic writing) as well as the scope and angle of the exhibit, then choosing items to animate the story of Holiff's life. This kind of storytelling helps the archives come alive."

In April, MacFarlane successfully defended her PhD dissertation, on the same day that the Association of College and Research Libraries announced that the digital exhibit MacFarlane curated on Cash and Holiff had won a prestigious Leab exhibition award. The award committee praised "its multiple modes of navigation, and especially appreciated that the items were fully digitized, providing research value beyond the life of the exhibition."

MacFarlane has no plans to slow down. Her next project is to provide continuing editorial support for the libraries' publication series, and for an upcoming *KULA* issue on Indigenous Knowledges, due out in 2020.

MacFarlane believes that the academic library is a fertile place to do research, and with additional stories to tell, there is much more work to be done.

Saving forests, lives and skies

Co-op work term leads to a new tool for teams of parachute-based firefighters

BY PATTY PITTS

Patrick Robinson's parattack team. PHOTO: RUSS HEPBURN

When UVic geography grad Patrick Robinson parachutes into BC's remote backcountry to fight forest fires this summer, he'll be packing a valuable piece of equipment—his smartphone. The new mapping app Robinson developed during a co-op work term with GeoBC will give him and his fellow "smoke jumpers" more information than ever before about the fire they're attacking—making their work more efficient and potentially safer.

Robinson, who graduates this June, worked seasonal fire-fighting contracts throughout his undergraduate studies. The limits of the existing wildfire geographic information system (GIS) and mapping tools frustrated him. They provided basic, static maps, but after landing in remote areas under tree canopies blocking satellite data, and in areas without cellphone service, the firefighters sometimes had difficulty navigating and gaining situational awareness of the areas around the fires they were sent to fight.

"My crew of three is sent out on short notice to put out small fires before they grow in the middle of nowhere," says Robinson from his current base in Mackenzie. "Usually there are no formal maps and no system to have access to any kind of maps for initial attack firefighters."

When he applied for a co-op work term with GeoBC, the BC Ministry of Forests' mapping division, Robinson was very clear on what he wanted to accomplish.

"I wanted to produce something to provide better maps to bring back to the people who fight the fires."

Robinson's timing was perfect. His GeoBC coop supervisor, Steeve Deschenes, who's also a UVic geography grad, suggested Robinson expand the capability of the ministry's GIS technology.

"The provincial government is a big organization," admits Deschenes. "Sometimes it's difficult to get an application into practice. Patrick was very proactive in seeing its potential, designing and building his app, and getting it approved."

Firefighters like Robinson have to move fast when word of a new fire arrives. "We only have minutes to access maps and any new information about the fire we're attacking since we're in the air within 15 to 30 minutes after callout." Firefighters were unable to save and store the valuable aerial information spotted from their fixed wing aircraft but that has changed with Robinson's new application.

"Now we can add data from the air. I can draw it by hand on my mobile device. We have high-resolution info on where to land, where to store cargo, where there is high or low fire fuel concentrations, safety zones and water sources. It improves our fire attack plans, efficiency and safety."

When one crew returns to connectivity, all the GPS data they've collected on the fire is shared with the next crews dispatched to the same area.

"I'd already done some work on the remote sensing of fires and aerial data collection," says Robinson. "Then I used the technical skills I learned at UVic and came up with a product we could use on the ground."

Robinson's instructor and geography supervisor Chris Bone calls his student's work "probably one of the most innovative undergraduate projects I've ever seen. They're flying in at 1,500 feet and can input very detailed info."

"It's the simplicity of what he proposed—taking an existing tool and utilizing it in a way that hasn't been thought of before."

Deschenes says Robinson's combination of academic expertise and background in firefighting was a big factor in taking his project from a proposal to utilization. He only had two days between finishing his work term at GeoBC and heading up country to fight fires.

"It was a very great experience to supervise Patrick," says Deschenes. "He was the first firefighter that I worked with and having that background and connections was very important in developing and approving the application."

A former co-op student himself, Deschenes is an enthusiastic supporter of the program that permits UVic students to alternate their studies with paid work terms. "I wouldn't be here without that co-op experience. It allows you as a student to take risks. It gives you the confidence to make mistakes and learn and do the work."

The 15 parattack crews operating out of Mackenzie and Fort St. John will all be testing the app this summer, says Robinson. Then following a summary report on its effectiveness, "there's a good chance it will roll out on a bigger scale next year."

Librarians promote global engagement

Cross-cultural research uses information literacy instruction

BY LISA ABRAM

A workshop on information literacy pedagogies, held in Mumbai this March.

A grant to two UVic librarian researchers has led to better awareness of how Indian students expect to discover and critically appraise scholarly information—and how the libraries can improve their experiences.

The two researchers—UVic Libraries' Engineering and Science Librarian Aditi Gupta, and Island Medical Program and Health Sciences Librarian Rebecca Raworth—received a $20,000 Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Institutional Collaborative Research Grant for their collaborative mixed-methods study exploring the need for information literacy programs. The grant, sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, allows Gupta and Raworth to explore information-seeking behaviours and research practices of engineering and science graduate students in India and Canada.

Through focus groups with students and workshops for academic Indian librarians, Gupta and Raworth discovered that one of the biggest barriers that Indian librarians encounter is the absence of information literacy (IL) instruction in library schools. The pair demonstrated that by developing IL competencies through active-learning workshops, they were making an impact on librarians' ability to provide IL instruction to students at their own institutions.

"This engagement of Canadian librarians teaching librarians from India and sharing knowledge has already built cross-cultural capacities, and created an opportunity for knowledge mobilization between our institutions," explains Gupta.

As part of the study, they will develop programs for librarians in India to teach, use and embrace information literacy instruction, while building cross-cultural research collaborations at UVic Libraries and the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar.

"We also wanted to enhance the international student experience, a goal in UVic's International Plan," adds Raworth. "By conducting focus groups with graduate students in India, we have learned how we can make the greatest impact in helping Indian international students at UVic."

Cai. PHOTO: MARTIN LIPMAN/NSERC

Shaping the future of intelligent transportation

Electrical and computer engineer Lin Cai awarded E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

The future of safe and efficient self-driving vehicles relies on the instant transmission of accurate information to avoid accidents, reduce congestion and air pollution, and improve fuel efficiency. But our current system of wireless networking isn't adequate.

Lin Cai, UVic professor of electrical and computer engineering, is developing what she calls an "elegant solution" to the complex challenges of creating a safe and seamless wireless network connecting vehicles, roadside infrastructure, pedestrians and the cloud.

From wearable devices to home appliances, advances in wireless communications and networking have seen more than 30 years of explosive growth, driving our society and economy. As the Internet of Things expands into the transportation sector, Cai is working to make sure we merge smoothly onto the roads of the future.

Vehicle-to-everything networks

Massive vehicle-to-everything (V2X) networks will need to be capable of instantly transmitting the speed, location, direction and driving conditions for every vehicle on the road at any given time. Cai is designing the wireless technology that will transmit and sort all that information for transportation systems of the future.

"Similar to the way smart phones changed our daily lives since the first iPhone was released in 2007, V2X is the next disruptive invention that will shake up many sectors of the economy and increase the global competitiveness of all industrialized countries," says Cai, an internationally recognized researcher in wireless communications and networking.

The major challenge in the current system of wireless networking is that it isn't reliable over long distances nor for the type of large-scale applications required by V2X networks in cities. Cai's research group at UVic is designing what she refers to as the "holy grail" of systems: a reliable, scalable and fully connected "multi-hop" wireless transmission system.

How will it work?

In urban areas, a wireless network of vehicles, roads, traffic lights, buildings, and pedestrians and cyclists with smart phones will exchange information via wireless technology. (In remote areas of Canada, the network will likely be a vehicle-to-vehicle—V2V—system, operating without the assistance of roadside infrastructure.) Building on more than a decade of pioneering wireless communications research, Cai's design will eliminate a cacophony of digital noise, creating instead an organized system that maximizes safety and efficiency.

Recent fatalities involving self-driving vehicles in the US point to the need for a more reliable and intelligent transportation system. A stand-alone autonomous vehicle can't outperform an experienced driver. "But when more information is acquired from other vehicles and from roadside signs and transmission towers, a reliable multi-hop V2X network can help vehicles be much smarter and make more intelligent decisions," Cai explains. "When applied to a large-scale vehicle network, it will have a profound impact on transportation worldwide in the coming V2X era."

A role model for women in STEM

"Since joining UVic in 2005, Lin Cai has developed research programs to provide students with interdisciplinary knowledge and skills that are in high demand in the information and communications industry as well as in academia. She also enthusiastically recruits, inspires and mentors female students," says Michael McGuire, chair of electrical and computer engineering.

In a department where about 15% of students are female (the norm in the field), the goal to increase that figure to 30% within 10 years weighs heavily on her shoulders. "Having more positive role models in electrical and computer engineering can inspire more girls and women to pursue a career in STEM…and to succeed and flourish," she says.

Cai received a 2019 E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship in May. Six of the NSERC-funded fellowships are awarded every year in science and engineering. The fellowship honours "outstanding and highly promising university faculty who are earning a strong international reputation for original research," and includes a grant of $250,000 over two years. Since its launch in 1965, Cai is the first female recipient of this prestigious award in the field of electrical and computer engineering.

This is the second year in a row that a UVic researcher has been awarded a Steacie fellowship.

Staff conference breaks work silos

BY SARAH GRINDLAY

Have you ever felt disconnected from your coworkers in other departments across campus, or wished you knew more about UVic's research and initiatives? As a former UVic student and current staff member, this university has been an influential part of my life for the past decade—but as formative as UVic has been for me, I am still finding my place in the UVic community. On May 22 and 23, I was excited to attend my first Connect U staff conference. Founded in 2011, Connect U is a professional development opportunity that takes place every two years with the aim of connecting staff and faculty and showcasing the remarkable work taking place at UVic.

This year's Connect U events were aligned with UVic's strategic initiatives and ranged in topic from cultural experiences, research initiatives and campus tours to sessions on the development of technical and practical leadership skills. One of the workshops that continues to resonate with me is the Experience Cube workshop, run by Cara Jones and Sarah Hood of Human Resources Organization Development. The Experience Cube concept was first written about by Gervase Bushe in his book, *Clear Leadership*. The concept is simple enough—before you pursue a conversation with someone, think about what you want to say, and break down the components of the conversation into four parts: observations, thoughts, feelings and wants.

Expecting a lecture-style workshop, I went with pen in hand, ready to take notes. I was apprehensive of the masking tape square stuck to the carpet at the front of the Clearihue classroom. It was divided into four quadrants—labelled O, T, F and W—corresponding to the four components of the Experience Cube. My anxiety grew as soon as we were asked to join the presenters at the front. I had not been expecting to be asked to participate.

But just as quickly as my guard rose, it dissipated as Sarah Hood, director of Organization Development and Learning Services, began hopping from quadrant to quadrant. She shared a personal struggle to help us understand the cube's format, so we could use it to connect with people who view the world differently than we do. Her ability to be humble and sincere in this moment put me at ease. We were in this together.

Interconnection became the theme of my first experience at Connect U. Whether it was collaborating on the painting of a mural in the Campus Bike Centre, bonding over yogurt and green initiatives at the progressive breakfast or tromping the grounds of the Campus Community Garden to learn about their edible gardens and community programs, at every event I attended I formed a bond with someone I hadn't expected to meet. As a former UVic graduate, I thought I knew this university. But spending two days at the Connect U conference showed me just how many projects are happening here—and how many amazing people are behind them. My takeaway is this: the conference may happen every two years, but we can work beyond our departmental borders every day.

MINING CONTINUED FROM P. 5

gold amalgam is then heated up, and the mercury vaporizes into the air. Meanwhile, the remaining ore—the tailings—is dumped out, at which point remnants of mercury enter the water system where it circulates worldwide as precipitation and via ocean currents.

As a mining practice, AGM is akin to garbage picking: a ton of ground ore may yield no more than five grams of gold. It's a common and mostly unregulated practice used in South America, parts of Asia, some African nations and in some rural areas of Europe. AGM provides a livelihood for people with few economic options, but it's devastating for the environment. The highly toxic element causes vision loss, nervous system breakdown and has a direct correlation with reproductive health. For those involved in the process itself, the effects are more immediate.

Both Graumann and Alamchandani were shocked by what they learned about the widespread environmental and health impacts of AGM—and equally moved by the potential for powerful social justice and environmental change if they could find a solution. They knew that changing policies to stop the process altogether was unrealistic in the short term and their research showed that a number of technology fixes have been tried with mixed success. An immediate harm-reduction solution was needed, combined with policy proposals.

They used their design skills to adapt existing technology—a hydrocyclone which uses centrifugal force to separate particles in a liquid suspension—and proposed it be made of cheap plastic or metal materials. This would make it easy to operate and implement and less likely to upset the economic applecart for subsistence miners. Using the hydrocyclone as an additional step in the process, it would do double duty: it would recover most of the mercury from the ore so it doesn't enter the water and would enable recovered mercury to be used again, saving miners money. Additional modelling also showed that if the hydrocyclone was used on its own to extract gold *without* the use of mercury at all, it would recover more gold dust—up to 90% compared to 30 to 70% using the mercury method—potentially making AGM even more profitable.

Then, working in consultation with the Victoria-based Artisanal Gold Mining Council and with Buckley, they advanced their initial work to envision a greener mining infrastructure project at a specific site in Ecuador. Their final capstone project included a tailings pond that uses phytoremediation—a process of extracting toxins from water using plants—that would extract even more mercury. They found several species of local plants that would work.

"We believe the final solution should be a combination of both policy and technology to fully encapsulate human health and environmental justice," said Graumann, who entered UVic's civil engineering program by way of Camosun College's Engineering Transfer program.

"Their integrated approach really embodies what we mean when we talk about green civil engineering," said Buckley.

How Graumann and Alamchandani's model will be implemented and accepted by a community is still untested but they said feedback from the Artisanal Gold Council indicated it has a good chance of success. Both graduates plan to work for at least a year or two and then at least one of them may take it up as a master's project to formally pilot the idea.

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

New proposal for Broad Street properties

UVic Properties is partnering with Chard Development Ltd. on a new proposal for UVic's Broad Street properties that would contribute to the vibrancy of downtown while providing ongoing revenue to support the university's overall educational mission.

UVic Properties would retain ownership of the land under a long-term lease agreement with Chard, which is proposing a hotel development that incorporates the heritage of the historic Duck's Building as a central feature. The proposal follows an earlier proposal in 2017 for condominiums and rental housing which was reevaluated and altered as a result of community feedback.

The Broad Street properties were donated to the university in 2000 by Williams, a beloved Victoria businessman, developer, heritage conservationist, art collector and philanthropist. His intention was that they provide the university with ongoing financial returns to support academic programming, student services and supports.

"We're excited to partner with Chard Development on a proposal that honours Michael William's generosity and vision, his commitment to creating a vibrant downtown for residents and visitors, and his wish that his donations benefit the students of UVic for generations to come," said Peter Kuran, President and CEO of UVic Properties.

The new proposal differs significantly from one in 2017 for condominiums and rental housing, with some units of market-rate housing for students, that did not progress past an early planning phase.

- UVic will retain ownership of the property, which will generate revenue for student programs through a 99-year land lease to Chard Development.
- The height has been lowered: One floor has been removed resulting in a proposed development that is approximately one foot taller than the current tallest portion of the Duck's Building;
- More parking is provided: Instead of seven spaces of street level parking, there will be 35 stalls below grade;
- The density ratio has been lowered: The floor space ratio has been lowered from 5.7 to 4.6;
- The project will now provide 135 much-needed hotel rooms to support tourism and local businesses;

Also since 2017, UVic and the provincial government announced an on-campus housing project that will add 620 spaces for students, thereby adding capacity to the region's rental market for other tenants. While the previous proposed development intended to include 59 units of market rental housing with preference given to UVic students, those units could not be guaranteed for long-term student use.

The project is in its early stages. Chard's first public meeting on the proposal was at the City of Victoria's Community Association Land Use Committee on May 14. Feedback from that meeting as well as from other stakeholders will be considered before a rezoning and development permit application is submitted to the City of Victoria that will address land use, density, design and neighbourhood character.

UVic Properties is mindful of the current tenants who were first notified in 2016 that the properties would be redeveloped and will provide updates as consultations and the rezoning process continue. The 14 commercial and eight residential tenants of the Duck's and Broad Buildings will be able to remain for a minimum 12 months and will be provided with assistance that meets or exceeds the City of Victoria's Tenant Assistance Policy in terms of communication, compensation, relocation assistance and moving costs.

Connecting Indigenous peoples from Tanzania and Canada

Maasai visit First Nations in Canada to share experiences and build capacities in Indigenous-led resource management

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

L-R: Samwel, Mark, Nalaimuta and Hjalmer Wenstob (Tlehpik), a UVic visual arts MFA alumnus and Nuu-chah-nulth artist from the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation, during a visit to harvest cedar bark. PHOTO: PHIL DEARDEN

UVic geography professor Phil Dearden recalls the scene: mountains towered above, geese filled the air and ducks dabbled in the wetland behind the Carcross-Targish peoples' cultural centre near Whitehorse, Yukon. A delegation stood outside with heads bowed, silent, as each person was cleansed by burning sage wafted by an eagle wing to bring good thoughts and clarity of mind. This was the auspicious beginning to a full two-day interaction between First Nations hosts and Maasai visitors from Tanzania and UVic.

During a two-week stay in Canada, three Maasai from Tanzania exchanged cultural knowledge and practices with First Nations from the T'souke and Tla-o-qui-aht on Vancouver Island to the Selkirk and Carcross-Targish peoples of the Yukon, accompanied by UVic faculty.

"We watched dugout canoes being made, participated in cedar stripping ceremonies, made ropes together, sang on the beach, swapped stories and toured the Clayoquot sound territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht," notes geographer and Special Advisor on Community Engaged Scholarship Crystal Tremblay.

"There is a shared urgency that was felt by all on the rapidly changing world," she says. "Elders of Carcross and Selkirk Nations shared they have never seen the Yukon river so low in their history; that the soapberries—an important traditional food source—have dwindled in supply due to lack of water and extreme heat."

"Likewise in Tanzania, other pressures such as drought and change in climate are also threatening the Maasai's traditional way of life as nomadic peoples," adds Tremblay.

The Maasai people negotiated a settlement over traditional lands with the Tanzanian government about a decade ago, but now they need to prove they can manage it. Their Indigenous rights work is ongoing and the right to stewardship of the land is a common theme of the Maasai and First Nations communities they visited.

"The Yukon First Nations have treaty settlements with the government; the Vancouver Island Nations are still trying to achieve those rights," says Dearden, "but both have active planning and management activities in their territories."

Dearden, the principal investigator, explains that it was a SSHRC Connections grant and UVic that supplied the funds to connect the Maasai with First Nations communities in BC and the Yukon in their quest for self-determination, support and improved technical approaches to land-use management.

"UVic facilitated the connection with the Maasai through the efforts of geography adjunct professor Bruce Downie, but our role is also to learn from and engage with Indigenous cultures," says Dearden.

Dearden and Downie will be leading a UVic geography field school to Tanzania later this summer where students will spend time living and working with the Maasai in their remote territory close to the Kenyan border for a unique insight into their traditions and practices.

For the Maasai, next steps include pursuing Indigenous land-use planning as they witnessed firsthand during their trip to Canada and solidifying their use rights on the land.

"We learnt a lot about tribal parks, community control of resources and decision-making," says Samwel Nangiria Taresero, one of the Maasai participants. "We learned the Nations have long term plans that considersthe next generation, and are the future of the forests and the generations," he adds.

ringers

Two UVic mechanical engineering students are winners of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) 2019 scholarships. Recommended for his teamwork and participation in a number of design projects including the Formula Hybrid team, **Keegan Richter** won the William G. Belfry SAE Award. **Keagan Shedden,** whose involvement in rocketry projects earned him a 10-month co-op placement with The Rocket Lab, a rocket company based in New Zealand, won the Bruce Aubin SAE Aerospace Design Award. The CAE undergraduate awards and scholarships are given annually to top engineering students from across Canada.

UVic's Centre of Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) facility has received the Rick Hansen Foundation's top accessibility rating for providing meaningful accessibility—far beyond mandated standards such as building codes. CARSA houses the university's varsity athletics program and active living programs for on- and off-campus members—as well as being home to CanAssist, a UVic organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities improve their quality of life. The Hansen certification is based on the user experience of people with varying disabilities affecting mobility, vision and hearing—and reflects UVic's commitment from CARSA's inception that its new athletics facility would be open and accessible to all.

ringers

UVic's Acting Registrar **Wendy Taylor** received a 2019 Inclusive Education Award for her contributions to inclusive education. As the UVic liaison for STEPS Forward, Taylor plays a key role in ensuring that students with developmental disabilities are able to continue their education after leaving high school. STEPS Forward students are supported to enroll at UVic to pursue studies and to engage in student life in the same classes and places as any other student. Graduates are recognized with Certificates of Completion, awarded at Convocation alongside students earning degrees or diplomas in the same field of studies. "I feel like this award represents the great work of so many UVic team members who participate in ensuring the STEPS Forward students have an inclusive educational experience, and the opportunity to participate in both curricular and non-curricular activities," says Taylor. "The work I do is one small part of a much larger team effort."

Brad Buckham (mechanical engineering) was awarded the Medal for Distinction in Engineering Education by Engineers Canada. Since Buckham joined the faculty in 2004, he has taught more than 3,300 first-year students and humbly says that he knows the collective accomplishments of his students are going to far outweigh his own research portfolio. This says a lot since Buckham heads the leading-edge marine renewable energy technology research at UVic's West Coast Wave Initiative, creating clean energy alternatives for diesel-reliant coastal communities.

Nearly 300 people gathered in the David Lam Auditorium on April 20 to celebrate the memory of **Dr. Patrick Lane** and to witness the posthumous presentation of the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award. While the award-winning poet, novelist and influential member of the Department of Writing passed away in March, he had already been announced as the recipient of this BC literary award, which was accepted by his wife, professor emeritus of writing Lorna Crozier (herself the recipient of the 2018 Woodcock). Lane will be further honoured on June 7 as the recipient of the 2019 European Medal of Poetry and Art. He is only the second Canadian poet to receive the latter prize; the decision to present him with the 2019 award was also made prior to his passing.

The UVic interdisciplinary field school on migration, xenophobia and Holocaust memorialization in Europe has won a national award for innovation. **Charlotte Schallié** (Germanic and Slavic studies) accepted the 2019 Innovate German Award on behalf of the UVic team, which included **Helga Thorson** (Germanic and Slavic studies), **Dániel Péter Biró** (music) and **Helga Hallgrímsdóttir** (public administration). Judges commended the field school for its exemplary approach to experiential learning.

Celebrating the contributions of UVic employees

The President's Extraordinary Service Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of our people. Six teams, eight individuals and five employee groups—a total of 68 people—were nominated for the 2018/2019 awards.

"I offer my sincere congratulations to each of the nominees and recipients for their extraordinary service to our university," says UVic President Jamie Cassels. "Each year it's a genuine pleasure for me to celebrate the talent and commitment of our staff and faculty, who provide the foundation for our extraordinary environment."

Congratulations to all of the nominees, and to the three individuals and two team recipients who were celebrated at the awards ceremony on April 30.

Facilities Management Interior Modification Services team. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Kelly. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Erin Kelly: Collaborator Award

For the past three years, Erin Kelly has been working to transform UVic's approach to academic writing.

An associate professor of English and advisor for the Academic Writing Requirement, Kelly has administered UVic's only universal requirement, giving students the critical thinking, communication and research skills they need to succeed.

Managing the AWR, as it is known, is a massive undertaking: the program serves nearly 4,500 first-year students each year.

In addition to doing this job expertly, Kelly dedicated extraordinary effort to secure an external review of the program; skillfully navigated challenging waters to build consensus across diverse stakeholders within the university; and achieved significant changes. Starting in July, Kelly will take on the role of interim director as the AWR transitions into an official humanities program.

"By forging alliances across campus and aligning with best practices in writing pedagogy, Erin has ensured that her vision for the AWR can become a reality," says Faculty of Humanities Associate Dean Academic Lisa Surridge. "Erin's ultimate legacy will be will be a cutting-edge AWR program that positively impacts the experience of every first-year student at UVic."

Library Digitization Centre team: Innovator Award

Over the course of a decade, Katharine Mercer, Page DeWolfe and Leanne Gibb of the UVic Libraries Digitization Centre have transformed themselves into provincial leaders in the digitization of rare and delicate material.

Their passion and commitment to developing the art of digitization has led them to play a key role in a growing list of UVic Libraries digitization projects—including maps, scrapbooks, blueprints, large legal volumes, delicate medieval manuscripts and even a 21-foot scroll from the 15th century—that require quick thinking, problem-solving skills and attention to detail.

"They've had many tricky assignments—including leather masks, tassels and shiny things—that required applied ingenuity. I've seen the team hanging objects from the ceiling, propping them up with beanbags, and trying everything within their power to get a good scan," says Associate University Librarian Lisa Goddard.

Webster. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Library Digitization Team. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

While the focus of their day-to-day work primarily involves library digitization projects, this dedicated team does not hesitate to juggle faculty requests, donor requests, funding deadlines and preservation requests.

"They are engaged in innovative work involving new technologies that will preserve important historical documents beyond the physical life of the paper on which they are printed, and they do so with professionalism and enthusiasm," adds professor emeritus Richard King.

Christine Webster: Connector Award

When the new Department of Indigenous Education was created in 2017, Christine Webster oversaw all aspects required to get a new administrative unit in place. This required precise understanding of university planning processes, collaboration with other units and with all staff and faculty within the unit.

"It's not an exaggeration to say that our department could not run without her," says department chair Jean-Paul Restoule.

Webster contributes her knowledge and expertise to mentor new staff members of the Indigenous Education team, supports students in their experiences navigating the university's processes and procedures, helps establish community partnerships and contributes to increasing the Indigenous acumen for those who are guests on these lands. Colleagues say she carries herself in a gentle way and, as an Indigenous woman grounded in her culture, makes everyone around her feel welcome.

As an incoming doctoral student, she's in a unique position to develop and advance the skills and attitudes needed to support other students in their educational journey.

Walton. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Susan Walton: Navigator Award

For 25 years, Susan Walton has been more than the administrative centre of the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems at the University of Victoria (IESVic)—she's been its heart.

IESVic researchers and staff working together to develop sustainable energy systems agree that Walton's extraordinary capabilities—including conference planning skills and "big-picture" understanding of the institute's research mission—create a culture of support and respect that exemplifies the values of UVic.

She has a special place for the many students who've been a part of IESVic over the years. Always alert and sensitive to the challenges visiting students sometimes have when settling in, she's also served as an emotional and compassionate support for students away from home. "What stands out and permeates almost every facet of her work and presence is how much she cares for the well-being of all its members and of the success and reputation of IESVic and the university," says engineer Ned Djilali.

Facilities Management Interior Modification Services ("Salvagers") Team: Cultivator Award

The Facilities Management Interior Modification Services team—Kim Fawthorpe, Dawn Lang, Jodi Miranda, Breanna Ransford, Mariah Taschuk and Sarah Teves—has become known as "The Salvagers" for their pioneering approach to evaluating and repurposing surplus furniture. Through the surplus furniture program, the team not only diverts waste from the landfill but adds value to the UVic student experience, to our extraordinary campus environment and the Greater Victoria community.

For the past 12 years, the Salvagers have gone beyond the call of duty, creating cost-effective options for departments, forming partnerships with local charity organizations to donate furniture that doesn't meet UVic's standards for reuse, and championing sustainable recycling for furniture that can't be reused. All proceeds from furniture sold go toward funding the revitalization of UVic public spaces that would not otherwise be updated.

The program has saved an estimated $2.5 million and reduced CO2 emissions by 65 metric tonnes.

"It was a pleasant surprise to see the David Strong Lobby transformed from a tired old study and gathering area with old torn vinyl cushions sitting on dirty concrete bases, to a clean modern and functional space that supports student engagement and learning," says Kevan Gorham, director of business operations for the Gustavson School of Business.

The Salvagers are making quality, meaningful improvements one campus space at a time.