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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. UVic's Sandul 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.

A “can-do” approach to commerce

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

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 known 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 Lenses + the Arts, where we realized the value of relinquishing control to allow space for the voices of others.

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

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/convocation.

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In this regard, we are currently focusing on our own learning and listening. We seek out
The Office of Campus Planning and the university’s new Campus Cycling Plan. The plan focuses on increasing facilities management will be and the infrastructure needed to complete the entire campus cycling network. Read the plan at bit.ly/17-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 280 outdoor litter and recycling stations on campus, which produce approximately 20 tonnes of landfill waste per year (3.5% of UVic’s total). A 2019 waste audit reported 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 contribution of students from all over the world, with their unique journeys, the Faculty of Science Instagram account (iuvicos) will feature three UVic graduates, highlighting their favourite memories of studying at UVic. Profiles can be found under the hashtag #humansofUVicScience.

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 ranking tracks proportion of top-cited publications (P) 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 Ulster, 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 with groundbreaking work for re- search impact—the fourth year in a row it has held that position. UVic’s field-specific highlights in 2019 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 also included a new category for Open Ac- cess publications as well—showcas- ing UVic’s strength in making science and scholarships 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

Q. Does the work you do cor- respond to particular strate- gies 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 on campus, so when people come to college, they’ll be able to engage with the cultural meanings and be reminded that they are stand- ing in 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 program- ming 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 sus- tainability, we now use recyclable materials. For example, we switched to 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 Transmedia 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 real global, engaging cur- osity, inspiring artistic pursuits and providing learning opportunities well beyond the gallery walls.

Moreウ

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uvic.ca/news

2019 Leiden Rankings
BY BARBARA TODD HAGER
Tyra Cockney-Goose heard the ping of an incoming email at 5:30 one morning in early April 2019. The message was from the Ingenuity Foundation in Ottawa: “We are pleased to inform you...” It began. When she dawned on it that the email was informing her that she was one of five STEAM Horizon Award winners, which included a $15,000 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 re- search 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 home- work 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 coor- dination 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, sup- ported by three national museums and three, among others, honours youth who promote positive chang- es throughout their communities using science, technology, engineer- ing, arts, and math (steam).

Born in Inuvik to Mae Cockney and Louis 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 fa- ther, who grew up in Ukhaktok, 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 pondered 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 Sec- ondary School and was the class valedictorian. Her plan was to take a year off school before starting uni- versity. To make her mother happy, she applied to one post-secondary institution: UVic. “UVic was my only choice,” Cock- ney-Goose said. “The weather is great, they have a very full Faculty of Science and I like that there is a new Peuples House. Once enrolled, she attended Indigenous gatherings and events at the house, and consid- ers it one of the primary reasons for choosing UVic.

For the second summer in a row, Tyra is back home in Inuvik work- ing for the Inuvialuit Regional Cor- poration as a climate change and environment policy assistant doing research related to the Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment.

She is looking forward to start- ing 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 be a mentor for young Indigenous youth, especially in the North."
Moving the dial on sustainable transportation options

More than 50 teams of UVic cyclists—including 54 first-time riders and 465 overall—pedalled more than 77,000 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 1.18% increase in the number of pedestrians and 0.9% increase in the number of cyclists. There was a corresponding 2.3% decrease in SOVs 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 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 15- to 25-kilometre radius of campus. The 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 spoxs 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 pedes-

trians. 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

An accelerated schedule for the university’s new student housing and dining project will propel it to completion in early 2022, 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 631 students currently living off campus and help to address the acute regional need for housing.

The new LEED Gold and Passiv 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 constructed 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 Cater- ing 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 Clearblue 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’ll 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

Student housing and dining project schedule fast-tracked

Know what to do during an active threat.

GET OUT.

HIDE.

SLOW.

Watch the video to learn more. uvic.ca/activethreat

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Bob Reimer
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 evolution.

Joe Gallagher, ḴunumẠn, Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)
June 11, 2019 | 10 a.m.
Joe Gallagher, ḴunumẠn 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 through the Shuswap 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 UVikrs soccer team. Gallagher also played soccer for Team BC at the 1990 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.

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.

Stil’um’at Ruby Peter, Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)
June 10, 2019 | 10 a.m.
Stil’um’at Ruby Peter of the Quamichan First Nation has dedicated her life to documenting, teaching and revitalizing the Hul’q’umin’um’ language. As a young woman, Stil’um’at saw a shift in her community from speaking Hul’q’umin’um’ 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, Stil’um’at has a long history of research on the Hul’q’umin’um’ 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’umin’um’ Language and Culture Centre. Stil’um’at’s knowledge spans not only the elements of language needed to communicate in Hul’q’umin’um’, but also cultural teachings related to traditional stories, weaving, dance and longhouse ceremonies.

ULLYSDEN INFORMS

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.

Honourands 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.
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.

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.

“She 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 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).

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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 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 SLY P.6

SEE MINING P.10
A web of support fosters new leadership in inclusive education

BY JULIE RÉMY

For Dominique Rochefort, a citizen of the Métis Nation, the journey to become an education leader was mixed with self-doubts and life challenges.

A single Indigenous woman and mother of two young children facing an unstable future, Rochefort didn’t believe she could have enough value 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 gained so much confidence and control over her life that she had her bachelor’s letter from UVic four years ago. “I was sitting at Gyro Beach and I started to sob. I knew this was my chance to change my life.”

Her first year at UVic felt terrifying. Imposter syndrome kept creeping in and she would feel like she was serving others. When handing her first completed exam to her professor, she commented afterwards that she should’ve dropped out.

“I didn’t believe that I was qualified, that I was smart enough, that I was capable enough,” she says.

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

Another step came when a donor, who quickly became a mentor and friend, understood the challenge of 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 the university and the donors believed in me enough to make a significant contribution to my education. That’s when 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 that 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 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 growing up.”

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 justifying buying their own cline 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’re here but they’re going to invest in our own cline line, and we won’t need Zac anymore.’”

And that’s what 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. Rochefort has also begun to tap into 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 or seasonal brew, which helps increase the capacity of their own machines.

A customer-needs mindset is thoroughly integrated throughout Rochf’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. Rochf has no interest in being one of them—all he knows about beer is that it’s delicious, and how to get into it 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 ‘yay, that’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 au- tomatically attribute it to inaudible sounds—but that’s worth question- ing that if you live near a highway, wind turbine, industrial centre or anti-littering device.”

Consider wind turbines, which are known to produce infrasonic sound. “A lot of people who live near wind turbines have experienced adverse health ef- fects—insomnia, anxiety, hyperten- sion, panic attacks—but the turbine industry says infrasonic sound is below the audible threshold, and therefore 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 re- cords both the infrar- and ultrasonic ranges, then runs those recordings through software that reveals a spectrogram analysis package using result- ing sound. Her map project focused on data collection and analysis over a four month period, using field re- cordings of specific Greater Victoria locations: the airport, the McKenzie interchange, a construction blasting site in Cowichan and an anti-littering mosquitod 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 re- ally 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 eco- system.

“Ecological acoustics work with urban planners or landscape architects to be more aware of both the adverse and beneficial effects sound can have on our health,” she says. “If a field where you’re trying to find ways to harmonize human sounds with their acoustic environment.”

Ultimately, says Sly, we 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.”
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 says.

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 story of economics made the most sense to him since he says almost everything in our culture has an aspect of economics to it.

“The economy 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,” said Hutchinson.

“He got 100 per cent in econ 105 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 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 UVSS student election. His focus on action and collaboration—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.

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 Nihiy, 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 2,000 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 (MLIR) program. The program, one of the kind in Canada, is a collaboration between UVic’s faculties of humanities and education. Erasmus’ 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 well-being 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 methodological research 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 own 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’ 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’ mission.

“We’ve had so much taken away from us and appreciated. We need to be recognized for our scholarly past,” Erasmus says. “Language program- ming needs to be developed by us from the ground up and delivered by 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’s optimism and positive attitude are striking. A self-described mature student, Zhen earned both her bachelor and master 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 paleo-oceanography—studying the ocean’s 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 how to model and calculate and how the actions of humans influence and accelerate changes to the ocean environment. Zhen is learning to put more focus on the relationship between humans and nature represented a big shift in thinking for Zhen, who developed a partnership and relationship to the environment as being more focused on resource extraction and development rather 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 paleooceanographic research into the waters surrounding Vancouver Island.

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As a kid growing up in Hong Kong, Ka Wong was a super hero of the 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, mythi- cal 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, special- izing 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, getting picked on, he sees such behaviour stemming from a lack of understand- ing. It’s not malicious.”

“Bullying and racism are small matters to me,” says Wong. He is con- fronted daily by much bigger wrongs that cannot be righted because of policy and law, and the lack of opportu- nity for unemployed people living in poverty.

“There’s so much I want to do. I see situations and 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 sentenc- ing hearing, Poorman’s mother and daughter addressed the court and forgave the young man.

“Poorman’s mother and daughter addressed the court and forgave the young man. Their forgiveness changed that day,” says Wong. “I brought up apologizing for what he had done. At that point I just went ‘swoon’.”

“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, it must be something I can do.”

Wong chose to go back to school, a decision his family supported whole- heartedly. 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 sup- portive. 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 I woke up, like something inside me finally became alive. I discovered a dif- ferent 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 relocat- ing 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 police is about doing things with them, not to them or for them; that’s the differ- ence between the dominating factor of heroism—that us-against-them mentality—and the communal fac- tor of serving as an ally, a reflective partner. That’s my dream now.”

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 Collec- tions 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 poetess, MacFarlane explains that “editing for the Holiff exhibit and the publication series was valuable because I was able to apply that edito- rial perspective to my own writing. And curating for a general audience in the Holiff digital exhibit made me think more carefully about the audi- ence for my dissertation. So I gained a more acute critical awareness about my work by tugging between these projects.”

So when asked how she managed to work multiple library jobs while staying focused on her PhD research on women poets and the late poetess, MacFarlane explains that “editing for the Holiff exhibit 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 tugging between these projects.”
When UVic geography grad Patrick Robinson parachutes into BC's remote wilderness, he's faced with a daunting challenge. "I'm responsible for mapping and drawing a situation map of the fire that I'm overseeing," he says. Patrick is working as a seasonal firefighter, helping to put out fires in BC's remote areas.

Patrick's journey started when he graduated and began working as a firefighter. He realized that there was a need for more accessible and accurate maps to help firefighters and other emergency responders. "We only have access to old maps and any new information about the fire we're attacking since we were in the air within 15 to 30 minutes after callout," Patrick says. "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 fire. We 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 con- nectivity, all the GPS data they've collected on the fire is shared with their next crew which is already on the way," says Robinson. "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 coun- try to try fires.

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

A former co-op student himself, Deschenes is an enthusiastic sup- porter of the program that permits UVic students to alternate their studies with paid work terms. "I wouldn't be able to do this without the support. It allows you to a student to take risks. It gives you the confidence to make independent decisions and do the work."

The 13 parachute 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.

"This engagement of Canadian students with graduate students in India, we pair demonstrated that by developing IL competencies through active-learn- ing 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 capaci- ties, and created an opportunity for knowledge mobilization between our institutions," explains Gupta.

As part of the study, they will de- velop programs for librarians in India to teach, use and embrace information literacy instruction, while building cross-cultural research collabora- tions 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 students at UVic."

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

"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 to academic programs and campus tours to sessions on the development of technical and practical proposals. 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 Lead.

The concept is simple: 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 in with pen, ready to take notes. I was apprehensive of the masking tape square stuck to the carpet at the front of the Cleardive 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 expected to be asked to participate.

But just as quickly as my guard rose, it dissipated as Sarah Hood, director of Organization Development, and Clear Lead. Services, began hup-

...next step, we bring them the helpline for free...
BY ANNE MacLAURIN

UVic geography professor Phil Dearden recalls the scene: mountains towered above, gorse filled the air and ducks dabbed 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 Carcross 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 Solkirk 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 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 “unique” connection 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.

Downie 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 Samuel Nangiria Taresoro, one of the Maasai participants. “We learned the Nations have long term plans that consider next generation, and are the future of the forests and the generations; he adds.

Connecting Indigenous peoples from Tanzania and Canada

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

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UVic geography professor Phil Dearden recalls the scene: mountains towered above, gorse filled the air and ducks dabbed 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 Carcross 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 Solkirk 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 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 “unique” connection 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.

Downie 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 Samuel Nangiria Taresoro, one of the Maasai participants. “We learned the Nations have long term plans that consider next generation, and are the future of the forests and the generations; he adds.

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Celebrating the contributions of UVic employees

UVic’s Acting Registrar Wendy Taylor received a 2019 Inclusive Education Award for her commitment 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 students. Graduates are recognized with Galt Medals 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 Waterfront Centre, creating clean energy alternatives for disreputable 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 2019 Woodcock). Lane will be further honoured on June 7 as the recipient of the 2019 European Medal of Poetry and Art. His poetry and visual art portfolio will 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, citizenship and Holocaust memorialization in Europe has won a national award for innovation. Christine Schallé (public administration) and colleagues were among the six winners of the 2019 Centre for Advancing Research Training (CART) grants. Christine Webster oversaw all aspects of the university’s largest digitization 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 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 Linda Suridge. “Erin’s ultimate legacy will be will be a cutting-edge AWR program that substantially impacts the experience of every first-year student at UVic.”

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

There’s a massive undertaking: 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 program.

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Library Digitization Centre team: Innovator 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.

Susan Walton: Navigator Award

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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 facing students sometimes when have when setting up, 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 is how she cares for the well-being of all of the members of and the support and reputation of IESVic—and the university,” says engineer Ned Djilali.

Facilities Management Interior Modification Services teams: Savvy Award

The Facilities Management Interior Modification Services teams—Kim Fawthroppe, Dawn Lang, Jodi Miranda, Breanna Randolf, 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 Salvag- ers have gone beyond the call of duty, creating cost-effective options for de- partments, 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 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 student area to a bright and inviting area with old torn vinyl cushions sitting on dirty concrete bases, to a clean and functional space that supports student engagement and learning,” says Kevan Gormish, director of business operations for the Gustavson School of Business. The Salvagers are making quality, meaningful improvements one cam- pus space at a time.