



THE RING

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

*The University of Victoria's
community newspaper*

ring.uvic.ca



**University
of Victoria**

SPEED READ

SAVE THE DATE

Campus Update Nov. 18

The next Campus Update will take place Monday, Nov. 18 from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the Phoenix Building's Roger Bishop Theatre. The session will provide an overview of the new VP Research's major priorities for the year and highlight initiatives currently underway. There will also be an update on the rankings and reputation project and other institutional initiatives happening across campus, followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and share ideas. uvic.ca/campusupdates

CONVOCATION 2019

Watch Convocation online

Fall Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live on Nov. 12 and 13. 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.



Granley

1,459

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

A passion for learning, curating and decolonizing

BY JOHN THRELFALL

While a passion for Indigenous arts has been driving Melissa Granley's studies in the art history and visual studies department, it was her connection with the natural world that initially attracted her to UVic. "It's kind of silly, but rabbits have always been really important in my life; if I see a rabbit, I know I'm on the right path." So when she first visited UVic back in grade nine—at the height of the campus bunny population explosion—Granley took it as a good sign. "When I got accepted at UVic,

however, the rabbits were gone," she says with a chuckle. "But it was a really good decision to come here; I wouldn't change it for anything."

Her major in art history, plus courses in both Indigenous and gender studies, led Granley to develop a focus on Indigenous arts and activism; this, combined with a summer 2018 internship with UVic's LE, NONET Indigenous support program, resulted in her current seven-month position at downtown's Legacy Art Gallery. As Legacy's curatorial intern and visitor engagement assistant, she greets visitors,

talks about art, offers elementary school tours and assists with exhibits. "The amount of physical, manual effort that goes into installation week was totally surprising to me," she laughs. "You don't realize how much work goes into an exhibit when you're just studying."

As she prepares to graduate this month with a Bachelor of Arts in art history and visual studies, Granley is now seeing a concrete activation of her academic studies: in addition to preparing to curate two

SEE GRANLEY P.6



Strategic Framework funding expands hands-on learning opportunities for students and employers

BY JOY POLIQUIN

Bryn Armstrong's co-op office is different than most—she's spending the fall keeping an eye on grizzly bears and other large carnivores in the Great Bear Rainforest.

As a wildlife biologist intern with Raincoast Conservation Foundation, this biology co-operative education student is putting her degree into action. She spends some days in the field near Klemtu, the village of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation, where she checks remote cameras that are monitoring large carnivore activity and vessel traffic in the area. Other days she works in the Victoria office, using data from these cameras to inform ecotourism management plans for the area.

Bryn, whose heritage is Scottish and Norwegian and who was raised in Ontario and France, is also

working closely with members of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation. One of her projects has been to transcribe traditional ecological knowledge interviews on cáq (mountain goat) conservation.

"I have been humbled to be able to spend time in Klemtu with so many amazing people through this co-op experience," says Armstrong. "Getting out and doing hands-on work makes all of my school work worth it. It makes sense when the learning is contextualized in real-life conservation initiatives."

Armstrong's supervisor Christina Service is a wildlife biologist with Raincoast, an environmental non-profit that operates a research lab in Victoria as well as conducting research with partners in Klemtu. The foundation works to protect marine and rainforest habitat on BC's coast.

Service was able to hire Armstrong through

UVic's new Strategic Framework Experiential Learning Fund, which includes funding that helps non-profit co-op employers hire co-op students.

"As a small non-profit, this funding has enabled us to keep Bryn on for a second term," says Service. "This has allowed us to further advance our large carnivore project and has also deepened our partnership with the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation. Hiring Bryn has been a tremendous gift—it's rewarding to see Bryn broaden her understanding of applied biology and expand her competencies by working on conservation issues in a cross-cultural context."

For Armstrong, this opportunity has been life-changing. "This job has solidified my plan of being a biologist and working in conservation,"

SEE FRAMEWORK P.3

around the ring

Next Vice-President External Relations announced

Following an international search, Chris Horbachewski has been appointed as Vice-President External Relations, effective Feb. 1, 2020. Horbachewski joins UVic from the University of Lethbridge, where he has served as the Vice-President, Advancement since 2005. Prior to that, Horbachewski held a variety of fundraising and advancement leadership positions at the University of Manitoba between 1997 and 2005. In the course of the search, a strong field of candidates was considered and the search committee's recommendation was enthusiastically approved by the Board of Governors on Oct. 28, 2019. To ensure a smooth transition, Carmen Charette will continue in her role as Vice-President External Relations until the end of January 2020.



Electric bus in Vancouver. ISTOCK

All-electric BC transport economical, thanks to low-cost renewables

If all vehicles in British Columbia were powered by electricity instead of liquid fuels by 2055, BC would need to more than double its electricity generation capacity to meet forecasted energy demand—and the move could prove surprisingly cost-effective.

The finding comes from a team of UVic researchers with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) to be published in the November issue of Applied Energy.

By 2055, BC will need to increase its electrical production capacity from a 2015 baseline of 15.6 gigawatts (GW) to 23 GW to meet forecast economic and population growth. Factor in all-electric road transportation as well, and up to 60 per cent additional capacity will be needed. This would more than double BC's electricity generation capacity to 37 GW.

Surprisingly, the cost of generating the extra electricity would be relatively cheap.

Crunching the numbers, the team found that the 60 per cent capacity boost for transport would raise the average unit cost of electricity by only nine per cent due to availability of low-cost, renewable energy options. Furthermore, the costs would only rise by five per cent if at least half of drivers charged their vehicles at off-peak times. Spreading the demand means less need for capacity build-out.

Co-author Curran Crawford, a member of the PICS Transportation Futures for BC project and a professor with UVic's Institute for Integrated Energy Systems, says low-carbon generation options such as wind and solar power would keep a lid on energy prices. "Our modelling shows that

electrification of transport systems, and a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), can be achieved at relatively low additional cost to the electricity system," he says.

Under BC's current Clean Energy Act, at least 93 per cent of grid electricity must come from renewable resources such as hydropower, wind or solar. Crawford says as long as that policy remains in place, electrifying the entire road fleet would reduce total emissions from the combined transportation and electricity sectors by 38 per cent between 2015 and 2055, relative to business as usual.

"Transportation is responsible for more than a third of BC's total GHG emissions; the CleanBC plan rightly envisages transitioning BC's cars, SUVs, buses and truck fleets away from fossil fuels to clean electricity, which will make a huge contribution towards meeting provincial GHG reduction targets," says Crawford.

"BC's planned Site C project will provide 1.1 GW, but it just scratches the surface of potential increased power and energy needs, as this research shows. Solar photovoltaic and wind power look very promising for BC due to their falling costs."

The study also shows that regions with a similar hydroelectricity share to BC—Quebec, Northern Europe and South America—would likely find similar results in terms of cost-effective electrification of transport.

UVic-hosted and led PICS develops impactful, evidence-based climate change solutions through collaborative partnerships which connect solution seekers with experts from BC's four leading research universities.

UVic to provide Indigenous students from US with domestic tuition rates

Change in policy to acknowledge Indigenous heritage and territories, irrespective of the Canada-US border

BY BARBARA TODD HAGER

UVic has approved a regulatory amendment that grants Indigenous students from the US, whose ancestral lands extend into Canada, to be assessed under domestic, rather than international, tuition classification.

When you peer into Canada's colonial history, UVic's most recent effort to honour the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action becomes more relevant.

The Jay Treaty, signed between Britain and the United States in November 1794 and officially known as the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, contains a provision intended to allow Indigenous people from the territory of Canada to live and work freely in the US. The Government of Canada has never formally recognized the pre-Confederation reciprocal provision as binding, according to the Canadian Encyclopedia.

UVic and other BC universities, such as UBC and VIU, are proceeding in the spirit of the Jay Treaty to increase post-secondary accessibility for Indigenous students.

"I'm excited that Indigenous students from the United States who study at UVic will now pay domestic tuition rates. Colonial policies by both the Canadian and American governments created artificial boundaries that did not recognize our ongoing relationships," says Robina Thomas, executive director, Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement. "These policies were exasperated by other federal policies such as residential schools and the Sixties Scoop that resulted in further separation and displacement of Indigenous families and communities on both side of these borders."

The Office of the Registrar brought forward the proposal for the tuition fees reclassification after conducting preliminary research last spring. It aligns with UVic's strategic enrollment management plan, which has a key institutional goal of increasing Indigenous student representation from the current six per cent to 10 per cent of overall

enrollment by 2029. The addition to UVic's Regulations for Tuition Fees for Graduate Programs and Undergraduate and Other Fees provisions, recently approved by the Board of Governors, is effective starting January 2020.

"This is an integral part of the university's ongoing work to honour the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and aligns with many strategic priorities by reducing obstacles and increasing accessibility to higher education for Indigenous students," says Wendy Taylor, acting registrar.

The revisions mean UVic's tuition structure respects and acknowledges Indigenous heritage and territories, irrespective of the Canada-US border. The changes will be published in the January 2020 editions of both the graduate and undergraduate calendars.

The amendments also provide the domestic tuition benefit for survivors of the Sixties Scoop, so called in reference to the mass removal of Indigenous children from their families into the child welfare system from the 1950s to 1980s. A number of US families adopted Sixties Scoop Indigenous children from Canada.

Among the revisions is a strategy to work with the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) to implement internal practices to facilitate campus-wide collaboration opportunities for Indigenous students, enhance organizational effectiveness and promote a sense of shared enterprise and meaningful purpose. This aligns with the Strategic Framework's goals to cultivate an extraordinary academic environment, foster respect and reconciliation and engage locally and globally.

"UVic's new tuition policy is a positive step towards reconciliation as it acknowledges that the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples are not defined by these artificial borders created by colonial governments," Thomas says.

Under the tuition initiative, students can bring supporting documentation to the Office of the Registrar starting in January to have their fees updated, effective that term. Any requests for backdating would be on a case-by-case basis. The registrar's office is also working on a plan to provide details of the initiative to First Nations communities whose territories overlap the border.



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Four Stories About Food Sovereignty

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

“Every land has its own seed.”
Jordanian activist Fatima Obeidat opened a recent workshop on Vancouver Island with these provocative words.

Obeidat, founder of Kananah Organization, which shares sustainable food practices with poor urban and Syrian refugee women in Jordan, joined participants from communities in Colombia, Jordan, South Africa and T’Sou-ke First Nation to launch the four-year, SSHRC-funded Four Stories About Food Sovereignty (FSAFS) project.

The phrase became a refrain for the international group of food producers, sustainable food system advocates, and academics from Indigenous, refugee and farming communities who gathered on the island this September to shape FSAFS. The new UVic-led project examines the historical roots of food crises, while trying to understand how vulnerable communities can gain decision-making power over the food they eat and how they access it.

“Throughout the week we recalled many times Fatima’s evocative words on the first day,” recalls project director and UVic historian Elizabeth Vibert. “Fatima was speaking both metaphorically and to indicate the importance of preserving biodiversity and growing Indigenous plants and those already adapted to challenging local conditions.”

Local control of food during the climate crisis

The interdisciplinary team of UVic and international scholars will explore how vulnerable communities can build local and regional governance of food systems in the context of climate crisis.

Scholars and activists refer to this approach as food sovereignty rather than food security. Vibert says the



Program highlights included a hike with T’Sou-ke Chief Gordon Planes (centre) to learn about Indigenous food systems. PHOTO: MIGUEL RAMIREZ BOSCAN

latter can focus on top-down solutions that favour the interests of multinational corporations.

Keeping with the project’s community-engaged spirit, researchers asked participants to help generate the key research questions, which will include documenting their respective experiences of climate change and what each community is trying to do to mitigate its effects.

Despite the vast geographical distances between the participating countries, Vibert says deepening drought and water scarcity, climate crisis, special challenges facing women, and extractive industrial development were shared concerns.

“Participants all talked about how they were surprised to learn that their biggest local challenges are also, often, the problems of communities on the other side of the globe,” she says. “They talked about how to build solidarities and support each other.”

Food as politics

Hosted at the T’Sou-ke Nation on southern Vancouver Island, the week’s highlights included a canoe journey and hike with Chief Gordon Planes and plant specialist Christine George to learn about Indigenous food systems.

A separate full-house public event on Sept. 5 at UVic gave Victoria residents the chance to hear about the huge challenges facing marginalized communities in their efforts to create or maintain healthy food systems.

Food advocate Jakeline Romero, a member of the Wayuu Indigenous nation in northern Colombia, told the audience that her people are facing an emergency. Climate change and industries such as coal have exacerbated land loss and shortages of clean water. In the last decade, 5,000 Wayuu

children have died of malnutrition.

“All of us have to consider how we have to change our ways of being in the world. Food is politics,” Romero says. “We want to continue to be able to nourish our children and grandchildren with the food our ancestors ate and it is becoming very difficult to do so.”

Documentary to highlight four stories

The Four Stories About Food Sovereignty team will produce a documentary film as part of their research, a similar approach Vibert took with the award-winning 2017 documentary *The Thinking Garden*, which followed the story of a women’s farming collective in South Africa.

Vibert will co-direct the new film with UVic writing chair Maureen

Bradley—with filming set to begin overseas next summer. UVic professors Astrid Perez Pinan (public administration) and Matt Murphy (business) round out the interdisciplinary UVic-based team.

Vibert has travelled to South Africa and Jordan to train young people to produce their own films. Some of their footage may be included in the documentary. Vibert says the training provides valuable job skills while giving young people from marginalized communities the chance to tell their stories.

Obeidat, who called on people to care for the earth on which we depend for survival, is sure to be heard. “We must be guardians of the land instead of destroyers.”

fourstoriesaboutfood.org
womensfarm.org

FRAMEWORK CONTINUED FROM P. 1

she says. “It’s meant a lot to have had this experience.”

UVic’s Strategic Framework Experiential Learning Fund, launched in spring 2019 through the Office of the Vice President Academic and Provost, aims to increase opportunities for students to gain hands-on learning in the community, and also reflect the goals of the Strategic Framework, including reconciliation opportunities.

“At UVic, we are moving quickly towards our goal of being Canada’s leader in experiential and research-enriched learning,” says President Jamie Cassels. “Participating in these kinds of opportunities provides our graduates with an edge and equips them for future success.”

Funding is being administered through several offices, including those of the Associate Vice-President Academic Planning, Co-operative Education Program and Career Services, Indigenous Academic and Com-

munity Engagement and the Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation.

“We really want to encourage our students to take advantage of these funding opportunities,” says Susan Lewis, acting associate vice-president academic planning. “Experiential learning is an essential part of the UVic student experience. It’s through hands-on learning experiences that our students are transformed and learn how to contribute effectively as global citizens.”

Available funding includes student awards to travel outside Victoria for co-op, internships and field schools; faculty awards to support the development and delivery of experiential learning opportunities; and employer awards (including not-for-profits) to hire co-op students and more. Learn more about the range of funding opportunities at uvic.ca/coopandcareer/funding.

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uvic.ca/alerts

Advancing the power grid

Next-generation insulators could make a substantial impact on electrical transmission and distribution

BY CLARE WALTON

When UVic chemist Dennis Hore looks to the sky, he sees potential for a greener, more sustainable future.

That’s because Hore and his research team are investigating materials they hope will make up the next generation insulators for the electrical power grid.

Overhead transmission wires carry electricity in our communities, and insulators—the stacked disk-like objects—are an important part of the infrastructure. The life cycle of traditional ceramic insulators is coming to an end, says Hore, whose innovations in materials science are paving the way for a deeper understanding of the chemical and molecular make up of insulator materials and creating new ways to measure their performance using high-voltage testing and modelling systems.

Ceramic insulators take in water and eventually crack, typically giving them a life expectancy of about 50 years, Hore explains. This makes finding a more resilient replacement crucially important. Hore is inspecting the material properties of new insulators that he hopes can withstand extreme weather and environmental stress, contributing to products that

deliver stable, cost-effective power in rural and urban areas.

Hore’s research team can inspect insulator surfaces very closely—at a nanometre-length scale or to a billionth of a metre. They are working with silicone, a promising alternative to ceramics because the polymer is not as impacted by changing weather conditions, especially rain. Silicone’s hydrophobic nature—or ability to repel liquid—causes droplets to form on the surface when wet, instead of absorbing into the core.

Silicone insulator testing

The team is researching how exposure to elements and chemicals, such as ocean spray and de-icing salts, affects an insulator’s ability to maintain its hydrophobicity over time. “Little research has been done to understand how silicone insulators exposed to chemical agents react when under electrical stress,” says Hore.

He is also researching how silicone insulators can withstand extreme summer and winter climates. Insulators face two unique challenges according to Hore: chemical and biological resistance.

Although testing has been conducted to understand these challenges, none has factored in an electrical load, which is where Hore’s team comes in.

Using simulators developed by the research team to energize silicone to high voltage—40,000 volts is commonly used in power grids—Hore and his team are zeroing in on how polymer molecules react as the researchers



Hore. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

cycle through wet and dry conditions. They also present insulators with de-icing agents and algae to test how the surface changes.

So far, they are noticing patterns that offer early clues about how the molecules behave under a range of conditions, which could one day impact how the insulators are manu-

factured and maintained.

“Our research has the potential to influence the choices made by the power utilities and industry, and helps provide evidence for more environmentally friendly and efficient power generation,” Hore says. “By working to understand molecular-level interactions, we are developing

a stronger understanding of the material’s properties and how it will weather over time.”

While further testing is needed, Hore hopes that being able to provide industry with physical explanations for degradation in material performance will help create optimal insulators.

Students use new lab to build and operate satellite

BY ANNE TOLSON

A new, high-tech lab will provide 60 students who are passionate about space with the chance to build a flight-ready satellite, which will be launched from the International Space Station and operated from UVic.

The two-room lab in the Engineering Office Wing includes a satellite integration lab and an operations centre. Outfitting the adjoining rooms was recently funded through a grant from the federal government.

“Having this new lab is like a dream come true,” says Alex Doknjas, who graduated this spring from electrical engineering and now manages the lab and coordinates student involvement in the satellite project.

“The lab will have everything we need to design, build and operate a CubeSat, which is a small orbiting spacecraft about the size of a shoe box,” he notes. “Everything we need is contained in about 260 square feet.”

In the first of the rooms, students will design, manufacture, integrate and test the spacecraft. Once the device has been launched into space in

2021, students will be able to control its flight from the second room, the operations centre.

Earlier this fall, the federal government announced that UVic’s Centre for Aerospace Research (CfAR), led by Afzal Suleman, had received \$980,000 from Western Economic Diversification Canada to advance and commercialize its work.

Suleman—a Canada Research Chair and mechanical engineering professor—says the funding will cover four key areas: renovations to a research centre in Sidney; the purchase of 3D printers; continued work on the autonomous flight systems; and the creation of the new lab at UVic, which allows students to build satellites and train in aerospace design and integration processes and procedures.

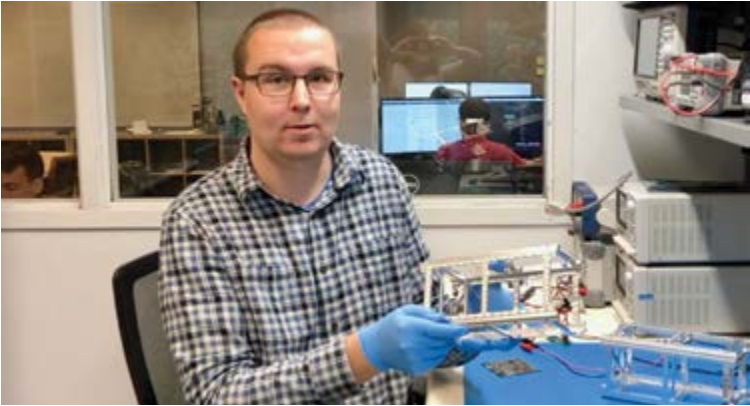
Undergrad students interested in aerospace often consider joining UVic’s satellite design team. Those whose interest grows more serious eventually may be recruited to Suleman’s CubeSat project. In some cases, those students use their satellite work as part of a capstone project or master’s thesis.

Of the 60 students involved in the project, 45 are from UVic and 15 from UBC. They represent several disciplines, including engineering, computer science and physics. Students work as part of several interdisciplinary teams, which focus on different parts of the satellite project.

Doknjas says the new lab’s mission is to build a CubeSat that contains a measurable light source. Once the cubesat is flight-ready, it will be sent as cargo on a rocket to the International Space Station. From there, an astronaut will use a robotic arm to send it into orbit.

The CubeSat will circle the earth every 90 minutes and, as it flies overhead, observatories on earth will measure how much light it seems to be emitting. This data will be compared to how much light it is actually producing. The difference between the two measurements will help determine the amount of atmospheric interference—gases, pollutants and other particles.

The ultimate point of the mission, Doknjas explains, is to prove that supplying a light source from a spacecraft



Doknjas.

in low Earth orbit is a feasible method of calibrating optical telescopes located on the ground. This information could help researchers determine how light is reduced in intensity through the atmosphere to a higher degree of precision than previous methods. If this is successful, it could be used to calibrate optical telescopes and remove the largest uncertainty on their measurements, which is light attenuation due to atmospheric interference. To date, this technology has only been demonstrated using a

weather balloon.

The CubeSat’s flight will be operated from the second room in the UVic lab, which will contain computers, monitors and a connection to a station on the building’s roof. Funding has been set aside to improve the ground station, connect it to the lab in the basement and enable the automated collection of satellite data.

Work on the new lab is expected to be completed by the end of October, while the ground station’s upgrades will be finished in the new year.



UVic hosts international dignitaries

On Sept. 30, UVic hosted 51 ambassadors, high commissioners and consuls general from 47 countries as an opportunity to highlight the university’s focus on internationalization, clean energy and oceans, as well as its ongoing commitment to actively work toward advancing reconciliation. The Heads of Mission tour of British Columbia was set up through Global Affairs Canada to showcase Canada as a mature economy. The federal government was in the lead on the provincial tour, with the BC government undertaking the planning with affiliated partners. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Read more on the UVic visit: bit.ly/19-mission

CONVOCATION 2019



HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Technology entrepreneur and human rights advocate honoured

Two outstanding individuals—an exceptional human rights advocate and a renowned technology entrepreneur—will be recognized with the University of Victoria’s highest academic honour at fall convocation ceremonies Nov. 12 and 13. A total of 1,459 degrees, diplomas and certificates will be awarded to UVic students this fall for their completed studies.



HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

KIMAHLI POWELL

November 12, 2019 | 2:30 p.m.

Kimahli Powell has had an extraordinary career in human rights advocacy. As executive director of the Canadian-based Rainbow Railroad, he has helped hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) people escape state-sanctioned violence and persecution in their home countries. A graduate of the University of Ottawa, Powell has long worked for the betterment of at-risk youth, LGBTQI people and people living with HIV, beginning with roles at both Ottawa and Toronto YMCAs before moving

into national and international human rights advocacy. In 2017, Powell and the Rainbow Railroad team collaborated with multiple governments, including Canada, to covertly bring more than 70 gay men who were victims of horrific state-sponsored violence to safety. Rainbow Railroad receives more than 2,000 requests for help each year from LGBTQI people in danger around the world.



HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

MARTINE ROTHBLATT

November 13, 2019 | 10:00 a.m.

Martine Rothblatt, PhD, MBA, JD, is a technologist, entrepreneur, lawyer and author, and a leader in communications, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and bioethics. As an entrepreneur, Rothblatt launched the navigation system GeoStar and the broadcasting company that became SiriusXM. After coming out as transgender, she founded the biotech company United Therapeutics to develop a drug for lung disease that ended up saving her own daughter’s life—and those of thousands of others. Projects

in development include creating transplantable organs using a 3D-printer and a person’s own cells. She was included in Forbes Magazine’s “100 Greatest Business Minds.” Rothblatt also supports transhumanism and experiments with robotic and artificial intelligence. Her Terasem Movement Foundation helps people upload records of their lives to computers to prepare for “mind clones” in the future. As part of this exciting work, her team created an intelligent, lifelike robot called Bina48.

CONVOCATION 2019

Biomedical engineer thrives on fast pace of changing technology

BY ANNE TOLSON

Even before she officially graduates this month, Brianna Carrels is already doing what she loves—working at a small, fast-paced start-up that’s developing a medical device designed to improve patient care.

Last summer, while completing her final year in UVic’s biomedical engineering program, Carrels was involved in the inception of a medical device start-up while also working part time for another med-tech company. She was hired by the CEO of the start-up for both business development and project management.

“I like being in a small start-up because although I still get to be a part of the R&D and involved in the technical aspects, I also have my hands in developing a business from scratch and learning the regulatory side of it—and I absolutely love that,” says Carrels, who switched from part-time to full-time work at GuideStar Medical Devices in September.

“One of the reasons I want to stay in biotech is that there are so many great advances happening every day and all those advances are working towards patient health and bettering the care we give people,” she adds. “That’s something I can fully get behind and passionate about.”

GuideStar, which incorporated in May, is developing a device designed to reduce the number of complications associated with epidurals—injections of anesthesia that may be given to people requiring hip or knee surgery, for example, or to women in labour.

Carrels says complications arise in about one per cent of epidurals, where doctors accidentally puncture the membrane around the spinal column. Since millions of epidurals are performed in North America each year, that seemingly small percentage actually means a large number of patients suffer the debilitating effects of an epidural gone wrong, such as a severe headache that lasts for many days.

“What our device aims to do is increase the efficiency of the doctor hitting the epidural space and going no further, not puncturing the membrane, so that it’s a lot safer for the patient.”

Carrels, who is originally from Lethbridge, chose UVic both for its biomedical engineering program and its women’s varsity golf team. During her time in university, juggling the two areas proved exciting and beneficial.

“I loved being able to travel and the competitiveness of being on a varsity team,” she says. “It also helped to keep me sharp and get my time management and priorities straight. I honestly think it’s paid off a thousand times over now that I’m in a career and juggling so many different projects.”

Carrel says UVic’s co-op program also helped hone her skills and determine her career path. She experienced four diverse environments during her work terms, including: a local pharmaceutical company; the Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience; a university lab in her hometown; and the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, where she helped develop a method for detecting Type 1 diabetes in children.

“Every co-op I had narrowed it



Carrels. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

down to the kind of career I wanted to go into. By the fourth one, I knew what I wanted to do,” says Carrels.

In 2017, UVic named Carrels one of only three Co-op Students of the Year. And, by the time she completed her degree, Carrels had developed an extensive and diverse network that includes many senior-level professionals and professors—in sectors

including biotech, research and the pharmaceutical industry.

“It really cast the net wide, so now that I’m in the workforce, if something comes up, there’s often someone I know I can reach out to and talk to for advice,” she says.

Over the longer term, Carrels can see herself pursuing another degree, perhaps in law or business, areas

that would allow her to remain in the biotech or tech industry. In the meantime, she’s very happy to be working in the demanding, exciting world of a biotech start-up.

“I’d like to stay in biotech, I love how fast-paced it is,” she says. “Whether that’s on the R&D or business side, whatever my next step is, an engineering degree has set me up beautifully.”

Oceanography propels grad around the globe

BY CLARE WALTON

Schulich scholar and honours earth and ocean sciences graduate Wylee Fitz-Gerald has spent the last four years following a passion for oceanography. Whether it’s finding mentors in labs on campus or conducting field work in the Arctic, Fitz-Gerald has always looked for ways to broaden her skills through a combination of a strong network and hands-on learning experiences.

“Throughout my undergraduate studies I have taken every opportunity to explore the field of oceanography, focusing my courses on oceanographic studies and completing an honours project in chemical oceanography,” says Fitz-Gerald. “These opportunities have allowed me to be fortunate enough to gain the connections and experience needed to pursue my passion while exploring the world.”

This past summer, Fitz-Gerald was able to follow her calling to the Arctic waters of the Bering and Beaufort seas where her hard work and strong relationships with faculty and staff in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences had her spending three weeks aboard the Canadian Coast Guard vessel CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier, collecting water samples to study radioactive isotopes from the March 2011 tsunami that hit the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

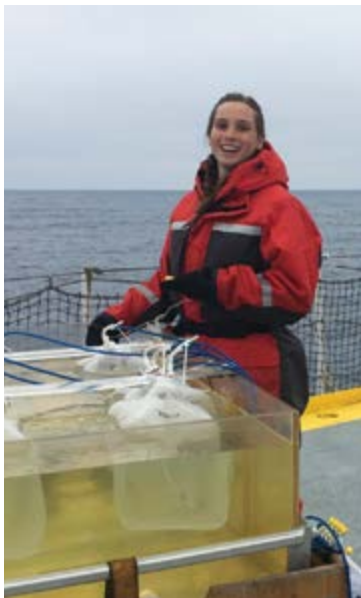
A beacon of academic excellence, Fitz-Gerald has maintained a prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship—one of 50 scholarships awarded

annually to exceptional young leaders in STEM fields—and has also won top prizes within the faculty. This commitment can be seen even in her final year of study when she won the first place prize from the Faculty of Science for her honours research project analyzing the dynamics of dissolved oxygen in the Labrador Sea, based on data collected from robotic profiling floats.

Despite being a gifted student, studying oceanography didn’t come easy at first to Fitz-Gerald. She began her oceanographic studies by skipping ahead to third year courses after just one year at university. Although a challenge, she was determined to succeed, and credits having strong influences and mentors within her department who could play an instrumental role in her success as being key to helping her meet and exceed her academic goals.

“When I first started taking oceanographic courses, I was not prepared for the challenges that lay ahead. Having a champion like my senior lab instructor Sarah Thornton made a world of difference,” says Fitz-Gerald. “Sarah took me under her wing and provided me with the tutoring and guidance I needed to be successful both in the lab and out in the field.”

Having a passion for what you do is key to scientific success, according to Fitz-Gerald, who believes passion is contagious and can inspire others to explore your chosen field. In fact, she was attracted to the world of oceanographic research in part because of the passion of Earth and Ocean Sciences chemical oceanogra-



Fitz-Gerald. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

pher Roberta Hamme.

“Roberta’s passion for her subject matter makes her a magnetic force in the field of oceanography and working with her is what has helped me to fall in love with the field,” says Fitz-Gerald, who proudly credits Hamme as a key mentor and major influence in her academic career thus far.

By boldly embracing the challenges that have come her way throughout her undergraduate degree, Fitz-Gerald has been able to discover a research passion and grow her academic network. As she moves onto the next stage of her life after undergraduate studies, she is looking towards pursuing a master’s degree to continue to live with her research.

GRANLEY CONTINUED FROM P. 1

exhibits for First Peoples House in 2020, she recently assisted with the installation of the Legacy exhibit *We Carry Our Ancestors: Cedar, Baskets and Our Relationships with the Land*, curated by Lorilee Wastasecoot.

“I did my honour’s thesis on decolonizing museum and gallery spaces and the repatriation of what I consider stolen objects, so it’s been very interesting to actually work in a gallery space,” says Granley, who is Métis on her mother’s side. “Trying to decolonize a collection is difficult, because people often don’t want to relinquish items, as their collection then gets smaller. But from working here, I’ve seen real efforts are being made towards decolonization; the staff even asked for my input—as an intern, I felt really lucky to be part of that.”

Granley points to *We Carry Our Ancestors* as a good example of gallery decolonization practices. “It’s not only displaying Indigenous baskets, it was put together by an Indigenous person using Indigenous methodologies,” she explains. “It’s very different from other basketry exhibits, and I feel very lucky that I got to help put it together and work with Lorilee. It’s been important for me to have

another Indigenous person guide and help me with my own curating.”

Looking to the future, Granley anticipates doing graduate work (“I’m not sure what I’ll do as a career path, but I really like UVic and my heart wants me to apply here”) and realizes she has accumulated invaluable concrete skills as an art history student—recording and transcribing live interviews, researching and writing for websites, object handling and curatorial practices.

“I feel like I learned so much,” she says. “It was a very rounded education . . . the art history professors are so supportive of their students, and really take a lot of interest in them. I’m really grateful for the support of the department and First Peoples House, as well as my friends and family. I wouldn’t have been able to get my degree without them.”

Whatever her career path, Granley is certain her passion for Indigenous arts and activism will remain strong. “Items that have been taken out of Indigenous communities are direct ancestors from those nations and those peoples,” she insists. “The idea of keeping items locked up in storage away from their people and other objects is just wrong.”

Share your convocation memories

- Share your moments with #uvicgrad and see your photos featured on digital screens in the University Centre and on UVic’s social channels.
- Follow these accounts for convocation photos and stories:

f University of Victoria @uvic @universityofvictoria



Farboud. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Getting the full flavour of international business

BY SASHA MILAM

Limes, avocados and chilies, with a bit of squash and broccoli thrown in for good measure: Avasta Farboud’s days read like an adventurous vegetarian cookbook. At least until you get to his other interest, which is accounting.

The young entrepreneur, who graduates this fall with a BCom degree from UVic’s Gustavson School of Business, has kept his sights set on both accounting and international business during his time at the school. He founded his produce import company in one entrepreneurial co-op work term, and completed an accounting co-op at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) the next. While he admits that it was hard working long hours at the PwC co-op while continuing the export business in the evenings, he seems to have executed both with aplomb: he has an ongoing role lined up at PwC starting in January, and his import business supplies about 10 per cent of the avocados consumed in Vancouver.

He won’t forget the lesson, however: he is busy hiring a team of people to keep the export company in motion while he takes on the PwC role and returns to school in 2020 for his Masters in Professional Accounting at the University of Saskatchewan.

Although he is prioritizing his accounting career for now, Farboud’s interest in international study and travel runs deep.

“I chose Gustavson in large part because of the international focus,” says Farboud. “Having grown up in London and Beijing before my family moved to Shawnigan Lake, the school’s emphasis on understanding business in other cultures seemed like it aligned well with my own values.”

Farboud took full advantage of Gustavson’s exchange opportunities, spending one semester in his childhood home of Beijing, and another in an intensive Chinese language program in Taiwan. Despite not specializing in international business while at Gustavson (he had discovered accounting, and

chose to focus his academics in that field instead), he has been embedded in the world of international business nonetheless.

“I started my import business, GC Importers, about three years ago,” says Farboud. “Exchange immersed me in how other cultures do business, so it’s been neat to apply those lessons to my own business. We currently focus on limes and avocados—a key market for us is Vancouver sushi restaurants, and we supply about 10 per cent of overall avocado imports to the city. And we’re just piloting a farm in Mexico for squashes and broccoli.”

While acknowledging the inherent challenges to a sustainable import business, Farboud is always on the lookout for ways to mitigate the social and environmental effects of his company. This includes exploring outside-the-box ways to compensate labourers fairly and educating consumers on the merits of “ugly” fruit, which are often rejected based on unconventional appearance.

“I cannot describe how much waste we see, because of fruit that is ugly,” says Farboud. “How it looks isn’t reflective of the actual quality of the fruit, so it’s really a shame.”

It’s not the first time Farboud has dealt in produce. During his high school years, his family started their Fat Chili Farm business in Shawnigan Lake, growing artisanal chilies of all varieties and selling them locally. Farboud cut his teeth on marketing the chilies, and has recently stepped up to the plate again to help get the latest family venture off the ground.

“It’s a freeze-dried food line, designed for hikers or disaster relief or whenever someone might need a dehydrated meal,” says Farboud. “I was coordinating the marketing—website, labelling, packaging sourcing and so on—and now I’m selling to corporate clients. So I’m still volunteering for the family hustle, West Coast Kitchen, and I’m really excited to see where that goes.”

It almost goes without saying that chilies and avocados play an important role in the new product’s ingredient lineup.



Kouri. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

HUMAN & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Learning comes full circle for counsellor

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

As Scott Kouri prepares to walk across UVic’s convocation stage for the third time in 10 years this November, odds are he will embrace his grand finish as he would a new beginning.

Such is the circular nature of a rewarding academic life—you learn, you grow, you teach, your students learn, they grow, they teach, and on it goes. The Ring Road. The Ring newspaper. The circle of learning is what life at UVic is all about.

Kouri has now completed his BA (2011), MA (2014) and now PhD (2019) with UVic’s School of Child and Youth Care while working as a counsellor and instructor. Married with three sons, he acknowledges his family in his research papers, thanking them for their love and support and for giving him time to study.

Kouri’s graduate supervisor Sandra de Finney supported his work through two graduate programs, describing him as “by far one of the most scholarly and intellectually agile students I have ever supervised; his capacity to read, think, generate, apply and work across literatures, frameworks and theoretical histories is impressive. He is incredibly productive as a writer and scholar and also deeply generous in his engagement with others in communities of practice and scholarship.”

De Finney adds, “during his PhD examinations, Scott completed four highly impressive examination papers—two more than what was expected by his committee.”

She further notes he won more

than 10 scholarships and published as many papers—with two more pending review—and presented at eight national and international conferences.

To be fair, Scott explains, he hasn’t always been this driven.

“When I left Montreal,” he says flatly, “I had no idea what I would do with my life.”

He came west in 2005. A third-generation English-Lebanese man, Kouri was lured by a glorious island coastline with so much dense forest. “I had no idea what career I’d pursue.” Kouri clarifies he was preoccupied, not aimless, having broken with family tradition by leaving a promising profession for a road less travelled.

“My family is immersed in commerce,” he explains. “My older brother is a banker. I was good at math and so it was assumed I would go into commerce, too.”

But he didn’t.

Instead, he made British Columbia his home. After his first son was born, a friend recommended Kouri for a job with the Fairfield community preschool program, which turned out to be a great gift.

“I was there for about five years,” he recalls, noting how much he enjoyed the work. He’d previously worked in child care and was keen on understanding how young minds develop. Staff encouraged him to learn more about the sector.

“In fact, they literally held the door open for me to go to university.” He remembers himself then as a somewhat rudderless 23-year-old dad just trying to figure things out.

There was a deep interest, he re-

members, in wanting to learn more about fatherhood. It was a calling more than a career choice, Kouri says—and the study and practice of child and youth care remain now as they were then, deeply satisfying work.

For that alone, Kouri says he owes a debt of gratitude to his teachers. “The professors challenged me as a person, taught me a new understanding of myself, of my privilege. I learned how to be critically challenged and was supported to safely explore how to serve the greater good.”

Looking back on his 10 years at UVic, Kouri wants to be accountable to those who spent years teaching him. “I have a responsibility,” he says, “to further their efforts.”

He now teaches with the School of Child and Youth Care and is waiting to hear about a research grant which, if it comes through, will help him look at the intersections of mental health and climate change across youth populations. He also continues to work in a private counselling practice.

Kouri’s centre, around which everything else turns, is enabling students—providing affordable counselling services and connecting across many audiences, “with a focus placed on young adults.”

Just as a circle with no beginning and no end becomes complete, Scott has found his whole self within education and practice. He is happy and grateful to live this learning life. He wants to support young people as he was once supported. And he has made a promise to be accountable for his learning upon which he is determined to make good.



During her co-op, Claire Horwood (far right) led the development of a gender pledge, which has been implemented by the Mission to the EU.

Striving for an equitable world

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Claire Horwood has learned to question the world around her—and she refuses to accept the status quo.

When working with asylum seekers and refugees in Malaysia as part of an internship through the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, she saw first-hand how poor policies affected the lives of vulnerable people.

“It felt like despite being the last remaining source of hope for many of our beneficiaries, we were unable to help everyone due to being overly reliant on tenuous government funding,” she said.

The gender studies student already had an understanding of how categories such as gender, race, sexuality and class affected one’s place in the world. Horwood realized she could do more good by developing the policies that affected vulnerable groups in the first place.

Co-ops launches exciting career

She applied to co-operative education positions to gain experience writing policy and to test-drive a career in international development and relations. Horwood worked five semesters in various roles with the Department of National Defence and Global Affairs Canada. At her latter role, she contributed to the feminist international assistance policy, which outlined Canada’s strategy to promote gender equality and to empower women and girls globally.

“As a gender studies major, I find myself well-placed to take a diversity

and inclusion lens to all of the work that I do,” Horwood says.

The EU’s gender pledge

This past summer, she had the opportunity to travel to Brussels, Belgium, to work as an intern in the political section at the Mission of Canada to the EU, a government mission that represents Canada to the European Union.

“It was a hugely transformative role for me,” she says. “I was keenly interested in the Brussels posting because I speak French and wanted to glean more insight into how the unique, supranational political structure of the European Union works.”

One of her greatest accomplishments there was to lead the development of a gender pledge, a commitment that identifies and addresses gender imbalances. The Mission to the EU implemented the gender pledge across all sectors, and Horwood says it will remain part of the mission’s programming going forward.

Finding your place in the world

Horwood credits her studies with academics, such as UVic professor Annalee Lepp, for challenging her to think critically.

“She persistently asked me to question my beliefs and helped to guide me towards a better understanding of the world around me, and my place in it,” Horwood says.

Raised in the small French town of Beaumont, south of Edmonton,

Horwood’s path into international work has been circuitous. She worked for four years as an occupational health and safety officer at a sandblasting and painting company before travelling to Australia for a year.

When she returned, Horwood enrolled in a three-year environmental technology diploma at Camosun College. During her time there, Horwood became interested in student politics and was elected sustainability director for the student society. Her interest in social justice was piqued after taking part in several Canadian Federation of Students-BC meetings.

Advocating for what’s right

Through gender studies, Horwood was able to examine her position of privilege, a process she found uncomfortable at times, as well as consider the ways society had oppressed her as a woman. The result: a commitment to advocate for what’s right, instead of what’s best for her—a principle Horwood hopes to keep exploring in a master’s degree in international relations.

Her ultimate goal is to work towards an equitable world for everyone. Horwood harks back to the refugees and asylum seekers she first worked with in Malaysia.

“It’s why I’d like to continue in this line of work,” she says, “to make sure that the voices and needs of vulnerable populations are holistically addressed to ensure that nobody gets left behind.”

Nourishing community, feeding change

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

By bringing the first Meal Exchange chapter to UVic, Jessica Schellenberg truly gave back to her student community during her four years studying environmental and social justice. She graduates this month with a double major in environmental studies and political science, and a minor in education.

“Food is a justice issue and it is an environmental issue that affects every living being on earth,” states Schellenberg.

Meal Exchange Canada is a national non-profit that supports universities across the country to be leaders in serving good food for everyone. Schellenberg initiated the chapter at UVic after finding inspiration from her fellow students who were politically engaged in changing the campus and community for the better.

It was also through her environmental studies classes that food security and food justice quickly became the lens Schellenberg used to pursue her academics and her volunteer work.

“As I started to use food as a lens, I realized that I could utilize both my privilege as a white heterosexual cis-gender women, as well as my energy as a youth to address these issues while creating change,” Schellenberg explains.

For four years Schellenberg worked tirelessly to bring awareness to the university’s food systems through Meal Exchange’s Good Food Challenge. She completed two audits of UVic Food Services and recently started work with UVSS, who have signed a 20 per cent Good Food by 2025 commitment.

Universities have large purchasing power when it comes to what kind of food is bought, Schellenberg says,

and her goal is to shift campus food systems to make them more just and sustainable.

Through Meal Exchange, Schellenberg hosted cooking workshops, a cultural food fair and the popular Trick or Eat food bank drive.

“The Trick or Eat food drive was my favourite memory at UVic, says Schellenger. “We had fun, gave back to our community and we were able to connect deeper with food security solutions on campus.”

She also worked each summer for TopSoil, an innovative urban farm—first as a volunteer then as their on-site market coordinator. TopSoil founder and CEO Chris Hildreth, who is also a UVic social sciences alumnus—was extremely happy to have Jess on their team for four years.

For Schellenberg, the most important thing in her life are her relationships with her friends, her Baba (Russian grandmother) and the natural world. She also loves music, playing her guitar and hiking whenever possible.

Schellenberg started a full-time position with Meal Exchange Canada in October where she hopes to have a greater impact on addressing food insecurity amongst youth. She would like to thank Zoe Martin, who has taken over the work with UVic Meal Exchange, and Alex Ages, the previous coordinator of the UVSS foodbank.

Schellenberg also expresses special thanks to UVic professors Deborah Curran, James Lawson, Ted Riecken and Laura Lauzon, who supported her in several directed studies classes related to Meal Exchange and food systems. By receiving course credit for some volunteering work, Schellenberg says she was able to have a greater impact on campus.



Schellenberg

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



Indigenous fashion exhibit at UVic gallery

A new exhibit at Legacy Downtown, *Urban Regalia: Contemporary Fashion by Sug-ii-t Lukxs*, showcases high fashion designs by contemporary Gitksan couturier Sug-ii-t Lukxs (Yolonda Skelton, at right in background of photo). Curated by UVic’s Legacy Chair in Modern and Contemporary Arts of the Pacific Northwest Carolyn Butler-Palmer (fine arts), the exhibit was featured on CBC national news and is at UVic’s free public downtown art gallery through Dec. 21. Read more online: bit.ly/urgalia PHOTO OF INDIGENOUS FASHION WEEK IN VANCOUVER (2017) BY PETER JENSEN.

Mental health initiative shares stories of loss—and survival

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Ali Blythe was 17 years old and straight out of high school when he enrolled in university. His grades were low and one day he received a letter from the university asking him to leave.

More struggles, including a cancer diagnosis, ensued. But eventually Blythe found his way back to the classroom. In 2009, he graduated from UVic with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Writing. Blythe figured he had stories to tell—so he kept writing.

“The poems I started writing after university would become my first book, *Twoism*. I was also in the process of transitioning gender so as I wrote this book, I was becoming myself,” Blythe recalls.

It took him 16 years to finish university, but in the past four years, Blythe has published two lauded books of poetry, including his recent collection *Hymnswitch*.

UVic Bounce video series launched

Students had the chance to listen to Blythe’s story on Oct. 15 at the launch of UVic Bounce, a new mental health initiative based in the Faculty of Humanities. Inspired by the Stanford Resilience Project, UVic Bounce seeks to normalize and de-stigmatize the challenges that students experience at university.

Founder and director Rebecca Gagan says part of the initiative is a video series in which UVic professors, alumni and students share their stories of success and failure. Gagan, a professor in the Department of English who teaches primarily first-year students, says she has noticed in the past five years an increase in the levels of distress and struggle in her classes.

“Students often feel ashamed to disclose their struggles and also feel very much alone,” she says. “By sharing these stories, we hope it might become easier for students to acknowledge and share their own struggles, and to seek the support that they need.”

Talk to your profs—they have faced challenges too

UVic Bounce stories include Adrienne Williams Boyarin’s account of being diagnosed with cancer while



Blythe.

completing a PhD.

Boyarin, a professor in the Department of English, returned to her studies after treatment, but regrets not taking more time to heal.

“It’s important to know that a lot of professors have been through serious challenges, around health, around mental health, around work, schedule and family,” Boyarin says. “If you communicate about what’s going on, there’s a lot that can be done, a lot that can be understood, a lot of compassion.”

The UVic Bounce launch event will include a discussion with Blythe, UVic professor Audrey Yap (philosophy) and UVic student Chad Dickie, who didn’t start university until age 50, after he suffered a stroke.

“I never felt smart enough, I never felt higher education was something I could actually pursue,” says Dickie.

Now Dickie’s studying for a BA in Health and Community at UVic. A member of the Fort Nelson First

Nation, Dickie is the first Indigenous chair of AVI Health & Community Services (formerly AIDS Vancouver Island).

Bounce builds on existing UVic mental health resources

Gagan says she hopes UVic Bounce will expand to include a peer support program and classroom resources for instructors to help develop an even more compassionate and supportive community where students can find the help they need.

“UVic Bounce is one more contribution to the already very comprehensive program of mental health resources for students here at UVic,” Gagan says.

Blythe, meanwhile, says it takes time to “become yourself, to be who you want to be.”

“Look for the things that make you feel like yourself,” he says. bit.ly/19-bounce

UVic team triumphs at national cybersecurity competition

Team of engineering and computer science students develops a working software solution to prevent predatory phishing emails from affecting small businesses

BY ANNE TOLSON

A team of four UVic students came home champions from a national competition last week, for a software solution to help small businesses achieve cybersecurity.

Six finalist teams were invited to present their solutions at the People in Cyber Conference in Toronto on Oct. 19. The UVic team, which won the \$3,000 grand prize, impressed the judges with a package that included a working web application—not just a concept.

“We presented something that actually works and the judges really liked that,” said Chandula Kodituwakku, a third-year computer science student. “After the conference, some of the judges spoke to us and said it was a very good idea and could be a tool that all organizations could use. They said now we just need a business plan.”

Over the summer, teams that entered the Cybersecurity Higher Education Contest were asked to consider that most small businesses have very little cybersecurity protection because they are so focused on day-to-day operations and lack the expertise and resources to prevent a cyberattack. Increasing numbers of cyber-criminals are targeting the small business sector as “low-hanging fruit,” from which they can steal confidential information, disrupt business operations and launch third-party attacks on other organizations.

The UVic team, CyberTORia, focused its solution on phishing emails, which try to get small business employees to part with personal or sensitive information.

“Phishing attacks are one of the most common reasons there are data breaches, so our goal was to assess how vulnerable a small business’s employees are to these attacks and to make them aware,” said Kodituwakku.

The UVic team wanted to educate small business employees in a way that was both personalized and engaging.

The team’s resulting Cyber Risk Assessment Tool, CyberRAT, is a

web application that uses both data analytics and natural language processing—a branch of artificial intelligence that deals with how computers and humans interact using natural language—to assess how vulnerable a particular user is to phishing attacks. Based on open source intelligence, which collects data from publicly available sources, it scans the internet, including social media channels, to find any sensitive information that could be used against a person. This information could include breached accounts or information that identifies a person, such as date of birth, their mother’s name, and so on. Based on the information gathered, CyberRAT assigns an online security score, displays where the person’s sensitive data is exposed, and then recommends how to safeguard the information.

Kodituwakku learned about the contest during a summer co-op work term at RBC Royal Bank in Toronto, and asked one of UVic’s co-op coordinators to put him in touch with other UVic students who also had an interest in cybersecurity.

“When I initially met the group, I said, ‘More than the cost of the trip, this is going to be a great experience, a great opportunity to network—and something you can put on your resume if we win.’”

Two team members—Pranay Rai and Abhishek Chatrath, both in fourth-year software engineering—had already begun early work on the web application as part of their capstone project. The fourth student, Denzel Cheung, also in fourth-year software engineering, rounded out the team, which worked around regular classroom activities.

“It was challenging because it was after mid-terms,” said Kodituwakku. “We had to meet up in the evenings. We skipped some classes to practice our presentation. But it was worth it in the end.”



Winning trophy.



The CyberTORia team (L-R): Rai, Kodituwakku, Cheung and Chatrath.

A lifetime of support creates a lasting legacy

The late Roger J. Bishop, the first head of the University of Victoria’s Department of English who was also known as the “father of UVic Special Collections,” has left a lasting legacy as both an educator and philanthropist.

In 2016, more than \$1.6 million was donated to UVic through the Bishop estate, with \$1.2 million to support students in the Faculties of Humanities and Fine Arts through the creation of awards in the English, theatre, writing and music departments. On Nov. 1, 2019, the same month as National Philanthropy Day, UVic celebrated this lasting legacy.

An additional \$401,395 created an endowment to support UVic Libraries in the purchase of materials in English language and literature for UVic’s Special Collections.

“Roger dedicated his life to encouraging people to learn and expand their knowledge,” recalls Bishop estate executor and close family friend Brian Young. “So, it only fits that his legacy continues through a generous estate donation.”

Bishop passed away in 2016, just 41 days before his 100th birthday. He and his wife Ailsa, who died in 1994, were well-known for their generosity, hospitality and a deep commitment to the arts, humanities and the library at UVic.

A deep commitment to the arts and humanities

“It’s no exaggeration to say that transformative gifts like those from Roger Bishop help our university to keep our society alive,” says UVic Dean of Humanities Chris Goto-Jones. “One of the twentieth century’s greatest writers, Rabindranath Tagore, once lamented the ‘gradual suicide through shrinkage of the soul’ being experienced by modern societies as they increasingly neglect their cultural and literary health.”

Through the Bishop estate, more than \$300,000 has also been added to an existing bursary for students enrolled in the English department. And a donation of artifacts and other gifts-in-kind, including Indigenous woven artwork, was bequeathed to UVic Libraries’s Special Collections.

Born in Vancouver in 1916, Bishop graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1938 with a Bachelor of Arts with first-class Honours in English and also obtained a Certificate of Education from UBC before earning a Bachelor of Library Science and a Master of Arts from the University of Toronto.

In 1941, Bishop was invited to teach English at Victoria College, still at that time situated in Craigdarroch Castle. He was head of UVic’s fledgling

English department from 1945 to 1967. And by the time he retired in 1971, he had overseen the department’s move from Craigdarroch Castle to the Lansdowne campus and finally to UVic’s current location in Gordon Head.

No university without a library

“He was convinced that you could not have a university without a library,” explains Ann Saddlemeyer and Joan Coldwell, two of the first women hired by Bishop to teach in the English department. “He urged the administration to budget for books and began searching catalogues and visiting basement book stores all over the world,” Coldwell continues.

Some of Bishop’s finds include Sir Walter Raleigh’s *History of the World*, first editions of William Burroughs’ *Naked Lunch* and works by Charles Dickens, T.S. Eliot and Sylvia Plath. However, during a book-buying excursion in Britain in 1953, one volume of poetry in particular had eluded him, much to his lasting chagrin. In honour of Bishop, UVic Libraries recently purchased a finely bound edition of this rare book, Robert Burns’ *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*.

“I remember calling Roger from a warehouse dock in London during the middle of the night about a collection I had the opportunity to buy,” says Saddlemeyer. “Without hesitation, he said to buy it, he would find the money, and he always did.”

Even after his retirement, Bishop would send boxes of books to UVic Libraries. He was also very generous with many works from his own collection.

“We are honoured to be a recipient of Professor Bishop’s generosity and passion for collecting,” says UVic’s Director of Special Collections and University Archivist Lara Wilson. “Victoria College’s, and subsequently UVic Libraries’, rare and unique collections were established under his vision and dedication.”

Inspiring generations to come

Bishop’s devotion to teaching liberal arts was not limited to his love of English and literature. He also helped create UVic’s theatre department out of his want to allow students to participate in live drama and production, directing many of the first plays on campus. That leadership led to one of the UVic theatres being named in his honour.

In the early years, when the university was still situated on the Lansdowne campus (now the home of Camosun College), Bishop began theatre studies within UVic’s English department. A lasting tribute to Bishop is as the namesake for the



Archival photo of Roger J. Bishop in the previous space of UVic Special Collections and University Archives in the McPherson Library (photo undated). CREDIT: UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES.



The finely bound second edition of Scottish poet Robert Burns’ *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, acquired by UVic in 2016. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

Roger Bishop Theatre, the proscenium stage at UVic.

“Roger Bishop has always had a presence in our department, because one of our theatres is named for him,” says Anthony Vickery, chair of the theatre department. “But his generosity, as represented by this gift, will directly and positively contribute to the success of our students and continue the great legacy of excellence in the theatre department which he helped to found.”

The donation establishes three new scholarships in the Faculty of Fine Arts: the Ailsa and Roger Bishop Entrance Scholarship in Theatre; the Ailsa and Roger Bishop Travel Award in Music; and the Roger J. Bishop Writing Prize.

“Roger Bishop’s legacy lives on in so many at UVic,” says Maureen Bradley, chair of the writing department. “This gift creates a new opportunity to nurture the next generation of innovative creative writers.”

Impact of this donation for students

Emily Markwart was one of this year’s recipients of the new travel award in

music. A classical pianist from Surrey, Markwart is currently in her fourth year at UVic and is pursuing a BMus in music history and literature. Thanks to this scholarship, Emily was able to attend the Orford Music Academy, an annual festival of learning for some of the best and brightest emerging musicians in Canada, this summer in Quebec.

Markwart participated in the voice-and-piano duet week at the academy. “The pursuit of music is enriched by experiences outside of one’s everyday life,” she says, “so to be supported in the chance to go and be immersed in a different environment is refreshing as an artist. There are no words to thank the Bishops properly for their generosity.”

For Saddlemeyer, Coldwell and Young, long-time friends of the Bishops, seeing the impact of the donation on students brings the story full circle.

“Roger and Ailsa were committed to helping people succeed,” says Saddlemeyer.

“It is wonderful to now get to see that legacy grow through this gift,” adds Young.

Help make local issues #unignorable

United Way campaign

Although you may not realize it, you, your family, friends and colleagues all benefit from the work of United Way.

The UVic 2019 campaign in support of United Way kicked off on Oct. 28 and will run until the end of November, with a focus this year on increasing the participation of students, faculty and staff through event participation and donations.

“When United Way helps us to build a strong, safe, supportive and sustainable community, we all win,” says campaign co-chair Michele Parkin. “The UVic community has a proud history of giving generously and last year we raised almost \$230,000. This year, we want to grow employee and student participation—every donation, regardless of amount, helps us to reach our goals.”

At the lunchtime kick-off event on Oct. 28, United Way Greater Victoria CEO Mark Breslauer and United Way campaign associate (and UVic co-op student) Emily Jackson spoke about some of the #unignorable social issues facing our community and how we can tackle them together.

The United Way Greater Victoria e-pledge site makes it easy to make a continuous or one-time donation online. If you’re already donating through payroll deduction, you can increase your pledge by visiting the e-pledge site. Paper pledge forms are also available.

The many campus fundraising initiatives this year include the Co-op and Career Services samosa sale: order a dozen homemade and delicious beef or vegetable samosas for \$25 by Nov. 22. Please drop your spare change in the coin boxes at university food vendors, cater to your sweet tooth at the Engineering and Computer Sciences bake sale on Nov. 21 and stock up on your reading at the ongoing Book Sale in the UVic Bookstore foyer.

Donors to the United Way campaign are eligible for weekly prize draws. Please give early and give generously!

Visit uvic.ca/unitedway for details. To learn more about United Way and the impact of your donations, visit uwgv.ca. For assistance hosting a fundraising event in your unit, contact UVic campaign assistant Juan Vassallo at unitedway@uvic.ca.



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CMHR CEO & President John Young (left) looks on while Carey Newman (centre) and CMHR Head of Collections Heather Bidzinski hold the historic agreement. PHOTO: MEDIA ONE

Historic agreement finalized in traditional ceremony

BY JOHN THRELFALL

A groundbreaking agreement between Kwakwaka'wakw artist Carey Newman (Hayalthkingeme) and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights governing the protection and use of Newman's monumental art installation, the Witness Blanket (*witnessblanket.ca*), was finalized on Oct. 16 through traditional ceremony at Kumugwe, the K'ómoks First Nation Bighouse on Vancouver Island.

Originally announced in April 2019 (*bit.ly/19-witness*), the ceremony marks the first time in Canadian history that a federal Crown Corporation has ratified a legally binding contract through Indigenous traditions.

"Reconciliation means letting go of certain ways of doing things and looking for new ways that fundamentally alter the nature of relationships," says Newman, a Kwagiulth and Coast Salish master carver, who is the sixth Audain Professor of Contemporary

Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest with UVic's Department of Visual Arts. "Through spoken words and shared memory, we can express our commitment in ways that transcend written contracts—how we feel, our hopes and our goals for this agreement and our relationship as collaborative stewards of the Blanket and survivors' stories it holds."

Rebecca Johnson, associate director of UVic's Indigenous Law Research Unit, reviewed the agreement before

it was finalized earlier this year. The Faculty of Law at UVic plans to incorporate the agreement into its curriculum, which will help students explore creative avenues for drawing Indigenous and Canadian legal orders together.

The Witness Blanket was presented for the first time at UVic in May 2014.

Read more on the historic agreement: *bit.ly/19-agr*

around the ring

Philanthropy fair

National Philanthropy Day, on Nov. 15, is a day enacted by Parliament to honour Canadians who demonstrate the spirit of giving. In this spirit, the UVic Development team is hosting a philanthropy fair on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Centre. Drop in to learn more about the impact of philanthropy on campus and help say thanks to one of the more than 5,000 donors who support UVic annually. Read more about the impact of gifts: *uvic.ca/giving*

Nominations for Provost's Award in Engaged Scholarship

Do you know a tenured faculty member who is making a difference through outstanding community-engaged scholarship? Nominate him or her for the Provost's Award in Engaged Scholarship. Recipients receive a one-time award of \$10,000 to support community-engaged teaching and research. Nomination deadline is Dec. 13, 2019. Nominees must be tenured regular faculty members, who will be evaluated on the basis of a dossier documenting community-engaged scholarship. Deadline is Friday, Dec. 13, 2019 at 4 p.m. Download the nomination package (pdf) at *bit.ly/19-engaged*.



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Vikes field hockey team crowned back-to-back national champions

BY ALI BAGGOTT

The Vikes women's field hockey team captured the program's 13th national championship on home turf. The Vikes beat the University of Guelph Gryphons 3-0 on Nov. 1 and 3-1 on Nov. 2 to claim the best-of-three U Sports national championship series for the second straight year.

Third-year defender Anna Mollenhauer was named the championship Most Valuable Player after the education major scored two goals in the final game. Mollenhauer was also named one of 11 U Sports First Team All-Canadians at the awards banquet prior to the start of the tournament.

"It's super exciting and this team was a lot of fun," said Mollenhauer after the game. "We worked really hard this year so it was really rewarding getting the banner for a second season in a row."

Mollenhauer competed for Canada at the 2019 Pan American Games but chose to return to UVic to focus on her studies and compete for the Vikes. It paid off.

Youthful team delivers

Despite graduating seven seniors from last year's championship team, the Vikes were able to find success this season. With no fifth-year players, the team looked to fourth-year players Justine Balen and Emily Wong as well as a core of second- and third-year players.

The Vikes went undefeated in regular season for the first time since 2015 and also knocked off the perennial powerhouse UBC Thunderbirds to be crowned back-to-back conference Canada West champions. It marked the 19th conference banner for the Vikes field hockey program.

This is the first time the Vikes have won two straight national championships since 1995.

Field hockey leads Vikes championship tally

The field hockey program has won the most national championships won of all UVic varsity sports, and this championship brings UVic's overall national championship tally to 80.

Vikes field hockey teams have now

amassed 13 national championships since 1984, with all of those championship victories coming under head coach Lynne Beecroft. Beecroft, or "Buzz" as her players call her, is in her 36th season as head coach of the Vikes.

"I am so excited for our athletes," she says. "They are a great group of girls and they are really connected on and off the field. It's just so exciting for them to be successful and have all this fan support."

A family affair

Several of the current players are daughters of national champions and Olympians who were also Vikes field hockey players under Beecroft. Second-year defender Judy Cristante, daughter of former Vike Kolette Cristante, first-year defender Sophia Berk, daughter of UVic Sports Hall of Fame inductee and Olympian Milena Gaiga, and Anna Mollenhauer, daughter of two-time Olympian and Vike Nancy Mollenhauer, celebrated as teammates, much like their mothers did decades ago. govikesgo.com



Vikes 2019 women's field hockey championship team. PHOTO: APSHUTTER.COM

around
the ring

Grants supporting learning and teaching

Thinking about designing or redesigning a course? Interested in Indigenizing or internationalizing curricula? Considering experiential learning opportunities? Conducting research on your teaching and student learning? The Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI) administers grants in support of learning and teaching excellence, and scholarships to support the professional development of instructors. Grant funds support academic units and educational leaders implementing course and curricular reforms and innovations as well as faculty and staff undertaking the scholarship of learning and teaching in their discipline. Application deadlines are in January 2020. bit.ly/ltsi-grants

Giving Tuesday

On Dec. 3 join in the fun as UVic celebrates Giving Tuesday—a global day of philanthropy. Show your support for UVic students by taking part in activities at the fountain or University Centre from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., ordering a Giving Gram online—a delicious sprinkle cookie—to be sent to a UVic faculty or staff member, or making a donation to a faculty-selected priority fund. uvic.ca/givingtuesday

Day in the Life: Karla Stout

BY JOHN THRELFALL

When it comes to dressing for success, Karla Stout knows how to get it right. As the head of wardrobe for the Department of Theatre and a volunteer rober since 1994, Stout has ensured thousands of graduating students look their best when they cross the stage at convocation. Beyond draping hoods, adjusting tassels and soothing jangled nerves, Stout has also helped a variety of UVic presidents and chancellors look tip-top for the big day.

Now a convocation marshal, Stout well knows the importance of clothing—and, as the recipient of three university degrees herself, she feels convocation is a significant event that shouldn't be skipped.

"It's an acknowledgement and recognition of what you've accomplished, and the start of the next period of your life," she says. "We have less and less ceremony in our lives, and convocation offers a kind of closure to the degree experience. It brings you full circle from your first day to your last."

With four decades of costume work, 25 years of convocations and a law degree behind her, Stout is intimately familiar with a variety of regalia and formal wear.

"Clothes say so much about how a person is feeling and what's going on for them that day," she explains. "It shows consciousness or respect for whatever situation you're going into—you should be clean for court, for example, and tidy for a wedding. It's the people who come to convocation in torn jeans or track pants I don't understand."

While she has built costumes for the Stratford Festival, the Banff Centre, the Commonwealth Games,



Stout (in blue convocation marshal's robes) and graduating theatre major Kelsey Ward. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

the Toronto run of *The Phantom of the Opera* and countless Phoenix mainstage productions, Stout has also taken the measure of current UVic president Jamie Cassels, fixed the hat of past-president David Turpin, created a dickie blouse for current chancellor Shelagh Rogers, sewn a hidden glasses pocket into the robe of former chancellor Murray Farmer, and constructed a special emeritus robe designed by theatre professor emeritus Juliana Saxton.

But one of her first convocation tasks after joining the theatre department in 1990 was to do some custom work for former president David Strong. "He didn't want to wear a full jacket under his robes in the heat of summer," she recalls, "so I created false sleeves to go under his robe."

Still a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, Stout's heart is

firmly set in the theatre—and she sees links between the two. "I may not have liked the adversarial nature of the legal system, but court is performance," she says, noting the shared importance of speaking with clarity, addressing your audience and, of course, costuming. (She says it's no coincidence that Harcourts, the Toronto company who make legal robes, also make academic regalia.)

Over in the theatre department, Stout says she's doesn't really have a typical day. "Well, today I taught a class, attended a production meeting for our upcoming run of *Othello*, met with my student wardrobe team and then I'll have a two-and-a-half-hour fitting with the cast," she says. "For *Othello*, we have 24 people and about 60 costumes. The thing about wardrobe is how labour-intensive it all is: it may be one stage set and one

group of lights for one show, but the costumes have to be individually fitted and altered for all the actors."

In addition to the chance to hear some fantastic guest speakers, Stout believes volunteering for convocation is an opportunity to mark a rite of passage . . . and to instill one final bit of confidence. "It's a chance to congratulate our students on their accomplishments, and say goodbye to them," she says. "But every year we have hundreds of graduates who have never done this before and are worried about getting it right: we know how to make it work exactly right."

And while Stout's work with theatre is all behind the scenes, volunteering for convocation gives her the chance to be front and centre with the students. "Convocation is a great occasion, and I like to be part of marking an occasion."

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Page 12 The Ring November/December 2019