Kevin Hall, an innovative academic leader and civil engineer known for his strong commitment to community engagement and unswerving belief in access to education and equity, diversity and inclusion, will be the next president of the University of Victoria.

Hall is currently the vice-president and senior deputy vice-chancellor of global engagement and partnerships at the University of Newcastle (UON) in Australia. His five-year term as president of U Vic begins Nov. 1.

"After an extensive international search, the committee decided that Dr. Kevin Hall is exactly the right choice to lead the University of Victoria as its next president," says Cathy McIntyre, UVic Board of Governors chair and Provost Valerie Rushton at bit.ly/20-vpac.

Kevin Hall named next UVic president

The combined funding of $27.1 million dollars will be used to create a 2,440-square-metre (26,264-sq.-ft.) addition to the Anne and Murray Fraser (Law) Building—which will be designed to reflect and honour the Coast Salish histories and knowledge. It will also enable UVic to host conferences, students to connect with their home communities and undergraduate students, and the UVic Alumni association. The committee’s work was informed by input from the campus and external communities.

"I am extremely honoured to be selected as the next president of UVic," says Hall. "I am excited and very inspired to join a university that strives to be a global exemplar in vital causes that hold the key to our future—a university that nourishes and shapes tomorrow’s leaders, shows global leadership in supporting a brighter future for Indigenous Peoples and communities, and engages deeply with communities locally and around the world to drive social, environmental and economic change."

Funding announced for National Centre for Indigenous Laws

On Sept. 3, the Province of BC announced a $13 million contribution to support the building of a National Centre for Indigenous Laws (NCIL). This funding is in addition to $9.1 million from the federal government announced in 2019 and $5 million from the Law Foundation of BC for their generous donation today.

said Jamie Cassels, president and vice-chancellor of UVic, "We are grateful to the provincial and federal governments who helped establish this unique Indigenous law program at UVic, and to the Law Foundation of BC for their generous donation today."
The library buildings will remain closed at this time. Contact askus@uvic.ca for further assistance.

Attention, campus alumni
From now until Sept. 30, UVic Relations is running a contest to encourage grads to keep in touch—with prizes including an Apple Watch, AirPods and an iPad.

Alumni Relations is running a contest to encourage grads to keep in touch. Students, staff and community borrowers. Requests are fulfilled within 72 hours whenever possible. Please visit the Reader at the Meares Centre for Learning–McPherson Library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Students will have access to 42 individual study spaces in the BiblioCafe and the Law Library (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The library buildings will remain closed at this time. Contact askus@uvic.ca for further assistance.

Printed using vegetable-based inks on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

The library buildings will remain closed at this time. Contact askus@uvic.ca for further assistance.

Attention, campus alumni
From now until Sept. 30, UVic Relations is running a contest to encourage grads to keep in touch—with prizes including an Apple Watch, AirPods and an iPad. Be sure to update or confirm your contact information to be entered to win a prize: bit.ly/20-alumni/uvic

INDIGENOUS LAWS CONTINUED FROM P 1

“Three years ago, UVic’s first Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy with its associated practices and procedures came into effect following extensive consultation with the university and broader community. Now, we are looking to extend the community to see how the policy, procedures and practices can be improved and strengthened for our three-year review. Preventing and responding to sexualized violence is a shared responsibility and incredibly important for our entire campus community,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “When the university initially undertook the work to draft a specific policy, we wanted it to be fair and transparent and clearly explained to students, staff, and faculty. We’ve achieved that and with the insights and experience of our campus community, this review will help us to further strengthen the policy and procedures.”

Offer your feedback: campus survey—order launched
To date, the significant work and consultation put into developing the 2017 policy has shown to serve the community well, said Casbreahews, executive director of Equity and Human Rights (EQHR).

Two years later, UVic’s Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy with its associated practices and procedures came into effect following extensive consultation with the university and broader community. Now, we are looking to extend the community to see how the policy, procedures and practices can be improved and strengthened for our three-year review.

Preventing and responding to sexualized violence is a shared responsibility and incredibly important for our entire campus community,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “When the university initially undertook the work to draft a specific policy, we wanted it to be fair and transparent and clearly explained to students, staff, and faculty. We’ve achieved that and with the insights and experience of our campus community, this review will help us to further strengthen the policy and procedures.”

Offer your feedback: campus survey—order launched
To date, the significant work and consultation put into developing the 2017 policy has shown to serve the community well, said Casbreahews, executive director of Equity and Human Rights (EQHR).

At UVic, we are looking to extend the community to see how the policy, procedures and practices can be improved and strengthened for our three-year review. Preventing and responding to sexualized violence is a shared responsibility and incredibly important for our entire campus community,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “When the university initially undertook the work to draft a specific policy, we wanted it to be fair and transparent and clearly explained to students, staff, and faculty. We’ve achieved that and with the insights and experience of our campus community, this review will help us to further strengthen the policy and procedures.”

Offer your feedback: campus survey—order launched
To date, the significant work and consultation put into developing the 2017 policy has shown to serve the community well, said Casbreahews, executive director of Equity and Human Rights (EQHR).

“Three years ago, UVic’s first Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy with its associated practices and procedures came into effect following extensive consultation with the university and broader community. Now, we are looking to extend the community to see how the policy, procedures and practices can be improved and strengthened for our three-year review. Preventing and responding to sexualized violence is a shared responsibility and incredibly important for our entire campus community,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “When the university initially undertook the work to draft a specific policy, we wanted it to be fair and transparent and clearly explained to students, staff, and faculty. We’ve achieved that and with the insights and experience of our campus community, this review will help us to further strengthen the policy and procedures.”

Offer your feedback: campus survey—order launched
To date, the significant work and consultation put into developing the 2017 policy has shown to serve the community well, said Casbreahews, executive director of Equity and Human Rights (EQHR).
What to expect this fall

There are a limited number of T-shirts on sale at the UVic bookstore featuring a logo designed by Kwakwaka’wakw/Coast Salish artist and UVic faculty member Carey Newman. Proceeds from those sales directly benefit the UVic Elders Engagement Fund as well as the Witness Blanket Project. If you already have an orange shirt, please consider making a $20 donation to the Elders Engagement Fund.

UVic’s Orange Shirt Day event will stream on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at noon at facebook.com/universityofvictoria. More info: bit.ly/20-uvod

Plan now to participate in Orange Shirt Day this Sept. 30.

BY BARBARA TODD HAGER
Hundred of students, faculty and staff in orange T-shirts gathered on the UVic Quad on a brilliant September day in 2019 to commemorate and honour the healing journey of former residential school survivors and their families. That wasn’t the first year our community recognized this solemn occasion, and it won’t be the last. This year, COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place as people come together in person for an annual gathering. It hasn’t, however, disrupted plans for an extraordinary virtual Orange Shirt Day that will inspire UVic’s students, faculty, staff and alumni living in every part of the world to reflect on how our educational systems can bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians in the spirit of reconciliation.

Orange Shirt Day is a national movement that takes place every year on September 30. Since its inception, the event has inspired schools and universities across Canada to develop and implement curriculum and activities that recognize the damaging impacts on Indigenous peoples who were forced to attend the federally funded, church-run schools. Close to 150,000 Indigenous children and youth attended the schools from the mid-1800s to 1990, when the last school closed, and it’s estimated that close to 6,000 died while attending residential schools.

One of the highlights of UVic’s online event this year is a conversation between UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers and Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, whose childhood story about residential school inspired the Orange Shirt Day movement. The event will also include messages from Indigenous Elders and UVic community members, and a livestream of the annual UVic Orange Shirt Day ceremony.

At a reunion in 2013 of former students of the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, Webstad shared the story of how she arrived on the first day of school wearing a brand new orange T-shirt—a gift from her grandmother—only to have it taken from her and never returned. The story resonated with the audience and soon people started wearing orange T-shirts in the fall to show support for Webstad and all residential school survivors.

According to the Orange Shirt Day Society, “The annual Orange Shirt Day event opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of residential schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of residential schools and the legacy they have left behind.”

Support on social media and T-shirt sales
UVic faculty, staff and students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on September 30, as a visual symbol of our awareness of the need for ongoing reconciliation. It’s easy to share how your support, too: send a photo of yourself wearing an orange shirt using the hashtag #OrangeShirtDayUVic, or post to socialmedia.uvic.ca. Photos will be shared on UVic’s OSD website and social media.

There are a limited number of T-shirts on sale at the UVic bookstore featuring a logo designed by Kwakwaka’wakw/Coast Salish artist and UVic faculty member Carey Newman. Proceeds from those sales directly benefit the UVic Elders Engagement Fund as well as the Witness Blanket Project. If you already have an orange shirt, please consider making a $20 donation to the Elders Engagement Fund.

UVic’s Orange Shirt Day event will stream on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at noon at facebook.com/universityofvictoria. More info: bit.ly/20-uvod

NEXT PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM P. 1

A commitment to UVic’s values
Hall’s career has been defined by his leadership in issues of equity, diversity and inclusion, most recently leading the team that initiated the successful Research Advantage Program at U of C, which includes a large number of fellowships and award programs for women and underrepresented students.

Hall has a deep commitment to environmental sustainability and the U of C’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). He is currently the chair of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research located at U of C. He founded the Centre for Water and the Environment at Queen’s University, led the Sustainability Task Force at the University of Guelph and initiated the Centre for Water and the Environment at the City of Newcastle and U of C. Under his leadership, the university became the first university in Australia to be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy.

“Professor Kevin Hall’s working style advocates for and empowers students and the university community, and his sustainability-focused perspective paves our university’s way towards even bolder sustainability actions,” said Raed Saeed, graduate student and member of the Presidential Appointments Committee. “His exceptional reputation for entrepreneurship and expertise in external engagement will introduce new opportunities for the UVic community to contribute to the further advancement of UVic’s vision: making a better future for people and the planet.”

Innovative impact within a non-traditional approach
Throughout his academic career, Hall has been innovated, focused on putting research into practice by delivering knowledge to industry and community. His research interests have focused on water quality modeling, environmental monitoring and developing detection systems for water and health in marginalized communities.

Hall has spearheaded entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives at CVU, leading the establishment of the Integrated Innovation Network, a series of five open-source crowdsourced detection systems. This regional network allows community, companies and subject matter experts to work closely with researchers and students to develop opportunities for social change and economic growth. Many of these initiatives were used as a catalyst to enhance student experience by providing work-integrated, learning and internship opportunities.

Presidential transition
Hall will succeed Jamie Cassels, who served as the University’s president since July 2013. Cassels has been a faculty member at UVic for nearly 40 years, and is widely respected for his roles for more than half that time, with plans to return to his academic pursuits later this year.

“It’s been a real honour and a privilege to lead the university these past seven years. I am truly delighted Kevin will be assuming leadership of the university this fall—his international focus and ability to form strong community connections will be very important for our university at this time and into the future. I look forward to focusing in the coming months on continuing to deliver on UVic’s mission of education, research and service amidst these challenging and rapidly changing global circumstances,” Cassels says.

Hall will be the eighth president in UVic’s 57-year history.

Why go off campus to fill a prescription?
Save yourself some time and use our on-campus pharmacy, conveniently located in the SUB! Our professional staff are ready to listen and help you with all your health needs. Drop by and experience our Heartfelt service.
For most people, a visit to the yoga studio simply adds a bit of mindfulness to their workout: a chance to breathe, stretch and realign their chakras with a few omms and namaste. But for Manani, who grew up with yoga, this summer with a visual arts degree, it’s an example of the widespread spiritual awakening which is not only feeding her art practice but also her identity as a first-generation Indo-Canadian. “There’s a fascination with Hindu practices, but it’s gotten so disconnected that people don’t often realize where it all began,” says Manani, who was born in India but raised in Calgary before coming to UVic to train as an artist. “Think about yoga and how commercialized it’s become—just Lalitumon but all the retreats and studios with statues of deities… it’s more associated with hippie culture than Hindu culture, especially on the Island.” Despite the fact that Hinduism is the largest religion (after Christianity and Islam) and is considered the world’s oldest faith, it’s rarely associated with the mainstream yoga practice by over 300 million people worldwide, or the estimated $80 billion annual spending on related clothing, activities, and products. “I have nothing against white people doing yoga, obviously, but I think there should be more recognition and acknowledgement of the traditional practices and how old yoga actually is,” she says, noting its ancient history in both Hindu and Buddha traditions. “A lot of my work stems from this, and it’s something I’ve been building towards during my whole undergraduate degree practice—being on the Island and feeling disconnected from that culture to begin with, then seeing glimpses of it in everyday society, led me towards this.”

A multidisciplinary artist with a focus on photography and painting, Manani describes her art practice as taking a critical standpoint on the self-care industry in the West—specifically in its appropriation and fetishization of Hindu practices for profit, while simultaneously disconnecting Hinduism from its roots. Consider the self-portrait “Get Your Om On,” which was part of the 2020 Visual Arts BFA graduation exhibit Suggestive Serving Size: Manani’s photograph puts a voyeuristic spin on her Indo-Canadian identity with the idea of an outsider looking inwards. “I was inspired by a contemporary video of Indian classical dancers featuring the goddess Durga, where the dancers lined up and had all their arms seemingly coming out from one person,” she explains. “I wondered how I could reference the religious aspect of it, but also make it feel kind of off putting, like there’s something wrong with it.” It’s no coincidence that Manani is pictured in a white room of a typical suburban Canadian home, wearing traditional dress but wrapped in arms that are more grinning and smoothing than supportive or celebratory. “It speaks to my experience as someone living in a predominantly white city who often has to deal with cultural appropriations… I’ve gotten some backlash for it, but I often do feel like I’m outside looking in at my own roots, trying to figure out where I stand.”

Professor Rick Leong, whom Manani cites as being influential in the development of both her painting and multimedia practices, characterizes her as “an artist who has made such an interesting and important move, and certainly wasn’t afraid to take risks.”

“Rudra was always engaged and inquisitive, and she often navigated outside of her comfort zones,” Leong continues. “In one of her last projects she stretched quite a large canvas directly to the wall of the large paint- ing studio, working through her ideas and pushing the work through several stages. I admired her ambition with the work, her perseverance with the process and the fact that the work was an exploration of the formation of identity in an uncertain and ambiguous context. I look forward to seeing how her creative developments will continue in the future.”

While the covid-19 outbreak has cramped her immediate plans of accepting an artist residency in Greece, Manani is currently exploring gallery opportunities while looking for ways to increase the Indo-Canadian presence in the art scene. “There aren’t a lot of Indian artists talked about in school,” she says. “There’s dialogue happening, but it’s still under the radar.”

In the meantime, her current work is certainly making her family happy. “My mom read my bio and was really pleased that I’m exploring my identity,” she says with a laugh.
Nursing practice just right for this time

BY KATE HILDBRANDT

"The BSN program introduced me to concepts involving advocacy and leadership in nursing—things I’d never really thought about before," says Sidney Hofmeyr, 29, who graduated this July from UVic nursing.

Hofmeyr is loving her new job as a home and community care nurse with Island Health’s Victoria Health Unit. She started work in April after completing a practicum there, and says she was beyond excited to care for mostly local elderly folks living within their own homes.

She also loves the fact that she can ride her bike to and from her daily appointments and connect with the surrounding community in her travels. "I feel quite lucky to be working as a nurse today, helping people through these dramatic challenges we are all facing right now.“ As a health care professional, she is prepared to respond to the province’s dual public health emergencies, treating COVID-19 as well as opioid overdoses.

In the first seven months of 2020, there were fewer than 200 deaths from COVID-19 in BC. During that same time, illicit drug deaths claimed 909 lives. While Hofmeyr understands these challenges as part of her job, she has also faced tragedy on the home front. Her 15-year-old brother died of an overdose while she was in her second year of nursing studies.

She was shaken by his loss and how his death impacted the community around him. "I chose to move on with my studies so I didn’t take a break from school," she says.

Reflecting on that decision now, she adds, "I guess I thought I knew what grief was about, that I could deal with this. She also chose a palliative care focus to her nursing studies in an effort to help heal herself and those around her.

She says a good share of her third year was spent working through her grief. "My studies helped me. I developed a real interest in the philosophy of death and bereavement. I became fascinated, too, by the foundational principles of palliative care which involve basic human values I think are lacking today.”

Many members of her generation want to be political and caring, she says. "But you have to ask yourself, are those qualities in your nature? These qualities were not in my nature until I started working with professor Kelly Stajduhar. She has become my ideal of what a nurse is and what kind of nurse I aspire to be.”

"Palliative care isn’t a ‘thing’ or a ‘place’ but an approach that focuses on care for the person, their family and community. This approach necessitates a community response where everyone sees their recognition in their part in caring for the dying.”

BY SASHA MILAM

Aspiring teacher has passion for French language

A year living in a Francophone community in Quebec instilled a life-long love of French language and culture in Pamela Fraser

STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

A year living in a Francophone village in Quebec instilled a life-long love of French language and culture in Pamela Fraser.

Fraser, who graduated in July with a master’s degree in French, credits her parents, especially her dad, for passing along an enthusiasm for French culture and language. Although she was enrolled in French immersion classes as a child, Fraser’s father discovered she could attend Victor-Brodeur, Victoria’s French high school, and she graduated in a Francophone community for a year.

Of the two of them went. Fraser spent fourth grade at a school in Chicoutimi.

“It was an interesting process for a good death. Fraser says. “I have a strong passion for the French language and I would trace it back to that year.”

Fraser also advanced to the finals of UVic’s Three-Minute Thesis competition. There, she spoke about her research on theatrical representations of the École Polytechnique massacre, in which 14 women were killed by a male gunman in 1989 in Quebec.

Her presentation, "Misogyny & Antifeminism: Why Theatrical Representations of the Polytechnique Massacre Matter," showed that the plays she studied tended to focus more on a ‘crisis of masculinity’ and men’s feelings about the massacre, rather than the experiences of the women affected.

Fraser plans to take her experience as a graduate student into a career as a secondary school teacher. She’s enrolled in UVic’s post-degree professional program in teacher education in the Faculty of Education.

As for her dad, Fraser says he’s proud of her accomplishments.

Fraser hopes she’ll be able to teach French immersion in the city she grew up, helping pass on her love of French language and culture to other Anglophones.

“I love Victoria. I think it would be really interesting experience to teach French immersion here," Fraser says. "I like teaching Anglophones, I can really relate and understand the issues that may come up."

Commercial feeds curiosity at campus food bank

BY SASHA MILAM

Tari Murwira, who graduated this July with a commerce degree from the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business at UVic, can count her spare hours over the last school year in cans of soup, jars of peanut butter and litres of milk.

Murwira has been coordinator of the UVSS food bank team since fall 2018.

"The food bank is a warm community of dedicated, generous people," says Murwira.

"I am inspired by how selflessly the volunteers give their time, and their enthusiasm brightens up the space. I’ve enjoyed connecting with users of the service, and getting to know their stories.”

In normal circumstances, the food bank, which relies on funding from the UVSS student fees and donations, serves non-perishables and fresh produce, eggs and dairy, when available, to students. During peak times, the food bank serves 600-800 students weekly.

In response to COVID-19 and the physical distancing measures put in place to slow its spread, the physical distancing measures put in place to slow its spread, the food bank services such as the food bank have had to adapt. While the Student University Union Building was closed, Tari and the food bank team were able to direct students to food resources in the community, and provide grocery gift cards to students in need.

During her term as coordinator, Murwira appreciated the opportunity to meet students from different faculties and backgrounds who she may not have met otherwise. These users aspire to be doctors, lawyers, social workers, teachers and various kinds of community changers—all supported in meeting their goals by the food sources the food bank offers to relieve the pressure of expensive student life.

I was interested in the intersection of business and impact, and I like how my work at the food bank has given me exposure to wider UVic running. It's an intimate act to make a claim about what you want out of life. " Some of us need help starting that conversation, defining our desires, understanding ourselves—as essential steps for a palliative care practitioner in preparing their client for a good death.

"Clear that nursing education never ends," Hofmeyr says. "I believe my own thirst for knowledge will lead me back when the time is right for me.”

The Ring September 2020 Page 5
McIntyre

Cathy McIntyre, Chair

Cathy McIntyre is a principal of Strategic Initiatives, a Victoria strategy consulting firm. Her background includes more than 30 years of marketing, communications and consulting experience, and more than 20 years of board service. A Chartered Director (C.Dir), McIntyre currently serves on the Boards of Directors of First West Credit Union, Consumer Protection BC, Peninsula Co-op and Cadpat. She is a former director of the United Way of Greater Victoria, the United Way of Canada, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation and the CMA Society of BC, among others. McIntyre earned an MBA at UVic and the Corporate Director Certificate at Harvard Business School.

McIntyre was acknowledged as one of UVic’s “50 Alumni Who Made a Difference” in 2015 and received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. She is a past president of the UVic Alumni Association and has served as a convocation senator on UVic’s Senate. She has served on the UVic Board since 2015; UVic’s Senate. She has served on the UVic Alumni Association and has received the “Difference” in 2013 and received the University of Canada, the Vic.

McIntyre was acknowledged as one of UVic’s “50 Alumni Who Made a Difference” in 2015 and received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. She is a past president of the UVic Alumni Association and has served as a convocation senator on UVic’s Senate. She has served on the UVic Board since 2015; UVic’s Senate. She has served on the UVic Alumni Association and has received the “Difference” in 2013 and received the University of Canada, the Vic.

McIntyre currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports and is a member of the Environment Canada audit committee. He is also President Emeritus of the Public Policy Forum, an adjunct professor at the School of Public Administration at UVic and Senior Fellow at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa.

Shallo Bedi

Shallo Bedi joined UVic in 2004 as a director within the University Library and holds a dual appointment between the libraries and LTRM, as Director, Student Academic Success focusing on coordinating programs that directly support student academic success and retention.

Bedi earned a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction at UVic in 2016 and has published on topics related to leadership, equity, diversity, and inclusion and qualitative research methods. She also teaches in the area of leadership and diversity.

One of her key values is being an engaged university citizen and serves on several committees including the Advisory Committee on Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities, the Human Research Ethics Board, Strategic Enrolment Management, and chair’s Committee, the university’s staff and faculty conference. Bedi is also involved in the broader Victoria community where she serves on the Board for Artemis Peace Society.

Katherine Fairley

Katherine Fairley is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in economics at UVic. She recently completed her BSc in the same discipline. She has a passion for research-informed policy design and for developing inclusive practices of management. She has worked in the public service, having completed a co-operative education work term with the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, but her ultimate love is economic research, where she focuses on quantifying economic measures of race and gender-based discrimination as well as suggesting policy best practices for improving economic equality and increasing diversity in her discipline. She previously served on the University of Victoria Board of Governors as the member elected by undergraduate students.

Adam Monahan

Adam Monahan is a Professor of Atmospheric Science in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria, and a member of the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems. His main research interests are characterizing and modelling variability in the atmosphere and oceans, as well as quantifying statistical and physical perspectives. He has particular interest in near-surface winds and renewable energy meteorology. Monahan has written or co-authored more than 110 peer reviewed papers and has been awarded the President’s Prize of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society. He holds a BSc in Physics from University of Calgary, and an MSc in Physics and a PhD in Oceanography from the University of British Columbia.

Monica Prendergast

Monica Prendergast is Professor of Drama/Theatre Education, Department of Curriculum & Instruction at UVic. Her research interests are varied and include leadership, drama curriculum and pedagogy, drama/theatre in community contexts, and arts-based qualitative research methods. Prendergast’s books include Applied Theatre and Applied Drama (with Juliana Saxton)

Katherine Fairley

Katherine Fairley is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in economics at UVic. She recently completed her BSc in the same discipline. She has a passion for research-informed policy design and for developing inclusive practices of management. She has worked in the public service, having completed a co-operative education work term with the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, but her ultimate love is economic research, where she focuses on quantifying economic measures of race and gender-based discrimination as well as suggesting policy best practices for improving economic equality and increasing diversity in her discipline. She previously served on the University of Victoria Board of Governors as the member elected by undergraduate students.

Adam Monahan

Adam Monahan is a Professor of Atmospheric Science in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria, and a member of the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems. His main research interests are characterizing and modelling variability in the atmosphere and oceans, as well as quantifying statistical and physical perspectives. He has particular interest in near-surface winds and renewable energy meteorology. Monahan has written or co-authored more than 110 peer reviewed papers and has been awarded the President’s Prize of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society. He holds a BSc in Physics from University of Calgary, and an MSc in Physics and a PhD in Oceanography from the University of British Columbia.

Paul Ramsey

Paul Ramsey is a Senior Software Engineer with Crunchy Data. Previously Ramsey was a Senior Software Engineer for Caribou Software and Vice President of Products for Boundless Geo. Active in his community, he is a Member of Ostfries Conference Committee, was Chair of foss:sg Conference, and was a Director for OpenSource Geospatial Foundation.

Juliet Watts

Juliet Watts is a third-year student pursuing a BA in Political Science and Public Administration. While at UVic, she has served as the Vice Director of Campaigns and Community Relations, and as a Director-at-Large for the Undergraduates of Political Science Course Union. She is experienced in advocating for students for university and navigating bureaucratic systems at all levels of government.
Four UVic faculty named Royal Society fellows

From studying patterns of sounds in second-language learning to understanding and improving the health and well-being of children and youth, the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) recognized four UVic researchers this month with the country’s highest academic honour.

The peer-elected recipients are chosen for academic excellence and for making “remarkable contributions” in the arts, humanities, sciences, and Canadian public life. Professors John Archibald (linguistics), William Carroll (sociology) and Bonnie Leadbeater (psychology) are elected new fellows, while Lin Cai (electrical and computer engineering) is named a new member to the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Nancy Turner (emeritus, environmental studies) won the RSC’s Hinerman Gerin Medal for distinguished and sustained contributions to the literature of social sciences.

John Archibald, linguistics

A prolific, groundbreaking and internationally recognized expert in the area of second-language phonology, Archibald has made major contributions to multiple areas in the fields of linguistics, and shaped government policy and provincial curricula on second-language learning in Canada.

An enthusiastic and dedicated teacher, Archibald has supervised over 75 honours and graduate theses during his career. He is also co-editor of the classic introductory textbook, Contemporary Linguistic Analysis, published in multiple editions in Canada and the US.

“My research has always been driven by a desire to answer the questions related to second-language speakers’ accents,” Archibald explains. “Why are some elements of speech missing from the list of winning arts—prestigious Molson Prize have been awarded to...”

Whether it is examining efforts to democratize media or investigating the power of the fossil-fuel industry in Western Canada, Carroll is passionate about empowering Canadians toward a more sustainable society.

Carroll’s research is focused around the relationships between corporate power, fossil capitalism and the climate crisis. He co-leads the “Mapping the Power of the Carbon Extractive Corporate Resource Sector” with Shannon Daush, the executive director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives BC.

Carroll and Daush were the 2019 recipients of UVic’s ReAct! Award for Excellence in Research Partnership.

Carroll’s contributions include 13 published books, 74 referred articles, 53 book chapters and 147 research papers presented at academic conferences around the world for her expertise in child and youth well-being. She led the development of the WITS program (walk away, ignore, talk it out, seek help) for the prevention of peer bullying, in English, French and Portuguese.

In her two decades of research, she also contributed to our understanding of the mental health of youth transition to young adulthood; mothers’ substance use and mental health; and the prevention of peer victimization. Her community and international partnerships have also addressed critical societal issues and supported the development of policies aimed at supporting healthy youth.

As a dedicated researcher, educator and scientist, Carroll has had a profound and widespread impact on children and youth in Canada and abroad.

“It is an honour to be recognized for a career that has given me so much pleasure and so many opportunities to work with extraordinary students and partners—dedicated to promoting the well-being of children and youth,” Leadbeater says.

Nancy Turner, environmental studies

Turner, professor emeritus and renowned ethnobotanist, devoted her career to understanding and communicating the crucial role that plants play in Indigenous cultures and languages, especially with respect to land use, rights and title. The RSC tribute recognizes Turner as a long-time champion of Indigenous knowledge.


She is one of the most respected ethnobotanists in the world—specializing in ethnobotanical studies with Western Canadian Indigenous Peoples, particularly in BC.

“I am indebted to my Indigenous teachers over the years,” Turner notes, “and want to acknowledge them and the critical importance of their teachings, their language and their relationships to plants and places.”

Mary Kerr wins 2020 Molson Prize

BY JOHN THRELFALL

While the previous winners of the prestigious Molson Prize have been a veritable who’s-who of Canadian culture, theatrical designers had been missing from the list of winning artists, writers, composers, architects, choreographers and academics. That’s changed forever, as UVic theatre professor and production designer Mary Kerr has become the first designer to be named a Molson Prize Laureate in the prize’s 56-year history.

From the iconic likes of Expo 67, Expo 86 and the 1994 Commonwealth Games to nearly every professional stage in the country, Mary Kerr’s visionary theatrical designs have transformed Canadian culture over the past five decades.

The Molson Prize, which honours contributions to Canada’s cultural and intellectual heritage, is only the latest accolade for the theatre professor. Kerr is also a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, the Royal Society of Canada and has represented Canada at numerous international theatrical design competitions over the past 30 years.

“This award is an important way for other designers to gain heart: they can see their work is being received equal to painting or sculpture,” says Kerr. “To me, good theatre is a vision quest: it can change your life.”

Two prizes of $5,000 are awarded each year, one in the arts and the other in the social sciences or humanities. This is the third Molson Prize for UVic, and its first in fine arts. John Borrows (law)/received a Molson Prize last year in recognition of his work in aboriginal studies, winning the university’s first in 2008.

Molson Prizes are administered by the Canada Council for the Arts in conjunction with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Full story: bit.ly/2kerr

New fund launched to support COVID research response

A new University of Victoria fund is set to create ways for donors to support researchers as they find solutions to make our communities stronger and speed us out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UVic Research Accelerator Fund (RAF), launched in late July, empowers world-class researchers to respond to the urgent needs of communities in areas of economic sustainability, the health of individuals and populations and Indigenous wellness. Working with partners—Indigenous and other communities, government, health authorities and industry—UVic researchers are focused on building a better future for Canadians amid unprecedented times, says UVic’s Vice-President Research Lisa Kalynchuk.

“UVic researchers are driving recovery from COVID-19. Donor support unlocks and accelerates research with local and global relevance. The UVic Research Accelerator Fund advances big ideas to make real change in how we live our lives over the long term,” says Kalynchuk.

From developing rapid, non-invasive tests and virus-resistant surface coatings, to new ways of detecting and monitoring COVID-19, society is hungry for new tools and strategies. UVic researchers are immersed in activities related to the determinants of health including mental health, healthy aging and substance use, and social justice and equality. The university is also finding ways to supportentrepreneurs and industry as they craft and adapt to new ways of working in the wake of the pandemic.

The first RAF campaign will focus on COVID-19 research. Luminaria Fund will fund with the support of community leaders to tackle the world’s toughest social, economic and environmental issues, such as climate change and anti-racism.
New uvic.ca launched

UVic launched a new central website on Aug. 5. It’s clean, simple, searchable, mobile-friendly and task-driven. It also rates as one of the top websites in Canada for accessibility, usability and search-engine optimization. On the new website you’ll find the answers you need — whether you’re sitting in your backyard using your mobile, in a rural community using a dial up connection, or accessing the website from another country or time zone.

The website redesign project was led by University Communications + Marketing (UC+M) in partnership with University Systems, guided by a project leadership team of more than 20 leaders from across campus and supported by the contributions of hundreds of staff from a range of university units. The new website also reflects extensive user interviews, testing, and research into best practices. The resulting new site was built on those findings: we’ve made evidence-based decisions; prioritized a mobile-first research into best practices. The resulting new site was built on those findings: we’ve made evidence-based decisions; prioritized a mobile-first experience; improved accessibility and searchability, reduced content and duplication, and incorporated industry-leading best practices.

It’s more than just a facelift. The new website’s foundation has been updated to make it lightweight, modular and fast. Those powerful build blocks make it easily adaptable to modern devices and accessible to everyone. The website’s mobile-first design is built with search engine optimization (SEO) at its core, targeting Google’s mobile-only ranking system.

The website’s mobile-first design is built with search engine optimization (SEO) at its core, targeting Google’s mobile-only ranking system. "According to Information Architect and User Experience Specialist for UC+M, Len Collins. "Users are looking for specific things and over 80% of the time they’re going to use search, often with a voice command. Search has become the way we find content. So we wanted to make sure our content is easily translatable, easily findable, and in simple, spoken English."

"In March 2020, as the university transitioned from face-to-face to alternative modes of instruction in the wake of a quickly advancing COVID-19 pandemic, international students were given the option to travel home. Nahomi Lopez, who is from Mexico, was in her first year of studies as she watched many of her friends hop flights. Despite losing her job at the Cradge Centre after-school program, she elected to stay in Victoria. "I talked it over with my mom and we decided it was better for me to stay," said Lopez. There were so many unknowns — how the virus would affect Mexico, what happens if long borders would close, and if she could resume work. — her best option was to remain at the university in UVic. Near her, 2,000 other students who received the COVID-19 Support Bursary between March and June, Lopez was grateful for the backing when it was needed.

The university initially committed $200,000 to meet the immediate challenges students were facing as a result of the pandemic, including lost jobs, technology issues and urgent housing needs. Within weeks, hundreds of alumni, community members, staff and faculty contributed to the bursary to help the university meet the overwhelming demand for support. UVic AVP Alumni and Development Jane Potencier recalls that donors were quick to reach out. "Right away, we had emails from alumni and other community members to ask if there was anything they could do to help students." she says. "Their response was practical, immediate and meaningful." Global Community Advisor Sara Mohsen-Mandal was one of 155 staff and faculty members who donated. Sara’s own academic experience and current work with international students at UVic prompted her to make a gift. "As someone who was an international student many times throughout my academic career, I know that every little bit helps," she says. "Especially in this time of global crisis, I wanted to contribute and support all of the people who enrich our campus community." Maya Seymour, who was in her third-year in Health and Community Services, said COVID-19 really turned her world upside down. She usually takes five courses a semester, works 30 hours a week and volunteers to further her experience in the health field. When she lost her job, she didn’t think she would be able to continue school, but the bursary allowed her to complete her summer semester and be one step closer to graduating. "This pandemic has reinforced my drive to pursue a Master of Public Health and make an impact in the global health community," she says.

By YIMALA JEEVANANDAM

Harnessing plant power for COVID-19 antibody tests

In order to meet the global demand for COVID-19 spike protein needed for antibody testing, UVic’s plant biologist Peter Constabel has turned to an unexpected source — a relative of the tobacco plant.

Nicotiana benthamiana has an unusual and fascinating superpower: the ability to quickly produce virus proteins. Constabel is building up the UVic biochemist Alisdair Boraston, as well as biotechnical Laboratories and ImmunoPrecise Antibodies (Canada) to apply this power to solve the shortage of COVID-19 spike protein needed for antibody testing.

Antibody tests, also known as serology tests, can detect if a person’s body has already responded to an infection such as COVID-19. This allows an individual to know if they have had a past infection and allows health officials and governments to track and control the spread of the disease. Givend the large number of asymptomatic cases of COVID-19, antibody tests are an essential tool in the fight against the disease. However, the large-scale production of these tests is both costly and time-consuming, reliant on production of spike protein using animal cell cultures in laboratories. This quick growing plant may offer an alternative solution, allowing the spike protein to be produced by plants in greenhouses. It can be tricked into producing virus proteins, such as the COVID-19 spike protein, by inserting the virus’s genes into the plant, using a bacterium as a vector. As the plant grows, it produces the virus’s proteins, which can then be extracted and purified for use.

"If successful," says Constabel, "this will allow for a much cheaper and more efficient source of COVID-19 spike protein. It could dramatically accelerate the production of antibody tests in Canada. BC-based health technology companies bioLytical and ImmunoPrecise Antibodies will characterize and test the spike protein produced by the plant to establish if they can effectively be used for antibody tests.

The UVic-led project is made possible through a special version of the Alliance grant from nsERC which promotes collaboration between industry and academia for projects that specifically address COVID-19.

By SARAH TARNOPOLSKY

"COVID-19 really turned my world upside-down."

Donations made a difference as students faced abrupt changes in their lives, and world, this year.

"COVID-19 really turned my world upside-down."

BY SARAH TARNOPOLSKY

In March 2020, as the university transitioned from face-to-face to alternative modes of instruction in the wake of a quickly advancing COVID-19 pandemic, international students were given the option to travel home. Nahomi Lopez, who is from Mexico, was still in her first year of studies as she watched many of her friends hop flights. Despite losing her job at the Cradge Centre after-school program, she elected to stay in Victoria. "I talked it over with my mom and we decided it was better for me to stay," said Lopez. There were so many unknowns — how the virus would affect Mexico, what happens if long borders would close, and if she could resume work. — her best option was to remain at the university in UVic. Near her, 2,000 other students who received the COVID-19 Support Bursary between March and June, Lopez was grateful for the backing when it was needed.

The university initially committed $200,000 to meet the immediate challenges students were facing as a result of the pandemic, including lost jobs, technology issues and urgent housing needs. Within weeks, hundreds of alumni, community members, staff and faculty contributed to the bursary to help the university meet the overwhelming demand for support. UVic AVP Alumni and Development Jane Potencier recalls that donors were quick to reach out. "Right away, we had emails from alumni and other community members to ask if there was anything they could do to help students." she says. "Their response was practical, immediate and meaningful." Global Community Advisor Sara Mohsen-Mandal was one of 155 staff and faculty members who donated. Sara’s own academic experience and current work with international students at UVic prompted her to make a gift. "As someone who was an international student many times throughout my academic career, I know that every little bit helps," she says. "Especially in this time of global crisis, I wanted to contribute and support all of the people who enrich our campus community." Maya Seymour, who was in her third-year in Health and Community Services, said COVID-19 really turned her world upside down. She usually takes five courses a semester, works 30 hours a week and volunteers to further her experience in the health field. When she lost her job, she didn’t think she would be able to continue school, but the bursary allowed her to complete her summer semester and be one step closer to graduating. "This pandemic has reinforced my drive to pursue a Master of Public Health and make an impact in the global health community," she says.

In all, donors contributed $241,000 to the bursary, including donations from the UVic Alumni Association and the UVSS. Over $1,000 was raised through a live stream of alumnus Charles Ross’ popular “One Man Star Wars.” With additional funding from government sources and university budgets, the COVID-19 Support Bursary ultimately disbursed over $1.1 million to students, and an ongoing fund to support students facing challenges associated with the pandemic has been established to continue its vital work.

The new COVID-19 Student Support Fund will bolster a number of student financial assistance streams to respond to the increased number of students requesting support. Donations to that fund will help students focus on their studies, well-being and academic performance throughout the next year — through support for housing, food, mental health services, child care, mentoring and online learning.

For more information about the new fund, visit bit.ly/20-support.