Indigenous protocols guide historic installation

Following Coast Salish protocol, Kevin Hall formally requested permission to work on the territory prior to being installed as UVic's eighth president and vice-chancellor at a ceremony hosted by Chancellor Shelagh Rogers and the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement.

BY JODY PATERSON

"On behalf of our Elders and this community, permission is respectfully granted."

And with those words from Songhees Nations Chief Ron Sam, history was made. Kevin Hall became the first president of the University of Victoria to formally seek permission to work on the territory of local First Nations before officially taking office.

The moving ceremony and installation at UVic's First Peoples House was a significant departure from the usual presidential installation. It followed Coast Salish protocols for welcoming a new guest to the territory.

Acting in the role of Speaker, Tsartlip Elder Al Sam opened the ceremony by calling selected individuals from those in attendance. In Coast Salish cultures, and this blanketing was guided by the protocols of the la'kəwən and y̱ułən̓pe̓ bios. The blanket is intended to wrap the president with all the teachings, experiences and strength he will need for his future at UVic, in honour of his achievements and to provide security in his journey.

Bob Hancock, interim co-executive director in the UVic Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement, hosted the ceremony by calling selected individuals from those in attendance. In Coast Salish protocols, such witnesses are responsible for observing a ceremony and reporting back to their own communities.

Before asking permission to work on the territories, Hall was blanketed in what is referred to as a Nobility Blanket or a Chiefly Robe made for the occasion by Songhees weaver Myrna Crossley.

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Downtown hotel project on Broad Street approved

A Chard Development proposal featuring the historic Duck’s Building on properties to be leased from UVic Properties is proceeding after approval from Victoria City council.

The project on Broad Street will have a dual economic impact during the capital’s post-pandemic recovery and will add vibrancy to the neighborhood in the Old Town district while honouring the wishes of UVic benefactor Michael Williams.

Williams—a businessman, developer, heritage conservationist and philanthropist—bequeathed the properties to UVic in 2000 to provide a financial return to the university. The funds from his gifts support UVic’s academic programming, student services and supports as well as activities at the Legacy Art Gallery. (See “art exhibitions,” page 8.)

“Michael believed in the importance of education and wanted his legacy to support the university’s academic mission. This project reflects his wishes,” said Peter Kuran, president and CEO of UVic Properties, which manages UVic’s non-academic properties.

“The benefits from this project also will be far reaching for the community both during its construction phase and in the long term by adding new jobs and attracting guests and locals to a newly animated part of downtown.”

Partnering to benefit the region
For more than 50 years, UVic has worked together with the community, private sector, non-profit organizations, local governments and other educational institutions to bring social, economic and environmental benefit to southern Vancouver Island.

In developing the proposal, consultations were held with local First Nations which are continuing about how to incorporate Indigenous aspects into the project.

City council voted 7-1 to approve the necessary variances after a public hearing Sept. 23. The proposed 135-room hotel, about one foot higher than the existing building, will be five stories on Broad Street and six storeys on the corner of Broad and Johnson Streets and includes underground parking for vehicles and bicycles. It will encompass the Duck’s Building and the adjacent Duck’s Carriage Building with its historically significant rubble wall preserved and featured as part of the exterior of the new building.

Design highlights historical elements
In response to feedback throughout the city development process and through public consultations, Chard made the Duck’s Building the most prominent element and is retaining the historically significant elements.

The state of the building required significant capital investment and extensive work due to its age and condition, especially in the event of an earthquake.

Salvage, reuse and repurposing of materials will include brick (numbered for reconstruction purposes), timber floor joists, subfloors, flooring, trim work and other decorative materials. A heritage acknowledgment program will document the salvage and reuse of materials along with educational installations to help tell the building’s history to future guests and area residents.

Limited historical evidence exists regarding the original carriage factory design and the proposals adds elements inspired by what is available. The project retains and rehabilitates the rubble wall from the carriage factory that dates to 1874.

Current tenants get support for relocation
The buildings eight residential tenants and 14 commercial tenants were informed of the redevelopment proposal in 2016. Four of the residential tenants have since moved. Remaining tenants will be provided with assistance that meets or exceeds the city’s requirements. UVic Properties is also assisting the commercial tenants with relocation. All tenants will receive one year’s notice before the need to relocate.

While an earlier proposal considered market housing on this property including some limited capacity that gave priority to students, that project was not well supported and the desire to rehabilitate significant elements of the existing buildings and maintain the existing form and scale meant sacrificing livability of the spaces.

The university continues to work with our student governments, the municipalities and others on the complex regional issue of affordable, accessible housing. Construction is well advanced on new student housing on campus with the first of two buildings opening next fall that will provide 418 beds, with the second opening in 2023 that will provide 365 spaces.

Under terms of the long-term leaseholder agreement, Chard will build the hotel and commercial building and provide UVic with payments on the 99-year term of the lease. The UVic Properties Trust retains ownership of the properties.

The project reflects UVic’s commitment to live and advance the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals including: sustainable economic growth and productive employment; sustainable cities and communities; and responsible consumption (reusing of materials from deconstruction and sustainable practices in the hotel’s operations).
Indigenous business development recognized

BY CARLOS CHICAS BERTI

Cory Stephens—who both a graduate and instructor at UVic’s Gustavson School of Business—is not one to seek the spotlight. But when the spotlight is on him... all eyes were on him as the newest recipient of the Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations, presented by the Canadian Association for Aboriginal Business and CRCB.

Stephens serves as an instructor, learning environment officer and manager for the Northwest with the Indigenous Advancement of Cultural Entrepreneurship (I-ACE) program. The program, a collaboration between the Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICOR) and Gustavson and Indigenous communities and government, was the brainchild of TRICOR CEO Frank Parnell and Gustavson Professor Brent Mainprize. It’s been offering culturally relevant entrepreneurship education available to culturally sensitive and culturally-tailored entrepreneurship training for over eight years in the Northwest Territories, resulting in 364 graduates across 67 Indigenous communities.

“The concept was to offer a program of business education in the Northwest region, taught by university professors in a way that made university education available to culturally sensitive and culturally-tailored entrepreneurship training for over eight years in the Northwest Territories, resulting in 364 graduates across 67 Indigenous communities,” says Holman, a former student of Stephens.

Born and raised in Prince Rupert to a Tsimshian mother and with a Niaga step-dad, Stephens’ experience living in multiple communities helped develop his interest in advancing Indigenous relations and entrepreneurship from an early age. After graduating from UVic with a bachelor of commerce in 1996, Stephens moved abroad and found a job in New Zealand where he helps develop an inter-Indigenous trade program aligning First Nations and Maori businesses.

Returning to Canada, he found his footing in finance and marketing, and after a stint as communications manager for the Metlakatla First Nation, he decided to start his own consulting company with the aim of supporting the economic growth of Indigenous communities while preserving local traditions.

In 2013, Stephens took on a new challenge when he was asked to join the I-ACE team as a learning environment officer. “My role was to make sure nobody was left behind in the process of learning entrepreneurship,” he says, noting that many students may already have existing jobs, jobs and other responsibilities that make juggling school a challenge. “I provided mentorship and support, both academically and to help people keep up with the pace of business learning,” he says. But as the program grew, so did his responsibilities. “The next year I was a program manager, and now it’s evolved to where I teach components of the program,” he says.

Stephens has had no trouble keeping inspired in his chosen profession. His I-ACE has grown, I’ve been able to help them see more communities through a more two-dimensional perspective, and most importantly create relationships with First Nations and government that have helped see perspectives begin to change.

“The award is presented to individuals who challenge the status quo and take action to advance Indigenous communities while honouring Indigenous traditions. This award shows the importance of the work Cory and all those in the I-ACE program are doing,” says Miles Richardson, chair of the National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development, who nominated Stephens for the award.

Stephens now joins an elite list of award recipients, but he’s quick to draw the attention away from himself. “I’m humbled to receive this award—but one of the things that’s always been true for me is that while these awards are certainly an amazing honour, in the end we all want to recognize the success of our students first. That’s what guides us in the work we do—building capacity among First Nations communities in Canada towards more active participants in Canada’s economy.”

Climate crisis sparks new journalism professorship

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Wildfires, droughts, floods, extreme storms: we are living in a time when climate change should be the biggest story of our time—yet, as the recent federal election proved, all too often it doesn’t even make the headlines. But as the news media has extensively reported on the environmental, economic and political dimensions of climate change, journalists have struggled to humanize that phenomenon, “ says Holman, a former student of Stephens. “As a Gustavson graduate, Stephens is now in the peculiar situation of being a colleague to professors who once taught him as a student. It’s a fact that is a particular source of pride for him: “Bringing the level of teaching I experienced as a student to the community that contributed to evidence-based decision making by the public and policy makers—but its members need to be speaking with one another about climate change communication more than we are right now.”
It may be possible to sequester carbon dioxide (CO₂) in ocean basalt at a scale that would bring down global atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ (Gt or 51 billion tons) of GHGs that is driving climate change, according to scientists at the University of Victoria (UVic) and the University of Calgary, a research partner with UVic. “We had four of our people going to university. This rising in the final minutes of the ceremony, Sam Britons who moved to Canada specifically so that their four children would have educational opportunities. “I see that drive and that inspiration—to do better, to be better, to make things better,” said Austin. “I see that fire in you,” said Hall. “I see that fire and passion and imparts the vision and wisdom to guide prayers between the spirit world and earth. It was carved and painted by two artists to the past, the present and the future. The paddles symbolize our connections to the past, the present, and the future. The paddles and a walking stick were presented to the community, to the hosts of the fifth annual National Building Reconciliation Forum. The paddle representing the present remains at UVic when we hosted the National Building Reconciliation Forum in 2019. The vision for the paddle was to have an eagle as the symbolic or ceremonies. The colours were chosen because red represents eagle is the messenger, carrying knowledge and imparting the vision and wisdom to guide prayers between the spirit world and earth. It was carved and painted by two artists to the past, the present and the future. The paddles symbolize our connections to the past, the present, and the future. The paddles and a walking stick were presented to the community, to the hosts of the fifth annual National Building Reconciliation Forum. The paddle representing the present remains at UVic when we hosted the National Building Reconciliation Forum in 2019. The vision for the paddle was to have an eagle as the symbolic Regalia hood

Ceremonial items & artwork

Artwork and ceremonial items that were created by local Indigenous artists for the occasion of President Hall’s inauguration on May 6. These works of art will support President Hall in his work and remind him of the commitments he made during the ceremony.

Ceremonial blanket

A member of Songhees First Nation, graciously agreed to create a blanket for the ceremony. The commissioned blanket is 59 inches by 60 inches excluding the fringe and weighs nine pounds. The colours on the blanket were created using star, facec (mulberry bush), braidwork, copper, onskin, neltle, hedge neltle and commercial black dye. Myrna prefers to use natural dyes as much as possible. The wool is spun and dyed by herself. Carey Newman gets the design through prayer and meditation. As she works on three blankets, she might spend every day in ceremony and is asked to be guided with the wool in a good way. Each blanket is covered. This style of blanket is referred to as a Robability Blanket or a Chiefly Blanket. The blanket is used at public events, important gatherings, meetings or ceremonies.

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Housing crisis requires more than empathy

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

Why are people houseless? What are the myths surrounding the unhoused population in Victoria? What systems and cycles are in place that keep people without secure shelter?

These are just some of the questions UVic geography students tackled during a recent community-based research project. The students learned that there are many reasons someone ends up unhoused—and most often it’s not by choice.

“Our community-based projects are rooted in empathy,” says UVic geographer Crystal Tremblay. “Every one has a story and the students felt compelled to connect the stories to people to show the face of homelessness.

Through a partnership with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Island Health and the UNESCO K'Cii Salish Sea Hub, the geography students created story map—an interactive website at bit.ly/21-tiny—for the general community to learn more about the people living in the transitional tiny home community on Caledonia Ave.

The fourth-year geography course, taught by Tremblay and mapping instructor Ken Joshippa, gave students an opportunity to apply their skills to a real-world situation.

The course was also co-led by Tanya Clarmont and an Elders Advisory, supported by the Victoria Native Friendship Center (vnfc), guiding students and projects with decolonizing and anti-oppressive ways of being through respectful and reciprocal research.

Story map uses videos, interviews, and graphics as a way for people to connect and learn more about homelessness and the tiny home solution. Making Room: A Transitional Tiny Home Community is for 30 people currently living outside, unhoused. Built from re-purposed shipping containers, the tiny home community opened in April and will operate for 18 months.

“The students were very excited to work with community partners on the story map project,” says Tremblay. “The course is focused on teaching students how to think creatively about addressing important needs in our community through community-led partnerships, amplifying voices and raising awareness in a community context.”

To build out the content of the story map, the students curated existing resources and amplified projects that contribute to the community and housing efforts in Victoria.

“I am very grateful to be a part of the community-based participatory research project with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness,” says student Shayla Brewer.

“Through this project, I got to learn from the community partners and different people involved in solving and mitigating the housing crisis. I feel a stronger connection to community and that the work I’m contributing is making a positive difference to support accessible housing for all,” adds Brewer.

Community-based research courses such as Tremblay’s geography offering typically include multiple community partners such as the Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition, the vnfc, the Inclusion Project, Inter-Cultural Association and the Rainbow Health Cooperative.

“Many of our partners enjoy work with the students,” says Tremblay. “I am often asked if they can continue to be a partner the next time the course is offered.”

Making a difference in people’s lives is what drives many UVic geography students to collaborate with partners and produce a useful product, such as story map.

Through community-based research projects and other initiatives, UVic is tackling the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (see: 30min.ourplanet.org) outlined in the UN’s 2015 Global Sustainable Development report. This includes improving health and education, and reducing inequality in all countries.

New materials for next-gen auto parts

With a versatile new polymer, novel materials now stronger and lighter than before

BY ROBYN QUINN

In dim light, a line of armoured vehicles slowly snakes through narrow streets. The driver in the lead vehicle focuses on the road ahead but is cautious of possible threats. Suddenly, an explosion on the road rocks the caravanned vehicles slowly. Several vehicles receive damage but all arrive safe at their destination. The passengers and drivers are all unharmed but the damage to the largely metal vehicles is severe enough to write them off.

“The easiest way to improve the fuel economy of a vehicle is simply to have less weight,” adds Godwin, “by replacing metal parts with durable plastic—there is no loss of strength and the material is recyclable.”

According to Wulff, “Making a difference in people’s lives is what drives many UVic geography students to collaborate with partners and produce a useful product, such as story map.”

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UVic Distinguished Alumni Awards 2022

Celebrating the remarkable achievements of UVic alumni

The University of Victoria (UVic) and the University of Victoria Alumni Association (UVAA) recognize UVic’s stellar graduates who, through their extraordinary endeavours, bring honour to themselves and to their alma mater in a multitude of ways.

Through annual awards, UVic and the UVAA celebrate the diverse achievements of alumni and provide an opportunity to share these inspirational stories throughout the year.

AWARD CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY

PRESIDENTS’ ALUMNI AWARDS
Top awards given by the President of UVic and the President of the UVAA to distinguished alumni. The Presidents’ Alumni Award is the Alumni Association’s highest honour. This award recognizes the outstanding lifetime accomplishments of alumni who have earned national or international regard or have had significant local impact as a result of their outstanding professional achievements and/or service to society.

At least one alumni award recipient will be selected who was registered as an international student for the majority of their studies at UVic and the graduate has lived outside of Canada for at least five years since the time of nomination.

Nominees must comply with all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrates sustained and significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: professional achievement, cultural achievement or leadership, sporting achievement and/or community leadership.
- Work, whether professional or volunteer, demonstrates significant positive impact that has been felt by many—locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Through prominence in their field/profession, brings great distinction to UVic.
- Has achieved sustained success over their career that is noteworthy and exceptional.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteerism, community work or through their profession.

EMERGING ALUMNI AWARDS
Recognize the outstanding professional achievements and/or contributions of recent alumni to the community. Nominees must have been graduated 10 years or less at time of nomination deadline.

Nominees must comply with all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Work, whether professional or volunteer, demonstrates significant positive impact that has been felt by many—locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Their accomplishment(s) raise their profile and standing within their community, country or internationally and/or bring greater recognition to their profession.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteerism, community work or through their profession.
- Work and/or contribution in their community inspires action, emotion or a response in others.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ALUMNI AWARDS
Recognize contributions of alumni to Indigenous communities, which have improved outcomes for Indigenous people and contributes to Truth and Reconciliation. Minimum of one award to be given to an Indigenous graduate.

Nominees must comply with all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrates an outstanding contribution to Indigenous communities showing how their work has improved outcomes for Indigenous people.
- Work, whether professional or volunteer, demonstrates a significant positive impact within Indigenous communities (in Canada or elsewhere).
- Demonstrates how their work contributes to the reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
- Their role, work and/or contribution in their community raises awareness of Indigenous issues and inspires action, emotion or a positive response in others.

NOMINATE ONLINE BY DECEMBER 17, 2021
uvic.ca/distinguished-alumni
Another, perhaps more effective, approach is to “shift the mean,” lowering the overall risk to the entire population. Risk assessment is important when considering the individual’s choices and how they impact others. Personal choices will impact others through the entire system. These risks are more dangerous when these behaviours are combined with close contact with so-called vulnerable people—those more likely to contract COVID-19 and then have serious medical consequences. So, risky behaviour can look like reckless partying, followed by shift work at the old folks’ home. Not a good idea.

We are told that our behaviour can help to “stop the spread” or that we need to modify our lives in order to “flatten the curve.” These are individual choices, aimed at addressing risky behaviours, so that people are safer in their lives, and do the right thing to help protect others. Yet even the most diligent practitioner of hygiene is still at risk, and the individual is at a loss how to change the reality of a pandemic for the population as a whole.

Shifting the mean

So how do we shift the overall morbidity (rate of disease) and mortality (death rate) from COVID-19? Understanding who those most at risk is important, and there are also ways that we can lower the overall risk to the entire population.

1. **Sick benefits for all permanent workers.** We know that people who cannot afford to miss work when they are sick will go to work sick instead of missing the shift. Paying more to stay home when they are sick lowers the overall risk for all workers.

2. **Supporting seniors to stay in their homes and continue to maintain independence.** Increased home support for people to remain at home keeps more seniors away from densely populated seniors’ living facilities, long-term care facilities or nursing homes. Having a nurse, care or outreach worker support seniors at home makes sense, and although it may be costly to provide this home support, these people will be less exposed when outbreaks happen.

3. **Increasing the capacity of ICUs and acute care hospitals.** More capacity means that we can serve more people in crisis. Who wouldn’t want more ICU beds, more support for seniors and better sick benefits for workers, especially in seniors’ care?

4. **Feeding up our hospitals.** Our hospitals are specially equipped to handle acute health problems. They are set up to deal with many of the chronic conditions that show up every day in the community. Diabetes mismanaged can lead to hospitalization, as can heart disease and mental health disorders.

5. **Support for chronic disease management in community can shift the overall risk of hospitals becoming overwhelmed, thereby opening up our hospital to acute care interventions.** So, individuals can help to “flatten the curve,” and public policy can “shift the mean.” In either case, our common welfare must come first.

Aaron Ander is completing his final undergraduate year in Health and Social Policy. This post is taken from the student-written My UVic Life blog at www.uvic.ca/myuviclife."
ART EXHIBITIONS

Qw’an Qw’anakwal—To Come Together
Through December 23 at the Legacy Downtown, 630 Yates St.

This exhibition celebrates Salish artists, their families, and collaborators who participated in the Visiting Artist Program through the UVic Department of Anthropology between 2011 and 2021. Over 10 years, the artists in this exhibition generously shared their art practice and knowledge with students through the anthropology of art course. Each academic year, an artist was invited to teach and work with students on a theme of their choice, using media from their practice. Through this engagement, students learned in a hands-on, experiential manner about the histories, methods, protocols and production of contemporary Salish art.

The title Qw’an Qw’anakwal was chosen by Lekwungen artist Yuxweluptun, Bradley Dick (2021 visiting artist). The title represents the underlying intention of the Visiting Artist Program: to bring people together through the creation and appreciation of Salish art. The exhibition features new works as well as large format photographic portraits of the artists by Métis photographer Amanda Laliberte in 2021. The exhibit is curated by Smyth Chair in Arts and Engagement Andrea Walsh, with assistance from Jennifer Robinson (anthropology).

Ungasittuq—Something that is Far Away
Through December 23 at the Legacy Downtown inner gallery

Ungasittuq is an exploration of distance, space, acceptance and pushing boundaries. This exhibition aims to build a foundation for contemporary urban Inuit art photography within the broader popular understanding of contemporary Inuit art. Recent photographs by Barry Pottle present a counterpart and complement to sculpture, drawings and prints by Inuit artists to give a broader understanding of contemporary realities and experience.

The Way Between Things: The Art of Sandra Meigs
October 18–23 on campus in the Audain Gallery, Visual Arts bldg.

Celebrated visual arts emeritus professor Sandra Meigs returns to campus for the launch of her new career retrospective book, The Way Between Things: The Art of Sandra Meigs (ECW Press). Meigs—winner of both the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts and the prestigious Gershon Iskowitz Prize—will offer both a book launch (7 p.m.) and artist’s talk (7:30 p.m.), also livestreamed on Oct. 20 in the Visual Arts building, as well as an exhibit running October 18-23 in the Audain Gallery. The exhibit will also feature a new piece created in collaboration with music professor Christopher Butterfield. Primarily a painter, Meigs derives the content of her work from her own personal experiences and develops these to create visual metaphors related to the psyche. Her work is dedicated to the possibilities of enchantment that painting presents both through colour and form.

Eric Metcalfe: Pop Anthropology
Oct. 23, 2021 to March 27, 2022 on campus in the Legacy Maltwood Gallery, Bannerman Centre–McPherson Library

Pop Anthropology is an exhibition of multimedia artist Eric Metcalfe’s oeuvre, spanning over 60 years in celebration of the artist’s 2021 honorary doctorate from UVic. This exhibition continues the playful and charged work of Metcalfe’s life: reimagining images, tropes and stereotypes as poignant and plentiful scraps from which to pull meaning. It honours his early development as a visual arts student at UVic in the early 1970s, as well as his lifetime achievements as a pioneer in performance art in western Canada and co-founder of the Western Front, one of Canada’s leading and longest-running artist-run centres. Curated by Dorian Jesse Fraser.

All exhibits are free and open to the public.
Visit arcv.ca/legacygalleries and arvc.ca/library for hours of operation.

Bliss – Boutique Spa & Wellness
Cadboro Bay Optometry Clinic
Caddy Bay Liquor Store
Edward Jones Financial
For Good Measure: Premium Bulk Foods
Gyro Beach Board Shop
Heart Pharmacy IDA
Jusu Bar
Madison & Muse
Mutsuki-An Japanese Restaurant
Olive Olio’s Pasta & Espresso Bar
Pepper’s Food Store
Smuggler’s Cove Pub
Soul Stir Psychotherapy & Counselling
Starbucks Coffee Company
Thai Lemongrass Restaurant
Village Service Automotive Repair
Waking Self Psychotherapy & Counselling
Yew Tree Yoga

From Qw’an Qw’anakwal—To Come Together. PHOTOS: AMANDA LALIBERTE