



LEARNING FROM A TINY HOUSE VILLAGE

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THE RING

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*The University of Victoria's
community newspaper*

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University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

**Global subject rankings
show UVic strengths cross
academic fields**

UVic is one of the world's leading institutions in six subject areas, according to new university rankings published by [Times Higher Education](https://www.timeshighereducation.com) (THE) this fall. In psychology and in the physical sciences—which encompass mathematics and statistics, physics and astronomy, chemistry, geology, environmental sciences, and earth and marine sciences—UVic is among the top 150 schools in the world.

UVic is also ranked among the world's top 300 schools in engineering, computer science and the life sciences. Life sciences span agriculture and forestry, biological sciences, veterinary science and sport science.

Performance in clinical and health areas was also outstanding, with UVic achieving a top 500 global ranking in an area dominated by schools with large-scale research hospitals.

Times Higher Education will publish additional results later this fall covering business and economics, education, law, social sciences, and the arts and humanities—areas in which UVic also performs well.



President Kevin Hall in the Ceremonial Hall of First Peoples House during the Welcome to the Territory and Installation Ceremony. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

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 installment. 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 protocol, such witnesses are responsible

for observing a ceremony and reporting back to their own communities.

Before asking permission to work on lək'wəḡən 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.

Blankets are an important item of significance in Coast Salish cultures, and this blanketing was guided by the protocols of the lək'wəḡən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. 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.

Rob Hancock, interim co-executive director in the UVic Office of Indigenous Academic and Com-

SEE PRESIDENT'S INSTALLATION P.4

COMMUNITY LECTURE

Underwater cave diving—risk, exploration and the watery deep



Heinerth and another diver below an iceberg. PHOTO COURTESY OF JILL HEINERTH

BY DOROTHY EGGENBERGER

More people have walked on the moon than have visited the places that Jill Heinerth has seen on Earth, entering alien landscapes without exiting the stratosphere. She has blazed a trail into the planet exploring lava tubes beneath the ocean floor, submerged caves inside icebergs and the deepest recesses of the world's oceans. This month, Heinerth will travel to Victoria to speak at the 2021 Lipson Lecture at UVic—and the community is invited to explore with her, in person and online.

In visually stunning presentations, Heinerth encourages audiences to reach beyond their limitations, challenge the unknown and overcome their fears. She shares remarkable experiences and lessons learned in the deadly arena of extreme underwater exploration and adventure filmmaking, applying her practical knowledge to share

lessons on risk management, discovery learning, failure and collaboration strategies.

Heinerth is the first explorer-in-residence at the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. She received the Wyland icon Award, an honour she shares with her underwater heroes Jacques Cousteau, Robert Ballard and Sylvia Earle. She also received the inaugural Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration that recognizes singular achievements and the pursuit of excellence by an outstanding Canadian explorer.

The Lipson Lecture, hosted by the Faculty of Science, returns to the Farquhar Auditorium Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and available at tickets.uvic.ca. Proof of vaccination is required from all ticket holders. Learn more about UVic's campus health and safety guidelines at bit.ly/21-rtc. Or register for the free livestream at bit.ly/21-lipson.

UVic's Community and Government Relations, working with Gustavson School of Business professor **Simon Pek**, in partnership with The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and 24 students from across campus collaborated on an innovative approach to public discourse that has earned national recognition. The Students' Dialogue on Democratic Engagement aims to impart the knowledge and skills to support democratic citizenship in future generations. The project received the IAP2 Canada Core Values Award for Extending the Practice through Creativity, Contribution and Innovation in the Field. IAP2 Canada judges noted that, "While [this was] not a typical decision-making process with a finite actionable outcome, this engagement process was all about capacity building, which is likely to be a big part of the future of public engagement in Canada and globally." UVic and Government House hope to continue to use deliberative mini-publics in their future community engagements.



Rendering of the Broad Street hotel project featuring the historic Duck's Building. IMAGE: CHARD DEVELOPMENT.

Downtown hotel project on Broad Street approved

A Chard Development hotel 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 direct 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 respects 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 storeys 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 will have 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 acknowledgement program will document the salvage and reuse of materials along with educational installments 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 potential 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 widely 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 over 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 (repurposing of materials from deconstruction and sustainable practices in the hotel's operations).



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Acting Executive Director Denise Helm, 250-721-7656, execdir.ucam@uvic.ca

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

Production Marc Christensen

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

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

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The Ring, PO Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2
Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955
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Indigenous business development recognized

Cory Stephens brings entrepreneurship education to the Northwest

BY CARLOS CHICAS BERTI

Cory Stephens—who’s both a graduate of and instructor at UVic’s Gustavson School of Business—is not one to seek the spotlight. But this September, all eyes were on him as the newest recipient of the [Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations](#), presented by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and CBC.

Stephens serves as an instructor, learning enhancement officer and manager for the Northwest with the Indigenous Advancement of Cultural Entrepreneurship (I-ACE) program. I-ACE, a collaboration between the Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICORP), Gustavson and Indigenous communities and government, was the brainchild of TRICORP CEO Frank Parnell and Gustavson Professor Brent Mainprize. It’s been offering culturally sensitive and community-tailored entrepreneurship training for over eight years throughout Northwest Canada, resulting in 564 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 remote communities throughout BC,” says Stephens.

Born and raised in Prince Rupert to a Tsimshian mother and with a Nisga’a 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 helped develop an inter-Indigenous trade program aligning First Nations and Māori businesses. After 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 enhancement officer. “My role was to make sure nobody was left behind in the process of learning entrepreneurship,” he says, noting that many students have busy lives with children, 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.” But as the program grew, so did his role. “The next year I was a program manager, and now it’s evolved to where I teach components of the program.”

Stephens has had no trouble keeping inspired in his chosen profession, “As I-ACE has grown, I have been able to take on more roles and exercise more creativity, and most importantly create relationships with First Nations people throughout the Northwest,” he says. Stephens has also helped I-ACE expand throughout BC and nationally. “It’s that kind of growth that has



Stephens. PHOTO: LONNIE WISHART

enabled me to be fulfilled by my role as an instructor, giving back through capacity building for First Nations people throughout Canada.”

The environment for Indigenous entrepreneurship has shifted since I-ACE began over eight years ago, and Stephens thinks there hasn’t been a better time for Indigenous communities to take an active role in entrepreneurship. “From a First Nations perspective, entrepreneurship is often a strategic balance between community, culture and commerce,” says Stephens. “Recently we have seen perspectives begin to change. Industries and business are now often seeking out proper channels to engage with First Nations. That process has led to more opportunities, and while there are still some gaps in regards to entrepreneurial readiness, I-ACE has laid the groundwork, and been a

catalyst in increasing the profile and importance of entrepreneurship to First Nations communities.”

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 received at UVic to isolated communities throughout northern BC and now onward across Canada is one of the things I’m proudest of,” he says.

In that sense, it’s clear why Stephens was presented with this year’s award for excellence in Aboriginal relations. The award is presented to individuals who challenge the status quo and take action to advance Indigenous business relations. “Cory has been a champion for the I-ACE Program and exemplifies the values of community building and entrepre-

neurship 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 always 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 becoming 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 new Wayne Crookes Professor in Environmental and Climate Journalism in the Department of Writing, Sean Holman hopes to bring a more human dimension to the climate crisis.

“The news media has extensively reported on the environmental, economic and political dimensions of climate change—but journalists have struggled to humanize that phenomenon,” says Holman, a former public affairs and legislative journalist himself.

“As a result, global warming can often seem like it’s a remote phenomenon that’s happening elsewhere or in the future, rather than something close at hand and already harming people and families around the world. That dampens the urgency to act on climate change. And it means those who have been harmed can feel alone in their experiences, rather than being

supported as part of a shared community of climate disaster survivors—a community we are all part of.”

An award-winning journalist and UVic alumnus whose five-year appointment as the Crookes Professor began Sept. 1, Holman will also co-lead the first-ever survey of journalists and scientists regarding climate change media coverage, as well as launch a “climate disaster survivor” memory vault with at least nine other Canadian journalism programs.

“This project will amplify the stories of those who have experienced such disasters,” he explains. “Those stories will be shared with news media partners, as well as preserved in a climate disaster memory vault, similar to other important oral history projects that have humanized the impact of natural disasters and humanitarian crises around the world. In doing so, we hope to better understand the commonalities in those experiences, launching investigative journalism projects that can surface these shared problems, and solutions to them.”

The Crookes Professorship—created in January 2021 through an inspiring gift of \$1.875 million by

Vancouver business leader and political activist Wayne Crookes—aims to increase the quantity, quality, depth and prominence of science-based environmental journalism and media coverage to address the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Yet despite literally being the burning issue of our time, Holman feels the lack of attention paid to the climate crisis in the recent federal election is symptomatic of the need for journalists and scientists to work together to improve coverage.

“In this new age of disaster, climate change should be the biggest story of our time: it should be the biggest political issue of our time—and what to do about it should be the top ballot-box question,” he says. “Because if we answer that question wrong, everything that we have built together as a society and everything we could build together will be put at risk.”

That’s where the survey of journalists and climate scientists comes in—which Holman will launch ahead of the upcoming COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. By asking what they think about environmental media coverage, and how it can be



Crookes and Holman. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

improved, he’s hoping to build better bridges between the two groups.

“Both professions have a lot in common: we are part of a shared community that contributes 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.”

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Gigatons of carbon dioxide able to be stored in ocean basalt

Geochemists confirm feasibility of PICS-ONC Solid Carbon project—mineralizing greenhouse gas at large scale in undersea basalt

It may be possible to sequester carbon dioxide (CO2) in subseafloor ocean basalt at a scale that would bring down global atmospheric concentrations of this predominant greenhouse gas (GHG) that is driving climate change, according to scientists with UVic’s Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) Solid Carbon project. Human activity adds around 51 gigatons (Gt or 51 billion tons) of GHGs to the atmosphere each year, and new research indicates CO2 storage on a gigaton scale is possible. Geochemical simulations were conducted by scientists at the University of Calgary, a research partner with the PICS [Solid Carbon](#) negative emissions technology feasibility study led by UVic’s [Ocean Networks](#)

[Canada](#) (ONC). The results have been published in the *Environmental Science & Technology* journal article, “[Alkalinity generation constraints on basalt carbonation for carbon dioxide removal at the gigaton-per-year scale](#).” Using a series of geochemical calculations, the UCalgary scientists have demonstrated that gigaton-scale carbon dioxide storage is possible when plumes of captured CO2 are directly injected into deep ocean basalt. There, the CO2 reacts with minerals and over time forms a solid carbonate rock. This is an alternate approach to experiments conducted in Iceland where CO2 is injected in a dissolved state, and mineralizes rapidly—within two years—at shallow depths.

Lead author and UCalgary professor Benjamin Tutolo says rapid mineralization using dissolved CO2 is water-intensive, costly and difficult to scale up. He says the UCalgary simulations indicate carbon mineralization on the Gt scale, “if basalts are given time to react.” “The reaction needn’t be completed in days or even months as long as the CO2 doesn’t escape before the process is complete, even if it takes centuries,” he says. Aquifers beneath the ocean floor are typically topped with more than 300 metres of “very impermeable” sediment, and residence times of water in these aquifers are inferred to be on the order of thousands or tens of thousands of years. “Human-caused GHG emissions are driving us toward tipping points at which dire consequences of climate change will be inevitable,” adds Tutolo. “Solid Carbon’s technology could help make a significant dent in

atmospheric concentrations of CO2 through utilizing the vast quantity of global sub-seafloor basalts, with the calculated capacity to store up to 250,000 Gts.” These findings advance the Solid Carbon goal of permanently and safely sequestering carbon dioxide. Using renewable energy aboard a floating ocean platform, the project aims to extract CO2 from the air and inject it into subseafloor basalt where it will mineralize into rock. Kate Moran, ONC president and Solid Carbon principal investigator says a field demonstration at Cascadia Basin is urgently needed because Solid Carbon presents an undeniable opportunity to durably store decades of anthropogenic emissions needed to meet planetary climate targets. PICS Executive Director Sybil Seitzinger welcomes the findings as well, saying that the world needs these potentially game-changing

technologies in the climate-action toolbox. “Negative emissions technologies such as Solid Carbon do not replace the need for urgent emissions reductions but are needed alongside deep decarbonization if we are to limit average global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,” says Seitzinger. This research was supported by the PICS Solid Carbon Theme Partnership and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. PICS develops impactful, evidence-based climate change solutions through collaborative partnerships that connect solution seekers with experts from BC’s four leading research universities. PICS is hosted and led by UVic in collaboration with UBC, SFU and the University of Northern British Columbia. [solidcarbon.ca](#)

PRESIDENT’S INSTALLATION CONTINUED FROM P.1

munity Engagement (IACE), spoke on behalf of Hall to formally request permission to work on the territory. Hall was welcomed to ləkʷəŋən territory by Elder Dr. Skip Dick and Chief Ron Sam from the Songhees First Nation. Hall then took his oath of office and was installed as the eighth president of the University of Victoria by Lt. Gov. Janet Austin. “I was absolutely humbled by the whole experience,” Hall said after the ceremony. “The ceremony felt like such an important step in decolonizing our institution. After the tragedy of the confirmation of thousands of graves at the sites of residential schools over the last few months, no one can continue at a snail’s pace any longer when it comes to truth and reconciliation.” In 2014, Hall asked permission to work on the territory of the Worimi and Awabakal Peoples in Australia after being appointed vice-president at the University of Newcastle. He’d been determined to do the same at UVic after becoming president 10 months ago, which led to the inclusion of Coast Salish protocols in the installation proceedings. The roots of the welcoming ceremony date back to times when canoe pullers from elsewhere were the most common visitors on a Nation’s territory, Songhees Nation Elder Dr. Skip Dick told the audience of about 40 gathered for the ceremony and installation. “Our ancestors had the long house in the harbour,” said Dick. “In those days, the canoe pullers needed to be rested, fed and leave with enough supplies to carry on with their journey.” “In our times, we are reaching out to young people to help them stay connected. They’re learning, and making sure our communities are being helped because of that. Back in the 1970s, we had four of our people going to university. Now, there are thousands across Canada.” Songhees Chief Ron Sam was visibly moved by Hall’s request to work on ləkʷəŋən territory. Rising in the final minutes of the ceremony, Sam reiterated his earlier praise of Hall for having reached out to First Nations and respected the protocols of Coast Salish traditional territories. “It’s not always easy to stand with our people,” Sam told Hall and those gathered to witness the ceremony. “Courageous sir, I lift my hands to you for taking that step.”

Increasing access to higher education In his speech to the gathering, Hall told of his own background as the child of working-class Britons who moved to Canada specifically so that their four children would have educational opportunities that they had been denied. But he quickly noted that socio-economic status notwithstanding, he was fully aware of just how much privilege he had enjoyed throughout his life. “My promise is that I’m going to use that privilege to drive meaningful and necessary change—to drive truth, respect and reconciliation; to combat racism here on the campus and the region; and to ensure that all members of our community feel included and have increased access to education.” The tragic revelations this year of unmarked graves of Indigenous children on the sites of a

number of former residential schools cannot be ignored, said Hall. “UVic’s flags were lowered in May, and will remain lowered until further notice in honour of the thousands of children who died,” said Hall. “UVic must acknowledge our role in perpetuating colonial violence. In the words of Dr. Skip Dick that he recently put to our own students, will you be part of the problem, or part of the solution?” Lt. Gov. Austin thanked the UVic selection committee for finding “an exemplar” in Hall. “When I think of the role of the university, I’m reminded of [William Butler] Yeats’s reflection that education is not the filling of a pail, it is the lighting of a fire. Dr. Hall, I see that fire in you,” said Austin. “I see that drive and that inspiration—to do better, to be better, to make things better.” UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, a participant in the ceremony, later described the 90-minute event as powerful, moving and “right.” She deeply appreciated Hall’s acknowledgment of the role that educational institutions have played in perpetuating colonization and systemic racism. “The request for permission to work in the Indigenous territories the university stands on is not only historic, it is right,” said Rogers after the ceremony. “I’m proud that the first such request was granted on the territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt and ʷSÁNEĆ peoples, and came from the incoming president of the University of Victoria. It was an honour to witness this ceremony.” Hall said after the ceremony that he was “overwhelmed” by the surprise gift of a striking red and black hood for his official regalia. It was created for the installation by Ay Lelum of The Good House of Design and master Coast Salish artist and Snuneymuxw First Nation hereditary chief William Good, Tseskinaḱhen, and designer Sandra Good, Thul Te Lada. The custom design features a supernatural eagle for vision and wisdom, a salmon representing the continuity of the life cycle, and smooth waters to represent smooth tenure for Hall.

“These symbols have been designed specifically for Kevin to give him the power and wisdom that he will need to do his job,” explained Hancock. “Incorporating traditional Coast Salish art and history connects UVic to the traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, the land, the water, the air and to the life cycles of the ancient knowledge of the past being brought into the future.” Unlike the traditional hoods given to university presidents, Hall’s hood will remain with him wherever his journey takes him. Traditionally, UVic holds onto its past presidents’ hoods and robes so that they’re ready to be donned again anytime a past president attends a UVic convocation ceremony. Hall praised local First Nations, IACE, and Associate Vice President Indigenous Qwul’sih’yah’maht Robina Thomas for the work they did to ensure Coast Salish protocols were observed. “This ceremony meant so much to me,” said Hall. “My hope is that this is how we will install our chancellors and presidents from now on.”

Ceremonial items & artwork

Artwork and ceremonial items were created by local Indigenous artists for the occasion of President Hall’s [Welcome to the Territory and Installation Ceremony](#). These works of art will support President Hall in his work and remind him of the commitments he made during the ceremony.

Ceremonial blanket



Myrna Crossley, 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 fir bark, fustic (mulberry bush), brazilwood bark, onion skin, nettle, hedge nettle and commercial black dye. Myrna prefers to use natural dyes as much as possible. The wool is spun and dyed by hand. Crossley gets the design through prayer and meditation. As she works on these blankets, she begins each day in ceremony and asked to be guided to work with the wool in a good way. Each evening, the blanket is covered. This style of blanket is referred to as a Nobility Blanket or a Chiefly Robe. The blanket can be used at public events, important gatherings, meetings or ceremonies.

Regalia hood



Ay Lelum and the Good family, from Snuneymuxw First Nation, created a traditional Coast Salish art ceremonial hood for the installation. The hood was created by master Coast Salish artist and hereditary chief William Good, Tseskinaḱhen, and designer Sandra Good, Thul Te Lada. The colours were chosen because red represents the female and life force and black represents the male. In Coast Salish teachings the supernatural eagle is the messenger, carrying knowledge

and prayers between the spirit world and earth and imparts the vision and wisdom to guide one’s journey. The salmon was chosen because it represents the continuous life cycle on earth. Kevin is a civil engineer who worked with water. Now he will be an “engineer,” a leader of the life cycle at UVic—imparting knowledge to the next generation. The waves represent the water, which is also a life-giving force. The waves are smooth, to provide a smooth tenure in his position. These symbols are designed specifically for Kevin to give him the power and wisdom that he will need to do his job. Incorporating traditional Coast Salish art and history connects UVic to the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, the land, water and air, and the life cycle of the ancient knowledge of the past being brought into the future.

Reconciliation paddle



Three cedar paddles were commissioned by UVic when we hosted the National Building Reconciliation Forum in 2019. The vision for the paddles was to have three artists to represent Coast Salish canoe teachings. The paddles symbolize the value of paddling together, and represent the need for post-secondary institutions to work together to honour truth and reconciliation. The paddles symbolize our connections to the past, the present and the future. The paddles and a walking stick were presented to Algoma University, the hosts of the fifth annual National Building Reconciliation Forum. The paddle representing the present remains at UVic. It was carved and painted by two former students. Karver Everson (K’omoks and Kwakwaka’wakw) and Margaret August (Shishalh First Nation). This paddle is a constant reminder of UVic’s commitment to truth, respect and reconciliation. The stand was created by Fine Arts Audain Professor Carey Newman (Kwakwaka’wakw and Sto:lo).



Pedestrians pass the mural surrounding the tiny house village on Caledonia Ave. PHOTO: MARC CHRISTENSEN

Housing crisis requires more than empathy

Students working with tiny house village residents and community partners shine light on challenges of homelessness

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. “Everyone has a story and the students felt

compelled to connect the stories to people to show the face of homelessness,” adds Tremblay.

Through a partnership with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Island Health and the [UNESCO K4C 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 Josphenson, 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 infographics](#) 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 fixing, 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 working 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 [sdgs.un.org](#)) outlined in the UN’s [2015 Global Sustainable Development report](#). This includes improving health and education, and reducing inequality in all countries.

UVIC KNOWLEDGE

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 caravan. 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 cost of secure transport, whether with military or law enforcement, can be steep. Up until now there were limited options available to protect the vehicles and passengers inside.

Thanks to the work by UVic chemistry graduate student Ben Godwin and his faculty supervisor Jeremy Wulff, there are now new materials on the horizon that are lighter and stronger than ever before. Even better, these advanced new materials are able to better dissipate energy and, potentially, be repaired in the field.

Recently, Godwin shared how one small change to the structure of the common thermoset plastic called

polydicyclopentadiene—the addition of a single atom—produced a versatile new polymer. The new material is stronger and stiffer than the parent plastic, and could have the strength to withstand significant impact from bullets or explosives, while remaining durable under extreme temperatures.

“A lot of people are excited about this change and what we can do now with the newest version,” explains Godwin. “Many more commercial applications are possible.”

The polymer samples are now heading to Kelowna where UBC colleagues will work with Wulff and Godwin to undertake ballistics testing with fragment-simulating projectiles.

With funding support from the Department of National Defence, Godwin and Wulff are working to bring the material to a stage where it can be applied to lessen destruction. If a vehicle can be protected enough to just need field repairs following an attack, there is a significant value to the military.

According to Wulff, the polymer can make a big difference for existing manufacturing. “Even adding just five per cent allows for amazing enhancements like incorporating drug compounds that can fight bacteria, attaching special paints or building in florescent properties to glow in the dark.”

Using this polymer could also in-



Godwin and Wulff. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

crease the fuel economy of consumer vehicles.

“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 parts a significant weight reduction can be achieved at low cost.”

Godwin was also able to eliminate the unpleasant odour of the polymer’s predecessor. Because of that, the new polymer can be used on the interior as well as the exterior of the vehicle.

The polymer project at UVic is now in its sixth year and has already spun off one student-founded enterprise,

Poly V. Technology Inc., by PhD researcher Tong Li. The growing list of potential commercial uses and sectors include forestry, law enforcement and natural resource management.

Plastics are ubiquitous in our society, but plastic waste is an enormous problem. Understanding the chemistry of polymer materials is key to designing materials that don’t persist in the environment.

Thermoplastics melt at high temperatures and can be reformed into new objects—but become weaker with each round of reprocessing.

Thermosetting plastics (thermo-

sets), on the other hand, have extra crosslink bonds between polymer chains, and don’t melt—making them useful in applications where high-temperature performance is required. Silicone used in kitchen bakeware is a thermoset polymer.

Since they can’t be melted and reformed, recycling of thermosets is difficult. However, researchers around the world—including the Wulff group at UVic—are inventing new kinds of tough, recyclable thermosets that can be reprocessed multiple times without affecting their mechanical properties.



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 a 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 a 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



STUDENT VOICES

Flattening the curve vs. shifting the mean

BY AARON ANDER

In the early months of the current pandemic, I wrote articles applying a public health lens to the current world crisis (“Drawing Attention to Public Health,” bit.ly/20-attention). There are obvious populations that are more at risk which in my view should form the basis for a measured approach to public health measures.

One established way we conceive of population health is by assessing risk levels and addressing those risks through education, targeting high risk behaviours.

Regulations can have the impact of reducing the overall incidence of disease in an entire population, such as speed limits on highways, which reduce the overall incidence of accidents that lead to serious injury or death. Interventions such as mandatory masks during a pandemic make sense in certain kinds of spaces where there is more risk, such as long-term care facilities and acute care settings.

Targeting smokers with health information that could encourage them to make better decisions is aimed at those who engage in risky behaviour. We can address smoking behaviour on the population level by regulating the minimum age for purchase.

Risk assessment is important when considering the individual’s choice—to smoke or not to smoke. Another, perhaps more effective, approach is to “shift the mean,” lowering the overall risk to the entire population. Punishments for people who sell cigarettes to young people help create further deterrents. So, less people overall smoking.

This is good news, because we don’t have to address all the risky behaviour if we can make the whole of society safer.

Flattening the curve

I have been hearing consistent messaging from our government, media and other organizations that my personal choices will impact others by increasing or lowering my risk of infection and transmission.

Some things that we do are considered more risky during a pandemic, like going to a party, dancing at a club or attending a high intensity fitness class.

These risks are more dangerous when these behaviours are combined with close contact with so-called vulnerable people—those more likely to contract COVID and who tend to have serious medical consequences. So, risky behaviour can look like reckless

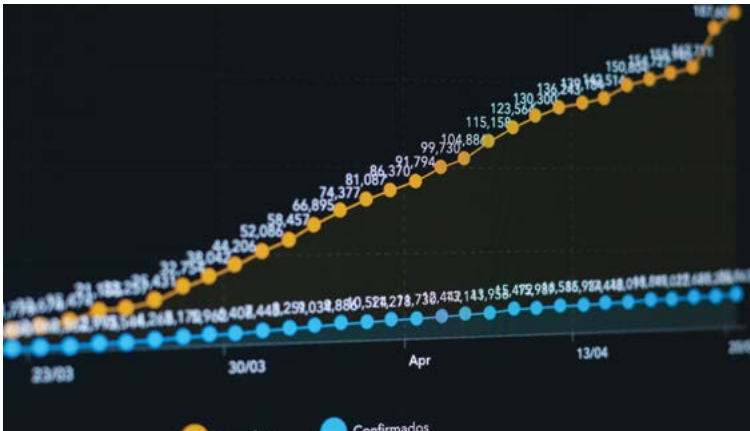


Photo illustration by KOBU agency. COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

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? Identifying those who are most at risk is important, and there are also ways that we can lower the overall risk to the entire population.

- **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 their shift. Paying people to stay home when they are sick lowers the overall risk for all workers.
- **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 aid 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.
- **Increasing the capacity of our ICU and acute care hospitals.** More capacity means that we

can serve more people in crisis. Who wouldn’t want more ICU beds, more at-home support for seniors and better sick benefits for workers, especially in seniors’ care?

There are often reasons why individuals may not be capable of making “the right decision,” or their circumstances may simply force them into difficult life decisions.

A senior may move out of their home and into a long-term care facility because the family simply cannot afford private at-home nursing care.

Often, people take precarious, casual or temporary work because the kinds of permanent full-time jobs that come with sick benefits aren’t available. This is especially dangerous when these are the same staff working in seniors’ communities.

Freeing up our hospitals

Our hospitals are best equipped to handle acute health problems. They are not set up to deal with many of the chronic conditions that show up every day in their departments.

Diabetes mismanaged can lead to hospitalization, as can heart disease and mental health disorders. More 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 Community Services at the UVic School of Public Health and Social Policy. This post is taken from the student-written My UVic Life blog at uvic.ca/myuviclfe.

Special recognition for two UVic researchers by the Royal Society of Canada

Two UVic researchers have been named for special awards by the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), the council of distinguished scholars and leaders recognized with the country’s highest academic honour. UVic chemist and RSC Fellow **Ian Manners** won the Henry Marshall Tory Medal for outstanding research in any branch of chemistry, mathematics, physics or allied field of science. Postdoctoral fellow **Sarah Wagner** (sociology), won the Alice Wilson Award for outstanding academic qualifications in the arts and humanities, social sciences or science to women who are entering a career in scholarship or research at the postdoctoral level.

Manners pioneered the field of organometallic polymers in the 1990s and since then, his work has taken materials science in previously unimagined directions. The internationally recognized researcher, renowned for his transformative research in materials science, joined UVic in 2018 as Canada 150 Research Chair, and established the Laboratory for Synthetic Self-Assembled Materials at UVic, a state-of-the-art research facility for up to 25 co-workers. The Manners Group is currently designing “smart nanoparticles” to deliver chemotherapy drugs directly to a tumour, bypassing the collateral damage of cancer treatments—just one of many projects. New discoveries that will improve human health and sustainable energy practices are on the horizon in the field of materials science, and Manners is leading the way.

Sociology postdoctoral fellow Sarah Wagner is an ethnographer whose projects are rooted in community-based research. Wagner aims to bring positive change for individuals who are systematically excluded or disadvantaged in increasingly digitalized societies. Her current research addressing the communication inequalities experienced by long-term care residents in BC supports older adults to have more agency over the communication media they use. She notes, “this award is truly an honor and a fitting occasion to pause and acknowledge the women who have

been incredible mentors to me on this journey—my postdoctoral supervisors, Karen Kobayashi and Kim Sawchuk, and my doctoral supervisor, Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol.”

Provost’s Advocacy and Activism awards

A group of undergraduates who study science under the lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion and the director of UVic’s School of Social Work are the recipients of the UVic [Provost’s Advocacy and Activism Award](#) for 2021.

In 2020, 11 students in the Faculty of Science formed the advocacy group **UVic Sci EDI** to see what they could do to address barriers facing under-represented groups in their community. The advocacy group surveyed fellow science students, asking their peers to reflect on their experiences and share ideas for a more inclusive science program.

They also also met with the faculty’s EDI committees and selected professors, as well as UVic Equity and Human Rights, developing recommendations to better integrate EDI in science. Changes are on the horizon due their hard work, including a paid student position to research and develop an online course addressing the intersections between science and societies. UVic Sci EDI co-organizers are **Brittanie Spriel, Jennifer Glover and Rebecca Hansen**. Members are **Alana McPherson, Olivia Braniff, Tannin Standing, Lydia Walton, Makana Terry, Ellie McLeod, Vivek Vishwanath and Linzhi Wu**.

School of Social Work Director **Kundoqk, Jacquie Green** is being recognized for convening and connecting decolonial equity work taking place across the school to develop a more culturally relevant student admission process, using Indigenous medicine wheel philosophy as their guide. “We needed to create more space, more supports for students with diverse mental health and care needs,” says Green. “We revised what type of knowledge students need to bring to their studies, focusing on skills most relevant to social work practice.” Now, candidates’ lived experiences, social status, location, professional experiences and community volunteer work are reviewed, with less emphasis on grades.

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

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 Yuxwelupton, 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 counterpoint 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, [Mearns 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.



Eric Metcalfe, *Untitled*, 1967.

All exhibits are free and open to the public.

Visit [uvic.ca/legacygalleries](#) and [uvic.ca/library](#) for hours of operation.

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