

## THE RING

OCTOBER 2022

The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper

uvic.ca/news

University  
of Victoria

## SPEED READ

## EXTRAORDINARY ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumni  
Awards nominations

Help us celebrate the remarkable achievements of University of Victoria graduates. Nominate a friend, family member, colleague or former classmate for a 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award by Oct. 14, 2022. Find tips on nominating and fill out the online nomination form at the alumni website. [bit.ly/nominate-grads](https://bit.ly/nominate-grads)

## THEATRE OF COMMUNITY

## im:print 2022

UVic and the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria present a multidisciplinary performance that weaves the personal stories of Indigenous, settler, immigrant and refugee artists. Performances at UVic's Phoenix Theatre on Oct. 6-8 and 13-15 speak, dance and sing the complex journey of our belonging—challenging current beliefs and highlighting the real implications of equity, diversity, inclusion and identity politics. [bit.ly/imprint2022](https://bit.ly/imprint2022)



Moran in the recording studio. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

## Truth before reconciliation

**New podcast creates space for Indigenous histories and perspectives—exploring the power of truth-telling in advancing human rights.**

BY LISA ABRAM

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**CALLS TO ACTION WERE PUBLISHED BY THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION IN 2015 TO REDRESS THE LEGACY OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND ADVANCE RECONCILIATION**

Canada's genocide is getting harder to deny. So too is the growing recognition that human rights and the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples offer solutions to ending the endemic violence in Canada. From the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the introduction of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in British Columbia, human-rights-based solutions are starting to take greater shape in society.

There remains a long road ahead, and truth-telling efforts remain essential. Yet, if truth must come before reconcilia-

tion, why are Indigenous truths so often suppressed?

A new podcast series—*Taapwaywin: Talking about what we know and what we believe*—from UVic Libraries aims to give voice to Indigenous perspectives on this question, harnessing the power of podcasting as an important and vital way of sharing knowledge beyond the classroom, or the campus.

Hosted by Associate University Librarian—Reconciliation Ry Moran, *Taapwaywin* features conversations with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Survivors, academics, artists, activists and community leaders about the role truth-telling can play in societal healing.

"This podcast explores how power,

memory, human rights and truth-telling intersect," says Moran. "The podcast is in many ways a deeper response to the questions I've been asked regarding our collective responsibilities towards truth and reconciliation and acknowledgement of processes of violent colonization."

## Listening to the hard truths

Moran's path to produce this podcast builds on decades of work. From his recent role as the founding director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation prior to his arrival at UVic to statement-gathering work with the TRC, Moran has listened to thousands of hours of residential school Survivor statements as part of the effort to honour and remember the children who never returned from the residential schools. These hard and often devastating truths—and the

SEE PODCAST SERIES, P. 3

OCT. 14 VIRTUAL EVENT

GAMECHANGERS  
President's Speaker Series

(L-R) UVic Impact Chairs Amanda Bates, Carey Newman and Heather Castleden. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

The GameChangers President's Speaker Series introduces UVic's dynamic and innovative researchers and leaders to the community. Join us for another exciting session of GameChangers from noon-1 p.m. on Oct. 14 to learn about the Impact Chairs' unique role at the university, explore their game-changing research and listen to their stories and experiences. Register today for this virtual event (RSVP required). [uvic.ca/gamechangers](https://uvic.ca/gamechangers)

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

## Resetting climate narratives

**The new executive director of Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions is focused on climate action and narratives of hope.**

BY RICHARD DAL MONTE

Canada's leading climate solutions institute has new leadership—and a refreshed appreciation for how the power of narratives and collaborative science can coalesce to drive change. BC's Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), hosted and led by the University of Victoria in collaboration with UBC, SFU and UNBC, has named climate researcher and filmmaker Ian Mauro as its new executive director.

The story of Mauro's journey from a landlocked Manitoba childhood to the leadership of an environmental organization on an island in the Pacific Ocean can be told as an adventure in three episodes.

In the first, he is a nine-year-old boy on a fishing trip with his grandparents out of Port Hardy, BC, marvelling at the power of the ocean while the boat

rolls in swells off northern Vancouver Island.

In the second, he is a teenager celebrating his high school graduation by cycling from Victoria, BC to San Francisco. While pedalling through the old-growth forests, Mauro decides to study environmental science.

In the third, he is an adult in the Canadian Arctic. Having earned his PhD, Mauro has been teaching a university travel-study course in the Inuit community of Pangnirtung on Baffin Island.

"I was up there with Inuit Elders, hunters and leaders, watching climate change take place firsthand," recalls Mauro. "It was in the early 2000s and the acceleration of climate change in the Arctic was very, very visible."

The first trip "opened my eyes to the power and

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# global leadership

The Sardul S. Gill Graduate School at UVic's Peter B. Gustavson School of Business was named for the sixth consecutive year to the Top 100 Masters in Management Programs worldwide by Financial Times (FT) for its Master of Global Business (MGB) program. Ranking fourth in North America and first in Western Canada, the school is #76 amidst a competitive international pool. Students in the MGB choose from one of three paths, which takes them to three-plus continents to study and live alongside a group of international peers. A highly experiential program, the MGB concludes with a global internship. The program consistently ranks well on student and faculty diversity and international work mobility on the FT Masters in Management ranking.

[uvic.ca/gustavson/gill](http://uvic.ca/gustavson/gill)

# Equity Action Plan provides springboard for creating and inclusive place to be

BY PALOMA PONTI

After 18 months of consultation and development with the university community, the university's Equity Action Plan (EAP) will be ready this October. The EAP will be the first of its kind at UVic.

"The Equity Action Plan is an important piece of truth-telling," says UVic President Kevin Hall. Through the incredible work of the dedicated group who led this project, we now have a clear picture of the barriers faced by members of our community and strong guidance on how to productively address them. The EAP will help us all work toward a campus community that is inclusive, welcoming, equitable and supportive."

In a shift from previous UVic-wide equity plans focused on employment equity, this plan provides five overarching goals to advance equity, diversity and inclusion throughout all areas of the university. "Through this work, we hope to create the conditions where everyone feels a sense of belonging, as connected and respected parts of the university community," says Equity and Human Rights (EQHR) Executive Director Cassbrea Dewis.

While the committed actions outlined throughout the plan focus on bold changes to current university systems and structures, true culture change also requires individual reflection and commitment to action.

"There is work for each of us to support long-lasting, meaningful change that addresses the barriers that were brought forward during community engagement," says Dewis.

As a suggested starting place for university community members, EQHR along with a drafting committee of students, staff and faculty have created Reflection and Action Guides. These easy-to-use guides include reflection questions as well as suggested resources and actions to support students, educators, employees, researchers and campus leaders to advance the goals of the EAP. We invite you to share these guides far and wide with your students and colleagues.

## Background

In order to ensure UVic community members were meaningfully involved in the creation of the EAP, the Reflection and Challenge Committee (RCC) was formed in April 2021. This committee, made up of 25 students, faculty, staff and senior leaders, worked with EQHR for a year to design and champion community engagement.

Four phases of engagement took place from January to May 2022, during which the UVic community shared stories, experiences, advice and recommendations for building a more equitable university. In addition to hearing about people's dreams of what equity, diversity and belonging could come to mean and look like at UVic, we heard from UVic community



"Scenes of knowledge." ART BY CLAIRE JORGENSEN

members about the barriers they are experiencing and witnessing in their everyday interactions at work or school. The EAP reflects on the current challenges and issues that need to be addressed at UVic. Community members noted that a commitment to transparency is crucial to the success of the EAP and must carry through into our implementation of the plan.

To demonstrate accountability, members of the UVic executive leadership team have worked together to designate leads for each of the committed actions. Leads will be accountable for ensuring progress on the committed actions though other leaders may still have related responsibilities.

Over this past summer, a group of

RCC members continued to meet with EQHR to support the final drafting of the goals, prioritized barriers and actions that make up the EAP.

## What's next?

The Equity Action Plan is ambitious, and rollout of the identified actions will not happen all at once. Our campus context is complex and while many of the actions are already underway, future actions will need to be prioritized as we enter a period of resource restraint. As part of the implementation plan that will be developed this fall, a progress indicator system will be created so that campus community members can follow along as actions are completed.

[uvic.ca/eap](http://uvic.ca/eap)

# Expanded options now available for gender declaration

Starting this fall, UVic will offer expanded gender declaration options to all students and employees through Banner, UVic's primary information system. Rather than being restricted to one gender field (*female/male/not available*), UVic community members can now update their gender identity (*man/non-binary/woman/prefer not to answer*) and gender expression (*cisgender/transgender/prefer not to answer*).

The Office of the Registrar and Human Resources have led the project to expand gender declaration options in Banner.

"There has been student feedback for years that [non-binary and transgender people] do not see them-

selves in the options we provide at UVic," says Deputy Registrar Wendy Taylor. "After years of advocacy, we are excited to do more to support gender diversity on campus to accurately represent our students."

"At its core, this project is about respect," explains Sarah Hood, Director, Organization Development and Learning Service. "When an employee can select gender identity and expression options that reflect who they are, they are shown respect as individuals. This project is one way that UVic is demonstrating its commitment to address barriers to employment and create an environment where all employees can feel a sense of belonging."

Being able to report on the gender composition of students and employees can be useful in campus planning and policy decisions, and in advocating for our community. It can help to identify where non-binary students are under-represented in academic programs or identify areas with few transgender applicants. Having expanded data will be useful in developing priorities where UVic needs to better integrate gender and diversity-inclusive approaches to programs and services.

The collection of this information responds to new guidelines set by the BC government with the intention to increase inclusivity and gender equity for non-binary and transgender

people. This change will also support Gender-Based Analysis Plus research led by the Government of Canada to collect disaggregated data to look at how intersecting identities (gender alongside other social identities) may impact the effectiveness of government initiatives.

UVic's next steps are to update systems beyond Banner to include expanded gender declaration options. Currently, non-binary and transgender peoples are asked to update their gender information in multiple spaces. In the future it is hoped that when a person updates their gender declaration through one system, it will signal for changes to be made to other UVic record systems.

# UVic earns global gold star for campus sustainability planning

UVic has been recognized once again as a top performer by the 2022 Sustainable Campus Index, with a 100% score and a gold star rating.

UVic tied for third place in the coordination and planning category, with five other top-performing Canadian universities and several international institutions.

The Sustainable Campus Index recognizes top-performing universities and colleges that participate in the Sustainability Tracking, Assess-

ment and Rating System (STARS) and is released annually. UVic has continuously improved its STARS submissions, which are assessed every three years, and earned gold-level ratings each time (69.7% in 2014; 76.70% in 2017; and 80.17% in 2020).

## Coordination and planning

UVic received a score of 100% in sustainability coordination and planning, showing that success starts with a great plan. This category

includes initiatives and governance practices that foster sustainability at an institutional level through strategic planning for sustainable futures.

Examples include the work of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, Staff Sustainability Network and Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, which works with students, faculty and staff across campus to meet the goals and actions set out in the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP).

## STARS

STARS is a voluntary framework used by colleges and universities to measure, report and strengthen their contributions to global sustainability. It is used by over 1,000 institutions internationally and is administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

The next STARS reporting cycle takes place in 2023.

[bit.ly/22-CSAP](https://bit.ly/22-CSAP)  
[uvic.ca/sustainability](http://uvic.ca/sustainability)

**UVIC**  
THE RING Vol. 49 No. 7  
The University of Victoria's  
community newspaper  
[uvic.ca/news](http://uvic.ca/news)

The University of Victoria acknowledges and respects the lakw'ąnən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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

Next issue: November 3, 2022

The Ring is published eight times a year by University Communications + Marketing.

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Printed in Canada by Black Press  
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# Unearthing students' passions for experiential learning

BY NICOLE POINTON

In the spring of 2022, two years and one pandemic after a previous semester studying abroad, Sally Martin-Damman was eager to get back to Greece. A six-week immersive field school at Eleon—an ancient site in the village of Arma—beckoned her.

When she started out at UVic, Martin-Damman had planned on pursuing a teaching degree with a minor in French. Then, in 2019, Greek and Roman Studies Professor Brendan Burke visited one of her classes, encouraging students to take part in a Semester in Greece program. Martin-Damman decided to go for it.

"It was sort of on a whim," says Martin-Damman. "But the semester studying in Greece totally changed my life."

Returning to Greece this year to take part in the Eastern Boeotia Archeological Project not only required patience—with the pandemic putting field schools on hold—and planning, but also a lot of saving to cover the costs of the experience. She saved money from summer jobs and working part time during the school

year, but when this was not enough, she also applied for financial awards like the Elias Mandel Prize for Study Abroad, an endowed fund available to Faculty of Humanities students for travel-based or experiential study.

"I would not have been able to afford this opportunity without receiving funding from UVic," says Martin-Damman, with no hint of exaggeration.

Professor Trevor Van Damme, who recently took over the leadership of the Eastern Boeotia field school from Burke, emphasizes that donor support for student travel awards, as well as philanthropic infusions towards field schools directly, can significantly lower barriers to participation.

"The main barrier is the cost associated with the program in terms of student tuition, travel expenses and lost summer job revenue as well as the program fees, which are dependent on the cost of housing, food and transportation during the six-week period in Greece," says Van Damme. He also notes that this year has been particularly costly due to increased energy costs and inflation.

Experiential learning opportuni-



Sally Martin-Damman (at left) and the team in action, cleaning the site of Ancient Eleon after three years of it being covered. PHOTO: BRENDAN BURKE.

ties offered by the Department of Greek and Roman Studies include the Semester in Greece, the Eastern Boeotia Archeological Project and an archaeological program at Ilduro in Catalonia, Spain, led by Professor Alejandro Sinner. These are a few among many Faculty of Humanities field schools that are challenged by inflation and rising costs of travel.

"Even with carried-over travel funds accumulated when field schools were not operating during the pan-

dem, we are still deluged with requests for financial support from our students," says Lisa Surridge, humanities associate dean academic. "It is clear that we will require at least a tripling of support funds to be able to meet student demand."

Sally Martin-Damman can attest to the power of the hands-on experience gained while studying abroad. The Eastern Boeotia Archeological Project at Eleon provided experiences documenting a previously unknown

fortification wall, washing and identifying pottery, working with GIS, photographing artifacts and data management—all skills transferrable to Martin-Damman's studies back in Canada.

"I've taken so many courses about archeological methods and theory as well as classes about Ancient Greece, but this is the first time I've been able to put what I've learned in the classroom into practice like this!" she says. [bit.ly/22-field-schools](https://bit.ly/22-field-schools)

## PODCAST SERIES

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teachings contained within the work of the TRC—have shaped Moran's perspectives on what Canada is, and the change that's necessary.

After completing the interviews for the first season of the podcast, Moran approached Michif Elder Norman Fleury for an appropriate name for the project podcast. After discussing the concept and content, Fleury felt that *Taapwaywin* ("truth" in Michif) best described the essence of the conversations that await listeners.

### Learning through case studies

In one episode, Moran examines the relationship that museums have to truth—and how they obscure the facts.

"We have to commit to finding ways to live together. And there's going to be ups and downs in that. But that word to me, is a contract: coexistence," says Jisgang Nika Collison, executive director and curator Haida Gwaii Museum, in an episode of the podcast.

"You can't have coexistence without reparation," Collison explains. "And you can't have reparation without

acceptance. You can't have acceptance without truth-telling. And you can't have truth-telling until you have a forum where people are willing to hear the truth. And you can't have a forum where people are willing to hear the truth until that truth is mainstreamed."

One of the stories told is about brothers, carvers and artists Jaalen and Gwaai Edenshaw who travelled in 2015 from Haida Gwaii to the Pitt Rivers Museum in England to understand the story behind a magnificent Haida bentwood box that was taken from their community in 1884.

Knowing that the Great Box will not be returned from the museum to where they live in Haida Gwaii, the brothers spent 30 days recreating its intricate details. Moran observes that even though museums are colonial institutions, they can be spaces for healing and learning—where difficult truths are confronted about their collections—and for the creation and maintenance of healthy and supportive relationships. Gwaai explains

that now they are getting closer to realizing their collective dream of having ceremonial objects return to be part of their everyday lives.

### The intersection of libraries and Indigenous knowledge

Deep listening is what Moran and Karina Greenwood, Taapwaywin's producer and writer, hope people do when they tune in to the series. "As a settler nation, we have the responsibility to listen to Indigenous Peoples," says Greenwood. "Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Survivors are giving us a gift in sharing their stories—it is a privilege to listen to them."

Since Moran's arrival at UVic Libraries, his work has been to recognize that Indigenous knowledge comes from many sources. Some is written down, but much of it can only be accessed through relationship, dialogue and listening.

### The learning ahead

As creator, host and composer, Moran's goal for this multi-year series

Mauro has written, produced and directed dozens of films and media projects, including *Qapirangajuj: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change*—filmed entirely in Inuktitut—which he co-directed with acclaimed Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk. He also directed *Beyond Climate* with David Suzuki, and led the development of the Climate Atlas of Canada.

Storytelling and communication play an essential role in the fight against climate change, Mauro says. Early in his scientific career, he explains, "I realized that science alone wasn't going to solve the problems, and the importance of communication was paramount.

"We're often telling ourselves a really dire narrative," he adds, "and if we box ourselves into a sense that it is not possible to achieve climate goals or critical windows of time have completely escaped us and it's not worth trying anymore, that's what we'll end up with."

The story he wants to tell about PICS can be found in its name and in its partnerships, not only with member universities but, also, with collaborators around the world.

"PICS is already a leader at co-producing knowledge with diverse

partners, and helping to shape the next phase of this work is an honour," says Mauro.

"We need to be driving that solution narrative," he says. "And it's not just a narrative switch, it's narrative followed by concrete action. It shows people that investments in climate solutions are the only way to get us out of this mess."

Mauro's focus dovetails neatly with UVic's support and work to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The university recently placed second in the world among universities for climate action as ranked against the SDGs by the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Mauro says he appreciates the big-picture view of climate solutions at PICS and UVic.

"British Columbia is a real leader in climate research and it's humbling to contribute to this knowledge ecosystem and associated climate action," he says. "There is a huge opportunity in BC to address these existential issues and demonstrate to the world how we solve these challenges.

"We are in the game of changing the world—we have to be."

[pics.uvic.ca](https://pics.uvic.ca)

## NEW PICS DIRECTOR

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

importance of the environment," he says, and the second taught him about the human relationship with nature. The third, however, underscored the urgency of battling climate change, which became the focus of his research, creativity and career.

Now, Mauro will continue that work at PICS, with a view to the province, across Canada and globally. His position at PICS starts on Nov. 1, following in the steps of Sybil Seitzinger, who has led the institute for the last seven years.

Beyond Mauro's role at PICS, he will also join UVic as a professor of environmental studies, where he also served as a postdoctoral fellow near the beginning of his career.

Mauro brings considerable expertise to PICS and UVic as a researcher, as well as experience as co-founder and executive director of the Prairie Climate Centre at the University of Winnipeg. He also plans to continue his work as a filmmaker and multimedia creator, bringing his climate communications and knowledge mobilization skills to support PICS-funded projects. Mauro's research explores climate science, society and sustainability, and the vital role of local and Indigenous knowledges.

is for the podcast to meaningfully contribute to the dialogue underway on some of the complex topics enmeshed within the work of truth and reconciliation. By amplifying the voices, ideas and efforts of leading thinkers and Knowledge Keepers on these topics, the podcast aims to help bring important perspectives to listeners across the world.

"For years, every time I walked through the front doors of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's offices, I was visually reminded of the words, 'the truth of our common experiences will help set our spirits free and pave the way for reconciliation,'" says Moran.

Moran hopes this podcast will meaningfully contribute to the important work of helping Canadians better understand both the lived experiences and solutions being put forward by

Indigenous Peoples. While the topics covered in the podcasts deal with difficult material, the importance of truth takes centre stage in this podcast.

"Truth-telling—and especially the truths of Indigenous Peoples—no matter how difficult, is a necessary precursor to reconciliation," Moran adds.

The series is available on major podcast platforms and on the website [Taapwaywin.ca](https://Taapwaywin.ca), and was made possible by the University of Victoria Strategic Framework Impact Fund, with support from CFUV Radio.

A national Indian Residential School Survivors Society Crisis Line is set up to provide support for former students and those affected. People can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour national crisis line: 1-866-925-4419.

[Taapwaywin.ca](https://Taapwaywin.ca)

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# Climate action on land, air and water

To address the world's most challenging problems, you need strong partnerships. UVic researchers are working with governments, communities and industry to make our world better in remarkable ways—and across countless fields. That's how UVic came to be ranked earlier this year as the world's #2 university for climate action and for sustaining life on land, and #5 for life below water—three key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—by the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Learn more about UVic's commitment to the UN SDGs at [uvic.ca/impact](https://uvic.ca/impact)

## Protecting BC's rockfish

Rockfish are homebodies. The 37 species that swim in the waters off British Columbia's coast never stray far from the underwater rock piles or reefs that give them their name. They also live long lives, with some, such as the yelloweye rockfish, lasting upwards of 120 years and others living 200 years or more.

While these characteristics might be commendable in humans, they cause the rockfish—the quillback, copper, china and tiger rockfishes are other species that swim in BC waters—to be more susceptible to overfishing, usually by hook and line gear.

But Natalie Ban, a University of Victoria researcher and professor of environmental studies, is working on an almost decade-long project involving the rockfish in a protected area off Galiano Island that may provide lessons to help safeguard a variety of threatened fish species in diverse coastal areas.

Working with non-profit and business partners as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ban and UVic students and colleagues have been examining the issue since 2013. Their research has included studying footage from remote trail cameras overlooking the waters of Galiano, interviewing recreational fishers to learn their perspectives on rockfish conservation and the rules and boundaries associated with Rockfish Conservation Areas (where “inshore rockfish

are protected from all mortality associated with recreational and commercial fisheries”).

As well, they partnered with the Galiano Conservancy Association, which hosted educational booths at community events on Galiano and other islands.

“One of the key problems with any area that's protected or has specific regulations associated with it is that they're only as good as the compliance with the intention of that area,” says Ban. “So, if you have something like a Rockfish Conservation Area, if people don't know about it, it's not going to be effective. The lines on the map are not effective unless people know about them.”

The flip side is that lack of education, even temporarily, has demonstrable effects on the rockfish population. During the last two years of the pandemic, as festivals and community events were cancelled, she says, the Galiano Conservancy Association had to shelve most of its outreach. The result? “Our lovely good-news story has turned into alarm bells. Non-compliance is way up.”

But a private-sector research partner is helping. Angler's Atlas, an online resource for recreational fishers, incorporated the boundaries of Rockfish Conservation Areas into its MyCatch smartphone app so that its users get an alert when they've strayed inside those boundaries.

“It's making it much easier for people to abide



BC rockfish. PHOTO: SHANE GROSS

by the rules. That really was badly needed,” Ban says, noting, “It's easy to fish out a rock pile, or to fish out a reef if there's enough people. People taking one or two [fish] each, it doesn't take much pressure to be able to fish it out.”

Ban's work goes beyond rockfish and Galiano Island, though, while directly addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals numbers 13 to 15 (Climate Action, Life Below Water and Life on Land) as well as, crucially, number 17—Partnerships for the Goals.

“We're showcasing how academia and, in this case, not-for-profit organization and private sec-

tor organizations, can partner to work together effectively and monitor some of the effects of those outreach programs.”

Cooperation and co-creation are key aspects of Ban's research. “That's really what drives me... and the same with my students. We really want to effect change and to use our privilege within the university system to do work that's more widely applicable than just scientific publications.”

“There's so much expertise and valuable knowledge beyond academia that really need to be recognized. Together, we can do more than we can do on our own.”

## A rock-solid solution for carbon dioxide

What if atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)—a key, long-term driver of climate change—could be removed from the atmosphere and permanently stored as rock? It's possible—and possible on an enormous scale—thanks to a quirk of Earth's chemistry that makes CO<sub>2</sub> react with ocean basalt to mineralize or take on solid form. UVic's Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) initiative is at the forefront of developing technologies to do just that with its Solid Carbon project.

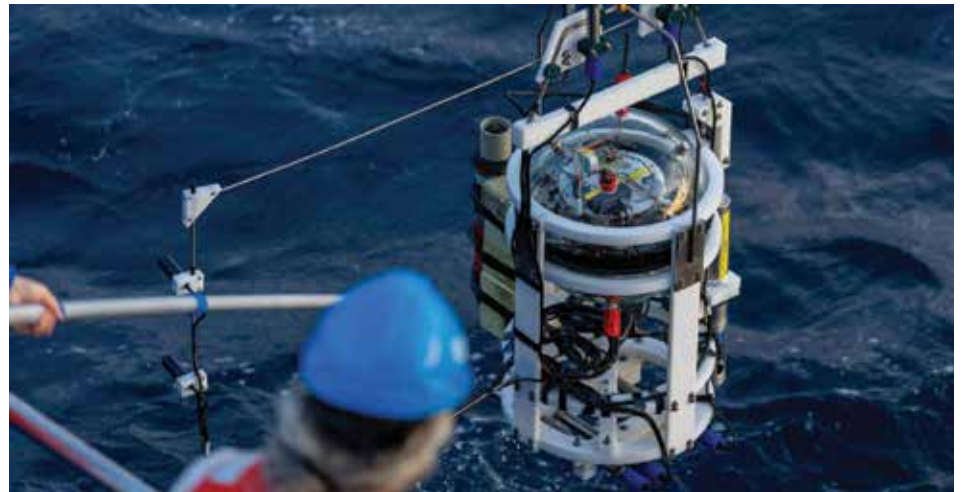
The Solid Carbon team, comprising Canadian, American and German researchers, experts and industry partners, aims to permanently sequester CO<sub>2</sub> as solid rock deep beneath the ocean floor. It will capture CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, then inject it below the sea floor, where it will react with ocean basalt, mineralizing into rock and providing a permanent reservoir of the greenhouse gas.

With the help of a six-year, \$115 million grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's Major Science Initiatives Fund, and in addition

to its own Solid Carbon project, ONC, which operates cabled observatories on Canada's three coasts that provide continuous data about the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans, is well-positioned to provide support for other carbon-removal projects, says ONC president and chief executive officer, Kate Moran. She notes the potential for durably sequestering up to 20 gigatons of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> per year—a huge bite out of annual emissions, as well as the potential creation of a new sustainable industry for Canada.

“Because we already have real-time monitoring and we have sites in a wide range of ocean environments, our platform can be used to move these technologies from early stage or the laboratory into higher technology readiness and, ultimately, commercialization,” Moran says.

The real-time and long-term data ONC collects and shares with more than 20,000 scientists, governments, organizations and citizens around the world also helps with maritime



A deep acoustic lander is deployed during the 2021 ONC abyss expedition. PHOTO: OET NAUTILUS LIVE

safety as well as tsunami and earthquake early warnings. Additionally, ONC collaborates with coastal First Nations in BC, engaging with

those countries and sharing its information while drawing on their traditional and current knowledge as environmental stewards.

## Tracking change in the Arctic

Temperature increases that are four times faster than the global average are rapidly transforming Arctic ecosystems.

Accelerated warming is increasing permafrost thaw and shifting the ranges of many species, which creates significant challenges for northern communities by impacting travel routes, subsistence harvesting, and the stability of roads and buildings.

UVic ecologist Trevor Lantz is working with communities in the western Arctic to better understand environmental change and its impacts. Lantz's research team uses a combination of field studies, remote sensing and collaboration with Gwich'in and Inuvialuit experts to determine where and why ecosystems are changing, and to understand how these transformations are impacting northern livelihoods.

“Landscapes are shifting so quickly that using conventional monitoring approaches to track change across large geographic areas is often insufficient,” says Lantz. “In my research group we have been fortunate to collaborate with hunt-

ers, fishers, and trappers who are often the first to observe new changes.”

Lantz's research is particularly relevant to northern decision-making and climate change adaptation because it identifies where ecosystem change is happening, but also explores the factors that control landscape sensitivity to warming.

“Predicting what Arctic landscapes will look like in 50-100 years requires that we understand why we are seeing changes in some areas and not others,” adds Lantz, who was elected to the Royal Society of Canada earlier this year for his research.

Lantz's research group contributes to northern decision making by creating maps that show sensitivity to permafrost thaw and coastal flooding exposure, as well as the development of methods to evaluate the cumulative impacts of environmental change on cultural landscapes.

“Our work over the last two decades clearly shows that prioritizing environmental monitoring programs that are developed and sustained



Tundra landscape, Yukon North Slope. PHOTO: JORDAN SEIDER

by Indigenous knowledge holders is critical to understand the future of these landscapes,” says Lantz.

UVic has an emergent strength in Arctic re-

search, with scholars making important contributions to our understanding of environmental change in the north and the significant impact these changes have on the global climate system.





Chief David Mungo Knox, Hereditary Chief from Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation and great-grandson of Chief Mungo Martin, with Emily Haigh at Wawadit'la, on the traditional territory of the ləkʷəŋən peoples and of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, just ahead of the Indigenous naming ceremony last month. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

# New scholar to focus on Indigenous mental health

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

Emily Haigh, born in Toronto, is Anishinaabe-Métis from the Robinson Huron Treaty Territory.

Her family on her mother's side is from Northern Ontario Métis communities and the Thessalon First Nation, and her father is English.

"My maternal grandfather (Belrose, Thibault), from the Algoma District (Thessalon First Nation) in Northern Ontario, came from a long line of fishermen," says Haigh. "He grew up with his parents and four siblings in a two-bedroom house with an outhouse."

Haigh describes her grandfather as a person who placed a high value on education—often at family gatherings—reminding all the grandchildren of the importance of learning.

In July, Haigh arrived at the University of Victoria to begin a five-year term as the inaugural Chief Mungo Martin Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health.

"I am so honoured and humbled by the Mungo Martin family for their willingness to permit the university to use the name of their respected relative for the role at UVic and for having this vision as part of a legacy," says Haigh. She has already travelled to Fort Rupert to meet with Chief Knox and looks forward to building a strong relationship.

The late Chief Mungo Martin was a world-renowned Kwakwaka'wakw artist and revered figure in Pacific Northwest Coast and contemporary Indigenous art. He contributed greatly to the creative arts, which play an integral role in shifting cultural perceptions of mental health.

## Honoured and humbled by family's generosity

On Sept. 22, an Indigenous naming ceremony was held at Wawadit'la, also known as Mungo Martin House, the ceremonial big house built seven decades ago by Chief Mungo Martin.

"I was struck by what I read about Chief Mungo Martin who navigated two worlds—Indigenous and settler—and at the time was regarded by many

as a bridge through his totem pole restoration work," says Haigh.

Haigh sees part of her role as being a link between mainstream approaches to psychology and Indigenous knowledge and ways of being.

Haigh points to the many decades of systemic harm and abuse toward generations of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, and part of her work will be to help address some of these structural issues towards Indigenous resurgence.

"My goal," says Haigh, "is to primarily serve Indigenous Peoples—a collaborative approach that will benefit Nations."

Haigh notes that community-engaged research is ongoing and she also points to the incredible amount of work done at UVic on projects such as LE<sub>NONET</sub>, the first of its kind in Canada to offer participating Indigenous students culturally relevant supportive programs. These include community and campus-based experiential learning, leadership and community building, and needs-based financial aid. Haigh has followed the research of UVic psychologist Chris Lalonde, co-principal investigator of the LE<sub>NONET</sub> project, whose work recognizes cultural continuity as a protective factor against depression and suicide in Indigenous communities.

## A journey that led to UVic

Haigh grew up in Ontario and graduated from McGill University with a bachelor's in psychology. Throughout her undergrad and graduate education, Haigh was supported by scholarships and bursaries from Indigenous organizations.

"Even when I moved to the US to pursue graduate school, I was supported all the way," says Haigh. "I always intended to give back to those who helped me through six years of graduate training."

"I am one of those people who wanted to be a psychologist from a very early age," she adds. "I wanted to help people who were distressed or sad."

Haigh recalls being approximately seven years old and creating a game called "people problem helper" that

she played with her family. Reflecting on her childhood game, Haigh observes it was probably helping her understand her father's depression.

"I am comfortable sharing that my father struggled with depression, and at that time he was pursuing treatment. I must have heard references of this role of a psychologist—a 'people helper'—and it had a strong impact."



*The Chief Mungo Martin Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health is a commitment to decolonizing psychological approaches in a culturally safe environment"*

— EMILY HAIGH, UVIC'S NEW RESEARCH CHAIR IN INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH

"My family is very close," Haigh adds. Her brother is a wildfire officer and her sister just completed an Indigenous law degree (JD/JID) at UVic.

Haigh's deep-seated need to help others in emotional distress is a drive she brings to her new role. Her training as a psychologist in the area of depression, suicide and self-harm is the foundation she brings to her new position in the psychology department.

The timing of the new research chair position couldn't be more per-

fect for Haigh, who has been wanting to return to her Canadian roots for some years.

Haigh describes how she was inspired by UVic's well-established reputation and its commitment to truth, respect and reconciliation, as well as decolonization practices across disciplines.

"When I reflect on my journey—

tutions," says Haigh. "Part of my mandate is to mentor future Indigenous psychologists—something I did not have in my own career," she adds.

## Decolonizing psychological approaches

Haigh is committed to identifying students who are interested in pursuing a career in psychology with a focus on collaborating with Indigenous communities.

"I am teaching a new course this fall called Introduction to Indigenous Mental Health and Healing," says Haigh. "It is full of wonderful students interested in this critical topic."

For Haigh, success will be helping to educate, mentor and teach the next generation of psychologists who will bridge the gap between Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing with western approaches to psychology. Haigh will use a community-based approach in her research that includes listening to the needs of Indigenous communities and collaboratively moving toward better mental health.

"The Chief Mungo Martin Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health is a commitment to decolonizing psychological approaches in a culturally safe environment," says Haigh.

The research chair is funded by a \$1.5-million gift, announced in December, from UVic political science alumnus Bruce McKean. He says he hopes the research chair will create knowledge and leadership consistent with Indigenous values—reinforcing and advancing those values for the benefit of all Canadians.

McKean originally suggested the name of the research chair to reflect an important memory from his childhood when he would visit Thunderbird Park with his mother, standing amidst the scent of cedar shavings and watching Mungo Martin work on his carvings.

The role of the chair also supports UVic's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), in particular SDG Goal 3, which focuses on good health and well-being.





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# A decade of Arctic ocean partnerships

**Ocean Networks Canada celebrates 10 years at the Cambridge Bay Observatory, and the partnerships that empower coastal community leadership in ocean science.**

October marks the 10-year anniversary of the community-led Cambridge Bay cabled ocean observatory, a pioneering partnership between Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) and the people of Cambridge Bay, the impact of which extends well beyond its Arctic location.

Since the observatory was first lowered eight metres into the cold waters of Cambridge Bay, it has proven to be a trailblazer for community-led science.

"Cambridge Bay observatory has paved the way for a new kind of partnership, where ONC empowers coastal community leadership in ocean science," says Kate Moran, ONC president and CEO. "ONC is proud to now support 10 community observatories along Canada's Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic coastlines."

The observatory—which consists of an onshore meteorological station and a shallow underwater cabled sensor network—enables community members to conduct year-round instrument measurement of their own local environment, collecting valuable baseline and long-series data for tracking the changing ocean and sea ice conditions.

These data, along with Inuit ocean knowledge handed down through generations, provide vital insights into the rapidly changing Arctic, which is warming at least three times faster than the average global rate. Arctic communities like Cambridge Bay—known in the Inuinnaqtun language as *Iqaluktuutiag* (ᐃᐱᐸᐅᐅᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ), which translates to 'good fishing place'—are at the forefront of experiencing and

adapting to these changes.

"Access to ocean-observing technologies is critical to advancing Indigenous governance of traditional ocean territories, enabling Indigenous participation in the blue economy and mitigating risks for climate change and ocean hazards," said Mia Otokiak when representing her community of Cambridge Bay and ONC at the United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2022.

A decade earlier, Otokiak had been among a grade 10 class the ONC team visited. "They asked us if we wanted to come down and check it out and I've been involved ever since," she says. She was ONC's first youth science ambassador and is now technical advisor to the Nunavut Review Board.

"There are so many researchers and scientists who come in [to remote communities], saying, I'm going to teach you," says Otokiak, "That's not how it should go. It should be the other way around. ONC is really good at that—understanding and working with the community. There are a lot of organizations that can learn from ONC and Cambridge Bay."

Bruce Cambarami is another Cambridge Bay resident who works with ONC. He troubleshoots technical issues that may arise with the observatory, and he notes changes over the past 12 years, such as much milder winters and fewer blizzards.

These climatic changes pose serious challenges to Arctic communities, which rely on solid ice for safe transportation and hunting—and are critical for food and cultural resilience. "With a longer open-water season,



An ONC Cambridge Bay community team enroute with a new installation for the observatory in Sept. 2022. OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA

there is an expectation for more waves, moisture in the air, more rain, and more snow," explains Richard Dewey, ONC associate director, science. "With a shorter 'firm' sea-ice season, ice fishing and hunting seasons are curtailed. More uncertainty in the dates and dynamics of both freeze-up and break-up, introduces new risks to assess when it is safe to head out on the ice."

The observatory is also monitoring other climate change impacts like a warming Arctic ocean, ocean acidification, underwater ecological health, fish migration and marine life activity, vessel traffic, underwater soundscapes, and atmospheric conditions. These real-time benchmark data help scientists, researchers and local communities understand the changing ocean and sea-ice conditions—and are freely available online through the ONC Oceans 3.0 data portal.

"Our Elders used to be able to tell us: On this day the ice is going to freeze. On this day, it's not going to be safe enough to walk on," says Otokiak, "And now they can't do that anymore because it's just so very unpredictable. You never know when it's going to freeze, when it's going to melt."

### The Next 10 Years

The Cambridge Bay observatory has also presented a unique opportunity to test cutting-edge technology in challenging conditions. Leading oceanographer Eddy Carmack says the experience gained in overcoming these tough technical challenges will advance the future of ocean observing in the Arctic. Carmack is senior research scientist emeritus with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the original proponent of the Cambridge Bay Observatory.

"In the coming 10 years, we could implement observatories with an independent solar or wind power source on an ice barge and moor it in a remote location that's actually right in the middle of some action taking place [providing continual monitoring in less accessible areas]," he says.

Carmack says the need for more Arctic research is fundamentally unchallenged.

"Much effort is being made to use large ships to map the deep arctic and its ice cover. But half of the Arctic ocean is shallow continental shelf, where Indigenous communities are located and increased industrial development and ship traffic is expected, and thus there is a pressing need for coastal observatories like that in Cambridge Bay."

[bit.ly/22-onc-arctic](https://bit.ly/22-onc-arctic)

## Launch of Indigenous nursing master's program

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Lisa Bourque Bearskin has spent her 40-year career trying to make space in nursing. Space for Indigenous knowledge and approaches outside of Western medicine; space for health care driven by the distinct needs of First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities; and space for Indigenous nurses and patients to feel cared for, supported and safe.

Bourque Bearskin, an associate professor in nursing at the University of Victoria and a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Indigenous Health Research Chair in Nursing, is poised to usher in the changes that Indigenous nurses have been dreaming about.

In late September, 50 delegates from six universities across BC gathered in Penticton, on the traditional and ceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan People, to launch a master's of Indigenous nursing research project, with another 30 Indigenous leaders, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, nurses and nurse educators signed up to take part online.

In three years' time, Bourque Bearskin envisions that 24 to 30 nursing students will be enrolled in a first-of-its-kind master's degree that combines high-level professional training with community-driven interventions designed to meet the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples living in rural and remote areas.

Bourque Bearskin, a member of

Beaver Lake Cree Nation in Treaty Six Territory, says she joined UVic in September from Thompson Rivers University (TRU) to further advance an Indigenous health nursing research program.

### A collaborative solution

Co-leading the project with Bourque Bearskin is Donna Kurtz, an associate professor with University of British Columbia-Okanagan. TRU, UBC-Vancouver, the University of Northern British Columbia and Trinity Western University round out the six partner institutions that jointly received \$683,000 from CIHR over four years to develop and launch the project, called "Reclaiming and Recovering Indigenous Knowledge in Graduate

Nursing Education."

Supporting the well-being of Indigenous nurses, and non-Indigenous nurses who work with Indigenous Peoples, rests at the centre of the ambitious plan to improve the retention of Indigenous nurses, train tomorrow's leaders in nursing and build a health-care model that is equitable, fair and just.

"Ultimately, my hope is to improve health care access to First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities living in rural and remote areas," Bourque Bearskin says. "It's about training Indigenous nurses with the lived experience so we can start integrating our own traditional approaches to health and healing."

Full story: [bit.ly/22-bearskin](https://bit.ly/22-bearskin)



Bourque Bearskin. PHOTO: BILLIE JEAN CARDINAL

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# Piers: new Legacy Gallery exhibit focused on fostering of creative influence and expression

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Walk onto any pier and you'll find yourself supported over a fluid environment. Work alongside a peer in visual arts and you'll find yourself similarly supported in a creative environment. Such is the central metaphor behind *Piers*, the new visual arts faculty exhibit running until December 22 at UVic's downtown Legacy Gallery.

A group exhibition by 18 artists spanning generations, nationalities and backgrounds, *Piers* showcases contemporary artwork that explores how artists' practices change through teaching, learning and mentorship. It also explores how the practices of artists working within the visual arts department extends beyond campus in relation to teaching and learning.

"Artists who work in the visual arts department—whether as faculty, sessional instructors or staff—were invited to place their practice in dialogue with that of a past student or mentor," explains exhibit curator Kim Dhillon, a former instructor in the department. "Nine artists selected an artist to show alongside, someone whose work influenced their own through the course of teaching and learning."

The exhibit features contemporary painting, sculpture, video and photography by visual arts professors Cedric Bomford, Megan Dickie, Laura Dutton, Daniel Laskarin, Jennifer Stillwell, Beth Stuart and Paul Walde; instructor Danielle Proteau, staff

member Hollis Roberts, and alumni Katie Bethune-Leamen, Christopher Lindsay, Evan Locke and Lauren Brinson. Other participating artists include Yan Wen Chang, Annika Eriksson, James Legaspi, Arlene Stamp and Grace Tsurumaru.

The selection was left up to the individual: professors Paul Walde and Cedric Bomford, for example, chose to showcase their own former teachers (Arlene Stamp and Annika Erikson), while professors Megan Dickie and Daniel Laskarin are paired with alumni who now work for the department (facility and production manager Hollis Roberts and sessional instructor Danielle Proteau, respectively.)

In *Piers*, a dialogue occurs between the artworks by Laskarin and Proteau to connect ideas about art as "ghosts"—something that is both there and not there—as well as the process of removal as a way of discovering. As Proteau notes, while there is a material connection in their practices—both work in sculpture and photography—there is also a philosophical similarity in how they explore presence and absence through a process of reconstruction. "Both of our practices crack open ways of knowing, broadly speaking," she says.

Of Proteau's practice, Laskarin says, "I feel a shared affinity for what is not quite there, that is just out of sight or beyond the grasp of accountability—that which exceeds us."

Dickie was nominated for this exhibition by Roberts, her former stu-



Dani Proteau, framed by a work by Daniel Laskarin. PHOTO: TORI JONES

dent. Both have created tactile pieces and both share a sense of loss with the work they've chosen to display.

"The two sculptures we submitted deal with the intimacy of relationships, with both people and materials," explains Dickie. "Both Hollis and I produced these works as a way to work through our grief: Hollis created her weaving while her Dad was sick and I created my button sculpture soon after my partner passed away. I can't speak for Hollis, but I feel like both of us needed the repetitive work as a

purpose to keep going, keep moving and feel like there was something in our control."

Roberts agrees. "I found that the repetition of weaving was a way to make the chaos I was experiencing surrounding my dad's illness tangible," she says. "It was cathartic, rhythmic and it made space for my thoughts to ruminate both before and after my dad's passing."

It's also no coincidence that the genesis for *Piers* came out of the COVID era, when campuses and shared spac-

es like studios and classrooms were temporarily closed. As curator Dhillon notes, while some benefits arose from the shift to online learning—specifically in the areas of accessibility and flexibility—many artists and students also felt a loss of connection.

"Making this exhibition has been a process of exchange and dialogue for artists to connect again with students or teachers who have influenced their own practices over the course of their careers," she says.

legacy.uvic.ca

## UVic music stars now in orbit

BY JOHN THRELFALL

While they've long been considered stars in the world of classical music, UVic's Lafayette String Quartet (LSQ) are now officially astronomical, thanks to the newly named asteroid (613419) *Lafayettequartet*.

Longtime LSQ follower James Hessler—director emeritus of Victoria's Dominion Astrophysical Observatory—wanted to mark the recent announcement of the quartet's forthcoming retirement in 2023, so he approached Western University professor Paul Wiegert, discoverer of an as-yet-unnamed asteroid orbiting between Mars and Jupiter, who then proposed 613419's new name to the International Astronomical Union.

"We got an email about it from someone at the Vatican Observatory just before a concert and thought it was a hoax . . . but it was, in fact, true," says LSQ violist and School of Music professor Joanna Hood. "After we told the audience about it, we got a very

long round of applause!"

Hessler says it was his admiration for the LSQ that inspired this unusual honour. "Throughout their decades of wondrous music-making at the University of Victoria, my wife and I have marveled at the Lafayette String Quartet," he says. "Largely through their concerts—and those of their students—our knowledge of the richness of string quartet literature has developed into a real passion . . . When I learned last year of their decision to retire after their 35th year, I imagined and hoped that their brilliant careers would be recognized widely."

Western University's Wiegert—a world expert on small bodies in our solar system—then "generously and enthusiastically agreed" with the idea of naming one of the asteroids he'd discovered in the quartet's honour and proposing that to the IAU, says Hessler.

While undoubtedly their most out-of-this-world achievement, the LSQ has other, more earth-bound events planned to celebrate their final year

as the world's only all-female string quartet with all-original members.

Up first is the 17th (and last) Lafayette Health Awareness Forum on October 6—appropriately enough, titled "Our Planet, Our Health"—followed closely by a faculty concert with guest clarinetist James Campbell on October 20. "They are never less than amazing," says Campbell, who has known the LSQ since he first performed with them in 1988.

Another legacy project is their commissioning and premiering of six new works by women composers—five Canadian and one British—including this month's performance of "For Fragile Personalities in Anxious Times" by Ottawa-based Kelly-Marie Murphy, which the LSQ will debut on October 20 with Campbell. Add in three further on-campus concerts (November, February, March) and more than a dozen out-of-town dates, plus their final Quartet Fest West student intensive in June, and the quartet is looking at an extremely busy

and productive creative year before their gala retirement performance in August 2023.

"We could never have dreamed of the adventure we've had over the past 35 years," says LSQ cellist Pamela Highbaugh Aloni. "We've really had a great run."

Given all the activity in the LSQ's final year, the International Astronomical Union citation for their asteroid now seems entirely appropriate: "The Lafayette String Quartet has mentored countless students to musical excellence, while championing contemporary music in concerts worldwide alongside mastery of the most demanding classical repertoire."

Next time you're looking at the night sky, cast a glance just beyond the orbit of Mars, where (613419) *Lafayettequartet* can be found nearby its asteroid belt neighbour (150145) UVic—two of the most stellar accolades for both the university and the internationally acclaimed School of Music faculty members.



LSQ members with UVic telescope. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

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