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In 2020, Ross received UVic’s Reach Award for obtaining the program’s level of funding for a UVic research team,” says UVic President and Vice-Chancellor Kevin Hall. “This significant investment recognizes the high-impact research being carried out by Caroline and her team on this pressing, global issue. We share Open Philanthropy’s belief that scientific research is one of the biggest contributors to improving human well-being, and partnerships like this one will help us tackle

SEE SYPHILIS RESEARCH, P4

BY PHILIP COX

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Ross himself is an internationally recognized and esteemed leader in modernist studies. Within the last five years alone, he has published three books and written three more, and served as president of the Modernist Studies Association—the largest international organization in his field, with nearly 3,000 members at the time of his tenure—all while teaching, publishing scholarly articles, presenting regularly at conferences around the globe, and supervising the largest number of post-doctoral fellows, PhDs and MAs in his department. Nevertheless, his students appreciate his availability and generosity in spirit in their interactions with him.

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SEE SYPHILIS RESEARCH, P4
New strategic investments for 2022/23 outlined in UVic’s three-year Planning and Budget Framework

On March 29, 2022, UVic’s Board of Governors approved the university’s three-year Planning and Budget Framework, which outlines strategic investments and the budget framework for 2022/23.

Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic, the university remains in good financial shape, and we continue to forecast a balanced budget for the coming three years. This is thanks in part to strong overall enrolments at UVic, government’s commitment to funding compensation mandates, as well as a flexible budget model that allocates a portion of the budget to non-recurring commitments.

Investment highlights

Our financial plan provides for $18 million in strategic investments with non-recurring funds this year and $2.3 million in new base budget allocations after ensuring compensatory investments in student success and other areas are increased. Investment themes in this year’s framework include the start-up of a new academic mission as we transition out of the pandemic; supporting student recruitment and success; furthering equity, diversity and inclusion; advancing research; and engaging the community.

Teaching, learning and student supports

We are maintaining many of the central investments made during the pandemic to support innovative teaching, student learning, including learning experience and accessible course design. Also, we have outfitted two classrooms for full hybrid delivery, as well as 153 classrooms with basic lecture capture technology since the start of the pandemic.

We are hiring new faculty and instructors to meet student demand and providing incremental TA funding. In particular, we are responding to provincially supported growth in engineering and computer science, which will include capital infrastructure and operating costs. We are also responding to an increased demand for staffing to support hands-on learning in specific fields.

As in previous years, we are continuing to invest in existing and new scholarships, bursaries and graduate fellowships—including Indigenous fellowships—to increase access and reduce student debt. UVic awarded a record number of entrance and in-course scholarships in 2021/22, and anticipate a large number of entrance scholarships again this fall, given the quality of applicants and the focus on health and wellness in social sciences, as the pandemic underscored how important it is to have timely access to these resources.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

To advance equity, diversity and inclusion across the university, there are allocations in this year’s budget framework for the Equity and Human Rights office, to assist in developing and implementing the Gender Action Plan. There are also funds to support anti-racism and decolonization efforts, such as grants for curriculum development and professional development, as well as student life programming. There are investments to further the work of the Academic Indigenous and the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement, as well as strengthening and financial supports specifically for Indigenous students.

New this year, we are funding a co-op coordinator position that specializes in assisting students with disabilities. Ensuring equitable access to education is a priority area for UVic, building on what we learned during the pandemic.

Research and community-university engagement

Aligned with Assembly 2030, we are increasing research and grant writing supports for faculty members funding an equity, diversity and inclusion research officer; and providing start-up funding for early career researchers. We are launching a new undergraduate research award that will offer paid internships to first-year students. Our investments include support for climate change and sustainability action, as we move towards a comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainability across the university. Funding has been set aside for the development of academic, research and operational priorities emanating from a New Climate Change Action Plan, currently in development.

In support of our external and internal engagement goals, we are also expanding our approach to sustainability with the pandemic, the university reimagined parking management practices to move the dial is through changing commuting habits. One way we are doing this is by providing central supports to revenue-generating services, as well as 135 classrooms for full hybrid delivery, as well as 153 classrooms with basic lecture capture technology since the start of the pandemic.

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Gayle Gorrill steps away from VPFO role after 15 years

BY JODY PATERSON

What do team building, complex problems and a problematic rabbit have in common?

Answer: Gayle Gorrill, the recently retired UVic vice president of finance and operations. In her lively 15-year campus career, she presided over a long list of complex and quirky issues like fires, floods and so on. And, as her many fans will attest, she did all it with the grace, keen insight and good humour she’s known for.

"She is a service-oriented, people-first kind of leader who has supported her entire leadership team and everyone we are listening to our teams and our clients in order to create the kind of exceptional experience that UVic is so well known for," says Gorrill. "We do events, too: A hammering contest, 'pop-up' fundraisers, bocce tournaments, winter hot chocolate gatherings, potlucks, and even a Price is Right-themed open house complete with special guests like 'Cliff Hangers' and 'Plinko'."

Gorrill’s efforts on behalf of UVic’s finance team earned her the title of "Main Event Organizer," but to care" captures her own feelings about the university, says Gorrill. She experienced that sense of caring first-hand during three major health events while at UVic.

"I get the greatest joy from seeing the people around me doing well and enjoying their work," says Gorrill. "The fabulous part of a great team is that they can do what they need to do with or without you. I put out a note when I left saying the sign of a great leader is that when they leave, everything just carries on because of that great team."
A new gold standard in COVID testing

BY DOROTHY EGGENBERGER

Less than 0.1 milliliters of blood is all that UVic researchers need, in an exciting commercial-academic partnership that has developed a “gold standard” test for COVID-19 using cutting-edge technology that could revolutionize clinical laboratory testing and monitoring of disease.

UVic microbiologist Caroline Cameron and Mass Spectometry Technologies Inc. have developed a new diagnostic test that detects and measures the levels of SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes COVID-19—with unprecedented accuracy.

“By measuring a selected virus protein in blood we go beyond simply determining a positive or negative diagnosis—we measure virus levels up to 14 days before you become sick, and every day from the time you become sick in a patient’s blood we go beyond simply determining a positive or negative diagnosis—we measure virus levels up to 14 days before you become sick, and every day from the time you become sick,” says Terry Pearson, professor and co-founder of Mass Spectometry Technologies. The test can detect active viral production and how well (or poorly) the human body responds to the infection.

The new test can measure multiple biomarkers in the same sample thus allowing measurement of a panel of inflammation and immune response proteins—features unique to SISCAPA technology, the resultant test is a test that can detect active viral production and how well (or poorly) the human body responds to the infection. The test can detect active viral production and how well (or poorly) the human body responds to the infection.

“SISCAPA technology can also be used to diagnose and monitor non-infectious diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular disease—the tech is wide-ranging in its applicability,” adds Pearson.

Current work is underway to develop SISCAPA assays for Influenza A, Influenza B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus that will be introduced to the market with the COVID-19 test will allow screening of populations for respiratory viruses that show seasonal emergence.

NSERC grant funds development of critical antibody reagent

A SISCAPA test employs specialized antibody reagents that are specific for small pieces of the SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein that multiplies with the COVID-19 virus. The test could be used to help identify those who are at greatest risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19, Pearson said.

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ReBuild for a clean energy future

BY ANNE TOLSON

UVic researchers are playing a central role in a nascent industry that’s rushing to find effective, affordable ways to energy retrofit existing buildings and reduce harmful emissions.

In the global race to achieve net zero emissions, civil engineer Ralph Evins is leading a wide-ranging partnership of 16 organizations that will share information and develop solutions to help businesses, governments and homeowners. Their focus will be to improve existing buildings so that they’re more energy efficient, low carbon and resilient to climate change.

“Ther e are lots of options for energy retrofits, but determining which one is best and cheapest for a particular type of building is a complex one,” Evins says. “Right now, lots of companies are taking different parts of the equation and trying to understand each other and probably missing some important ways that they could be learning from each other.”

The ReBuild Initiative, based at UVic, will act as a hub for knowledge creation and exchange between partners and members. It builds on UVic and large multi-national firms eager to become service providers, federal and provincial governments and municipal governments trying to develop policies and energy rebate programs, and researchers from several universities in Canada and around the world.

Evins says that although many governments and other companies have already done some work on house gas reduction targets, most haven’t fully appreciated just how fundamental this work will be when existing buildings are included in the equation. For example, while BC has a very clear and ambitious plan for new buildings, and new construction with its BC Energy Step Code, existing buildings must be addressed in order to meet overall emission targets.

The idea that you can go into an existing building and replace key components to make it more energy efficient—well, we’re only starting to get a handle on just how complex that problem is,” says Evins.

What will this new retrofitting industry for older buildings doesn’t exist on anything like the scale we need, so we’re scrambling to find solutions to help people to do more cheaply.

Poolimg knowledge about building retrofits

Until recently, retrofitting buildings to reduce emissions has been widely overlooked by building owners, who were more likely to focus on areas such as aesthetics, seismic and maintenance.

“While services to energy retrofit existing buildings exist, they tend to be very expensive and prohibitive for many small businesses and homeowners,” says Evins.

The ReBuild partner will contribute funding and resources, and is coming to the table with a specific energy retrofit challenge they want to work on. Evins’ team will include faculty, postdocs and graduate students, will work with partners to design solutions. Many of these involve data-driven methods, such as machine learning and computer software, to help analyze and classify building data and forecast energy requirements. To effectively share knowledge, ReBuild partners will also work with workshops focused on areas such as residential buildings, commercial buildings, data-driven methods, modeling, sensorizing, analysis, automated testing and policy guidance.

Ultimately, it’s expected their focus will be to identify the guidance and regulation for energy retrofitting existing buildings. Evins says that for this project, “we will be a centre for new ways of thinking about retrofitting existing buildings, new methods to achieve emission targets in BC, across Canada and internationally.” says Evins.

For a partner with larger, more complex buildings, ReBuild will gather the data available from the many sensors measuring temperature, humidity, electricity use and much more. These will be analyzed to learn how to improve operations and identify the best, most cost-effective retrofit methods. This information will then be shared among partners with similar buildings.

Some of the smaller partners are looking to become service providers. For example, OpenTech, a Vancouver-based startup, is targeting the residential market by developing a software-as-a-service tool that helps homeowners to decarbonize by guiding them through specifying and sourcing low-carbon equipment replacements.

“ReBuild brings together an amazing team focused on enabling existing buildings to operate more efficiently,” says Easan Drury, Ed’s director of research and development. “As part of that, we’re working with partner companies to develop tools that will make efficiency and demand response opportunities easier for utilities and building service providers to access and implement.”

ReBuild is being funded through more than $1 million in partner contributions and over three years from a National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Alliance Grant.

Aligning with the UN goals

Projects such as this reflect UVic’s commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. The ReBuild Initiative aligns with many UN SDGs, in particular Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 7 (Affordable Clean Energy).

Evins says that during the project, one of his partners contacted him in order to be part of an initiative to centralize knowledge, share data, develop solutions and essentially build the energy retrofit industry.

“The reason that every company I contacted said ‘yes’ to ReBuild is because they know this is coming—the political will is there to make this happen and there’s no doubt any more that we need to solve this challenge.’”

Uvic opens first CIFAL on North America’s West Coast

Uvic and the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) announced the establishment of the first accredited CIFAL—International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders—on North America’s West Coast. CIFAL Victoria, based at UVic, is only the second such UN training centre in Canada.

CIFAL Victoria is connected to a global network of UN hubs that provide innovative training and promote the exchange of knowledge amongst government officials, the private sector and civil society.

“CIFAL Victoria is just for the university but for the region, and we are immensely proud and honoured to be its host,” says UVic President David E. Naylor. “It will be a vehicle for driving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forward and promoting co-learning, training and through partnerships in our region and across the CIFAL global network. At UVic, we care deeply about the SDGs and their potential to create an equitable planet, and a sustainable and inclusive economy.”

CIFAL Victoria will deliver training activities and research for students, staff, faculty and the community that builds on UVic’s deep commitments to the UN SDGs and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This partnership will link the region with the global community and support international knowledge-sharing and partnerships, with a focus on:

- Oceans, climate and sustainability
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Decolonization and Indigenous knowledge
- Global health and well-being

“While we have four areas of focus, we will be supporting work toward all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and empowering individuals, communities, businesses and organizations to effectively address global challenges and improve well-being,” says Catherine Krull, director, CIFAL Victoria. “The centre will jointly offer training programs and research with our partners that will build capacity, facilitate the transfer of knowledge, experience and best practices to better address development challenges and good work practices amongst local authorities, academia, the private sector and the United Nations.”

The centre is coming to the table with a specific mandate to strengthen human capacities to better address development challenges and exchange good practices with one another.

“Through knowledge exchange, CIFAL centres provide networking opportunities that lead to partnerships and collaboration. The launch of a new CIFAL centre at the University of Victoria will provide a platform that builds regional and global capacity and leadership to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. CIFAL Victoria will serve as a catalyst and connector for North America’s West Coast,” says UVic’s CIFAL.

GRADUATING MENTORSHIP

for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision and Mentorship—the university’s top honour for academic supervision and the ethos on which the first CIFAL was established at the University to receive the cags Award for Outstanding Graduates—Mentorship.

“Mentoring is very much about knowing who the students are and addressing them as a whole person with a complicated life,” explains Ross. “Most of the time, I think students who don’t succeed in grad school do so because they have nothing to do with their abilities. I find that if you approach them with compassion, you can create the conditions for their success and help them to overcome the obstacles that they face.”

For Amy Tang, a recent UVic grad from Xian, China, for graduate school. “He founded almost a decade ago and in which he participates as well, offers graduate and undergraduate students a weekly venue for discussing free-writing, the Walk and Talk program, which he initiated at the height of the pandemic, connected students seeking outdoor social interaction to counter the isolation that so many people were experiencing at that time; and the Modernist Cafe, which invites his supervisors to meet with him each week in a casual setting for the purpose of sharing their work and best practices with one another.

In all of his endeavours, Stephen Ross cultivates a form of support for his mentees that continues across their academic career and beyond, and offers them a kind of mentorship that few people are lucky enough to have had at any point in their lifetime.

“We are incredibly proud of Stephen’s accomplishments as a supervisor,” says Dean of Graduate Studies Robin Hicks. “His whole-person approach to mentoring graduate students is an inspiration to us all. The university is very pleased to see him recognized for his contributions to graduate education with the cags award.”

The Ring April 2022 Page 5
Each year, UVic Co-op and Career recognizes employers who have gone above and beyond to provide co-operative education learning experiences for UVic students. With all sectors feeling the impact of the global pandemic, we want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of all UVic co-op employers for their ongoing commitment to hands-on learning.

Save the date for You’re the Best-Fest, May 9-13

Are you a UVic employer? You’re the Best-Fest is a festival tailored for you—a time to celebrate, appreciate and reconnect with your colleagues. UVic staff and faculty came together like never before during the pandemic to solve problems, meet needs and encourage people to keep going.

May 9-13. You’re the Best-Fest is a chance to share stories and celebrate all of the amazing work that’s happened since March 2020.

We’re excited to host a festival of celebration and gratitude for all those who continue to provide resilience and creativity people have shown over the past two years,” say festival co-chairs Shailoo Hedi and Cara Jones. “Come join in the food, fun and festivities as we celebrate that you are the best!”

Confirmed activities during the week in May include:

- Get your fill of piping hot flapjacks and bacon served up by the President and other YPs as they show their gratitude at the Festival for their research Breakfast.
- Pop by and join in the fun at the Best-Fest thank you booth. You’ll find games, a selfie/video gratitude booth, a thank you bulletin board and chances to win prizes! You can also send thank you grams to your colleagues and peers.
- Sweet treats and an open-air concert in the quad.
- Share your reflections on the past and co-creating the future through a World Café Experience. Explore creative ways we can bring our experiences forward into the years ahead.
- Come to the Best-Fest Story Fair to hear and celebrate the stories of how UVic community members came together in amazing ways to rise to the challenges of the past couple of years. Join us for food, networking and storytelling stations. Each story station will count toward a stamp on your story passport, and a chance to win a prize.
- Test your skills by taking part in a Photo Scavenger Hunt.
- Visit the United Way cookie booth to grab a thank you treat and learn about the impacts of the UVic workplace campaigns.

Don’t miss out on the chance to enjoy food, fun, storytelling and reconnection. Hold some time in your calendar May 9 to 13. Stay tuned for full dates and register for events at uvic.ca/bestfest.
Each year, three co-op students are recognized for their outstanding contribution to their employer organizations, communities, and programs. Congratulations to this year’s award recipients.

**Danielle Lowe**
Peter B. Gustafson School of Business
In her final year of her Bachelor of Commerce, Danielle Lowe founded a business that combined her love for dogs, passion for sustainability, and skills in business development. Today, her cricket-based dog treat business Doodlebug has won 10 business competitions and sells treats across Canada. Lowe took inspiration from creative companies that prioritize consumer and environmental wellbeing.

Her entrepreneurial work term introduced Lowe to all aspects of the business world, from crafting financial projections to graphic design, and shipping products across the country. “Work-integrated learning gave me the opportunity to apply in-course material to real-life situations and personalize my academic achievements,” she says. As a young entrepreneur, Lowe made it a priority to give back to the community that supported her by donating her product to the Children’s Hospital. "I am proud of my accomplishments this past co-op term and thrilled that I have another semester to focus on Doodlebug,” she says. “I’m confident my business understanding and professional network will continue to grow.”

**Ocean Han**
Optional and Professional Programs
Fourth-year biochemistry and physics student Ocean Han has a passion for solving problems. He knew he wanted to put his studies into practice to make a difference and found the perfect co-op term with UVic’s physics department, where he worked with medical physicist Devika Chithrani to research less-toxic cancer treatments using gold nanoparticles.

During his work term, Han received mentorship from PhD candidates in the lab and learned a wide array of technical skills to conduct his research. “Throughout my past education, I worked with diligence and curiosity to learn science in the classroom,” he says. “I never got to meet that passion and knowledge with such purpose to serve until I experience with the co-op program.”

Han’s success in the lab continued even after his initial four-month term ended. With the encouragement of Chithrani, Ocean presented his research at the International Conference on Nanotechnology in 2021, where he won the best paper award. He has since prepared and submitted two manuscripts of his research to academic journals.

While working with Chithrani, Han collaborated with multi-disciplinary scientists from UVic, UBC and BC Cancer. Altogether, it was exhausting work, but he had never experienced such profound personal and professional development, and, most importantly, had such conviction about what I was doing,” says Han. “I would happily do it all again.”

**Haneul Jang**
Engineering and Computer Science
Third-year student Haneul Jang put his interest in mechatronics and computer-aided engineering to use during a work term with UVic’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, where he researched and designed upgrades for the third-year undergraduate vibration laboratory.

Having lived in several countries and experienced diverse cultural lifestyle, Jang’s adaptability and determination helped him apply his studies practically to find and implement solutions in the lab. He was tasked with designing a lab that would improve student learning and engagement, which meant applying his practical knowledge about vibrations, signal analysis and control systems.

“The depth of learning from this single work term was far deeper than in the labs for my courses,” Jang says. By the end of his work term, the vibration laboratory had been completely upgraded, and his supervisor Vahid Ahsani had offered him independent work on more complicated topics in interdisciplinary experiments.

Over the course of his work term, Jang came to embrace challenges in the lab environment as learning opportunities. “I faced failures, but this made success far more valuable,” he says. “Now, I am ready to venture into this complicated world” to find out more about xwoc.

**Preparing for a future of resiliency in emergency management**

**BY TARA SHARPE**

Floods, wildfires, a heat dome and a pandemic. It is no surprise, given the extreme pressures recently on the fabric of societal infrastructures that stitch everyday life together, that the need for training to confront future emergencies has become even more evident.

UVic’s Division of Continuing Studies now offers a one-year, four-course program to equip adult learners with the skills to prepare business in all sectors and industries for natural disaster, pandemic, conflict and cyberattack.

And those who complete the course will earn what Canada’s higher education magazine University Affairs recently framed as the word “in the lives” of an increasing number of post-secondary administrators and faculty across Canada—micro-credentials. In the case of the UVic course, it’s the new Emergency Management for Organizational Continuity (xwoc) professional development certificate.

**Disaster resiliency in the workplace**

The xwoc program, launched in Summer 2021, focuses on principles of risk management and how to keep organizations running through an emergency and beyond. It was specifically created for people who aren’t already specialists in emergency management or business continuity.

“While the approach to risk management is changing, community is still critical. It’s all about relationships,” says Laura Vizina, director of health, safety and public relations programs in Continuing Studies.

“This course is intended for those who recognize they need plans in place and want to help ensure resiliency. It’s intended for a professional audience, but a diverse set of professionals, it’s not for emergency managers rather, it’s for their staff and others in a range of workplaces from private businesses and non-profits to government and schools.”

Vizina was the creator behind this new program, which uses a variety of materials—including readings, videos, case studies and interactive discussion forums—and is assessed using analysis of risk and planning components, development of continuity plans, and quizzes.

“Think of xwoc as a road map,” Vizina points out. “In January, it would have been peak business time with new year’s resolutions and new memberships. But these businesses had to find new ways to manage through these barriers. As we continue to go through these times, we’ll need to rely on more employees and they will need to understand not only the standard language of emergency management and business continuity but also understand the frameworks with which we all have to work within.”

**New course a real confidence boost**

UVic alumna Jonathan (Jonny) Morris is CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division). He has since prepared and submitted two manuscripts of his research to academic journals.

While working with Chithrani, Han collaborated with multi-disciplinary scientists from UVic, UBC and BC Cancer. Altogether, it was exhausting work, but he had never experienced such profound personal and professional development, and, most importantly, had such conviction about what I was doing,” says Han. “I would happily do it all again.”

**Haneul Jang**
Engineering and Computer Science
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**Micro-credentials as a key theme**

The feature story, “What’s behind the buzz about micro-credentials?” in The Ring last spring explored the uptick in interest from people seeking new skills and connections to thrive in an ever-changing economy. Micro-credentials offer flexible entry points and knowledge that adult learners can bring immediately into the workplace.
Paintings of internment in Slocan Valley carry the echo of three generations

BY TARA SHARPE

A new exhibition opening April 22 at UVic’s Legacy Art Gallery Downtown focuses on Japanese Canadian identity, community and family.

Dr. Henry Shimizu’s Paintings of New Denver Internment centres the voices of three generations—nisei (first generation) pioneers who came to Canada from Japan in the late 1800s, nisei (second generation) and sansei (third generation)—to provide deep insights into the inter-generational trauma of the forced uprooting and internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War.

The artist who produced these evocative paintings is a UVic honorary degree recipient.

Dr. Henry Shimizu was born in Prince Rupert in 1928. In 1942, he was one of 21,460 Japanese Canadians involuntarily relocated from BC’s coast and interned during the war, with homes, farms, businesses and priceless personal belongings dispossessed as the direct result of racist legislation and a sustained federal campaign by the Canadian government. And he was only a teenager at the time.

When Shimizu and his family were released after years of confinement in the Slocan Valley in an internment camp consisting of 16 dozen wood shacks (with only one outhouse for every 50 persons), they moved to Edmonton—leaving BC behind, where his father had owned the New Dominion Hotel in Prince Rupert before the war.

As a renowned plastic surgeon and clinical professor at the University of Alberta Hospital, Shimizu enjoyed a long and distinguished career in medicine, training new generations of medical practitioners.

Recapturing historical wrongs, on canvas

It was while completing his plastic surgery residency in the 1960s that Shimizu first discovered his talent for art. 

Nearly 40 years later, he had gathered to reminisce with friends who had also been interned in the village of New Denver and it was then that he decided to begin capturing his recollections on canvas. It was 1999.

By 2002, he had produced 27 oil paintings, which were subsequently shown at the Edmonton Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre—six decades after the Shimizu family was forced to leave Prince Rupert.

Shimizu received the Order of Canada in 2004 and, in 2012, his Honorary Doctor of Laws from UVic. Among other notable appointments and voluntary contributions to community, he also served as chairman of the redress committee for Japanese internment.

Shimizu lives in Victoria and is the author and illustrator of Matriarch Story—winning less than an intergenerational program, events, and initiatives. 

Kanbara, a painter, sculptor, and printmaker who received the Governor General’s Award in 2021, is the proprietor of you me gallery in Calgary. She has worked with the Powell Street Festival Society and the Japanese Canadian community to create intercultural and intergenerational programs, events, and projects.

Kanbara is a mixed-race yonsei cultural worker and independent curator based in Vancouver. Since completing her master’s in museum studies from the University of Glasgow, she has worked with the University of Victoria’s Indigenous Cultural Centre—six decades after the Shimizu family was forced to leave Prince Rupert. 

UVic is also home to the multimillion-dollar, research and public his- 

Catholic storytelling

Emerging Alumni Award

Kim Senkelp Harvey (MFA ’21) is a proud Syilx and Tsilhqot’in director, writer and actor who is known for her ability to craft transformative and moving stories that inspire, nourish and delight. She became the first Indigenous woman to win the Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama for her play Kamloops. An Indigenous Matrarch Story—winning less than a week after graduating from UVic.

Senkelp Harvey is currently developing three television series, working on her first book of prose and earning her PhD in law at UVic.

“My work is in deep service to my peoples,” Senkelp Harvey says. “I say my stories are a place of respite for their trying lives and if I make them laugh once or momentarily nourish their spirits, I’ve done my job. I hope my continued work supports the next generation in the ongoing practice of making a more equitable and peace- ful future.”

Tackling climate crisis head on

Emerging Alumni Award

Robert Niven (BSc ’01) is the founder, chief executive officer and chair of CarbonCure Technologies, a global leader in carbon dioxide (CO2) removal technologies. Niven founded the company in 2012 with a mission to reduce 300 million metric tons of CO2 emissions annually by 2030. Under his direction, CarbonCure has expanded to six continents and won numerous international awards honouring leadership in sustainability, innovation and technology development.

Niven, who was featured as one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 for his leadership in cleantech, wants his success to inspire new graders to enter this field. “A lot of young people feel worried and powerless with the climate crisis,” he says. “Joining or, even better, starting a climate-tech company empowers you to make a difference. It can be an extremely fulfilling and exciting career. The industry is going through exponential growth at the moment and requires all different skills and experi- ence levels.”