

# **TOP 10 OF 2022**

PAGES 4-5





University of Victoria

## **SPEED READ**

#### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11 **Women Leading Change**

Leading local entrepreneurs will share their experiences and strategies for supporting, inspiring, and empowering women as innovators and business leaders. Moderated by BC Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin, panelists include Mandy Farmer (Accent Inns & Hotel Zed), Katie Gamble (Nature Bee), Sage Lacerte (Sage Initiative) and Tessa McLoughlin (KWENCH). Info: <u>uvic.ca/wlc</u>

#### **ORDER OF CANADA Budd Hall recognized** for community-based research

Budd Lionel Hall, professor emeritus with the School of Public Administration

and Co-Chair of the UNESCO Chair in **Community Based Research and Social** Responsibility in Higher Education, was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in late December. Highly respected for his tireless dedication to people and to effecting real change, Hall is being recognized for his contributions as a pioneer in the field of community-based research.

**RHODES SCHOLAR** 



#### Grindlay on site at the Canadian Space Agency.

# Celebrating 100,000 co-op work terms with UVic students

#### **BY KATY DeCOSTE**

**52%** 

OF UVIC CO-OP

**LEAST ONE JOB** 

**OFFER BEFORE** 

GRADUATION.

**STUDENTS** 

**RECEIVE AT** 

For a physics and astronomy student like Tess Grindlay, a summer spent working with the Canadian Space Agency on the James Webb Space Telescope is nothing short of a dream job.

"As a physics and astronomy student, I had heard about space missions when they were launching or when they made a significant discovery," says Grindlay. "It was hard to imagine getting the chance to work on one of those missions as a student."

But Grindlay did just that when she landed a co-operative education (co-op) work term with the Canadian Space Agency last summer. Co-op offers students paid work experience in their field before they graduate. "While working at the CSA, I got the chance to experience the work that goes on at all stages of a mission," Grindlay says.

#### A history of hands-on learning

Grindlay's co-op work term is one of more than 100,000 that UVic students have completed since the program was established in 1976 in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics. The program secured 58 placements in its first year; today it includes 13 co-op offices that provide opportunities for students in nearly every academic program at UVic. The program is indebted to Graham Branton, its longest-service director who dedicated 17 years to the development of UVic Co-op.

From designing innovative firefighting techniques to helping research less

toxic cancer treatments, thousands of students have contributed to their communities and organizations, bringing their academic learning into the workplace while gaining hands-on experience in their fields.

#### Making a real impact

During Grindlay's time with the CSA, the James Webb Space Telescope's first set of fully calibrated images and spectroscopic was released. The powerful infrared telescope has been in development for over two decades and was launched Dec. 25, 2021, as the result of a collaborative effort between NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.

#### **SEE CO-OP MILESTONE, P.3**

## Canada's first trans woman Rhodes scholar headed to Oxford



#### **BY JODY PATERSON**

There's getting a great education, and then there's what you do with it. Canada's first trans woman Rhodes scholar has big plans for both.

UVic graduate Julia Levy is one of 11 young Canadians-the only one in BC-chosen for the prestigious scholarship, which provides two fully funded years of post-graduate studies at England's Oxford University. Levy, a chemistry major, will begin a master's degree there in fall 2023.

"Being chosen for this scholarship has been so unexpected. Everyone who I was up against in BC was incredibly brilliant-it could easily have been any of us," says Levy, 24, who got to know the other provincial candidates at a dinner with Rhodes adjudicators in the run-up to selection last month.

"I feel proud as the first trans queer woman in Canada to have been selected. However, I'm at the peak of every other privilege-white, supportive parents, grew up in a good home with financial stability. Right now, you often need all those things going for you to succeed as a trans person in these types of competitions. I hope I'm the outlier of what will one day be a normal thing for trans people regardless of their backgrounds."

The Rhodes scholarship key criteria include academic excellence, demonstrated courage, devotion to duty and moral force of character.

"Julia has had an amazing journey at UVic and is one of the most talented chemists our department has developed. Her passion for science and her drive to make the world a better place is an inspiration to everyone who is lucky enough to know her. She has a brilliant future and I'm so excited to see all the great things she accomplishes," says Jeremy Wulff, a UVic chemistry professor who supervised Levy.

#### **SEE RHODES SCHOLAR, P. 3**

Levy. PHOTO: ILMĖ VYŠNIAUSKAITĖ

## global leadership

### #1 Canadian comprehensive university for grad employability

For the fourth year in a row, a prestigious international ranking by Times Higher Education (THE) shows that UVic grads are among the world's most employable. THE's 2022 Global University Employability Ranking report, released late last year, identifies UVic as the best Canadian comprehensive university, and one of the world's top 200 universities overall, in preparing its students for the workplace, based on feedback from top international companies.

More: uvic.ca/rankings



The University of Victoria's community newspaper <u>uvic.ca/news</u>

The University of Victoria acknowledges and respects the lak<sup>w</sup>aŋan peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and  $\underline{WSANEC}$  peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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## UVic satellite blasts into space

#### BY TARA SHARPE

On Dec. 29, 2022, the ORCASAT miniature satellite—designed and built by a team of UVic engineering students and scientists led by Canada Research Chair and UVic aerospace systems engineer Afzal Suleman was launched into orbit from the International Space Station.

Although the team members couldn't witness the ground-based launch of a lifetime in Florida due to weather delays, UVic alumnus Alexander Doknjas was joined by others on the UVic satellite team at the Kennedy Space Center on Nov. 22, and were able to witness the live stream of NASA'S Falcon 9 rocket carrying the tiny orcas at to space later on Nov. 27.

"Day to day, we didn't necessarily see progress towards the end goal of launching and operating a satellite in space," recalls Doknjas.

"So for me, being at the space centre I was nervous but really excited and proud of our team to see it all come together and reach the milestone of launching a satellite. ORCASat is not only UVic's first satellite, it's the first CubeSat designed and manufactured in BC, a first for both for academia and industry. And none of this would've been possible without UVic and particularly Prof. Suleman. We don't have an aerospace engineering program yet. So we had to start from scratch. And we were still able to pull it off. That's really special. It's a great example for other schools too. If you want to do it, you can do it."

UVic mechanical engineer Afzal Suleman, Canada Research Chair in Computational and Experimental Mechanics and founding director of UVic's Centre for Aerospace Research, remembers the challenges as well. "We started 10 years ago with design

**OCEANS RESEARCH** 



(I-r) Levente Buzas, Alex Doknjas, Steven Richter, Richard Arthurs and Svetlana Borkovkina on location at NASA's space centre Nov 22, 2022 (not pictured: Andrada Zoltan)

and manufacturing, And we started from zero. Students created the satellite club at UVic. And, thanks to their efforts and those of all the scientists, engineers and technicians over the years, this is the first UVic satellite in space. It's an exciting time." CubeSat tean sie Universit integration into the mode the planet. Now in o cal Reference

#### First UVic satellite in space

The UVic satellite won a national competition as part of the Canadian CubeSat Project (CCP) by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and, as a result, is one of the first two universities from Canada to launch satellites with the NASA missions.

In June 2022, the CSA hosted our orcas at team along with the second

CubeSat team—LORIS from Dalhousie University—to participate in the integration of their nanosatellites into the module that's now circling the planet.

Now in orbit, orcasat (for Optical Reference Calibration Satellite) provides a unique artificial star reference for the world's ground-based telescopes, helping contribute to precise calibration of space instrumentation that measures the brightness of stars and supernovae.

Nearly 10 years ago, Ecosat—a UVic club of undergrad and graduate students gaining real-life experience working on a nanosatellite—was part of the exciting initial steps at UVic now culminating with this month's NASA launch. Ecosat won a Canadawide satellite competition, with no plans for launch. (It was a design challenge for mission ideas.)

ORCAS at continues to actively seek partners from government and industry. For instance, an engineering and manufacturing company based in Victoria and led by UVic mechanical engineering alum Ray Brougham was approached by the UVic satellite design team early on. Rainhouse Manufacturing Canada Ltd. then got down to business working with the students to engineer and manufacture most of the housing and parts for the ORCAS at satellite.

# Belugas turn tail from far-distant ship noise

UVic researchers document ships nearly 80 km away disrupting beluga behaviour

#### **BY ALF WILSON**

Beluga whales face many threats, including increasing underwater noise pollution from ship traffic—and new research shows that increasing ship traffic in the Arctic Ocean could have enormous impact on the species. In a recently published paper, UVic biology postdoctoral researcher Morgan Martin details how the behaviour of nine satellite-tagged Pacific-Arctic belugas changed due to ship encounters—sometimes at extreme distances of nearly 80 km.

The surface movements and diving maneuvers of individual belugas was examined, revealing how the presence of ships causes changes to their behaviour. The data Martin and co-authors studied showed belugas increased their swimming speed when ships were both near and far. They saw possible swimming-speed increases when ships were up to 79 km away. Belugas changed their diving behavior and swimming path when some ships passed within 50 km. Their findings agree with previous studies reporting belugas reacting to ships at distances beyond visual range which, on a clear ideal day, is typically under 20 km.

Their research overlapped taggedbeluga data and ship Automatic Identification System (AIS) data to observe behavioural responses to ships—a first for studying animalship interactions. By merging the beluga tag-data and ship-data sets they were able to quantify changes in beluga movements (path and dive) in response to ships. This is also the first time tagged-beluga data has been used to study beluga reactions to ships and ship noise. "Belugas are very sensitive to underwater noise," says Martin "Arctic shipping has more than tripled in three decades. We observed shipavoidance reactions by belugas at extremely far distances—much farther than the whales could be seen from a ship."

This suggests that belugas are reacting to the low-pitched ship noises—deep, thunder-like rumbles at a similar level to the ambient sound around them.

"The whales are responding to the ships' noise pollution," Martin says, "But the sound levels at the beluga's location are similar to the environmental noises already present. Reducing our underwater noise footprint will help with the conservation of this species." result in long-term displacement of belugas from important habitats such as feeding and calving grounds, which can harm the sustainability of the species.

This research by Martin, supervisor Francis Juanes (biology), William Halliday (earth and ocean sciences), and Steve Insley (biology) reflects UVic's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, life below water.

The large interdisciplinary and international collaborative effort that supported this work spanned the continent, including researchers from UVic and the universities of Manitoba, Windsor and Ottawa, Florida Atlantic University, the Wildlife Conservation Society (Whitehorse, Yukon), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Department of Wildlife Management (Utqiagvik, Alaska). Ship Automatic Identification System (AIS) data was provided by MERIDIAN and MEOPAR.

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955 Email: ring@uvic.ca

Printed in Canada by Black Press © 2023 University of Victoria Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40014024 This kind of avoidance behaviour may seem inconsequential because there is no immediate physical harm to the belugas. However, Martin and co-authors point out that it could

# **Campus life is busy!**

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## **Revitalizing laws and legal systems**

Law Foundation of BC provides \$1.2 million grant to UVic Indigenous Law Research Unit for revitalization of laws and legal systems.

#### **BY IVAN WATSON**

New Indigenous law workshops and educational offerings, in-person and in-community as well as online, articling positions for Indigenous law students, an immersive model of community-based Indigenous legal education and so much more will be made possible by major, multi-year funding from the Law Foundation of BC.

The Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) within the UVic Faculty of Law will use the \$1.2 million in core funding to stabilize and enhance staffing and operations. It will also explore dynamic new relationships with community partners, legal professionals, scholars, practitioners and organizations in rebuilding Indigenous laws and governance systems.

"The foundation of our work is relationships, and we are focussed on helping rebuild law to solve problems in a practical way," says Acting UVic Dean of Law and ILRU founder Val Napoleon. "With this core funding, we're thrilled to be able to build on the foundation of many years of successful partnerships and legal research and to envision an exciting path forward for our collaborative work on rebuilding Indigenous laws throughout Canada."

In 2022, ILRU is celebrating a decade of success. Started in 2012 as a national project in partnership with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the Indigenous Bar Association and The Law Foundation of Ontario, ILRU has three core

values: that Indigenous laws need to be taken seriously as laws; that more time and space is needed for Indigenous laws in the world; and that more respectful and symmetrical relationships across legal traditions are both possible and mutually beneficial for colonial (Canadian) and Indigenous legal traditions alike.

"We're very proud to support ILRU's groundbreaking work with communities to ensure that legal systems are responsive to changes in society and technology," says Lindsay LeBlanc, Chair of the Law Foundation of BC. "Their work requires patient, careful dedication that is measured in years, not months. It needs strong and lasting financial support to succeed, and we are thankful to be invited to support them in their mission."

Since its foundation, ILRU has completed more than 30 major projects, organized more than 25 workshops in community, engaged more than 300 community members in projects or workshops and delivered 200 presentations to professional bodies, academic partners and various levels of government.

Looking ahead, ILRU imagines a world where the implementation of Indigenous legal processes, structures and institutions is an established norm and at the forefront of legal work in BC, Canada, and globally—and where Indigenous law informs processes of disagreement, diplomacy, civility and shapes conversation within and between societies.

### Partnering with Indigenous communities

The Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) is an independent research unit housed in UVic's Faculty of Law. ILRU was founded in 2012 by Napoleon (Cree/Saulteau), and partners with and supports work by Indigenous communities, and develops practical resources to tackle the large-scale challenges facing Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities today.

ILRU'S resources have been used to guide curriculum development, support claims in Canadian courts, and inform policy, processes, laws and practices addressing social and environmental issues. ILRU deepens engagement with Indigenous laws by developing educational resources and facilitating workshops, training and broader conversations on critical Indigenous legal issues that are inclusive of Indigenous feminisms.

Since its inception, ILRU's work has spanned a wide range of legal issues across many Indigenous legal orders, including social, environmental, political and economic issues.

#### **About the Law Foundation**

The Law Foundation of British Columbia is an independent non-profit foundation established in 1969 to benefit BC legal education, legal research, legal aid, law reform and law libraries.

### RHODES SCHOLAR

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Including Levy, 12 UVic students have been named Rhodes scholars.

### At the intersection of art and chemistry

Levy's many achievements at UVic and in her community clearly caught the eye of the Rhodes selection committee. Having graduated with a major in chemistry and a minor in visual arts, Levy actively works to bring those two disciplines together in ways that benefit people.

In her second year at UVic, she invented a virtual reality program to help struggling chemistry students visualize molecules better, and went on to develop an augmented-reality phone app for visualizing complex shapes that is now featured in UVic chemistry workbooks.

Intrigued by how she could use art in ways that illuminated the experiences of being trans, Levy created a participatory art installation to evoke in viewers the same uneasy sense of being watched that trans people experience as part of their daily lives.

She invited viewers to enter what appeared to be a private space with a camera and video screen, where

### CO-OP MILESTONE

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

"Experiencing the announcement of these unprecedented, beautiful images while employed by the Canadian Space Agency and assisting on the project was so exciting to me. It is a moment I will always be grateful for and will never forget," says Grindlay.

Making professional connections Grindlay is excited to continue they saw a view of themselves from the back. Some seized the rare angle to check out how they looked from behind, or to fix their hair—only to discover upon exiting the room that their actions had been witnessed by everyone in the larger room.

Levy also served on UVic's equity and diversity committee and was active in the ongoing campaign to retrofit university washrooms into non-gendered spaces.

"I'm a mile wide and an inch deep in terms of all the projects I was involved in at UVic," jokes Levy. "I'm a big believer in never being just one thing.

I'm a trans woman, but I'm also a scientist. I'm an artist, but I'm also an activist."

Levy's research focus reflects a key UVic impact area of technology and the human experience, and the university's commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Empower people**

"My biggest interest in everything I do is to lift people up. As a trans queer woman, I know what it is to be at the bottom, to be 'othered.' I feel that this Rhodes scholarship is such an opportunity to amplify my voice on the issues that really matter to me."

Levy's extensive community work includes volunteering with the local Gender Generations Project for trans youth and their families. The project's twice-yearly gatherings bring youth together with trans adult mentors so important to young people as reminders that "things do get better," says Levy.

Levy also worked with UVic's Vancouver Island Drug-Checking Project, applying her chemistry skills for public good.

The project offers a drop-in service in a downtown Victoria storefront where people can bring street drugs in for chemical analysis. That's a lifesaving initiative, and "an excellent example of the social use of chemistry," says Levy.

Levy says she was "very lucky to have grown up surrounded by lesbians" who gave her the confidence to set her own standards for the kind of woman she is. She cites a number of professors as integral to her academic growth—UVic chemists Peter Wan, Wulff and Scott McIndoe, Lindsay Herriot from the School of Child and Youth Care and cross-disciplinary researcher David Glowacki from the University of Bristol, whom she worked with on virtual reality.

She expects to study computational chemistry at Oxford. The Rhodes

scholarship covers two years of study with the possibility of two more.

Levy was already part of the UVic community when she transitioned three years ago, which spared her the experience of "the trans foot being the first one you have to put forward" when in an unfamiliar space. That will not be the case at Oxford.

"I'm interested to see how that will go," says Levy. "But I know from my own life that whenever I see that trans women have achieved something new, it gives me the assurance that things are moving forward. If getting the Rhodes scholarship amplifies my voice, this is going to be such an opportunity to speak truth to power."

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completing my university education, as well as gain related work experience."

#### **Benefits for employers**

Employer partnerships are at the heart of the co-op program's ongoing success, and many employers go above and beyond to support students' professional development. Work term placements give students the opportunity to apply their academic studies and bring emerging knowledge into the workplace—a virtuous circle where building career skills benefits both student and employer. For more information about participating in co-op as a student or employer, visit <u>uvic.ca/coop</u>.

working with the Canadian Space Agency part-time while completing her fourth year of study. "I think coop helps students see what life could look like post-graduation, it makes the thought of employment after university less mystifying. Co-op really helped me wrap my head around what I could find myself doing after

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What a year it's been for UVic students, staff and researchers! In the tradition of UVic's annual Top 10 newsmakers list, this year we celebrate 10 great stories across five categories.

VIDEOS & PODCASTS | SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS | PARTNERSHIPS | NEWSMAKERS | SIGNS OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

More details on each story at tiny.cc/uvic-2022

## **TOP 10 VIDEOS & PODCASTS**

**1.** *Taapwaywin*, truth before reconciliation A new podcast series hosted by Ry Moran on truth before reconciliation features deep conversations and analysis with Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and others. *Taapwaywin* calls on all of us to listen with our hearts as well as our minds.

#### 2. Oceans—solutions for climate change

With the Pacific Ocean at their doorstep, UVic researchers have a unique opportunity to investigate and protect our precious waters. They are documenting important issues—such as climate change—and working alongside partners to offer innovative solutions.

## 3. New role focuses on decolonizing psychological approaches

UVic is grateful to the family of Chief Mungo Martin, the world-renowned Kwakwaka'wakw artist, for the honour of the title of the Chief Mungo Martin Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health. The inaugural position is held by Emily A.P. Haigh with funding from alumnus Bruce McKean.

## 4. New podcast aims to break the stigma of dementia

*Call to Mind* is a four-part podcast series—and 2022 Webby Award honoree—hosted by nursing professor Debra Sheets in the form of audio diaries made with people with memory loss and their families.

#### 5. A message for all new students

Live in the moment, enjoy your journey and t

embrace the UVic campus. These are some of the messages of welcome and advice from a few of our 2022 grads to all incoming students.

#### 6. Checking your personal bias

Psychology professor Paweena Sukhawathanaku shares 5 tips on checking your bias and ways to create an environment that is more welcoming, inclusive and diverse.

#### 7. Getting to know your brain

*That Neuroscience Guy* is a podcast hosted by Olav Krigolson about the neuroscience of everyday life. In a short UVic video—five tips for better brain health—Krigolson talks about the impact of stress and anxiety on the brain.

#### 8. UVic's economic impact in BC

As a proud partner in the Greater Victoria and BC economy, UVic works with governments, First Nations, businesses and non-profits towards economic and social prosperity.

#### 9. New UVic student housing showcases Passive House technology

UVic's two new housing buildings will be the largest Passive House buildings in Canada, emitting 92% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than conventional student housing buildings.

#### 10. Return to campus

Here's to happy returns and new beginnings! This year we offered a warm welcome back by by video for returning students, faculty and staff—and extended our welcome to those new to campus.





The cast of Jealous Moon. PHOTO: ONE ISLAND MEDIA

## **TOP 10 PARTNERSHIPS OF THE YEAR**

#### 1. From greenhouse gas to inert mineral

An international research team with the UVicled Solid Carbon collaboration have shown that carbon dioxide can be removed from the atmosphere, injected into subsea basalt and safely mineralized into solid rock—potentially storing 15 years' worth of global gas emissions at just one possible site.

#### 2. 100,000 co-op work term placements

Co-op education brings UVic students together with hundreds of employers around the globe to build skills, capacity and foster the drive to succeed. This year, co-op celebrates 100,000 work-term placements since the program was established in 1976. (See front page story)

## 3. Drug-checking program builds community

Responding to the overdose epidemic, a team of social workers, chemists, computer scientists and pharmacists partnered with health authorities and people who use drugs to establish Substance UVic, a street-front drug-checking project now in its second year of operation.

#### 4. Victoria Forum bridges divides

In August, UVic and the Senate of Canada cohosted the 2022 Victoria Forum. One hundred speakers and 500 individuals connected to tackle difficult issues and discuss solutions for bridging global economic, social and environmental divides.

## 5. Indigenous Theatre Festival focuses on language reawakening

In collaboration with the Hul'q'umi'num' Language and Culture Society, Hul'q'umi'num' Language Academy and other university partners, this fall's Indigenous Theatre Festival at UVic's Phoenix Theatre brought people together for performances, discussions and workshops, using theatre as a tool for language reclamation.

## 6. On the trail of (disappearing) mountain goats

Are mountain goats vanishing from the Great Bear Rainforest and beyond? A research collaboration between Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation, UVic and Raincoast Conservation Foundation demonstrates the importance of listening to those who have lived near wildlife for millennia.

#### 7. Molson Prize for sociologist's advocacy

Through a lifetime in academia and advocacy, Cecilia Benoit has been learning from and speaking up for the marginalized—midwives and sex workers, the unhoused and people who use illicit drugs—earning her this year's Molson Prize. Her research philosophy is to "think of people you interview as partners rather than subjects."

#### 8. Documenting a historical injustice

The Landscapes of Injustice initiative connected researchers from 17 Canadian universities with Japanese Canadian community groups and families, teachers, students, librarians, archivists and curators to document and retell the mid-20th century story of displacement and dispossession of 22,000 Japanese Canadians (see sidebar at left).

#### 9. A tale of two telescopes

In a feat of synchronized spectroscopy, UVic astronomer Kim Venn co-led an international team that discovered a star cluster with the lowest concentration of metals ever observed—a sighting made possible by making two ground-based telescopes work together in a new way.

#### 10. Catalyst for energy transition

UVic civil engineer Madeleine McPherson's vision and research led to the creation of a new national centre creation of a new national centre led by UVic, Polytechnique Montréal and University of Calgary that will help policymakers make the best decisions about how to remove carbon from energy systems.



UVic Associate University Librarian—Reconciliation Ry Moran, host of the new podcast series Taapwaywin. PHOTO: CHAD HIPOLITO

## **TOP 10 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**

Twitter: UVic students' innovative climate solutions
Instagram: Student summer co-op
Instagram: Field hockey & rowing national championships
Instagram: POV you go to university on an Island
Facebook: Graduation & dogs
Instagram: New banners on campus greenway
Facebook: Four seasons on campus
Instagram: Earth day on campus
LinkedIn: Times Higher Ed Impact ranking revealed
Facebook: UVic Cubesat satellite blasts into orbit



### **TOP 10 NEWSMAKERS**

#### 1. Thrust into the spotlight by war

Ever since since Russia's spring invasion of Ukraine, UVic professors Serhy Yekelchyk (shown at top of page 1) and Tamara Krawchenko have been at the forefront of efforts to educate and fight disinformation—holding teach-ins about the conflict and appearing in national and international media.

#### 2. Estuaries a tool to fight climate change

Temperate river estuaries are more effective at capturing and storing greenhouse gases than young coastal forests and may sequester carbon for centuries, if not millennia.

## 3. Adopting & sticking to new healthy lifestyle behaviours

2022's most-read Conversation Canada article by a UVic researcher was health psychologist Ryan Rhodes' article—published in English and French—about how to achieve our health and exercise goals.

#### 4. Blood ban & oral history archive

Nathan Lachowsky responded to Canadian Blood Services' recommendation to remove restrictions on blood donations based on sexual orientation for CBC News and the Canadian Press. On World Aids Day, Lachowsky also discussed *In My Day*, a play based on the UVic research project and oral history archive. (See page 8)

## 5. UVic prof's film wins two awards at Sundance

Chase Joynt's *Framing Agnes* was honoured at its Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by CTV-VI on piecing together stories of five gender non-conforming people involved in a famous UCLA study that ultimately excluded them from published research and, thus, the historical record.

## 6. New interactive website for The Witness Blanket

*The Witness Blanket*, a large-scale art installation recognizing the atrocities of the residential school era, was created by UVic's Impact Chair in Indigenous Art Practices Carey Newman.

#### 7. Alcohol guidelines & warning labels

New guidelines for reducing health risks from alcohol were released this year. In one of the year's most-read UVic contributions to The Conversation Canada, CISUR'S Tim Stockwell explored the science behind the updates and advocated for standard drink and health warning labels.

#### 8. Canada's first trans woman Rhodes Scholar

UVic grad Julia Levy is the first trans woman chosen for the prestigious Rhodes scholarship. Her Canadian Press story was picked up by 158 other outlets, while CBC News ran its own feature story. (See page 1)

#### 9. Loss of freshwater threatens ecosystems

Civil engineering PhD candidate Xander Huggins wrote a well-read analysis piece for The Conversation Canada identifying global freshwater basins which are most likely to be impacted by water scarcity and proposed viable solutions to protect ecosystems and communities.

## 10. Curbing Canadian forest fires and cutting emissions

Research by Carly Phillips of the UVic-hosted Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions links climate mitigation to forestry practices. She shows that Canada's wildfires could release up to 12 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by 2050 unless the nation invests in better fire prevention measures.



A special recognition ceremony was held in April for the JD/JID grads. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

## **TOP 10 SIGNS OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

## 1. First UN leadership training centre opens on North America's west coast

The United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) and UVic have established the first accredited International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) on North America's west coast: CIFAL Victoria.

#### 2. UVic is #2 globally for climate action

The 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings put UVic at the forefront of climate action and working to sustain life on land—two of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals measured in the university rankings.

#### 3. New student housing & dining project

6. Accelerate innovation & spark solutions UVic has opened an exciting new site in Victoria's downtown core to accelerate collaboration and entrepreneurship. KWENCH is a modern and innovative workspace providing free programming to support venture exploration and early-stage startups in a community-based innovation hub.

## 7. The world's first graduating lass of Indigenous law

This June, 23 students graduated with the world's first law degree to combine the study of Indigenous and non-Indigenous laws. They are poised to make an impact in areas of law including Indigenous governance, criminal law, environmental protection, intellectual property, family law and child protection.

## Historian receives top Canadian research award

#### BY PHILIP COX

Historian Jordan Stanger-Ross is one of five academics from across Canada who was one of five academics from across Canada who was honoured in the House of Commons in December after receiving a prestigious Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Impact Award, which is one of the highest national awards for Canadian humanites researchers.

The \$50,000 award recognizes the outstanding quality of Stanger-Ross' scholarship and the far-reaching impact of his highly collaborative public history project, Landscapes of Injustice (LOI), which ran from 2014 to 2021.

"At a time when racism and injustices are occurring not only in Canada, but around the world, LOI serves as a beacon of hope that we can learn from past legacies and chart a course forward for a better future," says Anne Chafe, Chief Executive Officer of Newfoundland and Labrador's largest public cultural space, The Rooms. "LOI can be an agent of change for others to follow and emulate on a local, provincial, national and international level."

Based at UVic's Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, the LOI initiative connected Japanese Canadian community groups and families with teachers, students, librarians, archivists, curators and researchers representing 17 institutions across Canada. Together, the group co-created a deeply impactful array of resources for teaching and learning about the mid-20th century displacement and dispossession of 22,000 Japanese Canadians.

Stanger-Ross is the first faculty member at the University of Victoria to receive an Impact award. He will do so on behalf of the project's multi-sector leadership team, which included Nikkei National Museum director Sherri Kajiwara, Governor General Award-winning teacher Greg Miyanaga, Queen's University geographer Audrey Kobayashi, UVic history alumna Kaitlin Findlay, and museum curator Yasmin Railton.

"This award validates the work that went into the human relationships behind this partnership," Stanger-Ross states. "Landscapes of Injustice was a community. We realized that we could work together to find answers to common questions, and that by doing so we might challenge historical and systemic injustices more powerfully than any of us ever could alone."

## Research project rewrites a dark chapter in history

The key insight behind the Landscapes of Injustice project came to Stanger-Ross while conducting research on the history of localized poverty in Vancouver, when he realized that the land title data he had collected could reveal for the first time exactly who had bought the properties taken from Japanese Canadians and what they had done with it.

Subsequent research on those sales brought him into contact with community organizations such as the Nikkei National Museum, which enabled a more expansive and collaborative engagement with this difficult history and the lived experiences of those it impacted.



Stanger-Ross. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

**Public archive shows the legacy of loss** Throughout the project's seven-year run, LOI members and partners shared this new history through a public-facing storytelling website, five exhibitions, 30 publications, two peer-reviewed books, an educational field school that guides educators through the sites of internment, and teaching resources for elementary and secondary school teachers.

The group also created a digital database that includes carefully curated files for every interned Japanese Canadian family, enabling descendants and survivors to explore their heritage and better understand their family history.

Locally, they operated informational booths at Japanese Canadians festivals in downtown Vancouver and contributed to community efforts to re-build the Gorge Park Pavilion in Victoria eight decades after the original was seized by the federal government and left to ruin.

"The Japanese Canadian community owes a large debt to the Landscapes of Injustice," says the Honourable Madam Justice Maryka Omatsu, Canada's first East Asian woman judge and member of the National Association of Japanese Canadians' BC Redress Committee. "Their original research on the dispossession has had immediate, personal meaning to many of the victims and their descendants. The database they created is also an indispensable resource for the Japanese Canadian community in its ongoing talks with the BC Government for redress."

The Landscapes of Injustice initiative has garnered a number of prestigious awards over the years, including the Canadian Race Relation Foundation's 2018 Award of Excellence, BC Heritage's 2021 Outstanding Award for Excellence in Education, Communication and Awareness, and UVic's 2022 Reach Award for Excellence in Knowledge Mobilization. Their capstone exhibition, *Broken Promises*, was shortlisted for a 2021 Governor General's award and received an award of excellence from the British Columbia Museums Association.

Thinking globally about

When complete, UVic's new student housing and dining project will provide almost 800 student housing spaces, a new dining hall, classrooms and an Indigenous student lounge—all within a green building footprint. Providing space in response to a regional housing crisis, the new buildings also meet Passive House and LEED standards for sustainability and efficiency.

#### 4. West Shore campus announced

As part of a first-of-its kind partnership between South Island institutions, UVic will offer first- and second-year programming at a new West Shore campus which is expected to open in fall 2024.

## 5. UVic as a catalyst for social & economic development

The UVic BioInnovation Hub opened in September, as part of a series of community-based hubs connected to UVic's broader Innovation Network to tap into a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving.

#### 8. World's first MBA in reconciliation

Gustavson School of Business is set to deliver the world's first custom MBA in Advancing Reconciliation, reflecting UVic's commitment to advancing truth, respect and reconciliation for Indigenous Peoples. The MBA, developed in partnership with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, will launch this spring.

#### 9. New program in Indigenous nursing

A first-of-its-kind master's degree in Indigenous nursing, expected to launch in 3 years, is being designed to meet the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples living in rural and remote areas.

## 10. A new tradition of courtesy and respect rekindled

By following Coast Salish protocols, the installation ceremony of Chancellor Marion Buller extends a new era at UVic that began in 2021 when President Kevin Hall requested permission from local First Nations to work on the territory. Whereas prior understandings of the ww11-era treatment of Japanese Canadians focused on their internment and the role of a few high-level politicians, the growing LOI network realized that municipal governments, real estate agents, low-level bureaucrats and everyday people in western Canada had all played direct roles in the dispossession. Clearly, a new explanation of this major instance of systemic racism in Canada was required.

Through thorough and highly innovative analysis that focused on the loss of property and homes, LOI's work gradually revealed a new story of the Japanese Canadian internment—one that specified the previously unknown extent of the community's material losses, identified the beneficiaries, and illuminated the varied ways in which Japanese Canadians fought back against their dispossession and displacement.

### wartime dispossession

Earlier this year, Stanger-Ross launched a new research network called Past Wrongs Future Choices, with Kobayashi as co-director, gathering together former members of the LOI team and dozens of new participants spanning five continents. This initiative will be the first ever to connect records related to the mid-20th century malevolent treatment of people of Japanese descent in allied countries throughout the Americas and the Pacific.

"This powerful public history project has changed the national conversation about what happened to Japanese Canadians in the mid-20th century and why it matters today," states Alexandra D'Arcy, Humanities Associate Dean Research. "By choosing connection and cooperation, the research and resources developed by the Landscapes of Injustice team—and now those from Past Wrongs, Future Choices—will have a profound impact for generations to come."

landscapesofinjustice.com



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## **Engaging with decolonization as a settler**

UVic Director of Ceremonies Ian Case recently led the Farquhar auditorium to engage in the Voices in Circle initiative, bringing in more Indigenous talent to the stage and bringing members of Indigenous and Métis communities together to guide programming decisions for the series. During this process, Case discovered that decolonizing requires honesty, openness, willingness to change and shift gears, being open to hearing difficult truths and making space for other voices and opinions.

Case shares his reflections in this recent Q&A as a way to connect with departments across the University of Victoria that are looking for ways to decolonize their own policies, processes and ways of working as a commitment to truth, reconciliation and healing.

#### What does it mean to decolonize?

Understanding what decolonizing means and what it looks like has been a bit of a struggle if I'm honest. There's no clear and simple definition to guide one because decolonizing any practise or structure requires really digging into understanding how that practise or structure is colonial in nature. This means there's no one answer for how to approach decolonizing any given thing. For me, it meant looking at the decision-making process. I have worked in non-profit, bureaucratic and Board of Director driven environments. All three of these are colonial constructs and come with a raft of policies, procedures and rules-things like Robert's Rules of Order to run meetings, speakers lists. These structures impact everything from the freeflow of discussion to the generation of creative ideas to putting together action plans. In the case of Voices in Circle, I started from a place of offering a blank slate, asking the participants in the Programming Circle to help

determine how we would meet, how we would make decisions and how we would then develop action plans out of those decisions. I feel that decolonizing requires honesty, openness, willingness to change and shift gears, being open to hearing difficult truths and making space for other voices and opinions. The first step is to work hard to establish a safe space where truth can be told, heard and accepted. From there, one builds trust that will be the foundation for all the work to come.

#### Why is this important to you and your department?

It was important for the Farquhar to approach presenting Indigenous artists in a way that wasn't tokenistic. Indigenous arts and culture are starting to getting some of the attention and focus they deserve. To start to present Indigenous artists in a better way, it was important that how selected and engaged those artists with the Farquhar, UVic and the community be done in a sensitive and appropriate way. We had to make space for Indigenous and Métis voices from the start to finish of the programming process. We needed to start to build relationships and trust to really do the work we wanted to do and to make the Farguhar a safe space for Indigenous artist and audiences. With UVic's deep and true commitment to truth, reconciliation and healing, it was important that the Farquhar play a role in walking the walk. Voices in Circle is our response to that commitment.

#### What steps did you take?

Personally, I did five or six years of Indigenous acumen training. I took workshops, did blanket exercises, and read as much as I could so that I could start to understand both the history of this land, and the injustices done to Indigenous and Métis people. I learned to make space for other voices, Case at the Farquhar auditorium. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

creativity and ideas. I also spent time looking at the privileges both I and the Farquhar have and looked at ways we could share those privileges with others-essentially making space to make those privileges available to others that might not have had them until now. I reached out to people who I knew could help to guide me towards a better way of doing things—people who had already started to do this good work and to walk this path. I listened, I learned and I tried my very best to remain open to ideas and change. I'm still learning and still working to remain open to new ideas and creativity.

#### What were the successes/challenges?

The biggest challenge for me was getting started. I struggled with feeling what I can only call "settler's guilt" which sometimes immobilized me. I didn't feel that I knew enough, understood enough—that by asking for guidance, help and work that I

was imposing on others that were already overburdened. Once I started to talk about the kernel of the idea of Voices in Circle though, I was met with great enthusiasm and nearly every Indigenous and Métis person I talked to wanted to join in the work of creating the series. That generosity and willingness to join in and give others their time has been one of the major successes of Voices in Circle. We've just come off of two days of having Jeremy Dutcher interact with campus and community groups as well as their performance in the Farguhar on Friday and that has felt like a huge success. Jeremy's visit was deeply moving and in many ways transformational for a lot of folks. It has really started to build the relationships, trust and feeling of connection that was the initial hope for Voices in Circle.

#### What would be your best key take away?

I think the key to this work is being open, listening deeply and being

willing to change. That change needs to be personal as well as institutional in order to be really meaningful and genuine.

#### What advice would you have for other departments looking to decolonize their systems?

It's great if others can seek out resources and learning in advance of starting a process of decolonizing. I don't think you ever feel fully ready to take it on, though, so my advice would be to just start trying. Talk to people about ways you can look at changing your processes, your ways of doing things and your ways of being. Ask for help. Ask to understand protocols as well. Asking for help from Indigenous and Métis folks means you're asking them to do emotional, mental and sometimes physical labour that can be difficult and frustrating work. Make sure that you're doing your best to meet their needs and to recognize what that work might mean and cost them.

# Mapping the "rainforests of the ocean" — kelp forests

**BY ANNE MACLAURIN** 

**OCEANS RESEARCH** 

Canopy-forming kelp forests are a vital lifeline for spawning herring and juvenile salmon, but a raft of environmental stressors make the future of those underwater forests uncertain. A new research alliance is examining the resilience and decline of bull kelp along the BC central coast due to warming ocean temperatures, in hopes of identifying areas of potential protection and possible restoration.

"Kelp are the rainforests of the ocean and we need to know more about its decline," says UVic geographer Maycira Costa. "They transfer a lot of carbon from the atmosphere to the ocean and are habitat for many

#### vital species."

Costa is collaborating with Indigenous communities and the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Hakai Institute, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Island Trust Conservancy, Parks Canada, the Council of Haida Nations and the Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP) to learn more about the resilience of kelp forests, through an NSERC Alliance grant, the British Columbia kelp resilience project.

Using historical charts from the 1800s, Indigenous ecological knowledge and satellite imagery, Costa and UVic graduate students and postdocs are building a cohesive historical atlas to map the past, present and future of kelp resilience on the coast.

Researchers, coastal managers and communities can use this information for enhancing marine planning with ultimate benefit to the marine ecosystem, coastal communities and industry

Satellite imagery can further pinpoint areas where kelp beds have been resilient or where they might decline or disappear, as well as associated changes in ocean conditions. The satellite data will allow for different governance management strategies to protect and restore this important coastal habitat.

"This is only possible when the communities are integrated into how to use this technology effectively", says Costa, who is working with

First Nations to integrate satellite technology into their kelp monitoring programs.

"Kelp is highly vulnerable to ocean conditions and increases in temperature," says Costa. "Cool ocean temperatures allow kelp to thrive and recover, but a warmer ocean is certainly a contributing factor to kelp decline—alongside a sea urchin population that feeds on kelp."

Costa explains that the identification of "hot spots" of kelp resilience, areas of high risk for kelp loss and areas of potential restoration will be integrated into an ecosystem-based strategy that will inform federal Marine Protected Areas, First Nations spatial marine planning, kelp harvesting, fisheries habitat management, and kelp aquaculture industry.

"Our framework can be expanded to other coasts in the East and Arctic, and fuel the development of a sustainable, ocean-based blue economy, as part of Canada's Blue Economy Strategy," adds Costa.

Costa's kelp research Alliance does not only address how changes in ocean conditions impact kelp's long-term resilience on the British Columbia coast-directly contributing to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on climate action and life below water-but also addresses the need for strong cooperation to access science, technology and innovation.

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## HIV research, history and art intersect in a powerful way

#### **BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON**

Oral history captures the stories of people left out of mainstream historical narratives. Verbatim theatre transforms those words into art.

HIV In My Day, a community-based oral history project that gathered the stories of HIV survivors and caregivers during the early years of BC's HIV/AIDS epidemic, has been adapted into In My Day, a play that premiered at Vancouver's The Cultch theatre Dec. 2, the day after World AIDS Day. The play's script draws from almost 120 interviews recorded between 2017 and 2020 as part of a University of Victoria-led research project.

Nathan Lachowsky, an associate professor in UVic's School of Public Health and Social Policy (PHSP), heads the team, which collaborated with numerous community partners and people from HIV-affected communities every step of the way.

"When we started this project, we did not plan to make a play," says Lachowsky. "That's one of the beautiful things about community-based research. As you go, you build relationships and you make connections, and opportunities arise out of that."

Rick Waines, a playwright, HIV advocate and project interviewee who became part of the research team, conceived of In My Day while transcribing 3,000 pages of oral history interviews, which are also publicly and digitally available through UVic Libraries. He began to see how verbatim theatre could tell participants' stories, in their exact words.

"My aim with In My Day was to accurately, without losing meaning, tell the story of the first 15 years of the AIDS pandemic using the testimonies of the participants in a theatrically exciting way," says Waines

#### **Community focus**

UVic PHSP postdoctoral researcher Laine Halpern Zisman says the team took great care to ensure a diversity of experiences was represented. The team created a Committee for Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE), led by UBC



Coalition for Responsible Health Legislation protest against a proposed quarantine bill that could have been used to detain people living with HIV, September 26, 1987. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD BANNER, CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES

assistant professor JP Catungal and a number of community members, to ensure the play included and sensitively portrayed the stories of multiple historically marginalized communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

On World Aids Day, Catungal and Halpern Zisman launched a new HIV In My Day website, which brings together the play and oral history project.

'What's happening is very community focused. It is about bringing the work of community and academia together," says Halpern Zisman.

On Dec. 4, the HIV In My Day team hosted a community day for project participants, partner organizations and community members. The day will include a matinee viewing of the play, panel discussions, presentations from a storytelling workshop, talkback sessions and an interactive choir.

"Just having everyone together is going to be amazing." says Halpern Zisman. "We have the opportunity to share all these incredible stories and testimony and actually have a big impact on the people present, creating an opportunity for people to feel heard, for people to feel seen, and space for people to remember their loved ones."

Halpern Zisman, who has a PhD in theatre, says art can be a mode of healing. "I see the arts as transferring knowledge and a way of creating change."

#### Art as medium for conversation

For Lachowsky, the play is the culmination of years of research that reveals the complex, human stories behind the HIV/AIDS pandemic in

BC, stories rarely captured by traditional archives.

"It shows how research and arts-based approaches can connect in beautiful, different ways-and how art can be such an important medium for conversation," he says.

Although HIV In My Day focuses on the worst time in the epidemic's history-some 2,000 British Columbians died from AIDS-related illnesses from the mid-80s to 1998-Lachowsky says the project shows the value of activism, community, caregiving and solidarity.

The question now becomes, what's next? Lachowsky says the team has some funding to consider "gaps in telling," and whether HIV In My Day can be adapted to other communities where the early history of the HIV/AIDS pandemic has not been told.

tiny.cc/in-my-day

## Vikes women's field hockey and women's rowing crowned national champions

The UVic women's field hockey and women's rowing teams brought home two national championship banners in November.

Claiming the program's fourth-straight national title, the UVic women's field hockey team swept York University 2-0 in a best-of-three series Nov. 5 at the U SPORTS Field Hockey Championships on the UVic Field Hockey Turf.

Winning the championship on home turf marked the final one for head coach Lynne Beecroft at the helm of the Vikes field hockey program. Completing her 39th season with an unbeaten 9-0-1 record, Beacroft has led the Vikes to all of the program's 15 national titles, culminating with the four-peat to send her into retirement on the highest note.

Named tournament MVP, fifth-year studentathlete Anna Mollenhauer received u sports Player of the Year honours, making her the first ever three-time winner. Mollenhauer ends her Vikes career as a four-time McCrae Cup champion.

don't think that it's really hit me yet. It feels

Long-time residents and UVic grads,

Dave and Tara are helping to guide

by winning a championship at home. This is such a great team and group of girls who are all like sisters to me; it's special," said Mollenhauer.

#### Women's rowing wins first banner in 10 years

The UVic women's rowing team won the national championship title for the first time since 2012 at the Canadian University Rowing Championships (CURCS) on Nov. 6.

In her second season as the program's head coach, Jane Gumley received Coach of the Year honours. Winning the CURCs marks the first time in history a female coach has won the national banner.

"I'm really excited and honoured to be the first female coach to win a banner. This year there were more female coaches than ever before, which was great to see. My winning shows that more women are getting into coaching and making an impact in the sport," said Gumley.

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Winning the women's 8+ race, the boat of "Honestly, it's kind of surreal. It's hard to put Danae McCulloch, Maggie Hemphill, Abby into words the emotions I'm feeling right now-I Speirs, Nicole Cusack, Mikaela Holthuis, Danica Ariano, Kaliya Javra, Noa Hardcastle, and Sofie amazing to be able to help Buzz finish her career Hof clocked in at 6:12.270 winning the event by



The Vikes field hockey team celebrates the program's 15th championship banner. PHOTO: AP SHUTTER

four seconds and setting a new course record.

Celebrating the program's 50th anniversary makes the banner season even more impactful and does not go unrecognized by the Vikes athletes, whose theme for the season is 50 years

strong.

were ecstatic, but the first thing the team acknowledged was the 50 years that built up to this point and all of the amazing female athletes that paved the way and came before," said Gumley.

The win marks the Vikes' 12th Canadian University Rowing Championship title in pro-

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