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), Kate Gamble (Nature Bee), Sage Lacerte (Sage Initiative) and Tessa McLoughlin (Kwan). Info: uvic.ca/wlc

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.

BY KATY DeCOSTE

52% OF UVIC CO-OP STUDENTS RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE JOB OFFER BEFORE GRADUATION.

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

BY JODY PATERSON

Canada’s first trans woman Rhodes scholar headed to Oxford

BY JODY PATERSON
UVic satellite blasts into space

BY TARA SHARPE

On Dec. 29, 2022, the ORCAS 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 UVic’s first satellite 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 spacecraft to space later on Nov. 22.

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

“So me, for the space at the centre I was nervous but was really excited and proud of our team to see it all come together and reach the milestone of launching a satellite. orcas is not only UVic’s first satellite, it’s the first CubeSat designed and manufactured in BC, a first for both 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, you can do it.”

Dr. 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 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.”

First UVic satellite in space

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

In June 2022, the CSA hosted the ORCAS team along with the second CubeSat team—LORIS from Dalhousie University—to participate in the calibration of space instrumentation scopes, helping contribute to precise calibration of space instrumentation that measures the brightness of stars and supernovae.

Nearly 10 years ago, orcas—a UVic club of undergraduate 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. orcas won a Canada-wide satellite competition, with no plans for launch. (It was a design challenge for mission ideas.)

ORCAS continues to actively seek partners from government and industry. For instance, an engineer- ing and manufacturing company based in Victoria and led by UVic mechanical engineering alum Ray Brougmann 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 satellite.

Belugas turn tail from far-distant ship noise

UVic researchers document ships nearly 80 km away disrupting beluga behaviour

BY ALF WILSON

Belugas whale face many threats, in- cluding 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 biol- ogist and doctoral researcher Morgan Martin details how the behaviour of nine satellite-tagged Pacific-Arctic belugas changed due to ship en- counters—sometimes at extreme distances of nearly 80 km.

The surface movements and div- ing maneuvers of individual belugas was examined, revealing how the presence of ships causes changes to their movement. This research, led by 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 78 km away. Belugas increased 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 tagged-beluga data and ship Automatic Identification System (AIS) data to observe behavioural responses to ships—a first for studying animal- ship interactions. By merging the beluga tag-data and ship-data sets they were able to quantity 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 un- derwater noise,” says Martin “Arctic shipping has more than tripled in three decades. We observed ship avoidance reactions by belugas at extremely far distances—not far- ther 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 ship noise pollution,” Martin says. “But the sound levels at the beluga’s location are similar to the environmental noises already present. Reduc- ing our underwater noise footprint will help with the conservation of this species.”

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 result in long-term displacement of belugas from important habitats such as foraging and calving grounds, which can harm the sustainability of the species.

This research by Martin, supervi- sor Francis Juanes (biology), William Halliday (arth and ocean sciences), and Steve Insley (biology) reflects UVic’s commitment to the United Na- tions 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, Flor- ida Atlantic University, the Wildlife Conservation Society (Whitehorse, Yukon), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Department of Wildlife Management (Utsigajak, Alaska). Ship Automatic Identification System (AIS) data was provided by meridian and seaflow.
New Indigenous law workshops and educational offerings, in-person and in-community as well as online, are making it possible for people of all ages while employed by the Canadian Bar Association and The Law Foundation of Canada, the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) has three core values that Indigenous laws need to be taken seriously as laws; that more 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 UVic’s groundbreaking work with community partners 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 200 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 disadvantage, 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 Napoléon (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.

Experiencing the announcement of Revitalizing laws and legal systems visualize molecules better, and went art and chemistry impact. Levy helped me wrap my head around building career skills benefits both student and employer. Levy says she was “very lucky to have grown up surrounded by staffs who gave her the confidence to set her own standards for the kind of woman she is. She cited a “network of professors” at UVic, as an example of academic growth—UVic chemists Peter Wan, Wulff and Scott McIndoe.

In her second year at UVic, she invented a virtual reality game to help students understand biochemistry. Levy actively works to bring those two disciplines together in ways that benefit everyone. In the future, Levy knows that trans people will be ‘othered.’ I feel that this 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—important 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 for chemical analysis. That’s a life-saving initiative, and “an excellent example of the social use of chemistry,” says Levy.

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TOP 10 VIDEOS & PODCASTS

1. T’aaqwaywin, truth before reconciliation
   A new podcast series hosted by By Moran on truth before reconciliation features deep conversations and analysis with Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and others. T’aaqwaywin 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 McKeen.

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 nurses 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 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 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 bi video for returning students, faculty and staff—and extended our welcome to those new to campus.

TOP 10 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

1. Twitter: UVic students’ innovative climate solutions
2. Instagram: Student summer co-op
3. Instagram: Field hockey & rowing national championships
4. Instagram: PVO you go to university on an island
5. Facebook: Graduation 8 & dogs
6. Instagram: New banners on campus greenway
7. Facebook: Four seasons on campus
8. Instagram: Earth day on campus
9. LinkedIn: Times Higher Ed Impact ranking revealed
10. Facebook: UVic Cubesat satellite blasts into orbit

TOP 10 PARTNERSHIPS OF THE YEAR

1. From greenhouse gas to inert mineral
   An international research team with the UVic-led 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 Sub-stances 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 co-hosted 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’qum’ium’um’ Language and Culture Society, Hul’qum’ium’um’ 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.

More details on each story at tiny.cc/uvic-2022
1. Thurst into the spotlight by war
Ever since Russia's spring invasion of Ukraine, UVic professors Serhy Yekelchyk (shown at top of page 1) and Tamara Klawechnko have been at the forefront of efforts to educate and fight disinformation—holding teach-ins about the conflict and appearing in international media.

2. Estuaries to a tool for climate change
Tempestuous and dynamic, estuaries are unique ecosystems, 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 marks the 40th anniversary of the Canada Agreement a document 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
Lachowich was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by award at Sundance.

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 UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewed by UVic's Sundance premiere in 2022. Joynt was interviewe...
With Waypoint on Your Side, You can Focus on What’s Important - Kicking Butt

AUTO | TENANT | CONDO | TRAVEL

250-477-7234 victoria@waypoint.ca
A new research alliance is examining what it means to decolonize.

Mapping the “rainforests of the ocean” — kelp forests.

During this process, Case discovered juvenile salmon, but a raft of environmental factors impact everything from the free-flow of discussion to the generation of programming plans. In the case of Voices in Circle, that process has been challenging and sometimes immobilized "guilt" which sometimes immobilized me. I didn't feel that I knew enough, 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 and creativity. I also spent time looking at the privileges both I and UVIC have 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 knew how 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—by asking for guidance, help and work that I was imposing on others that were already overburdened. Once I started talking to 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 Farquhar 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, open-minded, looking 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 learn 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 how 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 that what might work mean and cost them.

THE RING
January 2023

BY ANNE MAULCLAIR

Canopy-forming kelp forests are a vital habitat for spawning herring and juvenile salmon, but a raft of environmental stressors make the future of those forests uncertain. A new research alliance is examining the resilience and decline of kelp forests along the BC central coast through Solguard Financial Ltd. and Manulife Securities Incorporated.

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—along with a suite of other factors 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 harvest, 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.

OCEANS RESEARCH

Case 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 axial Alliance grant, the British Columbia kelp resilience project.

Using historical charts from the 1900s, Indigenous ecological knowledge, edge 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 goal to the marine ecosystem, coastal communities and industry.

Satellite imagery can further pin point areas where kelp beds have been resilient or where they might decline or disappear, as well as associate changes in ocean conditions. The satellite data will allow for different governance management strategies and preparation for 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.

What does it mean to decolonize?

Understanding what decolonizing means to me is a bit of a struggle if I'm honest. There's no clear and simple definition to guide one because decolonizing any practises or structures requires really digging into understanding how that practise or structure is colonial in nature. This means in practice finding the courage to approach decolonizing any given thing. For me, it meant looking at the kelp forests case, something that have been 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 free-flow 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 this a bit of a struggle if I'm honest. There's no one answer for how means and what it looks like has been 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 and creativity. I also spent time looking at the privileges both I and UVIC have 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 knew how 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.

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 get some of the attention from UVIC as well. It was the first Indigenous arts and culture festival in the Programming Circle to help establish a safe space where truth and healing was our response to that commitment. I started from a place of offering a bit of a struggle if I'm honest. There's no one answer for how means and what it looks like has been 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 and creativity. I also spent time looking at the privileges both I and UVIC have 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 knew how 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.

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Personal projects that feed on kelp’s energy 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 goal to the marine ecosystem, coastal communities and industry.

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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.

“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 begin to see the stories and the people, 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 be accurate, without losing meaning,” told the story of a woman whose first 15 years of the AIDS pandemic using the testimonies of the participants in a theatrically exciting way,” says Waines.

Community focus

UVic’s first 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 (c.a.r.e.), led by UVic assistant professor JP Catungal and a number of equity 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 transcending 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-1980s to 1998—Lachowsky says the project shows the value of activism, community, caring 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.

The UVic women’s field hockey and women’s rowing teams brought home two national championships in November.

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

Winning the championship on home turf marked the final one for head coach Lynne Beacroft at the helm of the Vikes field hockey program. Completing her 19th 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 student-athlete 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.

“Honestly, it’s kind of surreal. It’s hard to put into words the emotions I’m feeling right now—I don’t think that it’s really hit me yet. It feels amazing to be able to help Buzz finish her career 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, Jamie Gumley received Coach of the Year honours. Winning the CURCs marks the first time in history a female coach has won the national banner.

“Tm 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.

Winning the women’s 8+ race, the boat of Danae McCulloch, Maggie Hemphill, Abby Spurs, Nicole Cusack, Mikaela Holthuis, Danica Ariano, Kalija Yeraz, Nea Hardcastle, and Jodie Hof clocked in at 6:12.270 winning the event by 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.

“When we found out we won the banner, we 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 program history.

“Long-time residents and UVic grads, Dave and Tara are helping to guide local residents and new-comers on the way to their very own real estate market.

Whether buying or selling, they will assure smooth sailing—just ask their many clients at UVic.