



University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

LEGACY ART GALLERY

Walking Thru My Fires

Opening April 22 at the Legacy Gallery Downtown (630 Yates), *Walking Thru My Fires* showcases the work of one of the most prolific living Indigenous artists on the West Coast. This deeply personal exhibition explores Indian Residential School legacies, urban Indigeneity, reconciliation and the healing power of art through UVic alumni Francis Dick's prints, paintings, carvings and music. It is an autobiography written in art.

legacygallery.ca

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity employer

For the 12th year in a row, UVic has been named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for its leadership in creating an inclusive workplace for employees, including women, members of visible minorities, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples.

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A ləkʷəŋən dancer with Myrna Crossley, Songhees weaver, and Songhees Elder and language keeper Seniementen, Elmer George being honoured at the naming ceremony and unveiling at UVic on April 5. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Čeqʷəŋín and Sŋéqə

ləkʷəŋən place names given to UVic's new student housing and dining buildings.

The names of local villages and the Peoples from the land on which UVic now sits were reclaimed and lifted up on April 5 as the names for the university's two new student housing and dining buildings.

In a ceremony and celebration at UVic, university and community members gathered to reveal the names and to thank and honour the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations for permission to use ləkʷəŋən names.

The first of the new student housing and dining buildings, started in 2019 and completed in 2022, is called

Čeqʷəŋín ʔéʔləŋ (Chekoŋien House), the name given to the territory that is now Oak Bay, and the Peoples who lived there.

The second of these new buildings, to be completed by September 2023, is called Sŋéqə ʔéʔləŋ (Sŋequ House), after a village in what is now known as Cadboro Bay. It was used for camas harvesting, trading and cultural and spiritual practices. It means "snow patches."

"Today, we want to raise our hands and acknowledge everyone who has helped to carry out this

good work," says Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas, UVic Vice-President Indigenous. "The building names will be a constant reminder of the history of these lands and will hopefully inspire critical reflections and educational opportunities for the campus community. The work we've undertaken together represents a milestone in acknowledging the true history of where we are located—on ləkʷəŋən territory—and a way forward in continuing to build respectful relationships with local Nations."

To ensure this work was done in

a respectful way, UVic asked Chiefs and Councils, Elders and community members for guidance and direction on the building naming. Collaboration and meaningful consultations were at the centre of this work.

"Our vision for working together on this over the last five years was driven by a strong commitment to honour and integrate Indigenous ways of knowing and being into our work in a respectful manner," noted Joel Lynn, executive director of student services at UVic.

"We set out to create a meaningful opportunity to share the history of this land with our students and

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EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CLIMATE RESEARCH

FIELD SCHOOL ON A GLACIER



UVic geography students explore Bridge Glacier during a week long field school. PHOTO: SHANNON FARGEY

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

A helicopter carrying a group of UVic geography students lands safely on Bridge Glacier, in the Lillooet Icefield with enough gear for seven days of fieldwork.

The students, led by UVic geographer Shannon Fargey, are equipped to survive the variable weather conditions and the long days exploring this remote backcountry as they learn about scientific research in physical geography.

Fargey has been teaching the geography course in recent years in locations that provide students with the unrivaled opportunity to experience a largely untouched mountain landscape.

"Dedicated field schools provide an opportunity for students to build strong relationships and gain hands-on experience in techniques of

monitoring and management in the geographic discipline," says Fargey.

"Collecting samples and conducting analysis in the field is quite different than in the lab; I see field schools as exceptional opportunities to gain industry-standard experiences in data collection," she adds.

Geography student Emily Heins reflects, "this field school was above and beyond what I could've imagined. It was extremely eye-opening and was hands down the most inspiring course I've ever taken in my degree. I came away from the trip with more knowledge and excitement about physical geography than ever."

"It is an amazing opportunity to teach students practical experience using current instrumentation and data collection methodologies in remote environments," says Fargey.

SEE FIELD SCHOOL, P. 3

2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards

From the far reaches of outer space, to the opera houses of Europe, to the intersection of Indigenous science and self-care, the recipients of the 2023 University of Victoria Distinguished Alumni Awards span the globe with their remarkable achievements.

This year, UVic and the UVic Alumni Association recognize 16 individuals in three categories: the Presidents' Alumni Awards (presented by UVic's President and the President of the UVic Alumni Association), the Indigenous Community Alumni Awards and the Emerging Alumni Awards.

Julie Claveau

For Julie Claveau, BSc '09, recipient of the Presidents' Distinguished Alumni Award, the journey from UVic science grad to astrophysicist at the Canadian Space Agency where she recently worked on the James Webb Space Telescope mission, has been anything but a straight line. She credits the support of her professors and the community she found at UVic with providing the fuel to propel her skyward.

"I ended up finding like-minded people that had the same passions as me," recalls Claveau. "It was the first time in my life where I actually felt like I belonged. I found my people. I found my true love. That's what I found in physics and astronomy at UVic. That recognition is what helped guide me to the space sector, and working at the Canadian Space Agency."

Josh Lovell

Barely in his 30s, Josh Lovell, BMus '15, is already a major player in the international classical music scene, performing at such prestigious venues as Teatro alla Scala Milan and Vienna opera house Wiener Staatsoper, where he is an ensemble member. The UVic music grad and recipient of an Emerging Alumni Award says the life of a professional opera singer is a lot of hustle and bustle, but his university experiences laid the foundation for his burgeoning career.

"There is no exact moment of 'making it,'" says Lovell. "All one can hope for is that they develop well enough to be noticed by the most famous companies in order to be hired by them. I was very fortunate to have been able to perform at a very high level since finishing my education. This entire journey goes back to UVic. None of this would have been possible without my teacher at UVic, Benjamin Butterfield."

Alumni at forefront of creating positive change for Indigenous people

Whether it's amplifying voices, empowering communities through technology or reconnecting cultural traditions and plant-based knowledge, three UVic alumni are at the forefront of creating positive change for Indigenous people. They are all among the recipients of the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Lawrence Lewis

A member of the We Wai Kai Nation (Cape Mudge Indian Band) on Quadra Island, Lawrence Lewis is the founder and CEO of OneFeather Mobile Technologies Ltd. The Victoria-based Indigenous technology company provides online election and voting services, banking solutions and digi-

tal status card renewal services for Indigenous communities across Canada.

Supporting more than 190 First Nations and Métis Nations across Canada and their 230,000 members, OneFeather's goal is to cultivate systemic change towards "eliminating the pains of colonialism, systemic racism and enable Indigenous sovereignty in Canada."

"The technology we've created is about sustainable governance and bringing communities together," says Lewis, a recipient of the University of Victoria's 2023 Indigenous Community Alumni Award. "This is resilient Nation-building."

Kear Porttris

Although a civil engineer by training, Kear Porttris considers himself an Indigenous community engagement specialist. In his current roles as Indigenous Engagement and Training Lead with BC Hydro and owner of Porttris Consulting Group, he helps guide and connect Indigenous communities, governments and contractors to raise the level of inclusion and understanding across projects, procurement and programming. He also helped create the KĒL, KĒLOFEN ĆE S, ISTEWE education fund for Indigenous students pursuing careers in architecture or engineering.

"There's a lot of work going on to increase inclusion in STEM for Indigenous people, as Indigenous representation in STEM professionals is extremely low," says Porttris, a recipient of the University of Victoria's 2023 Emerging Alumni Award. "Demand for Indigenous professionals is growing exponentially, across all fields. Supporting these professionals is really important."

Leigh Joseph

As an ethnobotanist, researcher and entrepreneur from the Squamish First Nation, Leigh Joseph (ancestral name Styawat) is the founder of beauty brand Skwálwen Botanicals, which brings together Indigenous science and self-care by providing luxury skincare and wellness products that draw from the ceremonial aspects of plants. She is currently completing her PhD at UVic in ethnobotany and aims to contribute her voice as an Indigenous academic so that other Indigenous authors and students will feel themselves represented and reflected in ethnobotany literature.

Joseph says, "my experiences laid the foundation for me to reconnect to community and culture in such profound ways. Throughout my experiences at UVic, I had cultural teachers and people helping guide me on how to bridge being a researcher within my own community and other Indigenous communities. And I feel really grateful for that."

THIS YEAR'S AWARDS RECOGNIZE 16 outstanding graduates across three categories:

The Presidents' Alumni Awards recognize the outstanding lifetime accomplishments of alumni.

The Emerging Alumni Awards recognize the outstanding professional achievements and/or contributions of recent alumni to the community.

The Indigenous Community Alumni Awards recognize contributions of alumni to Indigenous communities which have improved outcomes for Indigenous people, and contribute to truth and reconciliation.

Presidents' Alumni Awards

Julie Claveau, BSc '09

Michael Dunn, BA '74

Gargee Ghosh, BA '97

Maureen Gruben, BFA '12

Lisa Helps, BA '02, MA '05

Leena Yousefi, BA'06, JD '10

Emerging Alumni Awards

Taiwo Afolabi, PhD '20

Debra Danco, JD '13

Sarah Jim, BFA '19

Josh Lovell, BMus '15

Moussa Magassa, GCert '17, PhD '20

Kear Porttris, BEng '17, MASC '21

Indigenous Community Alumni Awards

Denise Augustine, BEd '90

Leigh Joseph, BSc '10, MSc '12

Lawrence Lewis, BA '93, Dipl '98

Art Napoleon, GCert '13, MA '15



Claveau. FIONA DU JARDIN PHOTOGRAPHY



Joseph. PHOTO: KAILI'Y SMITH



Lewis. PHOTO: OneFeather



Lovell. CREDIT: SIMON PAULY



Porttris. TANDEM PHOTOGRAPHY



Learn more about each of these individuals at tiny.cc/23-daa