



CELEBRATING NEW UVIC GRADS

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THE RING

SUMMER 2023

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

uvic.ca/news



University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

CONVOCATION 2023

Watch convocation online

Spring Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live from June 12–16. If you're not able to attend in person, you can watch the ceremonies on your computer. An American Sign Language interpreter and live captioning will be available during each ceremony. Video of each webcast will be available for six weeks following convocation. For event times and more information, visit uvic.ca/event/grad-2023

TAKE A STEP TOWARDS
RECONCILIATION

June is National Indigenous History Month

National Indigenous History Month is a time to recognize, learn about and celebrate the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. This month, and ahead of Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, we invite you to take the opportunity to learn more about the history of Indigenous Peoples.

Resources, stories and events at
tiny.cc/NIHM-23



Ambers. PHOTO: PHILIP COX

LEARNING FROM LANDS AND WATERS

3,928

DEGREES
CERTIFICATES
AND DIPLOMAS
AWARDED TO
SPRING 2023
GRADUATES

Do rivers have rights? Grad's research contributes to new land and water policy.

BY PHILIP COX

One of UVic's newest graduates has combined his interests, research, heritage and thought-provoking perspectives on waterways to propose a promising new approach to resource management policy and law.

"Canadian law conceives of rivers solely in terms of ownership, jurisdictional rights and as resources to exploit, but many Indigenous Nations see them as animate beings, capable of mutual understanding, that connect past and future generations," explains Andrew Ambers, who is Kwakwaka'wakw ('Namgis and Ma'amtagila) and graduating from UVic this June with a bachelor's degree in

Indigenous studies and political science.

"I wondered: what would it mean to pair this Indigenous logic and reasoning with the Canadian legal concept of personhood, to rethink and reconfigure the status of rivers in Canada?"

This was the question that launched Ambers' much-celebrated Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA) project, "The river's legal personhood: A branch growing on Canada's multi-judicial living tree," which was subsequently published in UVic's top undergraduate journal, *The Arbutus Review*.

His article has since been taken up by researchers developing land and water use policies in BC that account for the

authority of Indigenous nations.

Though Ambers' research is new, the problem he addresses is old. For generations, his family has contributed to efforts to stave off resource extraction and assert their inherent national rights and jurisdiction across their territories.

In a documentary produced during Indigenous-led protests against unsustainable logging practices in the 1980s, his grandfather, Ma'amtagila Hereditary Chief Basil Ambers, expresses concern about then-new clear-cutting techniques ravaging his peoples' lands:

"It's really sad. We are caretakers of this land. We hold it in trust for future generations. What we're looking at is the greed of modern-day man, that is only interested in today. The Canadian

SEE AMBERS, P.8

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UVic in global top 10 for impact on sustainability

The University of Victoria is in the top 10 among 1,500 universities worldwide in an assessment of how higher education is responding to and acting on United Nations goals to build a better future for people and the planet.

The 2023 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings placed UVic ninth in the world and third overall in Canada for how universities scored across all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are universal calls to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity.

UVic is ranked first in Canada—and third globally—for climate action, one of the key areas identified by the UN SDGs as requiring urgent action. UVic ranked fourth in the world for sustainable cities and communities.

Among notable UVic commitments are interdisciplinary climate-specific programs and degrees taught by internationally renowned fac-

ulty on a campus where sustainability practices are well established, in a part of the world where a dedication to a healthy environment underpins partnerships.

"As a global leader in environment, social and institutional sustainability, the University of Victoria is a connector," says UVic President Kevin Hall. "We engage and partner with local and global communities. We identify and find place-based solutions to improve our shared global existence."

The annual analysis by THE accentuates UVic's 30-plus year commitment to climate action through its research, stewardship, outreach, teaching and partnerships.

In April, UVic announced it will lead a national research initiative with more than 40 partners that will help Canada reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach its net-zero goal. Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET) received an



Graphic composite of UVic research and activities that reflect the UN SDGs. GRAPHIC COMPOSITE: JULENA LOVEGROVE

\$83.6-million investment from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, one of the federal government's top-tier funding programs. (See story on page 3)

The impact rankings reflect UVic's

performance in research and teaching activities, such as the recently announced undergraduate climate science degree and a graduate-level coastal climate solutions leaders program. (Stories on pages 2 and 3)

Collaborations with partners on campus sustainability initiatives such as improvements to active transportation options make campus

SEE SDG IMPACT, P.2

around the ring

One of Canada's top green employers—for the ninth time

This April, UVic was again named one of Canada's Greenest Employers. The national awards, organized by the Canada's Top 100 Employers project, recognize Canadian employers that lead the nation in creating a culture of sustainability and climate action. Since the awards were established in 2007, the university has been honoured nine times and is one of only three BC universities—out of more than 20—to be recognized for their environmental efforts.

Learn about more sustainability initiatives through UVic's Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability at uvic.ca/sustainability



UVIC
THE RING Vol. 50 No. 5

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

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

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

Next issue: Fall 2023

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

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Printed in Canada by Black Press
© 2023 University of Victoria
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Bob Reimer

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Federal funds shift UVic cycling into new gear

The University of Victoria's cycling network is about to see some major improvements thanks to new funds from the Government of Canada.

At an event this May on the university campus, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources of Canada, announced Infrastructure Canada's plans to invest more than \$10.9 million to support active transportation improvements on Vancouver Island. UVic is one of the beneficiaries, with nearly \$2.4 million going towards traffic-calming measures to make road crossings safer, as well as new pedestrian and bicycle pathways and improved lighting and signage in and around campus.

"These funds will support further enhancements to our cycling infrastructure approach for improving UVic's cycling network. Its four key strategies are to:

- prioritize active transportation options in university planning
- promote safe transportation practices in high-traffic areas
- improve safety and comfort for cyclists on campus
- enhance end-of-trip facilities like campus showers and change rooms.

changes along the main cycling corridors to campus.

"The University Drive Connection Pathway opened in 2021 and the West Campus Greenway was completed this spring. It's all part of our work to ensure that pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities can enjoy everything our beautiful campus has to offer," says Mike Wilson, director, Campus Planning and Sustainability.

UVic's Cycling Plan and this Infrastructure Canada funding reflect UVic's commitment to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—specifically, SDG 3 (good health and well-being), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (climate action).

tiny.cc/23-cycle

Seven major active transportation network improvements are to be completed as part of the Campus Cycling Plan. Now almost half-way through the 10-year term, the campus community has already seen major

changes along the main cycling corridors to campus.

"The University Drive Connection Pathway opened in 2021 and the West Campus Greenway was completed this spring. It's all part of our work to ensure that pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities can enjoy everything our beautiful campus has to offer," says Mike Wilson, director, Campus Planning and Sustainability.

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tiny.cc/23-cycle

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSC) IN CLIMATE SCIENCE

New degree prepares students to turn climate science into climate action

In our pivotal era of urgent questions about the Earth's changing climate, the next generation will soon be able to unearth answers in a new program like no other from an institution recognized globally as a leading hub of research on climate science and climate action.

The Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Climate Science at UVic is unique in North America, drawing together multiple areas of expertise to create an interdisciplinary program linking both the Faculties of Science and Social Sciences at UVic. Its mission: to prepare students to face the future with influence and skills that turn climate science into real action.

"I have a passion for facts and I want to be part of creating a better future," says Quinn Bitz, a second-year undergraduate science student from Calgary, Alberta who takes her first class in the new program this spring. "After high school, I looked at the chaotic state of our world and the future of our planet weighed heavily on me. I wanted to put myself in a position where I wouldn't only be collecting, analyzing and correlating data, but would be able to apply it to the real world. I came to UVic to further my knowledge and expand my perspective. I hope to be able to use what I learn to communicate and work with

people who have the power to make a difference. I plan to use what I'm good at—and passionate about—to help change the world."

Climate programs at other universities provide either more traditional "hard" atmospheric science programs or emphasize the "social" impacts of adaptation and mitigation with less emphasis on foundational science. The new UVic program merges both of these streams for the first time.

The BSc in Climate Science is also the first degree program on North America's West Coast to receive accreditation for delivering on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UVic, as a world leader in research on climate action and the home of the first UN International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) on this coast, is ideally suited for the new program. It is offered by UVic's Department of Geography and the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences.

"UVic's new climate science program is a flagship for the transformative power that education delivers to communities and the world," says UVic Vice-President Academic and Provost Elizabeth Croft. "Students of this program will develop the skills and knowledge to deliver meaning-

ful climate solutions for people and the planet, including through a co-operative education option, field schools and research experiences that set UVic apart on the global stage. Through programs like these, UVic is leading the world in sustainability and climate action education."

Students will experience an integrated approach with more direct access to climate science, theory and action through field schools, in-class experiences and more. They will benefit from using state-of-the-art mapping tools for visualizing local climate change to working directly with communities in collaborative research partnerships. As well, Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing are integrated into the new program, with transformative field-trip opportunities providing additional insights.

Students will graduate well positioned to work in many different sectors and communities, helping people and organizations respond to and mitigate the climate crisis. They'd also be galvanized to pursue graduate degrees in environmental and climate studies, contributing even more to the dedicated pursuit and inspirational discoveries of atmosphere and ocean science and climate action.

UVic Faculty of Science Associate Dean Academic Adam H. Monahan and Chair of the UVic Department of Geography David Atkinson, who are leading the new degree program at UVic, add that "students will also study computer programming, mapping, technical scientific and data analysis while honing essential communication skills to bring technical information to a wide array of audiences to collaboratively tackle climate adaptation problems."

Prospective applicants can find out more about the program, launching in May 2023, at tiny.cc/bsc-climate.

Upon graduation, they'll be competitive candidates for careers in climate-change-related fields ranging from renewable energy science and climate policy consultancy to NGO work, environmental technologies and more.

The BSc in Climate Science also reflects UVic's commitment to advance the UN SDGs. UVic is ranked third in the world among universities for climate action and the new degree will equip UVic students to understand the nature of climate impacts and potential solutions even better in the context of these goals.

Learn more about UVic's commitment to climate action at uvic.ca/impact.

SDG IMPACT

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

more walkable and bikeable for everyone and help reduce emissions. New construction for student housing and dining meets the most rigorous global building standards for sustainability and energy efficiency.

Through CIFAL Victoria—one of 10 university-based United Nations-accredited training centres in the world—UVic also offers specialized training and connects the global community through knowledge sharing and partnerships that address the UN SDGs.

This year, UVic's top global rank-

ing in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable reflects important partnerships for place-based solutions, says Emilie de Rosenroll, group chief executive officer of South Island Prosperity Partnership, a public-private partnership in Greater Victoria that works to bolster the region's economic and social prosperity.

"Through its groundbreaking research, its pursuit of innovation and

its willingness to take on global-sized challenges like climate change, UVic is an inspiring example of a university driving positive change to make a real difference in the world," says de Rosenroll.

Coastal Climate Solutions Leaders, which will launch this September, will help fill this critical workforce need. The new program, open to masters and PhD students as well as postdoctoral fellows from all disciplines, is supported by a \$1.65 million, six-year CREATE grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and a further \$1.15 million from UVic.

Julia Baum, a UVic biology professor known internationally for her work on climate change impacts in the ocean, and principal applicant for the grant, says the program will fill this vital gap.

"Tomorrow's climate leaders will need to understand the climate crisis broadly, including the on-ground challenges and opportunities for accelerating solutions," Baum says. "Our new program redefines how we train students by immersing them in highly interdisciplinary trainee cohorts and with people working to solve the climate crisis, so they understand the complexity of this challenge and develop the broad systems thinking required to tackle it."

leadership and Indigenous knowledge are necessary for us to achieve our decarbonization and clean energy goals. This initiative will leverage UVic's decades of expertise in interdisciplinary and community-based research."

Canada has pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 in the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act. The seven-year ACET initiative will help Canada reach that goal by catalyzing integrated renewable energy systems in Indigenous and remote communities that rely on diesel, as well as grid-connected communities outside major cities.

The communities themselves will define their energy, economic and social needs. Researchers and industry partners will help identify potential pathways that are most likely to reach their goals. Together, they will implement changes that will benefit health, environment and society—and move Canada rapidly toward net zero.



UVic will lead a national, multi-partner research initiative that will help get Canada to net zero—one community at a time—with thanks to an \$83.6-million investment from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF).

The funding for Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET) will support the work of more than 40 partners from academia, First Nations, private, public and philanthropic organizations.

"It is a 'game-changing,' community-centric model that will place Canada at the forefront of the clean energy transition," according to Lisa Kalynchuk, UVic's vice-president, research and innovation.

"Canada has a tremendous opportunity to lead the transition toward renewable energy-based solutions that respect and leverage local realities," Kalynchuk adds. "Locally, nationally and globally, local community

leadership and Indigenous knowledge are necessary for us to achieve our decarbonization and clean energy goals. This initiative will leverage UVic's decades of expertise in interdisciplinary and community-based research."

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UVic engineer Curran Crawford, who leads the ACET initiative, says "net-zero energy systems are much more than just respecting the environment and generating power. The energy must be harnessed, stored, distributed, and used to provide the community with the services they have determined they need."

ACET's interdisciplinary research team includes expertise from engineering, geography, law, political science, Indigenous governance, public administration, business, economics and environmental studies. Informed by insights from the communities' transitions, ACET outputs will be scaled to support national and global decarbonization efforts.

New financing models including capturing local economic benefits from renewable power have the potential to create equitable local economies that are unburdened by polluting and expensive energy. These

technical and economic innovations must be accompanied by policy and governance structures that will help realize reconciliation and local self-determination.

Old Massett Village Councillor Patrika McEvoy / Kwaa Tsaaps says, "it's really important to start thinking of things holistically. The answers lie in Indigenous knowledge coupled with scientific knowledge, so I think a lot of our climate change solutions are going to be based in partnerships with universities."

The goal is to get to 100 per cent renewable energies on Haida Gwaii, where ACET will support the Haida Nation in decreasing its carbon footprint and ensuring projects are done in a respectful way.

In Canada, 79 per cent of communities lie outside major metropolitan areas. Roughly 280 communities rely on diesel for the electricity that powers everyday life. ACET will power

up those communities and others around the world, while reducing their emissions, improve health and well-being and strengthen economic sovereignty. Most importantly, ACET will unlock barriers to our collective net-zero future by helping global citizens envision pathways and realize the unique aspirations of their communities.

ACET is led by UVic's Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic), in collaboration with Royal Roads University, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, the University of British Columbia and Yukon University. ACET's vision reflects UVic's commitment to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, SDG 3 (good health and well-being); 7 (affordable and clean energy); 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and 13 (climate action).

More info: uvic.ca/acet

Unique UVic graduate program to create climate solutions leaders

UVic is launching a first-of-its-kind Canadian graduate training program that will capitalize on UVic's climate research excellence to prepare the next generation of graduate students with the transdisciplinary skills and experience they will need to tackle the climate crisis head on.

World leaders have committed to limiting global warming to 2°C under the Paris Agreement, and countries need skilled climate action workforces that can accelerate actions to meet climate change mitigation targets and adaptation measures. In BC alone, it's expected that tens of thousands of new climate jobs will be created this decade.

Coastal Climate Solutions Leaders, which will launch this September, will help fill this critical workforce need. The new program, open to masters and PhD students as well as postdoctoral fellows from all disciplines, is supported by a \$1.65 million, six-year CREATE grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and a further \$1.15 million from UVic.

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"Tomorrow's climate leaders will need to understand the climate crisis broadly, including the on-ground challenges and opportunities for accelerating solutions," Baum says. "Our new program redefines how we train students by immersing them in highly interdisciplinary trainee cohorts and with people working to solve the climate crisis, so they understand the complexity of this challenge and develop the broad systems thinking required to tackle it."

The new program bridges the sciences, engineering, social sciences and business. It will deliver enhanced interdisciplinary training on climate change, its impacts, and mitigation and adaptation solutions. It includes research as experiential training, through internships and co-developed climate solutions research with end users from government, industry, nonprofits and local communities.

"Climate change is a code-red issue that calls for cutting-edge intersectional approaches," says Robin Hicks, dean of UVic's Faculty of Graduate Studies. "UVic's combined climate research expertise and community network allows us to deliver unique programs such as Coastal Climate Solutions Leaders, which will equip our graduate students with invaluable skills to take their climate careers to the next level."

More than 40 UVic climate change researchers from 19 departments and institutes across campus will help supervise trainees—working on all aspects of coastal climate solutions, from marine renewables to green financing and policy through to coastal adaptation strategies.

A key requirement for the emerging climate workforce will be the ability to work at innovative intersections, says Curran Crawford, a UVic mechanical engineering professor and co-applicant on the grant. "The new program draws upon a network of over 35 partners from municipal, provincial and federal government departments in Canada, as well as industry, nonprofits, and Canada and US climate change think tanks. It's a powerful ecosystem."

Students will also take specialized workshops to hone "human skills," including leadership training and Indigenous acumen training, that are recognized as being necessities for suc-



cessfully translating technical knowledge into impactful climate action in communities, adds Crawford.


"Climate change is inherently place-based. In BC, over 80 per cent of the population lives within five kilometres of the coastline," says Tamara Krawchenko, a researcher in UVic's public administration group and member of the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems at UVic. "Urban and rural communities have different needs and challenges. Trainees will learn the importance of place-based solutions."

"Every job is a climate job," says Baum. "I think our government realizes that and they understand that they need a workforce capable of leading the challenge of climate change, and we don't yet have that skilled workforce. This program will help contribute to that."

Baum also notes that UVic's excellence in oceans and climate change research is integral to the program, saying UVic is "perfectly suited" for this because researchers here have the breadth of expertise in climate change mitigation and adaptation right across the campus.

UVic Vice-President Research and Innovation Lisa Kalynchuk says, "it's exciting to see our innovative approaches and solutions to the climate crisis taking hold. UVic is quickly becoming known as Canada's climate university, and this transformative new program will help prepare future generations of leaders to meet these complex challenges head on."

COMFORTABLE, PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR UVIC RETIREES SINCE 1988



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major medal winners

Governor General's Gold Medal
Douglas Rennehan
Marisa Kilgour

Governor General's Silver Medal
Bronwyn Hobson

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (thesis)
Chenoah Shine

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (other than thesis)
Tracie Finstad

Jubilee Medal for Humanities
Elena Menendez

Jubilee Medal for Science
Danielle Tsao

Jubilee Medal for Social Sciences
Dusan Mitrovic

Certificate Distinction in the Faculty of HSD
Kyla Phillips

Victoria Medal in Fine Arts
Rachel Lachmansingh
Sarah Lachmansingh

Dr. Maxwell A. Cameron Memorial Medal
Abby Koning
Caytlyn Luke

The Law Society Gold Medal
Petra English

Canadian Society for Mechanical Eng. Medal
Payton Chernoff

Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal
Megan Rees

Department of Computer Science Honours Graduation Medal
James Windels

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering
Benjamin Kellman

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering
Olivia Rettig

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Software Engineering
Anton Nikitenko

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Biomedical Engineering
Kiana Assenheimer

Health info grad and varsity swimmer knows how to race the clock

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

As an Academic All-Canadian for three years, Mariah Fulton knows a thing or two about time management. Namely, when juggling rigorous studies, the demands of varsity swimming and part-time work, you use time wisely—very wisely.

Fulton, who graduates with a Bachelor of Health Information Science in June, was a member of the University of Victoria's swim team for three years, competing in sprinting events under 200 metres, including backstroke, freestyle and butterfly.

She joined the ranks of other student-athletes on the Vikes Honour Roll for achieving a minimum of 6.6 GPA during the previous school year, while training and competing at the highest level of sport.

"It was definitely a challenge," Fulton says. "I had to make sure what I was doing had value for school and swimming."

On a typical day, Fulton would arrive for swim practice at 5:30 a.m., after which she'd work part-time, then go to classes in the afternoon and head to the pool for another practice around 4:30 p.m., followed by school work in the evening. On "single days," she had the morning off from swimming, instead focussing on work and classes, followed by swim practice in the afternoon. She travelled, often off the island, for competitive swim meets once or twice a month.

So, how did she keep pace with it all?

"It was really fun," she says with a laugh. "Definitely hard, no question about it. Because the schedule is planned out for you, it helped motivate me to stay on top of things."

Fulton was a novice rower for UVic in her first year and has a love of all water sports, but swimming is a passion.



Fulton

"I like the individuality of swimming. It's all on you, if you're willing to push yourself," she says. "You also have a team: everyone's supporting you."

Both her father and cousins were competitive swimmers, so it's no wonder Fulton started swimming competitively in grade three. Being a varsity swimmer has been a rewarding opportunity for Fulton, despite the intense schedule.

"I thought, 'I'm not going to get the opportunity to do it again at such a high level. If I have the opportunity, why not take it?'" she says.

Fulton came across the field of health informatics during her first year at UVic, after a professor suggested she take a course. She applied to the School of Health Information Science and hasn't looked back since.

Born in Singapore, where her parents met, Fulton moved with her family to the Netherlands at age three,

where she lived until moving in Vancouver at age 12. Fulton says health informatics is more widely known about in other countries, although that is changing. She describes the growing and high-demand field as a "bridge between computer science and clinicians."

"We provide a communications stream between people who know a lot about computer science and people who know critical patient information, such as nurses, clerks and clinicians," she says.

Fulton completed four co-op placements in health informatics, including with Fraser Health working with a mobile health unit and in vaccine clinics training physicians and nurses to enter health data.

Her next three co-ops took place in various departments in Island Health, where she is now employed full-time working in critical care

and heart health. Her days are spent problem solving, analyzing and coming up with solutions to support busy health professionals, helping them reduce paperwork and improve their workflow.

"I really enjoy being part of the health-care industry and knowing that what I do does make a difference," she says. "If we make a nurse's day easier, they can spend more time with a patient. If we can improve how requisitions are sent in, maybe more people can get a MRI quicker and can stay healthier longer."

Although Fulton hopes to stay involved in competitive swimming in some way in the future, for now she is happy to focus on building her career.

"[Swimming] had such a large impact in my life," she says, "but I'm pretty excited for this new chapter and to find other activities that interest me."

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

This fall, UVic is awarding two honorary degrees that recognize notable achievements in scholarship, research, teaching and public service. Honorary degrees have been awarded at UVic since its inaugural convocation in 1964. An honorary degree is the highest honour the university can bestow for distinguished achievement. This spring's recipients include:



Ann Livingston

Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) | Friday, June 16, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.

For nearly three decades, the tireless efforts of community hero Ann Livingston have touched the lives of innumerable people. Best known for her role in co-founding the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, she was its executive program director for 10 years and is a tenacious champion of social justice, public health and harm reduction.

A volunteer project coordinator of the Nanaimo Area Network of Drug Users, Ann also helped form associations in Surrey, Abbotsford and across Canada, including the BC Association of People on Opiate Maintenance, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society and the Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs.

Ann's work carries the message that meaningful change requires understanding people's conditions and concerted effort over many years. Her advocacy contributed to momentum behind lawsuits to improve conditions for people who use drugs and has played a central role in transforming policies. She also helped pave the way for other peer-led organizations in Victoria, Vancouver and across BC.

Ann was an inspirational force behind the first illegal safe injection site in Vancouver in the 1990s and she has opened seven unsanctioned overdose prevention sites so far.



Zainub Verjee

Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) | Friday, June 16, 2023 | 2:30 p.m.

Zainub Verjee is a trailblazer renowned for her pursuit of art as a public good. An award-winning public intellectual and cultural diplomat, Zainub has led the way in shaping arts and culture by developing legislation and strengthening public discourse on the centrality of art in society.

Born in Kenya, Zainub is a visual and media artist and a fixture in the Canadian contemporary art scene since moving to Canada in the 1970s. She continues to further the cause of arts practitioners, bringing attention to the needs of women artists, artists of colour and Indigenous artists, while shedding a bright light on the issues of labour in the arts, with her tenacious support for the sector during the most fraught times of the pandemic.

Zainub served as executive director of the Western Front, a Vancouver Contemporary Art Centre; co-founded the critically acclaimed *In Visible Colours* (1989); contributed to the prison theatre program at Matsqui, now shifted to William Head Penitentiary in Victoria; and was integral to the formation of the British Columbia Arts Council.

A laureate of the 2020 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, Zainub exhibits around the world.

CONVOCAATION 2023



CONGRATS, GRADS!

Spring 2023 Convocation is a time of celebration and recognition for the hard work and achievements of our graduates. This year's convocation promises to be an unforgettable experience, with nine in-person ceremonies taking place over the course of five days from June 12 to 16.



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Biomedical engineering grad credits the co-op advantage

BY IVAN WATSON

Victoria Hartman originally wanted to be a doctor, and earned a UVic Bachelor of Science in preparation for that path. Increasingly intrigued by the emerging field of biomedical engineering as she pursued her studies, she changed course and took a second UVic degree in that area.

Now, on the cusp of graduation, she is excited to start her career in a rapidly expanding field at the cutting edge of research and innovation in the medical sciences, with several co-op work terms under her belt that have both expanded her mind, as well as her job prospects.

"I found out a few years into my education that I wasn't as interested in going to medical school as I thought I was," she says. "What I was interested in was the technology of medicine and working on treatments, therapies and regenerative medicine—that's what led me to pursue biomedical engineering, which I didn't even know previously was a possibility."

Biomedical engineering combines mechanical and electrical engineering with the study of human anatomy, physiology and biochemistry. UVic's biomedical engineering program was the first program of its kind in Western Canada when it was launched

in 2010. It's part of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, and helps position the university at the forefront of biomedical research and education. Faculty and students are developing technologies that are improving human health and healthcare, locally, throughout Canada and around the world.

"The really great thing about this field is that it is niche and it is also broad," says Hartman. "What I'm doing isn't what you'd think of as traditional engineering. I'm not designing or building a device, but I'm working in a lab, doing research and problem-solving and applying my skills in the areas of biology, chemistry and material sciences, and working on life-changing things like next-generation vaccine technologies."

During her degree, Hartman participated in several co-op terms, and she credits the opportunities they gave her with providing hands-on, real-world learning that is essential to career success, and even allowing for international work experience and travel.

"I am definitely pro co-op," she says. "I did a co-op here at UVic where I worked in a lab bioprinting tissue, and I also travelled to Japan for a co-op term working in biosensor

development—and it was amazing to travel around the country and get paid to do it! In Vancouver, I worked for a company called Precision Nanosystems working on nanoparticles and technologies for the creation of vaccines and got introduced to all the really cool, cutting-edge medical research they are doing."

Two years after this co-op experience and with her freshly minted degree, she was recently hired back by the same company in a full-time, permanent capacity.

"Since my co-op term, the company has nearly doubled in size," she says. "This is a fast-growing industry and there are tons of opportunities, but they need skilled people. I wouldn't have gotten this job without my co-op experience and it's a huge opportunity to be working in the area of research and development which I love, and out in the working world right after my degree."

Hartman believes that her unique UVic education and real-world co-op experience was a potent combination for people aspiring to a career in her field.

"The biomedical program at UVic is a small program. Everyone knows each other and helps each other, and we get so much attention and support from our professors who care about



Hartman

us as individuals and want us to succeed," she says. "I'd recommend it for anyone considering what type

of engineering they'd like to get into." More info about UVic biomedical engineering at tiny.cc/med-eng

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

My sincere best wishes to our wonderful graduates!
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Bringing substance to inclusion initiatives

Tanaya Marsel makes a meaningful contribution to Deloitte's reconciliation action plan

BY NATALIE BRUCKNER

Despite best intentions, countless studies show that most diversity and inclusion initiatives fail within the first two years. Which begs the question: Why?

Tanaya Marsel (MBA '23), Indigenous talent acquisition specialist at Deloitte, may have an answer. "It's often well-meaning, but the trouble is, a lot of these initiatives lack tangible goals and so they fall flat," she says.

"Mere lip service will ring hollow unless everyone in that company is willing to roll up their sleeves and take action to dismantle barriers, become educated on the subject and create a culture of true, embedded inclusion. Indigenous peoples, in particular, have long experienced empty promises and half-hearted efforts. They can see through just talk. It's not enough to state a commitment; it has to be demonstrated through concrete actions and meaningful progress."

Marsel's enthusiasm for the subject is contagious. In her role at Deloitte, she is leading the charge to transform how the company approaches inclusivity and social sustainability, through a variety of innovative initiatives.

Her efforts come at a crucial time: the Indigenous youth population in Canada is now the fastest-growing demographic, increasing by 9.4 per cent from 2016 to 2021 and surpassing the growth rate of the non-Indigenous population during the same period.

While Marsel has become a vocal advocate for Indigenous peoples' rights in the workplace, this hasn't always been the case. Growing up in

the small town of Oliver, BC, she had little involvement with Indigenous communities, even though today she is proud of her heritage (Lower Similkameen Band on her father's side, Métis on her mother's side).

"My family struggled with cultural suppression, as many Indigenous families have and still do," she explains. "It was hard for me to embrace my cultural identity due to the stigma that Indigenous peoples face as a result of intergenerational and systematic trauma. Receiving my status in 2019 was a turning point for me to explore my identity further. I felt as though it was a wakeup call to do my part in driving reconciliation."

Embracing her newfound identity, she took a leap of faith. After eight years working in HR, she quit her job in Kelowna and moved to Victoria to pursue an MBA in Sustainable Innovation at Gustavson. "I just followed my heart," she says. "I went into the program knowing I wanted to branch my career into enriching the lives of Indigenous peoples, but was a bit uncertain on how I would make it happen. It helped me dig deeper into the topic."

While doing her MBA, she joined various Indigenous advisory boards including the Métis Youth Sub-Committee. It was through a connection on the committee that she found out about the role at Deloitte. "I thought, 'let's just have the conversation.' I was blown away when I met with the manager and inspired by the work they were doing. One thing led to another, and I ended up with the job I have now. It's funny how your passion sometimes finds you."



Marsel. PHOTO: KYLIE NOEL

Since joining Deloitte in June 2022, she has been instrumental in driving the firm's reconciliation action plan alongside her team.

What she initially thought would be a role focused on recruitment has evolved into something more strategic, in which she ensures Deloitte's commitment to reconciliation is upheld by being the boots on the ground to increase and foster meaningful employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

Her team has plenty of wins to show for it. Among many inclusivity initiatives, Deloitte has adjusted its bereavement policy from three to 10 days to account for Indigenous ceremonies, implemented mandatory cultural training for all staff, firm-wide, and now has an Indigenous supplier

portal of more than 55 Indigenous organizations accessible to internal and external business needs.

"Empowering everyone to feel like they have the proper education and tools to support Indigenous peoples in the workplace and outside of it is important to me."

Additionally, Marsel's team has built strong mutual partnerships with many Indigenous-owned organizations and those who support Indigenous peoples in their career advancement—a skill she says she honed while doing her MBA.

By actively demonstrating an understanding and support for Indigenous peoples, Marsel says a company must create a positive and inclusive work environment that fosters all the four elements of mind, body, spirit and

emotions of its Indigenous employees. "After all, retention is just as important as recruitment, and ensuring that Indigenous employees feel respected and valued is key to retaining them," she explains.

While Marsel acknowledges that it can be frightening for many companies to really dive deep into what it takes to build a truly inclusive environment, "for fear of doing it the wrong way," her advice to companies is this: "You have to start somewhere. There are a lot of people doing this work already who can guide your strategy. Everyone in your staff needs to be engaged in the work. Don't just do it because it looks good for your company, do it because you believe in it. If that requires you to hire a whole new Indigenous department, then do that."

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Making a home among numbers and patterns

BY NICOLE CROZIER

For many people, math is a popular subject to hate. For graduating science student Elena Moss, it's the subject she loves and has spent the five years of her degree studying—and the subject she intends to keep studying for the next five, as she heads to the Berlin Mathematical School in Germany this fall to begin graduate studies.

"Math is pure problem-solving. We all use math every day, thinking through problems. It's methodical, but also really creative. It's not just plug and play, but also requires you to have strokes of insight," says Moss, explaining what draws her to the discipline.

Moss wasn't always interested in math. In high school, she wanted to go to medical school. However, after taking a gap year, she applied to UVic at the last minute and put down math as her intended major, following in the footsteps of her father. In her first year, she took a wide variety of science courses. She found she hated biology and wasn't a huge fan of her first-year calculus course, but she did love the other types of math she was learning. A second-year course in discrete math and combinatorics sealed the deal—she was fascinated and wanted to learn more.

Finding a love for math was a little easier for Moss than finding

community within the math department, though. In fall 2020, when all UVic courses went online, Moss found herself feeling disconnected from her peers.

"It was lonely, and all I was doing was studying—sometimes 10-15 hours a day. I would have a timer on my iPad and would try to beat the timer when completing tasks. I was gamifying learning in a dangerous way."

Moss also felt alone as a woman in math that fall. No one turned on their camera in class, and the voices speaking up in class were mostly male. To help create more of a community in the department, Moss took over as president of the UVic chapter of the Association for Women in Math. In her two years as president, the uvvs club hosted weekly study sessions (virtual at first, and then in-person), created a seminar series with women in academic and industry, and organized a summer camp for high school girls to check out UVic math last summer.

Ultimately, Moss learned that there were more women in her math classes than she thought.

"I'd estimate that 30 to 40 per cent of math students at UVic are female, and within discrete math, the numbers are pretty balanced. The department also has some really strong female professors, so there are lots of role models to look to."



Moss. PHOTO: NICOLE CROZIER

Since that lonely fall of 2020, Moss has really made a home for herself in the math department. She has been a teaching assistant for first-year calculus courses, and a tutor for the Math and Stats Assistance Centre. She's also been involved in research within the department. Through a Jamie Casless Undergraduate Research Award, she spent the 2021-22 academic year working on eternal paired domination in trees, and through an Undergraduate Summer Research Award, she spent a summer studying off-diagonal

Ramsey multiplicity.

Moss was also involved in research outside the department. She completed a co-op term and her honours project with the BC Cancer Deeley Research Centre, where she examined the spatial relationships between different types of immune cells, trying to determine if the distance between certain cell types positively or negatively impacted patient outcome. Moss's honours project took top place in mathematics at the 2022 Honours Fest. Moss has had lots of success during

her time as a student at UVic, but says she is most proud of learning to let go of perfectionism.

"In high school, I was focused on getting 100s, on getting scholarships. In university, that's not a practical mindset. I've learned that I don't need to be the best. I need to do well, but not at the detriment of other things in life."

Moss may not be striving to be the best anymore, but she's still managed to make a major impact by just 'doing well.'

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

High-achieving twins both earn the Victoria Medal for their writing

BY JOHN THRELFALL

When it comes to the academic arts experience, it's easy for undergraduates to lose track of their initial passion as they get caught up in the drive for grades and goals. Yet despite Rachel and Sarah Lachmansingh's many laudable achievements—including both being named winners of the Victoria Medal, the first time this annual award for the highest GPA in the Faculty of Fine Arts has been presented to two people—these graduating Department of Writing students have never lost sight of the reason why they started writing in the first place.

"At the core of it, writing is love," says Rachel. "Whether people want to do it as a profession or a hobby, the centre of that creativity is the heart." Sarah agrees: "Whatever I'm working on, it's got to be something that I love."

It's perhaps not surprising that the Lachmansingh sisters would agree: as identical Guyanese-Canadian twins from Toronto, both decided to move to Victoria together specifically to enroll in UVic's acclaimed writing program. Both were double-scholarship winners, saw their work professionally published in literary magazines, were editorially involved with the student literary journal *This Side of West* (TSOW) and were mentees for the Writers Union of Canada ВІРОС Writers Connect program.

Ironically, both also won first prizes in the annual UVic Libraries/ЕQНН "on the Verge" writing contest during their first year on campus.

"We were walking to a class together when Sarah got an email saying, 'Congratulations! You won!' and I thought, 'Hm, I wonder if I won



L-R: Rachel and Sarah Lachmansingh. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

too?' . . . then five seconds later I got an email saying I had won," laughs Rachel. "That was a fun twin thing for people, because it was a real coincidence we had both won for the same contest."

Throughout their studies, the Lachmansinghs kept more than busy. Sarah worked as the fiction intern for *The Malahat Review* and served as both fiction editor and social media director for TSOW.

As well as serving as editor-in-chief and reviews editor for TSOW, Rachel earned national attention as a finalist for the 2022 CBC Poetry Prize,

which the writing program is well known. "It was such a highlight to be able to celebrate students in the early stages of their writing," she says.

"I've published a lot—it's been really fun trying to balance it all with my studies!" Rachel says with a characteristically quick laugh. "But a bigger goal for me now is just to find a sustainable writing practice that also makes me very happy."

While Sarah feels her work with TSOW was foundational ("I've wanted to be an editor since I was a kid"), she also feels it was significant in helping to build the sense of community for

which the writing program is well known. "It was such a highlight to be able to celebrate students in the early stages of their writing," she says.

Both feel their combination of academic work, peer mentorship and professional practice have helped build an enviable skill set that will serve them well going forward. "Fun- nily enough, one of the basic skills that will help me no matter where I end up is email writing," laughs Rachel. "As EIC, I learned how to nail that: when you lead a team and run

a magazine, there's a certain level of organizational skills you have to develop, which I'll carry with me as I continue on in the professional world."

Now back in Toronto, both feel the writing program provided an essential foundation for their future professional growth. "Having the writerly culture in the program and Victoria in general, we felt like we were part of a community, part of a place where we all celebrated reading and writing and being thoughtful," concludes Sarah. "It was really important in validating us as writers."

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Championing inclusivity in youth athletics

BY MICHELLE BUTTERFIELD

"I think it's really important for kids to see a reflection of themselves in society."

Angela Coutts completed her Bachelor of Education in Physical Education at UVic in 2012. Since then, she's worked as a high school educator and coach in the Greater Victoria School District. She is currently the proud basketball coach and a physical education department head at Esquimalt High School. This June, she receives her second degree from UVic: a Master of Education in Coaching Studies.

Angela's years of experience and drive to improve as a professional coach made her a perfect candidate for the graduate program. She cites her mentor Sandra Gibbons, a UVic professor in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, who strongly encouraged Ange to continue her studies. As an educator, an additional certification like a master's degree means that Ange can get paid more to teach. It also means that for the first time in her career, she can get paid to coach outside of the public school system.

"I grew up having amazing coaches, mentors and high school teachers. The coach/student relationship is so different than the teacher/student relationship. It allows you to build a deeper connection and a more nuanced understanding of each other."

Ange chose to focus her graduate thesis project on 2SLGBTQ+ youth in athletics. As an "out" queer high school teacher and coach, she says the topic felt personal and relevant. She also says that many educators and coaches aren't up to date on current terminology, pronoun use or other considerations for youth athletes. Some examples include having gender-neutral and accessible changerooms, or selecting teams in a way that doesn't make assumptions about gender.

This level of awareness and understanding by coaches, instructors and administrators can make a huge difference in the experience of 2SLGBTQ+ youth athletes, many of whom say they feel the least safe in the gym. Statistics show that 64 per cent of 2SLGBTQ+ people feel unsafe at school in general.

For her research, Ange took a deep dive into a literature review, analyzing existing data about youth athletics programs in BC. She found that some information for educators is out there, but it is mostly self-directed and therefore doesn't offer a chance for dialogue, questioning or working with others. Ange says these resources don't serve educators in a way that creates meaningful change. Instead, she says that people need to hear personal stories of how individuals are affected when addressed by the wrong name or pronoun, or when they are put in the awkward position of hav-

ing to publicly self-identify because of gendered changerooms or team selection. All of these examples can be avoided with some mindfulness on the part of coaches, educators and even administrators.

In response to this need, Ange developed a 90-minute professional development workshop that is meant to increase awareness around the needs of 2SLGBTQ+ youth athletes. It is based on real-life scenarios that coaches and educators will likely encounter, and was developed with community feedback from youth athletes across BC. Her hope is that this in-person workshop format will provide a more approachable entry point for educators and coaches to have these important, vulnerable and sometimes uncomfortable conversations.

"People want to see women in sport move forward, but it's still male dominated. For example, there were three girls in our program last year. So, to pick this topic while already being a minority was a bit nerve-racking. Inclusivity in sports is a hot topic, and it's not an easy conversation to have in front of a group of your peers. But people really do want to learn and improve. I always bring it back to the high school perspective, where our job is to keep kids active, healthy and safe."

Through her classes at UVic, Ange was able to learn from instructors who are actively working in



COUTTS. PHOTO: ELLA OSTRIKOFF

their field. For example, she took a sports psychology course taught by the mental performance coach for Team Canada, and another course from Team Canada's physiologist for world-class divers. Ange says these learning experiences reinforced her connection with the tight-knit Canadian athletics community, ultimately paving the way for her career as a professional coach.

"I often tell friends of mine that I'm

not really coaching basketball. I'm coaching on how to be an independent woman or stand up for yourself, how to be a great global citizen, or what it means to be kind to people from different backgrounds than yourself. I happen to do that by teaching lay-ups. Sport is so much more than just running up and down a court. It's a dynamic that a lot of kids might not have at home. So, I'm drawn to being able to lead people that way."

Driven to make a difference

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

As a high school student, Emily Lowan felt afflicted by the severe reality of the climate crisis. In response—unable to bear the weight—she felt compelled to act. She organized her peers to vote in the provincial election and spent countless hours protesting on the lawns of the BC legislature.

As Lowan applied to universities, she says she was skeptical that these isolated institutions could provide her with the practical skills required to enact transformative change.

"I didn't expect to find an outlet for activism during my time at UVic," says Lowan, graduating this month with a BA major in political science and minor in environmental studies, with a co-op distinction.

In her first year, she had doubts—most of her professors were "apathetic and painfully out-of-touch with the nature of the climate emergency," says Lowan.

She found her political home at UVic by fluke, stumbling into a Divest UVic protest early one morning.

"It was a pleasant surprise to find the wonderful people at Divest UVic and the Corporate Mapping Project, where I built new muscles as a political organizer and deepened my understanding of activism through social movement theory and investigative research methods," she explains.

Drawn to UVic because of its en-

vironmental studies program, Lowan was particularly interested in political ecology professors, such as Dr. James Rowe.

"I love that my research focus of climate justice politics informed my ever-evolving theory of change, shaping my approach to political activism and community-engaged research projects," says Lowan.

As a recipient of the UVic Excellence scholarship, Lowan received funding for her undergraduate program. She was also one of six finalists in BC competing for an Oxford Rhodes Scholarship. It was the Divest UVic campaign, however, that inspired her to run for the UVic Student Society Director of Campaigns position, which she considers a formative experience that allowed her to practice, implement and experiment with politics and social movement theory.

As President Hall took the helm as UVic's new president, Lowan led Divest UVic's successful campaign—covered by *Maclean's University Rankings* in June 2022—during which Lowan and eight other UVic students painted a 14-foot mural in front of the administration building.

"I'll always look back fondly on the time when I blocked the university administration building; for hours, I sat numbly on the cold concrete, arms linked with my peers in our protest for full fossil fuel divestment," says Lowan.

"In political science, I focused on



Lowan

international law and relations, which helped develop and hone my understanding of climate politics, historical and ongoing injustice," adds Lowan.

In her third year, Lowan received a Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA).

"In my JCURA research project, I worked with Dr. Claire Cutler to examine the political, legal, and economic vulnerabilities in BC's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply chain

during the COVID-19 global pandemic," explains Lowan.

"It was fascinating to delve into a live-issue research project outside my typical realm; however, there were many lessons relevant to the climate crisis—interviews with public servants revealed many constraining dynamics and stumbling blocks in public emergencies."

"I love to solo-travel on the cheap. I can apply my activist lens to the work swim in the ocean year-round, mean-

der in the forest, and experiment with collage," says Lowan.

After graduating, Lowan is launching into full-time work at Climate Action Network Canada as a political strategist and campaign lead on coalitions related to the anti-pipeline protest, divestment, and federal climate policy.

"This is my dream job," says Lowan. "I can apply my activist lens to the work I do with our community partners."

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

A passion for food justice

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

Hunger and poor nutrition exist across the globe, but in places where wealth inequality is increasing, such as Canada, food insecurity is growing.

In her recent research, UVic student Katherine Strom Trudel found that 10 per cent of Canadians are food insecure. For her honours program in anthropology, Strom Trudel looked at the experience of food insecure mothers and caregivers in Victoria.

Her research showed three barriers existed to accessing charitable food services: transportation, nutrition and priority access. Strom Trudel hopes her honours research will be used to improve access for all community members.

In June, she graduates with an Honours BSc in anthropology, with a minor in environmental studies, and co-op.

As a woman of Kahnawake Mohawk and mixed settler descent, Strom Trudel says she has experienced various challenges throughout her life. But the intersection of these backgrounds has allowed her to walk in two worlds, and it has encouraged her to work hard and better her community and Indigenous communities across Turtle Island.

The person who inspired her the most, however, was her mother.

"My mother raised me in spaces that taught me how to build community, through food," says Trudel.

Her best friend Shannon also inspired Strom Trudel's research and encouraged her to be involved in spaces where food, mutual aid and community building were appreciated.

Strom Trudel says she loves how diverse anthropology is as an area

of study and how it can be applied in different ways to thinking about more place-based solutions to issues.

"I am grateful that my department encourages research and exploring diverse fields in the discipline of anthropology, and I have had many pros contribute to helping me grow in these areas, including Margo Matwychuk, Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, Sarah-Louise Decrausaz and Amanda Cooke," she says.

Strom Trudel hopes to take a bit of time off after graduation and before she starts a bachelor of education in September. She plans to teach middle and high school students in remote communities around BC. She also does a lot of volunteering with Girl Guides of Canada where she helps with various community food security and justice groups.



Strom Trudel

As an avid runner, Strom Trudel hopes to do her first marathon this summer, as well as lots of hiking, biking and surfing. She will continue

with her federal government job and she will also travel to Haida Gwaii to do some work this summer.

AMBERS

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

government should recognize that they also have a duty to future generations of people. If we are going to leave a legacy—a legacy of stumps—for future generations, it's them that are going to condemn the way we handled what the creator gave us to take care of."

Decades later, those words may evoke viral images of felled ancient cedars and protest sites like Fairy Creek, which currently capture a significant amount of media attention. But Ambers notes that for his community at least, the roots of the issue reach far deeper than that, as people like his grandfather have long proclaimed.

"The impact of forestry was devastating during my grandparents' time, and that was back then. A lot has happened between then and now," Ambers states. "But what they were fighting wasn't simply about forestry—of course, it's about the trees, but it's also about rivers, about food systems, about governance and jurisdiction, and about the future. What they were fighting for was a lot bigger than what many people understood at the time."

For the last four years, Ambers has prepared to carry on this work in his

own way. His JCURA project, which was supervised by Abenaki historian Christine O'Bonsawin, invites law and policy makers to move away from thinking solely about governmental and corporate interests in rivers, which is the current status quo in BC. "When we think of rivers and nature as persons, legal or otherwise, it shifts the orientation of our thinking. 'Rights' may not be the most ideal way to approach this, but it's a language that most people can speak and understand," he explains. "So the idea of extending rights to rivers helps people rethink what rivers are, which creates an opportunity to see them through the lens of Indigenous jurisdiction."

The attempt to re-imagine the status of land and water is a theme that runs through much of Ambers' work.

As a research assistant for Carey Newman (Hayalthkingeme)—a multi-disciplinary Kwakwaka'wakw/Coast Salish artist, master carver and filmmaker, and the inaugural Impact Chair in Indigenous Art Practices with UVic's Faculty of Fine Arts—Ambers is working on The Seedling Project, which seeks to reshape relationships with the land and honour intergen-

erational responsibilities to the land through art, governance, law and technology. The project is caring for a cedar tree sapling that will be carved into a totem pole once it reaches full maturity several centuries from now.

With Jeff Ganohalidoh Cornstassel, a political scholar from the Cherokee nation and professor of Indigenous Studies, Ambers is also contributing to the Borders in Globalization research program. He helps to re-envision Western conceptions of borders and international relations through coastal, Indigenous perspectives—a topic he can speak to as a coastal citizen studying histories of the Pacific Northwest and which he will experience first-hand this summer as a participant in Tribal Journeys.

In the fall, Ambers will begin UVic's world-first joint degree program in Canadian common law and Indigenous legal orders, with intent to focus on ocean-based practices, laws and knowledges. This was a subject area he explored in his honours thesis—nominated as one of the best in the province by the BC Political Science Association—and as a research assistant for Kanaka Maoli scholar Lisa

Kealohapa'aokahaleole Hall, director of Indigenous Studies and 2023 UVic President's Chair.

"I think the oceans will be an increasingly important area of interest in the near future, which is why we need to articulate Indigenous ocean-based perspectives and analytical frameworks now," Ambers says. "By 2030, the UN seeks to implement a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights. The question of Indigenous law in these developments is looming, so research on how Indigenous nations articulate, relate to and engage with oceans will be impactful for decades to come."

For now, Ambers will spend the summer travelling with friends and continuing land-based work on an Indigenous and lək'wəḱən-lək' project that reinvigorates native ecosystems and teaches university and grade school classes about the social and ecological significance of certain native plants.

It's everyday acts of resurgence like these, Ambers says, that link the work of today with that of past and future generations, which grounds his daily practice.

HEALTH RESEARCH

Repairing Canada's failing alcohol policy

This May, a UVic-led project revealed worsening alcohol policy grades across the country and proposed detailed steps to get Canada back on track.

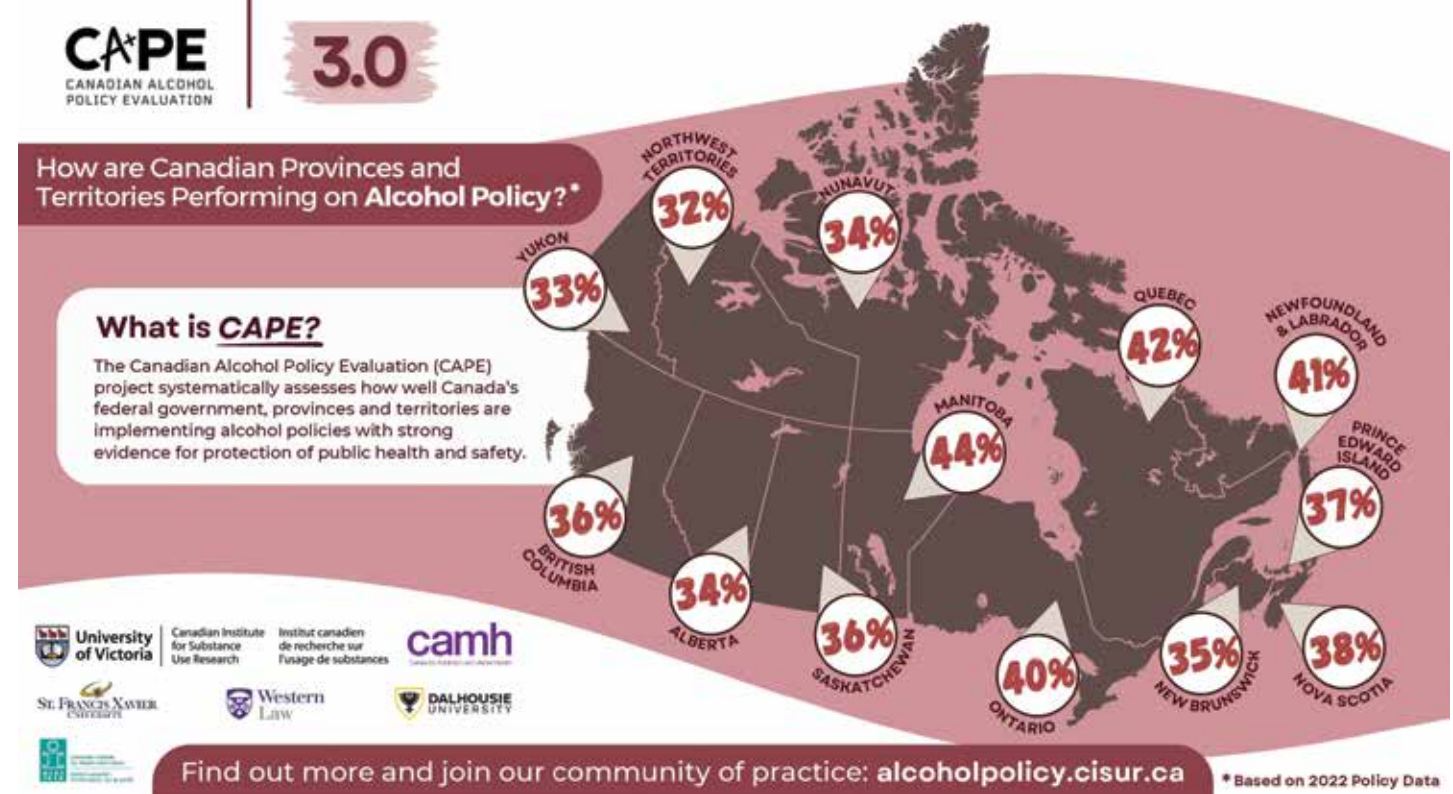
News of alcohol's harms and costs has dominated headlines post-COVID. The Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) Project, led by UVic's Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR), brought together researchers from institutions across Canada to evaluate alcohol control policies federally and in all 13 provinces and territories. This May, they released their results alongside evidence-based solutions to improve health and well-being.

"This is about more than asking individuals to consider cutting down on their drinking," says Dr. Tim Naimi, CISUR director and lead of the CAPE Project.

"Yes, that can be important, but governments need to make changes to the broader drinking environment. CAPE offers a scientific evaluation of where our governments are at in terms of health-oriented alcohol policy, while also giving the tools they need to improve."

While the project offers a less than rosy picture of where government alcohol policy sits today, it comes with solutions. CAPE has prepared a detailed report card for each of the provinces and territories and the federal government, which shows them how they are faring in 11 different policy domains including pricing and taxation, physical availability, control system, marketing and advertising, health and safety messaging and more. It offers tailored recommendations for how they can improve their scores and strengthen their policies in support of public health.

"Some of these recommendations include creating minimum prices tied to alcohol content and indexed to inflation, moving the oversight of alcohol regulation and sales to a government ministry focused on health or safety rather than finance, reducing hours of sale, mandating warning labels for alcohol containers or officially endorsing the new Canadian Guidance



on Alcohol and Health," explains Naimi. "Governments could also develop an alcohol strategy on a provincial or territorial level or create a federal Alcohol Act."

Many of these strong policies are in place in some parts of Canada today. If governments were to implement the best existing policies consistently across Canada's provinces and territories, they could score 80 per cent or an A-

This is the CAPE Project's third evaluation of alcohol policy across Canada's provincial, territorial and federal governments—and the results aren't great. Every single jurisdiction got an overall failing grade, with the lowest scoring jurisdiction, Northwest Territories, only getting 32%. The highest-scoring jurisdictions—Manitoba and Quebec—only scored 44% and 42%,

respectively. The federal government's score was just 37%.

"This reflects 'red tape reduction', 'modernizing' initiatives and other erosions of public-health-focused alcohol policies we have seen in recent years," says Naimi. "We were starting to see it ramp up when we released our last evaluation in 2019, and during the COVID-19 pandemic we have only seen it get worse."

The CAPE Project is a collaborative project involving researchers from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Western University, St. Francis Xavier University, Dalhousie University, and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. The institutions worked together to create the evidence-based scoring rubric, collect relevant policy data from across the country, and

score the individual provincial, territorial and federal governments on how they fared across the 11 different policy domains. The project also relied on stakeholders within the government to validate the data and ensure its accuracy.

"This was a massive, scientifically rigorous project that could only be achieved via these strong partnerships with institutions and governments across Canada," says Norman Giesbrecht, scientist emeritus at CAMH's Institute for Mental Health Policy Research who has been a key part of CAPE since its first iteration. "We are grateful to be able to do this evaluation for a third time and build on the excellent work that began with the first CAPE in 2011."

The CAPE Project was funded by Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

ONC featured as global leader in World Ocean Council docuseries

Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) is one of 30 pioneers and change ambassadors who are featured in a global docuseries for charting new paths towards a healthy and sustainable ocean.

Ocean Titans is an official World Ocean Council series that is hosted and distributed by Reuters internationally. With a focus on the ocean dimension of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals (UN SDGs), the series invites business leaders to share their vision, actions and solutions for ocean stewardship and a sustainable blue economy during the current UN Ocean Decade (2021-2030).

"Being recognized as an Ocean Titan is a credit to all ONC staff, from the scientists, engineers and data specialists, through to the mavericks who first thought of permanently installing sensors in the ocean," says Kate Moran, president and chief executive officer of ONC, a University of Victoria initiative.

"Within a span of 17 years Ocean Networks Canada has become a powerhouse in ocean discovery and technical innovation, providing globally accessible data from the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic coasts of Canada. This data

is being used to advance climate change solutions, maritime and coastal communities' safety, Indigenous leadership and a sustainable ocean-and-planet future."

The episode dedicated to ONC takes viewers below the surface—at depths of up to 2.6 kilometres—where data are collected by its cabled, mobile and community-led networks.

Join ONC's engineers, scientists and Indigenous community liaison who share how ocean data are transforming our lives; from how we can better prepare for earthquakes and tsunamis on the Pacific coast, to measuring the impact of climate change on the ocean. Learn about ONC's commitment to Indigenous Peoples' coastal leadership and to "multiple ways of knowing" as the pathway to comprehensive ocean observation.

Viewers will also meet users of ONC data, including a physicist in Germany who is tracking cosmic neutrino particles, the smallest building blocks of matter, via instruments deep in the Pacific Ocean that are powered and monitored by ONC's NEPTUNE observatory.

In a statement, the World Ocean Council



ONC deploys the Liquid Robotics wave glider, an autonomous floating platform that collects oceanographic data—part of ONC's pioneering seafloor geodesy monitoring system. CREDIT: OCEAN EXPLORATION TRUST

said that it is important to recognize that in our interconnected ocean, the impact of one company or industry is not enough to address the growing use of our precious resources. That's why the Ocean Network Canada has been invited to join this collaborative effort, as they share these same values and are working to promote

a sustainable economy. The *Ocean Titans* series will run throughout the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) with 30 films to be released this year that highlight ocean businesses that are committed to sustainable practices and collaboration. More info at tiny.cc/onc-titan

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

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TEL ILĆE: Digging into the past to shape the future

BY RICHARD DAL MONTE

Cordova Bay in the Vancouver Island community of Saanich is known for waterfront homes, the long sandbar beach and tidal lagoon, and small city parks with expansive views of Haro Strait.

But for millennia before white settlers began building on the bay in the late 1800s, the area was a teeming centre of life for the people living in an Indigenous village called TEL ILĆE in SENĆOŦEN or čəlič in ləkʷəŋən. It was the original village site of the South Saanich Treaty of 1852, one of the 14 “Douglas Treaties.”

Now, led by the Tsawout First Nation and in collaboration with ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ First Nations, the University of Victoria’s 2023 archaeology summer field school will dig into the past of this ancient village site and the cultural landscapes that surround it.

Taking place on waterfront parks held by the District of Saanich, and the adjacent intertidal area, the researchers from UVic’s anthropology department will conduct the first research-focused archaeological project ever done in the Cordova Bay area. The collaboration will provide experience-rich training for UVic students alongside youth and cultural workers from WSÁNEĆ and ləkʷəŋən communities.

The archaeological fieldwork will map the footprint of TEL ILĆE village and surrounding areas using ground penetrating radar and archaeological soil probing techniques, as well as careful exploratory excavations. Alongside these archaeological techniques is the vitally important work to bring SENĆOŦEN language, oral history and local knowledge into the research.

“That place has always had a special place in my thoughts,” says Mavis Underwood, who is a UVic PhD candidate in anthropology and a Tsawout First Nation Elder.

“With so many young learners in the Tsawout community, we need to bring that history back to the place and to the hearts and minds of our children. We need to bring that sense of place and belonging and connection back to them.”



Brian Thom (centre) with Mavis Underwood (right), archaeologist Heather Pratt, Tsawout referrals coordinator Neesha Nandhra, and anthropology graduate student Rachel Hooton reading the ancient landscape at a fragile high-bank midden site in Cordova Bay. CREDIT: KEN FOSTER

Through land, connecting past and present

A long-time community leader, Underwood says the field school links past, present and future.

“What does this mean a generation from now or with another generation of grandchildren? Will they remember that they had village sites here? That people died here and they lived here? That’s really important to me, that idea of being alive and being connected to the land and the water,” she says.

UVic associate professor of anthropology Brian Thom is overseeing the UVic-Tsawout Archaeological Field School along with senior archaeologist Heather Pratt.

“There are strong oral histories in WSÁNEĆ and ləkʷəŋən families of their connections to this special place,” says Thom. “Yet people from

the WSÁNEĆ communities have said to me they haven’t felt really welcome in Cordova Bay, and unable to harvest foods or have their place names and history recognized. And certainly we know from the many ancient burials disturbed, removed or destroyed by private land development, that their ancestors have often not been treated with dignity here.”

The field school will be about making Cordova Bay welcoming again, through recognizing and uplifting all “the incredible stories attached to this place,” he adds.

The story of TEL ILĆE / čəlič

The District of Saanich, through the recently completed Cordova Bay Area Plan and the 2021 ÁTOLNEUEL Memorandum of Understanding with

the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, has committed to protecting ancestral sites and public education about Indigenous Peoples’ histories in Saanich.

Education of UVic students and local Indigenous youth are critical components of the field school. Students will learn to recognize elements of an ancient village site—things like house floors or kitchen hearths—and to document intertidal features such as fish traps and canoe runs. Youth workers and UVic students will gain a key certification for working on other archaeological projects.

The cultural work and connecting to the ancestors is a key piece of the project for Thom and Underwood.

Keep dreams alive

The potential discovery of ancient fish traps is not just about their ar-

chaeological value, says Underwood, but about the history and ceremonies associated with them and the land, when the Tsawout would ask the salmon to come back and feed their families.

“In a world where there’s not a lot of opportunity for hope or looking forward, or maybe changing the climate,” Underwood says, “you can perform ceremony, you can perform ritual, you can perform prayer. And that’s your first foundation for hope, it’s your first foundation for putting a dream in your mind and keeping it alive.”

“That’s what I want to see: people getting excited about those things again.”

Read more about the field school at uvic.ca/cordovabay.

DAY IN THE LIFE

A full circle moment for co-op coordinator

BY KATY DECOSTE

Just over two decades ago, Natalie Haddow travelled to Ballarat, Australia as a co-op student in UVic’s Leisure Service Administration program (now known as Recreation and Health Education), where she spent the next four months planning events for the city. Now, 20 years later, with a graduate degree and a few career pivots under her belt, Natalie returned to Ballarat, this time as the new co-op coordinator for UVic’s School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education.

“I spent 20 years developing my career and, in that time, I was fortunate to be a co-op employer myself,” says Natalie. “When the opportunity to join the co-op team presented itself, it felt like the right move. I’ve always considered this job to be my dream job!”

Before returning to UVic, Natalie spent seven years with the Canadian Morale and Welfare Services, where she hired UVic co-op students from UVic to plan recreation events and programs for military members and their families. As a co-op alumna, she understood the value of empowering the students she supervised to trust their own abilities. Now, she brings that mentorship experience to work every day.

“Preparing students for their future doesn’t just mean training them in how to apply for a job,” she explains. “It’s about building their confidence in their abilities, coaching them to reflect on what they’ve learned and teaching them to tackle problems with creativity.”

Natalie manages co-op student experiences in recreation and health education (her undergraduate program), kinesiology, coaching studies, leadership studies (her graduate program), curriculum studies, and educational psychology. With such a diverse portfolio, every day looks different, from meetings to discuss students’ goals for their time in the program and the skills and experience they want to develop, to providing direct feedback on job application material, to visiting students during their work terms.

Having completed an international work term herself, Natalie encourages students to take the plunge, too.

“I truly love conversations where I can encourage my students to dream big,” she says. “I love creating international opportunities because I know how impactful my international co-op was on me and my learning.”

When she’s not spending time with co-op students, Natalie connects with potential co-op employers to help



Then and now: Haddow with an April 2003 Ring clipping about her student co-op experience.

create job opportunities as exciting as the ones she participated in when she was a student.

After a career in health and recreation and, later, as a professional in employment readiness for people with disabilities, the opportunity to return to UVic brought Natalie’s academic and professional experience full-circle. When she joined the co-op team, Natalie was returning to the workforce after becoming a parent.

“When I was at UVic as an undergraduate, I was learning about myself. When I returned to complete my master’s degree ten years later, UVic became about my quest for deeper knowledge, leadership and understanding social injustice.” Now, as a co-op coordinator, it’s about nurturing a passion for learning and problem solving in the upcoming generation.

As she gets to know students and employers, Natalie is build-

ing long-lasting relationships and empowering students to discover what they love through co-op: “My students’ time at UVic should be fun! I remember being a student and how impactful and supportive my co-op coordinator, Nancy Reed, was. I only hope I can do the same for my students.”

Learn about joining co-op or how to become a co-op employer at uvic.ca/coop.