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University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

FARQUHAR AUDITORIUM

Amplifying Indigenous cultural voices

Discover the Voices in Circle performance series at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium—featuring established and emerging Indigenous artists. This fall's performances spotlight musicians, dancers, burlesque performers—and an Indigenous take on the classic Broadway musical, *Grease*.

voicesincircle.ca

LEGACY ART GALLERY

A new way to experience Indigenous place names

A motion-activated art installation that speaks place names in SENĆOŦEN and English runs through Dec. 9 at the Legacy Art Gallery downtown (630 Yates). *Untitled ȚȚÁĆES* is the result of an artistic collaboration between TEMOSEŦ Charles "Chazz" Elliott (Lək'wəŋən/WSÁNEĆ), Jesse Campbell (Métis) and Dr. Kim Shortreed.

legacy.uvic.ca

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

UVic Artisans Market

Join us for the Artisans Market hosted by UVic and the United Way on Thursday, Nov. 30 from 12 to 6 p.m. in the Michèle Pujol Room, Student Union Building (A121), UVic campus. Featuring talented local artisans from UVic and Greater Victoria offering a range of handmade items. Free admission, donations appreciated. Proceeds from vendor fees, donations and raffle benefit United Way Southern Vancouver Island.



Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas, vice-president Indigenous. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

UVic's future will be shaped by Indigenous communities

Unlearning colonial ways is a journey with many steps. For the University of Victoria, those next steps are grounded in language and ancestral teachings—guided by Indigenous communities—to ensure the work is done in a good way.

This fall, UVic launched *X'w'ənanə istəl | WĀENENISTEL | Helping to move each other forward: UVic's Indigenous Plan*. With local Indigenous teachings and Lək'wəŋən and SENĆOŦEN language woven throughout, this new plan proposes a fundamental rethinking of the institution's approach to learning and work.

Songhees Elder Dr. Skip Dick wrote in his words of welcome, "Changes are happening in our time. When a pebble is thrown into water, we see its ripples grow into waves. It used to be that kids were dragged to school—now they're running ahead of their parents to get to school. Their teachers did something to excite them about knowledge, awakening a feeling of initiative

and excitement to learn, and it's spreading. Walls are coming down between students and administration here, where we are energized by belonging here."

Working in consultation with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, students, staff, faculty and community members, *X'w'ənanə istəl | WĀENENISTEL | Helping to move each other forward* was shaped in tandem with *Distinctly UVic*, the institution's new strategic plan (see page 2). Both envision a future where ways of knowing, being and learning are embedded into UVic's programs, systems and organizational structure. Local Indigenous languages and teachings are used instead of settler terminology as the foundation of these plans.

"Many have commented about the unique process UVic undertook to develop these plans, which weave local Indigenous teachings to guide the university's future," says Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas,

UVic vice-president Indigenous. "I hold my hands up to all those who contributed to the development of *X'w'ənanə istəl | WĀENENISTEL | Helping to move each other forward*."

Central to the plan are Sk'w'eŋs | ȚȚE SKÁLSI, ȚȚE S'X ENÁNS | the Laws and Philosophies:

- Hé?ək'w' Țə cə čələŋən Țtə | HÁEQ ȚE OL ȚȚE ČELÁ EN ȚE | Remember our ancestors and birthright
- Nəc əmaat k'wəns če?i | ČÁNEUEL OL | Work together
- Nəw es šx'w' cən Țáy šq'eləq'wəŋ | ÁMEKT ȚȚEN ÍY, ŠKÁLEŪEN | Bring in your good heart and mind
- Le?t šx'w' helə Țə cə mak'w' sče?i sə? | S,HOI EI MEQ EN ENA SE SČA | Be prepared for the work to come

The SENĆOŦEN name of the Indigenous Plan was shared by J,SINȚEN, Dr. John Elliott (Tsartlip First Na-

tion) and translated into Lək'wəŋən by Seniementen, Dr. Elmer George (Songhees Nation). For pronunciations, visit uvic.ca/ovpi/language.

The plan reinforces UVic's commitment to implement responsibilities and calls to action from all levels of government in support of the rights and sovereignties of Indigenous Peoples, including the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

"UVic has a responsibility to recognize and respond to the historical and present-day colonial realities that shape our relationships with the local Nations and their laws, lands and waters," said Kevin Hall, president of the University of Victoria. "We have pledged to hold ourselves accountable to Țetal nəwəl | ÁTOL,NEUEL by respecting the rights of one another, being in right relationship with all things, and by upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples."

More at uvic.ca/worktogether

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

MACLEAN'S RANKS UVIC #2 IN CANADA



This fall, *Maclean's* magazine reaffirmed the University of Victoria's standing as one of Canada's top universities, ranking it in second place among the nation's 15 comprehensive universities. This is the sixth consecutive year that UVic has been ranked first or second.

The annual *Maclean's* rankings are built on 12 categories which quantify student supports, faculty performance, student satisfaction, resources and reputation. This year UVic is ranked #1 for faculty awards and medical/science grants, #2 for research activity and student awards, and #3 for scholarships and bursaries, and library resources.

Faculty awards measure the proportion of a school's professors who have won major national or international prizes for their work. This is the fifth year in a row that UVic has outperformed all other comprehensive schools in this category.

UVic Vice-President Academic and Provost Elizabeth Croft says, "I'm proud of our faculty

and the national and international recognition that they receive, as shown by these rankings. Through research-inspired teaching and scholarship, our professors provide an extraordinary, hands-on experience for students who've chosen to study at UVic."

UVic is also consistently the top university in its category for the size and number of medical and science research grants awarded by the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Maclean's breaks Canada's universities up into three broad groups. Comprehensive schools like UVic have a wide range of programs, both at the graduate and undergrad level, along with substantial research activity. Large medical doctoral institutions and smaller, primarily undergraduate schools are ranked in their own classes.

Find out more about how UVic excels at uvic.ca/rankings.

International recognition for entrepreneurship

The I-ACE program, Canada's only Indigenous co-designed and community-delivered entrepreneurship program, won the 2023 EDI Community Engagement Initiative of the Year Award for the Americas at the Triple E Awards. I-ACE, an initiative of the Gustavson School of Business and Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICORP), received the award on June 27 in recognition of its exceptional societal impact. The Triple E Awards recognize entrepreneurship and engagement in higher education for communities and ecosystems.

More: tiny.cc/23-iace

PRIORITIES THAT DEFINE AND UNITE US



UVIC THE RING Vol. 50 No. 6

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

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

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Distinctly UVic — our new strategic plan

UVic's Strategic Plan

The world is changing. It needs our critical thinking to address today's complex challenges. And we're ready. Together, we can work towards a brighter, shared future for ourselves, our communities and our world. UVic's Strategic Plan is a call to live in right relationship, to exist sustainably and equitably, and to use our experience and creativity to spark positive change.

We pledge to hold ourselves accountable to ʔetal nəwəl | ʔTOL,NEUEL by respecting the rights of one another, being in right relationship with all things, and by upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

60 years of passionate commitment

For over 60 years, UVic has proven its unwavering commitment to providing an excellent student experience in a supportive teaching and learning environment, to partnering with communities, and to pursuing research and creative activities that make an impact, both locally and globally. We are prepared to face a changing world with renewed commitment, enthusiasm, compassion and humility.

This moment will define our future. It will need us to try new ways of teaching, and new methods of tackling the world's most complex problems through creativity, innovative research and partnerships—building community inside and outside the classroom. Now is the time to reimagine the lab and studio, libraries

and offices, campus and community to create interconnected and interdisciplinary opportunities.

This strategic plan doesn't capture every detail of what we do at UVic. This plan urges us to be creative, innovative, collaborative, compassionate and brilliant—not on our own, but together. Bringing together different perspectives and lived experiences is what allows us to build better solutions. We are ready to take action and lift up the expectations we have for each other and the role UVic has in the world and the communities we serve.

This is the start of our next 60 years. It's our moment to be Distinctly UVic.

Our priorities

ʔetal nəwəl | ʔTOL,NEUEL Respecting the rights of one another and being in right relationship with all things reinforces UVic's commitment to implement core local, national and international responsibilities and calls to action that support the rights and sovereignties of Indigenous Peoples—for example, UNDRIP, DRIPA, the MMIWG Report and the TRC Calls to Action.

ʔəy nəwəl ʔist | ʔY,NEUelist Moving forward together for the good of all instructs us to come to the table as engaged and authentic partners. We actively co-create inclusive, values-based partnerships that are reciprocal, mutually beneficial and long-lasting. We acknowledge that lived experiences and diverse knowledge systems are essential in finding solutions to the challenges facing society and the planet.

Culture of change & transformation We aspire to create a culture of courage, trust, curiosity and flexibility that will advance our quest to solve big problems and create powerful, positive change. New ideas can change everything—and Xəciŋəʔ nəwəl |



People, place & the planet

Our current social and environmental context clearly demonstrates the urgent need to solve the issues threatening the well-being of Earth and all beings living here. The teaching of Steətenxʷ | S,ʔEELANW | When things are in harmony reinforces what we know—that all life is interconnected, with individual and community choices having far-reaching impacts. Healthy communities depend on responsible stewardship.



Culture of change & transformation

We aspire to create a culture of courage, trust, curiosity and flexibility that will advance our quest to solve big problems and create powerful, positive change. New ideas can change everything—and Xəciŋəʔ nəwəl |

XEciŋEELNEUEL | Actively planning and problem solving teaches us to engage deeply with challenges and opportunities. Cultivating change means having the courage to take risks, embrace new ideas, and be open to learning and trying things in new ways.



Partnering for a shared future

ʔəy nəwəl ʔist | ʔY,NEUelist | Moving forward together for the good of all instructs us to come to the table as engaged and authentic partners. We actively co-create inclusive, values-based partnerships that are reciprocal, mutually beneficial and long-lasting. We acknowledge that lived experiences and diverse knowledge systems are essential in finding solutions to the challenges facing society and the planet.

Explore our stories and our priorities in action at uvic.ca/strategic-plan.



DIVING DEEP INTO OCEAN SCIENCE



Scenes from the ONC fall expedition to maintain, expand and explore the NEPTUNE cabled ocean observatory.

This fall, Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) partnered with Pelagic Research Services for the last #ONCabyss voyage of 2023. This 14-day expedition onboard the Canadian Coast Guard Ship John P. Tully took view-

kilometres to maintain the 800+ kilometre underwater cabled NEPTUNE observatory, located off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Exciting deployments included a new research project aimed at combating climate change.

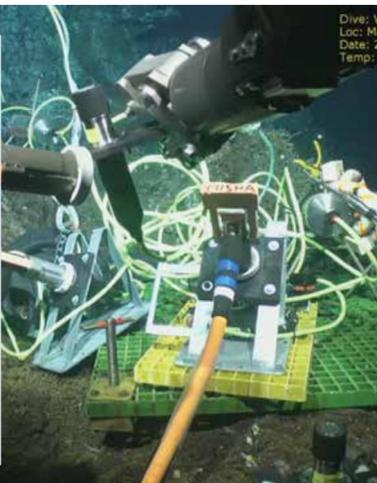
New carbon dioxide removal tech

NEPTUNE's Clayoquot Slope site is now home to a new observation platform that is monitoring the power of mother nature for marine carbon dioxide removal technology—the first of its kind in Canadian waters. ONC is partnering with Running Tide, a US-based ocean health company, investigate carbon-capturing biomass on the seafloor and its potential environmental impacts.



Have you tried turning it off and on again?

The Benthic and Resistivity Sensor (BARS) records a suite of measurements including temperature, chloride concentration and oxidation, allowing us to understand the chemical and geophysical nature of hydrothermal vents.



After a series of unsuccessful steps to troubleshoot one of the BARS at Endeavour Field, ROV *Odyssesus* disconnected and reconnected power to the unit—which proved to be successful.

Sometimes the best solution is the most simple.

Testing algae and seaweed growth

Carbon buoys made from wood, mycelium and locally sourced sugar kelp are designed to grow algae (or seaweed), capturing and converting carbon dioxide into biomass through photosynthesis. Once the buoy reaches a point of negative buoyancy, it sinks to the seafloor. The observation platform housing the carbon buoys was designed by ONC scientists and engineers.

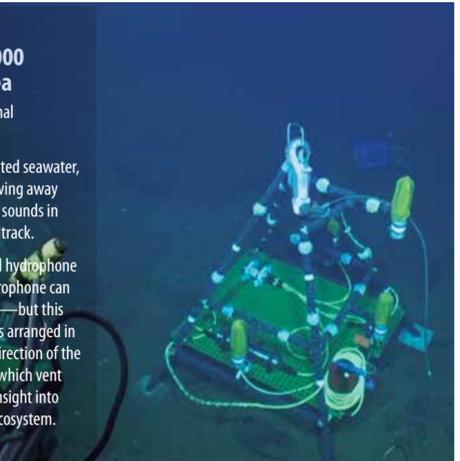


Eavesdropping >2,000 metres under the sea

Ever wonder what hydrothermal vents sound like?

Fish sounds, venting superheated seawater, and tectonic plates slowly moving away from each other are just a few sounds in this extreme ecosystem soundtrack.

ONC is using a newly deployed hydrophone array to listen in. A single hydrophone can record the harmony of sounds—but this new array of four hydrophones arranged in a 3D shape can pinpoint the direction of the sounds recorded and identify which vent it originates from, providing insight into the natural processes of this ecosystem.



More stories and video

Discover more about the Spring, Summer and Fall #ONCabyss expeditions online, featuring on-board and underwater stories and video.

oceanetworks.ca



SPRING EXPEDITION



SUMMER EXPEDITION



FALL EXPEDITION

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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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Nə́c əmaat kʷəns čeʔi ĆANEUEL OL

UVic and the four teachings are connected like the warp and weft of weaving. Working together keeps us grounded and guides what we do and how we do it.



Centering community at ƧEL,İŁĆE

In July 2023, UVic undergraduate and graduate students joined members of Tsawout and WSÁNEĆ First Nations for a ground-breaking archaeological field school in Cordova Bay.

Centred in WSÁNEĆ oral history and local knowledge of the ancient TEL,İŁĆE village site, the UVic-Tsawout 2023 Archaeological Field School explored the spatial and temporal depth of Indigenous history in the area, and worked to inform the future of the Cordova Bay community.

“WSÁNEĆ communities and the District of Saanich have worked over several years to set out a vision in the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan for reconnecting Indigenous peoples with their ancestral village at TEL,İŁĆE, and to raise awareness about the implications of this history for our collective futures,” says Brian Thom, a UVic anthropologist who co-led the field school. “As part of the work, Tsawout First Nation asked us to help document what lies just beneath the surface in this place.”

The results of the archaeological work begin to emerge immediately, showing irrefutable proof of continuous and long history of Indigenous people on the lands and waters of Cordova Bay. In the intertidal zone, the team uncovered an ancient stone fish trap. At the village site, they discovered glimpses of village life – from artifacts to cooking features, and an abundance of diverse food remains from shellfish and herring to sea lion and elk, giving a glimpse into how the unique environments of the Cordova Bay area sustained people over the centuries.

“At every stage of our work, partnerships were crucial to the success of the project,” says Thom. “People at many levels of government, community and business stepped up to help the project come together.”

The Cordova Bay field school relied on the support of the District of Saanich, who provided permits and access to the waterfront public parks as sites for the digs, as well as security and site safety. Many District of Saanich staff visited the site, and recognized how their own operations

could be improved to protect and honour places like this.

The provincial government stepped in too, facilitating the permits needed to execute the work, and organizing a loan agreement with the Royal BC Museum for artifacts that had been previously collected from Cordova Bay. Plus, many provincial representatives visited the site, including our local MLA, Minister of Tourism, Sport and Culture, representatives from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and the leadership of BC’s Archaeology Branch.

Thom tapped the professional archaeology community to provide additional expertise. Principal archaeologist from WSP, Heather Pratt, was invited to co-teach with Brian. Students benefitted from Pratt’s more than 30 years of professional fieldwork experience, paired with Thom’s expertise in community-engaged research. Colin Grier from Washington State University and Lucinda Leonard from UVic’s School of Earth and Ocean Sciences provided their unique technical expertise, using ground penetrating radar on both land and in the inter-tidal area to guide the archaeological excavations.

Knowing that local residents must be meaningfully involved, Thom partnered with the Cordova Bay Association of Community Affairs. Together, they made sure neighbours knew about the logistics of the summer’s excavation and had an opportunity to learn about the history of the area.

Throughout the dig, students hosted an information booth and welcomed neighbours and visitors to learn about the dig and the team’s findings. These efforts helped to educate and build goodwill in the community and led to crucial financial support from generous local donors. An impressive 10 per cent of the funding needed to do

this work was provided through a community donations.

The project’s primary partners, however, were local Indigenous governments, organizations and community members. While Thom kept lakʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ communities apprised of the work, Tsawout First Nation played a lead partner role. Tsawout welcomed the field school to their new highhouse in the first days of the project, where Elders from Tsawout, Tsartlip, and Tseycum shared with students essential teachings on how to carry themselves in work like this, and the significance of such work. Tsawout continued to support throughout, including bringing students on field trips to explore sacred and ancestral spots in the area.

Importantly, the field school involved Indigenous community members working alongside UVic students. Thom worked with the WSÁNEĆ School Board and the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC) to select adult and youth learners from the community to participate in the field school and the Coast Salish Employment, Education and Training Society provided work and safety gear for Indigenous participants. In addition, the WLC offered teachings from cultural monitors on cultural protocols of taking care during excavation work.

This opportunity to work with local Indigenous communities to explore their connections and history on the land was the most important aspect of the field school, says Thom. He fondly recalls one moment, in particular, when children from a SENĆOŦEN language immersion camp visited the site. “The children stood in this ancient place and sang to their Elders in their own language for the first time in over 150 years,” says Thom. “This project wasn’t about extracting artifacts—it was about bringing Indigenous culture and community back to this ancestral place.”

“The work of Indigenous and reconciliation can’t be done alone. We need to centre our research on communities’ goals if we are to make the kind of transformative change that the world needs,” he adds.

\$2.5M grant integrates Indigenous knowledge into sustainability projects

A UVic-based research team has received a \$2.5-million grant to design and advance a sustainability framework for decision-making in Indigenous communities that ensures their values, knowledge and concerns are at the forefront as they assess development proposals on their lands.

The Social Sciences Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant will fund The Balance Co-Lab: Collaboration for Sustainable Communities, an international collaboration of Indigenous governments, researchers and non-governmental organizations (NGO).

Building on a system that has been used for five years with Toquaht Nation in BC, as well as with other communities in Aotearoa New Zealand and West Papua, Indonesia, they will co-create customized sustainability assessment systems (SAS) with the goal of enhancing capacity in Indigenous organizations as they build environmental stewardship programs and evaluate development opportunities.

What is the cumulative social, cultural, environmental and economic impact of development projects on Indigenous territories? With a new legal focus on cumulative impact and Indigenous self-governance, and Canada and BC (in 2021 and 2019 respectively) putting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into law, Indigenous Peoples have a right to use impact assessment systems that integrate Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, says Matthew Murphy, a UVic Gustavson School of Business professor of sustainability and strategy, and project director of The Balance Co-Lab.

“This work can advance Indigenous organizations’ ability to improve decision-making and the capacity to evaluate the impacts of development efforts in ways that are customized to place-based knowledge and needs,” says Murphy. “This advances the ability for Indigenous Peoples to govern their territories in ways that align with their own values and governance practices.”

Murphy notes that Kēpa Morgan, the creator of the SAS framework, has used it with Māori partners in Aotearoa New Zealand to determine the best approach to environmental

mediation after the largest maritime disaster in the country’s history, the wreck of the *MY Rena* in 2011. Toquaht Nation has also used the system to evaluate the impact from all of its own economic-development efforts since 2018.

The project reflects ideas of self-determination embedded in UNDRIP that critically specify “that each nation or each Indigenous People has a right to determine for themselves their own form and path to development using their own governance structures and their own knowledge systems.”

The SAS utilizes four dimensions of well-being: economic, environmental, cultural and community. In addition to evaluating the potential effects of a proposal—for example, a waterfront resort or a hydroelectric project—under those dimensions, the affected Indigenous community would also weight or prioritize each dimension according to the community’s values and priorities.

Cloy-e-iis Judith Sayers, president of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and a member of the project’s Council of Senior Advisors, explains, “this project is very critical to the empowerment and self-determination of Indigenous governments and peoples. Basing models on traditional knowledge and ways of knowing directs the work to be done and utilizes self-determination to its fullest. Sharing models with other Indigenous communities around the world adds to the richness of what can be contained in the models. Establishing their own indicators on what is important to each Nation is also building on governance and putting the decision making in the hands of the people.”

“Self-determination is the foundation to everything,” Sayers continues, “and when Indigenous Nations work to develop their own assessment models, use them and implement them, it helps them develop socially, culturally and economically, she adds. “My hope for this project is that the model empowers every Indigenous community to assess sustainability on their own terms, do their own development and determine if others wanting to do development in their territories is acceptable to them to protect their lands, waters, resources and ability to exercise their rights.”



SSHRC Balance Co-Lab research partners Matt Murphy (Gustavson School of Business, UVic) and Chief Gordon Planes (T’Sou-ke Nation). PHOTO CREDIT: GEOFF HOWE

The project includes 11 partners, including the Toquaht and T’Sou-ke Nations in BC, the University of British Columbia’s Peter A. Allard School of Law, as well as Wayuu and Māori Indigenous organizations and university researchers in Colombia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The research initiative reflects UVic’s commitment to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, or UN SDGs. Read more about the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

“This is a very exciting project that enhances the capacity of Indigenous nations to build and evaluate environmental stewardship programs and development that will support the self-determination of Indigenous communities,” says Qwul’sih’yah’maht Robina Thomas UVic’s vice-president Indigenous.

More stories and related content at uvic.ca/worktogether



“UVic has a unique commitment to Indigenous and decolonization. A big part of that is that UVic is following Lakʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ leadership and values rather than just focusing on policy. We need both. You can have policy that’s well-meaning, and still wrong. Grounding our work in Indigenous values will better guide the work to be done.

Just as we know decolonization isn’t a check-box — it isn’t something we can say is accomplished — we can see how values are central in its pursuit. Each university must evaluate its own capacity for transformation. And local Indigenous community knowledge holders and values must guide us in a good way.”

—LYDIA TOORENBURGH (THEY/THEM), FORMER TRI-FACULTY INDIGENOUS RESURGENCE COORDINATOR AT UVIC AND CURRENT PHD STUDENT IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Inuit youth climate action summit

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

A summit of young Inuit leaders from Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, chose UVic to exchange ideas on how Indigenous practices can both provide solutions to the changing climate and elevate youth voices.

The summit was part of a larger three-year project titled Carving Out Climate Testimony: Inuit Youth, Wellness and Environmental Leadership, funded by a POLAR Knowledge Canada/UKRI grant that brings together Inuit youths aged 18 to 24 and collaborators from the UK and Canada to trace how *unikkausivut*—Inuit forms of storytelling—might articulate links between climate change, displacement and mental health.

The project involves multiple UVic collaborators—Maeva Gauthier, Sarah Wiebe, Budd Hall, Heather Castleden and Crystal Tremblay (CIFAL Victoria)—and is led by Jen Bagelman (University of Newcastle, UK) and Karla Jessen Williamson (University of Saskatchewan).

“We’re building on the youth leadership strengths that already exist in these communities but—up until now—have not been resourced efficiently and effectively. These youth guided the research questions and co-designed the workshops,” says Bagelman.

During the summer summit, Inuit leaders explored how storytelling through film, murals and curation can play a role in articulating climate change and supporting mental wellness. They also exchanged knowledge of environmental stewardship with Indigenous communities local to Coast Salish territories.

“Seeing these amazing young Inuvialuit becoming true leaders to drive change in their community warmed my heart,” says Gauthier. “I’m so impressed with their proactivity, creativity and initiative in using art to share their feelings about mental health and climate change and drive positive change in their community and beyond.”

“I have no doubt their actions will help in-

crease awareness and connection between communities and within themselves,” adds Gauthier.

The Inuit leaders hosted in wsáneč territory were honoured to learn about and contribute to restoration work, as well as spend time at the T’Sou-ke Marine Office, where they learned about Indigenous coastal management.

“I enjoyed my trip—it was one of the best educational experiences I’ve been on. It was so good to see familiar faces and meet new exciting people. I enjoyed staying on-campus—it felt like I was attending school! Also, I love how beautiful Victoria was. I’m glad I went on this trip because I felt like we made a lot of connections,” says participant Eriel Lugt.

“I thoroughly enjoyed being on the boats and on the ocean, breathing in the salty air. I also enjoyed decolonizing the land by rooting out invasive plant species. More importantly, I had a different perspective. Instead of being the youth this time around, I paid close attention to the youth—what they enjoyed participating in and learning about,” says Dwayne T. Drescher “Atjgaliq,” a master’s student and assistant researcher at the University of Saskatchewan.

“This research, and this program, is especially dear to my heart because it revolves my people, the Inuvialuit, the issues faced by my people, and it seeks solutions to these specific issues in relation to climate change. Something we only hear will occur in the future, yet we are seeing changes occurring due to climate change before our very eyes on Tuktoyaktuk, my late mother’s community, where I was raised as a child and often return to—to harvest animals with my relatives,” adds Drescher “Atjgaliq.”

The Inuit leaders also screened their own film, *Happening To Us*, at the Legacy Art Gallery, where renowned Inuk activist Sila Watt-Cloutier actively encouraged their work. The film—shown at COP25—was co-created with Gauthier, filmmaker/mentor Jaro Malanowski and local partners. The Inuit leaders also shared their powerful music video, *Don’t Give Up*. A visit to the



Eriel and Carmen learning about coastal stewardship at T’Sou-ke Marine Office.

Royal BC Museum introduced the Inuit leaders to Indigenous-led curatorial practices and discussed the repatriation of objects from the Arctic.

At the end of the summit, Inuit participants were presented with a United Nations-accredited certificate through CIFAL Victoria for their leadership in environmental stewardship.

“Spending this time together was an incredible experience. This workshop brought together youth leaders from Tuktoyaktuk, several local Indigenous communities around Vancouver Island, and scholars from several universities in Canada and the UK to share stories and land-based learning, and build relationships that have formed a strong foundation for the important work to come,” says Tremblay, a community-based researcher at UVic and CIFAL Victoria director.

“CIFAL Victoria is proud to partner on this important initiative recognizing the leadership

of youth in addressing climate change and adaptation in northern communities and beyond,” adds Tremblay.

■ CIFAL Victoria is part of UVic’s commitment to support the UN’s 17 SDGs. These goals outline the work that needs to happen to create a sustainable future for our planet.

■ In September, UNITAR and CIFAL Victoria published *Youth Championing the SDGs—Living with Climate Change*, to elevate the voices of youth on a global scale.

More info at unitar.org



PHOENIX THEATRE

Performances for the young and young at heart



Newton, CATHERINE LEMMON



Kandil, MEGAN FARRELL

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Proving that experience matters when it comes to creating impactful productions, Phoenix Theatre is offering an all-alumni directed season—ideally matched to UVic’s upcoming 60th anniversary celebrations.

It all kicks off with two productions that speak to Phoenix’s past and present: Applied Theatre professor Yasmine Kandil directs *SETYA*, the latest in the continuing Staging Equality series, while sessional instructor Alistair Newton offers *The Importance of Being Earnest*—Oscar Wilde’s 128-year-old classic comedy that (surprisingly) has never been presented before on campus.

Staging Equality: Theatre for Young Audiences

SETYA offers a double bill of *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun* and *Shi-shi-etko*, two children’s stories ideally suited to Staging Equality’s mandate of offering IBPoC-focused performances. “We wanted stories by and about Indigenous and people of color to be accessible to our young audiences and their families, and I think this show will deliver,” says Kandil. “These two stories both talk about important issues facing Indigenous communities in Canada and in Latin America.”

With four productions staged over the past two years (*Journey to Mapu, Kamloopa: An Indigenous Matriarch Story, Imprint and It’s Just Black Hair*), *SETYA* sees the return of previous Staging Equality partners as narrators here: Paulina Grainger of the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (*The Woman who Outshone the Sun*) and Kwakwaka’wakw performer and UVic En’owkin School alum Krystal Cook (*Shi-shi-etko*).

“Krystal has amazing stage presence and an ability to bring tenderness as well as strength to carry the enormity of the story she is telling. And Paulina has a magical way of drawing

the audience into the narrative,” says Kandil. “I’ve enjoyed their approach to creating art and engaging with our students. I felt both stories required actors who were strong performers who could also embrace the community awareness element of the work we are carrying out.”

While theatre for young audiences is a style more often presented by alumni in the community, Kandil believes this is yet another way to welcome diverse audiences into the Phoenix. “We know the audiences who have attended our previous Staging Equality programming will return, and we also wanted children and their families to come to our theatre,” she concludes. “Audiences, young and old, will be able to engage with these topics in a manner that allows them to digest the material; and hopefully the stories might last with them a while.”

Feeling Earnest

While *SETYA* focuses on young audiences, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is a perennially popular production that has never gone out of style since its 1895 debut. What’s the appeal for a very contemporary director like Alistair Newton?

“Aside from the obvious answer that it has got to be one of the greatest works of comic writing in the English language, it’s also a work coded with all sorts of transgressive satire—much of which would only have been legible to those members of the audience with the right ear to hear it,” he says. “Populism with a wicked satirical edge has always been irresistible to me.”

Newton, who is also teaching Theatre’s fall elective on drag culture and was just announced as a director for the prestigious Shaw Festival’s 2024 season, says he enjoys “excavating the hidden histories and secret codes” of what’s often described as classical theatre.

Earnest is so constantly revived that it almost feels like a meme at this point, rather than a play,” he

explains. “True, the 19th century gave us hysterical sexual repression and the codification of rigid gender roles, but it also gave us radicals who rebelliously pushed back—like the pioneering sexologist Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, the Danish artist and trans woman Lili Elbe, and William Dorsey Swann, an enslaved black activist and drag performer who was likely the first person to refer to himself as a ‘queen.’”

Much like *SETYA*, Newton feels *Earnest* will also resonate with Phoenix audiences.

“Oscar Wilde loved a paradox, and both his legacy and the history of *Earnest* has sort of become one: at the time of Wilde’s arrest for ‘gross indecency,’ he had two hit shows running

in the West End and had completely conquered mainstream boulevard entertainment in London—but, at the same time, his queerness was considered so scandalous by his society that they had to forcibly remove him from their midst.”

Finally, as a returning alumni, how does it feel for Newton to be back at the Phoenix—both directing and teaching? “A lot of things change in a couple of decades, but some things are exactly how I left them: the graffiti on the scene shop wall and the very particular smell as you first enter the Roger Bishop Theatre,” he quips.

“But I think my favourite change is something I perceive in the students: they seem much more willing to advo-

cate for themselves and to challenge orthodoxies, ideas of canon and the educational status quo. At the risk of sounding like an old queen, the kids definitely seem alright to me.”

SETYA runs October 19-21 while *The Importance of Being Earnest* runs November 9-25, both at UVic’s Phoenix Theatre. Call 250-721-8000 or visit the box office online for tickets.



phoenixtheatres.ca

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Centering Indigenous communities in ecological restoration

BY KATY DECOSTE

Hannah Gentes spends her days facilitating ecological restoration projects in BC’s water systems through a lens of community engagement and Indigenization. From applying for grants to getting out into the field and reporting on restoration efforts, she’s done everything from manage shoreline cleanup crews to liaise with communities where restoration efforts are taking place.

After completing her bachelor’s in Indigenous studies and environmental studies at UVic, Hannah’s passion for Indigenous environmental stewardship, community-building and land-based learning led her to a career with Coastal Restoration Society, an environmental non-profit focused on the removal of harmful human-made debris from shorelines and waterways.

Hannah, a Saulteaux-Métis woman, initially pursued a diploma in Indigenous studies at Camosun. It was a summer job with BC Parks in the student ranger program in 2018 that inspired her to take up a second major in Environmental Studies. She completed a co-op work term with

Coastal Restoration Society before continuing in a full-time role after graduation.

“The driving force of all the work that we do at Coastal Restoration Society is that it is community-led. It is community-centred,” Gentes says. “We try to work ourselves out of a job, because the hope is that communities can just do this work themselves.”

Whether it’s climate-change-induced emergency response, like cleaning the Nicola Coldwater and Thompson Rivers systems after severe flooding, or invasive species removal, Coastal Restoration Society works to improve the health of BC’s waterways and the communities in relationship with them. As a project manager and Indigenous initiatives lead, Hannah builds projects with an Indigenous and community-centred lens, from the grant application stage through to implementation and reporting.

“Quite often in conversations surrounding restoration, community and people are not recognized as being part of the ecosystem. And what I want my life work to be is creating these opportunities for people, for Indigenous folks specifically, to be on their own ancestral home-

lands and have meaningful careers and meaningful work on their territories while interacting with the land,” Hannah says.

New co-op podcast

Hear more about Hannah’s work on the latest episode of *Work It: A Uvic Career Exploration Podcast*, where we connect with UVic alumni to hear about their transition into the world of work.

Season 1 episodes include:

- How to stand out when applying for jobs: Get tips and tricks on how to make an impression on employers with résumés, cover letters, follow-ups and more.
- Oct. 24: Dayah Johal (Master of Global Business ’22) works as a senior program developer with the provincial government’s Innovative Clean Energy Fund. She credits a co-op work term with helping her launch a career in the public sector.
- No. 7: Demystifying the job interview: The idea of an interview can be scary—learn how to manage your nerves and prepare to wow employers.



Gentes in action during a restoration project excursion.

More: tiny.cc/coop-podcast

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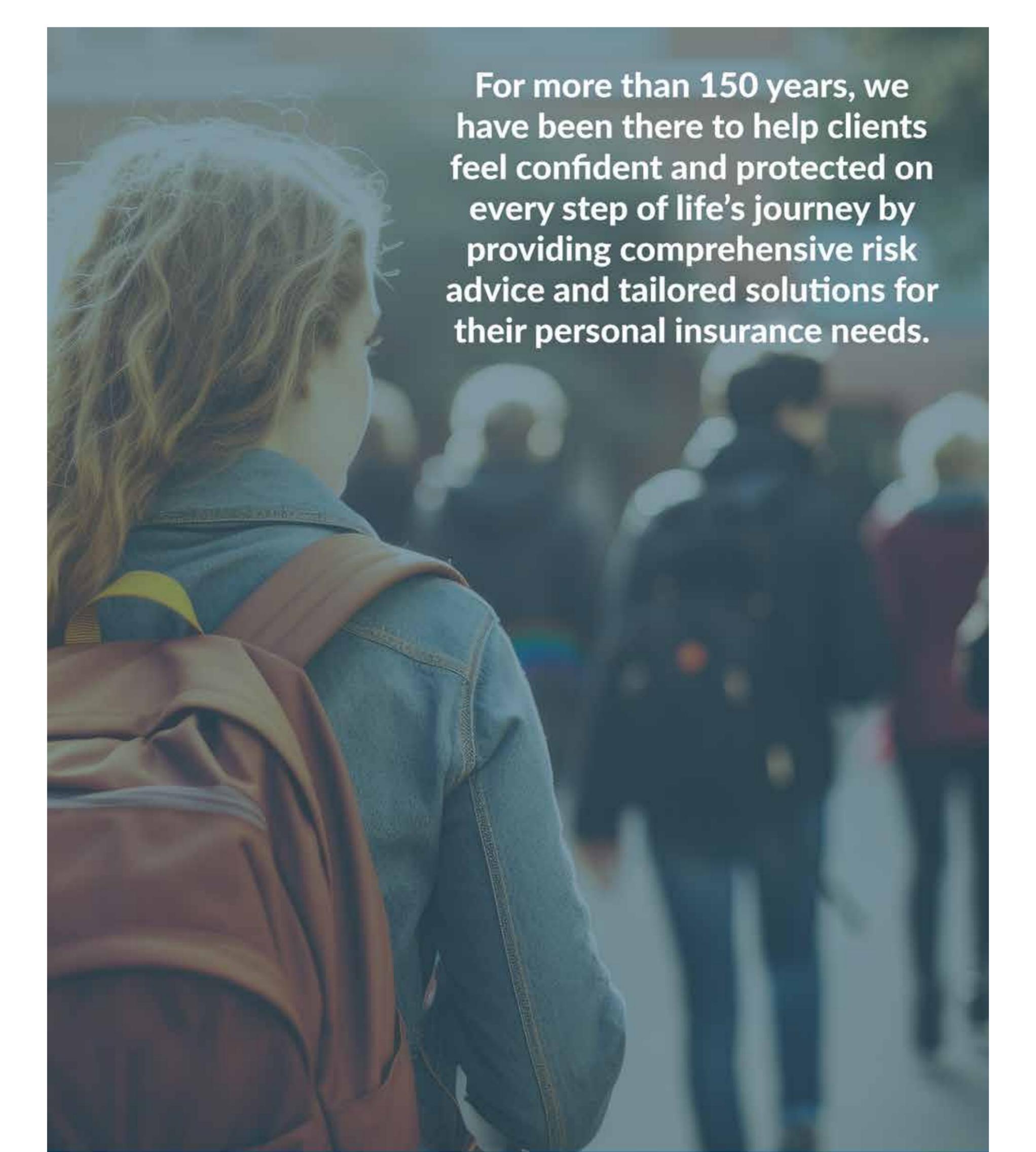
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