

Creative Learning Creative Giving



University
of Victoria
Fine Arts



Saying “Thank You” with music

Donors and supporters enjoy annual concert

The School of Music once again welcomed our strong community of donors and supporters to the annual Thank-You Concert on March 12. This afternoon of music featured performances by 19 students, ranging from voice and solo piano to trios and quintets, including many scholarship recipients. It was also followed by a reception where supporters could meet with the students.

If you've never attended one of our free Thank-You Concerts, be sure to come to out in 2018—it will be an amazing cap-off to the School of Music's 50th anniversary celebrations, which begin this fall and will feature a number of special concerts.

In other news, Music gratefully acknowledges the recent \$25,000 donation from the Beech Foundation and Wade Nesmith, which allows more students to benefit from the Adele and Gene Nesmith Entrance Scholarship in Voice.

The scholarship was first established in 1997 with a gift from former UVic Foundation chair Gene Nesmith, commemorating the life of his late wife Adele, a mezzo-soprano who sang choirs, worked in opera in Vancouver, and even won a CBC voice competition.

Also of note is the Honorary Doctor of Music awarded to Pacific Opera Victoria Maestro Timothy Vernon during the June 13 Fine Arts



Timothy Vernon and UVic president Jamie Cassells at the special School of Music reception following Vernon's award in June

Convocation. “Timothy is an inspiration to aspiring students and professional musicians,” says Dr. Susan Lewis, Dean of Fine Arts.

In his speech, Vernon offered this inspiring thought: “Never should we apologize for pursuing a life in the arts . . . it is essential for the spiritual health of society.”



Alumna author creates new award

Writing alumna and author Sarah de Leeuw (*Where it Hurts*) has created the new Skeena Scholarship in Creative Writing, awarded annually to an academically outstanding undergraduate student entering their third or fourth year as a Writing BFA, who has a focus in creative nonfiction or poetry. The award benefits both women (or women-identifying) and Indigenous students who have spent the majority of their lives in either a rural northern community in BC, or a similar community elsewhere in Canada.

Always learning through looking

The Department Art History & Visual Studies marked its 50th anniversary in 2016/17 with the special faculty exhibit *Learning Through Looking* at UVic's Legacy Maltwood Gallery, as well as a series of guest speakers and public events. It also made for ideal timing to mark the renewal of the Margaret Russell Graduate Internship in Curatorial Studies, awarded annually to AHVS graduate students interested in working on a research project relating to modern and contemporary art in the Pacific Northwest.



Helping students when they need it most

The Ian McDougall & Friends Student Assistance Fund continues to provide support to students. Established to offer assistance to Fine Arts undergraduate and graduate students (regardless of citizenship), the fund helps those with a demonstrated financial need during the academic year. "I remember rolling pennies for bus fare to get to work to get my pay cheque so I could buy food," recalls one former student. "It was a constant worry." A retired Music faculty member, McDougall well knows the struggles students can face.

Lorna Crozier poetry scholarship awarded

Fourth year Writing/Political Science student Petter Christian Ness was recently announced as the inaugural recipient of the endowed Lorna Crozier Scholarship. "It is a great honour to receive such an award in what is, strictly speaking, my second language," says Ness, originally from Norway. "I consider it a peak personal achievement, and a notch in my belt that I will carry with pride for the remainder of my education and my life." Ness met Crozier and read some of his poems at the Writing department's annual Reading Night this year.





50 fantastic years of Phoenix Theatre

The Theatre department also celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016/17 with a wide range of events and productions, as well as a gala reunion weekend that drew over 150 participants going back to the department's founding in 1966. And the timing was perfect to mark the eighth year of the Royal Victorian Fashion Society Costume Design, an annual scholarship for students specializing in costume design. Recent MFA Graham McMonagle is seen here with one of his costumes for the Phoenix production of Chekov's *Wild Honey*.



Honouring the legacy of Michael Williams

As a tribute to the generosity of the late Michael Williams, UVic's Administrative Services Building was officially renamed in November 2016. A devoted local philanthropist, heritage property developer and patron of the arts, his transformative gift remains the single largest donation from an individual in the university's history. "It is the next generation — our students — who are the true vectors of Michael Williams' values," said Williams Legacy Chair and Art History & Visual Studies professor Carolyn Butler-Palmer at the event.

"I cannot begin to express the gratitude I possess for the funding to travel to such an inspiring and informational event."

—Abbigael, *Master's candidate, Art History & Visual Studies*

"Thank you for your contribution to my studies and growth as a musician and singer . . . I truly cannot express how grateful I am."

—Rebecca, *4th year Music student*

"Education is incredibly important to me, but the burden of its cost has taken a toll on myself and my family. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, I can now pursue my studies with confidence and tranquility."

—Sean, *1st year Writing student*

"I am honoured that you would recognize my efforts . . . because of your help, I can focus on my studies, rather than finding and managing a job."

—Emily, *3rd year Theatre student*

Helping future teachers

Dave Dunnet's new scholarship

Retired music teacher Dave Dunnet has donated \$26,000 to create a Music Education scholarship in his name.

Awarded to outstanding third- or fourth-year students in the Bachelor of Music (Music Education) program, recipients must demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence in teaching instrumental and choral music.



Dave Dunnet

"David is a very special individual who dedicated his life to teaching people through music," says School of Music professor Dr. Gerald King. "He is an exemplary example and model of selfless love to the profession and lifelong learning, earning much respect from thousands of students, parents, colleagues and administrators."

Dunnet, who taught for 28 years at Oak Bay High, was also a UVic Adjunct Lecturer, Teacher-in-Residence and Senior Instructor in Music Education before being awarded the title "Emeritus" on his retirement — a title rarely given to someone without a PhD.

Dunnet's award, says King, "ensures the future for generations of music educators, and contributes to the excellence of the discipline he loves so much."



195

Fine Arts degrees granted in 2017



\$1.2M+

Donated to Fine Arts in 2016/17



11

New Fine Arts awards created in 2016/17



200+

Annual awards available to our students



\$1.5M

Distributed from Fine Arts endowments



91%

Alumni who had a positive degree experience

Indigenous knowledge a priority

Rande Cook is latest Audain professor

Thanks to the support of Vancouver philanthropist Michael Audain, Indigenous art and knowledge remains a priority in the Visual Arts department. Just ask the latest Audain Professor, Rande Cook.



"Audain Professor Rande Cook (right) with students together," says Cook, who held the position from 2015-17.

Now in its seventh year, the Audain Professorship of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest has benefited from a variety of approaches and practices by previous professors—including Governor General's Award-winner Rebecca Belmore and acclaimed Haida artist Michael Nicol Yahgulanaas.

But Cook, a contemporary multi-disciplinary artist, wanted to do more than just teach art: he also felt it was essential to raise student awareness about current issues in Canadian First Nations politics.

"The whole class has been about peeling those layers and exploring these issues, then piecing it back

"The goal was to decide how students would function as artists and how to make their work authentic. And you can see how much they've grown, how much they interact, and how they're going to place themselves in life after this—which is all I wanted."

Cook felt UVic was the ideal place for this. "You think about healing and unity, and students and learning, and diversity and gender equality—it's all right here." 🌱



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To learn more about our giving initiatives, please contact our Fine Arts Development Officer:

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