

We acknowledge and respect the lək wəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



"As a woman of colour, I want to champion equality in the field of engineering, with the hope that in the near future the '30 by 30' goals will be met nationally, if not globally."

Front cover and inset above: First-year engineering student Karnika Sitolay, recipient of the 30 by 30 Women in Engineering Award in 2020. This new UVic award was established by a group of women engineers. The name "30 by 30" refers to the commitment made by Engineers Canada to raise the percentage of newly licensed engineers who are women to 30 per cent by the year 2030. Credit: UVic Photo Services

CONNECTED through GIVING

Your generosity connects you with thousands of students and researchers who benefit from donor-funded support. It links you with a large circle of other donors—past, present and future. It ripples out even further via UVic's community partnerships and programming. This report explores how all those connections start with you. Your generosity, your impact, your community.

STUDENTS pg 2



"I was worried that I wouldn't be able to meet new people. Instead this program allowed me to feel part of a community, even being so far away. I can't possibly explain how grateful I am for that."

 First-year international student Julia Brusco, a participant in the New Student Connect program, launched this year with the help of donor funding.



"All these years I've been donating to teaching initiatives, and it tugged on me that I needed to put some towards research. When I saw the email about this fund, I felt like it was showing me a way to bring this pandemic to a close quicker ... to put an end to the suffering."

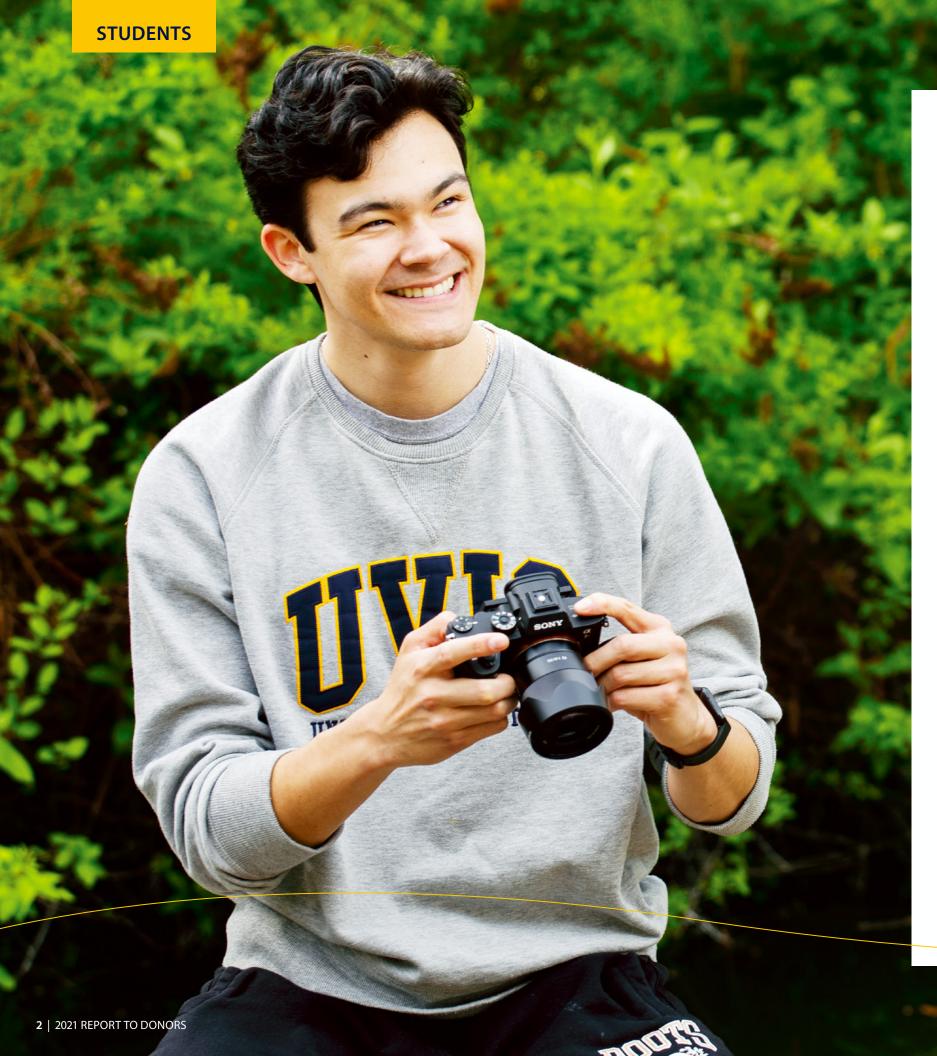
 Patricia Collins, donor to the new Research Accelerator Fund and member of the Ring Road Loyalty Circle.

COMMUNITY pg 11



"Bringing together the UVic research with my connections to families and the funding from CORE allowed us to deliver a program that gives children and parents the mental health supports they really need right now. I can honestly say it's made a lasting difference in the lives of many families."

 Katie Campbell-Elsdon, a counsellor for School District 61, and co-facilitator of the Creating Calm program, which received a donor-funded CORE grant.



MAINTAINING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS—VIRTUALLY

A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION HELPED MEET STUDENT NEEDS DURING THE TRANSITION TO ONLINE EDUCATION

"Working with our Indigenous Elders was a humbling experience," says Devin Owpaluk. "I've never had a cultural connection with my work before."

Devin, who is Inuit, completed an internship with the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) in the summer of 2020. For one of his projects, he helped create videos of Indigenous Elders sharing prayers and words of guidance for virtual student orientation and graduation ceremonies.

"The internship wasn't just about gaining professional skills," says Devin. "It felt like a way to support fellow students through a hard time. I'm so grateful I had this opportunity to give back and connect more with my Indigenous community."

Elders are the cultural and spiritual foundation to the Indigenous community at UVic. IACE created a virtual version of the Elders' Voices program after hearing from many Indigenous students that they needed continued access to cultural supports in order to successfully transition to online learning. When Devin reflects on the internship, he says the Elders' teachings will be just as important to his future success as the work experience.

Devin's position was funded through a partnership with the Mastercard Foundation's COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Program, which focuses on supporting Indigenous youth during the pandemic. Five students gained employment and skills training through paid internships. The interns provided invaluable assistance to the university in the rollout of virtual cultural resources, teaching tools and engagement initiatives to help maintain Indigenous students' academic success, cultural connection and overall well-being. The foundation also supported more than 150 emergency and technology-specific bursaries for Indigenous students to further minimize disruption to students' education.

COVID-19 forced the university to find new ways to support students. The partnership with Mastercard Foundation enabled it to respond quickly and learn how to create a supportive community for Indigenous students, regardless of their location and situation. Those changes will have long-term benefits for Indigenous students now and far into the future.

150+ EMERGENCY & TECHNOLOGY BURSARIES

5 PAID INTERNSHIPS

Photo: During an internship with IACE, Devin Owpaluk learned professional communications skills. Credit: UVic Photo Services

DIGITIZING AND ENRICHING LIBRARY RESOURCES

TWO CORNERSTONES OF DONOR SUPPORT FOR UVIC LIBRARIES PROVED ESSENTIAL IN BOLSTERING A PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN

Throughout the years, donors to the Digital Initiatives Fund and the Library Enrichment Fund have strengthened UVic Libraries' ability to meet the constantly evolving needs of the academic environment. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a sudden and intense shift in these needs. Support from donors swelled in response, helping UVic Libraries maintain its vital support role for students, faculty and community members.

Suddenly, users needed enhanced access to quality digital material—quickly and efficiently. Drawing on the two funds, UVic Libraries increased its digitization capacity and access to eBook and streaming content. Donors subsidized the creation of Open Education Resource textbooks, which provide equitable access to course materials for all students, and expanded a mail-out service providing print resources to graduate students across Canada.

The library also used donor funding to purchase 70 laptops to loan out for periods of up to two weeks. This extended service has been heavily used by students in a variety of situations. Andrea Janse van Rensburg, a fourthyear student majoring in geography, relied on laptop loans throughout the spring semester.

"This service has allowed me to be mobile while doing school, volunteering online and applying for jobs and scholarships. It has also saved me significant financial stress, and has given me a safe place to store my work and data even when I work from home. It's been an absolute life-saver for me."

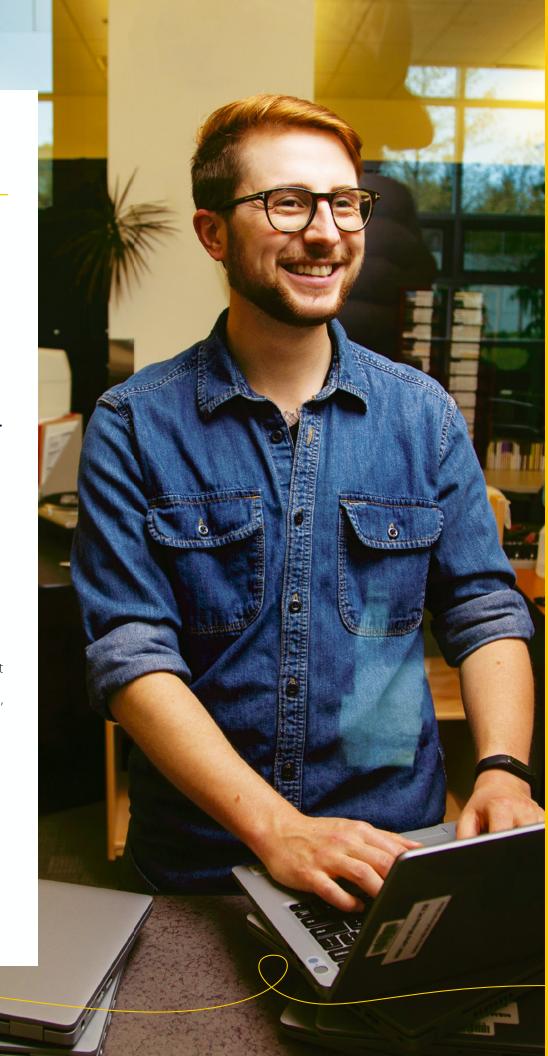
Although many of these services and open access projects were already underway, the pandemic increased urgency and demand.

"COVID-19 has highlighted the inequities that can exist between students, not only with access to technologies, but also with affordability of resources," says Associate University Librarian Lisa Petrachenko. "These two funds, which receive consistent, generous support, allowed us to expand services to meet rapidly emerging needs, adapt programs, shift resources and remain integral to so many users' academic success."

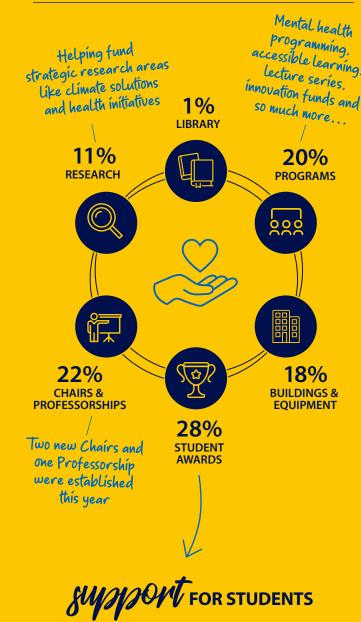
NEW LAPTOPS

RESOURCES MAILED ACROSS CANADA

Photo: UVic Libraries team member, Cedar Rain, clears the memory of laptops after they are returned to the loan desk. Credit: UVic Photo Services



GIVING ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY



IN DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS (BURSARIES, SCHOLARSHIPS & ATHLETIC AWARDS) **WENT TO 2,875 STUDENTS**

UVIC STUDENTS RECEIVED A DONOR-FUNDED AWARD

Numbers calculated for fiscal year: April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021



WE PAY IT FORWARD

ONE DONOR'S GENEROUS AND THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO SUPPORTING STUDENTS TODAY IS FOUNDED ON A LONG HISTORY WITH UVIC

Anne McLaughlin's ties to the University of Victoria run deeper than most. She enrolled in Victoria College in 1948 at the age of 17, and began her long career in the Faculty of Education on the same day UVic became a university in 1963. In fact, she remembers walking around Ring Road "when it was just straight mud."

Anne served as the director of the Faculty of Education's Advising Centre until her retirement in 1991, was past president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and has sat on UVic Senate—but her dedication to the university does not end there. For the past 33 years and counting, Anne has generously donated to the endeavours of students and university life, and has established five endowed student awards that, to date, have had a direct impact on the lives of more than 40 students.

This year was no exception. Recognizing the unique challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Anne spread a large contribution over several areas, including the theatre department. The latter helped fund essential livestream equipment used to instruct students, as well as stage productions in front of live audiences, albeit virtually.

"[The pandemic] was really tough on students because a lot of university is the life beyond the classroom," says Anne, adding, "You've got to keep the Phoenix [Theatre] going, and if they aren't able to have people in person in the audience, you have to help them do what they have to do."

As for why she gives, and why she encourages other alumni to do the same, Anne says it's simple.

"Undoubtedly, they were fortunate to go to the school, and the school wouldn't have been there without help from donors. So they should follow up. We pay it forward."

662
VIEWERS OF PROBLEM CHILD
LIVESTREAM SHOW IN MARCH 2021

70+
STUDENTS INVOLVED*

*Includes those involved in performance, technical, production, stage management, communications, box office and design classes.

Photo: Students learn new skills in the art of creating theatre for livestreaming, aided by professional equipment funded by donors. Credit: Olivia Zappone (third-year student, Visual Arts).

MOVING FROM LEARNING TO ACTION

A WAVE OF NEW DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS ARE REDUCING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

"I'd been reading and learning more on the subject of racial justice for years, but the upswelling of the Black Lives Matter movement was the spark I needed to move from learning to action," says alumnus Jeff Bay about his decision to contribute to a new entrance scholarship. "As I begin to recognize my privilege in attending university, I want to help extend that opportunity to a range of students who don't necessarily look like me or come from my background."

Jeff is one of many donors choosing to support students from groups with current or historical barriers to education. As public awareness of pervasive racial inequality rises, more individuals and organizations are taking steps to address these issues through awards for students identifying as Black, Indigenous or Persons of Colour (BIPOC).

Baneet Hans is the first recipient of the new scholarship for Law students established by Scotiabank. As a first-generation Canadian, Baneet's decision to pursue law is connected to her Punjabi Sikh identity. "My community has faced a lot of tragedies and atrocities, and the resilience and perseverance of my people is a large motivator for me," says Baneet.

This scholarship will help Baneet build a career that supports marginalized groups and

combats racism. "It takes the pressure off and makes it easier to pursue the avenues of work that I'm passionate about," says Baneet. "There are many ways to serve, but it's activism that is calling my name."

Baneet says the multi-year scholarship will benefit her now, by making law school more accessible, and in the future, by giving her the confidence and financial stability to hold employers accountable to their equity, diversity and inclusion promises.

"I can't expect the face of the legal profession to change if I myself am not willing to occupy spaces that make me uncomfortable," she says. "This scholarship helps me blaze a path towards a more diverse legal field."

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NEW DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS CREATED
FROM OCTOBER 2020 TO MAY 2021

ARE SPECIFICALLY FOR BIPOC STUDENTS

GIVE PREFERENCE TO BIPOC STUDENTS

Photo: Law student Baneet Hans sits at the monument for the Komagata Maru in Vancouver, which lists the names of the mostly Sikh passengers who were denied entry to Canada in 1914. Credit: Jeff Topham



UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUPPLY TO

\$28.6m from Last year

\$11.7m

The current value of the endowment is \$525m

\$5.4m TO CAPITAL

\$5m for the National Centre for Indigenous Laws

These donations can be spent right away

\$11.5m

THE donor COMMUNITY



2,441

RING ROAD LOYALTY CIRCLE MEMBERS



406

MONTHLY GIVING CLUB MEMBERS



309

T.S. McPHERSON LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS (DONORS WHO HAVE LEFT A GIFT IN THEIR WILL)

4,962

DONORS IN 2020/21

2,190 ALUMNI 678
FACULTY
STAFF

1,731
GAVE FOR THE 1ST TIME

Numbers calculated for fiscal year: April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021



RESTORING THE NATURAL FLOW

A PROFESSOR'S LEGACY STRENGTHENS HER FORMER STUDENT'S RESOLVE TO REVITALIZE KWAK'WALA LANGUAGE IN HER COMMUNITY

Keisha Everson, whose traditional name is Lalxsan Dala'ogwa, has made learning and teaching her ancestors' language a priority in her life. Keisha's grandmother, U'magalis, is one of only 120 fluent Kwak' wala speakers. When she lost her Indian status through marriage, it disrupted the natural flow of language transmission from her to the younger generations in her family.

"If I don't learn Kwak' wala, then that disruption continues," Keisha says. "I'll do anything I can to make sure my son grows up hearing the language."

In 2018, Keisha entered the Indigenous Language Revitalization master's program at UVic, and was thrilled that one of her professors was fellow Kwak' wala learner and scholar T'łat'lakuł Dr. Trish Rosborough. After teaching Keisha in several courses, Rosborough agreed to supervise Keisha's final project. However, shortly afterwards, Rosborough passed away.

That fall, the T'lat'lakul Dr. Trish Rosborough Memorial Scholarship in Indigenous Language Revitalization was endowed through the First Peoples' Cultural Council and First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, with additional support from many of Rosborough's family members, friends and colleagues.

Upon hearing she was an inaugural recipient of the award, Keisha felt grief and joy. "It was really validating of the work I am doing, have done and will continue to do," Keisha says. She remembers Rosborough often when she's teaching adult learners at North Island College.

"Trish used a narrative approach to help students understand the rich meanings of words," says Keisha.

"I'll never forget how she translated the word 'k'wa la'yu,' which is a term of endearment for children or grandchildren, as 'reason for living.' I didn't have the chance to tell her I was going to be a mother, but it's only since I became one that I understand the beauty and depth of that translation."

1,224 **ENDOWMENTS SUPPORTING** STUDENT AWARDS

3,298 **DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS** WERE GIVEN OUT IN 2020/21

Photo: Keisha Everson teaches her son, Orion, Kwak'wala words and culture. Credit: UVic Photo Services

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTING DIGITAL HEALTH RESEARCH HELPS UNCOVER THE POSITIVE BENEFITS OF LIFESTYLE INTERVENTIONS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

When psychology master's student Cynthia McDowell joined the UVic Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, she became immersed in a rigorous study of *Voices in Motion*, a choir for people with dementia and their care partners. Then COVID-19 forced the choir online. While social isolation has increased for many, the choir now offers one of the few ways participants can safely maintain social connections, and brings a source of joy and creativity back into their lives.

Assisted by the Pacific Blue Cross Health Benefits Society Scholarship in Digital Health, Cynthia was able to shift the focus of her research towards the positive impacts of these virtual connections.

"I was so thrilled to have an opportunity to spend more time on this project," Cynthia says. "If we can show that reducing isolation is beneficial for cognitive health for individuals living with dementia—even in an online format—imagine what we can do for the larger population."

Cynthia finds it rewarding knowing her community-engaged research project is directly improving the quality of life for individuals with memory loss and their care partners. So she's excited that the team's next project—a podcast series that shares intimate and first-hand stories about dementia and caregiving—will reach even more people who are looking for answers and support.

"By giving them a voice, we are hoping to reduce stigma about memory loss and tell the listeners that life goes on beyond diagnosis. That they can still engage in a lot of meaningful things," says Cynthia.

This research into the positive benefits of social-cognitive interventions paves the way for additional programs serving more Canadians, even those living in rural locations. And the podcast is a further step toward an ambitious goal that changes the narrative of dementia and ultimately creates a more accessible, dementia-friendly world.

\$1.7m AWARDED TO 513 GRADUATE STUDENTS IN 2020/21

DONOR-FUNDED GRADUATE AWARDS DISBURSED IN 2020/21

Photo: Cynthia McDowell is part of a small team creating a podcast series for people with dementia and their care partners. Credit: UVic Photo Services



During this extremely challenging year, support from donors has helped UVic adapt and meet the changing needs of students, researchers and the wider community. You've shown generosity and loyalty, along with the will to take positive action and drive change.

Now it's time to look forward.

In my term as president, I'm committed to engaging deeply with communities locally and globally. I will focus on sustainability, advancing equity, diversity and inclusion, and widening access to education. Our strong donor community will be a key partner for the UVic I envision—and I'm excited to imagine what we can achieve together.

With gratitude,

Keller

Kevin Hall
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Victoria



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