Message from the Dean

Collective strengths help us adapt and thrive

AS WE MOVE THROUGH the third summer since COVID-19 disrupted our lives, I am grateful for many things: our local and international business communities which support and sustain the Gustavson School; our alumni, who live incredibly full lives yet stay connected with us; our students who continue to bring open minds and fresh ideas into the classroom during unpredictable times; and our faculty and staff who have made it possible for us to adapt and thrive. These past few years have demonstrated the collective strength in our extended Gustavson family and reinforced the power of our community.

This is a community that is growing all the time. Our first cohort of graduates from our redesigned MBA in Sustainable Innovation convocates in June and the second cohort of our new Master in Management begins in September. As our past graduates can attest, sustainability, innovation and design thinking have always been strengths of our program, and we continue to advance our focus in these areas. As more and more businesses are seeing the need to think and act with greater purpose, our graduates are the leaders who will put these ideas into practice and forge change in the world.

In the fall, we are thrilled to be recognizing Batana and Arrun Stephens, the co-founders of Nature’s Path Foods, at our 2022 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Gala. Their dedication to building a hugely successful business, while also serving their community and regenerating agriculture for a more sustainable future, is a shining example of how innovative business practices can have a lasting and far-reaching positive impact.

The world is changing and so too are the challenges and opportunities before us. We need leaders unafraid to try something new. In this issue of Business Class, we highlight our students who continue to bring open minds and fresh ideas into the classroom during unpredictable times; and our faculty and staff who have made it possible for us to adapt and thrive. These past few years have demonstrated the collective strength in our extended Gustavson family and reinforced the power of our community.

As we move through the summer, we need leaders unafraid to try something new.

Dr. Saul Klein
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Uvic ranks 12th in world in Times Higher Education ranking

Uvic is in the top 12 out of 1,406 colleges and universities around the world in advancing and living up to the commitments of the United Nation’s (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as rated by the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

“The work we do at Gustavson is in strong alignment with the UN’s SDGs,” says Dean Saul Klein. “From climate finance to sustainable supply chains and social enterprises, from sustainability-focused co-op work terms to SDG-focused lesson plans and our MBA in Sustainable Innovation, these concepts are a fundamental part of what we do. We are honoured to have contributed alongside colleagues across campus to this recognition of UVic’s impact.”

Uvic ranked highly on the following SDGs:

• 2nd for SDG 13: Climate action
• 2nd for SDG 15: Life on land
• 5th for SDG 14: Life below water
• 12th for SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
• 19th for SDG 1: No poverty
• 25th for SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth


Gustavson welcomes Mía Maki to new associate dean role

Gustavson is pleased to share that Assistant Teaching Professor Mía Maki has accepted the role of associate dean, faculty outreach. In this new role, Maki works to support and enhance Gustavson’s connections with the community and leads the external relations team. Maki brings deep experience as a CPA, academic leader, instructor, facilitator and consultant, as well as offering extensive knowledge of Gustavson from her 15 years as a faculty member (and MBA alumna).

“Working with the team at Gustavson has been a pleasure since my first day,” says Maki. “I am very excited to take on this leadership role at the school. I look forward to expanding our connections and creating deeper ones, too, with our community.”

Photo: UVic Photo Services