GREETINGS AND WELCOME

2020 will be remembered as the year of a destructive global pandemic. It is also the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. This collision of a worldwide health crisis with a worldwide celebration of nurses reminds us that our collective work to prepare people for professions that serve the public matters greatly. As we respond to the challenges that COVID-19 brings, we celebrate the learning, research and service that our amazing HSD students, faculty, staff, donors and partners have undertaken over the past year. Using knowledge for change teaches us that, together, we can surmount COVID-19 and together, our work raises us up. In the year ahead I wish you wellness and work that matters with people who care.

Tricia Marck RN, PhD
Professor and Dean
a’sacʔay’xw meqw ta’sa теčel: Be prepared for all work to come

As you read the 2020 annual review, I hope you find yourself in a safe and healthy space. I want to acknowledge that the academic environment shifted early 2020 as we quickly responded to teaching and learning in the middle of an evolving global pandemic. I am grateful to the faculty, staff and government and community partners who worked together to ensure that learning continued with minimal disruption and students received the support they needed to navigate what at times might have seemed chaotic and worrying. Thank you everyone, especially those of you who support HSD students, faculty and staff to do the good work they do everyday.

Esther Sangster-Gormley RN, PhD
Associate Professor, Associate Dean-Academic

During the past year, HSD researchers have made vital contributions to a diverse and complex research enterprise and to collaborations across Canada and around the world. Through their mentorship and support of graduate students and trainees, they have strengthened the next generation of researchers. As we conclude another year and begin to imagine a renewed strategic research plan, we will stay focused on our shared HSD vision—to be leaders in the generation and mobilization of knowledge for social change, health and well-being.

Charlotte Loppie, PhD
Associate Dean-Research

Territory Acknowledgment
The University of Victoria and the Faculty of Human and Social Development acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen 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.
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**ON THE COVER – Meet Sydney Hofmeyr, BSN, Home and Community Care Nurse**

Of the School of Nursing’s class of 2020, Sydney Hofmeyr began work with Island Health this past April, days after completing a practicum with their Victoria Health Unit. Now a Home and Community Care Nurse, Hofmeyr cycles to and from work to her patients’ homes providing a range of health services. “I feel quite lucky to be working as a nurse today, helping people through these dramatic challenges we are all facing right now.” Also prepared to treat COVID-19 and opioid overdoses, she admits a nurse’s education is never really complete. For now, she loves her work and is particularly proud as the first in her family to earn a university degree.

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**ON THE BACK COVER – Meet Mabel Stewart, a care client**

Mabel holds a photo of her younger self with friends, Winnie on her left and Frieda on her right. In the 1950s, they shared an apartment in Vancouver and worked at a farm supply store in Gastown candling eggs. Today, we are preparing for the largest seniors population in history. We work with community partners to refresh our programs so students are ready for the changing, growing workplace to best serve the needs of citizens like Mabel and her friends. Photo courtesy of the BC Care Providers Association.
Several HSD faculty hold major awards, research chairs and other distinguished affiliations with key funding agencies, including:

**International**
- European Union
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

**National**
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canadian Research Council
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- MITACS – A national non-profit that supports social and industrial innovation

**Regional**
- Island Health and the First Nations Health Authority
- Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
- The Vancouver Foundation and The Victoria Foundation
Human and Social Development is known for

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

and for Indigenous led, community based, national and international research relationships and projects, some with local-to-global partnerships.

Our programs are delivered through the following academic units:

- Child and Youth Care
- Health Information Science
- Indigenous Governance
- Nursing
- Public Administration
- Public Health and Social Policy
- Social Work

HSD has a long history of teaching Indigenous specializations and recruits more Indigenous students and faculty with each passing year.

Human and Social Development is home to an Indigenous Student Support Centre where all are welcome.

75% of all students at UVic are from outside Victoria, BC.

We offer 40 years of experience partnering with communities on learning, teaching and research for change.

Overall program satisfaction rated by students 93%

UVic’s student satisfaction for instruction quality stands at 93%

UVic generates an annual economic impact equal to $3.7 BILLION
Shedding light on Canada’s untold Métis story

Lii Michif Niyannan, meaning We Are Métis, is the title of an upcoming documentary film and Social Work curricula development project funded in part by the Canadian Heritage Anti-Racism Action Project. This funding was created by the Government of Canada to help address barriers to employment, justice and social participation among Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities and religious minorities. The project will be led by Jeannine Carriere, a professor and researcher who has worked with our School of Social Work, teaching Indigenous specializations for the past 15 years. Award-winning Métis filmmaker and professor emeritus in Gender Studies, Christine Welsh, is co-producer for the film and project co-lead. Filming is slated to begin in the summer of 2020.

Using a multi-media platform, this project will engage Métis and non-Métis Canadians in a dialogue and shared learning experience, says Carriere. “We will encourage people to explore the profound historic contributions of Métis people in shaping our country alongside the contemporary Métis experiences of today.”

Social Work graduate student, Trish Pal, will also work on the project as a research assistant. Pal, a Two-Spirit Métis, won the Dean’s Award for Indigenous Graduate Students along with a faculty academic achievement award.

Carriere is Métis, born and raised within the historic Red River area of Manitoba. This project is based on her scholarly research and a long-held vision to heighten understanding of the distinct Métis nationhood that shaped Canada’s Northwest from the 1700s onward alongside contemporary perspectives on what it means to be Métis today.

Prepared and ready for palliative caregiving

Rowen Harris, 24, was a BSN student from the School of Nursing’s class of 2020. She came to UVic from Kamloops and wanted to work with Kelli Stajduhar, Professor of Nursing and a research scientist with UVic’s Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health. Harris says she was inspired by Stajduhar’s evidence-based teaching and activism, and because she has long wanted a career in the oncology and palliative care sector.

Even with her range of experience and high interest in hospice work, Harris admits she didn’t expect this practicum to be such a life-altering experience.

On day one, Harris was introduced to a group of four mentors (staff and students working in Stajduhar’s research unit) who would supervise her throughout her practicum.

“We would have these amazing, heartfelt conversations about the needs of patients at the end of their lives,” says Harris. “The feeling you experience when you are involved with a palliative patient is like this; it’s an intimate discussion, empathetic, helpful. The patient’s appreciation of your help is something else,” she explains. “Our mentors prepared us for that.”

Harris also worked with the palliative outreach resource team, known as the PORT Project, that offers services to Victoria’s street community.
“That was a real eye opener,” says Harris. “It changed my thinking about how we provide care to the homeless community. The team will meet clients wherever they are at be it a tent city, or a motel room. We shadowed a doctor and nurse and watched how their conversations unfolded.”

“At times, I didn’t really know what I was getting myself into,” she says of her practicum. “But now, I feel like I was given a really valuable community experience.”

Now working as a nurse with Island Health’s oncology unit at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Harris feels ready and prepared.

When asked how she will cope with the emotional toll of palliative work, she says, “Sometimes it’s very sad. Heartbreaking, even. But I’ve always been a bit of a crier,” she smiles. “At 7 p.m. when I hear all that noise and cheering, I tear up every time.”

**Dr. Michael Prince appointed to federal advisory group**

Upon being invited to join the Government of Canada’s COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group, Dr. Prince accepted wholeheartedly given that supporting the rights of people living with disabilities is part of his life’s work. Dr. Prince is UVic Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy and a subject expert on disability. Currently, he serves as Chair of Community Living BC, the provincial Crown Corporation that serves adults with developmental disabilities.

With this group, Dr. Prince will advise Minister Carla Qualtrough on the lived experiences of Canadians with disabilities who may be facing unique hardships during the current pandemic crisis. Persons with disabilities have expressed concern about the inequality of access to care and supports, as well as to information and support with mental health, social isolation, employment and income supports.

“Protecting the human rights of persons with disabilities during these times calls for added vigilance,” says Dr. Prince. “There is an opportunity here for Canada to be more effective in their overall support of the disability community and Minister Qualtrough is open to discussing those ideas.”

The group meets weekly through to August 2020.

Dr. Prince teaches courses in disability, public policy and public health. His research is focused on trends in social policy, disability politics and policy issues.
Living Lab Project offers youth traditional, place-based learning

Nick XEMŦOLTW̱ Claxton, assistant professor with UVic’s School of Child and Youth Care and Chief of the Tsawout Nation, is one of two UVic academic leads behind an historic community-of-practice group overseeing the Living Lab Project. John Taylor, professor of Biology, is also a project co-lead.

As a collaborative, place-based learning and teaching ‘hothouse’ for local Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, the Living Lab Project ranks as an innovative research venture. The project team includes the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ First Nations, UVic faculty and staff from across campus, as well as local and tribal schools, non-government organizations and regional, provincial and federal governments.

Shared interests are centred on teaching and learning through restoration and resurgence involving land and waters which are traditional territory of the Lekwungen peoples. While experiential learning methods help students focus on skills development within the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) stream, traditional Indigenous ways remain at the core.

John Taylor oversees the Promo Science grant from the National Science and Engineering Research Council. This funds the project along with UVic Aboriginal Service Plan funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education for two more years. Goals are to expand the number of activities and participating students, to make room for more youth from schools and communities, while continuing to balance teaching across field and lab work, lectures and community engagement.

“Getting out of the classroom. Exploring land and water. Learning science within the traditions of our culture and spiritual values,” says Claxton, “We bring this knowledge to our youth as early as grade three.”
Dr. Lackhowsky’s research focuses on social and behavioural epidemiology and the value of using mixed methods data to inform public health practice, health service provision, and policy.

New funding expands drug-checking project with $3M over five years

In BC, 981 people died in 2019 of suspected illicit drug toxicity, an average of nearly three deaths per day.

An unconventional partnership forged between Social Work and Chemistry has gained considerable traction in addressing one of the world’s most pressing social issues—overdose.

Dr. Bruce Wallace, a professor with our School of Social Work, and Dennis Hore, a professor of Chemistry with the Faculty of Science, developed a pilot drug-checking project to test and prevent use of lethal chemicals. Their findings have led to more research and more funding to make drug-checking much more accessible across the country.

“While drug-checking is one more way to respond to this crisis, it has limitations,” says Dr. Wallace. “To encourage uptake of drug-checking technology, we need technical experts to operate the equipment which includes portable spectrometers and the ability to interpret chemical test results.”

With a two-year grant from the New Frontiers in Research Fund, administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat on behalf of the Social Sciences Health Research Council of Canada—plans are to build new prototypes that are more portable, easier to use yet just as effective and to also develop training programs.

Funding was awarded following the team’s proposal, titled Spectroscopy for the masses: Training the community to operate drug-checking technologies as a response to the overdose crisis.

“While drug-checking is one more way to respond to this crisis, it has limitations,” says Dr. Wallace. “To encourage uptake of drug-checking technology, we need technical experts to operate the equipment which includes portable spectrometers and the ability to interpret chemical test results.”

On sex education and fair policy

Nathan Lachowsky, assistant professor with the School of Public Health and Social Policy and Research Director of the Community-Based Research Centre in Vancouver, BC, led an Ideafest 2020 panel discussion on research about sexuality and gender which included presentations from Dr. Sandrina de Finney with our School of Child and Youth Care, and Dr. René e Monchalin with our School of Public Health and Social Policy.

On a similar note, Dr. Lachowsky published an op-ed in the Huffington Post in October, 2019, on why the Canadian Blood Services should screen for behaviour, not sexual orientation, when selecting suitable donors. He wrote, "We need to take gender and sexual orientation out of the debate and stop making blood donations political, because these bans don’t just affect those who want to donate blood, but also everyone who depends on it.”
Caring for people at risk

Dr. Marilou Gagnon’s research program seeks to address gaps in knowledge that have the potential to inform public debate and policies, while also advancing the rights and health of marginalized communities. Here’s a look at some of the funded research projects Dr. Gagnon has worked on this year in addition to teaching with the School of Nursing.

Building on data she collected last year, Dr. Gagnon started disseminating findings of a CIHR-funded case study on the professional and ethical implications of incentives in the care of people at risk and living with HIV. Dr. Gagnon also launched three studies:

- a CIHR-funded community-based study on the integration of HIV and Hepatitis C care in overdose prevention sites in partnership with AIDS Vancouver Island;
- a CIHR-funded longitudinal qualitative study on the impact of cannabis legalization of people living with HIV; and
- a SSHRC-funded qualitative study on the experience of whistleblowing among Quebec nurses.

In her capacity as president of the Harm Reduction Nurses Association, she led the development of an international consensus statement on the role of nurses in supervised consumption sites, which was published in the Journal of Mental Health and Addiction Nursing in October 2019.

In March 2020, Dr. Gagnon was elected to attend the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria, as part of the Canadian Civil Society delegation. Her many years of advocacy, leadership and her strong voice has been recognized among civil society organizations in Canada and abroad.

Four stories about food

Astrid V. Pérez Piñán with the School of Public Administration is working with a SSHRC-funded research project team which recently published Four Stories About Food Sovereignty: Transnational Crises and Local Action. This multidisciplinary project led by UVic historian, Elizabeth Vibert, also includes Maureen Bradley, professor of Fine Arts, and Matthew Murphy, associate professor with the Gustavson School of Business, involves food producers and scholars from four key regions: Indigenous Colombia, Jordan, South Africa and Indigenous Canada.

Four Stories About Food explains how a research network for small-scale producers helped people learn from each other and enabled public access to information about food security issues around the world. Fully underway as of 2019, the research network has published a book, led an international food security workshop, produced a documentary film, and continues with community-engaged research and public education activities on this vital topic. The team looks at components that have contributed to issues around control over food systems by profit-focused transnational corporations. In response, peasant and farmer groups have joined together within and across national borders to form movements that articulate a vision of sustainable, equitable and culturally appropriate agro-food systems.

Astrid V. Pérez Piñán is a feminist scholar who studies the nexus between gender, food sovereignty and climate change.

Dr. Gagnon stands up for drug users’ rights to access a safe supply and avoid risks of toxic street drugs, Nov. 2019. Photo by Jay Wallace Images.
He was a visiting scholar with the Center for Expanded Data Annotation and Retrieval in 2015-16 at Stanford University’s School of Medicine, and with the Electronic Commerce Resource Centre at Georgia Tech from 1999-00.

Dr. Kuo’s research interests include Cloud computing and Big Data application to healthcare, health data interoperability, health database and data warehousing, data mining in healthcare, e-health and clinical decision support systems. With more than 20 years of programming and data analysis experience and a vibrant research background, Dr. Kuo has had his work published in more than 160 peer-reviewed publications.

### Preserving sacred rituals

The Indigenous Governance program and HSD co-hosted a screening of a documentary film titled *Gule: An Invitation to the Chewa Mask Dance* produced by Devi Mucina, director of the Indigenous Governance program.

The Gule Wamkulu—the great dance—is a cultural tradition unique to the Nyau, an ancient secret society of Malawi. Traditionally performed at funerals, Gule is also seen at commemorations and initiation ceremonies, such as coming-of-age rituals, which is a focus of research and teachings within the Indigenous Governance program.

Gule Wamkulu is sanctioned by UNESCO as one of the 90 masterpieces of oral and intangible heritage of humanity, a distinction which recognizes the value of non-material cultural traditions, and the commitment of a community to promote and safeguard the authenticity of such practices.

### Learning from a Big Data insider

Dr. Alex Kuo, a professor with the School of Health Information Science, holds a PhD in computer science from the University of Nottingham, UK.

In addition to teaching, conducting research and serving as a guest scholar at leading universities around the world, Dr. Kuo is an active member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world’s largest professional technicians’ organization. Boasting 420,000+ members worldwide, this group shares findings and insights with academia, government and business to address Big Data challenges.

Dr. Kuo is chair of the IEEE Big Data Education Track, as well as chair of the Special Interest Group on Big Data for Healthcare, Medicine and Biology with the IEEE Technical Committee on Big Data.

### Making real social change happen

Ashley Mollison is a PhD student with UVic’s Social Dimensions of Health program who has identified inequities people face when accessing health care. Her findings are further supported by what she has seen, experienced and learned firsthand through more than ten years of full-on activism.

From the frontlines of a tent city or on the street, this recent Vanier Scholar has put herself at the intersection of social justice, harm reduction, health equity and the evening news. Mollison works with non-profits, attends university, works on campus, helps people fight for their rights and then explains the facts to media, government and the public.

She is also the coordinator for Equity in Palliative Approaches to Care - the ePAC project - guided by Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, nursing professor and researcher with UVic’s Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health. She oversees research involving local-to-global partners working to improve access to care for those dying while living without homes, in poverty, isolated and stigmatized.

“I see how people care for one another,” Mollison says, “even when the system doesn’t help them. Many have created ingenious work-arounds to get their needs met.”
HSD Global Research Projects
This listing is not an exhaustive report, more a sampler of the funded research that has engaged HSD faculty, students and staff throughout 2019 to 2020.

Indigenous Governance

International
- A SSHRC award and an initial CIHR Training Grant support the study of Gule Wamukulu, a spiritual mask dance of Malawi centering on men's roles to promote health through public education. 2019-2020.

National
- A SSHRC Insight Grant supports a co-investigative study on decolonizing sport related to Indigenous people, hockey and Canadian nationhood. 2018-2023.

School of Child and Youth Care

International
- Working with the Swiss National Science Foundation on a four-year study on resilience of adolescent students who experience physical family violence. 2019-2023.
- SSHRC funded study on gender-based violence against children and youth around the world. 2016-2020.
- Working with Australia, this study led by the Rural Health Services Research Network of BC aims to improve disability service delivery models with rural and remote populations.
- Networks for Change and Wellbeing is a SSHRC and IDRC funded study focused on sexualized violence impacting Indigenous girls across Canada and South Africa. 2016-2020.
- A SSHRC Insight Development Grant supports the Youth Migration Project including work based in Malaysia and Thailand on youth's experiences of forced migration. 2016-2020.
- A SSHRC Partnership Engagement Grant supports work in Thailand to help refugee youth experiencing psychosocial trauma and gender-based violence. 2020-2021.

National
- Funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant, this study is focused on bordering practices in the Canadian child welfare system and how immigration status shapes risk assessment with immigrant families. 2020.
- Working with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in implementing Jordan's Principle to ensure there are no gaps in government services to First Nations children. 2019-2021.
- Sisters Rising is an Indigenous-led land-and-arts-based study funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant and the Canet Foundation involving Indigenous community partners in restoring Indigenous knowledges and practices of gender and sexual well-being. 2016-2024.

Provincial
- An Island Health collaborative research grant supports this practice-based study of youth and family counsellors' experiences working with suicidal youth. 2019-2021.

Multidisciplinary research
- Working with the Evaluation Capacity Network, a national initiative based at the University of Alberta and funded by a SSHRC Partnership Grant to develop culturally relevant approaches to improve early childhood practice, programs and policy. 2017-2023.

School of Health Information Science

International
- Supporting SNOMED International, an initiative to develop a global clinical language.
- Studying Big Data platforms and artificial intelligence used in Chinese hospitals. 2019-2024
- Consumer medication information and digital health literacy projects in Denmark. 2019-2022
- Working with Finland and the US on a study to improve safety of health information technology from across the spectrum of international knowledge to local application. 2019-2024
- Working with Italy and Denmark to help assess EU projects on diabetes. 2019-2021
- Developing a tool with the UK and other countries that measures the effectiveness of EHR systems. 2019-2021
- Several US projects are underway focusing on telehealth, UX in health informatics, embedding decision support into EHRs, and the use of composable software designs to improve user safety. 2017-2021

National
- This five-year NSERC Discovery Grant supports development of safe health informatics interface design across web-based platforms, mobile devices and software applications. 2020-2025.
- Working with Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster on a Dermatology Point-of-Care Intelligent Network to improve early detection of skin cancer. 2019-2022
- SSHRC funding enables the Visual and Automated Disease Analytics Graduate Training Program offered through a joint initiative between UVic and the University of Manitoba. 2018-2024

School of Nursing

International
- This five-year SSHRC study examines food security issues and implications for refugees. 2020-2025
- Partnering with the Joanna Briggs Institute of Adelaide, Australia, involves knowledge synthesis projects on nursing education, practice and health equity. 2016-2021

National
- A SSHRC New Frontiers Exploration Grant supports a team of researchers exploring strategies to increase access and health equity in health education programs across Canada. 2020-2021

Provincial
- Multiple funders, including SSHRC, MSFHR and New Horizons, support the Voices in Motion research project, now a non-profit with five intergenerational choirs for people with dementia and their care partners. 2020-2021.
- The Alzheimer's Society Research Program and the Pacific Alzheimer's Research Foundation also supports the work of Voices in Motion centred around community choir participants. 2017-2021.
- This two-year SSHRC study explores how community action research can support Syrian refugee mothers adjust to a new life in our province. 2019-2021
With funding from UVic, this study looks at perspectives and experiences of policymakers, professionals and the public on evidence-based health policies. 2019-2021.

The 2020 SPARK Program and Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation are supporting an i-Care study on the use of wireless health monitoring with older adults. 2020-2021.

CIHR supports this study seeking solutions to housing and health for older women in vulnerable circumstances. 2020-2021.

School of Public Administration

International

- Identifying policies for a just transition from carbon intensive industries is the objective of this SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis project. 2020-2021.
- The UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education is supported by a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to bridge knowledge cultures between universities and communities and support training centres for participatory research in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Canada. 2018-2025.
- A SSHRC Insight Grant enables the study of austerity policies in shaping protest movement politics in Europe between 2015 and 2020 with a focus on Iceland, Germany and France. 2016-2021.

National

- A SSRHC Knowledge Synthesis Grant supports work comparing Canadian energy-economy models to identify best practices to achieve Canada’s climate goals. 2020-2021.
- A SSHRC Partnership Grant assists the INKE Partnership with national leaders in various areas of study to support open scholarship. 2020-2027.

School of Public Health and Social Policy

International

- This CIHR study documents the lived experience of those with HIV-related neurocognitive disorder and service access issues in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. Team members also include US, Australia and the UK. 2019-2023.

National

- The NET0LN0EW project is supported by a SSHRC Operating Grant and a Partnership Grant to enhance Indigenous adults’ contributions to reviving Indigenous languages in Canada. 2017-2023.
INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

Welcome

Dr. Devi Mucina
Program Director

We are working towards the relaunch of the MA program and will start accepting applications September 2020 for a September 2021 start date. Meanwhile, we continue to build on our program’s long-time strengths of dedication to Indigenous ways of knowing and being, resurgence, innovative scholarship and teaching methods.

Our thorough understanding of the political realities facing Indigenous communities has been enriched with greater emphasis on feminist and gender perspectives, plus strong connections with local communities, languages and the land.

Now recruiting for an Assistant Professor and Associate Professor to join our team, we have much to look forward to in the year ahead.

KEY STRENGTHS

Land and water based learning is central to all teaching within IGov. Students are challenged to explore such projects within their own communities.

Teaching beyond the classroom helps define practice and honours Indigenous ways of knowing. Students learn through weekly mentorship activities.

Preparing for leadership roles requires students to cultivate and maintain their ability to find balance to lead while managing their studies, health, family relationships and community activities.

Undergraduate courses

We offer a number of undergraduate credit courses in leadership, governance, resurgence, research methods and Indigenous-state relationships.

Graduate programs

- Master of Arts (MAIG)
  This degree is centred on leadership and delivered through a cohort model of 12-to-18 peers. After two semesters, students are then required to work independently to complete a major community-centred project.

- PhD by special arrangement
  This degree is centred on leadership and delivered through a cohort model of 12-to-18 peers. After two semesters, students are then required to work independently to complete a major community-centred project.

- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Nationhood
  MA and PhD students may choose this advanced level of study integrating course work from their previous programs. MA students must complete 4.5 additional units.

Christine Bird is completing her IGov PhD with a Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Scholarship doctoral award of $105,000 from the Social Sciences Health Research Council of Canada. She is an Anishinaabe and Nehiyaw from the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba.

“My dissertation focused on identifying models of Indigenous governance that respect Indigenous women’s abilities to govern. This work was grounded in a sacred relationship with the land and water; one that engages language and culture to guide the process.”

IGov is accepting applications in September 2020 for a September 2021 start. Applicants are invited to contact the Graduate Program Assistant at igov@uvic.ca.

The Indigenous Governance program medallion was created by Charles W. Elliot.

Photo Credit: Emily Bird

12 | Faculty of Human & Social Development
To know more beyond the ‘great hurt’
As she wraps up year two of her PhD in political science and Indigenous nationhood, Morgan Mowatt reflects on how her studies have influenced her life, values and career ideas.

“I'd like everything I do to reflect in a positive way upon community.”

This thinking, she says, is linked to better understanding of Indigenous community, governance and history. A proud Gitxsan person, Mowatt is from the village of Gitannmaax. She is loyal to her strong, clan-based nation in northeast BC with its 10,000+ years of history.

She was 24 when she set her sights on higher education and admits she had no intention of taking on so many years of study. After some upgrading, she enrolled in the First Nations Studies BA program at Vancouver Island University, which she describes as “an excellent launch.” There, she would win the BCPSA Norman Ruff Prize for Best Upper Level Paper in BC. She also volunteered as a peer mentor to support Indigenous students adjusting to university life.

Upon completing her BA, Mowatt came straight to UVic’s Indigenous Governance master’s program without a break. Mowatt finished the MA program in three terms (most take two years) while securing a Joseph-Armand Bombardier doctoral scholarship for future studies from the Social Sciences Health Research Council of Canada.

“Learning Indigenous-state history is learning my own history. There is great personal hurt there.” She found support having her sister on campus, and would be encouraged to build meaningful relations with the nations surrounding UVic. “That’s something I greatly value in the Indigenous Governance program.”

Some days, she says carrying this learning is too tough. She chooses to reflect on advice from a professor; “Once you learn something, you can’t unknow it.” It is in that idea Mowatt has found a responsibility to make good use of the new knowledge she’s gained.

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduate student named Trudeau Scholar
Jasmine Feather Dionne is from Saka Wiyiniwak, home to the People of the Boreal Forest and is both Nehiyaw and Métis from Northern Alberta. Born and raised in Fort McMurray, she completed her BA in Law and Society at the University of Calgary and her MA in Indigenous Governance here at UVic. Now a PhD candidate in Political Science, Dionne has identified one of her commitments for this scholarship to develop solutions to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Crisis. She believes that by renewing and restructuring kinship governance practices and utilizing diplomatic legal order to re-instill the foundations of what it means to protect relations, that nation-based solutions to this crisis can be developed. The guiding principle of her work is kanaweyimowewin, a Cree term meaning to protect and defend.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Indigenous Politics program with University of Hawai’i at Manoa
This rich cultural and academic partnership began in 2006, offering student exchanges, co-teaching and adjunct appointments collaboration on issues of resurgence discussion and research on shared interests involving our nationhoods.

School of Environment, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Senior lecturer Brad Coombes, an adjunct professor based in Auckland, brings a research focus to IGov students on the participation of Indigenous peoples in conservation management and environmental planning.

Obstacles to establishing partnership approaches are discussed, along with the appropriateness of co-management, collaborative science and community-based management for resolving conservation conflicts.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Tores Strait Islander Studies
Students are encouraged to tap into this institute’s research program, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who are involved as researchers, partners and project drivers. IGov works with this institute in building pathways for knowledge.

Pacific Peoples’ Partnerships
Based in Victoria, BC, for more than forty years, IGov works with this non-profit in support of a knowledge exchange among South Pacific Islanders and Indigenous peoples on the subject of social justice and community development.
WELCOME
Dr. Helga Hallgrímsdóttir
ACTING SCHOOL DIRECTOR

We provide transformative learning experiences for our students, founded in a vibrant research culture and a strong focus on practice-based learning.

Under the leadership of our undergraduate program co-chairs, Sarah Wright Cardinal and Samantha Corrington, our bachelor's degree program was refreshed in 2019. Core themes of our decolonizing praxis now include reconciliation and diversity while offering students the opportunity to build a broad general knowledge base.

Supporting and fostering reconciliation and respectful relationships with Indigenous communities remain priorities. Faculty have developed local-to-global research partnerships that provide reciprocal learning and teaching opportunities with Indigenous communities. These projects are poised to make significant contributions to the resurgence of Indigenous knowledge in Canada.

The schools' Indigenous crest defines Community Wellness and was designed by Dylan Thomas.

Scott Kouri (here with his son) completed his BA (2011), MA (2014) and PhD (2019) with UVic's School of Child and Youth Care while working as a counsellor and instructor.

“The professors challenged me as a person, taught me a new understanding of myself, of my privilege. I learned how to be challenged and was supported to safely explore how to serve the greater good.”

KEY STRENGTHS

- Degrees are highly versatile, offering students transferrable skills which appeal to employers.
- Specializations are offered in the undergraduate program; students can align their learning with their career goals.
- Students learn from faculty who are actively engaged in a wide range of community-based research projects focused on the promotion of child, youth, family and community well-being.

Undergraduate programs
- Bachelor of Child and Youth Care
  Learning within this school is focused on creating a positive impact on the lives of children, youth, families and communities.

Graduate programs
- Master of Arts in Child and Youth Care
- PhD in Child and Youth Care

Specializations
- Indigenous
- Child protection
- Early years
AMAZING ALUMNI

Asya Touchie, BCYC
Indigenous Student Life Coordinator
Simon Fraser University
Raised in Nanaimo (Snuneymuxw), Asya Touchie longed to reconnect with her Indigenous roots. Her journey peaked at a summer job running the Yuulu'ilhaath Government’s (Ucluelet First Nation) youth programs while pursuing her bachelor’s degree. She gained valuable experience working in a variety of positions from family worker to social worker before returning to Hitacu where she served as Manager of Culture and Heritage, then Interim Manager of Social Services for the Yuulu'ilhaath Government.

Building on her knowledge and seeking ways to contribute to systems change, Touchie moved to the Lower Mainland where she was hired as Coordinator of Indigenous Student Life at Simon Fraser University. Here, she works closely with students to help them reach their educational goals, the same support she remembers receiving from UVic’s First Peoples House.

Caleigh West
Child Protection Social Worker – Indigenous Services Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development
With a bachelor’s degree from our School of Child and Youth Care and a master’s degree in Criminal Justice from the University of the Fraser Valley, Caleigh West is set on building a better bridge between the work of child welfare and that of our criminal justice system. All indications suggest she is well on her way to achieving that goal through her generous, collaborative approach and her desire to elevate the child protection profession.

For her many efforts, Caleigh received the BC Public Service Emerging Leader Award in 2019. When asked what makes Caleigh stand out, John Yakielashek, a director of practice with the ministry, said, “There is a courageousness about her.”

He noted that Caleigh will consistently take on the most challenging assignments, volunteer for extra duties, mentor new hires and practicum students and all the while maintain a positive attitude.

“This is not an easy job,” says Caleigh. “But we’re here to protect children. I just want people to get excited about the work we do.”

FACULTY SHOWCASE

Dr. Nevin Harper
Associate Professor, has a passion for research and work in outdoor and adventure therapies which attracts unique students, such as master’s student Canadian rower and Olympic medalist, Patricia Obee. Harper supervised Obee in her now published graduate thesis that explored environmental factors influencing risky play for children. Funding for this study was made possible through a Mitacs Accelerate Grant which enabled Obee to travel and collect data while living in Levanger, Norway. Teaching and research involving active engagement with children, youth and families in outdoor environments fuels Harper’s interests as participants develop ecological literacy, connect with nature and improve their health and well-being. Look for Outdoor Therapies: An Introduction to Practices, Possibilities, and Critical Perspectives (2020) co-edited by Harper and Will Dobud, MSW, for greater insights into this work.

Dr. Alison Gerlach
Assistant Professor, studies how early years, pediatric health services and systems can advance health equity for families and children who experience poverty, discrimination and other forms of structural marginalization. She also focuses on children who are neuro-diverse and differently abled.

In 2017, she received a CIHR Banting Fellowship research grant plus funding from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Her findings were published in 2019 with: Rethinking Early Intervention Therapy with Indigenous Communities and Families in Northern British Columbia: A Critical Inquiry.

In addition to leading the Early Years specialization courses and supervising graduate students, Gerlach is an Honorary Research Associate at two UBC research centres—Human Early Learning Partnerships and Critical Research in Health and Healthcare Inequities. Currently, she collaborates with researchers in both centres on interdisciplinary projects related to wellness and health equity.
Health informatics is a rapidly evolving field. Our graduate students are needed at all levels, from BA to MA and PhD. Our alum help speed access to treatment, improve clinical decision-making and design and deploy technologies to empower patients. Students in our programs benefit from small classes led by internationally renowned faculty members with access to highly relevant learning through hands-on experience.

Undergraduate programs
- Bachelor of Science in Health Information Science
- Combined Major in Computer Science and Health Information Science Program

Graduate programs
- Master of Science in Health Informatics online and on campus
- Double Degree Master of Nursing and Master of Science in Health Informatics
- PhD in Health Informatics
- Graduate Certificate Program in Health Terminology Standards
- Graduate Training Program Visual and Automated Disease Analytics
  
*This is a joint initiative between the University of Manitoba and UVic - vada.cs.umanitoba.ca.*

Amr Farghali is a master’s student with the Visual and Automated Disease Analytics graduate program funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Students learn how to collect, analyze and visualize chronic disease data for the purpose of advancing diagnostics.

“The human brain interprets visual images faster than text,” says Farghali, who also works full-time as a senior pharmacist. That’s why he developed a visual tool to help clinicians visualize vast amounts of patient data leading to faster, more efficient screening methods.
AMAZING ALUMNI

Kelly Davison
He made UVic’s fall 2019 list of convocating students three times having graduated with a double-degree Master of Nursing and Master of Science in Health Informatics plus a certificate in the new Health Terminology Standards program. Described by school director Andre Kushniruk as “an outstanding graduate student,” Davison studied while practicing full-time as an RN and raising four children with his partner, Michelle. Now, he wants to change the way we think about electronic health record design and the standards we follow, which he says can help us identify biases and gaps in the services we provide, “but they must be configured to support health equity.” His final project: eStigma, the role health data justice can play in improving care services for marginalized populations.

Anushka Premji-Osman
She completed her Bachelor of Science degree with honours and is now senior vice-president of Gevity Inc., a health technology consulting firm in Vancouver serving health authorities across Canada. Premji-Osman leads Gevity’s Canada West division overseeing client relationship management, contract management, resourcing and finance management. With 15 years of health informatics experience, Premji-Osman remains at the edge of a skill set that is in high demand across governments and corporations alike. Currently board president of the BC Health Information Management Professionals Society, a non-profit member-based development organization for those managing health information within BC, Premji-Osman is dedicated to advancing, and informing others, on the value of professional health informatics management.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Helen Monkman
She completed her PhD with the School of Health Information Science and is now an assistant teaching professor and undergraduate advisor with the school. Students will benefit from the support of this passionate consumer health informatics researcher who advocates for the importance of design in lowering demands on e-health literacy and optimizing usability in systems for laypeople. One of 14 finalists for best student paper selected by the World Congress on Medical Informatics, Dr. Monkman was a recipient of Digital Health Canada’s Steven Huesing Scholarship for advancing thinking on health information.

Dr. Frances Lau, Professor, earned a PhD in 1993 from the University of Alberta’s medical science program specializing in health informatics. He has since led large scale CIHR-funded initiatives on informatics research training, performance, and systems improvement. As a CIHR/Infoway e-health chair from 2008 to 2013, he established an e-health observatory to study health information system deployment in Canada. Now focused on patient-oriented research, Lau studies patient portals, terminologies and health equity in Electronic Health Records.

FACULTY SHOWCASE

Dr. Elizabeth Borycki Professor with the School of Health Information Science and an RN, was a keynote speaker at a 2019 digital health conference held in Hamilton, New Zealand. Her presentation, titled Health Technology Safety: From Electronic Health Records to Artificial Intelligence, focused on emerging issues and methods for improving health technology safety. Dr. Borycki’s research is currently centred on patient safety as it relates to health information quality, user interface design, workflow and health technology implementation.
WELCOME

Dr. Susan Duncan
SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The World Health Organization declared 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. The theme Nurses: A Voice to Lead Nursing the World to Health was decided prior to the coronavirus pandemic taking hold yet has renewed focus on nurses and nursing education as essential resources for global health agendas.

We view 2020 as an opportunity for reflection and action on our mandates—to educate students to make essential contributions to care and health, and to develop the knowledge needed to influence and advance health priorities. We will share the significance of this remarkable year by marking the contributions of nurses and midwives in ways not previously envisioned. Stay tuned!

Undergraduate Programs

- Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree studying the UVic Nursing curriculum in years three and four after they successfully complete years one and two with these partner educators:
  - Camosun College
  - Selkirk College*
  - Aurora College*
  - College of the Rockies*

*Students from these colleges remain at their campus where they study the UVic Nursing curriculum.

Graduate Programs

- Master of Nursing
- Double Degree Master of Nursing and Master of Science in Health Informatics
- PhD in Nursing

Cedar McMechan prepared a research paper analyzing students’ thoughts on medical assistance in dying (MAiD). As a result, she broke new ground in Canadian nurse education winning a 2018 JCURA award in her final year with UVic’s School of Nursing, publishing a paper on the subject in Quality Advancement in Nursing Education (April 2019) and capturing the attention of policymakers and media alike.

“I help the patient come to terms with what to expect and explain to the family how we care for patients at the end of their lives. It can be an incredible experience.”

KEY STRENGTHS

History – Nursing remains a foundational program upon which UVic and HSD were established.

Home to one of the larger cohorts at UVic, Nursing had the largest cohort of graduate students ever in 2019.

UVic nurses are highly employable, highly ranked by employers for their job readiness and earn an excellent income.
AMAZING ALUMNI

Dr. Wanda Martin  
Assistant Professor  
School of Nursing  
University of Saskatchewan

Food security as a public health issue

While working as a nursing research assistant in 2005, Dr. Wanda Martin volunteered at UVic’s community garden. Asked to lead a tour for nursing undergrads, Dr. Martin recalls trying to figure out what to say. “I had to explain to those students why that garden was so important.”

A professor encouraged her to do her PhD on nursing and food security, an uncommon topic for nursing in 2009, Dr. Martin says. “That education gave me a chance to focus on food security as it relates to nursing from a complex science perspective. That’s how I got on this path.”

Ten years later, that path keeps on winding.

LEARNING PARTNER

Locked into learning new skills

It may seem odd to lock people into a room then give them an hour to escape, yet, the exercise offers an understanding and develops skills that are otherwise tough to teach.

Last November, eight students with UVic’s School of Nursing, School of Social Work and UBC’s Island Medical Program—plus one imaginary patient with serious health complications—were locked into a room at the Centre for Interprofessional Clinical Simulated Learning, a training facility at the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Centre director, Darin Abbey said, “This team collaborated well. Everyone got out in time and the feedback was quite positive.”

During the debriefing, the team talked about what they learned from the exercise, including collaborative goal setting, shared fallibility, and ways to establish trust and the importance of understanding one’s role and the roles of others.

Developed by the University of Minnesota’s School of Nursing, the exercise was adapted for use in a Canadian health care setting by centre staff and nursing students, Kyla Wood and Katherine Swift, now in their fourth year of study. To learn more, or to get locked in a room with others, contact cicsl@viha.ca.

CONGRATULATIONS

JCURA award recipients

Five nursing students received the 2020 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award and presented their posters on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. The goal of this award is to encourage undergraduates to pursue innovative and original research to enhance their learning while at UVic.

Wholehearted Nursing: Exploring the BSc Experience of Holistic Nursing

This qualitative study explored the challenges and successes of incorporating holistic healing modalities into the acute care setting and supports a larger study on teaching strategies. Student, Jocelyn Chudleigh and supervisor, Maureen Ryan, assistant teaching professor.

Equity Oriented Nurse Navigation: A Scoping Review

Nurse navigation contributes to health and social system advances by improving access, equity, efficiency and effectiveness of health services. Student, Jesse Fraser and supervisors, Dr. Kim Daly, assistant professor and Dr. Bernie Pauly, professor.

Impact development of a knowledge informed evidence-based practice for nurses in priority patient settings

How the current practice model impacts learning, with recommendations for curriculum development. Student, Jenna Haaf and supervisor, Dr. Lenora Marcellus, associate professor.

Researchers’ and the publics’ perspectives on evidence-based health policy: Bridge the communication chasm

This framework proposes enhanced collaboration and communication between researchers and policymakers to improve information gathering and health policy formulation. Student, Aditi Lakshmanan and supervisor, Dr. Anastasia Mallidou, associate professor.

Evidence Practice Gap: Nursing Students’ Awareness of Metal Hypersensitivities

Online tools are shown to evaluate and disseminate evidence regarding metal hypersensitivity screening among healthcare workers. Student, Miriam Weinzieri and supervisor, Dr. Dzifa Dordunoo, assistant professor.

From left to right: Kyla Wood, Nursing student and event organizer, Adam Beattie, Nursing student, Rohit Singla and Jake Johnston, Island Medical Program students, Zihao XU and Kim Hughf, Social Work students, Hanna Carter, Nursing student and Katherine Swift, Nursing student and event organizer.
WELCOME
Dr. Astrid Brousselle
SCHOOL DIRECTOR

With exceptional expertise in borders in globalization, sustainable development, dispute resolution, access to justice, evaluation and many other public administration sectors, this school is committed to support inclusive and sustainable societies with integrity and engagement.

Building on 40+ years of experience across a vast network of co-op employers, alumni and partner organizations, our school develops leading edge thinkers and professionals who bring understanding and positive impact to the different orders of government, non-profit organizations and communities. Graduates join an esteemed group of leaders in public administration, community development and Indigenous governance, prepared to contribute to a better world.

Undergraduate programs

- Professional Specialization Certificates – online
  - Local Government Management
  - Public Policy and Governance
  - Performance Management
  - Public Sector Management
  - Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector Management
- Diplomas – online
  - Indigenous Community Development and Governance
  - Local Government Management
  - Public Sector Management

Graduate programs

- Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Evaluation
- Master of Public Administration
  (on campus with co-op placements and thesis)
- Master of Public Administration (online course-based)
- Master of Arts in Community Development
  (online with a summer residency and capstone project)
- PhD in Public Administration

Precious Ile, graduate student, is working towards a master’s degree in Community and Development. Employed by SFU as a Student Development Educator, Ile was nominated in 2019 for a YWCA Young Woman of Distinction Award for her volunteer work with a Coast Capital youth program.

“I believe in developing people and communities through meaningful connections that lead to both local and global social change and advancement.”

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AMAZING ALUMNI

From guerrilla war to governance to the World Peace Foundation

As Program Director of the World Peace Foundation’s (WPF) African security sector and peace operations program, Mulugeta Berhe led the project on peace missions across Eastern Africa. Now a senior fellow with the WPF, he previously served as director of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He holds a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Victoria, an MA in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, an MBA from the Open University of London and a BA in International Management from the Amsterdam School of Business.

With more than 20 years of experience as a senior manager in the Ethiopian public and private sectors and as an international consultant, Berhe has an impressive background as an expert in conflict prevention, management and resolution centred on the needs of East Africans. In January 2020, Hurst Publishers released Berhe’s book Laying the Past to Rest: The EPRDF and the Challenges of Ethiopian State-Building, described as ‘An indispensable insider account of transition from guerrilla war to governance in Ethiopia.”

Patty Hajdu, Canada’s Minister of Health, UVic MPA grad

The Honourable Patty Hajdu was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North in 2015. Minister Hajdu is a strong advocate for women’s rights, youth employment and affordable housing. Before entering politics, Minister Hajdu was the Executive Director of Shelter House Thunder Bay. She co-authored the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy. She also previously worked in public health and focused on drug policy, youth development and homelessness.

She is a compassionate advocate for Thunder Bay-Superior North and all of Canada, believing that a more inclusive country greatly benefits everyone. As Member of Parliament, she remains firmly focused on ensuring every Canadian has a fair shot at success.

Minister Hajdu is a graduate of Lakehead University and earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Victoria.

Source: the Prime Minister of Canada’s official website.

FACULTY SHOWCASE

Dr. Tamara Krawchenko, Assistant Professor

From advising world leaders to this academic life

Dr. Krawchenko examines policies and institutions ranging from international frameworks to local politics. She draws on several factors to assess how policies impact place. As a policy analyst specializing in regional development for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris (2015-2019), she advised governments on rural policy, the governance of land use and Indigenous economic development. She has also worked for both the federal and provincial governments in Canada and for a number of research institutes and universities in Canada, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan as a professor and researcher.

Dr. Helga Hallgrímsdóttir, Associate Professor

2019 recipient of Innovate Germany Award

An interdisciplinary team with UVic’s field school on migration, xenophobia and Holocaust memorialization in Europe won a national award for innovation in 2019. Charlotte Schallié (Germanic and Slavic Studies) accepted the CAUTG Innovate Germany Award on behalf of the UVic team which included Dr. Helga Thorson (Germanic and Slavic studies), Dániel Péter Biró (music), and Dr. Helga Hallgrímsdóttir. Judges commended the field school for its exemplary approach to experiential learning: “It is an outstanding international and interdisciplinary course.”

Dr. Jill Anne Chouinard, Associate Professor

Distinguished scholar publishes two books on evaluation

In early 2020, Dr. Chouinard launched two books of which she is lead author: Situating Culturally Responsive Approaches to Evaluation: Empirical Implications for Theory and Practices (Sage) and Growing the Knowledge Base in Evaluation: The Contributions of J. Bradley Cousins (Information Age).
School of Public Health and Social Policy

Undergraduate programs

- Bachelor of Arts in Health and Community Services
  Areas of focus:
  - Aging
  - Disability Studies
  - Indigenous peoples’ health
  - International/Global health studies

Graduate programs

- Master of Public Health
- Graduate Diploma in Public Health
  Areas of focus:
  - Indigenous people’s health
  - Public health nursing
  - Social policy
- Interdisciplinary Master or PhD in Social Dimensions of Health

WELCOME
Dr. Cathy Worthington
SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Public health is vital for population health and community well-being. Our students examine health promotion, disease prevention, health policy, community-engaged and community-led research, and social, environmental and structural determinants of health.

Our programs are primarily online and students participate in practicum placements in their own communities. We emphasize health equity and are responsive to health and social issues: the school is in the midst of reviewing courses to improve cultural safety and to celebrate Indigenous ways of knowing. We are also augmenting our global health course offerings to provide context for current challenges, such as climate change impacts and epidemics.

KEY STRENGTHS

Vibrant and forward thinking. Opened in 2011, PHSP was the first new school at UVic in 20 years.

Dynamic practicum placements. From 2011 to 2019, 243 students have completed practicum placements.

More students complete practicums each year:
- 2013: 18 students
- 2016: 38 students
- and now 2020: 57 students are enrolled.

Madison Wells is immersed in her Public Health Master’s studies with a focus on Indigenous peoples’ health. Her practicum with Weaving our Wisdoms and the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS network was “life-changing” she says. Wells was awarded a UVic President’s Scholarship in 2018 and, in 2019, made the Dean’s list.

“I feel privileged to be part of her learning. She is an exemplary student and conducted herself in the most respectful manner throughout our time working together. She defines what an ally is and should be, as she is considerate to the needs of Indigenous people.” Sherri Pooyak, MSW - Instructor, practicum supervisor and researcher.

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**AMAZING ALUMNI**

**Chelsea Myra**  
Communications and Special Projects Coordinator, BeConnected Support Services

The lasting impression of a foundational education  
She was in the first cohort of this school’s BA in Health and Community Services program, opting for a focus on disabilities, from 2012 to 2014. Chelsea Myra knew where she wanted to work during her practicum, but she had no idea it would turn into a full-time job which she enjoys to this day. What’s more, Myra supports her alma mater by supervising BA practicums through her employer.

“I love my job,” says Myra, Communications and Special Projects Coordinator for BeConnected, an island-wide non-profit organization which serves and supports 150+ clients living with disability or specific health needs.

When asked how her learning prepared her for this work, Myra says, “Most definitely it was the qualitative and quantitative analytical skills. This is essential to our reporting, accreditation, policymaking and grant writing needs.” Such is the power of her role, along with an in-depth understanding of client needs.

Myra grew up with an uncle who had a disability. He lived at Glendale Lodge and when the laws changed, would be among the first to move into the community and live independently. “I was always visiting my uncle when I was a kid, going to get-togethers at Glendale, meeting his friends. “Seeing her uncle make that transition out of care and into the community was unbelievably liberating, she says. “For him and for my family.”

Such experiences can shape a person, which is why Myra set out looking for and found, the education that would help her build a career in step with her values. “It’s as if the learning blended seamlessly with the work I like to do,” says Myra. “I think that’s why I’m so happy here. I’ve been able to develop my role around my strengths and interests.”

**FACULTY SHOWCASE**

**Food security and nutrition research leads to a global research focus**

Dr. Matthew Little began teaching with us in September 2019. Today, he is leading our global health area of focus and is developing a course on infectious disease epidemics. Adding to the school’s community-engaged research strengths, Dr. Little works in partnership with global, First Nations and Inuit communities to examine social and cultural determinants of health. His work focuses on food security and nutrition by assessing how social, economic, political and environmental processes (including climate change and environmental contaminants) impact food safety, systems and environments.

Dr. Little completed a CIHR post-doctoral fellowship with the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at Université Laval and has worked in India, Uganda, Peru, Guatemala, the Philippines, Nunavut and Nunavik. An avid outdoors enthusiast, you may also find him rock climbing, mountain biking, cross country skiing or running.

Dr. Renée Monchalin, Assistant Professor  
Do Indigenous communities have access to culturally safe health and social services in Canada?

Dr. Renée Monchalin is an urban Anishnaabe, French, Métis and Scottish woman who was born and raised on Attiwonderonk (Neutral) Territory. Her research interests include access to culturally safe health and social services for urban Indigenous communities, reproductive rights and justice, sexual health, HIV, Indigenous feminisms, and decolonizing and Indigenous methodologies.

Dr. Monchalin completed her PhD in Public Health Science in 2019 at the University of Toronto, where she partnered with the urban Métis community to improve access to culturally safe health services. Her current research expands on the work with a focus on Indigenous communities’ access to culturally safe health and social services in urban homelands across Canada. This includes culturally grounded COVID-19 prevention resources for urban Indigenous Peoples with a specific focus on urban Métis communities.

Dr. Monchalin is also a partner on numerous Indigenous community-led research projects that focus on sexual health outreach and HIV prevention by and for Indigenous youth and land-based approaches to living and aging well with HIV for Indigenous Peoples. Her new research explores traditional understandings of preventing and ending pregnancies among Indigenous people in Canada as a way to end stigma of and improve access to abortion care.
Undergraduate programs

- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)
  Students can choose from the standard bachelor’s degree program or opt for specializations in step with career goals.
  - Child Welfare
  - Indigenous*
  - Indigenous Child Welfare*
* Open to students of Indigenous ancestry only.

Graduate programs

- Master of Social Work (MSW)
  - Students can opt for an Indigenous specialization.
  - The MSW Advanced program encourages students to incorporate their personal interests into studies, assignments and theses.
  - The MSW Foundation program is open to students without a BSW who possess considerable experience within the social work sector. A qualifying foundational year of studies is required, followed by entry into the MSW Advanced program or MSW Indigenous Specialization.
Cheryl Aro
Cheryl is a proud Gitxsan woman from the Gutginuxw (White Owl) House and the Fireweed Clan situated in Northwestern BC. She holds a BSW and MSW and is completing a PhD with UVic’s Social Dimensions of Health program.

Dr. Zaheera Jinnah
Dr. Jinnah’s scholarship includes African studies, migration and citizenship, and decolonial theory and practice. Prior to joining the school, she was a faculty member at the African Centre for Migration and Society, Wits University, South Africa, where she remains a research associate. Dr. Jinnah also taught at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and she was a Mitacs Canadian Science Policy Fellow for the Government of BC.

Jennifer Nutton
With a scholarship, practice and teaching pedagogy rooted in relationality—our connection to all living things including land, water, past and future generations—Nutton’s studies include child welfare, decolonizing work, community-based research and Indigenous studies. Nutton has worked with child welfare systems in Canada and the USA since 2005, and was previously engaged in social justice work in the UK and the US.

Tracey Lavoie
Weaving critical, contemplative and creative practices and pedagogies into her teaching and research, Lavoie has been a social work educator for 20+ years. She completed her PhD at McGill University. Her arts-related critical doctoral research study explored social work educators’ lived experience at the intersection of mindfulness and critical and anti-oppressive practice.

MSW student Reem Girgrah strives for improved services for Yukon’s sexual assault victims
“The Victim Support Coordinator for the Yukon government’s evolving sexualized assault response team (SART) says she’s hoping to help create a system where victims receive support, if they want it, every step of the way.

Reem Girgrah, a longtime advocate for women and people who have experienced sexual violence, is seeking ways to close the gaps in the resources available to people who have experienced sexual violence in the territory.

Girgrah said she’s researched what support models exist elsewhere in Canada and whether any pieces can be applied in the Yukon; drafted policies and procedures for how Victim Services should react when contacted by victims of sexual violence; and drafted a training document on best practices around sexual violence.

One of the “huge gaps” Girgrah is trying to address now is the lack of a dedicated 24-hour support service for sexual assault victims. She’s currently working on creating an after-hours team of staff that can accompany and support victims through initial steps like going to the police or hospital.

“We know that … if there’s a support person at the beginning and it’s a positive experience, then people are more likely to reach out to other agencies at that point, right?” Girgrah said. Following up with the person following the initial response is also an important piece, she added. “All that, though, must be done with a few key principles in mind,” Girgrah said, “primarily, informed choice and being culturally-responsive.”

An excerpt from Yukon News, written by Jackie Hong, June 18, 2019

Reem Girgrah, master’s student in Social Work, is a coordinator with the Sexual Assault Response Team led by the Victim Services Branch of the Yukon Department of Justice. Photo: Crystal Schick, Yukon News

Congratulations to Olivander Day, Hepzibeth Lee and Sophia Ciavarella, BSW alum, for their work which led to an award from the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE), presented at their annual congress in June 2019. The trio won in the category of Outstanding Student Proposal for their paper titled Bringing our Whole Selves In: Centering Insider Knowledge in Social Work Education.

AMAZING ALUMNI

Congratulations to Reem Girgrah, master’s student in Social Work, is a coordinator with the Sexual Assault Response Team led by the Victim Services Branch of the Yukon Department of Justice.

An excerpt from Yukon News, written by Jackie Hong, June 18, 2019

Reem Girgrah, master’s student in Social Work, is a coordinator with the Sexual Assault Response Team led by the Victim Services Branch of the Yukon Department of Justice. Photo: Crystal Schick, Yukon News

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Graduate fellowship to advance democratic renewal in Canada

A generous gift of $500,000 was recently dedicated by Dr. Hartmut and Gwen Will to establish a new graduate fellowship with the Indigenous Governance program. The fellowship will go towards supporting Indigenous advanced or graduate students with an interest in administrative and constitutional law and whose academically excellent work has the potential to contribute to the advancement of constitutional and democratic renewal in Canada. Dr. Will taught with the School of Public Administration where he learned about the program which had recently launched. Impressed by the curriculum being offered, Dr. Will wanted to support the students’ learning experiences.

UVic retirees support BC First Nations

This fund was created to support an Indigenous graduate student in the School of Public Administration by two individuals who each devoted 30+ years of their work-life to UVic. Their shared belief that the education of First Nations students is one of the keys to restoring vibrant First Nation communities in BC lies at the heart of this award. Dr. John Langford was a professor and former director with the school. Previously, he worked as a federal negotiator in the BC treaty process from 1993 to 2002 and built respectful relationships with representatives of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. In 2009, Dr. Langford was awarded the Pierre De Celles Award for excellence in teaching in public administration from the Institute of Public Administration in Canada. Dr. Katharine Seaborne managed the distance education division of UVic’s Continuing Studies, where she worked for most of her professional life. Through her efforts, she helped build programs to enable Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to prepare for post-secondary studies.
"I was ecstatic to receive this award"

“So far, I have worked on various medical-surgical units including the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria General Hospital and Saanich Peninsula Hospital. I have also worked on the maternity ward at Vancouver General Hospital. Among my interests in nursing is mental health nursing because I am passionate about supporting clients and their families in a non-judgemental way. It brings me great joy and fulfillment to be able to help those who need it the most.”

An excerpt from Angelina’s thank you letter after receiving the Paul R. N. Spencer Bursary, established by Angela Spencer in honour of her son, Paul. The bursary goes to a nursing student pursuing a career with a mental health focus.

"I sincerely appreciate your support"

“The financial aid from this bursary will help ensure my focus remains on my education. As of right now, I am completing a work study program with the Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement Team at First Peoples House. This opportunity has been amazing and has allowed me to gain crucial experience outside of textbook learning.”

An excerpt from Melissa’s thank you letter after receiving the Trudy Usher Bursary, awarded to an Indigenous student with the School of Social Work.

"This scholarship means so much to me"

“With the help of this generous scholarship, I know I can complete this degree and I hope to do so within the year. Once I graduate, my goal is to move up in the health information management department to areas of greater responsibility. I plan to certify as a health data analyst to help the cancer program in its presentation of data and to assist in improving the hospital’s data governance policies.”

An excerpt from Alta Davoudi’s thank you letter after receiving the Denis Protti Scholarship, awarded for scholarly achievements in Health Information Science. Professor emeritus, Protti was the founding director of the school.

"Remembered through legacy award"

Dr. Ken Wilson created the Jean Sally Wilson Award to honour his wife’s legacy in advocating for women’s health and promoting maternal health education.

Born in Leeds, England, in 1947 and raised by parents who were deaf, Sally worked and studied continuously to become a Registered Nurse, Certified Midwife and LPN. From the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Scotland, to the Montreal General Hospital in Quebec, she enjoyed traveling as much as her work.

In 1978, she married Dr. Wilson (who also studied in Edinburgh), settled in Saskatoon where Sally worked at the city hospital’s obstetric unit. She had three children—three under three—and would later return to nursing after successfully completing her LPN examination.

Diagnosed with a rare chronic respiratory disease later in life, Sally still traveled the world for more than 10 years before passing.

Angelina is a fourth-year nursing student working toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a BSN, to practice as a registered nurse.

Melissa is a third-year undergraduate student about to complete her BSW with an Indigenous specialization. She is learning online from her home in Courtenay, BC.

Alta, seen here with her husband and grandchildren, is completing the Master of Science degree in Health Informatics online from her home in LA.

Dr. Ken and Jean Sally Wilson in 2014.
Student, book editor, thrilled to be part of Spirits of the Coast

“I am so grateful to have been involved in this project,” says Nikki Sanchez, a PhD student with our Indigenous Governance program and a UVic Environmental Science graduate. “There is nothing like this,” she explains, “where you will read such a broad perspective about the orca from so many diverse voices. I am really proud of the work and the museum’s vision behind the entire project.”

Spirits of the Coast: Orcas in Science, Oceans and History is a book, as well as an RBCM exhibit now under construction, which brings together the work of marine biologists, Indigenous knowledge keepers, poets, artists and storytellers, united by their enchantment with the orca. Contributing writers range from Briony Penn to David Suzuki, Gary Geddes and Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, among others, who explore the magic, myths and ecology of orcas. The book is sold at the museum gift shop as well as through the UVic Bookstore.

Ideafest 2020

Identity disrupted: The impact of forced migration on youth

Jessica Ball, professor and researcher with our School of Child and Youth Care, is completing the second phase of a three-phased research study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The nature of the study is rare in its intimate assessment of the impact on youth facing forced migration.

Working with a team of graduate students who have first-hand experience in migrating to Canada, Ball focused on 90 adolescent migrants displaced from their homes in Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar. Scholars from Canada, Thailand, Myanmar and Australia also support this work, which began in 2016. Participants share their common circumstances as homeless, often stateless, undocumented, unwanted civilians in countries that refuse to acknowledge their rights to the basic necessities of life.

“They learn about each other and become deeply bonded from knowing they share great challenges and also have overcome so much,” says graduate student Rashin Lamouchi. “They are continually redefining their sense of who they are, where they belong, what is home and how they hope to shape their future.”

The land is our classroom

Indigenous assistant professors, Sarah Wright Cardinal and Nick Claxton, presented on education and wellness projects involving youth from Coast Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth communities.
Thank you for 100 years

The School of Nursing hosted a well-attended appreciation tea to mark a major milestone as the longstanding Royal Jubilee Hospital Nursing Alumnae Association closed its books after 100 years of service and support. In addition to making a significant contribution to an endowed fund for nursing education, the association gave its historic century of files to the Royal BC Museum and Archives, as well as to the UVic Museum and Archives and UBC Archives.

The Royal Jubilee Hospital Nursing Alumnae Association, so named in 1919 when nurses were educated at the hospital site, was a supportive member-based non-profit that took very good care of its supporters. The association maintained a nursing job board, offered small, no-interest loans to members in need and upheld the code of conduct and camaraderie of nurses serving Victoria citizens as the city grew and changed in step with its population.

2019 HSD Award for Teaching and Education Leadership

Congratulations to Devi Mucina, director of the Indigenous Governance program who was the 2019 recipient of the HSD teaching award. In 2019, Mucina was promoted to program director while maintaining his teaching role. In 2019, he published several research papers, produced a documentary film titled Gule: An Invitation to the Chewa Mask Dance and released a new book Ubuntu Relational Love: Decolonizing Black Masculinities published by University of Manitoba Press, Oct. 2019.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Leah Hollins, BSN ’89

Leah Hollins was appointed to the role of chair for the Island Health Board of Directors in September 2017. Hollins brings vast experience in health-care policy, programs, strategy and service delivery to the role. She has acted as deputy minister of health for the British Columbia government, was chair of the Canadian Blood Services Board of Directors for eight years, chaired the board of directors of Maximus Inc. and was a member of the Departmental Audit Committee for Veterans Affairs Canada. Hollins has been awarded the Order of Canada for her work in organ and tissue donation and transplantation and was awarded a Doctor of Laws from the University of Manitoba for distinguished public service.

UVic nurses are Zooming with care, knowledge, empathy

In the spirit of the occasion, UVic’s School of Nursing celebrated the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale by doing something they had never done before. School director Susan Duncan and committee chair Christine Upright led a livestreamed version of their annual conference with more than 100 delegates from across the island, the province and the country. Special presentations from First Nations Health, Island Health and the BC Ministry of Health were heartfelt. Elder May Sam set the tone with an unforgettable prayer and blessing. She talked of how a ‘thorn’ can get stuck inside us sometimes and that tears can help wash the pain away. All acknowledged Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, who survived worse scenarios than COVID-19 and, in 1860, went on to establish the world’s first school of nursing in London, England.