



HSD NEWS

Vol.1 - WINTER 2022



The UVic Quad was once a camas field surrounded by Garry Oak trees - UVic Photos

Welcome to the inaugural issue of HSD News

As educators, learners and staff members across seven academic units and two support centres, we have much news to share. That's why we created HSD NEWS, an online and small-run printed newsletter. This is the first of three issues for 2022 – one for the start of each term. Our intent is to do more than share our news; we want to make sense of it, too. Who we are and why we do what we do has meaning that drives our actions.

The photo here of our common area, known as the Quadrangle (or Quad for short), was once a Garry Oak tree field where camas bloomed. It tells a story of ancient Indigenous knowledge on how a beloved food system was cultivated on this land. You'll find that story on the Aspirations 2030 page under Our Sense of Place, which reminds us of how the work we do today connects to the circle of life from the past up to now and into the future.

It is with these thoughts in mind that we begin 2022 and trust you will find value in the reading that follows.

Helga Hallgrimsdottir, Dean



Here, a young man brushes a newly dugout canoe with cedar prior to launch. Suzanne Ahearne - UVic

Pacheedaht Nation is co-leading a community wellness research project with faculty from our School of Child and Youth Care to address mental health protective factors for young men with ancestral knowledge, Nuu-chah-nulth kinship practices, and ceremony.

UVic research moves forward with new vision

UVic Research and Innovation has defined their strategic direction, Aspiration 2030, with five impact areas that align with our research focus here at HSD -

- Climate, environmental change and sustainability
- Health and wellness
- Indigenous-led scholarship
- Social justice and equity
- Technology and the human experience

A university's research strategy, and its effectiveness in bringing about positive change, are among the factors which led to UVic's first place national ranking in Maclean's last year. Research that is responsive to community is where UVic's and HSD's collective strengths lie.

Rankings matter to future students, academics, employees, alum and partners. Rankings tell a story about us. While there is honour in a strong ranking, the recognition and reputational notes it sounds places us in a highly desirable category as a university of choice.

Five Stories About HSD Research

Research story #1 - Climate change



Dr. Kayla Rhodes

Helping governments find the right climate policy model

Vital research underway at the School of Public Administration

As part of Conversation Canada's COP26 coverage, associate professor Katya Rhodes and former master's student Aaron Hoyle shared their findings on how governments can match their climate policy questions to an appropriate model.

"....governments at all levels need to understand how climate and energy policies will impact their greenhouse gas emissions and economies. To do this, they rely on "energy-economy models," computer simulations that analysts use to assess how energy is produced and used within the economy.

But not all of these models are the same. One model can produce very different results from another. Or similar results can be interpreted in different ways. This can make decision-making on climate policy challenging.

Climate policy creates winners and losers, and governments need to choose the best models to weigh the outcomes. Published November 9, 2021.

Research story #2 - Health and wellness



Practicum students

Pandemic strengthens nursing education and practicums

Published scoping review of undergraduate practice models

Since 1997, students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program have been carefully introduced to the work world of nursing through practice models, or practicums, which also serve as highly valued staffing resources that can lead to employment and a promising career.

There was hope at the start of developing the current practice model, says Lenora Marcellus, primary investigator and acting director of our School of Nursing, that it would inform students and address challenges like advancing quality care and resolving nursing shortages. "Despite more than two decades of innovation and expansion, there is still limited understanding of just how effective this model is as a solution to those challenges."

The research team's paper was published in November 2021 by the JBI Evidence Synthesis. JBI - the Joanna Biggs Institute - is a global nursing research group based in Australia.

Research story #3 - Indigenous-led scholarship



Youth creating medicine bundles at a land-based workshop. Photo: Shantelle Moreno

Indigenous youth find wellbeing through art and relationships

“Home. Connection. Healing. Awesomeness!”

These are the words of Indigenous youth describing an arts-based research project they are taking part in that encourages Indigenous youth wellbeing and resurgence. Their common bond? They are or were youth in care. Each week, the youth delve into land- and arts-based workshops focused on restoring healing connections to land, culture and community, and developing art design and leadership skills. Some have taken on research tasks such as multi-media and storytelling documentation.

This project came to be through a new partnership between the Youth Leadership Council at Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, a local Indigenous agency, and the Kinship Rising research team led by Dr. Sandrina de Finney, professor with the School of Child and Youth Care.

“As a youth growing up with so much loss, displacement and discrimination,” writes youth researcher Carmin Blomberg, “the Kinship Rising project helped me dismantle internalized colonial harm through traditional practices such as storytelling, connection to land, loving relatives and cultural wellness practices. At times, I could feel my ancestors guiding me. All my relations heard me and released some of the pain I had been holding: We were healing together.”

Insights on getting grants

Inside the Mind of Grant Reviewers and Grant Recipients is a one-hour video produced by the HSD Research Support Centre team where accomplished researchers share their insights.



Dr. Nate Lachowsky, Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy. How to Appeal to Grant Reviews: Tips and Tricks



Dr. Kate Jongbloed, Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Public Health and Social Policy. My Experience as a Grant Applicant: Successes and Lessons Learned.



Dr. Tamara Krawchenko, Assistant Professor, School of Public Administration Pitfalls in Grant Applications: Reviewers' Pet Peeves

To watch this video, go to uvic.ca/hsd and search Graduate Student Research Corner.

Research story #4 - Social justice and equity



UVic drug-checking services on Cook at North Park Street

Free drug-checking by storefront and mail

“We’re interested in exploring the opportunities and benefits of different drug-checking instruments, technologies and practices,” reads the mission statement of Substance UVic. “Ultimately, we hope to better understand how drug checking can support those impacted by and responding to the overdose crisis, with attention to principles of harm reduction and social justice and the impacts of current drug policy.”

The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project was established by Dr. Dennis Hore, a Chemistry professor with the School of Science, and Bruce Wallace, a professor with Social Work and a research scientist with the Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research. They have applied for funding and support from several funders and community partners and have a team of chemists, social workers, computer scientists, pharmacists, and people who use drugs to support their drug checking services here in Victoria and across Vancouver Island.

Substance UVic offers storefront service as well as the island’s first-ever mail-in drug checking service to provide access to drug checking services throughout the region.

Research story #5 - Tech vs human experience



From l to r Kelly Davison, Karen Courtney, Francis Lau

Equity in identity data supports health for all

A Health Information Science research team was awarded a REACH grant through Michael Smith Health Research to further develop CIHR-funded work in modernizing how sexual and gender minorities are documented and identified within Canadian electronic health records.

“We aim to reduce discrimination and stigma by improving how we document gender, sex and sexual orientation,” explained Dr. Karen Courtney, associate professor with UVic’s School of Health Information Science and co-lead on this study.

In 2022, they along with other working groups will approach BC communities in partnership with health authorities to ask citizens what they want to see.

“Next steps are to explore how we can translate our equity-oriented, clinician-focused and person-centred interventions into various media then share these tools across BC and Canada,” said Dr. Francis Lau, professor and study lead.

Also on the team is Kelly Davison, a PhD student and master’s graduate with the school who works with Canada Health Infoway’s standards team. He advocates for change in electronic health record design to better support health equity. “Health data justice plays an important role in improving care services for marginalized populations,” Davison explains.



2021 HSD Award for Teaching Excellence

This award recognizes excellence in teaching, educational leadership and innovation across key priorities for HSD including multidisciplinary work, community-based learning and teaching and distance education. Dr. Helen Monkman, assistant professor with UVic’s School of Health Information Science, leads an undergraduate curriculum review, applies her funded scholarship toward community-engaged learning, mentors students and practices interdisciplinary scholarship. Her students say, “Dr. Monkman challenges us to think critically, stretch intellectually and encourages us in our career aspirations.” - “Our classes were innovative and inclusive of skill-building and practical experience components.”

2021 HSD Award for Internal Teaching Scholarship Grant



This grant was created to stimulate and foster interdisciplinary collaborative projects related to teaching and learning with a preference to projects that incorporate racially, ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse dimensions into teaching and learning. Leanne Kelly’s project - Reciprocal Educator Mentorship - is a cross cutting community engaged teaching project that links Indigenous nurses who practice in the community with non-Indigenous faculty members with a view to disrupting inequity in understandings of Indigenous Health and Wellness. “I want to create transformational opportunities for learning through supporting Indigenous pedagogies and Indigenous cognitive world articulation.”



New admissions model promises lasting impact

In August 2021, Social Work school director, Kundoqk*, Jacquie Green, presented at UVic’s Let’s Talk about Teaching conference with Ryan Khungay, school program manager, on the decolonial equity work taking place across their department. “We started in summer, the season of red,” says Jacquie, “a time of changing our minds and figuring things out.” It took two years to audit the old ways, explore the new ways and reach consensus at every level necessary. Now, when two faculty members review each application, they note the candidate’s lived experience, social status, location, professional experience and community volunteer work with less emphasis on grades.

* Kundoqk translates as Journeying over the mountains with belongings on my back.

Meet Dr. Sarah Marie Wiebe

"In all the work I do, I attempt to challenge extractivism and centre a caring, embodied approach to research, teaching and engagement." Dr. Wiebe is an assistant professor with the School of Public Administration. She joins UVic after three years at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, where she worked as an adjunct professor. Her research is focused on environmental justice, critical community development and creative methods of public engagement. She is a Co-Founder of the Feminist Environmental Research Network (FERN). In addition to numerous books and journal article publications, Dr. Wiebe recently co-edited a special issue of the Journal of Environmental Media on Currents of Crisis.



David Zussman to receive Order of Canada

An adjunct professor with our School of Public Administration, Zussman is being acknowledged for a career in government, academia and the not-for-profit sector. "The University of Victoria has a vital role to play in developing tomorrow's leaders and I am delighted to be a part of the work of this excellent institution," said Zussman. "I am honoured to be appointed a Member of the Order of Canada and I look forward to my continued involvement with UVic." Since its creation in 1967, more than 7,500 trailblazers from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order of Canada, whose motto is: Desiderantes meliorem patriam, or "They desire a better country."

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A most unforgettable learning experience

Dennis Hang, a fourth-year Health Information Science undergrad, was skeptical about taking on a frontline service role at a vaccine clinic practicum program. While he needed the experience as part of his degree program, he describes himself as someone who would be more comfortable "being less visible." Dennis decided to take on a digital support role at the Victoria Conference Centre's public vaccination site. In addition to screening and data entry of client information, he reinforced health and safety protocols and cared for individuals after their vaccination. Then, something surprising happened. "My attitude changed," he says. "I'd wake up in the morning and I couldn't wait to start my shift."



Congratulations to Mason Ducharme, a PhD candidate with the School of Public Administration who was awarded the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Award for innovation in research. Mason is from Lil'wat Nation and Samahquam Nation in BC. At the age of 23, he became one of the youngest band administrators in Canada for Nuchatlaht Tribe. Most recently, Mason was the Director of the Tszil Learning Centre for Lil'wat Nation. With this award, he can focus 100% on his research on the retention of Indigenous executives in Canadian Indigenous organizations.



Chevalier Dr. Richard Crow and Dame the Honorable Mary Collins, Dr. Kelli Stajduhar (UVic), Robyn Kyle (PORT, Island Health), Maria Dominelli, Former Commander with the Sovereign Order, Carren Dujela (UVic) - UVic Photos

Giving is good support for people in need

A special thank you to the Sovereign Order of St. John's Victoria Commandery for their welcome gift to the UVic School of Nursing. This donation will go toward an equity program on palliative approaches to care research, called ePAC for short. Comfort kits will be created with these funds for people who are dying while also experiencing poverty, homelessness and other inequities.

The people working with ePAC collaborative are deeply grateful to have been one of eight grant recipients selected by the Sovereign Order St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller Victoria Commandery. This group supports projects that directly benefit people who experience inequities and that are living with chronic life-limiting

illness. Through their support, our research team and Victoria's Palliative Outreach Resource Team (PORT) will work together to purchase contents with these funds for comfort kit items to enhance the quality of life for those in need.

The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller is a non-political, ecumenical, international Christian organization directly descended from the Order of St. John founded in the late 11th century. Before the Crusades, a hostel had been established to provide respite for pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. During the first Crusade this hostel was converted to a hospital to serve both pilgrims and crusaders. The Order was founded upon the premise of aiding "the sick and the poor". The historical traditions of the Order continue throughout the world to this day. The International Office of the Order is located in Vancouver, BC, with three Grand Priorities of the Order: The Americas, Australia and Europe.



TO MAKE A DONATION
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'Tapping into Tech' fosters health equity for children in rural and remote BC

Community Voices on Tapping into Tech is a two-year research project co-led by Dr. Alison Gerlach, associate professor with the School of Child and Youth Care, and Jason Gordon executive director with the BC Association of Child Development and Intervention. Funding was made possible with a \$200,000 Vancouver Foundation Participatory Action Research grant.

Interviews will be conducted with families living in rural and northern regions of BC raising children with disabilities and/or medical complexities. This study is focused on their experience accessing **information and communication technologies*** (ICTs) to find information, supports and services for their children's early health, development and well-being.

"The lived reality of this population can inform and help tailor the use of ICTs for other families," says Dr. Gerlach. Research activities will be co-designed by a **Community Council*** to explain how

these devices can be used. "We are looking for supportive practices and policies that brought about sustainable system change to reduce early child development and health inequities."

Dr. Gerlach says there is untapped potential for the development of ICTs as long term, additional ways families can access child health information and programs. "There is a longstanding lack of access for those living in remote areas in BC. We know that poorer early health can have lifelong consequences, so this research aims to correct this unfairness."

What are ICTs?

- Software programs, apps
- Cell phones
- Facebook and other social media channels
- Teleconference platforms such as Zoom

***Community Council** members include rural and northern parents, youth and ECD service providers who serve as community researchers, provincial, grassroots child disability advocacy groups and university researchers.



Photo credit - William Fortunato



Faculty and students attend Renewal Celebration

Indigenous Governance thrives with new program

IGOV's Master of Arts program was relaunched last September with new emphasis on creating academic pursuits and experiential opportunities while building knowledge that bridges generations.

"This relaunch marks the declaration of a transformed vision for our program," said Devi Mucina, program director. "We are committed to a whole new student experience." The new curriculum includes sustaining and expanding local, national and international partnerships, community-engaged research, and a commitment to an intersectional approach to Indigenous resurgence.

New faculty and students took part in a blanketing ceremony held at UVic's First Peoples House. According to the protocols of the ɫəkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, the blanket is intended to wrap the faculty and students with all the teachings, experiences and strength needed for their future at UVic and to provide security on their journey ahead. The ceremony also honours the program's achievements thus far as they prepare to move forward in a good way. Guided by the advice and counsel of Elders and Old Ones, academic colleagues, students, alumni and community, Mucina

describes the new direction of the program being a commitment to integrating academic and community scholarship that respects all peoples.

An emphasis is now placed upon the following areas of study -

- Indigenous feminist and gender perspectives.
- Indigenous health and wellness.
- Critiques of power, production and use.
- Strong connections with local community, languages and the land.
- Deeper engagement with land-based curriculum, community governance projects and theses.
- Enhanced academic cultural supports for students to navigate being good visitors in this territory.

A Renewal Celebration was organized by the school last October at the First Peoples' House Ceremonial Hall to thank those who supported the revitalizing process. New faculty and students were also welcomed at this event.

"Your wisdom and actions inspire and guide us to remember to work with a good mind and spirit," said Mucina at the event. In the Lekwungun/SENĆOŦEN language, that translates as "New'ews sn ʔey? šweleqwəns/ÁMEKT TFEN ÍY, ŚKÁLEŦEN."



From l to r: Dr. Gina Starblanket, Dr. Dawn Smith, Dr. Devi Mucina, Dr. Heidi Kiiwetinepineskiik Stark and Dr. Hōkūlani Aikau

“Having grown up here in Coast Salish territory, I’ve observed the teaching around being a good visitor, where showing respect is not explicit but implied.”

To be a good visitor

Siiyaailthsupt Dawn Smith, assistant faculty member, organized a paddle for IGOV faculty and students to ask permission to come ashore and study, to live and learn how to be a good visitor in the Lekwungen territory.

“I went to Skip Dick of Songhees and asked him if I could enact this protocol and he was very emotional, stating he has waited 20 years for someone to ask him that,” says Smith. “That day with our new students was powerful because it demonstrated that those important teachings and protocols are remembered and should be enacted. I also felt it fit with IGOV’s program relaunch as we all start together on a good note.”



New Canada Research Chair Jaime A.S. Lira

Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira joined UVic in September 2021 (he started teaching in January 2022) as an assistant professor with the School of Public Health and Social Policy and as a scientist with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. He brings an amazing range of experience and understanding to students as a newly appointed Canada Research Chair on Substance Use and Health Systems.

Known to refer to himself as ‘the NAFTA guy’, UVic has an opportunity to gain new learning from Jaime’s diverse, international knowledge having worked and conducted harm reduction research in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Case in point: he worked for four years as Chief of Staff for the Ministry of Public Security in Quintana Roo, Mexico, supporting federal programs and research partnerships with local universities. During his PhD at the University of California, San Diego, he helped implement an occupational safety and harm reduction program training close to 2,000 Tijuana police officers.



Fourth year Nursing students are on their way to work the early shift at a downtown vax clinic

Students learn from COVID-19 while helping to contain it

We can take comfort in examining just how linked in UVic is with this region's longstanding, long-armed community of health services, supports and partnerships. Across our campus community, staff and faculty collaborated with many, different authorities and policy-makers on the smartest strategies.

UVic has worked with Island Health, the Canadian Red Cross and the Student Affairs team to provide extensive vaccine clinic services while also enabling dynamic, hands-on learning experiences for students enrolled in UVic's various professional health programs.

"It was such a pleasure having students working along side us at these clinics," says Island Health pandemic planning manager, Jon Edman, RN.

"Communication skills are a big part of nursing and so the way students handled the mixed emotions of clients was amazing. This experience will serve them well in their future career as Registered Nurses."

"We have been so very glad to support fourth-year nursing students in their educational journey," says Deborah Lester, director of Health in Emergencies with the Canadian Red Cross. "They are the future generation of our health workforce and we are hoping their experience with us will provide additional learnings to enhance future practice. It has been a pleasure working with the students as they have inspired our teams with their dedication."

"UVic has sustained an inclusive, supportive culture over the years," said Jim Dunsdon, associate VP of Student Affairs, in a recent report to UVic's management team. "These days, it's even more evident. Students, as well as faculty and staff, have really made an effort to help wherever they saw the need."



Bulletin boards covered in thank you notes from a grateful, vaccinated public were a common sight at vaccine clinics across our health region

“I realized I don’t have much experience in care delivery; just working there for a few weeks helped me see every moving part.”

Community can teach skills that are tough to learn in class

Tianna Smids-Dyk, a 21-year-old student born and raised within walking distance to campus, is now in her third year of a BSc degree with the School of Health Information Science. She worked for the Red Cross at Island Health’s Lake Cowichan clinic, held at the local community centre, gathering and inputting client information into the Island Health data management system.

As the clinic’s first point of contact, Tianna was surprised to see how many people were feeling afraid. She saw co-workers help these folks relax and learned to do what they did. “I was friendly and took time to sit with people and listen.”

“It was heart-breaking to see older people who had been living in isolation for months,” she says. “So many seniors were really timid, you know, shaking and nervous. For some, we were the first people they had interacted with in a long time. That experience opened my eyes.”

“Some people had a negative attitude or acted in a surprising way. But we had great supervisors there for support.” Some people with positive energy were giddy about being vaccinated. “There was a wide array of people and a lot of emotion everyday. I’ll never forget it.”



A multidisciplinary team of practitioners work at this centre to provide emotional, physical and spiritual care services

High marks for readiness

When Chelsea Wozniak*, a registered nurse with UVic's Student Wellness Centre, learned Island Health wanted to set up a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on campus, she and her team knew exactly what to do.

That's because this team has led UVic's annual flu immunization program since 2014. Their on-call list of nursing alum and BSN students willing to help with vaccine clinic work is extensive and all-ages. In those seven years of flu clinic management, Wozniak and team have reinforced relations with their key partners, working under the auspices of UVic Student Affairs to further help staff clinics on campus and further afield.

"Our goal is pretty straight-forward," Wozniak says. "We want to immunize as many people as possible."

To prepare, BSN students were invited to participate in a special education session where they were supervised on skills to support those who may be needle-phobic, likely to faint or experience anaphylaxis shock, as well as practice the correct technique for delivering injections that are as pain-free as possible. Students also practice techniques on informing and reassuring their clients. Second year students with the UBC Island Medical Program, keen to gain clinic experience, were also invited to these sessions.

"Calming the anxious is essential," says Wendy Neander, UVic Nursing clinic coordinator and teaching professor. "We teach nurses this practice even if the client seems prepared and even if the student is competent. You never really know how anxious a client might be. That's why these clinics offer a fantastic learning opportunity for students."

*Chelsea is no longer with the centre. We are sorry to see her go.



Dean
Helga Hallgrimsdottir



Assoc. Dean Academic
Maureen Ryan



Assoc. Dean Research
Charlotte Loppie

A more welcoming HSD

Building entrances set a tone for those crossing their thresholds, as do common areas and work spaces. To create a more welcoming experience for those coming into the HSD Building, the HSD Dean Team is working with UVic Facilities to create a few inviting enhancements:

- To begin the process of revitalizing and rethinking our shared space, a space optimization study is underway. This study will inform us on how we might add works of art that inspire as well as creative installations that speak to our areas of study.
- Installing new art and new furniture in step with an interior design plan will add cultural dimensions and a more accurate depiction of our diversity across our faculty.
- First, though, the lockers next to our lobby and the second floor entrance on to the Quad will be cleared out to make room for temporary study spaces for staff and faculty.

Muffin Mondays

There's more to Muffin Monday than muffins. Staff across the faculty are convening to take part in an exchange on new activities and initiatives across HSD, while also celebrating UVic's #1 ranking as a comprehensive university. For staff and faculty, Muffin Mondays mark an opportunity to socialize with colleagues across the faculty, which stands as a welcoming experience after the pandemic lockdown.

HSD Strategic Plan is on schedule!

We are now entering phase three, Preparing for Implementation. This planning project will be complete by March 2022 and will provide focus and direction for HSD through to 2026.

Suggestions, anyone?

A digital suggestion box has been created to offer staff, students and faculty an opportunity to share thoughts on our new strategic plan. Ideas and suggestions can be shared via email. Write us at HSDideas@uvic.ca.



Paddlers load into the čupuc (canoe) for its first launch into the Gordon River. At rear, Makah Master Carver, Micah McCarty, and in front of him, Pacheedaht First Nation youth apprentice carver Trystan Dunn-Jones. Credit: Suzanne Ahearne - UVic

HSD one of top 10 newsmakers for 2021

UVic recently showcased the top media stories for 2021 which featured the Pacheedaht First Nation research project co-led by Dr. Sarah Wright Cardinal, assistant professor with the School of Child and Youth Care. Suzanne Ahearne, communications officer with UVic's communications and marketing team, wrote and took photos for the feature-length Ring story. Congratulations all!