Greetings from Humanities
Dean Chris Goto-Jones

Things always seem to start at the beginning, but it’s not clear why this needs to be the case. It’s not even self-evident what this really means, beginnings can be constructed just like any number of other things. Like a garden, then.

So, here we are at the start of the first ever annual report of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Victoria. And yet what we find in these pages are the footprints and artifacts of an ongoing adventure and a glimpse of where this journey might take us next. Not so much a beginning as a captured moment.

Over the last year or so, we have seen many new and exciting ventures in our faculty. Our new mission statement gives structure to this report, framing our activities around four core imperatives: to provoke critical inquiry, engage myriad voices, enrich human dignity, and inspire innovative expression. But again, these pillars have not suddenly leapt into being – we are not at the beginning of these paths. Indeed, we were able to agree on them precisely because they capture the spirit and power of the Humanities for decades at UVic and for centuries around the world.

This report highlights a range of activities and accomplishments from the last year, celebrating some of the amazing teaching, research, and social engagement of our staff, students, and faculty.

There is much of which we can and should be proud. Our community is alive with ideas and actions that give expression to our sense of the cultural, social, and ethical responsibility of the university today. And yet there are so many things that are not in these pages. We can’t see the mutually enriching interactions in classrooms or even in the (gradually more conducive) corridors of Clearihue. We can’t see the kindness, generosity, and industry of the staff that keep the whole edifice standing. We can’t see the courage and compassion of students and faculty standing up for diversity and freedom of speech on campus and beyond. We can’t see that feeling of joy and enlightenment that accompanies a great discovery, idea, or beautiful phrase. We can’t see the shared resolve to ensure that education makes things better for humanity. But perhaps we can see the footprints of these things.

I’m sincerely grateful to the team who have made this report possible, and I’m full of admiration for students, staff, and faculty who have done such wonderful work over the last year. In the end, here at the beginning, I’d just like to congratulate everyone on their achievements. With this beginning now already in the past, I can’t wait to see how the present will look in our next report, in 2019.

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More than 300 people came together in Victoria in February for an historic presentation of the first-ever translations of the original Douglas Treaties into the local Indigenous languages of Lekwungen and SENĆOŦEN.

The Songhees First Nation hosted the event from Feb. 24 to 26 with the University of Victoria’s Department of History and Faculty of Law. People from local First Nations, as well as the campus and wider communities, explored the significance, misunderstandings, effects and repercussions of the treaties.

Also known as the Vancouver Island or Fort Victoria treaties, they were produced by British colonists in the years 1850 to 1854 and were the only ones signed in southern BC.

The symposium was an opportunity for better understanding about Indigenous views of colonial history and specifically the treaties. The gathering provided insights into the historical significance and meaning of the treaty texts now translated into SENĆOŦEN, the language of the WSÁNEĆ people, whose ancestral territory includes the Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands, and the Lekwungen language of the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples by Elders John Elliott of the Tsartlip First Nation and Elmer George of the Songhees First Nation.

Elliott, an esteemed teacher and fluent SENĆOŦEN speaker who teaches at the Saanich Tribal School, is involved in the Indigenous language revitalization movement and, as he told the *Times Colonist* in recent coverage about the symposium: “The name given to me was STOLȻEŁ. It’s a place name, from what’s now Friday Harbour. It means out at sea loaded with your possessions. “My father wanted me to look after that name so we don’t lose connection to that place. Names carry responsibilities.”

He also spoke with CBC News and the Canadian Press, as well as other news outlets, about the significance of the translations (and the retranslation of the texts back into English) ahead of the three-day gathering.

“The idea for the first-ever Lekwungen and SENĆOŦEN translations of the Douglas Treaties arose as part of early planning meetings for the symposium. John Lutz, chair of UVic’s Department of History, a member of the organizing committee and an historian who focuses his research on the study of Indigenous-settler relations in the Pacific Northwest, says the translations “are a great legacy from this gathering and will be available for generations to come. “But there is also an irony to this. These were originally oral agreements made with the local First Nations in their languages but written down only in English. Now when these written treaties are finally translated into the local languages, there are only a few speakers of the languages able to understand them.”

“What the translations do provide now is a much better understanding about what the Douglas Treaties really meant to the Coast Salish and Straits ancestors who lived on these territories all those years ago.” – History Chair John Lutz

“Found in translation:

UVic’s History Department took part in an historic gathering where the first translations of the Douglas Treaties were presented in two local Indigenous languages.

HUMANITIES 2017 2

M y research career has been of the order of 25 years and more. 25 years ago with a curiosity about nineteenth-century literature, the restless questioning of its own capacity to act in the world, and the place of literature in Victorian culture.

I’ve published widely on nineteenth-century literature and culture, especially on Victorian women writers. My research has been in particular given a flavour of my main interests, The Afterlife of Christina Rossetti (Macmillan 2000) was my first book, revised from my doctoral dissertation and funded by a Shell Oil Scholarship. The study focuses on the feminist recovery of Rossetti’s biography and poetry, which overlapped with Barrett Browning’s residence in the city and her composition of Aurora Leigh.

Networked Nation became a morphosyntax of how a small group of Victorian women, who lived a few streets away from each other in the same peak years of Italian unification, re-shaped the history of British and American women’s writing through forging a social and literary network based on poetical and political resistance.

The book also examines how and why this Florentine expatriate community, which played a vital role in shaping European nation-making and the curve of British poetry, largely vanished from literary history.

Two of my current research projects seek to expand and interrogate the culture of nineteenth-century poetry. The Database of Victorian Periodical Poetry (www.victorianpoetry.net), supported by the Humanities Centre for Media and Computing (HCMC) and based on the University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections holdings, collates and analyzes the poetry that most Victorians read, and how that expansive canon challenges conventional assumptions about what a Victorian poem looks like.

I’m also completing a new Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded monograph, Poetry in Motion: Geographies of Victorian Poetry, that deepens my investment in poetic innovation and nineteenth-century Europe in light of the spatial turn in literary studies, to ask how nineteenth-century poetic form is contingent upon the sense of place.

Receiving the Research Excellence Award from my peers at UVic is thrilling and humbling. I am deeply grateful for the supportive environment that I enjoy within the Department of English, the Faculty of Humanities, HCMC, and UVic Libraries.

Our faculty’s Research Excellence Award winner reflects on her work in Victorian poetry

BY PROFESSOR ALISON CHAPMAN

The case of Rossetti. Rossetti, as a figure whose authorial identity is based on the incomplete process of erasure, is both a methodological impossibility and an ethical imperative.

The poetry archives feature differently in another book, Networking the Nation: British and American Women’s Poetry and Culture, 1840-1870 (Oxford University Press 2013), funded by the British Academy and the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The term for Victorians began in 1993 when I held an Erasmus doctoral scholarship at the Università degli Studi di Firenze, as I noticed the many civic plaques that commemorated residences of Victorian women poets for those women’s “heroic” support of Italian unification, most prominently Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s house, Casa Guai.

I was in Florence at that time to pursue doctoral research on Christina Rossetti, who had never been to the city, and whose professional persona I was investigating as a spectral trace. I keenly felt the ironic comparison. My book hinged on Rossetti’s poetry towards a more public political poetics, exemplified by Barrett Browning’s audacious 1857 verse novel Aurora Leigh. But, in the case of Rossetti, I discovered a large amount of manuscript and primary print material, scattered across many libraries in Italy, the UK, and North America, on the almost totally overlooked transnational expatriate community of British and American women writers in Florence that overlapped with Barrett Browning’s residence in the city and her composition of Aurora Leigh.

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Our faculty’s Research Excellence Award winner reflects on her work in Victorian poetry

BY PROFESSOR ALISON CHAPMAN

The 31-year-old alumnus—who graduated with a BA in Philosophy from UVic in 2010, an MA in Philosophy in 2011 and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 2014—is the first in Philosophy.

“Ryan’s brilliance as a student was evident from the moment he arrived on campus and he quickly established himself as an excellent student, a hard worker and a great team player. He was the kind of student that we want to see in all our students,” says his MA supervisor Colin Macdonald, chair of the Department of Philosophy, who remembers when Tonkin wrote the LSAT that he “took it only one time and scored in the 99.85th percentile. There seems to be no field in which he cannot and does not excel.”

Tonkin is the recipient of a 2017 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, the only 16 months before heading to Toronto to start his PhD at York University in the philosophy of law. He is the eighth UVic student to win the prestigious Trudeau Scholarship, administered through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the first in Philosophy.

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English prof reveals story behind fake news

Professor Chris Douglas presented a paper on fake news in November to Western diplomats at the Cambridge Institute for Religion & International Studies (CIRIS).

"I trace the rise of fake news back to the Christian right’s development of alternative-information ecosystems," he says. "For over a hundred years, fundamentalism has pushed back against mainstream academic and journalistic expertise, especially on questions of evolution and the historical-critical method of Bible scholarship." Douglas says the pushback entailed not just different ideas, but the development of institutions of counter-expertise. He listed Christian fundamentalist Bible colleges and universities, publishers and bookstores, as well as newspapers and magazines, as institutions that resisted elite, secular expert knowledge. "So there is a tradition of cognitive training to doubt mainstream, secular sources, and to seek other, more amenable explanations elsewhere."

Douglas first wrote about his research in February and was surprised by the attention his idea received. CIRIS commissioned him to expand on his research for its conference for transatlantic Western diplomats addressing issues of religion.

"After doing more research, I’ve discovered that fake news gets better reception among conservative audiences than liberal ones; that it circulated more in the 2016 US election than in the 2017 European ones; and that conservative-targeted fake news often has a religious theme that liberal-targeted fake news doesn’t."

Prestigious fellowship takes alumna to France to research Shakespeare

Erin Donoghue Brooke (English Honours) was UVic’s first outgoing Humanities student to win a prestigious Mitacs research fellowship, a program that matches Canadian students with international research teams. For 12 weeks between April and June in 2017, Donoghue Brooke (pictured above) assisted the French research team of Dr. Nathalie Vienne-Guerrin at the Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier III, working on a database of Shakespeare allusions in francophone film and television. As an intern on the research team, Donoghue Brooke watched French adaptations of Shakespeare’s plays, found Shakespeare allusions and references in French film and television, and recorded her findings in the database. "One of the broader goals of the research project," she said, "is to create a database that will help future researchers investigate how cultural interchange happens across adaptations." Donoghue Brooke said French adaptations of Shakespeare also show just how far Shakespeare’s reach extends throughout the world. She noted that even though some of his works are set in France, we don’t “immediately think of France when we think of Shakespeare.”

Researcher examines religion and feminism

Feminism, religion and secularism are the focus of history professor Lynne Marks’s new research project. The Humanities Faculty Fellow for 2018-19 (pictured right) will examine a largely ignored dimension of the English Canadian women’s movement of the 1960s to 1980s—the influence of religion. The secularity of the women’s movement of this era has been presumed rather than studied. Just how secular was the movement? And did this change over time? How did this apparent secularity impact feminists who were religious? Marks asked. "And what was the relationship between feminist secularism and the increasing secularization of the larger society over these decades?" Marks’s project, Feminism, Religion and Secularism from the 1960s to 1980s in BC and Ontario, will be co-produced with Margaret Little, from Queen’s University.
Japanese Canadians’ Letters of protest

Nikkei National Museum’s Sherri Kajiwara (left) and History’s Jordan Stanger-Ross (right) are pictured with letters from interned Japanese Canadians.

The details reveal the human cost: A Singer sewing machine, heirloom china and a young girl’s doll brought all the way from Japan, as well as fishing boats, acres of property and houses built with people’s life savings—all seized and sold without consent. In the mid- to late 1940s, Japanese Canadians wrote 300 letters of protest about the forced sale of their belongings, businesses and homes. Now a seven-year, multi-million dollar humanities research project, led by the University of Victoria, has uncovered these unsettling and moving accounts of dispossession.

Authors of the letters include the owners of a successful dry cleaning business, an internee whose cousins died in France serving Canada during the First World War and a man who put two of his Canadian-born children through medical school.

The letters, written to the Canadian government, express the dismay, rage and betrayal Japanese Canadians felt when their property was seized and sold. The sales took place despite government officials’ assurances and continued after the war. In today’s currency, their losses would amount to at least one billion dollars.

Vancouver resident Judy Hanazawa’s parents and sisters were interned. Her father, a fisherman, wrote one of the letters to the Office of the Custodian disputing the $14.68 he received in compensation for the unauthorized sale of cherished family possessions, including Hanazawa’s mother’s sewing machine and Japanese doll.

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compensation for the unauthorized sale of cherished family possessions, including Hanazawa’s mother’s sewing machine and Japanese doll.

Hanazawa, who was born in Merritt soon after her parents and sisters left their internment site at nearby Bridge River in BC’s interior, says her grandparents and parents were also stripped of two fishing boats and two homes. She had not previously seen the letter. “I am proud of what he did,” Hanazawa says. “There was so little my parents spoke openly about so I truly appreciate having something my dad wrote and sent.”

The history of the uprooting and internment of 22,000 Japanese Canadians in coastal BC during the Second World War has received scholarly and popular attention over the years, but the story of dispossession is less known. UVic historian Jordan Stanger-Ross is leading Landscapes of Injustice to help people understand how much this history matters.

“These letters deserve to be heard,” he says. “We seek over looking the most important lessons of our past if we do not hold deep conversations about the legacies of twentieth-century racism. Today, as Canadians balance the human rights of migrants with widespread concern about security, we must learn from our history.”

Stanger-Ross said the forced sales occurred from 1943 to 1950, with Japanese Canadians losing everything they owned.

Stanger-Ross, who came across the 300 letters while researching at Library and Archives Canada, said federal officials ignored the letters 75 years ago, and then they were forgotten.

Since 2014, Landscapes of Injustice has investigated the dispossession of Japanese Canadians. Based at UVic, the project involves 16 universities, museums and community organizations.

Now nearing the end of its research phase, the project will soon begin to communicate its findings to the public through schools and exhibitions.

Vancouver partner institution Nikkei National Museum will curate an online exhibition of the letters, Writing Wrongs: Japanese Canadians Letters of Protest from the 1940s, which will be made public through the Virtual Museum of Canada in 2019.

Sherri Kajiwara, director-curatorial of the Nikkei National Museum, said the letters are especially important in the lead-up to next year’s 75th anniversary of the dispossession of Japanese Canadians.

“It’s a significant find and a glimpse into a difficult and traumatic time for Canadians of Japanese ancestry,” Kajiwara adds.

Landscapes of Injustice is funded by a $2.5 million grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Another $3 million in matching funds comes from participating institutions.

The project was featured in publications including The National Post, The Globe and Mail, Times Colonist, Huffington Post and CBC News, as well as internationally by Japan’s national television broadcaster, NHK. Judy Hanazawa, whose father wrote one of the letters to the Canadian government protesting the sale of his family’s possessions, was interviewed on the CBC national news Program As It Happens.

CFAX 1070, CBC Radio’s All Points West and CTV News interviewed Stanger-Ross, who also contributed an article to The Conversation Canada about the research.

In the news

The Landscapes of Injustice research team helped start a national conversation about the dispossession of interned Japanese Canadians during the 1940s.

National and local media interviewed associate professor Jordan Stanger-Ross, from the Department of History, about the 300 letters of protest written by interned and dispossessed Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. Stanger-Ross uncovered the letters in an archive as part of Landscapes of Injustice. The research project was featured in publications including The National Post, The Globe and Mail, Times Colonist, Huffington Post and CBC News, as well as internationally by Japan’s national television broadcaster, NHK. Judy Hanazawa, whose father wrote one of the letters to the Canadian government protesting the sale of his family’s possessions, was interviewed on the CBC national news Program As It Happens.

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“My parents spoke openly about so I truly appreciate having something my dad wrote and sent.”

- Judy Hanazawa, whose family was interned and dispossessed during the 1940s
Linguistics grad revitalizes Galician

One could say that Humanities graduate student Ildara Enríquez was born for her role as a linguistics researcher. Growing up on the Iberian Peninsula in the northwest region of Spain, Enríquez spoke her native language of Galician at home. At school, she was conversed in Spanish. Both were official languages, but as a teenager, Enríquez made a decision.

“I started speaking Galician everywhere. I have a choice, and I choose to speak Galician, which is my language,” Enríquez says.

Some 2.5 million people speak Galician, a language that dates back to the 10th century and was at one time banned under General Franco’s dictatorship. That repression, combined with the continued dominance of Castilian Spanish today, has resulted in a decline of Galician speakers.

“Fewer younger people speak Galician,” she says. “They tend to want to use Spanish.”

Despite language loss, Enríquez credits the Department of Linguistics for helping her examine her native language’s revitalization.

“Galician has always been part of me and part of my life,” she says. “It’s a part of my identity.”

In recent years, Galician has enjoyed a resurgence among older Spanish speakers who want to learn their native tongue. But their use of Galician has prompted controversy about the purity of the language and whether Spanish is influencing how it’s being spoken.

As part of her research for a MA in linguistics, Enríquez tested these criticisms. She interviewed 15 new speakers of Galician, gauging their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

She focused on a unique grammatical feature of Galician, the clitic system, which marks information like singular versus plural, and the object type. The results of her research were surprising.

“New speakers born and raised in the region seemed to have more Spanish influence in their speech,” Enríquez says. “But those speakers who did not grow up in Galicia seemed to master the clitic system at the same level as native speakers.”

Enríquez says variation in language is healthy and inevitable. She adds that those who were raised outside Galicia perhaps felt a stronger need to assert their Galician identity through language.

Enríquez credits the Department of Linguistics for helping her examine her native language’s revitalization.

“Galician has always been part of me and part of my life,” she says. “It’s a part of my identity.”

Julius Maslovat has only one memory of the Nazi concentration camps in which he was interned as an infant and toddler: an open-roofed cattle car.

That car, and a deep emotion that moved him to tears when he heard a particular melody, were the only traces of his imprisonment in the camps of Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen before he was four.

Maslovat (pictured above in a supplied photo) spoke of his odyssey deep into childhood memory in October to students in the course “The Power of Propaganda and the Politics of Persecution: Literature and Film of the Holocaust and the ‘Third Reich’.”

Over decades, Maslovat pieced together the “jigsaw pieces” of his infancy and childhood. Through documents, interviews, and painstaking research, as he told the class, he uncovered the child that he was before his post-war adoption into a Jewish family in Finland: Yidele Henechowicz, a Polish Jew, born in a ghetto bunker and thrown over a fence as an infant by his mother to save him from the death transport to Treblinka.

Years later, he met the woman who sang lullabies to him, found a cousin in Israel, and—incridibly—saw by chance on BBC documentary on the liberation of the camps a film of his own face, with someone combing his curvy blond hair.

Maslovat finds his survival of the Nazi death machine statistically incomprehensible, save that he credits the strangers who cared for him. Maslovat urged his student audience not to embrace hatred as he told the class, if he hated all Germans, he would be replicating the Nazis’ own system of hatred. Instead, he has offered to others the kind of succor he received as an infant in the concentration camps: the help of a stranger, freely offered, with no expectation of return.

Holocaust survivor’s message: give freely

“We shared our hopes. Our fears. Our anxieties. Our rage. Our humanity.”

- Ethan Calof, graduate student and field school participant

BY ETHAN CALOF
Stó:lō stories about places—What do they mean to us, she writes. In the case of Stó:lō, our sense of belonging and ownership that have been central to how the community perceives the lake and what activities should happen there. As she argues, we cannot understand one type of story without the other. “Colonial place-making stories justifying Indigenous dispossession cannot be understood except in terms of their relationships to coexisting, often competing, place-making stories,” Trimble writes. Trimble aspires to a form of historical scholarship that reaches out to communities and gives back to those same communities, increasing the impact of traditional scholarship. Her work combines innovative approaches and philosophies from multiple disciplines, including history and ethnography, community-centred research and folklore studies. Through this work, she hopes to “connect the past to the present and in turn to the future,” lessening the gap between “what was and what is.”

History graduate Sabina Trimble (left) with her certificate in Indigenous Language Arts. Image: Supplied.

Alumni award celebrates writer and leader Bev Sellars

L eader, writer and activist Bev Sellars was the recipient of the Faculty of Humanities Distinguished Alumni Award for 2017. Sellars, who served as chief of the Xat’sull (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake for more than 20 years before serving as a member of its council, graduated from UVic with a BA in History. She was first elected chief in 1987, and held the position from 1987-1993 and then from 2009-2015. Between her terms as chief she earned a bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Victoria in 1997. She says her “aha” moment came when she was taking European history. This was followed by a law degree from UBC. Sellars has served as adviser for the B.C. Treaty Commission and as a representative for the Secwepemc communities on the Cariboo Chilcotin Justice Inquiry in the early 1990s. She has spoken out on behalf of her people and from the perspective of her ancestors on the residential school issue. She has also spent 40 weeks on the BC Bestsellers list in 2013 and 2014, was shortlisted for the 2014 Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize (Book Prize) by the BC Book Prizes, and received third prize in the 2014 Burt Award for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Literature. Sellars’s second book, Price Paid: The Fight for First Nations, became a bestseller after it won 2014 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature. Her first book, They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at Residential School, the students also learned stories from the Elders about the changes from a nomadic lifestyle to living in settlements. “The ‘On the Land Field Trips’ course includes an in-depth feature story broadcast on CBC TV as part of a program offered by Continuing Studies and the Department of Linguistics with Nunavut Arctic College. Image: Saa Pitsiulak.
The Thinking Garden

Hleketani translates as “thinking” in the local xiTsonga language of northern Limpopo Province in South Africa. A new documentary, The Thinking Garden, is giving Canadian audiences a chance to think about how women in a small South African village have faced the challenges of climate change and poverty and gained a measure of control over their lives through a unique farming collective.

For 25 years in a village in N’wamitwa, South Africa, three generations of women—currently ranging in age from early 40s to over 80 years old—have sustained the Hleketani Community Garden, which in turn has fed their families and built a strong sense of community in the midst of repeated droughts, poverty and serious health issues.

Directed by Métis filmmaker and UVic professor emerita Christine Welsh (Gender Studies), and written and produced by Welsh and UVic historian and writer Elizabeth Vibert (History), The Thinking Garden tells the inspiring story of South African women sowing seeds of change. Beautifully filmed by Vancouver cinematographer Moira Simpson, The Thinking Garden showcases the remarkable story of 30 women farmers building self-sufficiency, growing affordable vegetables for community, nourishing those living with HIV/AIDS and helping to offset some effects of climate change in their region.

In its first screening, The Thinking Garden has been shown on four continents and in three languages at 12 film festivals, and is the Canadian selection for the 2018 United Nations Women Film Week, in Amman, Jordan.

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The farm and other grassroots projects in northern villages of South Africa were the focus of a rural portion of an innovative UVic field school Vibert founded two years ago after doing community work and research in the region for more than six years.

Basani Ngobeni, Vibert’s research collaborator and the film’s assistant director, was at UVic for the launch. The event included a Q&A with Welsh, Vibert and Ngobeni. A cookbook was also made available. Follow @thinkinggarden on Twitter and @sathinkinggarden on Facebook for more information about the project.
FORGOTTEN HERO

New survivor accounts from wartime Budapest reveal the extraordinary actions of Swiss diplomat Carl Lutz

A family photograph dated autumn 1949 of Swiss diplomat Carl Lutz, his new wife Magda Grausz and stepdaughter Agnes Hirschi in Bern, Switzerland. Image: Archives of Contemporary History in Zurich. Image below: Agnes Hirschi’s schutzpass, from her personal photo collection.

University of Victoria Holocaust researcher is helping shed light on the wartime diplomatic efforts of Switzerland’s forgotten diplomat named Carl Lutz. Charlotte Schallié, from UVic’s Faculty of Humanities, found out about Lutz during a trip to Budapest, where she came across a monument to him while researching about her own grandmother, who had been killed in Auschwitz.

Schallié, who is Swiss but had never heard of Lutz, found and then worked with Lutz’s stepdaughter, Agnes Hirschi, to collect testimonies from survivors in Switzerland, the United States, Canada and Israel.

Schallié’s findings were published in November in the new book Under Swiss Protection: Jewish Eyewitness Accounts from Wartime Budapest, which was co-edited with Hirschi. Lutz, who is credited with saving 60,000 Hungarians in the largest civilian rescue operation of Jews in the Second World War, was the Swiss vice-consul in Budapest during the last three years of the war.

Schallié says while the heroic efforts of German businessman Oskar Schindler and Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg have been widely celebrated, the actions of Lutz, his wife Gertrud Lutz-Fankhauser and other people who helped form the rescue team remain largely unknown. Since her research was published, Schallié has been interviewed by BBC World News, CBC television’s The National, CBC Radio, CFX 1070, the Times Colonist, CBC Radio, CFAX 1070, the National, and numerous print publications.

“My hope is these survivor accounts will make Carl Lutz’s story much more well known,” she says. “He was a deeply religious and principled man who undertook these efforts at great personal risk.”

Schallié, an associate professor in Germanic and Slavic Studies, presented her research in November in Switzerland at the world’s premier gathering for Holocaust remembrance and education, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Hirschi says her stepfather was given a desk job after the war and was never thanked for his humanitarian efforts because he had violated Switzerland’s neutrality.

“I had promised my stepfather on his deathbed that I would do my best that his rescue activity would not be forgotten,” Hirschi says. “The youth and coming generations should know about the atrocities during the war and that they should never happen again.”

In 1942, Lutz organized the issuing of Palestine certificates to help more than 10,000 Jewish children and youth reach Palestine by March 1944. Shortly after, Lutz authorized the production of 50,000 letters of Swiss protection, called schutzbriefe, designed to guarantee the safety of each person named until they were able to emigrate. He established 76 safe houses, which were under Swiss protection, to house more people including a former glass factory that became known as the Glass House. It alone ensured the safety of some 3,000 Jews during the Nazi occupation of Hungary.

BC brothers Gabor and Janos Mate’s mother, Judith, was among those who found safe haven in the Glass House. After the family came to Canada as refugees, Janos went on to become an environmental activist, and Gabor a physician, speaker and bestselling author.

Schallié says other governments, including that of Sweden, resistance fighters and the International Committee of the Red Cross followed Lutz’s example and started issuing protective letters. By the war’s end, close to 124,000 Hungarian Jews survived in Budapest, half of those due to Lutz’s efforts.

A UVic mother-daughter team played a key role in bringing these stories to publication. Graduate student Noga Yarmar and her daughter Karine Hack, an English honours and creative writing student, were among five Humanities students who contributed to transcribing, translating and editing the research. Yarmar is helping shed light on the wartime diplomatic efforts of Switzerland’s forgotten diplomat named Carl Lutz.

Schallié says Victoria Jewish community member Dahlia Beck also played a significant role in the project.

Under Swiss Protection is published by Ibidem Press and distributed by Columbia University Press.

“My hope is these survivor accounts will make Carl Lutz’s story much more well known.” - Holocaust researcher Charlotte Schallié
Our faculty’s Teaching Excellence Award winner reflects on lessons learned in the classroom

BY DR. GEORGIA SITARA

I am very honoured to be the 2017 recipient of the Humanities Award for Teaching Excellence. It gives me courage and strength to continue to take my place at the head of the classroom in order to teach in those dangerous, sensitive and crucial times.

It’s a pleasure to reflect on that as a teacher, I see many lessons in receiving this award. The first and most important lesson is that the love of my students covers me; it carries me.

I would never even have been considered for this award had it not been for students’ overwhelmingly positive responses to my teaching over the years.

What makes this fact most astounding is that I make my students work really hard. I know they are the future: the future teachers, doctors, lawyers, policy makers, counsellors, poets, writers, activists, uncles, community members, members of parliament, and only they know what else.

The work we do in the classroom will shape the work they will do in the world.

Despite, and even possibly because of the rigorous training they receive, students really value the time they have spent in my classes.

By putting my knowledge, 30 years (and counting) of reading and study, to work in the service of my students, I help them realize their dreams. In winning this award, it becomes clear to me that in that process, my students have helped me to realize my own dreams, including the impossible dream of winning this prestigious teaching award.

I am the first sessional lecturer to win this award. Sessional labour under less than ideal conditions; we teach a lot of courses with a lot of students. If we are lucky enough to be given the opportunity, we don’t have the time, the space or the means to teach a full curriculum. It’s a different world. And sometimes things are very remote. Sometimes we have to deal with things where we have to travel a long way.

The moment, which I hope will inspire all of us as we go about our daily work: the fruit of our labour is not immediate or obvious.

I plan and execute lessons. I give everything I have to teach the best of the scholarship in the most engaging ways. At the end of a lecture, my students file out of the classroom.

Maybe one of them will turn around before getting to the door to say “thank you.” But for the most part, most of us work hard every day without reward and recognition of the excellent work we do.

This award is a reminder that our day-to-day work will be remembered. Our students will thank us for helping them on their path. They will be grateful.

There is a big need for gifts and generosity. We need to support our students. We need to support our colleagues. We need to support our university.

We need to be able to gracefully stretch to meet the needs and requirements of a variety of departments; we need to keep developing and delivering new courses in order to be assets to the university, to stay relevant, and solvent.

Through the years, I have often taught four courses a term, sometimes I have taught courses back to back, running from one classroom to the next. Receiving this award is a reminder that ideal conditions are not necessary to do excellent work. What I need to do is to make the most of each moment, each class, and each student’s journey.

I am sure the lessons will keep revealing themselves to me as the new year unfolds but here’s one last one for your consideration:

“In winning this award, it becomes clear to me that in that process, my students have helped me to realize my own dreams.”

- Dr. Georgia Sitara

A MORAL imperative

The seeds we plant take time to grow and blossom. We need to be able to gracefully stretch to meet the needs and requirements of a variety of departments; we need to keep developing and delivering new courses in order to be assets to the university, to stay relevant, and solvent.

Creek and Roman Studies alumnus Tori Bedingfield travels to Greece to study the remains of human history. But a short walk from her job as an archaeologist in Athens she confronted one of today’s most pressing issues—Europe’s refugee crisis.

By day, Bedingfield, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Greek and Roman Studies and Anthropology before completing a master’s at Queen’s University in classics and archaeology, works in an archaeological sciences lab.

Outside of work hours, the Victoria resident has become increasingly involved in raising money to help feed and clothe 400 refugees living nearby in an abandoned school.

“Refugee camps are full to bursting,” Bedingfield says.

“I think when you walk from your job as an archaeologist in Athens you confront one of today’s most pressing issues—Europe’s refugee crisis.”

In the meantime, Bedingfield says families, including many women and children, have claimed abandoned buildings. The refugee crisis is very visible in Greece.

A recent study found more than half of the 2.2 million people who sought asylum in Europe over the last two years are waiting for visas and clarity about where they will live.

In the meantime, Bedingfield runs a Facebook page called Donations for Refugee Squats in Athens. It raises additional funds to buy emergency items, such as coats, shoes and eyeglasses, as well as craft supplies and games for children squatting in the building.

“A lot of people arrive in Athens with their socks and shoes destroyed in the boat passage because they’ve been wet for so long,” she says.

“It’s a horrible situation for the asylum seekers, many of whom fled their homes because of atrocities committed by the Islamic State.

Her experience in Athens hasn’t changed her career path, but Bedingfield says it has motivated her to do what she can.

“We can’t do anything to change the world but there’s a moral imperative to do what you can, when you can, even if all you can give is $2,” she says.

Since running the Facebook page, Bedingfield has been approached by UVic students’ and alumni’s generosity.

“I am moved by Canadians and how much they’ve donated,” she says.

Information about donations are available on the Facebook page, or by emailing torib@uvic.ca

**Dr. Georgia Sitara is a continuing sessional lecturer for History and Gender Studies. Image: Chorong Kim.**

**Tori Bedingfield | (pictured below) runs the non-profit group Donations for Refugee Squats in Athens, which helps families and children (pictured above in a supplied photo). Image below: Chorong Kim.**
Thirteenth Uni 101 class graduates

Brenda Plakholm picked up a flyer for University 101 a decade ago when she was working full-time at a seniors’ residence. “I thought, ‘Would I ever love to do something like this,’” she says. “I’ve always loved learning.”

In December, Plakholm was among 26 students who graduated from University 101’s thirteenth class for the Humanities. The barrier-free program has been offering non-credit academic courses since 2006 in the Humanities, with topics ranging from Plato’s Athens to modern advertising.

For Plakholm, who dropped out of high school before returning to college in her late thirties, University 101 gave her purpose. “I had to retire early because of health issues,” she says. “I lost my identity with my job.”

When she retired, Plakholm found the flyer that she picked up all those years ago. She enquired, and after waiting a short time, she joined University 102, the complementary Social Sciences course offered by the Uni 101 program. In September, Plakholm started Uni 101, in which she studied subjects including Latin and religion, and her favourite class—creative writing. “Uni 101 has been a really positive experience for me,” she says. “It got me out of a rut and motivated me to do things again.”

Program coordinator Becky Cory says Uni 101 students have ranged in age from 20 to 87 years old.

Students experience barriers to accessing university education, including financial issues or mental health diagnoses, or lack of childcare. “Research about poverty and marginalization shows people feel disconnected from the world around them,” she says.

Cory says Uni 101 graduates often go on to volunteer in the community or become involved in the alumni program, University 201, which is offered one night a week instead of two and includes a leadership component.

“After completing Uni 101, students feel more connected; it’s a passionate, engaged, active environment to be part of,” Cory says.

Now that she has graduated, Plakholm plans to join University 201. “I’ve adopted the attitude that it’s never too late,” she says. “I want to learn more and to keep writing.”

Humanities First cohort launched

Thirty-five high-achieving students will be admitted next academic year into a new Humanities First cohort program that focuses on human rights, identity and social justice issues.

The new program, which starts in 2018-19, will include courses in English, Philosophy, History, and Gender Studies. Students will share classes with a group of dedicated students, including special courses on Germany’s response to the current refugee crisis.

Dean Chris Goto-Jones says the group will learn what it means to be a student of the Humanities in our contemporary world. “The new cohort program in the Humanities adds a special dimension of experiential learning for students excited about building their own learning communities and sharing these experiences with like-minded peers,” Goto-Jones says. “It’s a new opportunity for our students, and I’m excited to see what they make of it.”

Also in the fall, the faculty will welcome students to a new Living Learning Community in residence, designed especially for Humanities students. Students admitted into the residence will share core values related to the Humanities, including creativity, justice, human dignity and a commitment to making humanity better through education and social action.

Writing and study groups, career workshops and events that connect students with professors outside the classroom will be among activities organized for the Living Learning Community. Associate Dean Academic Lisa Surridge says the faculty is thrilled to offer the opportunity for Humanities students to live as a group in residence.

We hope that class topics will spill over into dorms,” she says.
German play delivers message of tolerance

A German play offers a window into the complex issues of tolerance and cultural understanding, particularly in Germanic studies.

The first edition of The Malahat Review came off the presses the same year as Expo 67 was in Montreal, the Canadian poet Margaret Atwood won a Governor General’s literary award and the first moon landing was still two years away. The iconic literary journal, housed within the Faculty of Humanities at UVic since its inception and celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017, has served as a springboard for some of the most recognizable names in Canadian publishing.

The Malahat was the first to publish a short story by Canadian author Yann Martel, 14 years before he went on to win the Booker Prize for the international bestseller Life of Pi. The journal dedicated an entire issue in 1977 to Margaret Atwood’s work — before she became internationally known and only five years after she published her pivotal survey of Canadian literature, Survival.

Poets such as Michael Ondaatje, Dionne Brand, Lorna Crozier and Patricia Young have frequently graced its pages.

In its 50-year run, The Malahat has played a major role in the literary arts scene by publishing works of national and international writers, nurturing new and emerging talents, and presenting perceptive critical essays on literature and the visual arts. Publishing in The Malahat is a rite of passage for many writers, who feel that they “have arrived,” says outgoing editor John Barton, who took over the role in January 2004 and retired in January 2018.

“Over the last 50 years, The Malahat has been at the forefront of literary culture in Canada, publishing the very best in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction,” says Dean of Humanities Chris Goto-Jones. “Both faculties are proud to continue supporting this iconic magazine and to join in the celebrations of its semi-centennial.”

Founded by Robin Skelton and John Peter, then professors in the Department of English at UVic, established the journal in 1967. The Faculty of Humanities has supported it over its history, with the Faculty of Fine Arts providing additional funding in recent years.

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Skelton was its first editor, a well-known poet and founding chair of the creative writing department at UVic. Initially carrying the subtitle “An International Magazine of Life and Letters,” the journal at first reflected Skelton and Peter’s backgrounds and connections in the international literary community, with the first edition including a selection of previously unpublished letters written by D.H. Lawrence.

The Malahat has had six editors over its lifetime: Barton, Constance Rooke, Derk Wynand, Marlene Cookshaw, Skelton and Peter. A special 50th anniversary edition celebrated its 200th edition. UVic Libraries produced a limited-edition monograph publication commemorating the journal’s golden anniversary and a new exhibition at UVic Legacy Art Galleries highlighted the role of art in the journal.

Malahat celebrates 50 years

The course brought together beginner and advanced students of German to stage a play that explores issues around tolerance, politics and religion. Image: Tobias Dietrich.

“The course gave language students of all levels the opportunity to engage meaningfully with culture and literature in the original German and to do so at a sophisticated level as possible,” Pnevmonidou says.

“The feedback I received from the students was very positive.”

The course designed the course to bring together advanced and beginner students of German, with the more experienced students tutoring their less fluent counterparts.

“The feedback I received from the students was very positive.”

French theatre project transforms learning and teaching

Imagine yourself in a submersible, thousands of feet under the sea, probing volcanic vents where marine life thrives ininky darkness.

Attendees plunged imaginatively into these deep waters in September as a unique collaborative project, En Eaux Profondes, brought together for a theatrical performance of scientists from Ocean Networks Canada, a French theatre company, and students from the Department of French and the School of Earth & Ocean Sciences.

The experience challenged participants to step beyond their comfort zone, as scientists became actors and creative writers, professors learned alongside students, liberal arts students brought poetic expression to marine science, and audience members occupied the stage with actors.

Professor Sara Harvey, whose graduate class in French theatre participated as actors in the play, summed up the interdisciplinary collaboration as “a transformative and inclusive way of learning and teaching.”

The project En Eaux Profondes brought together scientists, graduate students and a French theatre company. Image: Chorong Kim.

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The project En Eaux Profondes brought together scientists, graduate students and a French theatre company. Image: Chorong Kim.
Humanities summer camp launched

Grade 7 to 9 students had the chance to learn about and try their hand at art and technology as part of our inaugural UVic Humanities summer camps in July and August. Offered in partnership with Science Venture, the History Bytes camp gave students the chance to explore 18th-century journals at the library archives. PhD English student Sam MacFarlane then oversea a hands-on class on 19th-century printmaking, during which students produced their own linocut prints, as seen below.

Grade 7 to 9 students produced linocut prints as part of the Faculty’s inaugural summer camp, History Bytes. Images: Stephanie Harrington.

English lit inspires DIY video games

Forget zombies or vampires—instead, University of Victoria English students turned to literature for inspiration to create two indie video games for their graduate class. Open the Arcade, hosted in December in the new Digital Scholarship Commons in the Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library showcased two student-produced video games, Somapo and Adventures of a Sticky Leaf-Dweller. Jentery Sayers, an associate professor in the Department of English, asked students in his digital literary studies ENGL 508 class to engage in the do-it-yourself culture they were studying around indie games, even though they had little to no coding experience.

“With indie cultures, you use games function as jokes, letters, gifts, performances and even activism,” Sayers says. “They don’t need to be packaged AAA games from large studios producing content for popular audiences.”

Master’s students Kailey Fukushima, Kaitlyn Fralick and Talia Greene turned the UVic campus into a game with their app, Somapo, using mapping software created by Vancouver studio Motive.so to guide students around familiar locations such as the quad. They drew on the creative techniques of Oulipo, a term coined in the 1960s by a group of French writers and mathematicians who imposed constraints on their work. Somapo asks players to use an app on their phone while wandering around campus. In the process, players pick up “constraints,” which prompt them to act in certain ways, such as smiling or sitting.

“We welcomed the opportunity to challenge our classmates’ perceptions of their daily routines through a personalized video game that centred around the willing adoption of rules and constraints,” Fukushima says.

Absurdism, meanwhile, inspired students who created the 2-D game Adventures of a Sticky Leaf-Dweller, which Donny Kimber, Ashley Howard, Jodi Litvin and Mairi Richter described as anti-capitalist and anti-accumulative (i.e., not involving the accumulation of points or items). Players guide the character Twiggy as they collect and throw fallen leaves in the air. The focus is on playing for fun, rather than competing. It corresponds with the myth of Sisyphus, which interested 20th-century writers Samuel Beckett and Albert Camus. When you play as Twiggy, tasks can’t be completed and actions aren’t heroic,” says Sayers. “The trick is to find some humour when you can’t find explanations—to not be too earnest or purposeful about games.”

Fukushima says she found the process of creating Somapo difficult but rewarding, and hopes the group will keep developing the game. “I was drawn to this course because it offered a unique hands-on approach to studying digital media and literature that I hadn’t encountered before,” she says.

Student M. explored their identity through collage for her creative project (left), while her classmate K. created a Feminist Colouring Book that included popular figures such as bell hooks.

Artwork confronts issues of gender and identity

Students in Dr. Georgia Sitara’s Gender Studies 100 class had the opportunity to draw, paint, collage and otherwise express their relationship to course material as part of a final creative project. “It is also an applied learning assignment where students get to use course readings and films to reflect on their own lives and experiences,” Sitara says. Here are some examples of their work:

Katie explored religion and surrealism through collage for her creative project (left), while her classmate K. created a Feminist Colouring Book that included popular figures such as bell hooks.

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A philosophy student addresses his fellow undergrads on the subject of belonging

By Harmony Ezeuko

Do not harm yourselves and in doing so you will not harm others.

Philosophy student Harmony Ezeuko

There was a girl, only about seven years old, who was shy as a fox. She was shy in all respects, except in one thing: that is, making known to everyone how beautiful the world was and those who lived in it. In that regard she was brave: she would often speak of people’s hearts, their concealed intentions, what they could be if they truly listened to themselves, and of course how we could all learn from what goes on around us. To many she was odd and adorable, but above all, she was misunderstood. So thoroughly misunderstood was she, that many times she was disliked by others who didn’t want her truths. “I say this only to help you”, she would call out, but where help is not wanted it is never valued. Because she was largely misunderstood, she rarely trusted those around her.

Harmony Ezeuko delivered a speech to new Humanities students on how to belong. Image: Spencer Pickles.

Harmony Ezeuko

Only then will we have belonged.

- Philosophy student Harmony Ezeuko

Dear fashion:

English 207 Introduction to Cultural Studies student Robyn Page chose a creative way to challenge the fashion industry through needlework.

Her paper, called “Feminist Embroidery: Challenging Patriarchal Norms Through ‘Passive’ Art Forms,” even inspired her to produce her own embroidery work (pictured right).

Here is an excerpt from the paper:

“When thinking of embroidery it is doubtful that the first image that comes to mind is a radical, violent, or obscene art work. Most would agree they picture a phrase similar to ‘home sweet home’, or a Christian psalm, or perhaps some flowers, all of these most likely to be found in a kind old woman’s guestroom. For generations embroidery has been a symbol of femininity and passivity, but recently I was surprised to learn about feminist embroidery. Feminist embroidery transforms the art that was historically used to offer educational lessons of femini- nity. Through the satirization of past ideals of women and expressive curating feminist artists have been drawing an audience towards an art form that challenges all patriarchal norms. Feminist embroidery to me was the perfect art form to be both political and friendly. I already had a couple of ideas of what I wanted to say, but I spent a couple of days researching problems surrounding women and other embroidered works by feminist artists. Once I had finally sketched my personal de- sign, I asked my roommates to teach me some of the most common stitches. She kindly and patiently taught me, and for weeks I labored to complete a relatively tiny art piece. I was surprised at how something so simple could also be so frustrating to complete, and so time-consuming.

However, once I had finally finished the project I loved it. The image I stitched depicted a cute pair of jeans. It is obvious that these jeans are women’s jeans on account of one small detail: the pockets. Women’s pants are inconspicuously known for rarely having pockets. Whether this stems from the historical significance of men having to carry money at the fashion world strives for a slender figure, it is extremely inconvenient for most women who desire the seemingly simple addition of fabric to their pants. I know countless stories of women who bought a pair of pants, only to find that the pocket had been sewn shut, for no perceivable reason. Pockets should not be something women have to fight for, and yet it seems it might be necessary. My art piece directly challenges the fashion industry with the phrase ‘All I want are some Fucking Pockets.’ Though the embroidery is sweet, with lovely flowers and bright colours, the message is very political—and very clear.”

Conference brings academic lens to heavy metal studies

In June, UVic hosted a conference that brought together two unlikely par- tners: heavy metal music and academia. The biennial conference of the Interna- tional Society for Metal Music Studies took place from June 9-11.

The conference, called Boundaries and Identity: Challenging Patriarchal Norms in Heavy Metal and Metal Studies, was sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Humanities, the Department of English, UVic’s Alumni Association, and UVic Student Services, with addi- tional support from Heavy Metal UVic and Metal Music Studies.

Organised by English’s Dr. Shamma Boyarin, as well as Dr. Anna Chilingard and Dr. Gabby Riches, both from the University of Alberta, the conference drew more than 40 speakers from academic insti- tutions in both academia.

“Alongside the content that focused on global aspects of metal, there were many papers and speakers that highlighted the place of metal in Canadian communities—including Victoria and Vancouver Island,” Boyarin says.

Metal scholar Dr. Keith Kahn-Harris gave a keynote address, as well as UVic’s History alumna Brittney Slayes, who spoke about being a female metal musician.

Slayes is vocalist of the band Unleash the Archers, whose album release concert was one of four metal shows that took place in Victoria alongside the conference.

UVic History alumna and metal musician Brittney Slayes. Image: Supplied.
HUMANITIES RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

2016 Books

Penny Bryden, History
Canada: A Political Biography

Margaret Cameron, Philosophy
Sourcebook in the History of Philosophy of Language: Primary Source Texts From the Pre-Socratics to Mill

Catherine Caws, French
Learner Computer Interactions: New Insights on CALL Theories and Applications (with M.J. Hamel)

Christopher Douglas, English
If God Meant to Interfere: American Literature and the Rise of the Christian Right

Chris Goto-Jones, Philosophy
 Conjuring Asia: Magic, Orientalism, and the Making of the Modern World

Colin Macleod, Philosophy
Have a Little Faith: Religion, Democracy and the American Public

Ulf Schuetze, Germanic and Slavic Studies
Language Learning and the Brain: Lexical Processing in Second Language Acquisition

Richard Van Oort, English
Shakespeare’s Big Men: Tragedy and the Problem of Resentment

Major Digital Projects

Jordan Stanger-Ross, History
Landslides of Injustice

John Lutz, History
UVic Songhees conference

Claire Carlin, French
Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins, Linguistics
Janelle Jenstad, English
Elizabeth Grove-White, English

Catherine Caws
Janelle Jenstad, English
The Endings Project

Ray Siemens, English
Multiple projects in the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab

Janelle Jenstad, English
Map of Early Modern London

Internet Shakespeare Editions

SSHRC Researchers

Neilesh Bose
Nick Bradley
Paul Bramadat
Penny Bryden
Brendan Burke
Marion Caldecott
Margaret Cameron
Claire Carlin
Catherine Caws
Rachel Cleves
Jason Colby
Alex D’Arcy
Serhy Yekelchyk
Eris Ellerbeck
Li-Shih Huang

Janelle Jenstad
John Lutz
Allan Mitchell
John Price
Stephen Ross
Patrick Ryries
Jentery Sayers
Charlotte Schallie
Ray Siemens
Jordan Stanger-Ross
Jill Walshaw
Adrienne
Williams-Boyarin
David Zimmerman

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council Awards

Total funding 2016-17: $2.335 million
Researchers: 28

Faculty members’ books published in 2017

Alex D’Arcy, Linguistics

Hussein Nassaji, Linguistics

Stephen Ross, English

Lynne Marks, History

Jordan Stanger-Ross, History

Charlotte Schallie, Germanic & Slavic Studies

Gary Suckar, English

Jentery Sayers, English

James G. Young, Philosophy
Dawson's transformational gift

An unexpected bequest from a B.C. man, possibly amounting to as much as $1 million, will enable a graduate scholarship, support for research, and further fundraising opportunities for the Faculty of Humanities.

The late Murray Dawson graduated from the University of Victoria with a bachelor’s degree in political science and English in 1989.

Soon after he went to live in Vanderhoof, B.C., where his sister, Marion Mills, says he worked with adult students who were finishing their GEDs.

“He always ended up with crowds of friends, no matter where he lived,” Mills said in October, when the gift was announced.

Dawson eventually returned to Vancouver Island to be near the ocean, keeping boats at French Creek and Quadra Island.

Toward the end of his life, he was involved in an accident that resuluted in his leg being amputated. Mills says her brother maintained his sense of humour and love for helping others.

This impressed the administration of his rehabilitation facility and they asked him to visit and encourage other amputees and victims of trauma, which he did. Dawson liked to garden, paint, play music and write poetry.

Humantites Dean Chris Goto-Jones said the faculty was grateful for Dawson’s generosity. “While so sad to find out in this way, it is wonderful to learn that Mr. Dawson felt his time in our faculty changed him; his gift is truly transformational for us now,” Goto-Jones said.

Make a difference: donate to the Humanities

Our donors are inspired by the same mission we are in the Humanities—to provoke, engage, enrich and inspire.

Donors play a crucial role in supporting our students and faculty, who are striving to build a better world. These generous supporters allow us to realize our mission in a way that takes us beyond what would otherwise be possible.

Greek and Roman Studies student Charlie Kocurek was able to travel to ancient ruins in Greece last year thanks to help from the Margareta von Rudloff Travel Assistance Award.

Over three months, Kocurek explored monuments, museums, history and architecture as part of the Greek and Roman Studies student Summer Field Course, helping on an excavation project along with other UVic students. From May to the end of June, she spent her afternoons excavating in the trenches and afternoons inventorying ceramic sherds. Kocurek says the experience made her realize the importance of first-hand learning.

“You can read all of the scholarship about a site, but when you are there in person, it can spark original ideas,” she says.

“These are experiences you can’t get from reading books in a classroom.”

Awards created in 2017

Undergraduate

Doug Beardsley Scholarship
One or more scholarships of at least $1,000 will be awarded to academically outstanding undergraduate English Major or Honours students who write the best paper on modern poetry.

Christine Welsh Scholarship for Indigenous Students in Gender Studies
One or more scholarships of $1,000 will be awarded to academically outstanding Indigenous undergraduate student entering third or fourth year with a declared major in Gender Studies.

Andrew Rippin Award
A $500 prize will be awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student who has the best paper within the discipline of Islamic Studies at the annual MEICON BC student conference.

William and Amelia Kushniryk Memorial Award
One or more awards of at least $1,000 will be granted to undergraduate students of Ukrainian language and/or culture courses in the summer academic terms through an accredited program in Ukraine.

Heather Lindstedt and Brian Pollick Fellowship
For the next five years, a $5,000 fellowship will be awarded to an Art History and Visual Studies PhD student. This fellowship is adjudicated by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society.

Didier Bergeret Scholarship
One or more scholarships of at least $1,000 will be awarded to an academically outstanding French Major or Honours student.

Graduate

Holocaust Studies Graduate Travel Award
$1,000 will be awarded to one or more graduate students in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies to support travel costs associated with the practicum component of their program.

Murray Dawson Fellowship in Humanities
Two fellowships of at least $3,000 will be awarded to academically outstanding students entering or enrolled in a graduate program in the Humanities. This endowment will give its first award in 2019.

GIVING AT A GLANCE

Rippin Room honours late faculty dean

I
n March, a moving ceremony marked the designation of the History Reading Room as the "Rippin Room" in memory of Andrew Rippin, much beloved former dean of the faculty.

Rippin, who led the faculty from 2000 to 2010, was a professor of History and noted researcher on Islamic History and Qur’anic studies. He was a made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2006, and awarded the David H. Turpin Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research in 2015.

Tributes were offered by History Chair John Lutz, who recalled Rippin as dean, friend and kayaking companion, as well as by current Humanities Dean Chris Goto-Jones, who said how moved he has been by seeing Rippin’s model of compassion and wisdom still very alive in our faculty.

The mood of the room was captured by History Chair John Lutz who recalled Rippin as dean, friend and kayaking companion, as well as by current Humanities Dean Chris Goto-Jones, who said how moved he has been by seeing Rippin’s model of compassion and wisdom still very alive in our faculty.

Andrew Rippin was honoured in a ceremony in March.

Image: Spencer Pickles.
Akira Weng is the artist whose illustrations are featured in the annual report. Weng grew up in Victoria and graduated from UVic with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. He works on design in his free time. While he was a student, Weng won the faculty’s first design competition, called Legendary Humanities. His winning Engage Myriad Voices poster is featured on our new faculty tote bags. “Studying in the Humanities has enriched and influenced all aspects of my life, including design,” Weng says. We are proud to feature this talented artist’s work.