

# DONOR IMPACT REPORT 2019

Vital impact on people, places and the planet



## THANK YOU

“Your gifts have given me an opportunity to change the lives of thousands of children,” Godwin Nnko explains. “You are not just supporting one person but a community, country and the world.”

Godwin is one of four PhD candidates who received donor funding from the Millennium Futures fund in the Faculty of Education. He, along with Kassim Dadi, William Pastory and Patrick Makokoro, is researching strategies to increase access to education and student-focused learning in their countries of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

“Your support is what enables students like me to build a better future where all children of the world have access to basic education and lifelong learning opportunities,” says Patrick.

This is just one example of how your generosity ensures student success and creates vital impact for people, places and the planet. Together, each of your gifts contributes to building upon our strengths—our UVic Edge—and for that we are grateful.

Throughout this report you will see how your gifts are creating opportunities for students, researchers and programs that offer dynamic learning experiences in our extraordinary academic environment.

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

From left: Godwin Nnko, Kassim Dadi, Patrick Makokoro and William Pastory





# CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH CLEAN ENERGY

Donations fund research that provides greener solutions for marine vessels.

The next time you're on a ferry, pay attention to its movement as it turns—take note of the wind, and the current. These are all factors studied by mechanical engineer Dr. Zuomin Dong and the UVic Clean Transportation Research Team as they work to reduce the environmental impacts of marine vessels on our oceans.

The research is funded in part by a \$1 million donation from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, in conjunction with Seaspan. Zuomin's team is developing integrated modelling tools to transition marine vessels to optimized hybrid natural-gas/electric and pure electric propulsion systems. These systems will greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as marine vessel noise, which can be harmful to underwater species.

Lily Chen, one of dozens of students working on UVic's Clean Transportation Team with Zuomin, was instrumental in developing a model-based system for a tugboat design. "I was able to talk to professional engineers and gain valuable knowledge from the industry," Lily recalls. "It has always been my dream to find a way to help make clean, renewable energy a standard world-wide."

Seeing their work put into action is an inspiration for students like Lily. "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to see how our work as engineers can make an impact on the industry and on the environment as a whole."

"The hope is that by finding ways to use our limited resources better and reduce our environmental impact, we will be creating a better world."

Dr. Zuomin Dong

**\$1m**

DONATION FROM  
DENNIS AND  
PHYLLIS WASHINGTON

**21**

UVIC STUDENTS  
HAVE PARTICIPATED  
IN THE RESEARCH

**15**

INDUSTRY PARTNERS  
HAVE ASSISTED  
THE PROGRAM



# EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

Funding for community partnerships supports entrepreneurs in Indigenous communities.

Before joining the Aboriginal Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACE) for Artists program, Brianna Dick had all the skill and talent of an artist, but was shy when it came to actively promoting her work. Without a business background, the unknown was an obstacle to commercializing her art.

The ACE for Artists program is funded, in part, by a \$1 million gift from BMO Financial Group to the Aboriginal Canadian Entrepreneurship Catalyst fund. That fund was created by Tim and Frances Price to support entrepreneurship educational opportunities in Indigenous communities.

"I think for the urban Indigenous classmates that I had—including myself—it really opened our eyes to what people are looking for," says Brianna. "The program taught us what to look for in deals and contracts when it comes to selling and owning the rights to your art."

After graduating from ACE, Brianna was commissioned to paint a mural at a downtown Victoria yoga centre. The mural honours the traditional territory of the Songhees people on Tl'ches (Chatham Island).

The ACE for Artists program supports a pathway to success for Indigenous artists like Brianna and fosters respectful partnerships. Brianna says, "I think for the general community of Victoria, it's a chance for people to really see and know Indigenous businesses and how they are thriving."

"With the motivation of people like my fiancé, family and this program, I've really been able to put myself out there and turn my art into a growing business."

Brianna Dick



26

INDIGENOUS  
COMMUNITIES HAVE  
WORKED WITH ACE

75

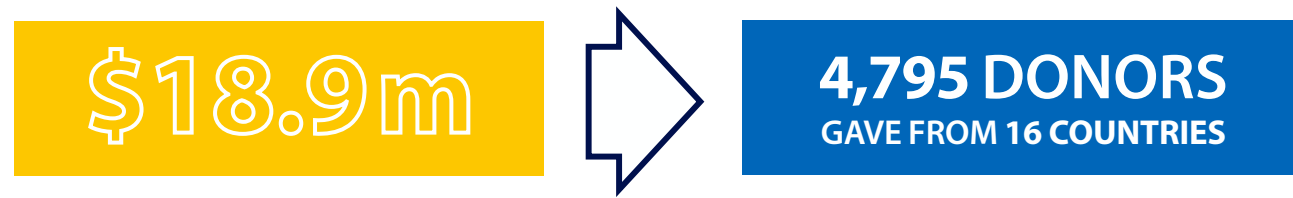
BUSINESSES HAVE  
BEEN STARTED BY  
ACE ENTREPRENEURS

\$1m

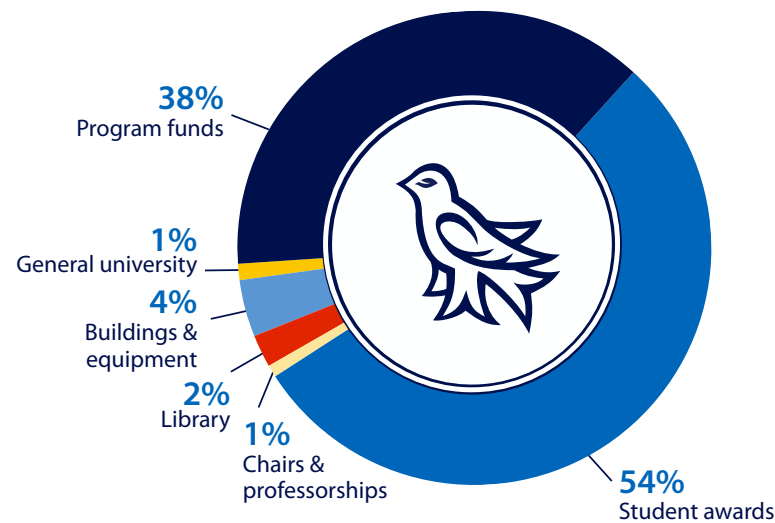
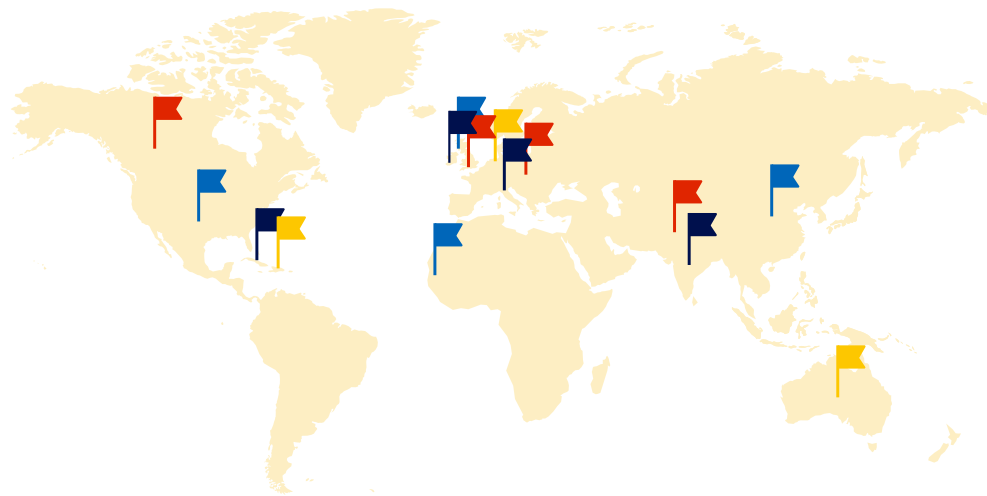
GIFT FROM  
BMO BANK



# ILLUSTRATING YOUR SUPPORT IN 2018/19



- Australia
- Bermuda
- Canada
- Cayman islands
- China
- Gambia
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Pakistan
- Scotland
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States



"Attending UVic and playing basketball for the Vikes has changed my life. In Brazil, there are not the same opportunities for sports and education. Words cannot express my gratitude for your gifts that are helping me pursue my dreams."

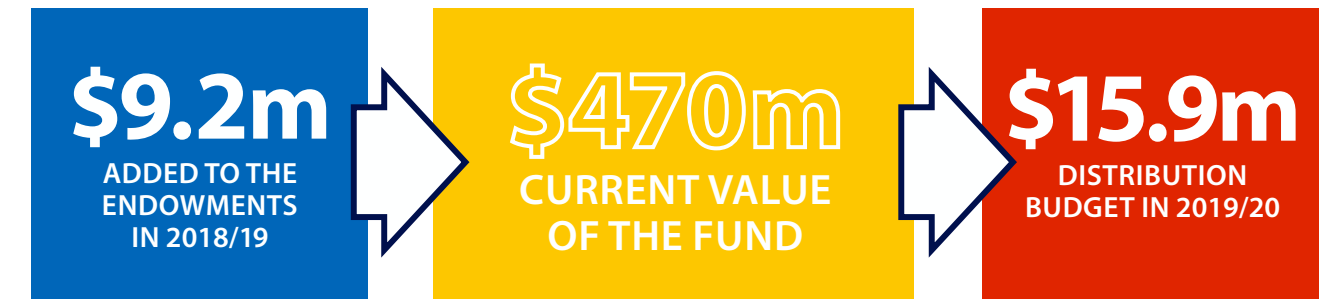
Carlos Costa, BSc '20



"At the age of 48, I decided to return to school to complete a theatre degree. Scholarships were key in helping me believe in myself and took some of the financial burden of tuition off my family's shoulders."

Fiona Rheaume BA '19

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



# DONORS SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN 2018/19



**3,295** DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS GIVEN OUT | **1 in 9** STUDENTS IS HELPED BY A DONOR-FUNDED AWARD | **62** NEW AWARDS SET UP



\$2.1m in donor funding helped support Indigenous Law initiatives including the world's first joint degree in Indigenous legal orders and Canadian common law (JD/JID). The program was launched at UVic last September and combines the intensive study of both Indigenous and Common law, enabling students to work fluently across the two systems.



# DIVING DEEPER INTO CORAL RESEARCH

Philanthropy's role in global climate and ecological research.

Coral reefs are essential for maintaining the health of oceans and the planet, and they're under threat from climate change and a host of other human created stressors.

"One of the biggest threats to coral reefs is the warming of the ocean due to weather events like El Nino," explains PhD student Danielle Claar. "But we can't protect them if we don't understand the effect our actions and the changing temperature of the ocean have on them."

With the help of the Edward Basset Family Scholarship and the Donald Wagg Graduate Scholarship, Danielle undertook field research, in partnership with UVic's Baum Lab, on Kiritimati Island, a remote and sparsely populated island south of Hawaii. "The scholarship eased the financial burden of traveling and allowed me to concentrate on my research," she explains.

The people living on Kiritimati rely heavily on harvesting the fish that live in the coral surrounding the island. "Coral is not just a rock," says Danielle. "It's an ecosystem that supports many lifeforms."

Her research is focused on what allows corals to recover under duress from fishing, runoff and weather events like El Niño. "My most exciting finding was that corals started to recover even before the El Niño ended," says Danielle. "It showed given the right advantages, some corals can survive and thrive even under duress."

Danielle presented her data to Kiritimati officials demonstrating how local actions can impact the coral reefs surrounding their island. "The hope is that by learning as much as we can about the reefs themselves, we can develop strategies and plans to give them the best chance of survival," says Danielle.

"I am extraordinarily thankful for donor support. It has allowed me to work toward furthering our knowledge of ecosystem resilience in order to better understand the fate of coral reefs in a changing ocean."

Danielle Claar

6

TRIPS MADE BY DANIELLE TO KIRITIMATI ISLAND

214

DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS AVAILABLE TO GRADUATE STUDENTS 2018/2019

\$1.3m

AWARDED TO 435 GRADUATE STUDENTS IN 2018/19





# LESSONS OF THE PAST SHAPE THE FUTURE

Immersing undergraduates in extraordinary learning environments.

A rare discovery on a field school in Greece set Jacob Engstrom on his path of self-discovery. "It's an incredible feeling to hold something in your hand that hasn't been seen in thousands of years," he explains.

Jacob was working on an archaeological project at ancient Eleon, UVic's co-sponsored excavation site in Greece, when he unearthed a small ceramic jar with a long extraordinary history. "It was a nearly complete stirrup jar that was used for oils and perfume almost 3,000 years ago," he recounts. "It was like everything clicked into place, and I couldn't wait to research and learn more."

Thanks to the Robert J. Murphy Travel Award in Greek and Roman Studies, and the Elias Mandel Prize for Study Abroad In Humanities, Jacob is returning to Eleon for the third time. The hands-on experience is allowing him to pursue undergraduate research on the burial practices and rituals of the Early Mycenaean society. He hopes to better understand the role ancient societies had on today's social structure and traditions. "I am so grateful for the support I've received from donors," says Jacob. "Thanks to their generosity, I am part of advancing research that is having a vital impact on how we view history."

"It was a massively formative experience for me to live abroad and participate in archeological projects and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of travel funding."

Jacob Engstrom (left) pictured with fellow student at ancient Eleon.

**1,999**  
DONOR-FUNDED  
AWARDS AVAILABLE  
TO UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS IN 2018/2019

**\$3.1m**  
AWARDED TO  
UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS IN  
2018/2019

**755**  
FIELD SCHOOLS,  
CO-OPS AND RESEARCH  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE





Ilya Gotchev, Carlos Quijano, Felix Alanis and Manuel Cruz received fellowships in UVic's unique Masters in Performance—Emphasis in String Quartet program. The fellowships are funded by a bequest from the late Claire Watson Fisher.

“Thank you for supporting tomorrow’s leaders. The impact of your gifts can be seen in our UVic Edge—a combination of unique strengths that advance our vision to contribute to better futures for people and the planet through outstanding scholarship, engaged learning and real-life involvement.”

Jamie Cassels  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Victoria

Visit [uvic.ca/impactreport](https://uvic.ca/impactreport) to read more about how your gifts help create vital impact.



