

# Department of Biology Newsletter

November 2, 2015

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

## Congratulations to Diane Luszniak and Her Tour de Rock!



Photo courtesy of Photo services UVic

I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported me as a Tour de Rock rider this year. Your donations and words of encouragement were so appreciated. I thought I'd share a brief summary of my experience with you.

It was a pretty chilly 5C on March 1, 2015 when 20 prospective 2015 Tour de Rock team members met for their first training ride. All members had some kind of biking experience coming to that training session, but riding in a large group was going to be something very new and different for everyone. Our ride that day was only about 20km, but it was the starting point for this group of relative strangers to start becoming a team and eventually a family. Fast forward to September 19, 2015 and

with over 3000km of training under our belts, our team was ready for the actual Tour de Rock ride. We set off from Victoria to drive to Port Alice and began our riding on September 20. It was raining as we left Port Alice, but we were excited to be on our way and hardly noticed. At times we even turned to each other to say, "Wow, we are actually doing this!"

Our journey covered over 1100km in 13 days, with stops in numerous communities large and small. It was often overwhelming how much support we saw in each community or school and to meet some of the children struggling with cancer. We frequently lost track of how many times we found ourselves in tears at various moments each day. We soon realized that it was not any part of the riding that we would remember, but instead all the incredible people and events along the way.

One day, I met Hope, a seven-year-old girl battling cancer. She was so inspired to see others shaving their heads at the event we were at that she decided that she should do this too. She grabbed a hat and one of our team members, went through the crowd collecting donations of over \$300 and promptly sat down and had her head shaved. It was a pretty amazing moment for me to see what a cancer victim would do to help others like herself. It was certainly that selfless generosity of others that we saw every day that made me so proud to be a part of the Vancouver Island Community.

The Tour de Rock may only be a two-week event, but for many communities, it is a year-round focus for fundraising. That's what makes it so special. We drew so much energy from that support. And for members of the Tour de Rock team this year, while they can only do the ride itself once, it will certainly not be a one-time event for any of us. We're now part of the Tour de Rock alumni family and we'll be helping in future years in any way we can. -Diane Luszniak

### Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| DIANE LUSZNIAK  | 1 |
| CALENDAR  | 1 |
| UPCOMING SEMINARS   | 2 |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS<br>CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE  | 2 |
| GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY<br>JOB OPPORTUNITIES                                     | 3 |
| UVIC EVENTS   | 3 |
| CFGFS FELLOWSHIP AWARD<br>ANNOUNCEMENT<br>CALL FOR NOMINATIONS<br>CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS | 4 |

## Calendar

### Important Dates:

**Friday, November 6**

Senate meets

**Mon—Wed, November 9-11**

Reading Break (except Faculty of Law)

**Mon, Tue, November 9,10**

Fall Convocation

**Wednesday, November 11**

Remembrance Day

**Sunday, November 15**

Faculty of Graduate Studies deadline to apply to graduate for spring convocation (students completing in the fall term only)



## Upcoming Seminars. Everyone Welcome!

### Forest Biology



#### **Nick Ukrainetz**

BC Ministry of forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations

“Resistance breeding for Pine pests and pathogens”

Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
at 2:30 pm CUN 146

### Biochemistry & Microbiology Biology

#### **Ryan Blackler**

PhD candidate, Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology, University of Victoria

“A structural basis for cross-reactivity and polyspecificity in germline antibodies”

Friday, November 6, 2015  
at 1:30 pm ECS 124

#### **Dr. Todd Schlenke**

Biology Department  
Reed College

“Coevolution between fruit flies and their parasites”

Friday, November 13, 2015  
at 2:30 pm MSB 160

### Forest Biology and Biology

#### **Dr. Simone D. Castellarin**

Wine Research Centre UBC  
(Joint Seminar)

“Flavonoid biosynthesis in grapes: How genes and abiotic factors determine wine quality”

Friday, November 20, 2015  
at 2:30 pm MSB 160

## Announcements



### **Biology graduate student publication: Amy Teffer**

Teffer, A., M. Staudinger, and F. Juanes. 2015. Trophic niche overlap among dolphinfish and co-occurring tunas at the northern edge of their range in the western North Atlantic. *Marine Biology* 162: 1823-1840.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00227-015-2715-8>

### **Invitation to attend the Annual University of Victoria Biology Department Graduate Student Symposium**

The annual Biology Graduate Symposium will be held on the 9th and 10th of November, 2015. This event provides an opportunity for UVic faculty, students, researchers from other organizations, and interested members of the public to learn about the wide variety of research projects being conducted by Biology graduate students.

Students will present research from diverse fields including Marine Biology, Forest Biology, Genomics, Ecology, Biomedical Research, and Neuroscience.

Please feel free to attend a single talk or the entire symposium. Presentations will be grouped by theme to make it easier to attend several talks in a given area of interest.

A schedule of presentations will be posted during the week of November 3rd under the “Graduate Symposium” tab on the Biology Department website at:

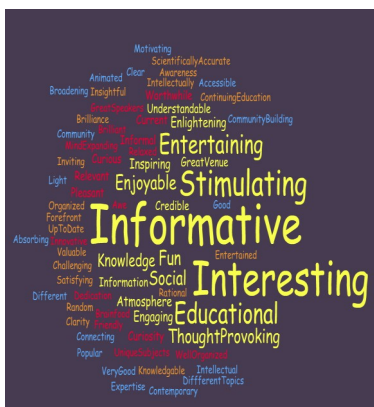
<http://www.uvic.ca/science/biology/graduate/current/index.php>.

The symposium runs from 9:00 to 4:30 each day in room C103 of the David Strong Building.

Attendance is free and a light lunch and refreshments will be provided



## Café Scientifique 2015-2016



### **Café Scientifique**

Presenter: Dr. ir. Frank C.J.M, van Veggel, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Victoria

“Using small things to defeat a big problem: nanotechnology and the fight against cancer”

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Starting Time: 6:30 pm (Doors open at 5:30 pm)

Place: Hermann’s Jazz Club 753 View Street

For more information contact: [cfbr@uvic.ca](mailto:cfbr@uvic.ca) Or call 250-472-4067

Or visit: <http://cbr.uvic.ca/science-and-society/cafe-scientifique>

And for all Café Scientifique Series <http://www.uvic.ca/research/learnabout/home/news/cafe/>

## Graduate Student Opportunity

### **Vancouver Island University, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and University of Victoria**

Vancouver Island University, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the University of Victoria are conducting a collaborative project to investigate microplastics in British Columbia's coastal ecosystem. This project will determine the presence, types and extent of microplastics in shellfish and their surrounding environment and investigate the impacts of microplastics on animal health and function.

The student will have the opportunity to work with the shellfish industry, non-profit, government and university researchers in a range of disciplines including ecology, contaminants, genomics and aquaculture. We are looking for an enthusiastic, self-motivated student that is organized, conscientious and has experience working in both field and lab settings and is keen to work with multiple stakeholder groups. Experience and/or knowledge in shellfish biology, contaminants, aquaculture and GIS would be an asset. Prospective candidates should be competitive for NSERC scholarships. The successful applicant would start in January 2016.

If you are interested in applying, please send a single document that combines:

1. A cover letter outlining your research interests, relevant experience and your interest in this project,
2. CV and
3. University transcript copies to Dr. Sarah Dudas at [Sarah.Dudas@viu.ca](mailto:Sarah.Dudas@viu.ca)



**University  
of Victoria**

Please ensure that your family name is at the start of the file name (as in Smith\_John.docx) Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. <http://www.ecologicalinteractions.com/>

## Job Opportunities

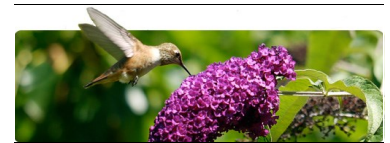
### **Department of Biology Teaching Assistant/Lab Instructors positions available for January 2016**

Lab Instruction Positions are now advertised on the Department of Biology Website.

The number of positions is subject to enrollment and/or course cancellation

For more information please visit:

<http://www.uvic.ca/science/biology/home/home/jobs/labinstruc/index.php>



## UVic Events

### **United Way Campaign 2015**

**Plasma Car Races.** Nov. 3, 2015 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm Michele Pujol Room, Student Union Building  
The Plasma Car is a state-of-the-ride-on toy that harness the natural forces of inertia, gravity and friction to propel itself. These mechanical marvels are so easy to operate that you simply tuck your feet up, rotate the steering wheel from left to right, and you are off to the races!

For more information visit: <http://www.uvic.ca/unitedway/events/plasmacar/index.php>



**UVic Libraries Book Sale.** Nov. 17-19, 2015 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Michele Pujol Room, Student Union Building  
Donation of good quality used books are now being accepted until November 6 at the Loan Desk, Research Help Desk, the Mail Room (9:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or at the Mearns Centre for Learning-McPherson Library only.  
There will also be a Community Donation Drive Day in parking lot B (between the library and the Bob Wright Centre, off Ring Road) on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Please note we DO NOT accept: dictionaries, encyclopaedias, magazines, textbooks, journals, vinyl records, audio cassettes, VHS tapes, typewriters, stereos or audio equipment of any kind.

Volunteers are needed in all areas. Sign up for volunteer shifts at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/RCBTP>

For more information about donating or volunteering, please contact Christie Walde at [ulo@uvic.ca](mailto:ulo@uvic.ca) or 250-853-3613

## Centre for Global Studies Fellowship Award Announcement 2015-2016

**UVic Graduate Student Fellowship.** Value: \$5,000 per fellowship, plus office space at the CFGS.

**UVic Faculty Fellowship Application.** Research Completion Faculty Fellowships, Research Development Faculty Fellowships  
Value: Teaching-release time equal to the value of one 1.5 credit course; office space (including wireless internet, fax and copy services) in the Centre's Sedgewick premises.

**Visiting Researcher Fellowship.** Value: up to \$5,000 per fellowship dependent on length of stay, private office space; enhanced opportunities for research networking and exchange; participation in the centre's wide range of scholarly and social activities.

**Visiting Graduate Student Fellowship.** Value: \$5,000 per fellowship, plus office space at the CFGS.

**EU-Borders Visiting Researcher.** In partnership with the Borders in Globalization Project (BIG) and the European Union Centre of Excellence (EUCE) this fellowship is for experts writing and conducting research on EU borders topics.

Value: up to \$5,000 dependent on length of stay.

Conditions: One of the central objectives of the Centre is the creation of a community of scholars and of scholarship. The Centre is able to create and sustain this community only to the extent that our residents are present in the Centre on a regular basis and participating in its activities.

Deadline: November 17, 2015



Each application is different. Please visit the website for more information:

[http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/global\\_studies/fellowship/index.php](http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/global_studies/fellowship/index.php)

Tel. 250-721-8800

## Call for Nominations

### **President Distinguished Service Awards 2015**

Do you know a staff member who makes UVic a great place to work and learn?

Any UVic employee or recognized student organization can nominate an individual, group or team for these awards. Winners will receive a certificate and \$1,000 (to a \$6,000 maximum limit in the case of team awards)\*

The nomination deadline is November 20, 2015 and results will be announced at a celebration held in February 2016.

More information at: <http://www.uvic.ca/hr/services/home/recognition/pdsa/2015-nominations/index.php>

\*Please note monies received are taxable benefits

## Call for Volunteers

The Royal Jubilee Simulation Centre is looking for volunteers for their Emergency Department Echo (EDE 2) course on November 26 and 27, 2015. During the course, emergency doctors will learn how to use an ultrasound machine to look for life threatening conditions, and as one of the models, you will allow the ER doctors to see examples of normal images so that they can recognize abnormal scans more quickly. Coffee, snacks and lunch will be provided over the course of the day. To RSVP or if you have any questions please contact Khala Albert (BSc, MD, FRCPC) at 250-516-8388 or [khala.albert@gmail.com](mailto:khala.albert@gmail.com)



If you have an event or story you would like to share in the Biology Newsletter, please e-mail: [biology@uvic.ca](mailto:biology@uvic.ca) or [bioclerk@uvic.ca](mailto:bioclerk@uvic.ca)

#### Editors:

Laura Alcaraz-Sehn, Chantal Laliberté

Contributors: Diane Luzniak, Erin Sebastian, Dr. Steve Perlman, Dr. Francis Juanes, Janice Gough, Photo Services UVic

#### Department of Biology

P.O. Box 1700  
STN CSC  
Victoria, BC,  
V8W 2Y2,  
Canada

Tel: 250-721-7095

Fax: 250-721-7120

Email: [biology@uvic.ca](mailto:biology@uvic.ca)

Website:

<http://www.uvic.ca/science/biology/>

