

Department of Biology Newsletter

Friday, December 15, 2017

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

29th Annual Biology Graduate Symposium

Biology Graduate Symposium

This year marked the 29th year of the University of Victoria Annual Biology Graduate Student Symposium, held on November 14 and 15, 2017 in the David Strong Building. This two-day event included 40 presentations from graduate students within the Biology Department on their research, with topics ranging from forest biology and ecology to neuroscience and molecular biology. A new addition to the symposium this year, in order to add some variety, was the inclusion of 6 poster presentations.

The PhD presentation winners were Danielle Claar, first place, Therese Frauendorf, second, and Will Duguid, third. Best MSc presentation winners were Graeme Keais, first place, Lia Chalifour, second, and Kyle Beer, third. Lastly, Lucianne Marshall won the award for best poster.

Due to an overwhelming response from donors on campus and in our community, many raffles were done throughout the symposium to give out over 30 different prizes, including gift cards to Lot 1 Pasta Bar, Bin 4 Burger Lounge, and Hot House Pizza, and the grand prize from Prince of Whales Whale Watching! After the symposium, the Biology Graduate Symposium Social event was hosted on November 15 at the Bard & Banker Public House. This was the first year that the Social event was hosted at this venue, and it was a huge success, as we had access to the whole top floor, and there were lots of delicious appetizers. Overall, this year's Annual Biology Graduate Student Symposium was a huge success and a very memorable event. Thank you to those who attended and a special thank you to Dr. Barbara Hawkins, Dr. Diana Varela, Michelle Shen, the symposium co-chairs Nova Hanson and Luci Marshall, and all of the organizing committees!

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Graeme Keais



Nova Hanson



Jacob Weil



Lia Chalifour



David Minkley

The University of Victoria
29th Annual
Biology Graduate
Student Symposium



Open to the Public
Free admission

November 14th & 15th, 2017 · 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
David Strong Building · Room C103

Calendar

Important Dates:

Friday, December 1

Senate meets. Last day of classes in first term except Faculty of Law and Faculty of Human and Social Development.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on

Violence Against Women. Classes and exams cancelled from 11:30 am—12:30 pm

First-term Examinations begin, except Faculty of Human and Social Development²

Undergraduate deadline to apply to graduate for Spring Convocation

First term examinations end for all faculties

University closed

Second term classes begin for all faculties

Senate meets

Last day for course changes for Faculty of Law



Monday, December 4

Friday, December 15

Monday, December 18

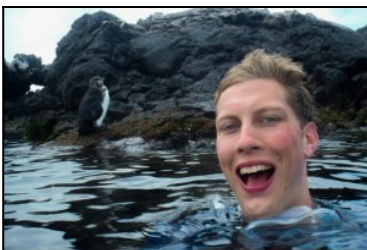
Monday –Monday Dec 25-Jan 1

Wednesday, January 3

Friday, January 5

Thursday, January 11

Graduate Oral Examination



Aaron Eger MSc

Supervisor: Dr. Julia Baum

“The role of predators and species diversity in structuring marine ecosystems”

Monday, December 18, 2017

1:00 pm

CLE B007

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Café Scientifique

Café Scientifique

The Café Scientifique series is an informal series of talks given in a relaxed setting such as a café. These talks are designed to engage the public in learning about recent research in science. The talks, which are given by experts in the field, provide an opportunity to stimulate discussion around some of the most exciting topics in modern science.

Dr. Jane Gair, Division of Medical Sciences and the Island Medical Program—January 9
“Teaching the New Medical Doctors in British Columbia: Our Experience After Graduating 10 Cohorts”

Dr. Hector Caruncho, Division of Medical Sciences and The Island Medical Program—January 16
“Depressed about depression. Insights from translational neuroscience”

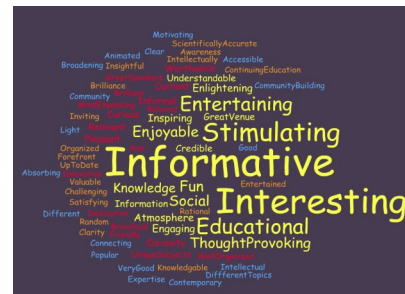
Dr. Katherine Elvira, Department of Chemistry—February 13
“Smaller is better: Using lab-on-chip platforms in pharma and hospitals”

Location: Hermann’s Jazz Club, 753 View Street

Start time: 6:30 pm

Doors open at 4:30 pm. A UVic representative will be available at 5:45 pm.

For more information visit [Centre for Biomedical Research](#)



Scholarships

CWRA Canadian Water Resources Association

The Canadian Water Resources Association annually offers five scholarships. These scholarships are available to graduate students whose programs of study focus upon applied, natural, or social science aspects of water resources. The scholarships are as following:

- **Dillon Consulting Scholarship—\$5,000**
This scholarship will be awarded to the highest ranked of the applicants. Funding is provided by Dillon Consulting Limited on an annual basis.
- **Rick Ross Student Scholarship— \$1,500**
This scholarship will be awarded to the second highest ranked of the applicants . The Rick Ross Student Scholarship is awarded to recognize his ongoing legacy
- **Ken Thomson Scholarship—\$2,000**
This scholarship will be awarded to the third largest ranked of the applicants. The Ken Thomson Scholarship is awarded from a special fund set up in his honour.
- **CWRA Memorial Scholarships—1,500**
A tribute to CWRA Members remembered by their colleagues donations to the Scholarship Fund
- **CWRA Scholarship—\$1,500**
This scholarship is funded from the general funds of the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA)
All applicants will receive a one year membership from CWRA



CWRA	ACRH
Canadian Water Resources Association	Association Canadienne des Ressources Hydriques

Details can be found at: <http://www.conference.cwra.org/>

Applications should be sent to:

Chair

CWRA Scholarship Committee

Canadian Water Resources Association

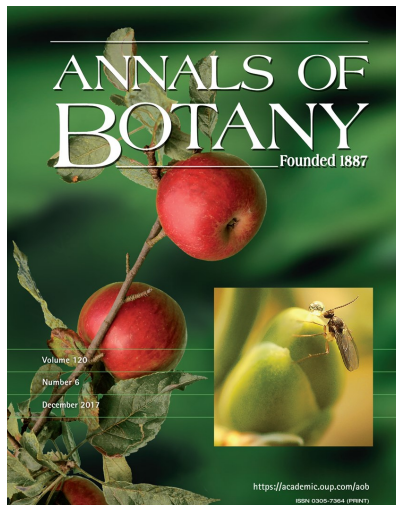
176 Gloucester Street

Suite 320

Ottawa, ON K2P 0A6

Questions regarding the applications process should be sent via email to: membership@cwra.org

Biology Announcements



UVic Biology Publications

A paper featuring a number of UVic biologists, as well as collaborators from Italy and the US, made the cover of the venerable journal *Annals of Botany*. The paper is about carbohydrate and amino acid composition of pollination drops, and what these data imply in terms of the evolution of reproductive mechanisms in seed plants.

The inset cover image shows an empidid fly feeding on a pollination drop of the ambophilous gymnosperm *Ephedra minuta*. The chemical profile of the ovular secretions identified higher sugar content and presence of specific amino acids that are known to influence insect feeding behaviour and physiology. *Ginkgo biloba* also showed a profile typical of ambophilous taxa, suggesting that insect pollination either exists but is undocumented, or has existed in the past.

Congratulations to Jill Lemmen (MSc, 2016) for publishing her research using fossil chironomids to infer past climate in the *Journal of Paleolimnology*. See her paper here: [Lemmen and Lacourse \(2017\)](#)



If you have stories or announcements that would like to share for the Biology newsletter, please email Chantal Laliberté at biology@uvic.ca or Laura Alcaraz-Sehn at bioclerk@uvic.ca.

Teaching Assistant Conferences

Spring Teaching Assistant (TA) Conference

Wednesday, January 3 and Thursday, January 4, 2018. HHB128

The TA conference is spread over two days, with workshops organized so that you can engage with many topics necessary to fulfill your role as a TA and as a futures educator in higher education. The conference is designed to help you develop and improve your teaching skills. Experienced TAs and Teaching Assistant Consultants have been invited to present workshops covering a wide spectrum of topics. The conference is a great opportunity to connect and share your ideas and experiences with graduate students in other faculties, and for professional and personal development. The conference is FREE for all graduate students, new and returning teaching and academic assistants and instructors. Pre-registration required. To view sessions and register: https://ners.uvcs.uvic.ca/ltc/ners/Workshops/01/2018#MainContent_rptWorkshopList_lblTitle_0

International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Conference

Friday, January 5, 2018. HHB128

Any graduate student (landed, student visa or permanent resident) who is teaching or planning to teach in Canada is invited to attend this special conference designed to fill your needs. The conference will help you develop and improve your teaching skills. Workshops will help you engage with many topics necessary to fulfill your role as an ITA and as a TA teaching EAL students in your lab or tutorial. The conference is a great opportunity to connect and share your ideas and experiences with graduate students in other faculties, and for professionals and person development. The conference is FREE for all graduate students, new and returning teaching and academic assistants and instructors. To view sessions and register:

https://ners.uvcs.uvic.ca/ltc/ners/Workshops/01/2018#MainContent_rptWorkshopList_lblTitle_0



And



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