

# Department of Biology Newsletter

Friday, February 16, 2018

## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

### Congratulations Biology Graduates who Defended Fall 2017!

The department of Biology congratulates the following graduate students who defended in the Fall of 2017.

Aaron Eger MSc	Supervisor: Dr. Julia Baum
Cameron Freshwater PhD	Supervisors: Dr. Francis Juanes and Dr. Marc Trudel
Eric Rondeau PhD	Supervisor: Dr. Ben Koop
Debra Wertman MSc	Supervisors: Dr. Steve Perlman and Dr. Kathy Bleiker



### Welcome to our New Graduate Students

Sarah Lane (Ehlting lab, MSc)  
Katrina Nikolich (Juanes lab, PhD)



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### Upcoming Seminars 2017-2018 Series. Everyone Welcome!

#### Centre for Forest Biology



#### Biology

**Dr. Peter Fairley**  
Freelance Science Journalist,  
Victoria

“Science Journalism, Propaganda and the Growing Politicization of Science”

Wed., February 21, 2018  
at 2:30 pm in CUN 146

**Dr. Kristina Hillesland**  
Division of Biology Sciences,  
U. Washington Bothell

“Investigating coevolution in a microbial mutualism”

Friday, March 9, 2018  
at 3:30 pm in MSB 150

#### Centre for Forest Biology



#### Biology

**Lan Tran**  
PhD Student, UBC Botany and  
Centre for Forest Biology,  
UVic

TBA

Wed., March 14, 2018  
at 2:30 pm in CUN 146

**Dr. Bryan Thines**  
Department of Biology,  
University of Puget Sound

“It’s not easy being green: Arabidopsis F-box gene responses to abiotic stress”

Friday, March 16, 2018  
at 3:30 pm in MSB 150

## Calendar

### Important Dates:

**Monday-Friday, February 12-16**

**Thursday, February 15**

**Wednesday, February 28**

**Friday, March 2**

**Friday, March 30**

Reading Break for all faculties

Faculty of Graduate Studies deadline to apply to graduate for Spring Convocation

Last day for withdrawing from full year and second term courses without penalty of failure

Senate meets

Good Friday



## 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. Alex van Netten**, Department of Physics and Astronomy—February 20

“Caveman Science: From Fire to Bows”

**Dr. Katherine Elvira**, Department of Chemistry—February 27

“Smaller is better: using lab-on-a-chip platforms in pharma and hospitals”

**Dr. Alex Brolo**, Department of Chemistry and Director of CAMTEC—March 13

“Nanomedicine: Fighting Cancer with Precious Metals”

**Dr. Olav Krigolson and Lab**, School of Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education and Department of Psychology—March 20

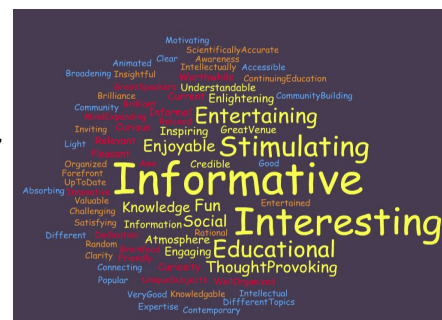
“Tools of the Trade: An Interactive Evening with the Latest Technology in Neuroscience”

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](#)



## Mock MMIs (Multiple Mini Interviews)

### UVic Career Services Mock MMIs

MMIs or Multiple Mini Interviews are used primarily for assessing students for admittance to health related professional schools. This interview format consists of a series of short interviews (usually 6-10 minutes each) that take place at separate stations on a circuit. Although Multiple Mini Interviews were initially developed for medical school candidates, they are now common for admittance to nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and veterinary schools.

- Students and Alumni need to have received a letter/email inviting them to an MMI style interview to be eligible to participate
- Our group Mock MMIs will be held on March 2.
- There are no charges for this session.
- Individual practice sessions (one-on-one Mock MMI questions) may be arranged if the group sessions are full or have already taken place.

To register for a [Mock MMI](#), please contact UVic Career Services: [careers@uvic.ca](mailto:careers@uvic.ca) or 250.721.8421.

## Announcements

### Distinguished Alumni Award

Former Biology MSc student Julie Angus (Julie Wafaei) received the 2018 UVic Distinguished Alumni Award on February 6 from the UVic Libraries for her work as an author and documentary film maker. Julie was an outstanding student, and her thesis was nominated by the Graduate Studies Committee in Biology for the Lieutenant Governor Best Research Thesis award.

### Idea Fest March 5-10, 2018

Ideafest is UVic's week-long festival of research, art and innovation, running from March 5-10, 2018. This year's festival features over 40 outstanding events on topics ranging from climate change and chamber music to indigenous law and antibiotic resistance. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information on dates and times visit: [ideafest, ideas that change everything](#)



## Workshops and Courses

### Emergency Preparedness @ UVic

This session looks at what you as individual can do to be prepared at home and in the workplace. Open to anyone from the University community.

Upcoming dates:

February 20, 2018, 10:00-11:30 am

March 14, 2018, 1:30-3:00 pm

For more information visit the [emergency procedures](#) page.



Just in case.

### Wilderness & Marine Basic First Aid Course @ UVic

OHSE is facilitating 2 sessions to coincide with the 2018 Summer Fieldwork season:

March 13, 14, 15, 2018

This 2.5 day First Aid course is meant for UVic field scientists. Students will receive Transport Canada recognized Marine Basic First Aid certification, which includes CPR level C and AED, valid for 3 years, plus hands-on first aid training from wilderness and remote area fieldwork.

To register please visit: [Wilderness & Marine Basic First Aid Course UVic](#)

You will need your NetLink ID and password to log in.

### Keep Calm and Carry a Pipetteman. Michael Smith Lab @ UBC

The Michael Smith Labs present their Molecular Biology Workshop. February 19 to 23, 2018. \$1,500

This intense 5 day workshop will focus on a myriad of different techniques used in the molecular manipulation of DNA, RNA and protein, as well as inclusion of lectures of high throughput genomic techniques. Primarily aimed at researchers who are new to the area, familiar but require a quick updating, or would like more practical bench training.

Hands on techniques covered include: Various nucleic acid purification methodologies (silica bead, organic, and/or pl based), restriction digests, ligations, dephosphorylation assays, agarose gel electrophoresis transformation (including electroporation), PCR, reverse transcriptase assay, real time qPCR, SDS-PAGE, Western blot analysis, Isoelectric focusing strips, and 2D protein gels. This also includes theoretical and hands-on work on Next Gen Sequencing (using an Ion Torrent set up). To register or inquire about the workshop, please contact Dr. David Ng at [db@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:db@mail.ubc.ca) or 604-822-6264.

More information can be found at: [Molecular Biology Workshop for Professionals](#)



### Shark food is where it's at

For sharks, it's more *where* they eat than *what* they eat – at least when it comes to feeding patterns. Scientists have known little until now about the foraging habits of the world's 500 or more shark species. Thanks to a new study—led by UK researchers Christopher Bird and Clive Trueman, and co-authored by biologists Francis Juanes and Amy Teffer now at the University of Victoria—it's clear that coastal sharks have very different ways of feeding than sharks in the deeper ocean. The conservation implications for globally declining shark populations are significant.

The international team representing 73 scientists from 21 countries used carbon signatures to show on a global scale where sharks get most of their nutrients. The new research indicates that shelf-dwelling sharks living near coastlines feed locally across a range of areas, but deeper ocean sharks get most of their food from specific areas of colder, productive water in both the northern and southern hemispheres. This knowledge will help shark conservation by emphasizing how much sharks rely on coastal habitats and mid-latitude open ocean areas, which in turn will be used to plan marine-protected areas and reduce fishing pressures on shark populations of the world.

An international PhD candidate in biology at UVic, Teffer was born in the US and earned an MSc in 2012 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where Juanes was her advisor. Teffer and Juanes, along with former UMass Amherst PhD student Michelle Staudinger who is also a co-author on the new study, published a paper in 2014, which caught Bird's attention and led to the two UVic researchers joining the synthesis study on global shark ecology. At the time, Teffer was working with recreational fishers to collect tissue and stomach samples from catches on Cape Cod and the Islands of Massachusetts.



Amy Teffer sampling

"The strength of the results is the compilation of studies, bringing together researchers and global perspectives on a vital conservation concern," says Juanes, a faculty member in the biology department who came to UVic in 2011.

The paper, "[A global perspective on the trophic geography of sharks](#)," will be published in the February issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.

More info on the international study: [University of Southampton news release](#), [uMass Amherst news release](#)

## Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre





## UVic Women in Science

UVic Women in Science is a club with the purpose to connect and support female graduate and undergraduate students pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. Through newsletters, social events, guest lectures and professional development seminars, this network is open to all genders and persons who want to contribute to the success of these women. Membership offers a variety of resources that aim to support and enable members to form relationships with peers, professors, and industry professionals.



For more information contact Lauren McMillan at: [lmcmilla@uvic.ca](mailto:lmcmilla@uvic.ca) or [communication.uvic.wis@gmail.com](mailto:communication.uvic.wis@gmail.com)  
Visit: [UVic Women in Science](#) for more information on events, interviews, resources and community.  
Next meet-up is: March 8th, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Irish Times (19+ )

## Volunteer Opportunity

### Rural eMentoring BC

Rural eMentoring BC would like you to consider joining them as a volunteer mentor. Rural eMentoring BC connects rural high school students to post-secondary students studying Health Sciences across the province. Mentors guide mentees through exploring school and career options and share the tools to navigate Health Sciences pathways.

Volunteering in Rural eMentoring BC program has many benefits. Youth and communities gain a knowledgeable member for a semester and you will get the chance to learn new skills and gain new understandings of the rural experience.

Mentees commit 2-3 hours a week to work through flexible online curriculum activities and discuss topics like study habits and goal settings with their mentors. Last year there were many students who came consistently to the program in the hope that they would eventually be paired with a mentor.

**YOU CAN BE THAT MENTOR!**



You can read about this great opportunity offered by Rural eMentoring BC by visiting [www.eMentoringBC.com](http://www.eMentoringBC.com) . You can also email [e.mentoring@ubc.ca](mailto:e.mentoring@ubc.ca) for more information.



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

### **Editors:**

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