Nicholas Planidin: Second Place at 2018 Honours Fest

The Boehm Family Award for Excellence in Science

Nicholas Planidin, a fourth-year undergraduate student in the biology honours program, clinched second place at this year’s Honours Fest poster competition, winning a prize of $1000.

This year competition was steep, with the honours students from all departments within the faculty of science coming together to share their research with fellow students and faculty alike.

Nicholas is completing his honours thesis under the supervision of Dr. Reimchen, investigating neuromasts of the lateral line of threespine stickleback. His findings, which indicate an unexpected right-side asymmetry to the number of neuromasts of the lateral line, suggest a diversity of new questions and approaches in studies of fish behavior including predator-prey interactions. If the results are confirmed on other species, it would substantially alter understanding of this major sensory organ that has been largely assumed to be bilaterally symmetrical. Congratulations on your achievement Nicholas!

Upcoming Seminars 2017-2018 Series. Everyone Welcome!

Centre for Forest Biology
Dr. Nicolas Feau
Department of Forests Sciences, UBC
“How tree domestication and cultivation triggers the emergence of novel pathogens: the invasion history of poplar leaf-spot and canker disease”
Wed., March 21, 2018 at 2:30 pm in CUN 146

Biology
Dr. Roi Holzman
Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University
“The sad story of larval fishes” what constrains larval feeding and survival during the ‘critical period’?”
Friday, March 23, 2018 at 3:30 pm in MSB 150

Centre for Forest Biology
Dr. Miriam Isaac-Rentos
Postdoctoral Fellow, MFLNORD and Dr. David Montwé, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Alberta
“Adaptation of lodgepole pine to climatic extremes: Implications for assisted migration”
Wed., March 28, 2018 at 2:30 pm in CUN 146

Biology
Dr. Mike Worobey
LANSDOWNE LECTURER
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona
“TBA”
Friday, April 5, 2018 at 3:30 pm in MSB 150
Calendar

**Important Dates:**

- **Friday, March 30**
  - Good Friday

- **Monday, April 2**
  - Easter Monday

- **Friday, April 6**
  - Senate meets, Last day of classes for all faculties, except Faculty of Human and Social Development.

- **Monday April 9**
  - Examinations begin for all faculties, except for Faculty of Human and Social Development

- **Tuesday, April 24**
  - Examinations end for all faculties. End of Winter Session

- **Friday, May 4**
  - Senate meets

- **Monday, May 7**
  - May and May-June courses begin for all faculties

Biology Announcements

**Publications**

J. Baum, D. Claar. New Science paper on mass coral bleaching. Dr. Julia Baum and PhD student Danielle Claar are co-authors on a paper published January 5, 2018 in Science “Spatial and temporal patterns of mass bleaching of corals in the Anthropocene”. The team looked at 100 reefs from around the world and found that the average interval between bleaching events has been reduced by more than half.

*Publication*

A. Ferguson, E. Carvalho, G. Gourlay, V. Walker, S. Martens, J. Salminen, C. P. Constabel. Phytochemical analysis of salal berry (Gaultheria shallon Pursh.), a traditionally-consumed fruit from western North America with exceptionally high proanthocyanidin content.

*Publication*

**Baby News**

Congratulations to our Graduate Student, Jess Wyatt, on the birth of Rory Rosalind Crowson, born on Friday, February 16, 2018. Mother and daughter are doing well.

Congratulations to Dr. Ben Koop on the birth of his grandson, William Peter, born on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.
Biology Oral Defences

Amanda McLaughlin, PhD
Supervisor: Dr. John Taylor
Tuesday, March 27, 2018 @12:30 pm in Halpern Grad House, Room 108
Title: “Na+ channels enhance low contrast signalling in the superior-coding direction-selective circuit”

Kyle Beer, MSc
Supervisor: Dr. Terri Lacourse
Friday, April 13, 2018 @ 1:00 pm in HHB 120
“Holocene Ecosystem Dynamics of a Central Vancouver Island Wetland: Development, Vegetation Change, and Carbon Accumulation”

Amy Teffer, PhD
Supervisor: Dr. Francis Juanes
Monday, April 16, 2018 @ 2:00 pm in CLE B007
“Impacts of cumulative thermal and fishery stressors and infection development on the health and survival of adult Pacific salmon during freshwater residence”

Graeme Keais, MSc
Supervisor: Dr. Steve Perlman
Tuesday, April 17, 2018 @ 10:00 am in ECS 130
“X Chromosome Drive in Drosophila testacea”

David Minkley, MSc
Supervisor: Dr. Ben Koop
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 @ 10:00 am in HHB 120
“Transposable Elements in the Salmonid Genome”

Michael Minkley, MSc
Supervisors: Drs. Patrick Walter and Raad Nashmi
Thursday, April 19, 2018 @ 9:00 am HHB 120
“Ironing out the Pathophysiology of Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation (NBIA) - Clinical Investigations and Disease Modeling Yield Novel Evidence of Systemic Dysfunction and Provide a Robust and Accurate Disease Model of NBIA”

Mauricio Carrasquilla, PhD
Supervisor: Dr. Francis Juanes
Tuesday, April 19, 2018 @ 2:00 pm in CLE B017
“Ecological importance of nearshore habitats to sustain small-scale fisheries”

Anastasia Litke, MSc
Supervisor: Dr. Bob Chow
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 @ 10:00 am in MSB 150
“Investigating the pathogenicity of missense mutations in VSX1 and their association with corneal dystrophies”
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. 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”

Dr. Alan McConnachie, NRC Herzberg (Dominion Astrophysical Observatory) and Department of Physics and Astronomy—April 10
“Canada’s Place in the Galaxy”

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

Ocean Networks Canada

2018 PICES Summer School
Ocean Networks Canada will host the 2018 PICES summer school on Coastal Ocean Observatory Science. July 9-13, 2018, Victoria, BC

Who can attend? Early career scientists

What? Learn about ocean sensors, data QA/AC, time –series analysis and Ocean Networks Canada’s observing technology, through field expectation, laboratory demonstrations and lectures.

Cost? Cost of course, meals and accommodation is covered. Participants are responsible for their own travel costs (although limited funding support is available; for more details, contact asastri@uvic.ca).

Applications are due March 16, 2018.
For more detailed information, visit meetings.pices.int

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 or communication.uvic.wis@gmail.com
Visit: UVic Women in Science for more information on events, interviews, resources and community.
UVic Announcements

5 Days of Action - Courageous Conversations
March 19-23, 2018. What roles do words, narratives, and stories play in creating and maintaining exclusion? How can they be harnessed in our attempt to create a more inclusive and respectful UVic community? The purpose of this week is to encourage every member of the UVic community to take concrete steps toward ending discrimination, harassment, and sexualized violence on campus. 5 Days of Action is aimed at re-establishing our 365 days of commitment toward these goals.

Events: The week explores intersecting sub-themes related to race and ethnicity, sex and gender, disability, sexuality, and religious affiliation. Explore how social location shapes our commitments and capacity to identify and address barriers to inclusion.

Programming for the week includes:
- Daily calls to action
- Workshops
- Theatre presentations and films
- Diverse forms of social media engagement and activism

Contact us to share how you want to participate: eqhr@uvic.ca or 250-721-8488

This Event is held on the UVic campus, traditional territory of the Lkwungen-speaking peoples, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Scholarships

Organization of American States (OAS) Academic Scholarships Program
Competition open for Canadians. The organization of American States (OAS) has launched its 2018-2019 Academic Scholarships Program. One scholarship will be awarded to a Canadian to study or conduct research at the Master's or PhD level, leading to a degree from a university in an OAS member state. The scholarship is tenable starting in August/September 2018.

- Program name: Organization of American States Academic Scholarships Programs
- Funding organization: Organization of American States
- Target audiences: Canadians who wish to undertake graduate studies or research in a university in an OAS member state (except Canada)
- Duration: 1-2 academic years
- Value: USD $15,000 (Maximum) per academic year
- Inclusions: Airfare, tuition fees, mandatory expenses, monthly allowance, medical insurance and annual book allowance
- Deadline: March 21, 2018

For full program details and to submit an application, visit: Organization of American States (OAS) Academic Scholarships

All inquiries regarding this scholarship program should be directed to: admin-scholarships-bourses@cbie.ca or 313-237-4820.

Subscribe to the International Scholarships RSS feed to be kept informed of competition launch dates and other news relating to the International Scholarships Program of Global Affairs.

International Pacific Halibut Commission Merit Scholarships
The International Pacific Halibut Commission funds several Merit Scholarships to support university technical college and other post secondary education. The scholarship fund has been established to assist the further education of Canadian and U.S.A. students connected to the Pacific halibut fishery. Generally, a single new scholarship valued at $4,000 (USD) per year is awarded every two years. The scholarships are renewable annually for the normal four-year period of undergraduate education, subject to maintenance of satisfactory academic performance. A Scholarship Committee composed of industry and Commission representatives reviews applications and determines recipients based on academic qualifications, career goals, and relationship to the halibut industry.

Applications are available through the Commission Opportunities.

Applications must be received by June 30, 2018 and emailed to secretariat@iphc.int.
**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.

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

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**Editors:**

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