

Department of Biology Newsletter

February 15, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Distinguished Alumni Award 2019: Shawn Stebbins

Shawn Stebbins was raised on a small farm in southern Alberta, moving to the coast immediately after high-school graduation to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Victoria. He was instantly hooked on the west coast. Starting in his second year, Shawn began to pursue a career in fisheries biology through summer work-terms.



Forty years later, Shawn is the President and CEO of Archipelago Marine Research. His career, working with commercial fisheries to improve resource sustainability through effective monitoring and management, spans over three decades. He has helped to implement ground-breaking resource-management initiatives, including British Columbia’s world-class groundfish fisheries monitoring program—considered to be among the most progressive and effective in the world.

Shawn Stebbins lives in the Highlands with his partner Colleen Hobson, Executive Director at Saanich Neighborhood Place. They have two adult children in Victoria; Emma a preschool teacher and Ben a chiropractor.

Biography provided by:
Julia Keenan, Alumni Annual Giving Officer, Faculty of Engineering and Science, UVic

Inside this issue:	
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD 2019 : SHAWN STEBBINS	1
SEMINARS	1
CALENDAR	2
CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE	2
MMIS	2
BIOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
UVIC WOMEN IN SCIENCE	3
UVIC ECOLOGY CLUB	4
IDEAFEST	4
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	4
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	5
WILD ARC PRACTICUM PROGRAM	5

Biology Seminars, Everyone Welcome!

Biology



Dr. Justin Whitehill
Research Assistant,
Michael Smith Laboratories,
University of British Columbia

“Genomic Applications to Improve Weevil Resistance in Spruce”

Friday, February 15, 2019
at 3:30 pm MSB 150

Biology



Dr. Ian Perry
Research Scientist,
Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
Pacific Biological Station,
Nanaimo, BC and Institute of
Ocean Sciences, Sidney, BC

“Plankton and the changing Pacific Ocean west of Vancouver Island”

Friday, March 1, 2019
at 3:30 pm in MSB 150

Biology



Dr. Simon Landhäusser
Professor,
Department of Renewable
Resources,
University of Alberta

“TBA”

Friday, March 8, 2019
at 3:30 pm MSB 150

Calendar

Important Dates :

Monday, February 18

Monday-Friday, February 18-22

Thursday, February 28

Friday, March 1

Friday, April 5

Monday, April 8

Friday, April 19

Monday, April 22

Saturday, April 27

Family day

Reading break for all faculties

Last day for withdrawing from full year and

second term courses without penalty

Senate meets

Senate meets

Last day of classes for all faculties

Examinations begin for all faculties

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Examinations end for all faculties. End of Winter Session



Café Scientifique

The Café Scientifique Series

Informal [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.

Place: Hermann's Jazz Club (753 View Street)

Doors open: 5:00pm

Event starts: 6:30 pm

February 19: ["Depression and Social Stigma"](#) by Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Raquel Romay-Tallon, Division of Medical Sciences

March 12: ["Fukushima and the Health of the Pacific Ocean: The Science and the Conspiracy Theories"](#) by Dr. Jay Cullen, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences

March 19: ["The Developing Brain: A Shapeshifting Powerhouse"](#) by MD, PhD Candidate, Juan C. Sanchez-Arias, Division of Medical Sciences



UVic Career Services MMIs

Mock Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)

The group Mock MMIs will be held on Friday March 1, 2019.

Students and alumni need to have received an email invitation to be eligible to participate.

The sessions include taking part in Mock MMI sessions and receiving feedback and coaching from evaluators. There are no charges for these sessions. Individual practice sessions (one on one Mock MMI questions) may be arranged.

Registration is through the following link: [MMIs Registration](#)

CO-OP
CAREER

Biology Announcements

Congratulations Dr. Reimchen!

Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Reimchen for his recent paper published in Science: DNA fragility in the parallel evolution of pelvic reduction in stickleback fish. For more information please click [here](#).



Biology Co-op

It is with regrets that we say goodbye to Rachel Richmond, who has been the Biology Co-op and Career Assistant for 14 years. Rachel accepted a position in Political Science as their Graduate Assistant, and will be starting on March 4. Good luck Rachel, and thank you for your dedicated work in Biology!

Alumni News

Congratulations to Amy Teffer, UVic PhD 2018 for receiving a 2019 David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship. Dr. Teffer will complete a project titled, "The Infectious Disease Ecology of Improved Watershed Connectivity: Reducing Uncertainty in Population Forecasts".



While the Fellows' research projects focus on urgent conservation issues, they also learn firsthand the challenges and rewards of conservation applications. The program's focus is to enlarge their professional opportunities and ensure future success by helping them build relationships in the conservation and research communities and by providing opportunities for professional development through targeted workshops and training events. The fellowship is named after the late Dr. David H. Smith, founder of the Cedar Tree Foundation, pediatrician, inventor and conservationist.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Graduate Student Office Space

After months of waiting, graduate students have moved into the new graduate study office space. An impromptu ribbon cutting ceremony was held where Janice Gough cut the ribbon. We thank Janice for her organization and perseverance with Facilities Management to get this project to completion, and Peter Constabel for the original vision. Graduate students Lise, Juan and Sarah were the first ones to move in.

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.



Next meet up is on March 8 to celebrate International Women's Day. We will be hosting a panel with advocates for women in science and discuss important issues facing women in STEM fields. For updates about this event, check out our Facebook page [@womeninscienceuvic](#).

Visit: UVic Women in Science (<https://www.uvicwomeninscience.com>) for more information on events, interviews, resources and community.

UVic Ecology Club

Ecology Club

A club ran by graduate students to help connect people across disciplines. There are many departments with an ecological component and this club aims to facilitate inter-disciplinary connections and opportunities.

What Ecology Club does:

- *Hosts seminars weekly on a broad spectrum of hot topics
- *Facilitates social events throughout the school year including writing retreats
- *Supports across campus communications
- *Builds an on-line library of resources and content

If you are interested in ecology, don't hesitate to connect with the Ecology Club by joining their [list serve](#).

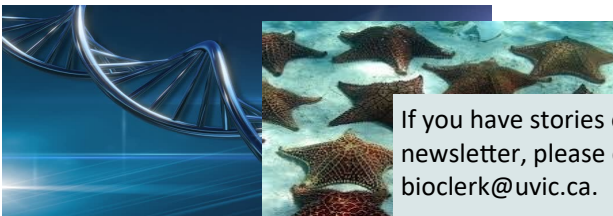
To learn more [click here](#).



UVic Ideafest

Ideafest: Ideas that can change everything

Join UVic thinkers, innovators and artists for a free week-long festival of world-changing ideas. Let your curiosity guide you at uvic.ca/ideafest March 4 to 9, 2019.



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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Rural eMentoring BC (ReMBC)

ReMBC 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 as an ReMBC Mentor has many benefits:

- Flexible timing – work mentoring into your schedule
- Learning new skills like holding space
- Gaining new understandings of the rural experience

ReMBC
Rural eMentoring BC

Looking for Health Sciences Students

Calling for Volunteer Mentors!!!

Great Volunteer Opportunity!

Flexible Timing
2-3 hours a week

What is ReMBC
Rural eMentoring is a provincial online mentoring program that connects rural high school students to post-secondary mentors studying Health Sciences. Join your Mentee on our online platform, share high school and post secondary experiences as you explore videos, games and more. Spend a semester as an eMentor and inspire rural youth to pursue Health Sciences!

Start Mentoring Online this Feb 2019
Make an impact in a Rural Community

For more information email at e.mentoring@ubc.ca or visit us at eMentoringBC.com

Employment Opportunities

BC Park Student Ranger Program 2019

The program, now in its second year, aims to:

Provide short-term employment opportunities for students, to be exposed to working for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy at BC Parks.

Offer student workers a diversity of experiences and training opportunities to develop their knowledge and/or skill sets.

Facilitate Indigenous student involvement in projects within BC Parks protected areas that are being undertaken on culturally significant sites and traditional territories of Indigenous communities across the province.

Provide student workers with an opportunity to foster their interest in caring for B.C.'s natural spaces.

Align crew projects with the BC Parks' strategies and related regional priorities to maintain and enhance BC Parks natural and cultural values and recreational opportunities and assets.

Promote the Ministry and BC Parks as an employer of choice for future career planning.

For the 2019 season, 12 crews of four student rangers (comprised of 1 Crew Lead and 3 Crew Members) will work in regions throughout the province, including Prince George, Fort St. John, Terrace, Bella Coola, Williams Lake, Manning Park, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Victoria (Goldstream Provincial Park), Black Creek (Miracle Beach Provincial Park), North Vancouver (Mount Seymour Provincial Park) and Sechelt (Porpoise Bay Provincial Park). Crew lead positions begin May 13 and crew members begin May 26, ending on August 30 2019.

For additional information on the program, including how to apply for the crew member and crew lead positions, please see the [Student Ranger Program website](#).

Wild ARC Practicum Program

Practicums are unique and rewarding volunteer opportunities aimed to gain valuable career experience under the mentorship of professional wildlife rehabilitators. Participants participate in learning lunches and are expected to put in the time required for the day to day operations of the facility which is often more than 40 hours a week, plus any reporting requirements for their educational credit program.



Wild ARC's Practicum Program offers two distinct streams:

Wild Life Rehabilitation Practicum

Practicum to improve technical wildlife treatment and medical skills, including patient examination, avian gavage feeding, medication dosage calculation and administration, and laboratory work.

Wildlife Enrichment Practicum

Practicum to gain in-depth husbandry knowledge of a particular wild species, to learn the natural history of wild patients, to help select ideal release locations, and to use creative innovation to improve species' in care enrichment material and protocols. This practicum option is of particular interest to prospective sanctuary keepers or other wildlife custodians, animal welfare researchers and advocates or veterinary assistants interested in an exotic animal practice.

Application deadline March 1, of each year. For more detailed information click [here](#).

Editors: L. Alcaraz-Sehn, C. Laliberté

Contributors: J. Keenan (Alumni Annual Giving Officer), Dr. F. Juanes, Wild Arc, BC Parks, Rural eMentoring UBC, Dr. B. Hawkins, Dr. T. Reimchen, Dr. D. Luszniak

Department of Biology

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

Tel: 250-721-7095

Fax: 250-721-7120



**University
of Victoria**

Email: biolgy@uvic.ca

Website:

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