



# Department of Biology

December 18, 2020

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

## The End of an Era - Farewell to Dr. Francis Choy

Dr. Francis Choy will be retiring at the end of the month, and it is with mixed feelings that we bade him farewell through a virtual celebration on December 11.

Francis Choy  
(poem by Dr. B. Ehling)

From Hong Kong Francis Choy came  
to beautiful Victoria, so no one to blame.  
He is home in Broadmead with Sandy his wife,  
and he made UVic his second partner for life.

In 1992 the department of biology hired Francis as professor;  
students and colleagues know he is NOT an aggressor!  
When working with Francis he was always full of praise:  
charming us with compliments on so many days!

In his research he studies Gaucher disease,  
the students in class have to learn about Mendel's peas  
Francis helped many students as undergrad advisor, and many  
master and Phd students graduated with him as supervisor.

Francis' lectures were funny and he made the whole lecture hall laugh,  
and next thing you know, he explains Lyon's hypothesis with a graph.  
1000s of students learned about traits that were genetic,  
he wrote a poem for class, so HE taught ME to be poetic!

Retirement is a well-deserved next step in your career,  
we hope that you enjoy more time with Sandy and some beer.  
Hopefully giving guest lectures will draw you back to class  
(and in that case, you don't have to worry if students pass!)

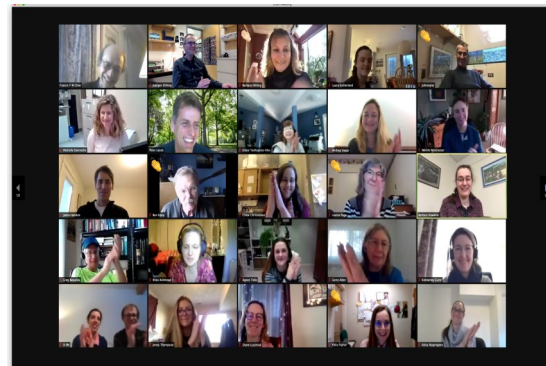
All the best for your future, and you will be missed  
and for the end you get virtually kissed!

HAPPY RETIREMENT FRANCIS!



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Over 50 people joined  
the Zoom Retirement  
Party for Dr. Choy.

## Dr. Barbara Hawkins' Term as Chair Ends

A virtual thank-you party was thrown for Dr. Barbara Hawkins to show our appreciation for her dedication to the Department during her term as Chair.

To the tune of *Red River Valley*  
lyrics by Dr. Constabel

From this **office** they say you are going,  
We will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile  
For they say you are taking the sunshine,  
That has brightened our **hallways** a while.

refrain:

Sit and write us one more email.  
Do not pause, just bid it 'adieu!'  
And remember your **silent** colleagues,  
Craving a **memo** from you.

Once you're on your hard-earned **admin leave**,  
You will soo-on forget those long hours.  
That you spent-on **mindless administration**,  
But rather, you'll be smelling the flowers.

refrain:

Sit and write us one more email.  
Do not pause, just bid it adieu!  
And remember your **bug-eyed** colleagues,  
Craving a **memo** from you.

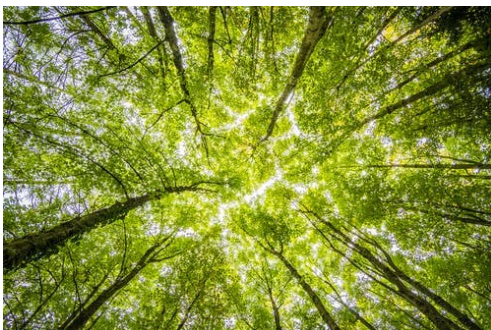
As you get back to-your laboratory,  
Oh, how cool and exciting it will be  
You'll think fondly of those **endless meetings**,  
Now that you're finally free.

refrain:

Sit and write us one more email.  
Do not pause, just bid it adieu!  
And remember your **thankful** colleagues,  
Craving that **memo** from you.



# Thank you Barbara!



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)

## Calendar

### Important Dates:

**Monday, December 25th** Christmas Day  
**Monday, December 25th, 2020**  
**until Sunday, January 3rd, 2021** University Closed



## Biology Announcements

### Congratulations to Dr. Nicole Templeman, a New Tier 2 Canada Research Chair!

Dr. Templeman, appointed CRC in Cell Biology, aims to better understand how to delay and slow the progression of age-related deterioration. Aging is characterized by cellular deterioration that underlies a myriad of changes, including a reduced capacity for reproduction, and increased susceptibility to diseases. However, the rate and severity of this decline is malleable, and is controlled by signaling pathways and molecular mechanisms that are largely consistent across species. The Templeman lab uses techniques based on genetics, physiology and molecular biology to study age-related changes from the molecular and cellular levels to the whole organism.



Nicole Templeman. Credit: UVic Photo Services

### Publications

[Multiple origins of obligate nematode and insect symbionts by a clade of bacteria closely related to plant pathogens](#)

V. G. Martinson, R.M. R. Gawryluk, B.E. Gowen, C. I. Curtis, J. Jeanike, and S. Perlman, *in PNAS*, December 15, 2020

[Dynamic symbioses reveal pathways to coral survival through prolonged heatwaves](#)

D. C. Claar, S. Starko, K.L. Tietjen, H. E. Epstein, R. Cunning, K. M. Cobb, A.C. Baker, R.D. Gates & J. K. Baum, *in Nature Communications*, December 8, 2020

[Expert assessment of future vulnerability of the global peatland carbon sink](#)

Loisel et al. T. Lacourse (co-author), *in Nature Climate Change*, December 7, 2020

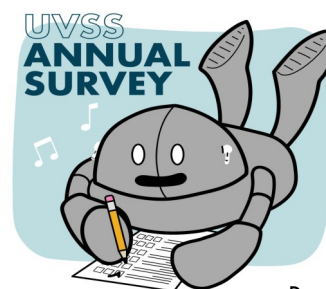
## UVSS Survey

### Annual UVSS Survey

The UVSS Annual Survey is out to better adjust to the needs of students at UVic—particularly during COVID-19. Completing the survey enters students in a draw to win AirPods!

[View Survey](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sarina at outreach@uvss.ca.



## Employment Opportunities



Where ideas work

### **Ecosystems Biologist - Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**

The role and work of the Habitat Section of Resource management in the Cariboo Region of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is to conserve and manage healthy native species and ecosystems. The work involves a broad range of subject areas and functions including collecting and managing information on species habitats and ecosystems, species at risk, habitat conservation, management and restoration, and developing and implementing standards and guidelines related to these areas. This position currently focuses on assessing high risk referrals and project developments, ecosystem restoration planning for grasslands, and post-wildfire habitat restoration, although priorities may change to reflect government direction.

You can find more information, and a complete list of qualifications [here](#).  
Apply online by January 6, 2021.

### **CDC Zoologist - Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy Multiple locations on Vancouver Island, BC**

As the Zoologist, you will be part of the Zoology unit of the BC CDC. You will have responsibilities that include developing and maintaining the lists of animals in BC and be challenged with conducting conservation status rank assessments reflecting the risk of species extinction. You will also map Element Occurrences of species at risk, manage the mapping contractors, and organize, compile, analyze and maintain zoological data and information from multiple sources. Your skillset will allow the opportunity to provide expert professional advice while working with staff of other disciplines within the BC CDC, contractors, and other provincial, national and international Zoologists.

You can find more information, and a complete list of qualifications [here](#).  
Apply on line by January 10, 2021.

### **Wildlife Biologist (Caribou) - Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Prince George or Smithers**

As a Wildlife Biologist (Caribou), you will support the implementation of the government's management goals, objectives and principles that support the conservation and recovery of caribou in BC. You will support the government's commitments in promoting working relationships with internal and external partners, stakeholders, First Nations and government agencies to achieve [BC Caribou Recovery Program](#) goals.

You can find more information, and a complete list of qualifications [here](#).  
Apply on line by January 11, 2021.

## Employment Opportunities

### Assistant Professor - Field Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto

The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto invites applications for a tenure stream appointment in Field Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the rank of Assistant Professor, with an expected start date of July 1, 2021.



Looking for candidates who conduct conceptually driven field research to study fundamental questions in ecology and/or evolution. Seeking applications from candidates whose research program complements the research programs of the highly collaborative faculty currently in the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Complete posting and list of qualifications and description of the research can be found [here](#).

## PEEC

### The 42nd edition of PEEC—February 18-19, 2021

The PEEC conference is free of charge. Registration is now open and will close on January 29. All talks will be pre-recorded and will be due one week before the conference. PEEC will provide more information including instructions on how to record your talk by email to registrants. The registration form and other information about the conference can be accessed via the [PEEC website](#).



For more information, feel free to contact [peec.conference@gmail.com](mailto:peec.conference@gmail.com), or visit the website and social media accounts:  
Facebook: @PEEC2019    Twitter: @pacific\_eec    Instagram: pacific\_eec

We look forward to another successful and exciting PEEC this year!



**Editors:** L. Alcaraz-Sehn, C. Laliberté

**Contributors:**

Dr. P. Constabel, Dr. B. Ehling, Dr. T. Lacourse, UVSS, Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference (PEEC)

**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/>

