Department of Biology

June 21, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Congratulations on your retirement Dr. Gerry Allen!

Dr. Gerry Allen
Gerry Allen has been a faculty member in our Department for 41 years. Her research passion has been plant evolution, ecology and conservation biology. As Director and Curator of the UVic Herbarium she created valuable collections and has written many taxonomic treatments for regional and continent-wide floras that will serve future generations of scientists. Gerry taught a wide range of courses including introductory biology in several forms, plant diversity, plant systematics, evolution and conservation biology. Gerry has an amazing record of service, being a member of our Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for more than 20 years and chair of this committee for five of these years. She was also the Honours Program Advisor for 10 years. Gerry fostered and grew community connections between local plant biologists, including as an advisor to the BC Conservation Data Centre. Her dedicated national service was recognized by the Canadian Botanical Association who gave her the Mary Elliott Award. She is a cherished departmental colleague and friend, and we are grateful for her many contributions to our Department. In retirement, we will look for Gerry wherever asters and fawn lilies are blooming.

Inside this Issue:

Retirement party for Louise Page, Brad Anholt and Gerry Allen

Congratulations on your retirement Dr. Louise Page!

Dr. Louise Page

If you're trying to find Louise at 1am on a cold January night, she'll be equally as likely to be found in Pat Bay, collecting sand dollars and moon snails, using the electron microscope to look at sections of larvae (or sectioning specimens so she can look at them later), or at her computer either reviewing or writing manuscripts, or fine-tuning her lectures.

Louise embodies boundless dedication, commitment, and excellence to research and to teaching. Her painstaking and meticulous reconstructions of larvae have resulted in a long list of publications and conference participations, and her insights and contributions to the field have earned her the respect of her peers.

Louise educates her graduate students by example, leading them to aspire to emulate her unwavering work ethic and high standard of academic integrity. She will always take the time to put on a lab coat and gloves and work through a new procedure with a graduate student. Her students are encouraged to take full ownership of their projects. In fact, the Faculty of Science recognized Louise's dedication and excellence in inspiring students through hands-on teaching by awarding her the 2020 Award for Teaching Excellence. According to one of her students: 'Louise is obviously exceptional. Sitting in her courses as an undergraduate was the one factor that made me believe that I should pursue research and a career studying organismal biology. Her scientific and personal ethics are unimpeachable, and she has been a terrific role model. The enthusiasm Louise shows for teaching is infectious.'

Louise's lectures are inspiring, her knowledge of the material is unparalleled, and her eloquence is legendary. To top it off, she produces freehand drawings illustrating anatomical details at the drop of a hat and consistently uses them in her lectures and her labs!

Louise designs her labs to actively engage students, and she engages along with them! She frequently pops into the lab and jumps right into working side by side with the students. She takes the time to organize and lead field trips for interested students, including trips with graduate and undergraduate students to local beaches at low tides on cold winter nights (are we detecting a theme here?) and multi-night visits to Bamfield Marine Sciences Center. The first-hand experience with animals that the students encounter on these trips is the inspiration that has drawn many or her students to a career in biology.

Louise is looking forward to moving to Lethbridge and spending more time with her family and grandchildren. In her spare time, she is going to grow flowers and vegetables (and as she is an avid gardener, she will no doubt succeed, even in Lethbridge!). She already has plans to deer-proof her garden! We will miss her terribly at UVic!

Congratulations on your Retirement Dr. Brad Anholt!

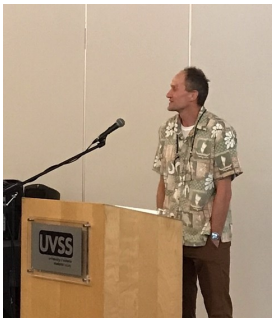
Dr. Bradley Anholt

Brad made science look like fun. The confident light touch that he brought to experiments, belied a lot of deep, careful thought. Like everybody else, I first thought he went fly-fishing for the inner calm, but then I realized he was more like a mathematician who needs an undisturbed place to get the thoughts to where the real intellectual work begins. Its therefore no surprise that his papers are distinguished by their creativity, innovation and straight up cleverness. During the more than a quarter century that he worked in the Biology Department, he created a monument of highly original work focused around ecological factors, including those that drive evolutionary dynamics, predator-prey relations and variation in sex ratios. Because he was interested in how science can reveal life processes, his interests weren't narrow. He published on frogs, dragonflies, copepods, Douglas-fir, and, most recently, humans. His work attracted attention. Invitations followed to take up many fellowships and visiting professorships at foreign universities. This was doubly good; he would bring back prize recipes to amaze us. Brad is a real foodie. Is he the only one to put on a pig roast for the entire department? I think so.

He has been an excellent colleague and teacher. Brad's generosity to graduate students is legendary. He would help them not only develop their statistical chops, but for those who thrived on analysis, Brad would help them switch to a much higher gear. Many of his students and those he nurtured went on to stellar careers. He also pushed our undergraduates by creating a much needed course in experimental design. Whether senior professor or senior undergraduate, we're all better scientists because of him.

Brad's service record was exemplary. He was Chair of Biology Graduate Studies for many years. He did a lot of important work in committees and played an key role in helping the department become better. His leadership of the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (BMSC) helped it not only to survive, but to prosper and thrive.

I personally prized those moments we spent gathering mushrooms, whether it was morels in France or chanterelles along the Cowichan. Rain-or-shine biological outings always ended with convivial meals and laughter. We all wish him a well-deserved and happy retirement.
-Patrick von Aderkas



Brad's vision for BMSC holds true to this day and he was one of the most brilliant people I have ever worked with. Dedicated and committed would be an understatement. He was kind, patient and had a moral compass that made it an honor to work for him. Add to that a wicked sense of humor made it not only an honor but also pleasure. In short, I have nothing but admiration and respect for Brad and wish all the best for him as he enters this new (and well deserved) phase of life.
-Lee Weber, Managing Director BMSC

Brad continues to be an amazing mentor. I have been grateful for his leadership, wisdom and Brad'isms that I rely on to this day as BMSC Director. As a collaborator, our most recent research in Pacific Salmon included partnerships that he developed with DFO and Huu-ay-aht First Nations and that have built significant capacity for research at the BMSC, supporting the training of several students along the way. His compassion and commitment for the importance of student research training is unmatched. The NSERC Discovery Grant 1503 Committee were so impressed with him that he was invited back for a second term - and he even managed to keep the salty language at bay (most of the time)! I'm looking forward to finally having some time to fish together- congratulations Brad!
-Sean Rogers, Director BMSC

Calendar

Important Dates:

Friday, June 24	May-June and June Courses end
Thursday, June 30	Reading Break May-August sections only
Friday, July 1st	Canada Day
Friday, July 1st	Reading Break May-Aug sections only
Monday, July 4	July and July-August courses begin
Friday, July 15	Deadline to apply to graduate for Fall Convocation (all faculties)
Tuesday, July 26	July courses end

Biology Department Work Party

Thanks to everyone who come out for the first ever Biology Work Party last month. We managed to clear a large amount of ivy along the upper trail above Mystic Vale, while having fun and getting to know our colleagues and students better. I think everyone enjoyed themselves ripping out ivy (!), and also the lunch outside the greenhouse afterwards. It was a big success, and I hope we can make this an annual event!

From Dr. Peter Constabel

Welcome to our new Graduate Students

* Foad Abazari Supervisor: Dr. Raad Nashmi

* Talen Rimmer Supervisor: Dr. Francis Juanes

If you have stories or announcements that you would like to share in the Biology newsletter, please email:

Jennie Bartosik at biology@uvic.ca or Laura Alcaraz-Sehn at bioclerk@uvic.ca

International Year of the Salmon Expedition (Biology Grad Students)

International Year of Salmon Expedition

IYS Cew

From February 19th to March 20th, 2022, two graduate students from Dr. John Dower's lab took part in the International Year of the Salmon Pan-Pacific Expedition in the Gulf of Alaska. As part of a team on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada research vessel CCGS Sir John Franklin, Nicholas Ens and Liam Hubbert travelled to 36 stations from 46°N to 57°N and west to 144°W to investigate the biology of pacific salmon and their ecosystem during the largely unstudied winter months.

The Canadian team collaborated with vessels from the USA and Russia to cover as much of the North-east Pacific as possible. Researchers collected water samples to examine oceanographic conditions and phytoplankton biomass, zooplankton samples to examine the availability of prey for salmon, and fished for salmon to study where they originated and what they were feeding on. As part of his MSc research Nic is presently counting and identifying the zooplankton from the expedition, with assistance from Biology undergraduate student Nicole Fung.

Tucker Trawl

Liam Filtering

By comparing these data with multi-frequency echosounder readings collected by the ship, Nic aims to identify hotspots of zooplankton abundance in the Gulf of Alaska, and distinct communities that may be formed by gyres and latitudinal gradients. Overall, this work will lead to a better understanding of the prey available for salmon in the Gulf of Alaska in the winter.

Job Opportunities

Teaching Assistant /Lab Instructor positions available for Fall 2022

The number of positions is subject to enrollment and/or course cancellation.

BIOL 184: Evolution and Biodiversity
BIOL 215: Ecology
BIOL 225: Principles of Cell Biology
BIOL 311/EOS 311: Biological Oceanography
BIOL 321: Survey of Invertebrates
BIOL 325: Tree Biology
BIOL 345: Animal Behaviour
BIOL 365: Animal Physiology
BIOL 448: Neuroethology

The closing date for applications is Sunday, Jul 03, 2022
Please complete the CUPE4163 application form.
Applications and current curriculum vitae are to be sent to Janice Gough, Administrative Officer, Department of Biology bioadmin@uvic.ca. Please visit Biology News and Events to apply.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Abbotsford
Laboratory Scientist, Bacteriology
$66,557.72 - $75,884.38

BRITISH COLUMBIA BC Public Service | Where ideas work

This position is responsible for daily diagnostic works in the bacteriology laboratory section including isolating and identifying a wide range of bacteria and fungi from numerous animal species and environmental samples, coordinating and prioritizing daily diagnostic work and laboratory duties as a team or independently and undertaking quality assurance according to the AAVLD and ISO 17025 standards within bacteriology section.

For more information and to apply online by June 26, 2022, please go to:
https://bcpublicservice.hua.hrsmart.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/88673

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Multiple Locations
Environmental Impact Assessment Biologist
$66,557.72 - $75,884.38 annually, plus a $32.89 bi-weekly isolation allowance for Smithers

As an Environmental Impact Assessment Biologist, you will provide biological, chemical and other environmental impact assessment (EIA) support to legislated and other statutory decision makers. You will be recommending effluent management and monitoring requirements for Environmental Management Act authorizations. You will also have the opportunity to design, implement and assess water quality monitoring programs for EIA studies and provide technical input on Environmental Assessment Act reviews.

For more information and to apply online by July 8, 2022, please go to:
https://bcpublicservice.hua.hrsmart.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/88925

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