We’re delighted to welcome Ian Manners and his research group to Victoria!

Dr. Manners is one of 24 Canada 150 Research Chair holders. “The Canada 150 Research Chairs Program, announced in Budget 2017, invests $117.6 million to enhance Canada’s reputation as a global centre for science, research and innovation excellence, in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary. It provides Canadian institutions with a one-time investment to attract top-tier, internationally based scholars and researchers to Canada.”

At UVic, “Manners will establish and lead the Laboratory for Synthetic Self-Assembled Materials” www.uvic.ca/news for the development of materials from 1 nanometer to 100 microns in length – work that will shape future technological advances in fields such as electronics, magnetism, displays and biomedicine. This will provide wonderful opportunities for UVic scientists and engineers to learn from and contribute to leading-edge discoveries while working with brilliant researchers in Ian’s group and collaborators around the world.

When he’s not brainstorming and working on new never-tryed-before science, Ian enjoys time with his family: wife, Deborah; children, Hayley and Chris; and grandchildren, Rhys, Gavin and Alys; as well as music, outdoor activities, cricket, travel, the Simpsons, beer, excellent pubs and restaurants – to name just a few of his favourites. Deborah will be the Manners group Research Coordinator, a continuation of her position at both the University of Toronto and the University of Bristol.

Wishing you both wonderful success in all of your scientific endeavors at UVic, and many enjoyable adventures as you explore your new city, island, and province.
Retirements

Since July 1, 2017, UVic Chemistry has celebrated the retirements of four amazing colleagues – Tom Fyles, Sandy Briggs, Jane Browning and Alan Taylor. Altogether representing 140 years of exemplary service and dedication!

Tom Fyles started as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Chemistry on July 1, 1979, but his affiliation with UVic started well before that. In the early ‘60s, Tom’s family lived near the soon-to-be-open new university which was under construction in Gordon Head. As a young boy, the construction site was a fun place to explore and he often found discarded wood and other materials which he gathered up to make cool things at home.

By the time he graduated from high school in 1970 – when the University of Victoria was a mere 7 years old - Tom decided to enroll at UVic to study science and music. He completed his BSc (Honours) in chemistry in 1974, then moved on to York University in Toronto, Ontario where he completed his PhD in 1977. On graduation Tom was awarded an NSERC postdoctoral fellowship which he used to pursue research with Prof. J.M. Lehn at the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France. While working as a Post Doc with Prof. Lehn he kept in touch with what was happening at Canadian universities and in early ‘79 saw that UVic was advertising for an Assistant Professor in Chemistry. Dr. Fyles applied, and as you know, was the successful candidate.

Tom’s 38 years with UVic Chemistry was full of award-winning teaching and research, and amazing administrative achievements. Examples include: numerous discoveries related to membrane transport systems and the development of significant applications in this area; excellence in teaching at all levels, winning the Faculty of Science Teaching Excellence Award in 2007; and entrepreneurial success with his companies TMF Research Inc. and Sensific Technologies Inc., leading to winning the IDC Entrepreneurship Award in 2007. He managed to successfully juggle all of this while fulfilling countless administrative duties – most importantly his service as Chair of the Department from 2001 through 2006 and 2008. Tom retired June 30, 2017 after celebrations with students, staff, and faculty from past and present.

Sandy Briggs came to UVic Chemistry as a PhD student in the late ‘70s after completing his BSc at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick and his MSc at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He completed his PhD in 1983, then headed to ETH to work as a Post Doctoral fellow until returning to UVic in 1985 to work as a Post Doc with Dr. Paul West and as a Sessional Instructor for the Department. Sandy quickly became an invaluable member of the Department, using his talents as a researcher, teacher, and spectroscopist to help out wherever there was a need. The Department especially needed sessional lecturers at the time, and it was obvious that Sandy excelled as a teacher, so in no time he became a Continuing Sessional Instructor which led to his appointment as an Assistant Teaching Professor in 2002. Over the years, Sandy taught more than 20,000 students at all levels. He was a dedicated and popular teacher who especially excelled at inspiring first and second year students to continue studying science.

Sandy was also an inspiration to adventurous students, staff and faculty when he presented seminars about “what he did during summer break” – always outstanding photography and stories about his treks across the arctic and up challenging peaks around the world. Some of Sandy’s amazing adventures have been documented by, and published in, both the Canadian Geographic and National Geographic magazines. In 2015 Sandy was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for his long service as a volunteer leader of the Alpine Club of Canada, and his commitment and long service to outdoor leadership and education.

Sandy retired December 31, 2017. Retirement parties were held earlier in December.

Jane Browning retires July 6, 2018. After receiving her PhD from the University of Bristol in 1977, Jane joined the Department in November 1977 as a postdoctoral research assistant with Dr. Keith Dixon. By the early 80s she was also working as a “Lab instructor” helping with the preparation of undergraduate lab classes. Over the years her appointment transformed to become half-time Senior Lab Instructor combined with half-time lab prep work. Jane accomplished so much in all of her roles, but perhaps the most notable is the vast number of students – both undergraduate and graduate - she helped and mentored. Teaching evaluations indicate that undergrad students loved her as a TA; and the graduate students she supervised as TAs always reported that she was a wonderful mentor who taught them so much about chemical education and teaching.

Jane was also a very active volunteer at UVic and with the Department. For example, she helped with the Scientists in the Schools program for at least 30 years; assisted with countless convocation ceremonies; volunteered for many open houses and special events; served on various committees, and in general was a cheerful and enthusiastic supporter of everyone in the Department.

A group of over 60 gathered on July 5, 2018 for a retirement reception to wish Jane well and thank her for close to 41 great years!

After more than 29 years of service, Alan Taylor retired August 31, 2018. Alan started as our Senior Lab Instructor for Physical Chemistry on July 1, 1989. He came to us with a solid background in the field after completing his Honours BSc and MSc here, then a PhD at the University of British Columbia, followed by postdoctoral appointments at the University of Western Ontario – all
Welcome!

Katherine Elvira joined the Department as an Assistant Professor on January 1, 2017. Katherine’s research is focused on microfluidics for healthcare and drug discovery. Katherine moved to Victoria from Zürich, Switzerland where she had been employed as a Senior Scientist and Lecturer at ETH.

Stanislav Konorov (Stas) also started with UVic Chemistry on January 1, 2017. Stas is our Staff Scientist for laser systems and optics. He moved to Victoria from Vancouver, BC where he had been employed as Research Associate with the Department of Chemistry at UBC.

Penny Gordon was hired to cover the Receptionist/Secretary position during Lori Aasebo’s secondment as our Graduate Secretary, she started October 16, 2017. Penny comes to us from Proline Management Ltd. where she worked as a Strata Operations Coordinator.

On January 1, 2018, Heather Buckley was appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor with the Department of Chemistry. Heather’s home department is the Department of Civil Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering, however her research is chemistry – focused on “the design and synthesis of selective electro-chemically or photochemically active sensor molecules to bind and report the presence of metals and other species at low concentrations” in drinking water. Heather will be using lab facilities in Chemistry and is our instructor for Chem 150, Engineering Chemistry.

Ian Manners, our recently appointed Canada 150 Research Chair, arrived at UVic on June 4, 2018. See page 1 for more information.

Deborah Manners also arrived on June 4 and will be working as the Research Coordinator specializing in Physical Chemistry. After completing his postdoc with Drs Rosner and Holt in 1988, he was appointed as Western’s NMR Research Technician until he accepted the SLI position with UVic Chemistry.

Alan quicky became an expert at developing experiments for a variety of second, third and fourth year physical chemistry lab courses; teaching many students and training a team of TAs every term; and maintaining a wide range of instrumentation. Also, in 2000/01, when the Department started offering stand-alone lab courses in third and fourth year, Alan became the primary instructor for Chemistry 364 and Chemistry 464 which included the development of the curriculum for these courses. A very busy and varied position to be sure and Alan covered it all with amazing precision and creativity.

Alan was also an active volunteer with his focus being ballroom dancing. He was one of the founding members, and on the Board of Directors, of the Victoria Ballroom Dance Society; served as President of this society during 1993 and 1994; chaired Dance Pacifica, a ballroom dance competition, during 1996, 2001 and 2002, and was the President and vice-President at different times for the UVic Ballroom Dance Club.

A staff lunch was held on June 8, 2018 to honour both Jane and Alan, and to help them celebrate this important milestone.

Highlights since January 2017

Student Awards:

Winners of the 2017 student awards were announced at the Student Awards Reception on November 30, 2017 at the University Club.

Highlights cont’d...


Graduate student winners:

Promotions and Appointments:
Lori Aasebo was promoted to Graduate Secretary from September 25, 2017 until October 12, 2018 to cover for Sandra Baskett’s maternity leave.

Ian Manners was appointed as the Canada 150 Research Chair in Materials Science on June 1, 2018.

Katherine Elvira was appointed as the Canada Research Chair for New Materials and Techniques for Health Applications as of July 1, 2018.

Dennis Hore, Lisa Rosenberg and Jeremy Wulff have been promoted to Full Professor. Their promotions were effective July 1, 2018.

Lisa Rosenberg was appointed to the NSERC Chemistry Evaluation Group (EG 1504) for the July 2018 – June 2021 period.

Research Awards and Grants: 100% on NSERC Discovery Grants! All research faculty at UVic Chemistry hold Discovery grants. On April 1, 2017, Katherine Elvira received her first award while 5-year renewals were awarded to Cornelia Bohne, Natia Frank, David Harrington, and Lisa Rosenberg. In April 2018, renewals were awarded to Matt Moffitt and Frank van Veggel.

NSERC RTI grants were received by Cornelia Bohne and Katherine Elvira in 2017, and by Scott McIndoe and Frank van Veggel in 2018.

In April 2017 Matt Moffitt and Cornelia Bohne were awarded an NSERC CREATE grant to pursue “Polymer Nanoparticles for Drug Delivery” with 8 academic researchers from across Canada.

Neil Burford was the 2017 winner of the CIC Montreal Medal in recognition of his “outstanding contributions to the profession of Chemistry in Canada”. This award recognizes Neil’s many contributions to the CSC, IUPAC, and other national and international initiatives to promote Canadian chemistry. Neil received his medal at the 100th Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition in Toronto in June 2017.

Fraser Hof won the 2017 CSC Intellisyn Pharma Research Excellence Award for his “distinguished contribution to medicinally relevant chemistry”. The award recognizes Fraser’s research into new chemical agents that bind to and block key portions of protein surfaces essential to their function.

Alexandre Brolo was the recipient of the 2017 Faculty of Science award for Excellence in Teaching.

In February 2017, Jeremy Wulff and Matt Moffitt were awarded an NSERC Innovation-to-Impact grant for a project entitled “Functionalized Polydicyclopentadiene: Reduction to Commercially Viable Practice”. The supporting organizations are GreenCentre and BASF Canada.

David Harrington and his colleagues at SFU (Steven Holdcroft, Erik Kjeang), the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) (Frode Seland, Odne Burheim) and the SINTEF (Alejandro Barnett) have been awarded a Canada-Norway Partnership in Electrochemical Energy Technologies (“Canopener”) under the International Partnerships program of the Research Council of Norway. This project promotes travel, workshops, visiting professorships and student exchanges for faculty and students at these institutions.

In July 2017 Katherine Elvira received significant CFI and BCKDF funding to build her microfluidic laboratory for health applications.

Scott McIndoe received the inaugural (2017) REACH Silver Medal for Excellence in Research. “The REACH Awards honour the extraordinary teachers and researchers who lead the way in dynamic learning and make a vital impact at UVic, in the classroom, and beyond.” www.uvic.ca/president/awards/reach/index.php

Frank van Veggel was awarded an NSERC Engage grant with Syscor Controls & Automation Inc to work on “Improved absorption sensors for oil detection”.

Scott McIndoe was awarded an Erskine Fellowship for 2018. Erskine Fellows are invited to the University of Canterbury to present lectures to students of the University. Each visiting Erskine fellow receives a grant-in-aid for travel...
and living expenses. www.canterbury.ac.nz/engage/erskine/

Dennis Hore wins the Canadian Society of Chemistry’s Keith Laidler Award for 2018. “This award recognizes outstanding early-career contributions to physical chemistry for research carried out in Canada by a scientist residing in Canada.” www.cheminst.ca/awards/csc-awards

Fraser Hof has been selected as the 2018 recipient of the Faculty of Science Award for Research Excellence.

Heather Buckley received a 2018 CFI grant for her project to develop “test strips that will one day let residents of mining communities in BC and around the world quickly and easily test their drinking water.” www.uvic.ca/news/number-22, page 2

In May 2018, Dennis Hore and Bruce Wallace (School of Social Work) were awarded a generous Health Canada grant for the project “Implementing Innovations in Drug Checking: A Harm Reduction Pilot in Response to Illicit Drug Overdose”.

Jeremy Wulff is the recipient of a MITACS Grant with Epic Ventures Victoria to work on a project titled “Towards a Universal Crosslinker”.

Heather Buckley led a joint Canada-US team to first place in a global competition to identify new preservatives for use in cosmetics and household products. “UVic’s share of the prize money from the Green Chemistry and Commerce Council (GC3) win in Massachusetts will be used to fund a graduate student at UVic to explore a secondary use of the winning preservative in preventing bio-fouling in water treatment systems.” (Saanich News, August 21, 2018)

Morgan Conover and Lauren Caters respectively.

Required poster presentations resulted in several chemistry students winning significant prizes including the 2017 and 2018 Boehm Family Award for Excellence in Science, won by Cassidy Conover and Lauren Caters respectively.

Some of our 2018 graduates

Chemistry, along with other departments in the Faculty of Science, hosted a Noon Networking lunch for Indigenous Students on January 31, 2018 at First Peoples House. Participants enjoyed lunch while finding out about Science programs and engaging with many faculty and staff. A Chemistry-only Noon Networking is booked for October 10, 2018.

Professional Development Workshops for High School science teachers were held on May 18, 2017 and February 23, 2018. Both events were very successful, in particular the February workshop with 36 teachers attending. These workshops are learning experiences for both the high school teachers and Chemistry faculty and staff, and have created strong connections for working together in the future.

As a follow-up to the Feb. 23 Pro-D day, High School teachers brought some of their students to UVic on May 11, 2018 to experience some chemistry in the lab, and for a “meet and greet” with faculty, staff and graduate students. All events were a wonderful success – thank you to all who helped out!

Graduate Student Research Days (GSRDs) were held during Spring and Fall reading breaks in both 2017 and 2018. These events are conference-style and give our graduate students opportunities to present their research with posters or presentations. The quality of both is always outstanding. Thank you to all graduate students for sharing your ideas and discoveries with such professionalism.

Kudos to all Honours students who took part in the March 29, 2017 and February 22, 2018 Faculty of Science HonoursFest events. Excellent poster presentations resulted in several chemistry students winning significant prizes including the 2017 and 2018 Boehm Family Award for Excellence in Science, won by Cassidy Conover and Lauren Caters respectively.

Convolutions: The numbers of students graduating with Chemistry degrees – BSC, MSc and PhD – is steadily increasing! During 2017, the total number (Spring and Fall convocations, all degrees) of chemistry graduates was 78.—and it’s looking like 2018 numbers will be just as high. Congratulations to all of our newest alumni! Please stay in touch.

The 2017 Holiday Party was held on Friday, December 8 in the Arbutus/Queenswood Room of the Cadboro Commons Building. Over 90 people attended to enjoy savory appetizers and sweet treats all while judging a fabulous Gingerbread House contest, watching the final tribal council for Wine Survivor, and cheering on competitors in a very fast Rubik’s cube race. A great time was had by all.

Receptions to announce the winners of the 2017 and 2018 Lecture Book Cover Competitions were held on March 29, 2017 and February 14, 2018. The top prize winners for the front covers of the 2017/18 lecture books were: Scott McInroe for Chemistry 101, and Tan Xu for Chemistry 102. Winners for the 2018/19 front covers were: Jenny Yu for Chemistry 101, Niall Murphy for Chemistry 102, and Tara Mathur for Chemistry 150.

Congratulations!

Sandra Baskets welcomed baby Holly on September 21, 2017. A beautiful daughter for Sandra and Bernie, and baby sister for Jane and Josie.

Congrats to Andrew Macdonald on his new position as Electronics Technician in Physics and Astronomy.

Special Events

Student achievement prizes are presented every January and September to the top students in all first and second year chemistry courses. All “A+” students are invited to the event where everyone enjoys pizza and many win prizes while taking the opportunity to socialize with fellow students and Chemistry staff and Professors.

Student symposiums were held January 26, 2017 and January 25, 2018. These CIC sponsored events always attract excellent presentations such as “Photodynamic therapy: a chemist’s light weapon against cancer” by Sree Gayathri; “Accelerated Whisky Aging” by Han-nah Charnock; “The Fentanyl Crisis in British Columbia” by Connor Brookes and many more on interesting and current issues. Thank you to all participants. The next student symposium is planned for the week of January 21, 2019.
Remembering

Nijn John, a 27-year-old chemistry graduate student with the research group of Dennis Hore, passed away in a surfing accident at a beach near in Tofino on February 10, 2018. Nijn was working on his PhD, and was a member of the Biophysical Chemistry and Spectroscopy group. He specialized in the surface restructuring of polymer films. Dennis and research group co-workers describe him as smart, a quick learner, and incredibly kind and positive—“he was always smiling” said several of his friends. Nijn was also a popular Teaching Assistant and had been teaching Chemistry 150 labs. Nijn was from India, but loved Victoria, and wanted to experience Canada as much as possible during his time studying here. We are so lucky to have known him, and send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. Nijn was also a popular Teaching Assistant and had been teaching Chemistry 150 labs. Nijn was from India, but loved Victoria, and wanted to experience Canada as much as possible during his time studying here. We are so lucky to have known him, and send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Wilma Ethel Elias passed away unexpectedly and quietly May 1, 2018, in her Oak Bay home at the age of 93. Born in Calgary, Wilma obtained a BA and MA at the University of Saskatchewan and was the first woman to obtain a PhD at UBC. Wilma was a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry at Victoria College from 1958 until 1963 when the Department moved to the newly opened University of Victoria. Wilma was a Professor with UVic Chemistry until her retirement in 1985. More recently she was an active member of the painting, scriverens and classical music clubs at the Monterrey Recreation Centre. A life-long learner, Wilma began teaching herself piano at the age of 90. Wilma was predeceased by her parents and two brothers Robert Grant and Lloyd William. She is survived by cousins and second cousins. A Celebration of Wilma’s life was held on Friday, June 1st from 2 to 4 pm in the Garden Court of the Monterrey Recreation Centre. (Times-Colonist Obituaries)

David Lennie McGillivray passed away peacefully in Victoria, BC on Saturday, May 12, 2018, at the age of 75. David was born in Glasgow, Scotland and grew up in Edinburgh. After earning an Honours BSc in Chemistry at Heriot Watt University Edinburgh in 1965, he emigrated to Montreal to take up a position with Bell Telephone, followed by a post at Northern Electric. David moved to Ottawa in 1971 and after two years study gained a PhD at Ottawa University which led to an appointment at the University of Victoria, Department of Chemistry, where he worked for 35 years. In 2008 David was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease and moved into Highgate Lodge Retirement Complex where he spent 9 happy years. Declining health necessitated a move to St. Charles Manor in December 2017. David is survived by his wee brother Walter in Edinburgh, foster children and second cousins. A Celebration of Life was held on Friday, June 1st from 2 to 4 pm in the Garden Court of the Monterrey Recreation Centre. (Times-Colonist Obituaries)

Corrina Ewan (née Giesbrecht), passes away June 14, 2018 Corrina Ewan came to UVic as an undergraduate student, completing her BSc in chemistry in 1996. Soon after, in January 1997, Corrina was hired as a laboratory instructor with the Department of Chemistry. Between 1997 and 2000, she was appointed on a term-by-term “prep” positions as they were called at the time were converted to continuing PEA appointments. So in September 2000 Corrina became a “Scientific Assistant”, the new designation for the position. By this time she was married to Mike, and expecting their first child, Shannon. Over the next few years their family grew, with Elise’s arrival in 2004 and Sophia’s birth in 2006. As you can imagine, Corrina was a busy mom during these years and her family was always number one — no doubt about that — but she still managed to provide outstanding service in her job. You could always count on Corrina to get things done. She was amazing — a fast learner, flexible, and able to juggle multiple tasks.

Corrina worked magic in the labs, to be sure, but she also taught lab sections, served on a variety of committees and working groups, assisted with the coordination of lecture classes, and became our go-to person for anything to do with preparing chemistry demonstrations and shows. Her dedication and talents led to a much deserved promotion to “Chemistry Course Coordinator” on May 1, 2018.

Corrina’s bright smile and wonderful ways will be greatly missed by all, she was a star and a sunbeam at the same time, a truly bright light in this often dark world. We will always remember her fondly.

Please help keep Corrina’s light shining in perpetuity by contributing to a scholarship in her name — The Corrina Ewan Memorial Scholarship.

To donate online click the link below.

https://extrweb.uvic.ca/donate-online/in-memory-of-corrina-ewan

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