

DECEMBER 2019

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UVIC STATS 2018/19
 Indigenous Graduates - 273
 Indigenous Enrollment - 1,341

Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement

NEWSLETTER

UVic welcomes Indigenous exchange students from Australia

Three Indigenous exchange students from Australia are taking part in a co-op program at UVic this fall through a partnership between the Co-operative Education Program and Career Services and the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement.

On September 3, Elder Dr. Skip Dick welcomed Brandon Gooley, Jeff Hart and Tia Pynor-Greedy to Lekwungen territory at a welcome ceremony in the First Peoples House Ceremonial Hall.

The program is a hybrid work/academic exchange for Indigenous students at UVic and Indigenous students at the University of Newcastle, Macquarie University and RMIT University in Australia. UVic co-op students complete work terms with Indigenous centres at these institutions, while incoming Australian students take part in LE, NONET at UVic.

In November, the partnership received the 2019 Canadian Bureau of International Education's (CBIE) Panorama Award at its annual conference in Winnipeg.



Orange Shirt Day Honours Residential School Survivors

Several hundred people participated in Orange Shirt Day events at UVic on September 30. The activities started in the Quad with a Territorial Welcome and songs by Songhees community members Eugene Sam, Christine Sam, and Philip George. Dr. Valerie Kuehne, Vice-President Academic and Provost, spoke about reconciliation on behalf of UVic and Dr. Catherine McGregor, Associate Dean, Department of Education was the MC for the outdoor activities. (con't on p. 3)



University of Victoria

Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement



Looking back at 2019

Week of Welcome - January and September ▲ Career Fair and Mock Interview Clinic ▲ Monday Lunches ▲ Wellness Wednesday ▲ Crafting ▲ Yoga ▲ Networking Wednesdays ▲ Kinesiology student Robert Busch's Fitness in the House Program ▲ Kayaking the Gorge ▲ P'Kols Hike ▲ Healing and Wellness Day - Guest speakers Alex Nelson, Sandrina de Finney and Moussa Magassa ▲ Métis Talking Circle ▲ Acupuncture ▲ Smudging ▲ Wellness Pouches ▲ Clothing Swap ▲ Rattle Making ▲ Book launches ▲ CIRCLE Indigenous Speakers Series ▲ Drum Painting ▲ Campus Cousin Events ▲ Aromatherapy Workshop ▲ Talking Circles ▲ Verna Kirkness STEM Program ▲ Mini-University ▲ Summer Sports Camp sponsored by IACE and ISPARC

The Fall Indigenous Career Fair and Mock Interview Clinic, held in October at the First Peoples House, offered Indigenous students a chance to meet potential employers and practice their interview skills.

Companies and organizations that took part included Animikii Indigenous Technologies, First Peoples Cultural Council, Royal Bank, Belfry Theatre, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC Public Service Agency, Deloitte and the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority.

In June, 148 Indigenous undergraduate and graduate students (2018-2019) were granted degrees, diplomas or certificates. Many took part in UVic's convocation and IACE's Indigenous Recognition Ceremonies in the First Peoples House Ceremonial Hall. Three Indigenous community members received honorary doctorates in June - STOLÇEL John Elliott Sr., k̓wunəmen Joe Gallagher, and Sti'tum'at Ruby Peter.

In November, 78 Indigenous students (2019-2020) received degrees, diplomas or certificates and many of these students took part in the convocation and Indigenous Recognition Ceremony.



Twenty-five middle and high school students from throughout British Columbia experienced a week of campus life at UVic at the 16th annual Mini-University Camp.

Looking ahead to 2020

The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement has two important 10th anniversaries coming up in 2020 - LE,NONET and the opening of the First Peoples House. Visit our Facebook page for more news in the new year:

www.facebook.com/UVicIACE/



LE,NONET logo by Temosen-thut (Charles Elliott)

Upcoming Events and Gatherings at the First Peoples House

Elders Christmas Brunch - Indigenous Students Welcome
Wednesday, December 4, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Week of Welcome - January 6 - 10

Career Fair and Mock Interview Clinic - March 5

UVic Federal Hiring Fair with Speed Staffing (Pujol Hall) - February 6

Métis Knowledge Keepers Conference - Date TBA



Welcome Back Elders

We are pleased to have several amazing Elders sharing their wisdom and warmth with students and staff in the Elders' Lounge, Monday to Friday from 10 am - 2 pm. Pictured from left: Helen Jack, Skip Sam, May Sam, Dr. Skip Dick, Old One Victor Underwood, Doug LaFortune, Cathy LaFortune and Barb Hulme. Not pictured: Eddie Pelky, George Cook and Ruth Cook.

By honouring our ancestors, Elders, families, children and youth, we work together, bring in our good feelings and prepare for the work ahead to advance Indigenous education and cultural resurgence.

IACE Vision Statement

ATTENTION INDIGENOUS STUDENTS Are you missing important announcements about events and activities at the First Peoples House? Do you feel out of the loop? Please join our UVic First Peoples House Indigenous Community facebook page and get regular announcements about exciting activities like yoga, lunches, networking, bone games, job fairs, crafts classes and bingo. Sign up at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245945996090678/>

Orange Shirt Day 2019

(con't from page 1)

This is the third year that UVic has recognized Orange Shirt Day by bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, faculty, staff and community members in the spirit of reconciliation to honour residential school survivors and their families. Close to 500 people took part in a group photo on the Quad.

Following the outdoor activities, Carey Newman shared his film "Picking Up the Pieces: The Making of the Witness Blanket." After the screening, Carey was joined by his father, renowned Kwakwaka'wakw/Coast Salish artist Victor Newman, for a panel discussion about the project. UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers moderated the discussion.



Orange Shirt Day had its origins in 2013 at a reunion of former students of St. Joseph's Mission residential school, and has grown into a national movement that the Government of Canada is considering for a federal holiday.

Carey Newman, UVic's Audain Professor of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest, designed this year's T-shirt: a feather made up of several multi-coloured smaller feathers. Newman, a renowned Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish artist, explains his choice of the pride rainbow in this year's T-shirt art.

"This is my way to be more inclusive of LGBTQ2S," he says. "In a time when some parts of Canada are regressing from accepting and acknowledging all people for who they are, I think this is particularly important."

Pictured left to right: Artist Victor Newman, UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, Artist and UVic Audain Professor Carey Newman.



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Verna Kirkness STEM Program Returns in 2020

Lysozymes. Particle physics. Virtual reality. Drone technology. Black holes. These are a few of the science and technology topics that 10 Indigenous high school students delved into during a week-long STEM residency at the University of Victoria earlier this year. The Indigenous grade 11 students—nine from BC and one from Saskatchewan—were mentored by UVic professors and grad students over five eventful days on campus through the Verna J. Kirkness Foundation.

The program will return to UVic in Spring 2020.

The students were split into four teams and matched with mentors: Yvonne Coady, George Tzanetakis and Jens H. Weber from the Department of Computer Science; Karun Thanjavur and J. Michael Roney from the Department of Physics and Astronomy; and Steve Evans from biochemistry.



The students sat in on first- and second-year science and computer classes, conducted research in labs and toured various university STEM departments. The program's namesake, Verna Kirkness, arrived in Victoria to meet the students and take part in an honouring celebration at First Peoples House. Kirkness is an internationally renowned Indigenous educator from the Fisher River Cree Nation in Manitoba. As a young teacher, she taught in residential schools, was one of the lead authors of the 1972 landmark report "Indian Control of Indian Education."

With more than 500 participants over the past 11 years, the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Technology Education Program has become one of Canada's leading influencers of Indigenous students considering STEM post-secondary education.

UVic gifts paddles at 2019 Building Reconciliation Forum

In November 2018, UVic hosted the 4th Building Reconciliation Forum where the previous Forum host, the University of Manitoba, presented UVic with a Walking Stick. In October, 2019, the Walking Stick and three paddles, commissioned by UVic, were presented to the hosts of the 5th Annual Building Reconciliation Forum at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie.

Representing UVic were Dr. Catherine Krull, Special Advisor to the Provost, Dr. Susan Lewis, Associate Vice-President Academic Planning, Dr. Robina Thomas, IACE Executive Director and Lalita Kines, IACE Associate Director (pictured here with Batchewana First Nation's Chief Dean Sayers).

The paddles represent Coast Salish canoe teachings of everyone paddling together and encourage post-secondary institutions to work together to honour truth and reconciliation. The paddles symbolize our connections to the past, present and future.

The three paddles were created by Carey Newman, (Kwakwaka'wakw/Coast Salish), Audain Professor with UVic's Department of Visual Arts. The first paddle, which represents the past, was carved and painted by residential school survivor and artist Victor Newman (Kwakwaka'wakw/Coast Salish). The second paddle, representing the present, was co-created by UVic fine arts student Karver Everson (Kwakwaka'wakw) and UVic alumni Margaret August (Coast Salish). The third paddle, representing the future, will be completed by the future Forum hosts to represent the ongoing commitment to reconciliation.

The Walking Stick, commissioned by Elder and residential school survivor Eugene Arcand (Cree) and created by Wallace Fox (Cree), is now exhibited at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg along with the paddle created by Victor Newman.



IACE Welcomes New Staff



Diane Sam is Songhees and Ahousaht and brings extensive experience working in community as a Team Leader at Songhees Cultural Centre and an Education Assistant for over 20 years. She joined the Office of Indigenous Academic and

Community Engagement (IACE) in September as the Cultural Protocol Liaison.

One of the highlights of her job is working with Elders and community members who take part in Indigenous activities at the First Peoples House. She played a key role in engaging community in the Orange Shirt Day events, the Indigenous Recognition Ceremony and student and faculty welcome ceremonies.

Diane's message to students is "when your knowledge keeper wants to share teachings be sure to open your heart to take it all in."



Clint Kuzio is Cree from Manitoba, the son of Cliff Kuzio and Vangie Johnston. He is a teacher, lawyer and former public servant with the BC Ministry of Health.

Clint has spent his entire career working to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples and communities. As an alumni of UVic's School of Law, Clint is excited to be back on campus and working with the IACE team at the First Peoples House and supporting Indigenous students on their educational journey. He is also teaching Indigenous Studies courses at UVic this term.

In his free time, Clint spends as much time as possible with his wife Ilka Thiessen, who he's been with since 1991, planning the revolution or out walking with their dog Finn.



www.facebook.com/iace

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UVic Indigenous faculty continues to grow

Nine Indigenous faculty who started teaching positions in Fall 2019, were welcomed to Lekwungen territory by Elder Dr. Skip Dick in a ceremony in the First Peoples House.

They included Christina Chakanyuka (Metis/Cree/Scottish), School of Nursing; Nicholas Claxton (Tsawout First Nation) and Sarah Wright Cardinal (Cree), School of Child and Youth

Care; Danielle Geller (Navajo) and Greg Scofield (Métis), Department of Writing; Patrick Lozar (Salish/Kootenai), Department of History; Renée Monchali (Algonquin/Huron-Wendat/Métis), School of Public Health and Social Policy; Jean-Paul Restoule (Anishinaabe), Department of Indigenous Education; and Edōsdi Judy Thompson (Tahltan), Department of Linguistics. The incoming Dean of Science, Dr. Peter Loock, asked permission on behalf of UVic's new faculty and librarians, to work on these traditional lands.



IACE and ISPARC partnered on a successful Summer Sports Camp for local Indigenous youth that took place on the UVic campus in August.



We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

First Peoples House Ceremonial Hall doors "Thunderbird and Salmon" carved by Rick Harry Xwa Lack Tun (Coast Salish)