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CONVOCATION 2017

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THE RING

SUMMER 2017

The University of Victoria's community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca

University of Victoria

SPEED READING

CONVOCATION 2017

Watch Convocation online

Spring 2017 Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live June 12–16. If you're not able to attend in person you can watch the ceremonies on your computer at *uvic.ca/convocation*. Video of each webcast will be available on this website for six weeks following Convocation. For event times and more information, visit *uvic.ca/ceremonies/convocation/*

BECOME OCEAN EXPLORERS

Dive into ocean research

Dive into the ocean—without even getting wet—at *oceannetworks.ca* and participate in UVic's Ocean Networks Canada's "Wiring the Abyss 2017" research and maintenance expedition, now underway. Watch underwater robots hard at work maintaining and expanding ONC's world-leading ocean observatories, and listen in on scientists aboard the exploration vessel, *Nautilus*, all in real time. Follow #ONCabyss for updates and live dive alerts.

Porttris and his daughter, Abi, in front of UVic's First Peoples House in 2015. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

3,641

NUMBER OF DEGREES, CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS TO BE AWARDED AT SPRING 2017 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES

Engineering grad aspires to be a role model for Indigenous students across campus

BY JODY KITTS

When UVic's new civil engineering program launched in 2013 with a clear focus on sustainability and Indigenous communities, it caught the attention of Kear Porttris.

The program's emphasis on making the best use of natural resources and lessening environmental burdens—green buildings, sustainable cities, industrial ecology and water resources—was immediately appealing.

"This was no ordinary program, it had a completely different way of looking at engineering," says Porttris. "I'm not interested in engineering for the number crunching, I'm interested in how engineering can solve the problems society faces. This program promised that."

Porttris, who graduates this month as part of the program's inaugural class of more than three dozen, chose engineering because he saw a direct path to professional success and financial stability.

Growing up in Regina, Porttris wasn't sure what he wanted to do. He went to university after high school, but left after his first year. He also completed a business human resources diploma from a technical school but didn't pursue a career in HR.

He eventually moved to Victoria, and nearly a decade after leaving high school, returned to university as a mature student.

"Coming back as a mature student gave me focus and direction," he says. "It's more powerful if you're in university because you

SEE PORTTRIS P. 4

Khan. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

National award fuels student's drive to be a family doctor

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

Sarah Khan has a distinct definition of the word "leadership," the quality for which she was recently awarded a prestigious 3M National Student Fellowship.

"When you hear the word, it sounds like you have to take charge and be the boss, but I think it's almost the opposite," says the biochemistry undergrad. "Leadership means taking a step back to observe those around you and the situation. You need to learn from that, adapt quickly and then move forward with the best plan of action."

She practises this approach wherever she goes. It's earned her a Schulich Leadership Scholarship, helped her successfully propose an $85,000 youth training program for the Quadra-Village area, and guided her as she developed a method of developing cancer-blocking molecules in UVic chemist Fraser Hof's research lab.

"Sarah's research team had been struggling for months before her arrival," says Hof. "They were working on a new technique to develop cancer-blocking molecules, but the technical work was frustratingly inconsistent. Sarah seized the challenge. Within weeks she laid the foundation for a solution that allowed the whole team to move forward."

Every project that Khan takes on is a piece of a puzzle that fits into her ultimate goal of becoming a family physician. Her research in biology and chemistry labs allowed her to expand outside her biochemistry program and learn about the process of developing therapeutics from an insider's prospective. Taking a course in the sociology of health helped her better understand how scientific findings are disseminated into society.

SEE KHAN P. 3

around the ring

UVic makes green top 100 list

UVic has joined an elite group of Canadian employers committed to advancing sustainability. UVic is included in this year's list of Canada's 100 Greenest Employers, and is the only organization from Victoria. Initiatives that supported UVic's selection include: employee engagement in sustainable initiatives through the Staff Sustainability Network and Sustainability Advisory Committee; campus waste reduction, composting and recycling programs; a green procurement strategy; integration of sustainability into hundreds of undergraduate and graduate courses and experiential learning programs; and green building accreditations, including LEED Gold certification for all new construction. Info*: bit.ly/uvic-greenest2017*

Coming to a parking lot near you

Attention parkers! Campus Security is introducing pay-by-license plate parking in all campus lots over the summer. This new system will be more convenient for users and more efficient to operate. To pay for daily parking, drivers will now need to enter their license plate number at one of the parking dispensers. Annual permit holders will be able to purchase "virtual permits" later this summer. Your vehicle license plate number will be registered in the Parking Services database, and you'll no longer need to display a permit in your vehicle. Look for more information in your annual renewal letter later this month. Watch for new signage being installed in all campus lots. For more information, visit *uvic.ca/security/parking.*

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UVic chemist develops energy-efficient computer memory

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

A University of Victoria chemist has developed a breakthrough material that will make computers and smartphones faster, more durable and more energy-efficient.

The new material allows computer chips to exist at a molecular level, with a technology known as light-induced magnetoresistive random-access memory (LI-RAM). Developed by materials chemist Natia Frank, the invention is part of an international effort to reduce the power consumption and heat produced by modern computer processors.

Known as the "power wall," the problem of heat and electrical consumption is creating an environmental concern and limiting the development of faster computers. Compared to the current standard, LI-RAM uses 10 per cent less power, creates almost no heat and has higher durability—all while processing information faster.

Using light rather than electricity as the conductor of information is what makes LI-RAM unique.

"The material in LI-RAM has the unusual quality of rapidly changing magnetic properties when hit with green light," says Frank. This means that information can be processed and stored at the single molecule level, allowing for the development of universal memory—a technology that has, until now, been hypothetical.

A more environmentally friendly form of RAM could have a powerful impact on energy consumption and waste management. Information communication technologies are now using about 10 per cent of the world's total electricity. Meanwhile, discarded personal information and communications technology alone accounted for three million tonnes of hazardous e-waste worldwide in 2014.

Frank, right, with graduate student Aiko Kuromito. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

The PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) patent application for LI-RAM was filed in partnership with Green Centre Canada, who named their work on the technology as a top achievement for 2016. Frank is now working with international electronics manufacturers to optimize and commercialize the technology, which could find its way to consumers in the next 10 years.

Data storage for mobile phones, computers and electronics is just one way this technology can be used. "Potentially, this material could have other uses in medical imaging, solar cells and a range of nanotechnologies," says Frank. "This is just the beginning."

The technology was developed with funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Trutch name to be removed from residence building

The Trutch name will be removed from a residence building within the Lansdowne Residence complex.

The UVic Board of Governors made the decision May 30 following a recommendation from President Jamie Cassels based on advice from the President's Advisory Committee on Naming of Facilities and Physical Assets.

The committee made its recommendation after considering a request received earlier this year from student Lisa Schnitzler and others, though the matter had arisen a number of times in the past.

Built in 1969, the Lansdowne complex's six buildings were named after three women and three men. Sir Joseph W. Trutch (1826–1904) was initially honoured as part of the historical trio including John S. Helmcken and Robert W. W. Carroll, who negotiated BC's terms of union with the Government of Canada.

Since then, it's become apparent that as chief commissioner of lands and works and subsequently as BC's first lieutenant-governor, Trutch's actions regarding Indian Land Policy and his attitude to Indigenous peoples was particularly negative even for his time, in contrast to those of many of his contemporaries, including James Douglas, the governor of BC and Vancouver Island.

"Trutch's negative approach to the land rights of First Nations people and disregard for their concerns conflict with UVic's mission, vision and values," says Carmen Charette, vice-president of external relations.

In addition to Trutch's stand on Indigenous affairs being contrary to UVic's values, the naming committee also considered the following in making its recommendation to the president:

Students currently living in the Trutch residence or assigned to it in the future may feel uncomfortable or conflicted to be residing in or associated with the building as named.

Other than his place in the history of BC, there's no direct connection between Trutch and the establishment and development of UVic.

Renaming is not an attempt to erase history or diminish the accomplishments of historical figures, including Trutch's role in bringing BC into Confederation. Rather, the intent is to ensure that the UVic campus environment is aligned with our values.

As part of this process, a review was undertaken of other UVic building names and the committee was advised that no other cases were identified where the same considerations would apply.

The building will be temporarily renamed Lansdowne Residence #1 until a new name is selected. Charette will consult on a process for renaming the building, which is home to 48 students each year.

New AVPR starts in July

One of the new arrivals on campus this summer will be neuropsychologist Lisa Kalynchuk, who begins a five-year term as associate vice-president research (AVPR) on July 1.

Kalynchuk comes to UVic from the University of Saskatchewan where she's been a professor in the Department of Medicine and the interim associate dean of interdisciplinary health research for the Council of Health Sciences Deans.

As AVPR, Kalynchuk will work with Vice-President Research David Castle and Associate Vice-President Research Operations Rachael Scarth to support priorities and objectives related to the university's research mission. The position has a special focus on international research partnerships, as well as oversight of UVic's research centres and institutes.

"Lisa brings to the role of AVPR her extensive administrative skills, broad and diverse experience in building consensus across disciplines, and a strong commitment to academic leadership and research excellence," says Castle. "I look forward to the many contributions she'll make to UVic's research performance and international reputation in the coming years."

Kalynchuk holds a BSc in psychology from the University of Alberta and an MA and PhD in behavioural neuroscience from the University of British Columbia, and she has taught at both the University of Saskatchewan and Dalhousie University.

Her research interests include the neurobiology of depression, the psychiatric complications of epilepsy and the effect of chronic stress on the brain and behaviour. She recently completed two terms as the Canada Research Chair in Behavioral Neuroscience.

"I was attracted to UVic because of its world-class research enterprise and its reputation as a collegial institution with strong ties to the community," says Kalynchuk.

Kalynchuk.
PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

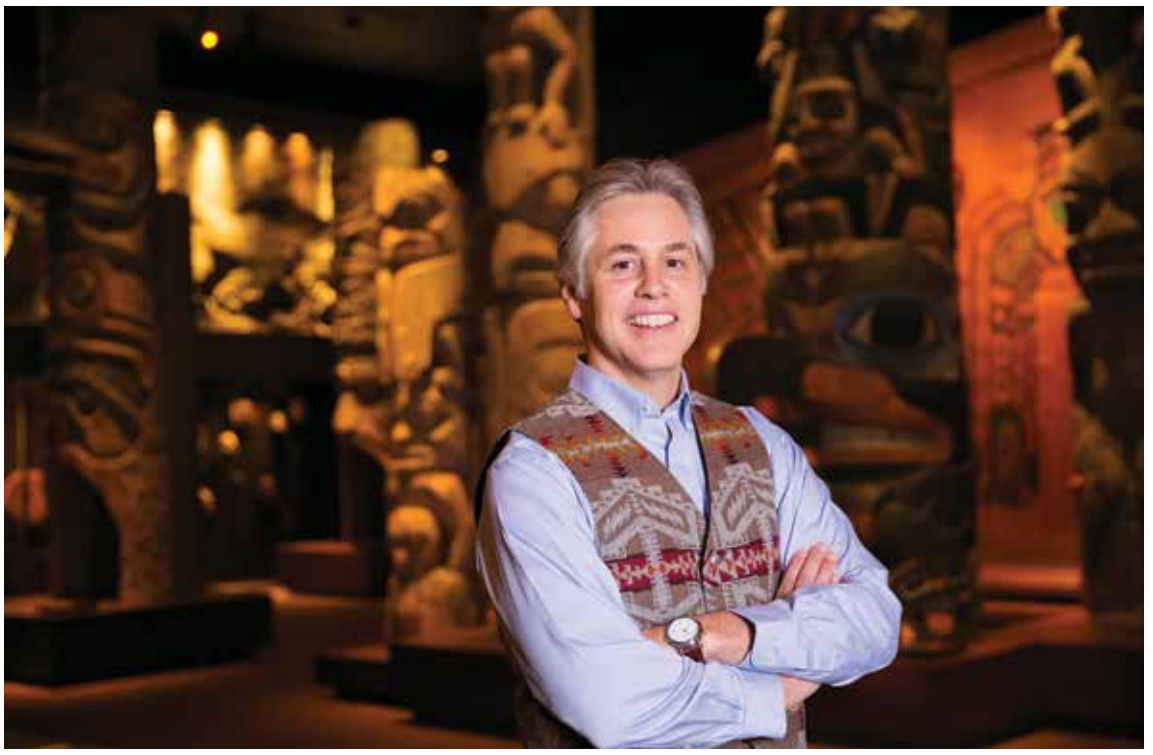
"I'm honoured to get this opportunity, and I look forward to working with members of the campus community to build on areas of strength and identify new strategic initiatives."

Kalynchuk's academic appointment is with the Division of Medical Sciences, with an adjunct appointment to the Department of Psychology.

Oliver Schmidtke, who has served as acting AVPR for the last year, will return to his role as director of UVic's Centre for Global Studies. One of his key tasks was to promote UVic's new International Plan as it relates to the university's research portfolio and partnerships around the world.

Indigenous law scholar leads a quiet revolution in Canadian history

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE



Borrows. Location courtesy of the Royal BC Museum and Archives. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Where John Borrows comes from in Ontario, the Anishinaabe call warm, late-spring weather aabawaa. As things begin to melt and flow again, the meeting of hot and cold air masses can make it foggy and difficult to see.

In Ojibway, the word for this weather phenomenon also makes its way into the language of human relationships and legal practice: aabawaa-wendam means forgiveness.

"With forgiveness, as with the land, there are mists between people," says the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law and 2017 Killam Prize winner in Social Sciences for his scholarship and commitment to furthering our knowledge about Indigenous legal traditions.

"The word refers to a time when you can't yet see clearly. But as the ice and snows recede, it's time to begin to reconstruct your relationship given what happened in the winter of your conflict."

It's a fitting analogy for where we are in the process of rebuilding relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, and of redefining Canadian law so that Indigenous legal traditions are re-established and given equal footing with common law.

To understand the principles of law at work in Indigenous traditions, to be able to read nature for lessons in respect, equality and the security it provides, requires a shift in thinking and a different kind of literacy. Borrows calls this process "drawing the law out of the land."

When we think about law, we might think of a court process or lawyers and judges and their focus on words. But in visual and oral cultures, the law is often found in the artistic and physical world, explains Borrows, who is Anishinaabe/Ojibway and a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation.

Primary Indigenous law research, such as the work led by Borrows and colleagues at UVic, involves documenting ceremonial dances, cultural practices such as the potlatch, origin stories, contact stories about settlers, totems, wampum belts and other artistic works, and then teasing out the legal principles and precedents embedded within them.

One of the goals of this research, he says, is to change a misunderstanding held by some who think there's no such thing as Indigenous law: either Indigenous people never had legal systems because they were primitive in some respect; or if they had them, they're broken and gone, or irrelevant in a modern context.

Borrows also points out that, with 150 years of repression of Indigenous people in Canada, it's been hard to apply Indigenous law in contemporary circumstances. The revitalization of Indigenous legal traditions is creating pathways out of an era of control, into an era of shared autonomy and responsibility.

To assist this process, he's currently working with faculty colleague Val Napoleon to develop a joint degree in Indigenous legal orders and Canadian common law (JID) at UVic—the first in the world.

The proposed degree will be unique, training students to understand Indigenous legal orders, build institutions based on those orders, and design institutions and procedures that work in concert with other levels of Canadian law, benefitting areas such as child welfare, education, health, housing and resource development.

Borrows is UVic's second Killam Prize winner—after political theorist James Tully (2010)—in the 50-year history of the award, which is given out annually by the Canada Council for the Arts. He received a $100,000 prize on May 30 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Watch Borrows discuss his work in a UVic-produced video at bit.ly/uvic-borrows-video

KHAN CONTINUED FROM P.1

"She doesn't seek opportunities to check a box or to fill a gap in her résumé," says co-op coordinator Rozanne Poulson, who nominated Khan for the 3M fellowship. "She looks for those opportunities that will allow her to become the best physician she can be."

Khan always thought about being a doctor, but this goal solidified in Grade 12 when her father suffered a stroke. They were left navigating the challenges of health care in Kitimat, a town of just over 8,000 people in northwest British Columbia.

"The doctors rotate each month. One doctor would see him and the next month there would be a new one, who didn't know what the last doctor did," says Khan. "And when we went to Vancouver for more treatment, there was an even bigger disconnect."

Khan's solution? An integrative health centre that addresses the challenges of disjointed and often impersonal services. This vision connects almost everything she does.

"Like everyone applying to medical school, I need to volunteer as part of my application," says Khan. "But I wanted to make sure that my experience was meaningful, and that I was making a difference."

This has meant getting involved with a United Way community project and volunteering with Operation Trackshoes, where she supervised young people with behavioural challenges. Most recently, Khan sought out a volunteer co-op at Tall Tree Integrated Health, a holistic health centre in Cordova Bay, where she shadowed a physiotherapist and occupational therapist.

This is the fourth year in a row that a UVic student has been awarded a 3M National Student Fellowship and the second year in a row for the same department. With only 10 students chosen from across the country, selection is based on outstanding leadership in and outside of the classroom.

Watch Khan discuss her experiences as a student in a UVic-produced video at bit.ly/uvic-khan

Donation provides bursaries for Indigenous students

A $500,000 donation from The Joyce Family Foundation will establish new bursaries at UVic to help Indigenous students with financial need achieve their academic goals.

The Joyce Family Foundation is a private, family foundation created by Canadian entrepreneur Ronald V. Joyce. The foundation is dedicated to supporting the social, economic and emotional well-being of children and youth by empowering them to develop into healthy, confident, independent contributors to Canadian society.

"This generous gift helps bridge the funding gap for Indigenous students who do not receive band funding, particularly for non-status and Métis students," says Lalita Kines, acting director of UVic's Office of Indigenous Affairs.

Indigenous students are enrolled in every faculty at UVic at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. An Indigenous student enrolment of almost 1,200 represents a 36 per cent increase over the past decade. The number of Indigenous graduate students has increased by 130 per cent in the same period.

The Joyce Family Foundation's primary focus is to provide access to education for children and youth with significant financial need or who face other socio-economic barriers to success.

around the ring

Community-engaged learning grants awarded

Five UVic faculty members have been awarded the Community-Engaged Learning Grant (CEL Grant) for 2017. This funding supports faculty as they redevelop their course curricula to strengthen engagement between students and the local community. CEL Grants are funded by the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost and are facilitated by the Office of Community-University Engagement. To date, 15 faculty members have received CEL Grants, resulting in stronger relationships with community organizations and active contributions to our city. Learn more about the CEL grant and current projects at *bit.ly/uvic-celgrant*

Time for some digital dynamic learning

Interested in creating a 3D martlet to attach to your key ring or have a personalized name plate on your desk? The new Digital Scholarship (DS) Commons space in the Mearns Centre for Learning—McPherson Library is open for business! Located on the third floor, the DS Commons is the only university makerspace in BC to offer free 3D workshops to all students, faculty and staff. The DS Commons is a collaborative learning environment where people come together to share tools and learn new skills. Some of the tools used include: 3D printers, specialized software, 360 video cameras and a green screen. To sign up for free workshops, email dscommons@uvic.ca. Info: *oac.uvic.ca/dsc/*

Art show supports Indigenous students

Kwakwaka'wakw artist Francis Dick is a celebrated member of the Aboriginal art community in the Pacific Northwest who began her art career after earning a degree in social work from UVic. On June 10, the School of Social Work will showcase her contemporary portrait work at an art show and reception, followed by a rare traditional mask dance. The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. at the Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets are $25 with proceeds supporting Indigenous students. Info: 250-721-8480 or *tickets.uvic.ca*

around the ring

After-school care program finalized

UVic's Child Care Services has concluded arrangements to provide after-school care for the 2017–18 academic year. The university has reached an agreement with Recreation Oak Bay to open extra spaces in their program that will provide after-school care at the Henderson Recreation Centre for the cohort of eligible children attending Campus View Elementary School. Eligible children enrolled at Frank Hobbs Elementary School, McKenzie Elementary and École Victor-Brodeur will be offered after-school care in a program to be held at UVic's Child Care Services Family Centre for the 2017–18 school year. More information: *bit.ly/uvic-childcare*

UVic partners on downtown proposal

UVic Properties is partnering with Chard Development Ltd. on a proposal to redevelop the Broad Street properties, a collection of revenue real estate holdings in downtown Victoria owned by UVic. The proposed redevelopment will retain and renovate the historic Duck's Building and create two new buildings to provide commercial space, housing and rental units, including housing that gives preference to students. The Broad Street properties are part of the late Michael Williams bequest, which provides UVic with long-term financial returns to support its academic mission. Info: *bit.ly/uvic-chard*

UVic offers e-health language program

As health authorities across Canada continue to modernize patient health records, moving from paper files and film X-rays to computer systems and digitized diagnostics, Canada's health care sector needs standardized "languages" to support the growing world of web-based health communications. This fall, UVic will offer an online graduate certificate program in health terminology standards—the first of its kind in Canada. "The terminology is on par with other professions like air traffic controllers or first responders," says Andre Kushniruk, director of the School of Health Information Science. *bit.ly/uvic-health-language*

Client Susan Jensen and a wheelchair/scooter lift designed by CanAssist. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

CanAssist funding will help society's most vulnerable

BY ANNE TOLSON

Seniors with dementia and children with special needs will benefit from the latest provincial funding to CanAssist, a University of Victoria program dedicated to helping people with disabilities improve their quality of life, with a focus on promoting independence and inclusion.

A total of $4.5 million from the BC Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation will provide technologies to two vulnerable groups in BC. A $3 million grant will extend CanStayHome, an ongoing CanAssist initiative that is developing technologies to improve the independence and safety of vulnerable seniors, particularly those with dementia.

And a $1.5 million grant will be used to produce and supply existing assistive technologies to service providers across BC to support children and youth with special needs.

Part of the $3 million grant will support the completion and launch of CanAssist's Ability411 website, which will provide easy-to-access information about assistive technologies for seniors and their caregivers. The website's official launch is expected later this fall.

"CanAssist would not be what it is today without the funding over the years from the BC government, including these new investments," says CanAssist executive director Robin Syme. "Along with all the generous individual donations and ongoing infrastructure and resource support from UVic, the provincial funding has kept us going in more ways than one."

Examples of technologies developed as part of CanStayHome include a wandering redirect system, an easy-to-use manual wheelchair/scooter lift for vehicles and a phone-in monitoring system that makes it possible for caregivers to learn about their vulnerable loved one's movements while the person is home alone.

CanAssist client Susan Jensen describes how the technology she and her husband have received has changed their lives. "The easy-to-use scooter lift for our vehicle is a necessity for both my husband Ken's health and mine," she says. "We're so grateful and want to thank everyone involved for the amazing place called CanAssist."

For more information visit *canassist.ca*

National award celebrates accomplishments in patient-oriented research

BY JODY PATERSON

Being praised by community research partners as a "game changer" might be all the confirmation a researcher needs on whether her work is having a vital impact on the community.

But a national award from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) makes for pretty great affirmation, too, as does the $100,000 research prize that Charlotte Loppie's research partners—Indigenous women across Canada living with HIV/AIDS—are already happily contemplating how to help her spend.

Loppie, a professor in UVic's School of Public Health and Social Policy and director of UVic's Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement—is one of three Canadian researchers who were awarded a prestigious Gold Leaf Prize from CIHR at a May 16 ceremony in Ottawa.

The prize celebrates excellence in health research and its translation into benefits for Canadians. Loppie's award is in the category of "Transformation: Patient Engagement."

Loppie works in areas such as Indigenous health inequities, Indigenous HIV/AIDS and the social determinants of Indigenous health. She's dedicated much of her career to "patient-oriented research"—a way of thinking about and conducting research as something that's done by, for and with the people with lived experience who are the focus of the research.

"If a researcher is willing to put their ego aside and really think of themselves as working in service to the people whose lives we're investigating, they discover that these people have tons of creative ideas about how that research can be conducted, and how it can benefit them," she says. "To me it's a mindset that we need to get into."

Loppie.

"Patient-oriented research" is based on the premise that people with lived experience should be the ones guiding every aspect of a project, including what needs to be researched and how findings can best be disseminated to benefit the population engaged in the study.

Loppie conducts research that is "consistently proposed and directed by Indigenous communities or collectives that represent full, equal and active partners in all aspects of the research process, and in which Indigenous patients' voices and experiences are privileged."

She currently leads Visioning Health II, a research study that builds on earlier work with HIV-positive Indigenous women (Visioning Health I), which established that research done with attention to Indigenous knowledge, cultural traditions and strengths can be healing for participants.

Visioning Health II is being conducted in partnership with HIV-positive Indigenous women in eight regions across Canada to explore the impact of this process on women's health.

PORTTRIS CONTINUED FROM P.1

choose to be there."

By second year, he found it difficult juggling life as a single parent with a demanding academic program. He credits the resources and staff at UVic's First Peoples House for providing a support network, as well as help from other Indigenous students on campus and strong community support through the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria.

"I was reminded that we are never really alone, that there are people willing to help."

He realized this was also true in his home life, and he asked his mother to move to Victoria to help with his daughter Abigail and enable him to balance school, single parenthood, working and volunteering in the community.

"As a parent, one of my most important jobs is to be a role model to Abi," Porttris says. "I want her to grow up seeing me use my abilities to help people and solve problems that affect our communities."

He's made it his mission to also be a role model for Indigenous students across campus and in our communities. Now, the time he spends at First Peoples House is as a volunteer and he was also involved with the LE,NONET Campus Cousin program, which supports new Indigenous students at UVic as they transition to university life.

"It's important for me to give back," he says. "I want Indigenous students to know what post-secondary education is really about from someone they can trust, who isn't a parent or teacher. It's important to me that they know—no matter what community they come from—that they'll be supported at UVic the way I was."

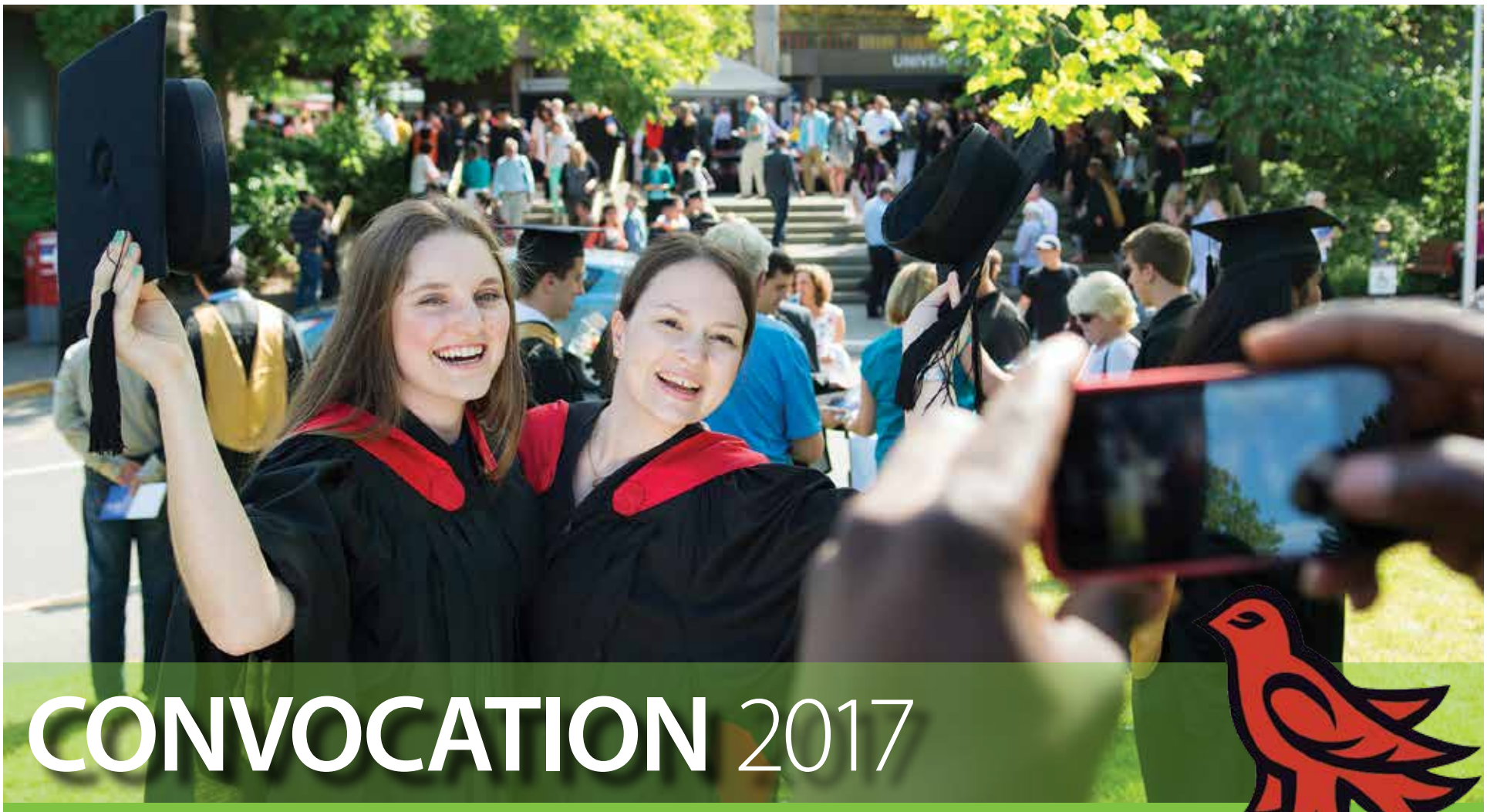
"I WANT [MY DAUGHTER] TO GROW UP SEEING ME USE MY ABILITIES TO HELP PEOPLE AND SOLVE PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT OUR COMMUNITIES."

Since finding his stride, Porttris hasn't just succeeded—he's become a leader. He was president of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers—UVic Chapter, and is considered by some as the "elder statesman" of the inaugural class of the civil engineering program.

In the past few months, Porttris has been at a new crossroad, trying to decide on starting a job or continuing to a master's degree.

"I want to work on projects that create better housing for Indigenous communities. I want to be involved in engineering that is driven by the needs of society."

In the end his choice was clear: "I've decided I can make the greatest impact by pursuing graduate studies at UVic."



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

CONVOCATION 2017

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During Spring Convocation from June 12–16, ceremonies will be held to confer 3,641 degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Lama. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Nepali student vows to bring home New World learning

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

"In essence, she's a time traveller from the 15th century," wrote Shirley Blair in an open letter to the University of Victoria seeking admission on behalf of her sponsored Nepali student, Dechen Dolma Lama.

Blair is a Canadian volunteer leading an aid project and boarding school in Kathmandu for Himalayan children. Her support helped transport Lama from one of the most impoverished villages in Nepal to UVic where she graduates this month with a bachelor's degree in child and youth care.

Gaining entrance to a sponsoring boarding school was a miracle, says Lama, as cultural norms across Nepal favour education for boys and early marriage for girls. Lama, however, was an outstanding student. She would go on to be one of four of 840 students to earn a full two-year scholarship with a private school in Zurich, Switzerland.

Today, when asked her age, Lama pauses: "I'm 25 but, at home, we follow the lunar calendar," which accounts for a difference of 275 fewer days. Home is Lho village in the Nubri region, situated about 12,000 ft. above sea level, where people follow the moon to track time.

"BEFORE, I GENERALIZED. NOW, I SEE LIFE FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE AND AM MUCH MORE OPEN-MINDED."

The serenity of this place belies the hardships locals face as seasonal nomads and subsistence farmers. Parents work the fields while children forage for firewood, tend livestock and subsist on two meals a day "if they are lucky." Butter tea and a bread of roasted barley flour are diet basics.

Now the eldest of six, Lama says her older

SEE LAMA P. 7

Business grad beats the odds with tenacity, generosity—and big plans

BY SASHA MILAM

Jama

Siyad Jama's journey to a BCom degree at UVic's Gustavson School of Business began when he stepped off the plane in Victoria for the first time in 2011.

"I had no idea what to expect," he recalls. "It was all new to me—Canada, Victoria, UVic. I knew it was the warmest place in Canada, but coming from Kenya, even that meant something different."

Jama is familiar with adapting to the unexpected, however. Before he won one of three annual scholarships from the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), enabling him to move to Victoria and enrol at UVic, he was a resident of the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. He'd lived there with his family from age one to 20.

Despite these circumstances, Jama took advantage of every opportunity. He was one of the few students lucky enough to attend the only school in the camp. He took what he learned and redistributed it to other teenagers at the camp who were less fortunate. But all along, he had big plans. "Physically, I was in the camp, but my mind was all over the world."

His chance to see that world in person came with the WUSC scholarship. Once at UVic, he took a few introductory courses and decided business was the degree that matched his aspirations.

"PHYSICALLY, I WAS IN THE CAMP, BUT MY MIND WAS ALL OVER THE WORLD."

"Business is the backbone of economic, political and social processes all around the world," says Jama. "And at the same time, the curriculum at Gustavson is very practical. It made sense to major in something that prepared me with real-world experience that I could use in a lot of different industries and types of jobs."

Over the years, he's made good use of this practical knowledge. In addition to completing the BCom degree's mandatory co-ops, Jama consistently worked part-time to supplement his scholarship. But his eye toward financial success did not diminish the empathy that had led him to share his knowledge with the other children in Dadaab.

One chapter of his student career highlights this balance particularly well. Jama spent eight months fulfilling a co-op work term and then continuing full-time at the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo in Fort McMurray, Alberta. There, he helped the non-profit's efforts to build a supportive, multi-cultural community by working on the front line at events and meetings, while also balancing their books and discovering an interest in accounting.

SEE JAMA P.7

CONVOCATION 2017

major medal winners

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S GOLD MEDAL
Ryan Blackler—*PhD Biochemistry*

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDAL
Nicholas Benson—*BSc Computer Science and Mathematics*

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDAL
Sabina Trimble—*MA History*
Alexandra Macdonald—*MA Art History and Visual Studies*

JUBILEE MEDAL FOR HUMANITIES
Christiana Moser—*BA Linguistics, Language and Speech*

JUBILEE MEDAL FOR SCIENCE
Chadi Saad-Roy—*BSc Mathematics and Statistics*

JUBILEE MEDAL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES
Armon Alamolhoda—*BSc Economics*

MAXWELL A. CAMERON MEMORIAL AWARD
Alexa Brisbin—*BEd Elementary Teacher Education*
Stewart Lucas—*BEd Secondary Teacher Education*

VICTORIA MEDAL IN FINE ARTS
Margaret Lingas—*Music*

LAW SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL AND PRIZE
Madeline Reid—*JD Law*

CERTIFICATE OF OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC DISTINCTION IN HSD
Laura Monchak—*BSc Nursing*

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD
Devon Rose Chan—*BSc Kinesiology*

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MEDAL
Michael Ravensbergen—*BEng Mechanical Engineering*

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATION MEDAL
Matthew Clarkson—*BSc Computer Science*

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING
Hee Chui Kim—*BEng Computer Engineering*

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
Kieran Hartford—*BEng Electrical Engineering*

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
Nicolas Guillemot—*BEng Software Engineering*

Xue. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

Visual arts project offers "something to ponder"

BY JOHN THRELFALL

It sounds like a riddle: what has six legs, was built for camping and can walk on its own? The answer, however, is no joke — it's actually the incredibly complex final project of visual arts BFA graduate Xiao Xue.

Aptly titled "Something to Ponder On: A Walking Camper," Xue's project is exactly that—a classically Canadian truck camper unit, enhanced by six electric-powered robotic legs that allow it to walk independently. Inspired by a fascination with insects and a friend's prosthetic leg, Xue has created a remarkable piece that truly gives the viewer something to ponder.

"I'M MORE INTERESTED IN DOING THAN JUST KNOWING, AND THAT'S WHAT VISUAL ARTS OFFERS."

"Xiao's walking camper is a highly sophisticated artwork that brings together her poetic, even poignant, vision with matching research and technical skills," says visual arts professor Daniel Laskarin, one of Xue's instructors. "This piece is among the finest that any graduating student anywhere might produce."

An international student from the Chinese city of Urumqi, Xue came to UVic with practically no pre-existing art background. As such, she's an ideal example of the invaluable skills a fine arts education offers: by combining creative thinking and critical evaluation with hands-on learning, collaborative partnerships and sheer determination, she's not only achieved the practical goal represented by her project but has also earned admission to the master in fine arts program at the University of Guelph.

"I make structures with revealing structures," she explains. "In nature, all organisms that rely on a parasitic relationship need a host to survive and, once deceased, they are no longer seen if they are apart from the host." The same can be true in human society, says Xue—as represented here by a camper disembodied from its truck.

No question, Xue's piece was the hit of this year's graduating BFA art show in April. Constructed at a cost of approximately $4,200, her 2,400-pound walking camper was financed through a combination of crowd-sourcing, scholarships, bursaries and out-of-pocket expenses.

She also had the assistance of a fellow student in the mechanical engineering department, the support and sponsorship of local machine shop Rainhouse ("This project wouldn't have happened without them") and the resources of the visual arts department itself.

"It was a consistent learning experience with the [visual arts] technicians. I had a great four years spending time with them."

Xue describes the seven-month project, undertaken alongside her other classes, as "a non-stop troubleshooting process" involving hundreds of hours of sketching, welding, woodwork, electronics, 3D modelling, maquette construction and people management.

"I start with the final image in my mind and then reverse-engineer it based on what I can afford."

Of her time at UVic, Xue says she's "more interested in doing than just knowing, and that's what visual arts offers." But her walking camper offers something different again: a slower pace to provide the viewer a meditative opportunity conducive to pondering.

Mummies and bones: a love story

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

It was the perfect hands-on research project for someone with small hands. Renée Adams' project required extensive preliminary research into archaic death rituals and Egyptian mummification practices, as well as meticulous attention to detail…and a lot of tiny tools.

It took weeks to complete. Renée got an A, received accolades from her peers and through the process, she identified a new passion: biology.

She also discovered her project had a pretty short shelf life; within a few weeks it started to stink and her parents threw out the five-inch-long rat—gutted, stuffed and stitched back up with little gauze bags of cinnamon, myrrh and salt inside, his bottom half wrapped in strips of cloth so it looked like the tiny mummy was wearing white linen pants. Adams was nine years old.

"UVIC REORGANIZED MY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT HAD BEEN AT THE CORE OF MY INTERESTS FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE."

The feeder rat, bred at a pet store to be a snake's breakfast, provided the young Adams with a lesson that she didn't fully understand until she came to the University of Victoria.

She applied to social sciences intending to transfer to science, but she never made it that far. She took courses in science, history, anthropology and the archeology of death, and hung out in the bone lab. And she realized something—it wasn't the biology she'd loved so much; it was the study of human societies and cultures that was the real root of her long obsession with ancient Egypt.

Graduating this month with a double major in archeology and history, Adams says: "UVic reorganized my understanding about what had been at the core of my interests for my entire life."

In 2015, after many months of undiagnosed pain—for which she took narcotics so strong she had to drop two classes because she just couldn't think straight—she was diagnosed with a form of cancer called Hodgkin's lymphoma. She began months of chemotherapy and radiation.

Committed to finishing her degree, she picked up an online course while going through treatment. She finished her last class on campus this spring.

From Japan where she was traveling in May, she explained via Skype: "I wanted to get my degree done ASAP. That was a priority." With her cancer officially in remission since January of this year, she pulled out all the stops to avoid having to go back to school after beating cancer.

She's considering doing a diploma in teaching English as a second language because for now, archeology work is out because of the hard labour involved. Until she's declared cancer-free at the five-year mark, she'll stay closer to home in Victoria and she wants to work as an editor.

"Appreciating life is something I've learned to do through everything," Adams said. "I don't take days for granted. I'm expressing to people in my life that I love them. I want them to know how much I care."

Adams

Fledgling researcher takes flight

BY TARA SHARPE

Philibert. PHOTO: JANINE DUKELOW

Victoria Philibert, who graduates this month with a double major in philosophy and Pacific and Asian studies, is a perfect example of how the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) can impact UVic students whose first forays into deep research evoke personal insights and discovery.

Students receive a $1,500 scholarship and, with their professors, undertake research that is normally reserved only for graduate students. UVic President Jamie Cassels first had the idea for the JCURA during his tenure as vice-president academic and provost. Since 2009, 783 students have received this award.

Philibert's research, supervised by Katsuhiko Endo from Pacific and Asian studies, focused on youth in Japan within the context of a demographic crisis—exploring how and why cultural, spiritual and holistic underpinnings appear to be motivating a high percentage of youth away from marriage and childrearing.

But to visit Japan was too expensive for Philibert. "I feel like I know every scholarship," she adds, having amassed funds for her undergraduate education through book and essay prizes, as well as two scholarships: the Elias Mandel Prize in Humanities and Michiko Warkentyne Scholarship.

"THE BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS WERE HUGE IN ASSISTING ME TO FOCUS ON MY LARGER RESEARCH AMBITIONS DURING MY DEGREE."

Living on her own since age 16, Philibert worked 20 to 30 hours a week while maintaining a high grade point average. "The bursaries and scholarships were huge in assisting me to focus on my larger research ambitions during my degree.

"And the one thing that was never an obstacle was the classroom."

Born and raised in Victoria, Philibert transferred from Camosun College in 2014. She always wanted to study philosophy. It was her "saving grace all through high school," which she describes as "socially frustrating. I read a lot of philosophy to deal with it."

Her instructor at the college, Helen Lansdowne (also associate director of UVic's Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives), "inspired me to take Pacific and Asian studies." And Philibert found an "uncanny symbiotic relationship" between the two fields of study.

"Learning about existentialism perfectly suited studying humanism in Japan's 1960s cinema, and learning about Descartes, Nietzsche and Wittgenstein connected with what happens in our imaginations when we watch a piece of bunraku puppet theatre or try communicating meaningfully to an android."

She thinks people shouldn't go to university "to find themselves, although that happens. They have to meet it halfway. Make the most of all the opportunities."

Philibert is taking one year off—to work, of course—but with a goal of securing full funding to pursue graduate studies.

About her double major, she alludes to a sense of uplift, "of the contagious nature of ideas," but also "learning how to ground my philosophical interests in a concrete place and time."

She doesn't know "if memorizing kanji while grappling with Kripke was masochism or a trial I'll later be thankful for. But maybe when or after I pursue graduate studies, the answer will appear."

And even still, she can "feel the pull of flight in the air."

Boudreau. PHOTO: JULIE GAUVIN

Grad explores the secrets of motivation through rock climbing

BY JULIE REMY

What motivates rock climbers to keep reaching for new heights? Is it the adrenaline rush?

Not really, says Patrick Boudreau, who for his master's degree in physical education explored the impact of a high school rock climbing program and "self-efficacy"—an individual's belief in their own ability to organize and manage risks to achieve a goal.

"Self-efficacy is a very important element of success," says Boudreau, who has been a rock climber for 10 years. "Being naturally strong and flexible only counts for about four per cent of performance in rock climbers. The psychological state, your belief in yourself, plays a big role."

Exploring what motivates others to pursue adventure activities brought Boudreau west to UVic from Montreal.

For his thesis, he identified four ways that self-efficacy leads to success: take part in an activity that you're good at; feed off the encouragement of others; look at successful people who are similar to you in ability and age; and determine the way you interpret your feelings.

"People attracted to rock climbing and other outdoor adventure activities want to be progressively challenged without being in danger," he explains. "To do this, they have to be well-prepared and aware. They have buddies who they trust with their lives, and with whom they have to communicate effectively. These are critical skills that can be translated into other parts of their lives."

"[UVIC IS] A SMALL ENVIRONMENT WITH A LOT OF RESOURCES AND I GOT TO WORK ALONGSIDE SOME AMAZING RESEARCHERS."

Boudreau is now contemplating doing his PhD in New Zealand on skydiving and what's called the "flow state"—the mental state in which a person is fully immersed in an activity, bringing focus and contentment.

While seeking an adrenaline rush can be the first trigger for some skydivers and rock climbers, what keeps most of them in the activity in the long-run is seeking that flow state once they've acquired enough confidence.

"Feeling confident in an activity that you thought you would never be able to do but became competent and successful at, can potentially translate to a higher level of self-worth and transcend to the rest of your life," he says.

Physical education teachers in Canada can use this motivational information to encourage students to pursue healthy physical activities, adds Boudreau. "Beyond that, what if we managed to motivate students in a classroom simply by using self-efficacy and the flow state principles? They could get self-motivated to pursue learning for their own sake."

No matter where Boudreau goes next, he says UVic will stay in his heart. "It's a wonderful place. It's a small environment with a lot of resources and I got to work alongside some amazing researchers."

Having almost year-round access to outdoor experiences like skydiving, scuba diving and rock climbing didn't hurt either. "I even got to learn sailing with the UVic sailing club, which led me to buy a sailboat and live on it for some months," he says.

And, as a bonus, his research turned him into a certified rock climbing instructor.

JAMA CONTINUED FROM P.5

"That position was a great opportunity," says Jama. "I improved my communication skills, I tapped into the strong multicultural community in the city. I trained in practical skills like software for accounting and non-profits. And I also found that I enjoyed the accounting responsibilities, which I hadn't expected."

This discovery opened a new door for Jama. After graduating this month, he'd like to pursue additional courses in accounting, possibly a CPA or MBA—while working full-time. He also plans to bring his wife and young son to meet his family in Kenya.

"It's important to me to put people first in business," says Jama. "I know everyone says it, but I value social responsibility. I hope I can combine that with a job I like, one that will allow me to support my young family."

With his unique experience, exceptional adaptability and strength of purpose, Jama will doubtless achieve this and more.

LAMA CONTINUED FROM P.5

sister died of hunger. She explains how infant mortality is very high. "There is no sanitation, no health care, no electricity, no running water. To access the nearest road is a five-day walk." While most can't read or write, except for nuns and priests, the rural Nepali people are genius at subsisting within such a meagre and challenging, yet enduring, environment.

Lama is living testament to this perseverance, having worked hard labour as a child yet persuading family and local monks to let her attend school. As is the way, she has vowed to return and teach for two years at the boarding school where she studied as payment for the privilege.

The move to the private school in Zurich was a major change in every sense as Lama did her best to assimilate to a Christian-based culture. For example, she found the European diet a challenge for her rural palette. As Buddhists shun the taking of any life, she did not eat meat at first. Boiled vegetables still make her cringe.

Her greatest upset, though, was seeing people leave food on their plate. "People take more than they need," she says quietly. Witnessing excessive over-consumption in Europe and here in Canada, she said, "this was very difficult."

Adapting to Western culture is all part of her learning, says Lama. She found her university education even more transformative. "One begins by learning about ourselves," she says of her time in UVic's School of Child and Youth Care. "Reflection is essential to understand how things impact you. This changed my perspective. Before, I generalized. Now, I see life from a different angle and am much more open-minded."

Lama hopes to return to UVic and earn a master's degree. Her goal is to work with families new to Canada.

"Dechen's journey to UVic is both a riveting story and a humbling reminder for those of us who complain about first-world problems," says Jin-Sun Yoon, a teaching professor in Child and Youth Care. Recalling Lama's influence in the classroom, Yoon says, "She rejects sympathy. Instead, she inspires those around her to widen their world view."

Saad-Roy and friend.

Grad's mathematical models help map path of disease transmission

BY JODY PATERSON

Chadi Saad-Roy was a high school math whiz with no idea when he first enrolled at the University of Victoria in 2012 that he would one day be trying to unravel how a cow with cattle fever spreads the disease to the rest of the herd.

What a difference five years makes. From his start as an undeclared science student, Saad-Roy is now graduating with a honours BSc in math and statistics with a minor in biology, and a whole new appreciation for the vital real-world applications that lie at the intersection of those disciplines.

Under the mentorship of UVic Professor Emeritus Pauline van den Driessche in the Department of Math and Statistics, Saad-Roy developed mathematical models to understand and predict the spread of disease within an exposed population. The winner of the 2017 Jubilee Medal in Science for his perfect GPA of nine has developed and tested models estimating the transmission risks of cattle fever, syphilis, and anthrax in populations exposed to a single infected source.

"It's a question of what we can learn from an abstract system that applies to the real world," says Saad-Roy, 22. "How many people do you need to treat for disease eradication? If you take an infected person and put them into the population, how many people will they infect? If it's less than one, then in our models the disease will die out. You can prove that."

"TO DO WHAT I DID REQUIRES A LOT OF CLASSES, LOTS OF HARD WORK. BUT IT'S BEEN FUN!"

Saad-Roy also worked on a model for the Zika virus, establishing how many infected people are in a particular population by the time a baby is born with microcephaly, one of the most severe outcomes of the mosquito-borne virus. Such models are critically important for the world's health authorities when deciding which control measures to use for a particular disease.

It hasn't been an easy five years, acknowledges Saad-Roy: "To do what I did requires a lot of classes, lots of hard work. But it's been fun!"

All that hard work definitely got him noticed. He won three consecutive grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council that allowed him to work with van den Driessche in the summers of 2014–16, and also won a Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award.

He's excited that UVic is now considering whether to develop an interdisciplinary degree program in math, statistics and biology, which would help future students "see that they can do something like this."

Saad-Roy starts at Princeton University this fall on a full scholarship, and hopes to graduate with his PhD in quantitative and computational biology in 2022.

Dancing with Molly – how do people using illicit drugs measure purity?

BY AMANDA FARRELL-LOW

Callas. PHOTO: RONALD MARTINEZ

It wasn't so long ago that Molly was just a name. Now, the moniker is slang for the chemical compound MDMA, also known on the street as ecstasy, an illegal psychoactive drug known for its ability to invoke feelings of empathy and euphoria—and a popular drug of choice among festival-goers and young people.

But how do ecstasy users determine whether their stash is high quality, or potentially deadly?

Anthropology graduate Melanie Callas investigated that question for her master's thesis. She looked at data from UVic's Centre for Addictions Research high-risk survey—which interviewed people who took drugs in social settings about their drug use—and the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey to find out how people measured the potency of their MDMA.

"I found that the main strategies users employed was asking their friends if they know what's in it," she says. "Some people seemed to care about what was in their ecstasy, but at the same time, many didn't think about it at all, and never thought about it as a potential harm. Few used testing kits."

Callas's research garnered a lot of interest. She was a finalist in UVic's Three Minute Thesis competition, was selected as the Best Graduate Podium Presentation at the annual Currents in Anthropology student research conference, and participated in UVic's Speaker's Bureau, where she brought her talk on ecstasy purity to high schools—and even William Head Institution, a minimum-security prison.

"The audience was very attentive and they asked a lot of really interesting questions," she says of the prison presentation. "A few of them had past experience with drugs, so they could answer some of the questions that I didn't know a lot about."

At the time of her research, tainted ecstasy was a big story; there were many media reports of young people dying after taking what they thought was MDMA. Often, the drug actually contained a PMA or one of its analogues, a toxic chemical compound that can potentially lead to organ failure.

While concerns about PMA have been eclipsed by the current opioid overdose crisis, Callas says the fact remains that people who use illicit substances need to be aware of the dangers.

"Ecstasy, like heroin and other drugs, can also be very deadly," she says. "I want to spread awareness about ecstasy so that people who use it can be educated and knowledgeable about the harms.

"In the end, it's their choice whether to use drugs or test them, or what steps they take. As long as they know what options they have, that can save a lot of lives."

Co-op graduate "gets his hands dirty" preserving BC's natural world

BY DANIEL LAKE

Growing up in some of BC's most beautiful landscapes—from the snow-covered peaks in Whistler to the shores of the Salish Sea in Victoria—inspired Keegan Meyers to develop a deep appreciation for the natural world.

After he spent the year after high school working and snowboarding the mountains of Vancouver Island, he realized he wanted a degree that would allow him to work and play in the great outdoors.

That goal has now become a reality. Although the biology student formally graduates this June, he began working full-time as a wildlife biologist with LGL Limited Environmental Research Associates in Sidney just two days after his final exam in May. "It's been a bit of a blur," he says. "I've had to pinch myself that I'm already working."

Meyer's rapid transition from school to career was no accident. He's a strong advocate of UVic's co-op program, through which he completed work terms as a species-at-risk data management assistant at the Ministry of Environment's B.C. Conservation Data Centre, as a research assistant in the Bark Beetle Ecology Lab at the Pacific Forestry Centre, and most recently as a field technician with LGL.

This last experience found him surveying how western painted turtles use habitat in the Revelstoke Reach wetlands. "I was really able to get my hands dirty—I spent my work days in a canoe—that's pretty hard to beat."

Each of Meyers' co-op experiences further cemented his love of biology, so when his former co-op supervisor at LGL recommended that he apply for a permanent position at the company, he didn't hesitate.

"I wouldn't be where I am right now without the co-op program," he says. "It has been fundamental to securing a job with a great company."

Meyers recently returned from the Kinbasket Reservoir near Golden, where he spent two weeks surveying western toad and Columbia spotted frog breeding habits. At the end of the May, he'll head up to Fort McMurray to conduct a study of small mammals that are carving out habitats in areas formerly leased for oil sand use.

"I'm so excited to travel throughout this amazing province applying the skills I've learned at UVic—everything from herpetology to ichthyology—and contributing to meaningful research. At the end of the day I'd like to try and leave the world a better place, and UVic has helped me do that."

Meyers monitoring painted turtle habitat in Revelstoke. PHOTO: KARLE ZELMER

Six degrees of inspiration

Honorary degrees—the university's highest academic honour—will be presented to six exceptional individuals during spring Convocation ceremonies.

PHOTO: RAYMOND LUM

JOY KOGAWA, HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS

June 12 / 2:30 p.m.

Joy Kogawa wrote the classic novel *Obasan*, a semi-autobiographical account of Japanese Canadians sent to internment camps at the BC village of Slocan during World War II. The Literary Review of Canada places *Obasan* among the most important books in Canadian literature for its depiction of racism against Japanese Canadians. Its themes of dislocation and loss initiated public discourse and played a pivotal role in the redress movement that led to the official apology offered by the federal government in 1988. Kogawa's other works include *Itsuka* (a sequel to *Obasan*), multiple collections of poetry and children's books.

TIMOTHY VERNON, HONORARY DOCTOR OF MUSIC

June 13 / 2:30 p.m.

Timothy Vernon is the founding artistic director of Pacific Opera Victoria (POV), considered one of the city's cultural treasures. A multi-faceted conductor and interpreter of a wide-ranging orchestral and operatic repertoire, he is also an admired teacher, mentor and arts leader. Since POV started some 30 years ago, Vernon has shaped the company into what it is today: renowned for the quality of its (often challenging) productions and for bold programming that can range from Handel to contemporary works. Partnerships between POV and the UVic Libraries include the 2011 production of *Mary's Wedding* which drew hundreds of people to campus.

BRIAN LO, HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS

June 14 / 2:30 p.m.

Brian Lo enjoyed a 36-year career in the banking industry—mostly with CIBC's Vancouver Chinatown and downtown branches—creating links between the corporate sectors of BC and Asia. He joined CIBC in 1972 after immigrating from Hong Kong but wasn't credited for his previous management experience. He began the Canadian portion of his career as a trainee, rising through the ranks before heading CIBC's Asian corporate banking division. A member of the university's board of governors from 1995 to 2001, Lo spearheaded the UVic Asia Partners Fund and helped form partnerships with post-secondary schools in Asia.

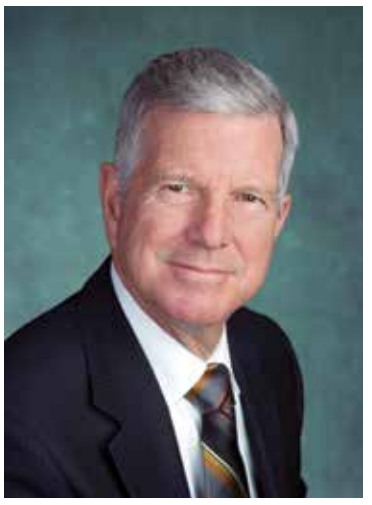


PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

CHRISTINA MUNCK, HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

June 15 / 10 a.m.

Christina Munck is co-founder and vice-president of two conservation organizations that are making a significant impact on our understanding of the BC coastal environment through community-based research. She and her husband, Eric Peterson, created and funded the Tula Foundation in 2001, applying an entrepreneurial approach to non-profit, global ventures including health care programs in Guatemala and environmental programs in BC. In 2009, they created the Hakai Institute for interdisciplinary research in collaboration with Indigenous communities. Its focus is on sustainability and conservation issues on the central coast. Munck and Peterson are also key supporters of UVic's Environmental Law Centre and the Environmental Law Centre Clinic.

MURRAY FARMER, HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS

June 15 / 2:30 p.m.

Murray Farmer is a community, business and volunteer leader as well as a proud alumnus and supporter of the university. Farmer graduated from UVic in 1968 with his Bachelor's degree in economics, was president of Farmer Industries Group, and was UVic chancellor from 2009 to 2014 after previously serving as a member of the board of governors. His volunteerism and philanthropic efforts in Greater Victoria have had a significant impact on numerous organizations. At UVic, the Lynda and Murray Farmer Walk of Excellence at CARSA recognizes the couple's support of active living programs and varsity athletics.

PAUL NICKLEN, HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

June 16 / 10 a.m.

Paul Nicklen creates stunning wildlife photography—often in extreme conditions at the North and South Poles—to bring attention to the impacts of climate change. A UVic biology alumnus, Nicklen discovered scuba diving and photography during his undergraduate studies. He first gained acclaim as an assignment photographer for *National Geographic* magazine where his contributions to more than 16 feature stories illustrate the delicate balance between wildlife and their ecosystems. Nicklen's interest in protecting the world's oceans led him to co-found SeaLegacy, an online source of visual storytelling that bridges scientific data and human emotion. His Instagram account has more than three million followers.

Psychology grad aims to make a difference in autism research

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Dwyer

Patrick Dwyer is confident, articulate and sharply focused on his future. Born and raised in Victoria, he loves the outdoors, hiking and reading. He's particularly grateful for the support of his family especially while he completed a BA in psychology with a minor in political science.

"I'm excited to continue my research in developmental psychology," says Dwyer. "I want to make a difference in the lives of people living with autism."

Developmental psychology, specifically autism research, is personal for Dwyer.

"I was 18 years old when I went public with my diagnosis," he says. "I didn't want to hide it any longer; as someone with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) I wanted to define myself in a positive way."

Growing up, Dwyer found middle school especially challenging; the loud ambient noise of a classroom made it impossible for him to focus on learning. Once he started a home-schooling program, Dwyer excelled in his subjects and soon set his sights on applying to UVic.

"UVic has an excellent psychology program," says Dwyer, "and the people are friendly, approachable and the campus is beautiful with a great atmosphere."

In his second year, Dwyer became involved in psychology research as an assistant to psychologist Stephen Lindsay. He was later awarded a Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award to develop a research project involving adults with autism under Lindsay's supervision.

During his undergraduate degree, Dwyer had an opportunity to work with another psychologist, James Tanaka, and UVic's Centre for Autism Research, Technology and Education (CARTE) where he helped and supported children on the spectrum in social and teamwork activities during summer research camps.

Dwyer was also actively involved with the peer support group and official UVic club, Authors with Autism. He organized the 2015, 2016 and this year's 2017 Autism's Own Conference, a unique event celebrating a non-academic UVic journal written and edited by people on the autism spectrum. He was also an active member of the UVic Society for Students with Disabilities, an advocacy group for students with disabilities on campus.

"I've been immersed in the autism community my whole life," says Dwyer. "My younger brother is on the spectrum and so are a large number of my friends."

Dwyer talks about the extremely poor adult outcomes for people with ASD, especially for young people transitioning from high school to employment. A high proportion of people with ASD work at low-paying jobs and remain in poverty most of their lives.

With an exceptional graduating GPA, Dwyer has been accepted into the prestigious PhD program in developmental psychology at the University of California, Davis beginning in September.

"I hope to close the gap between autism researchers and advocates," says Dwyer. "Few people on the spectrum are also involved in research."

Share your convocation memories

- Tag your photos with *#uvicgrad* to see your photos on the digital screens in the University Centre.
- Follow these accounts for convocation photos and stories:

University of Victoria | @uvic | uvic.snaps

Grad stories online

To see all the grad stories online, go to *ring.uvic.ca*

In case you missed it: other news from around the Ring

L-R: Andrus, Crocker, Dewis, Cassels, Lepp, Hammado. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Our outstanding staff for 2017!

This year's President's Extraordinary Service Award nominees and recipients were honoured at a campus celebration in early May. The awards—which were restructured from the former President's Distinguished Service Awards—saw 19 individual and seven team nominations from every VP portfolio and all employee groups. *http://bit.ly/uvic-pesa2017*

Lepp. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Collateral damage

Measures to counter human trafficking often harm the very people they're supposed to help, says UVic gender studies professor Annalee Lepp. "The prevention of trafficking is cited as a justification to tighten borders," she says, adding that protective measures instead often jeopardize the legitimate drive and need to migrate in search of safety, employment and survival. *bit.ly/uvic-collateral*

Stajduhar. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Award honours end-of-life research

A new award for Kelli Stajduhar (nursing) cites her as "a living ambassador for the very real difference scientific knowledge brings to revolutionizing health care," and for "working with nurses on the front lines for more than 30 years to improve point-of-care services." Stajduhar is a national leader in the study of end-of-life care. *http://bit.ly/uvic-stajduhar*

Biró. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

The music of global migration

Internationally recognized composer and music professor Dániel Péter Biró will use his new Guggenheim Fellowship to reflect on one of the most important issues of today: global migration. New compositions based on Baruch Spinoza's philosophical work, *Ethica*, "will investigate relationships to historical space, space of immigration and disembodied space." *bit.ly/uvic-biro*

Citizen scientists are the future for our oceans

BY JODY PATERSON

The impressive performance of more than 500 "citizen scientists" who signed on for a study counting deep-water sablefish off the Tofino coast is heartening proof that understanding our oceans is something we can all be part of, says one of the Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) scientists who co-authored the study.

That's a key takeaway for World Oceans Day on June 8, notes scientist Maia Hoeberechts, ONC associate director of user services.

"This study is all about who can help science," she says. "The theme for World Oceans Day this year is 'Our Oceans, Our Future,' which is all about building interest and ability for individuals to make a difference whether within their own circles, in the community or at the global level."

Citizen scientists ensure all videos are seen

ONC is a University of Victoria initiative that has operated ocean observatories in the waters around Vancouver Island for a decade. Observations in the Arctic began five years ago, and more recently along the British Columbia coast from Tofino to Prince Rupert.

Since its earliest days, ONC has counted on citizen scientists from around the world to help monitor and comment on the real-time camera feeds from the observatories posted on its website. With 90,000 hours of archived data generated to date, the participation of citizen scientists is essential to ensure more of that video data gets seen.

The fish-counting study asked volunteers to view deep-sea video samples from the observatory in Barkley Canyon and estimate numbers of sablefish, also known as black cod.

The objective was to test how amateur scientists performed in comparison to the counts of an expert biologist, a class of undergraduate students and a computer algorithm monitoring the same video segments.

All the human observers proved better at fish-counting than the algorithm. Those who had some training did almost as well as the biologist.

Knowing that citizen scientists can be called upon to help experts analyze vast amounts of data generated by the observatories offers tremendous potential to increase the network's vital impact, enrich human understanding, improve commercial fisheries management and protect life under the sea, says Hoeberechts.

"We need to move beyond the view that an expert is the only person who can analyze the data we're collecting," she says. "It's not new that citizens make scientifically useful observations, it's new that science is taking them seriously."

Hoeberechts. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Humans are better observers

Science has been relying on citizen scientists for at least 1,167 years, which is when residents of Japan began their ongoing annual notation of the first spring day when blossoms were spotted on the country's flowering cherry trees. That record has now become an important confirmation of global warming, revealing a consistent pattern of earlier and earlier blossoming ever since the Industrial Revolution in the mid-1800s.

In terms of citizens helping with data analysis, the sablefish study confirmed that "humans are expert observers," says Hoeberechts. When they put their observational talents to work analyzing deep-sea videos and still-photo imagery, they contribute to scientific knowledge of a vast part of Earth that's still very much an unknown. More than 70 per cent of the planet lies beneath the world's oceans.

The Digital Fishers program was developed jointly by ONC and UVic's Centre for Global Studies to crowd-source citizen scientists. More than 1,000 amateur scientists from around the world now monitor the network's live video feeds and participate in studies like the sablefish count. Watch for a new Digital Fishers campaign this fall.

Sablefish. PHOTO: ONC

Study asks people using drugs to shape their primary care

BY JODY PATERSON

A collaborative style of health research guided by those whose lives are the focus of the research is the model for a new Greater Victoria study aimed at helping people with multiple barriers get the primary health care they need without feeling judged, stigmatized and shut out.

Building on the work of a previous University of Victoria study examining cultural safety for hospitalized patients who use illicit drugs, health researchers from UVic's Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC) will now examine how that same population experiences primary health care. CARBC is partnering with Island Health, Royal Roads University, the Victoria Division of Family Practice and two community groups for the one-year study, led by researchers Bernie Pauly and Karen Urbanoski.

Collaborating with community groups such as the Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID) and the Umbrella Society ensures the perspectives of people with lived experience are incorporated into all aspects of the study, from identifying which issues to research, what questions to ask, who to ask them of and how best to put results into practice more quickly to improve health care.

"We all know that research drives quality, quality means better care, and better care means healthier outcomes for patients in my situation," says 'Jill,' one of the SOLID peer-researchers. "Patient-oriented research is research that fully engages us as partners."

The study is the first on Vancouver Island to be funded by the BC Support Unit for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (BC SUPPORT). The province's four regional SUPPORT centres were established through a new partnership between universities, health authorities and the CIHR, with the CIHR contributing $40 million and other partners matching those funds.

"Patient-oriented research offers a tremendous opportunity to engage with the community in shaping projects that will have a vital and immediate impact," says David Castle, UVic's vice-president research. "This type of research partnership aligns strongly with UVic's commitment to community-engaged research."

Having physicians and people who use drugs around the same research planning table has already been invaluable in raising awareness, notes Urbanoski, a researcher with CARBC and the Canada Research Chair in Substance Use, Addictions and Health Services Research.

"Part of the project's role is to help primary physicians understand what it's actually like to try to seek health care for this group of people," she says. "It's really challenging for people, whether they're drug users or face other disadvantages—poverty, homelessness, violence, racism, colonialism. We see this work as the kind of thing that can be turned into training that will help us come up with a model for safe primary care."

Impassioned legal scholar comes home to UVic

"The study of philosophy can make a vital impact in the world, because philosophy is a discipline of ideas. Ideas change people and it is people who make change in the world."

BY TARA SHARPE

Tonkin. CREDIT: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Ryan Tonkin could have pursued his doctoral studies anywhere. He chose to come home to the University of Victoria.

The 31-year-old alumnus—who graduated with a BA in philosophy from UVic in 2010, an MA in philosophy in 2011 and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 2014—is the first student in UVic's Department of Philosophy's new PhD program.

UVic has always felt like a second home to him and most poignantly at a time in his life when he did not have one. Born in Victoria, Tonkin left home at 14. As he describes, his first lessons were "deeply personal. I dropped out of high school and spent my teenage years on the street, in group homes and in foster care."

He decided to return to education in 2007. After earning his BA, Tonkin squeezed in an MA in only 16 months before heading to Boston.

Innovation in tax law

Tonkin will now focus his doctoral research on doctrines of justice in the context of taxation and income inequality. "The study of philosophy can make a vital impact in the world," he says, "because philosophy is a discipline of ideas. Ideas change people and it is people who make change in the world.

"My project is looking at revolutionizing the tax system. My role is to provide policies that might appeal to advocates, legislators, policy analysts and the public. In an era of increased automation, innovation in tax law is increasingly critical to our survival as a civil society."

His MA supervisor Colin Macleod, chair of the Department of Philosophy, recounts when Tonkin wrote the LSAT that he took it "only one time and scored in the 99.85th percentile. There seems to be no field in which he cannot and does not excel."

Dedication to public service

Tonkin is the recipient of a 2017 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, administered through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and applied successfully for additional doctoral funding—to be announced later this year.

"I used to visit this beautiful campus and see the students on the grass studying," says Tonkin, "and I had so much admiration for them. I thought they're the future leaders and I wanted to be a part of it."

"Ryan's brilliance as a student is exceeded only by his compassion and dedication to public service," adds Macleod. "[Having had] first-hand experience with poverty and injustice, he's not naïve about what he confronts in his work. He just cheerfully rolls up his sleeves and gets to work."

Tonkin is currently directing the Justice as Fairness Society and also founded a public legal education platform at Rock Bay Landing Emergency Shelter, Vancouver Island's largest homeless shelter, which he continues to operate today.

Out in the community

He's been a long-time community volunteer with groups such as Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS); Victoria Cool Aid Society; Victoria Hospice; Fighting for Fairness; Homeless Partners; Victoria Literacy Task Group; Sanctuary Youth Centre; and Mustard Seed Food Bank. He also served as chair of UVic's Philosophy Students Association and worked as a volunteer librarian for the department.

"Universities have a major role to play in shaping both public discourse and policy," says Tonkin. "Students seeking to do either will feel well at home at UVic."

He and his fiancée are currently building a house in Victoria. His motorcycle will be in the drive and his pug ensconced inside the new home. It has come full circle for Tonkin—he now creates sanctuary for others.

Watch Tonkin discuss his experiences as a student and his commitment to the community in a UVic-produced video at bit.ly/uvic-tonkin

ringers

Mechanical engineer **Andrew Rowe** is the new director of the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic) for a five-year term beginning July 1. Rowe is a longtime member of the IESVic team, with research interests in cryogenics, hydrogen technologies, energy systems, thermodynamics, caloric devices, and thermal design. He succeeds Peter Wild, who has led the institute since 2007. IESVic is an internationally recognized leader in the development of sustainable energy technologies and works closely with private and public sector partners in Canada and around the world.

If you've walked through Finnerty Gardens or past a recycling station lately, you've seen some of **Bentley Sly's** contributions to the natural areas and facilities of the campus community. Sly is this year's recipient of the staff Sustainability Champion award. Since joining UVic as the manager of grounds with Facilities Management in 2006, he has spearheaded many sustainability initiatives and been an important connector between the university's sustainability action plan and campus operations. **Julia Jennings** (environmental studies/geography) is the student recipient of the Sustainability Champion award, for her work organizing and mobilizing campus ecological restoration initiatives. Read their stories at *bit.ly/uvic-sustainability-champ*

Trevor Hancock, professor and senior scholar with the School of Public Health and Social Policy, has been awarded the Defries Medal from the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA). Hancock also serves as a senior editor for the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. Considered a lifetime achievement award, the R.D. Defries Award is awarded to a CPHA member for outstanding contributions in the field of public health. Hancock was cited for his work in advancing the public health importance of the ecological determinants of health and as a co-founder of the global Healthy Cities and Communities movement.

MEC tops Gustavson brand rankings—again

MOST TRUSTED BRAND IN CANADA 2017 TOP TEN
Gustavson School of Business University of Victoria

The Gustavson School of Business has unveiled its third annual analysis of the brands most trusted by Canadians, highlighting how community engagement, relationship management and customer experience influence consumer trust.

The annual Gustavson Brand Trust Index was established to raise awareness of the role trust plays in the minds of consumers when making purchasing decisions, and measures the relationships between brand performance, social equity, trust and advocacy for brands in Canada.

The initiative highlights Gustavson's goal of educating and championing responsible leadership, part of the vital impact that drives UVic's sense of purpose as a leading teaching and research hub.

The index uses a statistically representative sample of 6,560 consumers to score 294 Canadian companies and brands. It measures the performance of brands and companies in 26 industry sectors on a range of brand value measures.

Canada's Top 10 Most Trusted Brands for 2017 are:

- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Canadian Automobile Association
- Costco Wholesale
- Fairmont Hotels & Resorts
- IKEA
- Chapters/Indigo
- President's Choice
- Interac
- Cirque du Soleil
- WestJet