

CONVOCATION

2018

PAGES 5-9



THE RING

SUMMER 2018

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



University
of Victoria

speed read

THE FUTURE OF UVIC

Board approves Strategic Framework

The Board of Governors unanimously approved the UVic Strategic Framework 2018–2023 on May 29. This important institutional document articulates our shared understanding of our vision, values and priorities. It serves as a guide to the future—setting out priorities and high-reaching goals in six key areas.

“The Strategic Framework positions and inspires us to apply our commitment to excellence in research and creative activity, teaching, service and engagement to serve students, communities and the world,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels. “Thank you to all those who participated in this important process.” To download a copy of the framework, please visit uvic.ca/strategicframework. A formal launch of the framework will take place in September.

CONVOCATION 2018

Watch Convocation online

Spring Convocation ceremonies will be webcast live on June 11–15. 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 for six weeks following Convocation. For event times and more information, visit uvic.ca/ceremonies.



Franco in the lab. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

3,776

NUMBER OF
DEGREES,
CERTIFICATES
AND DIPLOMAS
TO BE AWARDED
AT SPRING 2018
CONVOCATION
CEREMONIES

Biology grad builds community with STEM

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

In her past four and a half years, biology undergraduate student Yamila Franco has developed an impressive list of accomplishments—achieving fluency in French, completing four co-op terms and an Honours project, learning how to code, blogging for My UVicLife, pursuing her passion in photography and becoming a board member with the BC Chapter of the Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research.

But Franco also makes sure to Skype with both of her grandmothers in the Do-

minican Republic every day. “Community is why I am here,” she says. “I achieved a lot, but it’s because I try to be very rooted in my values, and take care of my spirituality, my body and my mental health.”

It’s Franco’s belief in the importance of community that unites many of her interests, from welcoming new students with International Student Services to conducting research in the field of entomology—the study of insects.

Franco says her UVic co-op as a biological pest control assistant researcher in Switzerland with the Centre for Agricul-

ture and Bioscience International (CABI), “allowed me to understand the research process, improve my French and build my resume. But I’m most interested in CABI’s programs that help make research about alternatives to chemical pest control available to farming communities globally.”

Back in Victoria, this led Franco to complete an honours project in entomology, while also sharing her passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) through Science Venture, a UVic non-profit which offers hands-on science learning opportunities for youth

SEE FRANCO P. 7



Graeme. PHOTO: JULIA JENNINGS

Three from UVic awarded 3M National Student Fellowships, recognizing leadership

It’s the first time that three students from one school have been selected for the prestigious national awards.

BY JODY PATERSON

Three of 10 prestigious 3M National Student Fellowships have been awarded to students in UVic’s Faculty of Social Sciences. Cara Samuel (psychology), Maxwell Nicholson (economics) and Michael Graeme (anthropology and environmental studies) join seven others to become Canada’s 3M

fellowship recipients for 2018.

In each of the previous four years, at least one UVic student has been among 10 national recipients of the 3M National Student Fellowship, presented by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. But this is the first time since the fellowships were established in 2012 that three of the awards have gone to students from a single school.

The awards recognize students’ achievements and future potential to enhance teaching and learning at the post-sec-

ondary level, and include \$5,000 for each student as well as support for a year-long collaborative group project. This year, students were asked to submit a higher-education challenge and a solution to the 3M selection committee.

UVic president Jamie Cassels expressed great pride in the accomplishments and recognition achieved by these students. He talked about how students’ success and contributions are the “proof points” for

SEE 3M STUDENTS P. 11

around the ring

Gustavson goes carbon neutral

As a way to offset the frequent airplane travel that comes with being an internationally focused business school, the Gustavson School of Business is going carbon neutral—and is believed to be the first business school in the world to do so. To make this happen, the school is investing in three carbon-offset projects that will improve living conditions in communities in Uganda, Honduras and Thailand, and two environmental projects in BC. Over 90 per cent of Gustavson students and faculty travel internationally on an annual basis, in keeping with the school's objective of developing globally minded graduates and demonstrating thought leadership in international business research.

Fundraising priorities for 2018–19

President Jamie Cassels has announced a fundraising goal of \$16 million for UVic in 2018–19 and released the list of projects that will be priorities for the year. He notes that the new strategic framework will help us focus our efforts in the coming years. UVic raised an impressive \$18.8 million in the 2017–18 fiscal year. View the PDF list at bit.ly/18-19-funds.

Campus checklist survey results

Thank you to the 923 people who participated in the Campus Checklist survey. We're thrilled that so many staff find the Checklist emails valuable, and are looking forward to implementing some changes as a result of the survey, including an online form for content submissions. It's not just our newsletter, it's yours too! More: bit.ly/checklist-18



Goodman at choir practise. PHOTO: BETH DOMAN

SINGING TO FIGHT THE STIGMA AND SOCIAL ISOLATION OF DEMENTIA

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

Rita Goodman was nine years old and huddled in the dark basement of her Liverpool orphanage when she first started singing about bluebirds flying over the white cliffs of Dover and the long, long road to Tipperary. Nuns led their young charges in song to drown out the sounds of the German Luftwaffe as bombers pummeled the British port city in the early years of the Second World War.

Now, at 88, she's singing in the basement hall of St. Joseph the Worker church in Victoria. Her short-term memory is what she describes as "sketchy" but when she sings a medley of some of the British morale-boosting songs made famous by Vera Lynn, her memories of those war years are as vivid as they ever were.

Goodman, along with her daughter Anne and about 30 others, are part of Voices in Motion, an intergenerational community choir for people with dementia, their family caregivers and high school students.

Voices in Motion is also a UVic research study led by Debra Sheets (nursing) and fellow research affiliates of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, Stuart MacDonald (psychology) and Andre Smith (sociology), along with Mary Kennedy (music) and Carl Asche (economics) at the University of Illinois. They're

investigating how participation in an intergenerational choir impacts quality of life for persons with dementia, caregiver well-being, and how it might reduce some of the stigma surrounding memory loss.

Goodman, who worked as a registered nurse in Britain and Canada and sang in the UVic Chorus for nearly 40 years, was sitting beside St. Andrew's Regional High School student Chanel Mandap when choral director Erica Phare-Berg asked choir members to chat with their neighbours for a few minutes after singing the medley. Goodman tells Mandap about the nightly ritual of little girls in nightgowns being trotted downstairs to sleep in the basement during air raids, and the storage shelves they converted into makeshift beds. Mandap tells her she never heard anything like this in her history classes.

This kind of knowledge-sharing doesn't come as a surprise to Sheets. "Intergenerational choirs are really magical," she says after the practice. "People tend to associate with people their own age. For older adults to be around younger people who have a lot of good energy, and for younger people to be around older people when maybe they don't live near their grandparents, they can develop relationships with them."

All this is going to be especially

important, she points out, in a population where the number of older adults is going to double in the next 15 years.

Previous choir studies have shown the experience is a positive one, but Sheets says that they have been primarily qualitative and largely just asked participants about their experience, without tapping into the impact on their lives and relationships.

"More rigorous research is important," says Sheets. Choirs are a relatively inexpensive intervention, but they're not without expense: they require a choir director, piano accompanist, a place to rehearse and other supports. "To gain wider public support for dementia-friendly choirs, we need stronger evidence that this can significantly improve people's lives," she says.

"IT'S NOT ABOUT STAYING BUSY AND FILLING TIME. IT'S ABOUT DOING SOMETHING THAT LEAVES YOU FEELING UPLIFTED AND WHICH OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN BY BEING PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT VALUES YOUR VOICE AND WHAT YOU'RE CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROUP."

To gather the necessary data, participant pairs—a person with early- to moderate-stage dementia and a family caregiver who's most often a spouse or child—go through monthly assessments as part of the study. Grad students and research assistants are doing rigorous cognitive, neuropsychological and physiological assessments.

Mary Kennedy, emeritus UVic music professor, is leading the high school students survey portion of the study, asking about their attitudes and knowledge about dementia before and at the end of the project.

Sociologist André Smith is working with graduate student researchers to do in-home interviews with participant pairs about the choir's impact on social networks and the relationship between persons with dementia, their caregivers and the student.

Researchers hope that the project's findings and tools will allow other organizations to replicate best practices and measure the impact of a choir on social connections, social networks, and caregiver burden and stress.

"Our goal," says Sheets, "is to offer an opportunity to participate in a meaningful and supportive activity in which having dementia is not the focus. It's not about staying busy and filling time. It's about doing something that leaves you feeling uplifted and which offers opportunities to learn by being part of a community that values your voice and what you're contributing to the group."

"I think we can have an impact on quality of life here for both the caregiver and care recipient so both are creating new connections. Reducing stigma and social isolation is a great contribution," says Sheets.

At the end of the first phase of this two-year project, the choir put on a sold-out public performance in May. In September, the choir will double in size. It is funded by the Alzheimer's Society Research Program and Pacific Alzheimer Research Foundation. Island Health is the project's community collaborator.

UVIC

THE RING Vol. 43 No. 5

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper
ring.uvic.ca

Printed using vegetable-based inks on
100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Next issue Sept. 6

The Ring is published eight times a year by
University Communications + Marketing.

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Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

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Printed in Canada by Black Press

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DAVE LYNN

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Baum diving at Kiritimati Island in the South Pacific. PHOTO: K. TIETJE

Marine ecologist's global impact earns national award

An international rising star in marine conservation ecology and an outspoken advocate for science-based decisions on global issues such as climate change and overfishing is the University of Victoria's newest Steacie Fellow.

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

Marine biologist Julia Baum is one of six university faculty members across the country to be awarded a coveted 2018 E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The fellowship honours "outstanding and highly promising faculty who are earning a strong international reputation for original research." It includes a research grant of \$250,000 over two years.

"Julia is an inspired choice and an inspirational recipient of this award," says co-nominator Verena Tunnicliffe, also an internationally respected marine biologist at UVic, and the Canada Research Chair in Deep Ocean Research. "She's the epitome of the scientist who acknowledges, and who acts upon, the responsibility to contribute one's expertise beyond academia."

Baum studies how human disturbances alter the structure and dynamics of marine ecosystems and the consequences of those changes. Her research on the effects of exploitation on sharks provided the first robust evidence that overfishing had caused

dramatic declines in the world's shark populations.

Baum's research at UVic uses complex statistical analyses and intensive fieldwork to study how fishing and climate change are impacting tropical coral reefs, the most diverse of marine ecosystems. Her work on Kiritimati Island (Christmas Island) in the equatorial Pacific attracted attention when the recent major El Niño event caused the worst heat stress ever recorded on the island's corals, resulting in widespread bleaching and coral mortality. The data she's collecting there is helping researchers around the world evaluate the resilience of coral ecosystems to globally rising temperatures.

Only 10 years after completing her PhD, Baum has already earned more than 20 fellowships and awards; published almost 50 peer-reviewed articles, five of them in *Science*, one of the top two science journals in the world; and been cited more than 7,000 times—an exceptional record for someone so early in their career.

Baum is also a much-sought-after speaker by the world's top universities, a passionate advocate for women in science, and an articulate and persuasive science communicator.

"I want the science that my team and I do to matter. We devote a lot of effort to sharing our work with the public, school kids and policy-makers—it's the right thing to do and we love doing it," says Baum of her motivation to effect change through research and communicating publicly about changing environmental conditions to inform public discourse and policy-makers.

Baum will use her fellowship grant to expand her research at Kiritimati to better understand the factors that influence coral reef recovery following mass mortality events.

"It's an incredible honour," says Baum of being awarded a Steacie Fellowship. "Coral reefs are one of the most sensitive ecosystems to climate change, and the discoveries the scientific community makes in the next few years—along with the decisions that we make as a society about addressing climate change—are going to dictate if these ecosystems can persist throughout this century."

"I'm incredibly grateful to NSERC for this support. It enables me and my team to take our research to the next level and to push the boundaries of what's known about coral reef resilience to climate change."

Baum is the 10th UVic researcher to be awarded a Steacie Fellowship.

Baum is featured in a university produced video. To watch it, visit: youtu.be/nE_4Sd0rqvk

Help shape plans for new student housing and dining

Plans are beginning to take shape for new student housing that will provide much-needed accommodation and a dining hall for more than 600 UVic students who would otherwise live off campus.

All faculty, staff and students are invited to learn more about the project and share your ideas on preliminary building design, landscaping, sustainability principles and outdoor areas at an open house on Wednesday, June 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McPherson Library.

"Over the past year, we've been working closely with the neighbouring and on-campus communities to inform the planning principles for these new buildings," says Mike Wilson, director of campus planning and sustainability. "We're now in the design phase, with a team of architects working to ensure the building designs meet the needs of students and that new and rejuvenated outdoor areas provide a welcoming environment for the broader campus community."

The UVic Board of Governors approved funding for the project in late March.

The two new buildings will feature a modernized 600-seat dining hall as well as conference and meeting rooms on the ground levels. The inclusion of academic space is also under consideration.

South of the Student Union Building and west of Tower Residence, the new project will create vibrancy and animation within the current housing precinct and along Ring Road. The "Grand Promenade" will be extended to encourage walking and cycling between the new

buildings and the rest of campus.

The new housing will feature a variety of room types, including "pod"-style room clusters—which share kitchen, washroom, living and dining areas—as well as traditional single dorm rooms.

To protect green space and accommodate more students living on campus, the new buildings will be the tallest on campus. The project team is currently developing a sustainability strategy for the buildings, not only to achieve UVic's operational goals but also to ensure that students have opportunities to engage with issues, principles and practices that support social and environmental sustainability.

Construction is targeted to begin in summer 2020, and will take place in phases over four academic years. Two existing residence buildings, Margaret Newton Hall and Emily Carr Residence, as well as the Cadboro Commons Building, will be deconstructed during the project.

The student housing project is the first significant capital project since UVic's Campus Plan was renewed in 2016. Following community consultation this spring, a Development Variance Application will be submitted to the District of Saanich in fall 2018.

For more information, contact Mike Wilson, director of campus planning and sustainability at 250-472-5433 or ocpsdir@uvic.ca. Public engagement opportunities and updates are available on the project website at: uvic.ca/new-student-housing

HELP
SHAPE THE
PLANS FOR
NEW STUDENT
HOUSING

UVic is planning for new student housing that will provide much-needed housing and a dining hall for over 600 students currently living off campus.

Learn more and share your ideas on the preliminary building design, landscaping, sustainability principles and new outdoor areas.

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, June 13 | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
McPherson Library

uvic.ca/new-student-housing



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Johnny Cash collection at UVic Libraries

The archives of Saul Holiff (at right), the Canadian who helped make Johnny Cash (left) a superstar have arrived at UVic. A new online exhibit, "Volatile Attractions: Saul Holiff, Johnny Cash, and Managing a Music Legend," highlights letters, diaries, journals, a memorabilia-and-photo scrapbook, audio recordings and rare photos of Cash. Full story: bit.ly/uvic-jcash

UVic welcomes new dean of law: Susan Breau

Dr. Susan Breau will become the next Dean of the Faculty of Law, serving a five-year term from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023. Her appointment was overwhelmingly ratified by members of the search committee with 95.7 per cent approval.

Since 2014, Dr. Breau has been the Head of the School of Law at the University of Reading, UK, and has a distinguished record of achievement as a researcher, teacher and administrator. Her scholarship engages with multiple forms of law and legal orders, particularly in the law of armed conflict and international human rights law. Breau completed her BA, Bachelor of Laws and MA at Queen's University. She practiced law in Kingston, Ontario, for almost 20 years before completing a Master of Laws and PhD at the London School of Economics and



Breau.

Political Science.

She has taught and lectured at law schools throughout the United Kingdom and Australia and was the Dorset Fellow in Public International Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

Outstanding leaders to receive degrees

Five inspirational citizens will receive an honorary degree—the university's highest honour—during spring Convocation.



**JOSEPH ARVAY, QC,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
LAWS**

June 11 at 2:30 p.m.

Joseph Arvay's advocacy has shaped the meaning and impact of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Arvay has been an architect of change in Canadian society and one of the most influential members of the profession for his commitment to civil rights and social justice. Arvay was lead counsel in the case which led to the landmark 2015 Supreme Court ruling that allows physician-assisted suicide in Canada. Arvay's other notable cases include important breakthroughs for same-sex marriage, sex trade workers and Vancouver's Insite.



**AMB. NICHOLAS KUHANGA,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
EDUCATION**

June 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Ambassador Nicholas Kuhanga is one of modern Africa's leading educational pioneers, a political leader and diplomat. As a young man, Kuhanga was inspired by Julius Nyerere who, as a fellow teacher and the United Republic of Tanzania's first president (from 1964-85), identified the need for adult education in a country in which many had grown up without formal schooling. Kuhanga's work led to a network of regional learning centres across the country that could be accessed by anyone without previous schooling.



**PETER MOSS, HONORARY
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION**

June 15 at 2:30 p.m.

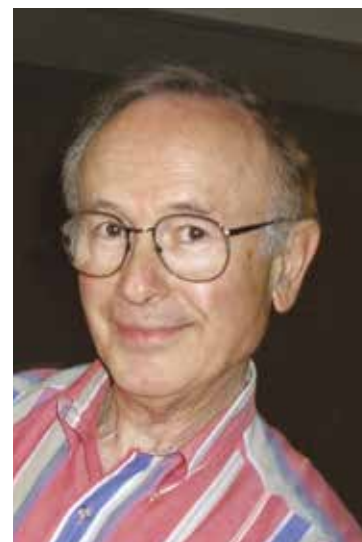
Peter Moss, Emeritus Professor at University College London, is renowned for his international work in early childhood education and the relationship between employment, care and gender. Moss coordinated the European Commission's expert group on employment and family responsibilities. Moss has had a direct influence on the curricula of the UVic School of Child and Youth Care, particularly its early years stream. His ideas also influenced the BC Early Learning Framework, which guides the provision of early childhood services in the province and is recognized internationally for its emphasis on diversity.



**SANDRA RICHARDSON,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
LAWS**

June 14 at 2:30 p.m.

As CEO of the Victoria Foundation, Sandra Richardson exemplifies the meaning of leadership in community and social development. Since taking charge of the Victoria Foundation in 2001, Richardson has been instrumental in growing the foundation's assets under administration from \$20 million to \$357 million. As a result, the foundation delivers approximately \$1 million each month in grants to organizations that support community development in Victoria and BC. Since 2005, the Victoria Foundation has issued its annual Vital Signs report on the quality of life in Victoria. The report is now relied upon by local governments, community groups and charitable funders when they determine priorities and make funding allocations.



**ROBERT WAISMAN,
HONORARY DOCTOR OF
LAWS**

June 13 at 2:30 p.m.

Robert Waisman was one of the "Boys of Buchenwald" before he was freed from the World War II concentration camp, eventually emigrating to a new life in Canada where he built a successful career and dedicates himself to Holocaust education. At the age of 10, he was a slave labourer in a German munitions factory where a child's hands were deemed useful in fixing jammed machinery. Waisman was sent to Buchenwald where he remained until April 11, 1945, when it was liberated by U.S. soldiers. Of his family, only he and his sister Leah survived. Arriving in Canada in 1949, Waisman became a community leader, philanthropist, and an educator who shares his experiences of hate, racism and indifference with thousands of students each year.

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CONVOCATION 2018

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 11 to 15, ceremonies will be held to confer 3,776 degrees, diplomas and certificates.

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



McClary with his family.

Father-In-Law: Will McClary

BY JULIE SLOAN

Law school can be stressful. And hard. Add to that becoming a new father during your second year and you've got a big challenge on your hands. Will McClary took on that challenge, and because of the support he received at UVic Law, he took it in stride. Then he added an executive role on the board of the Law Student Society (LSS).

This may seem like an extraordinary circumstance, but perhaps not as much as you think. UVic Law students are incredibly diverse in where they come from and what their life circumstances are. In fact, McClary found there were a number of other students who also became new parents while in law school.

"I found being at UVic Law made everything a little bit easier," he explains. "The faculty and

my friends were all very helpful in ensuring I was able to keep up with life, school and my family. There were a few more people in my cohort who became parents during law school, and everyone got the support they needed to succeed."

Becoming a father wasn't the only challenge McClary would face during law school. A few months after his son Louis was born, his father passed away suddenly. Reflecting on that difficult time, he also remembers the support of other students—and staff. "I was on campus when I got the news from my sister and had to leave town to get home to be with my family," explains Will. "I remember the messages of support I received from Cheryl, Yvonne and Gillian in the front office encouraging me to take time to be with my

SEE MCCLARY P. 8



Elgindi.

Building the business case for water

BY CARLOS BERTI

Nuha Omer Elgindi has always believed that commerce could be about more than just making a profit. Born in Sudan and raised in Tunisia and the UK, Elgindi says her early environment played a key part in making sustainability one of her earliest, deepest values. "I had always wanted to make a difference. And to protect the plants and animals around me."

Those values have since connected Elgindi to the global commerce hub at UVic's Gustavson School of Business—and to the

United Nations, where Elgindi is building the business case for water security. This month, she receives her Master of Global Business (MGB) degree from Gustavson.

From a young age, Elgindi's concern for the planet was also sparked by her mother, a professor of global environmental change. "I came to understand that current environmental problems were created as a result of a development model that cares about economic returns without giving due con-

SEE ELGINDI P.6



major medal winners

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S GOLD MEDAL

Tianhaozhe Sun—
PhD, Earth & Ocean Sciences

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDAL

Connor Bracewell—BSc,
Computer Science & Mathematics

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDAL (THESIS)

Jiayi Chen—MAsc, Electrical and
Computer Engineering

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDAL (OTHER THAN THESIS)

Yan Xu—MSc, Mathematics

JUBILEE MEDAL FOR HUMANITIES

Emily-Anne Wiesenthal—
BA, Gender Studies

JUBILEE MEDAL FOR SCIENCE

Lauren Wotton—BSc, Biology

JUBILEE MEDAL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

Veronica Plihal—
BA, Psychology

MAXWELL A. CAMERON MEMORIAL AWARD (TWO AWARDS)

Hayley Atkins—
BEd, Secondary Teacher Education
Melissa Rickson—
BEd, Elementary Teacher Education

VICTORIA MEDAL IN FINE ARTS

Kyron Basu—BMus, Voice

THE LAW SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL AND PRIZE

Raya MacKenzie—JD, Law

CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION IN THE FACULTY OF HSD

Auden Neuman—BSc, Nursing

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR MECHANICAL ENG. MEDAL

David Bernard—
BEng, Mechanical Engineering

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATION MEDAL

Heng Liu—BSc,
Computer Science & Mathematics

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN BIOMEDICAL ENG.

Ryan Chan—
BEng, Biomedical Engineering

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN COMPUTER ENG.

Graeme Lyall—
BEng, Computer Engineering

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN ELECTRICAL ENG.

Rylan Heise—
BEng, Electrical Engineering

IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN SOFTWARE ENG.

Heather Cape—BENG,
Software Engineering



Greenhill installing an exhibit in the library's lobby display case. "People don't necessarily connect with the lobby case. I often see people just leaning on it with their coffee and I want to say, 'There's such cool stuff in here!'" PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

A love of objects and a passion for art history

BY JOHN THRELFALL

What compels someone to study art history? It could be a passion for the life and work of a certain artist, like Frida Kahlo, or a fascination with a specific period of visual history, like the Renaissance. But for Josie Greenhill, graduating this month with a BA Honours in Art History & Visual Studies (AHVS), her inspiration came from a movie about Jack and Rose.

"I've always liked museums, but when it comes to liking history, that was from watching way too many period dramas when I was growing up—specifically *Titanic*. I was next-level obsessed with James Cameron's movie, which I used to watch every single day," laughs Greenhill. "Can this interview just be about *Titanic*?"

Alas, no, but the legacy of that great ship is a good metaphor for what drives an emerging art historian like Greenhill. "I've always liked art, history and culture, and this is an area that mixes them all together," she says. "I like what objects and material culture can communicate to you; it's

a different approach than just looking at historical texts."

Born and raised in Nanaimo, Greenhill admits she started out as a "mediocre student" at UVic, but that clearly didn't last long. Beyond completing an AHVS honours thesis, she's also taken on leadership roles in student governance, was awarded a JCURA for undergraduate research, had a work-study position, held a co-op placement as a curatorial assistant at Legacy Art Galleries—where she also curated an exhibit about local architects—was hired as an archival assistant in Special Collections, launched her own digital exhibition for UVic's Electronic Textual Cultures Lab, earned numerous awards and scholarships, presented and published numerous academic papers, and is one of the "faces of art history" in new AHVS recruitment material.

She has also been accepted into the University of Toronto's highly-competitive art history master's program, for which she also won a CGS Master's SSHRC grant—a rare feat for a first-year MA student.

"Josie represents everything UVic

stands for," notes AHVS chair Erin Campbell. "She is a well-rounded, high-achieving, brilliant, civic-minded, thoughtful and compassionate student who has been shaped by her UVic experience."

Not that the self-effacing Greenhill would describe herself in such glowing terms. "People think I'm really busy all the time, but I spend a lot of time listening to podcasts and watching Netflix," she admits. "It's partially about time management—I wake up early every day—but it's also about taking risks. Sometimes you just have to take the leap and apply for things you may not have all the qualifications for; it's surprising how many opportunities will come your way."

One of Greenhill's favourite aspects of studying art history has been the sense of discovery that comes through working with archival material. "An object can be your only insight into a time period—if you can hold history or really see it, it has more impact than just reading a document."

For example, she was thrilled to be able to access a pair of books by Christina and Dante Gabrielle

Rossetti through UVic's Special Collections. "She did the poetry and he did the binding and illustrations," she explains. "My honours thesis is about Pre-Raphaelite book art—the binding designs, illustrations—which directly ties into why I'm interested in art history. The Pre-Raphaelites were so multi-faceted; they were poets, designers, painters, illustrators . . . there are so many aspects they bring together, and I like studying all those different parts."

With her time at UVic coming to an end, how does it feel knowing her face and voice will continue to have a presence on the department's recruitment material? "It's kind of intimidating," she admits. "I'm pretty shy, but I do think it's cool that I can reach people who I won't ever meet in person and help motivate them to study art history. I'm grateful that people trust me enough to be a face for the department."

And is there any wisdom she'd like to share with those future students? "You get out of your degree what you put in to it," she concludes. "If you get involved, you'll feel so much better."

ELGINDI CONTINUED FROM P.5

sideration to environmental or social impacts." She soon saw that business has the power to be an innovative solution to the world's environmental crisis, and not just a contributor to the problem.

Hoping to take up the mantle of environmentalism her mother had taught her, she took those standards of social and environmental responsibility to private sector work—and around the world to Victoria.

New Beginnings at Gustavson

Elgindi began her studies in Tunisia's Mediterranean School of Business, going on to receive an MSc in environmental assessment and manage-

ment from the University of Brighton. Seeking to find ways to merge her two passions, she decided to enrol in Gustavson's MGB program.

Here, Elgindi found a diverse community with similar outlooks on business and social responsibility, and the chance to put her critical thinking skills to the test in the real world.

"My internship with a consultancy firm in Peru enabled me to work in a company that focuses on socio-economic development and tries to expand its business in a socially responsible way.

"It was a great example of something a professor once told me: companies care about social responsibility because people do."

Fostering social responsibility

Now interning at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Elgindi is helping develop the financing module for a new water security course, with the aim of extending water security across the developing world.

"It's incredibly useful to be familiar with both worlds," she says, referring to her knowledge of both business and the environment. After years of travel, Elgindi understands how these issues are treated in both the developed and developing world, knowledge that will give her an advantage in bringing action to these issues.

After her graduation this June, Elgindi hopes to forge a meaningful path. "In the short term, I want to continue my work for developmental organizations. I want to make a difference here."

Longterm, she dreams of opening her own consultancy firm, one focused on helping the most vulnerable parts of the world, "regions like Africa and South America, which are the most affected by issues of global environmental crisis."

Her international business experience will definitely come in handy, but for Elgindi the MGB program was more than just a business course: "It was a lifetime experience."



Lister. PHOTO: STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Bright lights, big city for English grad

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Growing up on a small island three hours north of Victoria, the outdoors served as Iona Lister's classroom. Home-schooled for the most part until high school, Lister spent her days reading, writing and making music while immersed in nature.

"We played in the forest. We climbed trees. We ran around a lot. It was very idyllic," she remembers.

Lasqueti Island, where Lister moved at age two with her brother and their musician parents, has no commercial electric utility; its approximately 450 year-round residents live off the grid. Lister says the unspoiled environment nurtured her imagination and sustained her interest in learning when she had to move to Qualicum Beach, where her family now lives, to attend secondary school.

"I noticed a lot of apathy when I went to high school. It was a huge culture shock," she says.

The English master's student, who graduates this June, has since taken to travelling, trekking across Europe and South America, and learning several languages, including Spanish and French. While studying in the English department, Lister developed an interest in Anglo-Norman literature, text written in the dialect of French used in medieval England.

In September, Lister will begin

a fully funded PhD at the University of Toronto, where she will continue studying medieval literature. Her master's thesis focused on an understudied area of Anglo-Norman writing, the *fabliaux*—short, satirical and often bawdy poems that parody tales of medieval heroism and romance.

Lister explored two Anglo-French medieval poems for her master's research, "The Three Ladies Who Found a Cock" and "The Knight Who Made Cunts Talk," proving that medieval writers had memorable senses of humour.

Lister's success extends over the Atlantic—she was also accepted into Cambridge and Oxford universities. She chose to study in Toronto, however, because of the scholarship and structure of the program. Living in Toronto means she can travel home more easily while still enjoying the perks of big city life, like singing soprano in a choir.

"I'm excited. There are a lot more opportunities to be involved in music and dance there," she says. "I'll be able to explore a new place and continue studying."

Lister credits her unconventional upbringing for her diverse interests and desire to learn. She hopes to one day become an English professor.

"Growing up, I was allowed to nourish my excitement about the things I loved," Lister says. "I want to keep learning."



Sage with his bike.

Supporting seniors' access to fresh air and exercise

BY HOLLY HEUVER

There's nothing quite like looking across the ocean and feeling the fresh salty air filling your lungs as you ride your bike along Dallas Road. And Carson Sage, who graduates with an MA in Kinesiology this month, has been offering senior citizens in Victoria and beyond the opportunity to reconnect with nature through free bike rides, via the Cycling Without Age program.

"We're trying to reduce social isolation and loneliness for older adults," says Sage. "We have an aging population and we need to address this to improve the quality of life for the community and those living in the care homes. Access to nature is extremely important for people's health. We allow people to age adventurously and to be a part of the community, even if they are in a nursing home."

Sage, along with Kristi Owens and Marleen Butchart, began their own chapter of Cycling Without Age in Victoria, the sixth chapter in Canada and BC's first. In May 2017, the first trishaw arrived, a custom-made three-

wheeled bike with two seats in the front for passengers and a backseat for the pedaller.

Instead of a traditional thesis, Sage developed a manual for Cycling Without Age for his master's project. "It is a manual on how to start your own chapter within the Canadian context from my experience in Victoria and the recreation background I have gained from my degree. There are about ten groups scattered around BC who are in the beginning process or starting out. Some of them don't have the skills I have gained through my schooling and the manual will allow me to pass that on."

Sage's idea for his thesis began after stumbling across a TED Talk by Cycling Without Age's founder, Ole Kassow. As an undergraduate, Sage had been cycling to work for a co-op position at Beckley Farm Lodge, and saw an instant connection. "I see the benefits I get from biking every day. Why can't we allow those benefits to happen to seniors who can no longer bike on their own?"

Sage's love for cycling began long

before Cycling Without Age. While doing his undergraduate degree, he began volunteering with SPOKES, a UVic bicycle repair and loan program. "It was a great opportunity for me to help other students experience the benefits of recreation and transportation. It was the place where I fell in love with bikes and I saw a social change where I could influence the lives of many people by fixing up old and beat-up bikes, so they could get fresh air and exercise—and experience Victoria."

With a third bike on its way and over 80 interested volunteers, Sage hopes to one day have a bike at every senior's facility in Victoria. For Sage, this is just the beginning of his connection with Cycling Without Age. "I do see myself going back for my PhD to measure the benefits of Cycling Without Age for the passengers and the volunteers. It would aid in bringing credibility to the program and getting more support for the program. There is a need for that. UVic could potentially be the hub for research for Cycling Without Age internationally."

FRANCO CONTINUED FROM P.1

from kindergarten to grade 12.

Through one of her co-ops with Science Venture, Franco delivered in-school workshops and camps to communities across Vancouver Island, basing her work on relationship building and reciprocal learning.

"An important factor in supporting youth in their STEM journey is creating a safe place for exploration and discovery—building a community of learning," says Franco. "These are values that I bring with my cultural background."

Unlike a more traditional approach to teaching math and sci-

ence that focuses on content and memorization, Franco starts activities by asking youth what they want to learn—assembling a curriculum based on that feedback. "We give them a choice about how they want to approach learning. Once I took that approach, it was easier to make connections, and it was amazing to empower students and see how they develop their passions and skills with confidence."

Now that Franco is graduating, she's continuing to find ways to enhance STEM education with underserved groups. She's now sharing her

enthusiasm for coding and computational thinking through a new program teaching girls-only after-school program called *Fri-yay!*—bringing together her passions for computational thinking, art and coding.

"In the long-term, I hope to work with teachers to build the technological resources they need to make their classrooms more student-centred and allow for more personalized approaches," she says.

Franco's tuition was paid through a Council of International Schools scholarship for undergraduate studies.

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Fourteen members of the Chisasibi Heritage & Cultural Centre will travel to Victoria to graduate in June from the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization.

Chisasibi group's mission to help Cree language and culture flourish

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Margaret Fireman understands that language upholds her culture. Without language, oral traditions and wisdom passed down from her Cree ancestors would be lost. Language, she says, is closely tied to the land.

And so when Fireman, a residential school survivor and then-manager of Chisasibi Heritage and Cultural Centre in northeastern Quebec, was searching for a program to bolster the preservation of her community's language of James Bay Cree, she chose carefully.

Fireman turned to the University of Victoria's Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (CALR) to support her workplace's efforts to sustain the first language of Chisasibi's nearly 4,600 members.

"We come from an oral tradition. The first exhibit we have is our language," she says. "We felt it was really important in this line of work that you understand your own language first in order to properly interpret our story."

The entire staff at the Chisasibi Heritage and Cultural Centre, all of whom speak James Bay Cree, enrolled in the CALR program, which teaches new approaches and practical strategies to strengthen language revitalization while honouring traditional knowledge and practices.

Next week, 14 of the graduating students will make the three-day journey to UVic, driving 16 hours from Chisasibi, on the edge of James Bay, to Ottawa, before boarding a flight to Victoria to attend convocation on

June 12. The journey is more than geographical: it reflects the community's determination to ensure their culture and language flourishes.

The CALR program has been offered in collaboration with communities as far away as the Northwest Territories. The program develops a range of skills and knowledge to support community-driven language reclamation, and is tailored to meet the needs and goals of each community. Developed by UVic's Department of Linguistics in partnership with the En'owkin Centre of the Okanagan Nation and UVic's Continuing Studies, Chisasibi's program included six courses taught in James Bay Cree. Instructors travelled to Chisasibi, meaning that all staff at the cultural centre were able to participate in the two-week intensive portion of the program.

Fireman said although the community's residents speak James Bay Cree, English and French are interspersed in everyday conversations. In recent years, the community members have noticed an erosion in residents' fluency in James Bay Cree, especially among young people, who are influenced by English and French media and music.

"We've had some evening and weekend sessions with Elders and we talk about how we are losing our language. We're very concerned," she says. "This certificate program is really important to us."

The issue of language survival resonates deeply for Fireman. Forced to attend residential schools and speak English as a child, Fireman

later struggled to communicate with her parents and grandparents, who solely spoke Cree.

"The more I learned the English language, the more I lost my words," she says. "I had to regain my language again."

Fireman later enrolled in UVic Continuing Studies' Cultural Resource Management diploma program, graduating in 2009.

Rachelle Lafond, Chisasibi Centre's public relations and programming coordinator, said the CALR courses helped her understand the landscape of Indigenous language revitalization across Canada, particularly why some communities' languages were surviving while others were diminishing.

Lafond says they learned about language dynamics from a linguist specializing in James Bay Cree. In another class, they had the chance to transcribe recordings from Elders and turn them into educational resources.

"Ultimately the courses gave us skills on how to preserve our language," Lafond says. "The time to do that is now."

Lafond will be among the Chisasibi Centre's employees attending convocation. The centre is already discussing pilot projects to build on what they've learned during the certificate.

"It's a proud moment," Lafond says. "We need to celebrate it."

CALR academic advisor Suzanne Urbanczyk, from the Department of Linguistics, says the university is thrilled to host the graduating group.

"We are excited and honoured that they are travelling from Chisasibi to be at the convocation."

MCCLARY CONTINUED FROM P.5

family and focus on working through my grief. This was a very difficult time for my family but the UVic Law community pulled through again and made sure I had everything I needed to stay on track with my studies and my family commitments."

Despite the demands on his time, McClary was a constant presence at the law school, supporting students.

"Will McClary was an incredible asset and a commanding leader as Vice President Student Affairs of the LSS," says Ian Gauthier, former president of the LSS. McClary was the

2018 recipient of the F. Murray Fraser Award for Outstanding Contributions to the School by a Third Year Student in recognition of "his many efforts and sleepless nights (attributable both to deadlines and a crying baby). He is a presence that will be sorely missed in the halls of UVic Law."

After taking a month off to move home to Calgary and spend some quality time with his wife and son, McClary began a clerkship for the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in Calgary, after which he will finish his articles with Dentons Canada LLP in Calgary, where he hopes to become an associ-

ate. And now that law school is in his rear view mirror, McClary reflects on the support he received and the lessons he will take with him:

"Thanks to my time on the LSS I was lucky to get to work with outgoing Dean Jeremy Webber. Jeremy taught our cohort a lot about leadership and dedication through his work as dean. His ability to respectfully manage disagreeing perspectives and encourage healthy communication between students and faculty is something that I will aspire to in my own professional life."

Labwork builds the brain, literally

BY SUZANNE AHEARNE

When Tia Sojonky arrived at UVic from her hometown of Regina, Saskatchewan to study engineering, she realized she'd underestimated how much hard work it was going to be. Sojonky, who's graduating in June with an honors degree in biomedical engineering, says she did take advantage of the many resources available for assistance but what made the biggest difference for her was doing a co-op work term in a lab led by UVic biomedical engineer Stephanie Willerth.

"Once I started working in the lab and doing research, I just couldn't get enough," laughs Sojonky from Australia, where she was travelling ahead of convocation. Lab work gave her a greater sense of purpose and drive. And her hard work paid off. Her research with the Willerth lab focused on bioengineered brain tissue. This was done in collaboration with STEMCELL Technologies—one of the largest biotech companies in Canada—where Sojonky later did an extended co-op placement.

"BEING A FEMALE IN ENGINEERING HAS MOTIVATED ME TO SUCCEED IN THIS AREA BECAUSE THERE ARE SO FEW OF US. STRONG FEMALE ROLE MODELS SUCH AS DR. WILLERTH HAVE ALSO ENCOURAGED ME TO KEEP PURSUING MY ACADEMICS. WE NEED MORE FEMALE ENGINEERS."

Part of Willerth's research involves turning pluripotent stem cells—stem cells that contain the blueprint for making any type of tissue in the body—into brain organoids. These are what Sojonky refers to as 'mini brains'—artificially grown miniature organs that resemble a normal brain. And because they replicate many of the same features and are derived from human cells, they can be used for applications such as drug screening, regenerative medicine and are a valuable way to study how diseases like Parkinson's develop and respond to treatment. Sojonky did modelling in the lab that looked at ways of increasing oxygen transport into these mini-brains to increase cell survival.

"I hope to advance the fields of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine," says Sojonky, "to improve the lives of people living with disease or life-altering injuries. Being able to bring a regenerative medicine technology from the lab to a clinical trial would be a dream come true."

Willerth, who supervised Sojonky's honours thesis, supervises a lot of undergrads—no surprise, as the recipient of this year's UVic REACH award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research-Inspired



Sojonky. PHOTO: HANNAH RUSAK-GILLRIE

Teaching. She wrote that Sojonky's intelligence and work ethic made her stand out as a high performing student.

Sojonky found that through the course of her studies she had to balance her passion with patience: "I kept learning about new technologies in classes and thinking how that would be amazing to research. I wanted to learn about everything. But I also learned that research is frustrating. It takes time, especially for tissue engineering, where you are growing cells. Experiments fail. You have to wait for resources to be put into place and have to learn to depend on others for help, which is a lot different than independent study."

Sojonky received a renewable entrance scholarship in her first year. Being able to reduce the worry about finances to focus on school was key, she says. But just as important, she emphasizes, were the people she met while in school and on co-op work terms.

"They provided me with so much knowledge that I wouldn't have otherwise gained just in class, because of their varied backgrounds, previous degrees before engineering, experience at different universities or with extracurricular clubs. Everyone I met gave me new insight into the engineering profession and the possibilities this degree could give me. They really provided me with a well-rounded learning experience."

Sojonky describes working on group projects with fellow students, from different parts of Canada and the world, as "eye-opening." And having a solid core group of friends, many of whom she met in her first year while living on campus, was "vital in surviving the last five years." As for inspiration, she says, "it isn't too tough to be inspired to learn when you can take a walk to the beach as a study break."

"I just love to learn new things and challenge myself," Sojonky says. After a break to work in the biomedical engineering field for a few years, she plans to go to grad school to pursue a PhD. "Being a female in engineering has motivated me to succeed in this area because there are so few of us. Strong female role models such as Dr. Willerth have also encouraged me to keep pursuing my academics. We need more female engineers."



Belleau

Political science grad hopes to shape Indigenous law

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

The journey towards post-secondary education began for Carolyn Belleau when she had to reinvent herself after losing her fashion design business in last decade's recession.

"My creative skills in design, sewing and beading earned me a place as a finalist in a fashion design contest," says Belleau. "I operated my own business, Proud Child Designs, for two years until the economic recession hit."

To move forward in a new direction, Belleau had to carefully assess her skills and aptitude.

"I had a strong interest in social sciences and I believed that I could be an agent of change for my people in Esketemc," says Belleau, referencing her community in the BC interior, also called Alkali Lake. "As a Secwepemc woman I wanted to stay connected to

my community while still pursuing my educational goals."

After completing an associate's degree and liberal arts diploma from the University of the Fraser Valley, Belleau transferred to UVic, where she graduates this month with a bachelor in political science.

"What I loved most about UVic was the First People's House," says Belleau. "As an Indigenous student, it meant a lot to me to have a place that felt like home."

During her political science undergrad, Belleau was able to volunteer as a Campus Cousin for the LE'NONET program and also as a Mini-U chapterone last summer when potential first-year students visited campus. But what really stood out for Belleau was a class with Budd Hall, who pointed out that she is an expert in Indigenous culture—that no one else on campus

likely knows the traditional culture, ceremonies and protocols of the Secwepemc people.

Belleau had an opportunity during reading break to work with the Secwepemc National Tribal Council in Kamloops and UVic's Indigenous Law Research Unit to organize a legal retreat on the concept of citizenship, and how it worked in the past within Secwepemc law. Secwepemc elders from different reserves shaped Secwepemc laws with their knowledge.

Belleau says being part of this legal retreat solidified her choice to pursue a career in law. She has recently been accepted by the UBC law school.

"My reserve doesn't have many educated people to help them," says Belleau. "I want to help shape Indigenous law and social justice in Canada."

A passion for sociology

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Falling in love with sociology and social justice studies came as something of a surprise to social sciences grad Qwisun Yoon-Potkins, who moved from East Vancouver to pursue her post-secondary education at UVic.

"I came to UVic prepared to study psychology, but my introductory sociology course completely changed all that," said Yoon-Potkins. "Dr. Ravelli's teaching style was so intriguing and relatable that I never wanted to miss a class, and the content was so interesting that I actually enjoyed studying and doing my assignments!"

Yoon-Potkins graduates this month with an honours BA in sociology and a diploma in social justice studies. She loved how the sociology program is highly applicable to real-life circumstances, and she found using her own personal experiences really helped in understanding the class teachings. For Yoon-Potkins, this meant looking at her Korean heritage and the immigration experience of her grandparents.

"I never had a clear idea of what life was like for my grandparents as immigrants," she continues.

"I wanted to gain a better understanding of an immigrant's experiences, especially in an aging context."

During her years at UVic, Yoon-Potkins always felt extremely comfortable and welcomed by the campus community, and she enjoyed the many opportunities available, both recreationally and academically.

"Everyone I met in my first year made me feel right at home," she says.

"Karen Kobayashi has been a crucial part of my academic journey and research....Her guidance has not only helped me to flourish academically, but has taught me empathy and compassion as well."

At UVic, Yoon-Potkins continued to play high-level soccer both for a co-ed intramural and women's team.

"It's a great outlet for stress and it keeps me healthy and active even during the busiest times of the school year," she says. "It also taught me a lot about drive, dedication, teamwork and time management."

Yoon-Potkins is grateful for the scholarships she received—a UVic Excellence Scholarship, Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award, and Roy E.L. Watson Scholarship—as they



Yoon-Potkins

allowed her to pursue her passion for sociology and social justice.

In the future, she wants to educate people—especially young people—about social issues and social injustices. But right now, she is looking forward to travelling to South East Asia for two months at the end of the summer.

"My future is pretty open and I am looking forward to the endless opportunities and experiences as they come."

Diploma by distance enables new perspective

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

Sabrina Curtis, of Golden, BC, sees herself as someone who thrives on seeking out the next challenge.

"I'm happy with life," says the mother of two, who just completed an online graduate diploma in evaluation through the School of Public Administration. "I'm just always looking for ways to add interest and understanding, to look at things through new contexts."

It's a fitting trait for Curtis, as the director of planning and evaluation for the Columbia Basin Trust. Curtis is applying her learning directly to her complex work of measuring the performance of many diverse community programs and strategic initiatives supported by the trust.

"I feel like this program was made for me," says Curtis. "It offered me a new perspective on organizational challenges which we have been struggling with for a long time." The subject matter led to her learning new ways to improve several processes. That practical application, she says, continues to translate as accomplishments at the office.

"It was rewarding," says Curtis. "I now have a more elaborate toolkit to access in managing our program evaluations, and reports to communities and clients on our progress."

Those "clients" are the 150,000 people situated across 80,000 sq. km (about 13,000 sq. miles) within the Columbia River basin in south-eastern BC. The Columbia River is essential to every aspect of life, and the trust was created to support the ideas and efforts of the people in the region.

"It's very satisfying work," Curtis explains. "There is so much opportunity to do good things, which can be both a blessing and a curse."

Case in point: coordinating a region-wide symposium in 2017—*SHIFT! Thriving in Change*—Curtis and her team attracted a whopping 450 delegates with astronaut Chris Hadfield as guest speaker. He also live-streamed a presentation to school children from across the basin's communities.



Curtis. IMAGE COURTESY COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

"Hadfield launched us into a new world of learning about how to lead change," said Curtis. His talk inspired the trust and its communities to embrace new thinking around the shifting demographics of their region, rapidly evolving technology and the impact of global weather change.

"The whole event inspired so many residents, students, teachers, and even our own selves," says Curtis. "Coordinating it was an audacious task, and a bit scary, but with amazing results."

That's not unlike coordinating an online evaluation diploma program with a young family and a challenging full-time job, she confides.

"This program was quite hard and yet distance learning was the perfect fit for me because I could maintain my work and parenting role," says Curtis. Scheduling became a high artform as she began her day at 5 a.m. to allow for quiet reading and writing time before her family woke up. Their support, and living five blocks from work, says Curtis, were godsend.

Perpetually curious, Curtis says all that learning was worth the challenges. Professor Jim McDavid concurs. "In addition to earning top marks in all of her courses, she is the only person in the program's seven years of operation to go on to complete the Diploma Evaluation Project in one semester."

"This," McDavid added, "is a remarkable accomplishment."



More online

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To watch convocation online, visit uvic.ca/convocation

ringers

The Victoria Community Leadership Awards were presented on May 3, with three UVic professors and one graduate student among the 28 honorees. Organizing the Period Posse campaign to provide free menstrual products at homeless shelters earned recognition for **Lindsay Shaw**, a student in the School of Public Health and Social Policy. Professors **Laura Lauzon** (education), **Jim Tanaka** (psychology) and **Bruce Wallace** (social work) were also recognized for longstanding community collaborations, activism and contributions.

Librarian **Christine Walde**, who specializes in grants and awards, has won the 2018 BC Academic Libraries Section Outstanding Contribution Award. The annual award recognizes an individual who works in an academic library whose professional achievements have made a difference to students, faculty or colleagues in BC. The selection committee noted Walde's many accomplishments during her short tenure as a librarian and praised her ability to collaborate across professional lines; to connect the libraries to opportunities in the larger community; and to promote the libraries' strengths to external stakeholders. This is the first time a UVic librarian has received the award.

A UVic engineer is developing an easy way to detect mining's toxic leftovers

BY JODY PATERSON

Even decades after a mine closes, people in surrounding communities can face serious health risks from drinking contaminated water. Communities in BC's North are particularly at risk of arsenic poisoning due to the legacy of gold and uranium mines, says University of Victoria civil engineer Heather Buckley.

Water is easily contaminated by arsenic and metals that leach out of rock and soil disturbed in the mining process. With no simple, quick or low-cost method for testing water, even short-term measures to address known problems typically end up delayed by weeks or even months until lab results are available.

Buckley is working on a solution. Her research aims to develop a low-cost test strip—along the lines of those used for glucose monitoring—that immediately identifies health-threatening levels of the most common contaminants from mining.

With a goal of creating a simple test strip that sells for a dollar or two, Buckley's work not only envisages giving communities the power to test their water supply at any time and get immediate results, but to have direct access to the data they need to advocate for change or intervention.

"When you dig up rocks for mining the metal extracted accounts for maybe one per cent of that material," explains Buckley, whose research is funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation. "Then those big piles of rock are out where the dust can blow. Along comes the snow melt, the spring washout, and whatever was in and on those rocks goes straight into the river."

Arsenic occurs naturally in the



Buckley. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

ground. Rock-crushing spreads it around as a fine dust across the landscape. Mercury, chromium, cadmium and lead are all well-recognized health hazards from mining processes that also affect drinking water. Health effects from such toxins can take years to manifest, at which point the damage has been done.

Buckley's high-tech test strip builds on existing research around molecules specifically designed to capture metals. Such molecules will be used to create a "stickiness" on the test strip for the most problematic metals. She anticipates having a prototype ready for testing within five years, and stresses that keeping them

affordable is a critical component of the work.

"I want to make technology that can be viably used in rural Bangladesh," says the "green" engineer and chemist, named a Green Talents Fellow in 2015 by the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy in Freiburg, Germany.

Buckley is hopeful her research will eventually change mining practices. While her current focus is to empower communities to monitor the water supply, she notes that the work also gives companies the tools to show they can do better.

"It creates a space where communities and industries can rebuild trust. It takes away some of the divisiveness,"

says Buckley. That's an important goal this year, which is the launch of the UN International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development.

A secondary aspect of Buckley's research is to apply the same "stickiness" technology used for the test strips to create a method of extracting valuable metals from mine tailings and boost the amount of ore that mining companies are extracting.

In time, the research could ultimately result in a reduction in mining due to higher returns, and lead to new extraction techniques that don't require the use of additional toxicants like mercury in the extraction process.



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Maxwell

3M STUDENTS CONTINUED FROM P.1

UVic's vision "to integrate outstanding scholarship, engaged learning and real-life involvement to contribute to a better future for people and the planet." These students are the embodiment of that aspiration.

"There's implicit critique in each of the students' projects in that they focus on the ways in which a UVic education can be improved—but I also like to think that the experience at UVic has also provided the opportunity, inspiration and resources for these students to develop their leadership skills. I am also inspired by the way in which their projects align with the university's goal to create an extraordinary academic environment by enhancing diversity and a supportive learning environment on campus, as well as knowledge mobilization and community engagement."

Big ideas to improve higher education

Nicholson chose to present the challenge of rising textbook costs to the selection committee. He had been struck by the high cost of textbooks as an additional barrier to attending university, and launched a national campaign for open textbooks—texts authored by professors for the specific purpose of being used and taught from without charge. The social media campaign Nicholson put together helped land an additional \$250,000 in provincial funding for the BC Open Textbook Project.

Graeme put forward the challenge of shifting universities' view of their own students, to see them as community resources ready to be connected to real-life issues in their fields of study.

"If students were treated as assets for community growth rather than mere harvesters of skills and knowledge, then all types of social, economic, cultural and ecological projects across Canada could swell in potential," says Graeme, who adds that UVic's School of Environmental Studies is at the forefront of the movement to connect students to their communities and bring research to reality.

Samuel took on the problem of "privilege and exclusivity" in Canadian universities, arguing that many processes for admission and scholarship funding favour students with sufficient financial resources and exclude those from challenged economic circumstance and different cultural backgrounds.

Her eight proposed solutions included applying universities' equity practices to the admission process;

acknowledging all forms of learning and experience as valid criteria for admission; mandatory workshops for faculty and students on creating an inclusive and anti-oppressive environment; and a mandatory undergrad class on diversity and inclusivity.

All three award winners will participate in a collaborative post-secondary leadership project next year with their 2018 cohort.

"If I reflect on what good leadership has felt like, in every case it is that light that flickers when justice and peace are co-created out of injustice and conflict—no matter the scale," says Graeme, whose research focuses on deforestation in Ecuador.

Drawn to campus, to make a wider difference

Nicholson, who is about to begin his final year in UVic's honours program in economics, says leadership is all about taking action to bring about change.

"It's not watching, hoping or waiting. It's taking the first step, and inspiring others to follow," says the one-time pastry chef, who ran his own cake-making business before putting aside plans to go to culinary school in order to follow his true passion to be an entrepreneur.

"Leadership is realizing that you can't do everything yourself. It is building partnerships with others who share common goals and collaborating to achieve results. This focus on action and collaboration are core to my style of leadership."

Nicholson has bountiful appreciation for the "UVic difference"—abundant student support, opportunities to get involved in leading-edge projects, a collaborative study environment.

"Unlike some other schools, where you feel like a number in a seat, at UVic it is very easy to seek and implement the changes you wish to see," he says. "In my studies, I was able to work closely with many of my professors, and ultimately collaborate with them for the open textbook project," says Nicholson.

All 3M Student Fellowship recipients are invited to the annual conference in June of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

While at the conference, they will develop a cohort-based collaborative project for the coming year with the goal of enhancing teaching and learning at the post-secondary level. The students are challenged both to implement and sustain their project, and to call on past award recipients for support.



L-R: Kuehne, Wallace, Charnock, Lithgow and Acting Director of Equity and Human Rights Cassbrea Dewis. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Three honoured with Provost's Advocacy and Activism awards

"Their advocacy for gender equality will ensure a stronger and more inclusive environment at UVic that can serve as a role model for universities across Canada and beyond."

—Provost and Vice President Academic Valerie Kuehne, sponsor of the awards

Three members of the university community are recognized as campus leaders in the second annual Provost's Advocacy and Activism awards, acknowledging individuals who address systemic or institutionalized barriers and act as champions for others.

Karen Lithgow, a biochemistry and microbiology graduate student; Hannah Charnock, a chemistry undergraduate student; and Bruce Wallace, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, were honoured at a luncheon for their efforts in fostering an environment that supports and nurtures individuals and groups for their activism.

Both Lithgow and Charnock have

done pioneering work in establishing the UVic Women in Science initiative. Through education, mentorship, community engagement and communications, they seek to increase the representation of women in science disciplines and tackle challenging obstacles encountered by women in science.

Wallace, in his community-based research, has long advocated for the establishment of supervised drug consumption services and awareness of the need for action to reduce drug overdose deaths in the community.

The award is co-sponsored by the offices of the Provost and Equity and Human Rights.

ringers

Ben Koop (Biology) is the Canada Research Chair in Genomics and Molecular Biology for a second seven-year term extending to the end of 2024. Koop studies molecular evolution to understand the role of gene duplication or gene families in the evolution of species. In particular, he and his research team are studying the genomes of salmonid fish (salmon and trout) as well as genetic variation in Pacific salmon and sturgeon. Studying genetic variation gives us a better understanding of how species might adapt in a rapidly changing climate.

Dr. Elizabeth Borycki, a professor with the School of Health Information Science, was awarded the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Health Professional Investigator Award. Borycki's research addresses concerns raised by Canadian and international health care organizations about safety issues arising from our use of health information technology—from digitized health systems to electronic health records. Her goal is to conduct several interconnected studies and develop a comprehensive approach to improving the quality and safety of health information technology including clinical simulations to better understand how errors arise.

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University of Victoria

One last round of “Convocation magic” for Eastman

After 13 years as UVic’s University Secretary, Dr. Julia Eastman is stepping down July 6 to retirement. Before doing so, she’ll participate in a final set of Convocation ceremonies.

Eastman has overseen the arrangements for 180 Convocation ceremonies during her tenure despite, she acknowledges with a laugh, not attending any of her own.

Having now been directly involved in so many ceremonies in her official capacity, Eastman says she’s a firm believer in “Convocation magic.” It’s “seeing students and their families so excited to be there, so proud of their achievement in graduating—it’s such a pleasure. I encourage anyone who works at UVic to take in a ceremony. It reminds us how important their time at this university is to our students.”

Convocation comes with many poignant moments, too, she says. Those encompass pride and accomplishment, but also involve people who’ve experienced terrible losses, including individuals there to accept posthumous degrees on behalf of family members or friends.

There’s also the privilege of hearing honorands and leaders like former BC Lieutenant Governor Stephen Point and scholar and educator Gwendolyn Point give “powerful speeches about the transformation of education from a force of oppression of Indigenous people to a force for positive change.” Or listening to award-winning international journalist Stephanie Nolen describe meeting so many people around the world who dream of having the opportunities we have here to learn in a beautiful, comfortable, safe place.

Eastman arrived at UVic from Dalhousie in 2005 after stints with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Council of Maritime Premiers. As



Eastman. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

University Secretary, she is responsible for the secretariat for UVic’s Board of Governors and Senate, foundations and senior advisory committees. She’s a member of the university’s Executive Council along with the president and four vice-presidents, and also responsible for overseeing privacy, access to information matters and records management, equity and human rights, and policy coordination and elections at the university.

It’s been a “very interesting constellation of responsibilities,” Eastman says, one that sees her interacting with a wide range of leaders, faculty, students and staff—with her office serving as a kind of “nerve centre” for the governance of the university.

She says working at UVic has been a “total privilege” and feels blessed by the “fabulously talented and committed people” with whom she has worked both inside and outside her area.

The job comes with challenges, too, of course. In her retirement, she plans to continue contributing to under-

standing how Canadian universities can govern themselves effectively in these complex times.

Eastman, who has a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Toronto, will spend the near future working with Glen Jones (OISE), Claude Trottier (Laval), and others writing up a comparative case study they conducted of the governance of six major Canadian universities from five regions across Canada. It will be the first draw on her access to “more personal freedom” that comes with retirement, and is the culmination of more than four years of work.

“Julia is considered the dean of Canadian university secretaries, recognized across the country for her deep experience and wisdom,” says UVic President Jamie Cassels, who also served with Eastman for five years when he was UVic’s vice-president academic.

“For Julia, good governance is the guarantor of quality at universities, and of academic freedom and institutional autonomy,” Cassels continues.

“Students are at the forefront of her thinking in whatever she does. Her role has involved helping the university navigate an ever-changing set of complex, multi-faceted challenges, where there are no easy answers. She’s quiet, thoughtful and courageous, all at the same time, and always solution-focused. I’m going to miss her wise counsel, sage advice and strong support.”

There have been many changes at UVic over the past 13 years, Eastman explains, reflecting parallel changes in society at large, particularly in the use of technology. At the same time, she believes there’s been continuity in UVic’s culture. “The UVic culture is quite distinctive and participatory with an expectation of consultation you won’t necessarily find at other universities,” she says.

Looking back, Eastman notes that universities are complex institutions, and government and public expectations of them are evolving and growing. But, she says, as she hears from her counterparts from across the country, UVic has been “really fortunate” in how its Board of Governors and Senate conduct their work. It’s an accolade she attributes to the spirit in which members of the two bodies approach their duties here. “They’re very committed to UVic and are able to work together and with the administration effectively. It means they can come together around a shared conception of how to move forward.”

The search process for Eastman’s successor is underway. Carrie Andersen, Associate University Secretary, will serve as the acting University Secretary.

Eastman plans to stay put in Victoria after she steps down and “take things as they come,” including out in the water in her kayak.

around the ring

SEM goals come into focus

In May, UVic’s strategic enrolment management (SEM) planning process reached another milestone as work transitioned from establishing goals to the development of strategies and tactics. The Enrolment Management Working Group (EMWG) has been hard at work since January developing the draft enrolment goals. The enrolment goals will form the basis of the university’s first ever SEM plan and were developed in consultation with the campus community and in alignment with the strategic framework and other current institutional plans. With draft goals now in place, the SEM committees are tasked with developing strategies and then tactics to support the goals. This work will take place over the summer, guided by the EMWG. A draft plan is expected in late fall with the final SEM plan ready in December. To learn more about the SEM planning process and view the draft SEM goals, visit uvic.ca/SEM.



Dong and team in the engine room of the BC Ferry M.V. Tachek. PHOTO: PETER OSHKAI

Greener ships, cleaner ocean

BY JODY PATERSON

Drop an electric motor into a ship and you’re all set to sail into a cleaner environment, right?

If only it were that simple, says mechanical engineer Zuomin Dong, whose research focuses on hybrid electric propulsion systems.

Dong and his research team have studied and built advanced hybrid vehicles for a decade, winning dozens of awards. His team’s computer modelling tools take all operational factors into account to identify the “sweet spot” where vehicles achieve maximum fuel efficiency and emission reduction without sacrificing performance.

Ships are much more complex and challenging than cars, explains Dong. While cars are mass-produced, mostly the same size and operate in similar conditions, marine vessels are much more

varied—with hulls, propellers and drags that perform differently depending on cargo and marine conditions. “You can’t design one system and use the same template for all others,” says Dong.

The combination of natural gas engines and hybrid electric propulsion shows considerable promise for “greener” ships, says Dong.

Natural gas is a cleaner fuel than diesel but doesn’t combust fully at certain loads. That characteristic limits reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and dramatically increases discharge of hydrocarbons.

But in combination with a hybrid electric system, propulsion systems can be programmed to avoid these engine conditions and switch to electric power at high-risk times. “When we tested that using our model, we were able to reduce GHG by 19 per cent, and cut fuel costs by 39 per cent,” says Dong. Full story: bit.ly/clean-ship

HAROLD KLUNDER

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