



University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Updated equity statement

After consultation across the institution, UVic recently approved a revised equity statement. The new statement reflects UVic's values and commitments in the Strategic Framework and supporting plans, and states that "UVic is committed to upholding the values of equity, diversity and inclusion in our living, learning and work environments." Contact your Human Resources advisor, Faculty Relations Consultant or the Equity and Human Rights Office to discuss how to use unbiased hiring methods and a welcoming approach to recruitment as foundations for implementing the statement in your unit. uvic.ca/equity/employment-equity/statement

WEATHER ALERTS

Wondering if it's a snow day?

In the event of a major snowfall or other extreme weather event, check the UVic home page for advisories about service disruptions, class cancellations, campus closures and safety precautions. You can also check UVic's Facebook and Twitter feeds. As a general rule, if BC Transit buses are travelling to and from UVic, the university will remain open. uvic.ca/services/emergency/hazards/weather

RESEARCH REELS

Show us your research—in three minutes or less

We're currently seeking entries for the third annual Research Reels video showcase. Videos must be under three minutes and demonstrate the vital impact of research or creative activities taking place at UVic. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to submit entries, regardless of experience or equipment. Finalists will be screened March 5, 2019 during Ideafest, with a top prize of \$1,250 and total prize money of \$4,000. Submission deadline is Feb. 20, 2019, so grab your camera (yes, cellphone cameras count) and get filming. uvic.ca/researchreels



Al botros, Mir Mahmoud, Salameh and Al sharaa at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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NUMBER OF FELLOWS ASSISTED BY THE ARTIST PROTECTION FUND SINCE ITS INCEPTION

Syrian quartet escapes ravages of war for fellowship at UVic

BY JOHN THRELFALL
WITH TARA SHARPE

The dramatic story of a guitar quartet escaping the ongoing destruction of the Syrian civil war for a fellowship at the University of Victoria offers a remarkable message about the power of music, hope and determination. Alexander Dunn, an internationally renowned guitarist and UVic music instructor for nearly three decades, played a vital role in bringing the Orontes Guitar Quartet ([facebook.com/OGQDS](https://www.facebook.com/OGQDS)) to the university as recipients of a

prestigious grant.

To secure the quartet's arrival in Canada, Dunn worked closely for the past 18 months with two US-based organizations—the Artist Protection Fund (APF), an innovative initiative of the Institute of International Education, and the non-profit organization Remember the River.

The quartet described how their peaceful lives in Syria had been disrupted by the civil war, as told in a recent article in the national edition of *The Globe and Mail*, and violence and terror became commonplace. But when they started to play together, "we

forgot everything because we just focused on what we are doing."

First collective to be named Artist Protection Fund Fellows

The classical guitar ensemble—Gaby Al botros, Orwa Al sharaa, Nazir Salameh and Mohammed Mir Mahmoud—faced violence in Damascus where they and their families were at risk from extremist groups and often targeted as musicians.

SEE QUARTET P. 7



President's new initiatives drive UVic's Strategic Framework forward

UVic President Jamie Cassels this month unveiled a significant package of initiatives that will accelerate the implementation of the university's new Strategic Framework and drive UVic forward, in line with the priorities the university community identified during the development of the framework. "These initiatives make a strong statement about UVic's priorities," says Cassels, "and they emphasize our deep commitment to excellence in research and creative activity, teaching and engagement that serves students, communities and the world. They reflect our values and what makes UVic different from other universities, and reinforce our leadership position in vital areas."

The package of initiatives comprises:

Strategic Framework chairs

Approved by Senate on Jan. 11, this \$1.2 million initiative will create four university-funded, five-year University of Victoria Impact Chairs to recruit exceptional new faculty who will lead the way in areas identified in the framework, particularly dynamic learning, respect and reconciliation, sustainable futures, and engaging locally and globally. There will also be 10 President's Chairs—the university's highest internal honour—to recognize current faculty who excel in research, teaching and engagement and who will help to advance

all the priorities in the framework. Final approval of the program will be sought from the Board of Governors on Jan. 29.

Strategic Framework Impact Fund

This new \$300,000-per-year fund will support initiatives directly related to the priorities of the Strategic Framework, especially those not covered by other funding programs. A call for proposals from academic and administrative units will be issued in the near future.

SEE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK P. 7

around the ring

MacLaurin Building seismic project

The MacLaurin Building D wing will be undergoing an extensive seismic upgrade over the next two years. Facilities Management staff are working with Kinetic Construction to construct reinforced vertical concrete shear walls. Interior finishes in washrooms and some classrooms will also be upgraded. Following renovations, the former Curriculum Library area will provide temporary classroom space during renovation work elsewhere. More info: bit.ly/18-MacD

Campus update video online

If you weren't in attendance for the Dec. 10 Campus Update session—covering the university's capital plan, the recently approved Campus Cycling Plan and the new student housing and dining project—you can catch up by viewing the recording online. bit.ly/19-update

Premier announces funding for new UVic student housing project

Premier John Horgan's sunny announcement that the provincial government will back UVic's ambitious new \$201-million campus housing project—providing an additional 620 beds for students to live on campus—met with roaring applause at a news conference Nov. 15.

Horgan, Advanced Education Minister Melanie Mark, UVic President Jamie Cassels, Oak Bay MLA Andrew Weaver and student Adri Bell extolled the virtues of much-needed student housing, helping address an acute regional need for increased rental housing.

"Students have enough stress in their lives without having to worry about finding a place to live they can afford. We're moving forward on our commitment to students at UVic and throughout the province to deliver comfortable and affordable housing in the heart of where they study," Horgan told a crowd of about 200, gathered outside Cadboro Commons. "By increasing housing stock specifically for students, we're also taking the pressure off local rental markets, giving more options to other renters."

President Jamie Cassels noted 75 per cent of students arrive from beyond Greater Victoria, with UVic annually getting 1,000 or more housing applications than available beds. Expanding campus student housing is a long-time strategic priority of UVic's campus planning process. Living on campus assists students with their transition to university, provides academic and social programming and support and nurtures a strong sense of belonging in the UVic community, Cassels said.

"Today's announcement is really an important component to achieve a high-quality educational experience," Cassels told the gathering. "Residences are absolutely critical to the educational experience and to student success."

Once the project meets with District of Saanich municipal approvals, staged construction over four years would begin in 2020 with the first building opening in 2022. Here's what the housing project includes:

- 782 beds, including 620 new beds and 162 replacement beds.
- A 600-seat dining hall, kitchen, small grocery and new coffee shop to replace Cadboro Commons and provide more food offerings with healthy options.
- A wide range of meeting rooms, informal gathering places and a designated Indigenous student lounge.
- Rejuvenated outdoor areas and promenades.



Horgan at the podium during the November announcement, with Cassels and Weaver at right. PHOTO: BETH DOMAN

"Students will find a welcoming place, a place to call home and a platform for their academic success and personal success," Cassels said.

The living and dining environment will support positive student engagement and success. Additionally, UVic is exploring opportunities to use the project to acknowledge and educate students on local Indigenous histories, cultures and traditions.

Student and senior community leader Adri Bell said she first moved into student housing in 2015 and experienced the benefit for students who face challenges in the transition to university while living away from home. Living on campus provides a sense of community and belonging, Bell said.

"Our community has been a tight-knit family and I know I was part of something special," said Bell.

"Students have been calling on government to take action to make their lives more affordable. They should be able to pursue their education without worrying about finding an affordable place to live," said Mark. "New housing at UVic is part of our plan to build thousands of student homes on campuses throughout BC."

A new horizon in sustainability

Design and construction will meet both Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Passive House standards, a rigorous world standard that is a first for UVic. The university anticipates that, upon com-



Cassels and Horgan. PHOTO: BETH DOMAN

pletion, this will be one of the largest Passive House certified projects in Canada, expected to reduce conventional building energy demand by up to 75 per cent.

"I'm thrilled to see this student housing project move forward at the University of Victoria," said Weaver, a renowned climate researcher who made his scientific career at UVic. "Not only will this new project provide critically needed on-campus housing, but the new buildings will also be constructed to the Passive House standard. Both UVic and the province are demonstrating leadership in innovative low-carbon housing solutions, and I look forward to similar projects rolling out throughout British Columbia in the months ahead."

The total projected cost is approximately \$201 million. The BC government is providing financing for \$123

million that UVic will pay back as a loan, from housing fees. The University of Victoria Foundation is providing financing of up to \$45 million, and UVic will supply the balance. Provincial funding includes \$98 million from the BC Student Housing Loan Program for student housing and \$25 million from the ministry capital budget towards half the cost of the dining hall.

Located south of the SUB and west of Tower Residence, the location of the new student housing is close to the campus core. This site supports goals set out in the campus plan, including increased density, compact development and vibrancy along Ring Road. Cadboro Commons Building, Margaret Newton Hall and Emily Carr Residences will be deconstructed to accommodate the new student housing.

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Top 10 of 2018

As we begin a new year, we look back at 12 months brimming with UVic news that generated media coverage across the country and helped shape memorable stories about our people, projects, ideas, creativity and research. Here are 10 of many from 2018.

World's first Indigenous law degree

Early this year, the provincial government announced funding to support UVic's Indigenous law degree program—the world's first to combine the study of Indigenous and non-Indigenous law. In September, a celebratory program launch welcomed the first cohort of students from across Canada who will graduate with professional degrees in both Canadian Common Law (Juris Doctor or JD) and Indigenous Legal Orders (Juris Indigenarum Doctor or JID.)

Voices in Motion choir

The Voices in Motion choir is a community choir for people living with dementia, their family caregivers and high school students. It's also a research project led by Debra Sheets (nursing) and includes Stuart MacDonald (psychology), Andre Smith (sociology) and Mary Kennedy (music) in partnership with Island Health. The choir project launched a pilot phase in January and has since doubled in size.

Family of Johnny Cash's manager donates cache of memorabilia

An extraordinary collection of memorabilia chronicling the highs and lows of the astonishing relationship between music legend Johnny Cash and his former business manager Saul Holiff is now available for scholarly research, thanks to a new archive donated by the Holiff family to UVic Libraries.

The Swiss Schindler, no longer forgotten

Research by Charlotte Schallié (Germanic and Slavic studies) about the heroic efforts of a largely unknown Swiss diplomat named Carl Lutz, who helped save more than 60,000 Hungarian Jews during the Second World War, also involved the work of his step-daughter, five humanities students at UVic and a local Jewish community member.

ONC partners to explore seamounts

Ocean Networks Canada, a UVic initiative, joined partner organizations for the Northeast Pacific Seamounts Expedition to map and collect benchmark data on these important but little-known habitats and biodiversity hotspots. The expedition was live-streamed and included the discovery of six previously unknown seamounts.

Indigenous ancestral site connects youth to their roots

Brian Thom (anthropology) and UVic alumna Dianne Hinkley from Cowichan Tribes helped develop an innovative curriculum at an ancient ancestral site in what is now known as the Cowichan Valley, within walking distance of three local schools.

Costs and harms of substance use

Following the release of a report on the cost of substance use in Canada published by UVic's Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (in partnership with the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction), Tim Stockwell and PhD student Adam Sherer explained study findings and potential impacts for Canada.

Talking politics and privacy

UVic privacy expert Colin Bennett (political science) was a "go-to" expert for local, provincial and national media in the wake of the data-hijacking controversy and coverage on the Cambridge Analytica leak.

Humans and orcas

Media also turned to UVic expert Jason Colby (history) for informed perspective on breaking news about the southern resident orca mother who carried her dead calf for seven days. Colby is a specialist on the history of people and marine mammals in the Pacific Northwest. (See relates story, page 5.)

From Syria to UVic

Internationally renowned guitarist Alexander Dunn (music) played a vital role in bringing the Orontes Guitar Quartet to UVic as recipients of an Artist Protection Fund Fellowship grant. This is the first time the US-based organization has placed APF fellows in Canada, putting UVic in the company of Harvard, Brown and NYU.

Read more about these stories: uvic.ca/news

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Queenswood now the Ocean-Climate Building

When UVic bought the Queenswood property from the Sisters of St. Ann in 2010, the site was envisioned as a special location for the university's growth over the ensuing decades.

Now, UVic's world-leading ocean and climate researchers have a new centre where they can continue producing the critical knowledge used nationally and internationally for sustainable ocean management and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The \$9.5 million Ocean-Climate Building officially opened Jan. 10 with an event attended by staff, faculty, politicians and media that acknowledged the funding support to significantly renovate and reconfigure the former residential care facility. Funding included \$3.5 million from the Government of Canada's Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, \$850,000 from the Province of BC and \$5.15 million from UVic.

UVic president Jamie Cassels thanked the Sisters of St. Ann, and federal and provincial governments for making possible the Ocean-Climate Building where work will deepen the world's knowledge for a sustainable future.

"Our programs of research and education respond to our planet's major issues, including those related to our 'air, water and land'—the vital elements of our planet, fundamental to our future. Knowledge about those three ingredients of life—how they are changing, how they are interacting within complex ecosystems and how we interact with them—is essential to the world," said Cassels.

\$12.6 million funding announced for ONC

At the opening, the Government of Canada announced \$12.6 million over



Maia Hoeberechts, project lead at ONC, discussed oceans research with BC MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert at the Jan. 10 announcement. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

four years for ONC, the anchor group in the building. Jonathan Wilkinson, minister of Oceans, Fisheries, and Canadian Coast Guard, said the investment will support ONC's work to monitor ocean health and factors that affect endangered Orca whales, and to expand its ability to provide real-time data on ocean surface currents, better informing navigation and emergency response.

Upgrades to the nearly 30,000 square-foot facility includes new fibre optic networks, a flexible interior wall system to create large, collaborative workspaces for interdisciplinary work, individual offices configured to serve specific needs, and extensive seismic upgrades.

The new complex provides physical space for collaborations among one of Canada's largest concentrations of climate and ocean researchers. This research happens across UVic—in biology, geography, earth and ocean

sciences, environmental studies, biochemistry, business, law, history, and electrical, computer, mechanical and civil engineering.

UVic also hosts three research and knowledge-sharing institutes focused exclusively on ocean and climate: ONC, Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium and the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems as well as Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions—a collaboration with BC's three other research-intensive universities hosted and led by UVic.

In addition, UVic is home to two Environment Canada labs—the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis, a flagship, internationally recognized climate modelling laboratory, and the Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre, specializing in hydro-climatology and the hydrologic and ecological impacts of atmospheric change and variability.

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REACH Awards

Nominate your outstanding faculty colleagues for a 2019 REACH award. Through these awards, the University of Victoria recognizes excellence and exceptional achievements in areas such as graduate supervision and mentorship, research-enriched teaching, creativity and artistic expression, and knowledge mobilization and research partnerships. Nominations for awards in six teaching categories and five research categories will be accepted until Jan. 31. Awards criteria and nomination forms can be found at uvic.ca/president/awards/reach/nominate

President's Extraordinary Service Awards

Do you know UVic employees who deserve a round of applause? Individuals or teams who make UVic a great place to work and learn? Any UVic employee or recognized student organization can nominate an individual, group or team in one of the five award categories:

- Navigator
- Innovator
- Collaborator
- Cultivator
- Connector

Those interested in submitting a nomination are invited to register for an optional Nominator's Workshop on Jan. 16, 2019. The nomination deadline is Feb. 7, and results will be announced at the Cause for Applause awards event on April 30. Visit uvic.ca/pesa

Provost's Advocacy and Activism Award

The Equity and Human Rights office is accepting nominations for the annual Provost's Advocacy and Activism Award. These awards recognize the achievements of individuals or groups (students, faculty, staff, alumni) who demonstrate dedication to the advancement of social equity through advocacy and/or activism. The awards also celebrate individuals or groups who go beyond the expectations of their jobs, positions or responsibilities to advance the rights of others. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 18. uvic.ca/advocacy-activism

Joint workshop on sexualized violence prevention wins rave reviews

It was a common refrain, repeated over and over.

UVic's Equity and Human Rights office (EQHR) heard a clear message while rolling out its sexualized violence prevention and response training for staff and faculty. Of the hundreds of participants taking part in the training, many brought the same idea to Leah Shumka, sexualized violence prevention and education coordinator: Create a similar, but tailored workshop for students.

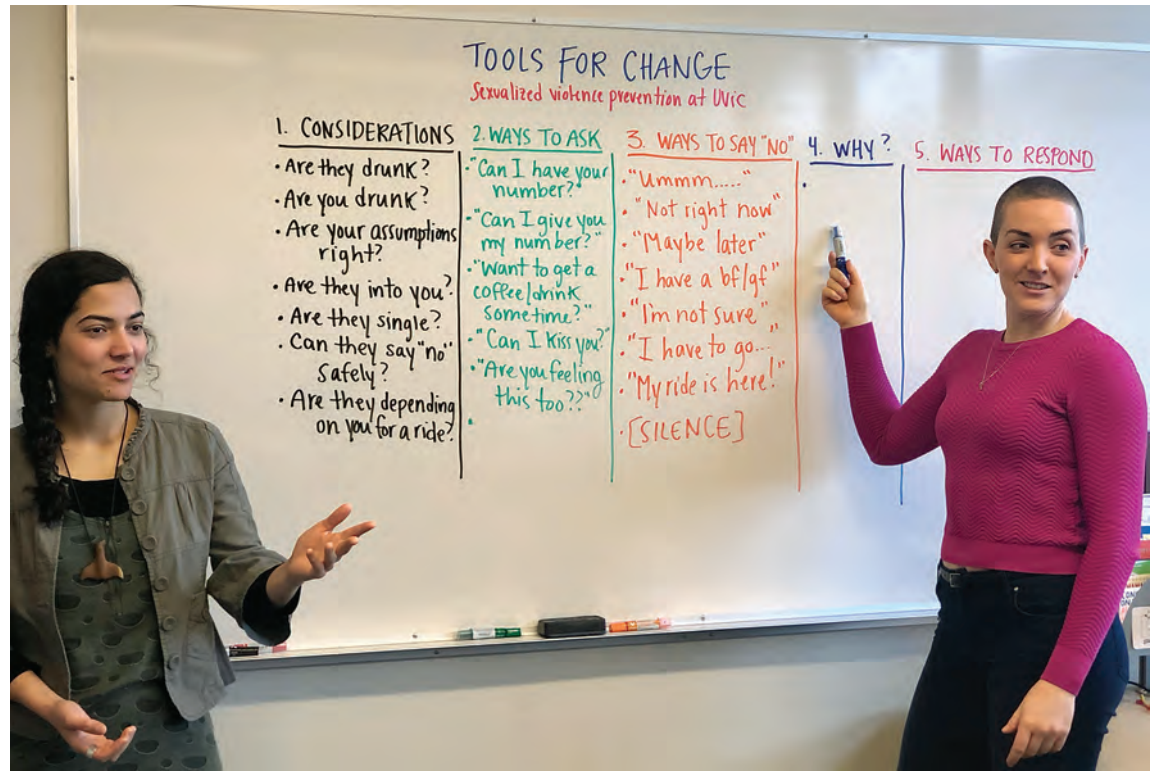
So Shumka approached the Office of Student Life about doing just that. Together with Kate Lord, curriculum and engagement officer, they created a new skill-based workshop called Tools for Change.

"It really combines a lot of different learnings into one workshop," says Shumka. "We took some of the core elements of the training for staff and faculty, but designed it to be much more interactive and to more heavily emphasize consent and prevention strategies."

For example, Tools for Change uses scenarios to encourage students to put themselves into real-life situations, think in advance about what to consider before asking for consent, the actual words to use when doing the asking, but also how to say no, and hear no. EQHR has held four pilot workshops with about 60 students and there's been plenty of favourable feedback.

Sandra Zhou, a third-year psychology student, says she found herself thinking about consent in a different way after taking the workshop.

"I think there's this perception that consent programming is negative—



Sarein Basi-Primeau and Kate Lord, from the Office of Student Life, raise discussion points in the Tools for Change workshop.

like you're teaching people a list of dos and don'ts. But the tone for Tools for Change was more positive and less prescriptive," says Zhou. "It was about giving us tools to identify and practice healthy interpersonal relationships, rather than rules, which struck the right tone for me."

Zhou has no doubt that awareness programs such as Tools for Change have a positive influence on campus attitudes.

"I feel that anything that raises awareness about sexualized violence has some sort of impact in preventing

it," says Zhou. "Tools for Change and similar workshops are great, because I think that the people who attend gain the knowledge to promote consent."

"I also think that the mere presence of these workshops sends the message that students, and UVic as an institution, won't stand for a campus culture where non-consent is the norm, which can affect the students who don't take part in these programs."

In the era of #MeToo, there's no such thing as too much conversation about sexualized violence, says Zhou. She appreciates that Tools for Change

explains that attitudes and beliefs are part of the hierarchy that feed into physical and sexualized violence.

"To me, it's not really about the volume of discussions, but what kind of discussions we're having and whether or not they lead to productive change," says Zhou.

If you are interested in taking one of EQHR's regularly scheduled workshops, or want to book a special session for a group of 20 students or more, you can register at uvic.ca/sexualizedviolence or contact svptraining@uvic.ca for info.

Transgender resources website increases online inclusion

BY MELANIE GROVES

If you've noticed faculty or staff wearing "pronoun buttons" or visited UVic's Transgender Archives, you've seen some of the more visible signs of the university's commitment to providing a safe and inclusive living, working and learning environment for people of all genders. In 2017, a project began behind the scenes to enhance online services and information for trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary students and employees. The new web resource launched on the Equity and Human Rights (EQHR) website in the fall.

"We started working on the content after questions and concerns came through our office about the experiences and supports for trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary students on campus," says Kamilla Milligan, EQHR manager of equity and diversity. "We know that people of marginalized gender identities have not always had positive experiences on campus." To address this gap, Milligan began gathering a list of campus resources that supported access and information for

members of this community.

What might seem like a straightforward process—for example, changing one's preferred name on a university document—is not always so simple for transgender, Two-Spirit and non-binary community members, who may be outed, judged or simply required to disclose personal information in a public setting. "Providing clarity on what processes people can expect at various campus services helps everyone to understand what the service standards are," says Milligan.

As she consulted with both allies and those who identified as trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary, it became clear that a list of links would not satisfy the need for a safe and informative online space. "For people who have experienced discrimination, harassment and sometimes violence, we needed to describe resources in detail, explain who would be at the other end of the email or phone call, the processes of various offices, and the training that staff had on gender diversity and related topics," says Milligan. "This is important so that they

can feel more comfortable approaching offices for services."

The new resource site includes information for trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary students, faculty and staff on navigating university processes, including changing names and pronouns on a variety of official documents such as the ONECard, degree parchment and Human Resources records.

"Having a central spot for everything makes it so much easier to know what's going on and what UVic already offers to make us trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary students feel welcome on campus," says Devan Kronisch, PhD candidate. "That feeling of being welcome is so important when choosing a university."

The website also outlines what everyone can do to make UVic safe, accessible and inclusive for people of all gender identities and expressions. Faculty and staff in particular are encouraged to review the learning resources and tips, on topics such as creating an inclusive classroom and being an ally.

"We went back and forth many times with people, agencies, offices and consultants both inside and outside UVic to do our best to ensure that the materials are accurate and as inclusive as possible," says Milligan. "That said, there's still work to do."

If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Equity and Human Rights at eqhr@uvic.ca or 250-721-7007.

Read a MyUVicLife blog post by Devan Kronisch at bit.ly/19-devan.

Inclusive washroom initiative

An advisory group in the Vice-President Finance and Operations portfolio is developing guidelines to support inclusive campus washrooms, change rooms and showers. All members of the UVic community are invited to share their ideas, experiences and feedback at a drop-in consultation, Thursday, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the library foyer. An online survey will also be available in mid-January on the EQHR website: uvic.ca/equity/education/transinclusion.

February 1-7 | 2019

ALUMNI WEEK



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The Royal BC Museum houses 22 specimens of orcas, as well as porpoises, belugas and dolphins. PHOTO: JAKE SHERMAN

Whale bones tell visceral tale of orca history

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

If a picture is worth a thousand words, how do you quantify the experience of holding a whale skull?

Students in Jason Colby's class, "From oil to icons: the history of people and whales," added some heft to their learning recently at the Royal BC Museum (RBCM).

Museum curator Gavin Hanke treated undergraduate and graduate students in Colby's course to an exclusive tour of the fourth floor, where some of the museum's whale specimens are stored.

The RBCM houses 22 specimens of orcas, also known as killer whales—the largest collection on the Pacific coast—as well as porpoises, belugas and dolphins.

"This is a major stop for orca nerds," Hanke said. "Scientists from all over the world come here for their research."

Bones testament to fragile local orca population

Hanke, a vertebrate zoology expert, took students through the museum's inventory of whale specimens, including baleen plates and skeletons that date back to the 1940s.

Recent specimens include Rhapsody, the pregnant orca found dead in 2014 near Comox. Her fetus, which was full-term, is also stored at the museum—the two whales testament to the increasing fragility of the endangered southern resident orca population.

Students had the opportunity to hold whale teeth and to examine the enormous vertebrae that form an orca's spinal column. Graduate student Tim Cunningham lifted a juvenile orca's skull in his arms.

"It's not light," he joked.

How to prepare a specimen

Hanke outlined the laborious process of preparing a specimen for storage. He told students that after a necropsy, scientists remove the whale's tongue, organs and flesh, which are sent to the hazardous waste section of the landfill.

"PCBs, metals and whatever's accumulating in their food chain magnifies through them," Hanke said.

The carcass is then buried in compost while Hanke says "nature does its bit." Eventually, the specimen comes back clean and ready for storage. Contrary to orcas' violent image, Hanke told students that killer whales are "very community-minded."

"When one is crippled, they will feed it. They're better people than people, that's for sure," he said.

A visceral experience

Colby, whose book *Orca: How We Came to Know and Love the Ocean's Greatest Predator* was published last year, said he wants history to have a physical dimension for students.

"The work of history is often a disembodied process. You're often dealing with documents," he said. "It's something visceral for them to come here and touch the bones."

Graduate student Nate Ruston wasn't bothered by the smell of the fourth floor—which Hanke described as "rancid fat"—or the look of the bones.

"It's a little eerie, but it's fascinating too," he said.

The public will also have the chance to see Rhapsody's re-assembled skeleton when the RBCM opens a major exhibit on orcas in 2020.

Graphic novel workshop shakes up representation of Holocaust

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON

Graduate student Paige Thombs believes in the power of graphic novels—to teach as well as entertain. A long-time fan of the medium, Thombs had the opportunity to travel to Germany in November to attend an international seminar on visual storytelling held at a former Nazi concentration camp for women.

"I have long believed graphic novels are an amazing way to educate people," Thombs says. "What I love about them is you can get somebody interested in a topic that someone previously had no interest in."

UVic Germanic and Slavic Studies professor Charlotte Schallié co-organized the event, which brought a team of Holocaust scholars, graduate students and visual artists from Canada, France, Greece, Germany and Israel together to examine how graphic novels can be used for Holocaust education.

Concentration camp for women

The event took place at Ravensbrück Memorial, 90 km north of Berlin. Some 130,000 women passed through the gates of the all-female concentration camp from 1939 to 1945, including

those the Nazis deemed to be "deviant women" such as communists and members of the Resistance.

"It was extremely meaningful for us to go to this place because it brought out a lot of tensions and anxieties," Schallié says.

At Ravensbrück, the group, which included five UVic graduate students and staff members, stayed at the SS guards' former sleeping quarters, since converted into a hostel. They were also given access to Ravensbrück prisoners' artwork, which the group used to inform their discussions on Holocaust education. German illustrators Tine Fetz and Sophia-Louise Hirsch gave insight into developing graphic novels and guided participants in creating their own collages.

Uncomfortable but profound discussion

Schallié says her goal was to bring students from very different disciplines and backgrounds together, an experience she says was challenging at times.

"What was remarkable about it was no one held back. People were honest and genuine even though it was uncomfortable for them," she says.

Thombs, who is completing a master's in history and cultural, social and political thought, previously attended



Participants, including UVic's Tessa Couto (left) Paige Thombs (right), created their own collages. PHOTO: CHARLOTTE SCHALLIÉ

UVic's European Union summer field school—examining migration, the refugee crisis and the memorialization of the Holocaust with Schallié—and said the experience was exhausting but rewarding. "It was quite profound to get to the point where we could find commonalities and understand difference," she says.

Art makes powerful statement

History alumna and UVic researcher

Kaitlin Findlay, who created a collage that imagined the life of one of the female guards, found the examples of prisoners' artwork most moving.

"Working closely to that art was really powerful," she says. "Everyone was very excited about graphic novels as a way to shake up representation of the Holocaust."

Schallié hopes to expand the initiative into an international project that will use graphic novels to teach high school students about the Holocaust.

around the ring

PEA memorandum of agreement

The Professional Employees Association (PEA) and the University of Victoria have been in negotiations over a new collective agreement. The respective bargaining committees reached a tentative settlement at the table in December that they will recommend to their members and principals for ratification. The PEA will conduct an electronic vote concluding Jan. 28 and the University Board of Governors is scheduled to vote on Jan. 29. Further details will be available after ratification. Negotiations with the university's other collective bargaining groups will get underway over the winter and spring.

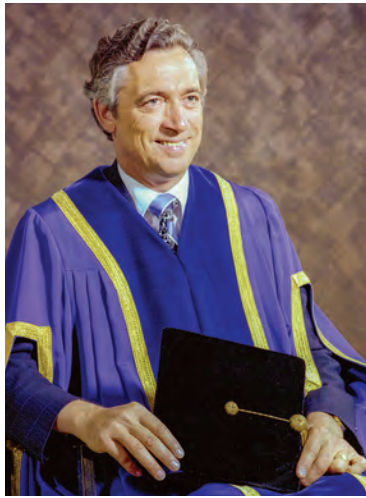
Alumni Week, Feb 1–7

UVic Alumni Week, Feb. 1–7, offers something for everyone with more than a dozen events—including fascinating talks, concerts, art exhibits and cozy social gatherings. There's a curling bonspiel, UVic Vikes basketball action and an evening with Chancellor Shelagh Rogers in conversation with two-time Giller-prize winning novelist Esi Edugyan—as well as the Distinguished Alumni Awards at the Songhees Wellness Centre. Most events are free for anyone to attend but do require pre-registration. Alumni who work on campus should mark their calendars for Feb. 1 to attend an exclusive lunchtime screening of the short film, *Til Death*, by acclaimed director Connor Gaston, followed by a Q&A. Gaston is an award-winning filmmaker and UVic alum whose work has screened at film festivals around the world, including the Toronto International Film Festival. Pizza, popcorn and soda will be provided as part of the \$5 fee for this year's Campus Alumni Kickoff. Attendees will receive a special UVic-themed gift. All alumni are also encouraged to share their memories by entering the Flashback Foto contest, on now to Feb. 7. Use the hashtag #UVicAlumni to be eligible to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. uvic.ca/alumni/impact/home/alumni-week

ringers

Aaron Devor (Chair in Transgender Studies) was honoured with the 2018 Virginia Prince Transgender Pioneer Award at the longest running trans conference, Fantasia Fair, last October. The award is a lifetime achievement award for those who have made the world a safer and more comfortable place for trans people. Devor holds the inaugural position in the world's only Chair in Transgender Studies and is the founder and academic director of the world's largest Transgender Archives at UVic.

in memoriam: Howard Petch



Petch. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES / UVIC ARCHIVES

President, University of Victoria — 1975 to 1990

It is with great sadness that the university community marked the passing of Dr. Howard Petch, former President of the University of Victoria, on November 26 at the age of 93. Petch was the university's fourth President, and is well-remembered for his 15 years in office guiding the campus through an era of immense change, and prioritizing programs and values that have become the defining characteristics of UVic today. During his term, the UVic student body nearly doubled, from 7,400 to 13,000, with a corresponding transformation of the teaching and research environments both on and off campus.

A distinguished nuclear physicist and farsighted advocate for materials science—a field which has only recently begun to show its transformative potential in full—Petch's turn to academic leadership was an enormous boon to UVic. Historian Peter L. Smith wrote that Petch, “was

a charmingly shy man . . . honest, razor-sharp, plain-speaking. No guile, no rhetoric, no frills.”

Petch “showed unusual strength and composure. Having chosen to live at first in the student residences on campus, he was ideally placed to sense the concerns of the student body and to gauge the general mood of the university,” Smith added. “Unpretentious in manner, highly visible and readily accessible, he displayed a simple but dignified style of leadership.”

“Under his leadership,” notes current UVic President Jamie Cassels, “UVic went through a period of extraordinary transformation, and Howard's influence and impact are palpable in so many areas of our university's distinctive characteristics.”

Co-op and athletics

Viewing off-campus learning as a valuable supplement to the academic curricula, Petch championed the cause of co-operative education, ensuring that UVic became an early adopter—the second university in Canada to found a co-op program—and national leader, helping UVic students participate in dynamic learning and build their careers at the same time.

Petch also helped define the university's athletic program, supporting the development of a select group of sports programs in which UVic could pursue and achieve excellence, in events with low barriers to engagement and participation.

The parameters for Vikes athletics were in large part set by Petch's conviction that our athletes were student-athletes—exemplifying excellence in that they were expected to excel both in their academic pursuits and athletic fields. Sport success, no matter the platform, would not come at the

cost of academic success as a student.

Through this strategic focus, UVic achieved unparalleled success in athletics, winning 25 national championships during his presidency. Ever observant to the ways an energetic athletics program on campus enriches the student experience, Petch also became a key proponent of the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria.

Cultivating trust and accountability

As an academic leader, Petch was widely praised for cultivating trust and accountability—a stabilizing influence which helped restore the university's collegial campus environment after a period of fractious turmoil in the early 1970s. In *Reaching Upward and Outward*, the historian Ian MacPherson noted that these shifts, coupled with improvements in procedures for appointments, tenure and promotion, “made possible a remarkable expansionist phase in UVic's history.”

That expansion included the establishment of professional schools in nursing, child and youth care, social work, business and law, as well as a new Faculty of Engineering. The era also saw improvements in community-university engagement, locally and globally, that were marked by Petch's support and advocacy. These included a First Nations teacher education program in Hazelton, BC, becoming one of the first Canadian universities to establish formal relations with a Chinese university, the founding of UVic's Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, research partnerships that sent UVic physicists and astronomers to the world's leading research facilities, and smaller initiatives that brought



At the opening of the Simpson Forestry Station. UVIC ARCHIVES

the Greater Victoria community together, such as Finnerty Gardens—which remained close to Petch's heart throughout his life.

Petch was also sympathetic to emerging concerns about gender equity. With the leadership presence of Norma Mickelson, who became the first female academic dean in Canada when she was selected to lead the Faculty of Education in 1975, Petch recognized that the academy was changing—and rapidly. In the third year of Petch's term, of the 417 full-time faculty at UVic, only 52 were women. Ten years later, in 1987, UVic had launched a minor in Women's Studies, and appointed one of the first tenure-track professors in Canada in the developing field. And in 1990, 132 women were full-time faculty, with new tenure-track hires almost evenly split by gender.

Despite periods of government cutbacks, the built environment on campus grew dramatically during Petch's presidency—including construction of the University Centre, McKinnon, the Phoenix and Fine Arts

buildings, a new science and engineering building, a building for the Faculty of Law and the Interfaith Chapel—without overshadowing the natural beauty of the well-treed campus.

“Howard was the right man in the right place at the right time,” recalls Trevor Matthews, who served as Vice-President Administration throughout Petch's presidency. “He was guided by strong principles. He believed in the truth, freedom of the press, freedom of expression, academic freedom, in minorities, and that women had not been given fair opportunities.”

“It was a privilege to be involved and a privilege to work for someone who had both feet on the ground.”

Matthews' sentiments are echoed across the university. “For many of us, Howard was a mentor and a role model,” says President Cassels. “He left behind an incredible legacy that has had a profound influence on the university UVic has become. The positive impact of his leadership on UVic during its formative years will be remembered for generations to come.”


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Surridge with a commemorative plaque for Rippin. PHOTO: MEGAN LOWRY

Remembering Dean Andrew Rippin

BY MEGAN LOWRY

“Philanthropy to me is a way of reaching out beyond myself and my family to a wider world,” says Lisa Surridge, associate dean academic in the Faculty of Humanities, “a way to create a legacy that is meaningful to you.”

In the summer of 2018, Surridge began collaborating with UVic Alumni and Development and a team of faculty and staff from history, religious studies and the humanities dean’s office to create the Andrew Rippin Memorial Scholarship in religious studies in honour of her former dean and mentor.

“He inspired me by his love of teaching, his dedication to scholarship, and his deep humanity,” says Surridge.

Rippin served as dean of the Faculty of Humanities for 10 years and was a world-renowned expert in Islamic history. Shortly after retiring from UVic, he died of brain cancer.

Rippin’s family, colleagues and friends have given more than \$26,000 toward the scholarship, and through the generosity of the Murray Dawson Estate, the funds will be matched up to \$50,000. The first scholarship recipient is expected to be selected in fall 2019.

“I like to think this scholarship will ensure that Andrew’s passion for religious studies is carried forward by students,” says Surridge.

Throughout her 26 years at UVic as a professor of English, Surridge has given to many funds including English, humanities, music, UVic Child Care, libraries and a graduate travel award.

“I am fortunate that I get to see the impact of my gifts first-hand,” says Surridge. “I have been privileged to meet the students who received the travel award that I helped to fundraise for in memory of my fellow Victorianist Margot Louis and the young teachers who won a teaching award I helped to create in memory of Kelly Curtis, a graduate student whom I taught.”

Surridge says her gifts to UVic not only allow her to help honour her mentors like Andrew Rippin but are also helping her to create a legacy of her own.

“To some, the funds I have given to might seem like an eclectic collection, but if you know what I value as a person, you will understand the list reflects my heart as well as my head,” says Surridge. “I hope my donations help students build a better future for themselves, for local communities and humanity.”



A letter from Stephen Hawking

When UVic Professor Emeritus Werner Israel (left) donated several of his books to UVic Libraries, a personal letter from notable physicist Stephen Hawking, recommending Israel for election to the esteemed Royal Society, came along for the ride as well. Full story at bit.ly/19-werner

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK CONTINUED FROM P.1

Experiential Learning Fund

A new \$500,000 annual investment will enhance opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning—including practica, internships, co-op placements and field schools—with not-for-profit organizations and NGOs. Funds will be administered by a range of academic and administrative units, and support activities including wage subsidies for co-op placements and travel subsidies for students engaged in opportunities outside Victoria. Funding from this program will start to flow in 2019.

Research initiatives funding

New funding of \$250,000 per year is being allocated during 2018/19 and 2019/20 by the Office of the Vice-President Research to advance research ex-

cellence and impact—used during the current year to support health science initiatives and new research clusters, enhance support to specific research platforms, and build connections and partnerships with other institutions and organizations.

Fellowships in research-enriched teaching

This \$150,000 initiative will fund up to 10 awards annually. New fellowships will provide financial support and professional training for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to integrate research and teaching. The fellowships will prepare graduate students and post-docs for future teaching careers, and provide enhanced research-focused learning experiences for undergraduate students.

Graduate student support

More than \$700,000 in new graduate fellowships, President’s scholarships and Indigenous fellowships will be awarded starting in 2019, allowing UVic to recruit and retain talented graduate students in a highly competitive market.

“Achieving our ambitious vision and goals depends upon engagement and commitment across the university,” says President Cassels. All members of our community—whether faculty, students, staff, donors or alumni—have a critical role to play in bringing the Strategic Framework to life. These new initiatives represent a bold step we’re taking together to contribute to a better future for people, places and the planet.”

The framework is available online at uvic.ca/strategicframework.

QUARTET CONTINUED FROM P.1

They are among the youngest artists—and the first collective—to be named fellows of the APF and were welcomed as visiting artists to UVic’s School of Music in early November.

Dunn’s colleague and friend, the highly esteemed classical guitarist and US composer Susan McDonald, who teaches in conflict hot spots, also played a crucial role in bringing the four musicians to North America. The quartet was unable to travel to the US due to the ongoing travel ban.

Unique guitar culture and respected music program

Dunn has built a unique guitar culture in Victoria which garners global respect and led to UVic being identified as an ideal haven for the quartet.

During the ensemble’s time at UVic, Dunn will serve as their mentor, organize musical activities and provide coaching. His local non-profit, the Victoria Guitar Society, will also provide daily practical support to the quartet.

“The Orontes Quartet’s visit will enrich local musical activity and have positive repercussions in the greater community and across Canada for their compelling story of music and political affairs in the Middle East,” adds Dunn. “They will also help to

communicate the healing value of music in the midst of upheaval.”

Quartet defied all odds to create careers

Formed in 2015 at the University of Notre Dame-Louaize near Beirut, the quartet has defied all odds to create careers as concert guitarists. While in Syria, they appeared with the Syrian Philharmonic, on Syrian MTV and Sky Arabia. They also arranged multiple concerts, some of which had to be cancelled at the last minute due to violent incursions. They have also worked as teaching assistants in Lebanon and taught a guitar program for Syrian refugees.

While at UVic, the Orontes Quartet will coach UVic students, produce a digital recording using UVic music school facilities, give talks on their experiences and musical activity, as well as perform publicly including at local churches and mosques.

They also hope to mount a limited tour of Canada in 2019, with potential dates in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto.

UVic’s Faculty of Fine Arts and School of Music have partnered with the APF to support the Orontes Guitar Quartet through September 2019.



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day in the life

BY VIMALA JEEVANANDAM

Eight years ago, when Linda Campbell was first charged with revamping the menu of Village Greens—UVic’s vegetarian and vegan food outlet—she had a clear idea of what she wanted to accomplish.

“It is important to me that people who have different needs—who have allergies or are vegan or vegetarian—get a meal that is on par with other meals that we do.”

At the time, Village Greens offered stir-fries, but the menu was limited. “It didn’t offer a lot of variety to our vegetarian and vegan community,” she says. “I wanted to provide something exciting and delicious that you couldn’t get elsewhere in the city.”

It was with that vision that Campbell worked with the Executive Chef and Food Services management team to reshape and expand Village Greens’ offerings over the years. They now offer curries as well as rotating daily specials, making the spot a favourite among vegans, vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike.

“I created themes to give the menu structure,” she says of the daily specials. “I tried to make the lunch items hand-held items that were easy to take to-go, while the dinners were more of a sit-down meal.”

It’s with the same relentless attention to detail and organization that



Campbell. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

she approaches all aspects of her job. As a Cook IV, now at Mystic Market, her job might be known as a saucier off campus. She starts her day at 6 a.m., heating up what the kiosks will need for the day. She then prepares, from scratch, the curry pastes, marinades and sauces that make the basis of many of the dishes used to feed UVic’s hungry campus community.

The quantities of food she’s working with are hard to imagine for those of us used to cooking in a home

kitchen. Campbell and her team regularly prepare batches of 60 litres of Alfredo and marinara sauce from standardized recipes.

“For a home cook, the biggest meal you might prepare is for Thanksgiving or Christmas, cooking for a group of 20,” she explains. “It’s always a challenge to figure out how much to make, and you always cook too much.”

Then scale that up to feed the thousands of people who come through Mystic Market every day, and you’ll

understand the challenge of managing the bustling facility. To avoid waste, while making sure that none of the kiosks run out of food, she carefully tracks each item.

“It’s a delicate balance of being a step ahead of what we need. We have to communicate as a team to make sure everyone has what they need to run that day,” she remarks. “It’s my favourite part of the job.”

Campbell started in food service in hotels in Alberta cooking for large

scale banquets of 500-900 people. “I like to be really organized, and part of my job involves organizing the production team,” she says.

After 10 years with University Food Services, she has a thorough knowledge and a deep pride in the food she prepares.

“Not a lot of people in the community know they can come to Mystic Market and get great food for amazing prices.”

A second Giller Prize for Esi Edugyan

BY JOHN THRELFALL

On November 19, internationally acclaimed UVic writing alumna Esi Edugyan won the 2018 Scotiabank Giller Prize for her latest novel, *Washington Black*. Edugyan wins \$100,000 on this, the 25th anniversary of Canada’s richest literary award—and also earns the distinction of being one of only three authors to twice win the Giller Prize, alongside M.G. Vassanji and Alice Munro.

“I wasn’t expecting to win,” Edugyan told the audience as she collected the award. “So I didn’t prepare a speech.” The former Department of Writing student did, however, go on to say that, “in a climate where so many forms of truth telling are under siege, this feels like a really wonderful and important celebration of words.”

Edugyan previously won the Giller in 2011 for her sophomore novel, *Half-Blood Blues*. Having only published three novels, Edugyan’s back-to-back wins for *Washington Black* and *Half-Blood Blues* are doubly remarkable, especially when you consider both

novels were shortlisted for the trifecta of fiction awards—not only the Giller but also the Man Booker Prize and the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize.

This year’s Giller announcement was made at a black-tie dinner and award ceremony hosted by television personality and author Rick Mercer, and attended by nearly 500 members of the publishing, media and arts communities.

Of Edugyan’s winning novel, the jury wrote, “How often history asks us to underestimate those trapped there. This remarkable novel imagines what happens when a black man escapes history’s inevitable clasp—in his case, in a hot air balloon no less. *Washington Black*, the hero of Esi Edugyan’s novel, is born in the 1800s in Barbados with a quick mind, a curious eye and a yearning for adventure. In conjuring Black’s vivid and complex world—as cruel empires begin to crumble and the frontiers of science open like astounding vistas—Edugyan has written a supremely engrossing novel about friendship and love and the way identity is sometimes a far more vital

act of imagination than the age in which one lives.”

Edugyan earned her BA in 1999, and later taught some courses for the UVic writing department as a sessional instructor. She is married to fellow writing alumnus Steven Price, who is also an acclaimed novelist and poet.

“I studied with so many great teachers at UVic,” said Edugyan in a 2012 interview upon being named one of UVic’s Distinguished Alumni. “The caliber of guidance was amazing. Patrick Lane was my first great teacher. I found myself following poetry because he was so inspiring. Jack Hodgins, Lorna Crozier, Bill Gaston . . . there was such a high level of instruction.”

Gaston recalls that both Edugyan and Price were in the very first workshop he ran at UVic in 1998. “I’m sure never to say I ‘taught’ her, though,” he says with a chuckle. “I tried to stay out of her way, and not ruin things.”

The four other Giller finalists, who receive \$10,000 each, include Patrick deWitt (who also lost to Edugyan in 2011), Thea Lim, Éric Dupont and



Edugyan. PHOTO: CHAD HIPOLITO

Sheila Heti.

Media coverage of Edugyan’s win was extensive, with notable pieces running in CBC News, *The Globe and Mail*, the *Times Colonist* and CBC Radio’s *All Points West*.

The Globe and Mail also published a reflection on this year’s prize, com-

menting on the award’s impact for the Canadian publishing industry. “The greatest relief through the room was that the assembled publicists would not have to battle to sell a 600-page book in translation about a small Quebec town,” wrote Russell Smith. “This one sells itself.”

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