



A COURSE IN COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

PAGE 4

THE RING

MARCH 2021

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

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University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

THE PATH AHEAD

Campus Update video

If you weren't one of the nearly 600-plus faculty and staff who attended the Feb 17 Campus Update, you can now watch the session online. President Kevin Hall, VP Academic & Provost Valerie Kuehne and Acting VP Finance & Operations Kristi Simpson spoke about our COVID-19 response and future plans, as well as our institutional budgeting process and financial status. uvic.ca/campusupdate

COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION

Island Health clinic

Island Health is locating a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in McKinnon Gym as one of more than 30 sites operating across Vancouver Island during Phase 2 and 3 of BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan. The clinic is managed by Island Health, and open to those with pre-booked appointments only. Changes to the traffic flow on Gabriola Road and parking in lot 2 are in place for the duration of the clinic. Info: bit.ly/jab-21

ADD YOUR VOICE

Vision for climate action

Consultations to develop UVic's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) are set to begin March 29. The first campus engagement will focus on shaping the vision for this comprehensive plan. CSAP will build on UVic's existing structures, expertise and activities and identify new opportunities for innovation and collaboration across research, academics and operations.

ONLINE SERVICES UPDATE

Changes coming to My page and online tools

University Systems will be making a few changes to My page and online tools on March 11 to improve security and navigation. In online tools, you'll still be able to do the same things you've always done in My page. We've updated the look and feel of the navigation and the pages to match the new uvic.ca site. More info: bit.ly/mypage-21



Neville Winchester (green jacket) filming for Wild Canadian Weather for *The Nature of Things* with David Suzuki in the canopy of an ancient Western Red Cedar in the Walbran Valley, Vancouver Island. PHOTO: JAMES FRYSTAK/CBC/ RIVER ROAD FILMS LTD.

PRESIDENT'S CHAIR

Ocean scientist focuses on climate solutions

BY JENNIFER KWAN

Marine ecologist and conservation biologist Julia Baum spent the early part of her career studying the impacts of commercial fishing on oceanic sharks and assessing the health of global fisheries. But a pivotal exploration near the Earth's equator changed her research focus forever.

The expeditions were at the Pacific Ocean coral atoll of Kiritimati or Christmas Island during and in the aftermath of the 2015-2016 El Niño. Heat stress from that El Niño event triggered the third-ever global coral bleaching event, causing mass coral bleaching and mortality on reefs around the world. Christmas Island, where Baum has worked for more than a decade, was the event's epicentre.

What Baum saw struck her to the core. "It was a wake-up call. Up until then, I believed

that overfishing was the greatest threat to the world's oceans," she says.

"Seeing a marine heatwave destroy an entire ecosystem in just a few months confirmed that there were larger, more devastating forces at play. I knew then I needed to transform my research program to centre on climate change."

For her research and teaching excellence, Baum has been awarded UVic's President's Chair Award, the university's highest academic honour for a faculty member. She receives the award also for her superior research engagement in support of the Strategic Framework.

Research-inspired teaching

Baum and her students conducted groundbreaking research on the impact of climate change on coral reefs during the El Niño on

Communities rise to the challenge of citizen science

BY JODY PATERSON

On the rural properties of 19 citizen scientists in Metchosin, the work of verifying whether flying insect biomass is declining will soon be underway for another season.

The Metchosin homeowners involved in University of Victoria entomologist Neville Winchester's research were first recruited as citizen scientists in 2018. In the years since, they've trapped roughly half a million flying insects each season from May to October, helping Winchester in his efforts to establish a baseline and begin to identify insect biomass trends.

"We only have three years of data at this point, and we'll need at least 10 before we can start making sense of any trends," says Winchester, an adjunct professor and senior lab instructor in UVic's Department of Biology. "But we know that many studies in Europe have found that the insect biomass is declining. Are the same trends occurring here? This has major implications on many biodiversity fronts, including pollination and decomposition."

A recent study of 63 protected areas in Germany found a 75 per cent decline in the volume of insects over a period of 27 years. A 2019 global review of comparable research identified a rate of extinction for insects eight times greater than that of mammals, birds and reptiles, with disturbing implications for the food web and vital ecosystem processes.

Using the same kinds of traps as the German study, participants in the Metchosin project empty the Malaise "passive flight interception" traps on their property weekly, and twice a month bring their catches to Winchester, who weighs and sorts them into six categories comprised of hundreds of species.

Collaborating with citizen scientists increases science literacy and provides researchers with much larger data sets. In 2017, Ocean Networks Canada at UVic enlisted more than 500 citizen scientists to monitor real-time

SEE CITIZEN SCIENCE P.4



BAUM. PHOTO: NSERC/CRSNG—MARTIN LIPMAN

SEE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR P.4

around the ring

Summer timetable

The Summer Session 2021 timetable is now live. It has all of UVic's course offerings and information about instructional method. Given the current public health orders, UVic is continuing to offer a mix of online and face-to-face courses this summer. New this summer, we are excited to offer more courses than ever before that include both face-to-face and online components. This is how some of our courses with labs will be offered, including in the faculties of science and engineering. Many undergraduate courses continue to be offered online, particularly in the faculties of education, humanities, human and social development, and social sciences, as well as in the Gustavson School of Business. To comply with physical distancing guidelines, all large classes across all faculties are fully online. The university is actively planning multiple scenarios for the fall, and will update you as soon as possible.

PHISHING TRAINING

Canada Revenue Agency, is that really you emailing me?

New training program helps you spot cyber-attacks

BY KRISTA BOEHNERT

If you've ever been mortified after clicking on a phishing email, you're not alone. According to Statistics Canada, four in 10 Canadians experienced at least one type of cybersecurity incident since January 2020.

With the world spending more time online due to the pandemic, cyberattackers have taken note and ramped up their efforts as well—the same Statistics Canada report indicated that 14 per cent of survey respondents had received COVID-specific phishing emails (i.e. pretending to relate to COVID test results or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit). University Systems' new simulated phishing training aims to help us steer clear of these dreaded phishing emails.

Simulated phishing training is a recognized industry approach to help build cybersecurity resilience amongst employees.



Beginning in February, UVic email accounts will receive three or four simulated phishing emails each month. If you ignore the message by either deleting it or using the "report phishing" button in Microsoft Outlook, the training feature will not be triggered.

If you engage with the email by clicking on links or opening an attachment, the training feature will pop up with tips on how to spot elements of the message that make it suspicious.

What makes an email suspicious? Cyberattackers are constantly honing and changing their techniques, so for insights on the latest scams,

check Systems' Phish Bowl blog at bit.ly/phishbowl.

The blog deconstructs actual phishing emails the university has received, highlighting all the things that are "phishy" about them. There are several tell-tale signs of a phishing scam: requests to click on a link and log in to a site (typically using your UVic credentials), spelling and grammar errors in the message, unfamiliar email addresses or senders, and attachments from unknown senders.

"Our goal is to help faculty and staff keep their accounts secure," says Nav Bassi, director and chief information security officer. "The simulated phish-

ing training offers just-in-time help to spot a potential future cyberattack. The skills can be applied to all areas of your digital life—work, home, volunteer, community—to help keep you safe online.

Although training is anonymous (the system does not retain who engages with the simulated phishing emails), the aim is that faculty and staff will engage with fewer of the simulated email messages as we become better at spotting those dreaded phish.

For more details on simulated phishing training and to see a sample message, visit UVic Systems' notice page at bit.ly/21-phish.

BAMFIELD UPDATE

Update on 43 recommendations following tragic accident

Progress nearly complete on report recommendations

UVic is nearing completion of changes to how field trips are conducted, to safety protocols and to how it responds to off-campus emergencies as recommended in an independent review into the devastating fatal bus accident in September 2019.

UVic was forever changed on Sept. 13, 2019. In the aftermath of the accident on the road to the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (BMSC), the UVic community was joined by countless others in mourning the loss of two of our students, Emma Machado of Winnipeg and John Geerdes of Iowa City. As well, many other students on the bus were injured and suffered hardships.

While the university's focus in those first weeks was on students and families, UVic also began the important work to review what led to the tragedy and objectively evaluate its own response. To this end, UVic hired an external consultant with expertise in outdoor-related risk management and, in June 2020, released the independent report and unequivocally accepted all 43 recommendations.

UVic is committed not only to implementing these recommendations but also taking steps toward strengthening existing processes beyond what is outlined in the report. While the recommendations focused on field school trips to Bamfield, the university is working hard to implement them for all its field schools.

All recommendations except one are expected to be complete by June 30. The remaining recommendation will be fulfilled once BMSC re-opens.

"UVic is absolutely dedicated to doing everything we can to prevent an accident like this from happening again," says Kristi Simpson, acting vice-president of finance and operations and chair of UVic's Bamfield recommendation implementation committee. "We are working diligently on the 43 recommendations and are on track with implementing them in all their varying complexity within a year of the report's release. We know how important their completion is to students and families for an overall sense of closure."

A summary of progress to date specific to each recommendation is available online, as is the full report: bit.ly/bmsc-report.

Immersive learning experiences

Established in 1972, the BMSC is a world-class research and training facility offering unparalleled experiences for students studying ocean science and coastal ecosystems.

Firsthand learning involving fieldwork is one of the many compelling reasons that students choose to study at UVic.

"We know that our students want to continue learning at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre and we remain focused on supporting their safety and well-being in future excursions to the area," says Robin Hicks, acting associate vice-president academic planning. "The recommendations in this report are also informing how we conduct field schools and trips to other off-campus locations. We remain committed to making trips to Bamfield, and all field learning, as safe as possible for all students."

The university welcomes the opportunity to share what UVic has learned with other institutions as well.

Two of the report's recommendations involving advance planning and standards for pre-trip activities; 11 other recommendations are related to advance planning and pre-trip activities.

The university's extensive emergency management plans and procedures, which are in place in the event of a major crisis on campus, are being reviewed and improved in light of 10 recommendations that focus on the integration of off-campus incidents into the university's overall response planning.

The report's remaining 20 recommendations are related to travel to Bamfield and to services, supports and systems related to the well-being of campus community members.

More information

The provincial government and the Huu-ay-aht First Nations are undertaking a three-year, multi-million-dollar project announced last summer to improve the remote unpaved road between Port Alberni and Bamfield.

The RCMP has been leading the accident investigation with assistance from Transport Canada. The consultant's report for UVic is separate from this investigation.

Student awards have been set up in memory of John and Emma, and a memorial bench is in place in the heart of UVic's Finnerty Gardens. Find out more: bit.ly/21-bench



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Acting Executive Director Denise Helm, 250-721-7656, execdir.ucam@uvic.ca

Editor Marc Christensen, 250-721-6022, marcdc@uvic.ca

Production Marc Christensen

Display ads Bonnie Light, 250-388-5321, adsring@uvic.ca

Distribution Mandy Crocker, 250-721-8587, ucam@uvic.ca

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The Ring, PO Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955

Email: ring@uvic.ca

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Qwul'sih'yah'maht (Robina Thomas) named as founding AVPI Indigenous

FROM PRESIDENT KEVIN HALL

As identified in our Strategic Framework and Indigenous Plan, UVic has made important commitments toward truth, respect and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and, in particular, the Indigenous students, staff, faculty at UVic and the communities and Nations we live and work alongside.

I am excited to share with you that, in support of these critical priorities, we are creating a new leadership role at the university. This spring we will be establishing a non-academic associate vice-president Indigenous (AVPI) position to bring an important perspective to decisions made across all areas of the university.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions as executive director of the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE), I have asked Qwul'sih'yah'maht (Robina Thomas) to be the founding associate vice-president Indigenous. I am

delighted that she has generously agreed to take on this role for a three-year term. Robina will be starting in her new role in the spring and more information about her initial priorities will be available then. I am grateful that Robina will bring her deep knowledge and experience and her positive energy to shaping this role.

While still under development, this new position will carry responsibility for furthering UVic's commitment to truth, respect and reconciliation with the development of a strategy that integrates Indigenous cultures, histories, beliefs and ways of being and knowing across all aspects of the university's mission. We have benefited immensely from the work of IACE in providing leadership across our education and engagement initiatives. We now look toward the development of a university-wide approach to ensuring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action are our priority. Moving this important work forward will require challenging conversations



Qwul'sih'yah'maht (Robina Thomas). UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

about what we value and prioritize as an institution, and how we contribute to reconciliation in a good way.

In order to facilitate the position's cross-divisional responsibilities, the AVPI will be an integral member of the leadership team. Robina will report to

me and she will be located in the Office of the President.

IACE will report to the AVPI and Robina will share information about the IACE leadership transition with our community soon.

More: bit.ly/AVPI-21

Help power the 2021 Climate Solutions Challenge

Do you have innovative climate solution ideas that could drive meaningful change on and off campus? Are you interested in developing these ideas with experts and the opportunity to win cash prizes and pitch to UVic leadership?

Then the Climate Solutions Navigator Working group wants to hear from you.

The 2021 Climate Solutions Challenge is a campus-wide contest for actionable climate ideas by and for the UVic community and beyond. Taking place between March and May 2021, the purpose of the challenge is to inspire dialogue and build concrete climate action plans that will change our community for the better.

The challenge will begin with an opportunity to participate in our virtual

"mentorshop" on March 22 (other dates may be added). Those who are shortlisted will have an opportunity to pitch their idea directly to UVic leadership and win up to \$1,250.

The challenge invites submissions in two key categories this year:

Looking past COVID to climate

This category addresses how we can turn the lessons from the current crisis into an opportunity for climate. How can we use this chance to re-evaluate the attitudes, practices and policies that have been holding us back from progress on climate change?

Measuring and managing for climate

Sometimes, making a climate-unfriendly choice seems easier, or is



perceived as costing less. Yet when the real costs of climate are accounted for, these choices often come up less rosy. How can we help UVic "manage what they measure" on climate? What tools could be applied or are being used elsewhere?

Following feedback from the mentorshop, the deadline for final proposals (short video, written or poster) is May 3, 2021.

Visit the challenge website at uvic.ca/event/climate-challenge for more details—and sign up before March 12 for an invite to the March information session and 'mentorshop'.

The Challenge is a Climate Solutions Navigator-led Accelerated Action in support of the University of Victoria Climate Action and Sustainability Planning process. All ideas and their proponents will be shared with this group and highlighted online.

Equity Action Plan development process set to begin

The university will begin the consultation and planning process for an institutional Equity Action Plan starting in March.

Working closely with President Kevin Hall and the leadership team, Equity and Human Right (EQHR) have designed a process that will build on the commitment in UVic's Strategic Framework to embed practices of equity, diversity, accessibility, inclusion and dialogue throughout the university community (strategy 1.2).

The current UVic Employment Equity Plan is set to expire in 2021. The new Equity Action Plan will be aimed at addressing systemic barriers to equity, diversity and inclusion,

and embedding anti-racism and anti-oppression initiatives and actions for transformative and systemic change.

"The process will be as important as the final plan," explains Cassbrea Dewis, executive director, equity and human rights. "We are shifting from an approach of thinking then doing, to thinking by doing. Using equity-centred design we will take a principled approach to each step of the process and engaging the community throughout."

Equity-centered design allows EQHR to test solutions prior to the finalization of the plan. A diverse group of co-creators will define challenges, develop strategies and test their effi-

cacy throughout the planning process.

The action-oriented nature of this process will enable the university to leverage the most effective tools, resources and knowledge to build and implement a plan that centres the expertise and experiences of the most marginalized to enact transformative change.

The next step in the process will be to establish a Reflection and Challenge Committee. This committee will be established using equity-centred principles including recognizing and eliminating barriers to participation and will include experience experts—people with lived experience of barriers to equity, inclusion and belonging

in the systems that define, and operate within, the university.

The committee will start its journey by participating in equity-centred design training and learning about the history and context of doing this work. Once established, they will begin on engagement and consultation with the community to identify areas to be addressed through the process.

Member recruitment will begin in March. The action plan will be finalized and ready to implement in early 2022.

For more information on the process and how to participate, contact eqhr@uvic.ca

Board approves updates to Sexualized Violence and Prevention Response Policy

During the latter half of 2020, the University of Victoria engaged community stakeholders to collect feedback on its Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy. The consultations were part of a three-year review of the policy, which was introduced in 2017.

The consultation period included an online community engagement survey that resulted in over 200 responses, and 30 conversation cafes and meetings with key stakeholders, including employee and student groups.

All of the input was reviewed and considered as part of the policy revisions. University's Board of Governors approved the updated policy on Jan. 26.

The revised policy updated the definition of survivor-centered, to include dignity and respect for the survivor's rights, interests and agency.

The update also added the opportunity for the parties to engage in voluntary resolution processes and clarified a support person's role as providing cultural, emotional and/or

spiritual support. The updated policy is online at bit.ly/svp-21.

In addition to the Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy, the university's Discrimination and Harassment and Human Rights, Equity and Fairness policies are also currently under review. More information on the review process is available at bit.ly/policy-21.

A detailed outline of the review process for the Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy is available at bit.ly/svpr-21.

around the ring

New and incoming deans

UVic is excited to welcome several new deans this year. In January, Helga Hallgrímsdóttir began her five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development. Hallgrímsdóttir is a historical comparative sociologist and professor in the School of Public Administration. Prior to her appointment as dean, she was Acting Director of UVic's School of Child and Youth Care.

Starting in July, two experienced leaders will join the UVic community to start their five-year terms as deans. Lois Harder has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Mina Hoofar the Dean of Engineering. Harder is a political scientist and current principal of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College at the University of Alberta. Hoofar is a mechanical engineer and current director of the School of Engineering at UBC Okanagan.

More dean searches are underway, including in the Faculties of Fine Arts, Humanities and Graduate Studies. A list of academic administrators can be found on the VPAC website: bit.ly/deans-21

A new look for MyUVic Life blog

If you're missing the student energy on campus, UVic's popular student blog is one way of feeling connected to campus. A collaboration between University Communications + Marketing and Student Recruitment, the blog is celebrating six years with a new design. With over 1,200 posts and 24 current bloggers, there's always something interesting to read. Visit the blog at uvic.ca/myuvicliffe.

New cycling and pedestrian paths for Ring Road South

Construction is kicking off on a new two-way cycling path and separated pedestrian sidewalk that will connect University Drive with the engineering and computer science facilities. More info: bit.ly/cycle-south

2020 tax information

2020 tax forms are now available via the employee services portion of uvic.ca online services. Employees who worked from home during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic can claim home office expenses on their 2020 income tax filing. Requirements can be found at bit.ly/wfh-21, including flat rate and detailed filing options.

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New eyes on social gaps and opportunities

Student projects focused on food security, affordable housing, Indigenous issues and renewable energy

BY ANNE MACLAURIN AND ALEXANDRA HAUPT

As an instructor who is passionate about community engagement, Ana María Peredo saw a new opportunity despite the pandemic to engage her Environmental Studies 406 “Alternative Economies for Social Transformation” class in finding a meaningful community-led project.

The COVID-19 version of the course deepened the community-engaged learning dimension of a course that has been running since 2016, creating a novel experience for Peredo’s students.

Peredo is fascinated by the idea of mobilizing local citizens’ funds, so it was a natural fit to partner with the Vancouver Island Community Invest-

ment Cooperative (VICIC), a social investment organization that supports local, sustainable projects that focus on social and environmental benefits. In their evaluation, students were asked to focus on four key areas: food security/sovereignty, affordable housing, Indigenous issues and renewable energy. Their projects became part of a final report that was presented back to VICIC for potential social investments.

Student Isobel Simons and her group focused on local food security. Their research showed that small business loans and equity-based investment for local, sustainable farmers would fill a funding gap that is important for small farmers to scale up their operations to meet demand.

According to Simons, “small farms with community- and ecology-oriented mindsets are essential to sustainable food systems and plenty of them exist, but a lack of investment limits their growth.”

“My message for decision-makers in the business community and in local municipal governments would just be to reiterate that community engagement is a uniquely valuable



Peredo (centre-right) and her students working with the community in the Cowichan Valley, 2014.

resource for local economic development,” adds Simons.

In the 240-page report, Peredo’s students gained real-world learning while assessing the gaps in social impact investing in the Vancouver Island region for VICIC.

“This is a classic win-win, where the students have learned something about an approach, and the product that they produced for their assignment is useful pretty much immedi-

ately to the people they’re working with—in this case, VICIC,” says VICIC board member Michael Hoebel.

This course, much like Peredo’s other community-engaged work, brings together the field of social economy while working towards social, cultural and environmental sustainability.

For environmental studies and gender studies student Sam Dillon, “through this class, I learned a consid-

erable amount about what it is like to write for and be accountable to someone beyond just myself or a professor. I also gained a better understanding of how to write a formal report.”

Read more about Peredo’s work at web.uvic.ca/~aperedo. Are you a student looking to get involved in this area? Email the Community-Engaged Learning Office at celc1@uvic.ca for more information on how you can get started.

Chair of Transgender Studies renewed for five years

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

Since its launch in 2016, the world’s first Chair in Transgender Studies has put UVic on the map as a leader in diversity and equity. In April and May 2020, the Senate and Board of Governors approved a renewal of the Chair in Transgender Studies for another five-year term. Aaron Devor has been appointed to continue as chair for a second term.

“The Chair in Transgender Studies is needed more than ever as policy makers and service providers look for research and advice to guide them in supporting an increasingly gender-diverse population,” says Devor.

As a world’s first, the Chair in

Transgender Studies enhanced the reputation of UVic partly through the hundreds of instances of media coverage, including television, radio, print and online publications. Coverage has been local, regional, national, and international appearing in Canada, the US, the UK, Australia, Germany, Israel, Italy, and EU-wide, and in languages including English, French, German, Italian, and Chinese.

“Mass and social media, when done well, serves an important function in educating the public. Frequent media engagement allows me to disseminate accurate information to large numbers of people who will never come to UVic, and to increase public understanding of and empathy

for Trans+ people,” says Devor.

Working closely with the university, students, research colleagues, and the community, Devor fulfilled his first five-year mandate. He secured research grants, advised and collaborated with visiting scholars, and sponsored the biennial [Moving Trans History Forward conferences](http://MovingTransHistoryForward.com) (MTHF). The MTHF conference is virtual this year, March 11–14, and registration is open for those are interested in joining a lively discussion with community activists, academics, artists, and allies from around the globe.

Devor has worked tirelessly in public education and knowledge translation on all things trans through public lectures, keynotes, and plenary

addresses around the world. He has advised policy-makers and published countless books, chapters and scholarly articles.

Regarding the Transgender Archives, Devor says, “all of us at the Chair in Transgender Studies are proud of the Transgender Archives and of the work that we have done to build its content, reputation, and accessibility. It has become UVic’s busiest archives, second only to the collections chronicling UVic’s own history.”

In looking to the next five years as Chair in Transgender Studies, Devor says, “the groundwork has been established and the task now is to consolidate existing strengths, and to grow and deepen them as appropriate.”



Devor. PHOTO: BLAKE LITTLE

PRESIDENT’S CHAIR CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Christmas Island. She witnessed firsthand entire reefs turned into “coral graveyards,” as reported widely in the Canadian media and beyond including the *Times Colonist*, CBC’s *Quirks & Quarks*, The Associated Press, *The Atlantic*, *Science* magazine and *The Guardian*.

In research published late last year in *Nature Communications* based on this work, Baum saw signs of hope in the face of this climate crisis. She believes the message of hope is vital to impart to her students and the public. With her award, Baum has developed a new interactive course that focusses not only on how climate change is altering our oceans, but on solutions to ensure healthy future oceans.

“It’s important not only that students are informed, critical thinkers about climate change, but also that they feel inspired to create solutions and be part of the change we need,” says Baum. “If we despair about climate change, we’ve already lost the battle. We need optimism and courage to tackle this grand challenge.” Baum has been giving talks to the public about the need for climate change action.

Kieran Cox, who is now completing his PhD at UVic in biology, was part of Baum’s Kiritimati field team, which comprised several expeditions with around six students each time working in the field for up to a month. The days were long, meticulously planned

and everyone knew their role. As an undergraduate student at the time, the experience was transformative, says Cox.

“I was a wide-eyed, enthusiastic, albeit somewhat naive, undergraduate student. I learned what it feels like to work at the forefront of a field and tackle the critical, emerging environmental challenges,” recalls Cox. “Working under Julia’s supervision was vital for me gaining an understanding of what it means to strive for and achieve career excellence.

She is passionate, innovative, dedicated—and tough. This approach resonates with me to this day.”

A voice that matters

Making change means having a voice. As a globally recognized scholar, Baum is a recipient of more than 20 fellowships and awards including the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation. Baum is also a member of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Scientists and Artists.

Using her voice and critical research—and by encouraging her students to do the same—Baum is focused on research that transcends disciplines and borders to create establishing deeper connections in

British Columbia and assessing how climate change is reshaping temperate ecosystems. “With the President’s Chair, I’m excited to shift focus towards climate solutions research that will help ensure a healthy future for Canada’s oceans,” she says.

This approach also factors equity, diversity and inclusion into science. As a “first-generation” academic and woman in science, Baum is keenly aware of the obstacles that remain in the system. “Climate change is the defining issue of our time—we need all the talent at the table to solve it. This will only be possible if we address the structural inequities that persist in academia—and beyond,” says Baum.

CITIZEN SCIENCE CONTINUED FROM P. 1

video from underwater cameras off the coast of Tofino and count the deep-water sablefish they spotted in that time.

Winchester says his work strives to develop “a community-driven environmental project model” that engages and trains citizen scientists in rural communities to be part of monitoring and supporting biodiversity and conservation.

UVic biology student Nathan Heuver is working with Winchester on the Metchosin project to do a “deep dive” on one particular species, the stilt-legged fly, while Winchester’s broader

data collection seeks to establish whether Europe’s sharp decline in insect volumes is also happening here.

“Why are they declining? Habitat loss, insecticides, changes in weather, climate change – there are several reasons for the decline,” says Winchester. “A lot of biomass impacts tend to relate to habitat use. That’s why we chose Metchosin for this work. It’s a green community, and people have been really enthusiastic and want to see how the insect fauna is reacting to habitat use in the district.”

Climate change obviously has an impact on ecosystems, says Win-

chester. But the European research confirms that widespread use of industrial pesticides is even more of a factor in decline, he notes, along with habitat alteration due to development, industrial agriculture and logging.

Winchester spent years researching insect populations in forest canopies around the world for his own PhD – work that was recently featured in *The Nature of Things*’ “Wild Canadian Weather” series. “We climbed over 6,000 trees in 12 countries,” he says. “A lot of what we learned through the canopy work is applicable to the Metchosin Flying Insect Biomass

Project.”

There are no tree tops in this latest work, however. Traps are on the ground.

Heuver chose to study the stilt-legged fly because so little study has been done on it. “It’s a chance to learn more, and put a magnifying glass on a single species,” says the fourth year Bachelor of Science student, who is doing his honours thesis on the fly.

He “jumped on the opportunity immediately” to be part of the Metchosin research after learning about it in his entomology class with Winchester last year. Heuver has found 300 stilt-legged flies among almost a million

insects gathered in 2018 and 2020, the years he’s studying.

Winchester hopes for a day when similar data collection is going on in people’s back yards right across the region, province and country.

But with traps costing \$300 each and only the Metchosin Foundation helping out with funding for Winchester’s work to date, efforts are confined to Metchosin for now. Winchester aims to collect data until at least 2060, and is counting on his team of citizen scientists to recruit future generations into the work to keep building the data set.

National Centre for Indigenous Laws launches engagement hub and open forum series

On September 3, 2020, the provincial government announced a \$13 million donation, which rounded out the funding needed to build the National Centre for Indigenous Laws. A federal announcement of \$9.1 million was made in the summer of 2019, and the Law Foundation of BC pledged another \$5 million.

“This physical structure represents a sanctuary where our laws, which enable us to be peoples, will be safe, and where both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students will learn about those laws, creating the foundation to a multijuridical Canada,” says Val Napoleon, director of the Indigenous law program and Indigenous Law Research Unit, and Law Foundation Chair of Indigenous Justice and Governance.

The Centre, which will advance best practices in accessing, under-

standing, and applying Indigenous laws today. It will house the Faculty of Law’s JD/JID Program, the first Indigenous law program in the world to combine the intensive study of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous laws.

As the design of the building is finalized, a series of engagement activities has begun, aimed at collecting feedback on how to best collaborate with communities and stakeholders to ensure that the Centre’s programming is reflective of both national and international Indigenous legal traditions. This feedback will inform the programming and use of the new building when it opens in late 2022.

These engagement activities include an open forum series and an engagement hub. The series of four virtual events is centred on four themes in Indigenous law:



Artwork by Val Napoleon

- Ways of learning and teaching;
- Sharing knowledge: Indigenous legal research and community partnerships;

- Relations between peoples; and,
- Practice and institutions

Visit the engagement hub at

uvicindigenoulaws.ca to register for an open forum event, take a survey and share your thoughts on Indigenous laws in Canada.

UVIC KNOWLEDGE

Stress-testing the brain

UVic researchers study why stress can make our brain’s immune cells go rogue

BY JESSICA SKELTON

Microglia, the brain’s immune cells, are meant to protect and help develop the connections in our brains. Occasionally, they go rogue and harm us instead.

Marie-Ève Tremblay, associate professor in Division of Medical Sciences, is on the leading edge of understanding exactly what causes our brain’s immune cells to change so drastically and how this affects our cognitive function.

“We think that environmental and lifestyle risk factors like stress and poor diet can cause them to malfunction,” says Tremblay, Canada Research Chair of Neurobiology of Aging and Cognition. “This is really problematic. It can lead to loss of memory and other major outcomes on cognition.”

In a recent article published in *Nature Communications*, Tremblay worked with international collaborators to show that omega-3 deficiency in pregnant people can cause

microglia to destroy neurological connections important for memory development in offspring. Her previous work has shown that psychological stress can similarly influence microglia throughout a person’s life, leading to the learning, memory and other cognitive deficits we see in schizophrenia, autism, depression and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other forms of dementia.

“When we are stressed psychologically, our cells are also stressed, so it’s possible to see a lot of alterations within them.” Tremblay adds it’s these alterations that could cause microglia to change their function and cause us harm.

“Stressed microglia also emerge with exposure to other risk factors shared among diseases, like lack of physical activity,” Tremblay adds. Her research team is currently studying the effects of sleep disturbances, cigarette smoke and viral infection.

Fortunately, their research has found evidence that changes in lifestyle could help prevent, and possibly even revert, the immune cells’ alterations and fix the damage already caused. “We think that if we can normalize the cells, it will be beneficial overall,” she says. “We don’t want to



Tremblay. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

kill microglia or prevent them from doing their normal functions at synapses, which are the connections between neurons in the brain. If we do, there will be other issues with learning and memory.”

These lifestyle changes include following a low carb or ketogenic diet, omega-3 supplementation and doing stress-relieving activities like exercise and socializing. The team is researching other potential therapies like cannabinoids, probiotics and exposure to nature and this list could expand as

new members continue to bring their own interests and expertise to the mix.

“We want to see how we can prevent harmful microglia with something simple—not just a pharmaceutical treatment, but something everyone can implement quite easily,” she says.

Tremblay also plans to study the combined effects of ageing and lifestyle risk factors like the examples noted above. She hopes this work will result in therapies that help avoid the development of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s

and other forms of dementia—essentially making everyone “SuperAgers.”

The Tremblay lab will soon receive a unique-to-Canada electron microscope funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC government. The microscope can produce 3D images, in addition to the usual 2D, at nanometre resolution. This will allow the team to see whole stressed microglia and study exactly how they function and change their interactions with synapses with different therapies.

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE RESEARCH

A tale of two crises: housing and a global pandemic

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

What can Canada learn from Brazil about housing insecurity during a global pandemic? Sharon Dias, a PhD candidate in geography at UVic, is exploring this question and others in her doctoral research.

She points out that communities across the globe have been heavily impacted by two interconnected crises: lack of adequate housing and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those who have lost income, are not housed or living in over-crowded or inadequate housing are especially vulnerable. One important step in controlling the spread of COVID-19 is providing a basic human right to adequate housing, says Dias. This can fall under a variety of categories such as providing affordable housing, social housing, public housing and rent control, among others.

Dias explains that Brazil provides a unique case study with lessons and knowledge that will benefit us all

in finding solutions to the complex global housing crisis.

Housing affordability and the right to housing for both the global north and global south changed with the financial crisis of 2008. Over time, housing became more of a financial object and what followed was a rise in land prices, increase in evictions, unprecedented mortgage debts and real estate exclusion.

“As we live in a more-than-ever interconnected and interdependent world,” says Dias, “I believe my research is important to Canada to build scientific and social bridges between Canada and an important country in the global south such as Brazil, and to Brazil to become more connected with Canadian standards for inclusive governance.”

Dias is using a community-based research approach with surveys and interviews with seven main groups: low-income women and adult women of colour; low-income adult males and males of colour; local NGOs working

on housing-related topics; academia; activists; youth; and governments.

Dias grew up in a small mixed-race family in a housing complex in northeastern Brazil. Her experience helped shape her as a geographer and instilled a desire to seek social justice for displaced communities and people living in housing projects.

After completing both her undergraduate and master degrees at Brazil’s University of Ceara State, Dias decided to travel and pursue further education in Canada.

She fell in love with UVic and the west coast while taking an English course. She is now doing a joint PhD program with UVic geography and Federal Fluminense University (UFF) in Brazil.

Dias was awarded a recent fellowship from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The IDRC funding is supporting the virtual data-collection phase, the data processing and the sharing of research results.



São Paulo, Brazil. PHOTO: CARLOS ARANDA/UNSPASH.COM

Dias is supervised by UVic geographer Reuben Rose-Redwood and by Jorge Luis Barbosa at UFF. The results of her research findings will be published as part of Dias’ PhD.

Dias also plans to make all the methodology of her research avail-

able for other researchers in Canada and in Brazil.

“I have the interest in conducting similar work within the Canadian context as my methods were designed to be able to be applied in both countries,” adds Dias.

What's behind the buzz about micro-credentials?

BY THERESE ELEY

In President Kevin Hall's recent town hall, he spoke about some of the themes he has been hearing from community members as well as UVic staff and faculty during his "listening tour." One of those themes has been an important part of his life and career, namely that of accessibility to post-secondary education and the value of a university to its community throughout people's lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for varied educational opportunities for people who are seeking new skills, knowledge and connections to thrive in an ever-changing economy, generating interest in micro-credentials.

The provincial government is partnering with UVic and other post-secondary institutions to help British Columbians quickly and effectively develop additional skills and competencies as part of its economic recovery plan and to help employers find qualified people for high-demand positions.

Just because micro-credentials have become a buzz word recently, doesn't mean it's a new concept in the post-secondary world.

"Short, professional programs that combine academic rigor with applied practice have been in the domain of continuing education and extension units for decades," says Jo-Anne Clarke, dean of UVic Continuing Studies.

An integral part of UVic since 1963, the division offers a comprehensive portfolio of programs in a range of disciplines and programming models to serve adult, part-time, international and geographically dispersed students for lifelong learning.

"What is different about micro-credentials is the attention they are receiving from government, industry, employers and the credit side of the post-secondary house," adds Clarke.

When the pandemic hit last March, the South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) sprang into action—creating the Rising Economy Taskforce, which began looking at ways of responding to the pandemic and what a resilient and recovering economy might look like for the South Island.

"What emerged was a recognition of the need for up-skilling and re-skilling programs that were

responsive, nimble and aligned with what was needed at this moment in time," says UVic Community and Government Relations Executive Director Jennifer Vornbrock.

Vornbrock also serves as a board member on SIPP, an alliance of 11 municipal governments, all three post-secondary institutions and numerous business and industry representatives focused on the economy.

"Micro-credentials emerged as a key theme across several of the industry sub-committees in the taskforce," Vornbrock recalls.

In late 2020, the provincial government responded with funding to promote up-skilling and re-skilling for BC residents who are unemployed or under-employed due to the pandemic.

UVic, along with Royal Roads and Camosun—through their collaboration with SIPP—were able to secure funding and in January, UVic launched two new micro-credential programs through Continuing Studies: [Essential Skills for Data Literacy](#) and [Skills to Support Independent Living](#).

Beyond the two new fully funded micro-credential programs, Continuing Studies has been building an extensive portfolio of micro-credential professional development programs to meet the expressed needs of their learners.

"In recent years, we have seen an increase in learners looking for education that doesn't require the time commitment of a longer, traditional credential, that has flexible entry points, doesn't necessitate an onerous application process, and teaches hands-on knowledge that the learner can bring immediately into their workplace," says Miranda Angus, director of business, science and technology in Continuing Studies.

While at this point no one is expecting micro-credentials to replace traditional degree programs, they do open up an opportunity for post-secondary institutions like UVic to show their ability to be adaptive and responsive to the needs of the larger community.

Through ladder opportunities, entry pathways and strategic alignment with industry standards, micro-credentials are an important way to engage with and retain learners throughout their lives and careers.

continuingstudies.uvic.ca



Isaacson



Dagenais



Singh

CO-OP STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

BY LAUREN FROST

From Saskatchewan to Northern Alberta to right here in Victoria, co-op students are contributing to communities and organizations across Canada and the globe.

Each year, UVic recognizes the extraordinary ways that co-op students contribute to their workplaces and communities. We're pleased to announce that our 2020 Co-op Student of the Year recipients are:

Jady Isaacson (commerce) Business Co-op Program Award

When fourth-year business student Jady Isaacson first started her program at UVic, she aspired to travel abroad and work in the fashion industry. Three co-op jobs, several changes of career goals and a global pandemic later, she is a thriving young professional in the Victoria tech sector.

Over the course of her degree, Isaacson has built an impressive portfolio working for highly acclaimed tech companies in Victoria including LlamaZOO, Used.ca and, most recently, Shift, a Redbrick portfolio company. At Shift, she worked as a customer success co-op student, supporting clients with software support, troubleshooting and guidance. Soon after starting with Shift, Isaacson's supervisors noted her exceptional capabilities and began trusting her with additional responsibilities. "Jady has been such a dependable, positive light for our team," says co-op supervisor Jessica Huebner. "She has risen to every single challenge and always exceeds expectations."

The ability to rise to challenges has never been more important than in the past year, when the world was thrown into a cycle of changed plans and shifting priorities. For Isaacson, the pandemic not only meant starting a new co-op job remotely, but altering her plans to finish her degree. "Upon finding out that my final academic term—originally scheduled to take place in Fall 2020—was postponed until April 2021, Shift offered me the opportunity to extend my co-op term," she says. "Altering my life plans to work at Shift has enhanced my career, as I will have now obtained a full year

of experience at one of the top employers in Canada!"

When she finishes her final co-op term, Isaacson is looking forward to going on her previously scheduled international exchange at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan and then to graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Next up on her career development list is a master's degree in supply chain management that will prepare her to contribute to a more sustainable business world.

Despite the twists and turns of her academic and professional journey, Isaacson feels that co-op has equipped her with the skills and confidence she needs to exceed at whatever she does next. "The co-op program has created meaningful turning points in my personal, academic, and professional paths," she says. "These turning points pushed the boundaries of what I previously expected of myself, and I am now more confident than ever in my abilities."

Tessa Dagenais (coaching studies) Optional and Professional Programs

There are few careers that have a more direct impact on children and youth than teaching, and Master of Education student Tessa Dagenais is living proof of how educators can enrich the lives of children and their communities.

Before she enrolled in the coaching studies program at UVic, Dagenais had worked at the Bill Woodward School in the remote town of Anzac in Northern Alberta for four years as a science teacher, coach and athletic director. When she learned that she could complete co-op work terms as part of her current teaching job, she saw an opportunity to grow as a physical educator. "I participated in co-op because I needed something to challenge me as a coach to go outside of my comfort zone," says Dagenais. "During my work term, I immediately felt more connected and invested in my team at the Bill Woodward School than ever before—co-op helped me to become a more driven and impactful coach."

Largely attended by Indigenous students with Cree, Dene and Métis backgrounds, the Bill Woodward School depends on its teachers to have strong cultural competencies. Dagenais is passionate about gaining a deeper understanding of each of the diverse cultures represented by her students, and strives to build trust, respect and community through sport. "It's important to me that our students and their families feel welcome at our school and on our sports teams," she says. "By keeping a strong connection with the players' communities, I hope to continue learning about my students and their cultures."

Those who work with Dagenais say her dedication to the students and local communities is undeniable. "Tessa is one of those rare educators who gives everything she has and is always looking for ways she can help others," says Bill Woodward School principal and co-op supervisor Cal Johnson. "She has a great work ethic and is very knowledgeable, but her greatest strength is her positive at-

titude and bubbly personality—she is a lot of fun and students love when she is involved."

Dagenais believes there is always something to be gained from participating in co-op, whether you're brand new to the workforce or a seasoned professional. "Co-op has influenced my coaching direction immensely," she says. "I'm excited to keep setting goals for myself and work to build our school's bond with the community as I continue my career as a coach with a whole different mindset."

Kawaljit Singh (computer science) Engineering and Computer Science

Third-year computer science student Kawaljit Singh's academic journey hasn't been an easy one, but he's grateful that a year-long co-op term was part of it. After facing significant academic and health challenges in 2019, Singh was ready for a change. When he received a co-op job offer from Vendasta Technologies, a Saskatoon-based e-commerce company, he accepted with great enthusiasm.

Working as a software developer, Singh had the opportunity to greatly advance his coding and problem-solving skills. His natural aptitude for flagging and resolving software bugs earned him the nickname 'Bug Crusher' within his team. Over the course of the year, Singh resolved many different bugs, some of which were quite complex. "Very early in Kawaljit's work term, he showed us that we could delegate pretty much any task to him and we could trust it would be completed correctly," says co-op supervisor Justin Guenther.

Throughout the year, Singh refined his career interests and was able to gain varied experience within the field of software development. He was particularly interested in working to minimize the impact of system failures, which inspired him to volunteer as the system reliability engineer for his team. As part of this role, Singh set up monitoring systems that would identify software defects pre-emptively. These installations would also alert his crew to any system failures, allowing the team to act and resolve the issue as soon as possible.

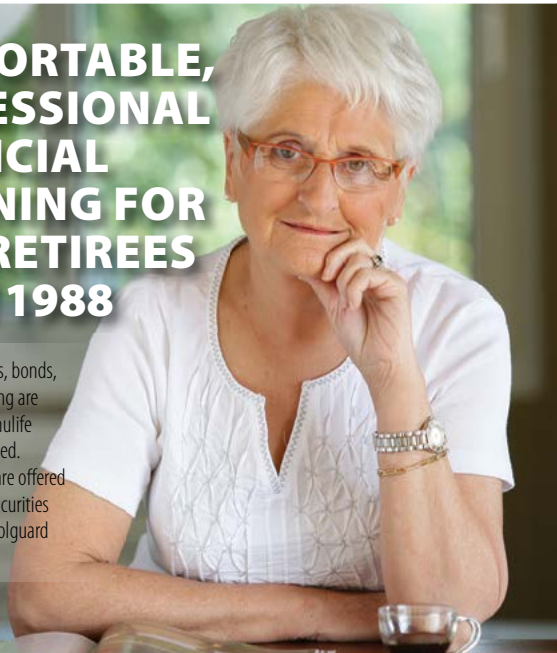
But for Singh, the co-op term meant much more than improving his software development skills. "As the work term started, I was ready to make the most of this opportunity to not only become a better software developer but also get in a better physical and mental state," he says. "All the positive feedback I got from my team injected confidence and instilled self-respect into me—since the beginning of the work term, I've been more mentally charged, happier, physically healthier and more focused."

After a year of interpersonal and professional growth, Singh is returning to his studies with a renewed excitement for his courses. He's also looking forward to his next co-op experience. "I will absolutely take the opportunity to do another work term to get more industry experience," he says. "Maybe explore a different city, meet new people and create joyful life experiences."

Find out more: bit.ly/coops-21

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Arts residency seeks to share stories with ocean scientists

BY JOHN THRELFALL

The idea of artists working with scientists is nothing new to Dennis Gupa. Recently named the second artist-in-residence with Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), Gupa's impressive resume includes a decade of interdisciplinary collaboration at the University of the Philippines Los Baños—where, in addition to teaching theatre, he was named the first head of the Office of Arts and Science Fusion Program.

"There's very little difference in what we do," notes Gupa, currently an applied theatre PhD candidate in UVic's theatre department. "Scientists spend hours in their labs thinking about their work, similar to what theatre and performance artists do in their rehearsal spaces. We're all exploring and searching for meaning; this kind of interdisciplinary conversation simply lets us be better adjusted to global issues."

Also a visiting research fellow with UVic's Center for Studies in Religion and Society, Gupa sees the ONC residency as a natural fit with his current doctoral project on Indigenous sea rituals, climate change and sustainable ecology. "I create interdisciplinary work with a kinship among knowledge disciplines," he explains. "One of the fascinating functions of an artist is being an interlocutor, bringing people together to share our stories."

Strengthening connections between art and science

Sharing stories is exactly what Gupa has in mind with this ongoing initiative: recently repositioned as an opportunity for Fine Arts graduate students, the ONC artist-in-residence program exists to strengthen connections between art and science, and ignite cross-disciplinary exchanges around the major issues facing oceans today.

"This residency program comes at a time of crisis in ocean sustainability," says ONC chief scientist Kim Juniper. "Science-art collaborations such as this one bring together the insight and power of two ways of looking at the world and will hopefully lead to new understanding and greater benefits for our ocean and our future."

Noting that the United Nations recently launched the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) in response to a pressing need for global-scale action to reverse the decline of ocean health, Juniper sees this residency as mutually beneficial.

"Working with scientists provides artists front-row insight into how data from ONC observatories is used to measure ocean health and track long-term ocean change; working with artists helps scientists step outside of their data bubbles and reconnect with the broader societal goal of ocean observing—which is to inform a fundamental shift in our relationship with the ocean, from one that emphasizes exploitation to one that embraces sustainability."

While the pandemic is complicating Gupa's original idea to create an immersive, ONC data-fueled performance experience involving the Filipino diaspora community—including playwright Karla Comanda, actor Thai-Hoa Le, classical singer Jeremiah Carag and Philippine-based composer Darren Vega—he's still hopeful about uniting these two worlds during his spring 2021 residency.

"How can we share our stories with the scientists, and what does that mean to them to listen to immigrants?" Gupa ponders. "How does our history of exile connect with the history of climate disaster? We've never really tapped into that or discussed it in a scientific space."



Gupa in Victoria, 2021. PHOTO: JOHN THRELFALL

Social justice for the seas

Growing up in the Philippines, Gupa witnessed first-hand the threat to oceans from both human impact and extreme weather events. "When we think of the water, I think of social justice," he says. "As an archipelagic country surrounded by water, the Philippines have been suffering from ocean disasters due to climate change: resources are depleting, coral are bleaching, fish are dying and the waters are warming so the fish don't have food. So what do they do? They migrate, just like Filipinos—fish are the first climate refugees."

A former colony with over 7,600 islands known for its maritime history, marine diversity and Indigenous population, the parallels between the Philippines and Vancouver Island are clear to Gupa.

"That's probably the reason I decided to do my grad studies here," he explains. "By looking at the experience and knowledge of local people—who have been experiencing these climatic events for so many years, but are not really given a lot of opportunities to tell their stories—we can learn from their knowledge and wisdom. Our poetries and songs renew our

kinship with the ocean."

Indeed, for Gupa, the ONC residency is less a challenge and more a cumulative opportunity between his artistic and academic pursuits.

"There's a lesson in fluidity that this water is teaching me and I'd like to bring that to the fore in my work... it's not just a fascination, but water is so embodied in my work as an artist. It's beautiful but it's also dangerous. We cannot wait any longer for inclusive and deeper collaborations to make things better for all living things in this earth—both seen and unseen."

Kate Moran's formula for growing Canada's blue economy

The urgent need to protect our warming planet is stimulating the next great wave of economic innovation. Fuelled by scientific evidence, coordinated efforts and transformative action, Canada has joined other nations in developing a roadmap to a "blue economy," which strikes a balance between economic growth and sustainability.

Kate Moran, president and chief executive officer of UVic's Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), explains why Canada is well-positioned for success to show cooperative leadership in the global blue economy through ocean intelligence and progressive, ocean-based industries and programs, erstanding of the ocean.

What is required to build a sustainable blue economy in Canada?

A sustainable blue economy in Canada can be built through innovative ocean data analytics, ecosystem-based fisheries management and renewable energy systems. It will be backed by significant, coordinated investment in coastal and maritime tourism, resource exploration, shipbuilding and new technology development to support emerging ocean-based industries such as marine biotech and bioprospecting.

Long-term success will depend on smart public policy, support for research, and continued ocean sector investments to ensure that we maximize the efforts of global partnerships. We already have the seeds of this mission-oriented approach with ONC on the Pacific Coast and the Ocean Supercluster on the Atlantic Coast.

What role does ocean intelligence play in addressing the global climate crisis?

We all know the state of the ocean is an important indicator of the overall health of our planet. Ocean observation shows undeniable evidence of a rapidly changing climate, which means we must act swiftly using all the information, knowledge and resources we have available.

When we pair ocean observation data with scientific knowledge, we begin to unlock the astonishing potential of ocean intelligence. Ocean intelligence presents the opportunity to develop new technologies that address climate change, as well as the tools to measure if and how our efforts are making a difference.

How can we make sure that our scientific findings are translated into real-world applications to, for example, influence policy?

The short answer is to ensure we take important scientific findings and make them relevant to those who make the big decisions that impact our climate. ONC is a great example, as we began primarily as a science facility 15 years ago and expanded into developing applications for society and industry.

We know that ocean intelligence is an essential source of information that, when in the right hands, can guide coastal communities, researchers, policymakers and governments. By working collaboratively with stakeholders, we can ensure that our findings are utilized to inform science-backed decision-making about our future.



Kate Moran's full interview can be found at bit.ly/blue-21. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



VOTE FOR UVIC CONVOCATION SENATORS

Members of the University of Victoria Convocation are invited to vote in the election of four members to the Senate, for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2021.

UVic Convocation members eligible to vote include:

- Alumni
- Past and present members of Senate and the Board of Governors
- Regular and retired faculty members
- Regular staff members holding a university degree who have been employed at UVic for at least 12 months
- Persons who completed one full year at Victoria College prior to 1963

VOTE ONLINE webvote.uvic.ca VOTING PERIOD March 8 to 22, 2021 4:00 pm (PT)

For information about voting:
uvic.ca/convocation-senators | 250.721.8101 | usec@uvic.ca





PHOTO: ARMANDO TURA/AP SHUTTER

Get moving for United Way

This spring, the UVic United Way campaign is partnering with Vikes Athletics and Recreation to help faculty and staff get out and get active with the March Movement Challenge. This is a fantastic way to help motivate yourself to increase your daily activity, get to know your colleagues better—and maybe even win a Fitbit.

Here's how it works:

- Register online and pay your \$20 entry fee. Entry fees are donated to United Way Greater Victoria.
- You will be added to the March Movement Challenge Microsoft Teams group with other participating UVic staff and faculty members.
- On Monday March 8, 15, 22 and April 1, a post will pop up in the Teams group asking if you hit your 150 minutes for the week prior. If you have, like the post and comment how you did it.
- For every week you hit your

150 minutes and respond to the post, you will receive an entry into a prize draw.

- At the end of the challenge, we'll draw winners for some great prizes including a Fitbit and a bag stuffed with UVic swag.

This is a great way for you to show your support for the UVic United Way campaign. If you have not yet enrolled in payroll donation, you can do so at pledge.uwgv.ca/uvic, or find out more about the UVic campaign at uvic.ca/unitedway.

United Way does vital work right here in Victoria and this year is focusing on three key areas: mental health and addictions, isolated seniors, and families in need. Share your local love and help support those in our community in need. Keep in mind that new donors who give before the end of the campaign will be entered to win a lunch with UVic President Dr. Kevin Hall.

We hope to see you out there in March.

More info: bit.ly/move-uway

Ecology, sex work, particle physics and aging in place: Masterminds goes online

Every year, the Masterminds Lecture Series features a new roster of entertaining speakers who delve into their academic and personal passions to bring you engaging and visual presentations on an eclectic range of subjects. After being cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic, Masterminds returns for 2021—virtually!

Attend Wednesday evenings in April to learn about the ecological knowledge of First Peoples, how to unpack the complexities of sex work, how physicists discovered the fundamental building blocks of nature, and considerations for aging in place.

On April 7, Nancy Turner, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and former Hakai Professor in Ethnoecology with UVic's School of Environmental Studies, looks at ecological knowledge and wisdom of First Peoples.

April 14, Cecilia Benoit, scientist at the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research and emeritus professor of sociology, unpacks the complexities of sex work by discussing the relevant criminal code and legal policies, as well as the consequences, for adults who sell sexual services.

April 21, Richard Keeler, emeritus professor of physics and astronomy, explores the science of the continuing search for the "fundamental elements" of the universe.

And the final lecture in the series, April 28, features Mary Ellen Purkis, emeritus professor of nursing, leading a discussion about some of the practical considerations that you need to confront when planning for quality of life into your senior years, including housing options.

This free lecture series is sponsored



Turner. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

by the University of Victoria Retirees Association and the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health—with support from the university.

For more information and to register: uvic.ca/masterminds

New collaboration poised to boost UVic research profile and impact

How can cloth stop a tiny virus in a time of COVID-19? Will QAnon form the basis of a new religious movement? The fly that landed on Mike Pence's head even inspired one writer to explore the symbolic meaning of flies in the history of art. These were some of the most popular questions and topics on peoples' minds last year, according to The Conversation.

UVic researchers can now access and be a part of The Conversation to share their research expertise to a global audience through an exciting partnership between UVic and the innovative, independent online news platform.

The Conversation Canada reflects a form of journalism that is grounded in evidence-based, academic analysis and expertise. This allows UVic

researchers to write about current affairs and research from any discipline that impacts communities locally, nationally and globally.

Working with UVic communication officers to hone story ideas, pitches and plan communication, UVic researchers and graduate students can now work directly with Conversation Canada's editorial team. To develop their story, researchers can tap the support of a professional editor.

"The Conversation is a terrific resource and exciting new opportunity for University of Victoria faculty and graduate students to enhance their research profile and impact," says Lisa Kalynchuk, vice president research and innovation at UVic. "We look forward to UVic contributing to this important platform as a way

to promote our research enterprise around the world."

Articles by more than 2,800 authors have attracted more than 70 million web views since the platform launched in 2011, with the majority of exposure outside of Canada, says Scott White, former editor-in-chief of The Canadian Press, and The Conversation Canada's CEO and editor-in-chief.

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