

MASTERMINDS 2022

John Anderson

The MasterMinds series is an initiative to foster university:community engagement by providing high quality lectures at the University of Victoria to the public. The series has been offered for the past 15 years, delivering over 50 thoughtful and often thought-provoking presentations.

The MasterMinds series is comprised of four lecture presentations, one on each Wednesday evening in April. Each lecture is created and delivered by a University of Victoria retiree on a topic in their area of expertise and of general interest. The series has been renovated from the traditional on-campus, in-person lecture theatre format into an on-line Zoom format since the COVID-19 pandemic intervened.

Each year the series is developed by a collaboration of the UVRA, the Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health, and the University's Media Relations and Public Affairs group. UVRA is responsible for identifying and contacting UVic retirees who can and will develop thoughtful and stimulating presentations that are of interest to the community. The committee to do this consisted of Peter Liddell Margaret Klatt, and me. Leah Potter of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health was essential organizing and overseeing each and every MasterMinds session – making sure everything worked.

The four presentations this past April were:

- *Challenges and opportunities in community conservation: reflections from the tropics*
Philip Dearden, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography
- *Grammar and Placenames: A Settler Linguist in Indigenous Language Revitalization*
Leslie Saxon, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Linguistics
- *Boosting and maintaining brain power as we age may be as easy as a walk in the park or riding a bike!*
David Docherty, PhD, Professor Emeritus, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education
- *The unstoppable rise of Artificial Intelligence: Should we be worried?*
Hugh Cartwright, PhD, Retired, University of Victoria & Oxford University Chemistry Departments

The four presentations were excellent and varied. However, the attendance was lower than in past years (number of attendees per session: $n < 50$). Perhaps a return to on-campus, in-person presentations will have a positive effect on numbers of attendees.