

University of Victoria Retirees Association – AGM 2018

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

MASTERMINDS 2018

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 13 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. Each year the series is developed by a collaboration of the UVRA and the University – in particular the Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health and the University's Media Relations and Public Affairs group.

This year's sessions were:

April 4

Diaries of a missionary doctor: A family history. Discover letters and journals revealing the fascinating life of the Colwell family

Dean Goard

April 11

Watching learning happen: From neural networks to social networks. Explore the complexities and challenges of how we learn

Geri Van Gyn

April 18

Let the images speak: Historic re-photography in Canada's mountain west. Hike Canada's ranges to see how scientists with cameras are revealing climate change

Mary Sanseverino

April 25

On land and seafloor: Earthquake early-warning systems. Learn how Ocean Networks Canada's network of sensors is detecting subduction earthquakes

Bob Crosby

The presentations were well attended with average attendance in excess of 100, and well received by the audience with an average rating of 4.6 out of a possible maximum of 5.0. The series is widely advertized in the general media, University communications and also by word of mouth.

The MasterMinds series could not happen without the active participation of not only the presenters who devote significant thought, energy and time to their presentations, but also the many individuals who organize the events. Particular recognition must be given to Lois Holizki, Leah Potter, Arlene Senft and Cara Pearson from IALH, Suzanne Ahearne from Media Relations and Public Affairs, and of course our own James Pearce who diligently and faithfully manned the on-site registration and check-in for each of the four sessions.