

Report on the Elder Academy: 2022 AGM (October 2021 to June 2022)

Program Committee members: John Gunton (Chair), Dwight Owens, Barry Ming, Richard Chappell, and David Docherty. June Whitmore joined the committee later in the year.

Administrator for the program: Sanjit Roy

Technical assistance for uploading recordings and the hybrid presentations: John Arduini

Overview of presentations:

From October to June there were 5 series and one lecture presented by the UVRA Elder Academy with 407 registrants (see Appendix for details). There were 24 presentations with 22 different presenters. The presenters ranged from current faculty sharing their field of research, community resource people, national media and writers, local physicians, and members of the UVRA.

Due to COVID most of the presentations were via Zoom which allowed for the Elder Academy to call upon international speakers for some of the series. The last two series used a Hybrid Model in which presentations were made to an in-person audience and simultaneously zoomed to others who had registered. All presentations were recorded and made available via YouTube for those who had registered and wished to review the presentation or were unable to attend on the day. The slides for all presentations were made available on the UVRA Website.

The presentations were promoted through several sources including the UVRA membership, the Elder Academy list, the Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH), CURAC Later-Life-Learning electronic list, senior centres, and by word of mouth. Details on the presentations were sent to the lists 4 weeks, two weeks and one week prior to the first presentation. Registration was done on Eventbrite which worked well.

Financial summary:

The Elder Academy Series for the 2021-2022 period generated revenue of \$9,311.24 and expenses of \$5,155.50 for a net income of \$4155.74.

Special thanks:

A special thanks should be extended to John Gunton for taking on the Chair of the Programming Committee and providing excellent leadership for the past three years. For the past two years we have had to deal with the challenges of COVID and the restrictions this placed on running the program. He worked tirelessly in identifying topics and searching out presenters. Also a special thanks to Sanjit Roy for all the work he did

in setting up the presentations, including registration. He has been a great asset in putting on the various series. Appreciation should be extended to John Arduini for uploading all the presentations onto YouTube and more recently for providing the technical support for the hybrid presentations. We were fortunate to be able to use the facilities at Cordova Bay 55+ Association to offer both the in-person as well as the Zoom options to the registrants.

Future of the Elder Academy:

Part way through the year there was much discussion in the Committee about the sustainability of the Elder Academy. It is clearly a lot of work for a small group of volunteers with no assistance from the University. John Gunton undertook a review of similar programs in other institutions as well as what was being offered by UVic Continuing Studies. The analysis showed that other institutions offering a similar program received considerable financial support. In addition, UVic Continuing Studies are now offering a wide range of educational opportunities to a wide demographic at a reasonable cost to participants which was not the case when UVRA decided to run the Elder Academy. Based on the analysis it was decided, with regret, to recommend to the UVRA Board that the Elder Academy be disbanded. The recommendation was approved by the Board.

However, members of the committee offered to work with the University and Continuing Studies in setting up some central system that would make it easy for the general public to see what is being offered at UVic by various groups and organizations on campus. At the moment it is difficult to find this information. One of the recommendations would be to establish a "Department or Institute of Life Long Learning" which could clearly list all the educational opportunities on campus open to the general public and offered by the different faculties and departments, which the analysis showed are extensive. This would certainly be one way the University can fulfil its mission to serve the local community and provide ongoing learning opportunities for an older demographic.

For the past 7 years the Elder Academy has performed a valuable role and contribution to the community in offering quality presentations on a variety of topics. The UVRA and UVic has received considerable recognition in regard to the Elder Academy with literally thousands of participants and very positive feedback. So it is unfortunate that the program is being disbanded. In many ways it has been the flagship for the UVRA. The program committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have helped with the Elder Academy over the years, especially those who have given generously of their time and talents in presenting as well as those many people who have supported the program with their attendance.

Appendix:

Overview and registration numbers:

Understanding China: October 2021: No. of registrants-76 : Online
Understanding the EU: November 2021: No. of registrants-54 : Online
All Over the Map: December 2021: Keynote Speech (Dr. Kevin Hall): No. of registrants-56: Online
Ocean Sciences: February 2022: No. of registrants-55: Online
The Body Works? : March 2022: No. of registrants-36 (in-person) and 61 (online): Hybrid
Aging Well: May 2022 : May 2022: No. of registrants-36 (online) and 33 (in-person): Hybrid ----Registration ongoing.

Understanding China: October 2021:

Oct 2: “China and Global Green Prosperity”
Presenter: Art Hanson, Officer of the Order of Canada (OC), and Advisor.
Oct 9: “China As A Global Neighbor: Towards A Rethinking Of Canada-China Relations”
Presenter: Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Senator- Senate of Canada (public policy issues – Asian affairs).
Oct 16: “Learning About China: Sipping Through a Firehose”
Presenter: Joann Pittman, Senior Associate ChinaSource and Author.
Oct 20*: “China’s 14th Five Year Plan: New Policy Directions.”
Presenter: Mark Kruger, Opinion Editor Yicai Global.
(*NB: Wednesday 7pm – presentation from Shanghai)
Oct 23: “Claws Of The Panda, Beijing's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada”
Presenter: Jonathan Manthorpe, Political Commentator, Journalist and Author.
Oct 30: “The Dragon and the Snow Lion: China’s Relationship with Tibet”
Presenter: Dr. Tsering Shakya, Professor UBC (Institute of Asian Research).

Understanding the EU: November 2021:

Nov 6: “Evolution of the EU, how it functions and Canada-EU relations”
Presenter: Dr. Valerie D’Erman, Instructor in the Department of Political Science, UVic.
Nov 13: “European Border Issues”
Presenter: Professor & Jean Monnet Chair Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, UVic School of Public Admin
Nov 20: “Understanding Fiscal Solidarity in the EU”
Presenter: Associate Professor Paul Schure, Department of Economics, UVic.
Nov 27: “European Law and National Sovereignty: Exploring Europe’s ‘Constitutional Pluralism’”
Presenter: Dr Keith Cherry, Instructor, University of Victoria; Associate Faculty, Royal Roads
Dec 4: “COVID-19 and the EU: a game changer or same old?”
Presenter: Professor Amy Verdun, Pol. Science and founding Director of the European Studies Program, UVic.

All Over the Map: December 2021:

December 18, 2021: His presentation will explore a career path that has been altered based on various global social and environmental events and will explore Kevin's evolution as an engineer, a humanitarian and as an innovator and entrepreneur. From advanced mathematical modelling to the use of photonics in pathogen detection, from low-cost water treatment solutions in the peri-urban slums of Southeast Asia to the restoration of livelihoods following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Presented by Kevin Hall (President of UVic)

Ocean Sciences: February 2022:

Ocean Responses to Climate Change

29 Jan | Richard Dewey, Associate Director, Science

Solid Carbon: a Gigaton-scale Climate Solution

5 Feb | Martin Scherwath, Senior Staff Scientist

Community Fishers: A Citizen Science approach to understanding ocean change

12 Feb | Lucianne Marshall, Community Support Specialist

& Ryan Flagg, Community Based Monitoring manager

Ocean Science, Ocean Art

19 Feb | Dwight Owens, User Engagement Officer

The Body Works? : March 2022:

Mar 05: "The Heart of the Matter!". David Docherty and Chris Pengilly

Mar 12: "What's a bad joint like this doing in a nice person like you?". David Docherty and Pat Gunton.

Mar 19: "The Control Centre". David Docherty and Pat Gunton

Mar 26: "The War Against Invaders!". David Docherty and Chris Pengilly.

Presenters: David Docherty, BSc., MSc., PhD., Chris Pengilly, MD., ChB and Pat Gunton, MD.

Aging Well: May 2022 : May 2022:

May 7: "Exercise is Cerebrovascular Medicine for All Ages"

Presenter: Dr. Kurt Smith, Associate Professor, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, University of Victoria

May 14: "Digitize Your Exercise: How Digital Technologies Are Shaping How We Monitor, Prescribe and Augment Our Physical Activities"

Presenter: Dr. Yoah Sui, Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, University of Victoria

May 21: "Building Brain Resiliency and Healthy Aging: Positive Effects of Physical Activity and Concussions in the Aging Brain"

Presenters: Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria and Ms. Stacey Horton, Actor, Dancer and Choreographer

June 4: "Interactions Between Physical Activity and Mental and Cognitive Health: What Do We Know and What Next?"

Presenter: Dr. Theone Paterson, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria