

UVIC TORCH

BUILDING

BRIDGES

UVic researchers and alumni are using creativity and skills to bridge gaps and help our community reach the other side of the pandemic.

Antibody Aces | President in Profile | From Banker to Doctor

ON CAMPUS

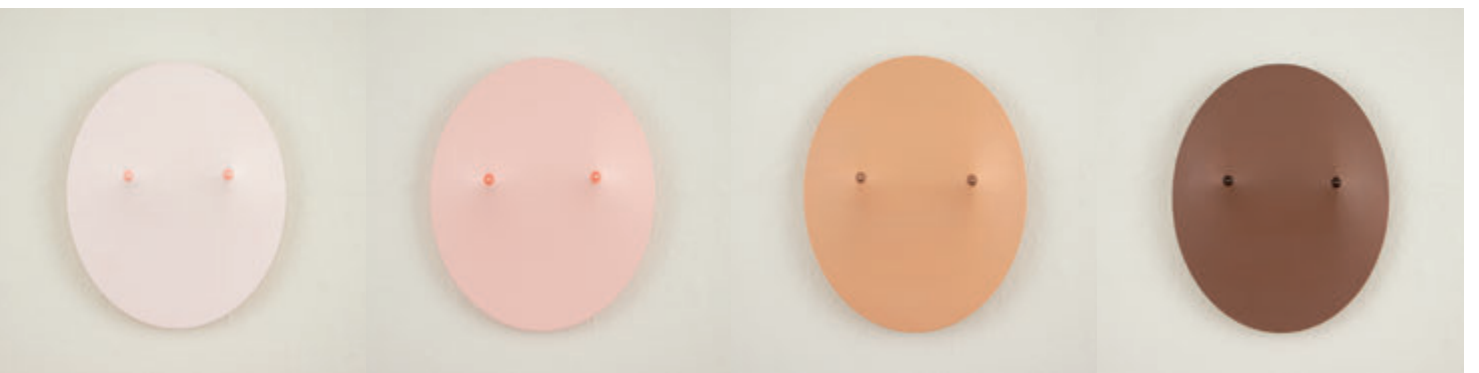
Inspiring Works

The University of Victoria's BFA graduate exhibition, normally held at the Visual Arts building, moved online this year due to the pandemic. The online catalogue, called *Suggested Serving Size*, features 29 graduating students working in a variety of contemporary disciplines. "Their collective drive and commitment to their disciplines—and each other—was inspiring and gave me great hope for the future," says supervising professor and visual arts alumnus Richard Leong (BFA '03). Find the online catalogue at: finearts.uvic.ca/visualarts/bfa/2020/

Lucy Gudewill, *Chronic*
(2019, charcoal on paper)

Georgia Tooke, *Cooking with Bambi: King Kong Ding Dong Penis Enlarger Potion* (2019, video still)





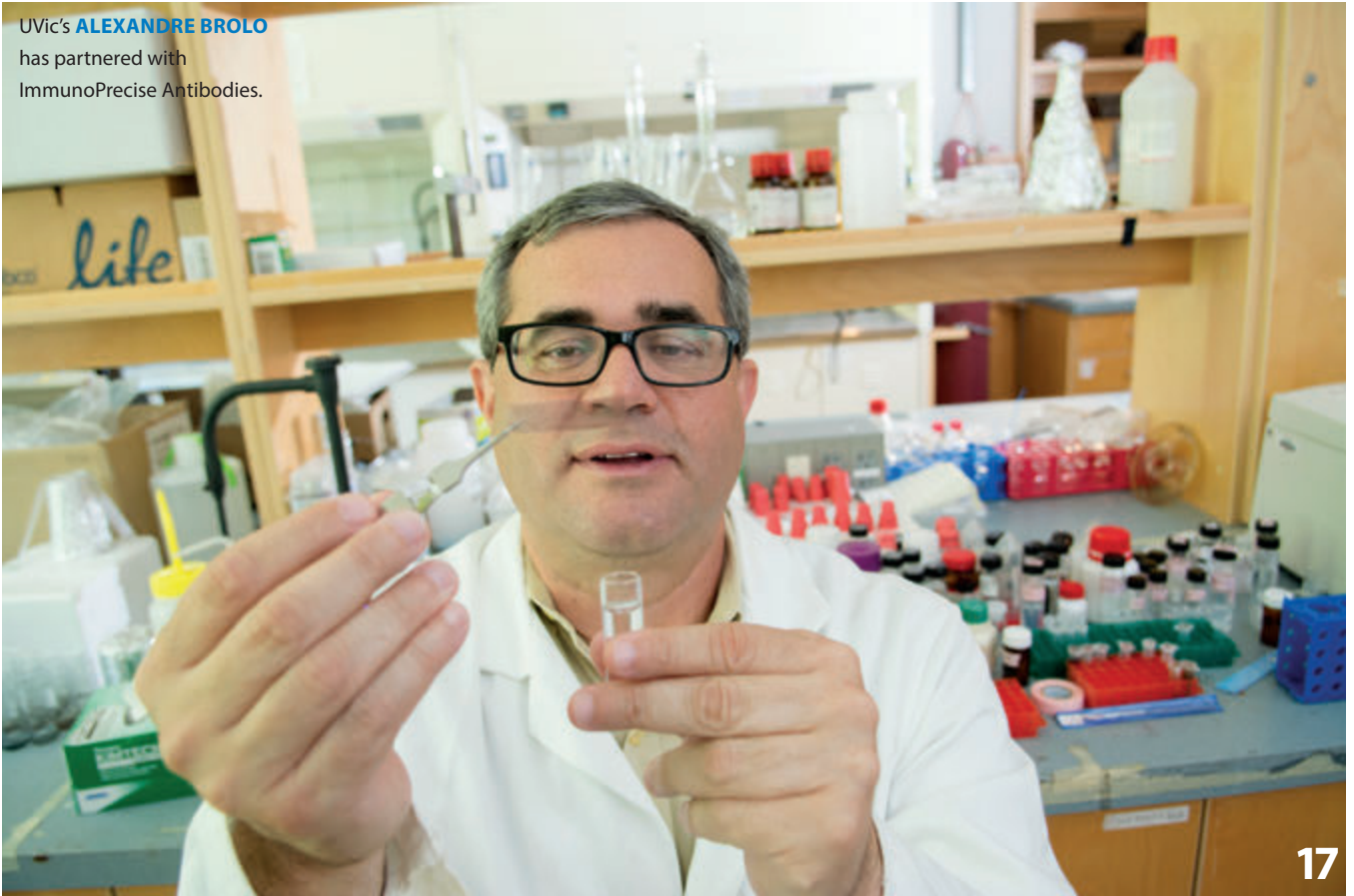
Jake Hrubizna, *Float* (2016, photograph)

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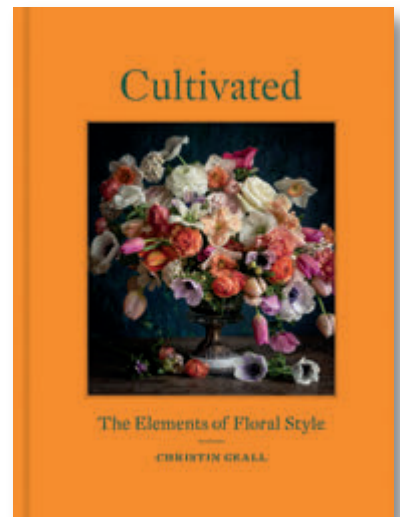
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The Long Game

Cleve Dheensaw (BEd '79) is a revered local sports writer. His experience at the University of Victoria was a bridge to a long career.

BY JENNY MANZER, BA '97

One day in the fall of 1981, Cleve Dheensaw was on the UVic campus to file a *Martlet* story. He was a recent grad, volunteering as a writer for the student newspaper when not putting his education degree to use working as a substitute teacher.

Another former *Martlet* staffer, Michael D. Reid, was visiting that day and tipped Dheensaw off that the *Times-Colonist*, where he worked the entertainment beat, was looking for a sports writer. The paper needed someone to cover the UVic basketball teams, which were on the rise. Dheensaw drove to the *Times-Colonist* office that same day to see Gordon Bell, managing editor, and presented his *Martlet* clippings.

"I remember they were all wrinkled and accorded and yellowed," Dheensaw says, laughing.

Bell called the next day and Dheensaw was hired. He has held the job ever since, bringing readers stories of triumph and tears, of Olympic champions made and overtime chances lost. He's won multiple awards, including being inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame.

One of his first big assignments at the *Times-Colonist* was covering the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Working from Victoria, he brought us stories of Vikes athletes as they excelled on the international stage, including members of the men's Canadian basketball squad, who faced a US dream team in the semi-finals that included Michael Jordan.

"That was the first time it really hit me that UVic was the springboard, the starting ground for



so many great athletes." Vikes student athletes he covered at that Olympics included basketball players Gerald Kazanowski and Eli Pasquale; rowers Marilyn Brain, Silken Laumann, Grant Main, Kevin Neufeld and Derek Porter. Dheensaw covered several more Olympics, as well as the Commonwealth and Pan Am Games.

The key to good sports writing is centering the narrative on people, he says. "I always feel you don't really need to know the sport to enjoy one of my stories. If you write about people, you draw readers into your story who may not otherwise be interested in the sport."

The *Martlet* had laid the foundation for his work, providing a dynamic hands-on newspaper experience with deadlines and consequences. "It was a great, real journalism experience that you couldn't get anywhere else," he says. He learned basic newspapering, how to cover games and how to write concisely in news style. "Generally, you just learned by making mistakes because the people who are editing your copy and laying out the pages and all that stuff are people like you, who are just learning on the job."

It was a wonderful hothouse for learning. "You don't get paid for it, so passion is the only reason you're doing it. Passion is a powerful motivator. That's what makes student newspapers so great."

When you cheer on a team—whether in person, or watching at home at the same time as thousands of other fans—your other defining characteristics don't matter. It's about the team colours.

"For those two hours, you're in a magical place where the only thing that matters is the colour of your team and nothing else: your political differences, religious, nothing else matters for those two hours—and to me that's the beauty of sports. It can bring people together in such a strong and passionate way." 🏏



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Thank You and Farewell

The University of Victoria's seventh president reflects on the changes, challenges and shared successes during his term.

BY JAMIE CASSELS, QC • PRESIDENT EMERITUS



“The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that post-secondary education and research have never been more important.”

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the University of Victoria as its seventh president. It is both rewarding and humbling to think about all the things the UVic community has achieved together over the course of my presidency, even in the shadow of the global pandemic this past year.

The University of Victoria has certainly evolved and changed over my time as president. If you have visited campus lately you will have seen how it has grown for the better with excellent infrastructure and facilities. In a normal year, campus is an absolutely bustling, lively and energizing place to learn and work.

Over the past decade, UVic has also experienced the steady development of its research culture and intensity leading it to become one of Canada's best research universities, all while maintaining our student-centred focus that makes the UVic experience so memorable and transformative. We have also made outstanding progress towards our goal to be Canada's leader in research-enriched and experiential learning.

Today, UVic is thriving because of the hard work and efforts of our faculty, staff, students, partners and alumni. We are recognized around the globe for our programs of teaching and research; for our collegial learning and working environments; and for our diverse and talented faculty, staff, students and alumni who make up our close-knit community. Our people and partners, working collaboratively toward our mission of education, research and engagement, are our greatest strength and the secret of our success.

I have been reflecting lately on how so many of the things that UVic has become known for reson-

ate with my own values: the importance of life-long and hands-on learning; relationships that are characterized by inclusiveness, equality and mutual respect; stewardship of the environment; and a commitment to justice. I am deeply thankful to be part of an institution that plays such an important role in repairing injustice to Indigenous peoples. I think this is why I have enjoyed coming to work every day—even on the toughest of days.

During these extraordinary times, I am reminded of the importance of universities and the role they play in the lives of individuals and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that post-secondary education and research have never been more important. Higher education can help to safeguard against the risk of a generational setback, to gain the knowledge we need to tackle the pandemic and to create a bridge over the canyon that we currently look across.

Despite the uncertainty of our current circumstances, I am confident UVic is well positioned for its future. Our university has already achieved prominence and momentum, yet it still has so many strengths and advantages on which to build and grow. UVic will consolidate its role as leader by keeping focused on our mission of education and research while contributing to a better future for people and the planet.

After nearly 40 years at the University of Victoria—including 20 years in positions of leadership—I can safely say there is no finer institution than ours. As I leave my post as president, I feel as humbled as I did entering it. Thank you for putting your trust into me. Serving as your president has been an immense privilege and a true honour. †

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“The UVic community
is your community.
Every positive choice
is an opportunity to
influence the future.”

JAMIE CASSELS, QC,
PRESIDENT EMERITUS AND COMMUNITY MEMBER



Alumni generously supported students when they needed it the most this spring, and we look forward to continuing to build a hopeful future—together.

Thank **you** for being part of our UVic community.

Learn more: uvic.ca/youruvic

YOUR GENEROSITY. YOUR IMPACT. YOUR COMMUNITY.

UVic Welcomes New President

Learn more about the University of Victoria's eighth president, Dr. Kevin Hall, who began his five-year term on November 1.



Dr. KEVIN HALL in Newcastle, Australia (August 2020).

On November 1, the University of Victoria entered a new era, welcoming Dr. Kevin Hall as its eighth president and vice-chancellor. Hall has served in many positions at three world-class institutions. He has worked as a faculty member, research centre director, department chair and in senior leadership.

As a civil engineer, Hall's research and industry leadership has made a global impact. His research interests focus on water-quality modelling, environmental monitoring and pathogen-detection systems, and water and health in marginalized communities.

Hall is an avid arts enthusiast and has had a lifelong commitment to fitness. He has been active as a community member, including here in Canada on the boards of the Guelph Art Gallery and Guelph Jazz Festival, the Kingston Triathlon Club and other community organizations. He competed for Canada as an age-grouper at a number of World Triathlon Championships.

A COMMITMENT TO UVIC'S VALUES

Hall has been actively involved in the design and implementation of Indigenous and gender programs in all three universities where he has been a senior leader.

He has been involved in international and national development, including significant activities in Africa, India and South America. His team has worked with other organizations to deliver low-cost, point-of-use water-treatment technologies into marginalized urban communities across southeast Asia.

Hall spearheaded entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives at the University of Newcastle (UON). He led the establishment of the Integrated Innovation Network, a series of five innovation incubators. This regional network allows community, companies and subject-matter experts to work closely with researchers and students to develop opportunities for social change and economic growth.

Hall has a deep commitment to environmental sustainability and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and is the chair of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research at UON. He founded the Centre for Water and the Environment at Queen's University and led the Sustainability Task Force at the University of Guelph.

At UON, he initiated the SDG audit and compliance agreement between the City of Newcastle and the university. Under the 2025 UON Sustainable Vision, UON became the first university in Australia to be powered by 100% renewable energy.

Hall's career has also been defined by his leadership in issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. Most recently, he led the team that initiated the successful Research Advantage Program at UON. This program includes a large number of fellowships and award programs for women in research.

FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF EDUCATION

As the first in his family to attend university, Hall has experienced education's transformative power firsthand. He is committed to furthering equitable access to higher education and research.

Hall's family is from the United Kingdom, where his father was a welder. His parents moved their family of four children—all of whom now have university degrees—to Canada in 1964.

Hall and his family grew up in Peterborough, Ontario. One of his proudest moments was watching his mother receive a BA from Trent University shortly after her 66th birthday.

Hall received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science at Queen's University and completed his PhD in Civil Engineering at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

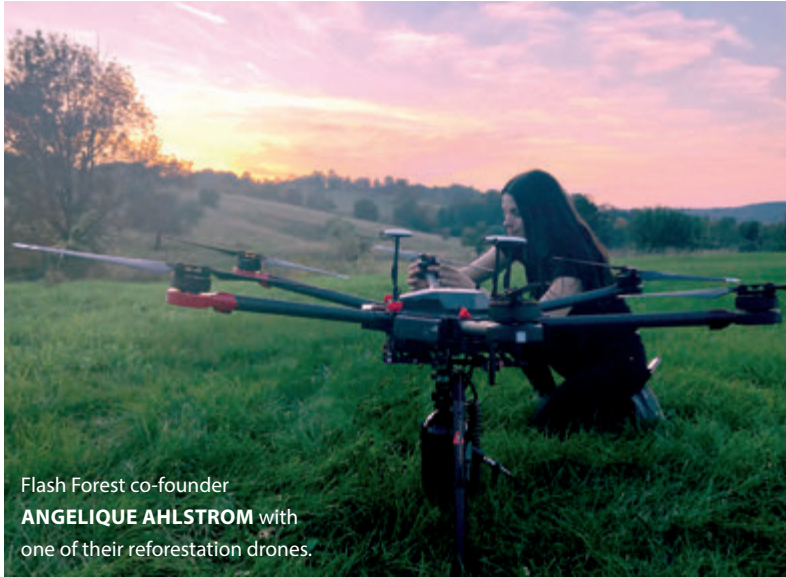
Hall is a lifelong innovator. He holds a number of international patents and has developed spinoff and start-up companies.

Throughout his career, he has focused on undertaking and translating research for industry. This has resulted in the wide application of his research and a direct, rapid and ongoing impact to his profession. Hall has developed patented intellectual property, successful start-ups, and created significant research platforms. National and international engineering design manuals have included his work. †

Flash of Inspiration

Bryce Jones (BSc '16) and Angelique Ahlstrom (BA '15, MA '17) are part of a team growing a drone reforestation company to help in the battle against climate change.

BY JENNY MANZER, BA '97



Flash Forest co-founder
ANGELIQUE AHLSTROM with
one of their reforestation drones.

UVic grads are at the root of a new company with a towering goal: to plant one billion trees by 2028. Bryce Jones (BSc '16) and Angelique Ahlstrom (BA '15, MA '17) are two of the founders of Flash Forest, a reforestation company touting technology that uses autonomous drones and mapping software to help regenerate ecosystems.

The team has developed a means of doing reforestation by drone that can plant trees ten times faster than a human planter. Their technology facilitates seed germination and continued seedling survival. The Flash Forest team, based in Toronto, works with plant scientists, soil ecologists, and engineers across Canada, USA, and Europe to scale up the technology internationally. In 2019, they launched a successful Kickstarter campaign and they're currently closing up a successful pre-seed investment round. They've partnered with UBC and forestry companies across Canada in preparation for Canada-wide pilots next year. They are now set to expand their drone fleet, further develop hardware and software, and improve their seed pods.

Jones, speaking from Toronto, is already an experienced entrepreneur. He founded his own successful windshield chip-and-crack repair company at age 19—a successful venture that kept him employed throughout his studies at UVic. He says Flash Forest started with a “desire and motivation to do something that would have a large impact on the planet, the environment and climate change.”

Biodiversity loss is an increasingly important issue, notes Jones. Planting trees by drone is something he can do immediately, scale it quickly and have a large impact.

Jones tried tree planting one summer as a student. He says it's an industry plagued with injuries. “Tree planting is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world,” he says. “I did it myself and easily half of the team was injured at any one time.” It was the hardest work he'd ever done—but he says their technology is intended to supplement, not supplant, human labour.

Flash Forest modifies drones to fire germinating tree seeds into the soil. The team merges technology, software and ecological science to surpass traditional tree-planting efforts with the intention of rapidly accelerating global reforestation efforts.

They start with nutrient-packed pods that will be fired by a drone to the earth autonomously. Their protocol includes a “secret sauce” so the seedlings get what they need to survive the initial harsh conditions of spring. A core model of Flash Forest is to use their tech for ecological restoration

projects to promote species diversity wherever possible. UVic grad Quirin Hohendorf (MSc '18) is also on the team as Senior Plant Scientist.

Jones, CEO of Flash Forest, says the technology is effective and valuable on many levels: as a tactic against climate change and as a safer, faster, cheaper and more effective way to plant trees.

Ahlstrom earned her master's in Political Science and her undergrad at UVic was in Anthropology and Political Science. She and Jones met at UVic, became best friends and are now engaged.

“Climate change and species extinction are two of the most catastrophic threats facing our planet in the 21st century. Solutions to these problems are complex, multi-faceted, and require global political coordination,” says Ahlstrom. “However, one thing any individual can do now is try and influence industry with cleaner technology. Our aim with Flash Forest is to accelerate the rate of reforestation using drones to help mitigate global temperature rise and biodiversity loss.”

They are constantly thinking about Flash Forest and how to meet their goal of planting one billion trees. “It's a milestone we set for ourselves,” says Jones. “We don't plan on stopping there.”

The team is looking for partners with related skills. Interested in contributing or volunteering? Email: contact@flashforest.ca Learn more: flashforest.ca

Culture Clash

Law grad **Terrence Turner** (LLB '83) brings the horrors of Female Genital Mutilation to light in his short feature film, *Dishonour*.

BY JENNY MANZER, BA '97



Mimi Ndiweni plays multiple characters, including Babe, in **TERRENCE TURNER's** short feature film.



Filmmaker **TERRENCE TURNER**

Babe is a bubbly five-year-old girl, chatty, loving and playful—and very much looking forward to her birthday party. But Babe comes from a complicated cultural background. While her widowed father is a progressive advocate for girls' and women's rights, her extended family still clings to the ancient tribal practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

Babe is the main character of Terrence Turner's harrowing 40-minute film, *Dishonour*. The short feature shines a light on differing cultural norms at play in a migrant family as they prepare for Babe's birthday celebrations. Her father does not see eye to eye with Babe's elderly great aunt. Babe is caught in the middle of this culture feud and soon hurtled into peril.

Dishonour is filmed to resemble a one-person play, with British actor Mimi Ndiweni deftly playing all six characters, including Babe's father, great aunt, and babysitter, as well as a radio-talk-show host. As the film progresses, we learn more about Female Genital Mutilation, an ancient custom in which the genitalia of young girls are removed or severely altered against their will supposedly to preserve virginity.

The United Nations estimates there are 200-million girls and women who are survivors of the practice, and three million more continue to be at risk of mutilation every year. When Turner learned of these statistics, he was horrified. It is illegal in most countries—yet it still happens. A doctor at BC Women's Hospital in Vancouver told him that she devotes most of her practice to reconstructive surgeries on women who have been cut. Global migration means the problem is everywhere.

"We all have a role to play in bringing this kind of injustice to an end, really. It sounds lofty, but I don't think it is," says Turner,

who encourages concerned people to support NGOs, like Plan International Canada, and other groups working on the issue.

Turner both wrote and directed *Dishonour*, bringing in his brother Timothy as producer. The drama tells the story of Babe's family, who recently moved to a western country from an unnamed country where the custom continues. The film examines the struggles new immigrants can have when trying to reconcile historic traditions with the customs of their newly adopted homes. Turner spent two years researching the issue, including reading countless pages of transcripts from women who'd survived Female Genital Mutilation.

"I didn't want to tell people what to do, I wanted to introduce them to the subject, to what was going on, and let them decide how they might contribute to bringing this practice to an end."

Turner runs his own Vancouver-based production company, Calendar Films. His previous works include the documentaries *Adele's Wish*, about a quest to recover Gustav Klimt paintings stolen by the Nazis, and *Parviz Tanavoli: Poetry In Bronze*, about a Vancouver-based sculptor born in Iran. He says his law background from UVic has helped him tackle complex, intimidating topics with confidence. Turner, choosing to turn his sights to an easier subject after *Dishonour*, recently completed a screenplay for a romantic comedy.

Dishonour continues to be screened at film festivals and universities around the world and was considered for an Oscar in 2019 in the Short Live Action category. It is currently being developed as a one-woman stage play in the United Kingdom. ¶

Learn more: www.dishonour.ca



Teacher, Scholar, Leader

Jamie Cassels was an academic train wreck as a high-school student who did not think he was university-bound. Instead, he became UVic's seventh president and found the duties "rewarding and endlessly surprising."

BY JODY PATERSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST



Jamie Cassels taught in UVic's law faculty before becoming the university's president.

W

hen the call came eight years ago offering Jamie Cassels the position of a lifetime, he did what he always does when faced with a big decision. He stepped back for a careful reflection. This time, he was considering what it would mean to become the next president of the University of Victoria.


He had just returned to UVic's Faculty of Law after a successful decade as Vice President Academic and Provost. Prior to that, he'd had an equally illustrious 20-year stretch at UVic, during which he'd earned a reputation as an acclaimed master teacher, a popular Dean of Law, and an author of three books and numerous articles.

Many offers had come in over the years from other universities seeking new presidents. Cassels had always turned them down, knowing his true passions were teaching and research.

"I said 'no' until they eventually stopped calling," he says. "When the call came from UVic, I thought long and hard about whether I was right for the job and whether it was right for me. And when I did say 'yes,' it wasn't really about the chance to become a president. It was about UVic."

Cassels joined UVic's Faculty of Law in 1981. His love of teaching and research—particularly teaching that integrates research—has won him accolades and the respect of colleagues and students. His work to bring those "two solitudes" together at UVic during his time as president is one of his proudest achievements.

"That was one of the significant motivators for me in becoming president, to support the growth of UVic as one of Canada's best research-intensive universities while pushing the ethic of integration," he says. "I saw the opportunity to influence the lives of students in a broader way, bringing values from the lab and the classroom out to the campus and the larger world. It's not so much about what you know, it's the skills and abilities



“After two or three years, I was on fire. I knew I wanted to be an academic. But no one was more shocked than me or my family at the path that I ended up on.”

you develop in order to do the research and gain that knowledge. It’s about learning to learn and being hands-on.”

Cassels was an academic “train wreck” as a teenager. He accelerated through two grades but was unmotivated by the high-school academic experience. (He suspects the 100 per cent score he got in physical education was the only thing that saved his graduating GPA.) His love of the outdoors led him to consider a career fighting forest fires or working in the woods. Instead, he submitted an application to Carleton University a week late and was accepted. And everything changed.

“I got a couple of the right teachers. I took philosophy, which helped me to learn how to think. I had an English professor who taught me how to write, which has been huge for me,” says Cassels. “After two or three years, I was on fire. I knew I wanted to be an academic. But no one was more shocked than me or my family at the path that I ended up on.”

During Cassels’ years in the Faculty of Law he led a collective effort to establish key Indigenous faculty positions and build a “law school in a suitcase” to deliver legal education to Inuit students in the Inuit Nunangat through the ground-breaking Akitsiraq Law Program. Much like the similarly innovative joint degree in western and Indigenous law that UVic debuted in 2018, Akitsiraq incorporated both western and Inuit legal concepts and traditions. A champion for Indigenous education long before reconciliation was a common topic, Cassels also supported efforts that have dramatically increased the number of Indigenous faculty, students and graduates at UVic.

“He was there when we turned the corner on reconciliation,” says Cassels’ long-time friend, former UVic colleague Murray Rankin. “One of his signature achievements as president is the work he has done with Indigenous people on reconciliation. He has led a really strong university response and found the resources to make it happen.”

The Akitsiraq program caught the attention of the 3M National Teaching Fellowship panel in 2002, and Cassels was named a Fellow that year for his contribution to pedagogy and excellence in teaching. He continued to champion hands-on, research-enriched learning experiences for students throughout his presidency.

Cassels traces his own passion for lifelong learning to the example provided by his self-reliant father. “Knowing you can learn to do almost anything that you set your mind to is empowering,” reflects Cassels.

Early in his career at UVic, Cassels spent lengthy periods of time doing research in India. “I needed to broaden my horizons and think about my discipline from a different cultural perspective,” Cassels recalls. “My time there was mind-blowing. We’d be

talking about the same concept and yet our understandings would be completely different. I learned about how our knowledge is so socially and culturally contingent.”

While Cassels knew UVic well by the time he became president, the “breadth of responsibility” in the role surprised him. “We run businesses. We operate intellectually in every discipline. We have the population of a small city.”

Happily, universities are no longer ivory towers for the elite, he adds. But with the shift to greater accessibility comes new challenges. Unlike a business with a single bottom line, UVic has many stakeholders and multiple definitions of “success,” notes Cassels. He’s proud of the shared vision that UVic and its partners developed during his tenure and is committed to continuing to support the university both personally and professionally.

Soon after Cassels became president, UVic implemented a salary freeze. It didn’t apply to his position, but he asked the Board of Governors to reduce his compensation. The savings from that decision added up to more than a year’s salary during Cassels’ time as president. The Board used those funds along with further contributions from Cassels and his family to establish a scholarship in his name.

Staying connected with colleagues and students kept things real for Cassels. Seeking input from students, staff, faculty and the community for UVic’s 2018–23 strategic framework provided many opportunities for interaction. Cassels adds that he always felt “grounded and excited” after attending a student poster fair, honours ceremony or distinguished-alumni event.

But taking the BC Transit No. 7 bus from south Oak Bay to UVic worked, too.

“Some of my best encounters have been on that bus. I’ve had students come up to me and ask, ‘Excuse me, are you the president?’” laughs Cassels.

Graduate student Essie Mehina says Cassels’ “good humour and down-to-earth nature” were evident in his engagement with students. “I really appreciate his consultative leadership style and how he always stops to talk to students about their programs and their experiences,” says Mehina.

Cassels was to begin an 18-month sabbatical in June 2020. He had hoped to jump on his boat, spend time in the wilderness before starting to work on some long-deferred academic projects. But then came COVID, and Cassels instead put his personal plans on hold and stayed on as president to help UVic navigate the challenges of the pandemic.

Whatever comes next, it won’t be retirement in the conventional sense. Cassels is planning on a fourth edition of one of his books: “And that path may lead me back to the classroom.” †

UVIC’S ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER JAMIE CASSELS’ PRESIDENCY

- 2013 Held the Campus Conversations
- 2014 Organized the first UVic Campus Update
- 2014 Opened the Centre for Recreational and Special Abilities
- 2015 Unveiled the UVic Edge brand
- 2015 Established the President’s Beyond Borders Fund
- 2016 Opened the new Continuing Studies Building wing
- 2016 Established a civil engineering department
- 2017 Held the first President’s Extraordinary Service Awards
- 2017 Established the REACH Awards
- 2017 Implemented a sexualized-violence policy
- 2018 Received a Canada 150 Research Chair
- 2018 Launched the world’s first degree in Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders
- 2018 Released the Strategic Framework
- 2018 Co-hosted the National Building Reconciliation Forum with Universities Canada
- 2018 Announced a new student housing and dining facility
- 2018 Transferred the Dunsmuir lands to the Pauquachin First Nations
- 2019 Opened the Queenswood Campus, home to Ocean Networks Canada
- 2019 Invested in experiential learning, the Impact Fund, fellowships in research-enriched teaching, graduate student support and Impact and President’s Chairs
- 2020 Launched UVic’s response to COVID-19
- 2020 Opened a new Student Wellness Centre and 24/7 mental-health service



Building Bridges

UVic researchers and alumni are using creativity and skills to bridge gaps and help our community reach the other side of the pandemic. Some are developing vaccines and therapeutics; some lead in politics or law; others are helping us learn from our history or forge new connections between citizens and scientists.

Why Rob Runs

Rob Fleming kick-started his political career at the University of Victoria before becoming a city councillor at age 28. Then, as BC's education minister, he navigated school during a pandemic.

BY JENNY MANZER, BA '97

Sometimes, a new future starts with some history. In Rob Fleming's case, studying history at UVic led him to his calling as a politician and to his life partner. Fleming became well known as an NDP MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake and as BC's education minister for grades K-12. He started out at UVic in social sciences and moved quickly to the faculty of humanities, which led to an undergrad degree in history. "It was just an incredible experience," he reflects.

As a student, Fleming (BA '02) soaked up information about the history of the labour movement and environmentalism in BC. "He already had a social-justice orientation and was wanting to work on projects that had to do with social change and the history of social change in British Columbia," recalls UVic professor John Lutz, who has kept connected with Fleming over the years. Lutz says Fleming's history studies likely also showed him something important—that individuals can make a difference.

While Fleming was earning credits at UVic, he also learned how to be a politician. As president of the UVic Students' Society, Fleming worked on the BC Transit Universal Bus Pass, a mammoth project that the team, including what he terms "the mavericks" at BC Transit, accomplished in about nine months. The end result was a win for students and the environment. He says he learned at UVic that gaining support through consensus is a good impulse in politics.

"I was really glad I got involved in the Student Union. I learned a lot about managing things and working with people from different backgrounds to get things done and make some really good changes—work to always build a bigger tent that's inclusive of people." And, he adds, student politics was fun—including organizing large-scale concerts.

There was also the famous foosball summit. The engineering undergrads wanted to separate from the Students' Society and stop paying dues. The matter was hammered out over beer and foosball. "Go out and talk to people," says Fleming. "If they're angry or have issues, then work through them and seek common ground."

Andrew MacLeod (BA '96), legislative bureau chief for the *Tyee*, says that some 30 years later, the U-Pass could be considered a legacy for Fleming. In fact, Fleming has largely had success, including in his role as an Opposition MLA, by choosing one or two causes—and pursuing them.

"He always struck me as very poised and that he had a perspective on things, even as a university student. He was very



ROB FLEMING stands near the Johnson Street bridge.



deliberate in what he did on student council.... The biggest one was the putting in the U-Pass, where everybody had a bus pass and paid for it collectively.”

After graduation, Fleming

worked behind the scenes in communications, supporting the work of politicians like Andrew Petter. Fleming hadn’t intended to go into politics at first, but at age 28 was elected to Victoria City Council in 1999 as part of the Civic Electors slate. While on council, he took up various causes, including affordable housing in the region.

Fleming says part of the reason he became involved in housing was because of a friend at UVic, a single mother of two, who was able to succeed in her teaching studies because of the subsidized housing available off campus. The friend is now vice-principal at a school. He could see that affordable, stable housing made all the difference.

Fleming proved to be good at getting himself elected, and in 2005 became the MLA for Victoria-Hillside, beating out a veteran NDP politician for the nomination and later defeating the Liberal incumbent. He championed several issues as a new MLA, including working to regulate payday loans and introducing legislation on pesticide use in cosmetics. He served at the Opposition critic for advanced education and later as the education critic.

John Horgan and the NDP won a minority government in 2017. It was Fleming’s fourth victory as an MLA and one of his proudest moments as a politician. Fleming was named education minister. Of course, he never dreamed he’d be head of the class during a global pandemic.

He says while the job is tough, he works with an outstanding team, including Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix. February and March of 2020, when the province first grappled with the grim realities of COVID-19, closing borders, shutting down schools and mandating distancing—now seems like years ago, he reflects.

He says BC has benefitted from the way Premier Horgan lets science rule the day and the social solidarity people in the province feel with one another. Fleming suggests there will be lasting changes in education after the pandemic. Some learning innovations will stay—others will go—but education will not be the same. He understands the anxieties people have about COVID. He has elderly parents. He, too, fears for his loved ones.

Fleming met his wife, Maura Parte, at UVic. “We had a study date in US history. And as I say, the rest is history,” Fleming quips. Parte, (BA ’06) returned to UVic in 2019 to earn her Master’s in Public Administration—another reason UVic is close to their hearts. The couple have two children, a daughter, Rory, who just started high school, and a middle-grader son, Jack. Fleming, a soccer fan, has spent time helping coach his kids’ soccer, sometimes on campus fields. “We are busy, but like anyone else, we strive for work-life balance and take whatever we can get in between.”

Fleming was born in Windsor, Ontario, and raised in BC’s North Shore. He has two siblings: a “scary smart” sister, who is a BC Supreme Court Justice; and a brother, his childhood sports rival, who is “allergic to politics” and lives in Calgary. He says his parents raised them in the 1970s style—completely hands off.

Fleming, 48, wasn’t always as well known. He recalls that during his first campaign, he knocked on doors and was invited into a resident’s home. He went in, despite being warned by his campaign manager not to spend the time. Fleming was welcomed by a lovely older woman whose first language was not English. He shared his platform highlights, and she presented him with a handful of coins—his first campaign donation! When she proceeded to hand him a *Times-Colonist* subscription slip, he realized that she had mistaken him for someone else—the newspaper boy.

Fleming is now constantly in the newspaper—and is easily a household name in BC. As MacLeod notes, the education portfolio is challenging, given the need to accommodate students, parents, teachers and unions. “It’s a tough file at the best of times, even without the pandemic.”

MacLeod says that Fleming, a Student Union Building acquaintance from his days as *Martlet* editor, used to wear a khaki army jacket and jeans as a student leader, then graduated to v-neck sweaters when he became a city councillor. These days Fleming is most often in a suit, his wardrobe evolving with his political career.

Why does he keep doing it? There may be a key in what he recalls as one of his most painful moments as a politician—the death of Jack Layton, whom he met when they were both city councillors. He had implored Layton to run for the federal NDP leadership nomination, emailing him a list of 10 reasons why he should. When Layton died of cancer in 2011, Fleming was devastated by the loss of a beloved friend and leader—and thinking of all the good work still left to do.

Whatever is written on Rob Fleming’s own list of reasons to stay in politics, it keeps him running. †

* At the time of *Torch* printing, the results of the October 24 BC election were not yet official due to mail-in ballots—and Fleming’s status may have changed.

Unlocking the Secrets to Beating COVID

Rob Beecroft (BSc '84) founded ImmunoPrecise Antibodies, a Victoria-based company with three key projects underway to help fight the pandemic—including a rapid diagnostic test, therapeutics and vaccines—all part of a program led by a UVic grad.

BY MARK WITTEN

George Orwell's dystopian novel *1984* depicted a dark future where technology existed only as a tool for the elite to control society. But for Rob Beecroft 1984 was the magical year when his University of Victoria mentor, Terry Pearson (Professor Emeritus), taught him how to make monoclonal antibodies.

In 1984, Georges Kohler and César Milstein of Cambridge University won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discovery of the technique to produce monoclonal antibodies. The discovery was a game-changer. The technology brightened the future by transforming diagnostic testing and treatments for cancer, heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, transplant rejection and infectious diseases.

"I was really lucky because Dr. Pearson was this new prof, who had worked with Kohler on monoclonal antibodies as a post-doc at Cambridge in the mid-'70s. I found the technology fascinating and thought it had a future, with big diagnostic potential. I wanted to learn how to do the technique and he hired me as a technician in his lab in my fourth year," says Beecroft, who became the go-to guy for producing them in Pearson's UVic lab.

In 1989, Beecroft launched his own contract-research biotech company, ImmunoPrecise Antibodies (IPA), to meet soaring demand. As an early pioneer and hands-on innovator, he discovered better and faster ways of designing and producing monoclonal antibodies. These are lab-engineered versions of antibodies naturally made by the body's immune system when it detects harmful foreign substances, such as viruses, bacteria, or parasites. Antibodies help to eliminate such pathogens.

Beecroft loved making antibodies and produced more of them than just about anybody for university researchers, pharmaceutical and biotech companies worldwide. "Once making antibodies gets into your blood, you can't stop making them," says Beecroft, who ramped up IPA's scientific and technical capabilities by hiring many of the talented grads he taught as a UVic instructor for 13 years. "When I was headhunting, I knew who to get."

Beecroft led the company until 2016, when it went public.

ROB BEECROFT, founder of ImmunoPrecise Antibodies, has a passion for making antibodies—and also for motorcycles.



BARRY DUPLANTIS, of ImmunoPrecise Antibodies, is lead scientist on their COVID-19 program.



Poised for three-pronged pandemic attack

Today, the team at ImmunoPrecise is working on the biggest global health challenge in more than a hundred years. No single magic bullet is likely to beat COVID-19 on its own. But scientists at ImmunoPrecise are working to neutralize and ultimately defeat the virus on three fronts: with a new rapid screening test, precisely targeted treatments, and a broad-spectrum vaccine.

Barry Duplantis (BSc'04, PhD'12) is an entrepreneurial science grad, who founded and ran a UVic spinoff company to create new anti-bacterial vaccines before joining the ImmunoPrecise team as Business Development and Project Manager. Duplantis is lead scientist on the three-pronged COVID-19 program aimed at protecting people against the virus locally and globally: "Any time you can do good science and see the science directly benefit the community you work in, that's all you can ask for," says Duplantis.

A key advantage the company brings to the table in the global quest to develop new and effective tests, treatments, and vaccines against COVID-19 is its depth and breadth of expertise in designing and producing custom antibodies for research, diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. They've been developing high-quality monoclonal antibodies since Beecroft started the company.

"We've run more than 2,000 monoclonal antibody programs for over 400 clients including over half of the top 20 leading pharmaceutical companies, compared to a few hundred antibody programs run by other CROS [contract-research organizations]," says Duplantis.

Urgent need for new treatments

While the world anxiously awaits safe, effective vaccines to prevent coronavirus infections and stem the pandemic, there is also an urgent need for new treatments to help an infected person's immune system fight the virus and prevent severe symptoms or death. No vaccine is likely to be 100% effective. Antibody drugs can potentially be used to treat people in the early stages of infection and prevent them from getting sick, or to prevent coronavirus infection in healthy people who have been in close contact with an infected person, such as a spouse or housemate.

Since launching its COVID-19 program in February, ImmunoPrecise has developed and is now testing its lead antibody drug candidates, which have shown potent neutralizing activity

against the virus during in-vitro testing. "We've developed a cocktail of antibodies targeting specific regions of the virus. By combining several antibodies in one drug there is a synergistic effect, which also protects against virus escape due to mutation," explains Duplantis.

If their antibody cocktail proves to be safe and effective in pre-clinical studies over the next few months, testing of the drug in human clinical trials could start early in the new year. This is an example of precision medicine, where a lab-engineered drug



UVic physical chemist **ALEXANDRE BROLO** and ImmunoPrecise Antibodies are partnering to create a test that detects the presence of COVID-19 in saliva and can be read using a cell phone.

targets the most vulnerable regions of the coronavirus to prevent it from replicating and entering healthy cells. "We're trying to jumpstart the immune system by delivering high-quality, potent versions of the specific antibodies that it would pick anyway to attack the virus. This is especially important for people who cannot generate protective antibodies naturally, such as the elderly or those with compromised immune systems. Our medicine could help a broad range of individuals because it doesn't rely on them launching their own protective immune response to infection—we're essentially giving them protection that they can't make naturally. Our antibody drug piggybacks on what the immune system is trying to do for us," he says.

The IPA team is also collaborating with UVic physical-chemistry professor Alexandre Brolo on a real-time, low-cost screening test that can detect the presence of coronavirus infection in saliva and be read on a cell phone. A saliva sample is placed on a thin strip coated in gold nanostructures, which use antibodies to help detect COVID-19 targets, such as the protein known as "spike" on the virus surface.

The test builds on technology previously developed and piloted by Brolo that uses saliva samples to detect proteins from

both Zika and dengue fever. It could be used to rapidly and frequently screen adults and children.

“It was logical to partner with IPA because their main game is to develop custom, high-quality antibodies. For the test to work, you need highly specific and selective antibodies that attach very strongly to specific proteins on the virus and only to those proteins. Our goal is to get a reliable test result within 15 to 30 minutes. If the test proves to be effective, it could be used in Canada and developed worldwide,” says Brolo.

Anti-viral vaccines, such as seasonal-flu vaccines, typically work by using a critical portion of the virus to trick the body’s immune system into thinking there’s an infection, so it makes specific antibodies and then remembers how to do that if the person is exposed to the actual virus after being vaccinated. But if the virus mutates to another strain so that the vaccinated person’s immune system can no longer recognize the virus, the vaccine won’t be as effective in preventing infection.

IPA’s strategy is aimed at developing a broad-spectrum vaccine that can stay ahead of the coronavirus’s ability to mutate. “The coronavirus is mutating, which creates a ‘moving target’ situation when developing medicines to combat infection, because it can mutate in a way that allows the virus to escape from drugs designed against older or current versions of it. The vaccine we’re developing targets multiple areas of the virus so that it will remain effective over a longer period,” explains Duplantis.

A COVID-19 vaccine will likely take IPA longer to develop than an antibody drug, but it will be complementary and built to last. Knowing precisely which antibodies work best as a treatment will help IPA to design a vaccine that can train a person’s immune system to make the most effective antibodies to prevent COVID-19 infection. “We’re designing our vaccine based on the large data sets gained from developing the antibody therapeutics,” he says.

Driving hard for pandemic solutions

When Beecroft rolled up his sleeves and started producing batches of monoclonal antibodies back in 1984, he was excited about riding the first wave of the fledgling technology’s bright future. As the technology advanced from transforming diagnostics to revolutionizing therapeutics, the little biotech firm he launched starting with a UVic lab is now driving hard today to deliver antibody-based solutions to shine a light to lead us out of the dark days of a global pandemic.

“Monoclonal antibodies were hot when I was a student, and I thought they had a big future,” says Beecroft. “I’m so proud of all the UVic-trained scientists that helped to build and grow the company over the past few decades. Now, I’m excited to see them using their talents and research expertise to develop antibodies and a possible vaccine to get us out of the pandemic.” †

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University of Victoria

Far from Home

Students at a new field school learn by visiting the sites where Japanese Canadians were held in internment camps during the Second World War.

BY JENNY MANZER, BA '97

One July evening in 1942, as a war raged around the world, a little Canadian boy went for a swim in Slokan Lake with some friends. The nine-year-old had only recently arrived from Vancouver and was new to the Slokan Valley. Tragically, the boy drowned. His name was Takeo Kinoshita. He was one of the 22,000 Japanese Canadians forcibly uprooted from the coast, most ending up in internment camps from 1942 to 1946. Unable to return to the coast until 1949, they had their homes and possessions sold against their will in the name of national security.

Young Takeo's story is just one that students might discover at "Canada's Internment Era: A Field School," a new opportunity that combines hands-on-learning at the former sites of internment camps with on-campus work and collaboration. The school starts with a week of bus travel, including stops at Hastings Park (once a detainment and processing centre for Japanese Canadians) and former internment and self-supporting sites such as Tashme, Greenwood, Lemon Creek, New Denver, Kaslo and East Lillooet.

The group of adult learners is met at each location by experts in the area, often Japanese Canadians with personal knowledge of internment. After the tour, the field school continues on the UVic campus with group work on creative projects, such as developing a "choose your own adventure" game for elementary students to teach them about the era.

The field school is a collaboration between the National Nikkei Museum in Burnaby and University of Victoria's Landscapes of Injustice, an ambitious seven-year multi-partner research project that seeks to develop education materials; both narrative and digital-archive websites; oral narratives and a touring museum exhibit.

Mike Abe, Project Manager for Landscapes of Injustice, attended the field school with his daughter, Natsuki, a UVic History student, and his great aunt, Kimiko Yamada. His family had been interned at Lemon Creek in the Slokan Valley, and during the tour he saw, for the first time, where the ashes of his great grandfather, Takejiro Toyota, were buried.

When viewing the livestock pens at Hastings Park (home to the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver), his

great aunt suddenly remembered being there, at age three, when it was used as a processing centre. She'd thought her family was going to the zoo, but then realized it was where they would sleep. Abe says Landscapes of Injustice has been able to connect participants who had experienced internment with their own digital records, since thousands of them have been collected and archived as part of their work.

Kaitlin Findlay (MA '18), research coordinator for Landscapes of Injustice, says during the field school she was struck by how isolated the camps were, surrounded by mountains and wilderness: "People lived in shacks in a field for years." She'd seen many photographs of the camps, but being there was different.

The new field school, started in 2019, built on an existing tour offered by the National Nikkei Museum, adding the week-long campus component led by UVic's Jordan Stanger-Ross, an associate professor of history. It will be offered again in 2021 and 2022 with 50 spaces for teachers from across Canada, community members and UVic students. The upcoming final years of Landscapes of Injustice project will see their narrative and digital archive websites launched. The museum tour started in August at the Nikkei National Museum and will end at Victoria's Royal BC Museum in early 2022.

Takeo Kinoshita is buried in a cemetery in the Slokan Valley. Findlay says the Nikkei National Museum staff brought a new marker along with them, a memorial for those who died at an internment camp, including Takeo. †

Find out more at landscapesofinjustice.com.



A group of students and teachers from the Landscapes of Injustice Field School visit the site of a former internment camp in Lillooet, BC.

Law for All

UVic's Law Centre bridges the gap between people and the law.

BY JULIE SLOAN, BA '99

Law Centre students practising legal skills in the Fraser Building's Dispute Resolution room.



Pamela was dismissed from her job after disclosing that she was pregnant. David, charged with assault, needed help with alcohol addiction. Leonard couldn't find a job due to his disability and had to file for bankruptcy. Jack helped a friend install an engine in his car and wound up being sued in small-claims court.

These are just a few examples of clients who might come to the Law Centre for help. The mutual benefit of people in need receiving services and students learning results in an immensely meaningful community resource.

The Law Centre offers a critical service to a vulnerable segment of society, and at its heart is a robust student clinical program. The team of dedicated staff and capable law students forms one of the best legal clinics in the country.

Students are exposed to a breadth of different types of cases that are essential legal services including: criminal law, family law, human rights, civil litigation, social-welfare benefits, employment, debtor/creditor, representation agreements and wills. Over the years, the students have realized that without the Law Centre, the outcomes for those clients would be far worse. Many UVic students have been inspired by their work there to follow careers in social justice.

The Law Centre serves between 1,800 and 2,000 low-income clients per year and is the longest running common-law clinical program in Canada. It started from humble beginnings in 1977 and has since served over 80,000 clients in the Greater Victoria area and become a pillar of student education at UVic Law. This was thanks in large part to the unwavering direction of recently

retired law professor, Glenn Gallins. Throughout the COVID pandemic the Law Centre has remained operational, with students and staff offering services virtually.

When the university's law school first opened, the school's initial objective was to have a public law orientation and a focus on contributing to the community. Creating the Law Centre was part of that vision.

Murray Fraser, founding dean of the law school, was the driving force behind its creation. Professor Neil Gold, who received an honorary doctorate from UVic in 2019, worked with Murray to get

the program up and running in 1977. The idea of clinical programs, which had begun in the US in the early 1970s, was still very new. In the beginning, students started their clinical term on Day One with a pile of files on their desks and had to figure out what to do with them. In 1978, Glenn Gallins was hired to help create a more structured program for students.

Gallins created an intensive, four-week orientation that teaches professional responsibility and ethics as well as lawyering skills—including interviewing, counselling, negotiation, mediation, trial preparation and drafting. These skills give law-clinic students a huge advantage when applying for articles because they know how to prepare for trials and hearings.

The Law Centre is in the Victoria Courthouse building where it is co-located with the Justice Access Centre. It now houses five staff members with seven interview rooms, 14 student work stations and a reception area. Each student is temporarily articulated to a member of the local bar and receives advice and assistance on the conduct of their files from their principals.

Paul Pearson, an alumnus of UVic Law, practises criminal law in Victoria and has taught as a sessional instructor at the school. He has also volunteered as a supervising lawyer at the Law Centre.

"When you experience the Law Centre as a law student, you see why it is consistently described as the best thing students did in law school. Law students who have completed Law Centre are changed people and carry with them life-long empathy for the persons in society who most desperately need the courageous protection of lawyers." †

Help with Kelp

Fieldwork to monitor the health of BC's vital kelp forests can carry on despite the global pandemic, thanks to a partnership between scientists and First Nations communities.

BY ROBYN MEYER

Summer 2020 was supposed to be packed with fieldwork for researchers with the Climate Change Solutions for Canada's Undersea Forests project—a research partnership between the UVic-hosted-and-led Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), Simon Fraser University (SFU), and the Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (CCIRA). The team was set to do research at kelp forests along British Columbia's coastline.

Then COVID-19 arrived, and so did restrictions on travel within BC. Planned in-person meetings and data-collection trips by the project scientists to Bella Bella and Klemtu were cancelled.

Fortunately, however, the fieldwork still went ahead. First Nations Coastal Guardian Watchmen and community members came to the rescue, gathering data and photographs of giant kelp during the spring and summer months to send back to the scientists in Vancouver. More field surveys by the Watchmen were planned this fall.

Alejandro Frid, CCIRA science coordinator and a UVic adjunct assistant professor in environmental studies, says COVID has intensified the already-existing collaboration. After all, it was the Watchmen who first raised the alarm about the kelp's demise and spurred creation of the project.

In 2015, the Watchmen sent a photograph to Anne Salomon's lab at SFU. It showed heavily encrusted and dying kelp along the Pacific Coast. It turned out that the white crust causing the kelp to sink and disintegrate was an epiphytic invertebrate called a bryozoan. This outbreak coincided with that year's "warm blob" marine heat wave.

Knowing exactly why, when and where outbreaks of this kelp-encrusting animal occur on Canada's west and east coasts is the first step towards being able to enhance the resilience of the kelp ecosystems—a key goal of the three-year *PICS Undersea Forests* project launched in 2019.

Danielle Denley, an SFU postdoc and the project's lead researcher, says when COVID threatened to derail the fieldwork, the team worked with CCIRA's four Nations members (Heiltsuk Nation, Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation, Nuxalk Nation and the Wuikinuxv Nation) to come up with a solution. They adapted an existing mobile app to host their co-developed "Bryozoan and Kelp Monitoring Survey" with boxes to be ticked, automated GPS coordinates, and photos to help estimate kelp-bed size, density, bryozoan and grazers.



JORDAN WILSON
collecting herring roe.

"The really cool thing is that this mobile survey can be changed in real time, allowing us to adapt to new observations or suggestions from the Guardians who are out on the water," she says.

One of the community members who stepped up to help is Mike Reid, Aquatics Manager with the Heiltsuk Nation in Bella Bella. He says participants in Indigenous stream-walker programs on the Central Coast see the big picture of declining fish and animal populations as well as habitat degradation, so are happy to support projects such as Undersea Forests. "It's important that we are not the only ones with the information...it's important that more people need to know what is going on here. Our territory, in my eyes, is crashing."

Reid says the 2015 warm blob affected their spawn-on-kelp herring fishery and also destroyed much of the intertidal seaweed, known locally as "black gold" and in Latin as *Pyropia*, which is a large part of their diet. Another warm blob is now brewing off the California coast, but Reid hopes kelp survivability can be enhanced.

Denley agrees, saying creating refuge zones for kelp may be an important next step, and she is grateful for the data being supplied.

Many coastal First Nations are already involved in their own monitoring programs within their territories dating back generations, and Frid says that experience has enriched the project.

"I think it's a really nice example of pairing Indigenous knowledge with the scientific work done by the universities' researchers," he says. Frid plans to share knowledge from this project at UVic seminars later this year. †

Treatments for Tomorrow

Students in a chemistry course take risks and experience real research and development in a partnership with LEO Pharma in Denmark.

BY CLARE WALTON, BA '13

University of Victoria chemistry students are working in a new, innovative way, collaborating with a company more than 7,000 kilometres away to hone new skin-disease treatments. It's giving these students a special opportunity to make new molecules and gain real-world experience in what it takes to get a compound to market.

In December 2019 a select group of UVic undergraduate chemistry students for the first time completed CHEM 467: Special Topics in Experimental Chemistry.

The course, which gives students space to apply the techniques they have learned throughout their degrees to clinically relevant research with a potentially global impact, marked the beginning of a new research and educational partnership between Denmark-based pharmaceutical company LEO Pharma A/S and the university's Chemistry department.

Piloted in Denmark before launching in Victoria, the Open Innovation program offers a departure from traditional lab courses, with the opportunity to design and synthesize molecules and send these new structures to Denmark for biological testing to learn their potential to become next-generation treatments for skin diseases like psoriasis and eczema.

The inaugural class had a cohort of six students, half the size of a typical lab course, allowing for greater exchange of ideas and risk taking. At the beginning of the semester, students were presented with the Danish pilot results and chose to design and create either completely new molecules based on those findings or make molecules that had been reported elsewhere in the chemical literature. All compounds were then tested using bio-activity tests in Denmark to understand the molecules' potency.

"Students aren't merely learning how to make a molecule for testing, they are learning key technical and project management skills that they can apply to future work with industry," says Jeremy Wulff, UVic chemistry professor and project lead.

Perfecting the technical skills to make drug-like molecules for testing is a crucial part of research partnerships, according to Wulff, as is understanding how to deliver molecules in pure form, package them for delivery and submit the necessary paperwork for testing.

Another key element to the course is the mentorship students receive through the two teaching assistants, Jonathan Sader and Zoey Warmerdam, who encourage students to explore the unknown.



UVic chemistry professor **JEREMY WULFF**, left, takes part in a lab tour with students and Niclas Nilsson of LEO Pharma (right of Wulff), November 2019.

"What makes this course unique and exciting is the collaborative nature," says Warmerdam. "The students were attempting to create completely new molecules and that lent itself to plenty of opportunities to learn from one another and trouble shoot, just as you would in a real lab."

Working toward targets, sending away a product and receiving data from a global pharmaceutical company based on the structures you have created was an added thrill for course participants.

Attempting to do what has never been done before is rare in undergraduate studies and most students would typically not produce original research unless they did an Honours project or pursued graduate school.

"Watching this small group overcome the challenges of synthesis, while having the opportunity to make a real tangible impact on their community gave this course more meaning than a typical undergraduate lab," says Sader.

By the end of the semester, the CHEM 467 students and their teaching assistants had spent an average of six to eight hours per week in the lab, creating 19 molecules to send to LeoPharma for biological testing.

The Department of Chemistry and Wulff are planning to offer a new cohort of students the opportunity to move this first class's findings forward through the creation of additional novel molecules in 2022. †

Bearing Witness

Writer **Aislinn Hunter** offers a poetic novel that reaffirms our shared values in uncertain times.

BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA '96

Thanks to a 24-hour news cycle and non-stop social media feeds, life in the 21st century means we have more opportunity to witness events than ever before. But, as award-winning writer Aislinn Hunter (BFA '96) explores in her new novel, real change only comes when we take the next step and actually bear witness.

Case in point? Media coverage of the migrant crisis. "I was feeling a paralysis around what I could do—that kind of middle-class anxiety of witnessing it on the news and wanting to be a good person, but not knowing how to help—but it only became bearing witness when my friends and I sponsored a family from Syria," Hunter says. "I started asking myself, at what point is one doing enough by witnessing—and is there a difference between witnessing and bearing witness? If I do a good job as a writer, does it become a motivator for action? Does it ask something of people?"

For a poet, novelist and writing professor, her next logical step was to explore these questions on the page—the answers can be found in Hunter's eighth book, *The Certainties*.

The Certainties is described by Knopf Canada as "By turns elegiac and heart-pounding, a love letter in the guise of a song of despair, *The Certainties* is about survival in the face of fascism, forced migration, and the cost of war." It mixes techniques of historical and speculative fiction by offering two protagonists linked across time and circumstance—1940s Spain and an Atlantic island in the 1980s. Both protagonists are compelled by the necessity of witness and the need to pay attention to those who seek refuge, past and present.



Aislinn Hunter
The Certainties
 Knopf Canada
 \$29.95
 ISBN: 978-0735276871

A proudly hyphenated poet-novelist, Hunter has a vivid, almost painterly, ability with description—a skill she credits to her undergraduate years. "UVic's creative writing offers a multi-genre program from the first year. I found myself evenly divided between poetry and fiction the whole time, and was equally successful in both," she says. "But I also did a double-major in art history, so each of my books features paintings and art... I'm fundamentally a product of my undergraduate education."

Those undergrad years included outstanding fellow students and legendary professors like Jack Hodgins, Patrick Lane and Lorna Crozier. Now co-chair of the writing program at Vancouver's Kwantlen Polytechnic University alongside long-time peer poet Billeh Nickerson (BFA '98), Hunter feels the duo is keeping UVic's legacy alive. "We are very much influenced in our pedagogy by our time at UVic. I teach like Jack, Patrick and Lorna taught: very supportive but no bullshit."

Written over a five-year period, *The Certainties* developed during a turbulent time in Hunter's life, where she was not only teaching and serving as a Canadian War Artist alongside Canadian and NATO forces at Alberta's CFB Suffield, but also sharing her husband's two-year journey through terminal brain cancer.

"I got to bear witness to the stories of NATO forces from all over the world: soldiers who were looking for explosives or biological, chemical or radioactive weapons...their stories of resilience were powerful and very humbling," she explains. "But the last third of the book were written two months after my husband died, in the throes of grief. The witnessing I did then, of watching someone you love in crisis...it really affected the colour and texture of the story. Now, if I see someone crying, I stop and look them in the eye and ask if they're okay. The idea of 'bearing witness' has changed how I operate on a daily level."

Despite its weighty tone, Hunter believes *The Certainties* will resonate with readers. "It's like performing sleight of hand: we associate novels with escapism, but good novels speak to crucial issues." †

Floral Print

Memoirist and floral designer **Christin Geall** uses flowers to tell stories and cross cultures.

BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA '96

CHRISTIN GEALL has become a sought-after floral designer, giving workshops around the world.



ing in creative nonfiction, I was able to do these as short, almost personal essays on principles of design.”

Cultivated could well be seen as the organic culmination of a life that, to date, has seen Geall intern on Martha’s Vineyard and at England’s famed Royal Botanic Kew Gardens; pursue an academic background in eco-feminism and ethnobotany, with a side in art history and colour theory; develop a varied writing practice ranging from journalism to teaching in UVic’s

Writing department; homestead a remote island off BC’s coast and even run as a candidate for the BC Green Party. She launched her popular *Cultivated* blog in 2015 and now has a podcast called, naturally enough, *The Flower Podcast*.

Geall chronicles how her Oak Bay garden grows and also sees her work with flowers as a way of crossing time and culture. “Flowers are ephemeral, so they speak to the idea that we have to celebrate what we have in nature in the moment,” she explains. “The garden-style designs that I do have to be captured and appreciated before they disappear. That’s a metaphor for nature itself.”

While some floral photographers manipulate plants with wires and clamps, Geall prefers a more holistic approach. “I try to follow what the flowers want to do,” she says. “Photography has taught me that I’m not just arranging the flowers; I’m arranging the light on the flowers.”

Looking back, Geall sees her time in UVic’s nascent Environmental Studies program as foundational for where she is now. “It was small, but really dynamic and cutting edge for an environmental program in Canada that wasn’t science-based,” she recalls. “Nancy Turner had just been hired and I was one of her first students. We looked at sociology, economics, philosophy, our relationship with nature...it taught me how to think holistically, and I’ve never been able to shake that.” †

Christin Geall (BA '95) has never taken a photography class, which is striking, given that her new book—*Cultivated: Elements of Floral Style* (Princeton Architectural Press)—offers over 200 pages of her signature glorious flower photos.

“Instagram taught me how to be a photographer,” she admits. “I was writing a gardening column and would submit images for that, but the bar is quite high for floral people on Instagram, so I had to create better and better work in order to compete.”

Given that she now has more than 100,000 Instagram followers (and growing quickly) plus an international reputation that sees her offering sold-out floral-arrangement workshops in elegant 18th-century French chateaus, walled 19th-century Scottish estates and stylish 21st-century New York City lofts. She also teaches private classes on floral design and photography in her home base of Victoria. Clearly, she is doing something right.

“Floral designers aren’t typically writers, so there has been a great response to my reflections and approach with this book, which is both photographic and literary,” she says. “There is a genre of ‘garden writing’ out there, but there are very few floral books that are literary—yet because of my train-

High Notes

Allison Benner (Dipl '96, PhD '09) has a spring in her step and a song in her heart as she's supporting UVic co-op students.

Allison Benner is the Co-op Coordinator for Humanities and Fine Arts at UVic. Before joining Co-op & Career in 2015, she was a Sessional Lecturer in Linguistics at UVic and was a busy freelancer in communications, policy and curriculum development. She has a PhD in Linguistics and a diploma in Applied Linguistics from UVic as well as a BA in Philosophy and French from Mount Allison University. Here she describes a typical weekday during the school year.

6:30 a.m. I used to rely on an alarm clock to get me up in the morning, but these days, a word game in the *New York Times* app is my inspiration to get up. I use a French press for my morning coffee. (I take it with homemade almond milk.)

7 a.m. Fueled by caffeine, I'm now warming up to another kind of word game: learning Modern Greek. Assuming that COVID-19 travel restrictions lift, my father-in-law will be visiting from Greece sometime next year. His English isn't great, but so far, it's better than my Greek. I'm hoping to shock him when he gets here. My partner used to be quite dismissive of my Greek-English pidgin, but these days, he answers me, so I must be improving.

8 a.m. Duolingo might not be a perfect language-learning tool, but it certainly is addictive—if I don't soon peel myself off this couch, I'm going to miss the chance to take a morning walk before work. I used to walk to UVic, but these days when getting to work involves no more than a trek from the couch to the desk in my living room, I have to make a greater effort to get my stiff joints loosened up!

9:10 a.m. Turns out, I am a bit late, but my e-mail inbox has been waiting patiently waiting for me. I've got more than 350 Humanities and Fine Arts students in my program, and about a quarter of them are hoping to do a fall co-op. I get a little jolt of pleasure every time one of them lands a position!

10 a.m. I'm in the middle of work-site visits for the summer co-op students. I'm sending out a flurry of Zoom invitations—I miss the days when I was rushing to the bus to make my way to in-person meetings, but I'm glad that technology gives us another way to connect. Nearly all of my students are working remotely, and so are their supervisors. At 10:30, I'm meeting

with a student who's working as a junior policy analyst with a provincial government ministry.

11:30 a.m. The work-site visit goes well—both the student and the supervisor are happy. Students in the arts often underestimate what they bring to the workplace. He is learning that the writing, research, and critical-thinking skills he has developed in his degree are critical to success in this role.

12 p.m. It's lunch hour and I'm sneaking in a quick voice lesson over Skype. I would never have believed that you could learn much about singing on a videoconference, but it's not bad! I love this hobby and will not let COVID stop me—I'm never going to be a professional singer, but I love the challenge of giving it my best shot. I'm taking my Grade 7 Voice exam in a few months.

1 p.m. Back at my desk, I'm touching up a presentation for my Introduction to Professional Practice class, which all new co-op students take. I am getting ready to offer this class online for the first time this fall and am busy figuring out how to make our sessions as interactive as possible. Looks like I might need to learn more about breakout rooms ...

2 p.m. Another Zoom meeting, this time, with my colleagues. We are planning this fall's mock-interview clinic—like everything else this fall, it will be online. The silver lining is, we can include





interviewers from outside Victoria! That said, I'd better get on with sending out my invitations to the many great employers who help with this event—fall is fast approaching!

2:45 p.m. One Fine Arts student e-mails me to ask for a recommendation letter for a grant she and a local theatre company are applying for to fund her co-op next summer. Fingers crossed it works out!

3:30 p.m. Taking a break from Zoom meetings to pull stats from our co-op database. The Faculty of Humanities has a new goal: one in two students will participate in co-op over the next four years. We're getting there—COVID-19 may slow our progress, but so far, not as much as I'd feared!

4 p.m. Starting into an hour of virtual appointments with students—most of them are seeking advice on job applications and interviews. One student has just cancelled, so my mind is wandering to tomorrow morning's board meeting for ACE-WIL BC, the provincial association for co-operative education and

Allison Benner has a love of language, music—and helping students.

work-integrated learning. I've never done a strategic-planning session on Zoom—I'm curious to see how it goes!

5:20 p.m. Off to the grocery store now, on foot (I've never learned to drive and so far am managing all right on my two legs, supplemented by transit). Wait, did I remember to bring my mask? Got it! This seems like a good time to memorize the words of the French song I'm learning, but maybe I shouldn't do it out loud.

6:30 p.m. Who needs the gym when you can carry four bags of groceries home from Thrifty Foods? Time to enlist my 18-year-old daughter to unpack this stuff and get started on making one of my favourite tuna pasta dishes.

8:15 p.m. I'm watching a Greek tv show on YouTube. I'm no match for these folks—I'm maybe catching every third word.

9:45 p.m. Off to bed—I've got an early morning tomorrow!

Bottom line: I'm fortunate to work in a job where I'm helping to make a difference in people's lives. It can get pretty busy, but I do have enough time to enjoy my family and hobbies. †

Powerful Medicine

Stuart Hartsook (BCom '06) switched from banking after feeling a pull to become a physician.

We profile UVic alumni who recently made a bold life change

Name: STUART HARTSOOK

Age: 35

Hometown: I grew up in the sunny Okanagan valley town of Peachland, but moved to Victoria in 2002 to attend UVic and have lived here ever since.

UVic degree and year: Bachelor of Commerce, 2006, specializing in international business.

What I used to be: A banker and an assistant bank-branch manager.

Then I had the idea to: Do something completely different, take a complete career 180 and chase the dream of becoming a medical doctor.

Why I did it: From the very start of my professional life I felt like making a difference and having an impact on people was important. At a certain point, I felt banking could no longer provide this. For me, medicine was the perfect confluence of meaning, intellectual challenge and a new adventure into the unknown.

How I did it: While I had been thinking about making a major change for a while, one day I just took the plunge. I came home and told my wife I was leaving my job, exiting the banking industry and applying to medicine. I searched out and read all the books I could about medical education. I scoured the Internet for information on applying to medical schools. I leveraged everyone in my network connected to medicine for advice. And then I set to work studying. I left my comfort zone and returned to UVic to do two years of science education, including biology, chemistry, biochemistry, organic chemistry and physics. I studied for months on end for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). And then I applied to UBC Medicine and crossed my



fingers—and the rest is history. Now, over six years later, I am a medical doctor and halfway through the first of five years of a psychiatry residency.

What I love about my new life: Patients. The opportunity to make a fundamental, meaningful and lasting difference in someone's life. The excitement and variety of medicine. The constant journey of lifelong learning. And of course, my colleagues and fellow physician trainees—I can't say enough about them. I have worked with nurses, PhDs, social workers, ballet dancers, engineers, soldiers, naturopaths, scientists and so many other fascinating and caring individuals who have also felt the calling to make a life change into medicine.

What I miss about my old life: Predictability, nine-to-five hours, long vacations and, of course, all of my old co-workers.

One lesson learned: Just because you may feel pigeon-holed into one career area, never underestimate the transferability of your skills. The communication and team skills I honed in my commerce degree have served me very well in medicine.

One person who helped me: My wife Rachel Hartsook (BA '05, BEd '07), no question about it. She supported me financially and emotionally and was encouraging from Day One—regardless of how crazy my initial plan seemed.

One trade secret: Spend time working on aspects of yourself, including focusing on mind, body, and spirit before you can effectively help others. Self-care is the foundation of good medicine.

You can find me: At either one of the hospitals in Victoria, completing a variety of rotations in my first year of residency, including internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, neurology and a number of psychiatry electives. †

Funding Future Engineers

Michelle Mahovlich started the 30 by 30 Women in Engineering Award at UVic as a way to honour the promising futures and bright minds lost in the Montreal Massacre.

BY ANNE TOLSON, BA '87



MICHELLE MAHOVLICH in her Langford office, where she oversees construction and public works projects.

The terrible events of December 6, 1989, have always stood out in Michelle Mahovlich's mind. Over the past 30 years, Mahovlich's thoughts turned back, again and again, to the 14 young women who were shot to death at Montreal's École Polytechnique and to the paths they never had the chance to travel.

"I was doing undergrad when the massacre at École Polytechnique occurred, so it has always been very significant for me—because the women who were murdered were the same age as I was," says Mahovlich, who was studying geology in Ontario at the time. Mahovlich now works as Director of Engineering at the City of Langford, overseeing its public works and construction projects.

"It's one of those things that has always stood out in my life, especially in a field where there're not very many women," she says. "There are those of us who are privileged enough to have been able to practise in engineering, while those young women never got that chance."

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and, at the same time, recognize the 30 by 30 initiative of Engineers Canada, Mahovlich decided to establish an award for a young woman entering UVic Engineering.

The goal of the national 30 by 30 initiative is to raise the proportion of newly licensed engineers who are women to 30 per cent by the year 2030. Thirty per cent is universally held as the tipping point for sustainable change. Mahovlich recognizes some young women may still be intimidated about going into engineering, and hopes that the UVic 30 by 30 endowment will encourage and support more young women entering the field.

Mahovlich personally funded the first award in 2019. It was presented to first-year student Isabel Dinneny at a gathering of engineering faculty, alumni, industry partners and friends, many of whom contributed to the endowed award. Dinneny, who hopes to pursue a path in aerospace or automotive engineering, said the award has erased any doubts she had about entering engineering.

"I had some trepidation about choosing to enter a male-dominated field," she said at the event, "but this award has shown me that even in a field where I will often be a minority, there will always be people supporting me. Receiving this award represents a vote of confidence in the power of young women to make a positive difference in the world."

Thanks to generous support from businesses and individuals, it is now fully endowed and will fund an annual award in perpetuity. †

Donations to the 30 by 30 Women in Engineering Award are always welcome and will help the endowment—and in turn the annual amount recipients receive—grow. You can donate online (<https://extrweb.uvic.ca/donate-online/30-by-30-women-in-engineering-award>) or contact engrdev@uvic.ca

A version of this article first appeared in the Engineering and Computer Science News, November 2019



Project Add Sprinkles

Giving Tuesday is a global celebration of philanthropy that inspires people to support their favourite causes in any way they can. This year, the UVic Giving Tuesday sprinkles are coming back on December 1 and, for just 24 hours, the worldwide UVic community will be able to demonstrate their support for the university by giving back and paying it forward in Project Add Sprinkles. [Save the date and learn more here: www.uvic.ca/givingtuesday](https://www.uvic.ca/givingtuesday)

Human/Nature



Photographer **PAUL NICKLEN** (BSc '90, DSc '17) is known for taking our breath away with stunning images that pulse with the heartbeat of the wild world. Dr. Nicklen, already internationally renowned as a photographer for *National Geographic*, has added two more accolades to his many honours. He was

named as a Member of the Order of Canada for "his contributions as a leading nature photojournalist who has raised awareness of environmental issues in Canada and worldwide."

Earlier in 2019, he was named to the International Photography Hall of Fame, putting him alongside world luminaries such as Henri-Cartier Bresson, Yousuf Karsh and Dorothea Lange. Dr. Nicklen's bio on the Hall of Fame site notes: "Focusing on the polar regions, his evocative nature photography displays a deep reverence and sensitivity for the wildlife and environment of these most isolated, endangered places in the world."

Dr. Nicklen is also the co-founder of an ocean-conservation organization called SeaLegacy, which he started with his partner, Cristina Mittermeier. The organization aims to educate people about the state of oceans and to create lasting change. In 2017, Dr. Nicklen received an Honorary degree from UVic. The images above are reprinted with permission. †



Dawn Patrol, Northern Fjords, Norway, 2018. "As the first light of day breaks the horizon, a large male orca leads his pod into the fjords of northern Norway in the pursuit of herring," writes Nicklen. © Paul Nicklen Photography, Inc.

Face to Face, Svalbard, Norway, 2008. "Hungry bears become curious bears, a habit that often gets them in trouble. While I was waiting out a blizzard, I looked up and found this bear peering through the window of my tiny cabin. I opened the window to remind her that her nutrition must come from the sea. Face to face, she found my camera and smile of gratitude looking back at her." © Paul Nicklen Photography, Inc.

Find more of Paul Nicklen's work at paulnicklen.com

Class Notes

News and photos from around the alumni world

1950's

ROBERT "ROB" RATCLIFFE TAYLOR, VC '57, taught history at Brock University in Ontario for 34 years. He and his wife, Anne, "retired" back to Victoria, where he published *The Spencer Mansion: A House, a Home, and an Art Gallery*, and *The Ones Who Have to Pay: The Soldier-Poets of Victoria, BC in the Great War*. His most recent book is *The Birdcages: British Columbia's First Legislative Buildings*. He is currently researching the history of Cary Castle, BC's first government house.

1970's

LARRY ARKELL, BA '79, worked with children in a variety of different roles as a youth worker in group homes. Arkell worked as a youth-corrections officer in wilderness programs and as a child protection social worker for the BC provincial government. Since retiring from the government in 2003, he has spent time working with veterans and lecturing at schools and service and church groups through Historica Canada, an agency of the federal heritage ministry. In recognition of these efforts and service to country he

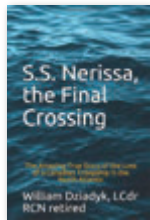


LARRY ARKELL

was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 from Queen Elizabeth II.

In 2016, he was awarded the title of Community History Ambassador from Historica Canada. Most recently, he was invested as a Knight in the Order of St. George, a 70-year-old order of Crusader Knights. The Order of St. George has a Christian foundation and links to the chivalric code, but "has grown to encompass people of many faiths, and maintains its timeless commitments to faithful service and to helping people in need." Info: www.orderstgeorge.ca

WILLIAM (BILL) DZIADYK,



BSc '71 (Physics), has recently published the historical non-fiction book, *S.S. Nerissa, the Final Crossing: The Amazing True Story of the Loss of a Canadian Troopship in the North Atlantic*. The *S.S. Nerissa* was the only ship transporting Canadian troops lost to enemy action during the Second World War. The details were highly classified until almost 50 years after the sinking. The tragic loss of this ship on April 30, 1941, resulted in the third largest loss of life for a ship sunk by U-boats in the approaches to the British Isles. The deaths of 81 Merchant Navy seamen; 100 Canadian, British and Norwegian forces; nine American Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) pilots and 17 civilian passengers touched Canadian and many families in the allied nations and then neutral United States. This book focuses on the events

which led up to the sinking by U-552 and the resulting public-relations dilemma on the Canadian homefront. Also included are eyewitness accounts from many of those who survived and some stories of those who perished. Much of the material is based on the analysis of testimony, recollections and official reports taken from survivors; and Canadian, British and German source documents that have since been declassified. The book is available via Amazon.ca.

LESLIE FIDDLER, BMus '79, has a fun question: do any *Torch* readers have a recipe for a cookie similar to one sold in the UVic Student Union Building called "the Big Boy?" Fiddler, who lives in Durham, North Carolina, has warm memories of the cookie, which she says "was a large (eight centimetre diameter) oatmeal cookie, no chocolate chips, and not overly sweet." She suggests it was made by Lifestream Bakery at the time and was available on campus at the SUB when she and her sister attended—1975 to 1982. If you know of these cookies or have a recipe, please drop us a line at torch@uvic.ca, and we'll let her know.

PETER HARRISON, MA '71, of Ottawa, has been named to the Order of Canada for his dedication to Canada's stewardship of the Arctic Ocean and to the enhancement of our role in Arctic and northern issues. Dr. Harrison, who holds a PhD from the University of Washington as well as a BA from the London School of Economics



PETER HARRISON

and Political Science is a professor emeritus in the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University and the former Stauffer-Dunning Chair and Director of the School (2009-2013). He joined SPS as the federal Skelton-Clark Fellow in 2008. Dr. Harrison is a geographer by profession. His research, writing and public speaking have focused on the management of the oceans, with particular reference to the Arctic Ocean and Canada's northern regions and peoples.

JANET NADINE MORT, BEd'73, MEd '78, PhD '07, of Brentwood Bay, has been named to the Order of British Columbia. Mort is an internationally acclaimed innovative literacy curriculum designer, author of two books, organizer and speaker at educational summits. She is responsible for the reading success of many vulnerable primary learners. The Order of BC investiture ceremony is postponed for 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. A ceremony will be held at Government House in 2021.

1980's

Hon. **ROY CULLEN**, P.C., MPA '88, has had his first novel, *A Cursed English*, published.



WILFRED JEFFERIES

WILFRED JEFFERIES, (BSc '81) has become the first Canadian immunologist to be elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Jefferies, a professor at the University of British Columbia, is known for innovative strategies and outstanding inventions that enable cancer immunotherapies and vaccines. Professor Jefferies joins a prestigious group of only 13 academic inventors in Canada to be elected as Fellows of the NAI. Jefferies is currently a Principal Investigator of the Michael Smith Laboratories at UBC.

1990's

TANIA JONES (BSc '92) was inducted into the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame in November 2019 in recognition of her 30-year track-and-field career. Jones was the 2002 Canadian Marathon Champion and represented Canada at the 2001 World Championships in Athletics. During her time as a



TANIA JONES

member of the Vikes, Jones was the 1992 CIAU Champion in the 3,000-metre and was on the 1988 Canadian record-setting 4x800m relay team with UVic Sports Hall of Famer's Silverado Socrates, Robyn Meagher and Trish Fougner (nee Wellmann). Jones and her husband, Colin Fidler (BA '90), live in Richmond Hill, Ontario, with their sons, Callum (age 16 years) and Christian (age 12 years). Colin works for IBM and Tania works for Janssen Pharmaceuticals. Jones continues to play an active role in the running community as a coach and volunteer.



JEFFREY LAIRD

JEFFREY LAIRD, BA '97, BEd '99, has been appointed Divisional Director of K-9 Education at Heritage Christian Online School, the largest distributed learning school in BC. He lives in Kamloops with his family.

Peter B. Gustavson School of Business professor **BRENT MAINPRIZE** (MBA '98) has been named a 2020 3M National Teaching Fellow, the fourth UVic scholar in six years to win the award. Mainprize is program director and co-founder of Tribal Resources Investment Corporation's ACE program, which offers fledgling Indigenous entrepreneurs hands-on teaching, coaching and mentorship in their home communities.

LAURIE GLENN NORRIS, MA,



History in Art, '99, recently published her third book and first novel. *Found Drowned* (Vagrant Press, 2019) is inspired by the disappearance of a young woman in 1870s rural Nova Scotia. This historical murder mystery has been described as "an engaging read, full of wit and intelligence."

HARRY SHELDON SWAIN, Honorary LLD '97, of Ottawa, was recently appointed to the Order of Canada for his years of public service and leadership, notably relating to Indigenous land claims and the environment.

WILLIAM VEENSTRA (LLB '90) has joined the Supreme Court of British Columbia as a judge. Justice Veenstra, raised in Vernon, has been active with the Canadian Bar Association for many years, including chairing the National Civil Litigation section, serving as the president of the BC branch and as a



WILLIAM VEENSTRA

member of the national board of directors. After graduating from UVic, Veenstra clerked with two justices at the BC Court of Appeal. He worked at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, then acted as associate counsel at Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP, where he specialized in civil litigation and arbitration.

LOUISE VOGLER, BA '95 (Pacific and Asian Studies, Chinese); BCom '95 (International Business), was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) during the school's 25th anniversary celebrations. Vogler is an Executive Master Business Administration (EMBA) grad from the class of 2010 and was one of eight alumni (out of more than 20,000 over the last 25 years) to receive this honour from EMBA. CEIBS is China's leading and Asia's largest business school and has a top-ranked EMBA program. Vogler is currently Managing Director, Head of Financial Institutions, Greater China Standard Chartered Bank in Shanghai.

JOHN WENSVEEN, BA '96, has transitioned from his former position as Vice Provost of Academic Schools at Miami Dade College, in Miami, Florida, to the new role of founding executive director and chief innovation



JOHN WENSVEEN

officer of the Nova Southeastern Broward Innovation Center at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

This position has oversight of a multi-million-dollar public/private partnership to develop and implement a world-class innovation centre to support the growing entrepreneurial ecosystem in Florida and beyond.

2000's

JULIE ANGUS, MSc '01, won the *BCBusiness* Women of Year Awards in the "Innovator" category. The new competition from *BCBusiness* honours exceptional leaders at businesses large and small throughout the province. Angus is co-founder and CEO of Open Ocean



JULIE ANGUS L to R: *University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson, Julie Angus, and University Chancellor Shelagh Rogers at the 2018 DAA Awards.*

Robotics, a company offering clean-tech solutions to gathering ocean data. Angus was also honored in 2018 with a UVic Distinguished Alumni Award, nominated by Libraries. Angus was the first woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean from mainland to mainland and receive the *National Geographic Adventurer of the Year* award.

CARYS CRAGG, BA'05, MA '08 (Child and Youth Care), recently published *Child and Youth Care in the Field: A Practicum Guidebook*. The publisher, Canadian Scholars' Press, writes: "The first of its kind, this practicum-specific resource serves as an accompanying guidebook for fieldwork, placement, or classroom instruction in child and youth care practice. Author Carys Cragg uses critical reflection to facilitate student learning and growth throughout the practicum experience and helps students expand their self-awareness."

Cragg is also the author of the memoir, *Dead Reckoning: How I Came To Meet the Man Who Murdered My Father*, which was a shortlisted finalist for the Governor General's Award for English-language non-fiction at the 2018 Governor General's Awards.

JASON DONALDSON, BFA '01, a Gulf Islands Secondary School teacher, has earned the highest acknowledgment of his peers, receiving the Association of BC Drama Educators award for Drama Teacher of the Year. ABCDE is the professional specialists' association representing theatre-arts teachers across the province. The annual award is for an

exemplary teacher who teaches K-12 and incorporates drama in and beyond the classroom.



LAURIN KELSEY

LAURIN KELSEY, BFA '07, graduated from the Theatre Department in design and recently worked as art director on the feature film *Brahms: The Boy II*, starring Katie Holmes. She was also the assistant art director on the new Netflix series, *The Baby-Sitters Club*, produced by Walden Media, streaming on Netflix. Additionally, she will be art directing a large new Netflix series (title still confidential), due to air later in 2020 or 2021. Since graduating, she's been a part of over 30 films/TV series and over 40 theatre productions in Canada and Europe.

DANIELLE MAKSIMOW, LLB '05, has been named to *Lexpert Magazine's* Rising Stars list of Top 40 Under 40. Maksimow is known as an emerging leader, advising Canadian banks and borrowers, insurance companies and other financial institutions on high-profile and complex financial matters in Canada and the United States. Maksimow is one of a few lawyers in Canada to have built a practice representing Canadian and American life-insurance companies that purchase notes from Canadian

issuers in the cross-border US private-placement market. "The Rising Star Award honours Maksimow's highly sought-after experience, drive and commitment to deliver efficient, comprehensive and consistent service to her sophisticated Canadian and US client base," reads the news release from Maksimow's company, Norton Rose Fulbright, a global law firm with an office in Calgary, where Maksimow is based.



EDÖSDI—JUDY THOMPSON

EDÖSDI—JUDY THOMPSON (MSc '05, PhD '12) has been named a 2020 3M National Teaching Fellow, the 14th University of Victoria scholar recognized with Canada's most prestigious award for excellence in leadership and teaching. Edödsi, whose name means "someone who is a teacher" in the Tahltan language, came to UVic in July 2019 from UNBC, where she was nominated for this award. A UVic associate professor of Indigenous education, she has built relationships with Indigenous communities, developed courses and programs to indigenize curriculum, decolonize teaching and provide supports for Indigenous learners. She is the fifth UVic scholar in six years to receive the award.

2010's

ALAINA BASKERVILLE-BRIDGES, BFA '18, wrote *Castle on the Farm*, a play that won Theatre BC's Best One-Act Play of 2018.



BOMA BROWN

BOMA BROWN, BA '14, has received a BC Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Award. Brown's work includes founding the Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Colour. While on campus, she served as a UVic Student Ambassador and helped to start up the De-Stress Fest and Puppy Playtime.

"It is humbling to be recognized with this award, but I'm more excited that it puts a spotlight on important equity work being done in the community," says Brown. "I am a proud member of the University of Victoria alumni family, and I'm really grateful to the staff at

Alumni Relations for being so supportive over the years."

Brown received the Emerging Leader Award on May 27 through a livestream ceremony.



SANDRA FREY with wildlife camera in Willmore Wilderness Park, AB.

SANDRA FREY (BSc '13, MSc '18) has received the Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation in a master's program—for her breakthrough work with wildlife-camera data collection. She used the data collected from wildlife-cameras to show how animal behaviour patterns change when people disturb their habitats, information that can ultimately be used as an early-warning system to detect and prevent wildlife decline and manage land-use policies.

Frey has applied her research skills to her work with the Urban Deer Research Project. She posted 39 wildlife camera-traps around Oak Bay to monitor urban deer. Frey's cameras are on private and

public property and triggered by motion and heat. She joined the Urban Deer Research Project in 2018 when they installed GPS trackers on 20 does and then collared another 60 does in 2019, which were also given an immuno-contraception booster. †

What's New With You?

Be in the next **Class Notes**. Send news and photos to: torch@uvic.ca



2020 UVic Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

On February 4, we celebrated our 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients with a ceremony led by UVic Alumni Association Brian Cant (BA '03, Cert '03, MBA '18) in a reception held in the Student Union Building.

Back row, left to right: Sybil Verch, BCom '97 (Business); Richard Van Camp, BA '97 (Fine Arts); Kasari Govender, LLB '04 (Law); Robert "Lucky" Budd, BA '00, MA '05 (Humanities); Honorable Madam Justice Jennifer Power, BA '83, LLB '86 (Social Sciences and Law); Jason Dewinetz, BA '00 (Libraries); Gerald Thompson, Cert '95 (Continuing Studies).

Front row: Kirsten Peck, BEng '93 (Engineering); Dr. Prabha Ibrahim, PhD '89, (Chemistry); Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, PhD '89 (Chemistry); Leah Hollins, BSN '89, (Human and Social Development); Wendy-Sue Andrew, BEd '85 (Education).

Farewell

VIOLET JEAN BAIN (née **ANDERSON**), Normal School

'48, (March 5, 1920–August 4, 2020) passed away peacefully after reaching 100. She is survived by daughters Lynne (Robert), Lesley (Rod) and Jill (Bill);

grandchildren Thomas, Lucy, Gina and Myles; plus sister Norma Arnett and nephews Christopher and Stephen. She was ardently engaged in social and political

issues and committed to the fight for social justice. After graduation from UBC, Bain became a social worker, marrying her college sweetheart, Archie Bain, on

Christmas Eve in 1942. The couple moved to Central Saanich in the early 1950s, where Bain balanced the demands of social work and motherhood with a rich social life with a large community of friends who shared her interests in music, culture and travel.

THOMAS REGINALD

CLEUGH, Victoria College '59; BSc '64, passed away on Aug. 17, 2020. His daughter, Janis Cleugh (BA '93), writes:

"We are devastated to lose our gentle, kind and thoughtful husband, dad, grandfather and best friend. Predeceased by his parents, Thomas Ford Cleugh and Doris (Pattison) Cleugh, Tom is survived by his wife of 53 years, Barbara (Mercer) Cleugh, of Port Coquitlam; daughters Janis Cleugh of Coquitlam and Heather (Jeffrey) Cox of Shawnigan Lake; grandchildren Jenelle and Alisa Cox and Julianne and Fraser Warren; and nephews and nieces. Born in 1940 in Edmonton, Tom was an alumnus of UVic's first graduating class and a registered professional biologist. He started at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo before moving to Winnipeg—and later Vancouver—to work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

"Tom also co-owned Powell's Men's Wear in Duncan. He was employed at the Crofton pulp mill and later set up TRC Biological Consulting Ltd., in which he led environmental protection programs. A worshipful master of the Masonic Temple Lodge #33, Tom was a true nature lover and spent much of his time gardening, collecting stamps and coins, studying our family's genealogy and travelling

the world. His grandchildren were his pride and joy. Donations can be sent in his memory to the BC Cancer Foundation: bccancerfoundation.com. Condolences can be made online via Burkeview Chapel: firstmemorialportcoquitlam.com."



JOHN WENSVEEN AND DR. LARRY MCCANN

Dr. **LAWRENCE (LARRY) MCCANN** (1945–2020), UVic Department of Geography, (Professor Emeritus)

Dr. John Wensveen, BA '96, Chief Innovation Officer & Executive Director, NSU Broward Center of Innovation, Nova Southeastern University, writes:

"*Gratitude. Yes, gratitude, plain and simple.* These were some of the last words written to me in a letter from my mentor, Dr. Larry McCann, in which he expressed his gratitude. In November 2017, I was fortunate to introduce Dr. McCann at the Planning Institute of British Columbia's (PIBC) annual gala where he became an honorary member to mark his significant research and many contributions to Canadian society.

"Being a professor was Dr. McCann's dream career. Geography opened so many avenues of creative endeavors including teaching, research, community service and

photography. His greatest enjoyment came from sharing knowledge with students who were eager to learn, think critically and engage the urban landscape.

"Dr. McCann helped me find inspiration and he assisted in charting a course that ultimately led to my professional success. Dr. McCann was the one professor who took an active interest and let me pursue ideas outside of traditional norms. I made mistakes along the way, and my mentor taught me that failures are challenges resulting in opportunities. When I was down, he picked me up, kicked me in the pants and showed me a path to conquer the obstacles I faced.

"After my graduation from UVic, we remained good friends, and I will always consider him a valued mentor. To this day, tears spring to my eyes when I remember sharing the dinner table with him at the PIBC event. I reminded Dr. McCann about his influence on the lives of the students, and I thanked him for being such a great teacher.

"He turned to me and said, 'John, I was once your teacher, and now, you are mine.' He was proud of my accomplishments and was impressed by my seemingly boundless energy, thoughtful planning and remarkable insight. These are the kind sentiments Dr. McCann shared with me in his final letter.

"A copy of Dr. McCann's book, *Imagining Uplands: John Olmsted's Masterpiece of Residential Design* sits on my office book shelf, and I look at the cover every day. It reminds me of his positive influence—which will

continue through his research and publications.

"The legacy of Dr. McCann will live on, and I look forward to the day we meet again."



DAVID RAVENHILL

DAVID RAVENHILL, BEd '87, passed away on July 21, 2020, at the age of 57. Ravenhill was a local soccer legend, well known in Greater Victoria as a teacher, elite athlete, coach and member of the community. Ravenhill was the teacher/coordinator and a coach in the Reynolds Secondary's soccer academy as well as at the Vancouver Island Wave and Bays United. He played for the University of Victoria Vikes men's soccer team, as a professional for the Victoria Vistas, led Gorge FC on a national and provincial run starting in 2001, and was part of the UVic alumni soccer team. His sons, Adam and Andrew, both followed in his footsteps as star players on the Vikes soccer team. He is survived by his sons and his wife, Karen. †

Work in progress

Jonathan Carr is constantly learning in his role as teacher and listens more than he speaks.

BY JONATHAN CARR, BSc '10, BEd '12

Since I was young, I knew that teaching was going to be part of my life. I would set up a pretend classroom to teach my little sister. At dinners, I implemented tests on family trivia. I even kept a progress report on everyone's scores. I also loved filmmaking and baseball, which are now hobbies that balance my life. My career—and my purpose—is in teaching.

I grew up as a visitor on Coast Salish lands of the Lekwungun-speaking peoples, and recently moved farther west, spending most of my time on T'Sou-ke, Sc'ianew and Pacheedaht Nation's territories. I first worked with the W̱SÁNEĆ, where I learned to sing and drum a few of their traditional songs with students, teachers and Elders. I'll never forget making a drum and learning the tradition of giving away the first one made. I presented it to my grandmother.

Since graduating from the University of Victoria with a BSc in 2010 and a BEd in 2012, and also earning a master's degree, I've served in a variety of roles with Indigenous communities, both on-reserve and off-reserve, in international urban centres and remote towns, as an Aboriginal Education literacy instructor, classroom teacher, enhancement-agreement coordinator, principal and vice-principal, and even in a classroom overseas. I've learned to listen and observe more than I speak. Learning some of the languages of the people—SENĆOŦEN, Kwakwaka, Michif and Hul'q'umi'num'—went a long way in showing respect and reciprocity for the community.

The lessons I learned along the way were never easy at the moment. But they taught me that mistakes are opportunities to listen, reflect and grow. When we grow, we show respect and build relationships. Relationships lead to rapport. Relationships lead to support. We can create healthy student-teacher relationships by making connections and through sharing stories and humour. We can balance love with boundaries and accountability. Remember that all our students are someone's child. Bridge the gap between the learning environment and the home environment.

If a family doesn't have access to internet, I may reach out to them with a phone call, or a written note. I may invite them into the school. The positive connections with our families and community



can be felt more widely than we may think. The energy of every interaction can be felt—whether positive, neutral or negative—down a chain of connections. I let families know I noticed their child.

I've stumbled at times. Each Nation has its own histories and stories, and I once assumed that a story from one Nation would fit the territory on which I taught. When we were learning about early civilizations and the movement of people through Earth's time periods, my Indigenous students pointed out that I hadn't specifically acknowledged their people's traditional creation story. Later that month, I consulted with the community to find the appropriate Elder to tell the story to the class.

School did not prepare me for difficult or uncomfortable conversations. I learned that I am not here to "fix"—no one is. I am here to listen, acknowledge, and honour another's truths within that uncomfortable yet healing space.

Educators are helping to create a new path after generations of oppression against Indigenous people. We are in the very early stages of this. As educators, we are also helping to lead parents, families and communities, as well as the next generations to come. It takes courage for us to move forward with education, reconciliation and building a future for our children. Each emotional experience can change attitudes.

Don't lose hope, even in the most challenging situation, confrontation or conversation: If this isn't the time, when will it ever be?

Thank-you, Hych'ka, Klecoo! Klecoo! Gilakas'la, Marsee! †



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Building Bridges with Bhutan

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN WOODS

The University of Victoria's Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) and Faculty of Law have forged a relationship with the first law school in the Himalayan nation of Bhutan.

The agreement, finalized at a conference in Bhutan last year, allows for academic and cultural exchange in the areas of legal education and research. In this photo by CAPI's Jonathan Woods (BSc '05) a group of law students from Bhutan, who attended the conference as observers, pose by the venue gates.



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