



2019 UVIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS



February 5 | Songhees Wellness Centre

WELCOME

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are always a highlight of Alumni Week because of the pride and inspiration that each recipient instills in us as fellow members of the alumni family.

On behalf of the UVic Alumni Association, I congratulate tonight's recipients on your well-earned recognition, your dedication to your work and to your communities, and for the exemplary leadership you show to our students—the next generation of alumni.

I also wish to thank the deans, faculty and staff of each of the university faculties and divisions—along with the UVic Libraries—for their valued partnership in presenting these prestigious awards.

And thank you to everyone in attendance tonight for helping us celebrate such incredible alumni and for supporting our university.

Sincerely

Peter Jong, Cert '02, BSc '03, Dipl '03
President, UVic Alumni Association



Business

Scott Butler, BCom '98

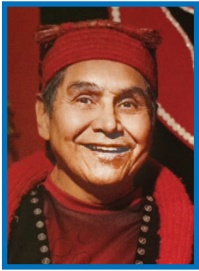
Scott Butler is president of Highstreet Ventures Inc., a Kelowna-based company with a core purpose to responsibly develop smarter real estate. Highstreet primarily develops, builds, sells, and operates condo-quality apartments. The team has made a massive investment in solar energy and green building initiatives in their communities with a vision to own and operate \$200 million in net-zero real estate by the end of 2024. Butler's adventure started in 2005 when he and his wife, Melissa, left comfortable positions at WestJet for the thrill of starting a business together. Highstreet has developed in 27 communities to date and now has a talented team of over 40 employees.



Continuing Studies

Wendy Kotilla, Dipl '01

In 2004, Wendy Kotilla founded the Youth and Ecological Restoration program to help vulnerable youth by providing one-on-one work experience through ecological restoration methods, ecotherapy practices and mentoring support. Kotilla graduated with the University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, Restoration of Natural Systems Diploma in 2001. She also holds both Mediation and Negotiation Certificates from the Justice Institute of BC. After 20 years of service, she was elected Fellow of the Comox Valley Community Justice Centre in 2018.



Education

Alex Nelson, BA '98

Alex Nelson is a proud member of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw First Nations in Kingcome Inlet, BC. Nelson is the past Executive Director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and helped create the Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Association of BC. He is a founder of the Aboriginal Sports Circle and was three-time president of the North American Indigenous Games Council. One of his proudest moments was bringing the 1997 North American Indigenous Games to Victoria. He is currently an Elder and Senior Advisor to the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council. He has been inducted into the Victoria Sports Hall of Fame and the BC Sports Hall of Fame.



Engineering

Shaan Pruden, BSc '83

Shaan Pruden has worked at Apple since 1989 and is heralded as one of the most powerful women in the company. She is now the Senior Director of Partnership Management, where she supports the developers making products for the App Store. She is a founding and charter member of C100, a non-profit association of Canadian thought leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area committed to supporting and accelerating the innovation economy in Canada. Pruden graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Mathematics in 1983. Pruden lives in San Jose, California.



Fine Arts

Nathan Medd, BFA '01

Nathan Medd is a cultural non-profit leader whose work is devoted to developing the performing arts in Canada. As managing director of English Theatre at Canada's National Arts Centre, Medd's team successfully championed Canadian creators and initiated a new national stage for Indigenous performance that will launch this year. As managing producer of Electric Company, he produced original works for the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and co-founded East Vancouver's Progress Lab performing arts creation studio in 2009. In Victoria, he worked for Intrepid Theatre, where he co-founded Metro Studio—a flagship venue for Vancouver Island—and held positions with both the Belfry Theatre and the BC Arts Council. Medd is now the managing director of performing arts for the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, the nation's largest arts training institution and incubator of new works.



Human and Social Development

Griffin R. Russell, BA '07, MPH '15

Griffin Russell is the Regional Harm Reduction Coordinator for Island Health. He has 20 years of professional experience in health care, focused primarily on mental health and substance-use services, with theoretical roots in attachment theory, harm reduction, health-centred care, resilience and trauma-informed practice. Russell was awarded the Health Care Hero Golden Apple award in 2017, as nominated by his peers for advancing localized responses to the opioid overdose crisis on Vancouver Island. Russell completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child & Youth Care in 2007 at the University of Victoria. He returned to UVic in 2013 to complete a Masters of Public Health in the School of Public Health & Social Policy.





Humanities

Barry Gough, VC '57

Barry Gough, one of Canada's leading historians, is the author of many prize-winning and critically acclaimed histories dealing with the Royal Navy and the British Empire. Gough's works include *Fortune's a River: The Collision of Empires in Northwest America* (Harbour, 2007), which won the John Lyman Book Award for best Canadian naval and maritime history. His *Pax Britannica* (2015) won the Mountbatten Maritime Award for literary excellence. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Fellow of King's College London and Life Member of the Association of Canadian Studies. He has been awarded a Doctor of Letters for distinguished contributions to Imperial and Commonwealth history. In 2016, he was named Honorary President of the BC Historical Federation.



Law

Valerie Jepson, LLB '01

Valerie Jepson is the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Toronto, responsible for overseeing the Code of Conduct in place for all elected and appointed officials. She provides advice about meeting the Code's standards and carries out investigations when allegations of misconduct are made. She previously held the position of Counsel to the Integrity Commissioner for the Province of Ontario. In November 2018, Jepson was awarded the Society of Adjudicators and Regulators (SOAR) Medal. Prior to her position with the Ontario Integrity Commissioner's office, Jepson practiced as a litigator in the private sector for law firms in Calgary and Toronto.



Library

Nella Nelson, BA '76

Nella Nelson has worked for the Greater Victoria School District for close to 40 years, and is currently district administrator for the Aboriginal Nations Education Division. Nella is a member of the Tsawataineuk of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation and is originally from the 'Namgis Nation of Alert Bay. Nella and her husband, Alex (also a DAA recipient), have nurtured and cared for 30 First Nations young people from their home communities of Alert Bay and Kingcome Inlet and presented widely on suicide and personal healing. Nella serves on provincial, college, university, community boards and advisory committees to improve aboriginal health, safety and education. Nella has received many awards, including the Queen's 125 Commemorative Medal, YM/YWCA Women of Distinction, Camosun's Distinguished Alumni, and Excellence in Cultural Heritage & Diversity.



Science

Shawn Stebbins, BSc '84

Shawn Stebbins is the President and CEO of Archipelago Marine Research. His career spans three decades of working with commercial fisheries to improve resource sustainability through effective monitoring and management. He has helped to implement ground-breaking resource-management initiatives, including British Columbia's world-class groundfish fisheries monitoring program—considered to be among the most progressive and effective in the world. Stebbins supports the Gustavson School of Business through membership in the mentor program as well as supporting the continued advancement of Victoria's technology sector through a range of organizations, including VIATEC and ACETECH.





Social Sciences

Kevin Orr, BA '02

Kevin Orr is a visionary intrapreneur and social inventor. He is currently Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of Winner Medical Group. He achieved his successful career in medical device and consumer health business through transformation from traditional supply chain into digitalization in smart-value chain and omni-channel retailing. Orr has been proactive for innovation and technology in medical devices, gerontechnology, artificial intelligence and robotics, and has been awarded a gold medal award at the "Eureka Brussels." Based in Hong Kong, Orr supports his local and global community through various social-innovation programs in youth development, sustainable cotton development, elderly care and public health.

February 1–7 | 2019

ALUMNI WEEK



- Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Vikes for Life Basketball Night
- In Conversation with Chancellor Shelagh Rogers & Giller-prize winning novelist Esi Edugyan, BA '99
- Art exhibits, lectures, Flashback Foto contest and more!

Register at alumni.uvic.ca



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