

# UVIC TORCH

## NEW ENERGY

Boma Brown is one of the many UVic grads working for a better, greener, more equitable future.

## ON CAMPUS

### Light Work

University of Victoria alumna and civil engineering instructor **CLAIRE REMINGTON** (MAsc Civil Engineering '20) practises delivering a problem set on a lightboard for an upper-level course on solid waste, air and water pollution.

The lightboard enlivens online classes. Ultra-clearglass is pumped full of light and software provides a mirror image. The board allows instructors to face students during pre-recorded lectures, while their calculations, made with a neon marker, glow in front of them.

Photo by Armando Tura







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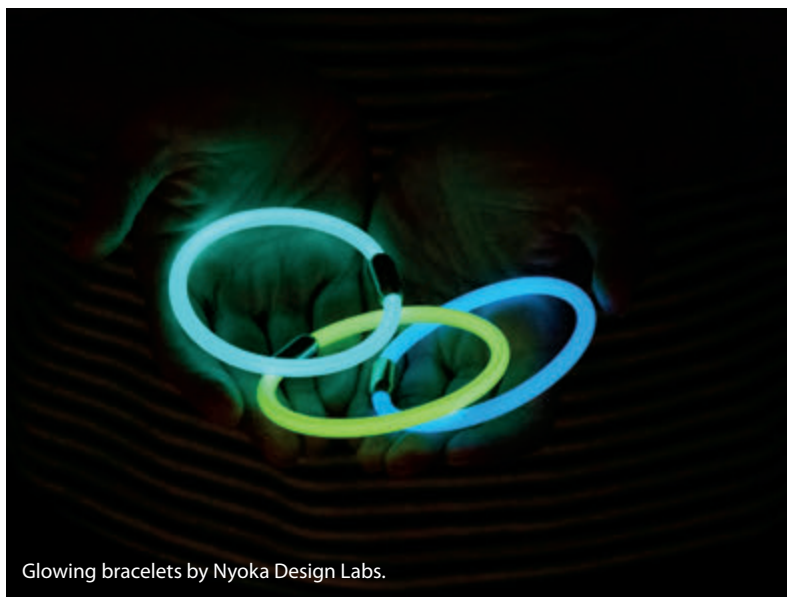
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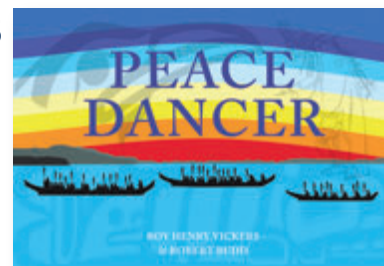
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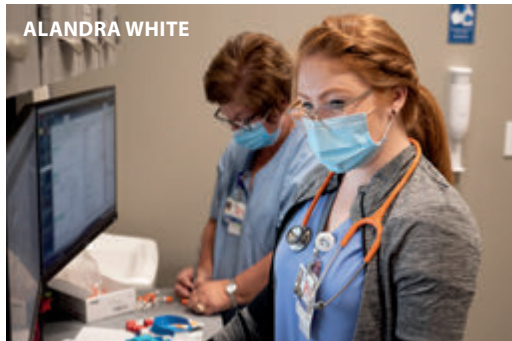




## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Falling in love with research

BY JENNY MANZER, BA '97



ALANDRA WHITE

On most work days Alandra White, like many Canadians, gets in her car, drives to Tim Hortons, and buys coffee for herself and a co-worker—they take turns. Unlike many of us, White crosses an international border to reach her workplace—the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan.

White, 29, is part of a team working on clinical trials for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. White is a double degree University of Victoria co-op student earning her Master of Nursing and a Master of Science in Health Informatics. White has been at Henry Ford, a top US institution, for four years, having started at the Intensive Care Unit there.

White enjoys caring for patients but has also discovered her passion for informatics. She is excited by the possibilities opened up by data and the rapid pace of COVID-vaccine development. She is energized by the innovation unlocked by the pandemic—for example, the way patients enrolled in the trials use e-diaries to record their experiences.

White, like many of her colleagues, has lived through job stress, heartache and loss. Early on, she had to face the negative feelings from some in her Windsor, Ontario community directed to workers who were crossing the border. She lives just 12 kilometers from the hospital—yet in some ways it's a different world.


White is proud that the trials include patients from within the Detroit community. She tends to patients in the clinic, helps with the consent process, works on data analysis and follows up on blood work—whatever is required that day.

The work is long and exhausting, but one memory in particular drives her. “The experience of COVID in the ICU last year was quite a negative one. It was very scary,” she recalls, speaking from her home in Windsor just after finishing a shift.

White was working in the ICU at Henry Ford in spring of 2020. Loved ones were not allowed to visit, and White remembers one sweet, elderly woman who was very sick and utterly isolated. White held the phone for the woman's relatives as they said goodbye. That experience was repeated again in the ICU—but the memory of that one elderly woman dying alone has never left White.

While she experiences the tragedy of the pandemic up close, she also sees the astounding potential of technology to improve and save lives. As a nurse and double-major student, she has almost no down time. She draws energy and solace from her lovable Samoyed, Chinook, and her fiancé, Logan. She also has another love in her daily life: informatics. “I absolutely love research,” she says. “I definitely believe health information can help improve outcomes in underserved areas.”

Working in nursing, she was continually frustrated by the changes in information systems. She decided to become part of the solution—by learning more about information use and efficiency. “The informatics world is really kind of a strange one, and there is not a lot of representation from nursing in it.”

Meanwhile, it's a struggle to keep up the pace of the clinical-trial team. That Tim Hortons coffee (with the newer or older lids, depending on whether she or her American colleague bought it) and her own commitment keeps her going. 

TORCH



ADDRESS UPDATES  
AND CORRECTIONS  
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## LETTERS

The *Torch* welcomes mail from readers who wish to comment on anything they've read in the magazine. Correspondence may be edited for clarity and length prior to publication.

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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

# Turning our Attention Forward

**Future plans include establishing a network of innovation hubs that will provide UVic students, faculty, alumni and partners with support and resources.**

BY KEVIN HALL, PHD • PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR



“UVic’s off-campus connections will help us develop a stronger vision for the university.”

Over the first six months of my time as president of the University of Victoria, I have engaged with over 3,000 members of the UVic community as part of my President’s Listening Tour, including a dynamic cross-section of our accomplished alumni. My listening tour has been instrumental in helping me learn about UVic’s culture, opportunities and challenges.

As alumni, you are important members of the UVic family and some of our best ambassadors. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to engage with you so early in my term as UVic’s president. Understanding your priorities, and how we can improve UVic’s off-campus connections, will help us develop a stronger vision for the university.

## DISCOVERING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

Universities have a responsibility to support the communities in which we live and work, and as we emerge from the pandemic, it’s time to turn our collective attention forward.

Universities are critical to the health and prosperity of our society. We prepare our future workforce; undertake transformational research and share our collective knowledge; develop innovative technologies that support sustainable futures; and engage collaboratively on vital issues that are affecting people and the planet.

COVID-19 has brought many societal problems to the forefront, and we have a duty to use our knowledge and resources to respond to these challenges. As engaged citizens, UVic graduates have the ability and drive to create the social, environmental and economic changes that will be required for our communal recovery from COVID-19, and I am convinced you are up to this challenge.

The need for life-long learning has become clear throughout the pandemic as we all have had to adapt and change in ways none of us could have predicted. We have heard from our alumni that you are looking to UVic for improved access to educational opportunities, mentoring and career supports. I am pleased to share a few of the exciting new approaches and partnerships we are exploring at UVic.

We are working with Royal Roads University and Camosun College to explore increased opportunities for micro-credentials—or short, professional programs that combine academic rigour with applied practice—that will support career growth within the rapidly changing knowledge economy and respond to the many ways that work and education are changing during and after the pandemic.

We are establishing a network of innovation hubs that will provide UVic students, faculty, alumni and partners with the support, resources and space to co-create innovative solutions to some of the world’s significant challenges. The first hub launches later this year—look for news on “UVic KWENCH.”

UVic is positioned to contribute leadership and expertise to local initiatives that support community resilience, and our alumni are essential to the success of these endeavours. With close to 140,000 graduates living and working in more than 140 countries, there is tremendous potential for UVic alumni to make a significant impact on the health and well-being of the places you live and work.

## A CONTINUED CONNECTION

As president, I want to ensure that our relationship with alumni is a productive, two-way partnership—and I’d like to hear from you.

I want to know what you need from us. How can UVic support our alumni at every stage of your lives and careers? How can we celebrate your achievements—both the monumental and the everyday? How do you feel connected to UVic and what would help you feel more engaged?

I also want to know more about you and how you’d like to be involved. How can we tap into the enormous well of expertise within our alumni? What unique talents, perspectives and skills do our alumni have that you think the university could benefit from? What advice or support would you like to share with our current students?

I look forward to hearing from you—please reach out with any ideas you’d like to share through my suggestion box: [uvic.ca/suggestionbox](https://uvic.ca/suggestionbox).



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## Today, 34 UVic alumni can thank Frank for their degrees.

Frank Williams did not consider himself a wealthy person. He was a Victoria College alumnus who received financial assistance from a caring community member to pay for his education. Frank believed enough in the power of education and giving back to leave a gift to UVic students in his Will.

### Who will tomorrow's students thank?

Find out how you can support UVic students through a gift in your Will:

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[uvic.ca/legacygiving](http://uvic.ca/legacygiving)







## RINGSIDE

# UVic Climate Plan Underlines Action

BY MICHAEL KISSINGER, BED '94



**T**he university's much anticipated Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) will guide UVic's integrated sustainability practices in every domain—from research and education to community engagement and campus operations—while respecting, valuing and incorporating Indigenous voices and input in the process.

The plan's Strategic Framework provides a commitment for the university to be a global leader in environmental, social and institutional sustainability while being well positioned to respond to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and the Paris Agreement by offering ambitious, creative and integrated climate solutions.

It's a tall order but a necessary one that's already underway with campus-wide engagement taking place over the spring and the beginning of accelerated actions, such as February's Living Lands event, billed as "a special online campus conversation on Indigenous approaches to climate solutions, sustainability and well-being." The virtual talk, which was sponsored by the Climate Solutions Navigator (CSN), attracted more than 600 participants. The UVic community is invited to participate in an online survey and idea board ([uviccsap.ca](http://uviccsap.ca)).

Over the summer, working groups will focus planning areas for targets, goals and actions. Come fall, campus and community engagement will con-

tinue and be summarized in a public report before a review of the draft plan takes place over the winter. The completion of the final plan is slated for spring 2022.

"UVic's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) is part of the many years of commitment and work by the UVic community, including students past and present," says Cynthia Milton, Co-Chair, Climate and Sustainability Action Plan and Associate Vice-President Research. "This solid foundation is what makes it possible for UVic to play an important global and local leadership role. As a university, UVic should lead by example, and we will need alumni's continued support and creativity to do so for transformative actions." †

**For more information on CSAP and how to get involved, go to [uviccsap.ca](http://uviccsap.ca).**





## RINGSIDE

# Student Joins Vaccination Effort

UVic Nursing student **Megan Fraser** seized an opportunity to contribute to a drive-through vaccination clinic for Cowichan Tribes.

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT



**M**egan Fraser started a three-month nursing practicum with the Cowichan Tribes' Ts'ewulhtun Health Centre on Jan. 12 and worked her first drive-through vaccination clinic the very next day.

"The people and staff at Cowichan Tribes were warm and welcoming," she says. "We were sorting out the logistical pieces, purchasing supplies, organizing equipment, securing sandbags so our tents wouldn't blow away." Cowichan Tribes installed and equipped 10 such shelters to serve as vaccine-injection sites.

Hundreds of people came through on each clinic day, arriving by car, bus or on foot. "It was a very quick way to jump into a real nursing experience—with both feet," says Fraser.

Fraser was supported by supervisor Amber Macadam (BSc in Nursing '11), pandemic response logistical lead and a UVic nursing grad, as well as Leanne Kelly (MN '00), an alumna who has worked for Cowichan Tribes for 25 years and is now

an assistant teaching professor at UVic leading nursing courses with a First Nations focus.

Caring for people runs in her family. Her grandfather was a noted family doctor. Her mother, grandmother and great grandmother were also RNs.

Yet her greatest influence was her sister, who died in 2019 after a 14-year battle with a rare form of cancer. "She went through a lot," says Fraser, adding that quality of life becomes a very real consideration when you are advocating for someone you love.

"I forged some pretty strong values on the care people deserve because of my experience caring for my sister—who was also a daughter, a wife and a mother." †

## Indigenous Input on Climate Solutions

In February, four local Indigenous knowledge holders gathered for a special online campus conversation on Indigenous approaches to climate solutions, sustainability and well-being. The event, "Living Lands and Indigenous Climate Solutions: Responsibilities beyond Territorial Acknowledgements," was sponsored by the Climate Solutions Navigator (CSN) and one of the first accelerated actions supporting UVic's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

Speakers included Cheryl Bryce, a community researcher and educator from the Songhees First Nation; ŚW,XELOSELWET Tiffany Joseph, an educator, writer and young knowledge carrier (Sḵxwu7mesh and WSÁNEĆ); Marilyn Olsen-Page, a respected knowledge carrier from the WSÁNEĆ Nation; and Kekinusuqs, Judith Sayers, a long-time Indigenous rights and sustainable development advocate from Hupacasath First Nation and an adjunct professor at UVic's Peter B. Gustavson School of Business.

"The power of their words is still resonating with me and I'm still taking to heart some of the things that they said," says the event's facilitator, Jeff Corntassel, of the Cherokee Nation. "I really want to make sure those words aren't forgotten, and this event is really a starting point of the discussion."

Corntassel, an associate professor with the Indigenous Studies Program and acting director of UVic's Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE), says the event came together after discussions on climate actions at the Climate Solutions Navigator virtual table and supports the intention to centre Indigenous voices in the process of developing the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

"I thought 'What better way to do that than have a public event that centres the voices of four Indigenous women who are from First Nations that are coastal and regional and really to amplify their voices and to provide them with a forum to set the tone for our subsequent discussions?'"



JEFF CORNTASSEL

– Michael Kissinger, BEd '94





# Bold Type

UVic's newest president, Dr. **Kevin Hall**, is an energetic innovator and a civil engineer with a deep commitment to the environment, reconciliation and widening the pathways to university.

BY JODY PATERSON



**KEVIN HALL** is action-oriented and has started his tenure engaged in active listening.

**F**or as long as he can remember, Kevin Hall has been guided by the belief that getting a university education can change everything about a person's life. As the University of Victoria's eighth president, he's looking forward to finding new ways to apply that tenet at UVic.

His parents' unfailing belief in the importance of university was what brought Hall and his three siblings to Canada from Brighton, England in the 1960s.

"My parents were from the wrong class in the UK for their children to be able to go to university, so they moved us all to Peterborough, ON, to give us that opportunity," says Hall, who took office in November of 2020.

When Hall started in civil engineering at Queen's University in Kingston, ON in the 1970s he was the first in his family to go to

university. But he definitely wasn't the last: The four siblings—all of whom are now professors or teachers—collectively hold four bachelor's, three master's degrees and two PhDs.

Hall's mother Vivienne Bough ("The smartest person I ever met") worked as a secretary at a university for years before enrolling as a mature student, ultimately earning a bachelor's and then a master's degree in history. Yet all these years later, attending university still remains elusive for a majority of Canadians.

"Thirty-five per cent of Canadians go to university. That statistic has not changed in 20 years," says Hall. "At UVic, the majority of our students come directly from high school, many of them coming from more privileged backgrounds. How do we make university more accessible to everyone? How can we create more entry points through enabling pathways?"





### ACTION-ORIENTED ENTREPRENEUR

Hall comes to UVic from the University of Newcastle in Newcastle, Australia, where he was vice-president and senior deputy vice-chancellor for global engagement and partnerships. The team at Newcastle has worked for years to provide “enabling pathways” that support people from all walks of life and circumstances in building the skills to ready them for university.

Hall considers this vital work, emphasizing that going to university is a game changer. “Education has been a slingshot for me. It is for everyone.”

Hall is a polymath whose career has taken various turns through academic, business and international-development sectors. After graduating from Queen’s with his master’s degree, he launched his own business as a civil engineer specializing in coastal environments. He later earned his PhD at the University of New South Wales and started his academic career a few years later at his Kingston alma mater.

Hall holds patents for automated and affordable technology for detecting water-borne pathogens, which he invented two decades ago after the tainted-water disaster in Walkerton, ON killed seven people and sickened 2,300. He has developed simple water treatment for Indigenous communities and low-income countries in Africa, Southeast Asia and South America. He remains active in research work, though these days he serves as a mentor and co-supervisor.

Michael Nilsson, a Newcastle colleague and friend of Hall’s, says UVic has landed a president with multiple strengths who is brilliant at spotting opportunities and committed to collaboration. Nilsson and Hall arrived at Newcastle within six months of each other in 2012, and a friendship developed as they worked together on a number of international initiatives.

“Kevin is innovative, business-minded, hard-working and passionate—and an absolutely lovely, fun guy to be with,” says Nilsson, Director for the Centre of Rehab Innovations at Newcastle. “He inherently looks for opportunities. We share that, I think, being open to opportunities when they present themselves. Kevin is a change agent.”

### ATHLETE AND EXTROVERT

Hall is a triathlete who competed at the national level for Canada. He wakes up every day at 5 a.m. to work out for at least an hour. He’s a musician who plays guitar, piano and drums, and is eagerly awaiting the post-COVID return of Greater Victoria’s renowned live music scene. He is also the father of two adult children.

Taking office during a global pandemic has had its challenges, acknowledges Hall. A confirmed extrovert, he has missed being able to engage face to face. Only 3,000 of UVic’s 22,000 students have been on campus since Hall

“I hope to listen, and look forward to building our vision and direction for UVic together.”



arrived, and less than a third of faculty and staff are on site.

Hall has found other ways to engage. He held five virtual town halls and engaged with undergrads, grad students, faculty, staff and alumni. His office organized online focus groups for students. He even launched an old-fashioned suggestion box in a new-fangled way, putting it online and committing that every suggestion will be reviewed.

“Being president is a privileged position. I see myself as an enabler and want to empower students, faculty and staff to reach their own dreams,” says Hall. “I hope to listen, and look forward to building our vision and direction for UVic together. “To hear from all areas of our UVic community is an important part of leadership for me.”

Strengthening the relationship between UVic and its 140,000 alumni is another priority for the new president. “One of the biggest attributes of a university is its alumni. We want to engage deeply with ours,” says Hall. “How can we be engaging alumni in our lectures, our research, our start-ups, as overseas partners? How can we help our alumni with their own careers? How can we connect our alumni to other partners of the university?”





## LOOKING FORWARD, GIVING BACK

Universities are working with BC public health officials to reopen their campuses again in September. The pandemic continues to complicate choices for UVic's international students, but Hall hopes that by January at the latest, those students will be able to return to campus. "Our international students bring a richness of thought and diversity that we really value."

Hall loved his years in Australia and hadn't expected to return to live in Canada. But his eight years as vice-president at Newcastle whetted his appetite for other leadership experiences. UVic's ethos and values struck Hall as a great fit with his own, particularly the university's work around sustainability and its deep commitment to reconciliation. Universities have major roles to play in community development both close to home and around the world, says Hall.

"How do we help solve the issues of the communities where we live? How do we support the efforts of people in low-income countries to better their lives? That has always been part of my purpose."

"The research we do here is important for that, but it's not good enough to just do research within Ring Road. How can we do it in Saanich, in Sidney, in Esquimalt, to help address our communities' big issues? Can we help the Island in its post-pandemic recovery? This feels like a time for transformational change."

## A TIME TO BE BOLD

Returning to Canada has been an eye-opener in terms of the different ways Canadian and Australian universities promote themselves to the world, notes Hall. Australian universities are bold and brash, making the most of every chance for recognition both at home and abroad. Canadian universities are often demure to the point of invisibility, and almost universally unknown around the world as a result.

"It has been a revelation to me as well to see just how averse Canadian universities are to risk," says Hall. "It's always a balancing act between agility and process for a university, but coming back to Canada has been a good reminder that the Canadian university scene overall is very conservative."

In his previous position at the University of Newcastle, Hall was a constant traveller. His role in global partnerships meant twice-monthly flights to Singapore, seven hours away, along with many other international destinations.

The constraints of the pandemic have frustrated seasoned and enthusiastic travellers all over the world, but Hall says he's not one of them. Staying home feels right for now, he says.

"I think that part of my life might be fulfilled and over," says Hall. "But I'd love to explore BC more." †



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UVic grad **BOMA BROWN**, a leading light in diversity and equity work, seen in Victoria's Quadra Village.

# NEW ENERGY



We've faced uncertainty, stress and loss, but now the UVic community is ready to face the future with a New Energy to make our world more equitable, green, connected, creative and resilient.

# RGY

From grads pouring their hearts into the pursuit of social justice, to engineers and scientists building a greener future in business, to those making top-notch podcasts to keep us informed and uplifted—we're facing the future with a new drive and we're not giving up. **We're just getting started.**

## Healthy Vision

**While still a UVic student, Boma Brown (BA '14) founded the Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Colour to promote equity in health care.**

**BY JENNY MANZER, BA '97**

**B**oma Brown isn't a fan of documentary films at the moment. Her boyfriend enjoys watching them, but Brown, 29, spends her days absorbed in serious, often difficult issues. So, during her time off, Brown turns to reality television or some other light diversion from her work, which includes fighting racism in health care.

It's no wonder Brown needs mindless entertainment—she wears many hats. She's the executive director of the Coastal Research Education and Advocacy Network, she volunteers at the Victoria-Harbourside Rotary Club and is the founder and executive director of the Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Colour (SNIWWOC), a Victoria-based group devoted to improving access to reproductive health care.

Brown started the group in 2014 while still a UVic Social Sciences student. She grew up in the predominantly Black countries of Nigeria and Botswana, then spent time in the US as an international student—but didn't really have her eyes opened to the barriers in health care until her family moved to Canada.

She was a busy, engaged student at UVic, volunteering as soon as she set foot on campus, including serving as a Student Ambassador and starting the popular “puppy play time,” a program to help students relieve stress. One of the first groups she joined was the Students of Colour Collective, which held meetings at the Student Union Building. Through discussions there and around campus, she noticed a common thread: women of colour and Indigenous women were not always getting fair treatment in health care. Brown was one of them.

“There were certain incidents that happened at the doctor, maybe questions the doctors asked me and things like that, that I thought was weird, but didn't really connect it to a larger picture of oppression,” she says.

Brown began to gather those women together to discuss these incidents and barriers. The first few workshops took place at the Quadra Village Community Centre—in the heart of the neighbourhood on the edge of downtown Victoria that Brown still calls home.

“It was just 10, 15, 20 people coming together to talk about reproductive justice and reproductive health and using the

## NEW ENERGY

knowledge that we'd gained as students. And then think about how this applies to our community and then using art as well—using art and photography to explore reproductive justice.”

As her work progressed, Brown realized that access to care was not just a student or a neighbourhood issue. Women of colour across Canada have intimate experiences of health care discrimination that need to be addressed on a much larger scale, she says. The network receives calls from women as far away as Chicago and California—a fact that initially shocked Brown.

“I still get sad when I hear of one more person needing our service,” she says. “In an ideal world, the organization would not exist because it would mean there was no racism—it’s heart-breaking there is still a such a gap across Canada and the us.”

She cites dozens of stories of discrimination: everything from women of colour being misdiagnosed, experiencing rudeness and insults, or not being prescribed needed pain medication. There is the erroneous idea among some health care professionals that Black patients do not experience pain, or that Indigenous patients should receive different medication because they are at greater risk of addiction, she says.

The support network hears these stories from patients, but also from health care practitioners about their own profession. “There are so many layers to it.”

Brown was awarded the 2020 BC Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Award and this year was one of 10 women across Canada nominated for the L’Oréal Paris Women of Worth Award, an honour that earned her \$10,000 to fund the network.

She says UVic helped her on her path to becoming a leader, both through her classes, but also from the strong female mentors she had on campus, such as Grace Wong Sneddon. Brown met Wong Sneddon, then the Advisor to the Provost on Equity and Diversity, when Brown was hired to help plan a large, prestigious diversity in research conference.

“Boma, when she came to meet with me for the interview, she just shone: her passion, her care, her commitment,” says Wong Sneddon, an adjunct professor in art history and visual studies. “We just sort of connected right away.”

Wong Sneddon says Brown was “fantastic” at helping organize the conference. She worked with students, Indigenous scholars and community members, and even helped to write thank-you cards. “She was just everywhere.” While doing this work, Brown had the opportunity to have in-depth conversations about different topics in the areas of diversity.

“I think it gave her a chance to really see possibilities, it wasn’t just the minutiae, the details, but actually seeing the overarching of where leadership and diversity could go. I think that

really clicked with her, maybe that’s what sort of set her on her path.”

Brown graduated in June 2014, and SNIWWOC incorporated in October of that year. All the founding board members were UVic alumni and many of them lived in Quadra Village—an affordable area accessible from campus on public transit via the No. 4 bus. The organization is still based from there.

When lawyer Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond released her report: “In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-Specific Racism and Discrimination in BC Health Care,” the results were not a surprise to Brown. Changing health care outcomes for racialized women is a slow process, says Brown, but they are working away at it with a range of services. SNIWWOC offers one-on-one personal care and support, including counselling, emotional support, career counselling, therapy and peer support. If a woman says she is afraid to go into a clinic setting alone, the support network provides a volunteer to accompany her.

SNIWWOC is currently providing families in need with groceries, since racialized women are disproportionately affected by COVID. Art is also an important part of their work, and a podcast is in development, as are plans to continue their series of successful events. They are also launching a health care app to help women access culturally sensitive, antiracist health care, a projected funded by the City of Victoria.

Wong Sneddon has given workshops at SNIWWOC and has observed what a strong mentor Brown is for her peers. Seeing Brown continue in diversity work is beyond gratifying for Wong Sneddon—particularly at a time when she feels exhausted by recent waves of anti-Asian racism and the gruelling emotions of the Derek Chauvin trial in the US. “Boma’s work gives me that hope that we can go forward,” says Wong Sneddon, who now consults in diversity, equity and inclusion.

“It’s like, oh my gosh, this is what it’s all about. This is like handing over the torch,” says Wong Sneddon. “To see her blossoming and thriving. It’s indescribable. It brings all that hope back.”

In the meantime, Brown somehow also finds time to have fun. Her Instagram page reads “Life is a Series of Outfits.” She enjoys camping, working out, chatting with friends over Zoom, being outside and going out to eat with her friends or her boyfriend, as pandemic restrictions allow.

She believes in work-life balance, and she declines to watch those documentaries when her boyfriend suggests them. “I’m like, no, my job is too serious. I can’t watch anything serious,” she laughs. ↑

See related video at [uvic.ca/alumni](http://uvic.ca/alumni).



# Bright Future

UVic science grads **Yamila Franco** and **Paige Whitehead** bring an earth-friendly, bioluminescent glow stick into the light.

BY MICHAEL KISSINGER, BED '94



**YAMILA FRANCO** and  
**PAIGE WHITEHEAD**  
teamed up to form Nyoka  
Design Labs, a company  
focusing on using non-toxic  
biodegradable materials.

The flash of inspiration that led UVic grads Yamila Franco (BSc '18, Cert '18) and Paige Whitehead (BSc '19) to jump into the business of bioluminescence wasn't so much a lightbulb moment but a glow stick one. While enjoying the Shambhala Music Festival, Whitehead noticed thousands of the tiny light wands, popular at such events, sapped of all their chakra-aligning power, discarded like day-old noodles and headed to a landfill in the afterglow of the annual electronic music love-in.

Whitehead first got her Shambhala on in 2015. Although the outdoor event held on a working farm near Nelson, BC was a "transformational experience" for the then-19-year-old, she was taken aback by all the garbage left behind, particularly the abundance of single-use glow sticks.

"It was shocking after spending what felt like a really lovely time in nature with a lot of people who were very much like environmentalists and had great conversations about what we're doing to the planet," Whitehead says. "Then you walk out on this road that's surrounded by garbage. It was really jarring."

After returning to UVic to study Microbiology, Environmental Studies and Permaculture Design, she started exploring

the idea of a non-toxic, biodegradable light wand. The magical ingredient? Bioluminescence.

## Partners in design

Whitehead grew up in the Comox Valley and, even as a child, was fascinated by the naturally occurring light source. She recalls swimming off Savary Island when she was 15 and being mesmerized by the glowing water around her. "I had no idea what it was... But that was actually an inspiration for me to go into microbiology. I always thought it was amazing."

At university, she began researching how to recreate this chemical reaction that occurs in everything from jellyfish and algae to fireflies and fungi. She presented her idea for a bioluminescent wand at a knowledge-mobilization event hosted by UVic's annual IdeaFest.

Franco, who was also there, was instantly impressed, and from there the two forged a partnership and created Nyoka Design Labs. The name Nyoka comes from the Swahili word for snake, which, according to the company's website, "is a symbol

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for healing, transformation and rebirth”—concepts Nyoka’s founders have made their *modus operandi*.

“For me, the meaning of everything I do with work and life is that it has to have an impact and it has to bring good to the world,” says Franco, Nyoka’s CFO. “I love science, but when I looked at my job prospects... I just didn’t feel I was using my skills and my drive and my energy to the best of its abilities. So driving into the unknown seemed like the best solution at that moment where I would actually be bringing more value to the world.”

In addition to being made from biodegradable materials, Nyoka’s light wands rely on a “cell-free bioluminescent system,” which creates light from an enzyme rather than living organisms or toxic chemicals found in typical glow-in-the-dark products.

“An enzyme you can think of as a microscopic biological machine,” Whitehead says. “Basically it helps break this chemical bond that produces light. And that takes a lot of energy to break that bond. In regular glow sticks, it’s a fairly similar concept... but it takes really harsh chemicals to get there. So it’s actually a principle of green chemistry to use an enzyme or to use a catalyst, because you end up not needing as harsh a reaction of materials.”

### Coping with setbacks

In 2019, the young entrepreneurs were invited to Synergy Enterprise’s eco-business incubator program, Project Zero, which put them on the accelerated startup path of growing their team, accessing funds and participating in investment rounds.

Shortly after, they launched a successful \$10,000 Kickstarter campaign; secured \$100,000 in grant funding through Eco Canada’s Clean Leadership and Career Launcher program, were accepted into W Venture’s digital accelerator program supported by UVic and VIATEC; won the People’s Choice Award at the League of Innovators’ Founder Showcase; and received a \$9,500 grant from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program, partnering with the UBC Materials and Manufacturing Research Institute’s Circular Economy Seed Funding Initiative.

However, Nyoka’s ascending star fell back to Earth last year, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic putting the kibosh on their target market for glow sticks—live concerts and music festivals.

“So that was not comfortable,” Whitehead says with a laugh. “But there’s so many silver linings. We’ve moved forward as a company more in the past year than I think would have ever been possible if we had been spending our time doing promo, going to festivals, doing concerts.”



Nyoka Design’s LÜMI bracelet.

For Nyoka, which operates out of a makerspace in Courtenay, BC in conjunction with bio labs in Vancouver and New York through a partnership with leading biotechnology accelerator program Indie Bio, this meant focusing on research and development, building on their professional relationships and pivoting to industries that were the major users of glow sticks, namely outdoor safety, recreation (such as fishing) and training. Recently they hit another milestone, securing over \$600,000 in investments.

### Re-energized

Nyoka’s pandemic pivot has meant its first commercially available product isn’t even a light wand. Franco describes their new LÜMI bracelet as similar to glow sticks “but more techy, more wearable.” It uses an industrial photo-luminescent pigment, which makes it glow in the dark, and it can be recharged by the sun or a cellphone light.

The founders of Nyoka Design Labs still manage to stay energized, despite the challenges.

“My energy comes from not only what I want to do but also from my work with community,” Franco says. “Knowing I’m doing something that I’m proud of, and that my ancestors would be proud of and my children will be proud of.”

Sounding like a true Shambhala Music Festival veteran, Whitehead is mid-walk when reached by phone and says she’s standing under her favourite tree. “Running a business is exhausting... especially in the startup mode, where everything we’re doing is new. So being outside, like walking through a forest, is almost better than coffee. If I’m tired, it’ll wake me right up, and I’ll usually put on an awesome song and dance around a little bit.”

See related video at [uvic.ca/alumni](http://uvic.ca/alumni).

# Pod Almighty!

There's never been a better time to get hooked on podcasts. Just ask these UVic grads, professors and students who've poured their creative energies into helping inform, entertain and, most of all, connect us. We asked **the talented people behind these UVic podcasts** to tell us more about them.

BY MICHAEL KISSINGER, BED '94



## THE 4TH FLOOR PODCAST

**HOSTS:** UVic Astronomy and Physics student Chris Gallon, Calvin Schmidt, BSc '18, Jason Beaman, BSc '19.

**INSPIRATION:** A large group of friends that study in the Physics and Astronomy Department's 4th floor in the Elliot building are some of the smartest, wittiest, absurd and wholesome people. Many of them work in an astronomy outreach program called the Astronomy Open House, held every Wednesday night year-round from the Bob Wright building, where they answer the public's questions on the universe and everything in it. The team shares their experiences with listeners, introduces some incredible people and their work, and has a good laugh at some terrible jokes.

**FOR FANS OF:** Space, the universe, general science, physics and comedy.

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:** They help make the physics and astronomy community appear lighthearted and fun by pairing laughs with some interesting science history,

news and events. Their last word: "While we include some semi-serious-science stuff, we're fun and easy listening."

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, iHeartRadio, Anchor, Stitcher, [4thfloorpodcast.com](http://4thfloorpodcast.com).



## AMAZING PLACES

**HOST:** Dean Murdock, BA '03, MA '07.

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** A weekly podcast celebrating the amazing people and places in our communities.

**TOPICS COVERED:** Reimagining public spaces (creating pandemic patios and parklets), active transportation (walking and biking), the true cost of free parking, loneliness and social connectedness, to name a few.

**FOR FANS OF:** Community building, local government, healthy communities.

**BEST THING ABOUT THE PODCAST FORMAT:** According to Murdock: "The discussions are always conversational. There's no script. The interviews go wherever the

discussions take us. Each episode is about a half hour, so it's enough to dig into an issue without becoming an exposé on the topic."

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Anchor.



## BUILD YOUR DREAM NETWORK

**HOST:** J. Kelly Hoey, BA '87.

**INSPIRATION:** Career and networking questions Hoey receives from readers of her book (*Build Your Dream Network: Forging Power Relationships In A Hyper-Connected World*).

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** *The Build Your Dream Network* podcast reframes the essential skill of networking for the social-media age. "In the podcast, I address the frustrations and challenges of networking, answer questions about how to network 'the right way' and share creative strategies for building meaningful connections, whatever your career or business goals," says Hoey.

**WHERE THE SHOWS ARE RECORDED:** Offices of Penguin Random House in New York City.

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:** To get the actionable and practical networking advice you need to change your career trajectory.

**BEST THING ABOUT THE PODCAST FORMAT:** "It allows me to provide advice in a format that reveals to the listener a little more of my personality than may otherwise come across in the pages of my book."

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Radio Public, Breaker, Google Podcasts, Overcasts, Pocket Casts, Anchor.



## THE CLEARIHUE CORNER

**HOST:** Hosted and created by English undergraduate Teresa Sammut for the English Students' Association.

**TOPICS COVERED:** Everything and anything to do with literature and sometimes even movies, television shows, and, most importantly, literary adaptations.

**GATEWAY EPISODE:** It all depends on your interests, says Sammut. "I would say our most popular episode is

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the pilot—The Gothic Heroine. We had a lot of fun talking about our undying love for *Jane Eyre*. A close second would have to be our episodes on *Gilmore Girls*, or *Bridgerton*. You can truly hear how much of a blast we had in each of these episodes.”

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:** “You should tune in if you like to listen conversation around literature, history and relevant media. We get critical, passionate and even crack a couple of jokes here and there. When you listen to *The Clearihue Corner*, you’re hanging out with us and are part of the fun. Also, who wouldn’t want to hang out with a couple of nerdy English majors?”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Google Podcasts, Anchor.



### EDUCATED MESSES

**HOSTS:** Kyla Schnellert, BCom '16, and Kelsey Bowyer.

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** A podcast to help you sift through the BS around work, well-being and relationships. The *Educated Messes* team says: “We are passionate about taking care of our mental health so that we can show up in the world feeling as good as possible. We ask questions, seek answers, and share our own experiences — to help you navigate the messier parts of life.”

**FOR FANS OF:** *The Happiness Lab*, Brené Brown, Esther Perel, *Armchair Expert*, self-help books, psychology, meditation, therapy, vulnerability, and most of all life-long learning and growing.

**GATEWAY EPISODE:** Episode 01: “Why is it so Hard to Try New Things?” is a great place to start. “Our community also seemed to really connect with Episode 15: ‘Why is it So Hard to Make Friends?’”

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:** “Our goal with *Educated Messes* is to share our personal experiences in an effort to help people feel less alone in what they’re going through. The world can feel a little superficial at times, and we’re strong believers that being able to relate to each other on the gritty stuff that makes us human can help us get through difficult times.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts.  
[educatedmesses.com](http://educatedmesses.com)



### GIVE & GO VIKES

**HOSTS:** Liam McDonough, BCom '16, and Tyler Lowey.

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT:** The hosts chat to Vikes student-athletes and alumni about sports. Sponsored by the UVic Alumni Association.

**TOPICS COVERED:** Training regimes, game-day routines, what athletes were thinking during competition, funny stories between teammates

and a bit of background on how the players ended up at UVic.

**WHERE THE SHOWS ARE**

**RECORDED:** Lowey is in Kamloops, McDonough in Victoria and they use Anchor.fm to record.

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:**

The hosts are hilarious, and you’ll get a behind-the-scenes look at how Vikes student-athletes train, compete and have fun in their day-to-day lives.

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Anchor.



### THE MARTLET POD

**HOSTS:** UVic Political Science student Laura Smith.

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** Each 30-minute episode covers the most important news from the latest issue of UVic’s student-run newspaper, the *Martlet*. In every episode, a writer or two from the newspaper comes on to discuss one of their latest pieces. “Usually, we’ll discuss the piece itself as well as give some behind the scenes on the challenges or successes of writing it,” says Smith.

**FOR FANS OF:** Any news podcast/show... the biggest inspiration is the *New York Times* podcast *The Daily*.

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:**

“The topics discussed on the *Martlet Pod* are always linked to Victoria, and it is so important to keep up with not just national or global

news but also what is going on in our own community.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, [cfuv.uvic.ca](http://cfuv.uvic.ca).



### MEET ME IN THE QUAD

**HOSTS:** UVic’s Office of Student Life. Teresa Sammut (4th year Humanities student) hosted season 1; Nicole Crozier (Office of Student Life staff, MED student) hosted season 2; and Briar Mayoh (4th year Science student) will be hosting season 3.

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** “Student life at UVic! There are a variety of different types of episodes. Some are conversations with students about their UVic experience (either broadly, or focused on a specific topic), some have been conversations with professors about what online classes entail, while others have been conversations with a variety of different staff members who share advice on their areas of expertise.”

**BEST THING ABOUT THE PODCAST FORMAT:** “The podcast format allows for more in-depth and nuanced conversations than many other forms of online information sharing.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Anchor.



### THAT NEUROSCIENCE GUY

**HOST:** UVic professor and alumnus Olav E. Krigolson, BEd '97, PhD '07.

**INSPIRATION:** "I love teaching people about what I do—just another great way to share it. And also, I was on [CBC's] *Quirks and Quarks*, and Bob McDonald told me I had a great voice and that I should do a podcast. So, when you get that kind of an endorsement..."

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** "The neuroscience behind things that we experience in everyday life."

**WHERE THE SHOWS ARE**

**RECORDED:** "My living room."

**GATEWAY EPISODE:** Episode 1 "The Neuroscience of Impulse Shopping"

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:**

"Because you can find out why you behave the way you do!"

**BEST THING ABOUT THE**

**PODCAST FORMAT:** "It's fun!"

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher.



### NONFICTION PODCAST

**HOSTS:** Deborah Campbell and David Leach, BA '93, professors of creative nonfiction in the Department of Writing.

**INSPIRATION:** "When we moved classes online, some of us found monologuing a lecture into a microphone kind of a slog. We thought, what if we could just talk shop with a fellow writer?"

We're both book authors who have worked as magazine writers and magazine editors, yet we come at the writing process very differently. That made for fascinating conversation. We wanted to create audio content to share with students—and now the public—as we converted our courses to remote learning this year. We also wanted to stay connected as colleagues during the pandemic."

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** How to research, write and revise nonfiction prose, from memoir to literary journalism.

**WHERE THE SHOWS ARE**

**RECORDED:** They record via Zoom from "very messy home offices" in Oak Bay (David) and Salt Spring Island (Deborah).

**BEST THING ABOUT THE**

**PODCAST FORMAT:** "The conversational tone is more lively than a standard lecture. Ideas and stories get sparked by the interplay between co-hosts and guests. Plus, the two of us can argue about who finds writing more difficult."

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Breaker, Pocket Casts, Radio Public, Anchor.



### SCALES OF CHANGE: A FIELD GUIDE TO THE DRAGONS OF CLIMATE INACTION

**HOSTS:** Adam Huggins, BSc '18, Dipl '18, and Mendel Skulski.

**INSPIRATION:** Supported by UVic, the Faculty of Social Sciences, Office of Research and Innovation, and the Alumni Association. *Scales of Change* was inspired and informed by UVic Environmental Psychology professor Robert Gifford's research into pro-climate behaviour.

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** *Scales of Change* asks: "Why do we struggle to take action on the climate crisis? We present the answer as 36 species of 'dragons' (organized into seven genera). These dragons exist only in the mind, but their diverse effects can be seen and heard everywhere."

**FOR FANS OF:** *Future Ecologies*, *99% Invisible*, *Radiolab*, *Flash Forward*, *For The Wild*, *Outside / In*, *Threshold*, *How To Save a Planet*, *A Matter of Degrees*, *Love and Radio*.

**WHERE THE SHOWS ARE**

**RECORDED:** Interviews for this Webby Award honouree were recorded in person on campus at UVic, in Vancouver, Victoria, Pender Island, and Galiano Island, and remotely in New York, Berlin, Washington DC, and Puyo (Ecuador).

### BEST THING ABOUT THE

**PODCAST FORMAT:** "We love storytelling and sound design. A good podcast can change your world—even on your commute or while you do the dishes."

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher.

[futureecologies.net/dragons](http://futureecologies.net/dragons)



### SKAANA

**HOST:** Mark Leiren-Young, BFA '85.

**INSPIRATION:** "While I was writing my book, *The Killer Whale Who Changed the World*, the people I

interviewed kept telling me more amazing stories about whales and oceans and I had nowhere to share them. My wife, Rayne, said I should do a podcast and interview them. I said, 'Hmm, interviewing people is fun, but the tech side and spreading the word is a lot of work.' She said, 'What if I do all the production?' It turned out she wasn't bluffing."

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT:** Long-form interviews with experts on orcas, oceans, eco-ethics and the environment.

**FREQUENCY OF EPISODES:**

"*Skaana* is monthly and when we score enough Patreon patrons we'll start doing episodes every two weeks. We also do a short-form podcast, *Orca Bites by Skaana*, that we release twice a month."

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### WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:

“Guests are eco-heroes from around the world who are doing amazing things and, despite the serious topics, our conversations tend to stay casual and fun. We also hit issues that people rarely dive into—like my current faves, anthropodenial and personhood.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, [skaana.org](http://skaana.org).



### THE SOLILOQUY PROJECT

**HOSTS:** No hosts as such. The more traditional “interview” episodes feature Karen Lee Pickett (MFA ’08) and Erin Kelly, associate professor of English.

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** “*The Soliloquy Project* is a Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival original podcast, which allows you to engage with both Shakespeare and the outdoors (our two favourite things!) while staying safe and socially distanced this winter.” They’ve created audio-only performances of some of Shakespeare’s best soliloquies, specially designed to be listened to “on location” in a variety of spots around the Victoria area. Each performance will be accompanied by a more traditional podcast episode, featuring artistic director Karen Lee Pickett, and UVic Shakespeare scholar Erin Kelly.

### WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:

Provides a unique opportunity to experience theatre in a socially distant way, where you can take it at your own pace and have an excuse to get outdoors.

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** [vicshakespeare.com/the-soliloquy-project](http://vicshakespeare.com/the-soliloquy-project).



### STORY UNTOLD

**HOST:** MFA candidate Martin Bauman.

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** “You won’t find the same pool of guests week-in and week-out here. Maybe that’s maddening to some listeners, but I wanted the freedom to follow my own curiosities—even if that meant interviewing an astronaut one week and a spoken word artist the next. There is only one guiding principle behind each episode: ‘ordinary people with extraordinary lives.’”

**FOR FANS OF:** *The Tim Ferriss Show*, CBC’s *Q*, *WTF with Marc Maron*

**GATEWAY EPISODE:** #18

“Ultramarathoner Charlie Engle on addiction, sobriety and running across the Sahara Desert.”

### BEST THING ABOUT THE

**PODCAST FORMAT:** “I love the freedom it allows to dig into a subject without time constraints or concerns about where a story would fit into a newscast.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Stitcher.



### SUITED UP

**HOST:** Carly Grabher, BA ’20.

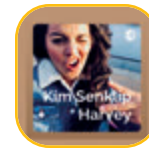
**INSPIRATION:** “When hearing how successful entrepreneurs got to where they are today, I would often hear them share the ‘highlights reel’ of how they got from Point A to Point B rather than the unfiltered, challenging story. So, I created *Suited Up* to have in-depth conversations with entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial artists about those incremental steps in between Point A and Point B that made all the difference in their respective careers.”

**FOR FANS OF:** *The Goal Digger Podcast* with Jenna Kutcher and *How I Built This* hosted by Guy Raz.

### BEST THING ABOUT THE

**PODCAST FORMAT:** “In a growing social media world where there is a lot of focus on appearance, I have found that removing our sight and emphasizing what each other is saying tends to put guests of *Suited Up* at ease. As a result, guests open up more and together we can have profound conversations.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Anchor, Google Podcasts, Breaker, Overcast, Pocket Casts, Radio Public.



### THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EVOLUTIONIST (TICE)

**HOST:** New grad Kim Senklip Harvey, MFA ’21.

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** “I am a proud Nation member of the Syilx, and Tsilhqot’in with ancestral ties to the Dakelh, Secwepemc and Ktunaxa communities, and I am an Indigenous theorist and cultural evolutionist. I invite you to share space as I capture readings, conversations and explore Indigenous ways of being to ignite, support and celebrate Indigenous sovereign power, spiritual nourishment and contribute to my community’s cultural evolution.”

**TOPICS COVERED:** Writing, Indigenous culture, leadership, Indigenous creative writing and storytelling, BIPOC intersections and allyship, Indigenous love.

**FOR FANS OF:** *All My Relations*, *Secret Life of Canada*, *Think Indigenous*, *Unreserved*.

### WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:

“To balance out colonial media and white-led storytelling. If you’re not listening to an Indigenous femme on the reg, start tuning it!”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, Radio Public, Anchor.



### TWO YOUNG-ISH WRITERS

**HOST:** Writing new grad Josh Kozelj.

**INSPIRATION:** “It can be hard for young writers and journalists to make it in an industry, especially with the seemingly constant stream of news about professional writers being laid-off or bought out. So, with this podcast, I wanted to explore what inspires young writers to continue pursuing a career to break through in this industry—one that many assume is dying.”

**GATEWAY EPISODE:** Samantha McCabe, Vancouver-based freelancer on reporting on sexual assault. And Jeff Pearlman, *New York Times* bestselling author.

**WHY YOU SHOULD TUNE IN:** “I encourage listeners to tune in and learn about what inspires countless young writers, like myself, to pursue a writing career. From uncovering their big article, or a profile they wrote years ago, I promise to do extensive research on my subjects and ask thought-provoking questions that will promote a free-flowing conversation about their work.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher.



### WAVING NOT DROWNING

**HOST:** Rebecca Gagan, assistant prof in the Department of English and founder and director of UVic Bounce.

**INSPIRATION:** “We had planned to make a video series in which faculty shared their experiences with challenge and difficulty as students. However, since it was not possible to make videos because of pandemic restrictions, we pivoted to the podcast medium.”

**TOPICS COVERED:** Student wellness, mental resilience, navigating the challenge of university.

**GATEWAY EPISODE:** Episode #6: Susan Breau on Stick-to-itiveness

#### BEST THING ABOUT THE

**PODCAST FORMAT:** “It’s so nice to be able to listen and to step away from the screen—especially during the pandemic.”

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Anchor. ↑

#### OTHER PODCASTS FROM THE UVIC COMMUNITY:

*Beyond the Jargon, Ghost Town Killer, Learning Transforms, Let’s Grow Together, Megawatts & Microphones, Pick Her Brain, The Veracity Podcast, U in the Ring, Full Circle, Taking Up Space, Dene Talk.*

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# More than an Education

**Jana Schulz (BCYC '17), a leader in her Métis community, is using her skills to help address health inequities and gender-based violence.**

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

**H**aving become a mother at age 17, Jana Schulz knows a little about life throwing you challenges. Empowered by her UVic education, Schulz (BCYC '17) is now thriving and working to build safer communities for women.

Schulz lives in Cranbrook, nestled within the rugged beauty of BC's East Kootenays. She explains that she and her daughter literally grew up together. "She attended my high-school grad, my college grad and my UVic grad," laughs Schulz, who is now considering pursuing a master's degree in public administration at UVic.

Post-secondary education fuelled Schulz's drive to help build healthy communities and healthy people. After earning a certificate as a human services worker, she went on to UVic's School of Child and Youth Care to complete an undergraduate degree while working full time as a clinic-based social worker. She studied online so she would not have to be separated from her family.

"This was more than an education," says Schulz. "I had my eyes opened." As a Métis woman, she found a world of personal discovery through the program's Indigenous specialization.

In 2020, Schulz decided to run for office with the Métis Nation of BC as their Women's Representative for region four. She won the vote handily and was ushered into a new world of leadership involving Métis women and health policy.

Schulz was deeply inspired by the 231 Calls to Justice put forward in June 2019 by Canada's national inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, having provided testimony to that commission in 2018. "I spoke my truth to the highest authority," says Schulz, noting the value she found in simply having the opportunity to be heard.

"My daughter was harmed within our community back in 2016 and I have complained to my local leaders from bottom to top for five years. But now, I see an opportunity to challenge these broken systems through politics and policy. I want to make real change happen within my region, not just complain about the way things are."

Her passion to make change stems from her education, she says. "I learned so much at UVic, which I applied to my social work and now in my role as a Métis officer. I am determined to honour my oath to this office."

Schulz knows there is more to learn, and she is determined to pursue a question that haunts her. "I want to know how we



JANA SCHULZ (right)  
with her daughter.

can better understand the frequency of assaults against women and why so many incidents are not reported."

She has a range of ideas on how to approach these issues. "I'd like to see Indigenous women leading their own victim-services programs. I'd like to see a family-centred approach where Indigenous women have access to female peer-to-peer supports. I'd like to see Métis-specific trauma-informed care and social work made available in every region of this province."

There is a great need for health equity and gender violence prevention for Indigenous women and to help women, children and families to find safety at home and within their communities. Ultimately, says Schulz, she and her daughter want to see an end to gender- and race-based violence.

"We have a right to feel safe," she insists, then pauses. "You know, five years ago, I would never have dared to speak up or challenge authority. Now I push back, respectfully, and with a full understanding of the facts, but I stand up for myself—and so does my daughter." †



# Art Enduring

**New grad Justin Francis Lee jumped on board Canadian Play Thing, a venture by UVic alumna Janet Munsil to keep theatre's heart beating.**

**BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA '96**

**W**hen the pandemic forced the shuttering of performance venues, companies around the world realized they would have to adapt to survive. Enter the age of mainstage livestreams, Zoom theatre and digital hybrids as fresh as the people thinking them up—people like Justin Francis Lee, who just graduated in spring 2021 with a BFA in Theatre and a concentration in directing.

Lee is a director, playwright and actor with a self-described mission is to “make theatre as accessible as film.” He sees a future for himself well beyond the footlights. By the time of his graduation, he had already appeared in plays both on- and off-campus, had produced his own one-act show and worked as the camera operator and second assistant director for a student film.

When COVID hit, he pivoted to working with established playwright and producer Janet Munsil (BFA '89, MFA '19) on her own pandemic project, The Canadian Play Thing—a virtual 100-seat live theatre launched in March 2020, where audiences gather to hear actors read new and under-produced Canadian plays online.

“There are opportunities out there—you just need to find them,” says Lee. “You can’t have a romanticized, unrealistic approach: you have to be willing to collaborate with directors, with actors and really push yourself.”

When he heard that Munsil had launched The Canadian Play Thing, Lee jumped on board as a volunteer, which led to a paid position via UVic’s Co-op Program and Intrepid Theatre. “Justin has a very discerning, artistic and creative eye,” says Munsil. “He’s also developing a really strong producer toolkit—including promotion, production, artist relations, schedule management ... all good skills to have.”

Once everything was rolling smoothly, Lee took things a step further by establishing his own theatre company within the Play Thing. Dubbed The Apartment of Writing, Lee’s company brought together three other student playwrights—Megan Adachi, Brianna Bock and Megan Hands—to write and produce the spelunking drama *A Way Out*, a narrative audio podcast directed by recent Theatre grad Kirsten Sharun (BFA '20).

“We were working in a TV ‘writers’-room’ format—where a bunch of writers all pitch ideas and story leads—so the title became a bit of a joke, because we met in the Department of Writing, but we were all working from our own apartments because of COVID,” he explains. *A Way Out* has a strong empha-



sis on solid storytelling and sound effects, making it part of the new wave of narrative podcasts gaining popularity during the pandemic.

“When it comes to working in film and theatre, it’s essential to pick the right medium for the story we’re trying to tell. *A Way Out* wouldn’t make sense as a stage play, but it worked perfectly as an audio drama,” says Lee.

Munsil says The Apartment of Writing was “a ton of work” and all a result of Lee’s own initiative. “He brought the project to me, and it became a major part of The Canadian Play Thing; it was a huge learning experience for him, but they turned out a really great artistic product. He can now take that company and go forward to try out new experiments in theatre media.”

But Lee’s interest in cultural hybrids extends beyond theatrical mediums. “One of the reasons I became a playwright is because I wanted to see more representation in theatre, as a lot of people of colour do right now,” he says. As a result, in 2019 he wrote and directed the one-act play *Ngaii Duk* for SATCo, Phoenix Theatre’s fabled Student Alternative Theatre Company.

“In Cantonese, *ngaii duk* translates to ‘the ability to handle hardship’ and the play looked at hybrid cultural identity between Canadians and the Chinese diaspora,” he explains. “As a person of Chinese origin growing up in a very westernized school system and society, I am someone who has two different cultures mixed in, and I’m interested in how those different cultural identities mesh together.”

As Lee will likely find out, *ngaii duk* may also be the ideal motto when it comes to carving out a place for himself in the Canadian theatre community. †

**Learn more: [plaything.ca/a-way-out-apartment-of-writing](https://plaything.ca/a-way-out-apartment-of-writing)**

## NEW ENERGY

# Ry Moran Returns

**Adventurer, father, lifelong learner and proud Métis, Ry Moran (BA '02) has joined UVic as the inaugural Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation.**

BY LISA ABRAM



**R**y Moran recalls wandering his Vancouver community as a boy, catching frogs, examining sunflower sea stars or fishing for salmon. He has always loved exploring. One of the many things he is hoping to share with his children in their new Vancouver Island home is the abundance of richness on the land.

Moran returned to campus last fall as the inaugural Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation. His focus is to encourage others down a path of healing, reconciliation and human rights. The knowledge he brings to the position includes an academic background in political science and history at UVic, a gap year abroad and ten years doing the work of truth and reconciliation.

Moran took a year off from UVic to travel. On a long hike to the base camp of Mount Everest, he pondered two fundamental questions that would become key to his life's work. He wondered: "What happened to the Indigenous peoples of Canada and *their* trails?" and "What are the social, economic and political factors that contributed to the world becoming so profoundly unequal?"

Moran returned to UVic hungry for the knowledge necessary to tackle these questions. Moran says he regularly draws upon what he learned in classes with professors such as John Lutz, Oliver Schmidtke and Rob Walker.

"I had some incredible teachers here at UVic. It was through their classes that my eyes were opened to the long and complex

**RY MORAN** poses in Winnipeg, holding one of three reconciliation paddles carved by artist Carey Newman and designed by artists from different nations for the 2019 Building Reconciliation forum.

histories of colonization both here and around the world. This was life-changing learning, and I'm very thankful for the time I spent at UVic."

"I recall Ry as one of the standouts in my classes. Then I saw a thirst to learn and what seemed like a purpose," says Lutz (BA '83, MA '89), a UVic history professor. "He was learning because he saw a need to make changes in our society. So many students come to university as idealists and unfortunately many leave as cynics. Ry has held on to that idealism and has changed Canadian society."

Lutz and Moran are now colleagues developing a pathway to help the UVic community further understand the impact of colonization and its ensuing detrimental effects.

Moran's journey has not been a straight line. In fact, none of his future roles existed when he was a student. Moran served as the Director of Statement Gathering at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC); Director of the National Centre of Truth and Reconciliation and now the inaugural Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation at UVic—all innovative positions. Prior to his role with the TRC, Moran worked on passion projects through his own company.

"My career has been a continuous adventure," says Moran. "In terms of dream jobs, the idea of working for an organization like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission absolutely would have been top of the list... but it wasn't even on the national horizon yet."

Doing this work is not always easy. From statement-gathering work with the TRC, to important efforts to honour and remember the children who never returned from the residential schools, Moran has listened to thousands of hours of residential-school Survivor statements. "These statements are incredibly powerful, but they are filled with absolutely heart-breaking accounts of what Survivors had to endure at the hands of Canadian state and churches. The word genocide is not an understatement."



**RY MORAN** holds a paddle  
by artist Carey Newman.

Along the way, music has helped him process deeply felt emotions and songwriting provided an outlet to let things go. “I love music, plain and simple. It’s one of those things that even if I wanted to stop, I couldn’t. It’s an integral part of me and I’m just so thankful I have it in my life. It’s been kind of a bedrock support for me through this intense work over the past decade.”

Moran also has a passion for the outdoors, spending as much time outside as possible hiking, climbing, mountain biking and canoeing. Moran’s last outdoor adventure was a two-week canoe trip down the Bloodvein River in northern Manitoba with three generations of his family, including father Bill, his wife Amy, and his oldest child of two children—where they navigated 90 sets of rapids.

Connecting with the land is more than a recreational pursuit to him. “I’ve been really fortunate to have learned from a lot of knowledge keepers along the way that have taught me how to see the land and relationships embedded within. My time out on the land is not just for fun but a continual exploration of learning, law, relationship and reconciliation.”

Ongoing declines in environmental health are a major concern. “To me, there are two fundamental questions we still have to answer if we are serious about this process of reconciliation—how are we going to live together in a good way as a human family? And how are we going to live with the land in a good way? Sadly, I believe we are far from stating with confidence

that we have learned to live with the land in a manner that does not continue to rob from future generations.”

Moran is comfortable listening and observing. He will build on existing relationships and form new ones in his exciting new role with UVic Libraries. “The work ahead is squarely focused on creating the opportunity for the entire team to get involved in important processes of decolonization.”

Moran wants to ensure UVic Libraries is a safe and welcoming place for all people and all knowledges. “When we look back at our collective history in Canada, there are a lot of knowledges that were not valued, protected or cherished. In fact, when we specifically look at Indigenous knowledges, Canada’s approach for decades was to attack and dismantle those knowledge systems. We have an important opportunity today to be part of the solution to revitalize these knowledge systems.”

Much of the work of reconciliation belongs to non-Indigenous people, so he always starts with education. Moran recommends that UVic alumni become better informed by watching more films and reading more books, articles and scholarly publications created by Indigenous people. “UVic is at the cutting edge of some incredibly important work in the area of Indigenous resurgence, reconciliation and decolonization. I would absolutely encourage alumni to explore the work happening across UVic and to get involved by attending lectures and events or exploring ways to support these initiatives by volunteering or becoming a donor.”

A big part of why he came back to the West Coast was to have his children grow up close to their grandparents and keep family ties strong. “My parents are some of my best friends for certain,” he says. For him, the opportunity to have his family together (as much as the pandemic allows) is one of the greatest gifts of being back on the coast.

“When I think about family, I think inter-generationally. I think about all those who walked before me and all those who will walk after. I think deeply about the responsibilities I have to those generations before and still to come. This is a big source of motivation to see the changes through today that need to happen,” he says.

“Truth is not a thing you speak, it’s the way that you live.” †

## NEW ENERGY

# Building an Emerald City

**Project aims to cut emissions and make landmark buildings in Greater Victoria greener.**

**BY ANNE TOLSON, BA '87**

**A**n initiative aimed at halving greenhouse-gas emissions among dozens of high-profile Greater Victoria buildings is proving how effective partnerships between industry and academia can be.

A team of researchers from UVic Civil Engineering is providing critical expert advice to the “Greater Victoria 2030 District,” a group of property managers and owners who plan to cut emissions from thirty-seven local buildings that have a combined total of 3.6 million square feet, including Mayfair and Uptown malls, Saanich Commonwealth Place and the Victoria Conference Centre.

“As researchers, we excel at determining the pressures the private sector will face in the future and opportunities to mitigate them today,” says Andrew Pape-Salmon (Dipl '06) an adjunct professor and one of four members on the UVic team. “For this project, we’re providing analysis tools to help property managers reach better decisions when making investments in their buildings.”

The 2030 Districts Network currently has 21 US members and two Canadian—Greater Victoria and Toronto. The local group is hosted by the Building Owners and Managers Association of BC (BOMA BC), with eleven real estate partners that include regional and multinational property owners, developers and managers, as well as the municipalities of Victoria and Saanich.

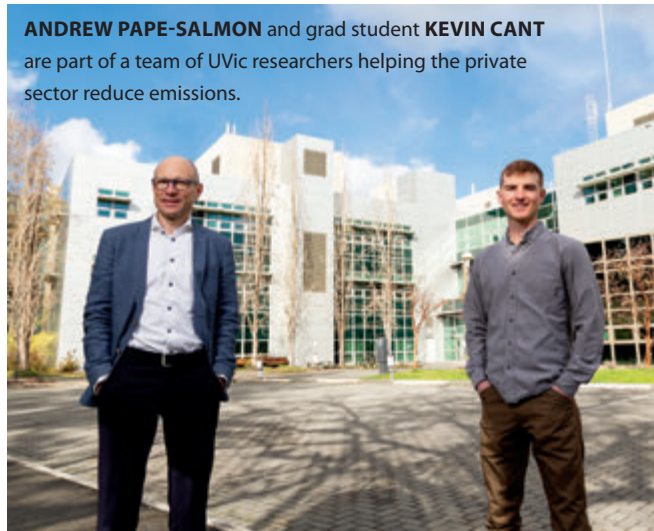
The UVic team’s first step has been to collect data to produce customized energy-benchmarking reports, which detail how buildings are currently performing relative to similar buildings.

“With the benchmarking stage now complete, we’re getting into the nitty-gritty of the building-retrofit design,” says Pape-Salmon. “This involves using an energy model to help select the cost-optimized improvements to existing buildings.”

Master’s student Kevin Cant, who undertook much of the initial benchmarking work, is excited to begin using novel modelling techniques to identify the best ways for the property managers to reach their emission targets.

“The owners and managers are leading the way and their investments will improve their buildings, reduce energy and emissions, and enable our research team to analyze state-of-the-art solutions,” says Cant. “Being able to partner with them is fantastic because it means our research will help lead to real, measurable change.”

**ANDREW PAPE-SALMON** and grad student **KEVIN CANT** are part of a team of UVic researchers helping the private sector reduce emissions.



Once a property manager selects a building’s retrofit design, UVic’s job will be complete. At that point, the manager will hire a private engineering firm to undertake the detailed design that will inform the physical work.

The Greater Victoria 2030 District is supporting the commercial real estate sector to get ahead of and, in fact, inform future building codes. By finding ways to optimize the designs for retrofitting so many diverse buildings, the UVic researchers expect to be able to draw conclusions that will be submitted as code-change requests to the National Building Code and lead to innovative solutions for the market.

“The work we do at UVic is independent, objective analysis of innovative solutions—we’re an integral part of the partnership,” says Pape-Salmon.

The UVic team—which also includes Dr. Ralph Evins and PhD student Rajeev Kotha—is involved early in the project to help achieve the challenging 2030 targets. The group received a three-year grant from the CleanBC Building Innovation Fund to do the job.

“The three-year window is an ideal timeframe for the research team to do its work,” says Pape-Salmon. “We’ll support the partners with the information they need to make informed decisions about building renewals and to validate their historic achievements.” †

## PRINT MATTERS

## Poetry and Motion

Poet **Billeh Nickerson** offers playful reflections of less-stressful times with *Duct-Taped Roses*.

BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA '96



Writing grad  
BILLEH NICKERSON.

The most memorable part of Joe Biden's inauguration as the oldest president in US history might have been the reading by the youngest poet to ever appear at such a ceremony. Arguably the highlight of the event, 23-year-old Amanda Gorman's moving performance of her poem "The Hill We Climb" was noted by Vancouver-based poet and writing professor Billeh Nickerson (BFA '98).

"Seeing a younger person—and a younger person of colour—talking about things that are important isn't normally the case in these situations," he says.

Nickerson knows a thing or two about injecting fresh energy into old institutions, be it academia or poetry itself. Currently the co-chair of Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Creative Writing department (alongside fellow UVic Writing classmate Aislinn Hunter, BFA '96), he's also the former editor of *PRISM International* and *Event*, two of Canada's most respected literary journals, and has earned a well-deserved reputation for his sexy, savvy and frequently funny poetry since the debut of his first book back in 2000.

Now, with the spring 2021 publication of his sixth book, *Duct-Taped Roses* (Book\*hug Press), Nickerson continues to offer playfully evocative observations on life, work, history and queer culture. "Poetry is like fashion," he observes. "It keeps changing and is constantly evolving, but there's something at the heart of poetry that still exists and remains relevant. The word that keeps coming up for me is resiliency."

Consider the new poem "Love Coward," which reflects on the experience of having an earlier poem appear—and then be vandalized—on Vancouver's

buses and SkyTrains as part of the Poetry in Transit series. ("and never for the rest of my life / will so many people read one of my poems" he writes.)

"For a lot of folks, seeing poetry in transit is the biggest and most obvious source of contemporary poetry they get," he says. "You see people sitting there, maybe moving their lips, and realize they're reading your poem—I've had that experience a couple of times now and it's really quite lovely."

Nickerson had no thoughts of being either a professional poet or a teacher when he left his family home in Langley, BC to attend UVic's writing program. "In retrospect, it was kind of on a whim, but I'm really happy I made that decision," he says. "When I found out Lorna Crozier was teaching there, that was a big sell for me." Another early influence was *Geist* magazine founder Stephen Osborne. "He was one of my first teachers, and the one who really opened up the possibility of the sentence for me," he says, noting how this led to his 20-year relationship with publishing in *Geist*.

Yet it wasn't until Nickerson started appearing at local open mic nights that he began taking the idea of poetry more seriously. "I always remember Al Purdy—bless his heart—saying, 'If you threw a rock in Victoria, you'd hit a poet,'" he chuckles. "There's something to be said for finding comfort in numbers."

While he's no stranger to writing about history-making events—his 2012 volume *Impact* explored the legacy of the *Titanic*—Nickerson says all of the work in *Duct-Taped Roses* was written pre-COVID. "I do wonder what's next. Poems written before the pandemic have become de-facto laments for our pre-pandemic experience ... but we haven't gotten to the post-part yet. I'm definitely curious how that will change the reader and change the art."

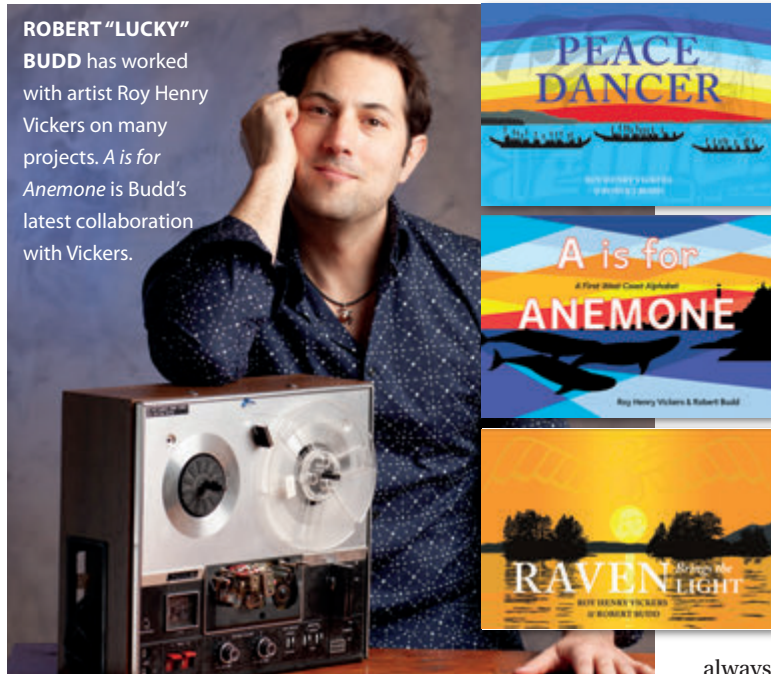
Right now, however, he's hoping the publication of his new book will offer a sense of renewal, even if it is in the form of Zoom readings. "The terrible irony for me is that I had started a book about airports and airlines, but that stopped—obviously—because I'm not going to be hanging out in airports right now," he sighs. "So it's a bit of a conundrum to figure out what the next step is." ¶

## PRINT MATTERS

# Passion Projects

Author, oral historian, Deadhead and goalie **Robert “Lucky” Budd** spends his days doing what he loves.

BY MICHAEL KISSINGER, BED '94



**ROBERT “LUCKY” BUDD** has worked with artist Roy Henry Vickers on many projects. *A is for Anemone* is Budd’s latest collaboration with Vickers.

tape machine. So it makes sense that after graduating in 2000 with a double minor in Philosophy and Greek and Roman Studies he earned a Master’s degree focusing on oral history. Along the way he took a gig working with the CBC and the Royal British Columbia Museum digitizing CBC Radio journalist Imbert Orchard’s collection of 998 interviews with First Nations and first-generation British Columbians, recorded between 1959 and 1966. Then there are the books, more than a dozen of them and counting.

His most recent, *Raven Squawk, Orca Squeak*, is his 10th collaboration with Vickers. The board book introduces iconic sounds of the West Coast to support the language development of babies and toddlers. The two have an alphabet book, *A is For Anemone*, forthcoming with Harbour Publishing, and plans for several other book projects in the works.

“Roy’s sister Patricia has noticed that we have this incredible father-son relationship, but it’s not always clear who the father is. It keeps switching back,” says the soon-to-be 45-year-old about his septuagenarian collaborator whom he first met a decade ago. Vickers had been searching for some of the same stories and oral histories Budd had digitized. They met in Tofino to talk shop and immediately hit it off.

“He and I often talk about the Latin phrase *inspiritus*, which is the root of the word inspiration,” Budd says. “It’s related to the word respiration—it literally means the breath of the Creator, coming through you, inspiring you... And when you work from a place of inspiration, what you are able to create is so much bigger than you could do on your own. That’s what he and I bring to each other.”

With *A is for Anemone* slated for publication in June, Budd also found the time and energy for what he describes as one of his biggest projects to date, a motivational picture book with Canadian Olympic sprinter Andre De Grasse and illustrator Joseph Osei Bonsu. Hitting shelves in early July, *Race With Me* is billed as “a celebration of sport and Andre De Grasse’s positive, winning attitude.”

“Like all the other projects [I do], we’re able to tap into the joy,” Budd says. “And that’s really what it’s about... There’s so much goodness and so much joy in that book.”

Although the past year has been difficult on many fronts, Budd says, if anything, the pandemic has reinforced the importance of storytelling as a vehicle for human connection. It’s also given him the time and space to do what he’s always done, follow his numerous passions and see where they take him. †

**R**obert “Lucky” Budd, BA ’00, MA ’05, is many things: a best-selling author, frequent collaborator with acclaimed Indigenous artist Roy Henry Vickers, an oral historian, archivist, former touring musician and a father of two. He’s also a UVic Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, a self-taught astrophotographer, ice-hockey goalie and a tie-dyed-in-the-wool “Deadhead” who saw the Grateful Dead in concert 85 times by the time he was 19. Is he—to quote an oft-memed beer commercial of old—the Most Interesting Man in the World? Perhaps. But the way Budd sees it, he’s just lucky. It’s right there in his nickname, given to him by his brother when he was born the youngest of four siblings.

“I’m not exactly the sort of person who came in with an A-plus average,” says Budd, who likes to joke he was likely the last student UVic accepted in 1995. He was given the nod on Aug. 29 after calling admissions every day for a month, moved out from Toronto on Aug. 30 and started classes on Sept. 3. “My career path and everything I’ve done has been me trusting in my vision, following my own muse, and I’m just so very lucky that I was able to find a way to make that work.”

However, Budd’s success can’t be chalked up to good fortune alone. He is a doer, fuelled by equal parts inspiration and determination. He describes himself as having “an archivist’s brain” and remembers being enthralled by the power of sound and storytelling since he was old enough to hold an LP and push record on a



## THE CHANGE-UP

# Fresh Start

**Alyssa Talley** (BSc '11) founded the meal-kit service, **Local Urban Bites**, to help busy people put healthy, locally sourced meals on the table.

**We profile UVic alumni who recently made a bold life change**

**Name:** **ALYSSA TALLEY**

**Age:** 33

**Hometown:** I was born in Mississauga, ON, but was raised and currently live in Victoria.

**UVic degree and year:** Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 2011.

**What I used to be:** In 2013, I accepted a position as the Executive Team Leader of Human Resources for Target Canada's Hillside location before being recruited by Walmart Canada to co-manage their Uptown location.

**Then I had the idea to:** Make dinner and meal planning much easier! My business partner and I were always eating out, or just didn't have the energy to figure out what we wanted to eat after a long day at the office. We had noticed meal-kit companies popping up in the US and Europe and thought, why not here? In 2016, I started Local Urban Bites with my business partner, Corey McPherson.

**Why I did it:** We knew that we could create a meal-kit experience that was more sustainably and locally driven for Vancouver Island-based residents. Through our business network in Victoria, we are able to focus on local Island products for our meal kits in addition to providing a more environmentally-friendly alternative to other meal-kit offerings.

**How I did it:** Entrepreneurship in general takes a tremendous amount of tenacity, hard work and determination. What they don't tell you about is the hours you'll spend thinking of a company name, logo, where you're going to source your packaging, how you're going to find a Vancouver Island Health Authority-approved kitchen, etc.



There was a lot of planning involved before we launched, but there has been a lot of trial-and-error, too!

**What I love about my new life:** The flexibility and satisfaction that come along with answering to yourself and making decisions that will have a positive impact on the community and place where I live. I've learnt so much about myself and how to be an effective business woman, as well as had the chance to contribute to some amazing social and environmental causes along the way.

**What I miss about my old life:** Entrepreneurship, while rewarding, can be isolating and lonely at times even though you're continuously talking with employees, suppliers, customers, etc. The team aspect and comradery you experience when working with colleagues is something that I miss.

**One lesson learned:** It's important to try new things even though they may seem scary or out of your comfort zone initially. Often, once you've made the decision to do something differently or try something new, the results are way better than you could have ever imagined.

**One person who helped me:** I don't think I can narrow it down to just one person because starting a business is a team effort. I'd definitely have to say my business partner has been an indispensable part of my journey with Local Urban Bites and my family, who are all entrepreneurs themselves, have been a huge support and my biggest fans.

**One trade secret:** It's the little things that count! Every customer is important and their feedback when you're first starting and beyond is so crucial to the growth and vitality of your business.

**You can find me:** Sign up for weekly meal-kit delivery at [localurbanbites.com](http://localurbanbites.com) or follow us on Instagram and Facebook @localurbanbites. †



## GIVING BACK

# Supporting Resilience and Recovery

Through the Research Accelerator Fund, UVic alumni are boosting six projects focused on making communities stronger in the wake of the pandemic.

BY MICHAEL KISSINGER, BED '94

Researcher Xuekui Zhang, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, is in a race against time to help model the path of COVID-19 cases—as he and his team anticipate more waves of infections could crash upon us.

Zhang is one of six teams who received funding from the new Research Accelerator Fund (RAF), which gave alumni and friends of the university an opportunity to invest in research that will make communities stronger in the wake of the pandemic and speed up recovery—locally and beyond.

For Zhang and his team, it's funding that can't come soon enough. They received \$15,000 towards their study "Characterizing risk factors for COVID and Forecasting COVID infection counts."

"We see more and more waves coming, so we want to predict it, we want to control it," Zhang says. "And we also want to understand the risk factor for other disease. So this is very important."

By looking at US infection data from more than 3,000 counties, they aim to model the trajectory of COVID infection and how it relates to various factors including family income, age and other social data, and apply the model to Canadian infection rates to better predict outcomes here.

"We want to learn a model to find a relationship with these risk factors. Who is more risky? Prediction is harder. But we want to try. If we can predict the future, maybe we can predict the next outbreak and take action to prevent it before it happens."

The UVic community has the wealth of expertise, partnerships and infrastructure to tackle COVID-19 research from all angles—from preventions and cures, to community resilience and recovery efforts. In the first round of funding from the RAF, announced in March 2021, six research projects received a total of \$165,000, meaning donors to the fund will soon see their gifts fuelling action.

While generous donations are making it possible for Zhang to map out COVID's trajectory to anticipate what's around the corner, those same funds are helping Dr. Leigh Anne Swayne, associate professor in the Division of Medical Sciences, better understand the neurological effects of COVID-19. She's leading a team of researchers on the receiving end of \$30,000 in RAF funding for their project, "Understanding the adverse effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection on the brain."

More is known about COVID-19's impact on respiratory and cardiovascular systems, but its lingering effects on the brain—whether loss of smell or so-called "brain fog"—is more of a mystery.

"[With COVID-19] there's this sort of unexplained and poorly understood impact on the brain... it seemed like an area to which we could make an important contribution," Swayne says.



Dr. LEIGH ANNE SWAYNE,  
from the Division of  
Medical Sciences.

In particular, Swayne and project co-lead Dr. Marie-Ève Tremblay (also from the Division of Medical Sciences) are looking at cells in the brain called glial cells and how they respond to different types of inflammation resulting from COVID-19.

Swayne says the RAF funding has not only allowed the team to widen the scope of the research, but also increase collaboration with other researchers. "We already had in place this smaller idea, so getting this funding... allowed us to expand and test more things than we had originally planned. It'll enhance the collaboration and the ultimate outcome of what we find out and how this information can be used." †

## Other research funded by RAF includes:

Plant-based production of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein for serological testing of COVID-19

Staying apart together: leveraging assistive technologies to address the mental health needs of community-dwelling older adults and their care networks during and post COVID-19

Supporting healthy living among BC families during the COVID-19 recovery

Understanding the psychological impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Canadian healthcare workers

For more information, go to [uvic.ca/research/learnabout/home/strategic-initiatives/uhi/index.php](https://uvic.ca/research/learnabout/home/strategic-initiatives/uhi/index.php).



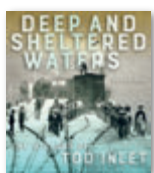


# Class Notes

## News and photos from around the alumni world

### 1960's

**DAVID GRAY**, BSc '67, has written his fourth book, *Deep and Sheltered Waters: The History of Tod Inlet*, published by the Royal BC Museum. Starting with the involvement of the Tsartlip First Nation, the book unravels the



story of a cement plant and the immigrant workers from China and India who worked there, the community and boat moorage that followed, and concludes with the environmental and political issues that led to the establishment of the Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. Gray's previous books include *The Muskoxen of Polar Bear Pass* (1987), *Alert: Beyond the Inuit Lands* (1997) and *The Implements of Golf: A Canadian Perspective* (2001). Gray recently landed on the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's list of the 90 most influential Canadian explorers of all time.

### 1970's

**GEORGE ABBOTT**, MA '78, PhD '19, recently released the non-fiction book *Big Promises, Small*



*Government: Doing Less with Less in the BC Liberal New Era*. According to the press release, the book

demonstrates the integral relationship between effective tax policy and sustainable social

programs. In the case study, Abbott provides a rigorous analysis of an intense and often controversial period in the province's political history. Published by UBC Press, the book includes a foreword by *Vancouver Sun* political-affairs columnist Vaughn Palmer. Abbott is a former BC Liberal cabinet minister (2001–12).

**BARBARA WILSON**, BA '75, has picked up the cookie-crumb trail left by Leslie Fiddler, BMus '79.

Fiddler, who now resides in Durham, NC, put out the call in the fall issue of *Torch* for anyone who had the recipe for the "Big Boy" cookie she fondly remembers from her days hanging out at UVic's Student Union Building.

Wilson writes: "I asked my friend whose father was the master baker at Viteway Bakery from the late 1950s to the late 1990s if she knew anything about the Big Boy. She confirmed that her father had made every one of them!" According to Wilson's friend, the recipe originally came from a bakery in Seattle in the early 1970s, and was renamed the "Farm Boy" in Victoria in the 1980s. The Victoria baker passed away several years ago, taking the recipe with him, but his daughter recalls the ingredients included quick oats, yellow sugar (not white or brown), eggs, margarine, vanilla, raisins and stone-ground wheat flour.

The grain came from an organic farm in Saskatchewan and was ground at the bakery, which still exists as the Six Mile Bakery on Carey Road. Although the quantities of the ingredients were for industrial-sized batches,

Wilson hopes her detective work might inspire a new batch of DIY cookie makers. "Maybe a home baker out there will experiment and rediscover this taste of history!"

**CRYSTAL HURDLE**, BA '79, MA '81, reports that she's enjoying retirement after 35 years teaching English and Creative Writing at North Vancouver's Capilano University. She is stretching out into new pursuits such as yoga, cycling, jogging, weaving and quilting. She still finds time to write and is "thrilled" that, after months of pandemic delays, her new poetry collection, *Sick Witch*, is finally out thanks to the folks at Ronsdale Press. Find more information on the book at [crystalhurdle.ca](http://crystalhurdle.ca). Hurdle also celebrated another milestone recently: her 40th wedding anniversary with husband **SCOTT BRALEY**, BA '79.

### 1980's

**DAVID A. SMITH**, BA '89, MA '94, has recently published *Cowboy Presidents: The Frontier Myth and U.S. Politics Since 1900* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2021). Smith is History Librarian at the University of Saskatchewan and lives in Saskatoon with his



**DAVID A. SMITH**

wife, Yumiko, and their two daughters, Emily and Rachel.

### 1990's

**TAMARA VROOMAN**, BA '91, MA '95, has been appointed to chair the Canada Infrastructure Bank, a Crown corporation that works to support infrastructure projects that are in the public interest. The bank will leverage \$35 billion to attract private capital and co-invest with private-sector and institutional investors in new, revenue-generating infrastructure. Vrooman will continue in her position as CEO of the Vancouver Airport Authority. Formerly head of Vancity credit union, Vrooman holds the Order of BC and received a UVic Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008.

**MARY-CLARE CARDER**, BMus '90, has written her first book, *Pool of Wisdom: A Spiritual Awakening*. From a young age, Carder says she has had mystical encounters with the spiritual world. In her late 20s, she developed Sjogren syndrome—a painful, incurable condition, which blunted her career. These challenges led her to a deeper spiritual path and an enriched interior life. Carder, who is a piano teacher by profession, a lifelong Anglican and has participated in dozens of silent retreats and contemplative workshops over the last 30 years, hopes the book will offer help and support not just to those who face many challenges in life but to anyone who wants to be more present to the wonders of their inner life.





**VANESSA WINN**

**VANESSA WINN**, BA '90, recently published her second historical novel, *Trappings*. Based on real people and events in 1860s British Columbia, the book was studied in a Public History graduate seminar at UVic. Winn marked the release of *Trappings* with a book launch at Victoria's historic Point Ellice House, the novel's setting. Find more information at [vanessawinn.com](http://vanessawinn.com).

**KEITH METCALFE**, BCom '98, founded and leads the visitor and employee management software start-up, Traction Guest. It is the newest tech start-up to receive its B Corp certification, which is based on how companies create value for



**KEITH METCALFE**

employees, the local community and the environment. B Corps are required to meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, public transparency and legal

accountability to balance profit and purpose. Metcalfe's Traction Guest joins an esteemed group of companies who have received B Corps certification, including Athleta, Ben & Jerry's and Patagonia.

## 2000's

**LORNA JANE HARVEY**, BFA '07, has stayed busy since graduating. After UVic, she went on to complete her MA in Communication and Applied Linguistics from the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland. She now lives in New Zealand, where she recently edited the anthology *Somewhere—Women's Stories of Migration*, published by Beatnik Publishing. The book has been well received in New Zealand, and in November the anthology was released in North America by TouchWood Editions. More information at [touchwoodeditions.com/book-author/lorna-jane-harvey/](http://touchwoodeditions.com/book-author/lorna-jane-harvey/).



**LORNA JANE HARVEY**

**SUSAN SANFORD BLADES**, MFA '16, has published her first novel, *Fake It So Real*, with Nightwood Editions. The novel weaves a raw and honest tapestry of family life as told from the underbelly in the voices of Gwen—a woman abandoned by

her punk-rock star husband—and her two daughters. A chapter from this novel was longlisted for the 2020 Journey Prize, and appears in *The Journey Prize Stories 32: The Best of Canada's New Writers*. The book also recently won a ReLit Award, which honours the best Canadian books published by independent presses.



**SUSAN SANFORD BLADES**

**MARCUS SIXTA**, BSW '05, has launched a new pay-as-you-go legal service in BC and Alberta called Coach My Case, designed for people who have to represent themselves in court because they can't afford a family lawyer and don't qualify for Legal Aid.

"We know there is an access to justice crisis in Canada," explains Sixta. "In some jurisdictions, more than 70 per cent of cases involve at least one person who is self-representing. Traditional legal services are too expensive for middle-class incomes, forcing many Canadians to represent themselves in court. This leads to more inefficiencies in the legal system, and often poorer outcomes for those who self-represent without professional legal support."

Unlike traditional law firms, Coach My Case does not require a retainer to start work, and clients choose only the services they



**MARCUS SIXTA**

need when they need them. This allows clients to control their budget.

"The current system leaves too many with no legal assistance whatsoever," Sixta says. "Everyone deserves access to justice, no matter how much they earn."

More information at [coachmycase.ca](http://coachmycase.ca).

**THEA VAKIL**, PhD '09, a former associate director and current adjunct faculty member of UVic's School of Public Administration, received the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal of Excellence in the Public Service in an online ceremony. The prestigious award, which recognizes the outstanding achievement of a public-sector practitioner who has shown distinctive leadership in public administration, is organized by the Victoria/Vancouver Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

**LEO WONG**, BCom '05, is on the move. After spending one year as part of B. Braun's Strategy Core Team and later sitting on the Transformation Team, Wong was promoted to Vice President of Strategic Pricing, Strategy & Innovations for this \$11B German medical and pharmaceutical device company founded in 1839.



He continues to reside in South Eastern Pennsylvania with his wife and two kids.

## 2010's

**HANNALORA LEAVITT**, MFA '14, has just released her first book into the world via Orca



Books. Written by Leavitt and illustrated by Belle Wuthrich, *The Disability Experience: Working Toward*

*Belonging*, introduces readers to a cross section of people with different disabilities and the struggles PWDs have faced throughout history. The book also celebrates the triumphs and achievements of PWDs and shares the powerful stories of those who have fought for change. More information at [orcabook.com](http://orcabook.com).

## What's New With You?

Be in the next Class Notes. Send news and photos to: [torch@uvic.ca](mailto:torch@uvic.ca)



A muddied but merry UVic Vikes rugby squad celebrates its first provincial championship at Vancouver's Brockton Oval on April 10, 1971. Below: A newspaper clipping details the Vikes' 6-3 defeat of the UBC Thunderbirds for the Pacific Northwest Collegiate championship.

Rounsfell Cup Winners – 1971

## Pitch Perfect

### The Vikes rugby team capped off a season to remember with its first provincial championship.

Fifty years ago, on a wet and muddy field at Vancouver's Brockton Oval, the University of Victoria won its first provincial rugby championship on April 10, 1971.

In his book, *It's a Try! The History of Rugby in Canada*, Doug Sturrock wrote: "[The Vikes'] four victories of the Barnard Cup from 1968 to 1971 were notable in themselves, but their 6-3 defeat of the [Vancouver] Kats for the 1971 Rounsfell Cup held pride of place because it was the first ever provincial championship. Jim Wenman's try had given the winners a 3-0 half-time lead until Brian MacKee evened the score with a try early in the second half. Both teams struggled in the rain and mud at Brockton Oval before Lee Doney scored the winning try with 10 minutes remaining."



UBC Thunderbirds versus UVic Vikes. Doney scores for the Vikes. (Left) Doney scores for the Vikes. (Right) Doney scores for the Vikes.

The Vikings won the Pacific Northwest Conference earlier in the season, defeating Western Washington State 3-0, the University of Washington 24-17, Oregon State 13-3, the University of Oregon 19-0 and UBC Thunderbirds 6-3. The University of California Bruins were also defeated 6-0 to complete a university sweep.

The Vikes team had a core of players who had played together for four years. In 1967, Dr. Alan Morton, along with Dave Docherty and Ray Calton, gave UVic's rugby program a solid foundation of skills and attitude to achieve a higher level of play. With Howard Gerwing as manager, the team toured the UK in 1969.

The 1970-71 Men's Rugby Team was inducted into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

COVID restrictions will prevent 1971 team members from meeting and celebrating the 50th anniversary of its first ever provincial championship in person, but there were toasts of cheer that day, you can be assured.

—Paul Carnes, BEd '72

## FAREWELL

### Farewell

**TOM (TOMMY) CARLSON**, BA in Economics '72, passed away unexpectedly in Delta, BC, on Dec. 27, 2020 at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Susan, daughters Kelly and Nicole and four grandchildren.

Starting his career at Butler Brothers in Central Saanich, he retired in December 2014 as the Corporate Credit Manager for Taiga Building Products Ltd. in Burnaby, BC.

In addition to his loving family and enjoying his workplace immensely, Carlson had two side interests that brought him much joy. The first was his 1936 Chevy pickup and the associated tasks of tracking down parts and memorabilia from where ever they might be found. The second was the unlimited possibilities in audio and visual projects that desktop computers and his imagination could create.

Thanks to the strange combination of COVID-19 and the power of Zoom, Carlson was able to reconnect with many of his friends from UVic.

**DARCY EVANS**, BFA '93, passed away peacefully Nov. 25, 2020, surrounded by his family, a few days after his 50th birthday at the East Kootenay Regional Hospital. Born in Kimberley, BC, Evans studied theatre at the University of Victoria. His illustrious career in the arts as a performer, director and administrator included nine seasons at the Stratford Festival, national tours and Broadway. In 2018, Evans became the executive

and artistic director of Calgary's Alberta Theatre Projects, rescuing the organization from financial ruin and leading it to historic success. Evans is survived by his partner Andrew Scanlon, his parents, Wayne and Marilyn, his sister Jan Hargrave, brother-in-law Fred, niece Madelaine, nephew Will, Phillip Hughes and countless friends and colleagues around the world.

Former UVic men's basketball standout **GORDON HOSHAL** passed away Feb. 14, 2021 at the age of 69 after a battle with cancer. Hoshal played three seasons for the Vikes from 1970 to 1974, and was one of the first UVic players to receive Canada West First Team All-Star honours for his efforts during the 1970-71 season.

Hoshal's high school hoop career was equally distinguished with the six-foot-four forward helping the underdog Vic High Totems win the 1969 provincial championship in overtime, scoring the final two free-throws.

After his time at UVic, Hoshal's prowess on the court continued as a Senior A player, winning BC and Western Canadian



**GORDON HOSHAL**

championships. He went on to coach local high school and college teams in the 1990s and 2000s and later became a realtor after an eight-year stint at Mr. Big & Tall.

**JACOB ERNEST KREISER**, MA '74, passed away on April 18, 2020. He received his BEd from the University of Saskatchewan in 1968, and an MA from the University of Victoria in 1974. He went on to teach at Vic High, Oak Bay High School and Spectrum Community School before retiring from the Victoria School District in 1994.



**JACOB KREISER**

**CONSTANCE DORA ISHERWOOD**, Victoria College '47, marched to the beat of her own drum, whether it was drumming in an all-girls band or as a trailblazer for women in BC's legal profession as the oldest practising lawyer in the province. Isherwood died on Jan. 26, 2021, at the age of 101. According to her son, George, Isherwood was still working two hours before she died. "She worked that day and was very, very worried about closing real estate deals by the

end of the day. She didn't want to put anybody else out and passed away at 6 p.m.," he told the *Times Colonist*.

As noted in her obituary, Isherwood, whose maiden name was Holmes, didn't take a shine to law initially. She played drums in an all-girls band, toured the province in a number of Big Bands, and had aspirations of playing in an orchestra. She was encouraged to enrol in UBC's law school while working as a legal secretary for Ernest Tait in Victoria. She was one of eight women in a class of 208 when she entered law school in 1948 and would graduate at the top of her class in 1951.

She returned to Victoria with a law degree under her arm to work with her mentor and formed Tait & Holmes, later opening Holmes & Isherwood with her husband, Foster Isherwood, who died nine years ago at the age of 92.

She focused on civil, family and real estate law. She also acted as the legal advisor to the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, guiding them on such issues as residential schools, gay marriage and female priests.

In 2016, Isherwood became the first woman to receive the Law Society of BC's highest honour, for lifetime achievement.

**RAJ SEN**, executive director of Victoria's Open Space Arts Society, died unexpectedly on March 7, 2021, at the age of 42.



Sen became the art society's interim executive director in 2018, advancing the group's mandate of supporting "experimental artistic practices in all contemporary arts disciplines [and] acting as a laboratory for engaging art, artists and communities." His position was made permanent in 2019 and his efforts have been credited with the society's ongoing survival as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022.

Sen came to UVic to study art history with his brother after graduating from high school in 1996. According to the *Times Colonist*, he came from a long line of significant figures in the Indian art and literary world. His mother was the great-grandniece of Rabindranath Tagore, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Sen's grandfather, Subho Tagore, is considered one of India's first modernist painters and a literary rebel.

Sen had his own artistic pursuits and played an influential role in Vancouver Island's hip-hop community as a member of a number of underground Victoria acts, including Under The Influence and the hip-hop collective DRLCTS where he went by the name Wandering Kid/Wandering King. He is survived by his wife, Angela Sen, and two young children. †

## Dr. Sti'tum'at Ruby Peter, LLD '19

**SUNRISE: DEC. 27, 1932**

**SUNSET: JAN. 8, 2021**

We are writing to celebrate and honour the life of Dr. Sti'tum'at Ruby Peter of the Quamichan First Nation. Her remarkable gifts of oral histories and traditional teachings formed the basis of her life's work, and lie at the heart of Hul'q'umi'num' language and cultural resurgence today.

As a young woman, Sti'tum'at saw the shift in language use from Hul'q'umi'num' to English and knew something needed to be done. She and her three sisters approached the University of Victoria to develop Indigenous language teacher training in 1970, leading to a collaboration between Linguistics and Education that continues today. Sti'tum'at received her Diploma in Native Indian Languages in 1975, paving the way for the first university programs in North America to support Indigenous language teachers. UVic's community-based approach to Indigenous language revitalization—including undergraduate and graduate programs—began with Sti'tum'at. For her contributions, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from UVic in 2019 and another, two days later, from Simon Fraser University.

Sti'tum'at believed in the power of education and always emphasized the importance of learning both *hwulmuhw* (Indigenous) and *hwunitum* (English) languages. From her early days as a Hul'q'umi'num' court translator to her final days supporting entire cohorts of Hul'q'umi'num' BA, MA and PhD students in their projects, Sti'tum'at shared her knowledge generously, with humility, kindness and caring. Her co-authored *Cowichan Dictionary* (1995) is the most extensive dictionary of the language.



**DR. STI'TUM'AT RUBY PETER**

Interwoven into Sti'tum'at's knowledge of language were cultural teachings related to traditional stories, weaving and sacred ceremonies. With her strength and guidance, Sti'tum'at brought protection to ancestral sites throughout the region. Her many place-name stories are core teachings that will resonate in Indigenous legal orders for years to come.

Sti'tum'at lived and breathed her language and culture, passionately, every day. Her legacy lives on through the work of generations she inspired.

—**Suzanne Urbanczyk, BSc '85, MA '89, and Sonya Bird, with contributions from many of Sti'tum'at's family and colleagues.**





## VOX ALUMNI

# On the Frontlines in Iran

UVic Health Informatics graduate **Dr. Mahmood Tara, MD, PhD '07**, tells us about his work helping to fight COVID in Mashhad, Iran.

***Did you always know you wanted to be a doctor? What made you choose that path?***

“I always wanted to help people, ease their life, and contribute to people-centred concepts. I found becoming a doctor to be the best job for me to become such a person. Now, after 30 years, although I am mostly in charge of the management side of the medical-practicae environment, I think I am still on the right track.”

***How did you manage to keep going and cope when you were losing colleagues to COVID?***

“COVID has changed everybody’s life, particularly those working... in medical centres, dealing with C19 patients. The nurses, doctors, staff, and particularly the patients in COVID zones are in a very high-risk zone, many of them are coming and leaving life in just a few hours. We have lost several doctors, nurses and staff—all of them were well known and are remembered as dedicated people who put their lives in danger for the sake of people. The battle still continues, and we are praying for all everyday.”

***What are some of the key concepts that you learned at UVic that you are implementing?***

“I definitely learnt a lot at UVic. The best experience for me was the excellent mentorship I received from my supervisors. This mentorship included time management, deep thinking, effective writing, presentation skills, collaboration and teamwork and professionalism. I am always thankful to my mentors, who taught me a lot. As the matter of fact, due to their continuous support, in 2020 I was elected as the fellow of International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics, which was an honour for me.

“In addition, UVic taught me that learning environment matters a lot. UVic has a very standardized setting for an education environment that combines joy and pleasure with learning experiences. Every corner of UVic, from building architecture to landscape design, from bus stop to UVic store, from Finnerty Gardens to housing, has been designed as a well-thought and imple-



mented learning space that makes UVic lifelong memorable. I am now thinking how to bring some of such mindful thoughts into my school and my students.”

***What is life like in Mashhad?***

“Mashhad is a big, beautiful city of three-million population with a large set of fluctuating population due to tourism. Every year, around 25 million tourists visit Mashhad. The city has one of the best bicycle paths in the country, making it a favourite city for me as I love bicycling. I used to bike from home to school, a seven kilometre-road, and I am planning to set it up again. Several members of my family are living in Mashhad, and I love the life ecosystem here.”

***Can you tell us a little about your family?***

“I married 27 years ago, and we have had a very happy life so far. My wife, Vida, is a nurse (not practising now). I have two kids (girls), Hoda, 24, and Helia, 19. Both are university students in graphic design (I used to work as a graphic designer for several years when I was young!)”

***Is there any moment in your recent medical practice that stands out to you? How about during your time at UVic?***

“I am not practising medicine now, however, most of my recent bright moments have been the scenes where my colleagues are helping patients suffering COVID in very critical moments, a lovely bonding between dedicated, smiling and hope-giving lifesaver teams and hopeless, tired and suffering patients.

“The most memorable part of UVic time was its unique, lovely campus life. The combination of beautiful gardens, amazing bicycle paths, tons of study spaces, natural jungles and valleys, excellent family centre and warm coffee shops and restaurants ... all makes UVic life hardly forgettable.” †

**Mahmood Tara, MD, PhD '07, was recently appointed dean in the Faculty of Medicine in Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, one of the most highly ranked faculties of medicine in Iran. He is the elected fellow of International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics (IAHSI), a member of the WHO digital health global roster of experts, and a UN/WHO consultant in health/hospital information management.**





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## ON CAMPUS



### Quiet Campus

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL KISSINGER

The University of Victoria campus has had fewer crowds than usual during the pandemic, but the rainbow crosswalk remains a welcoming splash of colour in front of the Student Union Building. UVic grad Michael Kissinger, BEd '94, captured this cyclist on their sunny commute.



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