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UBC REC FREE WEEK

Explore UBC Recreation's fitness classes, from boot camps to aqua fitness.
FREE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

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ON THE COVER

COVER BY

Ella Chan

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THE UBYSSEY

JANUARY 8, 2019 | VOLUME C| ISSUE XVIII

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that this paper and the land on which we study and work is the traditional, occupied, unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Sel̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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OUR CAMPUS

Erin Fields is breaking down barriers and empowering students at the UBC Library

"Knowledge shouldn't have gatekeeping." ZUBAIR HIRJI

Moira Wyton
Features Editor

When Erin Fields read the results page, she did a double take.

It wasn't that the Wikipedia page on Vera Weatherbie was wrong. It just didn't exist at all.

"The only mention of her in Wikipedia was as being a muse of her husband," said Fields, "which was deeply offensive to me." Weatherbie, a founder of what is now Emily Carr University of Art and Design, had won multiple awards for her paintings and been featured on a stamp by Canada Post.

"I wrote an article on her and since then it has had multiple improvements by other people," said Fields, noting that positive feedback encouraged her to keep going. "We're elevating a silent voice that existed — that had value and that clearly had impact in the world — but that just did not exist because nobody was paying attention.

"That felt incredibly valuable to me because I felt also that it was raging against the patriarchy as well, which was deeply exciting."

Elevating the voices and perspectives that knowledge structures have ignored and marginalized is central to Fields' work as a liaison librarian for the humanities and social sciences at the UBC Library, where she focuses on gender, race, sexuality and social justice topics. And while the article she wrote on Weatherbie was an extracurricular project, stories like these define her mission to engage students and faculty in the "global dialogue" of open education and access to information at UBC.

"If you think about the kind of information that we ingest into the library, you want it to be representative of not just certain visions," said Fields, who holds a master's in library and archival studies in addition to degrees in communication and education.

"And that's what ends up happening sometimes when you're building collections and building services, that you're building them for this narrow perspective."

OPENING THE FLOODGATES

Even if we are in the information age, Fields is wary that knowledge isn't as open as many claim it is. For her, increasing access and democratizing knowledge creation is integral to ensuring the library reflects and uplifts traditionally marginalized communities.

"The entryway to traditional publishing processes and traditional knowledge sharing, there's a barrier [there] unless you have the credentials, unless you are someone who is a researcher or a faculty member," she said.

"So we're limiting voices automatically, we're saying that anybody who, say, might be from a community perspective, who might not have the credentials or who hasn't published, they do not get entryway into this knowledge space."

To change this barrier, she turns to the very place students have been warned about for years: Wikipedia.

"The fascinating thing about Wikipedia is that you have the ability to break down a lot of barriers that in current information systems it's harder to do. So with Wikipedia, we were talking about the ability to categorize information, to modify how it's written, how it's structured, to add content," said Fields, noting that students shouldn't be afraid to look for guidance on Wikipedia, but should remember to use it intelligently.

"And that is only going to be valuable to have again everybody adding knowledge [and] not just having it in the hands of experts."

Fields works directly with students in classes across multiple disciplines to work on public-facing coursework and Wikipedia-based projects that help them translate their knowledge from the classroom to real-world impact. This semester alone, she worked with dozens of classes to teach subject-specific information and crash courses on Wikipedia editing.

"I love working with students because you guys do so much great intellectual work and I don't think that that great intellectual work necessarily gets pushed out into the world," said Fields.

"Knowledge shouldn't have gatekeeping."

FIGHTING BIAS

But even if it is innovative, Wikipedia and other community-developed knowledge sources aren't perfect. The objectivity and notability requirements of Wikipedia articles — and the fact that Wikipedia editors and moderators are disproportionately white and male — can make it difficult to fill gaps in these resources.

That's where Art+Feminism comes in. During this annual Wikipedia edit-a-thon that aims to increase the representation of female artists on the website, Fields works with the UBC Library to have librarians on call during the event every March to assist editors and writers in finding the information they need.

"You get to sit around a table with people who have the same kind of spirit about wanting to edit to improve the visibility of female artists and there's an excitement about what they're doing," said Fields, who is working to get students and other librarians involved with the project.

Adding citations to pages on trans and non-binary artists is also a project of hers "to try to elevate again the breadth of knowledge about people again who are pretty invisible in that space."

Changes in representation like these take time. Fields sees the UBC Library as being extremely proactive in its approach, but acknowledged that institutions can't just rely on policy to ensure they represent the community they serve.

"I think there's a personal education that has to happen within people to understand," said Fields. "Because sometimes I think it's less a malicious act and more just something you don't consider — because it's not something that's personal to you, you don't see it as existing."

Sometimes that means considering also why and for whom information should be openly accessible. In the case of Indigenous topics and resources housed by the library system, knowledge is made to be "community-facing" through projects like Indigitization, which provides funding and a toolkit for Indigenous communities to digitize their records and historical documents.

Ultimately, Fields wants to use the fact that libraries are powerful centres of knowledge to empower new voices through open pedagogy.

"That is why open is really exciting because it's not just the expert who is writing, it's everybody who is writing and who has a voice," she said.

"If you're willing to be a part of that global dialogue, I want to be somebody who helps that to happen because I see the work that's being done and it deserves presence."

CLEANBC //

Province to partner with post-secondary schools on new climate action plan

Moira Wyton
Features Editor

UBC could have a central role in the realization of the BC government's climate action plan.

Entitled CleanBC, the plan aims to reduce pollution from energy consumption in the province and diversify the economy towards "greener" industries.

The first phase of the plan focuses on cleaner transportation, energy-saving building retro-fittings, reducing emissions from industry and waste, and training the workforce to fill the labour needs for these initiatives.

"The 25 public post-secondary institutions in B.C. are up for the challenge and have the capacity to deliver. They are training the leaders of tomorrow in climate policy and climate research, and government is going to build up the next generation for the green economy," wrote a spokesperson from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training in an emailed statement.

The CleanBC Labour Readiness Plan, a strategy to execute the CleanBC plan, will be developed in partnership with post-secondary institutions by the end of 2019, according to the spokesperson.

Training, household and business incentives to realize the plan's goals are to be funded by BC's decade-old carbon tax, which prices carbon dioxide at $35 per tonne as of 2018. The plan does not mention specific funding for post-secondary institutions who conduct research that supports those goals.

According to Dr. George Hoberg, a professor in the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs who specializes in environmental policy, the plan is "quite ambitious." But BC won't meet its target of reducing 2007-level emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 without changes outside of the plan's framework.

"The announced policies only take us 75% of the way to our 40% by 2030 reduction goal," wrote Hoberg to *The Ubyssey*. A key metric for the plan is meeting the province's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions target to cut 25 million tonnes of emissions by 2030. If fully realized, this plan would reduce emissions by about 19 million tonnes by that time, 6 million tonnes short of the target.

Hoberg calls uncertainty about the future of liquid natural gas (LNG) in BC the "biggest obstacle to success" for the plan.

"There are well-understood opportunities to get the remaining reductions, but ... if additional LNG production comes on board, the problem gets even harder," wrote Hoberg.

While Hoberg acknowledges that UBC is already engaged in research that will support the plan, he sees dedicated funding and partnerships as essential to the university's active support of the plan's implementation.

"More resources would definitely accelerate progress on things like advancing low carbon fuels, electrification of transportation, and electricity storage," he wrote.

The provincial government echoed Hoberg's sentiments, stressing the importance of research and skills training if the plan's targets are ever to be fully realized.

"While people have a wide range of education and training opportunities to support a low-carbon economy, we know more needs to be done."

REST IN PROPORTION //

First-past-the-post beats out proportional representation in latest BC electoral referendum

FILE STEPHANIE XU
While the UBC NDP was "disappointed," the club said it respects the result.

Alex Nguyen & Zak Vescera
News Editors

British Columbians have chosen to keep the status quo in the latest electoral reform referendum.

Following more than a month of voting, the current First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system has beat out proportional representation (PR) by a wide margin of 61.3 per cent to 38.7 per cent.

Dr. Richard Johnston, a UBC political science professor, said he didn't expect FPTP's win to be "quite resounding," but said he was not surprised by the result given PR's previous failures at the ballot box.

In 2005, a referendum to shift to a single-transferable vote system carried over 57 per cent of the vote but failed to meet the threshold of 60 per cent.

A second referendum in 2009 failed dramatically when over 60 per cent of votes were cast against PR.

Johnston attributed the result partly to a "natural status quo bias" in referendum voting.

"You know what FPTP is. proportional representation [is] hard to know so better the devil you know than the devil you don't," he said. "... Really, there's a very powerful bias in politics generally toward systems that we understand or we think we understand."

Johnston also noted that from the data he has seen, supporters of BC Greens and BC NDP were not "as resolutely in favour" of the change as the BC Liberal supporters' opposition to it.

While the AMS didn't endorse either campaign and stuck to raising awareness about the referendum, students groups like the UBC NDP and the UBC Young BC Liberals both competed for student support.

UBC NDP President Ranil Prasad wrote in a *Ubyssey* opinion letter that PR would benefit students since it would force politicians to adapt to a wider range of political voices, including youth.

"It's true that younger voters are more supportive of the change than older voters, although younger voters were not overwhelmingly or one-sidedly in favour," said Johnston.

While the UBC NDP was "disappointed," the club said it respects the result.

"We are happy with the campaign that we ran, especially noting that Vancouver - Point Grey had one of the highest votes in favour of PR," the UBC NDP wrote to *The Ubyssey*.

At 52.89 per cent in favour of PR, the voting record of Vancouver-Point Grey — UBC's riding — puts it in the top 10 of pro-PR ridings. Vancouver-Mount Pleasant is at the top with 74.26 per cent.

The UBC BC Young Liberals club was not able to comment by press time.

When asked what this result means for younger voters, Johnston said that it's unclear how successful future initiatives of changing the voting system would be.

"So here's the question: are people in your generation going to stay with this orientation as you become older or are you going to become more conservative?" he said.

"... If this is a cultural change that is likely to stick then a decade or two down the road, it might be an entirely different cultural backdrop to BC elections. But the facts are younger voters don't turn out as much as older voters and they might become more conservative as they age."

The UBC NDP is clear that it will continue its electoral reform advocacy effort.

"We will continue to advocate for PR on all three levels of government, especially as we move into the 2019 federal election," reads the club's message.

MIDTERM REVIEW //

These aren't report cards. FILE JOHANN COOPER

Where your AMS executives stand on completing their campaign goals

Ubyssey Staff

Halfway through their terms, *The Ubyssey* asked our elected AMS executives where they stand on their goals.

Every year, AMS elections come and go, and students — or at least around 20 per cent of them — briefly care about what the AMS actually does. In just three months, we'll be hitting the polls again to elect a new executive team. It's worth taking a look to see what has worked for the old guard — and what hasn't. We based our questions off of promises they made during their campaigns and the executive goals they later presented to AMS Council.

These aren't report cards. Executive positions are not easily comparable and some goals are quicker to execute than others. We also tried to take reactions to unforeseen developments into account, like the near-shutdown of the Sexual Assault Support Centre and UBC's historically slim majority for approving tuition increases.

Here's where your elected representatives stand on accomplishing their goals.

VP FINANCE KUOL AKUECHBENY

Midway through his term, AMS VP Finance Kuol Akuechbeny says he's taking a "so far, so good" view on the progress towards his executive goals.

Akuechbeny ran on a platform of club engagement and consultation, as well as streamlining financial operations for constituencies. He also pledged a full transition from paper to electronic reimbursement for club expenses and promised to ensure the AMS's investment portfolio aligns with the student union's moral values. It's unlikely he'll get all of that done, but progress is progress.

VP ADMINISTRATION CHRIS HAKIM

Halfway through the year, VP Administration Chris Hakim still has a lot of goals left to close.

From clubs and constituencies to sustainability to mental health, Hakim came into the year with big hopes. He's made slow and steady progress on most issues, but the majority remain in their preliminary stages.

VP EXTERNAL CRISTINA ILNITCHI

AMS VP External Cristina Ilnitchi has made substantial progress on many of her promises and helped create alliances to advance the society's goals at high levels of government.

Ilnitchi promised to advocate to reduce student loan interest, encourage government funding of open educational resources and secure a long-term U-Pass agreement with TransLink and a Skytrain extension. A lot of that is in the hands of other stakeholders, but Ilnitchi has made sure students feel heard, building on previous lobbying efforts from her predecessor.

VP ACADEMIC AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS MAX HOLMES

Max Holmes campaigned for his second term as AMS VP Academic and University Affairs on the platform of increased support for sexual assault survivors and student mental health.

Holmes is one of the most visible, ambitious and productive AMS executives. That doesn't go unnoticed. Holmes has received praise for his aggressive student advocacy and roundtable approach to consultation.

But he has also received criticism from a mix of groups including fraternity members, supporters of sexual violence prevention, free-speechers and even some of the AMS's own councillors.

PRESIDENT MARIUM HAMID

Six months into her term, AMS President Marium Hamid — who ran on a platform of accessibility, student engagement and inclusion — is working hard to fulfill her campaign promises while reflecting on accomplishments and lessons learned.

The Ubyssey identified 32 tangible goals or promises made by Hamid during her election campaign and in her executive goals report. Of those, eight are now complete while most others are in progress.

Read each executive's full review online at ubyssey.ca/news

SUPPORT //

Province to fund 24/7 online mental health service for students

Zak Vescera
News Editor

BC students may soon have access to 24/7 mental health support.

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training is looking to invest $1.5 million per year in an online mental health and substance use counselling and referral service to fill an urgent need for accessible support for university students.

The service comes after years of advocacy from student organizations who say that improved mental health services are long overdue.

In March 2018, the AMS, the Simon Fraser Student Society and the University of Victoria Students' Society jointly lobbied the government for targeted funding towards mental health support, among other initiatives.

"Having more options for counselling and other services available, and having 24/7 access to these services, is a welcome addition to the changes this government is making for students," said British Columbia Federation of Students Chairperson Aran Armutlu in a release.

They highlighted findings from a 2016 study conducted by the American College Health Association across 41 Canadian campuses, which found that 44.4 per cent of respondents reported having felt "too depressed to function" in the past year. Thirteen per cent of respondents had seriously considered suicide. Only 8.4 per cent of respondents were receiving any form of medical treatment.

They also requested funding for harm reduction services in light of an ongoing overdose crisis that claimed 1,380 lives in the first 11 months of 2018.

While individual universities often offer their own mental health services, they aren't always accessible. Many UBC students report waiting months for counselling appointments.

Last semester, visits to peer counselling service Speakeasy doubled compared to last year, according to a presentation given to AMS Council last month.

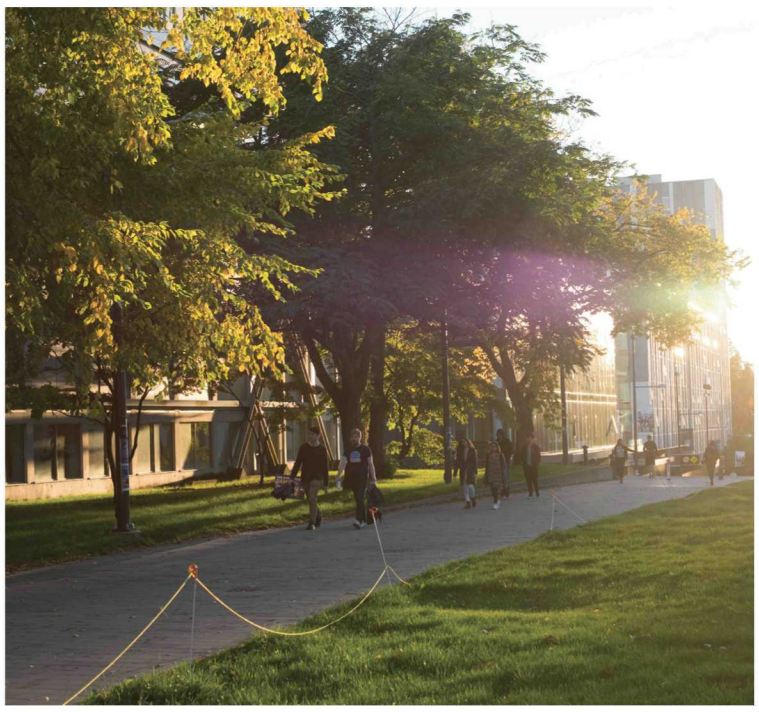
"Having services for students to access after hours, through a variety of channels, and available for any student across the province regardless of where they study is important to make these supports accessible for all," said AMS VP External Cristina Ilnitchi in a statement to *The Ubyssey*.

"... We hope the government will implement it with expedience and continue to include students in conversations about how to implement and improve these support so it is able to reach any student that needs it."

Currently, the ministry is only seeking a contract to create the service. An implementation date has yet to be set.

MENTAL HEALTH //

Early Alert: How UBC identifies and supports struggling students



FILE PATRICK GILLIN

"The earlier we can identify who might need additional support, the better."

Emma Livingstone
Senior Staff Writer

UBC's Early Alert system, designed to flag students facing mental health challenges, continues to expand as more and more referrals are made through it each year. In 2018, there were over 2,000 alerts.

Installed as an early intervention system in 2012, Early Alert allows faculty and staff to connect students who they notice struggling with university resources before their academics or personal lives are impacted.

"It's much better to do that with a student early on as opposed to at the end of the term after they've already maybe failed a course and haven't done as well as a hoped," said Chad Hyson, director of student conduct and safety at UBC.

"The earlier we can identify who might need additional support, the better."

Psychology lecturer Dr. Benjamin Cheung said the service allows faculty and staff members to provide greater support in areas where "they are not the expert."

"[Early Alert] takes it out of our hands in a good way because we don't have the resources and we don't have the training necessarily to be able to handle ... these mental health cases," Cheung said.

INTERVENING EARLY

Early Alert follows the stepped-care model of integrated health, where support can range from online, peer-support and self-help resources to individual and group counselling based on students' needs.

The service operates through the Campus Wide Login and allows secure access for faculty, staff, res life employees and teaching assistants to make alerts. Students can also email requests for early alerts to the Wellness Centre.

According to data provided by UBC Managing Director of Student Development & Services Janet Teasdale, Early Alert has classified approximately 47 per cent of alerts as mental health and well-being concerns and 32 per cent as academic concerns since the program's launch.

One resource students are often referred to is AMS Empower Me, a 24/7 mental health hotline.

AMS VP Finance Kuol Akuechbeny said Empower Me counsellors have so far received 4,000 phone calls from students with issues ranging from mental health to personal, academic and financial struggles.

But overall, only around 30 per cent of early alerts require outreach. Teasdale and Hyson note students who are notified by Early Alert are often already receiving support from various on and off-campus resources. Faculty also often refer students to resources themselves and contact Early Alert to confirm they sent the student to the most appropriate place.

Students who receive alerts can also choose not to see an advisor — but approximately 85 per cent accept the offer.

"... For somebody to be able to say, 'You're struggling we want to make sure that you get the support so that you can be successful,' is really important," Hyson said.

Alerts do not appear on student records and only the Early Alert team and advisors receive access to student information on a need-to-know basis.

EXPANDING OUTREACH

With these usage rates, both Early Alert and Empower Me aim to continue expanding in the future.

In an emailed statement to *The Ubyssey*, Hyson noted that Early Alert has trained "approximately, 3,000 faculty, staff and TA's" since its launch.

There is also a gradual shift from mainly staff members making alerts to an equal number of alerts from staff and faculty, which Hyson said is "great because [faculty] are the ones who see students day in day out and interact with them the most."

Along with offering online and department training sessions, Early Alert also provides information on UBC health resources that can be incorporated into syllabi and lecture slides to make it more accessible.

"Students often go back to their faculty members and say 'Thank you for doing that, I got the resource I need ... and that kind of feedback loop means that members more likely to use it again,'" Teasdale said.

For Empower Me, Akuechbeny said its biggest goal is to continue outreach within the student body. In particular, only students who are registered on the AMS health plan receive emails about the service, leaving out a sizeable portion of the student population, which he hopes to change.

"[We want to] improve our communication, discuss how we communicate with students so that they know about it," he said, "because one concern we have in the community ... [is] sometimes something good is happening and ... a number of people may not have been aware."

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TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE //

MOA embraces construction as an opportunity to celebrate cultural preservation with *Shake Up*

Tara Osler
Contributor

"Everyone here is a future ancestor," said Skwxwu7mesh and Sto:Lo storyteller Cease Wyss before performing the homecoming song "Snowbird."

A song about homecoming seemed at odds with the situation — seismic upgrades in the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) mean the poles adorning its Great Hall were celebrating their last days in the gallery before being transferred to another area for the duration of construction.

Though it seems like this shouldn't be cause for celebration, the atmosphere at MOA's new exhibit, *Shake Up: Preserving What We Value*, was jubilant. Featuring a wide array of dancers and musicians, the elements of this exhibition opening were united by a single theme: preserving heritage in a fragile world.

The opening ceremonies kicked off with a moving welcome to Musqueam territory from weaver Debra Sparrow, who called on visitors to contemplate the importance of protecting not only the tangible aspects of our heritage from seismic threats, but also the intangible knowledge that holds our cultures together.

Despite delays in construction which limited the extent of the exhibit, the opening ceremony still offered an impressive range of activities for guests of all ages.

In the museum's presentation circle, Wyss regaled the crowd with stories of how the Coast Salish people survived the Great Flood. For younger museum-goers, there was a hands-on learning lab about earthquakes. For the academically-minded, there was a lecture series featuring a presentation on Balinese "volcano culture" by Dr. Thomas Hunter, professor of Asian studies. To finish the day, there were classes in traditional Indonesian drumming, as well as an earth-shaking performance from the Chibi Taiko percussion ensemble.

For co-curator Dr. Jennifer Kramer, the inclusion of performers from Japan and Indonesia "just made sense" during the planning of this event. She explained that there is significant influence of seismic activity that is shared across the cultures of Japan, Indonesia and the Coast Salish peoples.

Kramer also confirmed that construction is currently scheduled to close the Great Hall by the beginning of February.

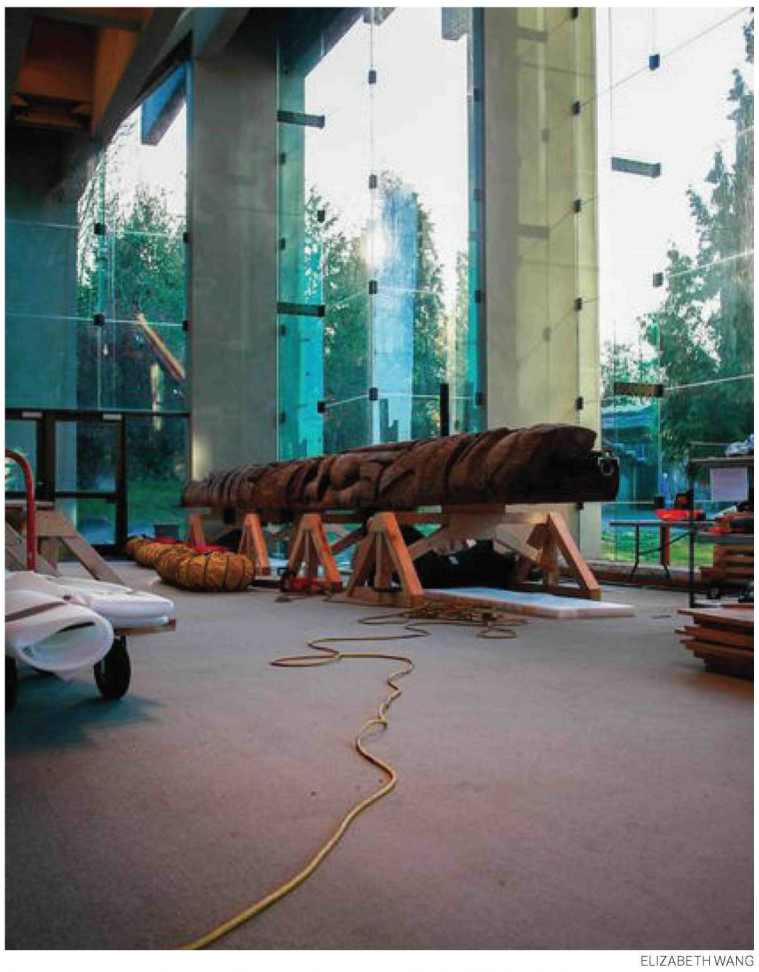
Most of the poles usually on display will now be featured in a new exhibit in the O'Brian Gallery next door. Museum attendees will have the opportunity to see the poles up close, as they will be displayed on their sides.

Worried about missing out on the beauty of the museum's Great Hall during construction? Visitors can now experience it without even having to enter the room. Virtual reality headsets, developed in partnership with UBC students at the Emerging Media Lab, allow visitors to explore what the room looks like. They will be available for the duration of the construction and there is also a touchscreen display that gives the same 360° view.

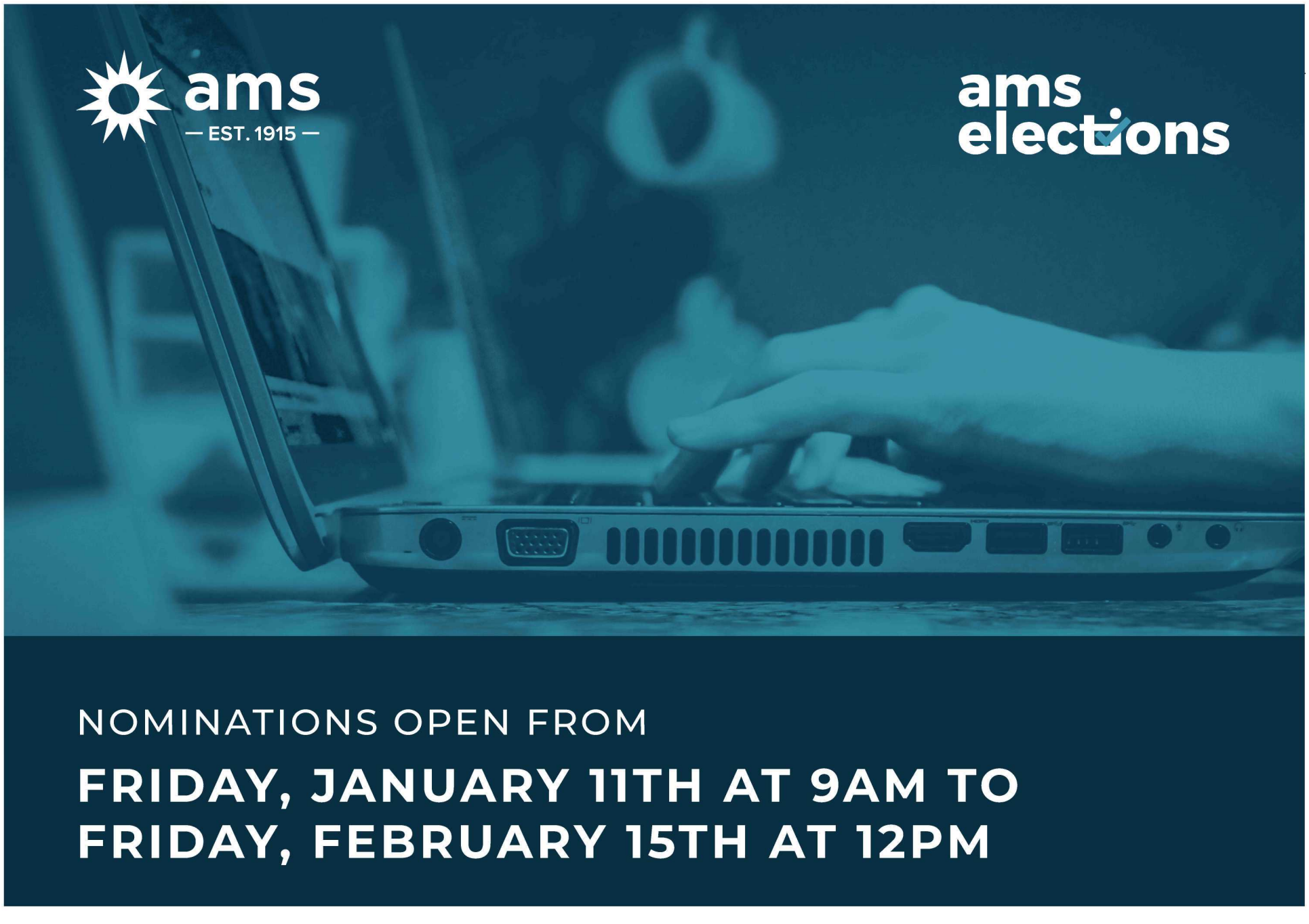
Though it may seem that the tangible parts of our cultures are the ones most threatened by natural disasters like earthquakes, our intangible heritage deserves the same protection in our current cultural climate.

The preservation of all aspects of culture is integral to MOA, and this ground-breaking new exhibit embodies that sentiment perfectly.

Shake Up: Preserving What We Value *will be on display at the Museum of Anthropology until fall 2019.*



ELIZABETH WANG
Poles usually on display will be now be featured in the O'Brian Gallery next door.



INDIGENEITY EXPLORED //

Dana Claxton's *Fringing the Cube* challenges viewers' understanding of Indigenous art

Coleman Pete
Contributor

On a winter weekend, the first floor of the Vancouver Art Gallery is crowded with attendees enjoying Guo Pei's fashion exhibit. However, a walk up one flight of the gallery's marble steps leads viewers to a different world, far beyond the glittering display of pearls and opulence below.

Dana Claxton's *Fringing the Cube* is a wide-ranging collection that is more about thinking than seeing. Here, the ancient is nestled neatly alongside the modern, the straightforward borders the cryptic, and the end result is something that is not only a display of Indigeneity, but also a cross-section of the artist who arranged it.

Claxton is a filmmaker, photographer and performance artist who is currently on sabbatical from her position as an associate professor in the department of art history, visual art and theory at UBC. She is Hunkpapa Lakota, a descendent of Sitting Bull's followers who settled in southern Saskatchewan after the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876.

This collection represents almost 30 years of her work, but not in a chronological order. It is an exhibit that is best wandered through, stopping whenever curiosity demands.

Some exhibits need more time, like "Buffalo Bone China" — a video installation with historic footage of wild bison shown alongside a broken pile of china and interspersed with an Indigenous man sitting at an empty dinner table. "NDN Ironworkers" is equally literal and curious, showing proud Indigenous men standing in full ironworking gear, members of a proud legacy of tradespeople.

Not all pieces give their meaning this easily, with parts of the exhibit having no description or written reasoning.

When asked about why certain works are given detailed explanations and others are left bare, Claxton said that, "Art should always be open-ended. Even though artists go into it with some intentions, it's also really the magic and spirit of art-making [where] something happens."

This makes certain pieces challenging — you will either understand their aim, or you won't. "Indian Candy" is an example of this, featuring bright candy-coloured portraits of wild buffalo, Geronimo and a warrant letter to arrest Sitting Bull. From afar, it seems to be a collision between pop art and Indigenous symbols. To Claxton, it is a method of confronting negative portrayals of Indigenous people and icons, where every image was found by her launching a Google search for "Wild West." These candy-coloured pieces are meant to symbolize the consumption of certain stereotypes of Indigenous people that are more than relevant today.

A room dedicated to the American Indian Movement (AIM) adds a degree of shock value to the experience. Blown up images of government documents about AIM — who would go on to be referred to as "the shock troops of Indian sovereignty" — take up massive swaths of the wall. These images, with lines of text redacted and notes scrawled on the pages, tell a detailed story about a group that went far enough to be labelled "extremist" by the FBI in the 1970s.

"Part of my attention was really about aestheticizing a liberation movement," Claxton explained. "They were continuing to have autonomy, saying 'This is enough, you're not going to treat us like this.'"

Claxton's work is challenging and emotive. Every new piece asks a different question, and most portraits seem to stare powerfully into the viewer. And for every "Buffalo Bone China," there is an "Indian Candy" — something deeply metaphorical that may not have its meaning explained in the gallery guide. It should stay this way.

"Part of my attention was really about aestheticizing a liberation movement." COURTESY VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Portraits seem to stare powerfully into the viewer. COURTESY VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Notice of Development Permit Application - DP 18044

Public Open House

Cumbria Relocation

Join us to view and comment on the relocation of the Cumbria, a public art work by Robert Murray, for integration into the boulevard west of the intersection at University Boulevard and West Mall in Ponderosa Commons.

Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 **Times:** 11:30AM - 1:00PM
Place: Lobby, Ponderosa Commons East, 6398 University Boulevard

Plans will be displayed for the placement of the Cumbria art work in Ponderosa Commons.

Representatives from the project team and Campus + Community Planning will be available to provide information and respond to inquiries about this project.

This event is wheelchair accessible.

For further information:
Please direct questions to
Karen Russell, Manager, Development Services
karen.russell@ubc.ca 604-822-1586

Can't attend in person? Online feedback will be accepted until **January 23, 2019**. To learn more or to comment on this project, please visit:
planning.ubc.ca/vancouver/projects-consultations

This notice contains important information which may affect you. Please ask someone to translate it for you.

此通告包含重要信息，这可能会影响你。请找人为你翻译。

이 통지는 영향을 미칠 수 있는 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 당신을 위해 그 것을 번역하는 사람을 문의하시기 바랍니다.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Campus + Community Planning

SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH

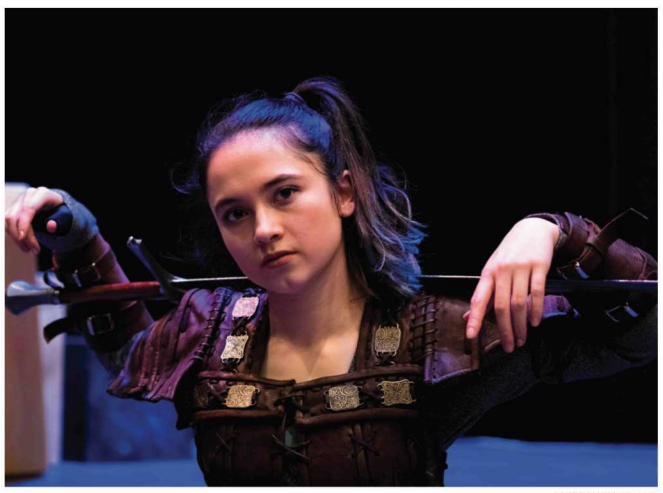
ELIZABETH WANG

SAMAN SHARIATI

VICTOR SAUCA

SAMANTHA MCCABE

KOBY MICHAELS



KOBY MICHAELS

SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH

RYAN NEALE

the top stories of the year

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

SEPTEMBER

Volleyball national win

It was a proud day to be a Thunderbird in March — we're just sad we weren't there to see it live at McMaster University. The team ended a 35-year national title drought after a killer season.

UBC prof hopes to glean new insights about Martian interior as part of NASA mission

In May, a new Martian lander launched for Mars on a mission to learn more about the planet's interior. Dr. Catherine Johnson, a professor in UBC's department of earth science, is part of the team that will analyze the data the probe sends back.

After a year at sea, Ada the sailbot is coming home

When the team that built *Ada* lost contact with the autonomous SailBot in November 2016, they thought they would never see the vessel again. Over a year later, however, they received word that *Ada* had been found off the coast of Florida and was on her way back home to Vancouver.

Editorial: Santa Ono's apology was too little — and much too late

On April 10, Santa Ono apologized for the role that UBC played in perpetuating the Indian Residential School System in Canada. But, over six months after the originally planned date and Ono's own controversy with John Furlong, it was too little and too late.

SASC shutdown

In May, the AMS suddenly announced that support services were to be cut from the Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) without consultation of survivors or students. The backlash inspired a huge social media campaign and made local headlines, leading the society to backpedal the changes as quickly as it had announced them.

Varsity Endowment Fund Announcement

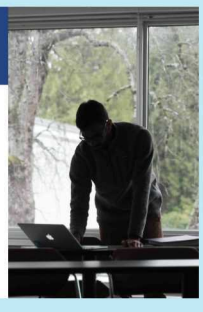
In the 2018 fiscal year, funding for women's athletic scholarships was $150,591 less than their men's counterparts at UBC. The new Blue and Gold Women's Varsity Endowment Fund announced in February hopes to combat that inequity.

"She Kills Monsters" is disemboweling conventions and slaying demons

UBC Theatre put on quite a show with "She Kills Monsters," a D&D adventure that was both an ode to the '90s as well as a commentary on queerness and sisterhood.

Choosing 'between groceries and rent'

With no job security and low pay in one of the most expensive cities in North America, hundreds of employees at UBC are struggling to simply pay their bills. *The Ubyssey* investigated the precarious working conditions of sessional lecturers at UBC, whose pay and treatment are far from equal to their tenure-track counterparts.

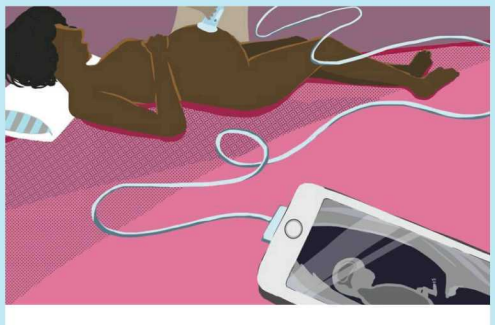


IRSHDC is a building, not yet a centre

The April 9 opening of UBC's Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre was supposed to be a step in the right direction for a school mired in missteps in its partnerships with Indigenous communities. Instead, our investigation found the centre was never ready to open in the first place, and still doesn't house the services it was promised to provide.

Cannabis legalization

UBC quietly created and implemented the most liberal on-campus cannabis policy in Canada this fall as other schools moved to restrict the jazz cabbage on campus.

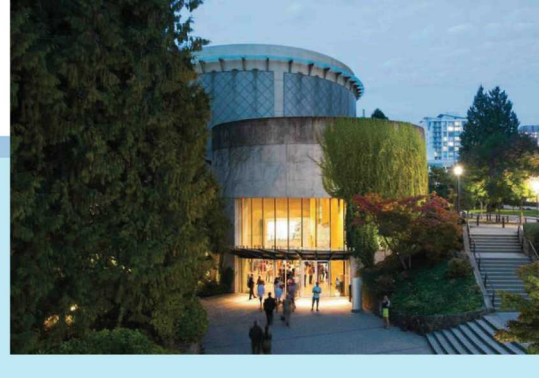


UBC ultrasound advance presents new potential for wearable medical devices

A group of UBC engineers developed a new, inexpensive manufacturing method for ultrasound transducers that could allow mobile phones to be used for ultrasound imaging.

Gritty posters at the Chan Centre urge students to fight against oppression and join the revolution

After a year of political tumult both in North America and abroad, it feels good knowing that proletarian hero Gritty made an appearance on campus this year.

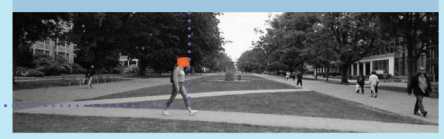


Interned Japanese-Canadian teenagers show 'histories of friendship' in letters donated to UBC

UBC acquired dozens of letters written by interned Japanese-Canadian teenagers during the internment period of 1942, which paint a picture of young lives and friendships during this tragic period.

One Year Later

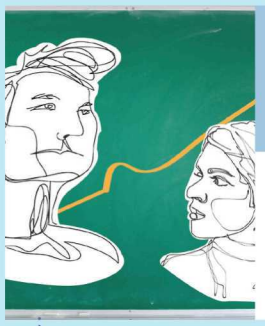
As *The Ubyssey* investigated sexual misconduct and Policy 131, we discovered numerous problems with the policy's implementation, education and communication in the year since it came into effect in May 2017. While UBC has cited a reasonably lengthy checklist of things it has done, the holes that remain are the ones that survivors routinely seem to be falling through.



Trudeau announces government funding for new medical isotope research facility at TRIUMF

At a November event, Justin Trudeau announced $10 million in federal funding for a new research facility at TRIUMF that will focus exclusively on work surrounding medical isotopes.

JUNE



Widespread experiences of racial discrimination at UBC persist

In 2018, 38 per cent of students at UBC experienced racial discrimination. That figure is hardly a blip — since 2015, a stubborn baseline of experiences of racial discrimination has persisted. Our investigation shone a light on the students who experience discrimination, the leaders working to improve the problem and where the university sees a way forward.

Wall Centre director resigns

One of UBC's most respected scholars left his post in a sudden, direct challenge to the school administration's overreach in its institute of advanced studies. A Senate investigation is ongoing.

Editorial: student media is media

After our coordinating editor was denied comment from the University of Toronto because we weren't "their" student media, we published this piece restating that student journalists are journalists and our work is important to media coverage.

Questions of belonging: How local institutions are handling Indigenous repatriation initiatives

While museum efforts in British Columbia were previously focused on collecting Indigenous objects for display, many museums now have a new mandate: giving them back. Representatives from the Museum of Anthropology, the Lab of Archaeology and the Museum of Vancouver discussed repatriation efforts and how institutions can make amends.

AUGUST

Indigenous students speak out on Halloween: We are people, not costumes

A collective of Indigenous community members at UBC shared their thoughts and personal experiences about why "Indigenous" Halloween costumes are not appropriate.

The Hunger Gap

Rising AMS Food Bank usage is just the tip of the food insecurity iceberg. Our three-part investigation looked into the experiences of the 40 per cent of students who experience food insecurity during their studies and how student groups and advocates are working to get to the root of the hunger gap — affordability.

Board of Governors tuition increases

Last year's domestic and international tuition and fee increase proposals passed, but for the first time in many years, it was a close vote. The AMS joined forces with student and faculty representatives to oppose all domestic tuition increases, joined — notably — by two new provincial appointees.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Canadian universities are 'allergic' to accountability and information access

A *Ubyssey* investigation revealed that as Canadian universities generate more and more information of public interest, they're becoming less and less willing to share it. Some say public bodies are "allergic" to accountability as a whole, while others argue this is a second ivory tower.

HOBBIES //

Mind Your Mind: Try something new in 2019

Daphnée Lévesque
Mindfulness Columnist

Growing up, I had three brothers who played hockey. My mom cheered them on from the stands, my dad was the assistant coach and I felt like our family embodied Canadian stereotypes as we wore hockey jerseys and spent entire weekends in crowded arenas.

As a child, and probably as a result of wanting to follow family tradition, I also attempted to develop a passion for sports on ice. I tried hockey, then figure skating. I hated both, probably because I wasn't very good at either. My dad tried many times to teach me how to skate, but in the end I simply gave up.

Last weekend though, my roommate and I had nothing to do one evening. He told me there was public skating happening at the community centre near our place. For some reason, my gut feeling told me to go for it. I joined him, thinking to myself, "Why the hell not?"

I hadn't gone ice skating in over a decade and, based on previous memories, I was sure that I would hate it. To my surprise, I not only remembered how to skate but I also found myself enjoying it.

I went to bed that night feeling content and grateful for the experience. From that expereince, I've learned a few things.

PEOPLE CHANGE

When I first stepped onto the ice, I automatically assumed that I would hate it based on my previous experiences. However, what we liked to do when we were younger doesn't have to dictate what we like to do when we're older. People change and so can their interests. It's never too late to try something for the second time.

REMEMBER WHAT YOU LIKED AS A CHILD

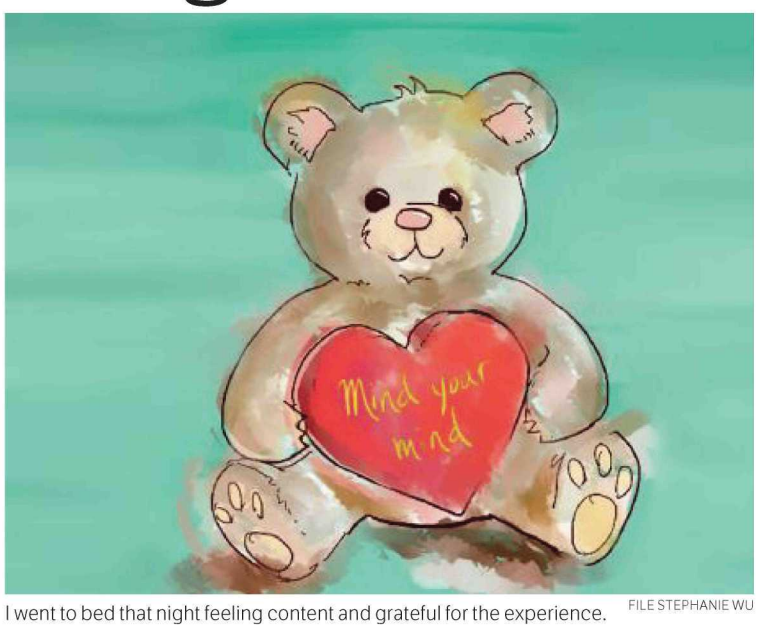
One piece of advice I've been given in the past when I've felt disconnected from myself was, "Think of your childhood. What did you enjoy doing back then?" While it's true that reflecting on our childhood and choosing activities that we enjoyed as children can bring us joy, it's not the only way. In my case, all of my previous memories associated with skating involved me falling on my butt and crying on the ice. Now, I'm glad that my brain has processed one good experience about ice skating and filed it away in my long-term memory.

TRIAL AND ERROR

Sometimes, in order to figure out what we like, we have to experience things we dislike. But that means that we have to allow ourselves to try new things in the first place. We can keep doing the things we feel comfortable with and that way we avoid a lot of mistakes, but that's not how we grow.

I'm writing this article because I think that some university students get caught up with school, work and extracurricular activities. Students have to deal with several stressors and they can sometimes be under the impression that they are stuck in a boring routine — a space where nothing interesting ever happens.

Most students could benefit from spending more time with themselves, *for* themselves. Students spend so much time making connections with others, but I think that some may forget to cultivate a healthy relationship with themselves.



I went to bed that night feeling content and grateful for the experience. FILE STEPHANIE WU

So many of us as young adults in our twenties are looking for ways to connect with ourselves.

Maybe my story of ice skating is a silly example, but it was a vulnerable choice from my point of view. I'm glad that I allowed myself to do something a bit unexpected and the outcome turned out to be positive.

Do something out of the ordinary. Try a new hobby. Go ice skating. Keep exploring and keep growing.

If you need additional support, please contact Student Health Services, Sexual Assault Support Centre and/or the Wellness Centre. In case of an emergency, call 911.

JEONG //

Their Campus: Tracing my roots in Seoul

YUNJI HWANG

This was the city I had missed. A fast-paced, urban city surrounded by rural margins.

Yunji Hwang
Contributor

When I chose Seoul as my exchange destination, many seemed curious or rather confused as to why I chose my hometown. Although exchange is known to be about new experiences and immersing oneself into a foreign culture and environment, I enrolled into the exchange program with a different intention: to re-connect with my own heritage and culture. Although I was born and raised in Korea, I left home at the age of 12 and I grew up in two different countries. Being in an environment with very few Korean people around me, I often felt disconnected with my own roots and this exchange seemed to be a great opportunity to change that.

It was around 8 p.m. when I reached Seoul, a sleepless city built on traffic noises and busy footsteps. Behind these concrete buildings were mountains surrounding the city with the Han river flowing through it. This was the city I had missed. A fast-paced, urban setting surrounded by rural margins.

As someone who lived on campus since my first year at UBC, the rush hour craziness on public transport was my worst nightmare come true on my first day of school at Seoul National University. The humidity during the rainy season would make me especially car sick but it gave me more respect for all the commuters.

Classes were similar to UBC in terms of the structure, assessments and expectations, although the professors were more strict about attendance. What I found most difficult during my exchange was the culture difference I faced. As I was raised in a Korean family and went to elementary school in Korea, I didn't think that I was going to experience cultural differences. This exchange taught me that cultural challenges can also derive from your own culture.

Although I speak fluent Korean, I haven't had many opportunities to talk to Koreans other than my own family, so interacting with people in school turned out to be surprisingly tough. What I found most difficult were the honourifics and the proper uses of salutations when addressing people older than me.

I was used to using honourifics with family friends and relatives, but this was the first time I had to properly interact with my Korean seniors, TAs and professors in a university environment. I found myself avoiding chances to talk to them as I was anxious that I was going to make a mistake and offend them.

As exchange is about coming out of your comfort zone and learning, I was eventually able to familiarize myself with the necessary terms and tone. I soon became comfortable interacting with them, especially the seniors who have become close friends of mine to this day.

Another aspect of Korean culture I missed most is what Korean people call *"Jeong ." Jeong* is a difficult concept to define but it essentially means compassion, connection and community. In other words, it is the care you have towards another individual and the relationship you build with them.

I joined a *Pungmul* club on exchange where I was able to not only learn about *Pungmul*, Korean folk music, but also make wonderful friends. We would always go to an after-practice gathering where we would drink and have *Anju* — Korean drinking snacks — play games and chat for hours. Although I was only there for a term, they soon became close friends.

This would have been impossible without *Jeong*, which drove them to welcome, accept and even take care of me from day one.

The drinking culture was indeed a shock for me. For a lightweight, it was a struggle to keep up with these Korean friends who could go on and on for hours. It was my first time staying up drinking and chatting until 5 a.m. when I would catch the first train back home.

Although I had the intention to reconnect with my roots, I was not expecting to have new experiences. This exchange program was a turning point in my life. To those who consider themselves what we call a "Third Culture Kid" or anyone who doesn't feel connected to their country of origin, I would recommend the exchange program. I promise you, there is so much more out there than you think you know.

WINTER BREAK //

Op-ed: January 2 was too early to be here

Zak Vescera
News Editor

In my 9 a.m. lecture on Wednesday, January 2, I surveyed an empty room. Students who had made it seemed unhappy to be there. Even the prof was half an hour late.

This scene points towards something we knew all along: January 2 is just too damn early to start the semester.

If you had your last exam near the end of UBC's already lengthy exam schedule like me, you only had two weeks to unwind before once again sitting down for your first seminar of the year.

I'm aware that in the workforce, two weeks off is a sizeable and enviable vacation. But for students, the holidays aren't a luxury — they're pedagogically beneficial and vital for our collective mental and physical health.

After weeks of preparing for and writing exams, our brains need a break to reflect and process what we've learned. Most students are already behind on sleep by the end of November — we need time and rest to properly recover.

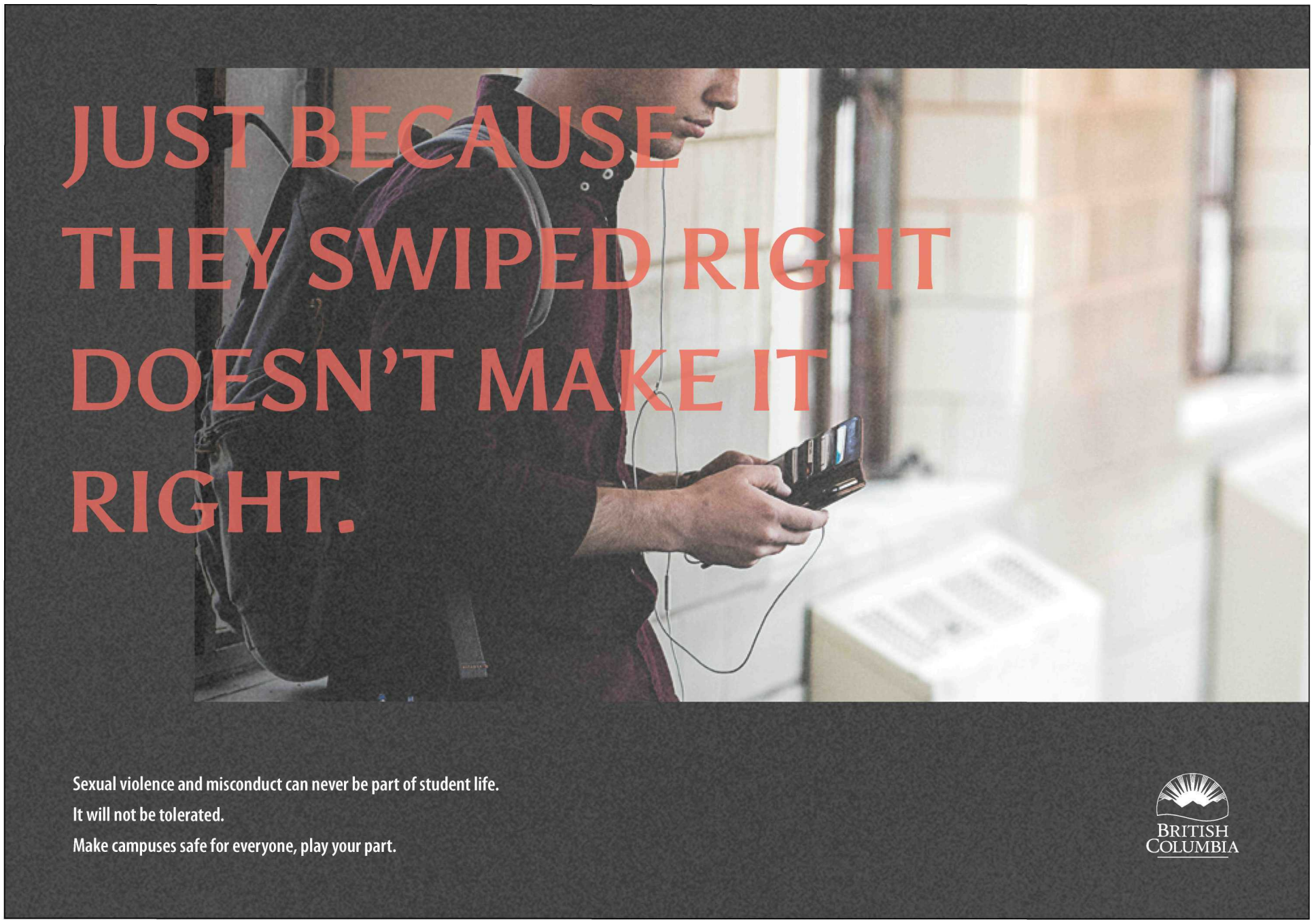
That goes for professors, too, many of whom are without a doubt balancing countless family commitments on top of preparing coursework for the upcoming semester. And if you're unfortunate enough to be in your graduating year like me, you probably spent a good chunk of the break job-hunting and preparing for grad school — not exactly a dream vacation.

And consider the dilemma of the international students flying home. Do you shell out hundreds, maybe thousands of dollars to see your family for all of 10 days? Do you skip the holidays and stay in your dorm room because of the prohibitive cost? Do you ditch New Year's festivities with your family and friends to get home early? There's no winning.

I'm aware that there is probably a very, very good reason for school starting this early. But if we need two more days of school, why not have a shorter exam schedule in the first place? That seems more productive than starting the semester on a Wednesday.

As I sit at my desk, staring out into the frigid abyss, I'm grateful for the education I'm receiving here. But I'm also envious of my friends who had the good sense to take an extra three days to see their loved ones, nurse their New Year's hangovers and prepare to start the semester on the right foot.

"Holidays are pedagogically beneficial and vital for our collective mental and physical health." FILE JENNIFER LOSIE



ERGONOMIC //

The Dingbat: The anatomy of my really great backpack

Angela O'Donnell
Humour Columnist

Ah, I see you eyeing my *Fjallkinsporschel* backpack. Do its bulging pockets entice you? Do the rain-soaked stains mesmerize you? I know you've seen me walking from class to class, looking like I'm about to be crushed to death by my own backpack. Would you believe me if I told you everything I own fits into this bag?

You see, every morning I fill this trusty bag to the brim with all the things I need in my day. I have all my meals: a breakfast burrito, a chicken salad sandwich, a bunch of Clif bars and a Ziploc container of spaghetti so big it could feed a family of four.

In the back I have my Macbook, an external disc drive, an extra computer tower and many loose wires — like, a bunch of them. Do you want one? I won't need all these wires today, so you can totally have one. Please don't take any of the teal ones. Those are my favourite and I've been having a hard time tracking them down.

In the front pouch I keep my wallet, my passport, a piece of loose leaf paper with my Social Insurance Number on it, my Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement and a print out of my ancestry.com family tree. Do you want to hear about my family tree? We have a cool crest that dates back to the 1600s. I actually have a tattoo of it too. Yeah, my family and I all got matching ones a while back. Actually, it's funny, my sister's — oh, sorry, I forgot, I was talking about my backpack!

I'm about to be crushed to death by my own backpack. FILE KAI JACOBSON

The little pouch inside the back is where I keep all my pens. I have a lot of pens.

The straps of my backpack are where I keep my extra extra Clif bars. I need a lot of Clif bars to replenish the energy I lose carrying around this giant backpack.

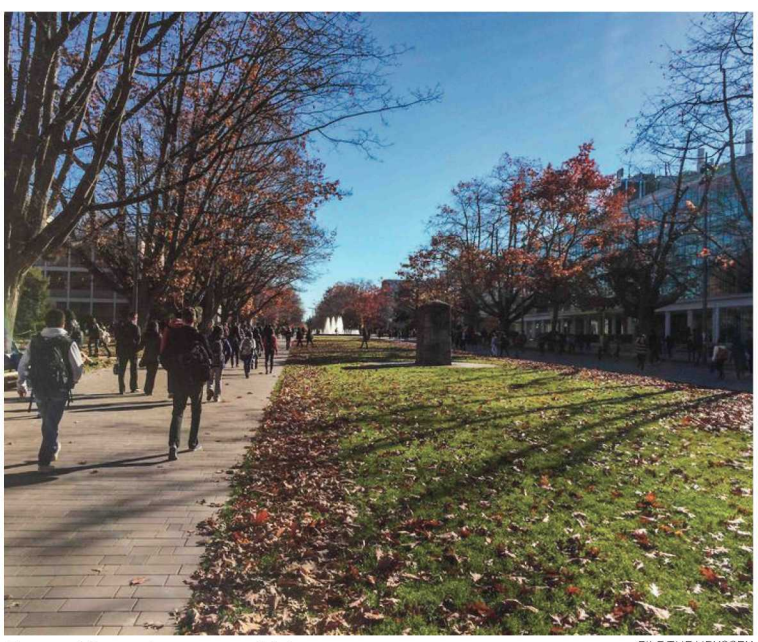
In my side pockets I have an umbrella and a UBC water bottle. My water bottle is always empty though, because the extra weight would throw off my centre of gravity.

Anyway, I'll let you get back to studying. I'll have to tell you all about my pins, patches and buttons some other time.

The Dingbat is The Ubyssey*'s new humour column. You can submit completed pieces or pitches to Angela O'Donnell at a.odonnell@ubyssey.ca.*

CUTTING CORNERS //

Desired dirt paths to take when your time is too precious for sidewalks



Free spirits and eco-anarchists. FILE THE UBYSSEY

Johann Cooper
Staff Writer

Who can be bothered to properly round a sidewalk corner? Not only is it an incredible waste of time but it looks ridiculous too! Is the expectation really that you walk straight for a section, rotate your waist 90 degrees and continue walking? I wouldn't be caught dead doing something as idiotic as that. Thankfully, the collective subconscious of the student body has trampled numerous dirt paths on campus to avoid these monotonous corners.

At the intersection of University Boulevard and Main Mall there is an incredibly well-worn diagonal. This patch of pressed earth provides a fluid transition from western-bound travel to the south. Not a shred of grass can be seen here, making it a reliable choice for commutes long into the future. This path is so well traveled, in fact, that experts believe it was used as a vital route for early coastal trade.

For a more "choose your own adventure" alternative to pavement, the Oak Bosque in front of IKB is an excellent choice. There are numerous paths in this miniature forest thicket providing a new experience every time you enter. The forest is also home to friendly weed-smokers and slackliners that are known to offer travellers potent dope and tightened rope.

Free spirits and eco-anarchists might find pleasure in crossing Main Mall by walking through the grass. While there are sidewalks spaced every eight metres to conveniently bridge the cement, there is an undeniable rush you get by needlessly avoiding these walkways. Just be mindful of quidditch recruiters using the green space to find potential talent.

Should you utilize these desire paths? Yes. Pythagoras created his theorem for some reason and it sure as hell wasn't to take the indirect paths that sidewalks enforce.

GAMES //

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COURTESY KRAZYDAD.COM

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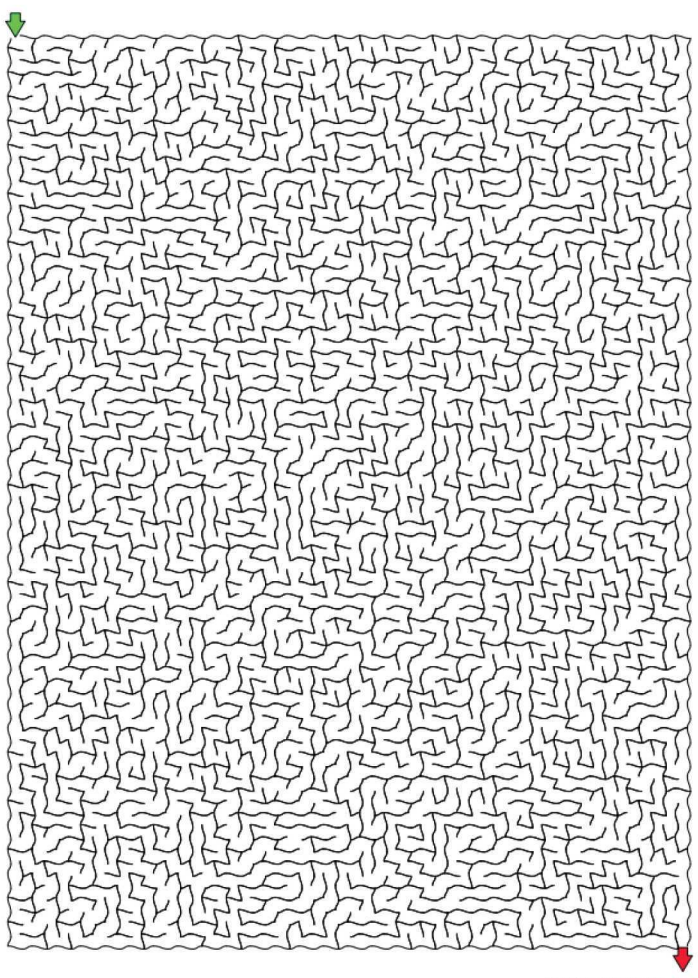

COURTESY KRAZYDAD.COM

SIP SIP PASS //

UBCO professor takes advantage of legalization to research possibilities of cannabis beverages

Moira Wyton
Features Editor

Cannabis users could soon be able to drink their substance of choice as easily as they can buy a beer, thanks to a UBC Okanagan (UBCO) researcher's latest collaboration.

Dr. Susan Murch, a UBCO associate professor of plant chemistry, is researching the shelf-life and stability formulation of cannabis in different edible formats — including beverages — in partnership with Dr. Paula Brown at BCIT and Pacific Rim Brands. Pacific Rim, a Kelowna-based company that works on developing cannabis products for the consumer market, is targeting the health and wellness, sports nutrient and recreational consumer segments.

"The question that we are addressing with [Pacific Rim] is how do you make high-quality cannabis products for [the] modern Canadian market?" said Murch, who also researches the differences in chemical compositions and effects of different strains of cannabis. "We know very little about how those products will behave in what is a now consumer market."

While recreational cannabis was legalized in Canada on October 17 — making it the second country worldwide to do so, after Uruguay — cannabis consumer products, or edibles, are not expected to be available until October 2019 at the earliest. According to Murch, the sheer diversity of cannabis products and formulations that exist means determining how to safely produce, transport and distribute these products is an uncharted challenge.

"How long will [the products] last on the shelf? Do they need to be refrigerated? Do they need to be stored at a certain temperature?" said Murch, noting that exposure to light and prolonged warm temperatures during transport are also factors to be considered.

"Those kinds of issues are really all quite new."

In liquid cannabis formats, these questions get even more complicated. Many of the impacts of interactions between cannabis and other beverage ingredients are still unknown, as is how to best standardize the amount of active cannabis ingredients in different formats.

"When you get into more complex forms, where you're making an extract or you're formulating an extract with other ingredients, some of the ingredients interact — and sometimes that's a good thing and sometimes that's a bad thing," said Murch.

She also acknowledged that beverages may have the potential to deliver certain effects of cannabis — like reducing inflammation and aiding sleep — more effectively than other forms of consumption, but that these properties have yet to be fully explored.

Many of the impacts of interactions between cannabis and other beverage ingredients are still unknown. FILE KRISTINE HO

"This is a new marketplace, an emerging market, and so it's part [of] what needs to be done is to think about, 'How do we do this well?'"

While there is still much to be learned about the properties of cannabis before beverages are developed and available to consumers, Murch is excited for these new areas of research to open up in the wake of legalization.

"Without legalization, I wouldn't be working on cannabis," she said, noting that this will mean more opportunities for students to research and pursue careers related to cannabis. UBC appointed Canada's first-ever cannabis professor earlier this month.

"What I think is interesting about the legalization process is that it opens the door for a bunch of researchers and research that would have otherwise not been possible."

REPRESENTATION //

UBC Women in Chemistry aims to empower underrepresented groups throughout STEM

COURTESY UBC WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY

Kristine Ho
Staff Writer

The newly-founded UBC Women in Chemistry group is seeking to build a supportive space for women in chemistry and STEM (sciences, technology, engineering and math).

"The goal of the group is just to create a supportive community where everybody feels safe and welcome, and the intention of that is to help promote the retention of minorities — mostly women — in chemistry at UBC in particular," said Dr. Carolyn Virca, a postdoctoral research fellow at UBC's Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute. She is one of the group's founding members, along with Rebecca Sherbo, Valerie Chiykowski and Maria Cleveland.

Founded in 2018, the group is mainly led by — and tailored towards — graduate students. At each monthly meeting, different planning members of the group host relevant workshops, helping to guide members through graduate school and their academic careers. Past workshops have covered topics like mentorship and sponsorship, and leadership as a woman in science.

The meetings provide networking opportunities with other academic professionals. The group also uses the space to relay external opportunities like scholarships or fellowships from organizations like the Canadian Women in Chemistry Network (CWIC) — of which it is a member — to group members.

The importance of creating this kind of supportive community for women in science is not new to Virca.

"The graduate school that I went to didn't have a 'women in anything' group ... so we started one there too, which is why I knew, 'OK, this is what we've got to do to keep us going here [at UBC],'" she explained. "I think what we really wanted was just that support and that community, and that space where we could, you know, network and provide opportunities for each other and celebrate each other, and just be really supportive."

Women in STEM face various obstacles such as skewed grant funding towards male project leads. "Even ridiculous things like not having a bathroom for your gender anywhere near where you work — that's just like a subtle sign that you don't belong there," Virca explained. She also talked about the "leaky pipeline," where women prematurely leave STEM fields in various stages of their career, resulting in increasingly fewer numbers of women at more advanced positions.

"Little things and big things like that really add up," Virca said, "... if you're not the only one person that [it's] happening to and there's a tribe of angry women right there with you, ... it can really help you push through those obstacles because they're there."

Despite the challenges, Virca stressed the need to speak to these issues and inform everyone — not just women — about them.

"If those are subconscious biases that are held by people that are making these decisions right now [are present], that's something that — although it's discouraging and it's disappointing and it's frustrating — we need to know [about] ... especially if we're the people who are making these choices down the line."

While the group focuses on women, Virca emphasized that its membership is not limited to women alone. "Not even is it not exclusive [to women], but we really encourage men to come," Virca said. She believes men can benefit from listening to their women peers in STEM and learn about the issues affecting women in STEM fields.

The group plans to continue holding meetings in the coming months, putting on events like a career guidance workshop and potentially collaborating with other women in STEM clubs in the future. Establishing a formal mentorship program for graduate students and postgraduates is also a consideration for the future.

"Women are so good at talking and sharing and supporting and affirming each other," said Virca. "And this is just an official space for us to do that."

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EQUITY //

Blue and Gold Women's Varsity Endowment Fund is picking up its fundraising pace

In the 10 months since the fund's creation, UBC Athletics has raised $48,000 for women's varsity scholarships. LUA PRESIDIO

Lucy Fox
Sports Editor

It's been 10 months since the Blue and Gold Women's Varsity Endowment Fund was announced and the initiative is already halfway to its $100,000 goal.

Announced at last season's Millennium Breakfast, the fund intends to close the gender gap within sports scholarships on campus, with all funds raised (and UBC's matched funds) going towards women's varsity sports scholarships.

UBC Athletics' Development and Alumni Engagement team has raised $48,000 for the endowment — primarily over the last six months since Sarah Barclay, the new director of development and alumni engagement, took her position. Barclay hopes to hit the $100,000 mark by this season's Millennium Breakfast on February 26, 2019.

Since assuming her role in August, Barclay has also seen several donors shift their priorities from supporting a men's team to balancing their donations between the men's and women's teams.

"A number of donors have said, 'You know what ... of course I want to do equal gender [donating].' ... We've started the conversation and now it's starting to trickle down not only into this endowment, but all of our other fundraising," Barclay explained.

The unveiling of the new initiative — which was originally seeded by a $30,000 anonymous donation — has also helped create three other varsity endowments on campus, as donors became aware of the discrepancies in gendered funding at the varsity level.

"We've had a new endowment for women's rugby that has been created for $125,000 which will be matched by the university as well, so it will create a $250,000 endowment fund," Barclay said about one of the other new funds. "... This donor historically supported men's teams and he turned around and said, 'What am I doing for women?' and he's gone and done this, which is incredible."

The Blue and Gold Women's Varsity Endowment Fund is still gaining traction. It is on the hunt for an initiative champion to help it pick up momentum, particularly with regard to finding other alumni willing to donate to their old program — and give big.

Typically, UBC's female graduates have been more likely to give smaller but more frequent donations to Athletics, while male graduates will give one large sum.

This observation was previously addressed by the Twenty8 Group, a leadership group for funding women in varsity sport on campus. In hopes of evolving the Twenty8 Group's goals, Barclay and UBC Athletics have transitioned the group into a collective called Thunderbird Women in Sport.

"With the Twenty8 Group, it was a fairly exclusive group — you had to donate $500 in order to gain membership as donor — and there was a number of younger [alumna] who came up to me and said, 'You know, I really wanted to be a part of that group, but $500 was too steep for me right out of school.' So that's why we kind of took a step back and said, 'How about we just, at this point, make it an inclusive group,'" Barclay said.

The collective hopes to allow more of UBC's community to be involved in fundraising for women's sport, with space open for alumni, staff, current students and general athletics community advocates. To date, it has been championed and led by UBC women's basketball alumna, Sauder graduate and UBC Hall of Famer Erica McGuinness.

"She epitomizes everything that the ... initiative should focus [on]. Somebody who volunteers, has an amazing corporate, powerful woman job, breaking glass ceilings, she's about to have her second kid and she's just doing it all and ... [it's] really directing me as well to figure out where we can fundraise from," Barclay said.

Though there is evident progress since the Blue and Gold Varsity Endowment Fund's announcement last year, Barclay acknowledged that it's still missing that one, incredibly substantial donation. But that's not a far-fetched dream.

In September, McGill University announced a $3.5-million gift from alumni Sheryl and David Kerr. According to McGill's press release, the donation intends to "advance the role of women as athletes, coaches and decision-makers" by increasing the number of positions available for female coaches on campus and helping female athletes be leaders in the community.

"One of the female alumni said to me, 'Where is our Kerr family? Sarah, where are they?' and I said, 'Find them for me, I'm looking.'"

SPORTS CLUBS //

Making a splash: Hockey doesn't always need to be played on ice

The Underwater Hockey Club currently has roughly 30 regular players. CLAIRE LLOYD

Tristan Wheeler
Blog & Opinion Editor

If you look at the surface of the competition pool at the UBC Aquatic Centre on Sunday mornings, you'll see an array of flippers and bodies mingling beneath the surface. From the pool deck, it looks like a bunch of rugby players pretending to be submarines. Below the surface, though, a sport of intricacy and physicality is being played: underwater hockey (UWH).

Invented in the 1950s by a UK diver as a means of staying in shape in the winter months, underwater hockey has developed into an international sport. The sport spread across several Commonwealth countries throughout the 1960s and reached North America by way of Vancouver.

Since then, Vancouver has remained the hub for underwater hockey in Canada — and it thrives here at UBC.

The sport resembles its ice-loving relative in its use of nets, sticks and a puck. Players try to send the puck into their opponent's net, too. But how does that work underwater?

During a game, two teams of six move the puck along the bottom of the swimming pool, aided by snorkels, flippers, masks and shortened sticks. As it's hard to communicate, athletes require a high level of aquatic ability as well as a willingness to get up close and personal.

While underwater hockey is not a contact sport, UBC's Underwater Hockey Club President Pau Sard said, "the product of having a very small puck and a lot of people [is that] some contact happens."

The club, was formed in 2016 by Emily Dressel. Today, it consists of a hearty mix of beginners and expert underwater hockey players. Sard, a veteran player, first got involved with underwater hockey at age 12.

"I was in my school's swim team and waterpolo team and they started hosting UWH training sessions at the pool and I had a couple of friends doing it so I decided I'd give it a try."

After moving to the UK, Sard lost contact with the sport. He was reintroduced to it upon arrival at UBC. "When I got back to UBC for my second year, during Club Week I saw a stand that said 'Underwater Hockey'.... I've been playing twice or three times a week since then!"

The club, which has roughly 30 regular players, even has athletes representing their countries at some of the highest echelons of the sport.

"We currently have one player playing for the U-23 men's Canadian team, three players who regularly play for the Canadian women's elite team, and one who plays for the New Zealand men's elite team," said Sard.

Though they evidently have an intimidating roster, the club rarely sends teams comprised fully of UBC students to tournaments because there aren't enough players who compete for the club. Nowadays, the team typically teams up with the Rumblefish, a Burnaby-based team.

There was a time a few years ago when UBC had its own competitive, traveling team, though. As Sard explained, the team "wanted to be called the Thunderbirds, but UBC does not allow that unless you are varsity, so they called the team the Thunderducks."

Currently, the biggest hurdle for UBC Underwater Hockey is student participation. "[It] is very difficult to promote a sport like ours in a country where ice hockey, the real hockey, is a thing," Sard said.

That said, the team is very keen to find new players. They are even hosting one-on-one sessions with beginners with a stock of gear to borrow, with practices on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings too — all free.

So, if you're ever watching the latest Canucks game and find yourself thinking 'These sticks should be shorter, this ice should be melted and these people should be swimming,' it may be worth your time to check out the quirky sport of underwater hockey.

RECAP //

Weekend rundown: Basketball breaks down UBCO, while other teams struggle in first winter term games

Lucy Fox
Sports Editor

In our first weekend back after the holiday break, the happiest news came out of War Memorial Gym, where the basketball teams continue to elevate their game and impress. On the road and out at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre, though, it was a different story.

WIN STREAKS ALIVE AND WELL AT WAR

With two wins each against the UBC Okanagan Heat, men's and women's basketball got January off to a flying start. The 69-51 Friday win and 87-57 Saturday win put the women's team on a 5-game winning streak, continued over from the fall term. The men are now on a 10-game streak after a 100-29 win on Friday and 103-69 on Saturday. Highlights of the weekend? A career-high 32 points for women's star player Keylyn Filewich on Saturday night. Other than the obvious foray into triple digits, the men impressed in the second quarter on Saturday on their field goal attempts, sinking 16 of 22 for 73 per cent.

TOPSY-TURVY WEEKEND FOR WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

It started out with a win-streak snap on Friday for the Thunderbirds against the Mount Royal Cougars — it was even a loss in straight sets, not the way anyone wanted to start the new term. With a 3-1 win on Saturday, though, they don't head home licking their wounds necessarily. What's more, a UBC rookie was named player of the game on Friday: outside hitter Brynn Pasin. She sat second in kills with 13 behind always impressive second-year Kiera Van Ryk who had 25. Pasin also notched 6 digs on the night.

In Saturday's win, veteran Olivia Furlan put up 44 assists for the Thunderbirds — the game high.

Where was the men's roster this weekend, you ask? With a bye-week in Canada West, they lucked out with a trip to sunny Hawaii to face the University of Hawaii's Rainbow Warriors. They lost their games against the American side, but hey, they got some great weather before heading back to rainy Vancouver.

Hannah Clayton-Carroll sends the puck past Cougars goalie Zoe De Beauville. SCOTT YOUNG

LOSSES FOR THE MEN, SPLIT FOR THE WOMEN IN HOCKEY

Both hockey teams played the Mount Royal Cougars this weekend, with very different results. Out in Calgary, the men's team faced two dismal losses: 5-2 and 6-1 across two days, with their forwards struggling to find the net. They have a lot of work to do if they want to compete against the league-leading Alberta Golden Bears next week, and then in the Winter Classic the following Friday. They now sit fifth out of eight in the league.

For the women's side, though, it was a different story. Playing the Cougars here at home, it was a much tighter series; they pulled out a 2-1 win on Friday, only to be stifled 1-0 on Saturday afternoon. One goal on the power play in the second for the Cougars was all it took to down the Thunderbirds that day. That said, the women still sit comfortably in third place in Canada West, so the tighter weekend against a lower-placed divisional team may be just the wakeup call they need to light a fire under their ... well... you know... coming back into the final weekends of the regular season.

They also scored two beautiful goals on Friday from the hands of Hannah Clayton-Carroll and Rylind MacKinnon, which were a delight to see in-person.

Friday's game was in solidarity with sexual assault awareness month in January.

FIXTURES

Sport	Home	Score	Away
Friday, January 4			
Volleyball (W)	Mount Royal	3-0	UBC
Ice Hockey (M)	Mount Royal	5-2	UBC
Basketball (W)	UBC	69-51	UBCO
Ice Hockey (W)	UBC	2-1	Mount Royal
Basketball (M)	UBC	100-29	UBCO
Saturday, January 5			
Ice Hockey (M)	Mount Royal	6-1	UBC
Ice Hockey (W)	UBC	0-1	Mount Royal
Volleyball (W)	Mount Royal	1-3	UBC
Basketball (W)	UBC	87-57	UBCO
Basketball (M)	UBC	103-69	UBCO

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Volleyball

Women's	When: 6 p.m. Friday, January 11 and 5 p.m. Saturday, January 12 Where: War Memorial Gym Against who: MacEwan
Men's	When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 11 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, January 12 Where: War Memorial Gym Against who: MacEwan

Hockey

Men's	When: 7 p.m. Friday, January 11 and 2 p.m. Saturday, January 12 Where: War Memorial Gym Against who: MacEwan

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