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COVER BY
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THE UBYSSEY

JULY 27, 2021 | VOLUME CIII | ISSUE III

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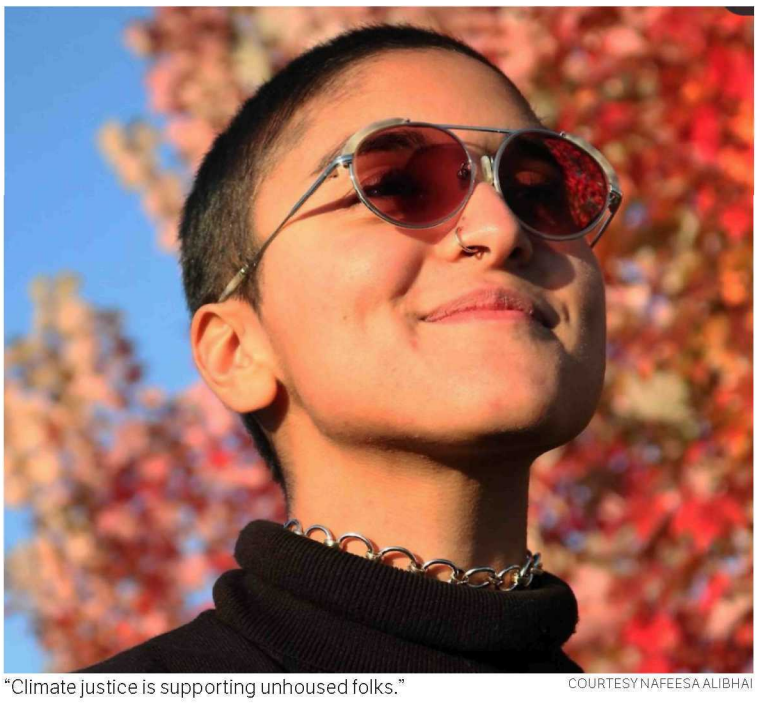
OUR CAMPUS

Nafeesa Alibhai tries to deconstruct colonialism in their climate activism



"Climate justice is supporting unhoused folks." COURTESY NAFEESA ALIBHAI

Paloma Green
Features Coordinator

This article mentions police violence.

Nafeesa Alibhai's drive to fight for climate justice started in their third-grade classroom in Calgary.

Alibhai, who is just a thesis away from graduation, is currently the UBC Climate Hub's student director.

In grade three, during an assembly, they were taught about water usage and eco-friendliness. Alibhai remembers becoming serious about cutting down on water usage after the lesson.

Alibhai used to sort through all the plastic for their family to make sure it was going in the correct bins. They took short showers, bought secondhand and avoided fast fashion because they believed that individual action was the best way to mitigate the climate crisis.

Around the end of high school, Alibhai realized that individual contributions could only do so much to help mitigate climate change.

"I started reading more news and watching more documentaries. I think the first one I watched ... was about how nations like Canada and the USA collect all this recycling and then just send it to other nations like China, Bangladesh [and] India," said Alibhai. "I was like damn, why am I storing all this recycling [if] it's just gonna go in the garbage."

GETTING STARTED

In the summer of 2020, Alibhai was angry with the government's handling of the pandemic and with the hate and blame that was being placed on Asian communities and students with regard to COVID-19.

"I was getting really into watching the House of Commons whenever the House was in session. [I was] just watching the debates and all of that and learning more about what was going on and just getting really angry," said Alibhai. "And then I went to the Climate Hub's dialogues series and I just found a totally different environment. It was like, 'Okay we're still talking about these issues but it's with a lens of hope.'"

During a discussion led by UBC Climate Hub as part of the Climate Teaching Connector program, Pablo Beimler, a member of the Hub and the current academic engagement lead, messaged Alibhai and asked if they would be interested in meeting with him. The next week Alibhai and Biemler met at 7 a.m.

"It was like, 'Wow I must really care about this, I woke up for a meeting at seven o'clock in the morning,'" said Alibhai. "And then from there, I've just been just full steam ahead or full electric engine power ahead."

Since then, Alibhai has centred the deconstruction of colonialism in all their work and when it comes to the climate, they believe there is no other way to do it.

Alibhai believes consultation with Indigenous communities is vital, but it's essential to avoid asking too much of Indigenous peoples and communities — especially when you can educate yourself through literatures.

"You want to get things right so you want to ask someone, but that's also unfair labour to put on someone who [has] probably written it down somewhere, and often that's the case," said Alibhai.

A STUDENT DIRECTOR

As student director of UBC Climate Hub, nobody is Alibhai's boss. Well, except the student body to whom Alibhai is accountable, which makes student engagement their central focus. Alibhai is involved in many projects for the hub, but the project that is closest to Alibhai's heart is the Climate Justice Workshop Club which looks to tie together issues around climate change with social justice. The workshop should roll out by September.

Tying different forms of activism together is important to Alibhai because "solutions are always intersectional." Alibhai believes the way police in Toronto treated unhoused community members during the recent tent city eviction foreshadows the future treatment of climate migrants.

"Understanding that connection, seeing how climate justice is supporting unhoused folks and how defunding the police or abolishing the police is climate justice, we can see how those are linked and that's really important," said Alibhai.

TIPS FOR STAYING POSITIVE

Staying positive during a climate crisis may seem difficult, but Alibhai says that their activism makes them positive, as it makes them feel they are making a difference.

"I think actions are a great salve for despair, and so just seeing all the work that people are already doing makes me hopeful, you know? I'm 21, and there have been people working on this for like 50 to 60 years, and Indigenous Nations and peoples have been doing this stuff since time immemorial," said Alibhai.

HOW TO AVOID BURNOUT

Alibhai says that UBC Climate Hub builds in ways to help stave off burnout in leadership, but they also discussed some of their own ways of avoiding burnout — this included hanging out with their cat, biking (because they hate walking), having sex and getting in the water.

Alibhai bought a wetsuit to swim in the frigid Pacific Ocean during the winter months. For them, being in the water is a religious experience that helps them talk to God and reconnect with the land — which further fuels their passion for climate activism.

But Alibhai's relationship with God has not always been simple.

"I'm Queer and non-binary, I'm still figuring out which term I like for myself but yeah, Queer and non-binary for now is good. And like a lot of that has not been super accepted within the religion that I grew up in," said Alibhai. "And it's important to note that's, not just like Islam in general. It's this Western colonized version of Islam that we're dealing with right now."

Alibhai has been able to reimagine their relationship with God to support their gender identity and climate activism.

"I have been thinking a lot about my relationship with God, with this like loving energy, and the land as well," said Alibhai. "That's how acting in accordance with being on stolen Indigenous land comes back a little bit. In Islam, or the sect of Islam in which I was raised, we believe that there's God in everything and everyone, so we have to be respectful and do what's right."

GIFTED EDUCATION //

University Transition Program alumni call for improvements to curriculum, culture

Charlotte Alden and Tina Yong
News Editor and Senior Staff Writer

The University Transition Program is located in the Auditorium Annex on UBC Vancouver's campus. ISABELLA FALSETTI

Alumni of the University Transition Program (UTP), a program for gifted students on the UBC Vancouver campus, are calling for improvements to the program after allegations emerged around its approach to sexual education and the fostering of a negative culture.

Located in the Auditorium Annex on West Mall, UTP is funded by the Vancouver School District, UBC and the BC Ministry of Education. UBC contributes $50,000 to the program annually. Started in 1993, the program was modelled after a similar program at the University of Washington (UW). It admits a maximum of 20 13-year-old students a year and students typically complete the equivalent of a high school degree by 15.

But while the UW program has changed since its inception through research done by the university, experts and former students are concerned that the UBC program has largely stayed the same — leaving gifted students feeling unsupported.

Two Zoom calls have taken place over the last few weeks after concerns emerged in UTP's alumni Facebook group. The first allowed alumni to speak directly to the program coordinator, Dr. Ludmila Shepelev, while the second allowed alumni to speak out, but without the program coordinator present.

Allegations brought up in those meetings — confirmed through minutes from the second meeting obtained by *The Ubyssey* and in interviews — range from concerns about the sexual education curriculum to a lack of mental health support and a culture that makes it difficult to speak out when students have concerns. Alumni involved in the meetings ranged from those who graduated back in 2004 to recent grads.

"I think what the Zoom calls ... [have] really uncovered is that a lot more people are holding this opinion of our shared pasts through [UTP] than we could have ever even thought of," 2012 alum Rachel Lin said.

In a statement to *The Ubyssey*, the Vancouver School Board said the program has undergone a "significant redesign in recent years" and emphasized the new focus on sexual and mental health curriculum "as specified in the redesigned BC curriculum" and a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion last year.

"The UTP remains committed to its mission to the guiding principles of excellence, integrity, mutual respect, inclusion, and transparency. The District and program are committed to creating a kind, respectful, empathetic, safe, and inclusive space where students are inspired and thrive," the statement reads.

"As always, staff welcome open communication from UTP students and families and encourage them to reach out directly with any questions or concerns."

CONCERNS WITH THE PROGRAM

Dr. Jennifer She, who graduated from UTP in 2012 and from UBC in 2016, sparked conversation with an initial Facebook post regarding UTP's response to the news that Brian Wong — one of UTP's most famous alum — was indicted on charges of sexual assault in 2019.

Before the indictment, Wong was invited to speak to the program multiple times, and was presented as a success story to students.

In response to her post, She saw an outpouring of concerns about the program, beyond the inaction related to Wong.

The major concerns fall into a few categories. First, the sexual education curriculum.

Aileen Wu, a 2020 grad, said that sexual education was "practically non-existent" before 2019. That year, a nurse from Fraser Health visited the program to talk about sexual health, but Wu felt that approach was inadequate because it was not integrated into the regular curriculum.

"I just had the impression that teachers don't really see sex ed as their responsibility," Wu said. "You could have slept through [that day] honestly and not retained anything, and you wouldn't have faced any repercussions."

A recent email obtained by *The Ubyssey* from Liz Hayes-Brown, the district principal who oversees UTP, announced the incorporation of further sexual education starting in September.

Hayes-Brown wrote that the Boundaries Program — a program for "young children who exhibit sexualized behaviour to help them understand and modify their behaviour" — would be implemented as well as an increased amount of sexual health programming going forward.

Two recent grads, including Wu, also expressed concerns around program coordinator Shepelev pushing a specific political agenda.

For instance, Wu and the other grad said that during the 2018 Vancouver municipal election, Shepelev encouraged students to volunteer and distribute flyers for Ying Zhou's school board campaign. Zhou is the parent of a UTP alumnus.

Zhou's candidacy had been supported by Coalition Vancouver — a political party that has been accused of opposing sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) education and being sympathetic to the alt-right by UBC professor Charles Menzies, who was sued by the party for these claims.

Wu said Shepelev also discouraged students from taking part in 2019 climate strikes.

"... I think [this situation was] pretty inappropriate because teachers are supposed to inspire students to pursue their passions, whatever they are, and to enact social change, and she did the opposite," Wu said.

Wu said the program has a larger culture of toxicity, which she said many are complicit in.

One component of this culture, according to Wu, is bigotry among students. Wu said that in the student Discord channel, racial slurs and rape jokes were often thrown around. When confronted, students who used them denied the racist and sexist nature of their words.

When the issue was taken to the teachers, Wu and another recent grad said that the teachers verbally reprimanded the students involved, but in their opinion, downplayed the severity of the issue by equating slurs with common swear words.

"Essentially they fell short of systematically teaching students why their actions put students in danger ... and so students only learn to conceal their bigoted views instead of unburdening those ideas," Wu said.

Wu also alleged that public shaming was frequently used by teachers, often in response to minor mistakes or missing deadlines. This public shaming often meant that students would push themselves past their limits, according to Wu.

"I feel like the norm in the program is also to sacrifice your mental health and wellbeing for academic success," Wu said.

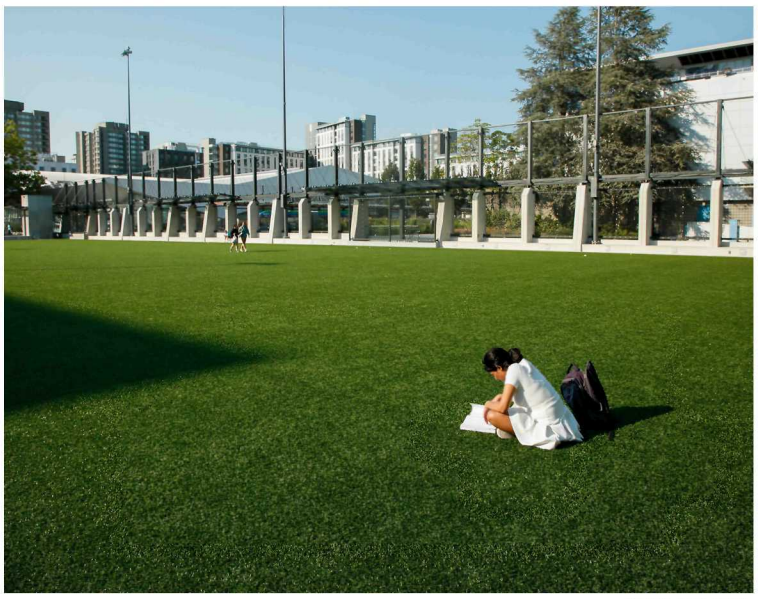
They said students had access to a psychologist, but they had to consult the coordinator before they could talk to them. Wu called this a clear conflict of interest given that many of the mental health concerns revolved around the program itself.

"There was a complete absence of a confidential resource that we could go to, and it just felt really trapping," Wu said.

Shepelev declined to respond to specific allegations, and instead, pointed *The Ubyssey* to the Vancouver School Board's statement.

In a follow-up email on July 14, a Vancouver School Board spokesperson wrote that Shepelev had asked former and current students to approach her with any concerns they have, "to which to date no one has made contact." When asked for clarification, the spokesperson clarified that no contact had been made to the Vancouver School District management.

"Additionally, any and all concerns brought to the attention of District staff are taken seriously and followed up appropriately," the spokesperson said.



ISABELLA FALSETTI

"It's definitely pretty terrifying to talk about it."

On July 16, Jennifer She confirmed that some alums had reached out to the Vancouver School Board and UBC President Santa Ono on July 14 and July 15 about their concerns.

THE COMPLEXITY OF GIFTED EDUCATION

Gifted education requires a specialized kind of teaching and a specific environment, something Dr. Owen Lo — an associate professor at UBC's faculty of education who specializes in gifted education — said UTP might not be providing to students.

He framed gifted learners — or students with advanced needs — as simply learners that can't be served in a typical classroom setting; they need an accelerated curriculum. He said this is where UTP can be used as an important tool to serve those learners.

But Lo said the program has basically continued to proceed in the way it was implemented in the 1990s.

"The UTP has a good ideology in terms of programming, but the implementation of such [has to have] a lot of modern considerations," Lo said.

Lin, a UTP alum, is writing her master's thesis at UBC on the program under Lo's supervision — and on how it should change. Lin emphasized that she has no "personal grudge" against the program, but now, as an educator herself, believes the program may not have been set up to best serve her and her peers.

Lin and Lo both spoke of the need to develop growth mindsets in gifted students.

"It's not about getting into university soon ... the goal for these students to fulfil their potential is a very person-based goal, and the academics are just a tool to get there," Lin said.

As for how the program should change, Lo first emphasized the need for teachers in this program to have specialized gifted education teacher training. In BC, teachers aren't required to get credentials in gifted education — something Lo said is a problem.

He compared students with advanced needs to Ferraris — they can drive fast, but they're high maintenance, prompting the need for specified gifted education training for teachers.

Second, he recommended a systematic review of the current program — with emphasis on the psychological impact of the program on students and comparisons to other similar programs.

"[Change] needs to be informed by some sort of research. It needs to be changed with a direction, and that's what's been really lacking in this program," Lin said.

Lo said the program has welcomed collaboration with the university in the past, but there was a lack of resources from the province to make it happen.

"We have all the knowledge and skills here within UBC and in my program ... I think we should initiate collaboration between the two parties," Lo said.

UBC's involvement in the program seems to be limited — in a statement from UBC Spokesperson Thandi Fletcher, she wrote that UTP operates independently and "is not overseen by UBC in any way."

"Our commitment is limited to providing space and some financial support. The program is operated by the Vancouver School Board," she wrote.

WHY GO PUBLIC?

Alumni have reported significant turmoil in the alumni group about going public with these allegations — rather than resolving the issues internally.

She said she initially had no intention of bringing these issues to the public forum. But after hearing from recent alum and young students who said they felt powerless, she wanted to speak out.

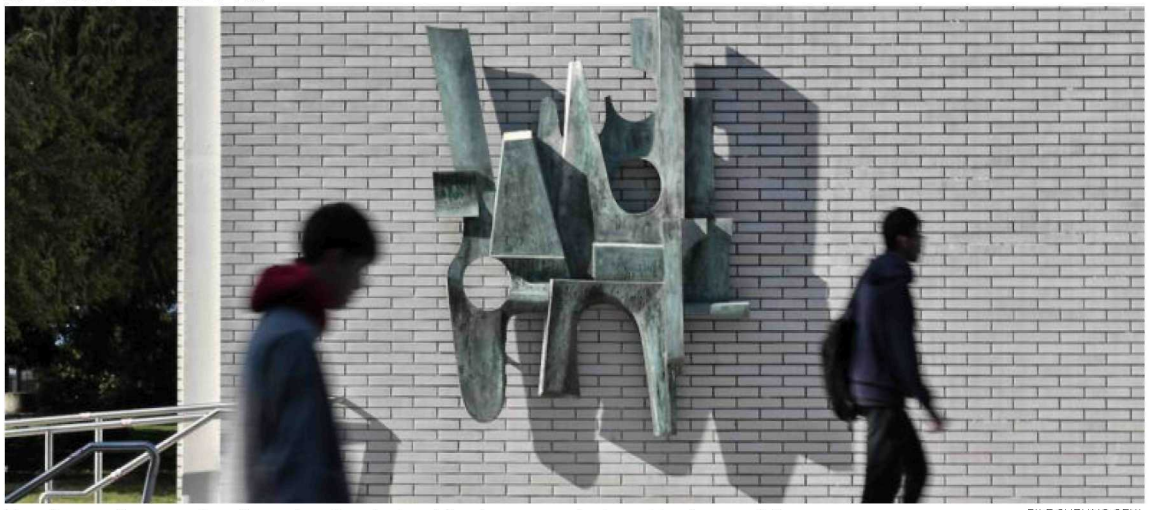
She believes that there has been little oversight of the program and of the current coordinator — a point echoed by Wu — and wanted to make people who are considering sending their children to UTP aware of its issues.

She said she was unsatisfied with the first Zoom call, which she attended. "Essentially the message that I got was there was nothing wrong and also we have fixed everything," she said.

Wu said going forward, she hopes to see a more robust sex education curriculum, a proper counsellor and for the program to address hate speech. Beyond that, she wishes to see more accountability within the program to its students and external bodies.

"It's definitely pretty terrifying to talk about it," Wu said. "But I decided to because of the effect it had on me and so many other people mentally."

RETURN TO CAMPUS //



Faculty members say they hope to return to teaching in-person, but want to do so safely. FILE SUZUNO SEKI

Some faculty voice concerns over return to campus

Shanzeh Chaudhry
Staff Writer

While many are excited for the return to in-person classes in September, several faculty members have expressed concerns about UBC's planning for the fall.

In a June interview with *The Ubyssey*, Mark Mac Lean, a mathematics professor and faculty representative on the Board of Governors, said that colleagues have shared concerns with him over how the health and well-being of everyone in the classroom will be ensured come September.

"Most faculty hope to return to teaching in person, but they want to ensure the concerns they have are fully addressed before doing so," he said.

Mac Lean said that he worries that UBC might use "a managerial approach" that would force faculty members to teach in person, which would violate their academic freedom.

"This runs counter to the very nature of a university and the role of the faculty within it ... Academic freedom implies faculty have a great deal of latitude in choosing their approaches to teaching," he said.

Mac Lean believes that UBC should respond to his colleagues in a manner that "respects that many of them have been under extraordinary stress at home because of their own or their loved one's vulnerability during this pandemic." Empathy and a trauma-centred approach should be a part of UBC's response to faculty, he added.

In a June interview with *The Ubyssey*, Dr. Jennifer Gagnon, a sessional lecturer in the department of political science and founder of the Disability Affinity Group, said that the concerns of disabled faculty and staff were not being included in planning and developing the return to work mandate.

In response, Gagnon and the Disability Affinity Group have initiated a letter writing campaign to express their concerns. So far, the campaign has received responses from human resources, the President's Office, staff unions and representatives from the Board of Governors. The group is also currently in talks with UBC on how best to make the university more accessible for disabled staff, Gagnon said.

Gagnon, who identifies as a disabled woman, would prefer not to return to a normal work environment this fall.

"Our working conditions are often violent and traumatic. Many faculty and staff with disabilities have actually found remote work, and the experience of working during the pandemic, to actually be the most accessible and inclusive that we've ever experienced," she said.

Other members of the Disability Affinity Group have expressed similar concerns.

"We've learned that UBC can indeed support a truly accessible and inclusive working and educational environment and that many people at UBC don't want to continue to do that," Gagnon said.

Matthew Ramsey, director of university affairs at UBC Media Relations, acknowledged the faculty's concerns in a written statement sent to *The Ubyssey* in May.

"UBC has worked, and continues to work, as diligently and flexibly as possible to ensure that the concerns of our community are heard and addressed in as timely a manner as possible. The health and safety of the community is first and foremost in all planning processes which are informed by and in consultation with Vancouver Coastal Health and in accordance with the BC Re-Start Plan," Ramsey wrote.

Ramsey said that the university would provide regular updates to students, faculty and staff related to the return to campus. This included a series of listening sessions organized by the Vancouver Provost's office earlier in the summer where faculty could express their concerns, as well as a similar event for students late last month.

RESEARCH FACILITIES //

New Asian Canadian research centre in the works

Sabine Villaroman
Staff Writer

UBC is planning to establish a new Asian Canadian research centre.

Announced at the Board of Governors in late June, the Asian Canadian Research Engagement Centre (ACRE) intends to bring together resources to address the problem of anti-Asian racism.

This announcement follows UBC's National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism in June. Through panels and discussions, the forum aimed to increase awareness of anti-Asian racism in Canada beyond the scope of violent incidents.

According to Dr. Henry Yu, history professor and Asian Canadian Community Engagement Initiative (ACCE) co-chair at UBC, the development of the ACRE will be based on existing work such as the Asian Canadian and Asian Migration Studies (ACAM) program, the Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies and the ACCE.

Yu said he feels optimistic about the strategic planning for the ACRE because it will receive support from President Santa Ono and leaders from other universities across the country.

"There are already activities, there are already students who are committed, we don't have to be going around convincing people that [addressing anti-Asian racism] is necessary," said Yu. "Sometimes understanding a problem is already a part of looking for solutions."

Since Ono made the commitment to building the ACRE, UBC has not yet confirmed the location or timeline of the centre as it is currently in the early stages of development, Yu said.

"I think there's gonna be lots of consultations. I think there is some existing material that hopefully we can start to share," said Yu. "But if we're building a centre that's also [based on] this broader goal of [a] community-engaged approach across the country, it's gonna take us three to six months."

According to Yu, UBC plans to have these consultations with

FILE MAHIN E ALAM

ACAM faculty, ACCE Initiative Core Committee members and community organizations who were invited to the National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism. The university also plans to make them stakeholders in the development of the ACRE.

Yu said he hopes that students will also be involved in work for the ACRE.

"The most impressive thing from the national forum, if you're asking for a personal reaction ... is to see the students ... the younger voices. They were the stars," said Yu. "What gives me optimism and hope from that national forum but also as we build ACRE ... is that connectivity to our own students and future students."

STUCK //

Return to campus: Dazed, confused, frustrated and stuck

Sanya Malik
Contributor

Frustration. Anger. Tears.

ISABELLA FALSETTI

April 22, 10 p.m. All direct flights between India and Canada banned for 30 days.

New COVID-19 Cases: 332,921.

Unsurprised.

May 21, 10 a.m. All direct flights between India and Canada banned for an additional 30 days.

New COVID-19 Cases: 257,299.

Patience. Adjustment.

June 21. New COVID-19 Cases: 42,640.

Fingers crossed. Deep breaths. Bags packed.

10 a.m. Ban on direct flights from India further extended by 30 days.

Frustration. Anger. Tears.

Am I spending thousands of dollars and finishing another term from home without stepping foot on campus? Again?

Uncertainty. Helplessness.

It has been four years since I decided that I wanted to attend UBC. I never thought that the end of my freshman year would fly by before I set foot on campus.

It has been hard.

I feel like I am stuck. Stuck in an environment that I expected to move away from, move to a different timeline that now just keeps shifting and getting delayed without any visible halt or end. It has only left me alone in the middle of a void while living beings around me moved on and grew as they do. I am neither here nor there, stuck between environments, oceans and of course, time zones.

The past few months here in India have been horrible. More for some than others. While I have been privileged enough to sit inside the comfort of my home with my family safe and secure, millions have been struggling to survive — physically and emotionally.

I often ask myself if my constant worry about my situation is justifiable? People remind me to be grateful; to look on the bright side.

They say:

'Hey, it's not bad that your flight got postponed to September, at least you get another month of authentic Indian food. If I were you, I would live in the moment. Stop whining.'

And, 'Everything happens for a reason. It could be worse. Stop whining.'

And even just, 'Stop whining.'

Bullshit.

In the end, I feel unheard. I simply don't belong here anymore.

But now I know that questioning my feelings was a huge mistake. Not only did it prevent me from acknowledging my feelings, it also held me back from processing what was going on around me. Sulking wasn't productive; it only upset my family and made the situation worse. Instead of talking about how messed up my head felt, I was told to be patient.

And maybe being patient is all I could do as the world shifted under my feet. But being patient and being silent are two different things. To deal with my anxieties, I needed to hear 'How do you feel' or 'What do you need' or maybe even a 'So, what now?'

But ultimately, I heard silence.

I recognize my privileges every single day and I am grateful for so many things in my life, but everyone is entitled to their own feelings. My feelings are valid. I know that now.

To the people who are in better and different situations:

1. Stop offering unsolicited advice to people who just want support;
2. Listen non-judgmentally;
3. Don't invalidate other people's feelings;
4. Get vaccinated.

Bottom line: If you are in India right now, unable to consider anything other than a direct flight; stuck at home with six hours of overnight summer classes that you only took to travel early; ruining your health with anxiety about being stuck here till next year — I see you.

I am you. Your feelings are valid. We are in this together.

SKELETON CAMPUS //

Return to campus: No students, no UBC

UBC is a series of moments and experiences largely made up by the people who inhabit it.

FILE LUA PRESIDIO

Taylor Speyer
Contributor

Living on campus during the pandemic made every day feel like a weekend. Buildings were locked, students were sparse and Main Mall was overtaken by children on bicycles and dogs playing fetch.

Between Zoom classes, I'd walk around to get some fresh air, only to discover that campus was a shadow of what it used to be. Like a skeleton, the bones were there, but it was lacking a pulse — at least most of the time. There were no first years with blue lanyards strung around their necks, no skateboarders in suits and no chatter coming from students sitting on benches with friends or walking to class. I've never been one to walk around with earphones in, but I started listening to music on those excursions just to distract myself from the silence.

Fall arrived and with it came falling, crunchy leaves that lined the walkways. The same buildings I'd seen hundreds of times during my two years on campus suddenly felt foreign to me. The buildings were there, the campus was there, but somehow UBC was void of everything that made it familiar.

I even started missing things I never would have imagined I would, like the hour-long Tim Hortons line in the Sauder building, dodging bike riders down Main Mall while trying to make the ten-minute sprint from Buchanan to Forestry or even wrestling with my umbrella while waiting for the bus during a torrential downpour.

Occasionally I'd see glimpses of the UBC that I remembered — a full library during exams, an outdoor lecture or television shows filming in the Nest — but for the most part, campus felt like a ghost town ready to be revived with nobody to bring it back to life. And with each passing day I only felt farther removed from the school I knew.

Over the course of the year, I started romanticizing the "normal" aspects of my day that I used to dread. I used to dream about strolling through Rome on a brisk summer night the way I now dream about spending a long night holed up in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre trying to finish up a term paper. But now that vaccine rollout is going much quicker than expected and restrictions are being lifted, a more normal school year (whatever that means) not only seems possible, but probable. These things I once dreaded, the little interactions I took for granted, are now what I most look forward to when we return in the fall.

I recognize that I was insanely lucky to be able to spend the year on campus, and I too am grateful for that experience. After all, so many students were forced to unexpectedly leave in March 2020, and some will never see campus again. Often, when I tell people that I go to UBC, their first response is always, "It's so beautiful out there, you're so lucky," and it's true — the campus is stunning. The view of the ocean brushing up against the snow-capped mountains from the Rose Garden is unmatched, but now I know that that's not necessarily what makes UBC so beautiful.

UBC is a series of moments and experiences largely made up by the people who inhabit it. Sure, UBC is a location made up of buildings and roads and trees, but without the people, UBC loses its meaning.

INDIGITIZATION //

Decolonizing starts with education. Xwi7xwa Librarians are here to help

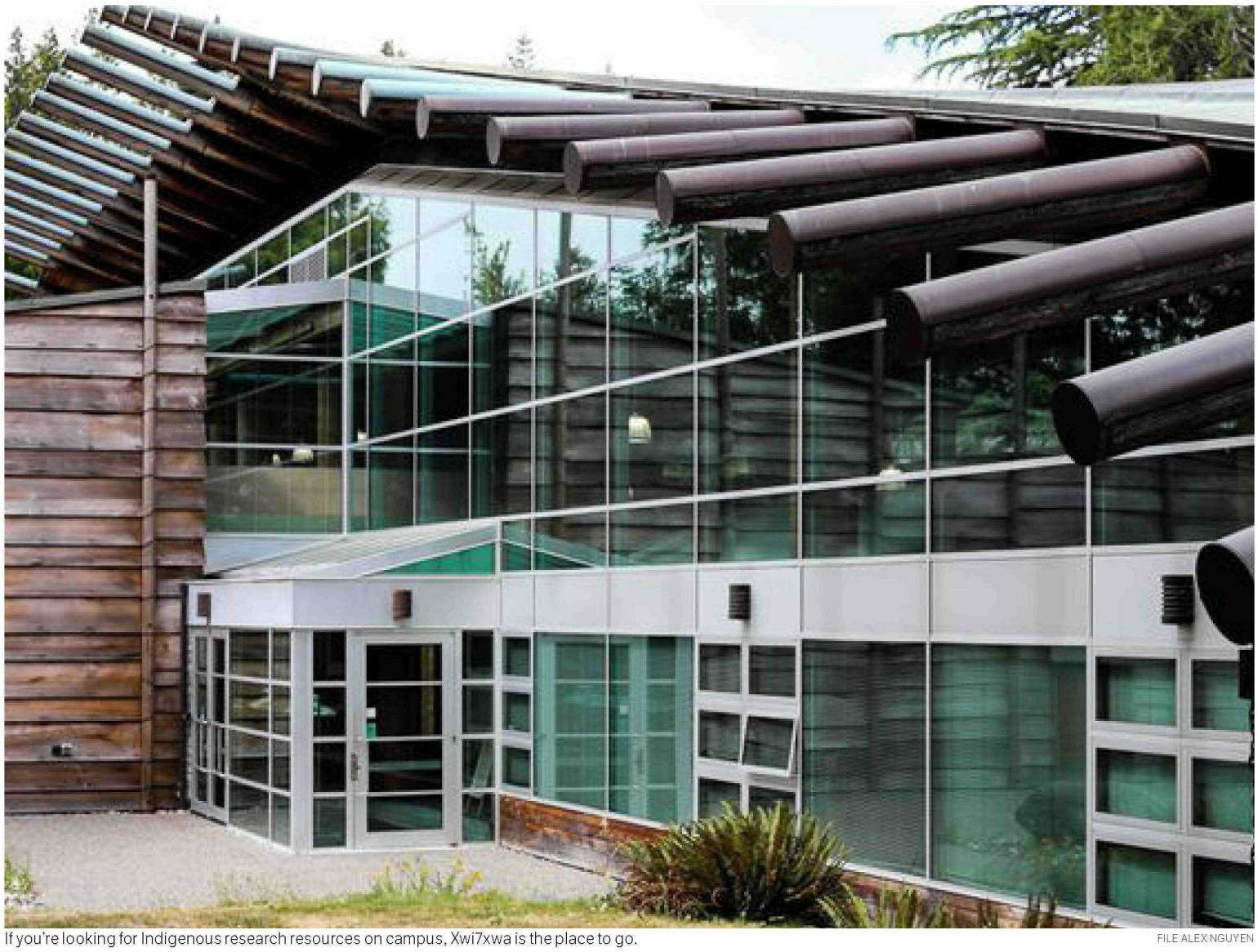
Tova Gaster
Senior Staff Writer

The librarians at UBC Library's Indigenous branch won't hush you with a 'no talking in the library' glare. From decolonial research to digitizing records, Xwi7xwa Library amplifies voices which have historically been silenced.

According to the website, the Xwi7xwa Library (pronounced "whei-wa") is the only fully-Aboriginal academic library in Canada. If you're looking for Indigenous research resources on campus, Xwi7xwa is the place to go.

Decolonizing librarianship is an ongoing conversation: which types of knowledge are accessible, and to whom? What does it mean to hold sovereignty over not only land, but information?

Answering those questions may fundamentally change how academic libraries approach knowledge, research and education.



If you're looking for Indigenous research resources on campus, Xwi7xwa is the place to go. FILE ALEX NGUYEN

DECOLONIZING THE ARCHIVES

Academic libraries, while helpful for finding sources, are colonial institutions.

"I think it's fair to say that academia has been misbehaving for a very long time, since it landed on the shores and occupied this Musqueam territory," said Xwi7xwa Head Librarian Sarah Dupont. "I think that 'community engagement' really means trying to do that decolonial advocacy work."

Dupont started at Xwi7xwa ten years ago, on what began as a temporary position but turned into a calling.

"Where I thought I could really lend some expertise was towards the community engagement piece," said Dupont. "We're in this space of really trying to bridge the ways of knowing and the ways of doing in Indigenous communities with how academic libraries behave."

The ways that libraries conventionally preserve and store information may neglect Indigenous knowledge and community needs.

"In libraries, we think about knowledge that's been captured in a way that we can hold on to it," said Dupont. "I think it's really important that we take a moment to pause and figure out where that knowledge exists, other than books or audio recordings or videos."

Decolonizing archives can mean prioritizing oral histories and engaging with community elders.

"It's great to have recordings and things, and that's what we do as librarians," said Dupont, "but that's just not the only way that Indigenous knowledge lives or behaves. It's dynamic."

INDIGITIZATION

As libraries go digital, Xwi7xwa is pushing to make their vast collection of newspapers, books and archives accessible online. However, "Indigitization" — digitizing Indigenous archives — often raises complex ethical issues.

To make archives open for the public to access, librarians are constantly navigating copyright laws. However, intellectual property fine print often contradicts Indigenous sovereignties.

Some First Nations documents in the archives were recorded or made public without consent. When 19th century white anthropologists photographed and published papers about First Nations cultures, they assumed legal ownership of cultural information that was not theirs to share. Like museums, libraries are reckoning with a history of archival theft.

Some research shouldn't be pursued to respect Indigenous privacy. Librarians are meant to assist with research — but decolonial librarianship includes knowing when to suggest that researchers quit or change track.

Decolonial librarians ask questions: how do we rebuild the broken trust between Indigenous communities and colonial archives? How do we gain consent to share information stolen decades ago from deceased individuals, whose descendants might be difficult to reach?

"There isn't really a cookie cutter approach to engaging with Indigenous perspectives and Indigenous people," said Dupont.

"Yes, we can learn from case studies. But ultimately, we have to do the hard work of relationship building." Xwi7xwa is deep in these conversations.

RESOURCES

How are First Nations' pipeline protests represented in the media? How can AI technology influence Indigenous language revitalization efforts?

"There's a lot of activism research questions that people are really interested in knowing more about," said Dupont. "Those are quite challenging because there's not necessarily scholarship written on the kind of thing that's important in the moment."

Helping people navigate the reputability of digital sources is one of any library's main jobs. The internet is an amazing resource for education, but it can also be a minefield of partisan news and all-caps disinformation.

"There's a lot of that basic information literacy teaching that we do, like how to know if you are engaging with an Indigenous perspective or not," said Dupont.

"One of the things that the library did with its catalog records is to try and identify First Nations authors, and actually embed that in the metadata so people could search and know that they were actually working with an Indigenous perspective."

'WE'RE COUNSELORS'

Educating the public about Indigenous traumas can be a delicate task. Xwi7xwa librarians often provide emotional, as well as academic support.

"In many ways, we're counselors," said Dupont.

"When people encounter triggering information, if people didn't know about the residential school system and they're learning about it for the first time, they [may] just want to talk to another human being about what they are responding to in that moment and their feelings of shock."

As more violence from residential schools hits the news, responses range from grief, anger, guilt, confusion and disbelief.

"They just want to be encouraged by another human being who can affirm that what they're reading isn't crazy, or isn't false in some way," said Dupont.

"I don't think that there are going to be a lot of people now who have not heard of residential schools," said Dupont. "Now, there are people who are looking to learn more about them."

Op-eds and activists emphasize an important, but often vague, message about supporting Indigenous liberation: educate yourself.

If you don't know where to start, that's where the Xwi7xwa Library comes in.

XWI7XWA LIBRARY'S PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

"Requests vary from advanced statistics on Indigenous communities to Indigenous children's literature," said Dupont. "We see a lot of teacher candidates come in."

Common topics include aboriginal languages, two-spirit and Indigiqueer issues, Indigenous music and dance and more, which Xwi7xwa Library has compiled into handy research guides.

The guides are accessible to everyone, and include sources from the UBC Library as well as curated content from other sources.

"We've written these research guides on every topic imaginable," said Dupont. "If the guide hasn't been written yet, we're either working on it or would love to hear about it."

"They're constructed with a lot of love."

RAISING AWARENESS

Xwi7xwa's librarians don't stereotypically "shush" visitors — even when research requests may be insensitive or off-base.

"We never shame," said Dupont. "That's really important. People ask inappropriate things at times, [but] we welcome people to ask questions. We do a lot of the heavy lifting around gaps in people's knowledge."

These gaps stem from widespread erasure of Indigenous issues. Until very recently, most K-12 curriculums glossed over Indigenous histories completely — legacies of genocide, cultural diversity and resilience.

This leaves generations of children — both Indigenous and settler — missing a crucial piece of history to understand persistent injustices of the present.

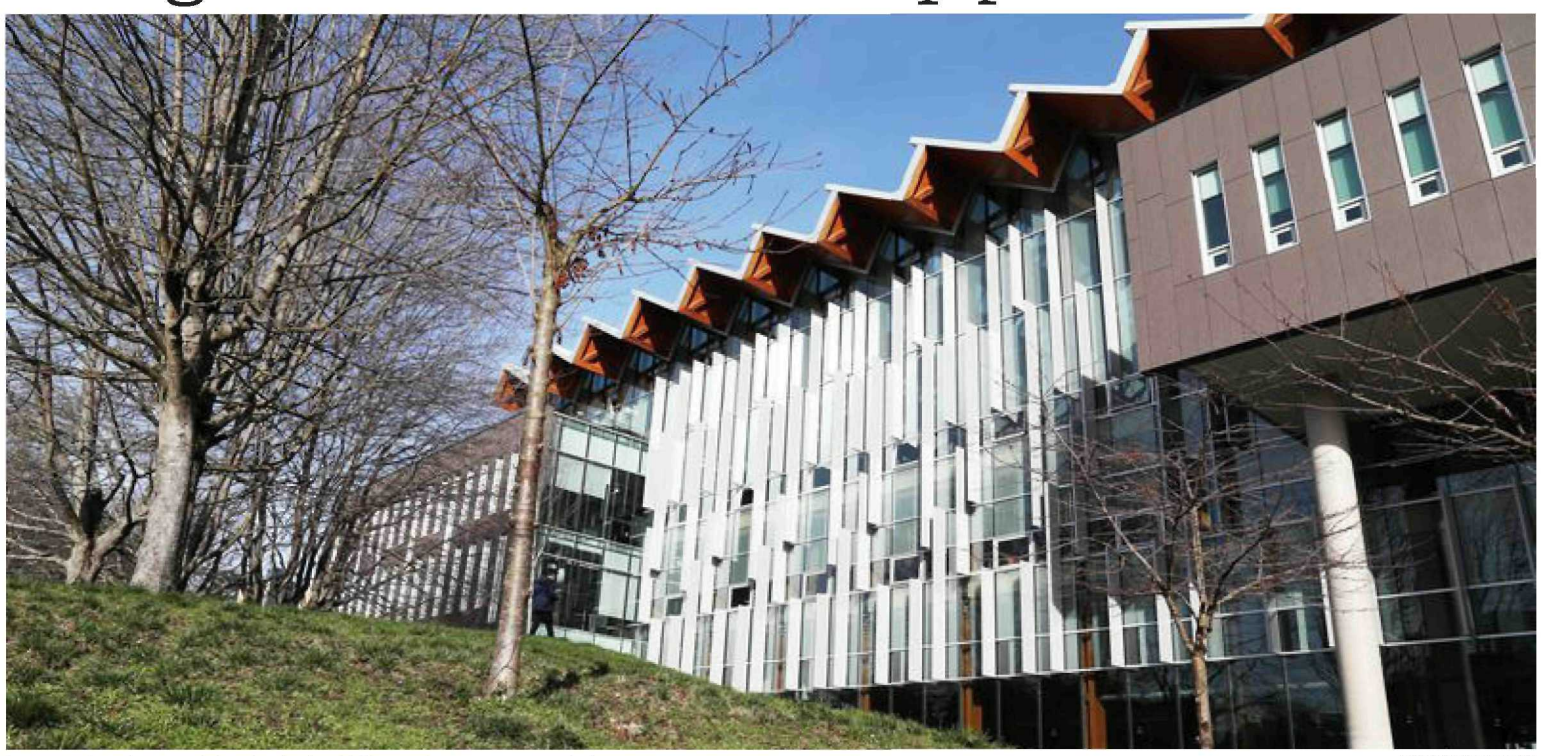
"We're helping teachers enact that change, but there's still going to be generations of students from Canada who don't know what they should know, let alone the students who are from other countries."

"That's a lot of work for librarians to pick up the slack on."

AMS //

Letter: Branding the AMS's insularity problem

Zack Crouch
Contributor



Increased student participation in the AMS must become a top priority. FILE JASMINE FOONG

The AMS formed an ad hoc committee on electoral engagement in April to examine the issue of declining voter turnout rates in recent elections (an ad hoc committee being a limited-time project by the AMS). Even though the committee includes students-at-large, it is limited to an investigative role and only three students-at-large were selected to be on a committee of twelve.

The AMS might have an insularity issue when only three non-AMS-affiliated students are selected for a committee introducing recommendations to improve voter turnout for a population of 55,000 constituents.

This problem stems from a recent inclination of AMS leadership to treat the student union more as a brand than as a representative organization. Instead of consulting students for input into decision-making processes, the AMS chooses to hire third-party firms and utilize internal committees with limited involvement from students outside the organization.

For example: in 2014, the AMS introduced a new logo, which cost $8,000, to coincide with the opening of the Nest. Students in general were not keen to spend so much money on a logo. Seven years later, the AMS has hired a consulting firm, committing between $20,000 to $30,000 to update its branding guidelines.

Both times, students should have been consulted first to determine whether or not the funding put towards branding was worth the cost. At the end of the day, it is the students who pay AMS fees and foot the bill in these extraordinary projects of beautification.

When it appears that the AMS potentially cares more about the brand of the organization as a whole than the people it claims to represent, students who feel like the governing body does not work for them become indifferent.

As former Chief Electoral Officer Isabelle Ava-Pointon put it in a text message to me, "Student disengagement is a long-running problem ... to increase electoral participation is to rebuild students' trust and interest in the AMS as an institution."

The lack of student-at-large positions is not unique to the ad hoc committee on electoral engagement. The ad hoc committee on AMS Events Principles and Ethics only has one student-at-large position. Additionally, the ad hoc Fermentation Lab Committee to bring a microbrewery to campus has no student-at-large representatives. One would think that a university campus would be filled with students interested in bringing a microbrewery to campus, but their lack of representation says otherwise.

Increased student participation in the AMS must become a top priority. Ad hoc committees ought to have half of the membership be student-at-large positions, and this practice should be formalized in the AMS Internal Code. Current student-at-large membership comprising less than a quarter of ad hoc committee memberships is unsustainable. Outside student voices should be properly consulted in ad hoc committees and more opinions from those students ought to be recognized.

Additionally, the wider student population should be consulted through online surveys and non-binding public votes prior to any major financial move the AMS makes. While non-binding, these votes will ensure that the AMS knows the wider student population's position with the direction of the student union.

Every March, we are not voting for a brand — we are voting for a union. It is time AMS leadership began to recognize that fact.

Zack Crouch is a fourth-year honours history major specializing in American imperialism. You will often find him making lattes at Blue Chip or reading a variety of books for his thesis. Reach out to Zack for questions/comments on Twitter @zacharycrouch91.

ADVICE //

Ask Iman: I'm here if you need me

Your roommate's depression and anxiety are incredibly real to them. FILE MAHINE ALAM

Iman Janmohamed
Columnist

Dear Iman,
My roommate just let me know that she is taking next term off from school to focus on managing her anxiety and depression. I'm really glad she told me because I had no idea she was struggling, but I don't know what to do. We aren't very close and I don't want to intrude, but I'd like to do whatever I can to support her. What should I do?

I would say that you should do just that: support her.

That doesn't always mean going to appointments with her or being involved in that capacity, but it can mean asking her to meet for coffee, surprising her with your signature dish or even just saying "I'm here if you need me."

Not being too close with your roommate may make you feel like you can't help her at all, but it's important to show and offer your support. If she doesn't take you up on it, don't take it personally. At least she knows that you're in her corner.

Of course, there are things you shouldn't do.

Don't diminish a person's experience. Even if someone's mental illness doesn't meet your criteria of mental illness, that doesn't mean that it's not real or that they aren't struggling.

Your roommate's depression and anxiety are incredibly real to them, and validating their experiences can make it a little less lonely.

However, while offering support is important and needed, it's very easy to completely forget to take care of yourself too — setting boundaries and practicing self-care can ensure that you're looking after yourself, not just your roommate.

There's no hard-and-fast rule on how to help someone with anxiety and depression, but offering your roommate support is a place to start. If she wants your support, great. If she doesn't, it's okay! You're still there for her.

If you want a great UBC-based student perspective on mental health, check out Mind Your Mind, a biweekly column written by UBC's own Daphnée Lévesque.

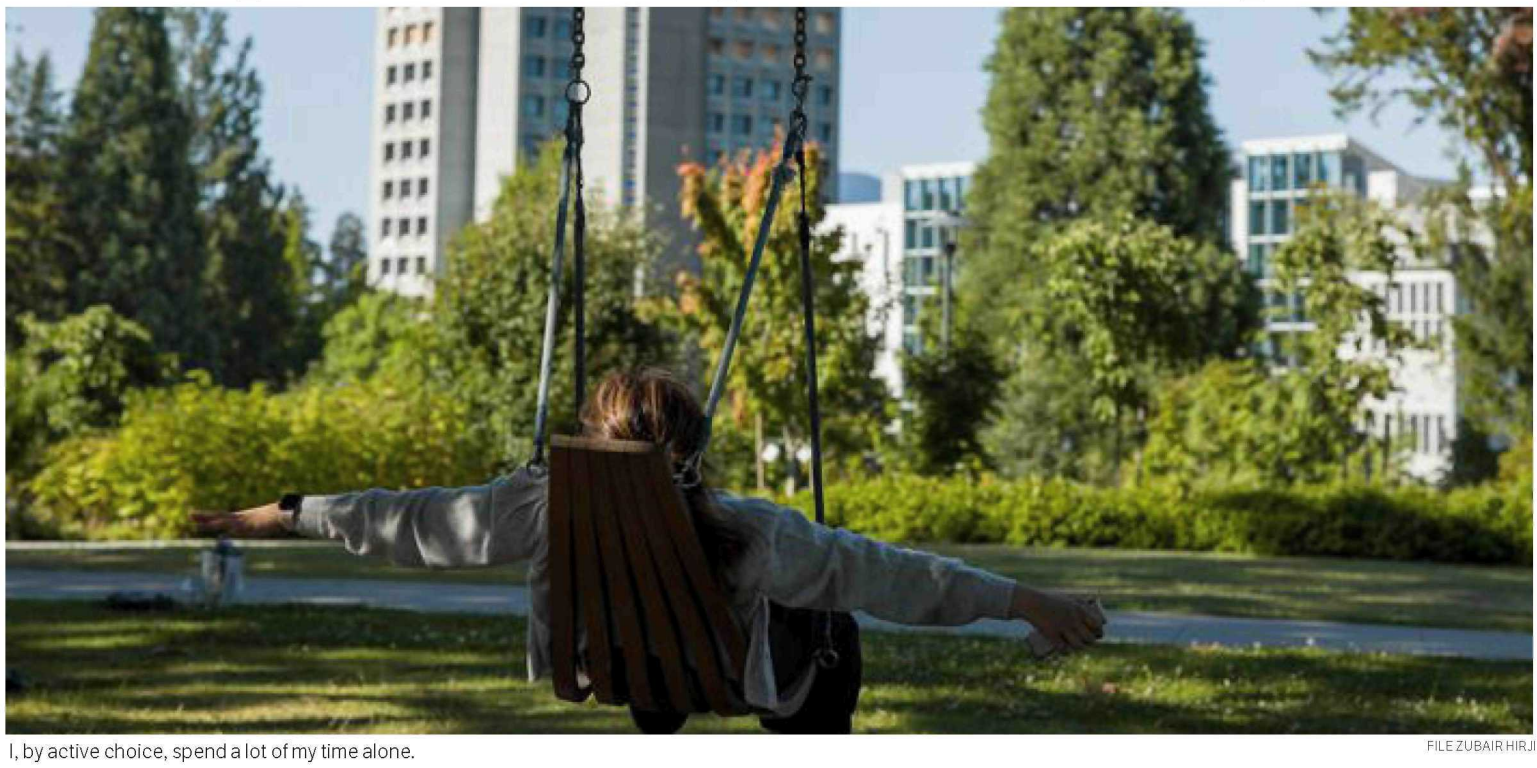
You're doing great. Keep it up!

Need advice? Send your questions, queries or problems to advice@ubyssey.ca, or submit anonymously at ubyssey.ca/advice!

BAD TAKES //

The Dingbat: Why I think campus should stay closed

Anupriya Dasgupta
Contributor



I, by active choice, spend a lot of my time alone.

FILE ZUBAIR HIRJI

Yeah, yeah, you're all excited to be back on campus, see your friends in person, get some actual in-person education, drunkenly cry and thrash about in the Martha Piper fountain in the middle of January like a mangy seagull et cetera, et cetera. I get it! Seriously. Calm down. Ugh.

To be quite frank, I couldn't care less about what you want. What about what I want? Should campus reopen to aimless undergraduates who simply want to 'vibe' and 'have a good time' and 'learn' (whatever that last one even means)?

The answer is no, absolutely not.

Now, I have personally not left campus since the pandemic, and a year and a half later, I can safely say that there is no one more entitled than I to decide the fate of all UBC students, staff and faculty.

Here is my well-thought out, resolute and extremely convincing ten-point rationale:

1. I am the main character. I need the right people-free setting for my moody wistful walks under an overcast sky on a crisp autumn day. How else am I supposed to feel like the world revolves around me?

2. The two sassy geese on campus that go on walks are MY best friends and their names are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and nobody else may have the chance to know them.

3. Over Zoom, I can roll my eyes and ignore people whose voices I do not like without looking like an arrogant ass. In real life, people would get the wrong idea about me. Imagine thinking that I am not the best, the nicest, the only perfect person you have ever met?

4. When I inevitably make eye contact with a cute stranger, I — ahem — they will not have any other competition.

5. When I see my profs, I keep wondering whether I should wave hello. Do they remember me? Am I special? If I never cross paths with them I will never have to wonder if I am the chosen one or not. Even though I definitely am.

6. No more awkward eye contact with men I unnecessarily drunk-texted when I was sad in second year. You are nothing but a contemptible and impulsive decision I made during a moment of shameful insecurity. Get over it!

7. I, by active choice, spend a lot of my time alone. That is because I don't like people. However, when my ex-friends from first year see me alone they are inevitably going to jump to all sorts of conclusions. We don't need that.

8. I genuinely don't think I will ever be ready to share space with hundreds of people on Main Mall or in lecture halls again. It all sounds horrific and dangerous and I don't want to be a part of it. No thank you!

9. STOP PERCEIVING ME. If I don't interact with anyone outside of my three best friends I can continue maintaining the very realistic notion in my head that literally every single individual loves me.

10. I stopped wearing my glasses about a year ago. I realized I had seen enough. I have been living in ignorant bliss since then, avoiding everyone. If people come back to campus though, they will start thinking that I'm ignoring them and that I'm a terrible, arrogant, spiteful misanthrope and that could obviously not be farther from the truth.

Now that I have your support, let's get #KeepCampusClosed2021 trending so that Santa Ono can see it.

CLIMATE CHANGE //

How to beat the BC heat now that summer is bad

Tianne Jensen-Desjardins
Culture Editor

It's not summer if your friends' Instagram stories aren't full of pool pics and frozen treats, but this summer, the sun kicked it up a notch.

Instead of captions like "Lake Day with my Babes," social media turned into the worst kind of "Hot Girl Summer" — the kind where people stare at you, not because you're physically attractive, but because your "tan" is bright red and you're coated in sweat.

If you aren't blessed by the air conditioning gods, heat waves in Vancouver might feel like a preview of a fiery afterlife. Here are a few ways to beat the heat this summer, (and all the coming summers as this phenomenon inevitably increases in frequency and intensity).

COLD SHOWERS AREN'T JUST FOR PUBERTY

Believe it or not, the best way to stay cool is to literally bring your body temperature down. Taking a cold shower not only helps you get rid of all that sweat you've been secreting like you were before your first university exam, it's also a great way to avoid those pesky roommates who keep asking you to help clean out the freezer to make room for popsicles.

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

The university experience isn't complete unless you can look back and cringe at your pathetic attempts to make those "friendships that will last a lifetime" that your mom keeps bringing up when she reminisces about her uni days. But in this heat, your new friend doesn't have to check off all the boxes — they just need to have air conditioning in their apartment. Or a pool. Or both.

EAT SO MUCH ICE CREAM

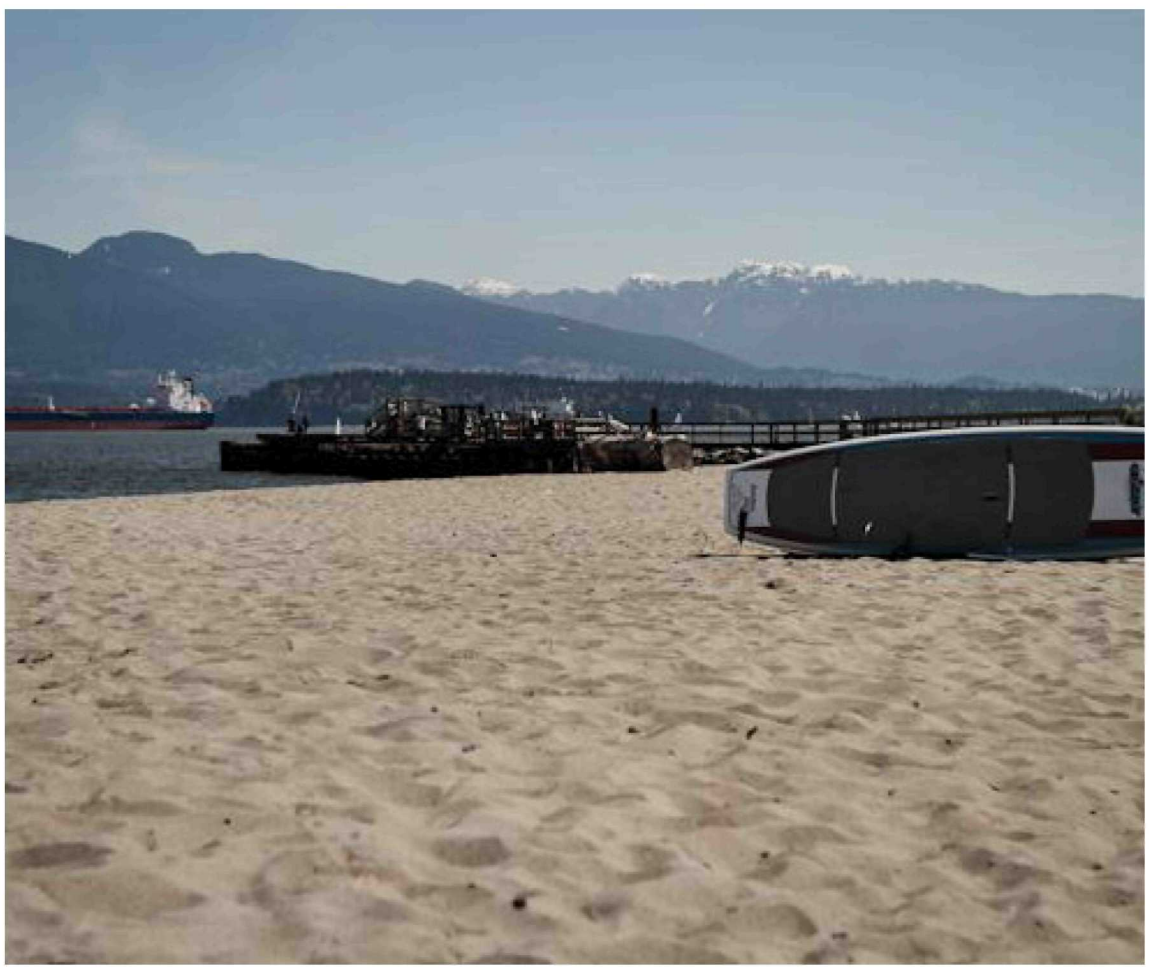
Every time you use your hand to fan yourself in an awkward attempt to let those around you know that you don't usually look like a tomato — it's just this darned heat — you're missing out on the opportunity to spoon refreshing ice cream into your mouth.

Science students of UBC: If I keep putting cold treats into my body, how can my body get too warm? Try and explain that!

BECOME LIZARD

Lizards come in many varieties — all of them cute. But most importantly, lizards thrive in the heat.

I really don't know why this wasn't your first thought when you heard about rising temperatures.



This summer the sun kicked it up a notch.

FILE KAI JACOBSON

THE STAR OF THE SHOW //

CalTech and UBC astronomers discover smallest known white dwarf

Ethen Sun
Contributor

A recent paper published in *Nature* by a team that includes researchers from UBC and CalTech confirmed the discovery of the moon-sized white dwarf star, designated ZTF J190132.9+145808.7 (shortened to ZTF J1901+1458).

White dwarfs are the remnants of intermediate-mass stars, less than eight to ten times the mass of the sun, that have exhausted their nuclear fuel and collapsed to the size of a small planet. Due to the exotic properties of matter at these densities, more massive white dwarfs are actually smaller than less massive ones. In the words of Dr. Ilaria Caiazzo, lead author on the study and Burke Prize fellow at CalTech, ZTP J1901+1458 is essentially "packing a mass greater than that of our sun into a body about the size of our moon."

ZTF J1901+1458 is now the smallest known white dwarf at just 2,000 km in radius, and 60–80 per cent more dense than the previous record holder which has a radius of about 2,500 km.

"It has a very strong magnetic field ... among the strongest, and it is very, very massive," said Dr. Jeremy Heyl, an astrophysics professor at UBC and part of the research team behind the discovery. The white dwarf's mass has been calculated at 1.327–1.365 times the mass of the sun, putting it within 2 per cent of the Chandrasekhar limit, which is the maximum possible mass for a white dwarf.

Using data from the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF), the team looked for repeating signals characteristic of single rotating objects like white dwarfs. According to Heyl, the Gaia telescope's measurements of the distances to nearby stars was "probably the most crucial thing" to the discovery, since it distinguishes between small objects like white dwarfs and stars that are large but farther away.

"Before Gaia came around, we knew of maybe 10,000 white dwarfs, but now we know of maybe half [a] million," said Heyl. Once promising white dwarfs were found, data from the Swift and PAN-STARRS telescopes narrowed down the candidates to those whose temperature and spectral signature match predictions for an ultra-massive white dwarf.

Due to its very high mass, ZTF J1901+1458 is cooling much faster than most white dwarfs, by an unusual nuclear process called the Urca process. The density and temperature in the core (20 to 30 million °C) is so high that the nuclei of sodium atoms are briefly absorbing electrons from around them, the net result being that the white dwarf's heat energy is being radiated away in the form of neutrinos and antineutrinos.

ZTF J1901+1458 is also spinning very quickly, taking just under seven minutes to complete a rotation while most white dwarfs take upwards of hours. The team believes that this is because ZTF J1901+1458 is the result of two small white dwarfs colliding in an inward spiral.

ZTF J1901+1458 is the smallest and most massive white dwarf that has been discovered. GUISEPPE PARISI

"If you just tweak one of the progenitors by a little bit, by just a per cent or two, the resulting product would have been too massive to live as a white dwarf and collapse, and probably explode in a supernova," said Heyl.

The type of supernova in question is the type Ia supernova, whose properties were important evidence for the expansion of the universe but whose process is not well understood. According to Heyl, "whether it's two white dwarfs merging together or one white dwarf accreting from a companion, we're not absolutely sure what's going on."

By cataloguing objects like ZTF J1901+1458, which is only about 130 light years away, the researchers hope to get an idea of how many type Ia supernovae are expected in a given area of space, and to better understand the structure of white dwarfs and the fate of intermediate-mass stars.

Colliding white dwarfs are also now thought to be the dominant source of gravitational waves in the universe and will be an important source of observations for future experiments like the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna.

The eventual fate of ZTF J1901+1458 depends on how its structure changes as it cools, which is actively being researched. Some models suggest that it will eventually collapse and either implode into a neutron star — or destroy itself in a supernova.

"They're an exciting sort of object from a whole bunch of different angles," said Heyl.

BRIGHT IDEAS //

'Small but mighty': A deeper look at white dwarfs

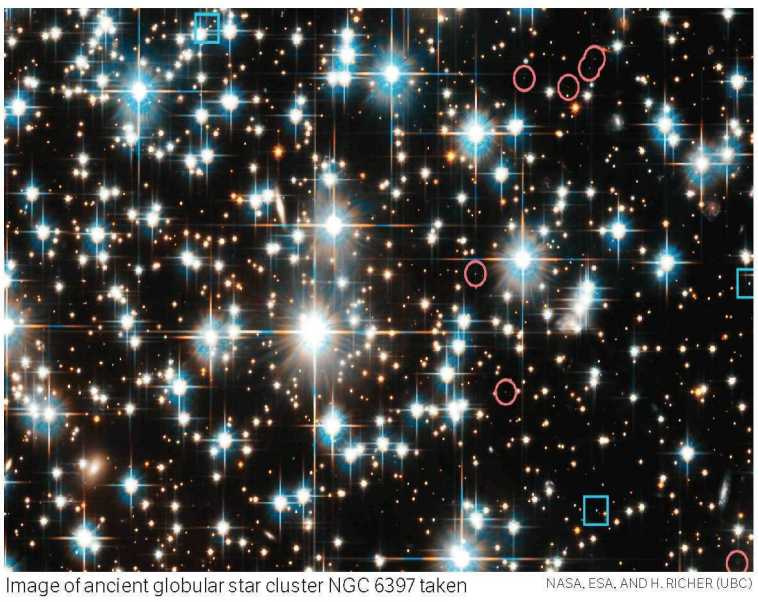


Image of ancient globular star cluster NGC 6397 taken by Hubble Space Telescope — red circles and blue squares denote white dwarfs. NASA, ESA, AND H. RICHER (UBC)

Sophia Russo
Science Editor

White dwarfs were the stars of the show at a recent talk hosted by the UBC department of physics and astronomy.

The Small But Mighty: The Tiniest White Dwarf and Other Stories seminar took place on July 19 and featured Dr. Ilaria Caiazzo, a UBC alum and current Burke Prize fellow at CalTech. In her talk, Caiazzo discussed how recent developments have improved the scope of white dwarf star research and opened avenues for future studies that will allow researchers to truly reach for the stars.

'STELLAR CORPSES'

White dwarfs are what's left when low- or intermediate-mass stars have depleted their nuclear fuel and reached the end of their life. For those curious — and maybe questioning their astronomy knowledge — black holes and neutron stars can also result from the "death" of stars, but that process is reserved for stars of a very high mass.

In her presentation, Caiazzo likened white dwarfs to "stellar corpses," highlighting that more than 95 per cent of stars transition to this stage at the end of their life.

"You can see that, compared to ... neutron stars, white dwarfs are so common and so numerous that we can study them much better," said Caiazzo.

She explained that we know a lot about typical white dwarfs, from their structure to their composition — however, atypical white dwarfs remain mysterious.

Several examples of white dwarfs reject convention. Models suggest that some white dwarfs may have cores consisting of oxygen and neon, unlike the conventional oxygen and carbon core — but according to Caiazzo "we still don't truly understand what is going on inside them." Many other properties of atypical white dwarfs represent "open questions" for the field.

Adding to the complexity is the 20 per cent of white dwarfs that are magnetic, with a wide range of strength in magnetic fields. A magnetic white dwarf can be a result of evolution, or interactions with other cosmic bodies.

Magnetic, rotating white dwarfs are the primary target of Caiazzo's research, a field that gained substantial momentum in recent years.

"This is a great moment to study white dwarfs," she said.

The space observatory Gaia, as Caiazzo explained, has revolutionized star research, as it allowed for more precise photometry (colour and luminosity) and astrometry (position and movement). Through Gaia, astronomers went from having 35,000 known white dwarfs to approximately 400,000.

In her presentation, Caiazzo discussed the recent discovery of three magnetic white dwarfs using Gaia. Methodically, she addressed each potential origin for their magnetism, before settling on their magnetic origin being related to a hidden magnetic field in the convective core of their progenitors.

Though these three white dwarfs may have a similar magnetic origin, Caiazzo emphasized the diversity among white dwarfs.

"The range of magnetic fields in white dwarfs is very big," she said. "And so we can have different processes creating different types of white dwarfs."

A STELLAR ESCAPE

Some of Caiazzo's previous work has also involved the analysis of white dwarf clusters to determine their mass, temperature and cooling age.

"By subtracting the age of the white dwarf from the age of the cluster, you can find the age at which the progenitor of the white dwarf evolved," she said. "And so you can [also] find the actual mass of the progenitor."

In this data set of white dwarf clusters, there were no white dwarfs greater than 1.1 times the mass of the sun, nor were there any progenitors with a mass above 6.5 solar masses. However, as Caiazzo explained, this data cannot conclusively point to any maximum mass constraints for white dwarfs.

She explained that certain white dwarfs may be absent from the data set as they "escaped" from the cluster.

"We may have not found them just because they are not there any more," said Caiazzo.

A project that she has in preparation, alongside UBC researchers Dr. Jeremy Heyl and Dr. Harvey Richer, aims to reconstruct these open clusters to account for the more massive white dwarfs that may have escaped.

More recently, Caiazzo's research on white dwarfs has continued to be out-of-this-world. This year, she was the lead author, alongside her colleagues from UBC, in a *Nature* publication that featured the discovery of a moon-sized white dwarf called ZTF J1901+1458.

This is the smallest (and most massive) white dwarf discovered to date and, according to Caiazzo, "is extreme in almost every respect."

"It is really, really on the verge of what a white dwarf can be," she said.

MY CHIME TO SHINE //

BC-stationed CHIME telescope trailblazes FRB research

Polina Petlitsyna
Staff Writer

CHIME, short for Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment, is a novel radio telescope used to track the expansion of our universe and to map the cosmic distribution of events like fast radio bursts (FRBs). The CHIME project is co-led by UBC, McGill University, University of Toronto and the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO) with participating North American institutions.

In the pursuit of mapping cosmic events, CHIME has broken records previously unseen in the FRB research community. Within the telescope's first year of operation in 2018 to 2019, the CHIME telescope detected 535 new FRBs. Before CHIME, under 100 FRBs were observed.

"Fast radio bursts are in some ways exactly what the name says," said CHIME project member Deborah Good, a doctoral candidatein UBC's department of physics and astronomy. "They are milliseconds in duration — which means they are a thousandth of a second-long bursts of light which we see with radio telescopes."

According to Good, these short bursts come from outside the Milky Way galaxy and are intermittent; some of these bursts have been observed only once, while others have been observed several times.

The bursts observed again are called repeating FRBs since they go through a regular cycle of repeats or periodicity, one example being the CHIME-detected FRB that repeats every 16 days.

During their first operational year, the CHIME team observed 61 bursts from 18 previously reported repeating FRBs and another thirteen repeating FRBs as of July 13, 2021.

The FRB phenomenon was first reported in 2007. Now, the biggest point of debate among astronomers is the bursts' origin.

"It's not something the community has agreed upon, but the leading theory is that [FRBs] come from magnetars," said Good.

Magnetars are a specific type of neutron star, which is what is left after a massive star explodes.

"At the end of their lives, larger stars — maybe 10–50 times the size of the sun — will get very large and then they explode as supernovae and then a lot of that material is sent out as waves," said Good. "But some of it collapses back in to form this dense core which is called a neutron star."

The key to finding the origin of FRBs is through localization, said Good.

In August 2020, CHIME's team received funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to develop one of three outrigger telescopes near Princeton, BC. This telescope will be 20 metres in length, shaped like a single half cylinder and will enable better tracing of FRBs to the galaxy in which the telescope first observed them.

The CHIME telescope is ten times the size of the proposed outrigger telescopes, with a stationary

CHIME detected 535 new FRBs in its first year of operation. ANDRE RENARD/CHIME COLLABORATION

100-metre four-half-cylinder design and is located at the DRAO, a national facility for astrophysical research.

Unlike optical telescopes, the CHIME radio telescope can observe the sky all day long, even when the sun is out. Another advantage is the telescope's large field-of-view.

"We are seeing hundreds of times more of the sky at any moment in time and then as the Earth rotates, we see different 120 degrees by two-degree strips until eventually, over the course of the day, you see the entire northern sky," said Good.

The CHIME team and their revolutionary findings have since gathered significant media attention and became recipients of the 2020 Governor General Innovation Awards (GGIA).

"Conceived, funded, and built by Canadians, CHIME represents an innovative technological achievement as well as a major scientific undertaking that addresses some of the most profound questions facing contemporary astrophysics," said the GGIA website about the telescope.

"We were all very proud of the Innovation Awards as it showcases how science and technology walk side by side," said CHIME project member Mateus Fandino, a doctoral candidate in UBC's department of physics and astronomy.

In early June 2021, the CHIME team put out an FRB catalog, which they presented at the 238th American Astronomical Society Meeting. This catalog is free to access and is updated in line with CHIME's real-time discovery of FRBs.

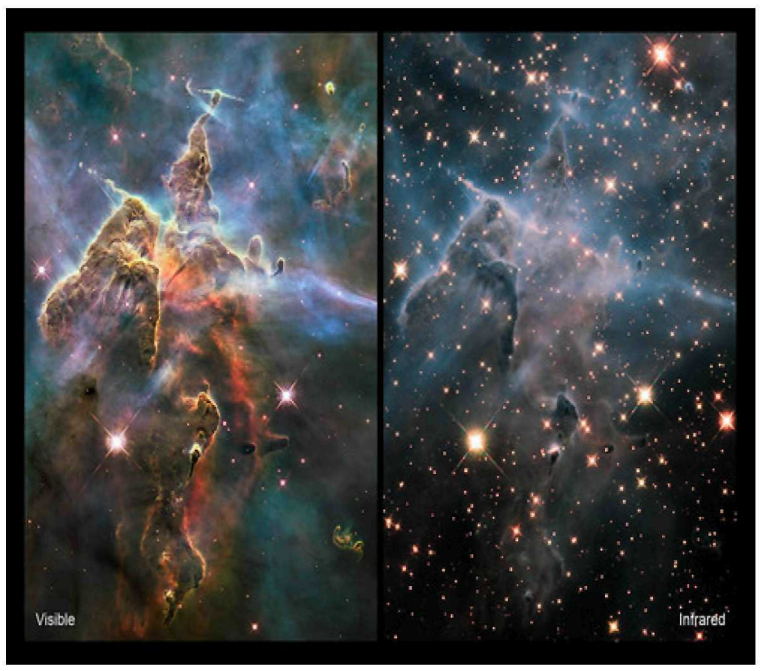
Reflecting on her time at CHIME so far, Good discussed the value of these collaborative research efforts.

"We can accomplish much more together as a group than we ever could as individual scientists," she said.

"And this is really the future of astronomy and science as a whole: large and collaborative projects where we don't say this is 'my science' and 'your science' — we say this is 'our science' and we work together to do a better job."

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND //

The final frontier: A look into the formation of galaxies



The James Webb Space Telescope will be the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope (above). NASA/ESA/M. LIVIO & HUBBLE 20TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM (STSCI)

Sophia Russo
Science Editor

To understand the evolution of galaxies, taking a look at star formation might be among the brightest ideas.

The 2021 BC Galaxy Seminar Series, a joint endeavour by UBC, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria, hosts speakers discussing recent developments in the field of astrophysics. A seminar on July 21 featured Dr. Sandro Tacchella, an astrophysicist in the department of physics at the Ulsan National Institute for Science and Technology, who discussed his work relating to how galaxies grow and the nature of their star formation.

FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

Early in their life cycles, galaxies have an abundance of gases and can readily form stars. Over time, as these essential gases are depleted, galaxies are "quenched," meaning that they cease star formation and enter a stage of life known as quiescence.

Multiple processes have been implicated in the proclivity of galaxies to become quenched, and there is a significant diversity with respect to the quiescence of individual galaxies.

According to Tacchella, certain unique trends have emerged.

"When we look at the most massive systems ... and we know that they need to quench very soon because they are so massive, we see that they have a reduced star formation activity in their core," said Tacchella. "And this is quite interesting because this implies that these galaxies are quenching from the inside-out."

Tacchella presented examples of this inside-out first quenching being observed at redshifts of approximately one and two. Redshift is a quantity that astronomers use to describe the distance of cosmic objects — as cosmic bodies move away from us, light waves which they emit are altered in a process similar to the Doppler effect. The wavelength of the resulting light waves are "shifted" to appear red, hence the term redshift. The further away a cosmic body is, the larger the redshift value, denoted by z.

In a publication from earlier this year, Tacchella and his colleagues utilized the TNG50 magnetohydrodynamical cosmic simulation alongside spectroscopic observations from the Hubble Space Telescope to discover one potential source for inside-out quenching: a supermassive black hole.

"What we find is that the black hole is mainly responsible for this signature of the reduced specific star formation rate in the core," Tacchella said in his talk, referencing the TNG simulation data.

However, he explained that this inference is heavily dependent on the type of simulation used. Another simulation — called the VELA simulation — reproduced the inside-out signature using stellar feedback alone, without any influence by black holes.

"It seems that it is probably both — a combination of stellar feedback and the AGN feedback [which is powered by a supermassive black hole] that suppresses the star formation activity in the core of these galaxies and then throughout the whole galaxy," said Tacchella, referencing a publication from 2019.

DIVERSITY IN THE STARS

In his talk, Tacchella discussed the diversity that exists between individual galaxies with respect to the timescale of their quenching and the "epoch" at which this quenching occurred.

Within a single epoch for massive galaxies, some individual galaxies quench early, while others quench later on. Some galaxies are slow to quench and others do so rapidly.

"There seems to be this really large diversity of quenching epochs but also quenching timescales," said Tacchella. He explained that multiple mechanisms can be implicated in this diversity, such as whether the onset of quenching is before or after the manifestation of the halo mass threshold (a theoretical dark matter substructure), as well as internal processes like black hole and stellar feedback.

To wrap up his talk, Tacchella featured some of the recent advancements that will help to push astrophysics research forward. One development is the James Webb Space Telescope, which is expected to be launched October 31, 2021 and worth upwards of 10 billion USD.

Tacchella is a part of a team that will be using this telescope to conduct the largest survey of galaxies in the early universe, with greatly improved resolution. One of the events that is of interest to Tacchella is the reionization epoch, a period in the early stages after the birth of the universe in which the very first galaxies were formed.

"This [telescope] will help us to really find the first galaxies in the universe, but at the same time study galaxies during the epoch of reionization much better," said Tacchella.

AGAIN //

Track and field athlete sues former UBC coach for sexual assault

Diana Hong and Charlotte Alden
Sports & Rec Editor and News Editor

The student said the coach gave the student-athlete a massage in a private treatment room two years ago. FILE PATRICK GILLIN

A UBC athlete on the track and field team is alleging that a coach sexually assaulted her during a massage therapy treatment. She is suing both the coach and UBC, *Vancouver Sun* reported the morning of July 16.

In late October or early November of 2019, the student said the coach gave the student-athlete a massage in a private treatment room.

She alleges the coach made a comment about her genitals while touching and rubbing her inner thigh, pelvic and genital areas.

As a result of the sexual assault, the student-athlete said that she has been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. She said her relationships with her close social circle, including her family members, have also been harmed.

The student-athlete says she reported the alleged assault to UBC in September 2020, but the coach denied the allegation. An external investigation was then launched, *Vancouver Sun* reported.

The investigator found that the coach did touch the student-athlete without her consent, but said that he did not have any sexual motivation and therefore did not violate UBC's sexual misconduct policy, Policy SC17.

The definitions of sexual misconduct under UBC's sexual misconduct policy include "sexualized violence and refers to any sexual act or act targeting an individual's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened, or attempted against an individual without that individual's consent."

However, the student is arguing that sexual motivation is not needed to commit sexual assault.

"UBC knew, or ought to have known, the report's conclusion regarding C.D.'s conduct upon the plaintiff was a plain and obvious misinterpretation of what constitutes sexual assault and battery and of its own sexual misconduct policy," the lawsuit reads.

The coach's employment was terminated in March, *Vancouver Sun* reported, but the reasoning has not been disclosed, says the lawsuit.

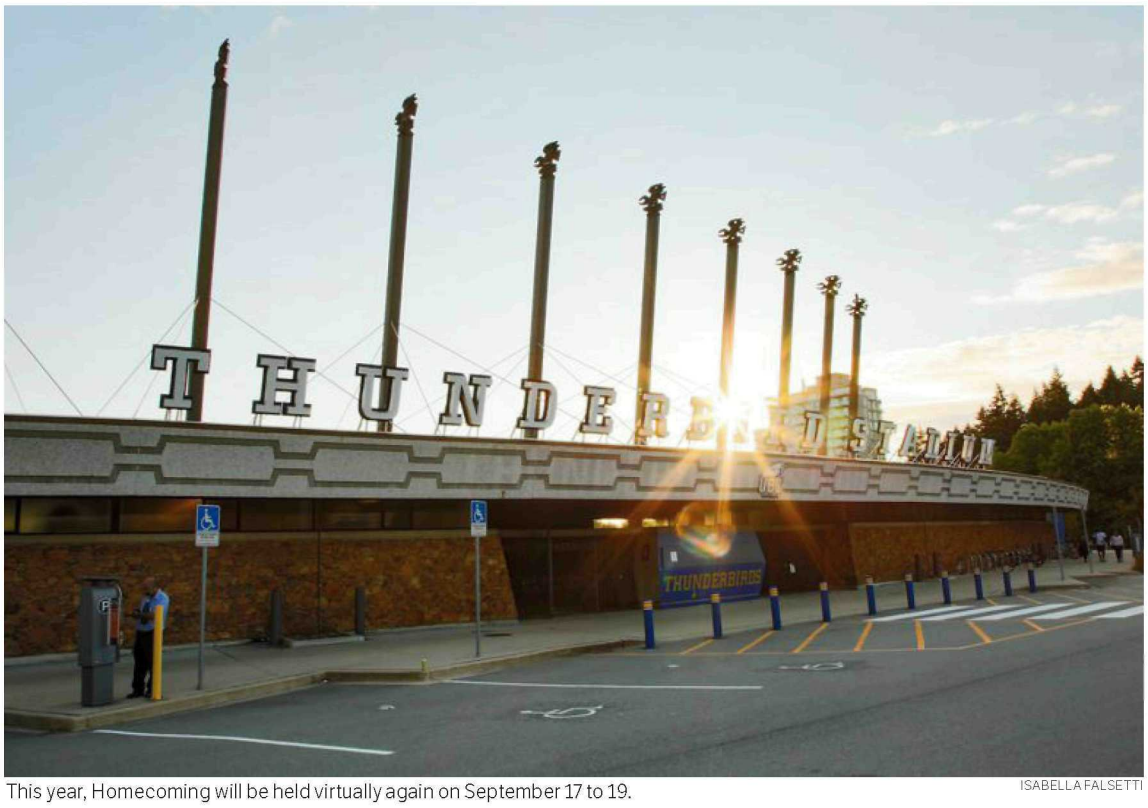
The Ubyssey has contacted UBC for a comment on the allegations, but Director of Univeristy Affairs at UBC Media Relations Matthew Ramsey said the university would not be commenting on the case as it is before the courts. None of these allegations have been proven in court.

Recently, three former UBC football players were charged with sexual assault. Following the announcement, VP Students Ainsley Carry wrote on behalf of UBC in a statement: "Sexual violence has no place here at UBC and I can tell you those accused are no longer students at the university."

The province also released a new Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Training series in efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence on campus last month. Kavie Toor, managing director of UBC Athletics and Recreation, said that UBC Athletics was reviewing the provincial materials as it develops its sexual violence training.

WE BACK //

After a year of cancelled events, sports are back on campus this year



This year, Homecoming will be held virtually again on September 17 to 19. ISABELLA FALSETTI

Diana Hong
Sports & Rec Editor

It has been a year since the cancellation of last year's Canada West and U Sports championships, but sports will be back on campus this year.

For the first time, Homecoming, one of UBC's biggest school spirit events, was held virtually on September 25, 2020. This year, Homecoming will be held virtually again on September 17 to 19.

The cancellation of UBC's sporting events all started with the cancellation of Storm the Wall in March last year over the fears of exposure to COVID-19.

Last year, Canada West attempted to revise the season in efforts to reduce the financial constraints of its members. This meant reducing the number of games each sport played, such as T-Birds only having five games in total, which includes one game against each team.

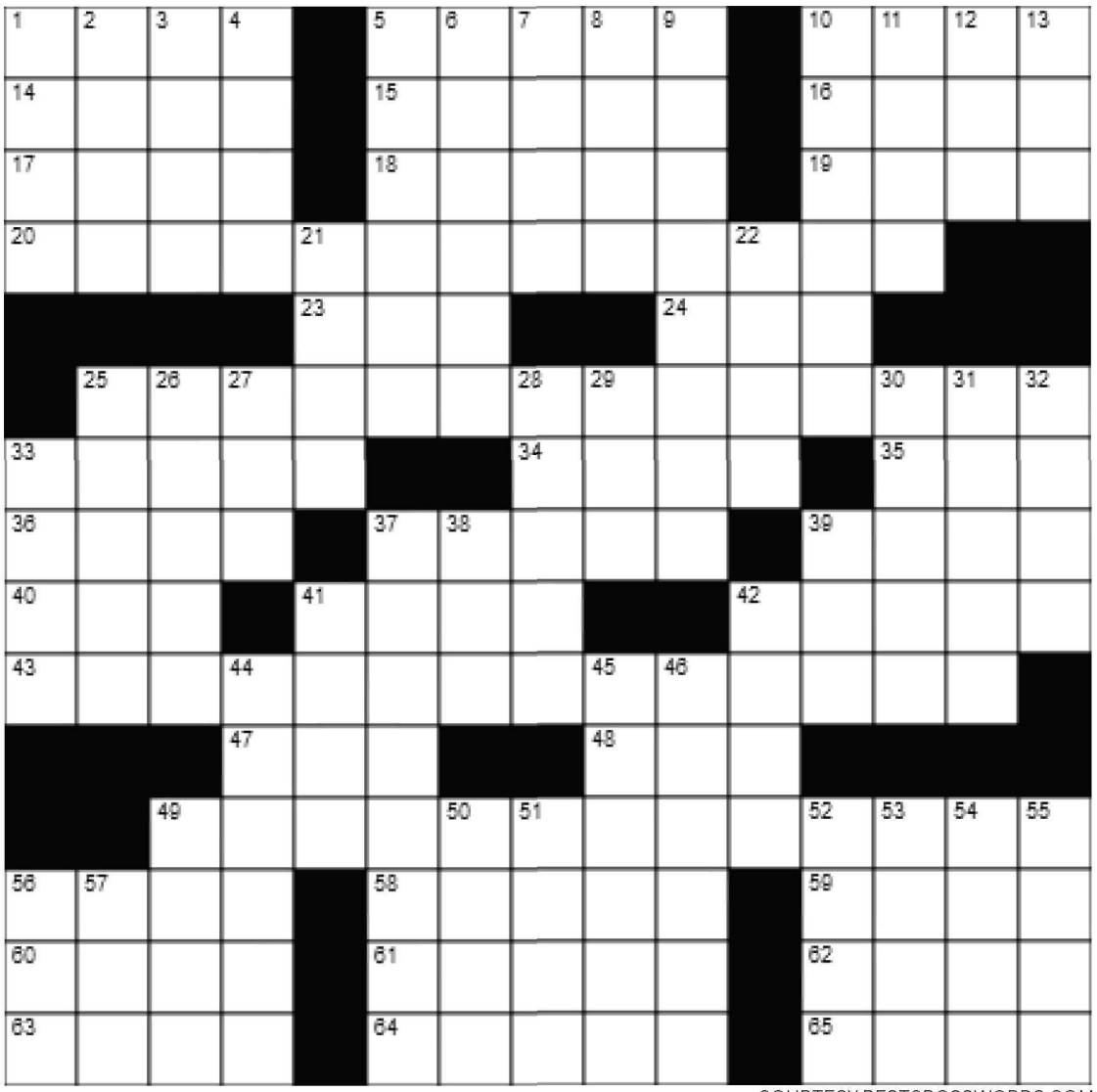
However, in June of last year, both Canada West and U Sports cancelled all first-term team competitions.

With vaccinations rolling out and a low number of daily COVID-19 cases, there has been an ease in restrictions with sporting events.

As BC saw consistently low daily COVID-19 cases, the first in-person sporting event of the Fraser Valley Bandits, one of the Canadian Elite Basketball League teams, was held in Abbotsford on July 14, holding 1,500 fans during the event.

Canada West announced its championship dates and if it goes as planned, there will be sports this year.

This year, UBC will be hosting the Golf Championships from October 4 to 5. T-Birds (women's) will be entering the championships as the defending champions after winning the title at the inaugural CV Golf Championships in 2019.



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ACROSS

1. Venetian blind part
5. Mosey
10. Colombian city
14. Nap
15. *"West Side Story"* song
16. One way to run
17. Pub potables
18. Icons
19. Specify
20. Sew on a sewing apparatus
23. Former coin of France
24. Miss-named?
25. Permeate
33. Without ___ in the world
34. Impulsive
35. Permit
36. "No Ordinary Love" singer
37. Green-lights
39. Catalog
40. Clockmaker Terry
41. I'd hate to break up ___
42. Mercury model
43. Fear of enclosed places
47. Reason for overtime
48. It's not free of charge
49. Fungi group
56. Third son of Adam
58. Championship
59. Not fer
60. Draft rating
61. Chip maker
62. Fruit-filled pie
63. Beethoven's birthplace
64. Like a smokestack
65. Pindar works

DOWN

1. Junk e-mail
2. Country singer McCann
3. Novelist Waugh
4. New Ager John
5. Key with no sharps or flats
6. Concocted
7. Warner ___
8. Light air
9. Facility
10. Invasive tumor
11. Eastern nanny
12. Actor Herbert
13. Presidential nickname
21. Psychiatrist's response
22. 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
25. Poker declaration
26. Gymnast Comaneci
27. Due follower
28. Muse with a lyre
29. Vote against
30. "The dog ate my homework," e.g.
31. Edison contemporary
32. Novel ending
33. Wait ___!
37. Inflammation of bone
38. Plop preceder
39. Test site
41. Warts and all
42. PlayStation maker
44. Jazz fan?
45. Ice ax
46. Plain
49. Bingo call
50. Pebbles's pet
51. Sock ___ me!
52. The Elder or The Younger
53. Crikey!
54. Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued
55. Tolkien tree creatures
56. Cry out loud
57. Brian of Roxy Music

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