JULY 19, 2022 | VOLUME CIV | ISSUE III
SANTA'S NOT COMING TO TOWN SINCE 1918

THE UBYSSEY

**03** President Santa Ono to leave UBC in October — NEWS

**07** How UBC vloggers redefine student engagement — CULTURE

**11** The Dingbat: Who should replace Santa Ono? — BLOG

**13** UBC to shoot for the stars with new NASA images — SCIENCE

**15** Being Chinese Canadian at Beijing 2022 — SPORTS

# BC's autism assessment process is slow and expensive.

For students seeking accommodations, that's a problem

// 8–9

## ON THE COVER

**COVER**
Isabella Falsetti

# THE UBYSSEY

JULY 19, 2022 | VOLUME CIV | ISSUE III

**EDITORIAL**

Coordinating Editor
**Charlotte Alden**
coordinating@ubyssey.ca

Visuals Editor
**Mahin E Alam**
visuals@ubyssey.ca

News Editors
**Nathan Bawaan and Anabella McElroy**
news@ubyssey.ca

Culture Editor
**Tova Gaster**
culture@ubyssey.ca

Sports + Rec Editor
**Miriam Celebiler**
sports@ubyssey.ca

Video Editor
**Josh McKenna**
video@ubyssey.ca

Opinion + Blog Editor
**Iman Janmohamed**
opinion@ubyssey.ca

Science Editor
**Sophia Russo**
science@ubyssey.ca

Photo Editor
**Isabella Falsetti**
photos@ubyssey.ca

Features Editor
**Paloma Green**
features@ubyssey.ca

**BUSINESS**

Business Manager
**Douglas Baird**
business@ubyssey.ca

Account Manager
**Forest Scarrwener**
advertising@ubyssey.ca

Web Developer
**Keegan Landrigan**
k.landrigan@ubyssey.ca

Social Media Manager
**Shereen Lee**
social@ubyssey.ca

Web Developer
**Mei Chi Chin**
m.chin@ubyssey.ca

President
**Jalen Bachra**
president1@ubyssey.ca

**CONTACT**

**Editorial Office:**

NEST 2208
604.283.2023

**Business Office:**

NEST 2209
604.283.2024

The Nest 6133 University Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

**Website:** ubyssey.ca
**Twitter:** @ubyssey
**Instagram:** @ubyssey


**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We wish to acknowledge that we work, learn and operate the paper upon the occupied, traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxw̱ú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and səlilw ətaʔɬ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh).


**LEGAL**

*The Ubyssey* is the official student newspaper of the University of British Columbia (UBC). It is published every second Tuesday by the Ubyssey Publications Society (UPS). We are an autonomous, democratically-run student organization and all students are encouraged to participate.

Editorials are written by *The Ubyssey*'s editorial board and they do not necessarily reflect the views of the UPS or UBC. All editorial content appearing in *The Ubyssey* is the property of the UPS. Stories, opinions, photographs and artwork contained herein cannot be reproduced without the expressed, written permission of the Ubyssey Publications Society.

*The Ubyssey* is a founding member of Canadian University Press (CUP) and adheres to CUP's guiding principles.

*The Ubyssey* accepts opinion articles on any topic related to UBC and/or topics relevant to students attending UBC. Submissions must be written by UBC students, professors, alumni or those in a suitable position (as determined by the opinion editor) to speak on UBC-related matters. Submissions must not contain racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, harassment or discrimination. Authors and/or submissions will not be precluded from publication based solely on association with particular ideologies or subject matter that some may find objectionable. Approval for publication is, however, dependent on the quality of the argument and *The Ubyssey* editorial board's judgment of appropriate content. Submissions may be sent by email to *opinion@ubyssey.ca*. Please include your student number or other proof of identification. Anonymous submissions will be accepted on extremely rare occasions. Requests for anonymity will be granted upon agreement from four-fifths of the editorial board. Full opinions policy may be found at *ubyssey.ca/pages/submit-an-opinion*.

It is agreed by all persons placing display or classified advertising that if the UPS fails to publish an advertisement or if an error in the ad occurs the liability of the UPS will not be greater than the price paid for the ad. The UPS shall not be responsible for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value or the impact of the ads.


## OUR CAMPUS

# 2020–22 GSS President Kimani Karangu on pandemic presidency and political pursuits

Kimani Karangu was the GSS president through the pandemic. But he didn't let that stop him. ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

**Maheem Bista**
Contributor

As Kimani Karangu connected to the audio, I could hear the ending of another meeting. He appeared on the screen with Mt. Kilimanjaro as his Zoom background, a Kenyan flag bracelet on his wrist and a huge smile on his face, even after a long day. Karangu was president of the Graduate Student Society (GSS) from 2020 to 2022, President of the Kenyan Community in BC organization and a volunteer co-host of the *African Vibes* show on CiTR.

"And don't forget the PhD," said the former president, laughing.

Karangu finished his PhD in curriculum studies this spring. In May, he put a bid in for the gubernational race in Nyandarua County, Kenya although he withdrew his bid in late June.

Karangu juggled multiple positions this past year. He said he did so by remembering the importance of "focus and discipline" — a phrase he has repeated to himself many times. They're simple but affirming words that help him keep moving forward both in the good and bad times.

While juggling so many postions may seem challenging or perhaps not even the best idea, Karangu said that he took on being president because "there was a need for me to be in that kind of position. To be able to move the agenda forward. And especially to be honest, [in regard to the] issue of racism and oppression on campus."

Karangu said he ran his GSS presidential campaign on a platform focusing on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and increased health coverage — especially mental health coverage — for students. During his time in office, the GSS along with the AMS managed to increase mental health coverage.

"We have increased that to $1,500 [from $1,000] and we are still having discussions on how we are going to make it better."

However, Karangu's main focus was EDI. He is very proud of initializing the GSS's internal EDI audit this past February.

"We have forgotten about the issue of race for a long time ... and in the last year, I've seen a lot of improvement," he said about the GSS.

Karangu believes understanding where people come from helps, in his words, "be together with other people." This, he believes, helps create a strong sense of community — needed in stressful times.

According to Karangu, the GSS has grown from 700 members in 1961 to 10,000 people in 2022. But he says the GSS is still a tight-knit community that he enjoys seeing thrive together.

As a pandemic president, he faced his fair share of challenges. According to Karangu, three VPs stepped down in one year during the pandemic, but *The Ubyssey* was unable to confirm this. That was on top of the other challenges the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine created.

The hardships of these past years affected his personal goals too. He was planning to finish his PhD in three years but it was pushed to five. There were times when he was challenged to change abruptly, especially when his four-year fellowship, funded by UBC, could not cover his fifth unexpected year.

"Getting stressed is fine. The problem is staying within that stress because you are not making any progress."

This is not the end of Karangu's political career; he has aspirations of much higher office. He hopes one day to run a country. "That's my dream," said Karangu.

SANTA'S LAST GIFT //

# Santa Ono to leave UBC for University of Michigan

**Nathan Bawaan and Anabella McElroy**
News Editors

Santa Ono will step down as UBC's president in October to serve in the same role at the University of Michigan in the United States.

The University of Michigan Board of Regents unanimously approved Ono's appointment as the university's 15th president during a meeting on Wednesday, July 13. He was the sole finalist from a six-month search.

In an interview with *The Ubyssey*, July 13, Board of Governors Chair Nancy McKenzie said it was too early for many of the search details to be set, but that the process would be led by a Board-created search committee comprised of members from across UBC's two campuses. It will also likely take several months and include a public consultation period.

She also said the Board will work with Ono to select an acting president who will take over in October.

"It's important to highlight the great work that he did here at UBC and really to thank him for that. And we wish him well as he moves on to this next opportunity," she added.

Ono's appointment comes after former University of Michigan president Mark Schlissel was fired in January for engaging in a two-year relationship with an employee over email.

Ahead of the vote, regents gave remarks praising Ono's work and expressing excitement for his appointment.

"Dr. Ono is relentlessly positive, he understands the critical role of collaborative relationships and working toward a common goal and he loves the students he serves," said Denise Ilitch, one of the co-chairs of the presidential search committee.

Ono has served as UBC's 15th president and vice-chancellor since August 2016. He was reappointed for a second five-year term — which started in August 2021 — in summer 2020.

As UBC's president, Ono focused on climate and anti-racism initiatives. He declared the climate emergency in 2019 following student demonstrations and creating an anti-racism task force in 2020. He also launched the university's Strategic, 2030 Climate Action and Indigenous Strategic Plans.

Community members applauded Ono's advocacy for greater mental health support, but noted that services and resources on campus continue to be strained.

In a statement released after the vote, BC Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training Anne Kang thanked Ono for his work and wished him the best at the University of Michigan.

Ono has served as UBC's president and vice-chancellor since August 2016.
ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

Outside of his official duties as president, Ono was known for wearing bow ties — although he appeared to stop wearing them recently — playing the cello and taking selfies and pictures with students around campus.

In a letter to the UBC community, Ono said the invitation to serve at the University of Michigan was a "once in a lifetime opportunity," adding that the term-limited nature of the UBC presidency — presidents can only serve two, five-year terms — and being closer to family in Michigan also factored into his decision.

"It has been an honour and privilege to serve the University of British Columbia ... In addition, I shall forever be proud of what we have accomplished together," he added.

MASK MANDATES //

# Disabled community members worried over end of mask mandates

**Charles Brockman**
Contributor

Many immunocompromised and disabled community members say ending the mask mandates on campus threatens their lives, careers and education.

On June 27, President and Vice-Chancellor Santa Ono and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lesley Cormack announced that UBC would no longer require masks in public indoor spaces on campus. Two days later, the AMS announced it would also be ending mask mandates in the Nest. Notably, the Life Sciences Institute announced it will keep its mask mandate in place.

Ono and Cormack wrote that the university's position was in keeping with that of the BC Provincial Health Officer, and that the decision was made only "after consulting with internal stakeholders."

Members of at least one stakeholder group, however, said they were not consulted.

"The Disability Affinity Group, and to our knowledge, disabled folks more generally were not consulted in the ending of the mask mandate," said Dr. Jennifer Gagnon, an interdisciplinary lecturer and chair of the UBC Disability Affinity Group. The group — founded in 2020 by Gagnon and the Equity and Inclusion Office — represents disabled faculty and staff.

"The end of the mandate is something that is going to disproportionately impact disabled folks." she added.

"The end of the mandate is something that is going to disproportionately impact disabled folks."
ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

In a statement sent to *The Ubyssey*, Matthew Ramsey, director of university affairs at UBC Media Relations, said UBC "consulted broadly" on the decision to end the mandate, with groups including "Vancouver Coastal Health, unions and employee groups, Alma Mater Society, Graduate Student Society and Student Union Okanagan." None of the listed groups specifically represent disabled or immunocompromised people.

"It's important to note that while the mandate was paused at UBC, the decision to wear one still rests with individual students, faculty and staff," Ramsey added.

However, disabled and immunocompromised community members voiced concern about exactly that shift of responsibility from the institution to the individual.

Haley Branch, a botany PhD candidate, recently tweeted that because of newly unmasked people at her place of work, she "packed up [her] office" and that she "shant be back." In an interview, Branch elaborated that while she can manage working from home for now, she is unsure of what will be possible when she is required to instruct a course in the fall.

Branch said some of her fellow grad students from UBC's Disabled Graduate Student Association don't even have the option to work from home.

"Many of us, we're just not going in [to campus] anymore ... Obviously, some of my peers have to still go in, and it's pretty devastating to feel unsafe at your workplace," she said.

Alex, another high-risk student whose name has been changed to protect their privacy, acknowledged that statistically it may make sense to remove the mask mandate but that they are "still terrified."

They described feeling exhaustion, fear and facing a "wall of adversity" from the general public when trying to speak up against the end of university mandates.

"It takes so much energy going against any ruling because you know you're going to get backlash," they said.

Gagnon agrees that self-advocacy for personal health needs comes at its own cost, and that one solution would be creating a UBC Disability Task Force with a seat at the table when the university makes decisions about public health.

She said the current lack of representation is a problem that has been gravely exposed by the pandemic and revolving public health mandates.

"The university and our society generally needs to stop treating the exclusion and deaths of disabled people as an acceptable price to pay, to return to 'normal,'" she said.

For Branch, allies and concerned members of the public have an uncomplicated role to play in helping to protect disabled and immunocompromised people at UBC.

"It's not on the disabled people to be doing all the leg work for this kind of thing," she said. "It should just be in our own community's best interest. Putting on a mask is not a hard thing to do."

SECURITY ON CAMPUS //

# AMS to record videos inside Safewalk vehicles for security, safety

**Christina Park**
Staff Writer

Du said footage would be deleted 15 days after recording unless an investigation was prompted.

JASMINE FOONG / THE UBYSSEY

The AMS will start recording video inside Safewalk vehicles after AMS Council approved changes to the society's existing surveillance policy.

Three weeks ago, councillors voted to amend the AMS's Video Surveillance Policy (SR-14) to allow cameras inside AMS-operated vehicles. VP Admin Ben Du — who brought the policy change to Council — said the amendments were intended to improve the safety of staff and students inside these vehicles.

The updated policy specifically lists authorized personnel who will have access to the recordings, including the Managing Director, the Building Operations Manager, the IT Manager, the Chief Technology Officer, and for Safewalk, the Senior Manager of Student Services.

If others want access to the footage, they will need ask the Building Operations Manager or the Senior Manager of Student Services and view the footage in their presence.

On how these cameras will be implemented, Du said only activity inside the vehicle would be recorded, videos would not include sound and footage would be deleted 15 days after recording unless an investigation was prompted.

There are some concerns around privacy with this new policy, however. During Council, Arts Councillor and Board of Governors representative Max Holmes said that he was worried the cameras could lead students to lose trust in services like Safewalk due to privacy concerns.

At Council, Du emphasized that there would be restricted access to the footage.

"I think the responsibility and the due diligence does lie in the responsible personnel who are accessing the footage," he said.

Student Services Manager Mitchell Prost added that students can instead use the walking services with Safewalk, and that there will be signs posted on vehicles to ensure passengers can provide their consent before entering.

In a statement sent to *The Ubyssey*, Prost did not speak to Holmes's concerns but said AMS executives, Council and the Operations Committee were consulted on this policy change.

"This decision is proactive in nature to increase safety of our student drivers and passengers, a practice that is common in other passenger transportation operations," he added.

LEGAL TROUBLES //

# Student Legal Fund Society quietly appoints slate of directors

Anene-Akosa said the board was appointed during the SLFS board meeting on June 12.

LUA PRESIDIO / THE UBYSSEY

**Iman Janmohamed**
Opinion + Blog Editor

The Student Legal Fund Society (SLFS) has a new board of directors after no students ran for its positions during AMS Elections in March.

Founded in 1988, the SLFS is a non-profit student-run organization that supports litigation, advocacy and other matters of law that are of concern to UBC students. According to its website, its board of directors are elected annually in AMS Elections.

However, that wasn't the case this year.

In an interview with *The Ubyssey*, second-year commerce student and new SLFS President Daniel Anene-Akosa said he and his slate assumed their roles on June 14 after reaching out to former SLFS president Raichel Feenan and undergoing the appointment process as outlined by SLFS bylaws and the BC Societies Act.

SLFS bylaws section 30 (1) states, "The directors may at any time and from time to time appoint a member as a director to fill a vacancy in the directors, with the exception of the position of AMS Representative."

The new SLFS board consists of Anene-Akosa, Vice-President Esha Mahmood, Treasurer Ethan Busch, Secretary Corben MacKenzie and Directors-at-Large Taylor Tucci and Michael Vento. There are no plans for a by-election to fill these positions, according to Anene-Akosa.

Bylaws section 30 (2) state "A director so appointed must retire from office at the next annual general meeting, at which time their successor takes office."

Anene-Akosa said the old board resigned and the new directors were appointed during the June 12 SLFS board meeting, not at a general meeting.

According to SLFS meeting minutes, there were 12 attendees at the board meeting. AMS President Eshana Bhangu said the attendees were former or incoming board members, and the board's AMS representative, Katherine Feng. Feng was previously appointed to serve as the SLFS' AMS Representative by AMS Council.

Anene-Akosa said the AMS was notified that a new board was appointed but that the student society was not involved in the appointment process.

Bhangu said the AMS was not involved in the SLFS' decision to fill the vacancies through appointment, and the student society was not notified when the new board was appointed. She said she learned of the appointment by "some students" and postings on LinkedIn.

Bhangu said the SLFS should have consulted students and held a by-election.

"These people control around $700,000 worth of student money," said Bhangu. "It just seems quite undemocratic."

In a report submitted to AMS Council in April, the Elections Committee wrote that it attempted to collaborate on elections with Feenan for the spring 2022 AMS Elections, but that "she was unresponsive, and was unwilling to work with us." Former AMS President Cole Evans echoed these sentiments in the same report.

Bhangu said the lack of advertisement on the part of the SLFS regarding elections or appointments makes the board "untransparent and inaccessible."

Anene-Akosa said that he heard about the vacancies from an April *Ubyssey* article.

In an attempt to ensure that students are interested in being part of the next elected SLFS board Anene-Akosa said the board is hoping to booth on campus during Jumpstart and Imagine Day, host workshops and to hire students for marketing, communications and logistics positions by September, similar to the hiring done by undergraduate societies. The elections for the new board are set to be held at the same time as next year's AMS Elections.

"Driving up student engagement is our main priority this year," said Anene-Akosa.

Bhangu said Anene-Akosa reached out to her on June 27 to let her know about outreach and increasing awareness of SLFS services.

When asked what the SLFS can do to bolster student engagement to increase nominations next year, Bhangu said "follow[ing] the principles of good governance and democracy ... That would be a good start."

*Michael Vento is a staff writer for* The Ubyssey. *He was not involved in the writing or editing of this piece.*

**RESIGNATION //**

# AMS VP finance resigns due to academic obligations

Jin called the section of AMS code which prompted her resignation a potential barrier to involvement. ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

**Nathan Bawaan**
Web News Editor

Former AMS VP Finance Rita Jin called part of AMS code a potential barrier to student involvement after she resigned due to academic obligations.

On June 30, AMS President Eshana Bhangu announced Jin would step down from her position as VP finance to ensure compliance with Section 6, Article 9 of AMS code which states that all AMS execs "shall seek the approval of Council for their outside commitments before embarking on them." This part of code was added on April 27.

Jin told *The Ubyssey* that Council didn't approve the two courses she planned to take over the two summer terms and five courses in the fall.

AMS execs work approximately 40 hours a week and typically only take one to two classes during each semester of the academic year, according to a statement from Bhangu.

Jin said these courses were necessary for her science degree and to meet the requirements of her Schulich Leader scholarship — a four-year award for science, applied science and land and food systems students.

"It's not like I broke a rule in that sense. It just wasn't approved," Jin said.

Bhangu said Council can decline any commitments it believes will interfere with an exec's full-time position.

Jin said Council told her to email science advising and the scholarship office to ask for an exemption for these requirements. While Jin said both offices tried their best to accommodate her situation, they were unable to approve her reduced course load.

She then told Council she would make contingency plans, like signing up for online classes so she would be in the office or only using her vacation days during finals to give her time to study.

"I would never run if I knew I couldn't handle it," Jin said, adding that she took more than 30 credits during the 2021/22 academic year while working 40 hours a week as associate vice-president finance and in student residence.

For Jin, the code change — which she noted was approved after she and the other execs were already elected — has good intentions, but could create barriers to student involvement in the AMS.

"For me, it's my scholarship or my program requirements. For someone else, it might literally just be a part-time job that they need to finance the tuition," she said. She added that this could create a situation where only those who are financially privileged are able to be an AMS exec, when the student society has been working on making itself more accessible to students.

She also said she tried to have a discussion around this code change at a Governance Committee meeting after coming into office, but it was never added to the committee's agenda.

Bhangu said this discussion item wasn't added to the agenda because councillors and committee members had "zero interest" in considering a change to code.

The president also said the code change puts a practice that has happened for decades into writing. She disagreed that it could create a barrier to student involvement.

"If someone is unable to commit to serving students in a full-time salaried executive role, the AMS offers multiple non-executive positions ... in addition to having 42 non-executive director positions on AMS Council," she wrote.

Jin said she is scrambling to find a way to sustain her housing now that she is no longer VP finance.

She said she is disappointed that could not fulfill her campaign promises of increasing mental health support for students — she said she was talking to TELUS Mental Health before she resigned — and transitioning the AMS's financial system to a new software.

"I was excited to show [my friends and voters] that, what I promised, I was going to achieve ... That's why I've been working super hard, even with the idea that I might be kicked out anytime."

In her two months in office, Jin prepared the 2022/23 budget, introduced code changes around the AMS credit card policy and expanded access to student club subsidies.

"It's really unfortunate. Like I do enjoy the work I did at the AMS," she said. "I was really disappointed to see that I can't really have the chance to defend students through financial advocacy."

**WORKPLACE ACOMMODATION //**

# Draft Workplace Accommodation Policy met with praise, concerns

**Riya Gupta**
Contributor

While disability and student groups on campus are largely excited about the development of a new UBC Workplace Accommodation Policy for employees, some groups say they were not included in early consultations.

According to a policy draft, the Workplace Accommodation Policy outlines UBC's responsibilities under the BC Human Rights Code and establishes the university's processes for requesting, assessing, implementing and managing accommodations for staff, including student employees.

This policy comes after UBC announced the launch of the Centre for Workplace Accessibility and the Workplace Accommodation Fund earlier this year.

The policy draft stated that the Office of the University Counsel convened a Policy Development Committee for a workplace accommodation policy in April after the VP Human Resources Marcia Buchholz initiated discussions on the policy. The 13-member committee included representatives from UBC's Workplace Health Services, the Centre for Accessibility, the Student Union Okanagan and the UBC Vancouver Graduate Student Society.

But some groups said University Counsel and the policy committee failed to consult with them.

Dr. Dana Solomon said the the Disability Affinity Group, a group for faculty and staff with disabilities, were not consulted. "We've asked to be involved, and we've asked to be a part of the development for several months now because we knew it was happening and we kept requesting a deeper involvement."

Some groups say they were not included in early consultation. JASMINE FOONG / THE UBYSSEY

Solomon expressed concerns regarding the development of the policy in the absence of anyone "who at least publicly identifies as having lived experience with disability."

She said the university needed a Disability Task Force to prevent this from happening.

"UBC is very clearly trying to develop policies and programs that are going to support disabled people," she said. "But without a task force, they simply don't have the information that they need to do so appropriately."

In a statement to *The Ubyssey*, Matthew Ramsey, director of university affairs at UBC Media Relations, said the policy committee emailed the Disability Affinity Group on May 11 to ensure they were aware of the new policy and invite them to participate in the community consultation period.

"The committee anticipates that there will likely be many individuals and groups interested in this proposed policy but the committee coordinator was made aware that the [Disability Affinity Group] had expressed an interest in this type of policy so reached out to them in advance," he wrote.

He added that policy committees generally include 12 members, and are composed of students, faculty and staff from across UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan and different departments to "obtain broader perspectives."

Despite her frustrations with the consultation process, Solomon emphasized this policy would benefit the UBC community.

"The better you support your employees, the better your productivity is going to be and the greater excellence you're going to achieve as an institution," she said.

The AMS was also not initially consulted. Max Holmes, a student representative on the Board of Governors, brought this up during a discussion on the policy at a recent Employee Relations Committee meeting.

AMS VP Academic and University Affairs Dana Turdy said University Counsel has since contacted the student society to offer it a seat on the policy committee.

"It was disappointing to see that they didn't have that representation in the first place and I think it's a larger issue in itself about the university and University Counsel not going through that due process of engaging with students," said Turdy.

Turdy agreed that this policy is a good idea, as it could eliminate some of the barriers that student employees might face while accessing accommodations.

Specifically, she pointed to the policy's elaboration on the role of unit supervisors in making accommodation decisions. The policy sets out the process for an employee to make an accommodation request, and provides guidance to supervisors about how to process requests without going through Human Resources.

"It gives the ability for supervisors to directly provide accommodations to employees without having to go through human resources, which I think is just an extra barrier, because often these things take a really long time, and that can really be frustrating for students who are trying to access these accommodations," Turdy said.

University Counsel and the policy committee are currently holding an open consultation period for the policy until October 2.

NEW AT THE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY//

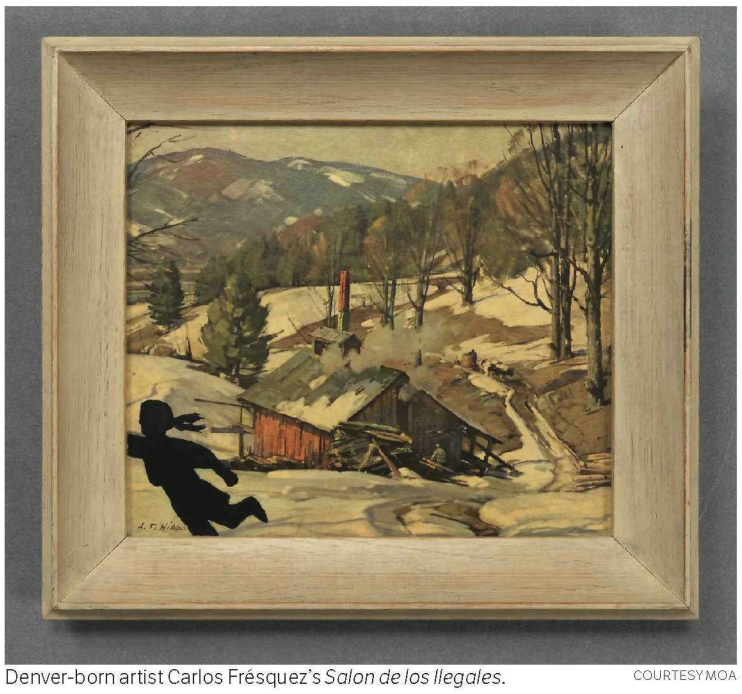
# *Xicanx* at MOA defies borders and bridges decades

**Elif Kayali**
Senior Staff Writer

The *Xicanx: Dreamers + Changemakers* exhibition at the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) celebrates the resilience, grit and creativity of Xicanx artists. 'Xicanx' is a gender neutral alternative to 'Chicano/a', a term for the Mexican-American community which encompasses a legacy of decolonization, labour activism, mestizo (mixed-race and Indigenous) identity, immigration, Queer feminism and more.

The exhibit opens into a colorful 'neighbourhood' with walls painted in vivid colors — magenta, bright blue and golden yellow — to divide up the space into little streets. At first, the narrative of the exhibit is joyful, almost playful, as Alejandro Diaz's *Make Tacos Not War* welcomes you by the entrance.

Then, it punches you in the gut when you least expect it with creative responses to the xenophobia, police brutality and labour exploitation which has shaped many Xicanx communities.



Denver-born artist Carlos Frésquez's *Salon de los Ilegales*. COURTESY MOA

Raul Servin, *Immigrant Couple* (2017). COURTESY MOA

## DEFYING BORDERS

Carlos Frésquez's *Salon de los Ilegales* series marks the exhibit's transition into a somber meditation on injustice. Frésquez uses silhouettes to insert the "illegal" immigrant into repurposed thrifted landscape paintings, representing and disrupting the common stereotypes of Mexican immigrants as interlopers on a pristine American landscape.

The exhibit is a collection of pieces that celebrate the resilience and diversity of a community while mourning its losses and sharing its grief. But it's also a call to political and social action.

"Chicanos have continued to fight for [their] rights and they're doing that in all sorts of ways," said curator Jill Baird in an interview with *The Ubyssey*. "I think there's ways to say that people [are] pushing towards social justice and human rights but also seeking to have places to put their own personal identity out into the world ... That's dynamic and inclusive and hopeful."

Baird curated the exhibition alongside Greta de León, executive director of the Americas Research Network.

## LEGACIES OF PROTEST

According to Baird, the exhibition is relevant to both our modern global context and issues in Vancouver. It stands against war and demands respect for marginalized communities — issues which are as relevant now as they were in the 1960s and 70s, when the contemporary Chicano tradition of protest artwork originated.

The artwork traces from the 1960s and 1970s El Movimiento, the Chicano civil rights movement which began in the southwestern United States. Some of the artists' work at MOA dates back to that era, while others are more contemporary – creating a conversation about social movements, identity and activism across time and space.

The exhibition reveals the interplay between different identities — to be Mexican, Indigenous and American at the same time. While some of the pieces focus on celebrating Xicanx culture and traditions, themes like police brutality are laid out for the audience to confront.

Raul Servin's *Immigrant Couple*, for example, tells the story of a family and how their lives were impacted by the US SB.4 bill that forced local public officials to cooperate with federal officers on immigration cases.

"If we try to make every experience comfortable, we are no doubt erasing some of the intention and the emotion and issues that the artists are trying to raise," said Baird.

The key is finding the "balance" between highlighting each artist's distinct message, while weaving the pieces together into the broader uplifting story of the exhibit, according to Baird.

"[For the] most part we tried to balance it by moving artwork around and having it in conversation with each other but in ... what we call the 'activism section', we chose not to," said Baird. "There's a place for you to sit down and go 'oh,' breathe deep, 'oh my goodness,' shed a tear if you feel it."

"Even though there's some edge to the show, I feel there's also a lot of hope," she added.

The exhibition is open until January 1, 2023.

NEW AT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY //

# *Uninvited* centres modern(ist) women in Canadian art

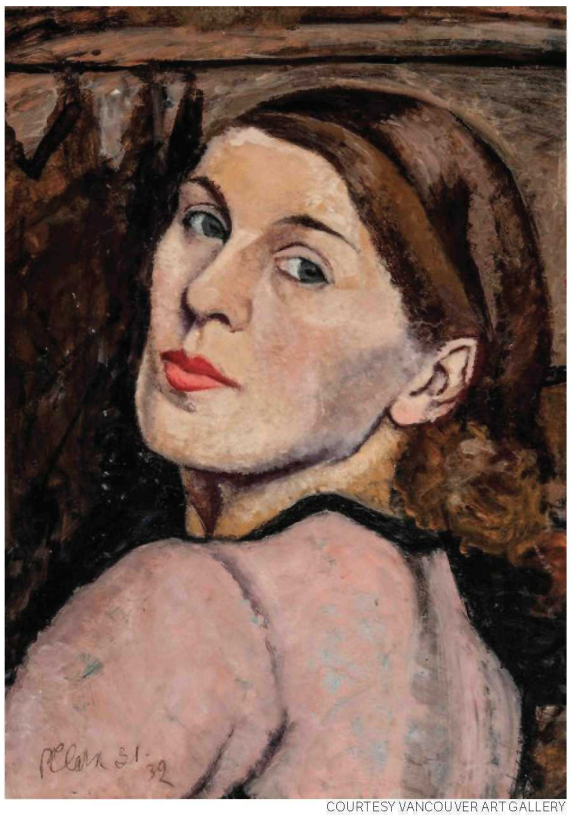
**Natalie Hays**
Contributor

The Vancouver Art Gallery's new major exhibition *Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in the Modern Movement* presents an immense range of artistic production and female creativity.

The 'modern movement' refers to the 1920s–1940s and the art movement that arose during this transformative time. Traditionally, our understanding of this movement includes artists such as the Group of Seven, Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse, and has suffered from a lack of gender and racial representation. *Uninvited* begins to change this.

I was immediately surprised by the first room's display of emotionally intense and vibrant portraits. In particular, Lilias Torrance Newton's portrait of Elise Kingman mesmerized me. The artist's friend is painted in elegant, understated clothes against a gray background. As she gazes to her right, her features are illuminated by a soft, warm light that highlights her calm, kind expression. The two women had served together in the First World War, and the portrait is painted with all the affection and fondness of a long-time friendship.

Portraits of women painted by men, which have been canonized by Western art history, are rarely imbued with the same agency that Newton gives her subject and friend. This idea of artistic agency



COURTESY VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Paraskeva Clark, Self-Portrait, 1931-1932

COURTESY ESTATE OF WINIFRED PETCHEY MARSH

Winifred Petchey Marsh, *Padlirmiut Woman's Atigi or inner coat, front view* (1933-1934)

followed me throughout rooms of landscape paintings, botanical studies, sculpture, garments, baskets and photography.

Wandering through rooms of such a variety of expressions of female creativity was a special experience — a rare one, as women artists have been so adamantly disregarded by art historians until relatively recently. It was inspiring to see such attention paid to the intentions of the artists in the curation of the exhibition by Sarah Milroy, with museum labels detailing the context in which the pieces were made.

Many of the featured artists were often discussed in relation to their male counterparts, the Group of Seven who produced what have become quintessential Canadian landscape paintings. The exhibition recognizes that many women artists diverged from the 'wilderness landscapes' of their male counterparts.

The exhibition featured settler, Indigenous and immigrant artists whose works addressed the dramatic changes occurring at the time. These women took on themes of industrialization, environmental change, psychology, Indigenous cultures and immigrant experiences.

I worry, however, that by condensing such a wide range of mediums, topics, artists and styles to a single exhibition, we risk flattening out the nuance of each of these artists' work. Museum captions don't seem to adequately mark the amount of variance within such a broad exhibition.

I had hoped to leave the exhibition with a clearer understanding of the 'modern movement' that consolidates these artworks. I found myself searching for the overarching throughline that laced the works I had seen together, that held the answers to questions like 'What were the main themes of the modern movement?' and 'Whose work is included and excluded from our discourse around the movement?'

I will definitely be visiting the exhibition again. There are too many amazing works to fully experience in one visit alone. I found my time spent admiring, questioning and analyzing these previously understudied works of female creativity to be heartening and important as we continue to rewrite tired, patriarchal understandings of artistic movements.

BEHIND THE CAMERA//

# How UBC vloggers are redefining student engagement

**Martin Edwini-Bonsu**
Contributor

During my last summer before becoming a university student, I did all of the things that I was expected and encouraged to do as a prospective student: go on virtual tours, attend events, register for my courses and Jump Start. However, I still struggled to picture myself at UBC. Who would my roommate be? Where would I spend long hours studying? What would my new life look like?

That was until I found videos of other engineering students who could show me, by bringing their cameras everywhere they go.

They build personal connections with their audience, whether it's through a room tour, crying about a failed exam or reflecting on their lessons learned during first year. They give advice (or some say "universi-tea") that isn't publicized in student brochures.

But who are the people behind the content, and what does vlogging reveal about the changing way students engage with academic communities?

## RISE OF THE STUDY VLOGGER

Some trace vlogging, a portmanteau of 'video' and 'blog,' to videographer John Nelson Sullivan, whose documentations of downtown New York in the 1980s inspired the medium. Vlogging has exploded in popularity in the past decade.

Many study vloggers have gained traction from students looking for inspiration on how to improve their study habits, make their school life look more aesthetically-pleasing or find a better work-life balance.

During exam season, Anna Shrestha, a third-year political science major minoring in economics, finds that vlogging her study sessions makes her more productive.

"Vlogging during finals and midterm season definitely helps me too because if I'm recording, then I have to tell [the viewers] that I'm working," said Shrestha.

Studies, including a 2020 publication called "Use of Video Blogs in Alleviating Public Speaking Anxiety among ESL Learners," also suggest that vlogging can help students with their public speaking and communication skills.

"A lot of my friends say that I can get myself out of any situation by talking," said Shrestha.

## BREAKING ISOLATION

While vlogging can turn into a lucrative opportunity for sponsorships, many study vloggers aren't incentivized by money.

Isa, a third-year sociology student, uses vlogging to stay connected to distant family. Isa's last name has been omitted to maintain her privacy.

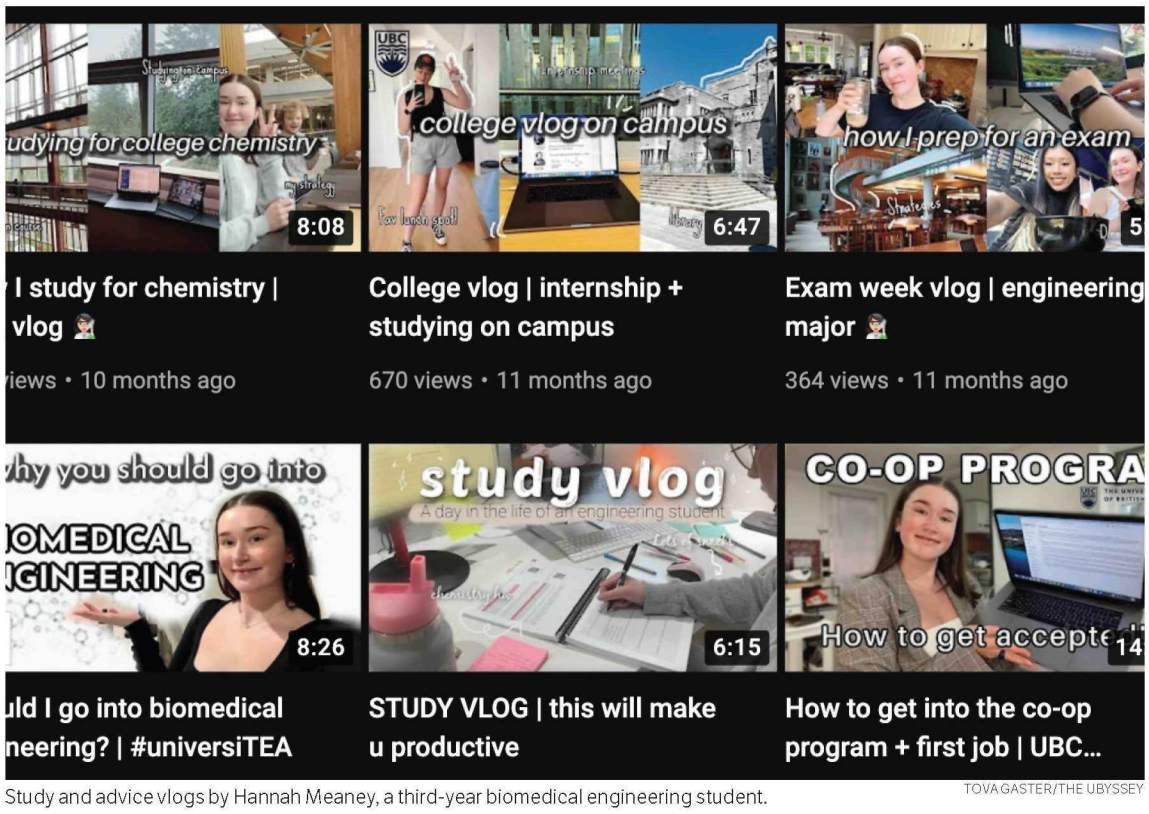
"Sponsorships are great but [vlogging] is more of a personal thing," said Isa. "My mom always tells me that my cousins and my grandma in the Philippines watch my videos. It gives them a sense of reassurance because you're going to be worried about sending your kid out into the great big unknown."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, vloggers redefined the medium around their new social isolation. Isa used vlogging as a coping mechanism that allowed her to escape her loneliness as a remote student to join a virtual yet lively academic community.

"During the pandemic, I was lonely because everyone was at home and then the study vloggers filled that void for me," said Isa. "I was somewhat living vicariously through them and enjoyed seeing that people can make something out of the situation that we had."

Although vlogging may seem like a performance of self for an audience, vloggers also expressed that it helps them to look inward and remain grounded.

"I think the most rewarding thing about vlogging is that it forces you to be in the moment and look for something that you can capture on camera and being able to have these video diaries for yourself," said Isa.




Study and advice vlogs by Hannah Meaney, a third-year biomedical engineering student.

TOVA GASTER/THE UBYSSEY

## VLOGGING BUILDS SUPPORT NETWORKS

The medium can also represent marginalized and underrepresented communities in academia.

Hannah Meaney, a third-year biomedical engineering student and a co-head of mentorship for the UBC Biomedical Engineering Student Team (BEST), initially struggled as a woman in a male-dominated field. Vlogging helped her find women in the same program and befriend them.

Vlogging can create support networks, which can be vital to advanced and prospective students alike to navigate bureaucracy and obstacles at UBC.

Catrina Callow, a second-year biomedical engineering student who vlogs with UBC Engineering Stories, hopes their videos can assist students with transitioning from high school to university.

"It makes me so happy that we're able to help people because you don't get tons of time to decide what university you want to choose and what program, but then when there are current students that can give that help, it's really rewarding," said Callow.

However, vlogging also comes with the responsibilities of being a public figure. Although vloggers are often open to providing insight about their experiences, they can feel overwhelmed by questions which can force them into the role of an unsalaried and underqualified academic counsellor.

"There are instances where people who watch my videos email me asking for advice and information about applying to UBC but I don't know everything so that part can be challenging," said Maddy Huehn, a third-year nutritional sciences major and study vlogger.

## 'YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING': CHALLENGES AND PRESSURE OF VLOGGING

Some vloggers have been called out for unrealistic and stress-inducing videos that emphasize hyper-productive or aesthetic lifestyles that most university students don't relate to.

"I wanted to show a realistic college life," said third-year environmental science student Chad Hennig. "There are so many [vlogs] that are so questionable. Do some of these people really study every single day? There are some people with amazing grades but claim they go partying every single night. I don't believe that."

However, many don't vlog purely in the interest of realism. In an often-toxic hustle culture bent on monetizing hobbies, vlogging can quickly become an informal job once the views start pouring in.

Isa, whose channel has over 19,000 subscribers, often questions whether she should care about the analytics and marketing aspects of being a vlogger when originally it was a personal hobby to keep her family updated on her life.

"Do I want this to be a hobby? Should I care more about growing my channel?" said Isa. "It's a lot of rose-tinted content, [but] you're always working."

Some vloggers struggle with being fully authentic as they do not want to reveal too many personal details about their life. There can be tension between the public image that vloggers present vs. the insecurities that they choose to conceal.

While Isa portrays a realistic lifestyle in university and opens up about her struggles as a university student in her vlogs, she often ponders how much of her personal life she can keep private while setting realistic standards with her content.

"How do I keep to myself, while at the same time, how can I portray a more genuine university experience by the time everyone at university is miserable?" said Isa.

Vlogging can also be time-consuming. It's not hard to pick up a camera and start recording, but editing can take hours to add polish to the video. There can be significant pressure to upload consistently.

## PRESERVING MEMORIES

Callow views her vlogs not only as an outward-facing way to build community, but as a way to record her personal development.

"I know some people keep journals or they'll take photos, but I have videos of my days at university that I'll always have the chance to revisit to see the growth through my university experience," said Callow.

Vlogging can feel unnatural for many of us who prefer not to talk to a camera, but those awkward moments can be enjoyable to look back on as a form of self-reflection.

"[My early vlogs are] embarrassing as hell but I love looking back at my growth as a person," said Shrestha.

Isa

Anna Shrestha

Catrina Callow

Maddy Huehn

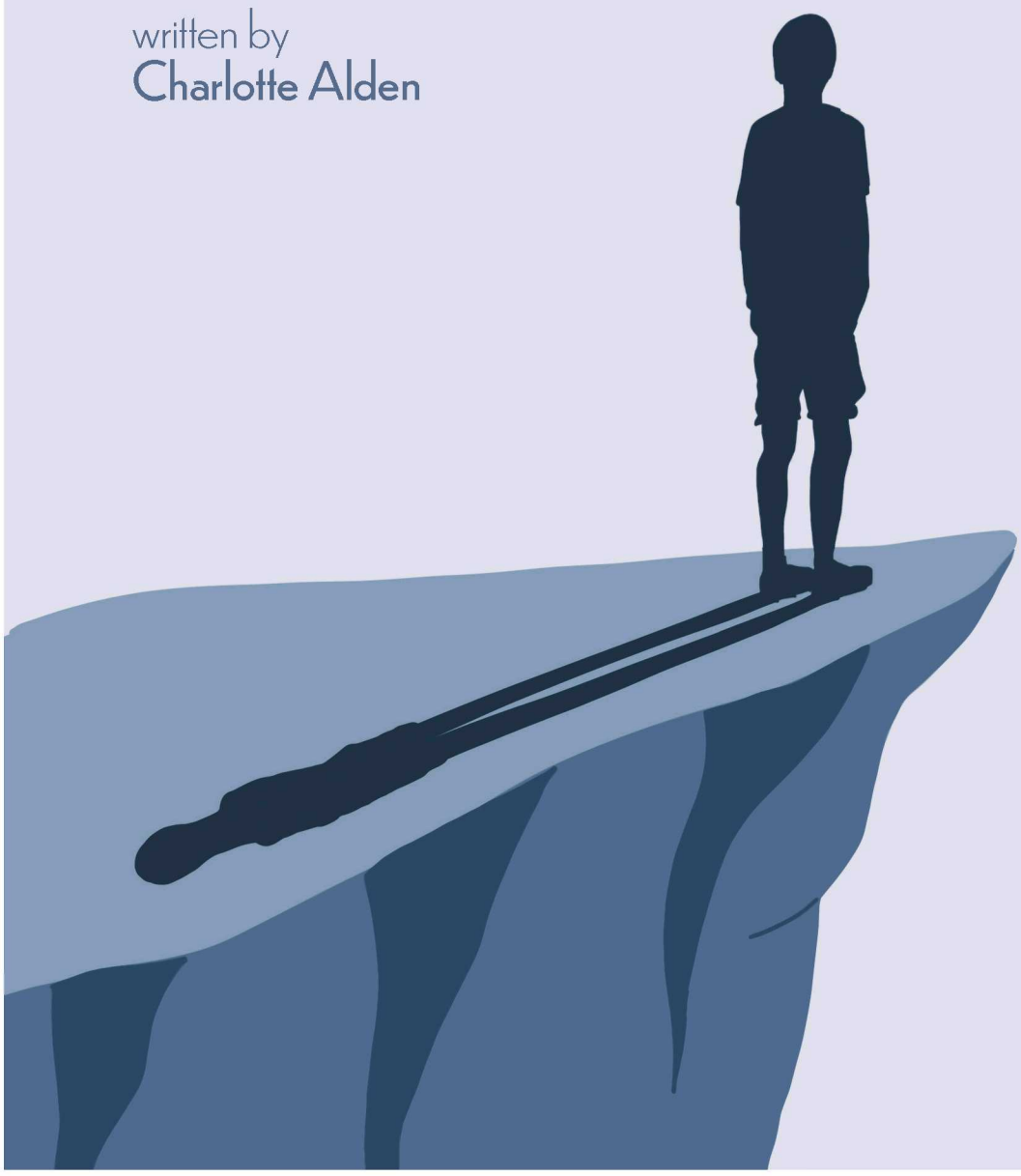
Chad Hennig

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SUBJECTS

# BC's autism assessment process is slow and expensive.

## For students seeking accommodations, that's a problem

written by
Charlotte Alden



Kip Chow didn't realize they were autistic until they were an adult.

The 2021 UBC grad spent years in virtual disability spaces, interacting with people who discussed their experiences with autism. But it took Chow a while to realize that they related to these experiences too.

"Very slowly I figured out that I relate to some of those things," Chow said. "I did a bunch of further research into what being autistic looks like outside of stereotypical presentation ... and I was like, 'Oh, I think that's me.'"

Chow became more certain they were autistic after moving into primarily autistic spaces and hearing more and more experiences they related to.

"Gradually learning about others' experiences and thinking more about my own experiences growing up — and just in general — is how I figured it out," Chow said.

Soon after, Chow sought out an autism assessment to see if they could get a formal diagnosis to access academic accommodations at UBC. Accommodations can include extended time on tests, distraction-reduced test taking environments and easier access to extensions on assignments to name a few.

But, when they emailed different autism advocacy organizations, they were told that an assessment would cost at least $2,000 and could only be done privately.

"I was like, oh that's bad, I don't want to do that. But I'll do it if I really have to," Chow said.

But Chow was lucky — they asked in online local disability communities about the assessment process and were pointed to former UBC professor and psychiatrist Dr. Anthony Bailey, one of the few psychiatrists who did autism assessments covered by the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP).

Chow, who was on leave from UBC at this time, called to get on the list.

Six months went by.

A year went by.

Then, Chow got a call. They booked an assessment, and were diagnosed with autism. From there, they were able to get appropriate accommodations from UBC's Centre for Accessibility.

Waiting a year seems like a long time. But waiting only a year and not having to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket for an autism assessment is rare for adults in BC who want to be diagnosed.

The province funds diagnoses for those under 19, but currently there's an 84-week waitlist to get a free diagnostic assessment through the BC Autism Assessment Network. It can stretch up to three years in certain parts of the province.

If you're an adult seeking an autism diagnosis, get ready to shell out upwards of $2,000 for a private assessment. That's because there's no provincially-run autism assessment network for adults. And in the private sector, very few doctors conduct assessments that are covered by MSP.

Deborah Pugh, the executive director of Autism Community Training, said it's "disgraceful" that it's so difficult to get a publicly-funded autism assessment as an adult in BC.

"This has been an issue going back 20 years in British Columbia," Pugh said. "I think it is a human rights issue because what other diagnosis can you think of where there's nowhere to refer you to in the public health system, and you're turned away if you don't have the money to pay for a private assessment?"

Bailey — who Pugh said "did a tremendous job over the last decade in helping particularly students at UBC with diagnoses" — retired last month, leaving even fewer options for adults to turn to if they want to be diagnosed with autism. Bailey declined an interview due to ill health.

"It's a situation that has been getting progressively worse because the Ministry of Health has not taken action," Pugh said.

Brock Sheppard, from Autism BC, said the advocacy organization has asked the Ministry of Health "to provide public funded assessments for adults and ensure that there are adequate practitioners to deliver the assessment and support services that follow an adult diagnosis." But Autism BC never heard back from the Ministry of Health on this issue.

The Ministry of Health sent *The Ubyssey* information on autism diagnosis for children, but did not respond to multiple requests about why there's no publicly-funded diagnosis for adults.

### Diagnosis needed to get accommodations at UBC

Chow found getting accommodations through UBC fairly easy because they had a diagnosis. But disability accommodations at UBC are rooted in Policy LR7, which states that in order for students to get accommodations for a disability they must have current documentation.

Two issues emerge with this requirement: first, the sheer cost for many to get an assessment. And second, the confusion around the "current documentation" requirement.

The Centre for Accessibility tries to find funding for students who need it, said Director Janet Mee.

Funding opportunities can come from external sources, Mee said. She noted the AMS/GSS Health Care Plan and referenced the $1,500 mental health benefit. A guide to the plan states that "diagnostic services" are covered, but does not specify how much. She also said the Centre helps students look at parental extended health care to see if any of the cost can be covered.

She also pointed to provincial and federal grants.

"There's currently a conversation at the provincial level about expanding access to the Canada [Student] Grant to cover the costs of documentation," Mee said. "We are quite hopeful that that will shift and that that will become another resource for students."

Internally, Mee said the Centre works with enrolment services to identify sources of funding.

"We've been pretty creative and working with enrolment services to find bursaries and other sources of funding, where resources are the barrier to

getting the documentation that they will require."

However, Mee said there is no specific funding allocated to helping students get a diagnosis.

Oliver McDonald, the previous president of AMS resource group UBC Disabilities United Collective, thinks UBC should be directly paying for students to get a diagnosis due to the barriers that exist.

"Asking students to pay $3,000 to access something that they need is ridiculous," he said.

McDonald is not autistic himself, but often heard from autistic students through Disabilities United Collective about problems they experience at UBC.

"It's just incredibly difficult and time-consuming and exhausting for people to find any sort of medical diagnosis and of course, to get accommodations based on either being autistic or not, you need medical documentation," McDonald said. "So, that's a huge problem."

McDonald said students can also turn to UBC Disabilities United Collective for funding. As an AMS resource group, the Collective has access to the AMS resource group fund, a pool of $500,000 split among the various resource groups. Students interested in accessing this funding can contact the president of Disabilities United Collective.

"There's a lot more struggles that go into getting diagnosed than just finances," McDonald said. "But, it is a big resource that I really hope can help people have access to things that they wouldn't otherwise have access to."

Chow agreed that the biggest barrier to accommodations for students is the diagnosis requirement. While they understand why that requirement exists, they said it could be more flexible.

"Let's say, hypothetically, I'm a student in first year. I figure out I'm autistic in second term. I'm struggling," Chow said. "I have to wait at least one entire year or pop out like $2,000 to be able to get the help I need? That's rough."

Mee said the Centre recognizes it can be tricky to obtain those diagnoses in the first place, but that the Centre is looking for documentation from an "appropriate medical practitioner."

"We rely on the medical practitioner to determine what assessment that they're going to use in order to come to the conclusion of that diagnosis."

Under Policy LR7, Mee said the Centre has the ability to provide interim accommodations to students going through the assessment process or looking for funding. UBC is currently reviewing the accommodation process as part of the Inclusion Action Plan's implementation.

Clear communication is another challenge — UBC's accommodations policy states that students must "usually" have a diagnosis from within the past three years.

However, Mee said this does not apply when it comes to autism as autism is considered a "permanent condition." She said the Centre does accept a childhood diagnosis, despite permanent conditions not being addressed in policy.

"We have discretion within the policy to make decisions based on our own professional expertise and our knowledge of the community and access to documentation and those kinds of things to make decisions," Mee said. She added that the Centre would accept autism diagnoses that are "much older" than three years.

That asterisk not being written out in policy has confused students. Casey Broughton, an autistic UBC alum, said when she applied for accommodations she was nervous it wouldn't be accepted because she only has a childhood diagnosis.

Broughton said the Centre should be clearer in policy or in communications to students that there is more flexibility to the policy than stated.

"[The policy wording] is scaring away people that should be registering or should be able to register," she said.

Mee agreed that the Centre can always do better on communication. She acknowledged that since the policy states three years as a requirement for recent diagnosis, it's a bit tricky to communicate the exceptions they make, such as with autism.

Emma Smith, a master's student in library and information studies, was 11 or 12 when she was diagnosed with autism. The process of getting an assessment and accommodations was fairly straightforward for her, but said it might be tough for other students.

"Somebody who is new to the province or somebody who doesn't have that sort of support system, or somebody who doesn't have English as a first language ... I imagine that would just make everything much more difficult," she said.

Mee said the Centre tries to deliver information more directly to students through the UBC admission application. She pointed to a part of the application that asks students if they want more information in terms of support for students with disabilities.

"If they tick that box 'Yes,' it's not part of the decision-making process for their admission, but that information is funneled to the Centre for Accessibility and we send them a letter with an invitation to come and find out more about what we do," Mee said.

Community, beyond the Centre for Accessibility, is essential for autistic and disabled students, Smith and Chow said.

Chow said being able to get advice from local disabled people through online communities was so important to them when going through the assessment process.

"I feel like that kind of connection is really important when the medical system is what it is — which is to say: complicated, unnecessarily bureaucratic and difficult to navigate in many cases," they said.

McDonald encouraged autistic students, and any disabled students, to get involved with the UBC Disabilites United Collective.

"We need active members who can help us advocate for change," he said.

design by
Isabella Falsetti

QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL //

# Lesbian vampires and Queer almost-horror at *Reel Eerie*

**Makyla Smith**
Contributor

Pride Month had no shortage of Queer-oriented art — some funky, some flamboyant and some straight from the surreal Salvador Dalí playbook. In Vancouver, the world-renowned Queer Arts Festival (QAF) provided all of the above.

On June 26, QAF put on a showcase of Queer-created horror films called *Reel Eerie*, curated by CS Fergusson-Vaux and Ben Siegl. Between monster-fucking and more monster-fucking, the showcase was wildly entertaining — despite the fact that most of the shorts were more lightly-macabre than horror.

*Monsterdykë*, described to the audience as a "portrait of desire examining trans-lesbian love and longing," started the showcase off with a bang (pun intended). Directors Kaye Adelaide and Mariel Sharp established from the outset that "there are only two genders: monsterfuckers and cowards." While that bold claim might lose other crowds, the QAF audience's reaction was an enthusiastic applause.

What followed was essentially black and white gothic tentacle porn, filmed on 16mm film. *Monsterdykë* was seemingly a fan favourite, bringing a blush to even the most closeted monster-fucker. Its humour, horror and outrageous sexuality combined the greatest aspects of films like *Haxan, Nosferatu* and maybe even some *Deadpool* if you squint.

QAF put on a showcase of Queer-created horror films. COURTESY QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

Next came TJ Cuthand's *You Are A Lesbian Vampire:* a short which was essentially *Dracula*, reimagined as a satirical commentary on the insularity of the lesbian community. However small Vancouver's lesbian community can feel when you run into three exes in one awkward night out, it stands to reason that the immortal lesbian community would be even smaller.

Similarly, U-Haul lesbians are infamous for going in hard on commitment, but for vampires 'forever' really means... forever. It really makes you think: instead of turning your girlfriend into a vampire, you might want to turn your cat into one instead to save yourself hundreds of years of drama.

The audience roared with applause following Joshua Lam's *Monkey See, Monkey Do*, a suspenseful whirlwind of Queer Asian longing — featuring a boogeyman, a hilarious fictional magazine called *Hunks of Vancouver* and all the campy horror thrills of a Wes Craven classic.

A personal favorite was Monika Estrella Negra's *Bitten, A Tragedy*, which explored racism in the Queer community. The film follows Black vampire Lydia's mission to eradicate racism within the bloodlines and legacies that intertwined with her own. Lydia's long memory as an immortal served as a creative allegory for intergenerational trauma.

When she comes across a micro-agressive rave-goer, Lydia is taken back to a moment of violence between her ancestor and a white woman. A macabre and enthralling depiction of human sacrifice ensues. Murder, deceit and witchcraft come into play, as does a strict callout to those who believe that their Queerness negates their white privilege.

*Bitten, A Tragedy*'s creative and poignant integration of horror tropes with social commentary made it one of the more captivating films.

Representation in Queer media is a battle, with white cis men monopolizing mainstream narratives. When Queer media chooses assimilation over pride, non-binary, lesbian and BIPOC narratives lose out. Showcasing diverse, weird and freaky Queer art in such a well-known outlet as QAF gave me hope for an era of Queer films as creative explorations into rich experiences of our community.

*Reel Eerie*'s journey of almost-horror and monster porn showcased the importance of Queerness in media and reminded all of us that, much like lesbian vampires, Pride Month never really ends.

MORE QUEER ART! //

# At QAF's *Queerotica*, everything is sex, except sex, which is power

**Kaila Johnson**
Senior Staff Writer

Bisexual lighting — saturated beams of blue, pink and purple — coated the stage of the Queer Art Festival (QAF)'s *Queerotica: Literary Readings* on July 6 at the Sun Wah Centre. Four different writers shared their work on stage on the theme of "the masc & femme we wear."

Rather than simply reading aloud steamy poetry, *Queerotica* complicated the erotica genre with questions around how our authentic sexual selves are disguised and warped by colonialism and white supremacy.

One of the featured artists, Aly Laube, was unable to attend in-person and shared her collection of poems via a YouTube video with event attendees. Their collection, titled "Gay and Confused," mentioned U-Hauling, the common Queer experience of thinking you're in love with a friend and R&B artist Teyana Taylor's ballroom-inspired track "WTP."

Kyle Shaughnessy spoke of his experiences as a Two-Spirit Trans person of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry. His introduction flowed into a nonfiction work about deciding to go back in the closet for his grandmother's funeral. Shaughnessy described how he did not want an unfamiliar name to be a barrier to connecting with his family in their mourning.

Janice Esguerra, a recent UBC creative writing grad. CHRIS RANDLE/QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL.

Still, he didn't sacrifice his transmasc gender presentation to attend her service. Even when dressed up as yourself, there can still be parts of you in hiding.

Janice Esguerra, a recent graduate of the UBC bachelor's of fine arts creative writing program, shared poems and a piece of nonfiction. In the excerpt of nonfiction, she described her relationship to religion and what it would be like meeting god in a Chinatown bar.

Esguerra made attendees laugh during her final poem, "religion is whatever you do on your knees," with the stanza, "because sex is just another way/to finish/each other's sentences/and lord knows i'm tired/of commas."

Elmer Flores shared a collection of poems which highlighted the frustration that BIPOC Queer people can feel towards white gays with works titled "fuck you, you fucking fuck" and "another poem about a white man." In the former, he also described how his white classmates have been praised for using "fuck you" in their poetry while Flores was criticized for doing the same.

"I think this is the event where I've heard the most f-words in my life," joked QAF artistic director Mark Takeshi McGregor after Flores's set. By playing with the multiple meanings of "fuck," Flores' collection of poetry grappled with how oppression and animosity can bleed into sexuality.

UBC theatre production and design alum Laura Fukumoto kept this sentiment alive by starting her set with the phrase "fuck Canada Day." Musicality oozed through their collection of poems. She broke out a harp that was found in the alleyway by their apartment to elevate the feeling of haunting — QAF's 2022 theme.

During their last poem, which was inspired by an AURORA song, Fukumoto had the audience hum two tones throughout the reading.

The warmth of the bi lighting and the hums of the audience provided a blanket of safety for attendees to listen and let the artist's words wash over them.

NEW JOB, ANYONE? //

# The Dingbat: A look at some people to replace Santa Ono

**Jackson Dagger**
Senior Staff Writer

With UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Santa Ono leaving for the University of Michigan in October, the search is on for his successor.

*The Ubyssey* broke down some potential candidates for the position.

Why is our most popular figure a rat?

PATRICK GILLIN / THE UBYSSEY

### SANTA CLAUS

Ono spent much of his time as president asking for gifts, whether that's from donors or recent grads, so perhaps it's time to replace him with someone who gives gifts. Claus's experience exploiting elves in the North Pole will help him put down any labour unrest in a time when UBC employees are unionizing. UBC could also cut the costs of replacing Ono's office nameplate in half by hiring a president with the same first name.

### ME

I don't even want the salary, I just want the Norman MacKenzie House. Please, I'd really love an affordable place on campus. Please?

### ALL OF US

The presidential office could be given to a random member of the UBC community every day — it's democratic, fun and keeps everyone on their toes.

While a rotating group of students, faculty and staff would lack a strategic vision to make UBC a stronger academic institution, that hasn't mattered in previous presidential hirings.

### REMY THE RAT

Remy the Rat from Open Kitchen lost the most recent election for AMS president (although he did beat out all but one human candidate). Perhaps his loss is a sign that he's destined for even higher office, like that of UBC president.

Regardless of whether or not Remy gets the job, the incoming president should probably lead UBC to a place where our most popular public figure isn't a rat.

### SARS-COV-19

The virus has already been running UBC for the past two and a half years. Let's formalize the relationship and make the pathogen that causes COVID-19 our official ruler.

As a bonus, we'd probably get some crazy conspiracy theories out of this.

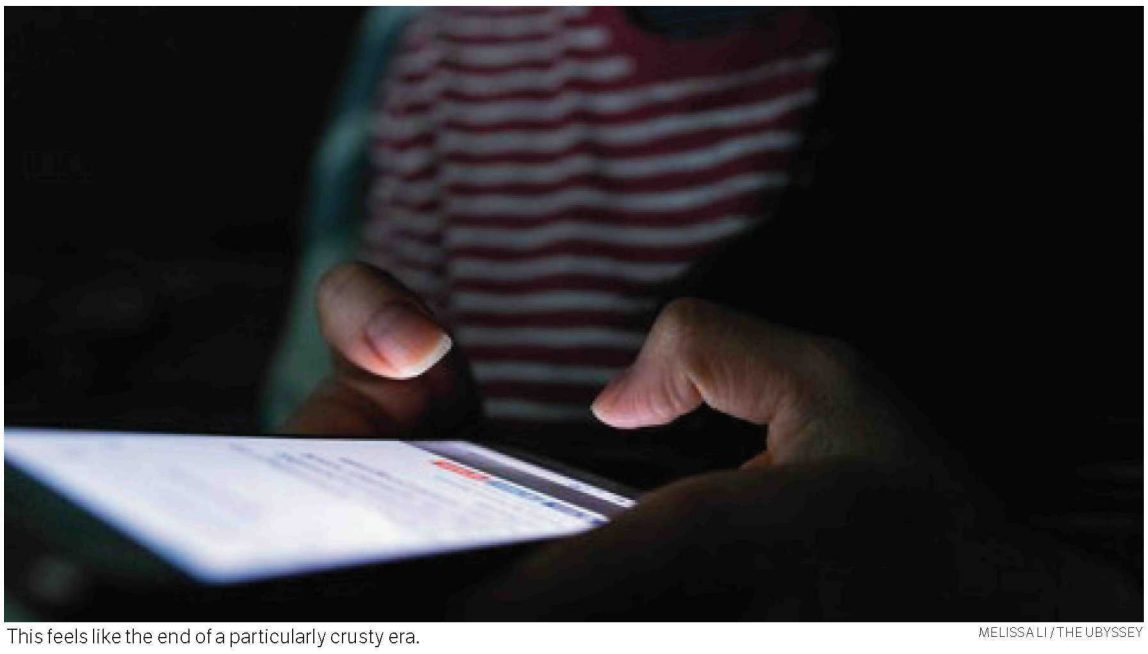
### ME (AGAIN)

I will release one satire article every week until my demands are met.

The Dingbat *is* The Ubyssey*'s humour section. You can send pitches or completed pieces to* blog@ubyssey.ca.

WE WILL MISS YOU //

# RIP UBC Confessions. Here are some alternatives to the OG



This feels like the end of a particularly crusty era.

MELISSA LI / THE UBYSSEY

**Shanai Tanwar**
Senior Staff Writer

The unspeakable has happened. In an ill-fated Facebook post, UBC Confessions announced that it would officially be closing its doors and ending this chapter in the university's history.

For the account's loyal followers like myself who found every opportunity (riding on the bus, scrolling during a boring class, etc.) to revel in the depths of UBC fuckery, the announcement came as a huge blow.

Where am I supposed tag my friends so we can take wild guesses at who wrote this especially nasty confession? How are we to know if all the chicken across campus is still undercooked?

That being said, I won't miss hearing online about strangers' bodily fluids around campus.

This feels like the end of a particularly crusty era.

Since UBC Confessions has closed, I have an infinite amount of time on my hands (I mean when I'm not scrolling through UBC Crushes hoping to see my name pop up). So, I'm sharing with you a list of potential replacements for UBC Confessions.

Nothing can ever truly replace the OG in our hearts, but maybe thinking of some alternatives might dull the pain.

### REDDIT

Reddit is the world's version of UBC Confessions. Given that so many students already use r/UBC to post shit about the university, it seems like a (somewhat) smooth transition.

Pros: It already has a lot of shit-talkers who are more than happy to spill their own/the university's dirty secrets.

Cons: Do normal people use Reddit? Sorry.

### GREEKRANK

The Greek life homies already have their own separate portal to leak anonymous confessions on each other.

Pros: You get dirt on some really controversial characters in the university party scene.

Cons: Once you get past how generally toxic all the confessions on Greekrank are, it just feels like high school... and who wants to go back there?

### RELEASE CONFESSIONS *V FOR VENDETTA* STYLE

Now this calls for some good ol' anarchy! What better way to continue UBC Confessions' chaotic legacy than to take over the TV and PA systems across campus and expose secrets for all the world to see? After all, the public demands an answer.

Bonus points if you wear the Guy Fawkes mask from *V for Vendetta*, but I'll accept the T-Bird outfit, too.

Pros: It'll give artsy kids something to do. Method acting, baby!

Cons: Nobody wants to hear about raw chicken while literally eating it.

### OVERSHARE

Honestly, I'm at that point in the year where my philosophy can be accurately summed up in two words: 'who cares?'

I mean, sure, oversharing in real life is not as gratifying as doing it anonymously online with 56,000 UBC community members, but who said you had to do it with people you know?

My advice? Start telling the most random people about the stuff you've done.

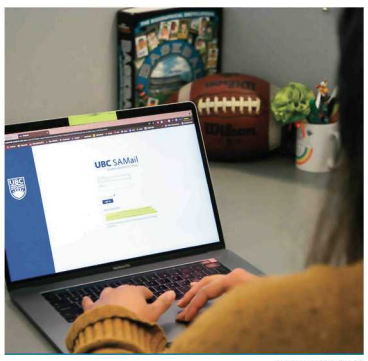
Old lady on the bus? You can overshare guilt-free. Checkout lady at the grocery store? She needs something entertaining in her day anyway.

Pros: You officially get to live without a filter and embrace your best chaotic self.

Cons: None.

HELLO? IT'S ME //

# The Dingbat: I'm an email in your inbox. This is my story



Is there someone else?

THE UBYSSEY

**Bridget Meehan**
Senior Staff Writer

*Tuition and student fees are due on—*

*Special announcement! The AMS will—*

Hey! Stop cutting me off! What can I do to get your attention? Do I have to start opening these emails with a racy picture? Or pretending I'm someone else? What do you want from me? Would you read me if I was U of T? What about McGill?

You find it embarrassing to double text. To send an emoji or a cheeky 'LOL' after a serious sentiment. So, imagine me, sending email after email with so much content and receiving nothing in return.

You could reach out. That would be nice.

But instead, it's always me trying to track you down and nothing ever changes. You're not so busy that you can't reply to an email. You're always on your laptop, and I know you're not writing out lecture notes.

Is there someone else?

It's been four years and I can't stop thinking about you. What did I do wrong? You used to be excited to get an email from me, back when you were young and in high school. "UBC emailed me!" You'd frantically yell to your friends, and they were excited for us.

They wanted this for us. You wanted this for us. You told your parents about us. They wanted my emails, too.

And then as soon as you were committed and sure I wasn't going anywhere it was like I just stopped mattering to you.

Did I make myself too available to you? Am I too clingy? Was it all about the chase?

I don't think we should be together anymore, and I'm glad you're graduating soon. I don't think I can handle seeing you around anymore or posting on Instagram and not responding to me. This isn't good for my mental health.

So goodbye for now, but wherever you go, I'll always be there for you... especially if you become super successful in the future, because, you know, alumni moola.

Love,

The UBC emails you never open.

The Dingbat *is* The Ubyssey*'s humour section. You can send pitches or completed pieces to* blog@ubyssey.ca.

END OF AN ERA //

# Mind Your Mind: Bittersweet endings and new beginnings

**Daphnée Lévasque**
Columnist

Lately, I've been reflecting on what beginnings and endings mean to me.

I started writing *Mind Your Mind* during my first year of university. I wanted to get involved with the student newspaper, and the opinion editor at the time was looking for someone to write about wellness.

I knew plenty about illness, and therefore, knew plenty about managing one's wellness. My editor, Jo, invited me to take risks in my writing, and she was the reason I began writing for *The Ubyssey* in the first place.

They convinced me not to quit many, many times. When I was ready to give up and complained about never being able to write another article, which was pretty much every other week, they sat me down and told me to breathe. They expressed their faith in me both as a writer and person.

"But I can't do it," I'd wail.

So, then she'd offer me a cookie, tell me once more to breathe and I never left her desk until we had come up with a new idea, plan or first draft.

Over the past seven years, I've learned to cherish *Mind Your Mind* with all my heart. Writing was healing for me, but I also hope that my articles have helped others over the years. Sharing the insights I gained over the past few years with my peers has always been an important mission of mine.

I knew plenty about illness, and therefore, knew plenty about managing one's wellness.

STEPHANIE WU / THE UBYSSEY

But like the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. So, it is with a heavy heart but wise mind that *Mind Your Mind* will be retiring this year. It fills me with deep sadness, but I'm also hopeful that another UBC student will take a leap of faith and start their own wellness column. I hope that this person will embrace the process as much as I have, and I hope that they will find their voice and share their insights with the rest of the UBC community.

I will miss writing *Mind Your Mind* so much, but I acknowledge that it is time for me to move on. I have other writing projects in mind, including a potential memoir and perhaps someday, a young adult novel.

After writing about mental health and wellness for so long, there is only so much more I can say. But, I know that mental health should be treated just like physical health. That is certain. I wish I could say that recovery is linear, that things get better overtime, and that one prescription or therapy session is all that's needed.

But that's simply not true.

I do know that we live in a depressing and beautiful world. We suffer immensely and care desperately. We have each other to lean on, and the power to stand on our own.

And to you reading this, your experiences, as a human being, are 100 per cent valid. It doesn't matter if other people believe your feelings are 'too big' or your emotions 'too intense.'

Feeling your feelings is so brave, and emotional experiences can hurt so much sometimes. I know that living with ongoing mental illness can feel like living with a constant headache and heartache.

I hope that *Mind Your Mind* has brought you comfort on sad days and that it has provided you with valuable information. I hope that you continue to reach out for help, or begin to do so if that's the next step for you. I hope you know that you can hold space for yourself, and that you are resilient and worthy.

Thank you for reading, and for all the support over the past few years.

Of course, a last shout out to the amazing opinion editors at *The Ubyssey*, past and present.

I wish you all the best.

*Are you interested in writing about health and wellness? We're looking for a new columnist. Email* opinion@ubyssey.ca.

CLIMATE ACTION //

# Unwreck the Beach: New certificate to bring climate to the classroom

**Jasmine Cadeliña Manango**
Columnist

UBC's department of geography and department of earth, ocean and atmospheric sciences have launched an interdisciplinary Certificate in Climate Studies and Action for the 2022/23 academic year.

According to the UBC Calendar, the program allows students to "take a deeper look at climate justice, the social, economic, political and cultural processes that underlie climate change."

There are 60 spots in the 2022/23 cohort. Applications for the program are open.

Program co-coordinator Dr. Jessica Dempsey said the certificate was created in response to one of the strategic priorities determined by the UBC Climate Emergency Task Force — "expand climate education opportunities and resources for the UBC community and broader public."

Dempsey said this program provides an alternative path for climate engagement for students who are not involved in activist communities or traditionally represented in climate fields, like BIPOC.

The program requires students to take 18 credits across 5 categories: climate action, climate emergency, climate justice, climate science and an elective. These courses include one capstone class and three one-credit climate action labs.

There is a new certificate in Climate Studies and Action.

SOPHIA GUAN / THE UBYSSEY

Dr. Tara Ivanochko, program co-coordinator and academic director of the UBC Sustainability Initiative, said the climate action labs are "designed to be a common room" for the cohort, allowing students to engage with climate studies while creating connections with others in the program.

Labs are divided into two main components: a group project and class-wide workshops. Group projects are developed to "meet the needs of community partners," said Ivanochko.

Students in the labs will be required to complete a project proposal by the end of the semester. Proposals selected by community partners — like the City of Vancouver, various non-governmental organizations and Indigenous communities — will be assigned to students in the capstone course the following semester.

The program plans to develop an advisory board in the near future that governs over the certificate. Dempsey said this board will include the program directors, external stakeholders, students, alumni and faculty.

Unwreck the Beach *is* The Ubyssey*'s sustainability column. Send pitches to* sustainability@ubyssey.ca.

*Jasmine Cadeliña Manango is a third-year GRSJ and creative writing student. She is a staff writer for* The Ubyssey.

LET'S GET META //

# Sci Comm 101: Seminar showcases science communication experts at UBC

**Sophia Russo**
Science Editor

Science blogging, illustration and journalism each had their moments at a Science Communications Seminar hosted by the Behavioural Neuroscience Seminar team on July 8.

The event was spearheaded by neuroscience graduate student Alyssa Ash as part of a professional development series. The seminar introduced researchers to a variety of ways to use science communication to their advantage.

In the first talk, associate professor in psychology Dr. Jason Snyder shared his experiences as a forerunner in his field and an active blogger. According to Snyder, blogging offers an "informal way to share thought[s]" with more personality than a typical academic record.

Snyder's blog showcases how to effectively share new research in the digital age and also highlights the academic value of exchanging resources. A collage of figures on his blog summarizes a complex research question with ease, providing a quick visual summary of data from multiple credible sources. An informal list of literature Snyder compiled on his blog is another useful resource that has even been formally cited in an academic paper.

According to Snyder, platforms like FigShare offer students and researchers an avenue for communicating their work with a broader academic audience. He recommended this resource to students as a credible platform to cite on resumes and another opportunity for citation in academic journals.

The second talk at the seminar highlighted the 'aesthetic' side of science communication and featured science illustrator and communications coordinator for the department of zoology Dr. Sylvia Heredia. For Heredia, imagery is an essential tool in communicating "awesome" ideas.

"Science is becoming more and more complex. For me, to understand it, I need to see it," she said.

Heredia's illustrations breathe life into the science it aims to convey. From lab logos to visual abstracts, her contributions to the department of zoology demonstrate the effective use of imagery to explain technical methods, processes and research questions.

Heredia's successful career in science illustration — following a PhD in ecology and plant sciences and a certificate from a Scientific Illustration Program — offers artistic students in STEM a way to merge their passions.

Final speaker Vanessa Hrvatin, science communications specialist and former communications coordinator for the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, touched on the winding journey to finding one's chosen career path.

After obtaining a bachelor of science with honours from Queen's University, Hrvatin knew that she enjoyed journal clubs and loved talking about science, but disliked spending long hours in the lab. This led her to an impressive career in science journalism, with her portfolio including publications in *Maclean's*, *National Post* and *The Globe and Mail*.

Hrvatin's best advice for budding science communicators centred on two things: eliminating jargon and using analogies. Pointing to her own experiences, Hrvatin demonstrated how a complicated and lengthy explanation from a researcher can be efficiently boiled down to a simple analogy.

"Good science communication takes time but it's worth the investment," said Hrvatin. For interested students, she recommended pitching story ideas to the media, networking and practicing their writing skills in spare time. Students with lab connections can even gain useful communications experience by taking charge of their lab's social media and website.

To close the seminar, Ash highlighted ways for neuroscience aficionados to get involved with science communication. This includes digital resources like the Brainiac Blog and Neuroscience Through the Ages, the magazine *Neuropsyched* and the YouTube video series Brain Bytes, which are all run by students in the neuroscience program.

For researchers and students alike, the seminar outlined science communication as a means for sharing a passion for science beyond the traditional academic setting.

"I wanted to share all my thoughts and a paper every four years wasn't going to cut it," Snyder said. "We all want to share the things we love."

"Good science communication takes time but it's worth the investment."

EISHA SHARDA / THE UBYSSEY

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND //

# 'Our generation's Hubble': Students, faculty, staff gather for first images from James Webb Space Telescope

**Sophia Russo**
Science Editor

In the early morning of July 12, members of the campus community gathered to witness astronomical history.

The first images taken by the James Webb Space Telescope — the biggest and most powerful space telescope to date — were unveiled in a NASA livestream that morning. Thanks to Webb, we are now able to see into the deepest parts of the universe with a sharpness and detail that will revolutionize astronomy.

## WELL WORTH THE WAIT

Astronomers and space enthusiasts have been anxiously awaiting the unveiling of this telescope for over two decades. Following years of budgeting crises, technical challenges and an onslaught of launch delays, the excitement surrounding Webb has come alongside a healthy dose of humour and cynicism.

Over the course of her academic career, astronomy PhD student Raelyn Sullivan recalled how "there was this nebulous James Webb Telescope."

"We often would joke about 'Will it ever actually happen?,'" she said, recalling banter centring on colleagues optimistically planning to include Webb data in their projects, only for their starry-eyed aspirations to be crushed by yet another launch delay.

"That's what makes this really exciting also, the thing that we've been waiting for, for what feels like forever, has finally actually happened," said Sullivan.

At the viewing party, physics and astronomy postdoctoral fellow Lukas Hergt pointed to a XKCD comic which poked fun at the seemingly never-ending launch delays. "[The delays] were a running joke," he said.

For physics and astronomy graduate student Adam Dong, this momentous occasion comes after fears of the project falling through.

"I think there was serious doubt, in my mind, whether this would actually happen," he said, referring to a history of threats of the US government cutting funding. Webb is the most expensive telescope ever built at a whopping $10 billion.

## COSMIC COMMUNITY

Professor of astronomy and astrophysics Dr. Douglas Scott sent out an email advertising the viewing party on July 11, welcoming community members to come and witness the historic moment together.

"This is the biggest astronomy project ever, the most expensive certainly and there is significant Canadian involvement," he said to *The Ubyssey* after the viewing party. "It's a special event, so I think it was worth opening it up to whoever wants to show up."

Webb is an international venture from NASA, the Canadian Space Agency and the European Space Agency. Canada supported the telescope's development by providing two critical pieces of equipment: the fine guidance sensor and the near-infrared imager and slitless spectrograph. The fine guidance sensor helps guide the telescope so that it can "lock" on to stars precisely, while the near-infrared imager and slitless spectrograph takes in infrared light from cosmic entities to allow scientists to infer all sorts of information — from the composition of a planet's atmosphere to how nearby objects interact.

Thanks to these contributions, Canadian institutions will be guaranteed approximately five per cent of the telescope's observing time. Professor of astronomy and astrophysics Dr. Harvey Richer is among the researchers who are awaiting data, with his team's images currently scheduled to be taken in August, he wrote in an emailed statement to *The Ubyssey*. His research group will be exploring whether there is evidence of planet formation 12 billion years ago in the "very early universe."

"This is of great interest as it could herald a potential early rise to life in the universe," wrote Richer.

According to Scott, who sat on the Time Allocation Committee for Webb, astronomy buffs can look forward to new studies very soon. He said the data shared on July 12 are to be released in science quality form "right away."

"There will be papers tomorrow, I guarantee," he said.

## STAR TECH: THE NEXT GENERATION

From decorated researchers to bright-eyed-and-bushy-tailed undergraduate students, space fanatics from all levels of academia gathered together to witness this moment as a community.

For third-year physics student Myles Osenton, Webb is a "game-changer." His passion for astronomy drove him to switch his major from chemistry to physics and work in the UBC Astrochem lab with Dr. Ilsa Cooke. As Osenton hopes to pursue a career in astrochemistry, Webb will influence the data that he will one day have access to in his chosen field.

But students who don't necessarily want to pursue research related to Webb's data can still appreciate its impact, like third-year math and physics student Morgan Arnold.

"Even if it's not necessarily where you work or where you intend to work as a field, it's still just such a stunning discovery," he said. "I think anyone who can appreciate physics in any capacity has to just stand back and marvel."

The data collected from the James Webb Space Telescope will allow researchers to explore new questions about the inception of the universe while also invigorating a new generation to look to the stars.

"I think we all grew up on Hubble images and this is our generation's Hubble," said physics PhD student Daniel Korchinski. "When I was a kid, I loved astronomy, it's why I went into physics ... and this is stuff that will [inspire] the next generation."

Stephan's Quintet (above) is also known as the Hickson Compact Group 92. It is named for UBC Professor of astronomy and astrophysics Dr. Paul Hickson, who created a catalogue of the nearest compact groups in 1982.

COURTESY NASA, ESA, CSA AND STSCI

POLITICS AND CLIMATE //

# Stength overseas: UBC Filipino student groups' advocacy following typhoon, public health crises

**Jasmine Cadeliña Manango and Sophia Russo**
Senior Staff Writer and Science Editor

CHRISTINE LUC / THE UBYSSEY

The Philippines faces a complex, interconnected set of issues tied in the climate crises, a history of colonial rule and more,

Typhoon Rai, also known as Super Typhoon Odette, wreaked havoc across the Philippines in December 2021, leaving the country and UBC's Filipino community grappling with disaster.

Two UBC Filipino student groups, Sulong and Kababayan, spearheaded fundraising efforts to support the Philippines in the aftermath. When interviewed by *The Ubyssey*, students from both associations described the devastation from this natural disaster as a symptom of a greater range of political, public health and environmental issues the Philippines faces.

According to Jaiden Casapao, vice-president of communications of UBC Kababayan, Typhoon Rai came alongside stress brought on by the novel coronavirus and other systemic problems.

"A lot of our family in the Philippines is affected by [the Omicron variant], as well as the typhoon," Casapao said. "There's of course a lot of problems that a lot of our families and especially Filipinos in general have struggled with."

## WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

According to a United Nations report, Typhoon Rai displaced over 12,000 people and damaged 2.1 million houses. Global News reported that over 400 people died and over 1,000 people were injured due to the natural catastrophe.

A workshop hosted by Sulong UBC in March discussed the vulnerability of the Filipino people to natural disasters as the result of a complex "class triangle."

The majority of the Filipino people belong to the "peasant" and working classes, according to the webinar. Sulong Finance Officer and Secretary General of Anakbayan Canada Isa Carlin said in the webinar that this social dynamic alongside "massive corruption" in the Philippines' government make Filipinos more vulnerable to natural disasters.

"The people whose job it is to provide that relief [and] funding don't do it," they said.

According to Sulong Political and Solidarity Officer Justin Huynh, the Spanish colonial history as well as the US imperialist systems in place in the Philippines also play a role in this increased susceptibility of the Filipino people to natural disasters. On one webinar powerpoint slide, the words "the Philippines is rich but its people are poor" stood out from the rest.

"Going back to Typhoon Odette, you would think that there would be some fund set aside by the government, right? To support the people that are suffering as a result of the typhoon," said Huynh. "There's supposed to be 20 billion pesos, which is about 450 million Canadian dollars, set aside specifically for disaster relief — and no one knows where that money's gone."

They explained that though the Philippines has borrowed extensive funds from the World Bank, this was not reflected in typhoon relief. The government of the Philippines pointed to COVID-19 pandemic expenses as the cause for having limited funds available for disaster relief, but it signed an arms deal in February that cost 32 billion pesos — more than the promised fund for supporting relief efforts.

To support the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Rai, Sulong UBC put out a call supporting Migrante Canada's relief fund on social media, while UBC Kababayan created a GoFundMe campaign. In total, Kababayan raised over $400. The proceeds of Kababayan's fundraiser were donated to three nonprofit organisations — Tulong Kabataan, Simply Share Foundation and Ramon Aboitz Inc — "in order to combat the hardships that Filipinos are going through in the Philippines," said Casapao.

## CRISES AND PANDEMICS

Shortly after the end of Typhoon Rai, the Philippines experienced a two-month high in COVID-19 cases. With resources limited in the aftermath of a natural disaster of Rai's magnitude, the health care system was stretched thin.

"It's honestly just really bad timing for people living in the Philippines," said Casapao. "Climate change is happening and weather continues to change and, of course, not only was COVID [-19] an unpredictable time we couldn't foresee but this typhoon [was something] we did not expect either."

Members of Sulong UBC described the "climate, political, economic and social crises in the Philippines" as an interconnected problem rather than multiple separate issues. According to Carlin, these issues are all connected as they are based in the same "inherently exploitative economic system."

Some scholars also take up this intersectional approach. According to an international public health collaboration that featured UBC researchers, the Philippines is more vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic due to the climate crisis and the recurring threat of natural disasters, as well as broader social and economic issues.

## CLIMATE CRISES AT THE ROOT

Disasters like Typhoon Rai are not an uncommon occurrence in the Philippines. According to the World Risk Report 2018, the Philippines is the third most disaster-prone country in the world. It's also part of the Ring of Fire — an area along the Pacific Ocean which is incredibly earthquake-prone and lined with active volcanoes. Typhoons, floods and landslides are common occurrences across the nation.

And the threat of natural disasters is mounting. According to *Integrating Disaster Science and Management* written by University of Calgary Associate Professors in geography Dr. William Holden and Dr. Shawn Marshall, the Philippines faces disproportionate ecological harm due to the climate crisis which exacerbates natural disasters.

Sulong's workshop addressed the climate crisis' disproportionate impact on the Philippines. Huynh pointed to the Philippines' low per capita carbon dioxide emissions, compared to much higher per capita emissions from other countries like the US and Canada.

"One of the things I like to think about is what are the roots of the climate crisis? We see these climate and ecological disasters are happening in the Philippines and is it the fault of the people in the Philippines? I would say no," he said.

Looking forward, Sulong highlighted organized efforts to end the climate crises as a crucial aspect to combating the flux of issues in the Philippines.

"Being organized is really the only real way to contribute to fighting climate change because climate change is [a] parcel of the exploitative system of imperialism," said Carlin.

## CENTURIES OF RESILIENCE

For Carlin, the ability of the Filipino people to overcome hardship is nothing new.

"What's amazing about the Filipinos is that our people have sustained the revolutionary spirit and the revolutionary movement since 1896 when we successfully liberated ourselves from Spanish colonial rule."

The advocacy efforts of both Sulong and Kababayan have impacted the Filipino students on campus, while also bringing hope to this student community.

"Us Filipinos in general, we all have this mentality that we'll all survive as long as we're all together," Casapao said. "I think that's what I really like about being Filipino — the sense of togetherness even though we're not physically together."

*— With files from Mayako Kruger*

BEIJING 2022 OLYMPICS //

# Being Chinese Canadian at the Beijing 2022 Olympics

**Mike Liu**
Senior Staff Writer

The workdays were long and hard, but there was always an event or two that made it all worth it.

COURTESY MIKE LIU / THE UBYSSEY

I went through daily security checks to enter the Beijing 2022 Olympic Village. It was a standard airport-type screening, with an X-ray for your bags, a metal detector and a pat-down. I'd greet the volunteers doing the checks.

早安!/Good morning!

I'd get some stares. I was decked out from head to toe in Team Canada gear — my mask left only my eyes and hair visible. I was in Beijing with the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), coordinating Team Canada's vehicle fleet and guiding drivers and passengers.

Every day volunteers asked me the same question.

您是中国人吗?/Are you Chinese?

I was never sure how to answer. I would reply that I was Canadian, born to Chinese parents, but that didn't seem entirely accurate. Nor was I just Canadian or just Chinese.

What did being Chinese Canadian mean to me?

My parents immigrated to Canada eight years before I was born. My mother was originally from Beijing, and my father from Fujian. They picked up their lives to move from one side of the world to the other in search of a different future for our family.

My grandparents joined them soon after and stayed with us in Canada until 2016. Outside of their love and attention, the single greatest gift my grandparents gave me was the Mandarin language. They raised me to speak, write and even read a little.

I didn't understand the importance of it then. I've never had the chance to thank them for it.

## THE SPARK

I was seven years old during the Beijing 2008 Olympics. At the time, we had a Chinese cable network, and my grandparents had it locked on the Olympics. It was the first time I remember seeing athletes who looked like me on TV. My grandparents encouraged me to cheer for them, and I did. But I was curious why they wore red and gold. Weren't the colours of Canada red and white?

By chance, the women's wrestling final was on the TV when I walked into the living room one day. I saw Canada's first gold of the games, won by Carol Huynh. I couldn't take my eyes off her — an Asian representing Canada, celebrating in front of a cheering crowd with our flag aloft.

Something about that image stuck with me. Sport became more present in my life.

During the Vancouver 2010 Games, I would skip recess outdoors to watch the livestreams of snowboard cross on Cypress Mountain. It sparked a love for sports that would snowball into so much more.

I played basketball, hockey, volleyball, tennis, whatever I could get my hands on. Playing sports was the purest moment, where I could forget about everything and focus on the game.

## THE CANADIAN GAME

As I grew, things began to fit less and less. Coming from a predominantly Asian suburb in Vancouver, sports was the first aspect of life where I felt like a minority. Why would a place where I found so much joy also be a place where I felt like an outsider?

I was pushed toward sports perceived as Asian-dominated, like badminton and table tennis. When I told my parents I wanted to play hockey, they signed me up for taekwondo. "To build muscle," they said.

My dream to play hockey sputtered out before it could even begin.

On TV and in training, I was surrounded by images that didn't reflect how I envisioned sports. I had no role models. Those that looked the way I do represented a country halfway around the world. At home, the majority of the superstars were white.

It's still something I struggle with to this day. In sports journalism, there are times when I feel I'm not taken seriously at all. In a realm where most of the reporters are white, I feel like my voice isn't valid about the Canadian game.

It got to the point where I did my best to 'whitewash' myself. I tried to separate the Chinese from the Canadian. By doing so, I thought I would be more like the people on TV, like the heroes I saw standing atop the podium or lifting the Stanley Cup.

Instead, I just felt emptier. Stubbornly, I tried to make it work, become someone I wasn't. All because I equated sports with being as Canadian as possible and Chinese the least.

## FINDING REPRESENTATION AT UBC

My internal struggle continued as I entered UBC. I chose to study kinesiology because it seemed like the perfect meshing of my passion for sport and medicine, the stereotypical dream profession for an Asian kid. Yet, I still didn't know what being Chinese Canadian meant to me.

Slowly, my first three years at university helped me solve some of these issues. With my time at *The Ubyssey* covering U SPORTS, I began to see stories of student-athletes up close, ones that reflected my own experiences growing up in Canada.

It's why I love writing about the people in sports.

BIPOC representation was also growing in elite Canadian sports. Maggie Mac Neil. Damian Warner. Cynthia Appiah. Step by step, I could see more minorities representing Canada on the world stage and winning.

As I grew more into being Chinese while being Canadian, I applied to volunteer at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in my first year. A goal of mine had always been to work for Team Canada. I got the position and immediately booked my tickets. It would be my first time in Asia, and maybe I could visit China.

The pandemic stopped all of this. Due to the many restrictions in place for Tokyo 2020+1, they axed my volunteer position. Heartbreaking, but certainly not the end of the world. Not when it felt like the world had already ended.

## BEIJING 2022

When I was younger, I read the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, an old Chinese novel. A particular saying came back years later in my life.

万事具备，只欠东风/All is ready, except for the opportunity.

I was surprised by the email I got. I was more surprised that the COC chose me, a third-year kinesiology student, to go to the Beijing 2022 Olympics as a transportation officer.

My experience at the Winter Olympics was the first time that being Chinese Canadian clicked into place. I found that it was because I was Chinese Canadian that I was as effective as I was. It was because of my own experiences as a Chinese Canadian that allowed me to succeed in the Games like no other. I contributed to the success of Team Canada because I was Chinese Canadian.

I connected on a deeper level with the drivers, volunteers and workers at Beijing 2022. I spoke their language and knew the culture. I would not have been able to make the friends I made and meet the people I met if I wasn't who I was. It was the first time I celebrated Chinese New Year without my family. But yet, I celebrated it at home.

My entire extended family is in China. My grandparents, who had moved back to Beijing, lived merely 15 minutes away from where I stayed. I couldn't leave the closed loop to visit them, but I knew they were there with me every step of the way. They were there in my words, my heart, my understanding.

Wearing the maple leaf in the country of my cultural heritage encapsulated who I was. Maybe I wasn't like Carol Huynh, waving the flag after winning a gold medal. But my victory came in understanding what it meant to the Chinese Canadian. I was someone who, in sport, was able to bridge a cultural barrier between two sides that seemingly couldn't co-exist.

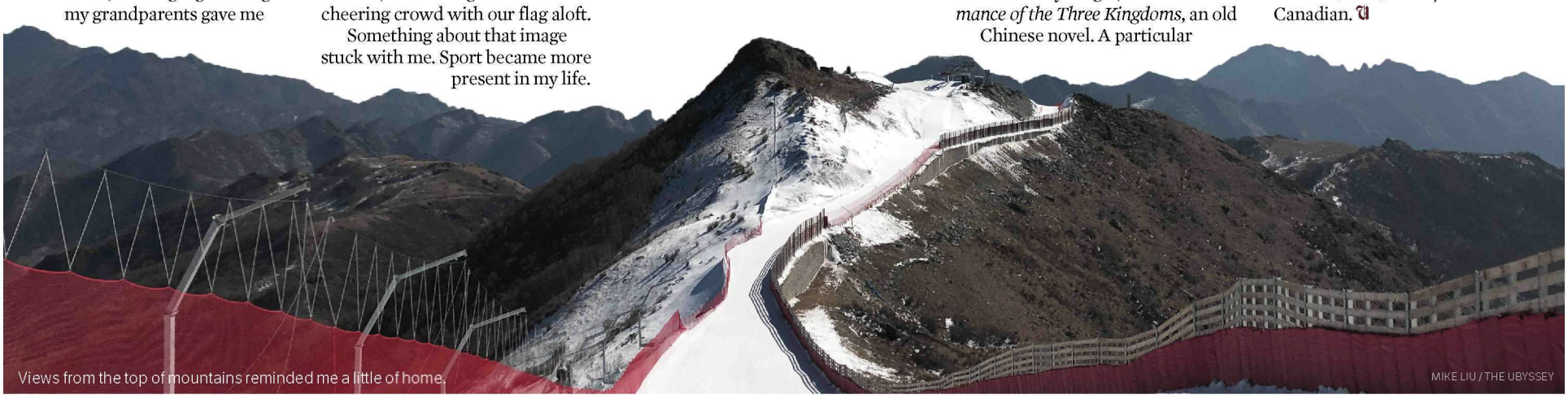
The Yanqing Village lead told me that everyone who worked in sports was passionate. The long gruelling days of the Olympics were something that I was able to do not for money or fame, but because I cared. I realized that everyone I have had the honour of meeting through sport is passionate about their work.

This shared passion is something I hope that I embody going forth. As representation in sports grows, I hope to be part of it. And now, I know being Chinese Canadian is something I should be proud of as I continue along this path. It makes me unique, a perspective that I bring that can stand out.

So maybe when I replied to that volunteer, I should've said something like this.

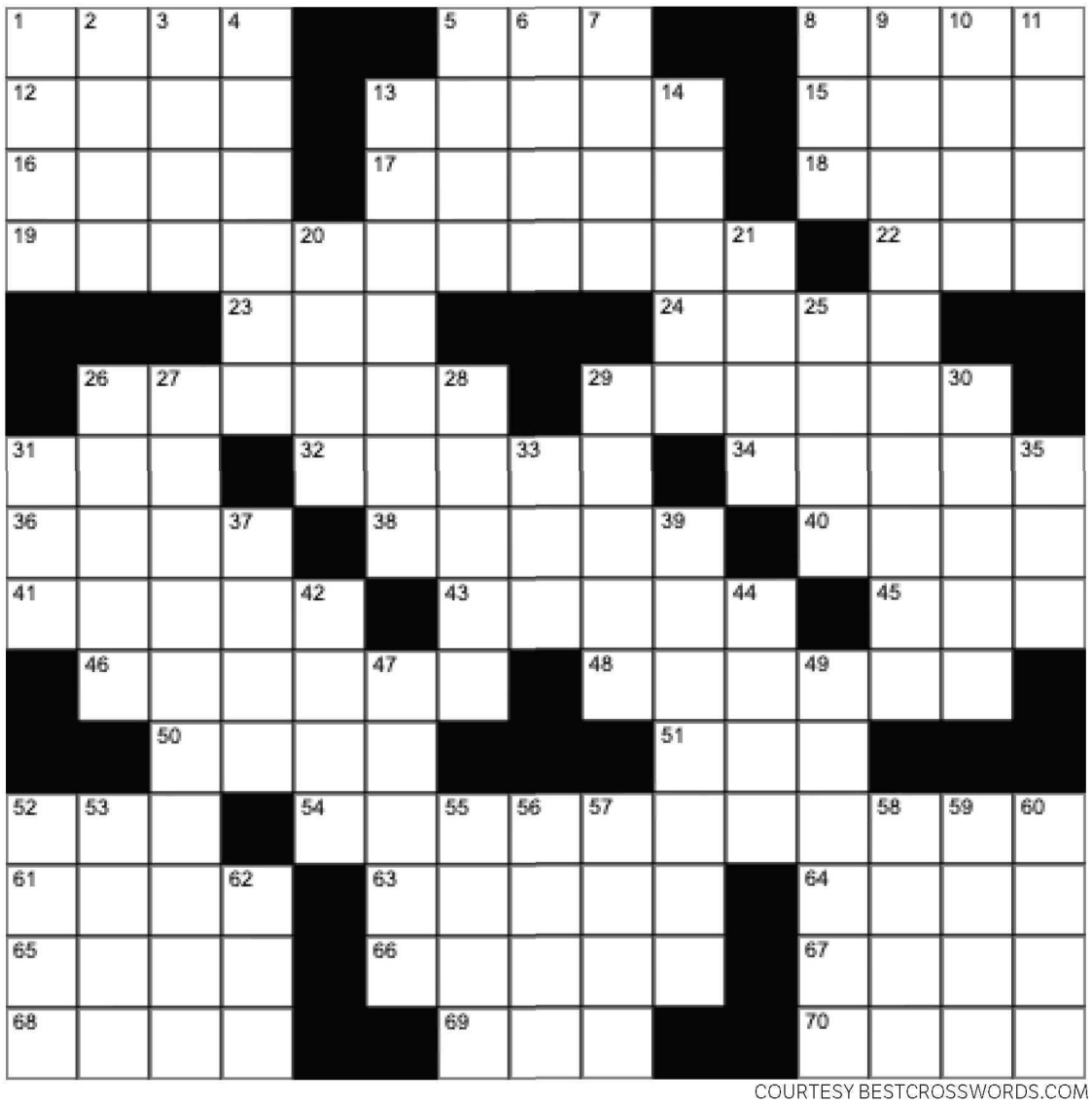
对，我是中国人./Yes, I'm Chinese.

我也是加拿大人./I am also Canadian.



Views from the top of mountains reminded me a little of home.

MIKE LIU / THE UBYSSEY



COURTESY BESTCROSSWORDS.COM

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1. Official records
5. Owns
8. Arizona river
12. Rubber overshoe
13. Gives a hoot
15. Drop
16. Amo, amas, ___
17. Really bother
18. Lhasa ___
19. Swimming garment
22. Criminal charge
23. Toothpaste tube abbr.
24. Good one!
26. Sense
29. Way out
31. Whistle-blower
32. Done in
34. Milk pitcher?
36. Radio switch
38. Mistake
40. Fibbed
41. Tropical eel
43. Martinique volcano
45. Biologist's eggs
46. Surprisingly
48. Adjust
50. The world's longest river
51. World Series mo.
52. Absorb, as a cost
54. Choice cut of beef
61. Ran, as colors
63. Metal fastener
64. Excellent, slangily
65. Feathered creature
66. Queues
67. Cookbook author Rombauer
68. Eye problem
69. U-turn from NNW
70. Affirmative votes

**DOWN**

1. Simple rhyme scheme
2. Prolonged unconsciousness
3. Exactly
4. Besides
5. Dutch name of The Hague
6. Liberal ___
7. Linebacker Junior
8. Indian holiday resort
9. Footprint
10. Actress Bonet
11. Sitting on
13. Religious retreat house
14. Sharp pain
20. Roman date
21. Flag
25. Prison room
26. Fiend
27. Audacity
28. Diamond protectors
29. ___ Gay
30. Sift
31. St. Louis gridder
33. Spleen
35. Author LeShan
37. Former French colony of north-western Africa
39. Snappy comebacks
42. Canine cry
44. ____ . a .Sketch
47. Capital of South Korea
49. System of social perfection
52. Subsides
53. Dismounted
55. Diamond stats
56. Heaps
57. Gen. Robt. ___
58. *Driving Miss Daisy* playwright
59. Just the ___
60. Greek letters
62- JFK's predecessor;

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | | 7 | | 9 | | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | | | 4 | 1 | | | |
| | | 4 | 1 | | 3 | | | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | 4 | | 5 | 6 | | |
| | | | 6 | 3 | | | 4 | |
| | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 9 | 8 | | 5 | | 4 | | 1 | |

COURTESY KRAZYDAD.COM

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | | | | 9 | 5 | | 2 |
| | 3 | | 1 | 6 | | 4 | | 9 |
| | 2 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | | | 3 | | | | | |
| 7 | 9 | | | 8 | | | 5 | 4 |
| | | | | | 5 | | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | 4 | |
| 3 | | 9 | | 5 | 1 | | 2 | |
| 2 | | 8 | 9 | | | | | 5 |

COURTESY KRAZYDAD.COM

**You can volunteer for us!**

Visit ubyssey.ca/volunteer to start contributing today.