

**I'm proud  
to be part of VIU's  
network of alumni.**

*Gina Mowatt, graduate of  
VIU's Bachelor of Arts in  
First Nations Studies  
see more on page 15*

**I enjoy going to VIU  
because my instructors  
know who I am and really  
care about my learning.**

*Trevor Grewal, VIU student in  
Bachelor of Business Administration  
see more on page 10*

**You never  
stop learning!  
I'm taking  
and teaching  
ElderCollege  
courses!**

*Greg Fraser,  
ElderCollege participant  
see more on page 6*

**GrandKids University  
was so much FUN!**

*Gwen Buechler, 2015 GrandKids University participant  
see more on page 14*

**VIU opens new  
Health & Wellness Centre**  
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**Trades programs  
translate into jobs**  
see more on page 5

**VIU's newest research  
institute highlights  
community partnerships**  
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Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, Canada's first Shqwi qwal (Speaker) for Indigenous Dialogue.

## Premier announces Shqwi qwal for Indigenous Dialogue

In October 2014 Premier Christy Clark announced that Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, VIU's former Chancellor, would become Canada's first Shqwi qwal (Speaker) for Indigenous Dialogue. The role will be housed at VIU's Centre for Pre-Confederation Treaties and Reconciliation and will develop and support dialogue sessions on education and other topics to foster understanding and partnerships between Indigenous peoples and the broader public, private and corporate sectors.

The Shqwi qwal will also support the development of research and public policy papers in this area with the overall goal to help support a new path for reconciliation within British Columbia.

## New speaker series on Indigenous peoples

VIU has joined The Laurier Institution and CBC Radio One *Ideas* to host an annual speakers' series focused on reconciliation and engagement with Canada's Indigenous peoples. The series was announced as part of an event marking the release of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in June. It will be held each year in Nanaimo on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw people. The lectures will be hosted by VIU's Centre for Pre-Confederation Treaties and Reconciliation with support from VIU's Shqwi qwal (Speaker) for Indigenous Dialogue Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo.

## Poinsettias grown by Horticulture students on sale in December



In the countdown to Christmas, put in your order for a VIU student-grown poinsettia.

Holiday poinsettias grown by students in VIU's Horticulture program will be ready in early December at VIU's G.R. Paine Horticulture Training Centre, located at 2324 East Wellington Road. The Centre is open from 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday for poinsettia purchase and pick up from Dec. 1 to 11. Grown pesticide free, the poinsettia program offers valuable lessons in greenhouse production for students taking the one-year Horticulture Foundation certificate program. Poinsettias can be reserved by calling Anne Kivari at 250.754.8756, or by email at [anne.kivari@viu.ca](mailto:anne.kivari@viu.ca).



Kw'umut Lelum executive director Bill Yoachim celebrates 2015 high school graduation in Nanaimo with graduates (l-r) Roy Seward, Randi Thomas and Jocelyn Antoine Lightfoot. Kw'umut Lelum encourages the dreams and aspirations of all First Nations students, supporting them in many ways to complete high school, pursue post-secondary education, and choose a meaningful career path.

## Kw'umut Lelum partners with VIU to connect children in care to Canada Learning Bond

Twenty Aboriginal children in care under the guardianship of Nanaimo-based Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services will receive up to \$2,000 for their future post-secondary education through the Canada Learning Bond program. Kw'umut Lelum partnered with VIU to register the children for the federal program that exists to help eligible families save for the future costs of children's post-secondary education. "At VIU we're focused on taking a leadership role in encouraging and supporting as many people as

possible to access post-secondary education and all the opportunities it creates," said Dr. Ralph Nilson, President and Vice-Chancellor.

VIU's Canada Learning Bond coordinator Rolanda Murray is also working with Kw'umut Lelum and many other regional families and organizations to ensure they access funds now available through the BC Training and Education Savings Program. This program will contribute up to \$1,200 to eligible children who are residents of BC and born in 2007 or later.



The new VIU Student Health Clinic is staffed by Medical Office Assistant Heather Carr (l) and Nurse Practitioner Diane Middagh.

## VIU opens Health & Wellness Centre for students

A new VIU Student Health Clinic began offering free medical health care services to registered students in May. The Health & Wellness Centre is staffed by Nurse Practitioner Diane Middagh, and supported by Medical Office Assistant Heather Carr. The Health Clinic, located in the Student Services building (Building 200) will provide health care services, education and preventive medicine, and involve students in responsible health and wellness.

## VIU awards honorary doctorates to two extraordinary Canadians



His Excellency The Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, is awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by VIU President Dr. Ralph Nilson and VIU Chancellor Louise Mandell.

VIU bestowed its highest academic distinction upon two extraordinary Canadians who have dedicated their lives to making Canada a better place. Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston each received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at VIU's convocation ceremony at the Port Theatre in Nanaimo on January 29. "Their Excellencies demonstrate a

remarkable standard of excellence in service which is exemplary to students, faculty, staff and our broader society," said Louise Mandell, VIU's Chancellor. "We are deeply honoured to publicly recognize their record of outstanding distinction and achievement. Their contributions inspire all of us as they strive to make a positive difference in our nation and indeed around the world."

[www.viu.ca/convocation](http://www.viu.ca/convocation)



VIU Chancellor Louise Mandell, Q.C.

## Louise Mandell, Q.C., appointed as second Chancellor

Louise Mandell Q.C., one of Canada's foremost Aboriginal rights lawyers and a tireless advocate for Canada's First Nations, was installed as VIU's second chancellor at VIU's January convocation ceremonies.

Mandell is recognized for her exceptional and forward-thinking work in advancing Aboriginal and Treaty rights. She is one of the founders of the nationally recognized and respected law firm Mandell Pinder, established in 1983 specifically to support Canada's Indigenous

people to achieve recognition and implementation of their constitutional rights. In 1997 she was appointed Queen's Counsel; in 2001 she was awarded the Georges Goyer Q.C. Memorial Award for exceptional contribution to the development of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights jurisprudence across the country. In June 2012 Mandell received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Simon Fraser University.

Today Mandell is partner emeritus at Mandell Pinder. Passionate about

education, Mandell uses her skills as a writer and as a public speaker at workshops and forums to pass on her knowledge and expertise.

Serving in a volunteer capacity, the Chancellor acts as an ambassador for and a champion of the University. The Chancellor is the titular head of the University, presiding over convocation ceremonies, conferring degrees and providing advice to the President. The Chancellor is a member of the Board of Governors and the Senate.

## Coast Capital Savings gifts new convocation suite to VIU



Arthur Vickers (above) with the new VIU Ceremonial Convocation Suite he created for VIU. VIU's Registrar Fred Jacklin invites a graduate to take part in new convocation tradition.



VIU's Ceremonial Convocation Suite was presented to VIU by Coast Capital Savings in June 2015 to reflect a shared belief in the power of education to change peoples' lives and build strong, vibrant communities. The suite was created by world-renowned artist Arthur Vickers, OBC, DFA, to inspire and celebrate VIU's students, graduates and alumni. It is an integral part of the University's convocation ceremonies.

The suite has three pieces:

- ▶ the Chancellor's Chair, *The Keeper of Wisdom & Knowledge*;
- ▶ the President & Vice-Chancellor's Chair, *The Keeper of Knowledge*;
- ▶ the *Ceremonial Parchment Bentcorner Box* where the degrees are held.

The Chancellor and President & Vice-Chancellor reside in the two chairs during the ceremony, surrounded by the University's faculty and graduates. During the ceremony each graduate, after receiving their degree, touches the lid of the Ceremonial Parchment Bentcorner Box, marking the end of their VIU education and the beginning of the next chapter of their lives. Through this tradition they leave their imprint on the wood, symbolizing the impact and impression they will leave on VIU. This also symbolizes how their story is now woven together with the stories of all the graduates who came before them and all who will come after them – they are forever connected to the VIU family.

[viu.ca/ceremonial-suite](http://viu.ca/ceremonial-suite)



Students gain experience in the Discovery Room while guests enjoy upscale dining.

## Discovery Room offers fine dining and valuable student learning

Dining for lunch or dinner at VIU's Discovery Room is not just a chance to taste from an ever-changing, carefully prepared fine dining menu. It's a chance to support students who are training in the Culinary and Hospitality Management programs, all of whom come together to cook for and serve customers while practicing new skills. The Discovery Room, which overlooks downtown Nanaimo and the Salish Sea, underwent a complete renovation in 2013.

The restaurant is open Thursday and Friday evenings for dinner and Tuesday to Friday for a full service lunch. It operates until the end of November, reopening with the same schedule in January. Menus and reservation information can be found at [www.viu.ca/discoveryroom](http://www.viu.ca/discoveryroom).

## New Health & Science Centre planned

One of the top priorities in VIU's five-year capital plan is to construct a new Health and Science Centre at the Nanaimo campus to support the University's nursing and science programs. The project proposal includes two phases; the first phase is slated to begin in 2016/17 with a completion date set for 2018/19. The University is currently working to secure funding for this exciting new project from both public and private-sector sources. For more information please contact [giving@viu.ca](mailto:giving@viu.ca).

## Two new masters' degrees launched at VIU

Students can now map their futures in a growing in-demand field through VIU's new Master of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications. The program received approval from BC's Ministry of Advanced Education and the provincial Degree Quality Assessment Board for a September 2015 start date. VIU also launched a new Master of Community Planning program in September, which focuses on small city and town planning, community and urban design, and First Nations planning with special attention to the communities of coastal BC. [www.viu.ca/masters](http://www.viu.ca/masters)



## Portal magazine celebrates 25th anniversary

VIU's *Portal* magazine will celebrate its 25th anniversary in April 2016. The nationally distributed full-colour annual literary journal published by VIU Creative Writing students includes short fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, scripts, art, photography and interviews with the Gustafson poetry lecturer, this year it is George Elliott Clarke. First published in 1991, *Portal* is completely self-funded with the support of advertisers, donors and student fundraising and is published each spring. For 19 years the magazine was overseen by instructor Rhonda Bailey and now by Joy Gugeler. Copies of the current issue are available in the VIU Bookstore, priced at \$10. See [www.facebook.com/portalmag](http://www.facebook.com/portalmag) for more information.

## Visual Arts students make big prints by steamroller



Students in VIU's Visual Arts program collaborate on a large woodblock print that was printed by steamroller.

Students in VIU's Visual Arts program used an unusual method to create large scale woodblock art prints at their annual year-end show titled *Progressions*. After collaborating in their Advanced Printmaking course for several months on the creation and carving of the four by eight foot woodblock, they employed a steamroller to create prints in a public demonstration.

Emily Hannah completed a three-month Global Studies internship in Belize as part of her Bachelor of Arts degree program at VIU. The overseas internship was a "highlight" of her degree, says Hannah, who graduated with double majors in Geography and Global Studies in January. In Belize she lived with a host family and worked for a non-governmental organization called Plenty Belize that focuses on solar energy, sustainable farming and small business development.

"I think every student should study abroad, even for one semester," says Hannah, born and raised in Nanaimo and a graduate of Dover Bay Secondary. "I had never travelled overseas before. Going to Belize on my own was definitely a growth experience. Motivating myself, setting deadlines and getting things done used to be a challenge, but not anymore."

Global Studies professor Dr. Catherine Schittecatte says VIU students have pursued internships in places as far away as Geneva, India, Belize, Uganda and Brazil. "Many of them have had transformational experiences," she says. "Students learn in a completely foreign environment and get to practice on the ground what we learn in the classroom and from textbooks."



Emily Hannah

## Refugee students supported by VIU students and WUSC



Students Aden Mumim and Abdullahi Mohamud, who lived in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camps, came to VIU in the WUSC Local Committee's Student Refugee Program in fall 2014

Ten students from refugee camps have studied at VIU since 2008, thanks to support from VIU students and dedicated volunteers with VIU's World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Local Committee. Two female students have arrived for the 2015-16 academic year.

VIU's WUSC committee sponsors students' food, shelter and clothing and other costs during their first year in Canada. Tuition and additional

costs are covered by funding from the Faculty of International Education, while an annual student levy of 45 cents per student through the VIU Students' Union (VIUSU) helps provide further financial support.

Committee volunteers hold several fundraising events throughout the year, including the annual Harambee Gala Dinner in the spring semester, to raise additional money to support student refugees.

## VIU's entrepreneurial students explore ideas at SquareOne

VIU students with great ideas for launching a business are taking advantage of no-cost co-op work spaces made available through a new partnership between VIU and SquareOne, Nanaimo's downtown tech incubator and co-working hub.

Three workspaces are offered to students who successfully apply to SquareOne with details about their idea. SquareOne offers workspaces with desk, chair, file cabinet, wireless and hardwired Internet service, as well as access to printing, scanning and fax. There are meeting rooms, and support from community manager Kelsey Wolff. "SquareOne is a great space to connect to community, grow your network, and collaborate with other out-of-the-box thinkers," said Wolff.

## VIU Mariners provide exciting moments for fans

The VIU Mariners enjoyed a "stellar season" last year including representation at seven out of eight Canadian College Athletic Association (CCAA) national championships. The Mariners won five provincial gold medals (women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's basketball, badminton, golf), and three national silver medals (men's soccer, men's basketball, badminton).

VIU Mariners also received 24 All Star awards, four Players of the Year, 10 Academic Excellence awards, and the Team of the Year Award for women's soccer from PACWEST.

VIU coaches including Bill Merriman (men's soccer), Janice Walker (badminton), and Matt Kuzminski (women's basketball) won PACWEST Coach of the Year awards. Kuzminski also won National Coach of the

Year. Anup Kang (women's soccer) won High performance Coach of the Year at Nanaimo Sports Achievement Awards.

Come out and cheer on VIU's award-winning scholar athletes. Games and tournaments are played throughout the year. For tickets and schedule information go to [mariners.viu.ca](http://mariners.viu.ca).



Thunderbird  
Paddle, 2004, by  
Maynard Johnny Jr., is from  
Salish Weave Box Set I.

## Art donations enrich Cowichan Campus

Original art by talented BC artists grace the walls of VIU's Cowichan Campus, thanks to two generous donations. Long-time Cowichan Valley resident and avid art collector and supporter Bruce Blyth donated an original painting titled *Howe Sound 2010*, by Vancouver Island artist Peter Lawson.

VIU Cowichan also received a collection of 18 First Nations prints from the Salish Weave Collection. *Box Sets I & II*, the prints, donated by Victoria residents Christiane and George Smyth, represent work by seven different First Nations artists, six of whom reside on Vancouver Island.

## Innovation Lab inspiring students to dig deep into learning

The Cowichan Campus Innovation Lab was designed with the purpose of linking the regional community to VIU students and faculty. Now two years old, the lab facilitates lectures, workshops, courses and seminars as part of an ongoing conversation with local individuals, businesses, industries and community groups.

In May, the lab hosted a fun, productive and engaging public symposium to showcase the research students and faculty had

engaged in throughout the year, with a focus on robotics, technology and community outreach. One of the projects involved digitizing First Nations and Inuit stories in both English and Inuvialuktun, one of the Indigenous languages. Another presentation highlighted a project involving Penelakut Elder Florence James, which includes the recording of a collection of stories in the Hul'qumi'num language. The hope is that these stories will

be incorporated into the local elementary school curriculum.

The symposium also featured the work of students and faculty who have been exploring the different uses of 3D printing, particularly in the area of prosthetics.

Innovation Lab lead, Dr. Sally Carpentier, comments that "projects such as these are ongoing and provide students with hands-on, engaging learning opportunities within the local community."



## Mind over Metal summer camp sparks interest in welding

The "Mind over Metal" Summer Welding Camp held in August at VIU's Cowichan Trades Centre, had 20 grade seven students aged 12 to 15 trying their hand at the trade. Funded by a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Canadian Welding Association (CWA), the week-long camp was offered in partnership with School District #79. "It's a try-a-trade experience that hopefully will encourage these students to follow through by taking metal work in high school, and possibly training as a Dual Credit student once they get a little older," said Welding Program Chair, Mike Hallam.

## Education program popular with students

VIU Cowichan's five-year Bachelor of Education teacher training program is proving popular with students. "Our second intake of students going into third year in September is close to full enrolment," says Warren Weir, Cowichan Campus Academic Administrator. "Students are excited they can pursue their studies without leaving the Cowichan Valley." The program is also providing students with the skills to teach in First Nations schools as it includes an Aboriginal Perspectives in Education course in the first semester and students are also encouraged to take Aboriginal content courses as electives. As the program grows students will be able to take advantage of community-based teaching and learning experiences.

## VIU carpenters in the community

VIU Cowichan is focused on partnering on meaningful community projects that add value to the local community, while helping VIU students meet their intended learning outcomes.

The activities taking place in the Carpentry program provide excellent examples. This year, the carpentry class partnered with Glenora Farm, a non-profit organization and therapeutic village for people with developmental disabilities. They built a 20 by 40 foot vegetable processing and storage facility. The class also assisted the Introduction to Trades class in completing numerous buildings for SunFest, Duncan's hugely popular summer music festival.

## Trades programs translate into jobs



The Cowichan Trades Centre was created through a unique partnership between the Cowichan Valley School District (SD#79) and VIU. Now in its second year of operation, close to 200 students have achieved Level 1 and/or Level 2 certification in a Red Seal Trade, many of them high school students earning dual credits.

Dual credit student participation in trades, health and university courses at the Cowichan Campus has grown substantially over the past five years,

with hundreds of local students participating in university-level classes while still in high school, earning credit in both systems.

"Not only are students in the Cowichan Valley able to attend university locally, they are also finding work, with more than 75 percent of the graduating students finding employment during or immediately after completing their Level 1 certification," said Keith Chicquen, Instructional Director for the campus.

## "Story Trails" project builds community

This year, a new twist was added to VIU Cowichan's Residential Building Maintenance Worker program, which saw a group of school district students participate in a unique "Story Trails" project. Along with learning introductory trades skills, the students, aged 15 to 19, helped create trails on Maple Mountain in partnership with the Cowichan Trail Stewardship Society, the House of Friendship, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

The class also devoted their new-found skills to local partnership projects such as building a new playground for Parkside Academy, a not-for-profit child care centre. "The connections that we have continued to form and enhance with our local community through programming and outreach truly make the VIU regional Cowichan Campus a relevant and valued community partner," says Warren Weir, Cowichan Campus Academic Administrator.

## PARKSVILLE QUALICUM CENTRE

### VIU committed to Oceanside region

VIU's ongoing commitment to the Oceanside region is significant and there are plenty of ways for the public to engage with the University. Educational programs and public events are offered year round at Milner Gardens & Woodland and the Deep Bay Marine Field Station. VIU's Parksville-Qualicum Centre also provides life-long learning opportunities for people 50 years or better through the **ElderCollege program**, and the University is exploring new programming through the revamped Centre for Healthy Aging (see below).

VIU is also working closely with the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach to identify research and degree program activities related to the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve (see story pg 8).

VIU continues to work with the Qualicum School District #69 to strengthen pathways to learning including through dual-credit programs for high school students.

"Through these strategic activities, VIU is addressing its mandate and Academic Plan, and engaging in the Oceanside area with a broader range of activity," says Dr. David Witty, Provost and Vice-President Academic.

### New vision for Centre for Healthy Aging

VIU hosted a community consultation meeting in May to obtain public input on programming that would see Oceanside become a leader in gerontology education on Vancouver Island and beyond.

"We have an exciting new vision for the Centre for Healthy Aging, which has operated out of VIU's Parksville-Qualicum Centre since 2013," said Dr. Carol Stuart, Dean of VIU's Faculty of Health and Human Services. "The proposal calls for a locally managed educational hub within the Centre for Healthy Aging with a focus on a new graduate diploma program in gerontology."

Students from Parksville and Nanaimo would be involved in experiential education and undergraduate research with older adults in the Oceanside community, while existing local health care practitioners would have ongoing access to training and professional development. "We believe that great opportunities exist for the Centre for Healthy Aging to thrive and serve as an institutional and community asset."

### VIU launches new community health promotion program

A new Community Health Promotion for Aboriginal Communities certificate program, the first of its kind in BC, was launched at VIU's Parksville-Qualicum Centre in September.

Funding by the province of BC (\$95,000 for 12 seats) will support the initial delivery of the program, developed in collaboration with the Inter Tribal Health Authority.

Graduates will gain skills in community health education, health promotion, injury prevention and community development within Aboriginal communities.



## Dual credit students earn gold medals in provincial skills competition

Devon Degraag (above) earned Gold in Auto Service Technician and Zane Hernandez took Gold in Carpentry.



Two Brooks Secondary students in VIU Powell River's Dual Credit Trades program brought home gold medals from the Skills Canada Provincial Competition in May. Devon Degraag took the Gold in the Automotive Service Technician competition, and Zane Hernandez took the top spot in Carpentry.

In February at the Skills Regional competition, seven of 13 Powell River students in dual credit returned home with medals. In that day-long competition, they tested their

skills against students from other Vancouver Island communities in automotive service technician, carpentry, culinary arts and welding.

Powell River medalists in the Skills Canada Regional Competition were: Devon Degraag (Gold) and Blair Massullo (Bronze) in Auto Service Technician; Zane Hernandez (Gold) in Carpentry; Téa Mayer (Silver) and Daniel Woodruff (Bronze) in Culinary Arts; and Graham Hanson (Silver) and Eric Rairie (Bronze) in Welding.



Dr. Greg Cran

### Dr. Greg Cran appointed new campus administrator

Dr. Greg Cran has joined VIU Powell River as the new Campus Administrator. Dr. Cran, a Lund resident, joined VIU in August from North Island College where he was Dean of University and Applied Studies. He has taught at the University of Victoria and at Royal Roads University where he was Director of the School of Peace and Conflict Management and later

Director of Business Development. Dr. Cran has past experience working for the BC government in treaty negotiations and policy analysis, and also has a broad range of international experience in teaching and working as a consultant to the World Bank Institute.

"Greg is keen to start working toward a reinvigorated model that includes the advent of new program ideas and business possibilities for skills development, which fits right in with his entrepreneurial spirit," said Dr. David Witty, Provost and Vice-President Academic.

### Prof takes math on the road to Powell River

Dr. David Bigelow, VIU math professor, visited the Powell River campus to deliver a Math is Fun session for the elementary children at James Thomson Elementary School. Bigelow, Chair of VIU's Math department, presented three workshops for 65 students in Grades 3 to 4. Included among the topics was how to cut a hole in a sheet of newspaper large enough for the world to pass through, and why knowing that you can never fold a piece of paper in half more than eight times holds the secret to untold wealth. Bigelow has been presenting workshops to elementary school children in various schools and camps since the early 1990s.

The event was so successful the Powell River Campus and School District #47 plan to expand this event to other schools in the district.

## FUN FACT

### THANK YOU!

VIU awarded more than **\$1.4M** in scholarships, awards and bursaries last year, up from just over \$1 million the year before –this is the most ever disbursed.



VIUSU  
lobbies  
federal  
government

Each year the Canadian Federation of Students organizes a week-long coordinated lobby effort in Ottawa, where student representatives from across Canada, including VIU students, meet with more than 200 Members of Parliament and Senators. In the meetings they advocate for such things as increased funding for post-secondary education and changes to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program for Aboriginal learners. A key recommendation discussed was the conversion of education-related tax credits to the Canada Student Grant Program—a change that would eliminate federal student loan debt without costing the government any additional funds.



VIU Students' Union enhances campus life:

-  sponsored more than 50 clubs with more than 1,000 students participating;
-  financially supported the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) Club, which operates the Student Refugee Program at VIU (see story pg 4);
-  financially supported initiatives at Shq'apthut, VIU's Aboriginal Gathering Place, including feasts and workshops such as drum-making;
-  hosted Welcome Week events on the Nanaimo campus, which included a movie night, outdoor concert/beer garden and pancake breakfast;
-  participated in the Canadian Federation of Students' campaign to increase funding for post-secondary education and to implement a BC student grants program;
-  engaged in a campaign to promote sweatshop free and ethically produced materials being used and sold on campus.



New totems  
celebrated at VIU

Two of three totem poles representing the major First Nations language groups on Vancouver Island, and carved on site by artists from Snuneymuxw and Nuu-chah-nulth Territories were unveiled on VIU's Nanaimo campus in June.

The VIU Totem Pole Project was spearheaded by the Chair of the VIU Students' Union Sherry McCarthy with the goal of supporting and inspiring the University community, and providing an ongoing educational opportunity that honours the importance of traditional knowledge at VIU and the strong relationships between the First Nations communities and the University.

The Western Red Cedar trees, from which the totems were created, were provided as gifts from Island Timberlands, Western Forest Products, TimberWest, and First Nations from Vancouver Island. A third totem pole will be carved on site by an artist from the Kwakwaka'wakw Territory this coming year in the final phase of the project.

Supporting students at VIU

Here are some highlights of how VIUSU supported students in the 2014-15 academic year:



More than **2,600** students were covered by VIUSU's extended health and dental benefits plan.



**37** students received access to free, timely legal advice as part of VIUSU's Legal Advice Service.

**36** students received assistance from VIUSU's student advocate.



More than **\$460,000** in discounted bus passes were sold to students, who saved as much as 25% off regular transit fares.



More than **1,900** students consigned books as part of VIUSU's used book service, which collectively put almost \$200,000 back into students' pockets.

 More than 130 students received direct financial assistance from VIUSU through one of several ongoing emergency aid, bursary and food voucher programs.

VIUSU Board members negotiated more than **70** discounts at local stores, coffee shops, restaurants and other businesses in Duncan, Ladysmith, Nanaimo and Powell River.



More than **2,000** global student discount cards were distributed free to students.







In one of three Colloquium presentations this fall, Professor Gregory Bush will explore musical ideas.

## Arts & Humanities Colloquium Series offers scholarly work and creative ideas

VIU's Arts & Humanities Colloquium Series is now in its sixth year, offering an intellectually engaging series of faculty presentations followed by discussion. Free and open to the public, the fall series runs Sept. 25, Oct. 16, and Nov. 20, from 10-11:30 am in the Malaspina Theatre on VIU's Nanaimo campus. Still to come this fall: "A Journey in Jazz: from Inspiration to Performance," presented by Gregory Bush, a professor in the Music department; and "Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves: The Contrapuntal Rantings of a Half-Breed Girl," presented by Allyson Anderson, professor in First Nations Studies. Search in [www.viu.ca](http://www.viu.ca) for "Colloquium" for full details.

## VIU celebrates International Development Week

VIU marks International Development Week in February each year with community events on campus that celebrate global citizenship and explore international development initiatives at home and abroad. In 2015, VIU's International Development Week (February 2-5) tackled the theme of "Nourishing the World," and featured speakers on the global food movement, a presentation by VIU students on their Study Abroad experiences, a talk on wildlife conservation by a veterinarian working in Sri Lanka and a panel discussion on international career opportunities.

VIU will mark International Development Week 2016 (Feb. 1-4) with campus events, visiting speakers and classroom dialogues that celebrate global changemakers on campus and beyond. The community is invited to delve into global issues and view a showcase of work by students, staff and faculty who are making positive change in their communities and around the globe. [www.viu.ca/internationalization/IDW](http://www.viu.ca/internationalization/IDW)

## VIU and community speak out against racial intolerance and hate

Nanaimo is an inclusive community, where racism and intolerance have no place. That was the message delivered by VIU and a long list of community partners in response to a racist incident in June. The statement reads, in part: "As leaders we celebrate the diversity of our community and stand together in solidarity to reaffirm our commitment to remain a community that welcomes everyone. Furthermore, we are united in our belief that expressions of intolerance, racism and hate do not belong in our community, and must be challenged by our own expressions of openness, mutual respect and, above all, by how we care for and support one another."

## Grey whale exhibit leaves legacy for future generations

The unveiling of a 10-metre long grey whale skeleton at VIU's Deep Bay Marine Field Station in Bowser was an emotional moment for Sharon Cooper of Sc'ianew First Nation. Cooper first saw the body of the grey whale five years ago when it washed up at East Sooke Park near Victoria.

"I was so sad," said Cooper. "I knew that I had to save this whale and leave a legacy for future generations."

On June 23, 2015, Cooper's vision became a reality. She joined more than 160 people at VIU's Deep Bay Marine Field Station for the grand unveiling of the Underwater Harvesters Association Grey Whale Exhibit. The whale skeleton hangs as a grand centrepiece on the main floor of the Field Station. More than 2,000 volunteer hours went into the project.

Field Station Manager Brian Kingzett and VIU's Advancement & Alumni Relations Office launched a unique "Raise the Whale" online fundraising campaign, and sold more than 160 bones to raise the \$75,000 to cover the costs of creating the exhibit. [www.viu.ca/deepbay](http://www.viu.ca/deepbay)



## Harewood families benefit from VIU Island Savings partnership



Island Savings' Chris Waddell joins VIU Child and Youth Care students (l-r) Lee Tague, Stephanie Barkley and Chelsie Stauffer at a Neighbour to Neighbour event at Georgia Avenue Elementary School in the Harewood community in April.

Programs that will benefit children and youth in the Harewood community and enhance learning by students in VIU's Child and Youth Care program are the result of a new partnership between Island Savings and the University. Island Savings, which already supports eight \$1,000 bursaries for students studying full-time in five different Health and Human Services programs, has increased its support to students and programming at VIU through an additional \$2,500 gift to the new VIU Centre for Community Outreach and Care (CCOC).

The CCOC provides practical experience for students in VIU's Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care program, and offers programming that serves the needs of families, children and youth in Harewood. A Harewood advisory committee was set up last spring to assess three student-run projects in early stages of development, identify further opportunities, and act as advisors on CCOC activities.

## VIU's newest research institute highlights community partnerships

Founded in August 2014 VIU's Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) is focused on working collaboratively with VIU faculty and students,

community and government partners, First Nations, businesses, non-profits, landowners, and citizens to explore the varied ways all of the different species in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) can live together in a sustainable way.

Stretching across 1,186 square kilometres, the MABR – just north of Nanaimo – is a spectacular region encompassing the largest variety of ecosystems on Vancouver Island. In 2000 the area was designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) biosphere reserve in recognition that it is a 'unique and significant environmental region where people sustainably engage with the land.'

UNESCO biosphere reserves are challenged with finding ways to create a profound and positive connection between people and the natural environment, supporting and sustaining all the different ecosystems and species in the region. MABRRI was established to link the expertise and experience of university researchers with the priorities and concerns of the community to develop new approaches to development and conservation that support all the species in in the biosphere – including humans. MABRRI coordinates interdisciplinary research projects that engage VIU faculty and students as well as citizen scientists. For more information go to [www.mabr.ca](http://www.mabr.ca).

## VIU Anthropology classes inspire community action



Left to right: The daughter, mother and son team of Sharae Antley, Alana Bourque and Jaden Bourque study together at VIU.

Nanaimo teacher Sharon Busby was inspired to start a high school knitting club at Dover Bay Secondary as a community action project while taking VIU's Anthropology of Homelessness class taught by professor Helene Demers. Every Monday at lunch hour, Busby's students gathered to knit colourful scarves, toques and Afghan blankets for those in need. Last year, they donated two boxes of hand-knit creations to Gordon Fuller, Chair of the

Board of Nanaimo's 7 to 10 Club, which provides a hot breakfast and a bagged lunch to an average of 250 people a week, including those who are homeless or living on fixed incomes.

Demers taught the same class at the Cowichan campus, and inspired three Ladysmith students to organize a donation drive to collect non-perishable food and other items for the Ladysmith Soup Kitchen. Siblings Jaden Bourque and Sharae Antley, Anthropology majors at VIU,

and their mother Alana Bourque who audited the class, targeted about 200 homes in Ladysmith, collecting hundreds of bags of food items and \$400 in cheques for the Ladysmith Community Resources Centre.

Demers aims to incorporate community action and social justice assignments in all her classes and encourages students to conduct applied research that promotes safe, healthy and inclusive communities.



Students at VIU come from more than 80 countries!

## World VIU Days Nov. 2-6

Explore the many cultures of the world represented by students at the annual World VIU Days Nov. 2 to 6 at the Nanaimo campus. The theme of World VIU Days 2015 is "Creating a Connected Community," which will raise awareness and appreciation for the cultural diversity on VIU campuses.

It's also an opportunity to celebrate culture and recognize the richness

that diverse perspectives bring to our campus and communities.

Award-winning author and urbanist Charles Montgomery will deliver a keynote presentation Nov. 3 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. Montgomery creates transformative conversations about cities, science and human well-being using design interventions and participatory programs that foster social connections.

## Names of WWI's fallen soldiers displayed at VIU

More than 527,000 names of soldiers killed in 1915 during WWI – including 472 Canadians – will flash across a large digital display in VIU's Library (Building 305) from sunset on Oct. 4 until sunrise on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11. VIU has joined universities across Canada and institutions in Britain, Italy and the US in "The World Remembers Project" an international remembrance, education and reconciliation project begun by Canadian actor and director R.H. Thomson.

VIU's History department and its Canadian Letter and Images (CLIP) project invite the public to view the display of names, and remember the men and women who lost their lives in the Great War 100 year ago.

The CLIP project is a remarkable and intimate online archive of the Canadian war experience, as told through the letters and images of Canadians themselves.

[www.canadianletters.ca](http://www.canadianletters.ca)

Henry Harry Jackson lived in Nanaimo, enlisted in September 1915 with the 72nd Battalion and was killed September 16, 1916. He is one of more than 527,000 to be remembered in The World Remembers Project at VIU this fall.



## CREATE showcases student research and scholarship

In March, VIU's Scholarship and Community Engagement office hosted a three-day CREATE Conference which was open to students, staff, faculty and the wider community. This annual event highlights major projects completed by VIU students during the academic year through posters, displays,

performances and presentations. CREATE aims to promote and celebrate the diversity of student research and scholarship at VIU, while allowing students to develop their public speaking and presentation skills. Prizes are awarded for best poster and best presentation. [www.viu.ca/research](http://www.viu.ca/research)



Forty sculptures created by VIU Visual Arts students were on display at Milner Gardens & Woodland last summer.

## Interactive events at Milner Gardens thrill visitors

Robots, spaceships, and rockets crash-landed at VIU's Milner Gardens & Woodland this summer in a new art exhibit created by VIU Visual Arts students. The exhibit was just one of the many interactive events at Milner that draw the public year round to the spectacular 70-acre site that encompasses an estate garden with native and non-native plants, including a 400-species Rhododendron grove, an old-growth Douglas fir forest and a teahouse.

As well as serving as an outdoor experiential classroom for VIU's students, Milner hosts community events throughout the year, including plant sales, concerts, Easter parties and art exhibits. A popular winter event is Christmas Magic in December, when the gardens become a winter wonderland decorated with thousands of lights.

[www.viu.ca/milnergardens](http://www.viu.ca/milnergardens)

## VIU hosts Canada-Mexico Roundtable

VIU hosted the eighth annual Canada-Mexico Roundtable on the Nanaimo Campus in June. More than 60 University presidents and dignitaries from across Canada and Mexico came together to discuss ways they could collaborate to support Indigenous education and build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Discussions were led by keynote speakers including Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, VIU's Shqwi qwal for Indigenous Dialogue; Chief Ovide Mercredi; Chief Joe Alphonse, as well as VIU Elders, faculty and students. The speakers led interactive discussions on topics related to Natural Resource Extraction in traditional territories of Indigenous people and on best practices on Indigenous Language retention and education strategies. [www.viu.ca/canada-mexico](http://www.viu.ca/canada-mexico)

## Promoting citizen science in communities

Last fall, VIU Science & Technology faculty members including Wendy Simms, Dr. Jane Watson, Dr. Sarah Dudas and Dr. Liz Demattia created an intertidal 'citizen science project' to monitor the distribution and abundance of an invasive species called a varnish clam.

Fourth year students in a VIU Biodiversity and Conservation class piloted the project with grade six students from Departure Bay Elementary School. The students sampled Departure Bay beach for the clam species while learning sampling methods, species identification and data collection techniques.



Breanne Quist

## VIU grad nominated for national Innovation Award

Prior to graduating from VIU's Master of Education in Educational Leadership, Breanne Quist was nominated for a national honour – the Ernest C. Manning Innovation Award. Quist was nominated for her work creating The Privacy Compass ([www.privacycompass.ca](http://www.privacycompass.ca)), a website designed to help BC teachers, parents, and schools navigate privacy issues when selecting and using learning management systems and social media. These awards are dubbed the 'most prestigious innovation awards in Canada.'

## VIU grad receives national award

VIU biology grad Elsie Hampshire's love of learning and teaching has earned her a national award as a top instructor through the charitable organization Students Offering Support (SOS). Hampshire was selected as SOS's Exam-AID's Instructor of the Year for 2015 due to exceptional feedback from the first and second year VIU students she tutored.

The students were enrolled in several courses at VIU including biology, zoology, molecular and cellular biology and genetics. They paid \$20 for the Exam-AID tutorials, which supported sustainable educational projects in Latin America. Money raised through local tutoring went towards the construction of a Kindergarten class in Pueblo Viejo, Nicaragua. In May, a group of VIU students travelled to the community with SOS to assist in the construction of a classroom. Hampshire also completed VIU's six-week field school in Belize in June and spent part of the summer working with VIU faculty member Dr. Erik Demers on a bird-banding project at the Hakai Institute Field Station on BC's Calvert Island.

## Students win national research awards and summer internships

Several VIU students gained hands-on research experience this summer after receiving national Undergraduate Student Research Awards from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, valued at \$4,500 each. Darien Yeung, Chemistry and Computer Science; Greg Vandergrift, Abbi Adams and Daisy Feehan, Bachelor of Science; and Hannah McSorley an alumna of the Bachelor of Science Program put the grants to good use to work in VIU's multi-million dollar Applied Environmental Research Laboratories, pursuing research aimed at measuring contaminants in the environment.

## Business plan competition kicks off year 2



Jessica Reid and Patrick Whelan

Entrepreneurial VIU students and alumni are vying for more than \$16,000 in cash and in-kind business services in the second annual VIU Business Plan Competition. Alumni and current VIU students are invited to develop business plans before the Nov. 16 deadline. Judges will then select the strongest ideas and most solid business plans, sending finalists to the Dragon's Den-style 'pitchfest' competition on Dec. 4.

The competition is supported by VIU, Startup Nanaimo, lead sponsor the Pieter de Reuver Foundation, Young Professionals of Nanaimo, Coastal Community Credit Union and Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation, and had more than 30 entries from across VIU's faculties and programs last year. First place for Alumni went to Patrick Whelan and Jessica Reid of ReWild Homes, a company focused on building tiny, portable homes; first place in the VIU Student category went to Elisa Köhler, who developed a smartphone app. [www.viu.ca/bp](http://www.viu.ca/bp)



Graduate Julia Armstrong celebrates with her father, retired VIU instructor Mike Armstrong, mother and grandmother.

## Three time VIU grad wins academic gold medal

A Ladysmith high school teacher who goes out of her way to help students living in poverty won a Governor General's Gold Medal for academic excellence at VIU's convocation ceremony in June. Julia Armstrong, a graduate of VIU's Master of Education in Educational Leadership program,

was thrilled to receive one of the highest honours bestowed on Canadian university students. In 2009, Armstrong earned a degree in Physical Education and Anthropology from VIU and in 2011 she earned a Bachelor of Education degree, also from VIU.

## Nursing students host stem cell donor registry events



VIU 3rd year Nursing students (l-r) Jamie Crucil, Courtney Johnston, Jennifer Simm and Jacquelyn Janzen, along with Chris Barron, territory manager for Canadian Blood Services Vancouver Island, held OneMatch donor information events in Nanaimo in March.

Nursing students and Canadian Blood Services (CBS) joined forces in March to host OneMatch stem cell donor registration events at VIU's Nanaimo campus and at Nanaimo's Country Club Centre mall. Third year Nursing students hosting the OneMatch events invited people aged 17 to 35 to learn about stem cell donation

and join the registry by having their cheek swabbed for a DNA sample. Chris Barron, CBS Vancouver Island territory manager, said the OneMatch events are a great partnership for VIU and his organization, and a learning opportunity in community engagement and practice for the future nurses.

## MBA students go for the games



VIU's MBA students hosted five other BC universities in the first ever BC MBA Games this fall.

A group of Master of Business Administration (MBA) students at VIU welcomed fellow MBA students from around BC to the first ever BC MBA Games, from Oct. 16 to 18 in Nanaimo. The idea to host the BC MBA Games arose after 30

MBA students from VIU attended Canada's MBA Games in January. On their return, they formed the MBA Students' Association and began to develop the idea of inviting other MBA students to Nanaimo for a provincial competition.

As fundraising for charity is one component of the competition, the group partnered with the Canucks Autism Network and the Autism Society of BC. Teams from five BC universities competed in academic, team sport and fundraising challenges.

## Automotive grad awarded Lt. Governor's Silver Medal



Ines Alvarado works in VIU's Automotive shop.

Ines Alvarado's positive outlook along with her relentless curiosity, work ethic, and attention to detail are all characteristics observed in the Automotive Service Technician program graduate, her instructors say. These qualities have also earned the 33-year-old mother of five and Nanoose First Nation member the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia's Silver Medal,

awarded in June at VIU's convocation ceremonies for graduates in Trades and Applied Technology programs.

Alvarado also completed a Certificate in Business Management in June, as well as a Management Skills for Supervisors Certificate offered through VIU's Professional Development and Training. Her dream is to one day open her own automotive shop.



## Fisheries grad finds her calling

Lenora Turcotte once dreamed of flying the skies as a flight attendant, but instead she's delving into the ocean's depths, working on a fisheries research vessel for the Pacific Biological Station. Her change in course was thanks to an aptitude test she took that led her to the Fisheries & Aquaculture program at VIU. In March, Turcotte received special kudos at VIU's annual CREATE Conference, (*see story pg 9*) which showcases major research and scholarly projects completed by VIU students. Turcotte won numerous prizes including second place in the Scholarship Slam – one of the highlights of CREATE – where students have up to three minutes to verbally describe their research to the audience. Turcotte graduated in June from VIU's Bachelor of Fisheries and Aquaculture program and immediately landed the full-time job in Nanaimo.



Kaya Peters earned a silver medal in the Skills Canada National Competition in May, coached by Chef Joerg Gabler.

## Culinary student wins national skills silver

A trio of chocolate desserts finished off two intense days of competition in May for VIU Culinary student Kaya Peters, who won a silver medal in the Skills Canada National Competition. Chef Joerg Gabler said he worked with Peters through many 10-hour days to perfect her techniques and recipes, and observed the young woman excelling at every challenge he put before her. "She is very determined and very creative and the more she struggles, the harder she works," he said.

## Full entrance scholarships awarded to 27 high school students

VIU awarded 27 full tuition scholarships through the University's President's and Chancellor's scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded to the top students in Vancouver Island and Powell River public high schools in three different categories: top academic student; top scholar athlete and top Aboriginal student. The award is potentially worth more than \$21,000 as it's renewable each year, providing students meet course load and grade requirements.

## VIU to award 31 Canadian QE II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships

VIU will award more than \$800,000 in scholarships to 31 undergraduate, graduate and international students through the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program. The students will participate in internships or academic study for periods of three to six months in Belize. Scholarships will also be available to students from Belize to complete one of VIU's master's degree programs. Both inbound and outbound students will be selected based on the contribution of their work to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities.

VIU will work in partnership with the University of Belize and community partners in Belize and in Canada. VIU is among 34 Canadian universities to receive funding for the scholarships through a joint initiative of the Rideau Hall Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.



Graduate Jayson Sinnott, his wife Lisa and two young daughters, Gabrielle (right) and Grace, celebrate his graduation and outstanding academic achievement.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduate Jayson Sinnott received the Governor General's Academic Silver Medal for achieving the highest academic standing upon graduation from a bachelor degree program. Sinnott says the "holistic and humanistic approach to health

promotion" drew him to nursing and he credits the support of his family for his success. "Although I did the academic work, many others—my wife and two young daughters especially—sacrificed and pulled together to give me the space I needed to do so. This achievement

was the result of a team effort." Sinnott now works for Island Health in the main operating room at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. The Governor General's academic medals recognize the outstanding scholastic achievements in Canadian high schools, colleges and universities.

## VIU researchers study invasive seaweed

A team of VIU researchers released a final report on volume and distribution of a seaweed called *Mazzaella japonica* (MJ) during the 2014/15 harvest season. Since 2007, the BC Ministry of Agriculture has been issuing licenses that permit commercial operators to remove beach-cast seaweed from beaches between Deep Bay and Bowser. MJ is a Japanese red alga, rich in carrageenan, a compound used as a gelling and thickening agent in a variety of food, pharmaceutical and industrial processes.

“While this harvest has raised environmental concerns, the available information to date has been largely based on literature reviews and anecdotal observations,” says Dr. Sarah Dudas, Canada Research Chair with VIU’s Centre for Shellfish Research. The report focused on quantifying the amount of beach-cast seaweed that washes up in relation to amounts harvested.

## Breaking barriers in education

VIU Faculty of Education faculty have designed a new way to teach elementary and secondary school teachers. Breaking Barriers in Education is a visionary program aimed at fifth year Bachelor of Education and sixth year post-baccalaureate degree students. It was developed in response to observations and feedback from previous students who said they wanted more ownership over their learning and more authentic learning experiences.

With the program now in place, students are getting involved in community action projects, seminars, book clubs, speaker and film series, and personal inquiry projects. Faculty are finding the new program allows them to provide better support to budding teachers. The end result is that student learners are more accountable for their learning, and gain skills needed to help them become the best professional educators they can be.



Faculty and VIU leaders enter the Snuneymuxw Big House for a special honouring ceremony.

A special honouring ceremony for Health and Human Services faculty and VIU leaders took place in April at Snuneymuxw First Nation’s traditional Big House in Nanaimo, with Elders, students and community members bearing witness. The Snuneymuxw ceremony was the

culmination of a week of special activities tied to Health & Human Services’ Seasons of Health and Healing event, now in its third year. Events such as this support students in programs ranging from Bachelor of Science in Nursing, to Health Care Assistant, Social Work, Dental

Hygiene, Practical Nursing and Child and Youth Care. The students benefit from learning about Aboriginal perspectives in healthcare, healing and wellness, and learn cultural protocol that will prove helpful and valuable in their future careers.



Heavy Equipment Operator students, with instructor Brandon Lindsay (centre), gained hands-on skills working on a Habitat for Humanity home project in Nanaimo.

## Construction program instructor links VIU to Habitat for Humanity

VIU students in the Construction and Heavy Equipment Operator programs are gaining hands-on job skills while making an important contribution to their community, thanks to the coordinating efforts and volunteer commitment of Jessie Magee-Chalmers. As chair and instructor in the Construction program, and volunteer board member with Habitat for Humanity Mid-Vancouver

Island, Magee-Chalmers has forged a strong partnership that supports both student learning and the high quality construction of affordable housing units in the region.

As Habitat for Humanity’s vice chair, he oversees the building committee, and hopes to involve students from the Electrical and Interior Design programs in future projects.

## VIU faculty engage in lifelong learning

With support from VIU’s Centre for Innovation and Excellence in Learning (CIEL) VIU’s faculty are sharpening their teaching skills and inspiring their students to learn in new and innovative ways. This fall new faculty are participating in the Faculty Fast Start Institute to make the transition to their new role at VIU a positive one and to support them to develop skills, perspectives, attitudes and insights needed for long term successes in teaching and

learning at the post-secondary level.

Every year CIEL also organizes workshops for all faculty to provide them with on-going professional development opportunities such as the “Teaching and Learning Engagement Club” – monthly hour-long gatherings geared around breakfast or afternoon coffee where faculty meet to discuss issues related to impactful teaching practices and student learning.

## Using the power of math to help cancer patients



Dr. Lev Idels

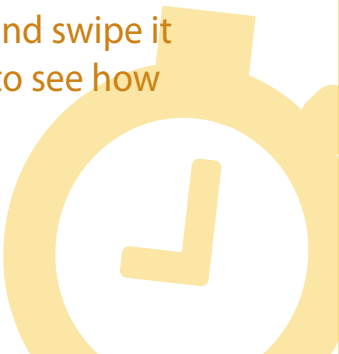
VIU mathematics professor Dr. Lev Idels is using the power of math to help uncover the underlying biology of cancer tumours. Dr. Idels received a two-year Discovery Grant from the National Science Engineering Research Council of Canada for a pilot project that will focus on determining how best to use complex mathematical equations to develop “a new vision of cancer dynamics.” Idels says that according to new research, certain mathematical models can predict the outcomes and responses of lung cancer patients to treatment. The goal is that doctors will be able to use this information to decide when best to apply cancer therapy, as well as indicating the most efficient treatment protocols.

Idels says the pilot project will serve as ideal training ground for graduate and undergraduate students in applied mathematics, mathematical biology and computer science. The project will also include collaboration and cooperation with national and international research university groups from France, Italy, Norway, Brazil and Argentina.

## FUN FACT

### STORM THE STAIRS

Track how fast it takes you to climb the 465 stairs on VIU’s Nanaimo campus! Swipe your gym card at the bottom, run, walk or dance up and swipe it at the top to see how you did.



## VIU faculty receive teaching awards of excellence

Teaching excellence is the hallmark of VIU. Each year, VIU issues Provost Awards for Excellence in Teaching Design and Practice in several categories to celebrate and recognize faculty's dedication to VIU students. The awards formally recognize the excellence in achievements in all facets of teaching and student learning at VIU. The 2015 award recipients are:

*Teaching Design and Practice that Employs Innovative Practice for Student Learning*

- ▶ Dr. Ken Hammer, Tourism and Leadership professor, Faculty of Management

- ▶ Dr. Katharina Rout, English professor, Faculty of Arts and Humanities

*Teaching Design and Practice that Enhances Deep Learning*

- ▶ Dr. Dave Bigelow, Math professor, Faculty of Science and Technology

*Teaching Design and Practice that Employs Experiential Learning*

- ▶ Dr. Tim Goater, Biology professor, Faculty of Science & Technology

[www.viu.ca/convocation/provost\\_awards](http://www.viu.ca/convocation/provost_awards)



Dr. Dave Bigelow



Dr. Tim Goater



Dr. Ken Hammer



Dr. Katharina Rout

## Hairdressing and Esthetics faculty benefit from partnership with Trinidad and Tobago

Sharing best practices and methods of teaching for training future hairdressers and esthetics practitioners has been a great experience for instructors from VIU and their colleagues in a three-year partnership with the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Two representatives from Trinidad and Tobago's YTEPP Limited (Youth Training and Employment Partnership Program) spent two weeks in March with VIU's Hairdressing program at the Nanaimo campus and the Esthetics program at VIU's Parksville-Qualicum Centre.

Sally Vinden, Chair of VIU's



VIU Esthetics Chair Lesley Osborne (l) welcomes Yola Hernandez and Natalie Clarke, representatives from Trinidad and Tobago's YTEPP program, to VIU's Parksville-Qualicum Centre.

Hairdressing program, joined her colleague Lesley Osborne, Chair of the Esthetics program, in welcoming the delegation, sharing their 'competency-based' learning

methods, and involving their guests in the day-to-day classes, clinics, and delivery of hairdressing and esthetics services to the public.

## Creative Writing instructor Susan Juby receives national appointment



Susan Juby

Nanaimo-based author and VIU faculty member Susan Juby has been appointed by the Royal Society of Canada to a new national group of academics representing the emerging generation of scholarly, scientific and artistic leadership in Canada. Juby teaches in the Department of Creative Writing and Journalism and joins a group of 91 academics appointed to the newly formed College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, nominated by 51 Canadian universities and the National Research Council.

Juby, who is widely acclaimed as an innovator in the field of young adult fiction, said she looks forward to taking part in the discussion about the future of higher education in Canada and examining how higher education can best serve society.

In 2015, Juby published her ninth and tenth books, a teen novel titled *The Truth Commission*, and, for adults, *Republic of Dirt*, a sequel to *The Woelfield Poultry Collective*, about a young woman from Brooklyn who inherits a derelict farm on Vancouver Island.



A new bookshelf in Building 345 showcases the work of VIU Arts and Humanities faculty.

## Arts and Humanities showcase of books and CDs on display

A beautiful bookshelf showcase of more than 80 books and CDs written and created by VIU Arts and Humanities faculty is on display on the Nanaimo campus. Dean Ross MacKay says the showcase is another way to celebrate the significant achievements of faculty.

"If you've ever been to the Arts and Humanities Colloquium Series when we've had faculty publications available for purchase, you'll realize – as I did – that our faculty are very prolific," said MacKay. "This is something we need to celebrate. The amazing thing is due to space constraints, we could not include all publications. We've included a representation of work from 26 faculty."

The overall design of the bookcase, including the lettering on the glass and display holders, was done by Nancy Pagé, a faculty member of the Art and Design department.

## VIU hosts Teaching and Learning Conference

VIU's third annual Teaching and Learning conference will be held at the Nanaimo campus May 4-6, 2016. The purpose of the conference is to build a culture of scholarly thinking around teaching and learning. "VIU faculty do marvelous things in classrooms, but often their great work is hidden behind classroom doors," says Tine Reimers, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Specialist at VIU. The conference will allow faculty to share their great ideas related to teaching with colleagues in a public venue and open a collegial discussion about what works and why. The conference is modeled after several successful teaching and learning events held last spring at VIU.

## VIU hosts Wildlife Forensic Conference

Recently retired faculty member Greg Klimes of VIU's Resource Management and Protection program organized and facilitated a successful three-day Wildlife Forensic Conference at the Nanaimo campus in June. About 35 park wardens and conservation and wildlife officers from across Canada attended the conference, which was sponsored by Parks Canada and Environment Canada. The conference was intended to give officers and wardens a higher level of professional expertise to investigate cases involving wildlife, and to prosecute wildlife poachers.



Celebrating new scholarships created for students in the Heavy Equipment Operators program are (l-r) Adrien Byrne, Chevron; Breanna Thompson, VIU student; Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations; Jesse Creighton, VIU student; and Rolf Braun, Chevron.

## VIU Heavy Equipment Operator students awarded \$5,000 scholarships

VIU Heavy Equipment Operator students Jesse Creighton, from Sooke, and Breanna Thompson, from Gabriola Island, were the first to receive new \$5,000 scholarships from the Truck Loggers Association (TLA) in January. The new scholarships were created by the TLA and Chevron in response to the TLA's labour market analysis, which predicts the coastal forest industry will need 4,700 skilled workers over the next decade.

## Great prizes in VIU Online Auction



A stay at Ucluelet's Black Rock Oceanfront Resort is one of many VIU Online Auction prizes.

Get ready to bid on a long list of great prizes in VIU's Online Auction, which opens at 9 am on Friday, October 23. With 100 per cent of proceeds going to support VIU students, you might want to start a bidding war on a two-night stay at Ucluelet's Black Rock Oceanfront Resort, a Seafood Soiree, an overnight in Vancouver with Canucks tickets, tickets for the Port Theatre's Spotlight Series, a trip for two on the Victoria Clipper, passes to Wildplay Elements Parks, and many more great experiences and gift items. More items were being added to the auction list at press time, including unique experiences and one-of-a-kind and collector items.

The bidding goes until 4 pm on Sunday, Nov. 1.  
[www.viu.ca/auction](http://www.viu.ca/auction)

## FUN FACT VIU CAMPS FOR KIDS!

- ▶ GrandKids University
  - ▶ Mariners Sports Camps
  - ▶ Science Camps for Kids
  - ▶ Marine Biology Summer Camp
  - ▶ Shoots with Roots
  - ▶ Geneskool Camp
- [viu.ca/summercamps](http://viu.ca/summercamps)

## GivingTuesday supports students



VIU staff celebrate GivingTuesday at last year's event.

VIU is seeking broad support in a one-day fundraising campaign on GivingTuesday, a global movement for charitable giving and volunteering which falls on Dec. 1. Last year, more than \$32,000 was raised.

Donations to VIU on GivingTuesday will make a difference in the lives of students currently attending VIU, or to prospective students who hope to attend in the future and may require financial assistance.

With a one-day fundraising goal of \$30,000, the VIU Foundation invites alumni, staff and friends of the University throughout the region, to make a donation to VIU on Dec. 1. Donations are matched by the VIU Foundation and can be directed to support a scholarship, award or bursary, or designated to a particular faculty or program.

## New Car Dealers donate \$7K tire changer to Automotive program

Students in VIU's Automotive Service Technician program are practicing their skills on a new, state-of-the-art tire changer thanks to a generous donation by the New Car Dealers Association of BC. The \$7,180 John Bean tire changer donated to VIU supports the education of future mechanics.

"Students will eventually find jobs in the industry as apprentices, and some are already working as second, third or fourth year apprentices," says John Wynia, Chairman of the Board for New Car Dealers Association of BC. "Our goal is to ensure there are quality mechanics in industry. A big part of their training is the opportunity to practice on modern, industry standard equipment and machines. We're happy to help make that happen."



Brittany Palmer

## Tuition waiver student charts path to career goal

Brittany Palmer is in the final year of her studies toward a Bachelor's degree in Criminology at VIU, honing her skills in her classes and part-time work, and as a community volunteer. The lifelong Vancouver Island

resident went into care as a teen and has lived independently since age 17, and now has the support of VIU's Youth in Care Tuition Waiver program to complete her degree.

The upbeat young woman volunteers with the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society in three of their programs: the Restorative Justice Program, a youth mentorship program, and the "Story Book Dads" program in the Nanaimo Correctional Centre. In the latter program she volunteers by audio-recording inmates as they read favourite stories aloud for their children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, which are then shared with these family members. She also secured part-time work in a supported housing residence for people with autism.

Palmer's career goal is to work with youth and to attain more supportive housing for the homeless, particularly youth and young adults.



VIU Alumnus Tony Sorchy, shown here on a VIU Study Abroad trip to Colima, Mexico, has established an award to help VIU students seeking international study experiences.

## New study abroad award a gift from 2015 alumnus

Travel can offer eye-opening educational experiences to students, according to VIU alumnus Tony Sorchy. The 30-year-old graduated with a BA in Global Studies in 2014, and after moving to Grande Prairie to work, decided to set up a new \$1,000 award at VIU to help other students gain the valuable experience of global learning that has meant so much to him.

While at VIU, Sorchy took two Study Abroad trips – a year-long trip to Korea and a shorter language study in Mexico. The study abroad experience in Korea nearly got derailed despite Sorchy working three jobs in Nanaimo to save for it. He was deeply grateful after winning a \$10,000 Premiers One World Scholarship to make that trip possible, and inspired to set up the annual Tony Sorchy Study Abroad Award.

## Record number of awards for Fisheries students

Twelve top students in VIU's Fisheries and Aquaculture degree and diploma programs received more than \$22,750 in awards and scholarships last fall – the largest amount of money for internal awards ever dispersed to Fisheries students. Donors include world-renowned scientists, businesses and organizations related to the aquaculture and commercial fishing industry, community members, VIU faculty and alumni.

Monica Redmond, a third-year student in VIU's Bachelor of Science Fisheries & Aquaculture program, was the big winner receiving the \$1,000 Eunice Lam Award; a \$1,000 VIU entrance scholarship; and \$1,500 from the BC Freshwater Fisheries Society. Redmond also received the \$9,500 High North Fellowship from VIU's International Education Study Abroad program, entitling her to an all-expense paid internship at Norway's Nordland University to study Fisheries and Aquaculture for six months.

For a complete list of 2015 award winners and donors, or for more information on how to give visit [www.viu.ca/giving](http://www.viu.ca/giving).



## Alumnus Trevor Styan among BC Business magazine's 'Top 30 Under 30'

VIU alumnus Trevor Styan has been named to *BC Business* magazine's Top 30 Under 30 list for 2015, in recognition of the rapid growth and success of his Nanaimo-based company, Northern Civil Energy. An alumnus of the welding program, Styan attended VIU in 2004 as a dual credit student from Wellington Secondary School. Spending his youth in Nanaimo and Quesnel, Styan drew inspiration from mentors including his father, uncle and step-father, who modelled a strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit.

After completing BCIT's Mechanical Manufacturing diploma program and gaining experience in his uncle's business, he and two business

partners co-founded Northern Civil Energy in 2012. With a speciality in civil construction work in the utility and power generating sector, the company has seen rapid growth in revenue, projects and employees. Just four years later, the company has annual gross revenues of approximately \$40 million, has completed 40 projects across Western Canada, and employs between 80 and 150 employees.

For more on Trevor Styan and his entrepreneurial vision for Northern Civil Energy, see our first issue of the new *VIU Magazine*, scheduled to be published in November.

## VIU strengthens ties with Chinese alumni and partners



Alumni and partners were special guests at a networking reception in Yantai hosted by VIU in March.

Chinese alumni, students and representatives of partner institutions were special guests in March at VIU networking receptions in Shanghai and Yantai, China. A delegation from VIU, including Dean of International Education Dr. Graham Pike, Business professor Andy Lin and Alumni Relations manager David Forrester met with alumni at evening events held at the Canadian Consulate General's Official Residence in Shanghai and the Crowne Plaza Yantai Sea View Hotel in Yantai.

In his remarks at the events, Dr. Pike noted how alumni are deeply valued at VIU, and stressed the importance of trade and diplomatic relations between the two countries. He also emphasized the value and deep cultural connections that Chinese students bring to the community of Nanaimo, and how international experiences can transform lives. The events were attended by more than 75 people, including many alumni who have fond memories of Nanaimo.



## Dr. Skye Creba receives 2015 Distinguished Alumni Early Achievement Award

Dr. Skye Creba, an emergency room doctor at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, credits VIU's Bachelor of Science program for igniting her passion for science and medicine. A graduate of Nanaimo District Secondary School in 2000 and VIU in 2006, Creba received the Distinguished Alumni Early Achievement Award at VIU's convocation ceremonies in June.

While a student at VIU, Creba conducted outstanding research in the Chemistry department's Applied Environmental Research Laboratory (AERL), published two peer-reviewed papers and won the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Undergraduate Student Research Award. Creba, who majored in Biology and Chemistry, also received one of Canada's most prestigious post-graduate awards – a \$17,500 NSERC research scholarship. She completed a degree in medicine in 2010 at the University of Calgary, and returned home to embark on a family practice residency in Nanaimo through the University of British Columbia. After further training, she began her full-time position in the emergency room at NRGH.

## Alumni can help VIU students with donation of Aeroplan® Miles

Students enrolled at VIU now have a new way to help pay for their education. Through a new partnership with HigherEdPoints, students and their families and friends will now be able to convert Aeroplan Miles into funds that can be used to pay tuition fees at VIU.

The HigherEdPoints program also provides a unique way for VIU alumni to give back. Aeroplan Miles donated to the VIU Foundation account will support students in need and other fundraising initiatives at VIU. For every 35,000 Aeroplan Miles, a \$250 credit can be transferred to VIU students to cover fees, including tuition.

## Alumni invited to connect

The VIU Alumni Association is reaching out to alumni to reconnect and strengthen ties, update alumni contact information, explain alumni benefits, and invite participation in alumni and community activities and events at the University. The VIU Student Calling Centre employs 10 students who are calling VIU alumni during the evening hours Mondays through Fridays.

The VIU Alumni Association represents those who have studied at or graduated from Malaspina College, Malaspina University-College and VIU since 1969, and those who attended the Nanaimo Dominion Provincial Vocational Training School between 1936 and 1976.

Alumni can also update their information directly on the "Get Connected" page of the website at [www.viu.ca/alumni/register](http://www.viu.ca/alumni/register), by calling Kamala Haughton at 250.740.6215, or dropping by VIU's Welcome Centre or the Alumni Relations office in Building 310.

## Alumni save in new partnership with Insurance Providers

VIU alumni can save on their insurance with two new affinity partnerships announced in 2015. The VIU Alumni Association has partnered with Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services and Canadian Direct Insurance to provide all alumni with savings on a wide range of insurance products. Life insurance, critical illness insurance, health and dental insurance, travel insurance, long term disability insurance, and home and auto insurance are among the products for which preferential rates to VIU alumni will be provided.



## FUN FACT

### GET YOUR MASTER'S AT VIU!

Master of Business Administration

Master of Education in Educational Leadership

Master of Education in Special Education

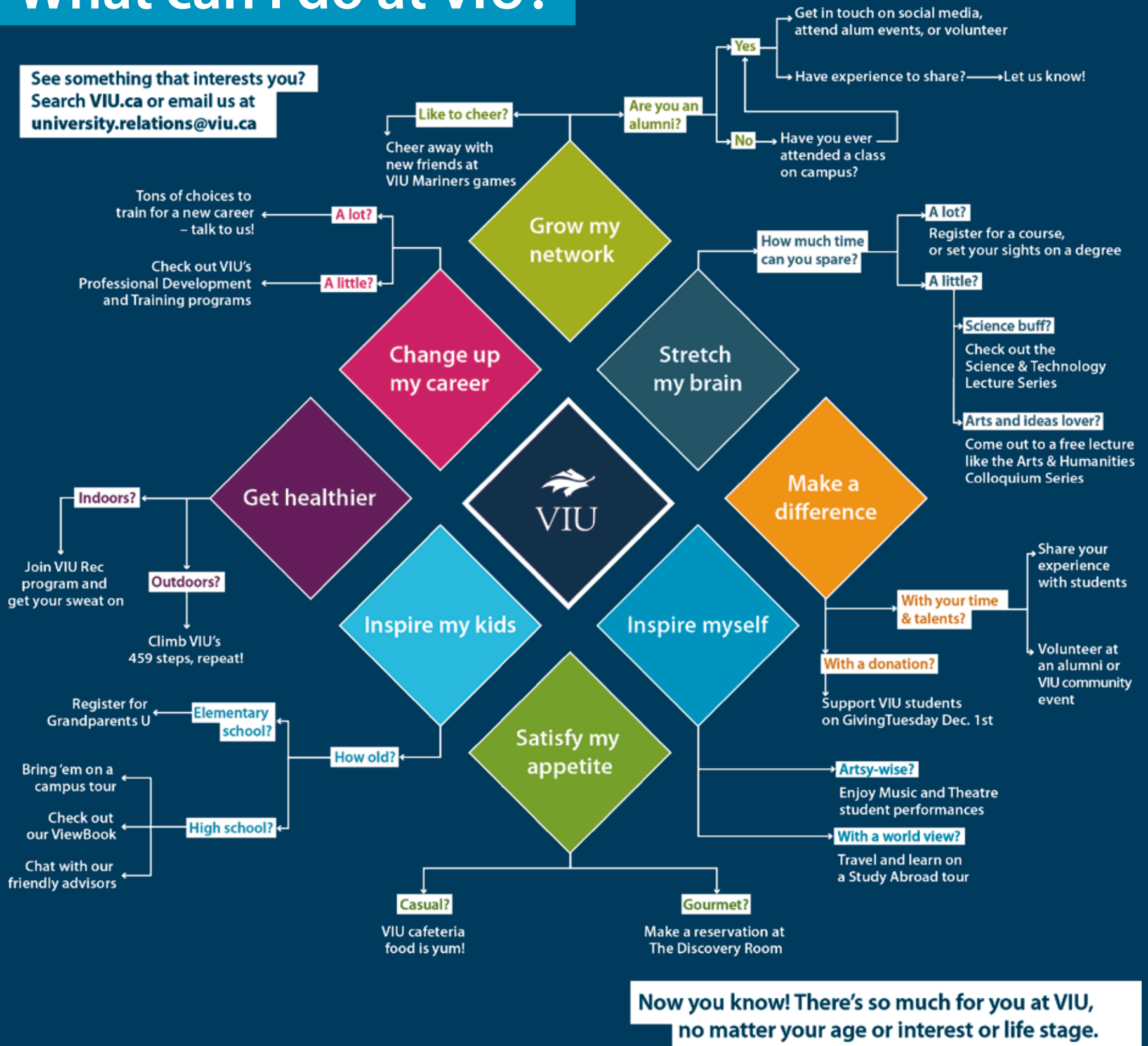
Master of Arts in Sustainable Leisure Management

Master of Community Planning

Master of Geographic Information Systems Applications

[www.viu.ca/mastersdegrees](http://www.viu.ca/mastersdegrees)

## What can I do at VIU?



### VIU WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

VIU is a community engaged University and we want to know what you think. Had a great experience you want to share? Thought of a new program we could offer? Have an idea on how we could improve? Please let us know at [university.relations@viu.ca](mailto:university.relations@viu.ca).

The Report to the Community is produced by VIU University Relations.

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### JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Follow us on



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## Fiscal Accountability

VIU prepares a balanced consolidated budget, with revenues and expenditures of approximately \$136.7 million. The consolidated budget represents the full, comprehensive fiscal picture of the institution and includes all controlled entities. (VIU Foundation, Western Student Housing Ltd., Milner Gardens and Woodlands Society, The International High School at VIU and The High School at VIU).

The University is funded by two main sources: provincial funding (41 percent) and tuition and student fees (42 percent). For VIU, the proportion of government funding as a percentage of total revenue has been steadily declining by approximately 10 percent per decade since the 1980s and is now below tuition and student fees.

With more than 2,300 employees in four employee groups, the salary and

benefits costs comprise over 74 percent of total expenses. The proportion of the University's resource invested in staff has remained within two to three percentage points of 70 percent for the last few decades.

An explanation of the budget process and supporting documents can be found at [www.viu.ca/budget/BudgetPlan2015-2016.asp](http://www.viu.ca/budget/BudgetPlan2015-2016.asp).

