

news

Stober family invests in the future of health care

The Okanagan College Foundation recently received a landmark gift to the Our Students, Your Health campaign, which will help support the training of the Okanagan's finest health care professionals for generations to come.

The Stober Foundation is committing \$500,000 over the next five years to support the development of a state-of-the-art 450 students per year over the next 40 years.

In recognition of this leadership gift, Okanagan College Foundation is establishing a \$250,000 award fund in honour of the Stober family. The awards will provide vital financial support for 100 students, helping them achieve their educational goals and progress to careers in critical sectors of our region's economy.

The new Health Sciences Centre will serve as a leading-edge training hub for students across eight critical health care and social development professions. Graduates will go on to provide care in the region's hospitals, long-term care facilities, pharmacies, rehabilitation settings, dental clinics and mental health services.

The Stober Foundation gift will specifically support the completion of the Centre's Health Lab, where nurses and Health Care Assistants will be trained. It will also establish vital scholarships and bursaries, enabling students to complete their studies at a time when many are facing even greater financial uncertainty.

"This gift is a testament to the leadership and vision of the Stober family and will help us complete a world-class facility which our students and community deserve as we continue to deliver the vital training needed to shore up our health care sector," says Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton.

"Now more than ever, we recognize the critical role of frontline health care professionals," says Keith Z. Brewster, Executive Director of the Stober Foundation.

Read the full story [here](#).

Haircuts fundraiser grows new support

Kelowna Mayor and WFN Chief shaving their heads for a cause

In dire need of a haircut and wanting to support the training of future health care professionals, some big names are joining the Okanagan College Foundation's **Haircuts for Health Care** initiative.

Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran and Westbank First Nation Chief Christopher Derickson are committing to dealing with their unruly self-isolation hair by shaving their heads, and in doing so, raising vital funds to help open the doors to a state-of-the-art new Health Science Centre at Okanagan College.

Mayor Basran and Chief Derickson have each set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 before they forgo their locks for a buzz cut.

Nearly 20 years ago, Chief Derickson's father, Raymond, had a workplace accident that resulted in a brain injury. "I've seen firsthand the difference frontline health care workers make in peoples' lives. The current pandemic has only highlighted the important role these professionals play in our communities," says Basran, who sits on the Kelowna College's Board of Governors, and served as Board Chair in 2018-2019.

"Okanagan College's Health Sciences Centre will provide a world-class facility to train future health care workers. As we are currently experiencing these everyday heroes do incredible jobs and they deserve to be trained in a facility that matches their level of commitment."

Basran says he is a huge supporter of Okanagan College and adds that the fundraising campaign also holds a special place in his family's heart.

"My wife Leanne is a Rehabilitation Assistant (RA) at Kelowna General Hospital. She is an amazing PA in part because she took the program at what was then Okanagan University College. This program continues at Okanagan College and is a great resource for preparing students to be job ready once they graduate," says Basran.

Depending on how long the fundraisers last, Derickson and Basran will either have their wives shave their heads, or be among the first customers for the local salons once they begin to safely re-open.

Read the full story [here](#).

College offers virtual info sessions, online summer sessions, \$5K tuition giveaway for students

Physically distant but with a personal touch: Okanagan College is here to help.

That's the message for students and parents who have found the COVID-19 pandemic has an extra layer of anxiety around what life will mean after high school.

"Picking a post-secondary path can be challenging at the best of times, without the added stresses of COVID-19 in the mix, so we want to ensure students know that we're here to help," says Andrew Hay, interim Provost and Vice President Academic at Okanagan College. "While our physical offices are closed for the time being, we want students to know they can still connect with recruitment, admissions or advising staff digitally or by phone."

The College is holding (Zoom) information sessions online as well as offering on-demand advice from recruiters and advisors via phone and email to help prospective students learn more about their programs and have their post-secondary questions answered. Based on feedback from high school counsellors and parents, the first info sessions will be happening this week starting Wednesday and Thursday.

More information about the sessions and any additional dates and times will be posted to www.okanagan.bc.ca/info-sessions. In the meantime, prospective students can check out this page to find more information about courses and programs offered this summer and fall. They can also email cbosseo@okanagan.bc.ca to connect with a recruiter directly.

In addition to getting a jump on their post-secondary planning, there's an added incentive for anyone who reaches out and connects with a recruiter on or before May 15: you will be entered into a draw for a \$5,000 tuition giveaway.

Read more [here](#).

Therapist Assistant students grasp value of collaboration on capstone project

A final term project for Therapist Assistant Diploma (TAD) students turned out to be a gripping example of learning.

When second-year students Tenley Coelle and Zoe Dack were paired up to work together on their TAD capstone (or final term) project, the duo quickly agreed they wanted to develop something that would help people with quadraplegia.

"I was looking at how to help an artist or someone who wanted to paint and had a paint brush. I like to draw and paint. I was thinking: if I had a spinal cord injury, how could I improve the technology that's out there?" explains Dack.

"My first thought was there has to be a better way to help someone with a spinal cord injury. Big bulky items are invasive and difficult to use. We thought we would come up with something that didn't look like an assisted device," says Coelle.

Nothing fits the hand better than a glove, so the pair set out to build the "T-Glove," or a special fabric glove that helps an individual increase their grip strength while grasping an object. For those physiologically inclined, the glove would assist the "tenodesis grasp," or extension of the wrist, which helps with grasp.

Now that the TAD duo had a concept in mind for the T-Glove, they weren't sure how to make it a reality – and that's when the project took an interdisciplinary turn.

Read the full story [here](#).

New Alumni Association board members, President reelected for 12th consecutive year

The Okanagan College Alumni Association has elected two new board members and reelected Kara Kazimer as the Board President for the 12th consecutive year.

Kazimer, a Bachelor of Business Administration graduate, has served on the Alumni Association board since 2001 and has been the President since 2008.

"I am proud to be a part of the Alumni Association and help find ways to support and celebrate the graduates of Okanagan College," says Kazimer. "Our alumni are doing so many great things and I love being a part of sharing my fellow alumni's triumphs."

Joining Kazimer on the board are OC alumni Zach Webster and Doug McFee. Webster, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Business Administration graduate, works as a Corporate Training Specialist at the College.

McFee is also a Bachelor of Business Administration graduate who went on to earn an Omnimium Global Executive MBA from the University of St Gallen in Switzerland and the University of Toronto.

Gordon Fiske has been a long-time board member and continues his term along with Nick Moffatt who remains the Board Treasurer and Nick Metemaris, who was elected Vice President.

To learn more about the Okanagan College Alumni Association, you can visit www.alumni.okanagan.bc.ca.

people

Vincent's national Stay at Home Gala raises more than \$560,000

Bringing community together is nothing new for OC alum Drew Vincent, but a concept he launched during the pandemic has now united more than 22 communities and counting across Canada.

A graduate of the College's Bachelor of Business Administration program, Vincent is the creative mind behind the Stay at Home Gala which launched March 27. The event raised more than \$20,000 for charities in the region. On May 5, that impressive figure was eclipsed quickly as almost 2,000 households in cities across the nation tuned in to collectively raise more than \$560,000 for Canadian charities.

The national gala served up an inspiring virtual appearance by Olympian Hayley Wickenheiser, performances by iconic Boxy Break duo Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod and musical acts The Hunter Brothers and Once a Tree. From coast to coast, Canadian cities large and small followed Vincent's lead on the Okanagan and organized and promoted their own similar events in under two weeks.

Attendees of the gala were encouraged to dress-up and hop online to enjoy the event, beginning or ending by joining other Canadians across the country for the national segment.

"While remaining physically distant, this was social connectedness at its best. It was Canadians supporting each other during a time of need," says Vincent. "We know charities across Canada are experiencing the financial burden of COVID-19 and so we created the Stay at Home Gala event model to help others raise and direct proceeds to the charities most in need in their own community."

Vincent and team are now looking to build on this momentum to host an even bigger online gala. On June 6, they'll be inviting communities to take part in a North American-wide streaming event, using the resources they've developed, free of charge, to run their own independent city events.

To find out more about being a community host, volunteer, or donate visit: <https://stayathomegala.com>.

OC student and dad harmonize for COVID-19 relief

College student Justin J. Moore and his opera singing dad, Paul, are filling the airwaves with positivity by making headlines again after going viral in an early January for their virtuosic online singing performance that garnered more than a quarter-million views.

On May 6, Moore and his father dropped their cover of "Bless the Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts. Watch their performance [here](#).

"It's a song my dad and I have always been singing. If he's ever at a piano it's the first one he'd sing," Moore said. "The lyrics apply to everyone and the melody... it just doesn't get any better than that."

Moore is a student in the Bachelor of Business Administration program at the Kelowna campus. This spring found him working diligently on his music while completing the semester online.

Read more [here](#) in a story by Info News and listen to Moore's music on his website: www.justinmoore.com.

College alum Klick brings back Music Fest MS virtually

To provide respite for all of us suffering from the quarantine blues and to raise funds for a cause near to his heart, OC alumnus Ben Klick is taking the successful Music Fest MS online this year.

The award-winning country music artist is teaming up with Singing Radio's New Country 100.7 and 103.1 to host the virtual concert starting at 1 p.m. on May 24. The second annual event will be held as a live stream on YouTube and will feature performances by Klick and artists Jess Moskalko, Aaron Goodwin and Carolyn Dawn Johnson. The event is one of many #WeCanChallengeMS initiatives happening across Canada during MS Awareness Month.

"In 2018, my dad was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, an auto-immune disease that attacks the central nervous system. When I got the news, I knew I wanted to do something to help, and that's where the idea for Music Fest MS came in. This year, I'm taking the festival online. It's a fun, positive, uplifting show and the community of local businesses and music fans are all coming together!" said Klick.

Last year's inaugural event raised more than \$35,000 toward the MS Society of Canada. To tune in, support or learn more visit www.benklick.com/musicfestms or www.wecanchallengems.ca.

Klick completed the Audio Engineering and Music Production program at OC in 2014, and was honoured with the Young Alumni award in 2017. He recently made headlines and went viral on social media and news of his new music video "Quarantine Blues" which you can watch [here](#).

Enactus Global Field Research Network opens doors for business pros and students

Okanagan College School of Business Professor Kyleen Myrah is bringing the global world of social enterprise one conversation closer as she joins the Enactus Global Faculty Research Network.

Elected in April, Myrah is one of fifteen members who will take part in the inaugural network, helping to promote collaborative research, and exploring opportunities that will allow faculty advisors from across the five global Enactus regions to showcase and share their work more frequently. Representing Canada and the only College within the elected list of post-secondary institutions and representatives coming as an exciting moment for Myrah.

"After years of being with Enactus, it's something new I can contribute. We have the chance to connect virtually, do research work together or comparative work and there's going to be opportunities without being face to face to connect with other people."

The inaugural was one of six faculty advisors chosen to present her research at the Enactus Academic Leaders Symposium at the Enactus World Cup in San Jose in October 2018. She was also one of two faculty advisors in Canada who helped create a newly developed Faculty Research Fund in coordination with Enactus Canada staff to encourage and fund research projects that advance and support Enactus OC operations on all four Okanagan College campuses, shaping student leaders and connecting them to social, economic and environmental projects within the community. The Fund's purpose is to fund research projects in Enactus Nationals and the final results will be showcased online on May 29. Learn more about Enactus [here](#).

Indigenous garden sprouts at the Penticon campus

On Tuesday, May 12, a number of employees at the Penticon campus took part in a socially-distanced planting session for a new indigenous garden in the Sunoka Courtyard.

"This space will be a great new space for students and staff to take some time and enjoy some of the beautiful plants and spaces the campus has to offer," said Regional Dean Eric Comeau.

"This was another step towards recognizing the importance of Indigenous culture and knowledge on our campus and at the College. Next steps will include some signage, naming the garden and installing a story pole currently being carved for the space by local Indigenous artist Les Louis. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to be part of this today."

Anthropology professor Beryl Amaron provided some guidance on the plants, placement and some of the write ups that were used for the Kelowna indigenous garden.

More information about the garden will be posted to the College's website soon and shared in College Matters.

notices

COVID-19 Recent Updates and News

Find the latest COVID-19 updates [here](#), along with links and resources for online learning, teaching and working, what to do if you are feeling ill, answers to frequently asked questions, availability and more.

View the archive of COVID-19 updates [here](#), including important recent messages:

- **May 8 - A message from OC President Jim Hamilton**

Federal and provincial news updates pertinent to students:

- **Province of British Columbia announces its Restart Plan for COVID-19**
- **BCampus launches COVID-19 site with resources for post-secondary students, faculty and staff**
- **Province of British Columbia extends the state of emergency to continue COVID-19 response**
- **Federal government removes the restriction that allows international students to be a maximum of 20 hours per week while classes are in session**

Connections 2020 – Save the Date

Even though we cannot connect in this summer, Okanagan College's annual employee conference will go ahead virtually. The committee is hard at work to finalize plans for the day and hopes to bring you an unforgettable event.

Connections is organized by employees for employees. It is about connecting with colleagues from different departments and campuses, and celebrating the strengths and diversity of the people who work here through interactive, social activities and fun informative workshops. This year that will happen in a virtual environment.

Connections committee chair Dean Warner says, "The organizing committee is very enthusiastic and excited to create an online event for employees to participate in. We hope all staff take the opportunity to log on and take part in Connections this year."

The event will be held (virtually) on **Tuesday, Aug. 25**. Name your attendees to watch inside OC and College Matters for more information and to register.

Add your voice to the 2020 OC Convocation video

Help us share positive messages for the graduating class of 2020!

Students, alumni, employees and friends of Okanagan College, we need your help! Like other colleges and universities, OC has had to make the difficult decision to postpone convocation and commencement ceremonies until later in the year.

However, we don't want to miss out on this important opportunity to recognize and celebrate our graduates. This spring, we're inviting you to submit:

- A short selfie video (cellphone quality is fine) message about your experience as a student: what are you most proud of, or a message of congratulations to graduates. Please keep the video short, about 20 seconds.
- Photos of your time on campus in your program.
- Name your video/photo file as First Name Last Name (i.e. Jane Smith)

We will be compiling all the videos and photos we receive into a video to share with graduates this summer, and also plan to play it at the ceremonies this fall.

If your file is too large to email, you can use [WeTransfer](#) to send any videos/photos to Michelle: stowe@okanagan.bc.ca Subject: Convocation 2020

Let's take this opportunity to celebrate and shout out the grad class of 2020. We can't wait to see your messages. Please send your videos and photos by **May 15, 2020**.

New bursaries and awards available to students

Okanagan College Foundation and Financial Aid and Awards are pleased to share that there is an additional \$140,000 in bursaries and awards available to students in 2020-21 thanks to the generosity of OC donors. These bursaries and awards are available to students enrolled in programs of Health, Business Administration and Trades. Details can be found [here](#) in a quick reference sheet. Please share this information with students as you see fit.

Note: Students can find bursary/award and criteria details and the application in the Financial Aid and Awards channel in their Okanagan.

Employee and Family Assistance program is available to help

The Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) can support employees and their eligible dependents. Here are some ways Lifeworks can help:

- 24/7 confidential access to professional support to help employees manage stress, anxiety, grief, financial concerns and more.
- Connect to support by phone, video or chat anytime, anywhere.
- Vast library of online resources for coping with trauma, building resiliency, self-care and managing change.
- COVID-19 webpage with links to resources such as self-isolation and caring for others.
- A Mental Health Week (May 4-10) webpage with links to the Canadian Mental Health Association website to bring greater awareness to our well-being.

More information is available on the [Lifeworks website](#).

- Username: okanagan
- Password: healthy
- Or by phone: 1-888-307-0590

Corporate Services, Digital Transformation Initiative update: External e-Signatures

Over the next few years, Corporate Services will be working on an initiative to digitally transform several administrative processes across the college, with the primary goal to: reduce overall back-end burden and improve user experience.

As a relatively small but significant part of the initiative, IT Services, Continuing Studies and Facilities & Business Services expedited the implementation of DocuSign to streamline external approvals of contracts and agreements. Subsequently, this will improve the overall user experience by decreasing turnaround time and reducing inefficiencies.

What do you need to know?

- Applies to external contracts only, Internal Contract will not be routed through DocuSign at this time.
- External contracts relate to the general operation at the College (i.e. service contracts, rental agreements, licensing, etc.)
- Contracts must be less than \$100,000 to route through DocuSign and in line with the Signing Authority Policy Number E1.11. Contracts over \$100,000 will still require wet physical signature.
- This will pertain to contracts typically handled via Facilities & Business Services and Continuing Studies.
- Corporate Services will continue to use the contract routing process and contract registry system.

Questions, comments or feedback? Please don't hesitate to [contact Natalie Hordichuk](#).

Avoiding Computer Vision Discomfort – JOHS Committee

Health consequences can result when we focus on computer screens, a stationary object, for extended periods of time. A temporary condition known as Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS) is the most common and may include symptoms such as headaches, dry or red eyes, blurred or double vision, neck pain and eye strain. Conditions like poor lighting, air conditioning or forced air, and bright lights may aggravate CVS.

Take care of your eyes by following the 20/20/20 rule – every 20 minutes, focus on an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds, to refresh your eyes and space to ensure it will lit, and seek professional advice if you are experiencing persistent symptoms.

Please continue to report work-related health or safety incidents to your supervisor if you are working from home, and use the health and safety incident reporting form: [Health & Safety Incident Report](#).

Reference: www.itsafetynow.com

Working on campus alone?

On behalf of Occupational Health and Safety

Just a reminder that for any employees working on campus in isolation, located in a low traffic area, and/or outside of regular business hours, please contact the security office for the campus by phone so they are aware of your presence. Work/study alone check-in, campus maps, security and emergency procedures are also available via the [OC Safe app](#).

Please send an email to your Regional Dean's office if you have any questions.

Access to OC facilities and services

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Okanagan College continues to operate and provide services remotely. Physical access to facilities is restricted in order to ensure social (physical) distancing and for the health and safety of all.

If you need to access facilities at any of our campuses, or have questions about how to access any services, please contact the Regional Dean office at your campus:

- Central Okanagan (Kelowna): 250-762-6445, ext. 4189
- South Okanagan-Simikameen (Penticton): 250-462-4305, ext. 3216
- North Okanagan (Vernon): 250-545-7291
- Shuswap-Revelstoke (Salmon Arm): 250-832-2126, ext. 8239

You can also check [here](#) to find out how to access all available services, including hours and contact information.

events

Public health announcement

Ongoing – Please refer to the College's [coronavirus page](#) for more information on events, updated regularly.

Online Wellness Wednesday Workshops for all OC students and employees

The Flourish Wellness Project is offering weekly Wellness Wednesday online workshops this spring, with a special focus on strategies to help you cope during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sarah Lefebvre, Counsellor in the Penticon campus, will lead the one-hour drop-in online workshops.

Workshop Schedule - Wednesdays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- May 13 – Time management in the time of COVID-19
- May 20 – Self-compassion in the time of COVID-19
- May 27 – Making room for emotions in challenging times

To attend any of these workshops, OC students and employees can self register for the Flourish Wellness Workshop Moodle. To do so, log into Moodle, click Site Home on the left and search for **Flourish**. If you have any problems, email Sarah [here](#).

Workshops are free for all Okanagan College students and employees on any campus. They are also drop-in, so attend as many or as few as you'd like, and please ensure you have paper and pen or marker with you for the workshop. Try to choose a quiet place in your home where you are less likely to be interrupted.

media

The Stober family donation of \$500,000 to the new Health Sciences Centre at the College's Kelowna campus through the Our Students, Your Health campaign was featured on **Global News, News AM1150, Castanet, Kelowna Capital News, Summerland Evening Lake Country Calendar and Okanagan Edge**.

KelownaNow featured Therapist Assistant diploma students Tenley Coelle and Zoe Dack who created the "T-glove" to increase an individual's grip strength and assist people with quadraplegia.

Okanagan College alumnus Drew Vincent's Stay at Home Gala was featured on **Global News**, having fundraised \$500,000 for Canadians affected by COVID-19.

Graham Momer is Gray Morn Estate Winery's Executive Chef of the Lockout Restaurant and an Okanagan College Culinary Arts program alum. In a piece by **The Province**, Momer explains his passion for locally inspired flavours and shares a few recipes at the same time.

Hockey Canada featured Jajo Tanaka-Campbell, C.J.H. Academic Player of the Year and his time spent in the classroom at Okanagan College. Tanaka-Campbell completed University Writing through the College and is set to attend and play at Yale University next year.

Myles Mattila was celebrated in the **Questnet Cariboo Observer** for his BC Achievement Community Award. Mattila is a student at the College's Kelowna campus and mental health advocate who started **MindRight**, a website for athletes seeking mental health guidance and resources. Mattila garnered the award for his "mental health advocacy, compassion awareness and civic engagement."

The **Questnet Cariboo Observer** also featured 21-year-old Const. Joshua Clark, who studied Criminal and Social Justice at Okanagan College and is now the newest and youngest member of the **Questnet RCMP**.

Okanagan College is providing help with the production of 3D-printing for face shields alongside UBC Okanagan, the Okanagan Regional Library and a variety of local companies, mentioned in **Castanet**.

The College's upcoming virtual information sessions along with the \$5,000 tuition giveaway was featured on **Castanet** and in the **Daily Courier**.

The **Daily Courier** and **Penticon Herald** featured the Postcard Project, a fundraising initiative created by an OC staff member to support funds for the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Audio Engineering and Music Production students Noah Poteau and Logan Laroque were featured in the **Daily Courier** and the **Penticon Herald**, sharing about their time in the program and the release of their new EP.

OkanaganWeekend profiled show musician Ben Klick and his upcoming online charity fundraising for MS. The stream will be available via YouTube on May 24 at 1 p.m.

Operator Digest featured Katie Roeynders, an Okanagan College alumna from the Water Engineering Technology program and her work as a water operator.

Annual Protest Poster Party held at the Salmon Arm Art Gallery featuring posters made by Okanagan College Salmon Arm students was featured in the **Kelowna Capital News** and the **Simikameen Act Observer**. The workshop, previously held earlier in the semester, gave students a chance to design and create their own protest posters.

Kara Kazimer's return for a 12th year as the Okanagan College Alumni Association president was highlighted in the **Kelowna Capital News** and the **Penticon Herald**.

Okanagan College School of Business alumna Jillian Haller was featured in the **Kelowna Capital News** as part of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce's 40 Under 40.

The Haircuts for Health Care campaign was featured in the **Simikameen Act Observer**, including Regional Director Okanagan of IG Wealth Management Brett Millard who let his son cut his hair.

Justin J. Moore, a student at the College's Kelowna campus, was featured in the **Penticon Western News** and the **Salmon Arm Observer** for his viral duet sung with his dad.

College professor Jim Nastos recently published in the **European Journal of Marketing**, featuring work on Social Network Analysis within the B.C. wine industry.

Sociology professor Xiaoping Li was consulted and quoted on **CFR News**, for a story on the polarizing newspaper, The Epoch Times.

The **Revelstoke Review** featured the College's Continuing Education classes on a Discover Revelstoke piece, noting the variety of programs offered through the Revelstoke Centre.

Josh Guenther is the latest recruit to the Coyotes' men's basketball roster and was featured in **Prince Rupert Now**.

Dr. Tim Walters, professor at the College's Salmon Arm campus and football commentator, was a guest on the **Summerland Evening Lake Country** discussing the return of football in light of COVID-19. Walters also wrote a piece on the English Premier League and its response to the ongoing pandemic, which was published on **Sport Intelligence** and **Sport Integrity Initiative**.

feedback

Do you have comments, questions or a submission for INSIDE OKANAGAN COLLEGE? Please email Public Affairs c/o Katie.Maryschuk.

To ensure the best chance for your submission to be included, please send all details at least one day in advance of the newsletter's publication.

The next edition of INSIDE OKANAGAN COLLEGE will be issued on May 26, 2020.