BGSS NEWS

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Coffee Corners

Presenting Melissa Fedderson!

Come join us on zoom to meet the well-being specialist and to talk all things health and wellness.

Time: December 10 at 3pm.

Trivia Nights

Come join us on Discord to test your general knowledge and compete with friends. (discord.gg/Hh2SW6g)

Time: December 5 & 19 at 6:30pm.

Game Nights

Ready to let off some steam and just have a blast? Join us for game nights. Featured games include: Among Us & The Jackbox Party Pack.

Time: December 11 at 6:30pm.

Movie Mondays

Netflix Christmas movie party! Join us on discord to get cozy and kickoff the holiday season with all the classics.

Time: December 7, 14 & 21

What's new?

BGSS

Just like you, the Biology Graduate Student Society is working hard to navigate these uncertain times following the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to bring you as much virtual joy and comfort as possible. Our hard-working team of executives has many fun activities planned for this month and much more upcoming this year!

We look forward to getting to know you all, and we wish you the happiest of holidays.

Monthly Event Highlight

Online Virtual Escape Room

Everybody loves a good escape room challenge. The BGSS will be hosting a virtual event December 12-14. Keep an eye out for the sign-up email!

Student Spotlight

Chris Setzke

Originally from Wisconsin, USA, Chris graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is now in the Russello lab studying population genomics of Kokanee salmon.

Fun Facts about Chris:

- Favorite Spot in Kelowna: Mission Creek Greenway
- Quote that best describes graduate school: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts" - Winston Churchill
- Favorite Musician/Band: The Beatles
- Favorite book: *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee

If Chris wasn't in graduate school right now, he would be a rockstar making music.

Follow BGSS on social media, or subscribe to our emails to read more about Chris!

UBCO Campus

Nobel Night

Join a prestigious panel of UBC Okanagan professors in diving into discussion of the 2020 Nobel prizes and their impacts on the world.
Time: December 10 at 7pm

Dream Appreciation

Curious about the meaning of dreams? Join UBCO's health and wellness centre in learning about, and appreciating, your dreams.
Time: November 5-December 10 at 6pm

Online Writing Community

Do you love to get creative? Join a weekly Online Writing Community to write together with other members of UBCO including undergraduate students, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty.
Time: December 8 at 1-3pm

Be sure to register for these virtual events via events.ok.ubc.ca

Research

Jacqueline A. Barnett - Biochemistry & Molecular Biology PhD student

Gibson Laboratory - Center for Microbiome and Inflammatory Disease Research

Is gluten really to blame?

A recent review published by the Gibson laboratory looks into increased Western diet trends and its effect on various diseases. The Western diet's high-fat and carbohydrate composition can be attributed to increased technology and ever-changing industrial farming methods. Current beliefs point to wheat-derived gluten as the culprit for illnesses such as celiac disease. However as the Gibson lab concludes, glyphosate—the active ingredient in commercial herbicides is really to blame.

Article: *Separating the empirical wheat from pseudoscientific chaff: a critical review of the literature surrounding glyphosate, dysbiosis, and wheat-sensitivity*

Bruno Carturan - Biology, Earth & Environmental Sciences PhD student

Pither Laboratory - Biodiversity and Landscape Ecology Research Facility

Virtual experiments on coral reefs.

As the world's climate continues to change, coral reef ecosystems have been a major point of concern. Changes in coral coverage and species composition are affecting communities world-wide. To date, major questions, such as species diversity and coral resistance and recovery, have remained poorly understood. Physical experiments face a range of challenges, thus relying on the use of virtual experiments. Researchers in the Pither laboratory created a novel model to simulate the effects of coral species richness and functional diversity on the ecosystem.

Article: *Combining agent-based, trait-based and demographic approaches to model coral-community dynamics*