

# BGSS NEWS



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## Coffee Corners

### Presenting Melissa Fedderson!

Looking for stress management techniques? Come join us on zoom to chat with the well-being specialist.

*Time: February 3 at 3:30pm.*

### Presenting Karen Hodges!

Join our coffee corner to learn how to prepare and improve you research proposals and papers!

*Time: February 10 at 1pm.*

## Trivia Nights

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

*Time: February 4 & 18 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: February 10 & 24 at 6:30pm.*



## 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 an amazing term.

### Monthly Event Highlight

#### Online Murder Mystery

Do you like to solve mysteries?. The BGSS will be hosting a virtual game December 12-14. Keep an eye out for the sign-up email!



## Student Spotlight

### Sarah Lu Chang

Originally from California, USA, Sarah graduated from UCLA. She is now in the Russello lab designing novel genomic panels for use in Kokanee salmon conservation.

Fun Facts about Sarah:

- Favorite Spot in Kelowna: A secret downtown location where she can hammock in the summer and read a good book
- Quote that best describes graduate school: "There was a point to this story, but it has temporarily escaped the chronicler's mind" - Douglas Adams
- Favorite Musician/Band: Muse (for their killer bassist & gritty sound)
- Favorite book: *The Third Plate, Field Notes on the Future of Food*

If Sarah wasn't in graduate school right now, she would be an engineer, coding away.

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

## UBCO Campus

### Living Things Festival 2021: The Collective Body

Enjoy the fifth annual Living Things Festival! This year's festival will employ dancers and musicians from all across North America.

*Time: January 10 at 5pm - January 30 at 9pm*

### Ergo Your Posture

Practice resetting your posture with 15 minutes of exercises and stretches. (We all need it).

*Time: February 1 at 10am - March 31 at 10 am*

### 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](https://events.ok.ubc.ca)*





Jacqueline A. Barnett -  
Biochemistry & Molecular  
Biology PhD student



Bruno Carturan -  
Biology, Earth & Environmental  
Sciences PhD student

## Research

### 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*

### 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*