

**25 Year Club Celebration**

**Monday, October 16, 2023**

**Citations for New Inductees**

## **Arts Co-op Program, JULIE WALCHLI**

Julie is a visionary leader and educator, recognized at UBC and internationally, who has helped thousands of students in the Arts to meaningfully connect their studies to their potential professions through experiential learning. Julie played a key role in the development and expansion of the Arts Co-op program and now as Director of Work Integrated Learning, continues to create innovative and supportive student experiences.

She is a collaborative innovator and mentor who has also created new opportunities for staff, faculty, and community partners, inviting them to contribute to imagining new ways to meet the needs of Arts students and extending their own personal and professional development.

Julie is a runner whose hobbies include cooking, wine, meditation, and reading; more recently, she's taken up horse-back riding.

Julie's (first!) 25 years have been transformative for the Faculty of Arts, and we are lucky to have her.

Please join me in congratulating Julie on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Athletics & Recreation, MICHAEL MOSHER**

Mike joined UBC athletics in 1996 as Head Coach, Men's soccer. He has since won 11 Canada West Championships, as well as one bronze, five silver, and four national championships, making the UBC Soccer program one of the most decorated in the country. Additionally, Mike has won 3 CanadaWest and 1 USPORTS Coach of the Year honors.

In addition to building a dominant soccer program, Mike loves spending time with his wife, Mary, and three children. He spends days off at the Golf course and is always good for a Seinfeld or Simpsons one-liner to make those around him smile.

While Mike will always be known for his contribution to Varsity Athletics, he contributes to programming that spans far beyond his roster each year. An advocate for the power of sport at any level, Mike has developed hundreds of leaders who are connected to and give back soccer and UBC.

Please join me in congratulating Mike on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Biomedical Branch Library, YUKO TAKEMOTO**

Yuko started her career at Continuing Studies in 1997 as a Japanese Language Instructor, and then began her library career at Asian Library, later joining the Biomedical Branch in 2004. After a term at the Education Library in 2009-10, Yuko returned to Biomedical Branch Library where she served as the Senior Library Circulation Supervisor.

Yuko is known for her calm manner, and kindness as well as her strong public service skills. Yuko has mentored many staff, colleagues and students during her career, and extended her skills to others by volunteering with the Girl Guides of Canada.

Yuko is known to commute to UBC by bicycle, even during rainstorms (and some snowstorms)! Her hobbies include skiing and baking. Yuko's retirement will leave an empty space that will be difficult to fill.

Please join me in congratulating Yuko on achieving 25 years of service

## **Department of Botany, JARNAIL CHANDI**

Jarnail joined UBC in 1988, working until 1989 as a Research Assistant in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In 1991, he joined the Botany Department as technician in a research lab. After some time away from the university working in the private sector, Jarnail rejoined the Botany Department in 2002 as a research lab teaching technician, supporting the plant physiology labs in the Biology program. In this role, he has supported a number of different courses and instructors and thousands of students.

He has been an important member of both the Botany department and the Biology program communities, contributing his expertise in different ways, for example he served on the department safety team from 2011 to 2016.

In 2012, Jarnail was recognized for his work with the President's Service Award for Excellence.

Jarnail holds a BSc in Medical Biochemistry from the University of Birmingham.

Please join me in congratulating Jarnail on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Campus & Community Planning, AJAY PRASAD**

Ajay started with the University of British Columbia in 1998 and worked in the Building Operations department as a service center coordinator.

In 2011, he moved to Campus and Community Planning as a compliance officer, carrying out regulatory compliance work on both the institutional areas and the neighborhoods. This meant collaborating with UBC Project Services, facilities managers, UBC Student housing, UBC Properties Trust, UBC Village Gate homes, UNA, stakeholders, strata councils and construction firms to ensure regulatory compliance with laws, policies regulations and bylaws.

Ajay provides seamless and exemplary service to UBC clients and the public. He is highly respected by coworkers throughout his career.

Blessed with a wonderful family of a son and daughter, both married in the last year and expecting grandchildren this Christmas. He loves golfing and travelling.

Please join me in congratulating Ajay on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Campus & Community Planning, NENA VUKOJEVIC**

Nena joined Campus and Community Planning in 1998 and continues to play an important role as part of Planning and Design's urban design team. Nena is a natural problem solver and brings a keen curiosity to all her work to ensure applicable planning, sustainability, and other policies are reflected in new capital projects. As a resident on campus, she has seen sweeping changes over the years and is proud to have contributed to many, including the Nest, Alumni Centre, Aquatic Centre and the wayfinding system we all interact with. Nena is a lifelong learner, continually building on her formal education in architecture and urban planning.

Nena is generous with her friends and colleagues and savours her time with her daughter, Kaća. She loves cooking and volunteers with new immigrants drawing from her own experience as a war survivor.

Please join me in congratulating Nena on achieving 25 years of service

## **Campus Security, GORDIE CHOW**

Throughout his illustrious tenure, Gordie has distinguished himself through his unparalleled technical knowledge and an unwavering dedication to high-quality workmanship. His ability to respond to clients with remarkable timeliness and his relentless pursuit of long-term serviceability have made him a true asset to the institution.

For the past 13 years, Gordie has served as the team lead of the security technicians, where his leadership has flourished. He has consistently demonstrated an insistence on the highest standards, setting a benchmark for his peers to follow.

Gordie's legacy at UBC is one of dedication, expertise, and leadership. His long years of service are a testament to his unwavering commitment to the institution's mission and values. We congratulate him on this well-deserved honor and look forward to witnessing his continued growth in his leadership capacity.

Please join me in congratulating Gordie on achieving 25 years of service.



## **Centre for Teaching, Learning & Technology, JEFF MILLER**

Jeff has had a rich and varied work history at UBC. As a person, he is valued and appreciated for his kindness, willingness to listen, and wicked sense of fun (Halloween parties – legend!). As a professional, he has experienced and advanced transformative learning from all sides – as a learner, instructional designer, sessional instructor and (gulp!) administrator, advancing UBC’s strategic priorities in areas such as Flexible Learning and the Teaching & Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF). Throughout, he has placed the learner at the centre, maintaining a grassroots approach to his work, while meaningfully advancing UBC’s priorities. He is a consummate collaborator.

Jeff’s creativity extends to his personal interests which include cooking (but not baking sourdough), photography and astronomy. He loves spending time camping in his VW van with his life partner and son, telescopes, cameras and an Apple product or two in tow.

Please join me in congratulating Jeff on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Department of Chemistry, BRIAN DITCHBURN**

We celebrate 25 years of Brian's unparalleled exceptional artistry in scientific glass blowing. Researchers working on synthetic chemistry projects rely on Brian's expertise in fabricating safe functional glassware. Brian's passion shines through as he molds the glass, and his kindness warms us just as the flame he skillfully manipulates. Through every twist and turn, his dedication to the craft has remained unwavering.

Outside the workshop, Brian immerses himself in fantastical realms, drawing inspiration from literary masterpieces like 'Lord of the Rings.' His love for such tales is a testament to his boundless imagination, which he brings to life in both the stories he cherishes and the glass he crafts. Here's to a quarter-century of brilliance, dedication, and a touch of steadfastness. We're fortunate to have witnessed his journey.

Please join me in congratulating Brian on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Continuing Professional Development, CRISTINA POW**

Cristina earned a Bachelor of Arts in Language Education from the University of Celso Lisboa, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, before moving to Vancouver where she studied accounting at BCIT.

Cristina began her UBC career with the Faculty of Medicine in 1998 and started with UBC CPD a year later. One of CPD's longest-running team members, Cristina is regarded as having been foundational to the success and growth of the CPD unit, influencing many of the procedures that the team relies on.

Known by colleagues for her positive spirit and exceptional work ethic, Cristina will be dearly missed when she retires from her role as Office Manager later this year, when she'll spend more time on active adventures as an avid cyclist, skier and hiker.

Please join me in congratulating Cristina on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Counselling Services, KIRK BECK**

Dr. Kirk Beck is Associate Director, Training and a registered Psychologist at UBC Counselling services. Kirk has had a distinguished career at UBC, arriving at the Counselling centre in 1997 as a PhD student Intern in psychology and, as he likes to say, never left!

Kirk has made a tremendous contribution to UBC through his leadership role in student Health and Wellbeing. As the director of training, he was commended during a recent site visit by the Canadian Psychological Association accreditation panel for developing one of Canada's top internship programs, with words like "exceptional, innovative, and groundbreaking."

A colleague described his leadership style perfectly, saying "I have never left Kirk's office without having been made aware of my strengths." Kirk also organizes our annual staff gift exchange game and it is hard to know whether to pay attention to the gifts being opened or to his entertaining wit!

Please join me in congratulating Kirk on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Development & Alumni Engagement, RON FONG**

We celebrate Ron's remarkable 25-year journey with UBC, which began in 1999.

For the past six years, Ron has been an invaluable member of the donation processing team, demonstrating precision, composure, meticulous attention to detail, and an added bonus—a great wit and sense of humor. His dedication to his role is truly commendable, as is his ability to infuse the workplace with levity and laughter.

But Ron is not just an exemplary colleague with a quick sense of humor; he is also known for his kindness and warm-heartedness, brightening our workplace with his genuine care for others. His thoughtful gestures and willingness to lend a helping hand have left an indelible mark on our UBC community.

Heartfelt congratulations to Ron for his outstanding 25 years of service, and we eagerly look forward to many more years of his exemplary presence at UBC.

Please join me in congratulating Ron on achieving 25 years of service.

## **English Language Institute, TAMI MOFFATT**

Tami is originally from Nova Scotia, a place very close to her heart. She has taught a broad range of courses and hundreds of students, always with great professionalism. Tami loves to travel and lived and taught in Quebec, Japan and Nigeria and studied Japanese. She was Head Instructor for Student Assessment and played a key role in training instructors to teach online.

Tami is a talented educator and inspires her students to be the best they can be. She's warm and caring and her teaching style keeps students motivated and successful in their learning.

When she's not teaching at the ELI, you can find Tami on the ski slopes at Whistler where she has been teaching skiing for the past 25 years. In warmer days, she is out on her boat exploring the local waters. Tami has a tremendous amount of energy and is always ready for a party!

Please join me in congratulating Tami on achieving 25 years of service.

## **English Language Institute, ALI PAHLAVANLU**

Ali is from a small town in northeastern Iran and immigrated to Canada after studying in the US. His career at UBC started with teaching in the area of Intercultural Communication and then moved to the English Language Institute where he has been teaching many different courses and held a Head Instructor position in Student Advising. Ali is a very warm, kind and talented educator who deeply cares about the success of his students.

As a political activist, Ali has supported freedom and human rights and plans to write in retirement reflecting on his life journey and introducing modern Persian literature to Canadians through translation of literary masterpieces. His first book was a translation of *The Crucible* into Persian!

You can often find Ali in his garden or at garage sales and he and his wife Zara have been gracious hosts serving exquisite meals to his very appreciative colleagues.

Please join me in congratulating Ali on achieving 25 years of service.

## **English Language Institute, MANJIT PAWA**

Manjit has taken on many teaching and academic management roles since she started working at the English Language Institute and she has completed all of them with a high degree of professionalism and commitment. She is diligent and dedicated, and as an educator, creates inclusive engaging spaces and a culture of belonging. Manjit has shown strong leadership in the area of curriculum and teacher development and is a very caring, skilled and inspiring teacher. She always rises to the challenge when taking on new tasks and values her colleagues for creating a fun respectful workplace for teaching and learning.

Manjit has built a love for travel and other cultures, enjoys good food and even better company. She says that her greatest achievement is raising her family with love and laughter and will always be grateful for the unwavering support of her colleagues, her husband Vik and children Raya and Raazik.

Please join me in congratulating Manjit on achieving 25 years of service.



## **English Language Institute, BARBARA TAYLOR**

Barb is an expert in the teaching of English for Academic purposes and has introduced innovative teaching methods to great success. She has worked on curriculum development projects, as Head Instructor for Student Assessment and she also served as union president. Barb has taught pretty much every course at the ELI and is always adapting her courses to meeting the needs of her students. The students are inspired by her energy, enthusiasm and dynamic teaching style and over the years she's developed life-long friendships with her students.

Barb's great sense of humour and has kept her colleagues entertained over the years!

She is the quintessential west coaster who loves being outdoors – hiking or kayaking. She gardens, loves to cook and says she is starting to figure out mushrooms and mushroom foraging. Barb is happiest when surrounded by music, her husband of 30 years Greg, and their two boys Alec and Quin.

Please join me in congratulating Barb on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Enrolment Services, BRENDA ROOKE**

Brenda is a valued member of the Scheduling Records and Systems Management team. She began her career with UBC in May 1998 supporting students with tuition inquiries and payments in the Financial Services Department in the Registrar's Office. In 1999, she joined Records and Registration where she assisted students at the beginning of their academic journey.

She became the Graduation Coordinator in 2003, where she continued her dedication to support students but this time at the end of their academic journey.

She plays an integral part in the graduation process and goes above and beyond to support students, staff, and faculty. Her office is responsible for diploma and certificate production, building the graduation schedule, processing applications, setting processional order, and answering various student inquiries and requests.

In her 20 years as graduation coordinator, she has been to over 600 ceremonies and has celebrated over 200,000 graduates through the Spring and Fall and navigated through virtual ceremonies in 2020 and 2021. Her knowledge and high standards for diploma and certificate details are recognized by all.

Please join me in congratulating Brenda on her 25 years of service of great work and achievements.

## **Faculty of Arts, Dean's Office, KATHRYN STAGG**

Kathryn is unique, gifted, funny, so very hard working and a fantastic Director of Human Resources for the Faculty of Arts since 2019. She has had a long and varied career at UBC (Workday has prevented us from finding all the units she has graced). She was one of the first HR Specialists to be “embedded” within a faculty and the central HR team at the same time. We cannot put into words how positively impactful her HR team in the Arts Service Centre has been to the Faculty of Arts.

For the Gin drinkers in the audience, Kathryn is a connoisseur of said beverage and we know she would be delighted to share her top picks, either verbally or in demonstration. She is also an excellent baker.

Please join me in congratulating Kathryn on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dean's Office, NICK RIZZO**

Nick first joined the UBC Library and spent 20 years there; initially part-time at Woodward Library, but soon became full time at Education Library. He joined the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in January 2019.

Nick has tremendous organizational skills, and he puts them to work quietly and efficiently. He always has information ready and responds quickly and supportively to all enquiries, gently guiding students through submission of their theses and sharing their triumphs when they finally complete their programs.

Outside UBC Nick enjoys many hobbies: photography, reading, music, going to live concerts, occasionally dabbling in playing the guitar and drums, playing Euro-style board games, and playing ever-more complex computer role-playing games. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Angela, and is extremely proud of his son Nathan.

Grad Studies greatly values Nick's contributions and hopes he will stay another 25 years!

Please join me in congratulating Nick on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty of Land & Food Systems, BARBARA HSIAO**

UBC is fortunate to call Barbara a 25-year employee – with 20 of those years in LFS, as the Director of HR and Administration since 2008, and People Relations Manager since 2003. Prior to LFS, after graduating from UBC, Barbara started her UBC career as a temp for Limited Time Only, UBC's on-site temp agency!

As the first person many people meet when they join the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, Barbara Hsiao does an outstanding job of showcasing their workplace culture right from the start. She demonstrates how to create an environment that is inclusive, appreciative and values the wellbeing of its employees. Barbara has taken the lead in building their workplace culture by supporting recruitment efforts, providing strategic HR advice, and spearheading wellbeing initiatives, involving the United Way Campaign, Heart and Stroke Big Bike, Walk for Joy and Vancouver Sun Run. In 2019, Barbara was awarded the President's Staff Award for Wellbeing.

Please join me in congratulating Barbara on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty of Land & Food Systems, EDMUND SEOW**

Edmund joined the Faculty of Agriculture in 1998 in the IT group. During the 25 years he's been with the faculty, it became Land and Food Systems, and Edmund rose from the IT group to become the Manager of the Learning Centre. Over that time, Edmund has provided exemplary leadership and support for faculty, staff, and students. A colleague fondly recalls the first time they met Edmund in the late 1990s, when they were a graduate student, owned a laptop with a floppy drive, and needed to figure out how to dial-up to the internet from their research site.

Fast forward to 2016, when Edmund was awarded the Faculty's Staff Service Award. Edmund continues to solve their IT-related challenges to this day.

In addition to being an IT guru, Edmund is a tai chi aficionado, and an avid gardener.

Please join me in congratulating Edmund on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty of Land & Food Systems, RACHEL TOYEN**

Rachel has made a significant impact on the UBC community across her 25 years of service, learning from, leading, and inspiring others. As a member of the International Student Initiative (ISI), Rachel established and sustained strong relationships with counsellors, students, and colleagues and was instrumental in raising UBC's profile and reputation as a destination university. As an IRP Project Manager, she is strategically leading teams through significant change with humour, empathy, and thoughtfulness.

Rachel holds both herself and others to a high standard of excellence, which has contributed to the transformative work experience and personal growth of others. Whether in a formal or informal mentorship role, Rachel approaches collaboration with colleagues with curiosity and is someone others want to work with. She is a trusted and exemplary colleague whose impact is felt by the many of us across campus who have been lucky enough to work with her.

Please join me in congratulating Rachel on achieving 25 years of service.

**Faculty of Land & Food Systems, Dean's Office, REBECCA LEE**

Rebecca joined the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, as Dean's Office Coordinator in 1998. Rebecca is exceptional at her job and is always eager to help faculty, staff and students in the Dean's Office. She is pleasant, helpful and organized. She manages the Dean's calendar well, which is no small task, as well as organizing lunches, meetings and countless other events.

Rebecca loves cooking, baking, travelling and spending time with her family. She loves going down to Portland most every summer, to enjoy good food and shopping. She and her husband are proud of their two adult children who both graduated from UBC. Rebecca, the Faculty of Land and Food Systems will be forever grateful that you joined them!

Please join me in congratulating Rebecca on achieving 25 years of service.



## **Faculty of Medicine, CAROLINE D'Sa**

Caroline emigrated to Canada with her family in 1997 and joined UBC shortly thereafter. In 2010, Caroline joined the Medical Undergraduate Program where she serves as the first and main point of contact for medical students at Richmond Hospital.

During Caroline's tenure, she has worked diligently to build strong relationships between UBC & Richmond Hospital. The program would not be the same without her efforts.

Caroline has a wonderful husband of almost 34 years, two grown children, and a beloved 12-year-old dog. She loves being outdoors hiking and biking and travelling the world. Her initiative and independence can be seen in her community farm where she grows food for her family and community. She hopes to someday self-sustain on her harvests. As well she volunteers for several organizations in the Lower mainland.

Please join me in congratulating Caroline on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty of Medicine, JENNIFER GOLINSKI**

Throughout her time with the Faculty of Medicine (from Program Manager to Senior Director), Jennifer has exemplified a leader that embraces UBC's values and who is humble, authentic and passionate about delivering high quality medical education for the province. She invests her time in people, inspires teams to build an environment that fosters equity, diversity, and inclusion and empowers leaders with unwavering mentorship, enabling innovative results.

Jennifer loves taking on new sports (skiing, snowboarding, downhill-biking, surfing, paddle-boarding, trail-running, climbing) and volunteers with North Shore Rescue. When she is not championing strategic education priorities, she is completing 50k ultra marathons, raising funds through the Grouse Multi-grind Event (in 2023 completed 15 grinds in 18hr), and placing 1st female or overall winner for the Peak Bagger Challenge.

Her commitment and relentless motivation to excel in her interests translates through to her dedication to the Faculty of Medicine's vision of transforming health for everyone.

Please join me in congratulating Jennifer on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty of Science, Dean's Office, LAURA DE VINCENZI**

Laura started at UBC in 1992 at the Registrar's Office, supporting students on the Telereg phone line. In 1995, Laura left UBC for the Tuscan city of Lucca, Italy, to get married. In 2001, she returned to Vancouver and UBC, this time in a student services role in the Faculty of Science Dean's Office.

Laura's commitment to undergraduate students has been a career long devotion. In her time with the Faculty, she has supported 30, 000 students in achieving a Science bachelor's degree.

She lives in the same neighbourhood where she grew up, a block away from her childhood home, where her mum still lives. Laura and Saverio are the proud parents of Gabriele and Gianluca. During the pandemic, they adopted their cat, Gigio, the "King of the castle".

Science is thankful for her tireless commitment to excellence for students and for sharing Italian heritage with them.

Please join me in congratulating Laura on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty Relations, CHRISTINE PICKERING**

Christine is an important member of the Faculty Relations team. Joining UBC and Faculty Relations in February 1998, she moved from Administrative Secretary to her present role of Assistant Manager. On a daily basis, she connects with people across UBC helping with their questions and providing guidance regarding faculty appointments. Christine also provides valuable support to the University's Senior Appointment Committee. She is the team's resident expert in all things Sessional Lecturer related and they couldn't navigate the complex world of those appointments without her! Christine shares her deep experience and expertise generously with her Faculty Relations colleagues and provides a valuable perspective in their complex work.

Outside of work, Christine can often be found passionately engaged in photography. Another of Christine's passions is travelling to and exploring New York City, which she tries to do as often as possible.

Please join me in congratulating Christine on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty of Forestry, Dean's Office, LEE YUPITUN**

We spend a majority of our waking hours at work, and our colleagues are our everyday. The day to day is where friendships are built; shared life experience, a listening ear, shared joys and commiserations. Lee exemplifies all these things, but above all, Lee is kind (a simple word, but one of significance). Lee is a rememberer of names, of personal stories, of major life events, a certified Associate Coach and a steadfast encourager of students. She could also sell your house (though her real estate license may have lapsed)! All testament to the fact that Lee is a lifelong learner, and we are the beneficiaries.

Time undeniably shapes us, and today we celebrate Lee, who for over 25 years has done just that - shaped the colleagues and students in the faculties privileged enough to have her. Lee, your colleagues are thankful for you, and all you bring to their every day.

Please join me in congratulating Lee on achieving 25 years of service.

## **ICORD, JIE LIU**

Dr. Liu came to Canada from Shanghai, China, in 1996, and got a position working in the laboratory of Dr. Tom Zwimpfer. In 1998, Dr. Zwimpfer closed his lab and Jie learned about an opening in Dr. Wolfram Tetzlaff's lab, and he happily worked in the Tetzlaff Lab until his retirement earlier this year.

Jie is kind, dedicated, patient, and highly skilled at his vocation. With his background in hand and nerve surgery, his surgical skills have been invaluable to a vast array of projects at ICORD, and he has assisted more than 40 postdoctoral fellows and graduate students on countless projects during his time here. In addition to his work in the Tetzlaff Lab, he was also instrumental with projects for Drs. Tom Oxland, Brian Kwon, Jane Roskams, Matt Ramer, Piotr Kozlowski, amongst others. He's especially enjoyed working on projects that challenged his knowledge and skills.

Please join me in congratulating Jie on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Institute for the Oceans & Fisheries, NEIL MACLEAN**

Neil Maclean joined the hallowed halls of the University of British Columbia as a Clinical Skills Coordinator for the Faculty of Medicine in 1998, moving from Simon Fraser University. Since then, he has moved through various faculties and central units, sharing his wisdom and dedication. He was Manager of Administration for Mechanical Engineering, before becoming Director of Administration for the Faculty of Applied Science from 2000 to 2014. After that he worked in UBC Human Resources as a Project Manager for Orientation & Onboarding. He has been Manager, Administration & Operations, for the Faculty of Science's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries since 2017. Neil also led the Workday implementation efforts for the HR stream in the Faculty of Science, including facilitation of faculty-wide problem-solving sessions after Go-Live. The Institute is very happy to have him leading our administration and congratulate him on 25 years.

Please join me in congratulating Neil on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Integrated Service Centre, TOMOKO KIMURA**

Tomoko joined UBC in 1998, beginning in Hiring Solutions (Staff Finders) before transitioning to the Payroll Operations and then to the Human Resources team, where she became an expert in HRMS systems. In her 25-year journey at UBC, she's grown immensely, contributing significantly to the Workday Implementation and currently holding a crucial role in the Workday Reporting Team within ISC.

Tomoko's personality is a cornerstone of her workplace; her humility and caring nature create a comfortable environment for all. She brings joy by sharing candies, cookies, and cakes with the team weekly.

Outside of work, Tomoko stays active, cycling, playing tennis, and conquering the Wreck Beach stairs. Impressively, she's completed the Wreck Beach stairs climb six times in one go! She's also a dedicated mother to her daughters, Emma and Mei, passionately supporting their artistic pursuits.

Her commitment to learning and unwavering dedication has left an indelible mark on our organization.

Please join me in congratulating Tomoko on achieving 25 years of service.



## **Department of Materials Engineering, WESLEY WONG**

Wes joined Materials Engineering as Storekeeper in 2021 after spending four and a half years in the Department of Botany. He is an integral part of the department and is always there to assist faculty, students and staff with obtaining important research materials.

In 2015 Wes co-formed a STEM based non-profit named The Open Science Network Society which runs a community science lab and community events. They have run events at Granville Island, Robson Square, New Westminster Quay and Britannia Community Centre. In 2022 and 2023 he co-chaired UBC's Science Rendezvous event which had over 2000 visitors in 2023. Pre-Covid, he was also running STEM Mentoring Cafes, which were an opportunity for middle and high school students to interact with STEM professionals in a speed dating style format.

His department feels lucky to have Wes working with them and wishes him all the best on his next 25 years!

Please join me in congratulating Wes on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Department of Medical Genetics, SHELIN ADAM**

Shelin Adam is a research genetic counsellor who has worked in the UBC Department of Medical Genetics for 25 years. She grew up in Richmond and subsequently earned a B.Sc. in Genetics and an M.Sc. in Genetic Counselling from McGill University.

Her research focuses on the clinical use of new genomic technologies. She is interested in understanding the best ways to provide education, decision support, and genetic counselling to families who are being offered genome-wide sequencing and in helping physicians and other health professionals to understand genetic testing and its implications.

Shelin is a skilled genetic counsellor, a very effective researcher, and a wonderful teacher, but "people skills" are her greatest talent. She works effectively with even our most "high maintenance" colleagues and students, and she wins the prize for the most hugs from people she knows when she goes into any hospital in the province.

Please join me in congratulating Shelin on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Michael Smith Laboratories, KYUNG BOK CHOI**

Kyung Bok Choi, or KB as he is commonly referred to, works as a senior research technician in Professor Wilf Jefferies' lab in the Michael Smith Laboratories. It was evident right from the start that he would become an integral part of the lab.

He has been a cherished mentor to over 50 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and hundreds of undergraduates within the lab, expounding advice with wisdom and patience, whom everyone goes to for help.

He has been a co-author on 16 journal articles from the lab, with more to come, and he has worked on many different projects over the years, ranging from Alzheimer's disease, cancer therapeutics, vaccines, and more.

We have been especially privileged and honoured to have worked alongside him for 25 years now, and hope to continue doing so for many more years!

Please join me in congratulating Kyung on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty of Dentistry, LEILANI PANTONIAL**

Leilani is someone who is a helpful, consistent, and calm presence in our busy dental clinic. She is always prepared to jump in and help to plan special events for colleagues, such as birthday and good-bye parties that truly make people feel special.

Outside of work, Leilani loves spending quality time with family and friends, travelling most of the summer to her favorite get-a-ways around town and enjoying nature.

She enjoys cooking and baking, watching ball games, and movies. She likes to stay fit and active, taking long walks in the park every day and attend group exercises and dance lessons on weekends.

Leilani, we're so privileged that you are a part of the Faculty of Dentistry.

Please join me in congratulating Leilani on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Office of the Chief Information Officer, JUN YAN**

Arriving in Vancouver as a new immigrant in 1998, Jun began his full-time career with UBC that same year after accepting a Programmer/Analyst role with the UBC Faculty of Dentistry where he remains a valued team member. Before immigrating, Jun worked for eight years at a university in China and was grateful to start his Canadian journey in an academic environment.

For those who have worked with Jun over the years, you will be familiar with his positive attitude and respect for people. He is a team player, willing to share ideas and listen thoughtfully to others.

Running, playing tennis, hiking with family members (his wife and two daughters), and spending time with his beloved dog and cat fill Jun's time outside of work. For many years he lived on campus, and he shares a love that many of us have for beautiful Vancouver and UBC.

Please join me in congratulating Jun on achieving 25 years of service

## **Office of the Comptroller, SANDY HO**

Over the past quarter-century, Sandy has been a cornerstone of the Project Accounting team, exemplifying commitment and professionalism.

UBC was Sandy's first job in Canada after moving from Hong Kong more than 26 years ago. During her time at UBC, she played a pivotal role in managing the accounts payable and other accounting processes.

In addition to her 25-year milestone, Sandy has announced her retirement this November. She has one daughter and is a proud grandmother to 3 grandsons who live in Hong Kong. Sandy and her husband Ricky enjoy travelling and they hope to travel more freely following retirement. Sandy also looks forward to playing the piano again.

While she will be dearly missed, her colleagues are excited for Sandy to enjoy the well-deserved fruits of her labor.

Please join me in congratulating Sandy on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, GRACE UY**

Grace joined the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, in 1998 as a Clinical Secretary for the Oncology Clinic.

Grace diligently helps the Clinic with all of its booking of surgical procedures, organizing multiple appointment bookings, collating referring materials, ordering supplies and other administrative duties. She is also very helpful to the ASAU Clinic by offering her secretarial and administrative services.

Grace loves spending quality time with her husband, Jason and is ever so proud of their daughter, Celine and son, Jaden.

Her hobbies include travelling to her country of birth and warm destinations, shopping and enjoying delicious meals with her family and loved ones.

Grace, the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences will be forever thankful for your continuing services and commitment.

Please join me in congratulating Grace on achieving 25 years of service.

## **President's Office, LIZ COUGHLIN**

Liz has worked in the President's Office for the past 15 years and is well known for "getting the job done". She has survived six presidencies, and can often be seen speaking truth to power if a President disagrees with her. She's friendly but firm.

Liz enjoys travelling and can be seen on the beaches of Spain or on a houseboat in the Shuswap. She has sisters that live in the lower mainland and she often spends time with them. Her red hair, fair skin, and last name are a give-away of her cultural roots –and she lets everyone know when St. Paddy's day arrives – it should be a national holiday just for Liz.

Around the office she takes care of everyone, organizing office get-togethers and making sure everyone is fed when working late. They love her, and hope she never leaves UBC.

Please join me in congratulating Liz on achieving 25 years of service.



## **Research Finance, EDMUND GIN**

Edmund knows the history of Research Finance as one of the stalwarts of the unit.

He graduated from UBC Applied Science and landed a successful career in Finance. He rose from the ranks to be a Team Lead, Manager and now a Senior Manager at Research Finance. He recently received a designation as a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA).

Edmund is a go-to person when it comes to research finance policies, including those of Sponsors. He would take time to explain in detailed fashion what is being asked. He has the passion to share knowledge to anyone who seeks his opinion or advice.

Edmund loves to travel with his wife Vicky and sometimes even enjoys a road trip by himself. On weekends he cooks his favourite meal and enjoys it with Vicky.

Please join me in congratulating Edmund on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Research Services, DEAN KUUSELA**

Today, we gather to celebrate an extraordinary individual and esteemed colleague, Dean Kuusela, who has dedicated an incredible 25 years of his life to UBC.

Dean's time at Office of Research Services has been nothing short of remarkable. Not only is he a true aficionado of coffee, having it flow through his veins like water, but he's also remarkably composed and perpetually cheerful despite his caffeine-infused adventures. His ability to stay so effortlessly mellow in the midst of a bustling research community is nothing short of inspiring.

Dean's sense of humor is legendary, often filling our corridors with laughter that eases the stress of our daily lives. Dean has a remarkable talent for bringing joy and levity to even the most challenging situations.

We raise our coffee cups in salute to Dean's 25 years at UBC. Cheers to the next 25 years of your remarkable journey!

Please join me in congratulating Dean on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Sauder School of Business, ALINA YUKHYMETS**

Alina is a dedicated lifelong learner with a bachelor's and two master's degrees.

Her commitment to global learning began as an exchange student in Manitoba

and continued at UBC where she has flourished as student and education

professional. Throughout her career at Graduate and Postgraduate Studies, Land

and Food Systems, and Sauder, Alina has ardently supported students.

Alina played a pivotal role in developing RHL's global learning initiatives, boosting

student participation and satisfaction. She also established dual degree options

with Yale School of Management, expanding student opportunities.

Her collaboration with International Student Development underscores her

dedication to enhancing the experience of a diverse student body. These

accomplishments showcase her strong track record of leadership, collaboration,

and innovation in student services and graduate business education.

Alina's love for travel reflects her adventurous spirit. She is the epitome of

steadfastness and professionalism, balancing career and a family with three

young boys.

Please join me in congratulating Alina on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Faculty Pharmaceutical Sciences, FUDAN MIAO**

Fudan is amazing, dedicated, hardworking, helpful, and always friendly. At UBC, she helped bring new advances in genetics to benefit patients around the world. She helped develop the first ever gene therapy to receive formal regulatory approval in 2012. She contributed to many advances to better guide childhood cancer treatments, that are now being implemented across Canada. Fudan was also instrumental in helping to implement BC Children's Hospital first clinical genome sequencing program to improve the diagnoses for patients with rare genetic diseases.

Fudan is very proud of her daughter who graduated from UBC's medical school, who is now training to be a family physician with a practice specializing in dermatology.

Please join me in congratulating Fudan on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Safety & Risk Services, JANET HANKINS**

Janet moved from the department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology to the research safety team in Safety & Risk Services (then Risk Management Services) in 2012.

Her curiosity and love of learning is a great match for UBC's diverse and dynamic research activities (she has earned at least 7 certificates, diplomas and degrees since joining UBC). It sets a good tone for resolving the safety and compliance concerns that arise when people are experimenting to learn or create something new.

Away from work, Janet takes her curiosity outside with her husband, David, and their dog, Scout, on mostly water-based adventures. Her colleagues have all enjoyed hearing of their adventures out on the sailboat. When the weather gets a bit too rough, she refocuses on creative pursuits indoors – mostly baking and textile experiments.

Please join me in congratulating Janet on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, ALMA AVILA**

Alma started her career here at UBC in 1998. By her current picture you would think she was 14 when she started. She works for Residence Dining and is a pillar/resource for all things Gather and Vanier.

Alma is very hard working and has two full time jobs. She is the epitome of dedicated. Alma is so engaged, helpful, cheery and makes great suggestions as she wants to take care of our students. Alma has a great laugh that can be heard across Gather and will always put a smile on your face when you hear it.

She loves to travel with her husband, Arnel and grown children Arman and Andrea. Outside of work, you can find Alma checking out a new restaurant or going for dim sum with her many work friends.

Thank you, Alma, for your commitment to excellence and for being a true delight to work with.

Please join me in congratulating Alma on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, INES BISOGNIN**

Ines Bisognin started at UBC in February 1998. Ines has worked at Subway, Bread Garden and Tim Hortons. Ines has always been a hard-working team member who you can always see smiling and joking with her fellow team members. Ines likes chatting and talking with her regular customers and enjoys the busy times at Tim Horton's. No matter which Tim's location Ines is working at she always digs in and gets the job done. You can always see Ines on the sandwich station at Tim's making fresh hot food.

Please join me in congratulating Ines on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, TRAVIS BOURQUE**

Travis started his career at UBC Bookstore in 1998. As a lifelong learner he has completed 4 programs at UBC.

In 2004 he moved to the marketing and communications team. If you have ever brought an item from the UBC Farm weekly market at the Bookstore, you can thank Travis as it was his proposal.

In 2016 he joined the retail floor staff and his favourite part was leading and mentoring the diverse UBC students brought in for our busy back to school times.

Since 2022, he has worked as a course materials buyer.

He is a fun-loving and dedicated co-worker and he enjoys pranking his co-workers. But not to worry; he always makes sure there are snacks around in case they get peckish.

He enjoys travelling, cooking, cycling, contemporary art, volunteering, and music shows.

Please join me in congratulating Travis on achieving 25 years of service.



## **Student Housing & Community Services, ALISON COLE**

Alison has spent many years working at UBC, the last number of years with us at the residence front desks. She is kind and helpful with students and staff. Alison has always been there to listen to students, understand their situation and follow through with resources that will help them. She has helped many new staff in learning the ways of the front desk.

As well as working part time at the desk, Alison is busy in her personal life in many other activities. She is a reservist musician with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Alison has been a radio producer and host with Vancouver Co-op Radio for many years. She also runs her own business. A busy life indeed!

Please join me in congratulating Alison on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, ESPERANZA DE GUZMAN**

Esperanza has worked for UBC Food Services in our residence dining operations.

She has provided service to many students, staff and summer conference guests including international visitors.

One of her hobbies is cooking. She often invites her friends and family members to her house and shares her food with loved ones. Working in UBC Food Services was definitely the perfect choice of career as it aligns with her hobby.

She loves to travel and has travelled to many beautiful places and countries by bus, train and air. She is always active; enjoys hiking and going to the parks and beaches.

Please join me in congratulating Esperanza on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, DONALD HARRIS**

Donald is a true Vancouverite; he was born and has lived here all his life. He is thankful for all the opportunities he has had at UBC. One of his favourite experiences was working with the warehouse team for a few months, delivering supplies to all the student residences.

Donald volunteers for the dragon boat races and just finished his fourth year with the races in Penticton. A highlight was in 2014 when his team “Eyes of the Dragon” travelled to an area near Naples, Italy and his team won a Gold and a Silver medal in their races. The difference between gold and silver was between one tenth and one hundredth of a second.

Donald is one of the friendliest people you will meet, always ready with a little humorous banter and a great smile. Ask him about his 1000 shares in the Pepsi company!

Please join me in congratulating Donald on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, STEVEN HENKELMAN**

As a teenager in 1995, Steven began his career at Housing on the night shift as a Service Worker. Steven quickly displayed a reliable and diligent attitude that would carry through to his future roles as utility worker and current position as Plumber. An integral member of the Trades group, Steven brings his trademark professionalism and extensive campus knowledge to all his repairs, trouble shooting and emergency resolutions. He has truly found his calling with a blow torch and pipe wrench.

Steven has built lifelong friendships through his connections made in housing. In his personal life, Steven enjoys driving his classic cars, both original and dragster. Steven is an avid hunter and fisherman, and can be found cruising along the Fraser River for salmon in his boat.

Please join me in congratulating Steven on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, DAVID KILOH**

avid began his career at UBC as a student employee at Totem Park Residence. Since then, he's held 4 positions in Student Housing. David may be the only person in history who lived at Totem Park for 5 years of his life, as a student, a Residence Advisor and as a Residence Life Manager!

David's most significant impact at UBC has been in his current role - Director of Facilities and Building Services. In this role, he and his team are responsible for stewarding, maintaining and cleaning over \$1.5 billion in assets and providing a high-quality housing for 13,800 students.

David is a people person who knows his staff. He takes time to say hello to them and walks the talk, be it litter pick up or observing maintenance issues in our facilities.

When away from work at UBC, David can be found surrounded by his wife and 3 daughters.

Please join me in congratulating David on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, JOSIE MIDHA**

Josie has worked in every department within Food Services! Starting in 1998 at Totem she moved to Café Perugia in 2005 and served the Olympics in 2010. From May 2009, she worked at Triple O and in 2015 moved to the Retail business at Ike's Café, Stir it Up and Law Café. In the fall of 2018 she moved to the Point where she now works as a Supervisor. Josie also worked at Sage Catering during the summers of 2022 and 2023. Josie was very fortunate to work with her husband Steve who was the Sous Chef at Place Vanier and retired a few years ago. Josie's engaging sense of humor, care for others and passion for food made her a great colleague at UBC. Thank you, Josie for the legacy you leave at UBC, through thousands of meaningful employee and customer interactions.

Please join me in congratulating Josie on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, GORDON NEWITT**

Gordon is a long-time member of the UBC Food Services culinary team. He was a popular cook and had a classic old school approach to kitchens. He loved to train new cooks and had a soft spot for anyone he thought had an ounce of passion for cooking.

He would scour second hand book stores and garage sales for cook books and then gift them to someone he thought would enjoy them or share with anyone who was interested.

He followed well know chefs in the Vancouver scene although we don't think he ever ate in any of the "fancier" restaurants.

He still lives in the family home with his mom.

Please join me in congratulating Gordon on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Student Housing & Community Services, IVONE RAMIREZ**

Ivone grew up in Toronto with her parents and four siblings. After she graduated high school, she gained employment as a night auditor and front desk clerk at the Royal York Fairmont Hotel in downtown Toronto. Her interest in pursuing a career in hospitality grew so she enrolled in a double major; hotel management and F&B management. After, She decided to move to Australia on a working holiday visa for a year, while returning home, she stopped over in Vancouver and fell in LOVE with the city! So, she decided to move to Vancouver. She thinks that was the best decision she has made in her life. She worked in several hotels, which led her to part-time employment at UBC.

Outside of work, she enjoys travel, the great outdoors, yoga and strength training. She also supports organizations against animal cruelty and keeping the Eco-system in balance.

Ivone's Words, "Working at UBC allows me the freedom to lead a well-balanced happy life style. Thank you UBC."

Throughout the years, Ivone utilized her F&B skills, knowledge and experiences at UBC Food Services. And so, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ivone's hard work and great contribution to UBC Food Services.

Please join me in congratulating Ivone on achieving 25 years of service.



## **Teacher Education Office, KEITH MCPHERSON**

Since 1998, many things have been readily evident:

- Keith loves the Faculty of Education;
- Keith loves riding his bike, and will do so no matter what the conditions are like;
- there is nothing Keith enjoys more than helping other people;
- strike that. There is nothing Keith enjoys more than spending time with the love of his life, Janet, and their two children, Hannah (24) and Jacob (21);
- no one grows a better beard than Keith;
- whether it is across campus or on the other side of the planet, no one represents UBC better than Keith;
- there isn't a greater champion for teachers and librarians than Keith;
- his colleagues feel blessed to have had the chance to work with Keith for the past quarter of a century.

Please join me in congratulating Keith on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Theatre and Film, LYNN BURTON**

Lynn Burton has been an invaluable member of the Department of Theatre and Film for the past 25 years. During her time in the department, she has been responsible for overseeing the provision and maintenance of stage properties for department productions in both theatre and film, productions for the School of Music Opera shows, as well as loans to local theatre companies and films.

In this role she has mentored and supervised hundreds of students, in the art of prop making, which includes any number of esoteric arts (mask and mould making, cooking, dyeing, sewing, furniture making, draperies – the list is endless). Using her tremendous professionalism and good cheer, she has worked tirelessly to create a very high level of artistry on stage; inspiring her students to do the same.

Lynn retired in August 2023. She has been an extraordinary role model and mentor, and the Department wishes her all the best.

Please join me in congratulating Lynn on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, AVTAR DHALIWAL**

Throughout his last 25 years at UBC, Avtar is grateful for all of the colleagues that have turned into friends. He is a proud father to three daughters, all of whom are UBC alumni. In his free time, he enjoys gardening with his wife, as well as spending time with his granddaughter.

Please join me in congratulating Avtar on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, BOB KHELLA**

Bob started his employment with UBC back in 1998 with Custodial Services.

During his four-year tenure with custodial services, Bob also held a 9-month store keeper term position within the department. In 2001, he accepted a position with the Garden Shop, before he moved on to the Hard Landscape shop as a Labourer (also now known as Streets and Operations Support – SOS). Bob has since been an integral part of the SOS shop and continues to work tirelessly in maintaining UBC's grounds.

Outside of work-life, Bob enjoys watching South Asian Sports, weight lifting and spending time with family and friends.

Bob's hard work, positivity and can-do attitude plays a vital role in the success of an organization, especially within the Streets and Operations Support Services unit, where there is such a diverse spectrum of work tasks.

Please join me in congratulating Bob on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, CAROLINE MACLEOD**

Caroline has served in the Facilities portfolio since her first day at UBC as a Financial Clerk in the Finance group of Land and Building Services. Over the years she has worked with Plant Operations in Municipal Services, led the clerical team for Building Operations, and presently supports the AVP, John Metras, as Executive Assistant. Caroline is a dynamo, and the mastermind behind the many events and appreciations throughout the year in Facilities. Facilities is a better place because of her kind and energetic, 'get it done' personality.

When she is not bouncing between offices and events on campus, Caroline enjoys playing the piano and loves to sing. She leads her church choir and regularly serves in Sacred Heart Parish. Beyond this, she has no spare time...every other moment she spends with her husband John and puppy Timmy.

Please join me in congratulating Caroline on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, NEIL MALMQUIST**

Neil joined Plant Operations as a Journeyman Carpenter in 1998 and recently transitioned to Infrastructure Development as a carpenter for the Construction Office.

Neil takes a great deal of pride in his work. He gets a great deal of satisfaction knowing how the physical assets that we build and maintain, support the students, faculty, and staff in their daily activities on Campus. He has always been dedicated to safety and spent many years on the JOHSC as a shop safety rep.

Neil is a proud father of two daughters and a son. Neil enjoys spending time in the great outdoors with his family – riding dirt bikes and skiing. Over the last couple of years, he has enjoyed being an assistant coach for his son's team in the Burnaby Baseball Association.

Please join me in congratulating Neil on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, HARVINDER NAGRA**

Harvinder joined UBC in 1998, spending 19 years as a part time and later evening Building Service Worker in the Buchanan buildings. After moving to days in 2017, he has been a bright presence in the Ampel/Brimacombe building.

Harvinder is a popular member of the Facilities Custodial Services team and is always available to help out his coworkers, whether it is refinishing floors, setting up and breaking down weddings and exams, or anywhere he can lend a hand.

Outside of work, Harvinder enjoys running and playing cricket. Custodial Services cannot thank Harvinder enough for his contribution over the last 25 years and they wish him many more great years at UBC.

Please join me in congratulating Harvinder on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, BALWINDER POONI**

Balwinder Pooni is from the custodial team who can be seen working out of the Life Sciences building.

A very dedicated family man, Balwinder loves to spend his time travelling with his wife and the whole family every chance he gets.

Balwinder and his wife Jaswinder have 3 beautiful daughters Raman, Mandeep and Karanjit and 3 grandchildren that Balwinder loves to spend time playing with.

If you like jogging keep a lookout for Balwinder as this is one of his favorite things to do.

Thank you for all of your dedicated service to UBC Balwinder.

Please join me in congratulating Balwinder on achieving 25 years of service.



## **UBC Facilities, JEFF SMITH**

Jeff joined UBC as a laborer and through hard work and dedication worked his way up to his current Facilities Manager role in the Facilities portfolio. His many steps along the way as a Red seal cabinet maker/joiner, resource planner and project coordinator have shaped him into the customer service professional he is today.

Jeff is always looking for ways to make UBC a better place to work. One of the ways he does this is through his legendary mastery, passion and enthusiasm for complex and eclectic Excel formulas which he uses when creating and updating team scheduling or estimating spreadsheets.

Jeff also has an affinity for eclectic cars such as his Mini Moke which he enjoys taking out on rides with his wife Leanne and their two daughters Hayley and Caitlin.

Please join me in congratulating Jeff on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, RON WESSA**

Ron joined UBC as a carpenter in 1998 and has been happily working with staff and clients ever since.

Outside of work, Ron enjoys going to concerts and dining out with his wife Lori Anne. Ron and Lori Anne often spend time watching their kids in hockey and soccer, and also boating with close friends. Ron also likes to spend time on long walks with his dog Reggie.

Ron has always had a good sense of humor and is well liked by his coworkers, supervisors and clients. His creative problem-solving skills, and his calm mild manner way, make Ron an easy partner to work with when it comes to getting work done successfully. You can be sure Ron will get the job done no matter what the assignment.

The Building Operations Architectural team truly thanks Ron for his years of dedicated work.

Please join me in congratulating Ron on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Facilities, RAY WILLIAMS**

Ray joined the Facilities Custodial Services department shortly after moving from his hometown of Winnipeg in 1998. He first started as a part time employee for four and a half years, then became an evening Building Service Worker, and eventually a fulltime dayshift employee. For many years Ray was a friendly presence in the old SUB, before moving over to Brock Hall.

Ray has been a reliable, hardworking member of the custodial team, and is known to his co-workers in Brock Hall for quietly going about his work and always lending a hand when needed.

Ray always feels fortunate to work at UBC and loves the campus environment.

Outside of work, he loves to swim and relax. Thank you Ray for your tireless contribution to the campus over the past 25 years.

Please join me in congratulating Ray on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Information Technology, MARK BELSITO**

Mark began his career at UBC in 1997 as a student employee working for the IT Help Desk. He developed within this role and eventually hired other part-time students, some of which are also still working at UBC today.

From his early days to his current role overseeing the University's enterprise communication and collaboration services, Mark excels in the support of UBC's Faculty, Staff & Students. Most recently, Mark was instrumental in enabling UBC's ability to teach & work online as part of our pandemic response.

Personally, Mark grew up overseas but has always called North Vancouver home.

He has 3 kids, all boys and plays in a band called Wayside which also formed at UBC in 1997!

UBC IT can't thank Mark enough for everything he has contributed to the university and commend him for longevity in his career that all can aspire to.

Please join me in congratulating Mark on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Information Technology, TODD JAMES**

Todd embarked on his professional journey at the Registrar's Office at UBC.

Among the Production Support Team pioneers for SIS, he has served as a team lead in the Academic Systems domain. Todd is the go-to expert for SIS, with numerous individuals relying on his seemingly magical expertise. His extensive comprehension of Student Information Systems functionality and business unit operations empowers his team to deliver top-notch support to faculty and students.

Todd excels in supporting his team, demonstrating exceptional coordination skills that keep the group focused and motivated, ensuring timely accomplishment of projects. He perpetually seeks avenues to enhance process efficiency and eliminate redundancies. Todd's presence on the team is a source of immense fortune.

Beyond workplace, you'll often find Todd cheering for his children at their baseball games or enjoying a game of hockey himself.

Please join me in congratulating Todd on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Information Technology, LEN MAMAID**

For 25 years, Len has been instrumental in shaping the direction of voice services at UBC. His knowledge of voice infrastructure and service management have been key to delivering such a reliable phone service to the campus community. His colleagues continue to learn from his valuable experience, guidance, technical leadership, and contributions.

In his spare time, Len loves to explore the world with visits to Europe, road trips to the States, cruises up and down the coast, and the occasional family bus tour. He has logged many miles on the road and this is where his passion for DIY car repair really comes in handy. As a lifelong tech enthusiast, you can often find him in his garage tinkering with hardware on a constant journey to learn and enjoy life.

A big congrats to Len for 25 years at UBC. Here's hoping for 25 more!

Please join me in congratulating Len on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Information Technology, GARY OLSON**

Gary was born in Edmonton and moved to BC when he was 11. Gary currently lives in Port Coquitlam where he takes very good care of his parents.

Gary started his career at UBC in 1998 after completing his Computer Systems Networking diploma at VCC. Gary's primary role at UBC IT is looking after the large IT data network in UBC's 400+ buildings and remote sites. An expertise of Gary's is installation and maintenance of UBC's student residential data network (ResNet). ResNet serves over 14,000 UBC students in the residences on campus and is instrumental to their experience at UBC.

Gary has a wonderful passion for his career and is known for being very dependable and hard working. Outside of UBC he enjoys vacationing, where Las Vegas is a favourite destination. Gary also has a soft spot for animals, and has many "dog friends".

Please join me in congratulating Gary on achieving 25 years of service.

## **UBC Information Technology, VIRGILIO PANTONIAL**

Virgil joined UBC in 1998.

Virgil spent much of his time as a Technical Analyst in Finance and HR, helping to support critical enterprise applications such as PeopleSoft and Perceptive Content. His dedication and expert knowledge helped not only ensure these applications remained stable, but also in the smooth migration to the Workday HR/Finance service that subsequently replaced PeopleSoft.

Virgil recently transferred teams to UBC IT Academic Systems to help ensure the continued smooth running of the Perceptive Content document imaging solution.

Please join me in congratulating Virgil on achieving 25 years of service at UBC.



## **UBC Information Technology, DARKO SEPAROVIC**

Darko has been known to go out of his way to provide the best service possible for the Library Staff and its patrons. He thoroughly enjoys his work, dedicated to his craft of being an IT technician and continually gets better each year. With his strong work ethic and values, we have been lucky to have him with us.

Darko is a husband and a father of 2, son Oskar and daughter Lea. During the 25 years of service, he is proud that both have graduated from UBC programs and are off to the next stages of their lives. Frequently enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family.

Please join me in congratulating Darko on achieving 25 years of service at UBC.

## **UBC Studios & Emerging Media Lab, NADIA PICCO**

Nadia's journey with UBC began in 1998 when she joined the Media Group as a graphic designer, later becoming the visual design lead for UBC Studios. Known for her soft-spoken and conscientious approach, Nadia is a creative force behind many of UBC's communication projects shaping the way we engage with our community.

Nadia skillfully blends artistry and information, crafting stunning infographics that help explain complex concepts. Her animations breathe life into ideas, captivating prospective students and simplifying intricate research subjects. Her meticulously designed reports and research posters enhance our scholarly endeavors with unparalleled clarity. Her designs not only inform in the classroom but also help bridge gaps within our institutional community and beyond.

Nadia's work extends beyond aesthetics; her impact through teamwork and leadership over the years is immeasurable. We are profoundly grateful for her invaluable contributions.

Please join me in congratulating Nadia on achieving 25 years of service.

## **University Counsel Office, MARK CROSBIE**

Mark obtained his law degree from McGill University in 1994. He was called to the Newfoundland Bar in 1995 and practiced law in Newfoundland for three years. In 1998, Mark moved to Vancouver and was admitted to the British Columbia Bar. He started employment at the University in 1998 in the Department of Housing and Conferences, ending as its Associate Director. In 2000, he felt the siren song of the law calling him back, so he left UBC to practice law in a downtown Vancouver law firm. He quickly realized that his true calling was with UBC and returned to UBC in 2001, but this time as Legal Counsel in the Office of the University Counsel. He was promoted to the position of Associate University Counsel in 2006 and he has served faithfully in this leadership role for the past 17 years.

Please join me in congratulating Mark on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Vice-President, Students Office, CHAD HYSON**

Chad has had the opportunity to build a lifelong career at UBC. Chad first joined UBC as a Residence Life Manager at Totem Park and today is the Director Student Conduct and Safety within the Vice President Student's Portfolio. In this position, Chad plays an instrumental role in overseeing a wide range of student supports and services including management of student non-academic misconduct, UBC's Early Alert Program, and respondent resources support. Furthermore, he acts as key liaison with campus partners to support and advance a student-centred approach in supporting students at UBC. Chad's strong relationships across the university allow him to proactively support and identify a collective approach in addressing complex issues. His ongoing commitment, contributions, and dedication to supporting an accessible student experience are greatly valued and appreciated.

Outside of work, Chad enjoys spending time with family and friends, coaching youth soccer, and running, hiking, and cycling the local trails.

Please join me in congratulating Chad on achieving 25 years of service.

## **Department of Zoology, LILI ZHANG**

For the past 20 years, it has been a real pleasure to have Lili working in the teaching labs of Zoology.

Lili is an excellent colleague, bright, knowledgeable, efficient and super organized. She is kind, wise, and generous with her time and expertise, and she never hesitates to volunteer her help when the going gets tough. These qualities are much appreciated by all who work with her, but, surprisingly, they are not the only things that make her special.

What is so exceptional about Lili, is her cheerfulness, enthusiasm, and “gung-ho” attitude. The positive energy she brings to work is infectious and uplifting. She is genuinely interested in her work and is always excited to try new things to improve the teaching labs. She is one of the rare few that combine wisdom with youthful liveliness. Lili, your light brightens your workplace!

Please join me in congratulating Lili on achieving 25 years of service.