



Why is TRU buzzing with excitement?

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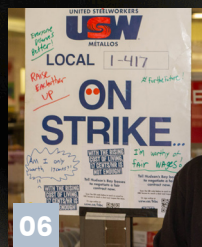


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ROBERT MCALASTER/THE OMEGA

A bee flies towards a flower in the Royal Roads University gardens, May 2023.

TRU officially a 'bee' campus

ELLEN KAZEMBE CONTRIBUTOR

The buzz began when TRU, already a leader in environmental sustainability, took hold of the opportunity to amplify its efforts further through the Bee City Campus designation.

"What motivated me to apply for the designation is that we are already doing many of the things that are being advocated for in that designation," said Courtney Mason, a TRU professor and Canada Research Chair in Rural Livelihoods and Sustainable Communities. "So things like basically looking at helping the natural spaces on campus and educating people of the importance bees."

James Gordon, the Manager of Sustainability Programs, shared Mason's sentiments about the importance of bees, highlighting that the project is concerned with supporting all native types of bees, not just the honeybee.

"At the heart of it is trying

to create a healthy environment for all bees and subsequently the greater flora and fauna of the campus," Gordon said.

Bee City Canada endorsed TRU as a "Bee City Campus" due to the campus meeting the required thresholds, including but not limited to raising awareness about pollinator diversity, inspiring individuals to become more self-aware about the role that they have to play in environmental sustainability and cultivating plants that are pollinator friendly. Gordon added that TRU has taken the initiative to "plant certain new types of plants that will be good for the pollination for bees" and will be "tree planting on May 9th whereby the university will be planting five or more fruit trees that are good for pollinators and bees."

According to Gordon, another initiative TRU will be working on is establishing "mow zones" in select areas

around campus where grass can grow naturally without being mowed.

The above mentioned strategy is important since "world native pollinators are under threat because of pesticide use," Mason said, adding that TRU "wants to make sure that there are pesticide-free zones" and that the campus has "the right habitat to support pollinators," inclusive of "wild spaces on our campus, which involves striking a balance between developing infrastructures like roads and new buildings."

TRU is also taking measures to ensure campus members are further educated on the bee-friendly campus initiative.

"For signage, we will be erecting some large educational signs. We want students or faculty who may not know much about bees to be educated so they can take that knowledge back to their homes, backyards, and other

places in the world," Mason said, "We take students to the hives, and we show them bee activity and the life cycle of the bees as a way of encouraging them to learn more about bees, especially native pollinators ...that means it requires working with diverse expertise across campus from lots of different fields [ranging] anywhere from groundskeeping, faculty science, tourism management here and other areas."

Some long-term environmental sustainability goals the campus has include "a biodiversity audit of the entire campus that will involve an audit of both plants and animals," Gordon said. Once TRU has the data for the "certain calendar year that the project commences...after two or three years, the biodiversity committee will relook at the data and conduct subsequent audits so that we can compare new audits to the baseline year," Gordon said.

Wildfire education and training centre to open on campus

EAGLE ANDERSEN NEWS EDITOR



ROBERT MCALASTER/THE OMEGA

B.C. Premier David Eby takes questions after the April 4 press conference at TRU.

Early in April, British Columbia Premier David Eby visited Thompson Rivers University to announce plans for a new Wildfire and Education Training Centre at TRU.

"This centre will offer everything from basic training all the way through to post-doctoral work on fire behaviour and science so that we have a full range of expertise right here in British Columbia," Eby said.

TRU will collaborate with the BC Wildfire Service on all major aspects of the program, ensuring students receive the most relevant training possible. Premier Eby said that curriculum design will begin this year, with the program launching in 2025.

"By 2028-29, over a thousand workshops will be offered [yearly], which will translate into 10,000 course registrations," said Bruce Ralston, B.C. Minister of Forests.

With these new courses, a physical space will also be constructed on campus, though details regarding the future building, including cost and location, are currently unavailable.

"This will be a first-of-its-kind centre in North America, where people can get credits for this kind of educational work and this training towards an undergraduate degree."

"There will be a beautiful new facility housing these training programs," Eby said. "The exact location of the building is yet to be determined, but it will be owned and operated by TRU."

This announcement comes

on the heels of TRU approving the Institute for Wildfire Science, Adaptation and Resilience late last year. Eby said

the university's focus on wildfire research factored into this decision.

"The [BC] Wildfire Service already had this relationship with TRU around research. So it was natural for our government... that we would look to TRU because they

already had the foundation in place," Eby said.

In 2023, a record-setting 18.4 million hectares of fires burned across Canada. In B.C. alone, 2.8 million hectares were burnt, and over ten thousand

British Columbians were forced to evacuate their homes, according to the province.

"Last year was the most devastating wildfire season on record, and it's clear we need to do more to keep people safe from the impacts of climate change," Ralston said.

With the current prevalence of wildfires, TRU appears to be poised to play a vital role in the years to come with its research capacity. According to TRU President and Vice-Chancellor Brett Fairbairn, this centre will also be crucial for the evolution of the university.

"We look forward to working side by side on initiatives that contribute to building a safer, more resilient future for our communities," Fairbairn said. "This partnership reinforces TRU's commitment to leading world-class research, training and innovation to improve how British Columbians adapt to living with wildfires."

"This partnership reinforces TRU's commitment to leading world-class research, training and innovation to improve how British Columbians adapt to living with wildfires."

Premier David Eby

Sunderman named BC Green Party candidate

Green candidate will stand for election in the Oct. 19 provincial contest

ROBERT MCALASTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Long-time Kamloops businessman Randy Sunderman announced his intention to run as the BC Green Party candidate for Kamloops Centre in the upcoming provincial election during a press conference in Riverside Park on April 18.

Surrounded by his friends and family, Sunderman called the upcoming provincial election “one of the most important elections of our time.”

“Several issues will define the next provincial government,” Sunderman said. “We have clearly entered the climate change era and are already seeing the challenges created by our natural environment; our homes and livelihoods being threatened.”

Sunderman pointed to issues such as a lack of affordable housing, changing transportation needs, rising everyday prices and aging infrastructure to demonstrate some of the ways he believes our communities are struggling.

“We are facing a cost-of-living

challenge,” Sunderman said, highlighting his belief that those hit hardest are young adults, families and those on fixed incomes.

In discussing what can be done to mitigate our province’s challenges, Sunderman said that the government needs to “prioritize a real focus” around how we utilize our land and ecosystem.

“This includes an inclusive and collaborative approach that gathers values from all perspectives. We need to foster a regional economy that embraces competitive, accessible tenure systems that support communities, First Nations, and business, and take a long, sustainable approach recognizing [that] our natural environment is important to all of us,” Sunderman told the crowd.

The BC Green Party announced Sunderman as its Kamloops Centre in a message posted to X (formerly Twitter) yesterday, alongside Cammy Lockwood (Cowichan Valley), Devyani Singh (Vancouver-Point Grey) and Pat McCutcheon (Surrey-Cloverdale).



ROBERT MCALASTER/THE OMEGA

Randy Sunderman poses for photos in Riverside Park after his announcement on April 18.



TRUSU Robotics Combat Club gearing up for battle

EAGLE ANDERSEN NEWS EDITOR

Since first watching a battle bot competition on television as a child, Micah Urbanowski has always been intrigued with building a robot that could duke it out. Now a TRU Nursing student, Urbanowski is doing just that with the TRUSU Combat Robotics Club, which he hopes will bring robot combat competitions to campus.

Over the 2023 winter break, Urbanowski fell into a rabbit hole, watching videos from his youth, which inspired him to create the club in February 2024.

As the name implies, a battle bot is a robot designed to simply combat other bots. Typically, these are remote-controlled and have some form of weaponry affixed to them.

The competitions, or battles, take place in small enclosed arenas.

“Basically, you have an RC car that’s armoured,” Urbanowski said. “You have your receiver, your motors, and then your active weapon.”

Prominent battle bot competitions take place at the National Havoc Robot League (NHRL) in Connecticut. Urbanowski formed the club with NHRL regulations in mind.

If the club is successful, he hopes that he and others will eventually be able to compete at NHRL competitions.

Bots designed in this club will fall into the beetle-weight division weighing three pounds.

Although a background in robotics is not required to join the club some club

members do have experience in general robotics courses taken in high school

On March 29, Urbanowski hosted an introductory Scrapbot Build and Brawl event where several members constructed a disposable battle bot from household materials. The purpose of this was to introduce students to basic robotics concepts.

As membership continues to grow, he said the ultimate goal is to host an on-campus tournament, but he acknowledges there still is work to be done, particularly in terms of safety.

Following the completion of his bot and an eventual portable arena, Urbanowski is eyeing a debut tournament on campus in the Winter 2025 semester.

No end in sight for striking HBC employees

Staff from the Kamloops HBC location have been on strike since December 2023

EAGLE ANDERSEN NEWS EDITOR

Over four months since the strike began, Hudson's Bay (HBC) workers are ramping up awareness efforts as negotiations remain locked at a standstill.

On Dec. 10, the HBC workers began striking following unsuccessful bargaining talks.

As a representative on behalf of the Kamloops store, USW Local 1-417 Financial Secretary Jordan Lawrence said various issues caused this strike.

"Not only were [HBC negotiators] not willing to give any decent amount of raise, they wanted to take away language [in existing agreements]. They wanted to take away things that people had worked 30 years to earn," Lawrence said.

According to Lawrence, only one other unionized HBC store exists in British Columbia. In recent weeks, strikers have been visiting nearby ununionized branches to spread awareness about their strike.

"We aren't allowed to picket at other locations... but we are allowed to get people there to provide information, whether [to] its patrons or just shoppers at the mall," Lawrence said.

"We've sent some HBC workers who are on strike to both HBC Vernon and HBC Kelowna to do a little bit of pamphleting."

Lawrence said this approach is "going well," and the main goal is to ask the public to "support the cause."

Lawrence estimated that nearly half of the 44 workers on strike at HBC Kamloops are

TRU students. William Howard, a communications major in his final semester, is one such student who said that inconsistent hours recently have been difficult for part-time workers.

"Going to school, they were very flexible... it was a good job with good give-and-take at the start," Howard, who has worked at the Bay sporadically for the past 10 years, said.

Howard has held various job roles at HBC over the past decade. He speaks fondly about his co-workers but expressed disappointment with how negotiations have gone.

"It was just a very big slap in the face to all the people that have worked here for a long time," Howard said. "Because it was a very good place to work and we've given a lot [negotiating] room in the past."

Over four months into the strike, Howard plans on picketing until an agreement is reached or the store is closed. He pointed to social media as a potential way to spread awareness about the strike.

According to Lawrence, if negotiations remain at a standstill, the union has plans to continue ramping up their campaign.

"We're going to try a lot of things... [like] social media [for example]. We're trying to roll things out slowly," Lawrence said. "The end goal is to get the employer, HBC, back to the table."

The Omega reached out to HBC for comment but did not receive a response.

CFBX Top 30 Charts

— April 25, 2024 —

Artist – Album (Label)

- 1) DJ Phoenix* – Pray for My Enemies (Independent)
- 2) Mike Goudreau Band* – Just Wanna Have Fun (Independent)
- 3) Touching* – I Can Be Two People at Once (Head in the Sand)
- 4) Miina* – Slow Motion (Independent)
- 5) Kerub* – Min (BCN)
- 6) Erika Angell* – The Obsession with Her Voice (Constellation)
- 7) Evan Shay* – Autoroute EP (Independent)
- 8) Good Bandits* – Good Bandits (Independent)
- 9) The Lowly Gents* – Blue Skies and Better Days (Aardfox)
- 10) Keys n Krates* – In-Tension (Last Gang)
- 11) Good Grief* – Slow Leak (Independent)
- 12) girl talk* – girl talk (the album) (Independent)
- 13) Nick Fast** – Better Late Than Never (Independent)
- 14) Drummachinemike* – The Space Between (Independent)
- 15) Gail and Karl* – Blues in the House (Independent)
- 16) Bristol Manor* – The Other Side (Independent)
- 17) Rene Huard Project* – Blues Calling (Independent)
- 18) Sandro Cuzzetto** – Sonic Atmosphere (Independent)
- 19) The Knot No Howz* – Who? (Wasted Wax)
- 20) Green Palm Radiation* – Post Fear (Independent)
- 21) Liquor Mountain* – East Dooley EP (Independent)
- 22) Jack de Keyzer* – Solo (Blue Star)
- 23) The Grinning Barretts* – Bottle Hymns (Independent)
- 24) Goldschatz* – Twin Flame (Vissen)
- 25) Nushu* – Hippo-Homonyme (Independent)
- 26) Old Dogs New Tricks – Forever (Independent)
- 27) Josh Cole* – Kind Mind (Cassier)
- 28) Mark Webber* – Central Valley EP (Independent)
- 29) Jerry Leger* – Donlands (Latent)
- 30) FICMARO* – EP2 (Independent)

* indicates Canadian Content ** indicates a local artist

Q&A with international alum Paolo Bigit

ELLEN KAZEMBE CONTRIBUTOR

Paolo Bigit is the Diversity Outreach Coordinator and the Ukrainian Humanitarian Efforts Coordinator at Kamloops Immigration Services (KIS). For his efforts, the Government of British Columbia recently awarded him the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism award in the "Emergent Leader" category. Recently, the Omega had the opportunity to speak with Bigit about the award, his interests, passions and work related to diversity and inclusion.

Omega: How would you describe your transition from your undergraduate years at TRU to working at Kamloops Immigration Services?

PB: Fast. I will use that word because it was too fast. There [wasn't really] a transition ... or any time off, and that's where my story with KIS begins. I wasn't hired to do the job that I'm doing right now. I was hired to do the Ukraine Effort Coordinator role. I was hired [around] a month after the war in Ukraine had started. [My job] was to try to organize and coordinate the community to welcome as many Ukrainian families as possible. I was hired on a Tuesday, and by Friday, I already had families coming in.

Omega: What motivated you to pursue a diversity and inclusion work career, and how did you get started in this field?

PB: I would say that I first got started the moment that I landed in Canada when I realized that my skin has some sort of colour. I went to one of the local grocery stores, and one of the workers asked for all of our family members' IDs to prove that we were the rightful owners of our credit cards. It wasn't fair, and it wasn't right.

Omega: What inspired you to become a Diversity Outreach Coordinator?

PB: I like the idea of working with people. What inspired me the most is that I hated the feeling of not being good enough because of [how] I look. My entire life, I was told that I would never be good enough by the American teachers with whom I grew up. I was [given the chance] to succeed early in my career path [thanks to] all the opportunities that my boss, organization, and community partners provided me; I think that really inspired me early on.

Omega: Can you discuss any strategies or tactics you've found particularly effective in engaging with diverse communities that may have historically been underserved or overlooked?

PB: It is not about a strategy per se, but about how you see yourself when engaging with different communities. I see myself as someone who is there to serve them. I don't go asking questions or demanding answers. I show up and then listen to what they have to say. I'm someone who truly loves to engage with everyone—no matter who they are and what they look like.

Omega: What have you learned over the years that you would like to share with students at TRU?

PB: These are the three main things I have written down all around me that make my career life more successful. First, about eighty per cent [of your job] should be about relationship management and twenty per cent actual work. That eighty per cent includes dedicating [your] time to building relationships and networking,



Paolo Bigit, Diversity Outreach Coordinator for Kamloops Immigration Services

[while the] remaining twenty per cent includes dedicating the work that goes into it. Second, don't just memorize facts for your job; instead dedicate the time to understand and comprehend the things that you need to know. Last, from the time you start whatever you're working on, be proud of what you accomplish and who you are. It may seem useless at the time, but you will eventually realize the more positive you are when you engage in a specific environment, the more successful you will be in the long term.

For more information, you can reach Paolo Bigit at paolo@kcris.ca or by phone at 778-538-0078.



Local artist Nick Klie releases sequel to 'Life the Necropolis'

ROBERT MCALASTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kamloops artist Nick Klie, manager of High Octane Comics, has released the sequel to his debut comic, "Life the Necropolis."

In 2023, Klie released his debut comic book with surprising results. The first in the series, "Life," was so popular that it sold out within two months, an occurrence Klie didn't expect.

"I didn't print enough," Klie said. "I was scared to print even

100 copies, but I had to print a few hundred to make it work financially. I was terrified I was going to have a box of these in my garage for the rest of my life. And then it sold out."

This time, he's not taking any chances.

"The print run is my secret for now," Klie told the Omega. "But the print run on the second issue is much larger than the first."

Unfortunately for those of

us who missed the opportunity to purchase the first comic book, Klie informed the Omega that a second printing was not planned at this time, citing his works as "a moment in time."

"If you were there [to get the first one], you were there. Otherwise, don't worry, and let's just keep moving forward," Klie said.

"The first comic sees a lonely farmer in an atomic desert have his trusted animal companion

stolen by a gang of mutant raiders. [The farmer] hires a hard luck wandering mercenary named Life to get it back," Klie told the Omega, offering a brief recap of the original story.

In celebration of the sequel, Klie will be signing copies of "Life the Necropolis: The Red Wizard & the Armies of the Night" at High Octane on Saturday, May 4, for Free Comic Book Day.



Runnin' with the 'Pack

Meet Berea Woldeyes from the women's WolfPack soccer team

ELLEN KAZEMBE CONTRIBUTOR

Berea Woldeyes is an attacking midfielder and winger on the women's soccer team. Her path to athletic excellence was paved by support from family, coaches, and friends, leading her through the journey to the Wolfpack women's soccer team. Recently, the Omega spoke with Woldeyes about her experiences, interests, and passions.

Omega: What inspired you to pursue soccer?

BW: Well, when I was really young, about five years old, my mom signed me up for TimBits soccer, which is for really young kids. My passion and love for soccer grew as I got older. It almost became second nature to me.

Omega: Can you tell me about a memorable moment in your athletic career?

BW: A memorable moment for me could have actually been in youth soccer. There was a day that I remember very vividly. I was planning

on playing soccer at a level below the highest level, and my coach told me during practice that he wanted me on his team, which was the highest level at that time. It was a turning point for me in my sports career.

Omega: How do you balance the demands of training and competition with other aspects of your life?

BW: I would say it takes a lot of discipline, focus, and effort for me because university courses are a lot, but over the years, I have kind of learned time management.

Omega: Can you share any routines you follow before competitions to help you prepare mentally and physically?

BW: Oh yes, absolutely. Before games and tournaments in season, as a team, we obviously train, lift, eat and rest. On a personal level, I am big on my faith, so I pray, listen to music, and spend some quiet time alone just to get calm and ready as

possible before game days.

Omega: How has your Ethiopian cultural background influenced your approach to sports and competition?

BW: If I were to tie my culture into what I do, I would say that I take after my parents' cultural values. A lot of their values come from working hard and staying focused, those are aspects of my parents and their culture that I am able to bring into my sport. Also, the selflessness of my parents that I think I would like to take after, just trying to always put my teammates and people around me above myself in my sport, that is always a blessing, and always striving to be my best is something that I strive to do every day.

Omega: How do you stay motivated and focused during training and competition for soccer?

BW: I love this question because I think that this is something that is overlooked

a lot for athletes. It is easy to be motivated but lack the ability to follow through. So, people can have big dreams and aspirations, but I think it is a matter of staying disciplined in order to be motivated. The challenge for me is giving myself practical ways of meeting my goals and setting my mind in action to things I am thinking about.

Omega: What do you enjoy most about being an athlete, and what keeps you coming back for more?

BW: Yeah, what I enjoy the most about being an athlete, I would say, is the community and even just the life lessons that it gives me, like time management, effort, consistency, discipline, and all these benefits of the sport that it has given me in my life. Also, the amusement of the sport and the entertainment of it and being able to compete is something that I love a lot. It drives my life in a lot of different ways.



Artist Chat

with TRU BA student Mercedes Settle

AUGUSTUS HOLMAN ARTS EDITOR



The reasons that artists make art differ for each individual, and through this new and ongoing series, we want to explore them all. The Omega is interested in talking to diverse local artists at TRU and across Kamloops to discuss the complexities of art, why people make art and how it affects the artist and the viewer.

With the Bachelor of Fine Arts program coming to an end, artists are searching for a way to maintain an artistic presence on campus. Mercedes Settle is a Bachelor of Arts student at TRU with a major in English and a minor in visual arts who has offered some advice to students who want to continue to pursue their creative dreams while studying at TRU.

Settle has experimented with her style throughout her time in the visual arts program. Initially, Settle wasn't sure what her style was, but through her journey, she has begun to understand what feels right when making her paintings, telling the Omega that she's starting to discover what visual style most represents her.

"I'm only starting to identify my aesthetic now," Settle said. "For the longest time, I



was able to tell what [looked like] my stuff and what didn't, but I didn't know why."

Recently, Settle has started to enjoy using a surrealist colour palette and wants to experiment with it more in the future. She enjoys experimenting with bright and unique colours on her canvas.

A piece of advice Settle wanted to pass to other artists is to not stress about finding the perfect style before entering art into galleries, showings and exhibits. She said that in the past, she worried about displaying her

works as she wasn't sure if her style would change. Eventually, she realized that everyone's art changes throughout their lifelong artistic journey and will undoubtedly continue to change in the future.

"Put yourself into as many shows as you can... and don't be afraid to get involved. Don't worry about finding your aesthetic yet,"

Settle fears that the creative presence on campus will begin to disappear with the end of the BFA program. She wants to encourage other artists to continue to

make art, value art, and share their art with the community.

"It would be very nice if people just [kept] making [and] valuing art. It's often undervalued until it's needed, and then [people realize] just how important it is," Settle said. "If we make a culture on campus of embracing fine art then it will likely stay alive here even in light of everything."

Settle doesn't want people to forget the importance of art. She said that art isn't only about creating for the sake of creating; it's also found in everything. Art classes' skills can be applied to many other skills and job fields. She encourages students to take art classes as electives regardless of their main study area.

"For me [art can be] about practical skill honing, marketing, graphic design, technology, learning aesthetics and how it will appeal to people, but I also do art for fun," Settle said.

If you are a local artist or would like to nominate an artist who would like to talk about the arts, please contact the Omega's Arts Editor, Augustus Holman, by email at auggietaylor6284@gmail.com or by phone at 250-351-9676.

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Exploring folklore with Lynda Daneliuk

ELLEN KAZEMBE CONTRIBUTOR

Students can often be intimidated by their professors and may need help approaching them. Through this ongoing series, the Omega will introduce students to several professors at TRU, uncovering the humanity and personalities of our educators.

In the world of academia, there are instructors who not only stand out for their scholarly accomplishments but also for their profound impact on students. TRU sessional instructor Lynda Daneliuk embodies a unique combination of fondness for Folklore studies and a sincere dedication to teaching and empowering students.

Daneliuk is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Folklore studies. In her dissertation, she explores and unravels the web of beliefs surrounding the dark history of New Orleans, a city rich in folklore and historical tragedy. Daneliuk stated that her dissertation is centred on “dark tourism,” which includes but is not limited to “ghost tours” with a tinge of “the darker parts of history.” Dark tourism is a sub-form of tourism whereby interested parties visit locations of great tragedy or mystery. Some of these destinations may be reported as being supernaturally infested, while others are known as sites of accidents or murder.

As a third-generation Canadian settler with German and Ukrainian roots, Daneliuk became passionate about folklore after reading a Canadian novel at Douglas College, which she found to be an “artistic expression of culture.” Daneliuk added that “folklore is the way that we think about culture and share it [and] it ranges from anything from ballads to fairytales.”

According to Daneliuk, a story that remains stuck with her is of Reverend Moses Harvey, a Presbyterian clergyman, historian and naturalist who took unconventional steps to challenge the boundaries of scientific analysis by exploring the rumours of “giant squids” in the 1870s, which were considered a myth before their scientific discovery. Daneliuk said that the more that Harvey “gathered these stories,” the more he noticed that there was a “pattern” of these sea animals being spotted during “certain times of the year...[during] specific weather conditions.” Harvey’s work ignited a fire within Daneliuk to think more about “the importance of culture

“Folklore is the way that we think about culture and share it [and] it ranges from anything from ballads to fairytales.”



Lynda Daneliuk

and communication,” adding that one day she would like to “get a tattoo of a squid.”

Daneliuk’s interests are not just confined to traditional academia. “Even as an old lady,” she added with a chuckle, “I do a bit of video gaming.” Her hobbies don’t just end with video gaming; she also enjoys journaling, which allows her to reset and unleash her creativity. Aside from her scholastic and creative pursuits, she also plays another role as a caregiver for her mother, who has “early onset dementia,” Daneliuk said.

Reflecting fondly on her former years during her time at Douglas College, Daneliuk recalls the impact that a feminist lecturer, Susan Briggs, had on her as “absolutely delightful,” which drove her to emulate Briggs’ teaching style in her current role as an instructor in university teaching here at TRU. She was also inspired by another Professor who taught literature classes in Old English, a form of language which she finds “very sexy” and which “renewed the sense of the joy of learning” within her.

At TRU, Daneliuk has developed two different courses, Urban Legends and

Informal Communications for the Communications department. Daneliuk finds the aforementioned courses to be “baby folklore courses.” The course that holds a special place in her heart is the one about Urban Legends, which dives into “all kinds of urban legends, like the one of the alligator and the sewer,” Daneliuk said.

Daneliuk’s main advice to TRU students is two-fold, “not to take things for granted” and not to allow the fear of judgement from others stop you from trying out new endeavours, which are insights that came to her with time and experience. She also encourages students to see lectures as an opportunity to, “discover something about the world,” not as something they need to do just to get a job.

The Omega’s Professor Spotlight is a new weekly series where we reintroduce you to some of the universities most popular faculty members. If you would like to nominate a professor, lecturer, or sessional instructor for their own Professor Spotlight, you’re encouraged to email the Omega’s Editor-in-Chief Robert McAlaster at editor@theomega.news.

Queer students struggle to have voices heard

Safe space proponents say TRU one of few schools without dedicated safe space

AUGUSTUS HOLMAN ARTS EDITOR

2 SLGBTQI+ TRU students have been struggling without a designated safe space on campus. Since its original proposal in 2017, students have fought to have their request fulfilled to create a designated 2SLGBTQI+ space.

The students rallying for the space say TRU is one of the few campuses in Canada without a designated pride centre.

Monty Armstrong said TRU's campus needs a place where 2SLGBTQI+ students can seek safe refuge. They noted how difficulties connecting with other queer individuals in Kamloops leads to people feeling as though they are not a part of the community.

"When it comes to social connections, it's hard to find other queer people in Kamloops," Armstrong said. "It makes you feel kind of isolated."

Many students have reported they have experienced some sort of 2SLGBTQI+ discrimination while on campus during the course of their studies. Advocates say a designated pride space would be a place for special resources, a place to go for help when facing discrimination and would build a strong sense of community on campus.

One of the initial students to propose the pride centre back in 2017 was Eliana Babiou, who told the Omega the space would provide a dedicated place to have social events, like Queer Connections.

Pride Club vice-president Payton Hiebert joined in advocating for the centre in 2020, several years after the original proposal. They have started a petition for students to show their support and need for this designated pride centre.

"[The pride centre] is not just going to impact students,



AUGUSTUS HOLMAN/THE OMEGA

Club president Joel Lucas (back), with club vice-president Payton Hiebert.

it's going to impact everybody in Kamloops. The fact that we don't have any form of pride space at all in Kamloops is really hard on our community. With TRU opening the pride centre, it would fill this massive gap and it would be a step towards what we need."

Hiebert said previous talks with the university took place in 2021, with the understanding that once a manager was hired, further progress toward the centre would be made. In October 2023, Noah Fischer was hired as the university's new manager of gender and sexual diversity, but Hiebert said there has been no discussion on

further progress since then.

"[Noah's] been doing an awesome job ... but we still don't see the actual pride space," Hiebert said.

According to Hiebert, there's been no correspondence from TRU since Fischer was hired.

Hiebert said the original plan for the Pride Club's event called Queer Connections was for it to eventually be hostable in the designated pride centre; however, it continues to be hosted in the UPREP room in Old Main. They said although UPREP has been welcoming to Queer Connections being hosted in their room, it isn't practical for the students

nor for the members of the Pride Club to work out of that space. Booking the space to host Queer Connections is not always guaranteed.

"When we look at Kamloops Pride, they're all volunteers. They're exhausted... It is just people donating their time to make this happen. There's just about no people in Kamloops that are being paid for their work [in pride events and spaces], we're just doing it because nobody is doing it for us," Hiebert said.

Students are still struggling without a designated pride centre and are hoping for the university to help its 2SLGBTQI+ students.

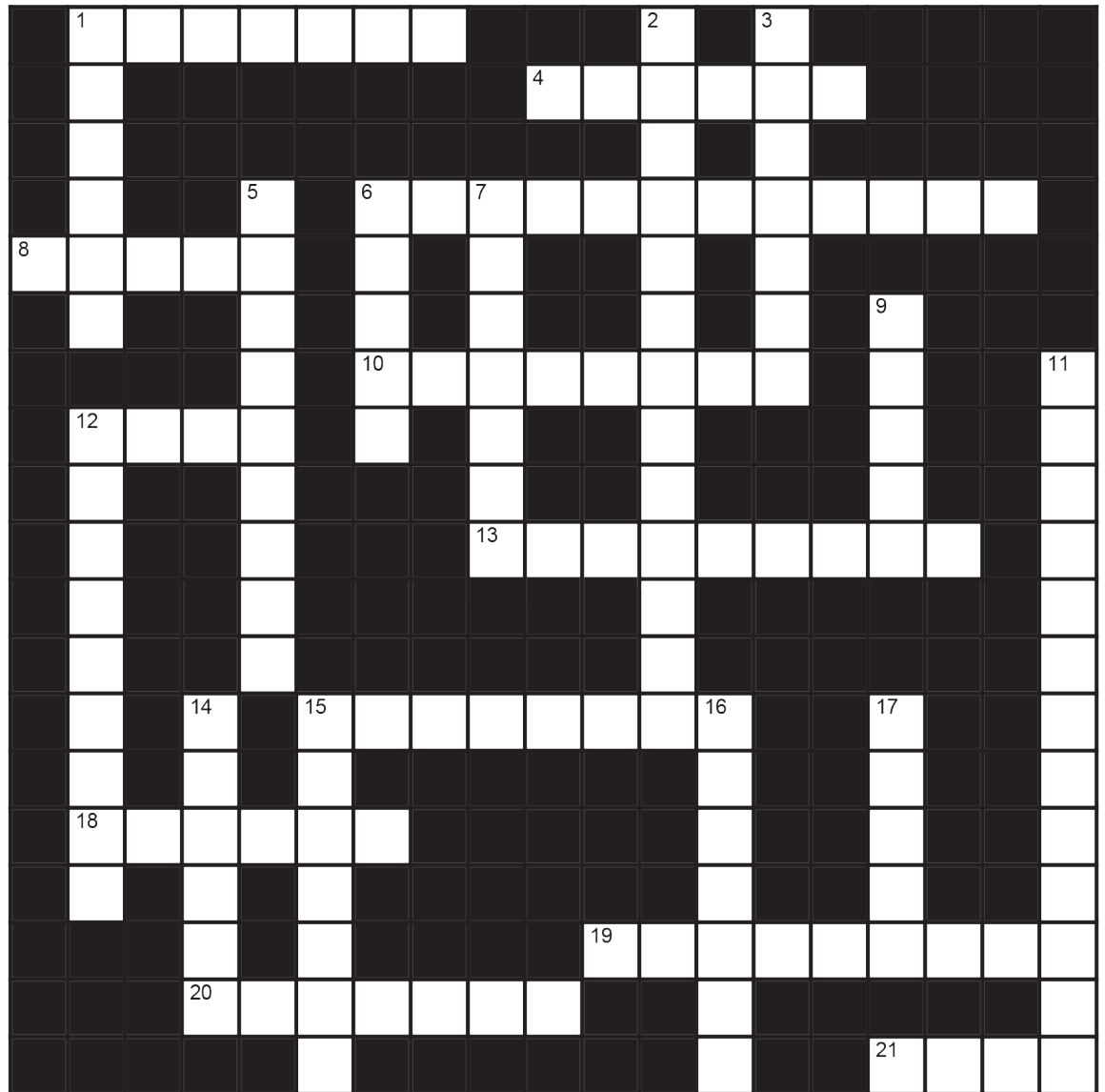
Welcome Spring

ACROSS

1. Sons and daughters mark this day in May (7)
4. Not autumnal, but ----- (6)
6. TRU program focusing on plants (12)
8. This type of tree drops "helicopter" seeds (5)
10. Seasonal tidying. Spring ----- (8)
12. How India marks the season start (4)
13. Planting veggies? Start your seeds before this (two words) (9)
15. Late spring often brings this environmental risk (8)
18. The creeks are full of this species' fry (6)
19. In Quebec they call it (9)
20. They start your plants for you (7)
21. They become leaves, flowers or shoots (4)

DOWN

1. Some B.C. cities celebrate it; a distress call (6)
2. Kamloops typically sees the most of this in June (13)
3. May become a Douglas Fir or Ponderosa Pine (7)
5. Erupt from dormancy (9)
6. To become a chick, you must ----- (5)
7. A theme of the season (7)
9. Watch out for these in the back country (5)
11. Butterfly process (13)
12. Know these zones if you grow in Kamloops (9)
14. Allergy powder (6)
15. April showers bring these (7)
16. Cattle return to fields to do this (7)
17. Early spring is a good time to do this to shrubs and bushes (5)



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