

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Reporting period from November 5, 2024 to February 3, 2025

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Once again, Capilano University (CapU) partnered with [United Way British Columbia](#) to host a successful annual campaign in November. Together, we raised \$38,372.93 to fund programs and services that support those in need in our local communities. The 2024 campaign provided several events and opportunities for connection and fundraising.

In January, I attended the annual Immersive Innovation Summit at Arizona State University, where I joined leaders from the higher education sector to explore new teaching paradigms, examine the role of immersive technologies in education, and shape the future of learning. In early February, I participated in the annual EAB Presidential Roundtable, engaging with peers about the current challenges facing our institutions.

In my final President's Perspective on January 30, I shared with the University community my reflections and insights on the past, present and future of higher education. I discussed the ongoing changes in the post-secondary sector and the evolving role of universities, including CapU. I firmly believe CapU is on the right path to weather the storm of challenges we see around us and to seize the many opportunities that lie ahead.

I continue to meet and engage with my [BCAIU](#) and [BCCIE](#) colleagues on important topics affecting our sector.

ACADEMIC & PROVOST

The work undertaken by academic colleagues contributes to the ability of CapU to recruit and retain students and provides them with high-quality learning experiences, while fostering operational sustainability.

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

- » The FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children is pleased to announce Sarah Yercich's promotion to co-director as of January 1, 2025. This promotion recognizes her significant contributions to the centre and her leadership in advancing research on the safety of marginalized groups. Sarah's appointment enhances leadership and community engagement at the FREDA Centre and strengthens partnerships with academic, governmental and community organizations.
- » The Interdisciplinary Studies program has partnered with the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation (VUFFF) to provide Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities, connecting students with community-driven environmental sustainability initiatives. This partnership provides students with real-world sustainability experience and increases community involvement in environmental education.
- » CapU has been awarded the Esri Canada GIS Scholarship, recognizing its robust GIS programs and providing students with advanced tools, training and development opportunities. This work enhances students' GIS skills and career development and increases the visibility and recognition of CapU's GIS program.

- » Sanam Vaghefi delivered an online presentation as part of the hybrid panel at the 20th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference (IASFM20) on January 20. The conference, held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, included participants joining virtually, including Sanam. Her presentation, *Taking Refuge in Faith: Religious Organizations and Refugee Mental Well-being in Canada*, was part of the panel *Faith in Transit: Navigating the Many Roles of Religion within the Migration Industry*. Funded in part by the CARS Unified #8 Grant Program, her research is currently in the ethics approval stage. Sanam discussed her literature review, research design and future progress, with a special journal issue planned in collaboration with the panel organizers.

FACULTY OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

- » On January 15, School of Communication faculty Alaa Al-Musalli delivered a public lecture at the North Vancouver City Library on the importance of disinformation literacy for civic engagement. Additionally, Alaa is involved in a community-based project, supported by CARS funding, collaborating with the Vancouver School Board to raise awareness about disinformation literacy and provide fact checking skills to K-12 students.
- » On January 22, Adam Vincent, chair of the School of Communication, presented facets of his research in poetic inquiry to graduate students and faculty at UBC's Language and Literacy Education department. He also shared stories of collaborating with his late mentor, Carl Leggo. This presentation contributed to the scholarly discourse on poetic inquiry and fostered academic collaboration with UBC faculty and students.
- » School of Legal Studies faculty Karen Roussy was appointed to the Family Innovation Lab (FJIL), which welcomed four new board members, strengthening innovation within family law and contributing to key decisions and innovations in family justice.
- » School of Legal Studies faculty Sara El Rayess was appointed by the attorney general to the Regulated Paralegal Working Group, which will provide strategic direction for legal services regulated by paralegals in B.C. This appointment aids in creating a framework for regulating paralegals and offers recommendations to expand paralegal roles in the legal system
- » School of Legal Studies faculty Melissa Panjer and Sara El Rayess received a CARS Unified #8 Grant to continue their work on a paralegal community clinic in partnership with a pro bono legal service and referral provider. This grant expands legal services for underrepresented communities and fosters collaboration between legal professionals and students.
- » In Fall 2024, 28 CMNS 495 students completed a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project with 28 students from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS). The project involved joint assignments and discussions, including a special session on truth and reconciliation with members of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, providing cross-cultural learning opportunities and deepening understanding of Indigenous issues in Canada.
- » Enactus Capilano's team, consisting of 25 students, operates four micro-scale social enterprises. They received \$2,500 from the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation to translate financial literacy materials and are expanding the Pick and Go food security project. They are also developing podcasts for Greenblog and pivoting UBelong to online mental health courses for entrepreneurs, engaging students in social entrepreneurship and impacting over 300 secondary students. These efforts address food security, mental health and financial literacy through digital platforms.
- » Trevor McFadyen, Enactus faculty advisor, was awarded a CARS Unified #8 Stream B Grant for his research on "The Gamification of Innovative Social Entrepreneurship" in Enactus. This research contributes to gamification



strategies in social entrepreneurship and enhances Enactus projects with innovative gamification.

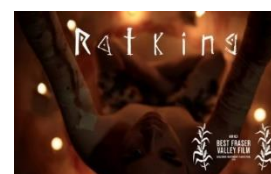
- » On January 18, CapU's School of Business students, represented by CAPUMA, won second place at BCITMA's annual regional conference sales competition, providing networking and learning experiences for students and highlighting CapU's strong presence in business education.
- » Sylvio Tenorio was appointed as the new employer engagement and outreach liaison to build industry partnerships for experiential learning. In Fall 2024, 46 Business students participated in WIL, with 30 students completing a 450-hour practicum in the NABU program and 16 students developing a sustainability plan for Mount Seymour Resort, providing students with practical experience in business and sustainability and contributing to the development of sustainability practices at Mount Seymour Resort.
- » Lou Villalba hosted Ambassador Nestor Forster, Consul General of Brazil, for a lecture in IBUS 440 on Brazil's roles in global food security, renewable energy, and environmental protection. The event included an engaging Q&A session with students and concluded with a meet-and-greet with President Paul Dangerfield, providing students with insights into Brazil's international roles.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- » The Early Childhood Education and Care department hired CapU's first deaf faculty, Mari Klassen, who will co-teach a new course in Spring 2025 titled "Being with American Sign Language in Pedagogical Contexts." The course, designed by Annabella Cant, introduces future early childhood educators to American Sign Language and deaf cultures. This course is one of its kind in Canada, equipping future educators with inclusive skills for working with deaf and non-verbal children and strengthening CapU's commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- » Sara Sutherland was appointed the new director of children's centres at CapU. With her extensive experience as a champion for high-quality early childhood education and her advocacy for children and families, Sara oversees an expanding system of children's centres, including the existing North Vancouver campus centre, a new centre at the Centre for Childhood Studies, and a planned centre in Squamish.
- » Five faculty from the Early Childhood Education and Care department were awarded research grants through CARS. Anita Ewan, Annabella Cant and Bo Sun Kim received CAPU Unified Grants, while Anita also received an NSERC Mobilize Grant in collaboration with colleagues Julia Black and Nancy van Groll, supporting impactful research in early childhood education and contributing to advancing best practices in early childhood education.
- » In January 2025, CapU launched an eight-month certificate program in partnership with the Squamish Nation. The program trains Squamish Nation students to work as health care assistants in various care settings. Classes are held in Squamish Nation facilities, while clinical skills training takes place at CapU's main campus. This program is funded by the provincial government and delivered in collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health, addressing labour market needs by training Squamish Nation students in health care and strengthening CapU's community engagement and support for Indigenous students.
- » CapU has signed a new two-year MoU with STEPS Forward, the BC Initiative for Inclusive Postsecondary Education. The agreement supports students with developmental and intellectual disabilities to fully participate in university life and their academic program of choice. The program involves faculty, staff and inclusion facilitators hired by STEPS Forward. There are plans to expand this partnership to Squamish campus, strengthening CapU's commitment to inclusive education for students with disabilities and expanding accessibility and inclusion for students at the Squamish campus.

FACULTY OF FINE & APPLIED ARTS

- » The Music Diploma program hosted an outreach event, Voice and Choir Day, on January 25, attracting over 100 high school singers. The event featured six hours of vocal technique training, choral singing, a Q&A session on post-secondary music studies, and community building. This event was facilitated by Capilano University faculty as part of their community service initiatives, introducing high school students to CapU's Music Diploma program and strengthening community ties while promoting youth involvement in music education.
- » Indigenous composer and conductor Andrew Balfour, along with the Vancouver-based chamber choir [musica intima](#), presented [Nagamo](#) on February 2. In addition to the concert at the BlueShore at CapU, Balfour led a workshop on February 1 with Music diploma students and high school participants from around Metro Vancouver, enhancing student learning through direct collaboration with renowned musicians and providing students with unique opportunities to perform with professionals.
- » CapU's production of *The SpongeBob Musical*, directed by Cathy Wilmot and choreographed by Keri Minty, received multiple awards at the Community Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production—Community, Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role (Brett Williams), and Outstanding Newcomer (Eric Timuss). This recognition showcases the talent and creativity of CapU's Theatre program and provides students with professional-level performance experiences and industry recognition.
- » *Evensong*, a short film directed, written and produced by Motion Picture Arts alumni Malibu Taetz, aired on CBC TV on December 12 and is now available for streaming on CBC Gem. The film was also showcased at the Trans-Saharan Film Festival in Morocco. Additionally, the film's live music performance by the KLK Orchestra and Lviv Chamber Choir from Ukraine is available on Apple Music and YouTube, increasing the visibility of the Motion Picture Arts program.
- » *Rat King*, directed by Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts alumni Ayush Senanayake, won the Best Fraser Valley Film award at the Chilliwack International Film Festival. The film was also nominated for Best Score, gaining attention from *Moviemaker* magazine in the US for its exceptional music and composition.
- » CapU alumnus and film producer Christopher Beaubien presented an encore screening of his short films, including *Bridge No. 29*, *Socket*, and the award-winning *Siren*, on November 20 with the support of the Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society.
- » CapU 3D Animation graduate Kevin Little won Best Short Film at the 2024 Rio Grind Festival for his film, showcasing the talent fostered in CapU's 3D Animation program and increasing recognition for CapU's animation and digital arts programs.
- » A retrospective of films by Chris Beaubien, a Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts alumni, was featured at the 2024 CINELATION Retrospective. [Watch the film.](#) This [retrospective](#) highlights CapU alumni's accomplishments in the film industry and strengthens the Motion Picture Arts program's reputation.



FACULTY OF GLOBAL & COMMUNITY STUDIES

- » CapU entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Community Solution Education System, formalizing a pathway for CapU kinesiology students to enter the Doctor of Chiropractic program at the University of Western States (UWS). The agreement was featured in *Academica Top 10* on January 13, 2025, enhancing educational opportunities for kinesiology students and strengthening CapU's partnerships with other educational institutions.
- » CapU's School of Tourism received recognition for its strong connections with industry partners. Gray Line Westcoast Sightseeing was named CapU WIL Partner of the Year 2024, with an honorable mention given to Destination Greater Victoria. Additionally, Simon Wenjun Wang was named CapU WIL Student of the Year 2024, with Andres Martinez Lima earning an honorable mention. Both winners are further nominated for the ACE-WIL awards regional competition, showcasing the success of CapU's WIL program and industry partnerships and celebrating the achievements of exemplary tourism students.



KÁLAX-AY THE SUNSHINE COAST CAMPUS

- » In November, Greg Coyes, faculty and coordinator for the Indigenous Digital Filmmaking (IDF) department, took first-year Indigenous Digital Filmmaker students on a meaningful field trip to engage with Elders from the shíshálh Nation. The students gained valuable insights into the canoe history of the Nation, which contributed to an upcoming short film project, enhancing student learning through direct engagement with Elders and the preservation of Indigenous history and fostering collaboration between students and Elders, promoting respectful cultural understanding and filmmaking based on Indigenous knowledge and traditions.
- » Through the Mapping Swiya project, Andy Johnson, a shíshálh language instructor, along with Katelyn Dickson and Michelle Dickson, education assistants and language instructors, joined Elder Robert Joe and Jessica Silvey to present the shíshálh Nation timeline project on the walls of the kálox-ay campus. Local high school students from Elphinstone and Chatelech participated in this important cultural project, promoting cultural awareness and understanding of the shíshálh Nation's history and supporting the ongoing efforts to preserve and share Indigenous languages and traditions through educational initiatives.
- » CapU participated in the signing of a significant collaboration agreement with the shíshálh Nation and The Loon Foundation. The agreement supports continued education, research and the stewardship of kalpilin (Pender Harbour), strengthening CapU's relationship with the shíshálh Nation and contributing to long-term educational and environmental stewardship efforts, while providing a foundation for future research and collaborative initiatives focused on Indigenous communities and local heritage.
- » In December, Suzanne Perreault, campus supervisor, and Deborah Mazerolle, DDA 1, participated in the annual gingerbread house decoration contest. The campus also hosted Sunshine Coast Community Services' efforts to provide carved wooden toys for disadvantaged children, showcasing local talent and reinforcing CapU's commitment to community support, fostering a spirit of collaboration and community engagement, with CapU employees contributing to both artistic and charitable initiatives, while strengthening its ties with local organizations and showcasing its commitment to social responsibility.

- » The campus hosted a lunch and information-sharing session with President Paul Dangerfield and Tracy Penny Light, interim vice-president & academic provost. This visit was an opportunity to share the campus' ongoing initiatives and successes, providing a platform to engage with senior leadership, fostering stronger communication and support across the University, and enhancing the visibility of the campus's achievements and contributions.
- » In January, several community groups began using the campus as a meeting place, focusing on social change, particularly in poverty reduction efforts. The campus continues to collaborate with ElderCollege, which offers enriching classes for elder citizens, encouraging campus and community engagement, strengthening CapU's role as a community hub and a centre for social impact on the Sunshine Coast, and creating opportunities for intergenerational learning and engagement through ElderCollege classes, enriching both elder students and the broader campus community.
- » Indigenous students and Nation members engaged in weaving classes at the Carving Shed, while others continued their participation in wood carving classes. These offerings at the kálay-ay campus are essential for preserving and promoting Indigenous art and culture, fostering an inclusive learning environment, preserving and celebrating Indigenous traditions through hands-on art and cultural practices, and promoting an inclusive and respectful learning space for Indigenous students and community members to engage in cultural expression.

SQUAMISH CAMPUS

- » On November 15, 2024, CapU Squamish and the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society hosted the Howe Sound Conservation Network event, in collaboration with EarthWorks. Approximately 70 students, faculty and conservation groups from around the Howe Sound region attended, sharing knowledge on biodiversity conservation. Notable speakers included Stephanie Hewson of West Coast Environmental Law and David Zandvliet, UNESCO chair for biocultural education, fostering community engagement on environmental conservation issues, enhancing knowledge sharing between students, faculty, and local conservation experts, and strengthening CapU's connection to regional environmental initiatives.



- » CapU Squamish hosted its first Explore CapU Day on December 7, 2024, offering tours of the campus and housing, alongside program presentations. The event provided prospective students with valuable insights into campus life, showcasing CapU Squamish's offerings and helping prospective students explore educational opportunities, while strengthening CapU's recruitment and outreach efforts to attract new students to the Squamish campus.



- » CapU Squamish launched a concurrent studies pilot program for high school students in Spring 2025. Four students from Coast Mountain Academy enrolled in the COMP115 course as part of this initiative, allowing high school students to experience university-level education and earn credits, while enhancing CapU Squamish's role in community educational partnerships and creating pathways for local students
- » CapU executive approved a summer conference centre pilot project from May 1 to August 31, 2025, allowing individuals and groups to book space for meetings or events in the Ossa Building, increasing campus utilization during the summer months and creating a revenue-generating opportunity for CapU Squamish through conference and event bookings.
- » A chef from Whistler Cooks joined CapU Squamish in January 2025, expanding the menu to include paninis, burgers and pizza, complementing the previously offered salads, soups and sandwiches.
- » The campus also introduced new courses in Spring 2025, including Philosophy, Criminology, Biology, Business Computing, Introduction to Business and English, improving food options for students and faculty and expanding course offerings for the Spring 2025 term, increasing academic diversity and student choice at CapU Squamish.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION & AFFAIRS

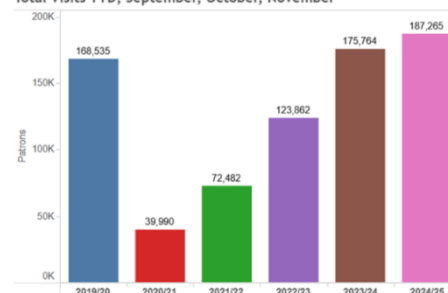
- » IEA launched the engagement process for the Chénchenstway project monitor, an important element of the implementation of findings from the Chénchenstway engagement process, increasing Indigenous student involvement in project development and community-based learning, while strengthening CapU's commitment to Indigenous-focused education and leadership.
- » In the Kéxwusm-áyakn Centre, IEA welcomed new team members Stephanie Merinuk (manager) and Adriana Bathurst (Indigenous recruitment specialist). Regular programming included weekly craft circles, the first Indigenous vendor market, a Winter Feast and successful TRC Week events featuring Chelsea Vowel and Angela Sterritt, enhancing community engagement and cultural learning within the centre and increasing student participation in Indigenous-led initiatives and events.
- » In partnership with the Métis Nation of BC, IEA hosted a celebration for Louis Riel Day, honouring Métis history and culture, promoting cultural awareness and celebrating the Métis community, while strengthening CapU's relationship with the Métis Nation of BC and expanding cross-cultural understanding.
- » IEA increased student engagement, particularly with student life, through collaborative events like Wellness Week, which included yoga sessions by a student entrepreneur. IEA also visited Squamish campus to assess Indigenous student support needs and connect with the Elders' Circle from the northern village, increasing cross-campus collaboration on student well-being, engagement, Indigenous student support and involvement at CapU.



LIBRARY

- » The library has significantly increased student activity, surpassing 2019 pre-pandemic figures. High-use spaces included the main floor, second-floor study carrels and the learning commons, while study rooms saw intensive use, particularly during peak hours. Additionally, 2340 students received library instruction during the term. This growth demonstrates the library's central role in supporting student learning and academic success and continues to enhance its services and support systems to accommodate the growing student population.
- » Librarian Jen Goerzen organized a "Stress reDUCKtion" event, where toy ducks were hidden around the library and students could redeem them for care packages. Collaborating with student affairs, the library also organized community colouring tables and introduced Pet Grams, sharing encouraging messages paired with pet photos. These activities foster student well-being during stressful academic periods and enhance student engagement with the library through creative and fun initiatives.
- » Librarians Ashley Manhas, Shawna Buhler, Glen Greenly, Dalene Samborski and Christina Neigel published a peer-reviewed article titled, "Hiring Library Technicians in Academic Libraries: Revising, Rejecting, and Reclaiming the Process" in the [Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research](#) (January 2025 issue). This publication contributes to scholarly discourse on inclusive hiring practices within academic libraries and highlights the library's commitment to ongoing professional development and scholarly contributions.
- » The library successfully ingested student graduating projects from the SCIENCE 400 course into the CapU Institutional Repository for Fall 2024. [View Projects here](#). This contribution increases access to student research

Total Visits YTD, September, October, November



and scholarship within the academic community and enhances the visibility and impact of CapU's student-led research initiatives.

TEACHING & LEARNING

- » Tania Loken joined the Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE) as the educational developer, WIL. In this role, Tania collaborates with faculty to enhance and develop effective strategies for integrating work-based learning into both course and program curricula. She works across faculties and partners with the CapU WIL team to offer tailored support to individual instructors and entire departments. This appointment strengthens the focus on work-integrated learning strategies in CapU's academic programs and increases faculty collaboration and development in creating impactful WIL experiences for students.
- » From November to January, members of the CTE held over 475 consultations with faculty, assisting with diverse topics such as rubrics, active learning strategies, and incorporating new technologies into teaching. Additionally, departmental workshops were conducted, covering topics like curriculum mapping, academic model integration, and the use of Generative AI in classrooms. These sessions engaged faculty in enhancing teaching methods and course delivery, while increasing adoption of innovative teaching strategies, including technology integration and active learning.
- » CapU held new faculty orientation at both the main and Squamish campuses in early January. This orientation provided new faculty with essential tools and resources to integrate into CapU's teaching environment, while strengthening the faculty community and ensuring new instructors are supported from the start of their careers.
- » On November 8, the director of teaching & learning and the Centre for International Education (CTE) hosted members from the Singapore University of Social Science's Teaching and Learning Centre for an exchange of ideas and best practices. This exchange promoted international collaboration and idea-sharing in teaching and learning, while fostering connections that could lead to future partnerships and educational opportunities.
- » From November 11–15, Mary Giovanetti, Lydia Watson, Brit Paris and Laura Kinderman attended and presented at the POD Network Annual Meeting—North America's premier conference for educational development. CapU was well-represented, showcasing CapU's commitment to ongoing professional development and educational innovation, while expanding CapU's network within the field of educational development.
- » The first half of the Hyflex Classroom Pilot concluded in December, utilizing new technology installed in the Cedar classroom and the ECCE studio. The second half of the pilot is scheduled to conclude by April 30, 2025. This trial provided valuable insights into the use of hyflex classrooms and hybrid learning environments, setting the stage for possible future implementation of hyflex classrooms across CapU to enhance learning flexibility.

CREATIVE ACTIVITY, RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP & GRADUATE STUDIES

- » New CARS Faculty Research Grant awardees. Congratulations to the following faculty who were awarded funding in the inaugural CARS-NSERC Mobilize research grant to support community-based research and knowledge mobilization activities. Awardees receive up to \$30K towards section releases and student hiring costs.
 - EarthWorks coordinators, Nancy van Groll, Faculty of Education, Health & Human Development, and Cheryl Shreader, Faculty of Arts & Sciences: EarthWorks projects—A platform to connect community members with critical environmental issues. Their funding will support the hiring of two student research assistants who will organize knowledge mobilization events and create an engagement plan and a marketing campaign.
 - Julia Black, Faculty of Education, Health & Human Development: *Sea to Sky Early Years Needs Assessment*—A multi-phase, collaborative research project in partnership with the District of Squamish, Sea to Sky Community Services Society and School District #48. The project focuses on childcare needs in the Sea to

Sky Corridor, including mapping out existing childcare, identifying service gaps, evaluating the recruitment and retention of educators, barriers to access and policy work.

- **Anita Ewan**, Faculty of Education, Health & Human Development: *Amplifying Marginalized Voices of Perinatal Mental Health*. The project, in partnership with the Daymark Foundation and Black Canadian Women in Action, will examine perinatal mental health care within the wider Canadian community, centering on marginalized birth givers and healthcare practitioners.
 - **Megan Smetzer**, Faculty of Arts & Sciences: Partnership with the shishálh Nation for their project titled, *Paddling Together: Preparing for the shishálh canoe*. The project focuses on the Nation's first S-néS-néxwílh (ocean going hunting canoe). The canoe will contribute to language reclamation and cultural resurgence by addressing the historical injustices brought about by colonialism.
 - **Mark Wlodyka**, Faculty of Arts & Sciences: Partnership with the Sea-to Sky Invasive Species Council on their project titled, *Invasive Species Detection Survey in the Howe Sound Biosphere Using Advanced Drone, Lidar and GIS Technology*, and focuses on the eradication of invasive plant species in the region. The project will survey, detect, identify, and characterize invasive plant species in the Howe Sound Biosphere using drone-based LIDAR visual detection systems and GIS mapping.
- » CARS new cohort of Unified Grant winners. These grants provide faculty with funding to hire research assistants and, new this year, section releases. Faculty research supported by these grants spans a broad range of areas from youth mental health to AI writing practices. The faculty awardees are:
- Faculty of Arts & Sciences: Bruno Tomberli, Catherine Gloor, Chi-Fu Wu, Dana Bernier, Hojat Yazdanpanah, Jennifer Davis, Mark Wlodyka, Megan Smetzer, Sanam Vaghefi, Sophia Jaworski, Yoriko Gillard
 - Faculty of Business & Professional Studies: Adam Vincent, Alaa Al-Musalli, Kym Stewart, Laurie Prange, Melissa Panjer, Milla Zaenker, Laura Kinderman, Sara El Rayess, Trevor McFadyen
 - Faculty of Education, Health & Human Development: Anita Ewan, Annabella Cant, Bo Sun Kim, Jay Manuel Carreiro
 - Faculty of Fine & Applied Arts: Jared Burrows, Jordan Hall, Marija Djordjevic, Stephen Atkins; Centre for Teaching Excellence: Lydia Watson

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Finance & Administration welcomed Marianne Johnstone as the executive assistant, board secretariat. Marianne will be working with CapU senior leadership and the Board of Governors to support the University's governance and reporting requirements.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- » Finance is working with leadership across the University to develop the fiscal 2025/26 budget.
- » The fiscal 2024/25 Q3 forecast was submitted to the ministry in December and was a surplus of \$6.2 million which is a \$3.1 million favourable variance compared to the Board approved 2024/25 surplus budget of \$3.1 million. This surplus figure includes a \$5 million restriction of the ministry operating grant to support digital transformation.

CORPORATE SERVICES

- » Corporate services welcomed Amir Shafiei, new procurement manager, and Alejandro Lugo, purchasing associate. Amir and Alejandro will be leading and supporting the procurement team as the University works to understand and implement the procurement module of the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

- » Purchasing services supported the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a data integration engine, installation of furniture for the new Children's Centre and Squamish student housing, the procurement of the new boilers and heating equipment for Bosa Centre for Film & Animation and the Cedar Building, and equipment for safety and security systems upgrades.
- » A review of the risk criteria was completed with changes submitted to the Audit and Risk Committee for approval alongside the update of the University's risk register.
- » The policy office continues to make progress with updating the CapU policy suite. The Senate approved updates to S2018-02 Student Awards policy and the replacement of S1999-06 Faculty Emeritus with the new S2025-01 Academic Emeritus Policy and S2025-01-01 Faculty Emeritus procedure. The Senior Leadership Council approved updates to OP.420 Safety and Emergency Services Policy.

FACILITIES SERVICES & CAMPUS PLANNING

- » The facilities services & campus planning leadership team attended the Facilities Directors Conference in November, hosted by Vancouver Community College.
- » Safety & Emergency Services welcomed Chuck Faliao, new security operations & parking advisor. Chris Sharp, environment, health & safety advisor, left CapU to move to northern B.C. and start the next chapter of his life.
- » A significant focus in this quarter supported the skills and learning of our Duty of Care Committee (DOCC) by the annual attendance of the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals workshops and conference, and by hosting a CapU workshop for duty of care and self-directed violence for our DOCC, counselling & accessibility, people, culture & diversity, student affairs and joint health & safety committee members. The office also began business impact assessments with all senior leadership council and operational directors as part of the Business Continuity Planning process.
- » The facilities operations and safety & emergency services teams successfully completed the first phase of a project recommended by the BC FireSmart program. This phase focused on grounds and building maintenance in several priority areas, including the Children's Centre, Fir, Maple, and the southwest corner of Centre for Sports and Wellness.
- » In addition, facilities operations, in collaboration with purchasing, finalized several RFPs for critical mechanical upgrades, including the Bosa and Cedar Boiler Plant projects. These upgrades will address ongoing heating issues. Contracts were awarded and work is underway, with completion anticipated by the end of March.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- » Digital Technology Services (DTS) welcomed new team members to help support digital projects and improve the University's cybersecurity maturity level.
- » The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project's detailed design phase is in progress with the team working on defining end-to-end business processes. This has provided the opportunity for teams to re-imagine new ways of working that will be supported by Workday.
- » The Data Integration Project continues and is in the process of developing interfaces that will support the ERP project. Included in this work is establishing data governance in collaboration with the University community; a steering committee has been created to define this work.
- » A tool evaluation for cybersecurity was completed and work is in progress to close any gaps identified. Projects are in progress to secure Office 365 and initiate a project to further expand on multi-factor authentication. A

cloud strategy and a technical audit is in progress that will support the transition from on-premises technologies to the cloud, where possible.

- » In collaboration with Academic Integrated Planning (AIP) and the registrar's office, a project is being initiated to implement a curriculum management system that will deliver a single definitive source of reliable curriculum information and will support timely and efficient development of programs.

PEOPLE, CULTURE & DIVERSITY

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

- » HR business partners and the CFA conducted a joint presentation on the regularization process on January 7 and search hire process on February 4.
- » HR business partners provided training on regularization at the VP academic/deans meeting on January 16.

TALENT ACQUISITION

- » Jeremy Orsted (he/him) stepped into the interim manager, talent acquisition role. Jeremy will partner with HR analytics, HRBPs and hiring managers to proactively determine resourcing needs and timelines, sourcing and recruitment strategies, and identify target audiences and attraction drivers.
- » Presented three offerings of Introduction to Talent Acquisition Workshop to the faculty group. The purpose of the presentation is to highlight how TA can support the faculty search hire process.
- » Created a Faculty Search Hire Process page on *Frontlines* with current process and best practice guidelines, tools, templates and scripts to support faculty from posting creation through to the candidate offer.
- » Created an interview accommodation tracker to consolidate requests and ensure appropriate parties are informed of their duty to accommodate.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- » Following feedback from previous cycle of performance appraisal program, developed and presented clarifying guidelines to Goals and Performance (GAP) Program including an evidenced-based shift towards holistically assessing contribution towards University priorities.
- » Launched pilot recognition initiative in partnership with the president's office: Envisioning and Illuminating Awards—A peer-nominated, peer-adjudicated employee awards to celebrate those whose work inspires colleagues, enhances collaboration and advances the values that drive the goals and priorities of [Envisioning 2030](#) and [Illuminating 2030](#).
- » Re-aligned the Leadership Forum, in partnership with the president's office, to strategically support the ongoing discussion and development of leadership competencies towards driving key employee engagement initiatives, including a shift towards a 'for leaders, by leaders' format.
- » Learning & development hosted two sessions of DiSC 1—Creating our common language.
- » Launched CapU's first employee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiative, self-identification—An essential component of the *People Plan*—to collect data on CapU's diversity, track and report progress toward DEI goals, enhance employment equity, and ensure compliance with provincial and federal regulations. Supporting communications and resources were also developed. By the end of 2024, we reached an employee participation

rate of 30 per cent.

- » Collaborated with talent acquisition to update the applicant self-identification survey for alignment with the employee survey approach.
- » CapU sponsored a session on governance and volunteer management, facilitated by the manager, DEI, for the 2024 Pride at Work Canada's *FLOURISH* cohort. The virtual program equips aspiring employee resource group leaders across Canadian sectors to be effective 2SLGBTQIA+ champions in their workplaces.
- » Provided university-wide update on recent global DEI developments, acknowledging and highlighting shifts in the post-secondary and corporate sectors driven by cultural factors, and reaffirmed CapU's commitment to DEI.

LABOUR RELATIONS

- » The team presented two offerings of collective bargaining workshops on November 12–13.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, ASSESSMENT & INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

INTEGRATED PLANNING

- » Themes and key recommendations were identified by the team while processing the feedback gathered around integrated planning from SLC members. Highlights from this analysis were grouped into three documents, one summarizing perceptions about what “integrated” means; a second one outlining key recommendations to improve the planning process; and the third summarizing recommendations to improve the planning templates. The feedback received provided valuable information for the team to establish differences in planning needs and preferences across units.
- » The team scheduled meetings to identify actionable items from the feedback summary described above. As a result, we are meeting with key senior leaders, including the VP academic & provost and the VP people, culture and diversity, to collaborate efforts and finetune the integrated planning process and templates for the next cycle.

ENVISIONING 2030

- » In collaboration with Indigenous Education & Affairs (IEA), a draft of the Chénchenstway progress monitor was completed. IEA is now in the process of socializing this draft before it is published.

STRATEGY, ANALYTICS & TRANSFORMATION

- » We received a positive Letter of Acknowledgement from the ministry for CapU's 2023–2024 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report on January 15, 2025. It states, the “institution continues to provide a comprehensive report that clearly represents the University's vision, purpose and values.” It also states, “CapU has done very well in addressing the 2023/24 Mandate Letter priorities” and congratulations CapU for the implementation of the first Indigenous education framework [Chénchenstway](#).
- » The team has been focused on providing data and analytics support for strategic enrolment management. Included in these efforts are a launch of redesigned CapU Analytics dashboards (performance metrics 2.0) for a more streamlined user experience, a set of diagnostic reports to better understand the fluctuations in enrolments (including the impacts of the recent IRCC announcements) and a series of projects related to enrolment predictive modelling capabilities by leveraging statistical and machine learning techniques.

INTERNATIONAL

- » The first international field school to Ghana was an outstanding success. Twenty-four students from multiple programs participated in this unique school led by Kofi Gblonyo and Jared Burrows from the Music program in the School of Performing Arts and accompanied by Esinu Gblonyo for wrap around support. The field school took place over Christmas and the new year. Students were treated to rare and transformative learning experiences in this beautiful and fascinating country, including learning music and performing with local community members, visiting the University of Ghana (where we are working on developing an academic partnership), spending a lot of time with faculty, students, and parents of the wonderful Nunya Music Academy in Dzodze village that Kofi co-founded with his family, and participating in sacred religious festivals that were a rare and privileged occurrence, to name a few. We are extremely grateful to Kofi and Jared for their exceptional leadership in bringing this field school to fruition and we look forward to building a lasting relationship with the Nunya Music Academy in Dzodze.



- » The pictures included show students singing and dancing with local community members, and dressed by Kofi and Jared's good friend Vodze Torgboh, a local Vodun priest, and his wife and her relatives to participate in a very special religious festival in a small village near Dzodze.

STUDENT SUCCESS

CENTRE FOR ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

- » Exam accommodation provides students with disabilities an accurate measure of their performance by addressing barriers in the learning environment. In addition to the online testing arrangements made directly between students and instructors, the Centre for Accessibility Services invigilated 996 unique exams during the Fall 2024 term. Of these, 414 exams were administered during the University final exam period. This represents a significant increase compared to the 799 exams invigilated in the Fall 2023 term.
- » Members of the accessibility services team participated in the Student Welcome Fair and the School of Business' Strive and Thrive event. We engaged with newly admitted students and first- and second-year students from the School of Business, sharing information about the centre's services.

ATHLETICS

- » Blues at CCAA Soccer Nationals traveled a hard road but earned a bronze medal, the first CCAA medal for the program in 23 years. After dropping their first game to the eventual silver medalists Ahuntsic, the Blues reeled off three 1-0 wins in a row, all on set-piece headers by defenders. The finish was especially sweet as the Blues knocked off rivals and PACWEST winners VIU to get on the podium. Graduating players Maya Smith and Mya Fraser (who scored the winner in each of last two games) were named Tournament All-Stars. The tournament was hosted at the CapU Squamish campus on brand-new, FIFA-grade turf!
- » Social media—promoting CapU and Blues Athletics:
 - YouTube: 35,755 views, 4,600 hours viewed, 568 subscribers
 - Instagram: 165 posts, 406,226 impressions, 184,998 users reached, 182,000 video views, 440 hours watched, 13,216 engagements.
 - Team accounts: 714,408 impressions/views, 18,835 engagements/interactions

- Facebook: 191 posts, 137,693 impressions, 74,689 users reached, and 4,481 engagements.
- Twitter: 205 tweets, 15,694 impressions, 214 engagements
- CCAA Women's Soccer Nationals: 606,381 views, 13,609 engagements/interactions, 388,012 accounts reached, 94 pieces of content created in 5 days.
- Game Day: ~1,200 guests attended a Blues indoor game (soccer not included)
- Total: ~1.88 million impressions/views in Fall 2024

» Academic success is a major priority. Fall 2024 Student-Athlete Cohort: 3.11 Fall GPA (across 112 student-athletes)

» Recreation:

- Our goal is to provide a variety of low barrier fitness, dance, health, wellness and lifestyle opportunities for CapU students/employees and community in a fun, safe environment.
- We achieve our goals by providing:
 - FREE and LOW-COST fitness, dance, wellness, health and lifestyle classes throughout each academic session
 - FREE weight room access throughout each academic session
 - FREE intramural sports opportunities throughout each academic session
 - FREE drop-in gym times throughout each academic session (Main & Squamish campus)
 - FREE Sport Equipment rental throughout each academic session
 - FREE Move More North Shore Program
 - FREE self-paced fitness and wellness opportunities
 - Rentals for CapU Squamish Recreation Complex and surrounding area
 - Job opportunities for CapU student staff throughout each academic session

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

» On December 9, Career Development Centre (CDC) welcomed Nick Wang to the team. Nick is stepping into the career development advisor role, replacing Yen Yuen who has successfully moved into the supervisor role. Nick's key portfolio is supporting students from the Faculty of Business and Professional Studies, including School of Business, School of Communication and School of Legal Studies.

» Since November 2024, the CDC team delivered 38 in person and online workshops to 582 students, covering career and professional development topics. In addition, career development advisors conducted 202 one-on-one appointments, supporting students at various stages of their career development journey.

» The CDC team and career ambassadors participated in various student engagement initiatives, introducing new and returning students to the services and supports they can get through the centre. Notably, we attended the CIE New Student Orientation, the New Student Welcome Fair, the Well Together Fair, and the School of Business first- and second-year check-in event, engaging 174 students. In addition, career ambassadors delivered 13 in-class CDC Intro presentations, reaching and additional 208 students.

» As part of CDC's Link Up, Explore with the dean programming, on January 24, 2025, two CDC team members, joined by Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Graham Cook and STEM Chair Mark Vaughn, accompanied nine students to the Life Sciences BC's 6th annual Career Connect Day 2025. The event was an opportunity for the students to hear from leading industry speakers and connect in a job-fair style with 20+ life sciences employers from across Metro Vancouver.



COUNSELLING & LEARNING SUPPORT

- » Counselling Services (CS) actively participated in various outreach initiatives to support student well-being. These include the Welcome Fair for new students, the Sexual Violence Awareness Mini Fair Kick-off event, CSB's first- and second-year students check-in event, and CapU Together Day.
- » CS engaged in collaborative outreach with institutional and community partners, including the Centre for International Experience (CIE), the Capilano Students' Union (CSU), North Vancouver RCMP liaisons, and the new Forensic Nursing services at Lions Gate Hospital (LGH), aiming to enhance student support services through strengthened collaboration.
- » CS was involved in service review and development activities, including a seminar hosted by the Duty of Care Committee, an SSU retreat, and initiating group clinical supervision and the development of best practices.
- » Learning Support Services (LSS) successfully completed phase one of its resource development initiative, creating rack cards, posters and bookmarks to increase awareness of its services. These resources highlight LSS's role in supporting student learning and study strategies, enhancing accessibility and awareness for students and employees
- » LSS continues to offer dynamic study skills workshops that foster strategic learning, skill development and peer collaboration. The most common areas where students seek support include time management, self-management, academic study strategies and executive functioning challenges.

STUDENT LIFE

- » Peer leadership appreciation event, *Cheers to Peers*, took place on November 20, 2024, and brought together over 50 peer leaders, including orientation leaders, student employees, mentors and more. This event featured engaging activities, prizes, and a video showcasing testimonials from our peer leaders. Supervisors also delivered speeches, expressing gratitude and recognition.



- » Spring 2025 marked the beginning of an exciting journey for 406 new students at CapU. Their welcome started with the all-new student orientation presentation on December 16, 2024, where two current student life employees introduced them to essential campus resources, opportunities to get involved and tips for success. Orientation week officially began on January 6 with the New Student Welcome Fair, drawing over 150 new students and more current students, featuring 26 campus partners and three community sponsors. The week also included two in-person workshops, a Club's Day's, and a new student mixer. Throughout the first two weeks of the term, orientation leaders actively participated in tabling at the Birch Cafeteria, assisting new students with directions, answering questions, and ensuring they felt supported as they began their academic journey.



- » In January 2025, we introduced a new event to the CapU Community—BlueShore Blockbusters Movie Nights. It's a collaboration between the BlueShore at CapU, the Centre for International Education and student life. This free movie series offers an engaging way for students to relax, connect and enjoy blockbuster films on campus. On January 16, we screened *Wild Robot* with 90 attendees, and on January 27, *The Wicked* drew 80 students, featuring a *Gravity High-Note challenge* where 15 students tried to recreate the famous Cynthia Erivo's riff on stage.



- » On January 22, we celebrated CapU Together Day, a one-day event dedicated to raising mental health awareness and fostering a supportive community. This year's program featured: a Well Together Fair (Main Campus), Centre for Sport & Wellness activities, including a self-guided fitness challenge (Main Campus), an employee webinar on mental health (online) and a drum-making workshop (Squamish campus).

- » Additionally, January was CapU's Sexual Violence Awareness Month. In cooperation with other departments and community partners, student life planned a range of events and workshops to align with the theme "Building a Culture of Consent at CapU." There were 266 people that attended the activities in total. The events included SVAM opening ceremony & resources fair, consent Kahoot game, Yoga Nidra, Consent Chats, responding to disclosures workshop and community voices panel. On January, 21 students and 62 employees completed the CapU Safer Campuses for Everyone module, demonstrating their commitment to fostering a safer, more inclusive campus environment.



- » Well-being Week at the Squamish campus was packed with activities designed to promote wellness and community. From boardgames, tea and snacks and an art pop-up to a nature walk and residence soiree. The highlight of the week was a visit from a local animal rescue, where students and employees spent time with their puppies. Activities were attended by 74 people over the week.



- » Orientation Week at the Squamish campus included a Campus Tour that provided a chance for new students to connect, collect exclusive student swag, and get a tour of campus, tune in to an Online Student Panel, and attend a Library Open house. Student Mixer, the biggest event of the week, drew 30 participants. The event allowed students to connect with other students and staff and explore upcoming events and opportunities.



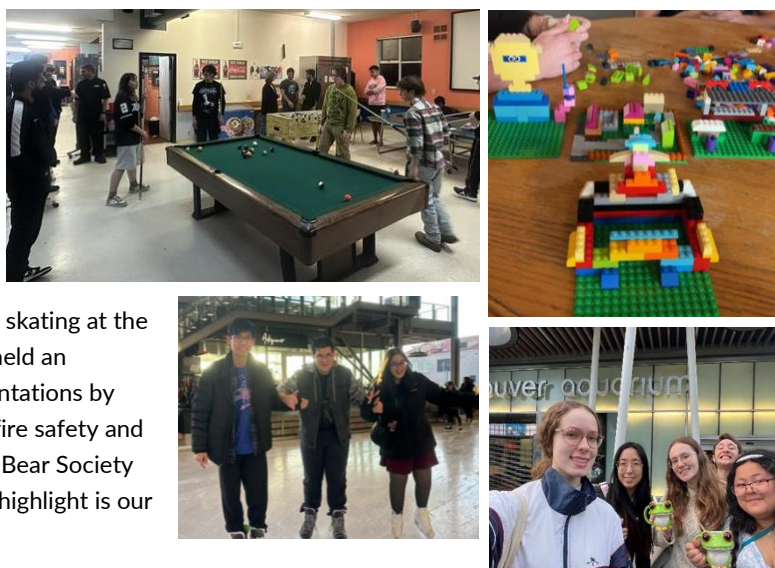
- » For CapU Together Day, the campus facilitated a *drum-making workshop* attended by eight participants. Students engaged in fun games, food and won some awesome prizes. Students and employees participated in the artistry and craftsmanship of traditional Indigenous drum making.



STUDENT HOUSING SERVICES

- » Growth in housing applications and upcoming summer plans: Since the opening of the Fall 2025/Spring 2026 student housing applications on October 1, we've seen a 37 per cent increase in applications for our North Vancouver location compared to the same time last year with a total of 186 completed applications. This growth underscores the ongoing appeal and demand for student housing at CapU. We are also well into our planning for the summer conference and group stays, expecting an increase in bookings at our North Vancouver location and notably, Squamish will host its first summer season. We anticipate a healthy start to this new chapter for the campus. In addition to preparing for summer, we've opened summer applications for students across both the Squamish and North Vancouver campuses. Applications for summer will remain open until May 2025.

- » Community building and student safety initiatives: Our Residence Advisor (RA) team has been actively engaging with residents, creating a vibrant community atmosphere. Events have included a Welcome Back Dinner, a LEGO building competition, a trip to the aquarium, weekly volleyball and soccer rec nights, skating at the Shipyards, study nights and more. We held an important Safety Week featuring presentations by our security team on residence safety, fire safety and a special workshop by the North Shore Bear Society on bear behaviour and safety. Another highlight is our popular pool tournament.



FOOD SERVICES

- » Food services operation: Food services had a successful end to the Fall term and a strong start to the Spring term, with improved offerings and increased concentration in main campus offerings and student housing menu options, ensuring a higher quality dining experience for all.
- » Food services at the Squamish campus launched with expanded offerings for students and campus members. We increased our menu options, including the addition of hot entrées to our daily meals, which has resulted in nearly a 100 per cent increase in traffic to our food service space. These efforts improved food options and also fostered enhanced engagement and a sense of community amongst students and employees. Moving forward, we are planning additional initiatives to elevate our services and support the campus' growing demand.
- » Culinary innovation and campus collaboration: In November, we introduced our new catering menu by inviting campus partners to a special launch event. Attendees sampled our latest menu items, provided valuable feedback, and asked questions. Additionally, we had the privilege of catering the President's Breakfast, hosting end-of-term functions and hosting a tasting booth featuring local products, further showcasing our commitment to supporting local suppliers and enhancing campus dining.



REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

FINANCIAL AID & AWARDS

- » \$830,000 was awarded to 458 students in the form of scholarships, bursaries (including the Family Focus supplemental bursary) and awards; and Capilano University Access Achievement Awards.
- » Twenty-nine Provincial Tuition Waiver Program students received the Learning for Future Grant totaling \$101,500.
- » Forty-two students pursuing microcredentials received the StrongerBC future skill grant totaling \$57,014.
- » Forty-two students pursuing the Rehabilitation Assistant Diploma received the Student Recruitment and Retention Bursary totaling \$84,000.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

- » During the Spring 2025 registration period, the academic advising team conducted two online course planning workshops to guide and support newly admitted students with their registration questions and course selection options. Each session attracted over 100 students and received positive feedback, with participants expressing increased confidence and readiness to begin their academic journey at CapU.

RECRUITMENT & ADMISSIONS

- » In partnership with university events, the recruitment team hosted the annual Explore CapU Open House on November 30. In total, over 1,000 people attended the event, including prospective students, family members and supporters. The teams also organized the first-ever on-campus Open House in Squamish on December 7, which saw 152 attendees. A big thank you to everyone involved.
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- » The recruitment team finalized another successful recruitment season with more than 200 visits to high schools in B.C. and Alberta over a period of three months.
 - » The 2025 High School Counsellors event on January 17 was a big success. We welcomed 61 counsellors from a range of school districts, who left CapU feeling inspired and deeply impressed by our vibrant community.
 - » In the first week of February, the recruitment and admissions teams hosted a personalized conversion initiative for Squamish applicants, ensuring excellent experience and support throughout the process. The recruitment team contacted applicants with incomplete submissions to schedule individual appointments with an admissions facilitator, who assisted with missing documents, reviewed their information and helped finalize their applications. Housing and financial aid teams were available for one-on-one support.

SYSTEMS & SCHEDULING

- » The scheduling unit, working in partnership with DTS, launched a new scheduling software, the Data Collection Utility, on November 4. The Data Collection Utility is an educational technology which allows users to streamline processes by removing the need for manual data entry, resulting in a more efficient scheduling process while limiting user errors. The scheduling team hosted seven training sessions throughout November, with online and in-person options. The sessions were well attended with positive feedback received.

REGISTRATION AND STUDENT INFORMATION SERVICES

- » The team handled over 4,000 telephone calls during the reporting period and responded to over 5,500 student-related emails.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

During this period, university relations developed a first draft of a multi-year strategic plan, focused on reputation and engagement, along with a three-year activity tracker to identify and report on key portfolio initiatives in alignment with institutional goals and priorities. Representatives from all five university relations operating units formed a working group to coordinate activities in support of the building naming and opening of the new Centre for Childhood Studies and developed associated communications and marketing materials.

COMMUNICATIONS

- » President Paul Dangerfield, alongside CapU leaders, hosted an employee town hall on November 5 to discuss key initiatives, including the employee engagement survey, Workday Enterprise Resource Planning deployment, strategic enrolment management updates, and Squamish campus developments. His year-end reflections were

shared in November's [President's Letter](#) and his [final holiday message](#) as president of Capilano University.

- » Media coverage of CapU included news pick-up on new partnership programs, the 50th anniversary of the Outdoor Recreation Management program, and extensive local and regional media coverage of the collegiate women's national soccer championship which took place at the Squamish campus.
 - [Squamish Chamber and CapU launch youth entrepreneurship program](#)
 - [CapU community celebrate 50 years of outdoor recreation program](#)
 - [CapU partners with The Community Solution on chiropractic health-care pathway.](#)



- » In early November, President Paul Dangerfield was interviewed by CBC regional media in his role as the British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU) board chair regarding the impact of the recent immigration cuts on post-secondary institutions and international student enrolments. He was interviewed on the following shows: [Early Edition with Stephen Quinn](#); On the Island with Gregor Craigie; Daybreak Kamloops with Shelley Joyce; Daybreak South with Chris Walker; and Daybreak North with Carolina de Ryk.
- » The CapU LinkedIn page received 115.8K impressions, gained 921 new followers and ranked fifth in total engagements when compared to other post-secondary institutions in B.C. To wrap up the year, the deans shared their top three highlights for their respective Faculties which included faculty and student achievements, notable anniversary event and program announcements. Top news stories about CapU were also reshared including degree announcements, diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and Chénchenstway.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- » In December 2024, President Paul Dangerfield held meetings with Lynne Block, MLA for West Vancouver-Capilano, and Jeremy Valeriote, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky. The meetings introduced the newly elected leaders to CapU and highlighted the mission, values and priorities of the University.
- » On January 28, CapU hosted Minister for Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills Anne Kang, together with Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials Sunita Dhir and MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour Susie Chant for a visit to main campus. Minister Kang is visiting post-secondary campuses across B.C. to learn how post-secondary programming and services are promoting workforce development and preparing students for good paying, in-demand careers. By incorporating visits to the Kinesiology lab and the Career Development Centre, CapU highlighted the hands-on learning and work-integrated learning opportunities offered for students at CapU.
- » In December 2024, Dean Caroline Depatie and Associate Vice-President Chris Bottrill welcomed Patrick Weiler, MP for West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky to the Squamish campus for a campus tour and a discussion on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) decisions regarding changes to international student study permits.
- » CapU is closely following federal government politics and preparing for the upcoming change in Liberal party leadership and a new prime minister. We're exploring how a change in government might inform current and future University priorities. Next steps include creating a federal election government relations plan focused on local engagement with current MPs and candidates in the federal ridings where CapU operates campuses and learning locations and creating a presentation that outlines how federal government priorities for the University's leadership team.

MARKETING & DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

- » Marketing & Digital Experience (MDX) officially launched CapU's brand strategy and brand experience refresh 'A remarkable space to thrive.' The launch saw new campus banners installed in Squamish and North Vancouver, ongoing transition of promotional materials and an internal employee town hall attended by more than 200 people online and in-person to see the refreshed brand and how to participate. The MDX team designed, developed and published brand guidelines and new PowerPoint, memo, poster and postcard templates for use.



- » MDX continued to support domestic recruitment initiatives through:
 - Launching a new phase of the Squamish campaign with creative based on the refreshed brand strategy and expression including newly produced videos featuring Squamish students '[A space to be inspired](#)' and '[A space to connect](#)'.
 - Launching new campaigns for two new bachelor's degrees including program videos with social cut downs for [Bachelor of Environment and Society](#) and [Bachelor of Writing and Literature](#).
 - Launching the first of several refreshed school landing pages, featuring new components to better showcase the programs, faculty and facilities available at the 19 schools and institutes.
 - Implemented ongoing updates to webpages including policies, convocation and others.
- » MDX provided creative support for several University events including the We Believe Breakfast and Explore CapU at the North Vancouver and Squamish campuses. MDX created event graphics, promotional banners, invitations, email and web banners, social media templates, table signage along with event photography.
- » MDX published several stories on *Capsule*, CapU's digital storytelling platform, including: [One-on-one with Tania Loken](#), [Generosity through the Generations](#), [We Believe: Christina Lennox](#), [Donor Profile: Catherine Dangerfield](#) and [Expand your world beyond the classroom](#).



PHILANTHROPY & ALUMNI RELATIONS

- » The *We Believe Breakfast*, held on November 26, 2024, raised over \$100,000 for the Paul and Catherine Dangerfield Women's Bursary. Featuring Olympian Beckie Scott as the keynote speaker, the event drew 204 attendees and was promoted through a [profile of Catherine Dangerfield in the North Shore News](#).
- » Holiday and year-end events: The university hosted a holiday donor reception and raised \$18,000 through a year-end fundraising appeal. Key initiatives included the launch of the Capilano Students' Union Community Cupboard Fund with a \$25,000 matching commitment and several new student awards supporting various academic and extracurricular goals.



- » Alumni engagement and recognition: CapU alumni relations organized the Nine Days of Holiday Giveaways and the Alumni Social Mixer to enhance engagement. Five alumni received the Alumni Awards of Excellence, to be celebrated at the March 26 Awards Gala.
- » Student support and industry connections: Programs such as the [CUAA Mentorship Program](#) launched its fourth cohort, and 30 students attended the [Ocean Film Festival](#), engaging with professionals and showcasing experiential learning opportunities.
- » Strategic developments: The alumni team hosted the Capilano University Alumni Association (CUAA) Board's annual planning session, setting strategic goals for 2025/26. Additionally, the Senate Committee finalized the 2025 Honorary Degree and Faculty Emeritus recipients, supported by detailed profiles from the PAR team.
- » New awards and initiatives: Recent contributions include the VLSA Legacy Award (created by the Victoria Legal Support Staff Association), Indigenous Factual Entertainment Fund, and Nelson International Women's Basketball Entrance Award, enhancing support for diverse student needs and achievements.



UNIVERSITY EVENTS & CEREMONIES

- » November 26: We Believe Breakfast Fundraiser
The events team managed logistics such as menus, service levels, floor plans, and audio-visual requirements for the we Believe fundraising breakfast.
- » Explore CapU—North Vancouver and Squamish Campus
At the North Vancouver campus event, the events team enhanced navigation through a color-coded wayfinding system, supporting efficient campus exploration for attendees. The team also coordinated logistics, catering, and onsite support for the inaugural Explore CapU Squamish Campus event in December, ensuring its success and a strong connection with the local community.
- » January 17: High School Counselor & Career Advisors Event
The High School Counselor & Career Advisors Event was held in mid-January, at the busy Bosa Studios, requiring precise planning and seamless execution. The events team managed space arrangements, catering, and tight schedules, earning positive feedback from participants.
- » January 23: Digital Technology Services Workday Launch
Collaborating with DTS, BlueShore at CapU employees, Jorge Ocegueda and alum Megan Hinson, the events team contributed to the Workday Launch event on January 23 by creating a storytelling-driven concept, coordinating speakers, and curating a stage set featuring outdated tech, resulting in an engaging celebration.
- » January 30: President Dangerfield's Final Perspective
For President Dangerfield's final *President's Perspective*, rebranded as *Paul's Perspective*, the events team contributed creatively to the rebranding process and handled setup, stage management and catering. It was a privilege for the team to support this significant and reflective occasion.

