

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Reporting period from June 4 to September 3, 2024

## PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

CapU proudly celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2024 during the spring convocation ceremonies held from June 5–7, 2024. We gathered with graduates, their families and friends to honor the successful completion of their academic journeys. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these new alumni and wish them the very best in their future endeavors, hoping our paths will cross again.

I attended the meeting of British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU) presidents in late June. The group discussed key priorities, including strategic planning process, an update from the ministry, B.C. Budget 2025, and the evolving business model for PSIs. The group meets again in mid-September.

The Squamish campus welcomed its inaugural cohort of students on September 3 for the Fall 2024 term. Currently in phase one of our start-up or soft launch, the campus was bustling with activity under the leadership of Brian Storey, AVP Squamish, throughout the summer to ensure a smooth beginning to the academic year.

## ACADEMIC & PROVOST

We bid farewell to Laureen Styles who stepped down from her role as vice-president, academic & provost on August 5 after six years. She is currently in a special advisor role in the president's office for another year.

Welcome and congratulations to Tracy Penny Light who transitioned from dean, Faculty of Arts & Sciences to interim vice-president, academic & provost.

Lisa Storoz has transitioned from her position as executive assistant, vice-president, academic & provost, to become the manager of operations at the Squamish campus. The search for her replacement is currently in progress.

## FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

- » Sarah Yercich, sociology and criminology instructor, was successful in her co-application for the \$600K Innovation Fund: Health Implementation Research Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). This grant will fund Sarah and the rest of the [Alliance Against Violence and Adversity](#) (AVA) team to expand their existing work, increase their research capacity and support additional community agencies and partners. Specifically, the objective is to address the gender-based violence epidemic by undertaking community-engaged implementation science research to help the under-resourced community healthcare sector promote the health of girls, women and gender-diverse people who are at-risk or survivors of such violence.

- » Tong Z. Chow, an instructor in the Chinese Language department, presented at the IB Global Conference in July with 1,700 top educators from global schools and universities. Chow's presentation "Leadership in Innovative Language Acquisition Technology with Cross Cultural Communication" focuses on work for languages department and cross-cultural communication in interdisciplinary studies which supports *Envisioning 2030* and *Illuminating 2030*.
- » Susan Gardner from the Philosophy department presented a paper at the World Congress of Philosophy in Rome in August. Two former CapU students also presented papers that they co-wrote with Susan.
- » Susan successfully led another summer of the [Thinking Playground](#) summer camps, a joint effort between CapU and the University of the Fraser Valley Philosophy faculty. Students from both institutions are counsellors for the camp each year.



## FACULTY OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

- » The Truth and Reconciliation Commission called upon law schools to mandate at least one Indigenous course and require appropriate cultural training within their curriculum (TRC Calls to Action 27 and 28). As of Fall 2024, all Law degree and diploma students will be required to take LAW 331 Indigenous Peoples and the Law.
- » Alaa Al-Musalli, faculty of the School of Communication, presented on a panel at the 5th International Media Literacy Research Symposium on June 27. The panel included experts from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States to discuss the future of media literacy education.
- » Adam Vincent, faculty and chair of the School of Communication, published *Poetic Inquiry Atlas Vol. 1: A survey of rigorous poetics*, an edited collection surrounding the use of poetic inquiry (a qualitative research approach using poetry as a facet of data gathering, processing and/or dissemination) featuring the work of poet-scholars from around the globe. Laurie Prange, faculty, School of Business, published "Reimagining the Language of Engagement in a Post-Stakeholder World" in peer-reviewed journal, *Sustainability Science*.
- » This year Enactus Capilano, supported by the School of Business, developed three social enterprises that supported financial literacy in high schools on the North Shore, bettered student mental health at CapU and promoted environmental thinking through innovative podcasts. These projects support the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals and were presented at the Enactus Canada Regional (Calgary) and National (Toronto) competitions, where Enactus Capilano placed in the top 16 out of 76 colleges and universities across Canada.



- » In June, Dean Laura Kinderman facilitated two sessions, "Disrupted Times, Many Needs: Teaching & Learning Strategy and Innovation" and "Listen to my Story: How Women Leaders Navigate Change in Knowledge Work" at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education conference in Niagara Fall, Ontario.

## FACULTY OF EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- » The Department of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) hired seven new faculty over the summer to meet growing student enrolment in the diploma and degree programs. Several of the new hires will teach in the ECCE diploma and degree programs offered at the Squamish campus in Fall 2024.

- » With the leadership of Program Coordinator, Stephen Williams, and supported by the Work-Integrated Learning Hub at CapU, the Music Therapy department was awarded a significant grant from Cooperative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada to support student practicum placements in the degree program.
- » The Adult Basic Education (ABE) department had record-breaking student enrolment in Summer 2024. This enrolment increased 29 per cent over the previous summer and represents the highest summer enrolment in the department since 2015. ABE continues to be the second largest program area for domestic enrolment at CapU behind the Bachelor of Business Administration.
- » The Children's Centre created and filled four new lead educator positions. These positions will serve as pedagogical supports for teams of educators who work with children aged 0–5 years in the centre. The positions were created as part of a larger effort to expand organizational supports and supervisory structures to meet the operational needs of the current Childcare Centre and the opening of the new Centre for Childhood Studies on the North Vancouver campus in Fall 2025.

## FACULTY OF FINE & APPLIED ARTS

- » Canada's first [GLC-1](#) digital piano lab was installed through an educational partnership with Roland, a premier digital musical instrument company. The lab features 22 advanced digital pianos and a GLC-1 lab conferencing system and will significantly enhance the University's Music and Jazz programs, allowing students to achieve new levels of creativity and excellence.

- » CapU hosted the 2024 Vancouver Classical Guitar Festival in July at the North Vancouver main campus. The festival featured over 20 hours of lectures, masterclasses, workshops and two world-class concerts. This event establishes CapU as a centre for arts and community. Bursaries for students and young professionals highlighted CapU's commitment to developing the music community.



2024 Vancouver Classical Guitar Festival

- » CapU alumni and employees have achieved notable successes. Gigi Saul Guerrero was selected for the WBD Access x Canadian Academy Directors Program and received the Alumni Award of Excellence. Rose Stiffarm was praised for her work as a camera operator at a Snoop Dogg concert. Rebeca Spiegel won the Best Writing Award at the Run N Gun 48-Hour Competition for her short film "Lost Media." Ava Stark will perform as Elsa and Rapunzel at Disney Shanghai Resort. Current student, Ryver Santos Cegnar, directed and produced the musical *Vanities* at CapU Arbutus Studio, with alumna Livia Cohen as musical director. Jazz Studies Instructor, Jared Burrows released a new album, *Thunder Lizard East Van Shimmy*. Michael Thoma, chair, School of Motion Picture Arts, published a book and co-produced the film *MY DAVID*, which will premiere at the 2024 SOHO International Film Festival.
- » The Theatre Department had an impressive summer, with students and alumni performing and working across the city and beyond. Our Acting for Stage and Screen and Musical Theatre alumni shone in productions at Theatre Under the Stars, while nearly a dozen Technical Theatre students and alumni contributed to the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare festival in various roles.

## FACULTY OF GLOBAL & COMMUNITY STUDIES

- » On August 27, the Faculty of Global & Community Studies warmly welcomed Caroline Dépatie (she/her) as the new dean. Caroline, who taught at CapU for 15 years, is now returning home to lead the faculty. We also wish to express our deep appreciation to Natasha Mrkic-Subotic for her dedicated leadership as the acting dean over the past year.
- » The School of Kinesiology welcomes new faculty: Bassam Nyaeme, Jennifer Folkersen, Maria Parkes and Katija Pallot.
- » After much anticipation, the School of Kinesiology now has its very own lab space. This is a significant milestone, marking a new era of hands-on learning, innovative research and cutting-edge exploration. The new lab serves as a hub for students and faculty to push the boundaries of knowledge and make impactful discoveries in kinesiology. We couldn't be more excited about the opportunities this new space will bring!
- » The School of Outdoor Recreation Management welcomes Andrew Stegeman as the new convener and extends heartfelt thanks to Chris Ladner for his dedicated service as the previous convener of OREC.
- » Students and faculty from the School of Tourism Management visited Vietnam at the end of August for a two-week field school, alongside faculty from Film and students from 10 additional CapU programs.

## KÁLAX-AY THE SUNSHINE COAST CAMPUS

- » Jessica Silvey, Indigenous faculty advisor and a Coast Salish weaver and fibre artist, hosted an open house: [Mapping the swiya](#) during the [District of Sechelt syiyaya Days](#). The workshop showcased the shíshálh History wall, a collaboration between CapU, kálaḡ-ay campus and Emily Carr.
- » kálaḡ-ay hosted a researcher and students from Huron University College, Ontario, as part of the Nation's syiyaya Days. The research topic was Changing the Way We See Canada Day: A talk and dialogue circle. The event was open to the public and xwash Steven Feschuk attended.
- » While the campus is relatively quiet over the summer, we had the opportunity to continue to provide service to the Welcoming Communities participants: Beginners Conversation Circle, Introduction to the English Language and Writing and Intermediate and Advanced Book Club.

## SQUAMISH CAMPUS

- » Squamish campus welcomes Lisa Storoz, new operations manager. Reporting directly to the associate vice-president, Squamish, Lisa plays a key role in fostering strong relationships with University employees, external constituents and partners to contribute to a successful campus.
- » The end of August saw the Squamish students in student housing move in and participate in orientation with events ranging from Squamish Farmer's Market, Shannon Falls, Sea to Sky Gondola to a day trip to Whistler; finishing off with a meet and greet and a welcome BBQ catered by Whistler Cooks.
- » The campus opened its doors in September providing ECCE degree and diploma programs providing hands-on career training to address a lack of childcare workers in the Sea-to-Sky region. [Read more in Capsule](#)

- » CapU Squamish is excited to announce Whistler Cooks as the new food vendor on August 30. Whistler Cooks will support three students in housing, 35 students on campus, employees and the Squamish community.

## TEACHING & LEARNING

- » Negar Elmieh joined the Centre for Teaching Excellence team as the new educational developer and learning strategist servicing the new CapU Squamish campus. We're excited to have Negar onboard as we launch programming there.
- » Twenty-seven new faculty participated in New Faculty Orientation on August 27 and all 12 faculty teaching at CapU Squamish participated in orientation on August 28.
- » Sixty faculty completed the new Responding to Academic Misconduct eLearn module, preparing them to use the new academic integrity policy and procedure.
- » In July, all members of the Centre for Teaching Excellence completed the Sanyas Cultural Safety training, preparing us to be better community members and allies.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY, RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP & GRADUATE STUDIES

- » Funded by a CARS and SSHRC Explore research grant, Faculty of Arts & Sciences instructor in the Department of Anthropology, Sarah O'Sullivan, recently spent her summer in Uganda working on her research titled, *Living with HIV During the "end of AIDS" in Uganda*. Her research seeks to understand the socio-political implications of Uganda's Treatment as Prevention (TasP) success and how discourses of "success" and HIV treatment adherence come to bear in the lives of Ugandans. Sarah's project is a collaborative effort with a small community-based organization of HIV-positive activists based in Kampala, Uganda.
- » Funded by a CARS-NSERC grant, IDEA School of Design student, Cassandra Valenzuela Poon, was awarded a research assistant role to develop visual content and provide design expertise focused on promoting the University's research. In collaboration with MDX and CARS, Cassie will create infographics and visually convey faculty research journeys.
- » Congratulations to Faculty of Business & Professional Studies instructor, Trevor McFadyen, who was awarded a Faculty Advisor Research Grant from Enactus Canada. Enactus is a global network that uses team-based, experiential learning to help students develop entrepreneurial skills aimed at tackling pressing social and environmental issues. The award funds a student research assistant to help with Enactus team training and data collection.
- » Congratulations to Dean of Business & Professional Studies, Laura Kinderman, and Interim Vice-President, Academic & Provost, Tracy Penny Light, on being awarded an inaugural Research Fellowship Grant from Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada (SWAAC). Their research project, *Listen to my story: How women leaders navigate change in knowledge work* aims to "create a formal space to surface liminal conversations that women academic leaders engage in as they move through their days."



## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Governors held their first meeting of the year on September 3 with CapU executive providing an orientation session to new and returning board members.

The University's Fiscal 2024/25 Q1 forecast submitted to the Ministry in July was a surplus of \$10.6 million which is a \$7.5 million favourable variance compared to the board approved surplus budget of \$3.1 million.

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

- » Financial services welcomed two new financial planning and analysis advisors, Stephan Dryagin and Jaime Gutierrez Etchegaray. In addition, Tanaya Bedakar was promoted to manager, capital and restricted funds.

### CORPORATE SERVICES

- » Corporate services said good-bye and congratulations to Paul Gruber who retired on July 31 after 15 years of leading the procurement and shipping & receiving departments. Iain Medcalf is serving as interim manager, procurement.

### FACILITIES SERVICES & CAMPUS PLANNING

- » Facilities services & campus planning welcomed Shailen Nand as the new senior manager, facilities operations, for the Squamish campus and a new manager of safety & emergency management, Jon Arason.
- » The Squamish campus upgrades have progressed for the fall opening including replacing outdated mechanical systems with more energy-efficient alternatives, ensuring classrooms and office spaces planned for occupancy are ready, food services, new signage and wayfinding and a refinished gymnasium floor. Additionally, the artificial turf field replacement is progressing as planned.
- » Safety & emergency services represented CapU at the CAUBO 2024 conference in Montreal, with Natalia Skapski, director, safety & emergency services, presenting on social responsibility in continuity planning.
- » Campus planning is beginning the Campus Wide Functional Programming Initiative. A consultant has been engaged to capture operational requirements, space demands, equipment used, co-dependencies with other areas, and the growth and business goals of all academic and administrative areas. The baseline data will be compared to BC Ministry Standards and similar programs in other universities and will be used to identify gaps, apply improvements and capture innovative ideas to meet the University's goals for *Envisioning 2030*, *Illuminating 2030* and the *Campus Master Plan*.
- » Construction for the two major projects on the North Vancouver main campus is progressing. The wood framing and timber panels are being constructed on Level 4 of the on-campus student housing. The construction of the Centre for Childhood Studies is progressing according to schedule with interior framing and boarding completed, and painting and millwork now in progress

### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- » Digital Technology Services (DTS) welcomed four new managers: Will Laycraft (governance and policies), Michael Shi (audit and assessment), Harv Samra (cybersecurity program development and management),

and Ann Louise Filbert (business systems operations).

- » The DTS team is developing a digital roadmap in collaboration with the University community to support the digital transformation work required for the *Envisioning 2030* and *Illuminating 2030* strategic plans.
- » The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project was initiated and is moving through a planning phase which includes establishing a project steering committee and completing procurement.
- » Integration services will be established in parallel to the ERP project. The RFP process to select an integration engine is in progress.
- » A cybersecurity program is being established to support the strengthening of CapU's cybersecurity position.
- » DTS implemented the digital infrastructure required to support the opening of the Squamish campus. This included creating a network strategy for student housing.

## POLICY, PRIVACY & GOVERNANCE

- » Policy work remains in progress with four Board policies approved at the June board meeting.
- » As part of the maturing of the University's risk program, revisions to academic risks were reviewed by the Academic Leadership Council in August and incorporated into the updated risk register.

## PEOPLE, CULTURE & DIVERSITY

### HUMAN RESOURCES

- » Sally Olarte (she/her) joined the team in the new role, director, people analytics & total compensation. Sally will support HR systems, compensation & classification and abilities management. She comes with vast experience, including Enterprise Resource Planning Systems implementation, which will support the Workday project.
- » Nathan Gilmore (he/him) moved from a temporary role on the learning & development team to the permanent role of HR advisor, compensation & classification. Nathan has been able to leverage both his CapU knowledge and his previous experience to quickly and effectively support the function.
- » TJ Delegencia (he/him) joined the team as manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). He will collaborate with leaders and employees at all levels to foster a supportive and inclusive work environment, develop CapU's DEI roadmap and lead DEI initiatives aligned with the *People Plan*.
- » The employee experience team welcomed Trevor Johnston onboard in June. Trevor's role is HR assistant mainly supporting the MoveUp/admin/exempt employee groups. Trevor is a CapU alumni from the Tourism Management program.
- » HR information systems were adjusted to accommodate the new academic year for regular faculty.



- » PowerBI Dashboards were created and Academic Leadership Committee now have access to faculty dashboard information allowing for data driven decisions.
- » New Employee Orientation occurred on August 28 with 28 new employees in attendance.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI)

- » On August 2, the talent acquisition and DEI team, with support from student employee volunteers, sponsored and attended the Pride on the Pier event at The Pipe Shop in North Vancouver. This event demonstrated CapU's commitment to being an inclusive employer of choice and our dedication to DEI. Additionally, we raised a Pride flag on the campus flagpole to commemorate North Shore Pride Week.

## TALENT ACQUISITION

- » The talent acquisition team attended the WorkBC career fairs as well as the Career Fair at the Aboriginal Friendship Center to promote CapU as an employer of choice.
- » In collaboration with heads of departments, we created customized employee value propositions specific to the five faculties and major operational units within CapU to be used to standardize job postings and highlight the uniqueness of each of the areas to potential employees. In addition, an equal opportunity employer statement, land acknowledgement and an option for interview accommodations were added to job postings to create a more inclusive selection process.
- » In collaboration with communications, we continued to use LinkedIn Recruiter to promote CapU as an employer of choice and to highlight key open roles. Since August 2023, we gained 10,541 followers, increased the number of applicants that come through LinkedIn from 25 per cent to 33 per cent, and had 86 LinkedIn influenced hires.
- » In an effort to create a better candidate experience, the August, the team launched their expanded support for recruiting Administrative/Exempt (Ad/Ex) roles by offering hands-on recruitment assistance, including job postings, direct candidate sourcing and candidate interview coordination, while also revamping the *Frontlines* site for employees with updated processes, toolkits, user guides, templates, resources and best practices to help to streamline and standardize talent acquisition at CapU.

## LABOUR RELATIONS

- » Labour Relations Training Part 1 & Part 2 provided August 14 and 22 for administrators.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING, ASSESSMENT & INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

### INTEGRATED PLANNING

- » This year's integrated planning cycle is underway, and it includes ongoing conversations between vice-presidents and each of their portfolio leaders. The purpose of this continuous dialogue is to collaborate to refine submissions in the form of goals and priorities. As a result, vice-presidents will articulate a summary of initiatives and priorities at a portfolio level.



- » Included in the activities for the upcoming SLC Retreat on October 16, and due to the number of new SLC members, the integrated planning team is designing a facilitated discussion to allow participants to revisit positive and challenging elements of our planning process. The expected outcome is a list of recommendations that could inform refinements to integrated planning.
- » This fall will see a planning activity with vice-presidents and associate vice-presidents to follow-up on the environmental scan recently developed by them. An activity will be facilitated to make sure that initiatives and priorities capitalize on strengths and opportunities and support our efforts to overcome weaknesses and threats.

## ENVISIONING 2030

- » The team is actively working to find alternative ways to store and make plan trackers available. There are draft trackers for *Envisioning 2030*, *Campus Master Plan*, *People Plan*, *Internationalization Plan* and *Digital Transformation Roadmap* being tested. The team is also supporting the development of a draft tracker for *Chénchenstway* that is expected to be ready for tests this fall.

## STRATEGY, ANALYTICS & TRANSFORMATION

- » After a thorough search process, the team welcomed a new director of analytics and institutional research, Milad Fathi on August 19. Milad brings a rich background in analytics, data science and computer science. He's co-founded several technology companies and led analytics teams at various health authorities across the province and at the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- » We submitted the final 2023/24 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report (IAPR) and FTE report and are waiting for the Board's sign off and the subsequent Ministry approval before posting the IAPR on the website.
- » Significant progress was made in the initial phases of Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM). The SEM seven-year model has led to more precise section estimates at the subject level which served as an additional data point for the faculties of arts & sciences and business & professional studies to mount the necessary courses to meet student demands. As a result of this close collaboration with academic leadership and faculty planning councils, we are seeing early indications of domestic enrolment growth and a dramatic decrease in the number of waitlisted seats.

## INTERNATIONAL

- » International recruitment continues to be heavily impacted by the IRCC announcements about international caps back in January 2024, and with the ongoing commentary of potential changes to Post Graduate Work Permit conditions. The Professional International Educators (PIE) organization reports that applications for Canada are down 47 per cent across the country since June 2024. CapU has been impacted and we are expecting lower than SEM targets for the Spring term. Due to record intakes over the past two years and very high retention rates for international students, we anticipate we can weather this storm and our over spring international registration rate to be on target with budget estimates. We are eagerly awaiting clarity from the IRCC on PGWP conditions to help restore Canada's positive reputation for international education.
- » Despite the uncertainty and impacts on spring applications, new fall registration is on target with SEM estimates to balance international registration. We received 859 deposits and registered 559 new for a total 3996 international students in the current fall term. This compares with 4077 in Fall 2023. The relatively large 300 difference between deposits and registrations is largely due to slow visa processing and we anticipate that most students will register for the Spring term.

- » A key strategic priority for international registration is to diversify recruitment to different countries and regions to be more resilient to political, economic and environmental uncertainties, and create a diversified international learning experience at CapU. We expanded our regional recruitment representative team with Marian Kiilu from Nairobi, Kenya, in July and Marian and Chris Bottrill attended the ICEF recruitment event in Kigali, Rwanda where we interviewed and are in the process of onboarding over 30 new agencies throughout Africa.

- » This week we were thrilled to have our five regional recruitment representatives on campus for extensive meetings with departments and programs, plus visits to local agencies in Vancouver, and familiarization with our campuses and the high-quality learning experiences at CapU.

*Pictured (from L to R): Akiko Takiguchi (NE Asia), Jesse Yang (manager, international recruitment Asia/MENA), Hoang Tran (SE Asia), Christine Melling (CIE), Chris Bottrill (AVP, international), Marian Kiilu (Sub Sahara Africa), Thays Afonso (Latin America), Tank Huang (Mainland China/HK), Stasa Adric (manager, global engagement)*



- » We just completed a very successful field school to Vietnam. Chris Carnovale and Debra Rurak led 22 students from multiple programs on an incredible adventure to Ha Long Bay, Sapa, Hanoi and Pu Luong. One highlight is spending time with fellow students from our long-time partner institution, Hanoi Open University. Our next field school with 26 students already committed is to Ghana in December and January this year. Picture: feet cleaning the natural way in Ha Long Bay and building friendships with Hanoi Open University.



## STUDENT SUCCESS

### ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

- » Accessibility services is officially renamed to the Centre for Accessibility Services (CAS). The transition to a "centre" increases our visibility and recognizes the department's growth and evolution. The new designation highlights the breadth of support, collaboration and expertise offered. We work closely with administrators and employees to ensure equitable access and serve as a welcoming, resource-rich hub for students and employees. The change further reinforces CapU's commitment to access and inclusion.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- » Career development advisors conducted 177 one-on-one student appointments, with just over 55 per cent done online. They delivered nine workshops in collaboration with the Faculty of Business & Professional Studies with a total of 107 students taking part. In addition, our employer engagement & experiential learning facilitator closely collaborated with a School of Business faculty to bring six industry representatives to a BADM 475 class, supporting the students with developing important salary negotiation skills.

- » In collaboration with the recruitment team, career development advisor, Ning Zhang, delivered two parent session presentations as part of the Experience CapU programming, introducing important career development topics including labour market information to 109 prospective students' parents.
- » The CDC team and career ambassador student employees actively participated in the Fall 2024 Student Orientation Welcome Fair introducing 174 new students to our services. In addition, the CDC team participated in Fall 2024 Welcome Wednesdays events delivering two Find Your Purpose & Meaningful Work workshops to a total of 64 new students.
- » The CDC team supported student participation in two industry networking events, the 2024 Indigenous Partnerships Success Showcase and BC Business Top 100 2024, through our Explore with the CDC and Explore with the Dean Link Up initiatives. The students were accompanied by faculty and staff from CDC (Ning Zhang & Anna Kuziakina), Office of Indigenous Education & Affairs (Parveen Mann), Faculty of Global & Community Studies (Nazmi Kamal) and the Associate Dean of Faculty of Business & Professional Studies (Francisco Nogueira).

*Photos: Link Up Explore with the CDC Indigenous Partnerships Success Showcase participants; and Link Up Explore with the Dean BC Business Top 100 2024 participants.*



- » Our career ambassadors organized and participated in various engagement initiatives around campus such as CDC In-Class Intro Presentations and Welcome Wednesdays, reaching a total of 186 students, helping them develop a greater understanding of our services and programming.

## COUNSELLING & LEARNING SUPPORT

- » Counsellor Audrey Wong is on parental leave. An extensive search took place in June and the successful candidate, Heather Hassenbein, starts at CapU in September. Heather Hassenbein holds a master's degree in counselling psychology with a specialization in art therapy from Adler University. She is a registered clinical counsellor and registered art therapist with over 20 years of experience in fostering safety, compassion and growth. Heather also supervises master-level counselling students.
- » Between June 4 and August 30, 200 50-min counselling appointments were booked. Twenty urgent drop-in counselling appointments took place between June 4 and August 29.
- » Melissa D'Agostino, learning strategist, developed a fresh new set of promotional and educational materials to drive awareness and the services and tools available.

## STUDENT AFFAIRS & STUDENT LIFE

- » Elise Le Brun joins the student success team in the newly created role of manager, student life. Elise will provide strategic direction on the future of student life, co-curricular programming, student events, peer



leadership, sexual violence prevention and education, well-being programming, food security and orientation and transition activities.

- » Student affairs finished the production of CapU Student Services videos that will now be used as part of the orientation and transition programming. Eleven one-minute videos about student services on campus are aimed at providing information to students in a quick and engaging manner.



- » In June 2024, student life collaborated with recruitment to host the annual Experience CapU. Experience CapU was visited by 240 potential new students and 109 of their family. Experience CapU also recruited 29 student leaders who supported the facilitation of the event.



- » Student life coordinated three weeks of orientation activities for new students. On August 21 and August 27, we hosted our annual Welcome Wednesdays, which hosted 233 and 281 students, respectively. Campus services such as financial aid, academic advising, Career Development Centre, CSU, and more have also provided a series of in-person and online workshops.



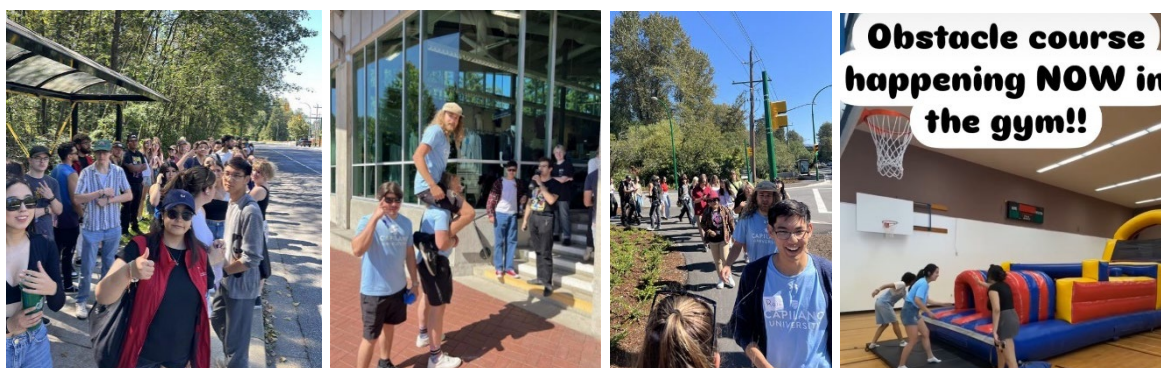
- » Student life collaborated with various CapU community members and clubs for our weekly Wellness Wednesdays over the summer. Collaborations with the CIE were for Cinco de Mayo, Asian Heritage Month, International Friendship Day and pride-themed Wellness Wednesdays. Student life also partnered with the library to make buttons and cards using recycled library materials and with EarthWorks for watercolour painting. The chess club, the outdoors club, anime club and pranks club also joined the student life team to create fun and engaging programming.



## STUDENT HOUSING SERVICES

### » NORTH VANCOUVER HOUSING

- **Summer rental:** Summer operation saw a 6 per cent decrease in the number of students who choose to stay in housing over the summer. Our summer group rental also saw a decline in their numbers as a result of changes to visa requirement for Mexican visitors. The group was in housing for July and early August, with about 75 (about 30 per cent decrease from the prior year) campers staying in housing. The revenue from this summer rental continues to help offset losses normally incurred in the summer months when we operate at about 25 per cent overall occupancy.
- **Academic year housing application:** We are at capacity again this Fall term. During this application period, 788 students started their housing application and 660 completed their application. Over 300 students have cycled through our waitlist this year and about 83 students are currently waitlisted.
- **Student housing move-in:** On August 28, housing services welcomed 254 students to housing with 45 more students expected to arrive within the following days for a total of 299 students. We were very happy to have over 60 student athletes help make our move in day efficient and stress free for both students and families as they helped unload and bring belongings to the students' new room.
- **Housing orientation:** Our residence advisors planned an action-packed housing orientation which took place from August 29 to September 2, featuring several exciting events including a tour of campus and the local area, BBQ followed by an outdoor movie under the stars, a full day of games and activities (musical chairs, inflatable obstacle course, line dancing lessons, and an evening dance party), and a trip to Deep Cove to explore our local area (and of course try some of the famous Honey's Donuts). These events focused on creating connections within the housing community and to our local area.





## » SQUAMISH HOUSING

- **New Squamish student housing update:** Student housing services worked hard with amazing campus partners to be ready to welcome students to the Serratus student housing building for the Fall 2024 term. To date we have collaborated with



campus partners to ensure students have access to high-speed internet, new laundry facilities, beautiful and purposeful communal spaces with new furniture, enhanced safety and security measures, daily meal plan services and much more.

- **Move-in & orientation:** We welcomed our first students to Squamish student housing on August 30. The student housing team planned a boutique style orientation for both students living in housing, as well as students attending CapU Squamish this fall with the goal of creating a close student community and also getting students connected to the local Squamish community and surrounding areas. The orientation events took place from August 31–September 3. Activities included: scavenger hunt around campus, trip to the Squamish Farmers' Market & tour of downtown, trip to Shannon Falls followed by Sea to Sky Gondola ride to the top. We wrapped up orientation with a trip to Whistler and closed with a BBQ with employees.



## FOOD SERVICES

- » **New food services operator for Squamish:** After rigorous assessment and intentional conversations, we are happy to share that Whistler Cooks are the chosen food services operator for CapU Squamish. We are currently working with Whistler Cooks to set up our dining space and obtain the necessary food permit from Vancouver Coastal Health and they commence on campus operation. Whistler Cooks is currently providing meal delivery for students in housing and PMA students.
- » **Funding for plant-based catering (pilot):** CapU has been part of the Feed BC Post-Secondary Institution Partnership. We are happy to share that we have applied for and been granted funding of \$15,000 for a pilot project on integrating local B.C. products into plant-based catering. In collaboration with our food services provider for the main campus (Chartwells), this fund will allow us to bring on local culinary expertise on plant-based cuisine to explore and create delicious meal offerings. This pilot will run in the North Vancouver student housing food operation.

- » **Launch of the reusable container program in the dining hall:** We have partnered with Friendlier to launch a reusable container program at the main campus student housing dining hall and continue the fight against single-use waste. This program will allow us to act in reducing waste and embrace sustainable alternatives, encourage students and employees to adopt more eco-friendlier practices and support our broader environmental goals and contribute to our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint.

## REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

- » At the Senate meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 279 students were approved as CapU graduates. This is a 38 per cent increase over September 2023. A big thank you to the graduation and academic advising teams for their efforts in ensuring these students were meeting the requirements for their respective programs. These students will have the opportunity to cross the stage at the June 2025 convocation ceremonies. Congratulations graduates!

## FINANCIAL AID & AWARDS

- » The financial aid and awards team was busy over the Summer 2024 term. Overall, \$101,900 was disbursed to 107 students during the term for scholarships, bursaries and awards. This was an increase of 28 per cent of funding and 47 per cent of recipients compared to Summer 2023. The team plans to continue efforts to increase award visibility in the hopes of increased applications and funding to CapU students.

## RECRUITMENT & ADMISSIONS

- » The recruitment team partnered with student life to host a successful Experience CapU event for newly admitted students and their families. On June 12, we hosted 121 event attendees and June 15 we hosted 119 event attendees. The event agenda included presentations from academic advising, accessibility services, student life, campus tours and a variety of interactive activities so the newly admitted students could connect with current students and the campus community. The recruitment team also supported both the August 21 and 28 Welcome Wednesdays events hosting campus tours for all incoming students.
- » Student recruitment advisors partnered with CapU housing team and held three online Program & Housing Information Sessions for CapU Squamish on August 1, 7 & 12—As an additional promotional sprint to help increase Fall 2024 applications. These sessions were held in addition to ongoing one-on-one advising sessions for future students interested in Squamish and scheduled with anyone of our student recruitment advisors since March 2024.
- » Strategic recruitment season planning for upcoming off-campus visits to high schools throughout B.C. and Alberta is completed. The complete list of visits is published on CapU's website [HERE](#). Most of the high schools listed last year are being revisited, commencing on Monday September 16, 2024. The intention is to promote CapU's programs and student services for the North Vancouver, Squamish and Sunshine Coast campuses. We are also very happy to partner with CapU's new Indigenous recruiter, Adrianna Bathurst, who will be doing some of the post-secondary SBC visits and attending high school fairs with our team.





- » In preparation for the upcoming recruitment season of high school visits and education fairs, the team has attended 31 training sessions with reps from different CapU program and student service areas ensuring they have the most current information to share with any future students they meet. The team has also prepared a new presentation complete with information promoting campuses, programs, courses and student life.

## **SYSTEMS & SCHEDULING**

- » On August 21, the scheduling unit soft-launched the new scheduling guidelines document. These guidelines represent an important first step towards standardizing scheduling processes, promoting consistency and transparency within the existing centralized scheduling model. This is a result of extensive consultation between the RO and the academic areas and a review of similar documents and policies at comparable institutions in B.C. With the guidelines now in place, CapU is better positioned to address the space utilization challenges that come with the increased demand for instructional spaces in a growing institution.
- » In August, the RO completed implementing the newest version of the EducationPlannerBC application for admission system, known as EPBC 3.0. The system now allows CapU to set-up rules to be assigned to program selection, fees and questions. We are now able to ask specific questions to domestic and international students for each program across CapU. This project was jointly done by the admissions, curriculum and CIE teams to ensure that all applicant needs were met. This will lead to a more customized and seamless user experience for all applicants to CapU.

## **REGISTRATION & STUDENT INFORMATION SERVICES**

- » From June until the first week of September, the student information services team responded to over 3,000 student email inquiries and taken over 5,000 phone calls.
- » 700 student CapCards were produced in advance of the Fall 2024 term, which will help us reduce long in-person line-ups during Welcome Wednesdays and the first week of the term.

## **UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

University relations includes the departments of communications, government relations & community engagement, marketing & digital experience, philanthropy & alumni relations and university events. University relations' goals are to: enhance the University's reputation and brand, develop positive relationships and secure resources to support University priorities, provide learners and employees an exceptional digital experience, market the university and bring the community together through various communication channels.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- » Two new employees joined the communications team this summer—Linda Ong, director, communications, and Layne Christensen, senior communications officer, external. Linda Munro has moved into the role of manager, public affairs, in the government relations unit.
- » The communications team provided communications support to the Incident Operations Centre for two events involving campus security and the global IT outage, as well as Squamish campus activities.

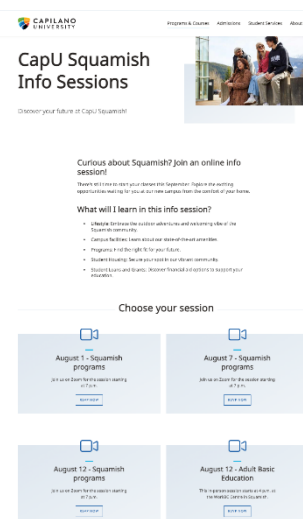
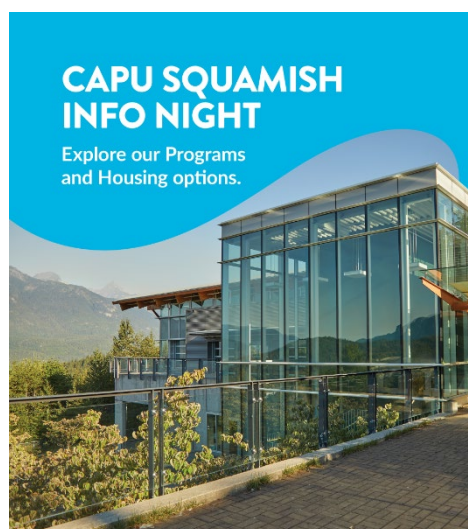
- » Communications also shared several stories internally and externally, including:
  - [Capilano University announces Tracy Penny Light as Interim Vice-President, Academic & Provost](#),
  - [Capilano University unveils Canada's first GLC-1 digital piano lab](#), [BCIT](#), [CapilanoU](#), [SLCC partner on pathways for SLCC graduates](#)
  - [CapU Blues celebrate 50 years of athletics with inaugural Hall of Fame](#).

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- » On July 26, CapU submitted a pre-budget submission report to the federal government, outlining the University's key recommendations for federal funding in the 2025 federal budget. This marks the second year CapU has prepared and provided a submission to raise the profile of the University and amplify the priorities of the post-secondary sector in Canada.
- » Working with CapU's government relations consultants, the University created summer/fall 2024 engagement plans for building relations with local municipal, provincial and federal government leaders. As part of ongoing engagement, CapU invited Terry Beech, MP Burnaby North-Seymour and North Vancouver MLAs Susie Chant and Bowinn Ma to visit the CapU Street Party on September 3.
- » CapU has confirmed dates in late October for President Paul Dangerfield and VP University Relations Kari Wharton to have meetings in Ottawa with key ministers and staff at federal ministries relevant to CapU.

## MARKETING & DIGITAL EXPERIENCE (MDX)

- » Over the summer, the MDX team supported the Squamish campus launch with various promotional activities. We worked closely with the recruitment team to promote Squamish campus info sessions via Zoom. This included an advertising campaign on Meta and Google platforms and a bespoke landing page on the website. We also promoted three Adult Basic Education Squamish Info Sessions

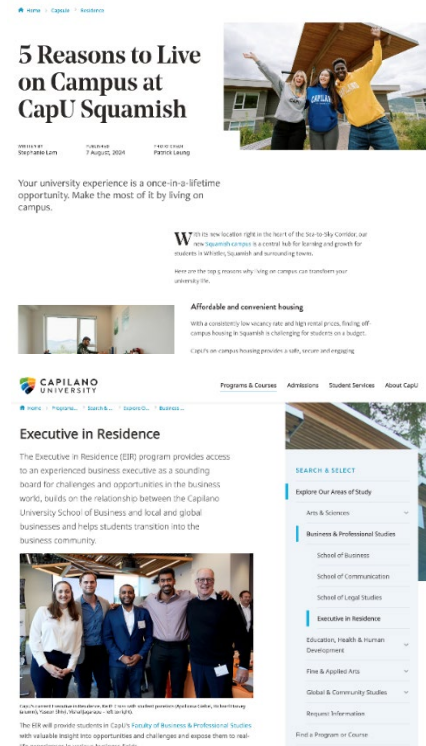


through Meta and Google ads, print ads in the Squamish Chief and poster design. These sessions were a mix of in-person and online. MDX launched a digital ad campaign to support Spring 2025 enrolment for the Global Hospitality & Tourism Management and Business Administration diploma programs targeting international students in six countries, which will run until September 30, in conjunction with the program coordinators and the Centre for International Experience team.

- » MDX completed several new web content projects during this time:
  - MDX worked with the student housing team to rebuild the [Student Housing section](#) of the website. Previously, this section was based on a singular housing offering in North Vancouver. Restructuring of

current information and creation of room for additional locations to be seamlessly added allowed us to add Squamish housing and will be ready to add new on-campus housing in the future.

- In support of the new [Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies](#), MDX built and created content for the new webpage and created a program page for the new Bachelor of Environment and Society program.
- MDX collaborated with the Centre for International Experience (CIE) to refresh the [international student landing page](#), using data insights and input from CIE to drive international student interest in CapU.
- MDX completed a full audit and redesign of the [Our Locations](#) section of the website. With the arrival of the Squamish Campus, the team looked at building pages for each location that are more engaging and comprehensive, shared location information in a uniform way and created a more intuitive information architecture for the content hosted in this section.
- Working with the Dean, Business & Professional Studies, MDX built the first [Executive in Residence program showcase](#) page. We created a page that could be replicated for other faculties or easily adapted to host more than one Executive profile should additional Executives join the program in future.



- » Since June, MDX published six new Capsule stories, including two focused on Squamish offerings, [ECCE programming](#) and [Housing on campus](#), [How to AI proof your education](#), a story about the new [Executive in Residence program](#), [Asian Heritage Month](#) on campus and the always popular “[CapU in Photos](#)” retrospective.
- » On the design side, MDX has been busy creating several materials for the upcoming recruitment cycle, both for domestic and international prospective students. This includes:
  - Student Guide
  - International Student Guide
  - Program poster outlining all academic offerings
  - Banners displaying images of student life and priority programs
  - Housing and entrance award posters
- » MDX supported convocation with several pieces of collateral. For the first time, we did not produce a printed convocation guide, but rather an online [digital guide](#). Graduates and attendees could choose to print their own commemorative book, if they desired. By not printing a program, the university saved over \$11,000. Other materials included digital screens to help orient graduands, a “congratulations” video, honorary doctorate announcement ad in *North Shore News*, a poster for the Birch Building, screens for ceremony backdrops and web page updates. Our visual media specialist took photos of all ceremonies, and we worked with two Motion Picture Arts students to capture drone footage of the procession and grad cap toss for use in [this Instagram post](#) and in future University videos.

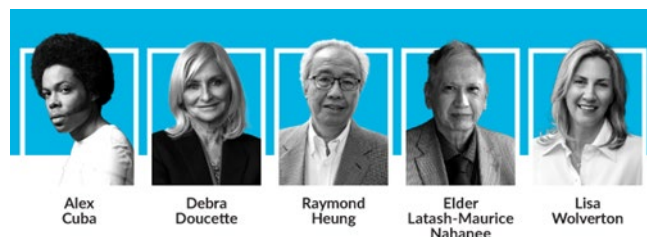
- » June was a big month for capturing imagery. MDX coordinated a large multi-student photography and video shoot on the main campus. We organized a dozen students from different programs and backgrounds. We scouted unique and iconic locations around the exterior of the campus to capture the student experience. Images and video b-roll will be used in marketing materials and social media. The team also coordinated and held a photo shoot for Squamish campus housing. We cast CapU students and hired an additional photographer to capture photos to use in promotions.



## PHILANTHROPY & ALUMNI RELATIONS

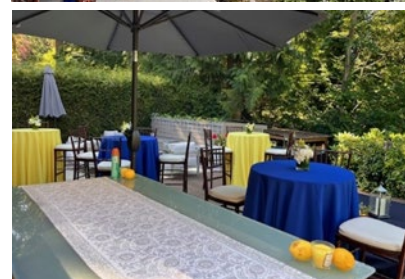
- » We are pleased to welcome Hazel Yeung to the Philanthropy & Alumni Relations (PAR) team as the new alumni relations officer.

- » CapU honoured five exemplary British Columbians with an honorary doctorate degree during the spring convocation ceremonies: Elder Latash Nahanee, Raymond Heung, Debra Doucette, Lisa Wolverton, and Alex Cuba. The honorary doctorate is CapU's highest form of recognition; it is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to others through their work, the University or voluntary pursuits.



- » A special thank you to CapU Alumni Association Board members, Amina El mantari, Milla Zaenker and Matthew Smith for their involvement in the 2024 Convocation ceremonies which included joining the platform party and providing speaking remarks.

- » On July 10, Paul and Catherine Dangerfield graciously provided their beautiful backyard to host the annual Evening with the Dangerfield's event. This summertime reception connects and appreciates supporters of the Paul & Catherine Dangerfield Women's Bursary and We Believe event. 35 individuals attended and enjoyed an evening inspired by 'La Dolce Vita' with an Italian inspired menu, live music and community camaraderie. Talented CapU Jazz students, Jake Kostuchuk and David Caballero performed for the attendees.





- » On July 15, the alumni relations team planned an alumni luncheon in Toronto. Hosted by Paul Dangerfield, this gathering brought together CapU alumni within the area to connect, share their experiences and insights and hear about the latest developments at CapU.
- » On August 20, CapU Alumni Association partnered with Northeastern University to host an alumni social mixer event “launching your next chapter”. This event, which included 105 alumni attendees, welcomed our new 2024 graduates to the alumni association and featured a panel discussion with alumni from CapU and Northeastern. During the event, it was announced that Northeastern University, a current CapU premium alumni perks partner, have recently collaborated on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to open up cross-institutional pathways and collaborations providing CapU graduates opportunities to pursue master’s degrees at Northeastern’s Vancouver campus and across its global network. CapU graduates will receive a discount to pursue their graduate studies at Northeastern. We look forward to the impact this partnership will continue to have.
- » A new annual award, the Lisa Lambert Legacy Music Award, was generously created by Jolene Cumming to honour her friend’s significant contributions to Vancouver’s music community. Lisa Lambert was a talented, well-respected, trailblazing woman, drummer, percussionist, vocalist, mentor and music teacher. The award will support female-identifying CapU students in the Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies—Performance and Composition program, who demonstrate a committed focus on drum set.

## UNIVERSITY EVENTS & CEREMONIES

- » Convocation took place on June 5, 6 & 7 and celebrated almost 1,000 graduates in person over five ceremonies. The festivities were attended by 3,500 family and friends and viewed online all over the world over 6,800 times. The events team were supported by 110 employee and student volunteers, and graduates were congratulated by faculty and executive both on and off the stage. This year, the events team worked hard to elevate the grad experience by devising a new assembly area with thanks to the BlueShore Theatre, and implementing a live message wall where family, friends and employees sent messages of congratulations to the graduates from all over the world.
- » At convocation this year, university events also facilitated the installation of five new honorary degree recipients. This highest form of recognition is given to acknowledge people who are distinguished by their significant contributions and accomplishments. Among these esteemed individuals, we were privileged to recognize CapU Elder Latash—Maurice Nahanee (*pictured right*) who received a standing ovation, after his thoughtful and touching speech to the graduands. During our final ceremony, graduates and their families in the Faculty of Fine & Applied Arts, were treated to surprise performance from HDR and CapU alum, Alex Cuba, which gifted our grads with an unforgettable convocation experience.
- » On July 10, events supported PAR to once again transform Paul and Catherine Dangerfield’s back yard into a themed event to gather supporters of their Women’s Bursary We Believe event, scheduled for later in the



fall. This year, the events team brought bold blue and lemon hues to the beautiful garden to evoke a Dolce Vita style landscape where guests enjoyed a Mediterranean inspired menu and live music from CapU Jazz students Jake Kostuchuk and David Caballero (*shown left*).

- » Once again, our new fall term kicked off in style with the CapU Street Party event on September 3, which hosted over 1,800 new and returning students to campus. The event hosted by student affairs and supported by university events featured fun and engaging activities, a welcome BBQ where students were served by members of the executive and many CapU departments and community partners all providing valuable information and resources to our student community.

