

Welcome to the Fall 2021 academic year

September is a special time at a university—a time filled with optimism, excitement and potential — and this is especially true this year!

After a challenging year and a half, we are coming back together with a renewed focus on community. I have enormous gratitude for all we have done to get ready for the return to campus and I am confident that we are ready

to face the challenge of COVID together. Please join me in welcoming each other and our students back to campus and in turning our focus to a safe and successful term.
—President Kevin Hall

THE RING 2021
The University of Victoria's community newspaper
ring.uvic.ca

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COVID-19 UPDATE
Return to campus health and safety measures

uvic.ca/return-to-campus

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
UVic continues its rise

John Burke, Biochemistry and Microbiology
 Being naturally curious opened doors in the international research community for John Burke. One of his main research interests is in how open science principles can be successfully implemented in novel drug discovery. His experience working with drug discovery teams in academia, industry and open science non-profits has led to

SEE ROYAL SOCIETY P.4

RETURN TO CAMPUS Welcome students back this fall



this year, as the university welcomes about 22,000 students after more than a year of mostly virtual programming, the scale of our usual September return to campus has increased dramatically. And the excitement is palpable!

“Students are both excited and nervous for the start of term,” says Joel Lynn, executive director, Student Services. “We’re proud of our in-person learning and co-curricular opportunities, which are key components of the UVic experience. Anticipation is high and it is great to see students starting to come back together on campus.”

A complex time for students
 Alongside this growing anticipation and enthusiasm are some of the more challeng-

ing realities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As BC’s Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has indicated many times, youth aged 18-24 are some of the most affected in terms of financial and social impacts of the pandemic—and overall issues of mental health and affordability remain key challenges for our students. Some members of our community are feeling anxious about the return, and some international students are navigating travel restrictions and delays in their study permit processing. Plus, there is a double cohort of new-to-campus first- and second-year students who will need more support in making connections and finding their way.

SEE WELCOMING STUDENTS P.3

Mellon Professorship for humanities scholar

Dr. [Name] ([Email]) is a [Title] at [Institution]. [Text describing the professorship and the scholar's work].
[Link: .bit.ly/21-burke]

BC support advances UVic research and innovation

[Text describing BC support for UVic research and innovation].



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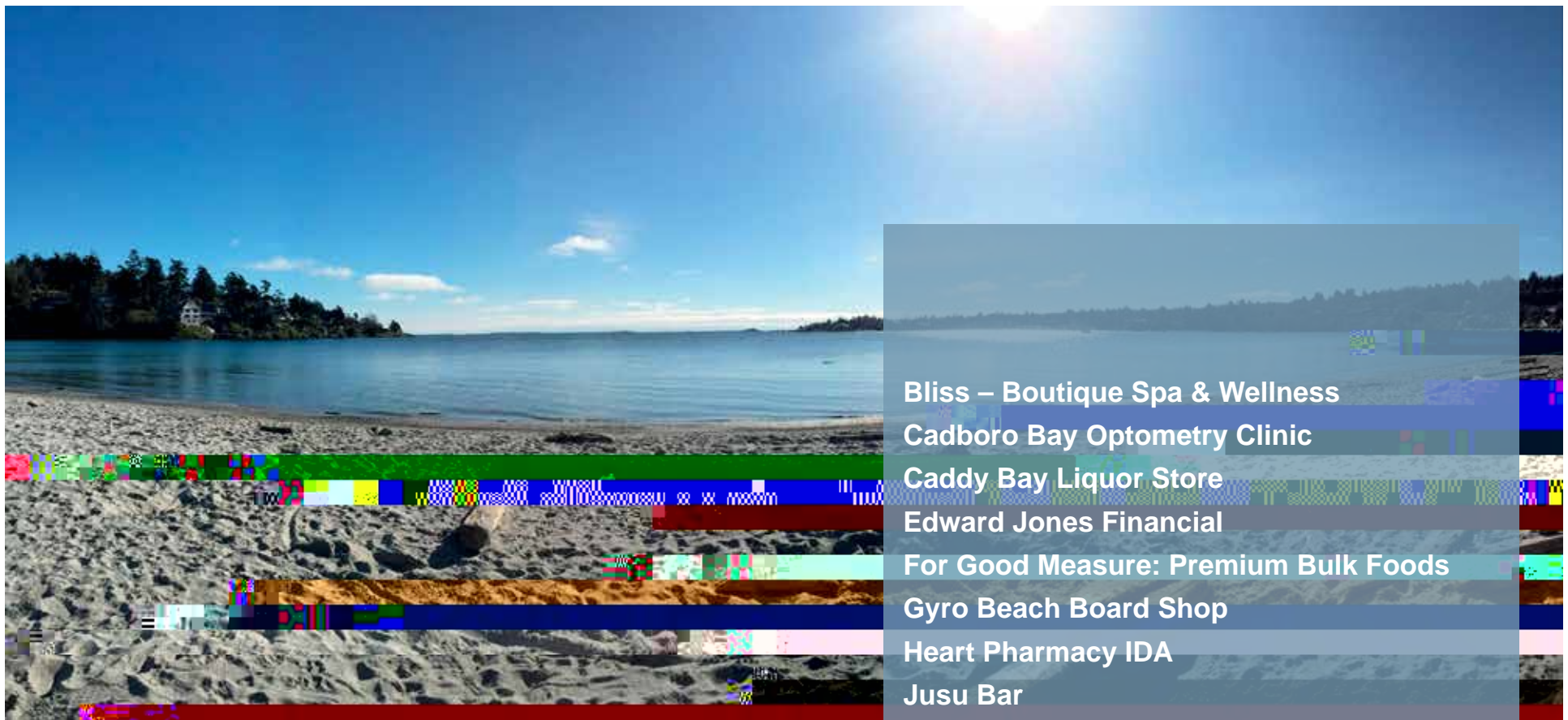
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- Olive Olio's Pasta & Espresso Bar
- Pepper's Food Store
- Smuggler's Cove Pub
- Soul Stir Psychotherapy & Counselling
- Starbucks Coffee Company
- Thai Lemongrass Restaurant
- Village Service Automotive Repair
- Waking Self Psychotherapy & Counselling
- Yew Tree Yoga

UVic athletes excel on Olympic and Paralympic stages

BY KELLEY O'GRADY

A year ago, the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics seemed far from becoming a reality amidst a global pandemic. Despite an ex-

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