

CAMPUS UNITED UVIC

APRIL 2024

UVIC 2023/24 CAMPUS UNITED: SPRING 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



UVIC TEAM

2023-2024

Min-Goo Kang, Emily M.S., and Skye G.B.

Campus United is a ministry network at post-secondary schools, that works to support and create programs for those on campus and build relationships with local faith communities: UVic, Selkirk College, SFU, UBC, UNBC, and University of Calgary & Mount Royal University. Our team began with summer training at Camp Pringle alongside the other Campus United Teams.

Campus United UVic this fall has created and run 2 new programs (Belonging Dinners and Creating Space Open Art Studio), and partnered with other people and groups through Multifaith, UVic, and the community. We are grateful to be connected to such a lovely community at UVic, within Victoria and beyond.



BELONGING DINNERS

Belonging Dinners runs every second Tuesday out of the Student Wellness Kitchen or Robert Wallace residence kitchen, combining culture, community, story-telling, creating together, and free food for students. Cultural connections through food and community building are important and our aim is to help foster this. Food insecurity is an issue for many students and we want to provide meaningful ways students can access healthy meals. Food is an excellent way to bring people together and we love holding these dinners.

Fall 2023:

Bibimbap (Korean with Min-Goo), Kimchi & Miso (Korean with Min-Goo), Cabbage Rolls (Russian/Ukrainian with Skye), Dal (Indian with Angadh), Sadrza (Zimbabwean with Thembie), Bannock (Indigenous with Edith)

Spring 2024:

Miso, Gyoza, & Mochi (Japanese with Hinano), Ashure/Noah's Pudding (Muslim meal with Gulsen), Chow-Mien, Char Siu, Tofu, and Mango Pudding (Cantonese with Jared), Korean Curry (Korean with Min-Goo), Cauliflower-Corn Chowder, Broccoli and Olive Salad, Hummus, and Hammentashen (Purim Jewish meal with Fiona), and International Pancakes (Japanese, Korean, French Crêpes, chocolate cinnamon, and gluten-free)

BELONGING DINNERS

Belonging Dinners have been an incredible experience, from the beginning, planning these out in August 2023 all the way to our final Belonging Dinner March 26th 2024. I have met new people, made connections with the UVic community and within the larger Victoria area, tried and made new foods from a variety of cultures, and received a lot of positive response from these dinners. I am so glad that our teams planning, organizing, and support from our community turned out and was able to provide students with a space they felt they belonged, had fun, had food, and made friends.

A highlight, from so many wonderful memories from this past year was the people. Everyone worked together and did so very quickly, bonding over cooking together, sharing stories and culture. The students and leaders made this program a success. These dinners have allowed me to meet new people, connect over shared and differing aspects of culture, try making and eating new foods, and feel closer to the UVic community.

-Skye G.B.





CREATING SPACE: OPEN ART STUDIO

Creating Space Open Art Studio is an art program where students can come and connect over art making, running alternative Tuesdays to our Belonging Dinners. Our aim is to provide a welcoming and inclusive space, promoting mindful creation and fostering student connections. Providing students with a variety of art materials in a calm environment, to allow students to take a break from the busy, rushed, stressful life of university.



INCLUSIVE CHRISTIANS UVIC

Inclusive Christians UVic believes Jesus is at work in the world, the Spirit guiding us to be active on campus. We have a unique voice as a student group that centers queer and IBPoC voices, following the same Jesus who disrupts the status quo, making space for marginalized people. Around the Table weekly service and soup supper begins with a Christian service, with prayer, song, scripture, communion, and discussion, led by alternating Christian spiritual care providers. Service is followed by dinner, with support from local communities of faith.



RUBY'S GENDER TRANSITION CELEBRATION

On April 3rd at Multifaith, just a few days after International Trans Day of Visibility, we, Campus United witnessed the transformative work of the Spirit at Ruby's gender transition blessing. The service, beautifully curated by Ruby and Ruth (Anglican Spiritual Care Provider), was deeply touching for the many students and community members who came to support Ruby. Ruby's own words about the service follow:

"My gender transition blessing service with Inclusive Christians was truly a blessing. The service featured poetry, music, a scripture reading, a reflection, prayer, communion, unction, and a blessing of my HRT (hormone replace therapy) medications. After a childhood being raised in a toxic Christian environment that taught me that my holiness was conditional, it was truly special to be given a platform within the church to share my experience, and share how I have healed from that religious trauma. So many people came from both the Christian community and the queer community to come support me, and it was incredible to be able to state in front of everybody that I am truly a child of God!"

-Ruby Koep (they/them), UVic School of Music Student

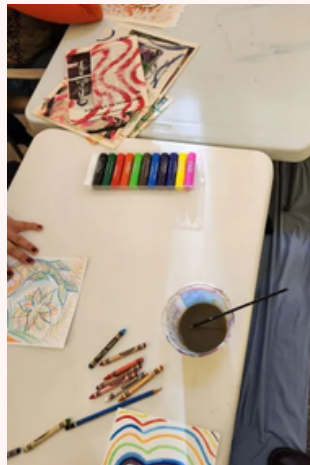


CREATING SPACE OPEN ART STUDIO

Creating Space Art Studio is a place for community, friendship, and art making! We meet every other week at the Multifaith Centre and there is always tea and good music with all the materials provided. Some of the themes have been nature exploration, growth, flow, perspective and courage. I love sharing space with everyone who comes to the art studio. It is a peaceful environment where people can come together and be creative. Some choose to work on their own projects and others collaborate. A big highlight for me was the tapestry theme where people got into groups and made a collective tapestry. It is currently displayed in the meditation room at the multifaith centre. I loved seeing participants come back week after week and make meaningful friendships. It was also amazing to see the ways in which everyone grew in their own way of making art. In the beginning where some people were hesitant, now they take leadership in welcoming others to the space.

When I first came to UVIC I remember thinking the campus was really big and being a bit overwhelmed. The community at Creating Space Art Studio and Belonging Dinners has made the school feel a lot smaller and more like home. I am so grateful for Campus United and the team here at UVIC.

-Emily M.S.



MUSTARD SEED AND MULTIFAITH FOODSHARE PROGRAM

This foodshare program is a new initiative, striving to provide food for university students through the Multifaith Centre. The food is picked up by volunteering UVic Spiritual Care Providers from the Mustard Seed Street Church's Food Distribution Centre and will be available for students during the week.



UVIC COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTNERSHIP



Our popular food program, Belonging Dinner, has led us into a new understanding: the importance of a land-based approach. Thanks to the generosity of the UVic Community Garden, we can now grow our own food on Campus! To ensure the garden meets students' needs, we collected information from those who attended our programs. The plants we are growing include radishes, various lettuces, cilantro (coriander), chives, perilla leaves (shiso), squash, and green onions. In the fall, we will harvest our vegetables and bring them to the kitchen to cook and share.

NAP FOR CHANGE

Nap for change is a new initiative that reimagines napping as a powerful act of resistance against the grind culture we live in. It creates a space dedicated to collective care and community learning. Our goal is to empower the UVic community to honour the Divine nature in everyone through the radical act of resting. This program has been co-facilitated by Min-Goo Kang (United Church Spiritual Care Provider) and Ruth Dantzer (Anglican Spiritual Care Provider). We look forward to fostering collective care by resting together.



CAMPUS UNITED UVIC 2023-2024 EXPERIENCE

My heart is full of gratitude as I reflect on the incredible year we had as Campus United UVic. Working with Skye and Emily has been the highlight for me! They each brought different gifts and strengths to the community we were creating. Thanks to their leadership, we were able to serve the needs of the students from around the world. Students often told us they felt at home while cooking and eating together. The kitchen turned into a place of belonging, where stories were told, and friendships were formed. Over the course of the two terms, the students naturally built an inclusive and vibrant community. Here are some examples of what kind of community we have become.

- More than 100 students attended Belonging Dinner over the last two terms, with many attending regularly, forming a sense of community.
- Regular attendees invited their friends to our programs – both Belonging Dinner and Art Studio - so more students could experience what they received.
- Some students took on leadership roles by being “the chef” at Belonging Dinner.
- Many students volunteered to clean up after each session – both at Belonging Dinner and Art Studio.
- Some of the students shared their experiences with the UVic communication department and helped raised \$16,684.12 during the Giving Tuesday campaign in 2023. More than half of the money will go toward supporting Multifaith programs including Campus United programs.

We could have not done any of our work without the support from various individuals and groups. Campus ministry is teamwork. Special thanks to Dawn Schell, Paula Leahy, Tania Farghali at Student Wellness Centre, Serenity G. at Multifaith, Ruth Dantzer, Laura Kavanagh and Lyndon Sayers at Inclusive Christians, Cecilia Rose and Theresa Lundy at Global Community, Kathleen Wirtanen at Residence, Jason Wright, Elliot Carter, and Nicole Greengoe at Recreation & Athletics. UVic Community Garden.

My deep gratitude goes to our chefs: Angadh Singh, Thembe Moyo, Skye G. B., Edith Louie, Hinano Takaya, Jared Bendall, Gulsen Cok (Muslim Co-Spiritual Care Provider) and her team, Fiona Prince (Jewish Spiritual Care Provider) and her team.

-Rev. Min-Goo Kang



CAMPUS UNITED UVIC 2023-2024 STUDENT EXPERINCES

“I enjoyed Belonging Dinner very much, it truly lives up to it’s name. I met so many friends and my UVic community here and I would truly recommend this for people who are looking for a community to feel belonged!”

-Tricia

“meet new meals, meet new friends”

-Ren

“This is my first intercultural experience, and it has inspired me to engage with people from many different countries. You have encouraged me, and I will never forget this memory. I am so thankful to you.”

-Anju

“Thank you for everything! I’m really glad that I spent time at Belonging Dinner :) I could meet new friends and food. It was extremely enjoyable!!! I learned other cultures too. I don’t forget these great memories. I want to keep in touch. Thank you so much. See you again :)”

-Ran

“My 1st Belonging Dinner was homework, rest were interest. Love learning about food & people”

- Jeanette

“Reading your beautiful posts are always inspiring! Keep up the amazing ministry :)”

-YYC Team

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We at Campus United UVic would like to thank everyone for an amazing year as a Campus United team, it has been wonderful getting to know so many people!

UNITED CHURCH VISITS

We had the opportunity to share our experiences from this year as a Campus United team at UVic with local United Churches. We are thankful for their support and generosity with allowing us to share our stories and providing in different ways for our programs.



The Abbey Church (Victoria)



Sylvan United Church (Mill Bay)



Broad View United (Victoria)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The local United Church congregations, including Broad View United, The Abbey Church, Central Saanich United Church, Sylvan United Church, Shelbourn Community Kitchen, Iyé Creative, Thrifty Foods Tuscany Village, The Local General Store.

Also, thanks to those who helped spread the word with various media: Rachel Brown through Food and Migration course, Cindy Homes, Fiona Chong through Around the Table Dialogues research project and podcast, CBC All Points West, Kelly Schaecher at UVic Leadership Giving. Our deep gratitude also goes to our fantastic team leader at Campus United, Pamela Evan for her fearless leadership, and Daniel Martin and Linda Ni for their steady support.

CONTACTS & LINKS

Campus United website: campusunited.ca/

UVic Campus United website: <https://campusunited.ca/university-of-victoria>

Campus United UVic Instagram: [@campusunited.uvic](https://www.instagram.com/campusunited.uvic)

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