

Alumni Networking Night 2025

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Carling Gerlinsky (Her/She)

BSc in Biology, Zoology, Animal Physiology

Lab Manager & Research Assistant/Technician in the Dept. of Zoology, UBC

Carling completed her undergraduate in Biology (Hons) at UBC in 2009, and did her honours thesis with the Marine Mammal Research Unit. After working in a lab for a year, she then did a Master's in Zoology, on Steller sea lion diving physiology, completed in 2013. Since then, she has worked as a research assistant/technician in the department of Zoology, first with the Marine Mammal research unit, assisting with studies on Marine Mammal physiology. Then as a technician with the Schluter Lab and Fisheries and Oceans Canada studying evolutionary biology of fishes, and transgenic fish where she helps manage their aquatics facility and assists students with projects. She now also works with the O'Connor Lab in Zoology, where they study ecology and the effects of climate change on biodiversity. She is a lab manager and technician, helping graduate students and postdocs with their research and is responsible for training new students and undergraduates and running the labs.



Alvin Hartono

BSc in Integrated Science (Neuroscience and Physiology)

Minor in Commerce

Growth Manager

Alvin is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in marketing and tech roles, complemented by his Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. As a Growth Manager, he serves hundreds of millions of ad-blocking users worldwide, striving to build a fairer internet for everyone. His expertise lies in driving transformative growth within organizations by leading and influencing teams toward a shared vision. This past year, Alvin embraced a part-time digital nomad lifestyle, traveling the globe and immersing himself in diverse cultures. Always curious and driven, Alvin is passionate about forging connections, solving complex challenges, and exploring innovative ideas to make a positive impact.



Christina Wong (She/Her)

BSc in Chemistry

Academic Advisor in the Faculty of Science

Christina graduated with a BSc Major in Chemistry in 2016. The BSc degree taught her resilience, and invaluable problem-solving and critical thinking skills that she uses to this day. It also provided life-changing opportunities to experience two international co-op work placements in the USA and in Germany. After the BSc, she spent several years working in the UBC Department of Chemistry as an Analytical Chemistry Teaching Lab Technician. There she realized that her favorite part of her job was her interactions with students, and in 2022 moved to the Faculty of Science to work as an advisor. She recently graduated with a Master of Education in Adult and Learning and Education in 2023. Outside of work Christina can be found at the local climbing gym or the curling rink.



Eric Chi

BSc in Biology

Director, Business Strategy & Operations, BC Transplant, Provincial Health Services Authority

I completed a BSc. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2011 and utilized the analytical and critical thinking skills gained through my undergraduate degree to pursue a two-year Master of Health Administration immediately afterwards.

Through my studies at UBC, I gained a strong educational foundation for a career in health care. While I initially struggled with choosing whether to pursue a career in clinical practice or health care administration, I can confidently say I love the work I do on a day-to-day basis in administration. I've led teams trying to improve patient care and value for money with the hopes of creating a highly effective and sustainable health care system in BC. If you're interested in making positive impacts on the health care system that may not be patient facing, feel free to find me to chat!



Carmen Wong (She/Her)

BSc in Integrated Science

Respirologist

Carmen graduated with a BSc at UBC in Integrated Science (Physiology, Microbiology and Public Health) in 2015. During her undergrad, she was involved on campus in different ways including SCI Team, the Science Undergraduate Society, and UBC Orientations. After undergrad, she completed her medical degree at UBC in 2019. She has since completed her Internal Medicine residency and Respirology fellowship in Vancouver. She is currently completing an additional year of Interventional Pulmonology Medicine based at the BC Cancer Agency, with a focus on early lung cancer diagnosis and therapies.

Sandra Wan (She/Her)

BSc in Biochemistry

Manager, Special Projects at UBC Enrolment Services

Sandra completed her BSc in 2015 (majoring in Biochemistry and a minor in Commerce) and her Master of Education in Adult Learning and Education in 2020. After graduating from her undergraduate degree, she has been working at UBC in different student affair roles ranging from academic advising and program management, to implementing large scale events, to facilitating work and undergraduate research opportunities that contribute towards career learning and the overall student experience. Currently, she is working as the Manager, Special Projects, at Enrolment Services, responsible for supporting the transition to Workday Student, the new student information system for UBC.



Tim Fung (He/Him)

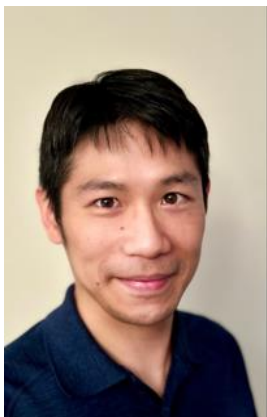
BSc in Biochemistry

Enterprise Customer Success Manager

I graduated with a BSc. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a Co-Op designation in 2012.

After finishing my degree, I continued down the path of research with the eventual goal of doing research in an industry setting. This led me to complete a PhD in Pharmacology and Therapeutics and eventually to a start-up where I led a team of scientists conducting in vivo research.

That's when I realized, I loved the science, but couldn't see myself in the lab for the rest of my life. I pivoted to a new space at the intersection of science, technology, and business. Now, I'm in a client-facing role working with some of the largest academic and industry research organizations in the world to improve the speed and quality of their research. Looking forward to meeting everyone!



Roy Chen (He/Him)

BSc in Cell Biology and Genetics, MSc in Experimental Medicine

Point-of-care Solution Specialist for Siemens Healthineers

Roy is an alumnus of UBC with a BSc in Cell Biology and Genetics ('07) and an MSc in Experimental Medicine ('16). Roy also became a certified Project Management Professional ('17). As a graduate and a registered Medical Laboratory Technologist from the Medlab Science Program at BCIT ('12), he worked in various roles within the local health authorities in the past decade.

He enjoys helping others and solving problems in a complex healthcare setting and continues to forge meaningful connections with healthcare, industry, and academic professionals.

In 2023, he had a career change from healthcare to the diagnostic industry as a Point-of-care Solution Specialist for Siemens Healthineers. Lastly, he has been volunteering as a mentor for over ten years, and he enjoys sharing his career stories with everyone. So, come and chat with him if you are curious about how he survived through school, work, and whatever else happens in life! :)



Michelle Kwan (She/Her)

BSc in Biochemistry

Data Systems and Analytics Manager at BC Hydro

Michelle is a Data Systems and Analytics Manager at BC Hydro. She is responsible for the governance of transmission and distribution asset data in the Enterprise Asset Management system and asset health analytics and reporting. Michelle completed a BSc Combined Major of Computer Science and Math in 2012. She has worked at BC Hydro for over 12 years working with data relating to smart metering, customer energy usage, marketing, projects and contracts. Michelle is passionate about delivering long and short-term business value through analytics, intelligent and interactive products, and maximizing the value of business data by collaborating with a broad range of stakeholders.



Tyler Suzuki Nelson (He/They)

BSc in Integrated Sciences (Microbiology, Computer Science and Biogeography)
Coach, Software Developer

Tyler graduated in 2014 with an Honours degree in Integrated Sciences (Co-op), where he combined microbiology, geography, and computer science. During his time at UBC, he served as a Science Peer Academic Coach, coordinated the UBC Tri-Mentoring Program, TA-ed biology and computer science courses, and contributed to various student clubs.

After graduation, Tyler completed an 8-week coding bootcamp, which launched his software development career at Clio, where he has now been building software for lawyers for nearly a decade. More recently, Tyler earned his life coaching certification and now helps lifelong learners turn their knowledge into action to achieve meaningful goals. He has also facilitated workshops on productivity and working smarter, and has been a teaching assistant for multiple courses on personal knowledge management.



Melanie Backer

BSc in Chemistry (Honours)
Associate Analytical Chemist

Melanie graduated with a BSc in Chemistry (Honours) in 2016 and immediately started her career in the biotech industry at Renaissance BioScience, where she has worked for the past 8.5 years. As part of a small analytical chemistry team, she specializes in method development and analysis of organic compounds by HPLC, UPLC, and GC to support her coworkers in developing novel strains of yeast for a diverse range of applications. She is especially passionate about exploring the chemistry behind flavours and aromas. During her time at UBC, Melanie was involved in a variety of clubs, Rec intramurals and events, Co-op, and a Go Global exchange to Dublin.



Jenelle Backer (She/Her)

BSc in Chemistry

Associate Scientist, Formulation & Process Development

Jenelle completed her BSc in Honours Chemistry in 2016. Post-graduation, she worked in the UBC Chemistry Department helping to scale-up an isolation procedure for plant-based natural products. Jenelle then stepped into the biotech industry, joining the Formulation and Process Development group at Evonik Vancouver Laboratories, where she is currently an Associate Scientist. Development of lipid nanoparticle drugs can be challenging at times, but problem

solving through close collaboration with other team members makes each day interesting and rewarding. During her time at UBC, Jenelle was involved in the Science Co-op program and completed a Go Global exchange to Ireland.

Taylor Wright (He/Him)

BSc in Chemistry

Circularity Innovation Manager

I finished my BSc in Chemistry at UBC in 2017, and then returned for my PhD focused on polymer chemistry. After graduating in 2022 I joined Lululemon to lead the company's efforts related to sustainable polymers. In my current role, I am in charge of validating, scouting, and partnering with innovative technology developers from university groups to start up to multinational chemical companies towards meeting the companies' goals around GHG emissions and enabling circularity for end-of-life apparel. Its one part science, one part business, and educating others within the company on sustainable chemistry.



Rob Kim (He/Him)

BSc in Neuroscience

Associate Director, Lifelong Learning, Alumni UBC

Rob Kim contributes to the development of strategies to deliver lifelong learning opportunities for students and UBC alumni globally. He is a believer in applying learning and development approaches to support people's career and personal growth. Rob is a lifelong learner—as a CliftonStrengths coach, a professional ICF (International Coaching Federation) Associate Coach, and a proud 3x UBC alum. He was also named a LinkedIn Top Voice in Job Search and Careers.



Jason Yen (He/him)

BSc in Cognitive Sciences - Brain & Cognition

AVP at RBCx

Jason is an AVP, Early Stage Banking at RBCx, the technology and innovation arm of RBC. In his role, he partners with high tech and life science companies in BC to help them gain access to capital and scale for growth. He supports these companies with a suite of financial products, services, and expertise tailored for pre-series A startups. Prior to joining RBCx, Jason had roles at Hootsuite and Toronto Dominion Bank where he focused on supporting both enterprise and small business clients. Jason holds a Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Systems from the University of British Columbia.



Maisie Morsara (She/Her)

BSc in Biochemistry

Academic Advisor at SFU Faculty of Science

Maisie Morsara graduated from UBC with a BSc in Biochemistry and immediately immersed herself in the biotech industry. In her last year of school, Maisie began her career in the Bioanalytical department of a large pharma company. After graduation, she garnered a laboratory production role in the medical device field, focusing on point-of-care testing for cardiac and infectious diseases. Her responsibilities became more specialized in streamlining manufacturing processes, ultimately reducing production costs. More recently, she was a Quality Assurance Associate in a dental navigation start-up, where she maintained the quality management system, assisted in regulatory submissions, and wrote the product's user manual. Being inspired by mentoring post-secondary students, she made an exciting, yet drastic, career change and is currently an Academic Advisor at SFU Faculty of Science.



Alun Gunderson (He/Him)

BSc in Behavioural Neuroscience

Senior Manager of Quality, Regulatory Affairs, Research, & Development at Rubicon Organics Inc.

Alun graduated from UBC in 2017 with a BSc. in Psychology, a program now known as Behavioural Neuroscience. Throughout his degree, Alun had targeted proceeding into medicine through good grades, MCAT scores, and extra-curriculars. At the end of his degree, however, he instead fell in love with the concept of "work-life-balance", and thus proceeded into an alternative professional career. This started with leveraging his volunteer experience to find a career in the medical device industry coordinating clinical research trials but has since transitioned into the cannabis industry. Alun currently works as a Senior Manager of Quality, Regulatory Affairs, Research, & Development at Rubicon Organics Inc., a licenced cannabis producer known for super-premium cannabis products. Outside of work, Alun enjoys bouldering, hockey, skiing, playing music, and spending quality time with his wife and dog.



Parveen Sarana (She/Her)

BSc. in Biology

Manager in Database and Analytics at BCAA and Adjunct Professor in Data Visualization at UBC Sauder

Parveen Sarana is a dedicated Data Analytics professional with a dual role as Manager in Database and Analytics at BCAA and Adjunct Professor in Data Visualization at UBC Sauder. Passionate about the intersection of data and storytelling, she advocates for the impact of data-driven decision-making and actively supports women in STEAM fields. Through social media, she shares her experiences to empower others in their career paths.

In addition to her professional pursuits, Parveen is deeply engaged with her local Sikh community, striving to enhance Sikh representation online by developing creative projects like Sikh-themed GIFs for Giphy.

Parveen is driven by a passion for using data to empower others and fostering inclusivity both in her field and her community.



Harry Li

BSc. in Integrated Sciences in Biochemistry and Neuroscience

Founder and CEO, New World International Education Corp

Hi, I'm Harry (SiRui) Li! I graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of British Columbia (UBC) before earning my Master's degree in Neuropharmacology at University College London (UCL). Later, I completed my MBA at MIT and returned to Vancouver to start my own company New World International Education Corp.

I'm passionate about education and love helping others navigate their journeys. Outside of work, I'm a big basketball fan and a proud supporter of the Los Angeles Lakers. I believe in teamwork and mentorship, and I'm excited to share my experiences while learning from others along the way.



Oliver Jung (He/Him)

BSc in Biology

High School Science Teacher

Oliver Jung is a two-time graduate from UBC, with a BSc (majoring in Biology) in May 2019, and a BEd (in Secondary Science Education) in November 2021. During his undergraduate studies in the Faculty of Sciences, he engaged in field work at field sites spanning 15 degrees of latitude with Dr. Chris Harley in the summer of 2018, which solidified his appreciation for biology and encouraged him to pursue a career in science education to share his love of science with others. After graduating from his Education program, Oliver was employed in the Richmond School District No. 38, before accepting a full-time teaching position at a private school in Vancouver. During his time at UBC, he was involved in many aspects of student life: with the Science Undergraduate Society as AVP Internal and General Officer; with UBC Student Housing as a Residence Advisor; and with the UBC Jumpstart program and UBC Science Orientation program as an orientation leader. In the future, Oliver hopes to pursue a Master's degree in Education.



Marie-Claire Veilleux-Foppiano

BSc in Microbiology & Immunology

Senior Market Development Specialist at OmniaBio

I graduated from UBC with a BSc in microbiology and started working in biotechnology as a lab technician at STEMCELL Technologies. Since then I have worked in the business development side of the biotechnology industry for the past 5 years. I now work at OmniaBio, a CDMO specializing in manufacturing cell and gene therapies as a senior market development specialist.



Kelsey Ferns

BSc in Biology

Scientist

Kelsey graduated with a BSc in Biology in 2017, with a particular interest in cell biology and immunology. She is a former SCI Team member and completed 16 months in industry and academic positions as part of the co-op program.

Since graduating Kelsey has worked in the Lower Mainland biotechnology field growing her skills and understanding around large molecule drug development.

Starting her career at Zymeworks, her focus was in Antibody Discovery, where she spent 5 years building workflows around B cell antibody repertoires and antibody characterization. Now at Amgen, Kelsey is focusing on understanding the immune system's response to therapeutic antibodies.

In her free time she likes to play volleyball, explore the outdoors and collect a to-do list of fun DIY projects.



Sally Bagk (She/Her)

BSc in Statistics

Senior Manager, Data Analytics

Sally has over 7 years of experience in Data Analytics, primarily at Electronic Arts, where she has steadily advanced by navigating high-impact challenges and driving complex initiatives. With a degree in Statistics from the University of British Columbia, she combines a solid academic foundation with innovative problem-solving skills developed through her extensive experience.

Throughout her career, Sally has honed her stakeholder management and communication abilities, effectively collaborating with product managers, data architects, engineers, and governance experts to support key decisions for numerous AAA video games. As the lead for analytics on FC Mobile, she played a pivotal role in driving player acquisition, engagement, and monetization efforts.

Now, as Senior Manager of Analytics for User Generated Experiences, she leads a new and fast-growing team in a highly invested area, working through ambiguity to tackle complex content moderation challenges. Her role requires strong organizational skills and both analytical expertise and innovative problem-solving to ensure a positive and safe gaming environment. Sally is passionate about sharing her experiences and insights with students as they transition into roles in data analytics, product management, and the gaming industry.



Louie Dinh (He/Him)

BSc in Computer Science

Data Scientist

Louie Dinh graduated with a BSc in computer science at UBC in 2012 and currently works as a data scientist. His career has focused on using data to make decisions effectively. He has worked on building better mobile games (A Thinking Ape), improving news aggregation (Flipboard) and antibody drug development (AbCellera). He is currently focused on supporting scientists draw meaningful conclusions from their wet lab experiments.



Siong Ng (He/Him)

BSc in Physics

Industrial Technology Advisor

Siong Ng is an experienced product and technology leader with over 25 years experience developing large scale software solutions, medical devices and AI-based applications for the healthcare industry. Through that journey, he has worked extensively in product management, product development, quality/regulatory, go-to-market and commercialization for small startups (MD.ai, Synthesis Health) and large enterprises (Change Healthcare).

Siong holds a BSc Physics (UBC), MSc Physics (University of Alberta), MBA (University of Victoria), and various professional and leadership certifications including Six Sigma and Pragmatic Marketing. He is currently an Industrial Technology Advisor with NRC Canada.



Jorge Marques

BSc in Mathematics

Portfolio Manager at North Growth Management

Jorge Marques, CFA is a Portfolio Manager at North Growth Management that specializes in Canadian and US equities. He graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Science with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Economics, and has completed the CFA designation.



Lisa Frey (She/her)

BSc in Mathematics

Real Estate Lawyer

Lisa is a partner in the Vancouver office of Lawson Lundell LLP. Her practice is focused on real estate and condominium law. Lisa assists clients with a wide variety of real property matters including acquisitions and dispositions of commercial properties, real estate development and commercial leasing. She also has experience in various strata corporation matters.

Lisa received a B.Sc. in Mathematics (2007) and a J.D. (2012) from the University of British Columbia and practiced at a larger international law firm immediately prior to joining Lawson Lundell LLP. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking with fresh, local produce and volcano tourism.



Lauren Lee (She/Her)

BSc Combined Major in Mathematics and Psychology

Workplace Wellbeing Associate

I work at UBC in Human Resources as the Workplace Wellbeing Associate. In my role, I support the health and wellbeing of staff and faculty through coordinating wellness workshops and events, promoting workplace mental health resources, and assisting employees in accessing counselling programs and employee benefits. My journey in health promotion began as an undergraduate volunteer at the UBC Wellness Centre, where I enhanced student wellbeing through peer-to-peer support, workshops and events. My areas of interest include mental health literacy, women's health, and equity, diversity, and inclusion. I chose this field because I am passionate about helping others thrive and live meaningful lives.



David Jin (He/Him)

BSc in Computer Science

Data Scientist

David Jin is an accomplished Data Scientist with a proven track record of applying machine learning and advanced analytics to tackle complex challenges. As a key member of BC Hydro's Customer Energy Analytics Team, he has spearheaded high-impact projects, including cutting-edge initiatives in EV charging detection and capacity analysis. With a Master's degree in Science from the University of British Columbia, David brings a wealth of experience from roles in dynamic startups like EvenUp and global powerhouses such as Alibaba Group. He is deeply passionate about harnessing data to fuel innovation and enhance operational efficiency.



Connor Greig (He/Him)

BSc in Physics

R&D Chemist - Personal Care & Cosmetics

With 14 years of experience as a cosmetic chemist, I have cultivated a deep expertise in designing, researching, and developing innovative cosmetic products for brands across North America. My journey began as a lab assistant during my physics undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Over the years, I have honed my skills in an ISO 22716 certified manufacturing environment, where I have nurtured projects from concept to market.

My extensive background in cosmetics manufacturing and development has equipped me with a unique perspective on both the scientific and commercial aspects of the industry. I am passionate about creating high-quality skincare products that meet the diverse needs of consumers and adhere to the highest standards of safety and efficacy. Whether collaborating with established brands or emerging startups, my goal is to deliver exceptional products that enhance beauty and promote confidence.



Nishal Kumar

BSc in Geophysics with Minor in Commerce

Founder and CEO of No Days Wasted

Nishal Kumar is the Founder and CEO of No Days Wasted – a wellness brand that creates science-backed products that help people maximize life's moments. He's also founder/lead designer of EVitems.com, an aftermarket accessory brand for Tesla vehicles. Nishal has also worked for Tesla, as one of the original 8 employees in Western Canada – spearheading expansion efforts, education and customer acquisition. Additionally, Nishal has worked as the lead Geophysicist for a local Geotechnical engineering firm prior to starting his companies. He also serves as an advisor for Rocky Health, a Canadian men's health ecommerce pharmacy.

Nishal is passionate about problem solving using a first principles approach, and enjoys staying active playing basketball, working out and running. Nishal graduated from UBC with a BSc. in Geophysics and a minor in Commerce.



Sybil Zhang (She/her)

BSc in Earth and Ocean Science

Program Lead of the Energy Peers in Indigenous Communities Network

Sybil Zhang is a trilingual community cultivator with 6+ years of experience working with students and entrepreneurs. She has also initiated various youth programs, events and activities to help the young generation reach their full potential. Currently, she is the program lead of the Energy Peers in Indigenous

Communities network, supporting the development of sustainability projects through capacity building.

Sybil majored in Earth and Ocean Sciences at University of British Columbia and holds a Master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from City University of Hong Kong.



Antony Wang (He/Him/His)

BSc in Integrated Sciences (Environmental Sciences and Biomedical Health Sciences)

Branch Manager at RBC Royal Bank

Antony Wang graduated from UBC in May 2018 with a BSc, majoring in Integrated Sciences and minoring in Commerce. With over seven years in the financial services industry, Antony is a results-oriented leader with a proven track record of delivering exceptional client experience, acquiring and retaining clients, growing market share, and coaching high-performing teams that consistently deliver on business objectives.

He is currently a Branch Manager at RBC Royal Bank – Canada's biggest bank and one of the largest banks in the world based on market capitalization. At RBC, Antony sits on the BC Regional Cabinet of the RBC Pride Employee Resource Group and was awarded with one of RBC's highest employee honours – the RBC Global Citizen Award – with 75 recipients out of 98,000+ global employees each year. Outside of work, Antony serves on the board of directors for a non-profit organization, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives, in Richmond, BC.