

Beyond the BSc 2020



Elizabeth Digby

BSc in Biology

Elizabeth completed her Bachelor of Science (Major: Biology, Concentration: Cell Biology and Genetics) in 2009 from the University of British Columbia. During her final year she took a work-study position in a Microbiology Research Lab on campus (the Beatty Lab) and when she graduated, she moved into a full-time technologist position in the same laboratory. After a year of that position, Elizabeth went back to school at the British Columbia Institute of Technology to study Clinical Genetic Technologies. She completed her coursework and part of her practicum in Cytogenetics before leaving that program to begin medical school. She graduated medical school from the University of Calgary in 2014 and since that time she has been working through her residency in Medical Genetics and Genomics at BC Women's Hospital. Her residency has been extended by two maternity leaves.



Jamil Rhajjak

BSc in Geological Science

Jamil grew up in North Delta and started his BSc at UBC in 2004. He completed the Honours stream in Geological Science and was involved with the Science Undergraduate Society, UBC Recreation, AMS, and the VP Students office. After graduating in 2009, Jamil began work in the UBC Faculty of Science with Student Development. Over the years Jamil had moved between different roles and is now working for UBC's Brand and Marketing department where he supports digital communications and manages special projects.



Roy Chen

BSc in Cell Biology and Genetics

Roy is an alumnus from UBC with a BSc in Cell Biology and Genetics, and a MSc in Experimental Medicine. He went through BCIT in the Medical Laboratory Science Program and became certified as a registered Medical Laboratory Technologist. He currently works at Vancouver General Hospital in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as a Research Coordinator. He has been volunteering as a mentor for the past few years, and he enjoys sharing his career stories with everyone. So, come chat with him if you are curious about how he survived through school, work, and life!



Mya Warren

BSc in Physics

I completed my BSc in physics in 2001. I still call myself a physicist to this day, but my career is actually pretty hard to label. I worked for a start-up company creating all-optical “light chips” for telecommunications, and an engineering lab studying polymer muscles for light-weight robotics. I’ve investigated the fundamental physics of how atoms in glass continue to move even in the solid state, but also how bacteria grow in crowded colonies and biofilms. At the BC Cancer Agency, I used Big Data and machine learning to understand how each patient’s unique mutations impact their diagnosis and treatment. I currently work at

Tableau Software where I am using machine learning to help customers make the best use of their own data. The truth is, it’s hard to predict where your degree will take you, because there are so many ways to do what you love.



Kimberly Noble

BSc in Biology

Born and raised in North Vancouver, Kimberly went on to complete her B.Sc. in Biology (2011) at UBC. With a keen interest in languages, medicine and teaching others she set off to Australia to complete her Masters of Speech-Language Pathology (2014) at the University of Sydney. Kimberly now works at Vancouver General Hospital as a Speech-Language Pathologist assessing and treating patients with a variety of communication and swallowing needs from the intensive care unit to palliative care and everything in between. She enjoys working alongside the physicians, nurses, and allied health team to provide the best patient care as well as acting as a clinical educator for the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences at UBC. Kimberly has been involved in several

frontline research endeavours as well as quality improvement projects. In her spare time Kimberly can be found hiking, playing field hockey, and competing in triathlons. When she’s not feeling so adventurous Kimberly loves to bake and cook for friends, or curl up on the couch with a great book.



Paul Lee

BSc in Earth & Ocean Sciences and Biology

Paul Lee is a 2016 alumni of UBC, graduating with a BSc specializing in Earth & Ocean Sciences and Biology. He currently works as a Residence Life Manager at UBC, having worked in Student Affairs throughout his undergrad and abroad in the UK after graduation. Despite not currently working in the sciences, he loved how his degree differentiated himself from others in my field, how it taught him to approach complex problems, and how it complements the people-focused aspects of his work



Douglas Dang

BSc in Biology

Doug Dang graduated with a BSc in Biology and a BASc in chemical engineering 1986/1991. He spent 13 years in the manufacturing sector employed as a chemical engineer, production supervisor, production manager and plant superintendent. With the changing employment dynamics and future of manufacturing, especially in the paper and related industry, Doug made a career change. He went back to UBC and became a licensed realtor. With the tools, goodwill and experience he had, Doug transitioned over to real estate sales and general contracting, and has been doing this for over a decade. He has a combined total of over 10 years of directorate experience and is currently a director for the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Chinese Real Estate Professional Association and the Hoy Ping Benevolent Society. On top of this, he is the current and charter grand knight for the Knights of Columbus council 16692, St John the Apostle.



Thomas Chang

BSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Thomas Chang is a Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of British Columbia. He earned his B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees and completed the Faculty Certificate Program on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at UBC. Following postdoctoral studies in the Division of Cancer Pharmacology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Harvard Medical School, he returned to UBC to begin his academic career. He has been recognized with research awards, including Research Career Award from the Medical Research Council of Canada, Research Scholarship from the British Columbia Health Research Foundation, New Investigator Award from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (U.S.A.), Izaak Walton Killam Faculty Research Fellowship, UBC Distinguished University Scholar Award, and Senior Scholar Award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.



Leyla Salmi

BSc in Biology and Spanish

Leyla Salmi graduated from UBC in 2016 with a degree in biology and Spanish (double major). After graduating she decided to pursue a career in law and attended law school at the University of Victoria. Currently she is articling at an international law firm here in Vancouver. She is interested to work in employment law and commercial litigation. During her undergraduate career she was heavily involved in campus activities and clubs, including SCI Team, Science Peer Academic Coaches, Jump Start, the Student Leadership Conference, among many other initiatives. In her spare time she enjoys travelling, taking dance classes, and painting.



Ajay Puri

Masters of Health Administration

Ajay is a speaker, facilitator and social movement builder. He has 20 years of experience in empowering communities and creating social change in the non-profit, academic, government and social innovation sectors. Ajay holds his Masters of Health Administration from UBC and has published five peer-reviewed articles on health research. He also teaches/mentors at SFU RADIUS Ventures and Groundswell Social Ventures. Mr. Puri was acknowledged for his work as a featured TEDx speaker, recognized as one of Canada's top five volunteers in CBC's Champions of Change contest, and was selected as one of Vancouver's #30PeopleYouShouldKnow. He has also co-founded many movement based organizations including:

Changemakers Vancouver, #EastVanLove, Bee Vancity, and RangiChangi Roots. For the past four years, he has run his agency Pē'pəl, which specializes in digital media strategy, and social justice.



Rob Kim

BSc in Biopsychology

Rob graduated with a BSc in Biopsychology (now called neuroscience). Rob's involvement on campus as a residence advisor and his summer work as a camp counsellor, led him to the teaching profession, where he taught seven years of high school science. This was followed by another seven years teaching adult learners at Capilano University. For the last four years, Rob has worked for UBC's Centre of Student Involvement and Careers (CSIC), supporting the ways a large institution can create belonging. As a Student Engagement Advisor, Rob oversaw UBC Collegia, a home away from home for first-year commuter students. Rob's current role as Career Strategist allows him to build belonging through identity development and career education. Rob is proud of collaborating with the Faculty of Land and Food Systems to deliver a series of career

educational supports in four different courses, reaching over 1000 students. Rob continues to be interested in working with students and career education, both in small scale to large scale capacities. Rob never envisioned that his science degree would take him to where he is now. He encourages students to recognize that though your career pathway may be unclear, you can still find ways to build skills, so you will be ready when you gain clarity in the future.



Sophie Bockhold

BSc in Biology

Sophie Bockhold graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology from the University of British Columbia in May 2017. During her time at UBC, Sophie became heavily involved in event planning as a volunteer with UBC Recreation Intramurals. Since graduating, Sophie has been able to continue her pursuit of a career in biology, while maintaining her involvement in event planning, through her role as Senior Coordinator, Scientific Communications and Education at the International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy (ISCT). ISCT is a global organization connecting professionals from academia, regulation and industry with the ultimate mission of driving the translation of cell and gene therapies for the benefit of patients worldwide



Siong Ng

BSc in Physics

Siong Ng holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Physics, specializing in experimental particle physics. He joined the bandwagon into the IT industry during the dot-com heyday and started his professional career as a Software Test Engineer with ALI Technologies. After a few years, he changed focus to business management; first by completing a Master of Business Administration and began pursuing management roles in high tech companies. He is currently working at Change Healthcare as Director Product Management.



Lisa Frey

BSc in Mathematics

Lisa is an associate 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, such as drafting bylaws, policies and resolutions, and providing practical advice to numerous condominium owner, section and strata corporation clients. Lisa received a B.Sc. in Mathematics (2007) and a J.D. (2012) from the University of British Columbia and practiced at a large international law firm immediately prior to joining Lawson Lundell LLP. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking with fresh, local produce, and volcano tourism.



Maisie Morsara

BSc in Biochemistry

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 with mentoring post-secondary students, she made an exciting, yet drastic, career change and is currently working at SFU.



Haisle Moon

BSc in Biochemistry

Haisle is an alumnus from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and a Master of Science in Craniofacial Science. During her final year as an undergrad, she applied for a work-study position in Prof. Brunette's lab. When she graduated, she worked as a lab manager/lab technician for two years in the same lab before she decided to go back to school for her Master's degree. After her MSc, she joined Kizhakkedathu group (Centre for Blood Research, UBC), as a Ph.D. student, to keep moving forward with her research interest in immune modulation. Currently she is focusing on red blood cell surface engineering project to develop universal blood, which would significantly improve the blood supply and transfusion safety.



Antony Wang

BSc in Integrated Sciences

Antony Wang graduated from UBC in May 2018 with a BSc, majoring in Integrated Sciences and minoring in Commerce. As an ISCI alumni, he integrated Biomedical Health Sciences and Environmental Sciences. During his time at UBC, he was involved with the Science Undergraduate Society, Faculty of Science, UBC Orientations, UBC Welcomes You, UBC Canadian Liver Foundation Club, UBC Heart and Stroke Foundation Club, UNICEF UBC, and UBC Student Leadership Conference. Antony is currently a Financial Advisor at TD and is a winner of 2020 Regional Champions Club, which is TD's annual recognition program that celebrates the top Canadian retail branch banking performers. At TD, Antony is also a TD Ambassador by volunteering in the community and focused on community leadership by enriching the lives of TD's colleagues, clients, and communities.



Farnaz Pournia

BSc in Biology

Farnaz received a BSc in Biology, Cell and Genetics Option, from UBC in 2011 and her MSc in Cell and Developmental Biology in 2015. She is currently a PhD Candidate in the Cell and Developmental Biology program at UBC. Her research focuses on studying the immune cells of our body and their cellular responses upon encountering germs. These cellular responses are important for the body to initiate an effective immune response and defense against harmful germs. She has acquired great research, teaching and mentoring experience during her years in graduate school, and is seeking a career in research and academia and Biotechnology upon finishing her PhD degree



Kirsten Bale

BSc in Physics

Kirsten Bale graduated with a BSc in Physics and is also a musician! She enjoyed her degree, but had no strong sense of how she wanted to apply her qualifications after graduation. Fortunately, a friend told her about a job opening at the UBC MRI Research Centre, which is where she now works. She helps researchers conduct MRI-based research by running scans for them and analysing the data. This research usually involves rodents or donated body parts (such as spinal cords). She spends 20% of her time operating the scanner, and 80% helping to analyse data/improving analysis processes, and enjoys being innovative.



Bryant Lee

BSc in Biology

Bryant Lee graduated in 2018 with a major in Biology and a minor in Commerce. He is currently work at UBC at the Centre for Student Involvement & Careers as a First Year Experience Coordinator. He works directly on the planning and implementation of UBC's orientation programs, including Jump Start, Imagine, and Collegia. Throughout his undergrad, he was always very interested and involved with student affairs, having held multiple positions across campus in different programs. The UBC Science community provided a great network for him to learn about careers and involvement positions outside the BSc, and he met many students, staff, and faculty who helped him to explore his curiosity in careers that didn't directly relate to his studies. He takes a systematic and analytical approach to the work he does on a day to day basis. Given the heavy logistical nature of orientations, he found that the skills he learned throughout his undergrad

showed up in how he did his work, even if it wasn't necessarily in a lab