

# AlumniNews

A monthly newsletter for UCalgary alumni and friends



## What *The Curse of Oak Island* is Teaching Us About Treasures

Never — and this bears repeating, *never* — did a hesitant PhD student ever dream he'd be digging for treasure on a cursed island off the east coast of Nova Scotia. Or that Dr. Ian Spooner's professional expertise would net him an enviable role in a reality TV show seen by close to 3 million viewers every Tuesday night.

Dig Deeper with Alumnus Dr. Ian Spooner

## Alumni Exclusives



## Celebrate National Volunteer Week

Besides boosting our mental health, volunteering can increase your professional skills and keep you socially connected, or so reported some of the 2,000-plus alumni who stepped up to volunteer last year.

[A Vet Med Volunteer Reveals Other Benefits](#)



## Giving Day 2021: Be Part of Something Bigger Than You

Riffing on this year's theme, we asked a few alumni to answer what UCalgary means to them. Here's what seven grads had to say . . .

[Give Today and Double Your Impact](#)

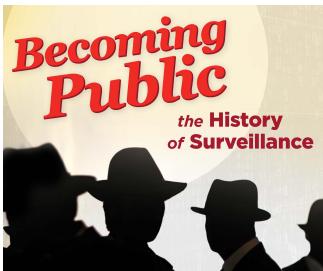


## An Alumna's Mission to Save the Philippine Eagle Flies On

When Lohwana Halaq, BSc'16, first travelled to the Philippines on an internship to work at the Philippine Eagle Foundation, she never imagined loving it enough to stay and become a dual citizen.

[What's the Appeal?](#)

## Events and Programs



## Lecture of a Lifetime: May 4

Join Prof. John Ferris as he delivers a rare public lecture on espionage and communications intelligence, and the role both play in personal privacy and national security.

[Register NOW!](#)



## Dig In! The Future of the Performing Arts

Join artists and community experts in a lively discussion about what the future of dance, theatre, music and more might look like on stages around the world.

[Register NOW!](#)



## Grow Your Career Conference

Sad you missed our recent four-part series of career-boosting sessions? Pour yourself a coffee and watch these topical and relevant recordings at your leisure!

[It's Not Too Late!](#)

# University News

## UCalgary Nursing Alumna is Doing her Part to Build a Fairer, Healthier World for Everyone

Likely the most intense personal experience she had to face was witnessing the death of a six-month-old baby and later seeing the 20-year-old mother collapse on the floor, reports ER nurse Masira Baloch, BN'10. Currently on leave from her job at the Peter Lougheed Centre, Baloch is working with Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), in South Sudan, where she lives in a tent with only a bed and a fan.

[What Motivates this Everyday Hero?](#)

## Giving Day: Scholarships are Game- (and Life-) Changers

Whatever the moment, we've all witnessed the connective epoxy that sports provide for people of all stripes. What would happen to those moments if you took away athletic scholarships?

[Let Athletes and Coaches Explain How You Can Make a Difference](#)

## Astronomical Bone Loss Recorded from Space Travel

Escaping Earth's orbit for a six-month mission results in average bone loss equating to nearly two decades of bone loss on earth. That means a 40-year-old astronaut

returns to Earth with a 60-year-old skeleton.

[Discover More About the TBone Study](#)

## Discovering the First Whaling Wreck Found in Canada's High Arctic



Dr. Matthew Ayre, historical climatologist with UCalgary's Arctic Institute of North America, will share his remarkable story of discovery and research in the Arctic at this year's upcoming Calgary Youth Science Fair's online award ceremony. Alongside Ayre will be another UCalgary researcher, Dr. Christie Sampson, whose video we will show next month.

[Watch this Extraordinary Journey!](#)

## More Events & Programs

[April 13 | The Power of Stories to Shape a COVID Recovery](#)

[April 16 | 2021 UCalgary 3 Minute Thesis Competition \(Virtual\)](#)

[April 18-23 | National Volunteer Week](#)

[April 22 | UCalgary Giving Day](#)

[April 22 | Transgender Singing Voice Transition](#)

[May 4 | Lecture of a Lifetime](#)

[On Demand | Courageous Conversations with Dr. Sara Ahmed, PhD](#)

## Precision Testing in the Palm of Your Hand



## Entrepreneurial U

Imagine if you could simply spit on a stick and, minutes later, determine whether or not you had COVID-19. “That’s the dream,” says Dr. Dylan Pillai, MD, PhD, research lead behind a new test that could improve health outcomes far and wide. This powerful diagnostic cartridge is also why a spin-off company, Illucidx, was developed and is now being run by one of Pillai's students, Cody Doolan, MSc'20, currently the CEO of Illucidx.

[Read More](#)

**April Radness**  
at Sunshine Village Ski Resort

Alumni receive 20% off for day passes at Sunshine Village.

Valid any day until May 24, 2021. Once ordered, the passes will be available the following day at UCalgary's bookstore on campus. To order, visit: [netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/skisunshine](http://netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/skisunshine)

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