



# RAINHOUSE

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022



FEATURING:  
**UVIC FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

# OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

The strongest of Rainhouse's core values is collaboration. Ray Brougham, Rainhouse's president, truly believes that collaboration is key to making progress in every aspect, whether in business, academics, or with the community. This motto started after living in a remote community and spending 18 years in the woods product industry, where he witnessed how competing companies worked together out of necessity. Their cooperative attitude led to friendly and complementary relationships that benefited everyone, even while being competitors in the industry.

Ray extended his beliefs to Rainhouse's core values and has strived to support the next generation of manufacturers and engineers, promote manufacturing and engineering on Vancouver Island, BC, and Canada, and create a positive impact and connection with the community.

Thus far, we can exemplify our collaboration and the strong relationship we've built with UVic by discussing our research partners for R&D projects, our engineering team experiences, and our annual engineering showcase.



Zuomin Dong.

On the research partnership front, Rainhouse is working with Professor **Zuomin Dong**. He leads the University of Victoria's Clean transportation research team and has vast experience with hybrid-electric technologies for cleaner and lower-cost fuel alternatives. He has been helping Rainhouse with its battery manufacturing venture by sharing his knowledge, expertise, and suitable sources to advance our growth into the emerging lithium-ion market.

Similarly, Rainhouse's research and development department has worked closely with Professor **Keivan Ahmadi** to develop smart cutting tools for the aerospace industry. Professor Ahmadi has the ability to explain a complex problem in a simple way, allowing us to assimilate the problem and find the best possible solution. This ability circles back to him being an excellent professor. His responsive and communicative approach has been key to moving our project from a conceptualized idea to proof of concept.

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

RAINHOUSE'S  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
UVIC

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
VICTORIA

ENGINEERING AND  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
FACULTY



Keivan Ahmadi

# COLLABORATION WITH UVIC.

Rainhouse takes pride in having an engineering team filled with UVic graduates from different specialties that support innovation and development projects. We asked our team to share some insights on their experience, and the value UVic provided while forming them as engineers.



Rainhouse team, Mina Hoorfar and Lauren Stamhuis

Anthony Maki is one of Rainhouse's Mechanical Engineers and UVic graduates. He provides his engineering expertise and direction to junior engineers and was appointed Project Manager within our Research and Development Department. Since Anthony was little, he enjoyed finding challenges and solving problems which led him to the engineering field. He thoroughly enjoyed the engineering program as "the courses were well thought out and the professors were great," which, in addition to his entrepreneurial spirit, were key to leading Rainhouse's R&D department.

Matt MacLeod is our most recent addition to the engineering team. He is also part of UVic's alumni with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He specialized in computer engineering has been essential to R&D projects. Just like Anthony, he knew he wanted to pursue an engineering degree since he was young because of his interest for math and physics. From his time at UVic, he "valued the atmosphere and the group of people he studied with; they were always nice and collaborative."

On the contrary to Matt and Anthony, Carling Stokes never thought engineering would be her thing. Carling is creative, artistic, and a very skilled painter. After traveling the world, she was ready to go back to school and discovered how engineering was the perfect combination of creativity, design, and logic; thus, she enrolled at UVic and is now part of the Mechanical Engineering Alumni. Her "favorite part of studying at UVic was the camaraderie and the diversity of students" she "appreciates being able to experience contrast and a nice blend of cultures."

Andrew Hangen is Rainhouse's Electrical Engineer and also a UVic graduate. He "choose to attend UVic because it offers a very competitive engineering program and all the perks of living and enjoying the island." He is pleased with his decision because he has worked on Rainhouse's battery manufacturing project since the beginning and is "obtaining valuable work experience in a reputable and well-established company."

We also wanted to share the perspective of an actual UVic student who is currently completing his Co-op term at Rainhouse. Angus DeCosse said he has "enjoyed the labs and putting into practice what he learned during lectures." He looks forward to completing his electrical engineering degree and officially being a UVic Engineering and Computer Science Graduate.

# COLLABORATION WITH UVIC.

Ray Brougham himself is a UVic mechanical engineering graduate, and he never lost touch with the university. On the contrary, he worked on strengthening his connection and recently became part of UVic's Mechanical engineering advisory board to assist faculty in setting a strategic plan with clear and measurable metrics. To continue his involvement and support to new engineers, he started hosting an annual showcase event to enable engineering students to present their innovative projects, increase awareness of engineering on the island, and create networking opportunities.



Mina Hoorfar visit to Rainhouse in 2021

The last two editions of the engineering showcase have been done in partnership with Babcock Canada and UVic's engineering and computer science department. Lauren Stamhuis, the development coordinator for the faculty of engineering, has been exceptional at helping us organize the logistics, volunteers, and many other tasks required to have a successful event. She is always cheerful, communicative, and has the best attitude to tackle all the challenges that arise when hosting an event. We love to see how collaboration is a collective effort when working with everyone at Uvic.



UVic's engineering faculty participation on the 2019 Rainhouse Engineering Showcase

# THE UNIVERSITY



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The University of Victoria is one of Canada's leading research-intensive universities that offers life-changing, hands-on learning experiences to more than 21,000 students on the edge of the BC coast.

It is renowned for its research impact and dynamic learning opportunities. As a hub of transformational research, the UVic faculty, staff, and students make a critical difference on issues that matter to people, places, and the planet. Their commitment allows UVic to retain its place in the top one percent of universities in the world and be on the top 300 globally for research impact across all sciences.

UVic consistently publishes a higher proportion of research based on international collaborations than any other University in North America. Their community and organizational partnerships play a key role in generating strong impact, from scientific and business breakthroughs to achievements in culture and creativity.



**University  
of Victoria**

# FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

UVic's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science has established itself as a leader of education programs in Canada, making it possible to list the following achievements:

- Placed in the top 10 among Canada's 40+ engineering schools.
- Offers the greenest civil engineering program in the country.
- Created the first biomedical engineering program in Western Canada.
- Delivers the only accredited software engineering program in BC.
- 100+ faculty members teaching more than 3,000 students.

Over the last decade, the faculty has doubled its number of undergraduate students and continues to grow. To address the ongoing demand for engineering and computer science programs, UVic and the Province of BC announced last summer they are building a six-story extension to the existing Engineering and Computer Science Building. It will include instructional, research, and computer labs, first-year design studios, and more. An adjacent High-Bay Structures Research Lab is also planned, which will feature a three-story space equipped for the unique work of civil engineers.

Under its new dean, Mina Hoorfar, the faculty is in the process of developing its very first strategic plan, which will allow it to more effectively communicate its values and goals to internal and external audiences alike. As the faculty's first woman dean, encouraging equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are at the top of Mina's list of priorities.

Mina feels much more can be done to improve the representation of diverse groups. Post-secondary institutions have had increasing success with proper representation in students and faculty members, but it doesn't come close to Mina's vision.

She is working on implementing an effective mentorship program for new faculty members from under-represented groups, and leading the faculty's 2030 Initiative. This initiative aligns with Engineers Canada's plan to raise the percentage of licensed woman engineers to 30 percent by the year 2030.



Mina Hoorfar -Dean of Engineering and Computer Science.

The 2030 Initiative looks to support women and non-binary students through all stages of their careers, including before joining the faculty, during their time as students, and after they graduate. This support will be possible by building girls-only outreach programming, supporting women students in faculty through awards and mentorship programs, and providing targeted career services and sponsorship when women students are preparing to transition into the workforce.

