



The Institute for
Critical Indigenous Studies
University of British Columbia



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NYT Best-Selling Author and Scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer Gives Free Lecture at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Author of Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer blends scientific and Indigenous knowledge as a solution to ecological restoration

Vancouver, BC—**The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, Museum of Anthropology, Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies at UBC and the Vancouver Institute** announced today that botanist, scientist, professor, and author Robin Wall Kimmerer will be a keynote speaker for the Dal Grauer Memorial Lecture on **Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 6PM**. For this event, Kimmerer will give a lecture and engage in a moderated Q & A at the **Chan Centre**. Tickets for the event are **free, but registration is required**. An enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kimmerer has garnered worldwide acclaim for her holistic approach to ecological restoration, drawing on Indigenous knowledge and scientific research to frame sustainable solutions.

“It will be an honour to hear the healing words of Robin Wall Kimmerer,” says Chan Centre director Pat Carrabré. “As an Indigenous person who also navigates the world of academia, I have found it gratifying to see Dr. Kimmerer’s ethos and framework being celebrated across the globe. Her teachings offer a beacon of hope for a sustainable future that not only listens to Indigenous voices, but champions them.”

A MacArthur Fellow, Kimmerer is best known for *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*. Originally published in 2013 by Milkweed Editions, the book became a hit almost entirely through word-of-mouth. Seven years after its publication, it landed on *The New York Times* best-selling paperback nonfiction list and remained there for an astonishing three years. To date, it has sold nearly 2 million copies and been translated into 20 languages. *Forbes* describes the book as a “must read for moving into our future.”

Kimmerer’s first book, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*, was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for outstanding nature writing, and has been adapted into an acclaimed book for young adults. Her latest book, *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, is set for release in November 2024. As a professor and scientist, she has written numerous papers and books, and is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology. Using much of her own funding, Kimmerer founded the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at the SUNY College of

Environmental Science and Forestry. The Center's mission is to create programs that draw on the wisdom of both Indigenous and scientific knowledge for our shared goals of sustainability.

Event Listing

Dal Grauer Memorial Lecture: Robin Wall Kimmerer

SEPT 26, 6PM

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Enjoy an evening with Robin Wall Kimmerer, Potawatomi educator, botanist and bestselling author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*. For the 2024 Vancouver Institute Dal Grauer Memorial Lecture, Robin Wall Kimmerer draws on Indigenous and scientific wisdom to offer lessons on how we can heal our relationships with the natural world.

In her lecture, titled "Restoration and Reciprocity: Healing Relationships with the Natural World," Dr. Kimmerer discusses how ecological restoration can be understood as an act of reciprocity, in return for the gifts of the earth. In this thought-provoking discussion and Q&A, Dr. Kimmerer explores the ecological and ethical imperatives of healing the damage we have inflicted on our land and waters. She traces the evolution of restoration philosophy and practice, and considers how the integration of Indigenous knowledge can expand our understanding of restoration from the biophysical to the biocultural.

Reciprocal restoration includes not only healing the land, but our relationship to the land. In healing the land, we heal ourselves.

Ticketing

Admission is free, tickets are required.
Tickets available on August 14 at noon.

Ticket Office:	chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697
Website:	tickets.ubc.ca

About Robin Wall Kimmerer

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling collection of essays *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*. As a writer and a scientist, her interests in restoration include not only restoration of ecological communities, but also restoration of our relationships to land. She holds a BS in Botany from SUNY ESF, an MS and PhD in Botany from the University of Wisconsin and is the author of numerous scientific papers on plant ecology, bryophyte ecology, traditional knowledge and restoration ecology. She lives on an old farm in upstate New York, tending gardens both cultivated and wild.

About the Dal Grauer Memorial Lectureship

The Dal Grauer Memorial Lectureship has been bringing distinguished speakers, scholars, authors, and musicians to the UBC campus for over fifty years. The Lectureship was established by family and friends after the untimely death of A.E. Dal Grauer in 1961, when he was CEO of the BC Electric Company and serving his second term as Chancellor of UBC. Honouring his belief that just one great teacher can make all the difference in a person's life, the lectures reflect his wide range of interests in the arts, economics, social and political concerns, science and environmental concerns.

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