



## Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Greek and Roman Studies annual Newsletter! Here we share some of our activities and achievements in late 2009 and in 2010. This issue profiles John Oleson, honoured this year by the Royal Society of Canada for distinguished contributions to knowledge in the Humanities. For this and other items please see 'In this Issue' below, and read on.

Sprinklers (see the picture on the right!) were installed in all our offices this year and other wings of the Clearihue building were fortified against earthquake as part of a \$42.5 million programme of renovation at UVic. We could have sacrificed rabbits to Poseidon the earth-shaker at a fraction of the cost (and solved another of UVic's problems in the process), but no place was found for such out-of-the-box thinking in the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. Perhaps rightly so: Seneca (1st century A.D.) insists that earthquakes are not expressions of divine anger but have natural causes, and indeed most ancient philosophers believed that earthquakes were caused by air trapped beneath the earth, a force powerful enough to bring new islands into being and to reshape the very continents (e.g. separating Spain from Africa). Pliny the Elder died observing the massive eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79, but Seneca would have approved: "The causes of these phenomena deserve examination. 'What will be the benefit?' you ask. The greatest possible benefit, the knowledge of nature. The investigation of this subject... captivates people with its own magnificence, and their motives for studying it are not gain but wonder" (tr. H. Hine). The citizens who chose to abandon Pompeii and Herculaneum after the earthquake of A.D. 62 fled what is ultimately inescapable. "There is no question about the fact, only about the timing... This fear is what demeans us; this is what disturbs and ruins the very life it spares; this exaggerates it all, the earthquakes and the lightning bolts... What we lose are only hours."



Herbert Henry Huxley, Professor of Latin at UVic from 1968 to 1979, died this year at the age of 93. Editor of Books 1 and 4 of Virgil's *Georgics* and himself a writer of Latin verse, Huxley was the co-founder of the Classical Association of Vancouver Island, which continues to thrive, hosting lectures from local and visiting speakers (see p. 3).

You can find out about forthcoming events on our homepage (<http://web.uvic.ca/grs>) or visit in person on the fourth floor of the Clearihue Building (B wing). I look forward to meeting you.

Cedric Littlewood, Chair  
Tel. 250-721-8515  
Email: [calwood@uvic.ca](mailto:calwood@uvic.ca)

### IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Res Gestae</i>	2/
Profile: J.P. Oleson	4/
Undergraduate News	5/
Graduate News	6/
You are invited	7/
Your Gift Will Change Lives	8/

# RES GESTAE: What have we been up to?

**Laurel Bowman** gave an invited lecture on Medea and Athenian Law at Beijing Normal University. Naturally, she took the opportunity to visit the Great Wall. Laurel published a book chapter on prophecy in Sophocles as compared to the television series "Angel". She continues to supervise a project producing an interactive web-based map of Greek myth, and she is working on a book proposal and several encyclopedia articles concerning Greek myth and monsters. Laurel is a member of the CAC Equity Committee.

**Brendan Burke's** monograph has appeared: *From Minos to Midas: Ancient Cloth Production in the Aegean and in Anatolia*. Ancient Textiles Series Vol. 7. Copenhagen 2010. The Turkish foundation AKMED, The Suna & İnan Kiraç Research Institute on Mediterranean Civilizations, plans to translate and publish the book in Turkish. Brendan's other recent publications include: "Textile Production in the Aegean Bronze Age," in E. Cline, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean* (New York and Oxford 2010); "Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project 2009 Report," in *TEIRESIAS: A Review and Bibliography of Boiotian Studies* 39.2 (2009). Brendan once again led a successful study-trip to Greece in May with 14 UVic students, covering sites on Crete, the Peloponnese and Northern Greece, as well as Athens and Attica. In June his research project in Eastern Boeotia (Greece) focused on studying for publication collected finds from the 2007-2009 fieldwork. He also made a research trip to Gordion (Turkey) where he continues his focus on the citadel of Gordion during the reign of the historical King Midas. In May 2011, Brendan will lead a study-tour in Greece and Turkey (see p. 7).

**Josiah Davis** had a busy summer engaged in his research on Latin literature and Roman culture. During the fall term, he made a presentation on Roman dining to the Freshminds Symposium, an event that introduces high school students to the intellectual life of the university through a series of lectures. He also provided a slightly more rigorous talk on chariot imagery in the *Aeneid* and Augustan iconography to the Department. Josiah is looking forward to delivering a version of the same paper at the American Philological Association/Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting in January in San Antonio.



Laurel Bowman gave an invited lecture on Medea and Athenian Law at Beijing Normal University.

Five of **John Fitch's** "contemporary didactic" poems, on wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest, were published recently in *The Antigonish Review*. John continues to work, "at the leisurely pace appropriate to retirement," on his translation of Palladius' agricultural handbook. A chapter which he tackled recently included the following remedies, borrowed from "the Greeks" (i.e. the *Geoponika*): burying the heart of an owl in the garden against ants; mixing black hellebore with cheese against mice; hanging up a crocodile or hyena skin against hail. Don't try this at home!

**Gordon Shrimpton** has written a chapter called "Memory and Ancient History" for a book entitled *Writing the History of Memory*. Otherwise, he is busy with his granddaughter.

**Ingrid Holmberg** is on leave for 2010-2011, during which time she will complete her article on sexuality in epic for the Blackwell's volume on ancient sexuality and book on cunning intelligence in epic. Ingrid continues to serve as the Treasurer of the Classical Association of Canada.

## Events of 2009/2010

In November 2009 members of the Department travelled to the University of British Columbia for our annual joint seminar, which rotates between campuses. Geof Kron presented a paper concerning his research on ancient nutrition, Toph Marshall a paper on the technology of the crane used in the ancient theatre. We have ourselves hosted several speakers since the last Newsletter. Trevor Hodge (University of Ottawa) presented a seminar on the social place of scientists and engineers in the ancient world. Alexander Hollmann (University of Washington) spoke about private magic in ancient Antioch, and Roger Wilson (UBC) presented the exciting reign of Herod the Great. Clifford Ando (University of Chicago) presented his research about the cultural problems the Romans faced in governing their vast empire. Scott Noegel of the University of Washington spoke to CAVI about dream interpretation in the ancient world, while Jitse Dijkstra (University of Ottawa) spoke about the fate of temples in Egypt. Michael Chase (CNRS, Paris) presented his research about Late Neoplatonism. Kathryn Topper (University of Washington) provided two talks on Greek *symposia*. From our own Department, Professors Littlewood, Kron, Burke, Oleson, Davis, and Nugent, along with graduate and undergraduate students made a number of public lectures.

In May, Professor Mark Golden of the University of Winnipeg, a frequent visitor to the Department, presented a course at UVic on Sport in Ancient Greece and Rome, building on interest generated by the 2010 Winter Olympics.



**Geof Kron** is on study leave this year, in Toronto and Athens, very busy with research for his comparative study of Greco-Roman and early industrial economies, for which he was awarded a SSHRC General Research Grant. He has presented papers on housing as an index of income at conferences in Brussels and Vancouver. He also travelled to the London School of Economics to investigate 19th century English working-class housing in London. Geof has finished three short articles on economic topics for Blackwell's *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, contributed a chapter on Greco-Roman food production to Walter Scheidel's latest Cambridge Companion, and completed a substantial article questioning pessimistic estimates of Greco-Roman life expectancy. Some of Geof's time will be spent writing two chapters, and co-writing another, for the new *Oxford Handbook of Economies in the Greco-Roman World*, edited by Alain Bresson and Elio Lo Cascio. He is also working on chapters on animal husbandry and fishing for the new *Oxford Handbook of Animals in the Classical World*.

**Cedric Littlewood** gave a paper on "Remembering Pompey in Lucan, *Bellum Civile* 8 and 9" at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of Canada. In the summer he spoke about Greeks and Romans at the Indigenous mini-University in the First Peoples House at UVic. With Greg Rowe he taught Latin language to high-school students during the winter term.

**Jason McClure**, a recent PhD from Calgary in Latin literature, has been teaching in the Department fall term 2010. At present he is finishing up several articles. One concerns the portrayals of Polyneices and Tydeus in Statius *Thebaid*; the second deals with notions of self in Seneca's *Phoenissae*. He has also started on a new project, tentatively entitled *My Brother, My Self: The Brother as Double in Roman Poetry*.

**Mark Nugent** has returned to teach during the 2010-11 academic year. In March he received his PhD from the University of Washington for a dissertation entitled "Art, Literature, and Politics of Identity in the High Roman Empire." Mark is currently working on an article entitled "If You Were a Man...: Sexuality and Liminal Masculinities in Petronius' *Satyrica*." This article, a revised version of a talk delivered at the 2010 meeting of the American Philological Association, will appear in Ruby Blondell and Kirk Ormand's *New Essays in Ancient Sexuality*. He is also working on a review of a new book about the emperor Elagabalus.

**John Peter Oleson** spent much of May in Amman working on the second volume of the final report of his excavations at Humayma in Jordan. The first volume appeared in November 2010. In October he presented in the southern USA the first five of the 11 lectures he will deliver in the course of the academic year as the annual Norton Lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America. In November John was awarded the 2010 Pierre Chauveau Medal of the Royal Society of Canada for distinguished contribution to the Humanities (see p. 4).

**Nick Raymond** has been teaching Latin for the Department again this year. He submitted his dissertation, "Poetic Poverty in Classical Poetry," to the University of Otago NZ in October. In March 2011 he will be presenting a paper entitled "Poverty, Class and the Formation of the Poetic Identity in Petronius" to the Classical Association of the Canadian West Conference in Calgary.

**Greg Rowe** spent his summer in Victoria and Oxford, England, working on a project on the jurisdiction of Roman provincial governors. He is particularly excited to be teaching a course on Jews and Christians in the Roman world in the Fall term. The Latin Club for Victoria area high school students he founded last year has flourished and continued this year, with the assistance of Cedric Littlewood. Greg will be on study leave in France during the Spring term.

## Profile | John Peter Oleson

A curiosity about the ancient world has taken archaeologist John Peter Oleson from excavating the high Jordanian desert to harnessing the capabilities of a nuclear submarine to scan shipwrecks at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. His dedication to learning more about life millennia ago has earned him many academic honours, and in November the Royal Society of Canada added one more—the 2010 Pierre Chauveau Medal for distinguished contributions to knowledge in the humanities other than Canadian literature and history. In notifying Oleson about the medal, Royal Society President Roderick A. Macdonald wrote: “Your award is a telling recognition of your remarkable accomplishments and an invitation by your colleagues to further the leadership you have already shown in advancing knowledge and scholarship in Canada.”

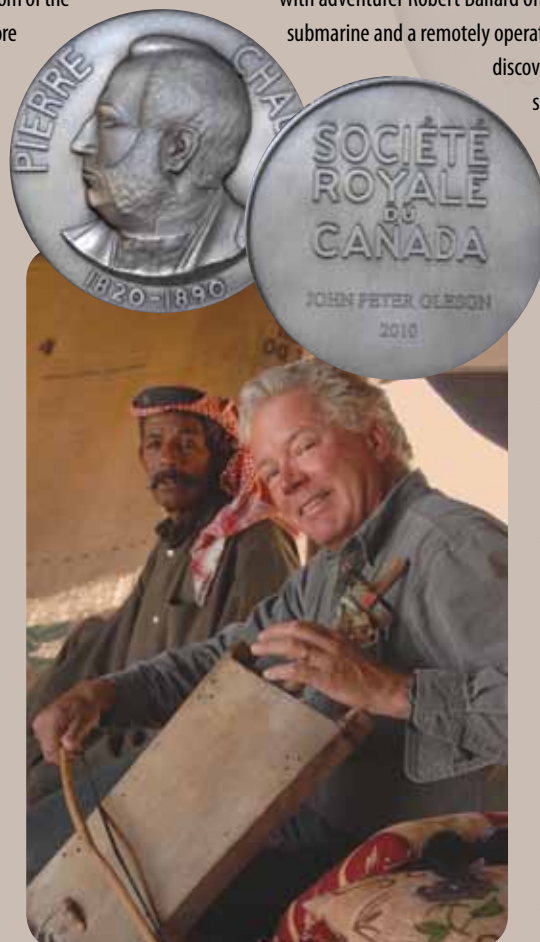
“This award means a great deal to me. Although the main motive for research is intellectual curiosity, public recognition is always nice,” says Oleson, who attended the medal presentation in Ottawa. “I have received several other honours, but I haven’t been given an actual medal since I was a Boy Scout, so that’s an extra thrill!” A fellow of the Royal Society and previous recipient of a prestigious Killam Research Fellowship and a UVic Distinguished Professorship, Oleson has been a UVic faculty member for 34 years. During that time he has conducted extensive fieldwork at Humayma, a vast ancient city site in southern Jordan, which includes an advanced aqueduct system, a well-preserved Roman fort, Byzantine churches, early Islamic houses, and the manor house of the Abbasid family.

Oleson is also a distinguished maritime archaeologist whose research involving Roman harbours and deep-water shipwrecks led him to join a 1997 expedition with adventurer Robert Ballard off the coast of Italy. Using a U.S. Navy research submarine and a remotely operated vehicle in the Mediterranean, the team discovered the largest concentration of ancient shipwrecks ever found in the deep sea.

Oleson’s projects have been featured in *National Geographic* magazine and he’s served as an on-camera consultant to several BBC productions.

“This latest honour for John is so well-deserved. His dedication and commitment to bringing ancient civilizations to life through his meticulous research is outstanding,” says UVic President David Turpin. “Whether working with local communities in the Middle East or sailing off the coast of Italy in a research vessel, John epitomizes the enthusiastic scholar, always seeking new knowledge. His approach is indicative of why UVic is considered one of Canada’s leading research universities.”

Oleson is currently preparing the three volume final report concerning his 25 years of work and discovery at the Humayma site. He has already published 11 books and more than 95 articles concerning ancient technology, marine archaeology, the Nabataeans, and the Roman Near East. His latest book, *The Oxford Handbook of Engineering and Technology in the Classical World* (New York 2008) in 2009 was awarded the Eugene S. Ferguson Prize by the Society for the History of Technology.



## Ruben Post

Ruben Post has been working for Professor Oleson for two years as a research assistant, preparing drawings of artefacts from the Humayma excavation. “Learning to work with Adobe Illustrator to prepare publication quality drawings digitally has provided me with great practical experience. At the same time it has allowed me to see what happens with objects after they have been excavated. This work has also provided insight into the process of preparing a major excavation report. The knowledge that my efforts will contribute to the development of Mediterranean archaeology has made the experience very satisfying”.



## Latin Club

The Victoria High School Latin Club is now in its second year. Each week Cedric Littlewood and Greg Rowe offer a free Latin course to area high school students and homeschoolers. In addition to learning Latin grammar from Wheelock's Latin – the text used in undergraduate classes – students sing the medieval drinking song *Gaudeamus Igitur*, listen to the news in Latin on Finnish radio, and read the Bayeux Tapestry, a medieval comic strip telling the story of the Norman invasion of England: "Here Duke Harold returned to England and came to King Edward. Here King Edward's body is carried to the Church of St. Peter the Apostle."



## Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Conference

This past February, the Greek and Roman Studies Course Union in conjunction with the Medieval Studies Course Union and the History Undergraduate Society held the second annual Interdisciplinary Undergraduate

Conference (IUC). These conferences have been organized to allow undergraduates from various related disciplines to share their original research with one another. The most recent IUC theme was "Love and Hate," involving papers that explored the causes and influences of these opposing facets of human nature throughout history. Presentations ranged in focus from classical literature and ancient history to medieval literature, art history, and modern history. Contributors from the Greek and Roman Studies Department included Sara Van Dongen, speaking about the use of irony in Plato, Evan Parrott, who presented an epic poem he composed himself, and Carly Malloch, who spoke about Athenian prostitution. A conference on the theme of "People and Peripheries: Living on the Edge" will be held on March 18-19 2011. Graduate students and senior undergraduates interested in contributing papers are encouraged to send an email to [UVicIGconference@gmail.com](mailto:UVicIGconference@gmail.com).



## Undergraduate Awards

The Catriona Cameron Bingham Prize was awarded to **Melissa Mann**; the George P. Black Memorial Scholarship to **Charlotte Dawe**. The Greek and Roman Studies Scholarship was split between **Jessica Romney** and **Diotima Coad**. The Edward B. Paul Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Ruben Post**, while the Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies was split between **Ana Wagner** and **Glenn Beauvais**. **Ruben Post** won the Irene Lee Book Prize in Latin and **Miranda Siklenka** The Butterfield Law Book Prize. The Hector McDonald Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies was split between **Tori Bedingfield** and **Leonard Martin**. The Classical Association of Vancouver Island Book Prizes went to **Carly Malloch**, **Trevor Van Damme**, **Georgina Henderson**, **Claire Garneau**, **Christopher Windjack** and **Vanessa MacAulay**. Congratulations to all these students!



## Focus on Funds

There are many ways that endowed awards make a real difference to students. The Margareta von Rudloff Travel Assistance Fund has been particularly effective in assisting with study travel. During the past year **Georgina Henderson** used the fund to support her work at the Iklaina Archaeological Project in Greece: "A wonderful, exciting, varied and dramatic trip, which will take ages to digest!" **Emma Fotino** and **Leonard Martin** applied the funds to attend the UVic International Field School Program (see p. 7). **Trevor Van Damme** received an award to present a paper at the 13th International Aegean Conference in Copenhagen, but was thwarted by the volcanic eruption in Iceland that disrupted international travel. A new opportunity to invest in Classical Studies at UVic is the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project Fund established by **Brendan Burke** (you can read more about this initiative on p. 8).



## Graduate Program News

We have had a good crop of Masters graduates since the last newsletter. In April, **Peter Miller** presented his thesis "Alcman's *Partheneion* and the Near East," and **Jonathan Prior** "Makers and Their Marks: The Ancient Purposes and Modern Usefulness of Stamps on Glass and Ceramics." In June **Rebecca Littlechilds** defended "The Epitaphs of Damasus and the Transferable Value of Persecution for the Christian community at Rome in the fourth century AD" and soon afterwards delivered her new baby Emrys! In August **Mary Deminion** defended "Staging Morality: Studies in the *Lex Iulia de Adulteriis* of 18 BCE," and **Lauren Mayes** "Deals and Women's Subjectivity in Euripides' *Alcestis* and *Medea*." In February **Jillian Shoichet** received an interdisciplinary PhD for her dissertation "Fighting Words: Hidden Transcripts of Resistance in the Babylonian Talmud, Homer's *Odyssey* and Maria Edgeworth's *Castle Rackrent*."

Our current MA students are **Lara Bishop** (Roman Britain), **Lindsey Brill** (Ancient veterinary medicine), **Eva Bullard** (Romans in the Czech Republic), **Georgina Henderson** (Roman architecture), **Kristen Koester** (Augustine's letters), **Kelsey Koon** (Roman history), **Katherine Ongaro** (Ovid), **Angie Pass** (Martial and Juvenal), **Jessica Romney** (Sparta), and **Trevor Van Damme** (Greek archaeology). Congratulations to Koester, Romney, and Van Damme for the award of SSHRC Graduate Fellowships.

## Where are they now?

Many of our MA graduates go on to complete a PhD elsewhere, for example **Brian Moss**, who just completed a D.Phil. at Oxford with a dissertation on Nicander. A significant number of our former students now have full-time academic positions. **Andrew Sherwood** (MA 1980) is teaching at Guelph, **Michael Chase** (MA 1989) at the CNRS (Paris), **Michael Cummings** (MA 1989) at Queen's, **Kelly Olson** (MA 1992) at Western, **Siobhan McElduff** (MA 1993) at UBC, **M. Barbara Reeves** (MA 1996) at Queen's, **Pauline Ripat** (MA 1996) at the University of Winnipeg, **Fanny Dolansky** (MA 1999) at Brock, **Ian Moyer** (MA 1997) at University of Michigan; **Gillian Ramsey** (MA 2005) at Leicester. Both of our PhD graduates have full-time positions as well, **Leslie Shumka** (PhD 2000) at Mount Allison University, and **Milo Nikolic** (PhD 2008) at Memorial University. **Patricia Clark** (MA 1985) recently retired from teaching at UVic.

## You Are Invited!

The **Classical Association of Vancouver Island (CAVI)** was founded in 1971 as a way of fostering relations between the Department and members of the general public interested in Classical Studies. The main activity has always been the organization of public lectures by local and visiting classical scholars, and we have hosted over 200 well-attended presentations since the association began (see p. 3). The lectures, usually illustrated, run the whole range of Greek and Roman Studies, from Greek literature to Roman archaeology. We also have the tradition of an informal wine and cheese reception in the Spring, at which students, faculty, and the public join in a variety of classically inspired frolics: dramatizations of Greek comedy, amusing short lectures or classical stories, classical pictorial, and costume competitions. Please send in your e-mail (to [sberming@uvic.ca](mailto:sberming@uvic.ca)) or postal address so that we may put you on the mailing list for our lectures and other activities. You may also check the Department website for information on upcoming CAVI-sponsored lectures: [http://web.uvic.ca/grs/web\\_pages/events.php](http://web.uvic.ca/grs/web_pages/events.php). Membership is free to students; \$10.00 per annum for others.

## Green Space

The cost of printing and mailing paper copy of this newsletter is significant, and of course there is also an environmental impact. As a result, like many institutions, we have switched to electronic format for most of our mailing list. The newsletter will still be attractively designed and produced in colour, but we now e-mail issues as pdf files to individuals who send us their e-mail addresses. We will continue to mail out printed copy to those who request it.

If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter in electronic or printed format, please telephone (250-721-8514) or send an e-mail message ([sberming@uvic.ca](mailto:sberming@uvic.ca)) to our Department Administrator Sonja Bermingham informing her of your wishes.



## UVic in Greece and Turkey

UVic students can get UVic course credit (GRS 395, 3 units) while studying in Greece and Turkey with Dr. Brendan Burke. The International Field School Program is open to non-UVic students as well. Participants will study many sites in Greece, including Mycenae, Olympia, and Delphi, and major archaeological sites in Turkey, such as Ephesus, Pergamon, Gordion, Hattusas, and Troy. Time will also be spent in Athens and Istanbul visiting museums and monuments. Program fees for 2011 are estimated at \$3600, including shared hotel room with breakfast, and all ferry and local transportation. Airfare and UVic tuition are not included in this sum. For further information and application materials, please visit <http://web.uvic.ca/~bburke/UVicInGreeceGRS395.htm>.

*The issue was compiled by Sonja Bermingham and John Peter Oleson. Comments and contributions are welcome, and can be sent to [sberming@uvic.ca](mailto:sberming@uvic.ca)*

Department of Greek and Roman Studies  
University of Victoria  
PO Box 3045 STN CSC  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P4

Office: Clearihue Building, Room B409  
Phone: 250-721-8514  
Web: [web.uvic.ca/grs](http://web.uvic.ca/grs)

Design: UVic Graphic Services, UVic Marketing  
Photography: faculty/staff, iStock images

# Your gift will change lives

A new opportunity to invest in Classical Studies at UVic is the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project Fund established by Brendan Burke. This fund will help UVic students gain valuable excavation experience in Greece and contribute greatly to our knowledge of Greek culture and history. It has been set up as a vehicle for donations to support excavation and purchase land for excavation at ancient Eleon in central Boeotia. According to Greek law, all land in Greece that is excavated must be purchased from the local landowners.

As always the department is also looking for ways to increase scholarships and bursaries available for students. There are many ways for you to help – whether through increasing existing endowment, creating a new scholarship or bursary or contributing to other projects, your gift will make a tangible difference to a student's success.

Donations to the Department of Greek & Roman Studies can take many forms – from a gift to celebrate accomplishments to a gift to remember a loved one, to annual gifts to honour your graduation, to a planned gift in your will.

As the Development Officer for the Faculty of Humanities, I'm here to assist you in matching your passion to make a difference with your personal financial situation. I can be reached by phone at 250-853-3893 or by email at [kwhyte@uvic.ca](mailto:kwhyte@uvic.ca).

Charitable tax-deductible receipts are provided for donations payable to:

University of Victoria  
Annual Giving Office  
Alumni House  
PO Box 3060 STN CSC  
Victoria BC V8W 3R4

Donate online: <http://web.uvic.ca/givingtouvic/index.php>



## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!

### 1) I wish to support the following funds:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek and Roman Studies Strategic Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Gordon and Hilda Fitch Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project |
|---|---|---|

### 2) Amount of gift: \_\_\_\_\_

- one time  monthly gift per month \$\_\_\_\_\_ start date: \_\_\_\_\_ end date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) Method of Payment:

- Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: (mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required for credit card): \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to remain anonymous  I have enclosed my personal cheque (s) payable to the University of Victoria  
 I would like information on bequests and other forms of planned gifts  
 I would like information on gifts of publicly traded securities

Thank you for your support for the students and programs at this university.



**University  
of Victoria**

Annual Giving Office  
Alumni House  
PO Box 3060 STN CSC Victoria BC  
V8W 3R4 Canada

Phone: 250-721-6003  
Fax: 250-721-6265  
Email: [devdonor@uvic.ca](mailto:devdonor@uvic.ca)  
Web: [development.uvic.ca](http://development.uvic.ca)

Charitable Reg. No. 10816 2470