Gonzales, after class

Photo contributor Nick Kenrick is a student in the UNI 101/201 program which offers free courses for students who may not otherwise have access to a university education. “I enjoy it immensely and have been actively involved for the last three years. The course has given me confidence to pursue my hobbies, in particular my passion for photography. This image of Gonzales Beach was taken on my way home from one of the classes at UVic, a poetry class. I find beaches to be an inspiration and a tonic.”
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Who knew?
Scouring campus for nuggets from the past.

**The Thing About a Milestone** is this: it sneaks up on you. Flip the calendar, and suddenly there’s a special birthday or anniversary to commemorate — a date on the calendar that takes on a little more significance than the usual series of days, weeks, or years that fill a life.

Once you come to grips with just how much time has gone by, milestones can actually be kind of fun. Who hasn’t rummaged through old storage boxes or scrapbooks to find faded pictures, an old watch or maybe some ticket stubs from games or concerts — keepsakes from a different time?

They’re the things we save in order to remember. They’re the little memory triggers that remind us of who we were, where we were and, often, how little things really change over the course of time.

So, with the current academic year being a milestone year — the 50th since the University of Victoria came to be — writer Keith Norbury was dispatched on a special assignment. He was sent on a UVic history scavenger hunt. His task: find 50 generally unknown or forgotten facts or episodes from the university’s first five decades.

The assortment he’s come up with takes the notion of little memories-in-storage and broadens it to the whole university community. He’s produced a collective memory book, meant for anyone who’s been a part of the university’s first half century.

It’s also about discovering quirky parts of our past. For example, who knew the observatory dome atop Elliott “graduated” with the class of 1983? Who knew Empress Hotel bathtubs were, once upon a time, recycled for fish research? And who knew about the Order of the Crested Martlets (apart from the club’s select membership group)?

Taken together, the “Norbury 50” is a tribute to his dogged research and to the undeniably unique nature of UVic.

Each of us may reflect on UVic-at-50 in one way or another. Maybe by remembering big moments, like the first days of class or the walk across the stage at convocation. Many will take part in the special events throughout the year that will be offered under the umbrella of the anniversary celebration.

And we’ll remember those little things that reopen what had been stored away, that bring the past nearly back to life. The things that restore a forgotten moment.


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Who knew Empress Hotel bathtubs were, once upon a time, recycled for fish research?
It’s as easy as saying ‘Cheese!’

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- Visit the UVic Photo ID Centre in the lobby of the University Centre any weekday between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.
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The Alumni Card is a UVic Alumni benefits card and not a credit card. Visit our website to see alumni card perks just added including SoftMoc, Vic’s Steakhouse (Harbour Towers), IMAX Victoria and Pacific Opera Victoria.

alumni.uvic.ca
Celebrating Excellence

A momentous year in the university’s history is a chance to reflect on what we’ve accomplished so far — and what’s to come.

BY DAVID H. TURPIN, CM, PHD, FRSC
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

SEPTEMBER’S STUDENT WELCOME EVENT LAUNCHED UVIC’S 50TH anniversary celebration. This offers a tremendous opportunity — both in Victoria and across our worldwide network of alumni and friends — to reflect on what our university means to us. It’s a time to share pride in what UVic has become: a university that is known internationally for excellence in teaching and research, strong connections to our community, and a beautiful, welcoming campus environment.

In a relatively short period and through the efforts of a great many people, our university has become one of Canada’s best research-intensive universities. The Times Higher Education ranks UVic in the top 200 of all universities in the world and places UVic at number 11 globally — and first in Canada — among universities under 50 years old.

UVic came about as response to the overwhelming energy and determination of members of the greater Victoria community who campaigned for a university in our region. That community-based effort was backed by a fundraising drive that demonstrated the commitment and generosity of Victorians from all walks of life.

Those who worked for the creation of UVic envisioned a university that would respond to the needs of students and would benefit our city and broader society in a multitude of ways. Through the years, UVic faculty, staff, students and alumni have worked to achieve the vision of our founders and our earliest supporters.

In our anniversary year, we continue to enjoy wide support as exemplified by the members of our 50th Anniversary Honorary Cabinet. These 17 distinguished individuals, whose contributions to Canada and the world have been exemplary, also reflect the values that have shaped UVic’s success. Led by co-chairs, Chancellor Murray Farmer, BA ’68, and astronaut Julie Payette, DSc ’02, the cabinet members represent the diversity and excellence of the university’s past, while becoming role models for students and alumni in addressing the global challenges of the future. You can read their brief but inspiring profiles at uvic.ca/anniversary/home/about/honcabinet/index.php.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the University of Victoria, I would like to express thanks and appreciation for your continuing interest and support of our mission. We hope that you will join us in celebrating this wonderful year in our shared history and in moving forward to a bright future.

I personally look forward to seeing you on campus or at various events across Canada and beyond throughout this very special year.
Why just slackline when you can slackline over the pool at the library fountain? Third-year Geography student David Norwell and other members of the UVic Slackline Collective — one of the more than 200 clubs sanctioned by the UVic Students’ Society — drew a crowd on a sunny September afternoon as they performed their feats of balance and concentration.

The risk of falling into the knee-deep water provided an added psychological challenge compared to the usual dry land practice of anchoring the stretchy, bouncy webbing between two trees. The sport, a variation of tightrope walking, was developed in 1979 at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, by a pair of rock climbers.

Even more impressive is the video of daring club members highlining across an ocean gulch at East Sooke park. (Search UVic Slackline Collective on YouTube.)

For the record, Norwell made it all the way across the fountain pond. Twice that day.
The Big 5-0

What do you get for a university that’s turning 50? Cupcakes and a giant card are a good start. Student Ambassadors Jenna Ross and Vincent Ng helped gather birthday greetings at the SUB’s rooftop concert and birthday bash at the end of September. Thus began a weekend of activities to start the anniversary year — including alumni Homecoming (with a pub night, Alumni Talks, reunions and a Vikes Retro Party) and a campus-wide community festival to mark the university’s 50th year. Two pages of photos begin on page 14.

There’s more!

Anniversary events are on the calendar through to the end of June. Find a lecture, performance or exhibit online at: uvic.ca/anniversary/events/calendar.

5 Stars

Five alumni — whose outstanding achievements reflect the university’s core values since its inception and the worldwide impact of alumni — were honoured in October at the Celebration of 50 Years of Excellence. The group represents themes of perseverance, interdisciplinary problem solving, social justice and social responsibility.

Stephanie Dixon BA ’09 — Paralympic swimming champion.

Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch’oh) BA ’74 — a leading voice for Indigenous people.

Paul Nicklen BSc ’90 — documents climate change in the polar regions for National Geographic.

Alisa Smith MA ’97 — co-author, with J.B. MacKinnon, of The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating.

Tamara Vrooman MA ’94 — President and CEO of Vancity Credit Union and former BC deputy minister of finance.

The celebration also commemorated UVic’s 30-year partnership with East China Normal University.

Art in Retrospect

Head of Primeval Canada Awakening to Her Destiny, by Katharine Maltwood, c.1912.

THE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION numbers around 27,000 pieces. Whittling it down to 50 representative works couldn’t have been easy but a special anniversary exhibit at the Legacy Art Gallery — The Collections at 50 — does just that.

Taking shape during the Victoria College years, the collections received a significant boost when, in 1964, UVic received the estate of sculptor Katherine Maltwood. The bequest included decorative and fine arts, oriental rugs and porcelain, Western Canadian art and Maltwood’s sculptures.

Among other property, Michael Williams left to UVic more than 1,000 items of contemporary regional art along with the building that houses the university’s downtown Legacy Art Gallery (630 Yates St.).

The anniversary exhibit — including First Nations masks by Henry Hunt and works by Emily Carr, William Morris, Lawren Harris and Eric Metcalfe, BFA ’70 — continues at the Legacy until Nov. 24.
A new hub for active living is scheduled to break ground in January with completion of the first phase planned for the spring of 2015.

The Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities — accommodating elite athletes, recreational athletes, community members and people with special needs — will be built on what’s now Parking Lot 3, across Gabriola Road from the McKinnon Building.

The 17,000 square-metre facility will include a gym with seating for 2,000 spectators, a multi-purpose field house (with flexible courts and activity space), space for community recreation and fitness programs, squash and racquetball courts, and a climbing tower.

The building will include new offices and labs for CanAssist — the innovative provider of technologies, programs and services for people with disabilities.

Local sports clubs, community and nonprofit groups use the university’s athletics and recreation facilities up to 200 hours a week, a figure expected to increase with the opening of the new facilities.

Enrollment has tripled since the first athletics program was launched nearly 40 years ago and training facilities in the McKinnon Building and the Ian Stewart Complex are past their prime.

Saanich council approved a revised parkade design in September, clearing the project to go ahead. The initial parkade drawings were rejected last year, prompting renewed community consultations and resulting in a scaled-down, three-storey parkade about half the height of the first proposal.
Heard on Campus

“Every now and then someone will pat me on the hand and say something along the lines of, ‘I could never do what you do.’ They intend it as a compliment but I hear it as a cop out. There’s nothing saintly or special about social justice. It’s just work. It’s just rolling up your sleeves and taking a bit of the time you spend on your own pursuits to put toward the interests of somebody who needs an ally.

It’s not about heroes and saints it’s about worker bees. Change doesn’t come easily. Prejudice and judgment are quick to develop but incredibly difficult to eradicate. And nothing is harder than confronting your own stereotypes and prejudice, which is where it all begins. Thank you to all the resistors out there who not only see a better way but get that it’s up to us to help make it happen.

Thank you so much for this tremendous honour. And now, back to work because there’s still so much to do.”

JODY PATERSON
Honorary Degree acceptance, June 15

President David Turpin steps down in June 2013, completing 13 years as UVic’s leader. Turpin says the timing of his departure is right, with the recent renewal of the university’s strategic plan, the completion next June of the 50th anniversary celebrations, and the completion of a plan to accommodate changes in the provincial post-secondary education funding. Board of Governors Chair Susan Mehinagic said “UVic has emerged as one of the country’s leading universities,” under Turpin’s leadership. A presidential search committee, including alumni representation, has begun the process of finding Turpin’s successor.

New federal and provincial funding of $41.7 million will cover operating costs for the Ocean Networks Canada Observatory, which includes the “big science” NEPTUNE Canada and VENUS subsea networks. The observatories offer the international science community continuous monitoring of ocean processes and events.

UVic Innovation: Past, Present & Future will showcase research platforms, projects, and initiatives with commercial potential. It will feature UVic educational programs focused on social justice and UVic innovation support services such as UVic Industry Partnerships, the Vancouver Island Technology Park, and UVic’s Innovation Centre for Entrepreneurs. The showcase will also include commercial innovations of alumni and others whose success is linked to their time at UVic. It’s on March 9 in the University Centre.

Psychology/History student Brianna Nelson won a pair of medals at the 2012 London Paralympics: silver in the 50m butterfly and the 200m S7 individual medley, setting a new Canadian record.
Podium Power

The University of Victoria Vikes had links with nine competing Canadian Olympians at the 2012 London Games. Six of the nine athletes returned home with medals (Canada’s total medal count was 31). In all, two rowing silver medals and one swimming silver, one swimming bronze were won by former and current Vikes.

Second-year UVic student Richard Weinberger (photo) had a breakout performance at his first Olympic games, becoming the first Canadian to compete and medal in the 10-km open water swim. Weinberger, a current varsity swimmer, completed the 10-km marathon swim in 1:50.30 to take home his first Olympic bronze medal. Victoria’s Ryan Cochrane (photo) took a year off competing with the Vikes to prepare for the London games. Cochrane bested his 2008 bronze medal performance in the 1500-m swim when he captured one of Canada’s five silver medals in London. Former Vikes rowers Gabe Bergen, Doug Csima, Darcy Marquardt (men’s eights) and Rachelle Vinberg (women’s eights) earned silver medals. Other former Vikes at the 2012 Games included rower Lindsay Jennerich and swimmers Hilary Caldwell and Stephanie Horner.

Janet McLachlan, a former UVic Vikes women’s basketball player, attended her second Paralympic Games this past summer in London. McLachlan has been a member of the Canadian wheelchair basketball team since 2008, after sustaining a severe knee injury playing rugby. The Canadian women were out of medal contention when they lost to the USA in the quarterfinals but McLachlan was a power-house throughout the team’s Olympic campaign — leading the tournament in total points (182) with an impressive 26 points per game.

Golf Greats

The 2011–12 Vikes golf season concluded with two of the biggest individual titles being captured in golf history. The Vikes won both men’s and women’s individual titles at the All-regional and NAIA National Championships. Second-year University of Texas transfer Carson Kallis finished four rounds of play at 283 to claim the men’s overall individual title at the nationals. Megan Woodland posted a 292 to capture the women’s individual title. Woodland was also named the 2011–12 Vikes Female Athlete of the Year and had first-place finishes at the Vikes Shootout and Cavalier Classic.

Big Breakfast

On Sept. 25 more than 600 supporters were up bright and early for the 5th Annual Vikes Championship Breakfast. The 2012 event in McKinnon Gym raised $410,000 for student athletic financial awards, bringing the five-year total to just under $2 million. The university matches the first $150,000 raised by the teams. Keynote speaker Pierre Lafontaine, Swimming Canada CEO and national coach, spoke of the need for supporting athletic programs at Canadian universities. The event was sponsored by Tropicana, part of the PepsiCo Canada family.
GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dr. Saul Klein began his term as dean of Gustavson on July 1. Klein joined the school in 2001, has been the champion of the International Business area since 2002, and was the director of executive programs from 2004. He has been recognized for his teaching excellence and for providing unique experiences for students outside the classroom. He created a hands-on learning opportunity for students, while also fostering strong ties with private sector business clients. He has developed collaborative relationships with other business schools, professional organizations, and private-sector clients to assist the unit in providing executive education, summer institutes and on-site corporate training.

DIVISION OF Continuing Studies

Continuing Studies at UVic offers a fall season of fascinating part-time, evening, weekend and distance courses for everyone. It’s a great way to stay connected with UVic and to keep learning something new — sometimes just for fun. The new calendar is completely accessible online. Turn the pages, find something you like and simply click on the course title. You’ll be taken straight to online registration. Take a look at uvcs.uvic.ca/fall.

FACULTY OF Education

Touch-based devices like the iPad hold the promise of enhancing education and assisting students who need technology in order to participate and learn. Faculty members are creating and validating apps; piloting new teaching, learning and supervision approaches; and researching the educational potential of these devices both in and out of the classroom. Pre-service students are exploring the potential of iPads for all learners — particularly those with special needs.

In a pilot program, students entering middle years teacher education will experience the potential of iPad integration in the classroom. Instructors and students will examine the differences, challenges and benefits as they integrate new technology with the best of traditional educational practice.

FACULTY OF Fine Arts

Governor General’s Award-winning playwright Kevin Kerr (Unity 1918) has joined the Department of Writing as a full-time professor, and acclaimed CBC Radio personality Jo-Ann Roberts has been announced as the 2013 Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Nonfiction. Roberts teaches Public Broadcasting and the Public Good in January and gives a public lecture Jan. 30...The Alaska-based, internationally acclaimed Tlingit/Aleut artist Nicholas Galanin is the 2012-13 Audain Professor in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest in the Department of Visual Arts...The School of Music now offers live webcasts.

FACULTY OF Human and Social Development

The faculty and Dean Mary Ellen Purkis will commemorate UVic’s 50th anniversary with events to connect students, alumni and community partners. In 2013, faculty anniversaries marking 40 years will be celebrated by Child and Youth Care with a conference (April 25 – 27), and in Public Administration, planning is underway to mark the occasion. Health Information Science will host the Information Technology and Communications in Health conference (Feb. 21 – 23) with international scholars and alumni sharing advances in health informatics and technology. On May 10,
Nursing will host Modes Of Inquiry For Nursing Research in the 21st Century, and welcomes students, faculty and alumni. During the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress at UVic in June, Social Work welcomes the Canadian Association for Social Work Education for their annual conference (June 3 – 6).

FACULTY OF Humanities

Nine students from the Northwest Territories graduated with Certificates in Aboriginal Language Revitalization. Three of them — Tammy Steen-wand-Deschambeault (Tł̓切̓ho), Vance Sanderson (NWT Métis) and Margaret Thompson (Teetł’it Gwich’in) — travelled to campus to receive their certificates alongside fellow CALR graduate Victoria Wells (Ehattenah) from Vancouver Island...The Modernist Versions Project (modernistversions.ca) was launched June 15 on the eve of the annual Bloomsday celebrations of James Joyce and his novel Ulysses. The MVP features texts as they evolved from manuscript to typescript, serialization to first book edition, and across various formats...Twelve students in the second annual I-witness Holocaust field school travelled to experience the history of the Holocaust and to explore how the Holocaust is memorialized in Central Europe.

FACULTY OF Law

On September 8, the Indigenous Law Research Clinic hosted a special symposium to showcase its national research project on indigenous legal orders. Over the summer, the research focused on inter-group and intra-group harms, injuries, and conflicts, and corresponding legal responses such as compensation, negotiation and peace-making, sanctions and punishment, and rights and safety. Students working with different legal traditions across Canada presented their findings, synthesis, and experiences. Also attending were several community representatives who shared the aims, insights, and experiences of their on-the-ground indigenous law projects. The Indigenous Law Research Clinic and this project are part of the larger proposal being developed in the Faculty of Law for an indigenous law degree. The research materials will be shared with partner communities and will serve as the basis for future indigenous law texts and curricula.

UNIVERSITY Libraries

In the digital world, UVic Librarians are collaborating with faculty and students to create research sites and tools that push our understanding of history, literatures, languages and culture. The application of information technologies to the study of humanities is growing and at UVic the Internet Shakespeare Editions (internetshakespeare.uvic.ca) is considered among the best and most trusted Shakespeare resources. A new model for learning, the “integrated text,” brings the best of both the print and digital multimedia worlds together in joint editions. The Internet Shakespeare Editions has appointed Dr. Janelle Jenstad as the new assistant coordinating editor. Jenstad has close connections with the University Libraries and Special Collections, and her expertise in digital humanities and renaissance literature will ensure a strong future for the ISE/UVic Libraries’ partnership.

DIVISION OF Medical Sciences

Dr. Bruce Crawford, a 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, retires next June after a career as a medical educator and researcher. For over 35 years he has taught gross anatomy and embryology, first at UBC and then at UVic when he joined the Division of Medical Sciences. Crawford’s dedication to teaching was honoured by medical students in 2006 with the creation of a teaching award in his name. Crawford’s research is in morphogenesis, the process that determines an organism’s shape and structure. He helped design a unit, in conjunction with the Canadian Space Agency and NASA, for housing marine and aquatic embryos in orbit. One of his experiments was deployed on the space shuttle Endeavour in 1996.

FACULTY OF Social Sciences

Dr. Stuart MacDonald (Psychology) and the Centre on Aging have a large study on Alzheimer’s disease. PREVENT aims to identify those at risk in the earliest stages of the disease by focusing on indicators that may precede memory change. “By using carefully selected measures of biological function in the PREVENT study, we hope to identify key risk factors for Alzheimer’s disease prior to diagnosis,” says MacDonald. Statistics Canada predicts 750,000 people will have Alzheimer’s by 2031. Researchers hope early detection will lead to early treatment and better health outcomes. The study seeks participants aged 65 or older who are experiencing memory problems and have been classified with mild cognitive impairment or diagnosed with mild or moderate Alzheimer’s. Reach Dr. Stuart MacDonald at 250-853-3839 or by email at prevent@uvic.ca.
The Weekend that Was

With indie bands on the roof of the SUB (recreating a ’60s-era concert setting), reunions, a campus-wide festival, and informal Alumni Talks, the Sept. 28 – 29 weekend signaled the start of the university’s 50th year in a big, big way. If you couldn’t make it, here’s a bit of what you missed. If you were one of the many who did join in the fun, here’s a memory book from a great time.

Rooftop Birthday Party

50th Birthday partyers gathered on the south lawn of the SUB to sign a massive greeting card, let their pride show, and dance to the rooftop bands — including Kathryn Calder (top) and Rugged Uncle.

Anniversary Festival

Local popsters Acres of Lions performed, rings were tossed, and President David Turpin met festival-goers and display hosts.
Carla Funk, MA ’99, described how poetry can be found in everyday things — even roadkill. Eric Jordan, BFA ’93, and Anthony Sukow, with moderator Mia Maki, MBA ’99, talked about starting successful enterprises in their undergrad years. Bronze medal winning rower Mike Lewis, BSc ’06, recounted his Olympic journey.

Reunion Time
Attending the Reunion Dinner with Carl Hare and Joyce Clearihue, VC ’44; Judith Terry and Alison Preece, PhD ’85; May Lou-Poy, Lynda Farmer and Norma Mickelson, LLD ’03. At the Model UN Reunion: Colin Etienne and Graeme Scott, BA ’09.

Vikes Retro Party
The weekend wrapped up in McKinnon Gym, where the Timebenders provided the rock nostalgia for dancing and listening pleasure.
The (Inter)disciplined Approach

Bringing together learners and teachers from across campus, interdisciplinary studies, once relatively unique, are gaining in popularity. You could almost say, what isn’t interdisciplinary?

BY WYNNE MACALPINE, MA ’98

It’s a sunny morning but Dr. Robert Gifford, arriving at the Cornett Building fresh from his garden, has no trouble turning his mind to the idea of interdisciplinary learning. Gifford is head of the Human Dimensions of Climate Change program, part of a new crop of programs that supplement majors with interdisciplinary, often subject-based minors or concentrations.

“It seems to me that what most of these interdisciplinary programs do is to focus on a particular problem in society and train different disciplinary eyes on it,” he says. “Most students spend most of their time in one discipline. Then in our class they hear the legal side of it, the business side of it, the sociology side, the psychology side, and they say, ‘This is really a complex problem.’”

Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, director of the European Studies program, agrees: “I think it’s a way to open one’s mind, because when you work with people who don’t think like you, you are obviously stretched a little bit. You are trying to respect differences, you are trying to respect, for instance, research methods that are not exactly the same, and it’s a bit of a challenge for students. But in the end they see (that) it’s a richer, broader understanding of the world.”

While UVic offered innovative interdisciplinary programs
such as Women’s Studies and Pacific Studies as early as the 1960s and 1970s, there are now cross-faculty and interdepartmental undergraduate and graduate programs leading to interdisciplinary minors, combined majors, and graduate degrees in everything from Visual Arts and Computer Science to Law and Society.

Dr. Ray Siemens, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing and teaches in both the Departments of English and Computer Science, says technology makes it easier to bring together scholars from across disciplines. “When we’re working in paper, we don’t necessarily see that sort of process happen quickly,” he says.

Variety, with a Euro flavour
Heather Larson, BA ’12, didn’t expect her earlier French immersion education to shape her university studies, but she has come full-circle through a European Studies concentration that supplements her Political Science degree. “I started my first year in just general studies. I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do and I took courses all over the map,” she says. By her third year, she had opted for a study exchange and attended the prestigious Sciences Po in Paris, a year-long experience that cemented her decision to complete the European Studies concentration.

It was an auspicious choice. She went on to do a European Study Tour, which led to an internship in the Youth Policy Unit at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Education and Culture, an unusual opportunity for a non-European student. “I think the best thing about the European Studies concentration, in particular, is not just the interdisciplinary aspect, but all of the extra-curricular options. And I really liked the variety of courses. It gave me a little bit more direction.”

Tech as life
Political Science major Rebecca Trembath is multitasking: walking her dog and answering questions about how she ended up with a tech job. She’ll soon be rushing off to an early class, then to Metalab, where she’s a project coordinator for the design agency whose web and mobile interfaces are used by Tumblr, Apple and Disney.

Wait, a political scientist working in the tech industry? That’s a product of the Technology and Society program. “One of the take-homes from TS is asking questions and looking at pieces of technology, and really diving in and figuring out what they are actually about,” says Trembath. “Take Twitter or Facebook, something that I use every single day. Before TS maybe I wouldn’t have thought, ‘How does Twitter change who I am as a person? And what mark is it really leaving on society?’ Questions like that really shook me.”

Then there were the different perspectives of lecturers and other students. “There were students from biology and chemistry, and when they would speak up they would have the most interesting things to say. I certainly had never heard that kind of information before, coming from poli sci. It’s almost like the students really kept each other in line.”

Trembath credits the program for her successful job search. “It definitely made me more interesting to employers,” she says. “I just had this very different approach and I got hired (by Metalab) on the spot.”

Real life environment
Tyler Preston’s experience in the Human Dimensions of Climate Change interdisciplinary program didn’t just give him a comprehensive view of environmental problems. As a method of instruction, it also shaped his vision for an interdisciplinary graduate program.

“Normally you go to class and have the same professors day in and day out. They’ve got a certain style of teaching; they’ve got a certain type of agenda for courses. But this was different every single day.

“How does Twitter change who I am as a person? And what mark is it really leaving on society?’ Questions like that really shook me.”

And you can’t help but look at an issue differently,” he says. “It had a huge impact in terms of thinking about how people learn.”

Preston completes his honours BSc in social psychology this spring. He’s also studied biology and he’s an accomplished scuba diver and instructor. He hopes to merge aspects of all three into an individual interdisciplinary MA program, in Curriculum and Instruction and environmental psychology.

“When I was teaching divers, I saw that when you expose them to this whole new world, they start caring for the ocean more than they ever did,” Preston says. “People become attached to this new environment and they care about it. In my biology classes there’s all this great information on ecosystems and how all the processes work together, but there’s no experiential component to put it into a real-life (context).”

He aspires to create a scientific diving course for biology students that would include underwater field studies, or simply add a valuable experiential component to their learning.

If interdisciplinary work is where research meets the real world — with graduates who can point to a topical area of expertise — then another picture that emerges is an academic life at the intersection of disciplines that is dynamic and engaging.

Brad Bryan, LLB ’98, former director of the Technology and Society program, suggests that after a period of narrowing educational focus, it brings university education back to its roots, recapturing the coming-together and dialogue that represent the best elements of a traditional, liberal education.

“I had the good fortune of doing an interdisciplinary doctorate, so I really appreciated it,” Bryan says. “I think it’s really the future of the university in many ways.”

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SEEING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

An advanced new microscope examines specimens on an atomic scale. BY GREG PRATT

Scoping the room, the ultra-high resolution electron microscope, in the installation phase.
As a kid, you might have been fascinated looking at specimens with a small microscope. That microscope may have seemed powerful at the time but it is absolutely, well, microscopic compared to what UVic has now.

The enormity of this situation is not lost on Dr. Rodney Herring, who has been working on the application process for the new electron microscope since he started at UVic a decade ago. “It’s a dream come true,” he gushes. “We’re very lucky here at UVic to get such a machine. It’s a one-of-a-kind. There may be another one like it, but there likely won’t be one for a long time.”

The microscope is known as the STEHM (scanning transmission electron holography microscope) and it uses beams of electrons instead of light to produce magnified images. It will enable researchers to see atoms, determine the number and types of atoms, and manipulate them and their electrons in a manner never before possible.

After years of applying for funding, designing the machine, and trying to find a manufacturer willing to create the microscope, Herring’s dreams finally came true when the machine arrived in the spring.

That’s when the fun began.

A temporary hole, cut through the concrete outside an entrance to the Bob Wright Centre, allowed a crane operator to lower the costly, fragile components into the basement. Larry Wilkinson of Facilities Management helped plan the special delivery. “The pressure was on,” says Wilkinson. “If there was any damage, the length of time to get a replacement part, because they were custom parts, would be at least a year.”

Before being lowered, each piece had to be inspected once they came off the shipping truck, then crated again, lowered...then inspected again downstairs.

“Rodney was, of course, anxious,” says Wilkinson, adding that there was one small hiccup in the tense procedure. “There was one little bump when it was lowering, but there was no damage.”

Professor Herring echoes Wilkinson’s sentiments that getting the STEHM where it needed to go was a tense, high-pressure project.

“Everything was done to ensure that it went safely and smoothly, including building a steel cage that the heart of the microscope went into and was lowered down in,” says Herring. “So if anything had gone wrong, say it had been dropped, it could have been seriously damaged and it would have cost a lot of money to fix. This is why it was so important to get everything right and get all the pieces in place.”

A lot of money is an understatement. The funding that went into STEHM came from a few different places and added up to one huge amount. The Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund each contributed $8 million; UVic contributed $1.2 million; and the balance, exceeding $10 million, was provided by the manufacturer, Hitachi.

Now that the pieces are in place, they’re being assembled and tested. “I have five engineers in the lab now working on it,” says Herring. “It’s a complex machine, so there are many aspects of it that require engineers of different skills to contribute.”

The STEHM looks intimidating but it’s also fragile; it’s large and imposing but also delicate. The lab it is housed in will be pressurized to ensure the microscope keeps running smoothly and to protect it from changes in barometric pressure that can affect performance.

It’s not just the pressure that makes the room unique. The wall has an aluminum layer to help remove stray electromagnetic fields; two layers of steel with urethane foam stabilize temperature; foam deadens noise; and cooling panels are on the walls. STEHM will also be covered in mu metal (a kind of steel) to stop stray magnetic fields.

The machine’s wide range of applications will assist researchers working in solid state physics, medical sciences, or even the morphology and composition of fossils.

“The optics for imaging are very flexible so one can image an object many, many different ways,” says Herring. “It’s not like an optical microscope where you have glass to focus the beams and it’s very rigid.

Electron microscopes use the electromagnetic field of the lenses and these can change easily just by changing the current going through the lenses, so the optical configuration can change very easily. This enables different imaging methods to be done by the same machine. Each method can give different information about the object that’s being imaged.”

Researchers are already signing up to use the world’s highest resolution microscope. “They’ll be coming here doing things,” says Herring, “that aren’t possible anywhere else.”
In less than two hectic months, photographer Lisa Bettany crossed five continents, visited 15 countries, and captured it all with her iPhone 4S. The co-founder of the hugely popular Camera+ app set out to see the world and create her first photography book with only a lightweight mobile device in hand.

The inspiration for world-travel came from a stack of postcards Bettany, MA ’04 (Linguistics), found as a child. “I created a collage on my bedroom wall with these postcards and my favourite National Geographic maps and would spend hours dreaming of adventuring around the world,” she wrote on her blog before embarking on her trip.

A former competitive figure skater with Olympic aspirations, she broke her back in a skating accident and was left bed-ridden. During her recovery, she turned to photography and created the blog, mostlylisa.com.

“My dad is a computer science professor so I’ve always been around computers and technology my whole life,” she explains, “so this combined my love of photography with technology.” Initially her blog shared the antics of her daily life but soon she was posting her photos of models, actresses and musicians and gaining notoriety.

Combining her upbringing, education and marketing savvy, her online work led to guest spots on American tech podcasts and TV shows. Then in 2008 at MacWorld, the annual Apple trade show, she met the developers of Camera+. Bettany signed on as the team’s creative producer, responsible for the app’s main photo components.

For 99 cents, Camera+ adds a user-friendly way to shoot, edit and share images with a smartphone. In a little more than two years, over eight million copies have been sold and it consistently ranks as the most popular, non-game app for sale in the iTunes Store. Camera+ has received and rejected take-over bids from Twitter, Google and Adobe.

The five co-founders form a truly international team: the lead engineer lives in New Zealand, the designer in Austria, the coder splits his time between Sweden and Japan, and the marketing and sales executive resides in South Africa.

Absolute confidante, the lead artist, a professional photographer, BFA ’06, who has also contributed to the success of the Camera+ app, and is currently working on a new project called MacroLife, which focuses on macro photography, is the final member of the Camera+ team.

To see Lisa Bettany’s world tour, produced images (opposite page, clockwise from top left) from: Buenos Aires, Venice, Phnom Penh, and South Africa. Her journey is documented at mostlylisa.com/worldtrip.
and the rest, including Bettany, are spread across the US. From New York, over Skype she says, “we’ve come together in a bizarre way. We do all of our work and meetings online.”

“Around the World with an iPhone and Camera+” was a way to show off her product’s versatility and share photography tips. “What I wanted to say is that you don’t need to spend thousands of dollars on camera equipment. To take amazing pictures, all you need is the camera in your pocket.”

And amazing photos she took, from candid close-ups of the people of Cambodia to the hustle of Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo. There were challenges too, particularly during an African safari. “With a normal iPhone you have to get pretty close to your subject to fill the frame,” she starts to laugh. “Here I’m dealing with lions and rhinos and dangerous animals that you can’t really just walk off and take pictures of and I’m in this Jeep trying to take these shots.” A telephoto lens attached to her iPhone, providing 8x zoom, helped her get in close.

One of her favourite pictures shows a mother and baby giraffe. “The sun was setting over the plains and the giraffes were walking by and at the same moment both turned their heads my way,” Bettany recalls. Their tall silhouettes pierce the red and orange sunset. “It was very surreal. I’m a huge animal lover and to see animals exist and do their thing in the wild was a very moving experience.”

The Island is still home, the place she retreats to when things get overwhelming, but her work life makes her a New Yorker now. “I’ve always been somewhat introverted...but being in New York, it definitely pushes me photographically to go out and shoot things other than sunsets.”

This fall, Bettany and her team released a version of their product for the iPad, and she’s working on something completely new for her: a game app. “It’s definitely surprising to be in a position where this is now my job. It’s something I didn’t ever predict would happen.”

“You don’t need to spend thousands of dollars on camera equipment...all you need is the camera in your pocket.”
UNKNOWN, LITTLE-KNOW
or OTHERWISE
FORGOTTEN FACTS
UVIC’S FIRST 50 YRS
A buried and lost marmot. A Madmen-era dining and libations club. Underground film screenings. They’re all part of the quirky history of our university. On the occasion of UVic’s 50th year, it’s time for a look back at some of the tidbits, trivia and occasionally strange episodes from the past half-century.

By Keith Norbury, BA ’85
We asked around and found 50 things about the past 50 years — some of them trivial, some of them for the record books — that contribute to the unique nature of UVic’s history.

1. Oddest thing in the UVic Archives: “The Double DingLe JingLe PLungGeR,” a green-handled toilet plunger, accompanied by operating instructions, in a cardboard delivery box stuffed with styrofoam chips. It’s the creation of Robert Chaplin, BFA ’90.

2. Second most unusual thing in the UVic archives: A toy stuffed cow named Molly (it says on a paper medallion — “My name is Molly no rBST for me!”) Molly was donated along with papers of noted local environmentalist Derrick Mallard.

3. Most requested items from the archives: UVic financial statements, and old university calendars. The most popular of the latter are from the 1990s and are likely needed to provide course descriptions for prospective employers.

4. The actual cost of construction for UVic’s first building — the Clearihue A wing — was $399,157, only a tad over the contracted price of $396,400.

5. The UVic Bookstore now has a futuristic machine that can print a complete book from a digital file in less than four minutes. UVic was the second Canadian university to acquire the Espresso Book Machine.


7. In 1964, Ring Road was still only half a ring. It now encloses an area of 72 acres (29 hectares) and measures 2,000 feet in diameter (610 metres).

8. Going on eight years, Emmanuel Baptist Church, on the edge of UVic, has been providing a free meal to students every Tuesday evening from September to November and January to March. Last year, the church served more than 8,000 meals, sometimes more than 500 on a single evening. “It’s just a gift to the university community,” says Daniel McDougall, the church’s lead pastor.

9. The first editor-in-chief of the Martlet after UVic officially became a university: Jim Bigsby. Before earning a BA in economics in 1965, he also edited the university yearbook, included the advice: “Because many of our professors and instructors are atheists, nudists, Communists, alcoholics, Fascists or vegetarians, the student must take care to preserve his sacred parental upbringing.”

10. UVic’s Interfaith Chapel has no religious iconography of any kind, notes Rafel Oei, coordinator of UVic’s Multi-faith Services Centre. Among its services in 2011, the chapel booked 33 weddings, eight memorial services, and one christening.

11. The first UVic edition of the Martlet was published Sept. 10, 1963. A page 2 article titled “Instructions for Frosh,” The Tower. He is now retired in Victoria after a career as an education and training consultant.

12. Stephen Bigsby, Jim’s brother, served as student council president. He led the April 1966 trek — along with Registrar Ronald R. Jeffels, Chancellor Joseph B. Clearihue, and President Malcolm G. Taylor — from the old Lansdowne campus to mark the completion of UVic’s move to Gordon Head.

13. Every witch way: UVic student organizations over the years included the Holly and Oak Pagan Discussion Group during the 1980s, says John Threlfall, a UVic pop culture expert who by day toils as a communications and special projects officer but by night is a black cord priest of the Thirteenth House Mystery School.
Food facts: During the winter session, UVic Food Services serves a ton of fries daily — 2,160 pounds (or 760 kilograms) to be more precise. They are gluten-free, by the way. Food Services also serves 176 pounds (76 kg) of stir-fry each day.

15. Tubs o’ fish: Around 1968, BC salmon farming pioneer and former Biochemistry professor David Groves used old bathtubs from the Empress Hotel (bought for about $8 each) for rearing sockeye salmon fry. The proto salmon farm was next to some of the old army huts. The space also housed a sheep that provided blood for (unrelated) syphilis research.

16. Locavore campus: Considering that 100-Mile Diet authors J.B. MacKinnon and Alisa Smith, MA ’97, both attended UVic, it’s worth noting that 27 of the 33 campus food suppliers are from Vancouver Island or the Vancouver area. All the chicken is local, the eggs are all free-run, and the salmon are all wild-caught.

17. X-rated at Mac 144: Until the purpose-built theatre opened in 1975, Cinecenta screened films in what is now the David Lam Auditorium in the MacLaurin Building. The most notorious screening was of Deep Throat, the hard-core porn feature starring Linda Lovelace, in 1972.

18. Robert Moyes, BA ’82, who went on to become Monday Magazine’s longtime film critic, was among the Deep Throat attendees required to become members of the “Black Kat Cinema Society.” In case of a police raid, a VW Beetle was on hand to “whisk the offending print away,” Moyes notes. “Nothing so exciting happened, cinematically or otherwise, as the screening of a washed-out (and bootlegged) 16-mm copy went off as planned.”

20. From 1969-70 to 1972-73, UVic had a men’s varsity ice hockey team in the Western Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Association (later the renamed Canada West Universities Athletic Association). In its final two seasons combined, UVic posted a perfect record of 44 straight losses.

21. Meanwhile, underwater hockey made its debut at the McKinnon pool in the mid 1970s. The games continued at UVic for about 20 years before relocating to Saanich Commonwealth Place.

22. UVic now has its own Harry Potter-inspired quidditch club, even competing at the quidditch world cup. For the benefit of muggles, more information can be found on the club’s Facebook page.

23. Somewhere in the popular dog walking area in the southeast corner of the campus, near Cedar Hill Cross Road, are the buried remains of a marmot. Senior Anthropology lab instructor Becky Wigen says it was among 20 to 30 mammals, including other marmots, buried during the 1980s and ‘90s to speed decomposition before adding the skeletons to her lab’s collection. She never did locate that one last marmot, though.

24. Felicita’s Campus Pub in the Student Union Building is named after beloved janitor Felicita Gomez who used to work in the SUB.

25. Largest crowd for an event at UVic: about 34,500 people, including Queen Elizabeth II, at the opening ceremonies of the 1994 Commonwealth Games at Centen-
nial Stadium. A similar number, including Prince Edward, attended the closing.

26. Sculptor George A. Norris of Shawnigan Lake designed the pre-cast relief panels on the exterior of the McPherson Library. Among Norris’s other works is the stainless steel crab outside the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre (formerly the Planetarium) in Vancouver.

27. The pond adjacent to the University Club, at the head-waters of Bowker Creek, is affectionately (and officially) named Mitchell’s Moat, after Dr. Reg Mitchell, the retired Chemistry professor known for his performances as Dr. Zonk.


29. Dr. Zonk’s favourite demonstration was to pour about half a litre of liquid oxygen onto cotton batting and throw a match at it. “And it would throw flaming cotton batting all over the place,” he recalls. Burn marks on a wall in Elliott lecture theatre 167 attest to that.

30. The Stroh violin (ca. 1900) on display in the School of Music looks like a cross between a fiddle and an ear trumpet. Designer John M.A. Stroh replaced the violin’s wooden body with a metal resonator and added an aluminum horn at the end of the fingerboard. “The performer placed the smaller aluminum horn at his or her ear in order to hear what was being played more distinctly,” according to the Smithsonian.

31. Dracula has a flowery connection to UVic in the form of the rhododendrons in Finnerty Gardens. The seeds for many of those rhodos came from the collection of Dr. Richard Stoker, a relative of Dracula author Bram Stoker. Dr. Stoker collected rhodo seeds from the Himalayas in the late 1890s. The Stokers planted those rhodo seeds at a Cowichan Lake property that later became the estate of Jeanne Buchanan Simpson and her husband, George. After the Simpson property was donated to UVic, many of the rhodos were the nucleus of Finnerty Gardens.

32. A notice board in a main-floor hallway of the Bob Wright Building bears a small sign that says, “Post no bills.” Tacked around that sign are photos of such notable Bills as Maher, Cosby, O’Reilly, Bixby, Clinton, Crystal, Shatner, Idol, Murray, Shakespeare, (Billie Jean) King, and the Buffalo Bills.

33. Lost in space: Asteroid 150145 UVic was but one of about 700 small asteroids astronomer David Balam discovered during his years at UVic. Now working as a telescope operator at the National Research Council, Balam named 28 of those asteroids, including several after UVic faculty members past and present, such as Ann Gower.

34. From 1964 to 1975, the Order of the Crested Martlets met regularly “for dinner and merriment,” according to the archives. The mostly male faculty members of the order included registrar R.R. Jeffels, history professor Reginald Roy, and Dean Halliwell, UVic’s first head librarian.

35. The Colonist referred to UVic’s first convocation as “the spring congregation.”

36. UVic’s official flag, designed in 1978 by professor William D. West, was only part of his legacy. Among other things, he designed the mobile-like sculpture in the stairwell of the original wing of the Clearihue Building.

37. What students of the early 1980s thought was a smoking pit on the west side of the Phoenix Theatre was actually designed as a performance space. Or so future Leacock medal winner Mark Leiren-Young, then a student, discovered after he’d already decided to do something daring and direct a play in that space.

38. In December 2008, UVic’s School of Music became the...
country’s first All-Steinway School. UVic now boasts 68 Steinway pianos, including 22 Steinway grand pianos.

39. Lost in Cyberspace: The first email at UVic arrived circa 1980 via a 300-baud modem to a Digital Equipment Corp. PDP-11 computer in the computer science department’s “Arctic Research Lab” in the basement of the Clearihue Building. The lab was so-named because of an air-conditioned false floor required to keep the PDP-11 cool.

41. Among the smallest books in UVic’s Special Collections are the Bible in miniature and a miniature Qu’ran. Also small, although not a book, is a lithograph by Kate Greenway (1846-1901). Titled “Proof of a characteristic child study in black and white,” it measures six cm by five cm.

42. Something Orwellian: In a hallway of the Fraser Building, portraits of the Law class of 1984 are at least twice as large as the portraits of other graduating classes of the era.

43. UVic’s largest books include Atlas-sized atlases, such as “Folio of resources and geography — northwestern British Columbia” (51 x 78 cm) and “Comprehensive atlas of the Dutch United East India Company” (58 cm). A map of the Soviet Union vies for title of biggest item in the library, measuring 146 by 223 cm.

44. UVic’s first convocation was on May 25, 1964 in the Gordon Head Gymnasium, as reported in both the Colonist and Times newspapers of the day. At that convocation, 189 degrees were granted (94 BA, 39 BEd, and 36 BSc. Graduate studies were approved in 1965).

45. 450 16-ounce smoothies are served on campus on a typical day.

46. The youngest person to receive a degree at UVic was 19. The oldest degree recipient was 86, although the oldest person to enrol was 92.

47. Six degrees of education: Dr. Dominique Roelants (full name: Dominique Roelants van Baronaigien) has six UVic undergraduate and graduate degrees in computer science, psychology, sociology, and law.

48. As of 2012, UVic had awarded a total of 108,810 degrees, certificates and diplomas, including 394 honorary degrees.

49. The first official act of original UVic Chancellor Joseph Clearihue was to confer an honorary doctor of laws on Dr. Jeffree A. Cunningham, professor emeritus of biology and zoology and a former vice-principal and registrar, the Colonist reported.

50. The average age of a UVic undergrad in 2012 was 23.44 years. Famous people about that age include actor Daniel Radcliffe, of Harry Potter fame, which might explain the current fascination with quidditch.

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With its mix of handsome plantings, public art, rolling lawns, jogging paths, and arboreal wilderness, UVic’s pedestrian-focused campus sets a national standard for landscaping. Anyone watching students have a sunny Frisbee game on the grassy Quad, with their more studious counterparts reclining with a book on the welcoming lip of the University Fountain can only marvel at this West Coast utopia. After nearly 50 years, as the university’s landscaping has matured, it is clear just how visionary were the designers who conjured a stunning modern campus out of several hundred acres of wild forest and muddy fields.

Don Lovell, who was manager of campus planning/design from 1990-2007, sums it up this way: “Any visitors from other universities leave in a state of jealous envy.” Indeed. UVic is almost unique in Canada for its use of landscape architecture as a key driver of its campus design. And when you add in such exceptional features as the old-growth forest of the Mystic Vale ecological preserve and the glorious rhododendrons of Finnerty Gardens, UVic has a lot more in common with a national park than it does with most other universities.

With Ring Road enclosing a large, open-landscaped quadrangle,
UVic’s core design has a geometric boldness. According to Lovell, although that outline was a loose guide for the siting of many new buildings over the following years, it was expected they would be of various styles. Visual continuity would come via an abundant tree framework — both planted and heritage — binding the disparate buildings and expansive open spaces into harmony. “The landscape is the unifying element,” says Lovell, and the overall effect much more pastoral than urban.

As visions go, the one for UVic was an inspired response to a challenging location. UVic’s current footprint of over 400 acres comprises land that had for centuries been territory of the Coast and Straits Salish people. Later occupants included Hudson’s Bay Company settlers, then farmers and greenhouse operators. By 1931 an airfield was built, with two runways intersecting on a once-bare landscape that now features University Centre and Centennial Stadium.

Although these days it seems so solidly established, the university was just a half-formed idea in 1959, when nearby Victoria College was under increasing pressure to expand due to ever-larger enrollment. (It had moved in 1946 from Craigdarroch Castle to the Lansdowne campus that is currently home to Camosun College.) That was when the University Development Board purchased the 120-acre Gordon Head Army Camp as a secondary site to complement its primary Lansdowne location.

The plan got turned upside down in 1961 when a group of visiting consultants from San Francisco — who just happened to be some of America’s finest landscape architects — told the college council that it would be best to set up the entire campus on the newly acquired Gordon Head property. Persuaded by that advice, the council purchased an adjoining 141 acres of forestland from the Hudson’s Bay Company to expand the nascent university site. UVic was still physically raw when its first students arrived in 1963.

According to Martin Segger, BA ’69, an art historian who worked at UVic for 35 years and has written extensively about the university, UVic’s campus design was developed just when architecture schools in California and Oregon were promulgating the notion that natural setting should be emphasized. This was a radical overturning of the centuries-old idea that buildings should dominate the land. For UVic, that meant that buildings would be no higher than three storeys, avoid ostentatious design, and fit gracefully into a verdant setting where symmetrical plantings and manicured lawns merged seamlessly with large forested areas of native conifers and broadleaf trees.

“UVic’s so-called ‘garden landscape’ is a major attraction and a unique heritage,” says Segger, who retired as the director of the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery in 2010. “The degree of respect and maintenance of the landscape is pretty remarkable.”

In the early 1970s, UVic hired its first “coordinating campus landscape architect,” Don Vaughan. Vaughan, who had been with the Vancouver firm that did UVic’s initial landscape design in the 1960s, provided guidance and continuity of vision until his retirement in 2008. “One of the early challenges was to unify the campus with a continuous landscape,” he explains. “The site before the University arrived was two separate and distinct parcels of land in two municipalities, the forest in Oak Bay and the flat, almost treeless military base in Saanich.”
According to Vaughan, a “relaxing and friendly” ambience began to emerge thanks to an abundance of greenspace, berms to conceal roads, and parking lots kept outside the Ring. “UVic really is pretty unique,” says Vaughan. “As a landscape architect, one of my main objectives is to create a landscape that gives identity to a place,” he adds. “UVic has done that. And one of the great things is that what you start only gets better as time goes on.” Vaughan, who is particularly proud of designing the University Fountain, was awarded an honorary law degree by UVic in 2007.

During its first half-century UVic has grown dramatically, with the Begbie Building and the MacLaurin Music Wing notable additions in the ’70s. The Interfaith Chapel, a brand new Phoenix Theatre, and the Engineering Office Wing appeared the following decade. The 1990s saw huge additions to the SUB and the Bookstore, and the creation of the Classroom Building and the Business and Economics Building. More recent, striking additions have been the First Peoples House and the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building.

But despite growth, both inside and outside Ring Road, UVic’s signature landscaping — which has benefited from the planting of over 10,000 trees — has retained its pastoral appeal. And as of a decade ago, the landscape development of the campus began to incorporate ideas of more sustainable development. “Large areas of irrigated lawns were eschewed in favour of native or drought-resistant plantings and native grasses,” says Vaughan.

As our “garden campus” looks to the future, serious challenges loom, mostly involving a declining amount of open space to satisfy the demand for new buildings. “As we do more infilling it will be increasingly hard to come up with really good design,” admits Neil Connelly, UVic’s director of campus planning and sustainability since 2007. “UVic has those great public spaces and any new building will have to relate well to its surroundings.”

Segger, who was a student at UVic back in the 1960s when Ring Road was still under construction, has great affection for the campus and wants it to retain its virtues. “The original plan was for 10,000 students and we’ve doubled that now,” he notes. According to Segger, Berkeley Campus may hold an important lesson for UVic, insofar as this model for our original landscaping has been allowed to become seriously overbuilt. “And we now have more students than Oxford or Harvard,” he adds. “Maybe UVic is big enough.”

UVic’s last campus plan — which defines future priorities for the landscape development of the campus — was presented in 2003. According to Connelly, the next one is due in 2014 and its drafting will likely take more than a year. Pressing issues like the need for increased parking and, possibly, a huge expansion in student housing, will doubtless lead to passionate debate about what UVic should look like a decade from now. “It will be a major discussion,” agrees Connelly. “It’s all about the best way to preserve our assets while accommodating necessary growth.”
Then and Now

A newly-published book details the university’s first 50 years of transformation and growth.

BY PATTY PITTS, DIPL. ‘90

That the book swelled beyond its original dimensions was due to MacPherson’s persuasiveness, and a benevolent book project committee that the author described as “surprisingly gentle, given that they were not shy about stating their opinions” while supervising the project.

He describes the project as a pleasure despite having to juggle it while writing two other books about his research specialty — the co-operative movement — and some 30 – 40 papers. Nor was his work remunerated: “I believe in paying back. I’ve had a wonderful career at UVic and I was interested in this project.”

It was prompted by a request from the president’s office through then Vice-President External Relations, Valerie Kuehne.

MacPherson admits the latest work is not meant to be a comprehensive history of the university (“80 per cent of it focuses on the last 50 years.”) He summarizes past issues and conflicts, referring readers to two previous books on the university’s early history by honorary UVic historian, the late Peter Smith, VC ’49, for the detailed versions.

He does offer readers a brief but rich history of early Victoria, examining the historical, geographical and societal circumstances that led a young city, emerging from a frontier mentality, to seek a better education for its young people.
“I would have liked to have dealt more with the development of the city, and its different cultural and social groups, and how that spawned a university but it wasn’t easy to find the necessary information, even if I had had more space”.

MacPherson did much of his own sourcing for the photos that are used liberally throughout the book. “About 70 per cent of my time was spent writing, while 30 per cent was spent on searching for photos. I really appreciated the help of Lara Wilson, Nada Lora and their colleagues in the UVic archives.”

His research led to the realization that “UVic is remarkable in its ability to expand in different directions. It’s very flexible and very good at developing relationships with communities, near and far, and at studying shifts in society.”

One of those shifts, the introduction of and increasing reliance on information technology, has had a profound impact on university life. “The computing revolution is so pronounced at UVic. It has altered relationships and created numerous kinds of new communities. Instead of the senior person in a department being the most influential it’s often the youngest support staff person because that’s the individual who best knows how to use the latest software.”

He acknowledges that “science is so overpowering with the funding possibilities it presents and the quality of researchers that we have” that UVic’s founding liberal arts base is often overshadowed. “The problem with liberal arts is that its people never resolved what they meant. Their approach became a political football rather than a philosophical base.”

MacPherson was struck by the powerful roles that personalities play in determining the institution’s direction. “Presidents, senior administrators, and dominant professors tend to shape universities. Their enthusiasms become the norms of the day. It’s surprising how important personality is. It’s not logic or information or because we work with process and research that determines our direction but because we listen to the strongest personality.”

More comprehensive recognition of the many people who contributed to UVic’s success will have to be on someone else’s shoulders says MacPherson. “I hope someone writes a more complete history. There’s a tremendous amount of material in the archives. I only touched the surface. Writing such a book would be a big project, a fuller story that should be told.”
One day in late 1976, he strode into the vice-president’s office and announced, a touch of elation in his voice, “George, I think we have turned the corner.” The speaker was Howard Petch. He had become president of the University of Victoria on 1 July 1975. The vice-president was George Pedersen.

Petch’s roots lay in rural Ontario. He carried with him the rigorous determination, sense of duty, and flexible entrepreneurship that can be found in those roots – what some might call the positive attributes of Old Ontario. After military service, he had gone west to UBC, where he had gained a PhD in nuclear physics—and a “messianic zeal” for solid state/materials research and interdisciplinary programmes. He had become involved in federal government science policy, which provided him with a valuable overview of the multi-faceted development of scientific enquiry. That background would greatly influence his work at UVic, as would several years in administrative posts at McMaster and Waterloo universities. The time at Waterloo, one of Canada’s most innovative universities, particularly shaped his views on the roles of universities in the modern world.

Before serious, sustained, and planned expansion could take place at UVic, however, the discordant inheritance of the previous few years had to be quieted. It happened, partly because of the constructive approaches of some emerging leaders within the
Petch’s approach to expansion required increased long-term planning procedures, which were spearheaded by Jim Currie in an expanded administrative unit called Institutional Analysis. One of Currie’s early projects showed that British Columbia relied heavily on attracting qualified professionals in engineering, health services, business, and the law from other provinces, claims that UBC disputed. Currie’s findings nevertheless became the basis for UVic’s arguments for growth, as did a more basic appeal to helping “our own sons and daughters, nieces and nephews” and pursue their interests closer to home. Petch and others took the case out to communities around the province where it was well received, though perhaps less enthusiastically at UBC.

The most important dimensions of expansion, however, are not found in new programmes, more buildings, or even in increasing numbers of students and faculty. They lie in mentalité: how the people directly and indirectly involved view the new forms of learning being created; how well the universities relate to the communities that are being engaged. That was the significance of having “turned the corner.” What Petch had perceived was the beginnings of significant support, not universal but strong enough, for expansion and new initiatives. The subsequent expansion took place on three levels — the broadening of curriculum, the deepening of new ways of knowing, and the gradual reconfiguration of the university....

UVIC, DESPITE THE PRESSURES of the 1975–90 period, was a socially friendly place. Student life was generally laid-back, serious but leavened by a busy pub life, a welcoming and safe city, pleasant study places, an attractive natural environment, and good teachers. Frank Robinson from the Chemistry Department can stand as a symbol of their best efforts. One of the few people of African descent on campus, he had lived through the civil rights struggles in his native Georgia and could readily sympathize with students confronting difficulties. As associate dean for the Advising Centre in the Faculty of Arts and Science, he and his staff dealt with large numbers of students in a compassionate yet fair and rigorous way, complementing well the work of Student Services. For his efforts he was made an honorary alumnus of UVic, an appropriate recognition of his work.

Within academic departments, though some were divided over methodological/ideological debates and rocked by gender issues, most were well-known for their general pleasantness and tolerance. Relations between the Faculty Association and the administration generally improved during the later 1980s, though demands persisted for a more formal and clearer relationship.

The non-faculty, numbering about 300 by the mid-1970s (400 by 1990), included many people who had worked at the university for decades. Social events for staff, such as picnics and seasonal parties, were common. The influence of the administrative leaders, notably Trevor Matthews, Bob McQueen, and Dean Halliwell, was pervasive, some would say paternalistic, but certainly reassuring for those who worked hard. Despite the challenges, UVic was a good place to be, whatever role one might play.

Compassionate yet fair and rigorous: Former Chemistry Prof. and student advisor Frank Robinson.

Petch and others took the case out to communities around the province where it was well received, though perhaps less enthusiastically at UBC.
Preserving the Data

Research, maps, and photos from decades of environmental science.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, THROUGH PROJECTS like the VENUS and NEPTUNE ocean observatories (part of Ocean Networks Canada), garners international attention. It builds on UVic’s history of scientific inquiry about the natural world, which is featured in the Environmental Sciences Archives.

The ESA was established by the UVic Archives to preserve, protect and offer public access to unique or rare environmental material. It specifically documents the scientific examination of environmental stresses in marine and fresh water settings.

Established 15 years ago, the ESA was initiated by Dr. Derek Ellis in collaboration with the former University Archivist Jane Turner. Today it includes the archival fonds of Drs. Alan Austin, Ellis, and W. Gordon Fields. It includes the research of provincial biologist Peter Russell Newroth on nuisance aquatic plants and water quality issues, the First Nations oral history research of Wendy Kotilla on the social and ecological history of the Carnation Creek watershed in Barkley sound, and documents on the environmental monitoring and pollution mitigation at Island Copper Mine on northern Vancouver Island.

The Marine Environmental Science Collection has rare and difficult-to-obtain Canadian and international reports and publications containing unique environmental data. The reports are organized into subjects that continue to concern scientists and the general public around the world, including materials on pulp and paper mills (1964–89); mercury contamination, mostly from the Minamata Japan catastrophe (1960–93); and Victoria sewage (1962-94). The Victoria sewage collection documents the original marine environmental monitoring of the effects of sewage discharged through ocean outfalls.

The Ellis and Austin collections consist of letters, maps, photographs, research project files, and bibliographies; the Fields material includes research and teaching material, as well as documents relating to his participation in the planning and construction of the Cunningham Building.

Ellis, a professor of Biology from 1964-96, received his PhD from McGill after his biogeographical and biodiversity assessment of arctic benthos (his data is available online through UVic’s Research and Learning Repository dspace.library.uvic.ca). Before joining UVic, he worked at the federal biological station in Nanaimo, where he...
developed techniques for researching salmon biology using underwater photography. From 1970 he directed his work and that of his graduate students to biodiversity assessments of the seabed, particularly to environmental impact on biodiversity, and recovery from that impact. Through the '80s and '90s he concentrated his research on the effects of mining waste on seabed biodiversity, and to the impact of the boat-paint toxin, tributyltin. Ellis remains an archives donor and advisor to ESA, assisting with locating and identifying archival collections.

Dr. Allan Austin, a member of the Biology faculty from 1964-97, specialized in marine and freshwater algae, and participated in the Seaweed Inventory Project from 1969-78. His data were used by the BC Commercial Fisheries Branch to assess the feasibility of commercially harvesting marine resources. Dr. W. Gordon Fields was a Victoria College alumnus (1929-30) who became Canada’s leading authority on squid. The archives include an outstanding slide collection of west coast marine invertebrates, as well as electron microscope photographs documenting squid embryology.

In addition, UVic Archives is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Dr. Michael Waldichuk archives and Dr. Jack Littlepage’s environmental reports for the Kitsault mine area, on the northern BC coast. Waldichuk, an oceanographer and senior scientist with the department of fisheries and oceans, was an international authority on contaminants and pollution. A respected colleague of UVic researchers, he worked for many years at the Pacific Biological Station at Nanaimo and the West Vancouver Laboratory. Littlepage, who worked with Ellis on the Kitsault mine reports and retired from UVic in 2000, lectured and conducted research in biological oceanography and marine aquaculture. The newly donated material will be available to researchers later this fall.

BY LARA WILSON, MA ’99, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

Selected images from the Environmental Sciences Archives include documentation related to marine and freshwater research conducted by UVic biologists and colleagues over the decades.

Clockwise from far left:
Alan Austin with starfish for a cap; article on environmental care at Island Copper; Derek Ellis with sleepy sled dogs; salmon photography by Ellis; 1950 squid report by W. Gordon Fields; Ellis underwater; Milfoil quarantine warning; zooplankton slide, by Fields; Candy-striped anenome; label for underwater photos, Island Copper.

Potential ESA donors should call 250-472-4480.
ESA holdings online: archives.library.uvic.ca/featured_collections/esa/default.html
UVIC’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GOT off to a fantastic start during the final weekend of September and the alumni association was front and centre in the festivities.

The party began on Friday afternoon with hundreds of students, alumni, staff and community members enjoying 50th Birthday cupcakes and listening to great bands on the roof of the Student Union Building.

Friday’s Pub Night at three local establishments was boisterous and well attended. Saturday featured many thought-provoking Alumni Talks by some of UVic’s more illustrious graduates, special alumni reunions all over campus, and a very enjoyable (and delicious) Alumni Reunion Dinner that evening at the University Club. Ten exciting Vikes matches filled any sports fan’s calendar and the weekend was topped-off by a Vikes Homecoming Retro Party in the McKinnon Gym on Saturday night.

What a great way to start the UVic year, the 50th Anniversary celebrations. (A collection of photos is on pages 14 and 15.)

I would like to extend a big thank you to the reunion committee members who worked so hard in organizing and planning many of these events, as well as the UVic Student Ambassadors who volunteered all weekend, and of course the alumni relations staff who organized and oversaw the whole affair. I would also like to thank my fellow board members who helped and participated throughout Homecoming.

Looking forward to the upcoming year, there are plenty of big opportunities for alumni to get reconnected with the university, either with the continuing 50th Anniversary celebrations or with alumni-specific events. For example, the Department of Writing is offering alumni readings, the Theatre department featured a Spotlight on Alumni play (produced by two recent graduates) and the 50th Anniversary Dean’s Lecture Series runs throughout the year and presents a myriad of engaging discussions led by top researchers. And of course there are always Vikes games and competitions to attend throughout the year and cheer on the student-athletes.

Be sure to check out what’s happening on the university’s event calendar at uvic.ca when planning a trip to Victoria, or when you are heading up to the campus. Meet with former classmates at alumni chapter events around the world. And of course Alumni Week (Feb. 3–9) promises to be better than ever this year. It’s a busy, fun-filled week to recognize the achievements of UVic alumni and to get re-acquainted.

It’s been 50 great years for UVic, and we’re just getting started!

e-mail: alumni@uvic.ca

Got your Alumni Card? alumni.uvic.ca/benefits
The volunteer directors of the UVic Alumni Association began their 2012-13 term at the Annual General Meeting in May. Back row, left to right: TERRY COCKERLINE, Director of Alumni Relations; PETE ROSE, MPA ’05; JEROME ETWAROO, BEng ’08; PETER JONG, BSc ’03; PETER TANNER, BA ’91; LESLEY PATTEN, BCom ’96. Centre, left to right: NICOLE BOULET, BCom ’03 (resigned); TRACIE SIBBALD, BA ’83; BOMA BROWN, Student Ambassadors rep; DALE HENLEY, BA ’71; IVAN WATSON, BA ’03; GLENDA WYATT, BSc ’98. Front, left to right: MARIE MCKEE, MEd ’81; JOY BARRETT, VC ’45; DONNA MCGHIE-RICHMOND, Faculty Assc. rep; ANNE MCLAUGHLIN, VC ’48; VALERIE GONZALES, PhD ’97; AVIS RASMUSSEN, MEd ’82; CIEL WATT, BFA ’93. Absent: DALE BOUAYADI, Cert. ’05; BRIAN CANT, BA ’03.

“I am committed to developing strong relationships with the diverse constituencies that make up our regional, national and international communities,” Charette says. “Together we’ll increase awareness and support for UVic’s commitment to excellence and for the important contributions our university makes in addressing the key challenges and opportunities facing our society.”

The external relations portfolio includes alumni relations, external awards facilitation, fundraising, government relations, communications, marketing, community relations, ceremonies and events, corporate relations, and the university auditorium and art collections.

Prior to joining SSHRC in 2007, Charette was director-general with the Science and Innovation Sector of Industry Canada, senior vice-president with the Canada Foundation for Innovation and director with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. She holds degrees in Biochemistry and in Business Administration from the University of Ottawa.

As the University of Victoria celebrates its 50th anniversary, Ian MacPherson’s beautiful new book — Reaching Outward and Upward: The University of Victoria, 1963-2013 (an author’s interview and excerpt begins on page 32 of this magazine) — provides a comprehensive reflection on the people, history and legacy of the university.

Dr. MacPherson, professor emeritus of history, speaks to the metamorphosis of UVic, emerging from the traditions of Victoria College and Provincial Normal School, into one of the world’s best universities. UVic has become a destination campus, with the highest percentage of out-of-province students of any Canadian university west of McGill. The spark for this extraordinary transformation is found in its people — faculty and staff, alumni and volunteers, and donors and partners around the world.

Since 2007, 60 per cent of all of UVic’s donors have been alumni, contributing nearly one-fifth of all donations received. These gifts have taken various shapes — from undergraduate and graduate scholarships, bursaries and awards to endowed chairs and professorships, international experience awards, and transformational gifts from donors whose names adorn the facilities funded by their generosity.

In a globally competitive environment, in order for UVic to continuously transform itself and remain ahead of the curve, ongoing support from our alumni, our best ambassadors, is critical. The role UVic has played in our alumni’s development and growth fills the stories that inspire over 6,000 donors annually. Some of these stories are being shared within the Great Moments section of the 50th anniversary website: uvic.ca/anniversary.

We invite you to check out the website, obtain a copy of Dr. MacPherson’s book (available in the UVic Bookstore) and participate in the many anniversary events on campus and around the world. We also invite you to consider making a special anniversary gift towards any area on campus that has made a difference in your life. Please visit uvic.ca/givingtouvic and make a difference.

Dr. Valerie Kuehne, after serving as vice-president, external relations for seven years, has returned to her academic pursuits in the Faculty of Human and Social Development. I am delighted to introduce her successor, Ms. Carmen Charette. All of us in external relations are looking forward to her leadership as our university continues to reach outward and upward.

e-mail: alumni@uvic.ca

Upcoming Alumni events: alumni.uvic.ca

Outward and Upward

BY IBRAHIM INAYATALI
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT
ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT
Keeping in Touch

Let everyone from UVic know what’s up. Send news and photos to torch@uvic.ca or use our online reply and change of address forms at uvic.ca/torch.

VICTORIA COLLEGE

Walter McLean, ’53, was presented with the 2012 Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. The award recognizes “his years of parliamentary service, his contribution to and respect for the institution of parliament and for his continued interest and activity in the promotion of education, human rights and parliamentary democracy in Canada and abroad.” He served for 14 years as the Conservative MP for Waterloo. He was also a 2002 recipient of the alumni association’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

Margaret (Vey) Pratt, ’40, taught for two years at Lower Arrow Lake after her graduation from the Provincial Normal School in 1942. She went on to be an occupational therapist. “My husband (a New Zealander) and I have spent the last 48 years in Sidney. Our ‘babies’ are now 52 and 55. We still live in our own home, and at ages 90 and 91, are caring for each other. A few days ago I was driving along Cedar Hill X Road with my granddaughter and mentioned to her that (Finnerty was) my father’s gardener. She was dis-owned by her family and died in a log cabin in the Canadian wilderness. “Her Mr. Right was Mr. Wrong in every way – wrong nationality, Scottish; wrong religion, Presbyterian; and worst of all, wrong social class, a gardener.”

Michael Farr, ’73, has taught for seven years in BC (the multination law firm in Bangkok after 30-plus years as COO with a Michael Farr.)

1974

EDEANA MALCOLM, BA (English), has published the historical novel A Garden In The Wilderness (Borealis Press), about her high-born English great-great-great-grandmother who eloped with her father’s gardener. She was discovered writing her family and died in a log cabin in the Canadian wilderness. “Her Mr. Right was Mr. Wrong in every way – wrong nationality, Scottish; wrong religion, Presbyterian; and worst of all, wrong social class, a gardener.”

1982

Michael MacDonell, MPA, sums things up: “I have been retired for five years and am enjoying myself immensely.”

1983

Jill Linklater, BSN, has lived and worked as a nurse in Canada, the Middle East and now back in Australia. “Still working as a health professional consultant and the quality manager with Alzheimer’s Australia (Vic) and serving on a couple of boards of charitable organizations. Anyone interested in a 30-year reunion in September/October 2013 when I will be back in Vaucour Island visiting friends? If so just email me Jillld44@gmail.com.

Eduardo G. Monteagudo, BA (Anthropology), wrote from his home in Argentina after receiving his spring issue of the magazine: “I found the three articles about the McPherson Library interesting. If there was one building I loved at UVic, it was the McPherson Library. I spent full days (or should I say months) there. The first person I met at the library was Jerry Trofimchuk (I hope I got the right spelling). He took my ID and library card picture and had the card ready in no time. Believe it or not, I still have that card. “Reference Check” also brought back memories of the old days when students taking 100-level English courses were sent to take the library test. You got a sheet with a number of questions to answer about different books. Questions could be about anything: authors, topics even the colour of the covers of a book! It was during that term that I went during office hours to talk to my professor because I found Shakespeare extremely long and boring. It seemed to me like an endless torture to read his plays. So he sent me to the Audio and Video room; I think it was in the basement. I got the cassette (there were no CDs in those days) and read along as I listened to the story. It was a breeze, the impact of the soundtrack had on me was just incredible. I never found Shakespeare boring again! Probably the above comments are not too surprising but I hope they made someone smile and encourage others to write.”

1988

Gail Boulanger, MA (Education), is putting out the word that her first book Life Goes On: Losing, Letting Go and Living Again was republished in August. “Life Goes On reminds us that grieving is a normal, natural response to loss and a skill we all can learn.” Her second book Adventures Over Sixty “encourages a whole-hearted embrace of aging. The true stories are designed to inspire, inform and above all invigorate.”

1990

Peter Kinch, BA (English), owns and operates one of the top volume producing mortgage companies in Canada. “I studied education at UVic and use my teaching background to educate mortgage clients through books, articles and speaking...
engagements. I am the author of one book and the co-author of the Canadian bestseller, 97 Tips for Canadian Real Estate Investors.

Vanessa Winn, BA (English), has had her novel, The Chief Factor's Daughter (TouchWood Editions, 2009) added as a course text for a history research seminar at SFU this fall. It has previously been studied at Vancouver Community College. She is currently working on her second historical novel, set in Victoria in the 1860s.

1991

Warren Weir, MPA, BA (Psychology) '86, is dean of academic programs at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt. After 11 years working at the University of Saskatchewan (four years as chair of the indigenous management specialization in the MBA Program) and after a brief stint at Algoma University, he is happy to return to work and live in his home province. Warren is the lead editor of the Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development and he sits on two national Aboriginal education committees including the Cando committee and the Aboriginal Economic Development Act, MPA, BA (Psychology), is a senior business development consultant with competitive feelings separate from their family relationship. Her first book, Rebound, was a Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Books for Kids and Teens selection.

1995

Kathleen Cherry, MEd, an elementary school counsellor in Kitimat, is the author of Blowing Bubbles, a new picture book to help kids confront the impact we have on each other and our world. Richard is a proud member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Nation from Fort Smith.

1997

Thomas Madden, BA (Geography), was inducted into the Business Council of Westchester's 2012 class of Rising Stars: Forty Under Forty for Westchester County, New York for his work as commissioner of community development and conservation for the Town of Greenburgh. Westchester County is about 30 miles north of New York City.

1999

Laurie Glenn Norris, MA (Art History), has had her second book, Haunted Girl: Esther Cox and the Great Amherst Mystery, published by Nimbus Publishing of Halifax. Her first book, Cumberland County: Facts and Folklore was published in 2009. She is currently working on her first novel. Laurie lives in Lower Kingsclear, NB with her husband, Barry, a freelance editor.

2001

Glen Allen, MBA, accepted a continuing faculty appointment with the Camosun College School of Business. With Camosun since 2007, Glen previously spent two and a half years as a sessional business instructor and three years overseeing Camosun's customized international training programs. Glen will be teaching in the marketing department and the management and human resource leadership department, and is keen to support international initiatives within the school of business.

2002

Heather Jessup, BA (English), earned a Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia literary award nomination for her debut, Cold War novel The Lightning Field (Gaspereau Press). She is living in Halifax where she teaches at Dalhousie while working on her doctorate from the University of Toronto.

Rhona McAdam, Cert. (Adult Continuing Education), has published Digging the City: An Urban Agriculture Manifesto (Rocky Mountain Books). Her ninth book, her first nonfiction title, "takes a hard look at the deficiencies in Canada's ability to feed the urban poor, our dependence on imported foods and cen-
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Search
My Degree

tralized food processing, and our detachment from our food sources; and reviews the various solutions to urban food security on offer or of potential value in a time where change is urgently needed."

Stephen Mogatas, BSN, served as chiropractor for Team Canada at the World Ultimate and Guts Championships in Sakai, Japan and the World Junior Ultimate Championships in Dublin, Ireland. Canada won medals in every division. He will continue his role treating the elite Vancouver ultimate teams Furious George and Traffic.

2006

Alexandra Banford, BA (English). After stints in Ottawa and Victoria, Alexandra is now in Northeast BC, working as a negotiator with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Lorine Scott, MN, received the School of Nursing’s Alumni of Excellence award in May. A member of UVic’s first graduating class of nurse practitioners, Scott provides primary care services to children and families in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside through the Provincial Health Services Authority. “Lorine has been an innovator,” says Rita Schreiber, coordinator of the UVic Nurse Practitioner program.

2010

Chris Adams, BFA (Theatre), is touring Canada in the 20th anniversary Axis Theatre production of The Number 14. The tour included an Oct. 3 stop at the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium.

2011

Jeremy Bally, BCYC, completed a four-month, cross-Canada bike journey — Pedalling for Papua — to raise awareness about human rights abuses against the people of West Papua. He also staged performances based on his travels and research in West Papua. The performance incorporated Bach on the ukulele, original hip-hop, and spoken word. All money raised will fund English language scholarships for West Papuan community leaders. pedalling.westpapua.ca

FAREWELL

David Dunsmuir, MA (Linguistics) ’73, died on Aug. 14, 2012 in Vancouver. At 22, he worked in Ottawa as an assistant to the minister of health and welfare in the Deibebaker government. He was one of the first editors of Monday Magazine, an information officer at UVic for several years and taught linguistics at Camosun College and ESL at the university.

Malcolm Manson, BCom ’10, passed away on Jan. 14, 2012, a few days before his 26th birthday. He was the eldest of the children of Thomas Manson, LLB ’80, the late Patricia Manson, LLB ’81, and Bō Liū, his stepmother. Malcolm was an intelligent and thoughtful individual. After UVic, Malcolm started working in a brokerage firm with his uncle, Paul Manson. Family and friends have established the Malcolm Manson Memorial Award to provide support for students from the Gustavson School of Business while attending university and working on internships in China (gustavson.uvic.ca/giving/manson).
Ben Gibson, VC ’33, spent his early working life in the rustic logging camps of Vancouver Island before taking posts as a forestry engineer in such exotic locales as Peru and Thailand, Gabon and Guatemala.

Gibson studied at Victoria College when classes were held at Craigdarroch Castle. Built as a family mansion, the old stone building had been used as a military hospital before being converted for use as a school.

Three years ago, Gibson wrote a short letter to this magazine about a bittersweet relationship with a girlfriend from his student days.

School dances were held in the castle. Once a year, in February, roles would be reversed and girls could ask boys to dance. To Gibson’s surprise, a classmate named Valerie, who at 18 was a year older owing to having missed classes for an illness, invited him to a dance at her father’s yacht club.

The young women wore formal dresses, many of which in that Depression year had been made by their mothers. He remembered the band played Hawaiian music, an exotic sound that was all the rage at the time.

The young couple continued dating. Gibson made the mistake of taking her to what was billed as a romantic movie from Germany. It turned out to be Nazi propaganda. “No matter,” he wrote in his reminiscence, “we didn’t watch the film anyway!”

He left Victoria to take a job at the farm adjoining the tuberculosis sanatorium at Tranquille, near Kamloops. On the day of his departure, he left his girlfriend a dozen roses. They exchanged letters for a time until one day she told him she’d met someone else. The romance ended not long after he took an out-of-town job. He then seems to have lost touch with her.

How two Victoria College grads connected – 70 years later.

BY TOM HAWTHORN

The romance ended not long after he took an out-of-town job. He then seems to have lost touch with her. She suffered from cancer and he suspected she did not want to burden him with her illness.

(How two Victoria College grads connected – 70 years later.)

THE LETTER PUBLISHED by the Torch inspired another former classmate to get in touch.

Shirley Tucker, VC ’33, recognized Gibson’s name. They had attended Victoria High School together before moving on to Victoria College. With help from the alumni office, she got in touch with Gibson, who was by then living in a care facility.

“We became friends, talking on the phone and corresponding with pictures,” she said. “I’ve got a whole album. He’s got a big family.”

Once, he managed to travel from Langley to Victoria with his son and daughter to have lunch at Tucker’s home. They dined on asparagus soup and quiche. Apple crisp was served for dessert.

Mrs. Tucker, whose maiden name was Walker, enjoyed conversations with her gentlemanly classmate.

“We liked talking about travel, about politics, about religion, about our teachers and the people we used to know. We both enjoyed finding someone who remembered all these things. You do a lot of reminiscing when you get old. Of course we’ve outlived a lot of our friends.”

They typically ended telephone conversations with one of them saying, “We haven’t solved anything, but we’ve covered the waterfront.”

Howard Benjamin German Gibson was born in Vernon on Valentine’s Day, 1917. His father was an immigrant from Yorkshire, while his mother was the daughter of Methodist missionaries. Ben was raised on a family farm north of Lumby, milking cows and hunting grouse. He walked more than two miles each way to school, where his mother was the teacher.

After she died in 1931, he and an older brother, Mark, were sent to Victoria to live with an aunt. After a year at Victoria College, Ben worked at Tranquille and then North Vancouver, where he spent five years working on the waterfront as a stevedore handling lumber for export and raw silk, whiskey, bananas and machinery for import.

In 1941, by which time he was married and a father, Gibson enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He served more than 800 hours as a navigator aboard Catalina flying boats on anti-submarine patrols off the coast of Newfoundland. His brother did not survive the war, dying when his Wellington bomber crashed in a training accident in England.

After studying civil engineering and forestry, Gibson worked in logging camps at Jordan River, Port McNeill, and Lake Cowichan. After divorcing and remarrying, he became a forestry consultant, traveling the world. He died at Langley on July 2, leaving three sons and a daughter, 10 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.
A Sower Went Forth

A witness to the ceremonial opening of the University of Victoria, July 2, 1963, was the editor of the *Victoria Daily Times*, the late Brian A. Tobin, LLD ‘88, a former Victoria College student. His reflections appeared in the paper three days later and are reprinted here as the university commemorates its 50th year.

BY BRIAN A. TOBIN, LLD ’88

They gathered there, not a large crowd, standing on the raw clay under a high, diffused sky beside the great excavation. And in the rude earth, in the midst of the wide meadow, surrounded by the mechanical monsters of modern construction and the thrusting walls of new buildings, they planted a university. The environment was solidly physical — the heaps of earth, the bare steel pillars, the rough carpentry, the debris of builders — but the occasion, in contrast, was entirely symbolic.

The cornerstone was not yet quite a cornerstone; the messages of congratulation were for the most part by proxy; the central figures in their colourful medieval hats and robes were dealing only with the intangibles — with visions and pageant and protocol.

It was all the more impressive that this should be so, for the physical frame of the proceedings complemented the thoughts and words that were evoked.

Men spoke of strong foundations, and the wooden forms before them gave their words descriptive force. They spoke of building, and the muted clank of a plaster mixer, the muffled thump of a hammer from the neighbouring structure — where work did not stand on ceremony — gave steady background rhythm to their speech. They spoke of the future, and the unfinished effort on every hand confirmed that these were projects which could have value and meaning only through completion, only through the accumulation of time to come.

The speakers voiced their messages, expressed their hopes, urged their advice, each in his own way, each giving a little of himself to the occasion. The tone was high, the sentiments idealistic, the intentions earnest. And across the tumbled field the mixer and hammer beat a pulse of reassurance, of fulfillment. Only a keen ear, in the small pauses, may have caught the reedy flowing song of a skylark far overhead — a liquid lament, perhaps, for its vanishing green meadow home.

The people listened quietly to the speakers and responded with gentle applause, standing among the crumbling dusty hummocks under the opaque sky. They listened and they looked and although they strode no furrow in countryman’s boots, and flung no living grains from outstretched hand, yet they were sowers. They sowed their dreams. They planted a university.

Soon it was over. The dignitaries paraded in the tradition-crusted dress. The people dispersed, picking their way in shiny city shoes across the unfamiliar footing of the rutted earth. Slowly, the voices died away, the hats and robes and summer clothes were lost across the reaching meadow.

Nothing of the pomp was left. Only the great construction hole; the brave little block of stone with its proudly chiseled words; the raw, tumbled clay under the high sky. And the seed.
Awarding achievement: driving a passion for science education

“I want to thank donors for their wonderful support – it creates so many opportunities.”

The impact of student financial awards often reaches beyond the students they were meant to help. Just ask Steve Lonergan. A graduate student in computer science, Steve commits his spare time to bringing science education and outreach programs like “Let’s Talk Science” and Science Venture to young and old alike.

In recognition of his enthusiasm and commitment to science education, Steve received the Engineering Student’s Society Award for Community Involvement and the Alix Cowie Travel Award.

Thanks to the generosity of Alix Cowie, Steve was able to learn how to be an effective teacher and leader of science outreach programs for students of all ages. The Alix Cowie travel award allowed Steve to travel to specialized conferences designed to hone his teaching skills.

Steve sees a clear link between student awards and the importance of science education: “I want to thank donors for their wonderful support – it creates so many opportunities. Thanks to donors like Mrs. Cowie, my science education work with children in our community has been strengthened.”

Many UVic students depend on scholarships to pursue their educational dreams. Find out how your gift of a scholarship will create bright futures for deserving students. Please call us at 1-877-721-7624, visit our website www.uvic.ca/givintouvic. Or speak with the UVic student caller who contacts you.
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