Finding the Words

Lorna Williams and the quest to save Indigenous languages
Stadium Highlights

The two osprey that have resided atop a light pole at Centennial Stadium since 2005 have produced at least one fledgling every year but 2011. They return from their winter migration in mid-April and spend a few weeks repairing (and, in at least one year, rebuilding) their giant nest. In the main image, the female guarded her chick from eagles and other predators before her mate brought the next meal. In the smaller image, the two share nestkeeping duties. The picture was taken by Sarah J. Blackstone, Dean of Fine Arts, self-taught photographer and lifelong birdwatcher.
Homecoming 2012, Sept. 28 to 30, will celebrate UVic’s 50th Anniversary with: social events, alumni speakers, reunions, entertainment, a family fun fair, faculty open houses, athletic competitions, and campus tours.

Your alumni card is your passport to extra perks and benefits during Homecoming.

Get your Alumni Card today or on campus during Homecoming.

For a complete list of all UVic Alumni Card perks and benefits offered during Homecoming 2012 and on and off campus all year round, visit alumni.uvic.ca

The Alumni Card is a UVic Alumni benefits card and not a credit card.
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Three stories from the stacks: Marnie Swanson shaped the new modern UVic library; students research bridges technology and library traditions; and finding love in the library. BY TOM HAWTHORN AND GREG PRATT

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Researcher Lorna Williams and teachers and learners in First Nations communities across Canada are racing to save ancient languages. BY KATRINA ESCHNER, BA ’12

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Julie Angus, MSc ’01, was the first woman to row across the Atlantic. Yeah, it changes your perspective. INTERVIEW BY MIGUEL STROTHER, BA ’01

On the cover: Dr. Lorna Williams, March 27, 2012, at the Tsartlip reserve. Photography by Nik Wex, BA ’95.
Planet Campus
Now, complete with satellites.

Nightfall in April proved to be a remarkable thing and not just because the clouds had lifted, presenting a rare gift after a winter of non-stop low-pressure systems.

Twilight brought a crystal clear sky, photographic evidence of which can be found on page 18. In that photo Venus, stretched by photographer Nik West’s extended exposure, shimmers above the Mearns Centre for Learning at the McPherson Library. Amid the stacks, at desks, in front of laptops or with eyes and minds absorbing study material, students were making their end of term push. A close listen could almost reveal an audible hum of brain activity. From the outside looking in, the Mearns Centre took on a planet-like quality of its own with its energy and light reflecting into the night.

If the library forms the core of this campus/planet, then we can imagine a lot of the university’s activities as if they were satellites. Programs and activities that are linked to the university yet perform their work, without visible tethers, in places far removed from campus.

In this issue we look at the library from three perspectives and we explore three aspects of university life that orbit campus.

Tom Hawthorn reports on a rare event in the history of UVic — the retirement of a university librarian. Marnie Swanson’s stable tenure is notable for the transitions she led in terms of technology and the emergence of a completely renewed physical space during her tenure. The push and pull between tradition and technology is the focus of Greg Pratt’s story on library research in the time of Wikipedia and Google. Remembering too that not all that goes on in the library is work, work, work, Greg talks to an alumni couple whose life-long partnership got its first sweet spark there.

Our three other features offer examples of how teaching, research and camaraderie — essential elements of UVic life — often take place beyond campus borders.

For decades, law students have had their first practical experience at the Law Centre. Writer Grant Kerr follows a group of new recruits from boot camp to their first days in the downtown Victoria office that provides first-rate legal help for clients who wouldn’t have access to it otherwise.

From the Saanich Peninsula, Katrina Eschner — a regular contributor to the magazine through her undergraduate years and now a soon-to-be-alumna — reports on the community-based efforts to recover and revitalize Indigenous languages.

And a legendary part of off-campus life, the Snug, served as the hangout for students and faculty alike in the early years. With the pub re-opening this year, and with the university’s 50th anniversary on the horizon, Robert Moyes writes about rites and rituals and the history of Snug life.

Planet campus is a rotating mass of stress and exhilaration, contemplation and insight. It’s from this energy that this magazine gets life. The stories and pictures that follow are meant to explore the intensity of the life of the university and beyond. We’re glad to have you along for the voyage.

Mike McNeney, Editor
mmcneney@uvic.ca
Call for Nominations

50 ALUMNI
Who have made a difference

To celebrate UVic’s 50th Anniversary, the UVic Alumni Association will honour 50 alumni who have made a difference to the University of Victoria.

The recipients will be shining examples of UVic graduates who have stayed connected to their alma mater and demonstrated ongoing citizenship by volunteering, mentoring, governance, guest lectures, philanthropic support, advocacy and more.

Go to alumni.uvic.ca for nomination papers.
Nomination deadline: September 30, 2012

UVic Alumni Card

- Visit the UVic Photo ID Centre in the lobby of the University Centre any weekday between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Bring your UVic student number (or let us help you remember it) and one piece of government issued photo identification. A one-time fee of $15 applies. VISA, MasterCard, Interac and cash accepted.
- If you live away from campus, contact the UVic Photo ID Centre at idcentre@uvic.ca for more information on how to obtain your card.

For a complete list of all UVic Alumni Card perks and benefits offered during Homecoming 2012 and on and off campus all year round, visit alumni.uvic.ca.

The Alumni Card is a UVic Alumni benefits card and not a credit card.

alumni.uvic.ca
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/givingtouvic. Or speak with the UVic student caller who contacts you.
I am pleased to report that in January the university senate and board of governors approved our renewed strategic plan. While it’s typical to think that planning documents merely gather dust once they’re done, at the University of Victoria our strategic plan guides everything we do, day-by-day and year-to-year. In that sense, it really is a living document and it has implications for everyone whose life is touched by the University of Victoria — alumni, students, faculty, staff and the communities with which we interact.

The planning process — which was carried out for the better part of 2011 and involved more than 70 consultation and discussion sessions on and off campus — gathered diverse input from groups and individuals. Those contributors helped the university’s Planning and Priorities Committee to assess our accomplishments under the 2007 plan and to reshape it in the context of changes to the external environment since that earlier plan was adopted. A draft plan was presented to the community last fall for input prior to the completion of the final version.

I am very grateful for the high level of engagement in the consultations and discussions and I am pleased with the strong consensus that emerged in defining the criteria that establish our areas of strength. The consensus also recognizes that UVic, as a diverse institution, requires a flexible approach in applying the criteria among the different departments, faculties, centres and disciplines. There was also a clear understanding that the successful development of the university depends on initiatives driven by the engagement and commitment of many individuals and units.

We confirmed the fundamental vision, mission and goals and we take pride in the fact that we continue to embrace a shared commitment to excellence in research and teaching. We see UVic as a “destination university,” providing a residential focus and a strong sense of a campus community. We place importance on growth in graduate programming and research. We support Indigenous students, and providing them welcoming facilities such as the First Peoples House. We are one of the largest experiential learning institutions in the country and we have a strong focus on civic engagement, locally and internationally.

Ahead, we will build on our tradition of excellence and focus on the quality of the broader learning environment. While operating in the ever more competitive environment and with growing fiscal constraints, we will continue to increase the number of Indigenous, new Canadian and international students and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. We will also respond to growing demands for online learning and professional development and to the educational needs of the mature population.

For alumni, this means the university will depend on you to play key roles in promoting the university’s reputation and quality. We want alumni around the world to be effectively involved in the life and work of UVic, enhancing our educational and research environment and our ability to attract and retain the best students.

The University of Victoria was established in 1963, built on the dual foundation of Victoria College and the Victoria Provincial Normal School. In nearly 50 years, UVic has emerged as one of Canada’s leading research universities, ranked among the world’s top institutions.

Our strategic plan is rooted in our past and in the standards of excellence developed over the years, and it sets our course for the next chapters in our proud history.

Starting in September, we will be celebrating UVic’s 50th anniversary — the highlights of our history as well as the vibrancy of today’s university and the promise of a bright future. I hope you will join in the celebrations.

A Vision for the Future: Building on Excellence is online at uvic.ca/strategicplan.
THE 2012–13 ACADEMIC YEAR WILL BRING A big series of events marking 50 years since the university’s founding in 1963.

It all starts with an Anniversary Festival and Homecoming weekend, September 28 – 29, featuring all kinds of events to celebrate the major milestone in UVic’s history.

Homecoming offers Alumni Talks — a series of informal and informative sessions led by alumni presenters — in addition to reunions, a formal dinner, Friday pub night, and a Vikes retro dance party in McKinnon Gym.

Homecoming coincides with the Anniversary Festival’s open houses, campus tours, and entertainment.

In October, the university will formally present the Anniversary Awards: Celebrating 50 Years of UVic Excellence. Recipients, representing the diversity of UVic, will be selected based on their significant impacts on the world and their recognized excellence in their fields of endeavour.

In addition, the UVic Alumni Association is seeking nominations as it plans to name 50 alumni who have made a difference to UVic by demonstrating ongoing citizenship through volunteerism, mentorship, governance, guest lectures, philanthropic support, or advocacy. Go to www.alumni.uvic.ca for nomination papers. The deadline is September 30.

The university will also be highlighting great moments in UVic’s history, starting in September.

For news and event updates throughout the anniversary year, as well as links to Homecoming details and registration pages, go to www.uvic.ca/anniversary.

Welcome!

The UVic Student Ambassadors welcomed the new campus Welcome Centre by donating a new laptop. It’s part of the ambassadors’ annual campus service projects, funded by their sales of flowers and diploma frames at convocation.

Located in the University Centre, the Welcome Centre is a first point of contact and information source for visitors to campus. It’s open from 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays, 11:30 to 3:30 Saturdays.

Photo: students Athira Menon, MSc ’12, and Kevan Ramsden, BA ’12, with the Welcome Centre’s Bruno Rocca, BEd ’85.
NICHOLAS VINING HELPED CREATE A JOURNEY THROUGH the dungeons of Dredmor, where players search for ancient evil while killing giant monsters, dodging acid bombs, and discovering a dispute-settling spike mace called the Employee Wage Transfrobulator. *Dungeons of Dredmor* made *PC Gamer’s* list of the top 100 games of all time.

Gaslamp is one of at least eight game companies — three of which have recorded seven-figure profits — that got their start with the guidance of Computer Science Prof. Bruce Gooch. His research — combining computer graphics and artistic imagery with the evaluation methods of perceptual psychology — looks for ways to convert computer data into human-friendly visual forms.

“If you look at the companies that have come out of Bruce’s lab,” says Vining, MSc ’11, “we were all students who took the freedom and the support that academia gave us and ran with it in what would normally be considered the wrong direction — and succeeded beyond our wildest dreams.”

Gooch is modest about his role in the success of his students but he has tough standards. “If you come in and have something interesting to build, I don’t care who you are, come in and I’ll show you how to build it, or I’ll help you build it,” says Gooch. “But unless you have something cool, I don’t let you in the door. Once you do have something cool, I don’t do it for you; I just give you everything you need to do it.”

He initially comes across as a quiet and low-key guy, but his mission is pretty clear. His LinkedIn profile states: “I train the world’s best hi-tech entrepreneurs.”

“‘There is no way someone without a lot of passion for their work could pull off what Bruce does,’” says Rob Kelly, BSc ’10, and current master’s student. “I don’t believe there is really anything I can say to do justice to the level of passion Bruce has.”

But despite his lab becoming a breeding ground for students who turn around and launch million-dollar companies, Gooch remains pretty nonchalant about it all. He says that one thing that separates those who win from those who don’t is that they have the drive to show up for day two.

“I give people a place to play, and I filter. I heavily filter,” says Gooch. “Some people are going to do it and some people aren’t.”

— GREG PRATT

**Chill Zone**

Exams stress busters come in many forms but students looking for spiritual tonic find its path at the Interfaith Chapel’s labyrinth. Introduced 10 years ago by United Church Chaplain Henri Lock, the circular labyrinth painted on canvas offers a calming space rich with symbolism. Gentle music plays, and the chapel’s windows offer views of Finnerty Gardens. The design is based on the labyrinth at the Chartres Cathedral, from the 12th century.
When Stephanie Willerth was five years old she asked her parents for one of two things for Christmas — either a chemistry set or a pair of tickets to a college football bowl game.

“It wasn’t much of a choice since bowl tickets are pretty pricey, so they gave me the chemistry set,” says Willerth. Now 31, she has a much bigger “chemistry set” — a research lab.

A biomedical engineer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Division of Medical Sciences, Willerth works on the medical potential of stem cell bioengineering.

Stem cells can help repair and replace damaged tissues, holding promise for the treatment of cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, diabetes, heart disease, and spinal cord injuries.

But first, scientists need to know more about the biological signals that “tell” stem cells when and how to differentiate, and to find methods for growing and observing large numbers of the desired types of cells.

When Willerth was a graduate student in the US in 2006, her research group was the first to develop a method for studying stem cell behaviour in a three-dimensional setting. That work used embryonic stem cells, which are the most versatile at reproducing and creating tissue. But they can also raise ethical and legal issues.

Adult stem cells are in virtually all tissues and organ systems and serve as the body’s biological repair kit. They replenish dying cells and regenerate tissue that is damaged or lost, such as skin, hair and blood.

Willerth and her team are exploring similar techniques using “pluripotent” adult stem cells, which have been altered to behave like embryonic stem cells.

In a recently published study, Willerth and undergraduate assistant Kathleen Kolehmainen used a highly concentrated mix of a naturally occurring blood protein to grow stem cells.

“Biologists traditionally work on cells in two dimensions,” Willerth explains. “The cells we’re working with are being suspended in a 3-D environment, which is how they behave in the body, so we can see how they migrate, grow and differentiate to create tissue.”

Ultimately, stem cell therapies may become more widely available for a larger range of applications.

“The idea that we’re on the brink of helping people overcome so many different kinds of medical challenges is one of the most exciting aspects of my work,” says Willerth. “That — and this really nice chemistry set I get to work with every day.”

— PHIL SAUNDERS
BRIEFLY...

For UVic's 50th year, The Malahat Review has a **writing contest** open to alumni, current students, and greater Victoria writers. Prizes will be awarded in poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and dramatic monologue. Entries must be mailed by August 15, with winners announced in October. Go to www.malahatreview.ca for guidelines.

Get career support through UVic **Co-op and Career services**. Whether you've just graduated or have been in the workforce for years, they offer career coaching ('drop-in or by appointment); online self-directed career research and work search; online job board with diverse postings; workshops and programs for alumni; and career fairs and employer information sessions. Start at www.uvic.ca/coopandcareer.

Carmen Charette has been appointed vice-president external relations, effective August 1. She joins UVic from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, where she was executive vice-president. She succeeds Dr. Valerie Kuehne, who is stepping down after nearly seven years. Also joining UVic in August will be Dr. Andrew Marton, MA '90, as Associate Academic Vice-President International. He was vice-provost and dean of arts and humanities at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China.

In 1972, the **Bamfield Marine Science Centre's** first 13 students arrived to study marine ecology and seaweeds. This year the BMSC has 13 summer field courses and a fall semester in marine sciences, providing hands-on experience in coastal and marine ecosystems. The centre welcomes back alumni with a 40th anniversary Alumni Weekend, July 21 and 22. Details at: www.bms.bc.ca.

**Campus Quiz**

Ready to test your knowledge of UVic trivia? (Answers below.)

1. **Who was UVic’s first chancellor?**
   a) Percy Elliott
   b) Joseph B. Clearihue
   c) George R. Pearkes

2. **True or false: the parents of actor and director Jason Priestley both attended UVic?**

3. **Howard Petch was president of UVic for how long?**
   a) 5 years
   b) 10 years
   c) 15 years

4. **In 1971, the Cinecenta Theatre started showing films in:**
   a) McPherson Library
   b) Parking Lot 1
   c) MacLaurin Building

5. **The 1994 Commonwealth Games were opened at Centennial Stadium by:**
   a) Queen Elizabeth
   b) Prime Minister Jean Chrétien
   c) Prince Edward

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**Heard on Campus**

“Revolutions don’t happen in a season. They don’t happen in a year. They might not happen in a decade. They may not happen at all. The regimes that were in place before last year in the Arab world were very well entrenched. Yes, there were accumulated grievances against (former Egyptian President Hosni) Mubarak himself but Mubarak had inherited a regime that had been place since 1952.

You’re looking at the need for a complete reorientation of the relationship between the regime and the people and that’s going to take more than a year to sort out.

What I would like to suggest is that we don’t come back here next year but we do in 10 years, and that we think not so much of an Arab Spring but of an Arab Decade. If they can pull it off, that will be remarkable in countries like Egypt and Tunisia.”

---

**DR. MARTIN BUNTON,**
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

“The Arab Spring One Year Later,” a public forum in March hosted by the Centre for Studies in Religion & Society in conjunction with IdeaFest 2012.
GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dr. Ali Dastmalchian completes his second and final term as dean in June. During his tenure the school achieved Equis and AACSB accreditation and launched the PhD and Master of Global Business degree programs. Curriculum enhancements included the groundbreaking Executive Mentors Program and the Integrated Management Exercises that require students to provide business analysis to client companies. Other key priorities were an integration of research into coursework along with the “triple bottom line” (profitable, socially responsible and environmentally sound), “Research that not only informs the practices of business and management, but also creates a better learning environment for students and stakeholders.” He’ll be succeeded in July by Dr. Saul Klein, Lansdowne Professor of International Business at the school.

DIVISION OF Continuing Studies

A growing range of programs for mid-career professionals includes the latest addition of the Graduate Professional Certificate in Cultural Heritage, offered by the Cultural Resource Management program unit. Professional practice in the cultural heritage sector is being transformed in ways that require resilience and the ability to respond to emerging changes and challenges. The new program will help professionals develop at an advanced level in either a museum studies or heritage planning specialization. Students can also complement their graduate degree studies through the part-time, online program. Continuing Studies’ 29 certificate and diploma programs range from Aboriginal Language Revitalization to Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

FACULTY OF Education

The Centre for Outreach Education — CORE — opened in 2011 and provides free community programs and services focusing on under-served children and youth. CORE Club offers after school tutoring to elementary and high school children who have a variety of learning challenges. Other programs include InclusionWorks!, a transition program for youth with developmental disabilities, and Tools for Success, a tutoring program for children living with epilepsy. A new CORE Counseling Clinic has also opened. CORE Club tutors who go to the Songhees First Nation to work with students, and the CORE grants program is funding projects that include free music and art lessons for low-income youth. Debra Walker, CORE Executive Director, says the money will also expand the outreach efforts to support underserved communities.

FACULTY OF Engineering

New Biomedical Engineering and Civil Engineering degrees, in final approval stages, are expected to admit students this fall. Biomedical engineers develop medical systems and products like artificial organs, prostheses, medical instruments and information systems. The increasing use of engineering technology in medical therapy and diagnostics, and the evolving requirement for higher quality care at a lower cost is driving demand for biomedical engineers. The Civil Engineering program will use the “one potato” fund, the idea of which came to McDougall after he saw a student buying his meal for the night: a single potato. As a parent, professor and professional musician, McDougall knows the financial pressures with which many students grapple; and, as a national jazz icon, he has long been a strong supporter of emerging talent. The project was financed by the 10 Mile Limited Partnership — a team of alumni and supporters.

FACULTY OF Graduate Studies

Dr. David Capson is the new dean of Graduate Studies. He was the chair of the department of electrical and computer engineering at McMaster University and had earlier served as associate dean of graduate studies at McMaster. He is a specialist in the development of algorithms and architectures for high-speed image analysis in engineering problems. Capson’s research has been funded by NSERC since 1985, and he has received several teaching awards. In August he’ll replace Dr. Aaron Devor, who was first appointed in 2002.

FACULTY OF Fine Arts

School of Music Professor Emeritus and Order of Canada recipient Ian McDougall has launched a CD to support a fund for Fine Arts students in financial need. The Very Thought of You, an album of 14 ballads, features McDougall on trombone backed by a string orchestra. Ten dollars from each $20-CD goes directly to students. Nicknamed the “one potato” fund, the idea came to McDougall after he saw a student buying his meal for the night: a single potato. As a parent, professor and professional musician, McDougall knows the financial pressures with which many students grapple; and, as a national jazz icon, he has long been a strong supporter of emerging talent. The project was financed by the 10 Mile Limited Partnership — a team of alumni and supporters.

FACULTY OF Human and Social Development

Budd Hall, professor of community development in the School of Public Administration, is the new UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in
Higher Education. He’ll develop global research partnerships and build community research capacity. His co-chair is Dr. Rajesh Tandon, UVic honorary degree recipient and president of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia. Hall has conducted theoretical and practical work for almost 40 years in various aspects of community-based adult learning and participatory research. “As an early priority,” says Hall, “we want to give visibility and provide support to community university research partnerships in Africa that focus on poverty reduction and sustainability."

FACULTY OF Humanities
Over the past two years, faculty members in Linguistics (Hossein Nassaji, Li-Shih Huang, Alex D’Arcy, John Esling, and Su Urbanczyk) have secured grants of more than $640,000. Additionally, Linguistics and the Faculty of Education are teaming up to launch an MA in Indigenous Language Revitalization, solidifying UVic’s place as a North American leader in indigenous language study ...

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies will offer an opportunity for students to study language and culture in Yogyakarta, Indonesia’s capital of arts, culture, and history. Students can receive course credit while immersing themselves in a vibrant, constantly-changing cultural mix.

FACULTY OF Law
The Environmental Law Centre — active in public interest environmental law since it was started in 1996 by Prof. Chris Tollefson, LLB ’85, and his students — has a grant from the Tula Foundation to offer new courses in environmental law and sustainability, a first in Canadian law schools. Students can participate in the centre’s clinic and take courses in water law, forest law, energy law, and law and environmental science. UVic Law has also signed an affiliation agreement with the foundation’s Hakai Beach Institute, a teaching, research and conference centre on Calvert Island in the central coast. Tollefson, ELC executive director, has been appointed the first Hakai Chair in Environmental Law and Sustainability while Deborah Curran, LLB ’96, is the inaugural Hakai Professor in Environmental Law and Sustainability.

UNIVERSITY Libraries
Jonathan Bengtson, new University Librarian, trained as a medievalist at Oxford and has been director of academic and special libraries in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. He came from the University of Toronto, where he was director of library and archives at the University of St. Michael’s College and the director of library and archives at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. Bengtson specializes in the digital impacts on libraries. At UVic, he wants to engage alumni through author readings, family events and community programs such as the new Joy of Collecting speaker series. He says that archival and special collections make libraries unique and he’s looking forward to expanding the collections. He also wants to work with faculty on digital tools for teaching, research and learning.

DIVISION OF Medical Sciences
The new Neuroscience Graduate Program (MSc and PhD) accepted its first students in September 2011. The program is interdisciplinary, drawing from strengths in the departments of Psychology, Biology, Biochemistry and Microbiology and in the Division of Medical Sciences and the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education. Eleven master’s and two doctoral candidates are enrolled, coming from varied undergraduate backgrounds such as music, engineering, psychology and biology. Graduates of the program will have research-based backgrounds in either cellular or cognitive neurosciences, with an emphasis on the connections among the core areas (learning and memory; synaptic function; developmental neuroscience; sensory motor systems; disease and injury).

FACULTY OF Social Sciences
Dr. Peter Stephenson led a widely reported study on mould in First Nations housing. Researchers assessed existing studies on mould and identified the lack of a unified approach by government as a key problem with current First Nations housing strategies. Along with existing data, they collected and compared data from the Kitamaat First Nation housing office. "The paper addresses the failure of the federal government to deal with the problem of mould in First Nations housing over a very long period of time," says Stephenson, the Director of School of Environmental Studies. "It has gotten much worse in recent years due to rapid population growth and declining real dollars for housing." The paper received national media coverage and was published in the Journal of Environmental Health.
Cross-Country and Track

The Vikes men’s and women’s cross-country teams captured double gold at the Canada West Championships with rookies Ellen Pennock and Ryan Cassidy being named rookie of the year. Pennock was also named CIS rookie of the year for cross-country. In track, second-year Adam Gaudes was named Canada West outstanding male performer of the year and Rachel Francois was named Canada West and CIS rookie of the year. Gaudes was also honoured as a CIS second team All-Canadian, while Francois was crowned the country’s 600-meter women’s champion and was the lone CIS first team All-Canadian for the Vikes.

Golf

During the 2011 FISU Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, China in August, three Vikes women’s golfers represented Canada including Anne Balser, Megan Woodland and Alyssa Herkel. This year Woodland has been instrumental for the Vikes program helping her team to a second place finish at the NAIA Regional Championships. Woodland has also placed first at the Vikes Shootout and the Cavalier Classic this year. On the men’s side Carson Kallis and Darren Hupfer helped the Vikes to a first place team finish at the Cavalier Classic, winning by a 47-stroke margin.

Hall Of Fame

The UVic Sports Hall of Fame enters its 10th year of inductions since its inaugural class of 2002. This year’s inductees include women’s field hockey player Lynne Beecroft, who competed as a Vike from 1975-79, participated in four World Cups with team Canada and competed at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Also inducted was swimmer Michael Edgson, who has won 21 Paralympic medals, 18 of which are gold, over three Paralympic Games. The third inductee includes the 1981-1982 women’s basketball team that won the Canada West Championship and the CIAU national title, UVic’s third overall, after having an overall 24-1 record.

Rowing

The men’s and women’s rowing team both displayed dominance on the water at the Western Canadian University Rowing Championships. The Vikes women battled it out for final points with the Western Mustangs in the eights finals to earn their second-consecutive and 10th overall CURC national title.

Rugby

Several Vikes were in Guadalajara, Mexico for the 2011 Pan Am Games including Sean Duke, Phil Mack and Nathan Hirayama. The UVic representatives helped Canada bring home gold in the rugby sevens. This is the first time medals have been awarded for rugby sevens at the Pan Am games. In March, the same trio competed in the infamous Hong Kong Sevens tournament, where the Canadian men won the Shield Final, bumping them back into the group of top ranked teams in world.

Women’s Soccer Nationals

The 2012 Canadian Interuniversity Sport women’s soccer national championship will be held at UVic’s Centennial Stadium from Nov. 8 - 11. The Vikes, as host, have an automatic berth in the eight-team tournament that features teams from all across the country. Head coach Tracy David, who will enter her 11th season next fall, will have a talented and experienced team as only one athlete will graduate from the program this year.

Champions!

In November the Vikes hosted and won the 2011 CIS men’s soccer national championship. The Vikes men went 3-0 at Centennial Stadium, beating the Saint Mary’s Huskies 3-1 in the championship final in front more than 3,000 fans. Head coach Bruce Wilson, in his 24th season, led the Vikes to their fifth Sam Davidson Memorial trophy and was also named Canada West Coach of the Year. Following the championship tournament, Canada West rookie of the year, Cam Hundal (inset) was named the tournament MVP.

VIKES SUMMARY
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– Miika Klemetti
Satisfied client since 2008

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In a 500-square-metre lab in Saanich, complex, powerful and often finicky machines unlock the secrets of, well, life.

In using these mass spectrometers, researchers reduce proteins and related building blocks of life into smaller components. They hurl them through strong magnetic fields in order to better understand how protein structures affect the health and vitality of animals and plants.

That, in a nutshell, describes the astonishing scientific explorations of the UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre at the university's Vancouver Island Technology Park.

“This is such a new field. A lot of it is leading edge,” says centre manager Derek Smith before leading a visitor on a tour of the main facility and its 11 mass spectrometers. (A satellite facility on the UVic campus holds another four mass spectrometers.)

As its name implies, the proteomics centre studies the “proteome,” which is a spin on “genome.” Where the genome describes the genes in an organism, the proteome describes the proteins, including enzymes and antibodies.

The genome, which provides the instructions for creating proteins, is like a recipe book, Smith says, “but the proteome is what you really are because proteins are actually the functional molecules in your body that are doing the work.”

Proteins, which are vastly more plentiful than genes, also change over time. That makes the proteome dynamic, whereas the genome is relatively static. While faulty genes cause some disease, “far more often, it’s something that’s happening on the protein level,” Smith explains.

Work at the proteomics centre — a partnership of UVic and Genome British Columbia, a non-profit research organization — aims to identify those happenings. Among the recent explorations are examining tree proteins in an effort to identify why certain trees are resistant to the mountain pine beetle, which has devastated BC’s interior forests. In another west coast example, researchers are analyzing sea lice saliva to understand how an enzyme breaks through the skin of certain fish and not others.

Research at the proteomics centre has helped scientists at the University of Guelph develop a strain of “enviro-pig” that releases only 10 per cent of the flatulence of other pigs.

The centre is also working on identifying metabolites in tree...
leaves that enable them to store greater concentrations of greenhouse gases.

The centre’s own research focuses on techniques for coaxing information out of those proteins it flings through the mass spectrometers. Among the centre’s pioneering techniques are tests that identify proteins in human blood that point to early signs of cancers.

“We are working on several large cancer projects that are looking for different cancers,” Smith says, adding that diagnostic tests are more robust when they look at many proteins. The centre’s workhorses are its mass spectrometers, which come in several makes and models that employ various methods to analyze proteins. Each spectrometer has three components: one for creating protein ions, which involves ripping them into smaller chains of amino acids called peptides; an “internal mass analyzer,” which steers and fragments the ions; and a detection system.

The centre’s newest mass spectrometer is a $750,000-Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap machine that spins the ions in what Smith describes as a mini cyclotron.

“This is pretty amazing,” says Darryl Hardie, a senior lab technician at the centre.


The expression proteomics wasn’t coined until the mid 1990s. UVic, though, had been engaged in protein research since the early 1980s under the auspices of Dr. Robert Olafson, now a professor emeritus. He established the university’s protein centre, which evolved into the proteomics centre.

Olafson, whose background was in protein chemistry, saw the potential for mass spectrometry to analyze proteins. He began writing grant proposals and in 1999 obtained the protein centre’s first mass spectrometer.

“That’s when I came into the picture, a mutual friend introduced us and said he has this vision of taking the centre to a new level,” Smith recalls.

The centre was soon bursting at the seams and moved to its present location in 2003, although the original mass spectrometer is back at the Gordon Head campus.

In 2005, proteomics pioneer Dr. Christoph Borchers became the new director of the centre, having previously been in charge of the UNC-Duke Proteomics Facility at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Before that, Borchers had pioneered the use of mass spectrometers in protein analysis while studying for his doctorate at the University of Konstanz in Germany.

“The significance for research is that our work can lead to better understanding of diseases and as well can lead to diagnostic and prognostic tools, which can be used to improve environmental and human health,” Borchers says.

Among the innovations on his watch at the proteomic centre is the development of a new blood test for diabetes, for which the centre recently filed a patent application. It employs a spectral imagining technique called iMALDI, with ‘i’ meaning immuno.

“A drop of blood is all we need, and ideally we can test for diabetes or other diseases, including cardiovascular diseases and so on,” Borchers says.

Borchers is the Don and Elanor Rix BC Leadership Chair in Biomedical and Environmental Proteomics. It came with a $4.5 million-endowment, half from the Rix Family Foundation and half from the province of BC’s Leading Edge Endowment Fund. More recently, the proteomics centre received $3.4 million from Genome Canada.

Those grants will certainly come in handy. The equipment alone is worth $8 million to $10 million, Smith estimates. That includes a $2 million Bruker 12-tesla Fourier transform mass spectrometer that the centre acquired in 2006. It has a superconducting magnet cooled with liquid helium, only four degrees above absolute zero, and which must be replenished every four months.

The centre also has an annual operating budget of $2.5 million, which includes the wages of 15 scientists, technicians and support staff, as well as money to keep that delicate equipment running. To make the most use of that equipment, the centre offers analytical services for outside scientists, although it only charges at a cost-recovery rate for labour and materials.

“But that’s good because what that means is researchers, primarily Canadian researchers, can have their samples analyzed on cutting-edge equipment but at a discount rate,” Smith says. “So it really gives an advantage to Canadian researchers. A huge advantage.”

Fishing and fin poaching are devastating reef shark populations in the central Pacific islands and atolls, according to a study co-authored by Biology Prof. Julia Baum and published in the journal Conservation Biology. Marine scientists found reef shark numbers have plummeted near populated islands, generally by greater than 90 per cent compared to pristine reefs. “We found that reef shark numbers were consistently much lower around islands with people, compared to reefs that were further away from humans,” Dr. Baum says. “As the number of people goes up, shark numbers plummet. Humans and sharks don’t mix.”
The university’s main library, modernized and transformed from the pre-digital era, shines at the crossroads of campus. Marnie Swanson had a little something to do with that.

Enter the front doors of the McPherson Library, stroll past the sign forbidding food and through the electronic gates on alert for pilfered books, continue past the loan desk on one side and stairs on the other. A few more strides and on your right is the reference desk staffed by a librarian, behind whom one can see students at computer workstations.

Turn around 180 degrees.

Against the wall can be found an old wooden cabinet with 60 drawers, each carrying an identifying label. The top drawer is labelled “A – Barbeau,” while a bottom drawer ends with “X – Zupnik.”

Pull open any drawer and one finds dozens of file cards arranged alphabetically, each annotated with information about a book, or pamphlet. Some even include pencil notations, showing the dedication with which staff tended the holdings.
The cabinet is all that is left of what once was the library’s memory, row upon row of drawers, each brimming with stiff little cards crammed with information. A plaque has been placed above: “This cabinet is representative of the card catalogue which closed in 2005. It is a link to the past and a visual reminder of a long tradition of Library service.”

The cabinet is a shrine to 19th-century librarianship in a 20th-century building revamped for the 21st. The move to computers over the past quarter-century combined with more recent renovations to the building — natural light, comfortable chairs, wi-fi, a café — has helped turn the library into a “third space” in student lives. It combines the comforts of home with the tools of work.

The library looked much different when Marnie Swanson arrived on campus in 1988. Books were signed out by punch card, a state-of-the-art technology when introduced but even by then archaic. The few computers to be found in the library were monitored by supervisory staff.

“Everything was done manually,” she said earlier this year. After 23 years as the university’s head librarian, a period spanning the age of the fax machine to the smart phone, Swanson retired at the end of last year. She was only the second head librarian in the university’s history. The incumbent, Jonathan Bengtson, known for his expertise in digitization in a library setting, took up the post at the start of the year.

Swanson’s first impression of the library was that it was a book warehouse with groaning shelves.

“It wasn’t very welcoming,” she said. “Over the years they kept adding more and more books and began running out of space. The study space got smaller and the books took over. The bookshelves went right out to the windows, so you didn’t get a lot of natural light. The building seemed dark and depressing.”

If the building was overcrowded, the décor also seemed tired. Some walls were painted an unappealing orange. The card catalogue occupied much of the public area on the main floor. An unsmiling portrait of the monarch after whom the city is named dominated a wall. An unamused Victoria was unmounted and dispatched for restoration. In time, the acreage of card-catalogue cabinets would follow.

On her hiring, Swanson’s mandate was to bring the library into the computer age. Specs had to be written, a contract put to tender, and a decision made. New materials entering the library were entered into the revamped system, while the information contained on those tens of thousands of cards underwent what is known as a “retrospective conversion.” Some of the oldest material had to be inputted by library staff. The process included manually removing cards from the cabinets, as well as ensuring the barcodes placed on every volume matched with the computer record. It took years. The final entries from the law library went into the computer system only last summer.

The staff also faced polite resistance from some faculty members who urged the card catalogue be retained. “There was a history,” Swanson acknowledges. “Little notes written on the cards. Faculty had been using it for years. That was tough for some. Gradually, they all got used to it.” It is
hard to imagine now that anyone would prefer to return to the days before automation.

As a girl, Swanson, the daughter of an architect and homemaker, spent long hours at the public library in her Edmonton hometown, where she devoured Nancy Drew mysteries. Later, at the University of Alberta, she got a job as a library assistant in the science library while completing a degree in sociology and classics. She thought she might become a social worker, but decided instead to pursue a life within the Dewey Decimal System and Library of Congress Classification. She earned a bachelor of science with honours in 1969, embarking on a career in Alberta as an administrator and consultant.

She succeeded Dean Wright Halliwell on his retirement after 28 years of service. He had been librarian at Victoria College and then at the university, a time during which notable acquisitions included 2,500 volumes of Icelandic and Scandinavian literature, as well as the personal papers of Robert Graves and John Betjeman, among others.

Swanson’s term included 15 years of renovations and construction. Expensive seismic upgrades were done. An addition was completed. Now the library presents a modern, bright and welcoming appeal, even for those of us still nostalgic for the tactile pleasures of rifling through a stack of cards.

Those old wooden card cabinets were auctioned online through a BC government site. It was suggested the cabinets provided storage for nuts and bolts. Alas, the drawers were too small to handle compact discs, but anyone whose music collection had been stored on cassette tape was in luck. The proceeds went towards the library’s furniture fund.

“Over the years they kept adding more and more books and began running out of space. The study space got smaller and the books took over.”

By the way, the final card in the rear of the bottom drawer of the cabinet in the entranceway shrine contains information on Elliot Zupnik’s “Britain’s Post-War Dollar Problem, 1946-1951: A Study in International disequilibrium.”

The stacks of old cards were recycled within the library, where the blank reverse side proved handy for notes. The cards can still be found around the library. They look like decks of buff-coloured playing cards.

With Google and Wikipedia a search button away, what’s the role of the library in academic research? **BY GREG PRATT**

*When first year biology student Chris Innes researches a paper, he goes online. Heading down to the library, sifting through the piles of books? Forget it. He uses UVic’s online resources to get what he needs.

“I just find it easier,” he says. “There’s more easily accessible information. Books have their place; I just do more searching online.”

Third-year English student Carlee Trembley opts for a mix of searching online and filtering through books at the library when she’s gathering information for her assignments.

“I use both,” she says. “I like to categorize information as I’m going along when I’m writing an essay just so before I do it I can have some idea of what I’m writing.”

Where students are doing their research — and what methods they are using once they get there — is a hot topic for people like Serena Ableson, undergraduate teaching and learning librarian. Ableson isn’t surprised that Innes is spending more time online.*
than Trembley. She says that there are many factors that come into play when figuring out who is studying where; one of them is a matter of discipline.

“When it comes to academic research, there is a preference for going to online sources, but there are some exceptions depending on what discipline they’re studying,” she says. “For example, students studying the sciences, those disciplines focus primarily on article literature. Because a lot of our journals are available online there’s a tendency for those students to gravitate to online full-text journal articles.”

Teaching and learning librarian Pia Russell says that the difference between libraries and the online world isn’t as different as it may seem. She says the library of today is a very different library than it was in years past, when card catalogues and microfiche were cutting-edge technologies.

“The library has adapted,” says Russell. “Nowadays it’s two things: it’s an online library and it’s a physical library. People often think, ‘The internet’s going to replace the library’ or, ‘The eBook’s going to replace the library,’ and it’s like, ‘No, eBooks are a big part of our collection already, and have been for a long time.”

Ableson points out that UVic has over 300,000 eBooks available for students to access, as well as a large number of journals available online. “Throw in efforts to connect with students through social media, and it’s clear that this isn’t your parent’s library.”

“What we’ve been doing for a number of years is increasing our efforts to buy more online sources,” Ableson says. “The last time I had figures, we had over 60,000 journal subscriptions in the library, and most of those are available online. So we’re buying online access and in some cases, buying deep historical access to those journals.”

One big concern about online research is source material: the places students are going online. Ableson says that research shows when students are first starting in on a topic, they do simple search engine and Wikipedia searching; when the heavier research begins, so does the heavier searching.

“A lot of professors actually say ‘No Wikipedia,’” Ableson says. “But some of the studies show students go to Wikipedia just to learn more about a topic in that pre-research phase, then they move on to those other sources. So eventually they get to the library, we hope. And we’re doing some strategies to connect them to the library’s resources.”

Janni Aragon, a senior instructor of Political Science and undergraduate advisor, doesn’t let her students cite Wikipedia for class assignments. She instead requires them to go to more reputable sources. But that’s not always easy: she says that students aren’t always aware of all the research methods available to them.

“I find that when students come to office hours and I help them with research, 99 percent of the time they’re blown away by how easy it is to engage in good research by using the library databases,” she says. “They often do first rely on Wikipedia, Google, or Google scholar, but this doesn’t give them the best sources.”

However, Aragon says that students are learning how to do better research online as time goes on. She says it comes down to knowing the difference in quality between sources. “The students are learning to become more information literate,” she says, “and part of this isn’t merely the tools they use, but is also the quality of the sources that they find.”

In the end, whether students are going online or utilizing the always-changing library, it all comes down to finding quality sources.

“I try to make my assignments make them think,” says Aragon, “and look for the better sources for their research.”
Researcher Lorna Williams and teachers and learners in First Nations communities across Canada are trying to save ancient languages. Time is against them.

BY KATRINA ESCHNER, BA ’12
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95

The whiteboard shows the typical elements of learning a language: the conjugations, translation exercises, the bits and pieces that form communication. But this class is different. It began with a prayer of thanks. And the lessons — about the SENCHOTEN language of the WSÁNEĆ people — extend by nature beyond the school doors to the sea and land surrounding the school.
The teacher describes the sentence structure but he also talks about a particular spot on
the Saanich Peninsula where the deer are legendarily smart.

“When it comes your turn to teach that, remember that part. Remember that, because we
want to pass it on,” says instructor John Elliott, who, in the footsteps of his father David Elliott
Sr., is a vital link in the effort to preserve the words and phrases of the “saltwater people.”

The 17 students here — some middle-aged, some younger — are gathered in the
LÁU,WELNEW Tribal School, on the Tsartlip reserve near Brentwood Bay. By day, the
school serves 185 Indigenous kids from four Saanich reserves and surrounding communi-
ties. But on Wednesday nights like this one, it welcomes students of the university’s special-
ized Bachelor’s of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization. The learners are part of
an urgent effort to save and teach the languages of First Nations people.

“Fluent speakers, they don’t think of these things,” Elliott tells the class, hands in his pock-
ets, “But one day, you will teach [the language].”

Dr. Lorna Williams, a driving force behind language revitalization, says the connection
between language and the land needs to be central to the way Aboriginal communities relate
to themselves and their heritage. She holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous
Knowledge and Learning and chairs the First Peoples’ Heritage, Language, and Culture Council.

“What happened to native people here, and our communities, our languages, is
that people from the outside redrew our maps. They gave us names that were not
our names — they were anthropologists, linguists, government, church,” she says.
“Everybody else, it seemed, was an expert
on who we were before we could be.”

Williams, a survivor of the residential school system, says she was fortunate to grow up
speaking Lil’wat, the language of the Mount Currie community in which she grew up. But
after two years in residential school, she “lost any ability to communicate in any language.”
Since then, learning English and relearning her own language, gave insight into “what it
means to live bilingually and biculturally.”

“When I visited the class [in Saanich], I looked at the people who are taking those first
courses, and they were people from all areas of the community,” Williams says. “There were
leaders in the community, young people who have studied their language in school, people
who knew their language but hadn’t spoken it in many years. There was a real cross-section
of people, and that’s what you want in a community...to make the generational connec-
tions, and also to affect all the areas of the community.”

The loss of language can mean the loss of an entire worldview. “My first language is En-
lish,” says Nick Claxton, MA ’03, indigenous academic advisor/coordinator in the Faculty of
Education and a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction. “My parents’ first lan-
guage was SENCÔTEN. But it was their educational experience which really influenced
them to raise me speaking English as my first language.”

While completing his master’s in Indige-
nous Governance, he discovered a com-
munication gap. He was sitting with one of
his uncles, pouring over a map and talking
about local fishing spots. “He was strug-
gling for words, and then he said, ‘You
know what the problem is? I think in
SENĆOŦEN,
and you think in English,’”
Claxton recalls.

That uncle — Earl Claxton Sr. — devel-
oped curriculum for teaching the
SENĆOŦEN
language and was recognized
for his work with an honorary degree from
UVic in 2006.

SENĆOŦEN, with about seven fluent
speakers and 24 adult learners actively
engaged in master-apprentice programs or
UVic’s bachelor’s program, is in better shape
today than many indigenous languages. BC
is home to a wealth of tongues: 60 per cent of
the indigenous languages in Canada, com-
prising approximately 34 distinct languages
and 50-60 dialects. But a 2010 report by the
First Peoples’ Heritage, Language, and Cul-
ture Council found that fluent speakers are a
small minority of the BC First Nations popu-
lation, and that many of those speakers were
over 65 years old.

Together with a language map produced
by the First Peoples’ Council, the report
offers probably the only hard facts avail-
able on what’s happening in communities,
Williams says. But its findings didn’t come

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“People from the outside redrew our maps. They
gave us names that were not our names — they
were anthropologists, linguists, government,
church. Everybody else, it seemed, was an expert
on who we were before we could be.”

Ewes u, ceninet tte stikiu. (Don’t run now, little boy. Just walk.)
Seten tte smief le, e tte sisej. (The deer is walking in the bush.)
as a shock to language champions, who were already aware of the magnitude of their struggle.

**Though the report noted** encouraging growth of community-based language revitalization programs, it also stated that these programs were not sufficient to create enough new fluent speakers to revitalize languages. That’s what makes initiatives to educate language teachers so important.

In 1974 the university’s first indigenous language program developed in the Department of Linguistics. The department has a strong track record of researching the languages and working with Indigenous communities on language preservation and teaching.

“When I looked at the list of people all over this province who have been active in those communities, who’ve actually saved their languages, who’ve been instrumental in saving their languages and developing the language work in their communities, they’re tied to that program,” says Williams. “I think it’s safe to say that without that program, we wouldn’t be where we are now in language revitalization.”

Today, the Department of Linguistics and the Division of Continuing Studies, in partnership with the En’owkin Centre in Penticton, offers the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization. Launched in 2004, the CALR helps students in Indigenous communities across the country develop knowledge and strategies for language revitalization.

The certificate can lead to undergraduate work in the Faculty of Education, which offers First Nations community-based diploma and bachelor’s programs in language revitalization. This summer, the faculty is adding graduate certificate and master’s degree options. More than 180 students are enrolled across all of the language revitalization programs.

Linguistics Prof. Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins, who co-edited the first book solely on Salish languages and linguistics and who helped develop the certificate program, sees a change in the way the university works with First Nations. “Every time [we do a new program],” she says, “we’re able to bring more into it. Especially more understanding about the role the university has in partnering with Aboriginal communities. That’s something that we were not at all good at 10 years ago. We’re better at it, as an institution, than we used to be.”

**A key link between university** and community language revitalization efforts is through the W̱SÁNEĆ people of the Saanich Peninsula, the Elliott family and the late Dave Elliott Sr., in particular.

“Dave was a janitor in the school, and every break he began to record his language, and he’d record it on any kind of writing material he had,” Williams says. “There were no typewriters. He developed his own orthography for (SENĆOŦEN).”

His youngest son John Elliott was instrumental in developing the certificate program at UVic in the early 2000s, which helped lead the way for the undergraduate degree program. He remembers his father going to UVic professors to learn the basic writing systems they were working with.

“He didn’t really like [the writing systems]. He said, it’s way too cumbersome and he said it’s not accessible to the people.”

Those systems required modified and pricey components. Instead, the elder Elliott developed a writing system that worked on any $30-typewriter. It wasn’t fast, but it meant that the language could be accessed with the technology of the time. John Elliott still uses copies of the typewritten sheets in his lessons.

Over time, his father got him and his sister Linda involved in recording the language from elders. The elders pushed them to take their skills into the school, which led to his role as teacher.

As computers overtook typewriters, SENĆOŦEN language teaching nearly stalled. John, with help from the tribal school’s computer lab technician and “a young guy from Australia,” developed a digital solution. What they produced is an initiative that now reaches to indigenous communities around the globe.

“We ended up turning the whole thing into firstvoices.com,” he says, as if it were nothing.

But Williams is more effusive. “It’s just an amazing story. They’ve created a system so that every language and soon every Indigenous language in the world will be able to have the capacity to have a keyboard to record their language,” she says.

There are now 726 words and 536 phrases archived and forming the basis of a multimedia-rich SENĆOŦEN app available for free on iTunes.

“It’s come to the point where now it’s on all the computers in our school, and if the kids in our school want to have iPhones, their phones can be set up so that they can text one another in the language,” says Elliott.

The process of building potential for language revitalization in Saanich has unfolded over about 38 years, says Elliott, and there have been many different pieces to the puzzle, propelled forward by community needs and tribal school initiatives: curriculum development, SENĆOŦEN-to-English resources...the list goes on.

“It’s taken a long time to get where we are,” Elliott says. “I’m really happy with the development that I see.”
Since 1977 the Law Centre has immersed students in the day-to-day reality of the legal profession. It’s where gold standard service to clients is the expectation and being courageous is the mantra.

BY GRANT KERR | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95

Glenn Gallins flips open the flap of a black briefcase, where, embroidered on the inside for all of his students to see and remember is the simple message: “Be Courageous.” It is day one of boot camp for a new crop of 14 students who, in a month’s time, will staff the Law Centre in downtown Victoria, the only full-time, clinical program offered by a Canadian law school. Courage is the theme that the veteran barrister-professor will return to it again and again.
This is no average pep talk. Though he emphasizes the need for thoroughness, attention to detail and courage, he sums up a successful career in law this way: “To be a good lawyer you need lots of strength and good health.”

**In profile, with silver-rimmed** glasses teetering on the end of his nose, Gallins bears a passing resemblance to Mordecai Richler. Like Richler, he has a wickedly dark sense of humour. Though considerably warmer and more approachable than the famously prickly man of letters, you wouldn’t want to get on Gallins’ bad side, either. He’s fiercely protective of the Law Centre’s reputation and its staff. He jokes about the dire consequences of mistreating program administrator Judy Jones. “You upset her and you’re dead,” he says, and you get the feeling he’s only half kidding. “Employees like that are hard to find. Students, bah,” he adds with a wave of his hand. Classic Gallins.

He’s part entertainer and law is like the stage, a point Gallins illustrates with an episode of the old BBC series, *Rumpole of the Bailey*. Like Gallins, the title character views the courtroom as a stage. “In court, we are putting on a play. You are an actor and a director. You are writing a script, doing costumes, rehearsing and performing,” Gallins instructs. “If you can get the client into a suit, they stand out. The judges love it. It helps credibility.”

Lawyers themselves must also look and act the part, novices included. In addition to learning how to interview a client, students also work on delivery and the nuances of addressing the court. “Part of the theatre is to fool everybody into thinking you know what you’re doing,” Gallins says.

It’s four weeks later and the Law Centre is up and running. Jones, the genial gatekeeper, greets visitors and clients through a glassless window while her Maltese-Shih Tzu Misty, the office mascot, gets plenty of love from the students. They’re known to occasionally reach for the tissue box — and the dog — when the stress escalates.

Above all, Gallins insists that the Law Centre operates at the highest level. Reputations — those of the university and his own — are on the line every day. “The expectation on the bench and the bar is that we are going to be at least as good or better than the gold standard,” Gallins says. “The Crown hates to go to trial against Law Centre students.”

Supervised by Gallins and two other lawyers, the Law Centre offers a full range of legal services, from criminal defence to divorce proceedings. In one of its higher profile cases, the Law Centre won a human rights case on behalf of a Victoria girls’ softball team after Little League Canada denied them the same level of support for travel expenses that had been given to boys’ teams.

But for the most part, these aren’t the glamour cases and Gallins doesn’t guild the lily. He’s frank about the brutality of the law profession. Practising law consumes the weak and the naive. “Law,” Gallins tells his students, “is institutional warfare. It’s nasty and it’s mean. I don’t know why anybody would want to get into this profession.”

Several of his lawyer friends have burned out or have suffered serious health problems due to crippling workloads, long hours and relentless stress. One colleague had a heart attack in his early 30s. Another nearly died in his 40s of the same ailment. A third became a severe alcoholic. A fourth developed throat cancer. “It was probably all stress related,” Gallins warns. “This is a profession that kills people.”
Stephanie Sfikas, a third-year law student, all but shrugs when asked about this. Keeping your guard up, "gives you an opportunity to protect yourself."

Students, however, help each other. And some players in the legal system “will be very helpful. But it’s a battleground,” she says, sounding very much like her mentor. “You don’t expect everything to be hunky-dory.”

Cody (The Machine) Olson earned his nickname at an office social. While other students mingled, he kept on working well into the evening. Olson had considered a career in corporate law. But he’s reconsidering just a few weeks into his time at the Law Centre. Like his colleagues, he’s learning by doing, putting into practice what Gallins drilled into them during boot camp.

“I don’t think anything could prepare you for life in the trenches” of practising law, he says. “I thought this would be like a normal summer job with the orientation and where there would be a gradual learning curve. But here, you jump into the deep end from day one. Within three days I was involved in negotiations with Crown counsel. (Academically) I felt sufficiently prepared but I don’t know if I was mentally prepared. In life, I try to adhere to the policy of giving people the benefit of the doubt. (In law), you can’t give people the benefit of the doubt. You don’t leave anything to chance or good faith. You can put your trust in people but it’s safer not to. There is some tension between how I feel in my personal life and how I conduct myself in a professional capacity.”

Gallins and the Law Centre experience also changed the perspective of Emma Lehrer, LLB ’09, a freelance lawyer in Vancouver. Though she had heard Gallins stress that everybody deserves a fair trial, Lehrer wasn’t entirely convinced. That changed when she had to defend a client who was charged with impaired driving.

"Why am I doing this?" she initially asked herself. Then it dawned on her. “It doesn’t matter whether you personally sympathize with the person or not. That’s irrelevant,” she says. “What Glenn has is an amazing talent for doing is challenging your beliefs.”

A lawyer’s job is to fight for a fair trial for a client by using every available legal avenue. While Gallins points out the foibles and less savoury aspects of human nature, he argues that how we react is our own choice. The philosophy of this curmudgeonly optimist parallels the old saying about making lemonade when life gives you lemons. “How you react is up to you,” Gallins says.

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represented at those scratched wooden tables than UVic’s professorial class.

“We often ate lunch there, and it was our rendezvous place in the evenings at least once a week,” recalls Dr. Brian Dippie, a retired professor of history. When he first set foot in Victoria, in 1969, Dippie was driven from the airport to the Snug for his official job interview. For evening sorties, Dippie would typically pile in with up to seven or eight colleagues. “This was before Maude Hunter’s or Smuggler’s Cove, and there was nothing in Oak Bay,” he adds. “It was definitely the watering hole of choice for the campus…and it was crowded.”

According to long-serving waitress Carol Ferguson, UVic made up about half of the Snug’s clientele in the 1970s. “We were smokin’ busy with those guys. And Friday and Saturday nights were just crazy, with long lineups at the door,” she remembers. The UVic regulars knew their favourite waiter or waitress and wanted to sit in that section. “They were out for a good time and we all had a lot of fun.”

Although the waiters often didn’t know the profs by name, their demeanour and conversation readily marked them out. “They just sort of looked like professors,” said Joe Smith, head bartender and a 28-year veteran of the Snug, who succumbed to cancer in March. “And one or two could have passed for mad scientists.”

Even though drinks cost more than at downtown beer joints like the Red Lion and the disreputable Churchill, the Snug was nonetheless a magnet for students. A 20-year-old Barbara Yates was studying English in 1970 — right when BC’s drinking age dropped from 21 to 19. “Suddenly I was of drinking age and I ran out and had my first legal drink…at the Snug,” she smiles. As Yates recalls, most bars back then were horrible: smoky, windowless rooms where waiters brought around platters of bland beer that they plopped onto those ubiquitous red terrycloth table covers. “It was like
drinking was a shameful act and you had to be punished for partaking in it,” she says. “The Snug was so different. I was too poor to go often, but I loved it there.”

Both the bar and the hotel had an international reputation. Actors James Garner, Angela Lansbury, and Gene Hackman paid their respects, while crooner Perry Como put in an aptly timed Christmas appearance, having been out to see the seasonal lights at Butchart Gardens. Movie stars Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn were in town filming *Bird On A Wire* when they putt-putted up on scooters for a drink. Bob Hope passed through, and music legend Van Morrison stayed awhile (although he was unpopular with the staff). Notorious con artist Christophe Rocancourt was in residence for three weeks, just prior to be taken down by a posse of cops. The place also spawned a celebrity of its own: actress Deborah Kara Unger, who used to wait tables.

There’s an amusing item in a 1968 *Martlet* detailing a new “conformist” dress code at the Snug where blue jeans, sandals, and bare feet were banned after 6 pm. Although then manager Mitch Mitchell is quoted as saying that “some UVic professors have congratulated me on my stand” other pros remember falling afoul of the rule and getting the boot. The article on the so-called Blue Jeans War ends with a dab of collegiate drollery: “And in case you’re wondering, turtleneck sweaters are OK. Mitch said so.”

“With the exposed beams and that comfy cottage style it was very much meant to be an old-fashioned British pub. Who wouldn’t have wanted to hoist a glass there?”

Alongside all its sophistication and polish — in an era of down-market beer parlours, management insisted that waiters sport vests and ties — the Snug had a few folksy touches, most notably a collection of about 50 personal mugs that were kept behind the bar for esteemed regulars. Although some would grab their own, the waiters knew each owner and what they drank, giving the mug a quick rinse before filling it and bringing it to their table. Needless to say, several profs — and even a few grad students thirsty for tenure one day — were among those thus privileged.

End of term would see tables strewn with books and notepads as students furiously outlined essays and crammed for exams. Initially fueled by coffee, there’d be a shift to wine or cocktails as a reward for scholarly efforts. And even when the drinking age was still 21, younger students did okay at the Snug, mostly thanks to an “understanding” with Erwin Gaffel, the senior waiter best remembered for his remarkable toupee. “He’d usually turn a blind eye to underage students as long as they were discreet,” says Smith. “But you were expected to leave a good tip!”

Although far from rowdy, the Snug was occasionally pranked by high-spirited students, especially near exam time. According to Kevin Walker, owner of the Oak Bay Beach Hotel, they’d succumb to what he calls “grad madness” and sneak rides in the mechanized dumb waiter near the pub entrance. One time a pair of students crammed into a space designed for a few dozen plates and glasses, but the weight was too much and the dumbwaiter took a hard landing on the floor of the kitchen downstairs and never worked properly after that.

Although those miscreants got away, an exuberant pair of UVic streakers trotting through the Snug one afternoon was less lucky. “Just by chance there was a formal wedding party elsewhere in the hotel and the streakers decided to run a lap around them as well,” recalls Walker, unable to suppress a smile. “One of them was chased down by my dad, who held him by his abundance of curly hair until the police showed up.”

By the early 1980s, with a spiffy new Faculty Club and the SUB Pub providing on-campus comfort, the Snug became less necessary. The shift was accelerated by a proliferation of attractive new bars and neighbourhood pubs that cast the fading charms of the Snug into an unflattering light. But in its new incarnation (see sidebar) it seems inevitable that a whole new set of Snug-based memories and rituals will arise at UVic. “A few patrons grabbed their mugs from behind the bar when the Snug was shutting down but most got put into storage,” adds Walker. “I can’t wait to see how many people come back and start using them again.”
THE SNUG REBORN

The Oak Bay Beach Hotel was built in 1927 from a design by Percy Leonard James, who started out as an assistant to Francis Rattenbury. “It was the last survivor of a group of waterfront hotels dating from nearly a century ago, when Oak Bay was a summer getaway for Victorians,” says architect Chris Gower, BA ’77. “The building was a mix of Arts & Crafts and Tudor Revival and had a serious architectural pedigree.”

The Snug first opened in the late 1940s, sited in what had originally been the owner’s residence. Temperance still held sway in BC and genteel boozers used to “go to the Snug for tea.” According to Oak Bay Beach Hotel owner Kevin Walker, this meant sneaking in their liquor in a paper bag, with the connivance of the waiters. “A Brown Betty teapot would be promptly brought to the table, and the drinkers would pour their gin or whiskey into it,” says Walker. The place was particularly well-named back then, accommodating no more than 20 people. Over succeeding decades it went through a half-dozen evolutions as it got bigger, added nooks, and ultimately pushed out onto the waterside deck. By the time the hotel was torn down the Snug had 150 seats inside, and 50 more on the deck.

The long-anticipated $52-million condo development set to open on the site of the iconic boutique hotel is about three years overdue — and old-time Snug fans are particularly anxious to see what will emerge. “The thing we heard most was ‘Don’t touch the Snug,’” admits Walker. “I was happy to oblige.” Prior to demolition, the fabled bar was carefully dismantled to preserve the beams, leaded windows, light fixtures and other historic elements; these were then refurbished and seamlessly blended into the tony restoration. “It’s known as ‘adaptive re-use’ and was done with the help of a great local designer, J.C. Scott,” says Walker. The new Snug will be architecturally and dimensionally similar, but will boast wooden floors, floor-to-ceiling windows, and a 90-degree realignment so that the room’s long side will now get those wonderful sea views.

A special pub night at the Snug, part of Homecoming 2012, is being organized by the UVic Alumni Association for Friday, Sept. 28.

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I moved to Victoria to do my master’s degree in Molecular Biology at UVic and I really fell in love with the West Coast. I grew up in a very urban environment and suddenly — surrounded by mountains and ocean — it’s overwhelmingly beautiful and pristine. I really appreciated the clarity of thought that going out into the wilderness gave me and I slowly started to spend more time outdoors.

Colin and I met at a bus stop in Vancouver. We were on our way to the Vancouver Sun Run. When we decided to row across the Atlantic together, it was a huge commitment. We were putting our relationship on the line. Originally we planned on rowing with different partners but for various reasons that didn’t work out. So in a way it seemed fated that we would do the trip together.

I was looking to challenge myself and to do something that was really outside of my comfort level. I wasn’t really an athlete. My focus was more academic and I worked in a very corporate environment.

We were on the Atlantic Ocean for about 2 1⁄2 weeks when we found out there was a hurricane that had formed in an area that had never before seen a hurricane and it was tracking towards us. We feared for our lives. I don’t think anyone has ever gone through a hurricane in a rowboat and not been terrified.

You find out a lot about your fiancée during that type of experience. Your nerves are shot. You’re worried about your own safety, worried for each other, worried about your families. But we made it and decided that if we had the skills it takes to navigate the waters of an expedition like that together, we probably had those needed to navigate marriage.

You look at life a little different when you’ve come from. Seeing great cities from (that vantage point) is incredible because your eyes can linger and you can just watch and observe without thinking about where you have to be or where you’re going.

Duct tape is the one thing I need with me when I travel. It’s pretty good because things always go wrong, things always break, whether it’s your bicycle or an oar on your boat. Duct tape is pretty good at patching things together.

The Olive Odyssey is my third book. It’s about the history of the olive and we have a great travel story. We worked with National Geographic. One theory is that the olive tree was spread throughout the Mediterranean by early Phoenicians who lived about 2000 BC. We took olive samples all along the Mediterranean for DNA analysis. It was really interesting applying the tools of modern science to such an ancient tree and ancient events.

Almost all of our experiences have been positive, even when traveling through areas people have warned us about: Mafia or criminals, or even places that felt a little sketchy. In many cases the threat and the risk is overstated and then when you actually go to a place you realize that it’s really much safer than people make it out to be.

People are always very curious, especially if you’re in traveling an unusual way, whether that’s riding your bike with a boat behind it or rowing down a river. We really witnessed the open heartedness of people. People want to know what it’s like in your home and they want to share their lives with you.

Travelling by human power is more about the journey than the destination. When you work hard for a goal you appreciate it that much more. You’re also more open to stopping to meet and talk to people. When you’re traveling maybe 4 km an hour, you have the opportunity to really see things slowly unfold.

I like rowing a lot. I actually like looking backwards and seeing where you’ve come from. Seeing great cities from (that vantage point) is incredible because your eyes can linger and you can just watch and observe without thinking about where you have to be or where you’re going.

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Duct tape is the one thing I need with me when I travel. It’s pretty good because things always go wrong, things always break, whether it’s your bicycle or an oar on your boat. Duct tape is pretty good at patching things together.
BC’s capital city and its university have a shared history, and both are marking milestones — this year the City of Victoria turns 150, and next year will see the University of Victoria’s 50th birthday.

UVic Libraries reflect connections with the community. A bequest by local businessman Thomas Shanks McPherson funded the construction of the library (he also owned the downtown theatre which today carries his name); engineer and business executive William C. Mearns was a graduate of Victoria College and key member of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce in its drive to acquire lands for the present day campus, and the 2007 expansion of the McPherson Library was funded with a major gift from the Mearns family.

It is appropriate that the expanded William C. Mearns Centre/McPherson Library is the home to UVic Archives and Special Collections, whose acquisitions mandate includes the preservation of archival and rare published material relating to the history of Victoria and the region. Here you can find postcards, maps and plans, personal documents, diaries, photographs, and souvenir booklets acquired over many years. UVic Libraries recognizes the high interest and demand for these materials amongst students, scholars and community members alike, and selections from these important collections have been digitized for access on-line.

The first 52 years of the British Colonist (also known as the Daily British Colonist and the Daily Colonist), are on-line through UVic Libraries digital collections. Founded in 1858 and
the leading newspaper of the Crown Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Colombia, every page of this significant publication from late-1858 to mid-1910 is available for keyword searching and PDF download. With its first four-page issue of December 11, 1858, the British Colonist was all text, dedicated to local, colonial and American news. With improvements in communication technologies, industrialization and regional growth, the June 30, 1910 issue has 24 pages of news, specialized content, and ads.

A selection of early Victoria and Vancouver Island maps, documents and ephemera can be found in "Victoria’s Early History Collection." An 1897 map produced by the Province Publishing Company is evidence of the popularity of cycling in the 19th century. It sets out Victoria bicycle trails, marking the major streets, as well as hotels, hills, the large parcels of land that made up Fairfield and Oak Bay, and the distances by road from downtown — 15 miles to the Quarantine Station, near William Head. Picturesque Glimpses of Victoria (1890), contains photographic views of the land near today’s UVic campus and the Inner harbour before the Empress Hotel.

The “Early History” collection also highlights the Frank and Cecelia Sylvester archival fonds. Frank Sylvester (1837-1908) and Cecelia Davies Sylvester (1848-1935) were among the first Jewish arrivals in Victoria and founding members of the Jewish congregation Emanuel. Sylvester travelled from San Francisco in 1858 en route to the Fraser River gold fields, settling in Victoria in 1863, and becoming prominent in the Victoria Fire Department, the Natural History Society, and the Historical Society. Cecelia was a member of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, and was active in charitable organizations and the Jewish community, and was on the board of the Royal Jubilee Hospital, which her father helped found. Frank’s 36-page manuscript Old Time Reminiscences of BC, is his account of the Gold Rush and life in 1850s Victoria. Also preserved and digitized is a late 19th century photographic portrait of Cecelia by Savannah Photographers, regarded as the most fashionable photo studio in town.

UVic Libraries also recently digitized a volume of early Victoria postcards from the collection of Ron Greene. Ron is an avid collector, whose interests include local history, numismatic history, and heritage buildings. A lifelong resident of Victoria and a graduate of Victoria College and UVic, Ron’s business career was with Capital Iron, which was started by his father in 1934. Now retired, Ron was recognized as a 2010 Distinguished Alumni for the Faculty of Humanities. Images from his collection include local scenes and landmark structures and buildings, including the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and the Francis Rattenbury and Samuel Maclure-designed 1903 Government House. 21st century viewers may see in these postcards depictions of a prosperous city, the seat of government, a hub for industry and a growing tourist destination. UVic Libraries thanks Ron for sharing this important collection.

BY LARA WILSON, MA ’99, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST
University Archives and Special Collections is open to the public Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30, Sept. to April and 10:30 to 4:30, May to August.
It has been an event-filled and very successful six months, building momentum for UVic’s 50th anniversary celebrations which commence this fall.

Alumni Week 2012: Leaders in Our Community had 17 events plus a grand prize draw. From Feb. 6 to 12, more than 2,000 participants enjoyed a celebration of UVic alumni that had something for everyone.

I was fortunate to attend the On-Campus Alumni Luncheon, the Teaching Awards Celebration, the Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Victoria College Chapter Lunch & Learn. In addition there were Alumni Chapter receptions, presentations by Paralympic gold medalist Lauren Woolstencroft, BEng ’05, and by extreme adventurists, Julie Angus, MSc ’01, and Colin Angus, Two Alumni Family Science nights were popular, too.

The theme of leadership in our communities was really evident at the Distinguished Alumni awards, which I was honoured to co-host with Chancellor Murray Farmer, BA ’68. I was struck by the dedication to their field, as well as the diversity of occupations in these 12 exceptional UVic alumni. Among them were the chief judge of the Provincial Court of BC, two award winning authors, a medical educator and space science researcher, a local business woman and hotelier, and the Regional Chief of BC for the Assembly of First Nations — UVic graduates and leaders all.

I was further inspired by Dr. Nigel Livingstone, director of UVic’s CanAssist program, who spoke at the Victoria College lunch. CanAssist customizes assistive technologies to meet the sometimes highly specific challenges of individuals with disabilities. Dr. Livingstone single-handedly started this highly successful program 12 years ago, and it has flourished on campus ever since.

The UVic Alumni Association’s continued strong support of Vikes Athletics included sponsorship of the Celebration of Champions awards night in April. I was privileged to present awards to the Rookie Athletes of the Year. Also recognized was alumni board member Tracie Sibbald, BA ’85, a member of the 1981-82 Vikes national champion women’s basketball team and recent inductee into the BC Basketball Hall of Fame. Tracie’s dedication to UVic remains evident in her continuing support for athletics and the effort she brings as a longtime volunteer board member. Congratulations Tracie!

Two other big dates are fast approaching: the alumni association’s Annual General Meeting will be on May 29, featuring a special performance by the Lafayette String Quartet. And Homecoming weekend will be on campus September 28 – 29. This promises to be a great event for UVic alumni and the entire community, and will start UVic’s 50th Anniversary celebrations. Details are at alumni.uvic.ca. Don’t miss it!

e-mail: alumni@uvic.ca

Alumni Week

Alumni Week brightened up the first week of February with tributes to illustrious alumni, talks that informed, and popular — and explosive! — family science nights. KAREN MANGAT, BCom ’09, was the big winner of the grand prize — $3,000 worth of travel from UNIGLOBE Geo Travel. At the Alumni-on-Campus lunch, fellow Vikes alumnae ALI LEE and LUANE KRAWETZ were among the staff and faculty who gathered at the University Club.
Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented Feb. 8 to:

(standing, left to right) THOMAS CRABTREE, LLB ’83, Chief Judge, BC Provincial Court; MARK LEWIS, BSc ’87, mathematical biologist; ROBERT J. WIERSEMA, BA ’93, author/reviewer; G. ANDREW WORK, MBA ’02, Exec. Dir., Can. Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong; JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD, BA ’96, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations; LAUREN WOOLSTENCROFT, BEng ’05, Multi-gold medalist, Paralympic skiing.

(Seated, l – r) BRUCE CRAWFORD, BSc ’65, medical educator and researcher; MARGARET LUCAS, Cert. ’95, business leader; ESI EDUGYAN, BA ’99, Giller Prize-winning novelist; LISE HADDOCK, BSW ’88, Executive Director, Cowichan Tribes Child and Family Services; SIMON IBELL, BA ’02, founder, iBelieve Foundation; and MARION RUTH BULLER BENNETT, BA ’75, LLB ’87, Provincial Court judge and first female First Nations member of the BC judiciary.

DR. ANDREW WENDER, continuing sessional instructor in Political Science and History, received the Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Wender brings intellectual “breadth, rigor and excitement” to classes on global affairs. A nominator wrote: “(Wender) is not only an excellent teacher, but an extraordinary one.”

Your Role in UVic’s Future

BY IBRAHIM INAYATALI
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT
ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

As President David Turpin reports in his column (page 7), the University of Victoria has adopted a renewed strategic plan that sets important objectives in order for us to build on the university’s tradition of excellence. In particular, the plan sets out key priorities for our engagement with alumni and for the development of resources that are vital to the support of the university’s mission.

The strategic plan includes many ambitious goals that, in order to be achieved, will depend on support from public and private sources. While governments and students provide a significant portion of our resources, increasingly Canadian institutions are relying on the philanthropy of individuals, foundations and corporations. A number of factors — domestic and international — are changing the landscape for post-secondary education.

It’s within this environment that we are embarking on several initiatives to diversify our funding sources so that we maintain the unique, high-quality learning environment by which UVic is recognized in Canada and around the world.

Our team in the development and alumni departments is excited by the challenge that is outlined in the strategic plan. Over the coming months and years, you will be hearing from us as we invite you to become involved in a fundraising program that is driven by the academic, research and service priorities of the university.

The 50th anniversary celebration in 2012-13 presents a terrific opportunity to renew your engagement with your university and to make a difference in the life of UVic. In a relatively short time, UVic has taken its place among the world’s finest post-secondary institutions. UVic is distinguished by being a destination university, its commitment to student engagement and experiential learning, its culture of research and discovery and its commitment to civic engagement.

You deserve to take pride in what our university has become and in your personal connection to UVic. Imagine what we can accomplish together in the future.

E-mail: alumni@uvic.ca

Upcoming Alumni events:
alumni.uvic.ca

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

John Webb, VC ’55, writes from Halfmoon Bay: “The family home was sold last November and I — that is Rufus, my dog, and I — moved to a smaller house at a higher elevation away from the sea. This is in a great dog walking area away from busy highways, with lots of walking trails.”

1969

Tarrant Grieve, MA (Educational Psychology), lives in Port Moody: “I am retired (widowed) and devote time to travel, volunteer service, playing oboe and sports.”

Steen Jessen, BA (English), is the senior master of BC Ferries MV Mayne Queen: “Now almost 18 years with BC Ferries after 31 years in the Royal Canadian Navy. Hard to believe that I set foot for the first time on the Lansdowne campus in Sept. 1962. Still have fond memories of Mrs. Norris and her’ cafeteria, not to mention the creaks and groans of the Young Building.”

1972

Rachel Frazier, BA (Psychology), retired from North Island College at the end of 2010 and is now traveling. She plans to complete her round-the-world cruising this year, to be followed by more cruising as time, money and health allow.

1973

Jessie Laronde, (BED), writes: “Same old, same old, getting old is for the pits but I am enjoying my life here on earth and plan to live it to the full as long as I can. I enjoy being kept up to date on today’s activities in the alumni magazine.”

1974

Fran (Nowakowski) Collins, BA (History), writes: “Last year I retired after working 30 years as a reference librarian at Dalhousie University. I am now focusing on pursuing my weaving business, Loom Lake Designs. I recently opened a shop on Etsy.”

1975

Paul J. Vielle, PhD, (Education), lives in Spokane, WA, with his wife Karen. Paul retired in 2002 following a 27-year career as a school psychologist. They enjoy travelling, nature walks, gardening, and raising chickens.

1976

Patrice Abrioux, BA (History), has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver. He had been a partner with Quinlan Abrioux, Barristers and Solicitors since 1998. His main area of practice was general litigation, including personal injury, negligence claims, insurance law, commercial law and real estate.

Barbara Burnet, BEd, retired from the Vancouver School Board in 2009. She’s currently on the board of the Canadian Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) — director from BC.

1978

Roger F. Barliszen, BA (History), checks in from Ottawa. “I have just now completed 34 years of service, with one more to go, for Citizenship and Immigration. After various assignments overseas I work at CIC HQ on issues related to refugees and reforming the in-Canada refugee determination system. I am kept busy also by my five-year-old daughter whose name is Victoria in honour of my time at UVic.”

Karen Ledger, BSN, writes: “As a self-employed health Educator and nurse-therapist, I have been working for the past 15 years, with highly effective energy psychotherapies, which can alleviate emotional and physical issues. In 2008 a psychiatrist colleague and I undertook a study of two of these therapies and compared them to cognitive behavioural therapy for treating test anxiety in three groups of UVic students. Our results, published in EXPLORE (November/December 2009), found highly significant reductions in test anxiety scores for all three treatments.”

1979

Larry Arkell, BA (Political Science), is a retired social worker and living in Surrey. “I’m doing volunteer work. I’d like to hear from anyone from back in the ’70s.”

Hinda Avery, BFA (Visual Arts), writes that her “latest work has become a giant graphic novel, with paintings and text pages measuring nine feet wide by six feet high. The ‘novel’ tells the story of the Rozen Sisterrz and their attempts at defeating the Nazis. The painted novel runs the gamut of black humor, irony, and comic cynicism.”

1980

Nelson Ruest, BA (Political Science), writes that he and his partner Danielle have “just finished building a new Platinum Built Green home in Saanich with beautiful views of the city, the Olympics and the water. We’re looking forward to completing our first year to find out just how the eco-energetic shell of our home will save on energy costs.”

1981

Robert Lapper, LLB, BA ’78, sends this: “I left my position as deputy minister of labour, Province of British Columbia to take a position as CEO of the Law Society of Upper Canada, on Feb 1, 2012, and have moved from Victoria to Toronto.”

1982

Avis (Bosher) Rasmussen, VC ’57, BEd ’75, BFA ’79, MEd ’83, writes: “My watercolour, Mill Bay/Pink Boat/Toward Mt. Tuam, was selected for UVic’s Legacy Gallery, Sept. 2011 show, Convergence/Divergence, Landscape and Identity on the West Coast, with many outstanding artworks from the UVic Collection. As a UVic Alumni Association board member I am looking forward to the UVic 50th Anniversary celebration.

Charles Lucy, BSc (Chemistry), is one of 10 recipients of the 2012 3M National Teaching Fellowship. In a Maclean’s profile, he says, “nicely illustrates the importance of UVic and co-op work terms to my career and teaching.” He’s in the department of chemistry at the University of Alberta.
1984
Phil Foster, MEd, is the education director of Westcoast Adventure College: “I am now offering sailing tours/cruise-and-learn in the Virgin Islands and Croatia, and sailing wine tours in the Gulf Islands.”

Carolyn Swayze, LLB, has announced that her biography, Hard Choices: A Life of Tom Berger, first published by Douglas & McIntyre and out of print, has now been made available electronically by Pacific Place Publishing. It can be previewed and purchased at a number of online bookstores.

Melinda Benson Wilde, MFA (Music), writes: “I have two sons, one a senior in high school and the other in 7th grade. I have been practicing law in Portland, Oregon since 1988 and have also been active in the local music community. I look forward to news from Victoria and am pleased that my oldest son is considering UVic for undergraduate studies.”

1985
Zacharia Mwangi, (Computer Science), writes from Nairobi: “I have held over 20 jobs since graduating. Of course all IT-related and you can guess that I have not moved up any career ladder. Keep hoping to come and see Victoria some day. When I see images of the town it strikes me as home. Kenya is still developing, although I believe that these developing phases of countries should have a time limit, then one moves up or back down the ladder. Guy I miss the most is Bruce Zimmerman; where art thou buddy?”

Robert Adair Wilson, BEd ’77, MEd ’85, has an update: “I retired from 36 years teaching in Jan. 2009. My wife and I spend our time volunteering, travelling, and enjoying our art hobbies — hers is painting and mine is writing. I can be searched at Smash-bies — hers is painting and mine is travelling, and enjoying our art hobbies.”

Carolyn Swayze, LLB, has an update: “I retired from BEd ’10, MEd ’13, after teaching in Jan. ’20.”

1986
Tom Charbonneau, BA (History), writes from the past director of the UVic Alumni Association (1987-98), retired from Royal Roads University as supervisor security services in 2002. Retirement has been anything but restful. He recently returned to his love of writing and just completed his first novel, CUBANEX: An Exercise in Vigilance. While the characters are fictional, the history of Canadian military involvement in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 is true and accurate. Other projects in the realm of literature are under way and having just returned from the Mediterranean area, a novel centred on the Italian campaign of World War II is being researched, as is another book of memoirs about the experiences of a teenaged boy who spent his summers on a farm in Ontario’s Lanark County. Those interests plus volunteer work in his community of Amherst, Ontario keep him active and hopefully, forever young.

May Q. Wong, MPA, wrote a second book, Beyond Question Peri- od, or What Really Goes on in Ottawa. He “chronicles the life of an MP beyond the rhetoric of the cut and thrust of question period.” In 2008, Roy completed The Poverty of Corrupt Nations, in which he examines the relationship between corrupt leaders and poverty. He was the Liberal MP for Etobicoke North from 1996 to 2008 and now resides in Victoria.

1988
Roy Cullen, MPA, has published his second book, Beyond Question Period, or What Really Goes on in Ottawa. He “chronicles the life of an MP beyond the rhetoric of the cut and thrust of question period.” In 2008, Roy completed The Poverty of Corrupt Nations, in which he examines the relationship between corrupt leaders and poverty. He was the Liberal MP for Etobicoke North from 1996 to 2008 and now resides in Victoria.

1990
Dawn (Young) Doig, BSc (Linguistics), and Bruce Doig, BEd/BA (History), ’92, are in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Dawn is well into her sixth year as the head of the audiology unit at King Fahad Medical City. She’s enjoying the ongoing challenges inherent in learning all about programming cochlear implants for young deaf children. Bruce switched jobs and is now a lecturer of English for pre-med students at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences and Medical Professions. He is excited to finally have the opportunity to learn some Arabic. Dawn and Bruce will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on Aug. 22nd and are planning to renew their vows as pirates in Las Vegas. They will be “empty-nesters” come June when their son heads off to university.

After living and working in four different countries, everyone wonders where their itchy feet will take them next.

1991
Gary Anderson, BSW, is a mental health therapist with Alberta Health Services in Calgary. “It is a new position…working towards a greater...”

Calling All Carrs
A student works switchboard duty in the Emily Carr Hall residence building in this picture that was first published in the winter 1968 edition of the Alumni Quarterly. Originally a women’s residence, the building was one of the first student residences on campus and is now co-ed, with 26 single rooms and 28 double rooms.
“See how beautiful and dark it is here?” asks Mark Laver while driving along Dallas Road on a cold and windy Victoria night. “The tree lit up against the sky, that’s a perfect example.” The bare tree is lit up like a bulb by a streetlamp behind, the black branches stand out against the navy sky and its shadow sprawls across the wet shiny pavement. “I drive until I see something like this that gives me a little leap of exhilaration, something I want to paint.”

For that purpose, he built an easel that fits over his steering wheel and from the dark of his front seat he applies oil paint by memory. “I’ve always loved the nighttime, probably since my childhood,” he says.

Laver grew up in Bowser where everything was a drive on Highway 19A — a roadway that bore the unfortunate likeness of a long serpentine graveyard. “I remember when I was a kid hearing there were 900 accidents a year between Parksville and Campbell River and we were smack in the middle.”

With a double major in History in Art and Philosophy, he approaches painting with a background steeped in theory, which he now partly rejects. “Art has to be ahead of the idea,” Laver, BA ’01, explains. “It should surprise us and make us ask ‘Where did that come from?’”

For him, the answer goes back to the nostalgia of night: bush parties and bonfires with friends, sleeping outside with his brothers and waking up on a bed of wet green grass. The answer also goes back to personal tragedies — he’s lost family members and friends to car crashes, including one of his best friends who died after dropping Laver off at home on New Year’s Eve.

Reminiscent of his Night Paintings, the inspiration for his latest series called Rural Disasters came when he saw a photo of the crash of Air France Flight 358 (the “Toronto Miracle”). “I saw this one image that showed bushes, smoke and the fuselage from a distance and I thought of it as a landscape,” he says, “It was so beautiful and I didn’t know why.”

Laver would spend hours online looking at crash scenes that he would reproduce in paint in his own unique style. “For a while I thought I’d seen all the good car crashes on the Internet, because there is something very specific I’m looking for,” he says, “there’s a feeling that I’m after.”

Peter Redpath, manager of Winchester Galleries Modern in Victoria (where Rural Disasters will be shown until June 16th) describes Mark as a magician. “Car crashes typically elicit strong emotions like horror and sadness,” Redpath says, “So it’s a surprise when a car crash evokes stillness. He is able to tap into the real, the essence that one is striving for as an artist.”

Laver’s work also caught the eye of American author Daniel Woodrell (Winter’s Bone) who features two Laver paintings on forthcoming book-jackets.

“It really is just the beauty of it that gets me,” Laver says, looking out his car window at the dark shadows and empty road, “When you’re really looking, suddenly the world is more beautiful.”
concurrent treatment of addictions and mental health issues.”

Ian Case, BFA (Theatre), has taken up a new position as director of the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium after nearly 10 years as general manager of the Victoria-based Intrepid Theatre. During his time at the helm of Intrepid, Ian was named Arts Leader of the Year in the 2010 CFAAX Community Awards for his ongoing arts advocacy work. He continues to be active with the Victoria Shakespeare Society, William Head on Stage and his own theatre company, Giggling Iguana.

1992
Michael J. Bergob, BA ’89, MA’92 (Sociology), sends news: “I retired from Statistics Canada in January 2011 and have been keeping busy writing articles on governance issues for the Island Word newspaper. Since 2009 I have been the publications officer for the Canadian Disability Studies Association working on establishing a peer-review journal — The Canadian Journal of Disability Studies — the first issue will be published soon. Most recently I took on the responsibility of being the chair of the Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society in the Comox Valley, which provides on-site medical services to homeless individuals from a purpose-converted RV. We also have a residential program that provides leasehold housing to homeless people. To keep some balance, I took up mountain biking this summer and greatly enjoy the time out in nature.”

1995
Brendan Hokowhitu, MA (Education), has been appointed dean of the faculty of native studies at the University of Alberta. He had been associate professor and inaugural associate dean (Māori) for the division of humanities at the University of Otago, New Zealand.

Heather Simaney MacLeod, BA (Writing), lives in Edmonton and is a PhD candidate in the department of English and film studies at the University of Alberta. Heather has a new poetry collection, The Little Yellow House (McGill Press) as part of their Hugh McLennan Poetry Series. She also has a collection of poems, Intermission, coming out with Winnipeg’s Muses Press.

1996
Bruno St-Pierre, MBA, with two of his running friends, took part in the 27th Marathon des Sables in Morocco. The most demanding footrace in the world crosses nearly 250 km of the Sahara Desert. The runners raised funds for the Quebec Federation for Autism.

2001
A. Michael Keep, BSc (Biology), is a family physician and hospitalist in Olympia, WA. He and wife Eliza Aquillon-Keep celebrated the birth of their son and first child Albert Kenneth on October 22, 2011.

2002
Jennifer Spencer, LLB, received the Thomson Reuters Lexpert Rising Star award as one of the leading lawyers in Canada under the age of 40. The award was based on her work in commercial litigation, land use and development disputes, Aboriginal law and regulatory matters and her community involvement. Jennifer is a partner in Miller Thomson’s Vancouver office and a member of the firm’s litigation group.

2003
Stephen Galipeau, BEd ’96, MEd ’03, is working in Kabul as the adjutant to the Canadian contingent developing and implementing training curriculum for the Afghan National Army. “The Kabul military training centre is Afghanistan’s largest, and there are soldiers from 19 countries supporting this location with military trainers and advisors. The best part of my job is mentoring my Afghan counterparts in personnel management, and getting to know their cultures and traditions.”

2004
Yvonne deBoer, MBA, is North American regional director of business development and marketing for Ausenco, a global provider of...
Last year, it was Department of Writing alumna Esi Edugyan who made headlines by appearing on the famed Man Booker Prize shortlist — one of the five major literary prizes for which her sophomore novel, *Half-Blood Blues*, was nominated. But the good folks at Booker seem to have developed a taste for UVic writers: of the three people awarded the prestigious Booker Scholarship at England’s University of East Anglia, two have been Writing graduates — inaugural recipient D.W. Wilson, and current winner Eliza Robertson.

Her scholarship follows her PRISM International fiction prize, making the shortlist for the 2010 Journey Prize, and being one of the student creators of the 2011 Leo Award-winning web series, *Freshman’s Wharf*. Not bad considering she started in Political Science and didn’t transfer to Writing until her third year at UVic.

“There was this moment when I was studying for midterms — Philosophy and Poli-Sci — and I was just miserable,” Robertson recalls. “And my brother, who was still in high school, was writing a poem for his class and I was very envious. So the week after that midterm, I walked across Ring Road to Fine Arts and changed my faculty.”

Score one for spontaneous decisions. It’s fellow Writing grad Dave (D.W.) Wilson whom Robertson singles out as a positive influence on her own writing career.

“It’s odd being on this parallel track with Dave,” she admits. “If he didn’t exist, I would be very naïve about what the next step is, and I wouldn’t already have publishing on my mind. But it was on my mind in my fourth year at UVic, because Dave was already going through the process of submitting to agents. He definitely blazed the trail for me.”

Robertson pauses and offers a shy laugh. “It’s convenient, but kind of daunting.”

The Booker Prize Foundation-sponsored Booker Scholarship covers academic fees and the living and travel expenses of a Commonwealth student enrolled in UEA’s creative writing (prose) MA. But considering that Wilson had already won it, Robertson didn’t think much of her own chances. “I thought lightning wouldn’t strike in the same place twice — that they wouldn’t give it to another Canadian, let alone another UVic student.”

Due to complete her UEA MA in August, Robertson is finishing up her debut collection of short stories, as well as working on her first novel. Just as we were wrapping up this interview, she got word that the manuscript which nabbed her the Booker Scholarship had been shortlisted for a British short story prize.

Asked if she considers herself an overachiever, Robertson laughs. “Probably. But it’s the cycle too — once you realize you can actually win something, then you can’t let yourself stop trying. It’s all a bit loopy, really.”
plans to teach in January. I would like to thank UVic, it was the gateway to everything I have experienced since graduation.”

2008

Vivian Yejide Kilanko, BSW, had her debut novel, Daughters Who Walk This Path, published by Penguin Canada this spring. A social worker in children’s mental health, she currently lives in Chatham, Ontario with her family. Find details about the novel, set in her native Nigeria, at her website: yejidekilanko.com.

Shelley Ross, PhD (Education), is a recipient of the Alberta College of Family Physicians Recognition of Excellence Award. This award recognizes contributions made to medical education through teaching and research related efforts. Shelley is an assistant professor and education researcher in the faculty of medicine and dentistry at the University of Alberta.

2011

Jennifer Cador, MA (History in Art), has collaborated with History in Art graduate students Randip Bakshi and Sara Checkley to launch the peer-reviewed graduate journal of art history, ARTiculate. The three realized a year ago that the dearth of publishing opportunities for grad students in art history was a problem for those aspiring to an academic career. “Publishing is absolutely a requirement if you’re trying to become a professor, but it’s difficult to do at the grad student level when there are so few graduate journals in the field." ARTiculate is online at articulate.ca.

Jeff Poynter, BMus, is in the indie-roots band West My Friend along with Eden Oliver, BMus ‘08, and School of Music students Alex Rempel and Brian Anderson. They put out their first full-length album, Place, in April. Band and tour information is at westmyfriend.com

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We also welcome news about fresh babies, new marriages — even election to public office. All updates may be edited for style, clarity and length.

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Farewell

Lanny Berg, BSc (Biology) ’80, passed away Aug. 21, 2011. Lanny returned to Provost, Alberta after his degree in marine biology and days at UVic. Lanny was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident after doing what he loved most — playing baseball at an old-timers tournament.

Karen Harper, BEd (Leisure Service Administration), passed away on Nov. 22, 2011. Details can be found at ThompsonFH-Aurora.com.

Gord Sleivert, PhD (Education), internationally respected innovator in the field of sports physiology, died suddenly at the age of 48 on April 2, 2012. He was vice-president of Canadian Sports Centre Pacific and instrumental in establishing the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence for high performance athletes on Vancouver Island, based at Camosun College. He leaves his wife Kari, BEd ’87, and three children.

Garth Wilson, BA (History) ’82, passed away in Ottawa on Nov. 13, 2010 after a long battle with cancer at the age of 50 with his beloved wife, Sandy Lynch, by his side. Garth spent two years as a student in Denmark in order to better study his specialty, Viking seafaring. He became curator of marine transportation at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa.
It can’t be easy being the last graduating class in history.

Between the 2012 doomsday prophecies of the Mayans, Sumerians, Gnostics and Nostradamus; peak oil, pesticides in the veggies, mercury in the fish, pink slime in the beef, the scheduled testing of the Hadron Collider, Iran’s nuclear program and the possibility of America electing a president who’s itching to bring on the Rapture, this has to be the most fun year to be graduating since Castro and Kennedy danced the nuclear tango.

Imagine the Godlike voice that narrates all the Hollywood movie trailers breathlessly intoning the words: “The...Class...of...2012,” and tell me you’re not immediately picturing a horror flick featuring grads who survive a mysterious plague, or maybe a crashing asteroid, only to find the world infested with savage, zombified student loan collectors.

It would be a cruel twist of fate if the Apocalypse arrived after final exams, but before the first day of summer — although the good news is that according to most prophecies you’ll be able to enjoy the fruits of your degree until December 21st — the night all the planets will perfectly align resulting in tidal waves, storms and earthquakes that will destroy everything but that Facebook photo of you with the keg, the pimp hat and the goat.

As the great French philosopher Jean Paul Sartre once said, “merdre.”

The great news about being the last graduating class is that you don’t need to worry about being the leaders of tomorrow, the hope for our future, or anything related to dreams that aren’t straight out of a Stephen King novel.

Heck, even if the world doesn’t end we’re only about three weeks away from every job in North America being replaced by an iPad app and getting our own plush seats on that cruise ship in Wall-E.

That’s the theory anyway.

There’s only one problem with all the end of the world scenarios that have been discussed since the beginning of the world — so far the doomsday clock just keeps on ticking.

When I was in Grade 12 a teacher asked our class how we thought we were going to die. We all knew the answer to this one — Ferris Bueller was going to hack the NASA mainframe with his Commodore 64 and accidentally set off World War III. We all knew nuclear war was inevitable and imminent and that, my friends, is why I never got into flossing — which means dental appointments... always a joy.

So just in case the world is still here after Christmas, take a look at the people next to you in the flasher smocks and the funny hats — especially the ones you celebrated with after that last exam. Chances are they’re going to play a much more important part in your future than the letters on the degree you’ve spent years working for.

Perhaps the most terrifying single thing about graduating in the social media era is also the greatest thing — you’ll never be able to forget who you went to school with, who you dated and who broke your heart, because it’s not like you’ll ever get around to defriending them (which is handy because after your divorce you’ll be looking up that ex to see what their status is).

And if you really are the last graduating class in history, be sure to enjoy the ride because there is one thing I’m sure is true that I never would have believed when I was in university. The best things that happen to you are the ones that make you happy. The worst things that happen to you are the one that make you interesting. I wish somebody had told me that one day all humiliating moments would be preserved for eternity on Facebook, so I could have done a lot more interesting things when I was in school.

And if the world doesn’t shut down like a laptop with an expired warranty, a few years from now when the student loan collector tracks you down, see if you can convince her to give you an extension until the next Apocalypse — because there’s always another one scheduled.

Mark Leiren-Young is the author of Never Shoot a Stampede Queen, winner of the 2009 Leacock Medal for Humour.
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