I Want the Future

What the Rwandan genocide could not take away: the unstoppable spirit of alumnus John Nsabimana.
Remembering Summer

“It was at the wedding of one of my friends a couple of years ago when I used a digital SLR camera for the first time,” says Yi Chen, an Electrical Engineering doctoral student from China. “I began to realize the high quality of the pictures shot by a good DSLR. In this picture, I would like to present the feeling of staying in the beautiful summer campus in the quiet, comfortable afternoon under the warm sun. To most people, the campus is crowded, lively and dynamic most of the time. But it also has the other face: quiet, calm, cozy, especially in the summer—which is the best season here in the year.”

PHOTO BY YI CHEN
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Resilience

One individual human spirit, unbeaten.

WHEN THEY WROTE THE DEFINITION OF RESILIENCE IN THE CANADIAN OXFORD Dictionary — “readily recovering from shock, depression, etc.” — they likely didn’t have in mind the level of trauma that John Nsabimana endured at an early age, his parents victims of the Rwandan genocide.

But in the course of compiling this issue’s cover story, we came to understand John and the way he conducts himself with joyous charm, a deep commitment to education, and an even deeper commitment to the love and care of his two younger brothers.

He does not dwell on the horrors of his past. As he says, if you were unaware of it you might never have a hint from him of the devastating start of his life. Instead, what you encounter today is a young man with an infectious smile, fully embracing life and sharply focused on the future.

As I’m writing this, he has sent me a message from New York where — as he nears completion of his Master of Public Administration — he is working with UNICEF as a child protection associate in its armed violence and weapons program.

The photo here with CNN’s Wolf Blitzer was taken during the UN General Assembly in September where John was working at the media accreditation desk during US President Barak Obama’s appearance. They chatted about Bill Clinton and Blitzer’s travels through Rwanda when he was covering the former president.

It’s not hard to imagine John in a prominent role with UNICEF (the group that fed him as a child, as observed by Lynne Milnes, the development officer in the Faculty of Human and Social Development who initially proposed the feature story on John). His education at UVic has been all about preparing him for his life’s goal — to help kids that are in similar circumstances to the ones from which he emerged.

From the story (so far) of John’s life — as his fellow members of a UVic community of alumni and students, faculty and staff — we can gain something inspiring, something that brings us closer to the atrocities of this world but also to the promise and hope that it contains.

His life, and the notion of resilience that he represents, confirms that from the very worst of human nature can emerge the very best of human nature.

MIKE MCNENEY, EDITOR
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the importance of science education: “I want to thank donors for their wonderful support – it creates so many opportunities. 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.”
With the arrival of fall, our campus is brimming with the energy of a new academic term. It’s an exciting time of year, one that is full of promise and anticipation.

This autumn is also particularly special for me, since I have the honour of assuming the responsibilities of president of our university. I embrace the opportunity to uphold the values and traditions that UVic represents and I look forward to helping us build on our achievements as one of Canada’s finest research and teaching universities.

In my first few months as president I have been spending a great deal of time in a series of “campus conversations.” Those discussions — with faculty, students and staff members — have given me a renewed appreciation for the excellent work being done here and for the aspirations that people have for our university.

These interactions will have a tremendous impact on shaping and refining goals and objectives for the university in the coming years. My conversations also include members of the UVic Alumni Association board of directors and individual alumni. As we move forward together, I look forward to conversing with more alumni from all walks of life and in places both close to campus, elsewhere in Canada and indeed around the world.

From my experience as a professor in the Faculty of Law and as Vice-President Academic and Provost, I know many students who have since gone on to make significant contributions to society. I cherish those relationships and the enduring connection that those former students, now proud alumni, maintain with UVic.

Alumni play an important role in the progress of our university, including membership on the Senate and the Board of Governors. I value the deep level of interest that our alumni have in UVic. I value the personal investment of time and effort that each member of our alumni community has placed in their own UVic experience. And I value the support that alumni can lend to our students and faculty.

Whether you are reading this in downtown Victoria or in any of the more than 100 countries in which UVic alumni can be found, please know that we at UVic always look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful campus.

Our university has grown significantly over the last decade, and as a consequence we have added a number of academic buildings as well as residences. At the moment, the newest addition to campus is rapidly rising from the ground, not far from my office. The new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA), is due for completion in 2015.

This exciting new facility will be the home of Vikes athletics, sports and recreation programs, and it will provide an expanded base for CanAssist and its customized technologies and services for people living with disabilities. CARSA will provide an inspiring and inclusive focus to healthy living initiatives in the community. (See page 18 for a full feature on the CARSA project.)

In closing, I thank you for ongoing interest in the University of Victoria and your support of our mission and activities. I look forward, with optimism and excitement, to the next five years.
“It was all trial and error,” says van Netten, talking about early man’s discovery of fire and how it may have begun by making a connection between the heat that comes from rubbing hands together and the heat from a fire from a lightning strike.

Before fire, early man was probably scared of the dark and couldn’t wait for daylight to come. Fire opened up the night and brought people together, allowing communication and language to develop. Although we use fire as a tool, van Netten says, it has also guided evolution and has made us who we are today.

“Fire comes from inside us...the energy stored in your muscles produces it,” says Dr. Alex van Netten, sweating from the effort of creating a flame with the hardwood board, bow and spindle he crafted to demonstrate ancient fire-starting methods for his students.

The focused energy, friction and heat create a glow in the centre of a small pile of carbon — remnants of previous fires. He adds a handful of cedar shavings. A few breaths of air...and...ignition.

Van Netten, lab supervisor in Physics and Astronomy (and this year’s recipient of the Gillian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching), introduces the principles of fire in the popular 100-level course he leads for non-Physics majors. The course covers the basics of mechanics, heat, sound, wave motion, light, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics.

Class members often enter the course with a certain level of physics phobia but his imaginative teaching style breaks down those barriers. His overall effectiveness has been rated by 98 per cent of his students as either “good” or “excellent.”

A fan of the Survivorman TV series, an avid salmon fisherman, and the owner of six wood-burning stoves on his East Sooke property, van Netten wears his passions on his sleeve. His office wall features a large photo of a massive fireball from an experiment in explosives, a focus of his doctoral research at UVic.

A box on his office floor contains other tools for converting energy to fire, especially by concentrating sunlight: a polished beer can, discarded lenses from overhead projectors and other optical devices. Some of the larger lenses can focus enough sunlight to etch a rock, like the one branded with “Alex.”
Fitting that the first digital image from the 0.8-metre telescope, perched above Ring Road, should feature the Ring Nebula. Astronomy undergrad Mike Pearson, one of the hosts of the department’s Wednesday night open houses, captured the shot on a clear night in August. As senior scientific assistant Russ Robb explains, campus’s interstellar namesake is “the atmosphere of a dying star ejected into space leaving the very blue white dwarf star in the middle. The ejected gas is enriched in the elements carbon, oxygen, etc. from which the sun, earth, plants, animals and we are formed.”

The collection offers insight into the history of the church, British Columbia, and the arts of printing and bookbinding. The core collection includes a diversity of subject areas: theology, philosophy, science, ethics, psychology, Roman history, music and drama.

The collection was started by Belgian-born Charles John Seghers, the second Roman Catholic bishop of Victoria, founder of the city’s first hospital and of numerous schools and missions. Seghers was murdered in 1886 by his attendant while on an expedition to Alaska. Upon leaving Victoria for that final journey he said “take good care of the library.” The collection subsequently grew, with donations from bishops, priests and parishioners.

University Librarian Jonathan Bengston, in a message that appears near the front of The Seghers Collection, states: “The interplay of this Catholic legacy within a secular institution is a healthy tension which, perhaps, ultimately means that the collection will have a far broader impact than Bishop Seghers ever envisioned.”

View the book online at http://goo.gl/1SQanK
Nine new additions to the UVic Art Collections come from a gift inspired by the university’s first 50 years and by the work of alumni — and one alumna in particular — who volunteer to keep graduates connected with the university.

The donation comes from Drs. Edward Harvey and Lorna Marsden, former Victoria College students, partly as a tribute to Avis Rasmussen, Lorna’s sister. Rasmussen is a Victoria painter and printmaker, three-time UVic graduate and member of the UVic Alumni Association board of directors.

Harvey notes that “with the university celebrating its 50th anniversary it seemed appropriate to honour alumni who work hard to keep alumni connected. Avis is one of those people. She’s tireless in her service to the arts and alumni.”

The donation includes works by three founders of the influential Victoria arts collective, the Limners.

“The collage by Robin Skelton (top left), Herbert Siebner’s playful work ‘The Chase’ (bottom) and Jack Wilkinson’s ‘Nude’ (top right) are all classic pieces that reflect Victoria’s modern art scene of the 1970s,” says Caroline Riedel, BA ’91, curator of collections for the UVic Art Collections and the Legacy Art Gallery.

Other works are by Noburo Sawai, Phyllis Serota, Bill Porteous, Hugh Mackenzie and Donald Harvey. All of the artists represented in the collection crossed paths with Rasmussen through her artistic career, either as teachers or colleagues.

Rasmussen and Marsden grew up in Sidney, the fourth and fifth of five siblings. Their dad, a plant pathologist with the former Dominion Experimental Station, tended the family’s two-acre garden. The loose-knit plantings of roses, lilacs and verbena left an early visual impression on Rasmussen.

“I noticed the colours. We lived in a beautiful world, seconds from the beach” she says. It started a lifetime of artwork. “I wasn’t interested in colouring books and staying between the lines. I took the crayons and made my own pictures.”

She majored in art at Victoria College (when it was considered okay for a woman to paint “but not to be serious”), raised five kids, and earned UVic bachelor’s degrees in education and fine arts followed by a master’s in education. She taught school for a number of years before turning to art full-time.

Rasmussen’s watercolours and oils are regularly exhibited by Victoria’s Winchester Galleries and her works are featured at the newly renovated Oak Bay Beach Hotel.

“It just seems to be an enthusiasm, something I feel is so exciting, that’s all,” she says. “Colour against colour, shape against shape.”
Heard on Campus

“From legal doctrine to the resolution of a case, from political theory to the prevention of armed conflict, solutions must be grounded in accurate fact-finding and proper reasoning and analysis. It must be contextual, dispassionate, workable and responsive to every complex reality on the ground — including, unfortunately, the irrationality of human actors. It can be frustrating, especially when the obvious right solution is not allowed to work. (But) actually, often, it does work.”

LOUISE ARBOUR, LLD ‘00
PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP
JUNE 1, 2013
CONGRESS 2013 OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Alumni Week 2014 — from February 2 to 8 — promises to be the best one yet. Big plans are in the works for entertainment, learning opportunities and celebrations of the major impact UVic grads have in their communities. Most of the events will be happening on campus but alumni branches will also host special Alumni Week gatherings across Canada and abroad. Check out the line up at alumni.uvic.ca.

Hedlin’s Heist

Vikes swimmer Eric Hedlin competed for Canada this summer at the 27th Summer Universiade in Kazan, Russia and the FINA World Championships in Barcelona. In three different events at the Universiade, Hedlin claimed a bronze in the 400-m freestyle. A week later at the FINA worlds — in the men’s 10-km open-water event with fellow Vike and 2012 Olympic bronze medalist Richard Weinberger — Hedlin won Canada’s first medal at the event when he finished second, in a time of 53:31.6. Weinberger finished fifth. Six other Vikes, including Olympian Stephanie Horner, joined Hedlin in Russia.

Vikes field hockey player Kathleen Leahy played for Canada at the 2013 Junior World Cup in Monchengladbach, Germany from July 27 – Aug. 4. Canada qualified after a silver-medal performance at the 2012 Junior Pan American Championships. Leahy and the Canadian squad faced tough competition from Argentina, South Africa and China in the group stage. Unable to advance past the quarterfinals, the Canadian women settled for 14th place. Leahy, who is also a member of the senior national team, will be in good shape to be selected for the women’s Pan American Cup this fall. She’ll join the rest of the Vikes in hosting the CIS National Championships, Oct. 31 – Nov.3.

Vikes soccer’s Jaclyn Sawicki added to her international resume over the summer representing Canada at the 27th Summer Universiade. The 2012 CIS bronze medallist was one of 22 Canadian women selected for the multi-sport games. Although Canada did not advance past the group stage, they won three of their six games. Sawicki scored a critical goal in the final match with Russia. The hosts, however, managed to win the game, putting Canada in tenth place.

vikes.uvic.ca
GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The Gustavson School of Business has launched a community-based entrepreneurship program in tandem with Tribal Resources Investment Corporation, a group that offers financial services to First Nations entrepreneurs. Northwest Aboriginal Canadian Entrepreneurs is a shared initiative meant to help Aboriginal entrepreneurs in Northwestern BC to capitalize on economic development opportunities. Through classroom learning and active mentorship, the 18-week program provides participants with the tools to create businesses that will last beyond limited development projects. It’s the building of human capacity at the individual level that will help build long-term business value in the community, says program co-designer and director, Dr. Brent Main-prize of the Gustavson School. Instruction in the NW-ACE program is provided by Gustavson faculty. The first NW-ACE cohort commenced in Prince Rupert in May, and the second started in October, funded by Service Canada.

DIVISION OF Continuing Studies

Have you always promised yourself a visit to Iceland, or maybe the Balkans with a side trip to Vienna? Make it happen in 2014. Continuing Studies will be offering some fabulous travel study tours next year and if you register before Dec. 20 you’ll get the early bird rate. Other tours will encompass Provence and Paris, the Stratford and Shaw Festivals in Ontario, and opera in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Tour leaders include Michael Booth, Professor Emeritus (Theatre); Dr. Erin Halsted McGuire (Department of Anthropology); Robert Holliston, Principal Coach and Représentante, Pacific Opera Victoria; Dr. Jamie Syer (former Dean of the Victoria Conservatory of Music); and Chris Mundigler, archeologist and anthropologist. Details: continuingstudie-uvic.ca/travel.

FACULTY OF Education

Jeff Hopkins will be the first educator-in-residence for the Faculty of Education. Hopkins is a UVic alumnus and holds a master’s degree in Counselling Psychology. This year Hopkins will celebrate the opening of the Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry, a high school he founded and wherein he is a principal educator. PSII is the first of its kind, where students co-create their own “learning paths.” Hopkins’ goal is to transform the educational system and model new practices that could be implemented in public schools. When he was superintendent of Gulf Islands School District 64, he implemented initiatives focused on project and community-based learning. In his advisory role within the Faculty of Education, Hopkins will help ensure that programs remain on the cutting edge of current trends, and he will also help to build connections with the wider educational community.

FACULTY OF Engineering

On a quiet afternoon in March, Dr. Rodney Herring focused on a gold atom using UVic’s new STEHM microscope and produced the world’s most highly magnified image. Herring, a mechanical engineer at UVic, has been working on assembling the telescope for over 10 years. The image he took proved what he had hoped — the scanning transmission electron holo-

FACULTY OF Fine Arts

Local Mohawk multimedia artist and UVic alumnus Jackson 2Bears Leween is the recipient of the 2013-14 Audain Professorship in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest for the Department of Visual Arts. Previous Audain professor and Governor General’s Award-winning performance artist Rebecca Belmore will return to campus in early 2014 to dance the debut of the world’s biggest button blanket, created in collaboration with the History in Art Department and Tahltan artist Peter Morin. In other Visual Arts news, the current teaching faculty offers a Paradox when their exhibit of new work runs October 30 to January 12 at UVic’s Legacy Art Gallery…Freelance writer and author (and Torch contributor) Tom Hawthorn is the latest Harvey Stevenson Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Nonfiction for the Department of Writing. His spring 2014 course will focus on sports journalism. Writing is also launching the Lorna Crotzer Scholarship with a special on-campus literary event on November 28…and it’s game on for the School of Music and Vikes Athletics, who have teamed up to create a Vikes fight song contest. The shortlisted songs will be performed at a Vikes basketball game on January 10, where the crowd will help determine the winning song. Come out and cheer for your favourite.

FACULTY OF Human and Social Development

On July 1, Dr. Jacquie Green (Kandooôtq), PhD ’13, was appointed director of the School of Social Work, becoming the first Indigenous director of any post-secondary school of social work in Canada. Her vision for the school includes offering highly accessible information for all groups, with a focus on people with disabilities, queer, racia-
ized and Indigenous students at an international level. She wants to explore additional opportunities for the virtual classroom and expand exchange programs for faculty and students. Green earlier co-developed the school’s Indigenous specializations

Jacquie Green

program. She was born in Kitimaat Village, at the head of Douglas Channel in traditional Haisla territory. “Kundoqk” means “journeying over the mountain with belongings on my back” and originates from the Tsimshian nation.

FACULTY OF Humanities

The world premiere of Holocaust survivor Peter Gary’s A Twentieth-Century Passion, will take place on April 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Dr. Gary’s monumental composition addresses the six million Jewish lives lost during the horrific events of the Holocaust with an evening of education, culture, and conversation. The oratorio features a full orchestra, two choirs and will be conducted by Timothy Vernon, founding artistic director of Pacific Opera Victoria. The oratorio was one of the first creative donations to the “Building an Archive: Local Stories and Experiences of the Holocaust” project at UVic Archives. Former students in Germanic and Slavic Studies started the archive project after participating in the department’s I-witness Holocaust Field School. Tickets are available through the UVic Ticket Centre.

FACULTY OF Law

UVic Law is pleased to announce that the Law Centre has moved to its new premises adjoining the Victoria courthouse on Burdett Ave. It shares space with the provincial government’s newest Justice Access Centre and includes partners like the Legal Services Society and the Access Pro Bono Society. All of the programs provide advice and support to individuals who couldn’t otherwise afford legal services. The Law Centre is a clinical term that emphasizes experiential learning and reflects the faculty’s commitment to the integration of legal theory, legal skills and community service. Under the direction of Glenn Gallins, QC, Law Centre students have helped countless individuals over its 30-year history, averaging up to 2,000 clients a year. The Law Centre is generously supported through the Law Foundation of British Columbia.

UNIVERSITY Libraries

Shakespeare Onstage-Offstage is a six-week, city-wide celebration of the Bard this fall with exhibits and special events in libraries, theatres, art galleries, classrooms, concert halls and pubs. UVic Libraries is a lead partner in this unique cultural collaboration. Literary highlights include the first annual University Librarian’s Library Lecture. Mark Purcell — libraries curator for the National Trust and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Historical Society — will give an illustrated talk on the “Libraries of the National Trust: A Grand Tour.” UVic Libraries is also hosting a major exhibit in collaboration with the UVic English Department and the Legacy Art Gallery: Shakespeare’s Big Books brought together all four 17th-century Shakespeare folios (including the famous First Folio) for the first time in BC. More can be found at uvic.ca/library/featured/events and internetsheakespeare.uvic.ca/onstageoffstage.

FACULTY OF Science

The Thirty Meter Telescope, under construction on the summit of Hawaii’s Mauna Kea, will be commissioned in 2019. “TMT will be 200 times more powerful than the largest telescope currently in operation,” says Simard. “It will literally show us the birth of galaxies.”

The Thirty Meter Telescope, under construction on the summit of Hawaii’s Mauna Kea, will be commissioned in 2019. “TMT will be 200 times more powerful than the largest telescope currently in operation,” says Simard. “It will literally show us the birth of galaxies.”

Simard’s team will be building instruments to control the telescope that are beyond the extent of anything that’s been done before. “TMT represents a change of scale for astronomers,” says Simard. “We’re used to building instruments that are the size of a small car. Now we’re talking about instruments that are the size of a house.”

FACULTY OF Social Sciences

Google’s first Indigenous Mapping Day, on August 9, included a “MapUp” event at the Anthropology Department’s ethnographic mapping lab. Organized by Anthropology Assistant Professor Brian Thom and cartographer Ken Josephson, participants (including four members of the Cowichan Tribes) sought to improve the way places and territories are represented on Google Maps, Google Earth and Google Maps for Mobile. Thom has worked since 2009 with Google Earth Outreach and the Google Trainers Network developing training for Indigenous land use mapping to support First Nations initiatives. The goal is to enable First Nations to update basic information about their communities (while avoiding any sensitive or traditional information), says Thom. He is also a partner in UVic’s Community Mapping Collaboratory, a SSHRC-funded initiative under Dr. Peter Keller. Some of the walks that exist between cultures, says Thom, can be removed by sharing basic knowledge about the First Nations community. Cowichan’s map updates include several traditional Huf’qim’il num names and locations of important places in the community. “There was definitely a desire to do more, it’s just a matter of keeping the ball rolling,” Thom says. For more: mapping.uvic.ca/node/163
The Meaning of Work

How to find the path to a career that matches your highest goals.

BY BRAD BUIE, BA '99

True calling: Prof. A.R. “Elango” Elangovan says the key to a fulfilling job lies in knowing the “one value that is the essence of who you are.”
“When it hits you, you know it in your bones. It shapes every decision you make.”

Those who view their work as a calling are operating on another quantum level entirely. External validation and rewards don’t figure so largely in their motivation. Instead, the passion that drives them comes from the fulfillment of the work and a sense that their efforts are making the world a better place. Emotionally, they feel “in the zone,” fully integrated, almost mystically as though they are living out their destiny.

The concept of callings dates centuries back in the Judeo-Christian tradition. To have a calling, or to be called, originally meant one was divinely inspired to live “a life of Christ.” It had no connection with what one did in one’s daily work. Only later did callings become linked to occupation. Now when we say you have a calling, we usually mean you have a gift or sense of purpose driving you towards a particular profession.

But there is one other category of interpretation that is critical, Elangovan says. In this category, a calling is both secular and unconnected to occupation. A calling can be understood as a unique principle or a value (such as protecting the environment or other benefits). Whatever activity appears on all three lists offers a clue to an individual’s calling and the possible occupations in which it may be realized.

The first method, the “three lists approach,” is the one he normally introduces to younger students who tend to have less life experience. He has them make separate lists for all the things they’re good at, all the things they’re interested in, and all the things that will earn the rewards they’re after (great salary, travel, flexible schedule or other benefits). Whatever activity appears on all three lists offers a clue to an individual’s calling and the possible occupations in which it may be realized.

The second and more difficult method he calls the “highest goal approach.” You ask yourself what was the most meaningful thing you did in the last few weeks or month. You then ask why it was meaningful for you. Elangovan warns that you may spend a long time, perhaps years, pondering this. If you keep questioning, eventually you will arrive at one value that is the essence of who you are. Pursuing your calling then becomes a matter of seeking an occupation that allows you to live that value.

“Test it,” Elangovan challenges, “It works.” He confesses it took him two years using the highest goal approach to discover what makes him feel most fulfilled. “When it hits you, you know it in your bones,” he says. “It shapes every decision you make.”

He’s refined his own calling to a principle: “ensuring the dignity of those around me.” Teaching and research, he says, readily provide the opportunities to enact this. And although he would be the first to tell you that pursuing a calling does not necessarily guarantee you’ll be good at it, Elangovan consistently garners high praise from MBA students and alumni, and recently received a 3M National Teaching Fellowship, Canada’s highest honour for instructors in higher education. To see him in action in the classroom — for example, parsing out the nuances of a concept with a silky turn of phrase and conductor-like tweaking of the air — really is to witness a man fulfilled.

But is he just one of a fortunate, small minority for whom living the life and earning a livelihood converges? What about those of us who have for whatever reason made a trade-off between the two and have chosen a profession that affords a good quality of life but that is relatively barren of meaning?

If we aren’t willing to switch to another kind of work, then he advises us to reframe the work we do. “Shine a light on this trade-off,” Elangovan says. “If you’ve put your ladder up against the wrong wall, then try looking at the wall differently.” Seeing through this “calling lens,” we can determine what aspects of our work could fire us up.

“Many men go fishing all their lives without realizing it is not fish they are after,” says Elangovan, quoting Henry David Thoreau. “Better to start exploring this question now rather than wonder about what could have been.”
Derek Jacoby, Co-Founder and Director of Victoria MakerSpace, is giving a tour of the group’s new location at the Vancouver Island Technology Park, and while the place is empty, save a water cooler, a grad student couch and aluminum drywall studs, it feels alive with possibility. That’s in no small part due to the Computer Science PhD candidate’s enthusiasm for everything from woodworking to DNA “origami” — two things you can do at MakerSpace, a non-profit, member-run workshop where anyone can take classes or work on projects using some pretty serious tools.

Take metal casting, for example. “Usually when you do castings you build a mold out of green sand, and you either carve it, or you make it out of wood,” Jacoby explains. “But we’ve used the 3D printer to print in polylactic acid, which is a corn plastic that just vaporizes at temperatures over 300 degrees Celsius. So you can print something on the 3D printer, hang that into your green sand mold, put it into the casting furnace to burn off the plastic, and then pour your metal directly into that mold. So you essentially have a tool chain that goes from a computer model, to a 3D-printed object, to a metal cast.”

Hacking, making, tinkering...whatever term you use, the DIY and DIWO (do it with others) movement that blends technology, creative exploration, open-source collaboration and personal fabrication is happening at Victoria MakerSpace and its fraternal twin, BioSpace, both now operating at the same location and as a joint venture with the UVic-owned Tech Park.

In addition to monthly open houses, there have been classes in all-grain brewing, 3D printing, and introductory biotech classes (including one that teaches you how to splice the jellyfish glow-in-the-dark gene into bacteria).

Now in a more user-friendly location, MakerSpace is planning to expand its outreach programs, add kids’ activities, lunch-hour videos for Tech Park workers, and maybe a “fixer café” for repairing things that would otherwise be tossed.

While much of the making that goes on at MakerSpace is recreational, there are also small-scale investments in basic scientific research and engineering. Jacoby won an Open Science Challenge grant from the Assay Depot, an online hub for independent researchers, to look at the effects of probiotics on uric acid levels.

“There’s a fair amount of research that shows that probiotics like those in yogurt help break down uric acid, but it’s not a study that any pharmaceutical company would take on, because how do you patent...
yogurt? That’s the kind of real science work that is uniquely applicable to places like this.”

Jacoby’s vision for local, community-based interventions in biotech research, which he outlined in a 2012 TedX talk, was already well-known to Sandy Beaman when he took over as interim CEO of the VITP this past spring. And that’s what inspired Beaman, an electronics buff and MakerSpace regular, to propose a partnership between MakerSpace and the Tech Park.

“I saw an opportunity to collaborate with MakerSpace, and create a unique facility at the Tech Park,” says Beaman. “I see it as an amenity for the park, a gymnasium for the mind where workers can explore, learn and have fun with applied technologies. There is also an opportunity for educational outreach to high school students, so they can connect the theory they are learning in school with a hands-on, fun experience that may lead them to science and engineering at UVic.”

For the Humanities, Too

The Maker Lab in the Humanities, started in 2012 by English Prof. Jentery Sayers, fosters what he calls “the maker impulse...to ask ‘how does this become that?’”

It’s a question that Sayers says naturally leads to others, about how things are made, what they are made of, who makes them and under what conditions, and how they can be adapted for other purposes.

The maker impulse challenges what it means to use and passively consume, not just technology, but any manufactured thing we’re not required to understand; it counters Arthur C. Clarke’s adage that “any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”

Sayers says hands-on engagement with its media and technologies can help us better understand a culture. The Maker Lab is a facility where graduate students in the humanities can do what they’ve always done — interrogate narrative, textuality, culture, and things like race and gender dynamics — but in ways that acknowledge how subjective experience is an embodied, sensory experience that deals with material things.

Students in the Maker Lab are developing a prototype Kit for Cultural History on the phonograph of the 1920s, which will include parts and instructions to make a basic phonograph, along with regular academic materials, like essays and annotated bibliographies that explain its cultural and historical context.

“I realize that we can’t hear like people did back then. We’re used to high definition and things like that,” Sayers says, “But it doesn’t mean you can’t try to better understand the material particulars of the things of the time. These technologies were real and they did things.”

Maker Lab students are also exploring exhibit work, asking why it matters that we go see physical objects in museums, galleries, archives and libraries when we could just look at them online.
The first new recreational facilities on campus in more than 30 years — going up across the road from McKinnon Gym — will bring together elite athletes, fitness buffs and innovative programs for people with disabilities.

BY PATTY PITTS, DIPL. ’90
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
GREG MILLER AND
CHRIS MARSHALL,
UVIC PHOTO SERVICES
SUMMERTIME AT MCKINNON GYM AND young basketball camp members are shooting hoops and running up and down the newly re-finished floor. The kids are happy and so is Clint Hamilton, watching from the sidelines. The aspiring hoopsters aren’t much younger than Hamilton, MEd ’92, was when he first laid eyes on the venerable gymnasium as a potential recruit.

“It was 1983 and I came with my parents. I was a kid from Armstrong, BC. I can’t remember who the Vikes were playing that night but the place was packed. It was pretty exciting,” says the Athletics and Recreational Services Director. “I wanted to be a part of that.”
Hamilton, who went on to be a member of the national title-winning 1983-84 Vikes basketball team, wants to inspire that same sense of excitement and university connection in future students and he believes that the new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) will be the facility to do it.

The 190,000-sq.-ft. building under construction across the road from McKinnon will include a gym, field house, squash and racquetball courts, an 18-metre climbing wall, fitness and training rooms.

When it’s finished in 2015, it will also be the new home for CanAssist, which develops assistive technologies for people with disabilities. The total project budget for the facilities and adjacent parkade is $77 million.

And while the new gym — with its pro-style bowl seating for 2,000 that brings fans close to the action — is clearly a highlight for Hamilton, it’s the role the facility will play in campus life that stokes his enthusiasm.

“If all we do is build a building and move into it, we will not have come close to reaching the potential that CARSA represents,” says Hamilton, who sees an opportunity to connect everyone who uses the building’s facilities with the Vikes tradition of excellence. “Our students want facilities and services that cater to healthy living. They have high expectations...whether it’s clubs, intramurals or instructional programs. McKinnon was awesome when I came to UVic and acquiring the Ian Stewart Complex provided space that’s served us well. But, we need more capacity and quality to meet the many demands we face.”

Vikes basketball standout Debbie Yeboah, BA ’13, represented students at the centre’s sod-turning ceremony in May. “We’re an elite school and it makes sense to have a facility that meshes students’ athletic ability with the overall excellence of the university. We’re one of the few schools that still has wooden bleachers. It will be nice to give the fans more comfortable seats!”

She agrees that future student-athletes will choose universities with better athletic and recreational facilities. “I know a lot of people who are looking at the facilities in which they’ll be playing. The facility is a huge thing as far as training goes. UVic does such an excellent job of instilling pride in you as a Vike, and that doesn’t go away when you leave. I’ll take any excuse to come back.”

Just steps from the CanAssist’s current location, dust rises from the sprawling construction site that will become the new base for the organization’s technology-based efforts to help the disabled.

The opportunities for collaboration are “going to be huge,” says Robin Syme, CanAssist’s executive director. “So many students, community members and faculty will access that building each day and CanAssist will be front and centre. The close proximity to all the other activity in CARSA will lead to new collaborations.”

In 14 years, CanAssist has grown from a small volunteer venture to a thriving band of 20 employees working with students, faculty members, volunteers and community groups.

Its space will nearly double, to 7,700 sq. ft., the cramped machine shop will expand and the windowless testing room will move to much brighter surroundings.

Ahead of the move, CanAssist plans to involve more faculty and students and take greater advantage of opportunities to market its unique products.
“We want to identify how solutions developed for one client can benefit others with a minimal amount of customization,” says Syme. CanAssist has a new agreement to develop customized materials in collaboration with BC’s regional health authorities.

“I think [the new facility] will be wonderful and a lot more accessible for clients to come and try the new technologies,” says Josh Yates, a former CanAssist client and first-year School of Music student. When he was in middle school, CanAssist developed “an awesome system” that enabled Yates, who has a visual impairment, to read music and watch his conductor at the same time.

Besides the expanded facilities, Yates says CanAssist’s presence in CARSA will be “inspirational. I think the integration will help a lot.” Having clients with disabilities in the same building as athletes “aspiring to be the best that you can be, or pursuing your sport as far as you can go, is a really good environment. Just because you have a disability, doesn’t mean you can’t be awesome.”

“Our students expect and want facilities and services that cater to healthy living. They have high expectations.”

When Tony Gage was a student in 1966, McKinnon Gym was years from completion and university students worked out in a former World War II hangar. Now Gage (a six-year member of the Board of Governors) and Jane Savidant (former board member of the Calgary Olympic Development Association) are co-chairing the $18.5-million fund-raising campaign for CARSA.

Both were recruited by honorary campaign co-chair Ian Stewart, LLD ’93, himself a former board of governors member and a long-time supporter of Vikes athletics and the benefits of providing fitness facilities to students.

“The time between arriving at university and graduation is when an individual’s character is formed,” says Stewart, “and I think athletics plays a role in that.”

Gage, BA ’70, says that the fundraising team has a number of options to draw from when engaging potential donors — UVic’s reputation for developing high performance athletes, the strong support in the community for amateur and varsity sports, the “jewel of CanAssist,” and the work of the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education which will not relocate to CARSA but will benefit from its resources and gain space in McKinnon when existing facilities move to the new building.

Savidant says CARSA’s message “is really timely. Health and fitness is an issue that all corporations and organizations are aware of and CARSA provides an opportunity to support that healthy lifestyle.”

Stewart is especially pleased that CARSA will be “totally inclusive. To have a major athlete training beside someone facing major challenges is very inspirational.”

The campaign will be low-key at first says Savidant “then as the funding builds, we’ll go into a public phase.” There will definitely be opportunities for UVic alumni to participate says Gage who — like his fellow campaign leaders, UVic board and executive members — has made a personal pledge to the campaign.

The road to CARSA was not a straight one, with the start delayed in favour of community consultations prior to Saanich council’s approval of a redesigned parkade.

Hamilton says he never thought the outcome was in doubt.

“I won’t apologize for my athletic background where you believe that once you think you’re beaten, you are,” he says with a smile. When a consultant’s report found that millions of dollars were needed to upgrade existing facilities it came down to a question of whether to “spend good money after bad… I felt confident the project would go forward.”

The McKinnon Building will remain a hub of recreational and varsity activity until CARSA is complete — and beyond. “McKinnon will definitely stay. It’s crucial to the teaching and research priorities of the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education and we’ll still need the gym even after CARSA is built.”

As the youngsters on the gym floor wind up their drills, Hamilton’s gaze drifts upward to the strings of national title pennants lining two walls. If CARSA lives up to its potential, it’s the kind of interior décor that the new gym will sport as well.
His journey to the University of Victoria began in the most unimaginable way — orphaned at the age of seven during the bloody Rwandan genocide. But John Nsabimana survived a 500-km walk to the safety of a refugee camp where he was taken under the wings of Canadian aid workers. Today he’s a beaming force of energy ready to take on the world in the name of children’s rights.

BY KIM WESTAD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ‘95
When July 1 comes around and for the first time in 13 years David Turpin is no longer president of the University of Victoria, it's a safe bet he and his wife Suromitra Sanatani, BA '85, will find time to head to their cabin on one of the Discovery Islands. The getaway includes an inviting series of wooden decks and staircases leading down to the beach. It was all built with his own hands, but — as he's quick to make clear — not without the able assistance of a friend and a brother. Sharing the credit became a recurring theme during a recent lunch conversation — he joked about it being his first and only “exit interview” — and it's a mark of the collaborative brand of leadership he brought to the university during a remarkable period of growth and transition.
Final push: Nsabimana is scheduled to complete his Master of Public Administration degree in April.
There are many children among the refugees trying to reach Oruchinga, a refugee settlement in southern Uganda about 500 km north of Kigali. Unlike some of the other children, John and his brother have no parents or belongings — just the clothes they wore when they witnessed the murders of their mother and father.

Hutu extremists targeted Tutsi and moderate Hutus in mass killings, with complicated political and historical roots, that were largely ignored by the rest of the world until it was too late. Canadians often know it by its shattering impact on General Romeo Dallaire, LLD ’05, leader of United Nations peacekeepers in Rwanda.

John can’t remember the exact date of his parents’ deaths, but he knows he had recently turned seven because he was excited about the prospect of starting school later that year. He also recalls the contented feeling of having had birthday sweets. And he remembers the chaos of that day.
“You see people dying, you don’t know why they are dying. You hear guns and noise but you have no idea what is happening. You are a child. You pass through blood and you keep going,” he says. “You don’t know anybody. You just follow. I do what they do. They said to hide and we did, but we didn’t know what it meant. We just knew we had to do it.”

What happened that day, experienced and remembered through a child’s eyes, is hard for him to describe now. He is quiet and says, “I try to just stay away from these things or I start to cry. I want the future.”

Brotherhood and Education

Even when their group arrived at the Oruchinga settlement, likely after months, John and his brother didn’t quite understand where they were. The influx of refugees stretched resources at the camp. While the brothers no longer had to fear the soldiers, people around the youngsters were dying, many of cholera and other rampant diseases. Everywhere, there was sadness. People were safe, but had lost their homes, families and lives.

“All around me, people cried,” says John. People he saw one day were gone the next, dead. He didn’t know why. He didn’t know what it meant to be this new word, “refugee.”

About a year after arriving at Oruchinga, a miracle happened: the boys were reunited with their baby brother. A neighbour had apparently come upon the family’s vehicle after the attack and discovered him. She too had survived the journey to Oruchinga, where she recognized the older Nsabimana boys. At age nine, John took responsibility for the care of his younger brothers.

It was there, at a settlement camp with tens of thousands of refugees living in mud huts, in makeshift tents or on the ground, that John began his education. He sat on the red soil under a large tree with hundreds of children. They sang the Alphabet Song.

John took the ABCs to heart. His two priorities in life: education and looking after his brothers. He made sure they had first a place to sleep and scrambled to provide food and water. He even found a pig and bartered her piglets for food.

“Everything I learn, I teach them. I try to make them understand this is a situation we didn’t create for ourselves. It just happened. Just be a good person and maybe one day things will be better and we can go back home,” he says.

John became deeply involved with aid groups, mainly UNICEF, Right to Play and the Ugandan Scouts Association.

“You can take a lot of things back to your community, wherever you are. You can help someone even though you are helpless. That is what I learned with Scouts. That is how I learned to become a good person.”

Jennifer Freeman, BA ’92 (Political Science), remembers the first time she met John: he almost bowled her over with his welcome. It was February 2004 and she was part of a new group of aid workers from Right to Play. They had just driven into Oruchinga and were to meet the teenager who would be their English translator.

“I saw this streak of bright yellow fluorescent shirt running towards the car (and) with a huge smile he wraps his arm around me and says, ‘Welcome, welcome, I’m John.’ He’s just this ball of light and energy and happiness,” remembers Freeman, now the director of the Women PeaceMakers Program at the University of San Diego.

Finding a Bigger Purpose

So how did that little boy who witnessed many deaths, who slogged through hundreds of kilometres while caring for his brother, become the teenager in a
refugee settlement who stood out, who didn’t become a child soldier like so many others in the same situation?

Dr. Jacqueline McAdam, MA ‘95 (Child and Youth Care), has lived in Rwanda, Kenya and Ethiopia, studying the coping and adaptation skills of young people in war zones. She focuses on the concept of resiliency, where, instead of investing in the deficits of life, a person looks to the future.

It can be as simple and complicated as the ability to smile, to choose mentors, and to have the gifts of intelligence and intuitiveness. McAdam also sees post-traumatic growth in people like John. Instead of merely surviving the trauma, they find a purpose beyond themselves.

“There is a theory that a lot of people have goals and visions but only 10 per cent will change the world. He’s probably one of that 10 per cent. He is gifted and driven,” McAdam says.

Russ McKenzie, a Right to Play volunteer, saw that too, when he suggested John apply for a coveted scholarship to Lester B. Pearson United World College in Metchosin. It took the efforts of several Canadian volunteers to get him there in 2004. (At one point, John was denied access to Canada because he had insufficient family ties in Africa — the ultimate irony: his parents’ murder counted against him.)

The boy who lived in a refugee settlement for 11 years was suddenly given a map of an airport and a two-night lesson on how to be Canadian. He ate pizza — didn’t really like it but was polite.

At the college he met other young people who had also struggled in wartorn countries. He learned more about world conflicts and the rights of children. And he learned that he wanted to devote his life to helping make the world safe for children. “I was there for two years but it will stay with me the rest of my life.”

He volunteered with UNICEF while studying for his undergraduate degree in Child and Youth Care and he was asked to become a UNICEF Canada ambassador.

Now, in the final stages of completing his Master of Public Administration, his co-operative education studies find him in New York, assigned to the UNICEF Child Protection Section, helping with the armed violence and weapons team. He’ll then complete his MPA project on the UN protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (ratified by nearly all members of the UN in order to provide protection for children affected by armed conflict).

He sees it as the start of his life’s work. Conflict continues to grow in the world, with seven million displaced children. John wants them to know that even when they are in camps and may feel no hope, there are organizations working for them, and people rallying for their future, just as there were for his.

With the help of sponsors in Canada and the US, John’s brothers are also in university. He talks to them every day. He remains close with the people who helped him, and considers them family as well.

He plans to return to Rwanda, to help. “Everyone there has lost someone.” John is quiet for a moment and then, as is his way, turns to the positive. “I always tell my friends that if we meet now and I don’t tell you I lived this kind of life, there is no way you can tell. That is because of the opportunities Canada has given me. It gives you an idea of why I have to do what I believe in, to help others.”
Survival Stories

In a new memoir, Bev Sellars, BA ’97, Chief of the Xat’süll (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake, details three generations of exposure to the racism and oppression of Canada’s Indian residential schools through the personal history of her grandmother, mother and her own. It is also a story of healing. In this excerpt from They Called Me Number One (Talonbooks), Sellars recalls her arrival at UVic, as a mature student at the age of 38.
University opened up a whole new way of thinking for me. Little light bulbs in my brain went off left, right, and centre. The experience was just as liberating as when I had discovered self-help books. My first-year studies in university included psychology, philosophy, political science, and English. It was also recommended that I take a history course, but I didn’t want to because I knew that all the history that I had been taught up to then was inaccurate and I had Gram’s voice in my head.

Gram always talked about how she did not like what the White people did to the Indians, but she never confronted non-Aboriginals or told them no if they asked for something. I guess her residential school training stayed with her throughout her life too. She told me about Eddie Herd, a White man who lived near the Aboriginal people. Eddie Herd was a poor man who when he came to the Williams Lake area. He would regularly go house to house in the Aboriginal community buming things he needed from the Aboriginal people. Of course, the Aboriginal people always helped them out.

When Eddie Herd finally made it on his own and established a productive ranch near Deep Creek, he turned his back on the Aboriginal people who had helped him. Gram said they would be walking down the street in Williams Lake and, when Eddie Herd saw them coming, he would cross the street so he would not have to talk to them. Eddie Herd would not even acknowledge the Native people who had helped him for years. That seemed to be the common theme of interactions between Aboriginal people and newcomers. Gram said, “The Indians saved lots of those White people. They didn’t know how to get around in this country; now they think the Indians are no good.”

History that I had been taught up until I went to university started with the White man. I knew Aboriginal history began in this country long before that. I tried to fit other courses into my schedule but, in the end, the only one that would work was a history course. Resigning myself to the situation, I decided to suck it up for the first semester, take the history course, and get the three credits I needed for full-year course. Once I got into class, I was amazed that for the first two weeks we talked about history before everyone else got here — the history of Aboriginal people. Things had definitely changed since the last course I had taken more than twenty years before. I eventually majored in history.

My other courses were all so interesting. I learned about non-Aboriginal politics and their party platforms and policies. I took a couple of courses in international politics and learned how countries interact with one another. I studied Plato and Aristotle and their views of raising children to be the best they could be. That made me think about the upbringing of most Aboriginal children, and the contrast was stark — Aboriginal kids were raised to self-destroy; nothing in our training was geared to help us do our best. In philosophy class, I learned to think critically and to question everything. I even learned to ask, “Is there a God?” I had been so programmed into just accepting the existence of a God who we all will answer to at the end of our lives. Maybe I had not fully embraced the Catholic church’s teachings in my life, but I was scared enough to believe they might hold some truth. When I first met Bill and one of our discussions got around to religion he told me, “You know there isn’t a God, don’t you?” I was sure he was going to be struck down right there and then. The more I read and thought about what I was learning, the more I could see that organized religion was a tool men in power had invented to control people. I thought about the teachings at the Mission and saw the total hypocrisy of their organization. I lost any respect I may have had for organized religion.

In history, I learned that much of the philosophical basis of environmental education stems from the Aboriginal people’s relationship with the land. One of my history books said that the Iroquois had a days-long Thanksgiving ceremony in honour of the sun, the wind, the rain, the earth, and everything that grows.

Bev Sellars went on to obtain her law degree from the University of British Columbia. She was first elected Chief of the Soda Creek Band in 1987 and on behalf of her community she has spoken out on racism, residential schools and environmental and social threats to their territory.
Script to Screen: Maureen Bradley and Dan Hogg lead the Writing Department’s film program and growing presence on the festival circuit.
On a Roll

Students and teachers in the Writing Department are turning words into pictures — with film festival-worthy results.

BY ROBERT MOYES, BA ’82 | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95

It’s one thing to see A-list movie stars strolling the red carpet at Cannes but it’s quite another to be among those celebs as an invitee to the world’s most revered film festival.

That’s the happy claim of Dan Hogg, a digital media technician from UVic who went to the film mecca this May after one of his short films, Floodplain, was selected by Telefilm Canada to be showcased in their “Not Short On Talent” initiative.

Hogg’s accomplishment — the latest the BFA grad has racked up in recent years — is part of the impressive filmmaking happening within the Department of Writing. With numerous awards and showings at various film festivals — including the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival — the department’s teachers and students are punching way above their weight. And what’s really startling is that the small department isn’t even a film school. What’s going on?

A lot of the credit goes to Associate Professor Maureen Bradley, who started out shooting videos with her punk band in the late 1980s and has since made more than 40 short films — at least half of which were screened at various festivals. She has been teaching film-based courses at UVic since 2004, initially getting her students to write and direct very short individual films. Then in 2009, Bradley expanded the focus to collaborative film work, a “class as crew” model that is experiential, challenging…and very, very successful.

It started with a web series named Freshman’s Wharf, bringing together 15 Fine Arts students. Bradley joined forces with colleague and veteran fellow filmmaker Hogg, whose expertise in everything from production to cinematography made him an invaluable partner. “Dan and I mentored the students as they made those three- to four-minute episodes,” says Bradley. “It was real boot-camp filmmaking but we got it all done. And it was a blast.”

The students were hooked, and went on to create eight more episodes on their own. In 2010 they won a Leo Award for best web series, which is the closest thing to an Oscar handed out by the province’s film and TV industry. “There was no
Scene from ‘Til Death: a student-made film without the “look” of a student film.

stopping the course then,” adds Bradley, who went on to formally launch an annual one-term course — WRIT 420 — where 20 students select a promising script then sign on for jobs ranging from camera assistant and make-up artist to director and cinematographer. The goal is to produce a professional-looking 10-minute short.

To find out how well the department’s below-the-radar filmmaking program is going, look no farther than 24-year-old Connor Gaston, a Bradley protégé who was invited to show his Bardo Light at TIFF in 2011. The 10-minute short, dark and compelling, is a sci-fi murder mystery involving a father-son team of paranormal scientists. Despite the film’s polish, it was shot on a shoestring budget. “Amazingly, it cost about $50 and a couple of cases of beer for the post-production guys,” laughs the soft-spoken Gaston, who served as writer, director, and editor.

Gaston, 24, is far from being a one-hit wonder. His coup the next year was to place his quirky 60-second Stuck at the Whistler Film Festival. He directed this year’s WRIT 420 project, ‘Til Death, which is currently being shopped around to various festivals.

“There is a depth to his work, and a knack for visual storytelling,” says Bradley, who still recalls when she first taught him two years ago and was “blown away” with his first assignment, which was to tell a story in one minute with photos. “There is something there that I’ve seen in maybe three students over 13 years of teaching,” Bradley adds. “His ‘Til Death has a ‘look’ that goes well beyond a student film.”

In the opinion of longtime movie writer Michael Reid, who has extensively covered the local filmmaking scene for the Times Colonist, what’s happening up at UVic is exceptional. “They’re doing lots of great work, but what’s really impressive is that they aren’t sitting around waiting for grants — they have an idea and they go for it,” he says. “And Maureen has obviously inspired her students,” adds Reid. “Those Wharf webisodes were way ahead of their time.”

A few steps down the hall from Bradley, Hogg’s office is stocked with lighting kits, tripods, audio recorders, microphones, and digital cameras. The big star is the department’s RED digital camera, the same model used to shoot blockbusters like Pirates of the Caribbean IV and The Social Network. With its lenses and accessories it’s worth about $80,000 and delivers performance that used to be the domain of $1-million conventional Hollywood camera systems. “This gives our filmmakers everything they need to perform like a real studio,” explains Hogg, who has worked on a handful of feature films, and done lots of his own shorts and music videos — a total of 80 such projects over the last 15 years.

Despite his depth of expertise on the technical side, Hogg is also a talented writer: he swapped his camera for a keyboard to write the script for Floodplain, the project that got him invited to Cannes. After adapting it from an award-winning short story by Writing grad D.W. Wilson, Hogg went on to produce the 10-minute short, a coming-of-age drama set in the Rockies. The handsome-looking film stars Cameron Bright, the Victoria-born actor who has...
performed in several big films opposite such megastars as Robert De Niro (Godsend) and Nicole Kidman (Birth).

According to Gaston, short films can function like a “calling card” to catch the attention of a producer. “If you make a killer short that does well at a festival then you hope it leads to getting a feature,” he explains. Floodplain sure worked that way for Jeremy Lutter, the film’s director. Lutter, BA ’05, who has collaborated on several projects with Hogg, is currently in Toronto directing a TV series called Annebots. He is one of many ex-students — including a half-dozen from the last two years alone — who now work in the film industry.

The glamour of the film world is undeniable, but the more pervasive reality is one of extremely hard work. When Bradley was “executive producing” the class project that became ‘Til Death, several weeks of intense preparation culminated in a three-day shoot where the students gunned it through 12- to 14-hour days. And considering that an actual film school will charge up to $25,000 for a year’s instruction, it’s understandable why students lucky enough to get taught by Bradley and Hogg throw themselves into it. “No other writing department in Canada has produced a filmmaking course,” says Bradley. “And what makes it so good is the writing. Some of the film schools produce films that look amazing, but the writing isn’t very strong.”

Filmmaking continues apace in the unofficial movie studio set within the Fine Arts Building. Bradley is working on her first feature, Two 4 One, which she describes as “a romantic comedy about an oddball couple who have a one-night stand and both wind up pregnant.” She won a generous grant based on the script she wrote, and was flown to TIFF this September to pitch the project to domestic and foreign distributors. Two should start filming this winter. Hogg is not only producing that film but is also developing his own feature, Rip My Heart Out, a tongue-in-cheek monster flick.

And as for Gaston, he’s hard at work writing the script of a feature film for his MFA project. Despite his success as a director, Gaston also has a track record as a talented wordsmith — not surprising, since his father is the celebrated novelist (and chair of the Writing Department) Bill Gaston. In fact, he’s adapting one of his dad’s novels, The Cameraman, which is all about making movies. Which almost sounds like something right out of Hollywood.↑
Blog Appetit

Lindsay Anderson flavourfully explores Canada’s food story.

BY MELANIE TROMP HOOVER, BA ‘08

“Well, they looked a bit like glass noodles with a side of pink mayo,” explains Lindsay Anderson, BFA ’08, of the squid intestines she dined on at a sushi joint in February. “But they tasted...strong, like salty, fermented seafood guts — which is exactly what they are.” Yet she gulped them down with good-natured aplomb anyways — going in for a second and third bite to clean out the bowl and show her gratitude to the chef.

After 365 consecutive days as Richmond’s resident food blogger, Anderson photographed, and wrote about every type of Asian cuisine that crossed her plate, including intimidating regional specialties like pig blood stew and durian, a Southeast Asian fruit famous for its mildly sulphuric and stomach-churning odour.

“I really will eat pretty much anything,” laughs Anderson, who credits the blog with introducing her to both Chinese dumplings and the notion that Canada is likely full of delicious culinary sub-cultures just like Richmond.

Once she filed her last post for the city in June, Anderson realized she had a much bigger Canadian food story to tell.

“I’ve always had these questions about what Canadian food is,” she explains. “When I ask friends this question, I get poutine or Nanaimo bars or Kraft Dinner as answers. But what about the amazing pockets of food talent that immigration has brought to our county? And how do Canadians celebrate with food?”

Heading off in June, Anderson and her friend Dana VanVeller began a four-month road trip across Canada to shake out a few answers to these questions, blogging and posting photos along the way at edibleroadtrip.com.

The duo kayaked in Clayoquot Sound, headed north to the unforgiving boreal forest in the Yukon before booting east for a planned picnic overlooking the Atlantic to complete the journey. Stops along the way included baking angel food cake in Saskatchewan, making cheese in Quebec and fishing the coast of Prince Edward Island — among more than 40 appetizing stops on the itinerary.

“Ultimately, I want to show people why there is so much to be proud of across Canada,” says Anderson. “You don’t need to seek out extraordinary destination food experiences because there is always going to be something more interesting and local to taste wherever you are.”

At UVic, Anderson studied history in art and put her way through school catering parties, feeding hungry tree planters in the summer, learning to write and talking about food. Since her time in Victoria, she’s been a cheesemonger in Calgary, a goat herder in Tuscany and a graduate student at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Colono, Italy.

“In all of my travels, I’ve found one thing to be universal: if you ask people about food they’ll start talking — and I love sharing these stories.”
Shaking up the Collections

Faculty and students co-curate Falstaff and Music, part of the Shakespeare Onstage—Offstage community celebration of the Bard.

BY JANELLE JENSTAD, BA’92, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ENGLISH,
ERIN KELLY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENGLISH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG MILLER, UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN THE MEARS CENTRE FOR LEARNING, YOU WILL SEE individuals and groups sitting at desks, tables, and comfy chairs studying, reading, or even whispering about great ideas. But the place that holds the most potential for students might be the least obvious — Archives and Special Collections, tucked in the northeast corner of the lower level.

This part of the library has always attracted scholars, particularly those in the humanities. Our library has excellent holdings ranging from British Columbia colonial records to Victorian popular literature to seventeenth-century religious books. We’ve found that this material has the potential to mobilize the energy of students and provide them with new learning opportunities.

We are two of a number of humanities faculty members who work with students to curate exhibits for the Special Collections reading room. This year we mounted two major exhibits for the Shakespeare Onstage-Offstage community collaboration. “Shakespeare’s Big Books” at the Legacy Gallery brought together — for the first time in BC — the rare seventeenth-century folios of Shakespeare’s plays. While we couldn’t invite students to curate this exhibit with us because of security issues, we did have the great pleasure of taking recent graduate Cameron Butt with us to inspect the second and
fourth folios owned by the Legislative Library.

Our other exhibit, “Falstaff and Music,” celebrates Pacific Opera Victoria’s recent production of Giuseppe Verdi’s Falstaff. Thanks to past donors and emeritus faculty, UVic’s collections are particularly rich in materials related to Shakespeare, music, and performance. Retired English faculty David Thatcher and Bryan Gooch deposited in Special Collections the research materials for their magisterial Shakespeare Music Catalogue, including many early and rare scores. The Internet Shakespeare Editions, founded in the English department by digital visionary Michael Best, has a large collection of theatre programs, prompt books, and production photos. We also drew upon the John Krich and Harvey Miller theatre collection and the early editions of Shakespeare’s plays in Special Collections to track the textual and theatrical fortunes of the larger-than-life Falstaff.

This exhibit involved a number of English graduate and undergraduate students as assistant curators. Taking responsibility for a theme (editions, adaptations, music, and theatrical ephemera), each student selected, described, and mounted one section of the exhibit.

Graduate students Telka Duxbury and Nathan Phillips joined forces with us again, after their role in Jenstad’s “Macbeth and Music” exhibit last year. Duxbury sifted through theatrical ephemera in the ISE archives and UVic Special Collections. She found evocative images of Falstaff drinking, crawling into a laundry basket, and wooing Windsor’s merry wives. Building on a finding aid created by alumnus Cameron Butt, Phillips surveyed the early Shakespeare editions in our collection, turning up engravings of Shakespeare’s fat knight within the texts of the Falstaff plays.

As curators, students develop a range of expertise. They learn to handle fragile and valuable materials. They learn to consult finding aids, various bibliographical and biographical research tools, create a narrative through the collection, determine provenance, write exhibit blurbs in an accessible style, position books for viewing, and use special equipment like mylar film and book snakes to hold books open.

Joining Duxbury and Phillips, English undergraduates Alina Blank and Alex Coates will serve as docents, guiding visitors through the exhibit and sharing their knowledge of individual items. This type of work also inspires individual research projects. Duxbury will continue cataloguing materials as part of a directed study on “Critical Praxis in Digital Curation: Shakespeare’s Music.” Her efforts will result in a prototype for a Shakespeare and Music database that will list and digitize the primary materials in the Shakespeare Music Project fonds.

More and more, students at all levels — from first year undergraduates through advanced graduate students — are drawing upon Special Collections resources for class presentations and individual research projects. Nada, John, Lara, Jane, Nicole, and the rest of the staff are both guardians of and guides to the riches of our collections. Thanks to them, this quiet corner of the library is also one of the most welcoming places on campus.
Julie, a psychiatric nurse, could have been working extra hospital shifts to pay for her Master's degree at UVic. Instead, thanks to receiving the James & Phillippa Kerr Scholarship in the School of Public Health and Social Policy, she is able to focus more time and effort on her studies.

Although James and Phillippa never met Julie, they touched her life in a profound way. Julie calls the scholarship "a true gift."
Keeping in Touch

A Little Syrup With That?

1970s

LARRY ARKELL, BA ’79 (Political Science), is retired from social work and “now divorced and living in Surrey. I do a little sailing and skiing and some volunteer work in a parenting program.”

GRAEME DOAK, BA ’75 (Political Science), is now vice-president of human resources and government relations at Pacific Northern Gas, based in Vancouver.

STEPHEN GUPPY, BA ’77 (Writing), Teacher’s Certificate ’82, MA ’88 (English), recently published his second novel and eighth book, Like I Care is a comic novel set in Vancouver. A recent review called the book “a smart, funny, and enjoyable depiction of the quotidian impacts of rapid technological change”. Steve wrote about the process of researching and writing the novel in a series of articles on the National Post’s books blog. Steve has taught creative writing and English at Vancouver Island University since 1986. He lives in Nanaimo with his wife – author, artist and former UVic student Nelly Kazenbroot – and their son and daughter.

1980s

BILL MCELROY, BA ’74 (English/History), Diploma in Secondary Education, ’75 wrote: “Although I am now officially retired, I continue to serve the community as a volunteer. In fact, I have been an active volunteer in Victoria for over 43 years. I am currently the chair of Pacific Centre Family Services Association, chair of the Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth, treasurer of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and coordinator for the West Shore Emergency Youth Housing Task Force. I have been the executive director of five organizations and have served on more than 30 boards. In 2011 I received the Solicitor General Crime Prevention Volunteer Award.”

CHRISTOPHER OWEN, BSc ’85 (Economics), lives in Las Vegas with his wife KATHRYN OWEN, BEd ’81. He writes: “We look forward to our receipt of the Torch. Whether news-worthy or not, I just received my JD from Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa at the age of 60. As you can imagine, I was the oldest student in my class, and I’m pretty sure, the oldest student in school.”

DAN SHARP, BA ’84 (History), is the CEO of Western Allergy Services: “After UVic I started a medical import/export company, which evolved into a small chain of drugstores, and I bought a small allergy pharmaceutical company, which grew into the largest of its niche in Canada. I sold the majority of the company to a Danish firm in 2008, and am now introducing four new years ago and continue to live in Calgary with my two elderly cats and collection of vintage mini and microcomputers. Life is good.”

CHRISTINA JOHNSON-DEAN, MA ’81 (History in Art), authored the sixth in the Unheralded Artists of BC series (Mother Tongue Publishing): The Life and Art of Edythe Hembroff-Schleicher. She was a sketching partner of Emily Carr, artist in her own right, translator, writer, and eventually provincial consultant on Carr’s work. Christina also wrote the fifth book in the series, The Life and Art of Ina D.D. Utthoff, who started the Victoria School of Art in 1925, was a key figure in establishing the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, and was a regular arts reviewer for the Victoria Daily Colonist in the 1950s and 1960s.

BARB OBONSAWIN, BEd ’86, is “currently teaching grade 7/8 at a middle school in Armstrong, BC and loving it. I am one of the team leaders and also enjoy being a big part of the literacy team at our school. Every day I learn something new from my teenaged students! My summer news is that I was married to a wonderful man, Chris, in July and am living in the country on a farm with horses, which has always been my dream.”

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products in North America. Over the years I have had a number of other companies and businesses. I served as VP of the Victoria Symphony, and currently act as chair for a major fundraising event for the BC Cancer Foundation. Two boys, both now at UVic. Living in Victoria for the past 20 years and love it — very lucky guy.”  

**WARREN WEIR**, BA ’86 (Psychology) and MPA ’91, is the dean of academic programs at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology — BC’s Aboriginal public post-secondary institute, with campuses in Merritt and Burnaby. After 11 years working at the University of Saskatchewan, four years as chair of the indigenous management specialization in the MBA program, Edwards School of Business, and after a brief stint at Algoma University, Warren is happy to return to work and live in his home province. Warren is the lead editor of the *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development* and he sits on two national Aboriginal education committees. His youngest son is at UVic — the fourth person in his immediate family to attend the University of Victoria. Warren has lost touch with a number of his good friends from his UVic days, and invites them to give him a call.

**1990s**

**ALISON BERRY**, BEd ’91, under the company name Berry Entertaining, has been teaching adult singing and dance classes since 1993 and now producing a musical review called “Girls Will Be Girls” which features songs about love, life, men and murder.” allison.berry@alumni.uvic.ca

**PATRICK EWING**, JD ’98, BSc ’92, has volunteered with Kiwanis since joining UVic Circle K International in 1991. “In 2011, I served as the organization’s growth chair for the Americas and the Caribbean. Over the past three years, I have helped raise over half a million dollars for the elimination of maternal/neonatal tetanus. And this June, I was elected to serve for three years as an international trustee. I am very thankful I went to the beach clean up advertised at**

**Meet Dale Henley**

In June, Dale Henley, BA ’71, began his two-year volunteer term as president of the UVic Alumni Association. He was born in Nanaimo, raised in Saanich and resides in North Saanich. He completed his degree in political science before getting his law degree at UBC in 1975.

**Torch: Let’s start with some of your memories about going to UVic. Which events or people have had a lasting impact on you?**

Dale Henley: The time I had at UVic was a very special part of my life. What made my experience so important was — coming from a small somewhat rural high school (Saanich was somewhat rural in those days!) — being able to mix with students and teaching staff from other parts of Canada and other countries as well as other disciplines and to share our ideas and to share our good times. I had many wonderful learning moments in the classroom inspired by the profs and TAs who I will never forget; those watershed moments when a concept or an idea suddenly becomes very clear.

I also remember very fondly the many hours sitting in the SUB drinking coffee from Styrofoam cups and playing hearts, discussing how we were going to change the world. The relatively small size of UVic, combined with the sense of adventure and change that was present on the campus when I was there (since the university was less than 10 years old) created a pretty unique learning environment.

**Had you had much involvement with UVic prior to joining the alumni board in 2008?**

None — I had only been on campus a couple of times since my graduation in 1971.

**What has surprised you most about your time with the board so far?**

How big and complex UVic has become. I think as a student you see the university as the classroom and the academic staff and not much beyond that. However, being on the board has made me very aware of how many people and different skill sets are required to run a modern university.

**Now that you’re leading the board, what are you hoping the group can accomplish during your term?**

I am hoping that I can bring alumni who, like myself, have had little contact with UVic since graduation, closer to the university. I also want to make the alumni board an even more effective advocate for alumni with the university administration. I think alumni should have an important part to play in deciding the future of UVic.

**Giving the alumni address at convocation is something that you really like doing.**

It’s moving to share with new graduates this very important day in their lives and see the expressions on their faces that range from awe to excitement to bewilderment. As each graduate walks across the stage (and you remember the day that you were the person doing that walk) you realize what an important part UVic is playing in the life of each graduate.

**Finish this sentence: The best part about being a UVic graduate is...**

That’s a tough one because I think it means different things to different people. But certainly being a lifelong part of the family of UVic alumni is one. It’s important to maintain no matter where life takes us.

**Upcoming Alumni events: alumni.uvic.ca**
2013-14 Alumni Board of Directors

Back row, left to right: Pete Rose, MPA '05 (Treasurer); Ivan Watson, '03; Dale Henley, BA '71 (President); Peter Tanner, BA '91 (Past-President); Terry Cockerline (Director, Alumni Relations).

Middle row: Brad Buie, BA '99; Tracie Sibbald, BA '83; Avis Rasmussen MEd '82; Brian Cant, BA '03; Lesley Patten, BCom '96 (Vice-President); Ciel Watt, BFA '93. Front row: Sheri Love Yasue BA '95; Anne McLaughlin (Honorary President) VC '48; Fareeha Qaiser, JD '13; Donna McGhie-Richmond (Faculty Association rep); Marie McKee, MEd '81 (Secretary). Not present: Joy Barrett, VC '45/PNS '46; Darcy Neu (Student Ambassador rep); Jerome Etwaroop, BEng '08; Peter Jong, BSc '03; Valerie Gonzales, PhD '97.

ALUMNI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE, 2013

Social Sciences Alumni and Development Coordinator, FRASER HAYES, BCom '11, and SHARYN CHEN, BCom '12.

Former president DAVID TURPIN receives his “Honorary Alumnus” designation from association Past-President PETER TANNER, BA '91.

“Alumni Who Made a Difference” honorees SUSAN MEHINAGIC, LLB ‘87, and TONY GAGE, BA '70, with Lynda Farmer (right).

Alumni Volunteer of the Year KATHLEEN BARNES, BFA '98. Alumni Relations Assistant MINNIE GILL, BA '07, and LYNN WILSON, Assistant to the Director of Alumni Relations.

Board member DONNA MCGHIE-RICHMOND and CARMEN RODRIGUEZ DE FRANCE, PhD '02. TREVER TAYLOR, VC '44, and DALE HENLEY, BA '71.

DONNA LONGLEY, Dipl. '04.
AISLINN HUNTER, BFA ’96, a recent graduate of the UVic School of Fine Arts, has seen her novel Stay released by Anchor Books in advance of the premiere of the movie adaptation at the Toronto International Film Festival. Stay stars Taylor Schilling and Aidan Quinn. It’s also showing at The Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax. Aislinn’s new novel The World Before Us will be published by Doubleday in 2014.

MERLE MATEJKA, BMus ’95, married Lisa Stoltzfus on July 13 in Lancaster, PA.

SAM PORT, BSW ’95, wrote: “I work as a therapist at an outpatient psychiatry clinic at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. I returned to social work as a profession after ten years in business. Having a degree from UVic led to an MSW (Wilfrid Laurier University) and together these proved to be very marketable degrees, even if you leave the profession for a time.”

JOHN WENSVEEN, BA ’96 (Geography), is the executive vice-president of airline start-ups at Mango Aviation Partners, a London-based firm specializing in the development and management of airline start-up and restructuring projects around the world. He is also author of the popular aviation industry textbook, Air Transportation: A Management Perspective (Ashgate Publishing), now in its eighth edition. He resides in Key West, Florida.

2000s

SABA FARMAND, BA 04 (History in Art), is a partner in a new four-part educational/documentary video series project called Surroundings, which tells the stories behind some of Metro Vancouver’s well-known public places from the perspectives of the landscape architects who designed them.

DAISY KUDINDA, BSW ’00, wrote from Coquitlam: “Eleven years with (the Ministry of Child and Family Development) and looking for a career change. Teaching adults/students in college is of interest or going into geriatrics in the hospitals. Mentored a few students over time so I want to share my knowledge and experience.”

JEFF GAULIN, MBA ’02, climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. “Ever since I read Ernest Hemingway’s short story The Snows of Kilimanjaro, it was a life goal to climb that mountain. It’s incredible to think I made it to the top and back without so much as a blister, Jeff wrote from his home in Calgary. He says he didn’t suffer from any altitude sickness and climbed the Machame Route solo with a guide and porters. “It was a great solitary journey for me, to mark what I’ve achieved to date in my life and to prepare for what still lies ahead.”

SAM PATCHELL, BSc ’01 (Geography/Environmental Science), wrote: “I have been very busy with the navy in the past five years. As a lieutenant I completed two years as the deck officer with HMCS Preserver and sailed as the force protection officer with HMCS Athabaskan in support of Canada’s response to the earthquake in Haiti. I then spent a year on the operations room officer course in Halifax before returning to Victoria and deploying with HMCS Vancouver as the operations officer for (the ship’s) support of NATO forces off of Libya. I flew home shortly after the mission ended and was promoted to my current rank of lieutenant commander. I was appointed as the commanding officer of the patrol craft training section where I was responsible for the operations of the eight orca class patrol ships on the West Coast. I just wrapped up my tour as CO after a year and a half and I am now in Newport, Rhode Island completing a master’s degree in strategic studies at the United States Naval War College.”

MARK REID, BMus ’03, received a Juno award as MusiCounts Teacher of the Year in April and recently assumed the role of president of the Canadian Music Educators’ Association.

TROY WILSON, BA ‘11 (English), has signed a picture book contract with Scholastic Canada.

FAREWELL

JERETTA FAYE “JERI” BASS, MA ’73 (Anthropology), Dipl. in Education ’77, died on March 27, 2013 in Yarmouth, NS. After graduation she moved with her partner Diane Wells to the remote Inuit village of Paulatuk, NWT, where Jeri served for several years as a supervisor in the school system. Returning to Victoria, the couple operated an antiquarian bookstore, Wells Books. Jeri led a lifecycle of looking for patterns and exploring subtle connections — an inclination that was supported by her education, voracious reading and love for antiquarian books.

Beautiful BC Plates

CHRISTOPHER GARRISH’s passion for licence plates drives his entertaining Tales from the Back Bumper (Heritage House). Quirky facts and motoring trivia — and more than 200 images — bring to life the 100-year history of British Columbia licence plates. In chronicling the history of the design, manufacturing and distribution of licence plates, Garrish BA ’97 (History/Geography), BA ’00 (Political Science), identifies a number of firsts. The first provincially-issued plate (1913). The first time the province’s name was used on a plate (1924). The first time a slogan was used (1958), to honour the province’s “Centenary,” and the debut of the “Beautiful British Columbia” slogan (1964).

Wife and fellow grad HEATHER QUINN, BA ’99, BSW ’02, “has tolerated the hobby, but doesn’t really get it,” says Garrish. “That said, she did provide valuable input. Licence plate collectors aren’t the most diverse group (we generally tend to be middle class, older white males) and I was trying to appeal to a broader audience. So, if she found a chapter or vignette to be interesting, I knew I was on the right track!”
ON MAY 17, 1999, 11 DAYS BEFORE HER 25TH BIRTHDAY, MICHELLE BRITTON, BCOM ’99, collapsed behind the wheel of her sister’s Ford Ranger pickup truck parked outside the UVic Bookstore.

An artery in her neck had burst — a rare “spontaneous arterial dissection” — resulting in a stroke, permanently paralyzing her entire body, leaving her unable to speak. She needed a temporary tracheotomy to assist her breathing. Aside from being able to move her eyes, she couldn’t communicate at all.

“They called it locked-in syndrome,” Michelle’s sister Cori Huizer, BEd ’97, recalls. At the time, Cori Britton shared a home with Michelle and their brother Paul, also a UVic grad.

For months after the stroke, Michelle’s future did not look promising. She would likely spend the rest of her life in hospital, doctors told the family. But none of them believed it.

“We just know how she is and how persistent she is,” says Cori, who is a teacher in Calgary. “We could just feel it.”

Thirteen years later, Michelle lives in a home of her own, a two-bedroom condo in Vernon that she rents from her sister. She has regained enough movement in her right hand and arm to learn how to paint, and even to sell some of those paintings at craft shows. (Her work is on her website, michellebritton.ca.)

She has also mastered Morse code, which lets her communicate with family and friends, and even with her biographer. Michelle painstakingly toggles a switch to produce the dots and dashes, which a computer program translates into text.

“Painting has given me something to do, basically,” Michelle said by email. “It’s allowed me to make some money, meet people at craft fairs and helped strengthen my right arm. I have my arm up in a hanging sling to paint so with no gravity I have movement and exercise it a bit between painting. So it’s made my arm stronger, which has made my paintings better.”

What makes it more amazing is that she is left-handed. However, she shrugged off that challenge by saying that as a lefty she was already used to adapting to a right-handed world.

Make no mistake, Michelle still has profound disabilities. She cannot walk and must eat liquified food. Before the stroke, she was adventurous, travelling to Australia and New Zealand, taking flying lessons, rock climbing, skydiving, scuba diving, and spelunking.

“She never really took no for an answer. And that’s probably what’s helping her out now,” Cori said. “She’s never given up.”

Post-stroke, Michelle has managed to add to her list of travels: Las Vegas, Puerto Vallarta, where she swam with dolphins. It helped that two muscular caregivers joined Michelle and her family on the dolphin adventure.

That kind of support from Michelle’s family — including from her parents Gordon (also a UVic grad) and Joan — has played a large role in enabling her to make the progress she has, notes author Linda Ross, who wrote a self-published authorized biography of Michelle titled Silent Journey.

Ross met her about three years ago at the invitation of BC Paraplegic Association consultant Arlene Pilgrim, who described Michelle as one of the most disabled people she had ever worked with. But Pilgrim also pointed out how Michelle “maintained a good sense of humour despite her insurmountable disabilities,” Ross wrote in an author’s note at the back of the book.

That sense of humour comes through in her email: “I have always thought of antidepressants as a cop out,” she says. “If there is a problem, you fix it. I just started drinking; no I’m kidding. I have just always been very determined.”

“She never really took no for an answer. She’s never given up.”

While Ross admitted to feeling uncomfortable around Michelle at first, she quickly noticed Michelle’s positive attitude and realized she would be the perfect candidate for her first biography.

“I want people to know her, what a really inspiring person she is — all the things that she’s done,” said Ross, who lives in Kelowna and still visits Michelle about once a month. “She’s done more travelling than I’ll probably ever do. And she is really gutsy.”

One of the more poignant scenes captured in the book occurs when childhood friend Kristy Gregson (née Broderick), BEd ’97, remembers when she almost fainted when she saw Michelle for the first time after the stroke.

“What got me the most was she was hooked up to all these different machines and she was lifeless,” said Gregson, who teaches in Victoria. “It was just so hard. But everyone who meets her learns so much about who she is. They kind of step back and go, ‘Wow. Really? I complain about a bad hair day?’ They realize there is nothing to complain about in life after they meet her.”

Silent Journey is available at FriesenPress.com.
What’s New?

New job? New town? New chapter in your life? You send it, we print it in Keeping in Touch and your UVic contacts stay in the loop. Easy.

Do it by e-mail: send your update to torch@uvic.ca. Include your name, degree and grad year. If you’ve moved, send us your new address.

Say it with pictures: e-mail high resolution photo files (300 dpi, at least 5cm wide) along with your text update.

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

POST: UVic Torch Alumni Magazine, PO Box 1700, STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2
WEB: uvic.ca/torch
E-MAIL: torch@uvic.ca

Save the Dates

Catch up with former classmates. Be a part of an upcoming event for alumni.

**November** Support Vikes on the road — Vancouver and Kelowna

**December** Young Alumni Holiday Mystery — Victoria

**January** Support the Vikes on the road — Calgary

**February** Alumni Week, Feb. 2-8 — Various

**March** Class of 2014 Grad Expo — Campus

**April** Victoria College Alumni Chapter Luncheon

Event updates online at alumni.uvic.ca

Be sure to keep your contact information current at: alumni.uvic.ca/connect/update_address.php

Contact: UVic Alumni Relations
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Our last issue put the spotlight on favourite campus places. Benjamin Yong turns the tables and looks back on his UVic days with a fondness for the off-campus hangouts that Victoria offers.

**BY BENJAMIN YONG, BA ’04**

With mid-term season in full swing and students packed in every quiet nook and cranny in the city, their noses buried in books, it’s hard not to get caught up in post-secondary nostalgia. It has been several years since I donned the cap and gown at the University Centre, but looking back at my academia days I always fondly remember the hangout and study spots I frequented — and there were just as many outside of Ring Road as there were on campus.

Sometimes when you spend all day stuck in classes — even if it’s at UVic with its gorgeous grounds — it helps to clear your head and get refocused by venturing out into the real world. Solace can be found in lots of places depending on one’s mood, from public libraries to one of the bountiful pubs to the modern hipster favourite, the neighbourhood coffee shop.

Most anybody that lived or went to school in the Hillside or Oak Bay area will probably have at least heard of the Black Stilt Coffee House. With two locations relatively close to the university, there was free WiFi, a hip atmosphere, music that wasn’t too loud, and perhaps most importantly — booze! Finally, someone had managed to combine a study spot with cheap highballs. Many a night was spent feverishly tapping away at a keyboard to the point of mental exhaustion, requiring a pick-me-up provided by a gin and tonic or two.

You can’t mention booze and UVic together without talking about Maude Hunter’s Pub. Just a stone’s throw away on Shelbourne St., it was the ultimate weekend (and sometimes weekday, depending how you did on your papers) destination when Felicita’s just wasn’t going to cut it. It didn’t matter that there was aging decor and it felt like you were sitting in an old uncle’s living room. There was music bingo, drink specials every night of the week, and nacho plates the size of the table.

Whenever I needed some mindless entertainment in the form of video games, I was forced to venture into downtown Victoria after the arcade in the sub morphed into a pharmacy. Johnny Zee’s Amusement Centre was where I was often found on many an evening either upper-cutting baddies in Street Fighter II, shooting criminals in Time Crisis or busting a move in front of the Dance Dance Revolution Machine.

Playing games is hard work, and after working up an appetite there was no better to go than Redd’s Roadhouse Restaurant for Wednesday wings night. Across from the Old Office Depot on Blanshard, they served up 15-cent wings that were pretty hard to beat. As a starving student you tend to memorize where there is cheap food and on which days. If our friends weren’t at Redd’s, we were probably at the Shelbourne Boston Pizza gorging on half-off pastas on Tuesdays. To this day that is still the only restaurant I’ve been to where the owner knew me by name.

Last but not least, I had to include one outdoor memory. There was a time when lighting a bonfire was permitted outside of a provincial campground, and my favourite spot to do that was at the Esquimalt Lagoon near Fort Rodd Hill. Roasting s’mores over an open flame and swapping professor horror stories with friends almost made you forget about the bugs and the stench of rotting seaweed.

If there was anything I learned during my days as a Vike-cheering, Martlet-reading, Caf curly fry eating young man, it was that yes, being a student is all about life on campus. But every student owes it to him- or herself to go beyond Ring Road — even if it’s just to take out a virtual bad guy or two.
ALUMNI WEEK 2014

February 2 – 8

Celebrating UVic Grads

- Opening Night Concert
- Mini-Lectures
- Reunions and Family Events
- Vikes Alumni Basketball
- Dining Etiquette Workshop & Dinner
- Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Salute to Excellence in Teaching
- Branch Events
- Campus Alumni Lunch
- Career Workshops
- Continuing Studies Public Issues Forum

Details and registration: alumni.uvic.ca
Reverse Perspective
Cover photo shoot, July 4, 2013