1 Rob Bennett, BSc ’83
2 Sandrina de Finney, PhD ’07
3 Robina Thomas, PhD ’11
4 Lara Lauzon, PhD ’02
5 Chancellor Murray Farmer, BA ’68 (presenter)
6 Lesley Patten, BCom ’96
7 Catherine Claiter, BSc ’00
8 Nancy Turner, BA ’69
9 Phil Ohl, Med ’96
10 Peter Tanner, BA ’91, Alumni President (presenter)
11 Steven Myhill-Jones, BSc ’99
12 Rob Calnan, Med ’90
13 Jim Crawford, BA ’58
14 Glenda Wyatt, BSc ’98
15 Mitch Banks, PhD ’71
16 Brenda Beckwith, PhD ’05
17 Mike Holmes, LLB ’87
18 Jennifer Charlesworth, PhD ’05
19 Lance Abercrombie, BCom ’94
20 Wendy Gedney, BEd ’83
21 Tracie Sibbald, BA ’83
Difference Makers
UVic’s first half century saw the involvement of countless alumni in the university’s growth. Fifty “Alumni Who Made a Difference” were selected by the UVic Alumni Association to represent the impact of alumni citizenship. They were proudly recognized in February during Alumni Week, in the Fairmont Empress Hotel’s Crystal Ballroom, at an event hosted by Chancellor Murray Farmer, BA ’68.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG MILLER
UVic Alumni Association
2013 Annual General Meeting

Thursday June 20

David Lam Auditorium
University of Victoria

6:30 pm registration and refreshments
7:00 pm program

- Annual Business Meeting
- Honorary Alumnus: Dr. David H. Turpin, CM, PhD, FRSC
- Alumni Volunteer of the Year: Kathleen Barnes, BA ’98
- Alumni Who Made A Difference presentations
- Reception follows program

Please register online (www.alumni.uvic.ca) by June 13
or call 250-721-6000 (toll-free 1-800-808-6828)

Visit the UVic Alumni Web site (www.alumni.uvic.ca) for board of
directors’ nomination information. Nominations must be received
at least seven days before the annual general meeting.

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* No purchase required. Contest organized jointly with Premium Insurance Company and open to members, employees and other eligible persons belonging to employee, professional and alumni groups which have an agreement with and are entitled to group rates from
the organizers. Contest begins on October 31, 2013. Draws on November 22, 2013. One (1) prize to be won. The winner may choose between a Lexus ES 300h hybrid (approximate MSRP of $58,902 which includes freight, pre-delivery inspection, fees and applicable
Taxes) or $60,000 in Canadian funds. Skill-testing questions required. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Complete contest rules available at melochemonnex.com/contest.

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Victoria’s unusual and rare trees play a starring role in a course for budding forest biologists.

*BY LUKAS BHANDAR*

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*BY KEITH NORBURY, BA ’85*

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*BY JENNIFER CHRUMKA, BSC ’03*

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*BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA ’96*

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*On the cover:
Mystic Vale, by Adrian Wheeler.*
Five of Hearts

An appreciation of the places that give meaning to 50 years of campus life.

WE STARTED OUT THINKING ABOUT WHAT WOULD BE THE ONE PLACE THAT FORMED the heart of campus. If there were one building, one spot that captured everything about the University of Victoria and what it has come to represent in 50 years, what would it be? Can one such place mean the same thing to more than 100,000 alumni? The short answer, of course, is no.

In the multitude of experiences, in the generations of students that have come here, in the ever-changing landscape of buildings, there are countless ways of finding and defining meaning.

Because no single element of campus on its own brings about a common feeling of recognition, we’ve chosen to approach the idea from five different perspectives that reflect the academic, social and environmental character of campus.

In commemoration of the university’s 50th anniversary, we offer essays on a handful of campus landmarks that, taken together, form a sense of place.

Through the years, these icons have become familiar and cherished features of a unique campus environment. They are both built and natural. They have provided the setting for thousands of lives that have changed, transformed, grown and moved on.

Our essay contributors have found meaning in the symbolism of Ring Road, the independence and social connectivity of the Student Union Building, the inclusiveness of First Peoples House, the careful preservation of history in the Archives, and the redemptive wilderness of Mystic Vale.

All of these places combined — with their impact on all of the senses — are vital to the culture of the university. Taken together, they contribute to our common memory of the place. And they’ll do the same, over and over again.

In the end, each of us identifies with campus in our own way. It’s in sifting through the memories that we get to the heart of the matter. The one true meaning. The sweet spot.

MIKE MCNENEY, EDITOR
mmcneney@uvic.ca
Now served to order.

Read your copy of the UVic Torch Alumni Magazine the way you like it – either in print or online.

Readers of the online version get an email notice when new issues are posted. If you would prefer to read online, just let us know.

Select your preferences here:
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Or email: torch@uvic.ca

uvic.ca/torch
Imagine how your legacy can shape the future.

Imagine unlocking potential in generations to come. For 50 years University of Victoria students have made a positive impact on their communities and the world. From discovering new ways to fight diseases, to creating art that moves generations, to inventing new businesses that employ thousands of people, UVic students can achieve change. And they have you to thank for making it possible. Your gift. Your legacy.

A planned gift to UVic can open a world of possibilities for future generations. Contact Cheryl to start the conversation about creating a lasting legacy in your will or estate plan.

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Thank You

President David Turpin steps aside on June 30, after serving as UVic’s leader since 2000.

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

This has been a special and memorable year in the life of our university. We have celebrated a half century of achievement at the University of Victoria, giving our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners the opportunity to reflect on the many great moments that have contributed to our rich and diverse history and to look to the future with a sense of confidence and anticipation.

Thirteen years ago when I decided to accept the position of president, I knew UVic was a great university with excellent faculty, staff and students. In its relatively brief history, UVic had developed internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary research and teaching programs. It had established a leading co-operative education program and its athletic teams were legendary.

Since then our university has grown and prospered, progressing to the point where its depth of excellence consistently ranks it among the finest post-secondary institutions – not only in Canada, but around the world. UVic’s reputation for excellence strengthens with each passing year, a result of inspired teaching, outstanding research, community engagement and a welcoming and inclusive campus environment. Those are points of pride in which we can all share.

We are also extremely proud of our alumni. During my term as president, I have had the pleasure of meeting UVic graduates from all walks of life and all parts of the world – so many stories of success and contribution to society. I am always struck by the passion and pride our alumni feel for their university and their shared experiences. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of the university. You have played a huge role in extending UVic’s reputation for excellence, and through you, UVic is making a lasting difference in the world.

I have been fortunate to have worked alongside many talented and committed individuals – current and former students, faculty, staff, donors, board members and senators, university leaders at UVic and across Canada, research partners and members of funding agencies, as well as the many individuals in the broader community who have contributed to UVic’s progress and growth. Thank you for the support you have shown and the confidence you have placed in the University of Victoria.

It has been a tremendous honour to serve as the president of UVic. Indeed, this role has been the highlight of my career and I am proud to have been part of such an outstanding institution. When I leave the position at the end of June, it will be with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the friendship and support I enjoyed during my term.

“This role has been the highlight of my career and I am proud to have been part of such an outstanding institution.”

I was delighted to learn of the appointment of Professor Jamie Cassels as UVic’s next president. His reputation as a strong, value-based leader is unmatched, and I can think of no other individual as uniquely qualified to lead the University of Victoria to the next level of achievement. I know you will enjoy working with him in the years ahead.

Once more, let me express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support and engagement these past 13 years. Best wishes for the future.
Cassels Next President

“I AM INCREDIBLY EXCITED ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY AND ALSO VERY HUMbled TO HAVE BEEN selected to lead one of the country’s finest post-secondary institutions.”

With that, Jamie Cassels stepped forward as the next president of the University of Victoria. Cassels knows his way around campus, having risen through its academic ranks since joining the Faculty of Law in 1981. But when he takes office this summer he plans to approach the job as if arriving on Ring Road for the first time.

“The first months I’m going to do a lot of listening,” Cassels says. “I know this university. I know its outstanding students and faculty well. I have a very ambitious sense of where we can focus and what we can accomplish together. But, I also want to hear from the university community and the external community about their hopes and aspirations for the University of Victoria.”

President David Turpin, who steps down June 30 after 13 years at the helm, calls Cassels’ appointment “an inspired choice for the times. Jamie is a visionary who brings an extraordinary mix of passion, dedication, hard work and enthusiasm to everything he does.”

Cassels was vice-president academic and provost from 2001 to 2010. He was instrumental in setting the university’s strategic direction and budget development. He oversaw the renewal and growth of the faculty complement (more than half of UVic’s current faculty were hired during his term). He was responsible for the expansion of undergraduate and graduate student programs and services, and the development of Indigenous education and scholarship programs.

Cassels was the unanimous choice of the 20-member search committee.

“He understands the issues in the post-secondary sector very well,” says Susan Mehinagic, LLB ’87, chair of the UVic Board of Governors. “He has keen insight into the opportunities and challenges for UVic nationally and internationally, and the integrity, passion and vision to take us to the next level.”

UVic Alumni Association President Peter Tanner, BA ’91, says Cassels brings a “collegial style that will enable him to build on UVic’s strengths and momentum.”

In addition to his passion for teaching, research and academic leadership, the Toronto-born Cassels is an avid outdoorsman who, when not working, loves to be on the water or in the mountains. He is married to a fellow lawyer, Erin Shaw. They have three children.

A former dean of the Faculty of Law, Cassels is an accomplished scholar and teacher. He is a past recipient of the 3M National Teaching Fellowship and the UVic Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching.

His research expertise includes remedies, legal theory, contracts, and torts. Other interests include environmental issues, law and society in India, and race and gender issues in the law of tort.

His publications include The Uncertain Promise of Law: Lessons from Bhopal, on the deadly impact and aftermath of the 1984 disaster at the Union Carbide chemical plant in India.

And he has also authored several books and numerous articles on civil litigation and the law of remedies, which are used by students, lawyers and courts across the country.

His five-year term as president begins July 1, and a formal installation ceremony will follow in the fall.

– KEITH NORBURY, BA ‘85
When the University ran a campaign asking for great moments from UVic’s history, more than 200 suggestions came back, from personal memories of graduation to epic discoveries on the ocean floor. Former staff member Don Lovell wrote about being the volunteer security manager for track and field events at the 1994 Commonwealth Games. He helped world champion sprinter Linford Christie escape a crush of reporters. “Linford looked relieved to be away from the throng and offered me his signature. I had a pen but nothing to write on so he signed my hat,” Lovell wrote. “Christie went on in the finals that day to win. Later in the games I got Canadian decathlon gold medal winner Mike Smith’s autograph and 110 M hurdler and BC athlete Tim Kroeker’s signature on the same hat.”}

The Great Moments are collected online. You can read about them, as well as the anniversary events that continue through the end of June, at: www.uvic.ca/anniversary.

**Meeting of the Minds** Congress — the annual gathering of humanities and social sciences scholars, as many as 10,000 of them — comes to campus for the first eight days of June. Public lectures and community celebrations are on the agenda, along with the rigorous exchange of scholarly ideas and energy.

The Big Thinking lecture series is free and includes presentations by Louise Arbour, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Doug Saunders, author of *The Myth of the Muslim Tide* and European bureau chief for the *Globe and Mail*.

**Momentous Anniversary**

**Heard on Campus**

“Sometimes I stop and think, is it worth it? It is worth pushing myself to point that I stand a chance of getting killed? I’ve crashed two airplanes. Dislocated a shoulder. Drifted out to sea on ice. It’s super hard on relationships, doing this kind of work and being gone 10, 11 months a year. Is it worth it? For me it is. I’ve grown up there. I’ve seen the loss and the change in the ice. The urgency, for me, is now. We’re past the turning point. We are going to lose certain populations and percentages of polar bears. I just can’t live with that.”

Paul Nicklen, BSC ’90
National Geographic Photographer
Feb. 6, 2013

**Business Prof. Josh Ault.**

**Moments on Campus**

**Don Lovell’s Commonwealth Games volunteer cap, signed by Linford Christie, Mike Smith and hurdler Tim Kroeker.**

**SPRING 2013 | UVIC TORCH | 9**

**Seen the Video?** It’s the UVic Story, in less than four minutes and it stars students, teachers, researchers, staff, alumni and community members. What can a single university do in 50 years? Find out on the university’s YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/uvic).
You came to UVic from Winnipeg and while here you’ve earned a solid reputation for your social activism. Who were the people who really influenced you, back home and at UVic?

I grew up in a political and artistic family. My dad works in theatre. There is an amazing arts scene in Winnipeg and I was very much inspired by plays I saw as a child and teenager. I learned about political issues through plays: residential schools, poverty, the environment. I was instilled with a sense of purpose and a spirit of social change from a very young age. When I got to Victoria I was fortunate to discover the incredible Women’s Studies Department at UVic. Older students and professors mentored me. I found a community of people that were intelligent, passionate, committed and engaged. I remember discovering that activism could be fun.

Tell me about the Rhodes interview. From what I understand, they’re interested in candidates with strong worldviews. What was that experience like and what do you think worked in your favour?

The Rhodes interview was very nerve-wracking and exciting. The first night involved a dinner with the (five) other Rhodes candidates and all the selection committee members. The conversation was lively and interesting.

The next day is the proper interview. It was only 30 to 45 minutes and involved diverse, rapid fire questions about everything from my thesis research to current events to life regrets to my career aspirations. I enjoyed being challenged about politics and values but I left thinking that I for sure didn’t get it. I felt that I was too controversial. In hindsight, I think the fact that I took strong positions and was able to defend my positions helped me.

What sorts of things might have been “too controversial”?

They asked about my position on the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline. I responded rather definitively about the potential environmental impacts of an oil spill and the minimal short-term job gains as well as the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of tar sands expansion. When they asked me about Canada I also brought up the history of genocide through colonization which is a piece of history that makes people uncomfortable. I don’t think that indigenous rights, decolonization, and climate justice should be considered “controversial” but because of the pervasiveness of racism and colonial beliefs they are.

I also have extensive experience in reproductive justice activism so they challenged me on some of my experiences and choices in that regard. Eventually I even said that I realize that abortion is not a polite conversation topic and is in fact an issue that people threaten violence over but when 47,000 women die every year from unsafe abortions I have no choice but to act. Once again, rights to bodily autonomy and self-determination should not be controversial in 2013 but it still is not the kind of issue that I would imagine commonly comes up in an interview for Rhodes scholarships.

So after all of that, what went through your mind when you found out about being selected?

I was shocked. In utter disbelief. All I thought was, I need to call my mom. I think she was probably more excited than I was. She cried and cried.
“UVic” has long been the university’s preferred nickname, but not before overcoming some awkward alternatives.

Sweatpants, hoodies and T-shirts stamped “UVic” are best sellers at the UVic Bookstore but the popular nickname was once vilified, mocked and considered less desirable than alternatives such as “Varsity Vic” and “UNVIC”.

Even the university’s formal name wasn’t a foregone conclusion when the new BC university was announced. “Victoria University,” “Victoria College of the University of British Columbia” and even the cheeky “Juan de Fuca U” were floated.

But future chancellor Joseph Clearihue proved to be prophetic when he told a student assembly in 1960: “Victoria College is becoming a university and in a very short while it will probably change its name to the University of Victoria...The University of Victoria will be your Alma Mater and will probably be called by you UVic. I like that name, ‘UVic.’”

But that didn’t happen without a showdown in the pages of the Martlet in the fall of 1963 when then-editor Jim Bigsby fought for style consistency. “It was the battle of the nicknames,” recalls Bigsby, BA ’67. “There was absolute anarchy and we needed a house style.”

Sports stories in the Martlet regularly used “UVic,” university students were described as “U V students,” and a headline trumpeted an upcoming event at “UVIC.”

When the university welcomed its first IBM computer (a descendent of the famous “UNIVAC”) in October 1963, it was dubbed “Univic” — the same nickname suggested for the fledgling university. “During a discussion of nicknames, school songs and cheers...Daniel [O’Brien] sealed the doom of ‘Univic’ with one line, ‘Click, click, Univic,’” the Martlet cheerfully reported under the headline “Nick-name Knocked” in its Oct. 24, 1963 edition.

The university’s first president, Malcolm Taylor deplored “UVic” so much he wouldn’t allow it to be stamped in the university’s library books. The Alma Mater Society, precursor to the UVSS, presented a motion to force the Martlet to drop its use of “UVic.”

The motion required a coin toss to break a tie vote. Its passage was completely ignored by Bigsby. “I thought ‘You can’t tell us what to print.’

House style would have been a Martlet editorial decision.”

Martlet advertisers made their own contributions to nickname mélange. The Hudson’s Bay Company described “U of Vic” as “willing to do its utmost to maintain the high standard of history” in the wake of its predecessor institutions, presumably following the example of the venerable trading company.

An Eaton’s ad featured a young man in a snappy, Norwegian-style sweater next to a sports car with the copy “On the campus of U Vic, it isn’t the car that gets you this far. It’s really the sweater that’s going to get her.”

By late fall, student politicians had moved on to bigger controversies such as the quality of cafeteria food and ongoing reciprocal thefts of campus property by rival UVic students and Royal Roads “Rodents.”

One Martlet letter writer made a late pitch for the curious nickname of “Vicuna” because it sounded “neat.” But in the pages of the Martlet — and elsewhere — “UVic” became the university’s accepted nickname.

And it’s hard to imagine “Vicuna” hoodies being best sellers in the bookstore.

– PATTY PITTS, DIPL. ’90
Senior Standouts

On Feb. 16, a night to honour the men’s and women’s basketball teams’ graduating athletes, senior Debbie Yeboah lit up McKinnon Gym by putting up a season-high 29 points against Pacific conference rivals, UBC Thunderbirds. The UVic women posted a 64-56 victory over the visiting T-Birds - a fitting, final home game salute to Yeboah’s impressive five-year career with the Vikes. Originally from Winnipeg, Yeboah was the heart and soul of the women’s basketball program as the humanities student had career totals of 1,469 points and 436 rebounds...Transferring from Toronto’s Humber College in 2011, Vikes men’s star Michael Acheampong’s two seasons were key to the program’s success. With 60 assists this season, Acheampong helped the Vikes to their first appearance in the CIS championships since 2006.

Hall of Fame
This year’s annual Celebration of Champions banquet saw the induction of two former student-athletes and one former coach into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame. Cross-country and track athlete Silverado Socrates, formerly Brenda Shackleton, led the Vikes to three consecutive CIS and Canada West cross-country titles from 1985-87. After her varsity career with the Vikes, UVic women’s soccer goalkeeper Nicci Wright earned 36 caps playing for Canada while inductee Dr. Derek Ellis, former head coach of the Vikes cross-country and track distance program, is credited as its founder, coaching the team from 1964-73.

CIS Swim Meet
The CIS Swimming Championships, at Calgary in February, saw the Vikes men’s and women’s swim teams earn two gold, two silver and two bronze medals, while first-year Vike Eric Hedlin swept the men’s 1500-m freestyle podium, placing first, second and third. The meet also served as Team Canada tryouts for the 2013 Universiade in Kazaan, Russia in July with all gold medalists automatically earning a spot on the world university games’ squad. UVic will be represented by 2012 Olympian Stephanie Horner after her first-place finish in the women’s 200-m butterfly.

Ken and Kathy Shields to BC Hall
Vikes basketball coaching legends Ken and Kathy Shields will be inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame on Sept. 19 in Vancouver. Ken coached men’s teams to seven straight national championships in the 1980s, while Kathy guided the UVic women’s team to eight national titles. “I would like to thank all the players whose performances I’m being rewarded for,” Ken Shields told the Times Colonist. “It’s all their sweat and effort. It’s ironic Kathy and I get the recognition based on the performances of our players.”

Vegas Sevens
Competing against varsity teams from across North America the Vikes men’s rugby team went undefeated to win the Las Vegas Sevens Invitational in the men’s College 7s division. Taking place at the University of Las Vegas Nevada’s Sam Boyd Stadium, the tournament is run concurrently to the North American leg of the HSBC Sevens World Series, a September to May international competition managed by the International Rugby Board. The Invitational’s Cup final, the top trophy won in sevens rugby, was played in front of a big crowd during a break in international play, with the Vikes beating Central Washington University, 33-7.
Dr. Patti-Jean Naylor, from the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, focuses her research on childhood obesity. A Statistics Canada study from 2011 found that 31.5 per cent of Canadian children from the ages of 5 to 17 were either overweight or obese. Dr. Naylor chatted with Lukas Bhandar about her work.

You work with children mainly. So, do you focus on chronic disease?
We deal with childhood obesity, but we deal with it through the protective factors. I’m tending to focus on the lifestyle risks and taking more of an ecological approach — working in settings where children live, learn and play: schools, after-school care and child care, early childhood learning settings. Recreation facilities.

What role is played by a child’s living environment?
A lot of how we’ve changed our environment has taken choice out of the equation. We’ve created an environment where kids are just less active because there’s more cars, there’s more driving, parents perceive it as less safe, there’s more electronics as competition.

In what ways do you work with parents?
Family in the home setting is an environment where we need to move in. We don’t know a lot about how to work effectively, to change the home and to change family habits. The parent (can be) both a person who needs the health habits themselves and the health intermediary for younger children.

What tips can you give parents for encouraging healthy habits?
Take small steps in every setting where children and adults spend time, live, learn, work and play. What a parent can do is try to get involved in physical activity or healthy eating themselves. So, eat vegetables and make healthy choices in front of the kids. Prepare healthy foods so when kids are snacking they are readily available. Do family activities: go for walks, go to the park. Turn off the screen.

That’s a big one, I bet.
Yes. And I think, in terms of physical activity, play with the kids. When they’re younger it can be balloon play after dinner, out in the yard it can be chasing and tag. Sometimes it can be sports, it can be walking, going to the playground, taking back the local park. You know, going and hanging out so the kids can play and everybody’s safe, that kind of stuff. The one best thing we can do is recognize that we haven’t changed, humans don’t have less willpower now, kids aren’t different than they were. What’s happened is our environment has changed, and the changes have become ubiquitous. That really makes it harder to make good choices.
GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF Business

The Gustavson School of Business joined an elite group when it was granted five-year accreditation from EQUIS, the business school accreditation arm of the European Foundation for Management Development. The school has held EQUIS accreditation since 2007, but at the reduced three-year level. It joins the London Business School, Boston’s Bentley University, HEC Paris, and Ivey School of Business and other top schools in the five-year category...Gustavson’s Master of Global Business program also received an honour recently, this one for international education from the Canadian Bureau for International Education for Outstanding Program...And the Centre for Social and Sustainable Innovation received a $500,000 gift from Goldcorp Inc. to fund research into socially responsible and sustainable business practices. CSSI was created in 2011 but sustainability (and social responsibility) has officially been one of the school’s pillars since 2009. Gustavson’s goal is to be (with the help of CSSI) the first carbon neutral business school in Canada.

DIVISION OF Continuing Studies

Art historian, author and sessional instructor in the History in Art Department, Kerry Mason, MA ’93, will be the academic resource leading a guided educational tour to New Mexico in May. The nine-day Continuing Studies tour, “Art History of the Southwest: Georgia O’Keeffe in New Mexico,” will explore the special landscape of the American Southwest with a focus on both the indigenous cultures, particularly the Hopi, Zuni, Tewa and Navajo, and the life and works of O’Keeffe.

FACULTY OF Education

United World College, Atlantic Outdoor Centre in Wales, is a unique outdoor activity centre for all youth, regardless of ability. A partnership between the AOC and the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education allows as many as six co-op students to assist youth living with physical, intellectual and emotional challenges in outdoor activities. Students and participants grow in unexpected ways through activities such as sand sledding and mountain boarding, rock climbing and abseilling, archery and castle games.

FACULTY OF Engineering

Mechanical Engineering Prof. Rustom Bhiladvla’s research on creating early detection sensors for prostate cancer shows promise for identifying cancer-causing biomarker molecules. Integrating research from a number of disciplines, Bhiladvla’s work in the UVic Nanoscale Transport, Mechanics and Materials Laboratory is done in collaboration with cancer pathologists, chemists and electrical engineers to create nanoscopic (the generation beyond microscopic) sensors that may one day lead the way towards more sensitive tests for screening the disease. For the aggressive form of prostate cancer, early detection is crucial, but Bhiladvla cautions that although the process is simple, there are numerous intricate details that will have to be resolved before this new screening process can be put into practice.

FACULTY OF Fine Arts

Dr. Susan Lewis-Hammond is the new director of the School of Music for a five-year term. She replaces Dr. Gerald King, who has returned to his regular faculty position after eight years in the director’s position. In other School of Music news, Prof. Emeritus Ian McDougall’s Fine Arts benefit CD, The Very Thought of You, has been nominated for a 2013 Juno Award for Instrumental Album of the Year. McDougall also recently presented the faculty with a cheque for $16,000 — the first significant payment in the “one potato fund” created through the sales of the CD...Department of Theatre Prof. Allan Stichbury traveled to Thailand in February to attend the SEAPA World Symposium and sign an agreement with Bangkok University to create an exchange program with UVic. The four-month exchange, which will include both students and faculty, will focus on applied theatre and production, and will commence in Fall 2013.

FACULTY OF Human and Social Development

Two faculty members from the School of Nursing were among 30 registered nurses honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for outstanding contributions to nursing and healthcare. Dr. Lenora Marcellus was recognized for leadership and foresight demonstrated in her work with substance-exposed infants and their mothers. She developed the safe babies program, offered by the ministry of children and family services for the education and training of parents and caregivers of substance-exposed infants. Dr. Bernie Pauly received her medal for her innovative research projects and her development of new ways of providing care and support among the homeless. She is a research collaborator with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Victoria Cool Aid Society, and AIDS Vancouver Island. The medals were presented in March by the Canadian Nurses Association.
FACULTY OF Humanities

This year’s British Columbia recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship is Department of Women’s graduating student Tara Paterson. Department Chair, Dr. Annalee Lepp says: “Besides being a sophisticated and astute thinker, what really stands out about Tara are the countless ways that she really lives her social justice politics and puts theory into practice — from mentoring students in our department and across campus, to contributing her outstanding leadership and coalition-building skills to various organizations and initiatives at UVic and in broader communities. In short, Tara is most deserving of this major accomplishment.” (An interview with Paterson appears on page 10)...In March, the faculty presented “Limitless Possibilities,” a celebration of excellence that included student and faculty presentations and a talk by Victoria City Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe, BA ’83, on the value of a humanities degree in today’s world.

FACULTY OF Law

Prof. Jeremy Webber has been appointed as the new dean of Law for a five-year term starting July 1. A Law faculty member since 2002, he was the Graduate Program in Law’s second director and played an integral role in its development. He has held the Canada Research Chair in Law and Society since 2002 and was a Trudeau Fellow from 2009 to 2012. Webber is an internationally-recognized scholar of cultural diversity, constitutional theory and indigenous rights, and has been mentor and supervisor to many JD and graduate students. Prof. Webber also brings a wealth of administrative experience. He was dean of law at the University of Sydney, Australia, prior to coming to UVic. Before that, he was the associate dean of graduate studies and research in the faculty of law at McGill University.

UNIVERSITY Libraries

Special Collections recently acquired a five-and-a-half-century-old medieval manuscript to be used for teaching and research by medievalists. It’s a religious volume — “psalter” — used for liturgical and devotional purposes in the Trieste region of northern Italy. Few manuscripts of that age survive from the region, and rarely with the original wood binding and section markers that retain their animal-hair coating. It was purchased thanks to financial support from PhD candidate Brian Pollick, MA’11. Pollick returned to university in 2009 after 40 years of working in a variety of fields, most of them related to the justice system. In France and Italy, he realized that two of his passions, history and art, could be combined by studying art history, primarily the late Medieval Italian period. The psalter has been named the Codex Lindstedt, after Pollick’s wife Heather Lindstedt (photo). Heather is both a musician and a United Church minister, making the Codex Lindstedt a fitting and lasting tribute.

FACULTY OF Science

Two teams of scientists will get a research boost thanks to $3.4 million in funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Part of the funding will be directed towards UVic’s involvement in the Prometheus Project — an advanced materials science and technology project by researchers at SFU, UBC and BCIT that is investigating how new nanomaterials can help create useful technological devices. Chemistry Prof. Alex Brolo says the money will upgrade lab and fabrication infrastructure so researchers can more effectively translate their designs into commercially viable prototypes. The second research project, led by Dr. Laurence Coogan, associate professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, is trying to better understand how undersea mid-ocean ridges work. Their CFI funding portion will fund new scientific instruments for the underwater cable operated by Ocean Networks Canada NEPTUNE observatory to enable real-time data observations and sampling at the hydrothermal vents from subsea volcanoes.

FACULTY OF Social Sciences

This spring the Faculty of Social Sciences was pleased to host Dr. Vandana Shiva, leading eco-feminist and social justice activist. Shiva received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws on March 27. University-trained as a physicist and philosopher, Shiva is a strong proponent of community food security, organic farming, seed saving and women’s involvement in agriculture. Her President’s Distinguished Lecture, and various appearances during a two-day visit to campus and high schools, centred on “The Future of Food.” There are multiple courses and research projects on the subject of food security and sustainable food systems offered at UVic across disciplines, especially in Environmental Studies and Geography. The faculty is exploring ways to enhance its teaching and research focus on this increasingly critical issue.
Some of Victoria’s more unusual and rare trees play a starring role in a course for budding forest biologists.

BY LUKAS BHANDAR | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95

Victoria’s rich culture and history can be seen not only in its architecture and people but also in its plant life. Some of the trees around town are living ties to the city’s early days. The giant sequoia outside the Parliament Buildings was planted around 1863, only a year after the city was incorporated. It’s also home to the oldest planted fruit tree in the province, a pear tree on the corner of Shelbourne Street and Kenmore Road.

Culturally significant trees in Victoria are also the focus of a lab in one of the Biology courses offered at UVic. In Tree Biology (BIOL 325), professors Patrick von Aderkas and Barbara Hawkins, lead a three-hour lab in which students tour Gordon Head and Oak Bay, visiting more than a dozen different important sites.

“At the beginning of the lab,” says von Aderkas, “we ask ‘what makes a culturally significant tree?’” The factors include: extraordinary age or size, unusual form or shape. Historical importance is a big one. For example, there is an ancient Pacific yew at the end of Tudor Avenue in Cadboro Bay. The yew tree was important to the Coast Salish for its medicinal qualities.

Another example is the “Tod Cougar tree” at 1554 Ash Road in Gordon Head. The tree, a Douglas-fir, leans sideways and splits halfway up its trunk to form a “Y” shape. “The Tods were the first to build in the area, in the 1850s,” says von Aderkas. “They had a big family, and they put their kids up the tree to watch out for cougars. I guess they had spares,” he adds with a laugh.

About a kilometre and a half away, near the corner of Ferndale Road and Pomona Way, stands a Coronation Oak, planted in 1937 to mark the crowning of King George VI. The house nearby, at 1861 Ferndale, was once the residence of Nellie McClung, one of the “Famous Five” women who were involved in the Persons Case. She lived there from 1934 until her death in 1951. “So that’s significant for two reasons: interesting royal event, and interesting woman,” von Aderkas says. “Other than it’s just a shabby old British Oak.”

Some of the other trees are part of the tour because they are very rare biological specimens. A maple tree grows next to the playground at Frank Hobbs Elementary School on Haro Road, a couple minutes’ walk from university campus. It’s known as a lyre maple because of its resemblance to the Ancient Greek instrument.
On Campus, Too

Several noteworthy trees are on campus as well. Among them, three rows of Pin oaks run from the McPherson Library, across the length of the Quadrangle to the Human and Social Development Building. Last summer, tent caterpillar populations peaked at UVic and ravaged the oaks’ leaves. In response, the trees produced more branches. Von Aderkas says that while these trees normally grow many more branch buds than they need, this year the trees actually grew new branches from these buds. The new growths are short and thin, looking more like twigs right now than actual limbs. This phenomenon, known as traumatic reiteration, can occur whenever a tree is damaged, but is rarely caused by a caterpillar infestation.

Near the Cornett Building stands a small apple tree, a remnant of Mike Finnerty’s Spring Park Farm and orchard that the Irish immigrant established in 1872. The tree, in declining health and missing bark on part of its trunk, is a reminder of the history of the campus grounds.

twice in its growth, resulting in two thick columns branching out and up from both sides of the trunk.

Two blocks toward Cadboro Bay, an oddly shaped bigleaf maple at Maynard Park has a trunk that bulges into a ball, before rising into a mess of branches. It’s as if someone created a giant wooden turnip and planted it in the park. Course materials explain that the swollen trunk is “filled with small knots from dormant axillary buds” caused by damage or stress to the tree.

Other trees on the tour include holly from an old farm near the Queen Alexandra Centre, ancient Garry oaks along Falkland Avenue in Oak Bay, and the London plane trees planted along Shelbourne Street throughout the last century as a memorial to the British Columbians who died in the wars.

Von Aderkas says students come away with a better connection with the community and the ability to identify and understand the natural features around Victoria. “They have their landmarks and the landmarks associated with events and people and biology. For people who aren’t from Victoria, you want them to strike roots in Victoria. You want to make Victoria feel like home.”

How to Get Your UVic Alumni Card?
Pick up your lifetime UVic Alumni Card for $15 from the UVic Photo ID Centre in the lobby of the University Centre. Bring your student number and one piece of government issued photo ID with you.

* If you live outside of Victoria, email idcentre@uvic.ca for more information.
In the fall of 2000, the *Torch* introduced readers to a young new president who was known for getting things done and by all accounts would be “quick out of the gate.” Thirteen years later, on the eve of his departure, we look back on a stellar track record that has brought the university to new heights.

*BY KEITH NORBURY, BA ’85
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.
The face of campus has changed a lot since 2000. New buildings (an average of more than one per year) have sprouted. New residences provide first-year students guaranteed on-campus accommodations. With 75 per cent of students coming from elsewhere, it’s the most popular “destination university” west of Quebec. Student financial aid has more than doubled. More Aboriginal students are enrolled and thriving. UVic-based research activity has grown in leaps and bounds. And, overall, it’s consistently near the top of university rankings.

In 2011, Turpin was named a member of the Order of Canada for his “achievements as a scholar, scientist, educator and academic leader.” His citation also noted Turpin’s emergence as a nationally recognized “leader in higher education (who) has overseen a growth in (UVic’s) size, research activity and international standing.”

All of which points back to goals set out by a strategic plan — formally revised and renewed on three occasions during his term — that became a signature of the Turpin era. The plan’s key strength is its embrace of consultation — across campus and off campus — and it’s one of the things he means when Turpin talks about how much he values teamwork and the collegial nature of UVic.

“There’s nothing that’s happened here that I alone can take credit for,” says Turpin. “It’s all as a result of some truly remarkable people right through the organization.”

The university’s second longest-serving president (after Howard Petch, 1975 – 90), Turpin could have stayed on until 2015. But he says he decided to leave this year for three reasons: the latest version of the strategic plan has been approved; the university will have concluded the year-long commemoration of its 50th anniversary; and, a challenging planning process to accommodate changes in the provincial post-secondary education budget has finished. The timing was right.

When he was hired away from Queen’s University, where he was vice-principal academic, UVic was a little like coming home. Turpin was born in Duncan, attended elementary school in Esquimalt, and went to high school in Vancouver. In a story he often tells, he remembers sitting at the kitchen table in Esquimalt as his parents talked about the establishment of a new university in Victoria.

Of course, he had no inkling that he would one day become president of the institution. In high school, his grades wouldn’t have even qualified him for university today. But once he began his studies in biology at the University of British Columbia, he found his way and never looked back.

He still looks fit and trim, and crisply attired in a dark blue suit. Although he’s not nearly as boyish looking as the 44-year-old pictured on the cover of the Torch the year he became UVic president, he might easily pass for a dozen years younger.

During his academic career, Turpin earned a reputation as a leading researcher in photosynthesis, ranking among Canada’s most highly cited researchers. He rules out a return to active lab research. Instead, he is interested in exploring the role of the university in modern society, and “the importance of issues around accountability and autonomy.”

Forty-seven of Canada’s 95 university presidents are new to the job since 2009 and Turpin is interested in exploring, along with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, how the growing pressures related to the job have contributed to the rate of turnover. “There’s been a big change in the nature of the job even in the 13 years I’ve been in it,” Turpin says. “There are far more stakeholders. And I think they’re tougher jobs than they used to be particularly in the current financial environment.”

In his final months at UVic, Turpin turned much of his focus to “the opportunity agenda.” He and the other BC research university presidents have built a case to support economic growth in the province by ensuring a space for every qualified student, more investment in student financial assistance, and “sustainable, predictable support for research.”

Dr. Chris Barnes, the retired former director of Centre of Earth and Ocean Research and the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, says Turpin is “always willing to listen” and to go to bat for funding university projects. “Many things like that have to happen at the presidential level,” says Barnes, who was also the founding director of NEPTUNE Canada, the world’s first large-scale underwater ocean observatory.

Much of an effective president’s job requires the ability to convince others — government agencies, funding bodies, private donors — to support an institution’s vision and aspirations.

A case in point would be how Turpin landed entrepreneur Bob Wright’s donation of $11 million for scholarships and construction of the ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences building that now bears
Wright’s name. Again, Turpin declines to take much credit, calling it an example of what a “shared vision” can accomplish.

“Developing a shared vision across campus makes it easy for me to sit down with somebody like Bob and say, ‘Here’s what we’re trying to do,’” Turpin says.

The founder of the Oak Bay Marine Group, Wright said that he and Turpin were already pretty good friends when Turpin approached him about making a donation. “I taught him a little bit about fishing and he passed the test,” Wright quipped in an interview a few weeks before his death on April 17.

For Wright, who built his empire in BC’s sport fishing industry, supporting ocean sciences research at UVic was a natural fit. “He’s a good human being,” Wright said of Turpin. “He believes in what he’s doing and he convinced me it’s a good thing. It’s as simple as that.”

WHILE PROUD OF THE WRIGHT Centre and the other new buildings, Turpin is more proud of what they represent. Like the First Peoples House, which opened in 2010: “Really, it is not just that it is functional in terms of what it does for our Indigenous students but it’s symbolic.”

Also high on the list is “the remarkable growth in Indigenous students over the past decade.” When Turpin arrived, the university had about 80 Aboriginal students. Today, the number is closer to 900. He also championed federal funding for the four-year LE,NONET project that found ways of improving post-secondary success among Aboriginal students at UVic and across the country.

Ruth Young, director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs, says that Turpin recognized and acted on the importance of involving First Nations in the university. He made sure that UVic’s Aboriginal student recruitment and admissions officer is also Aboriginal, which had previously not been the case. Young, a member of the Cree Nation of Wemindji, knows that well. That recruitment position was her first job at UVic.

“Even when I was in recruitment, he called me in to sit with him to ask my opinion on certain things, just as a new Indigenous employee at the institution,” Young recalls.

A hallmark of Turpin’s presidency has been his emphasis on educational quality and the student experience — a perspective strengthened by being a parent of two university students.

Emily Rogers, chairperson of the UVic Students’ Society, says she was also impressed by Turpin’s “very genuine” efforts to engage with the student leadership. “He always treats us well and with respect as professionals in our own right, which I value in him,” Rogers says.

Turpin’s patience also appears boundless, even when it comes to seemingly intractable conundrums like the rabbit infestation that dogged UVic for much of his tenure. “The rabbits, the rabbits. When we decided that we had to do something about the rabbits, I said, Fine we can do something about the rabbits but I don’t ever want to have to talk about it again,” Turpin laughs. With the help of community members, the lovable but destructive rabbits were eventually trapped, spayed or neutered, and sent to off-campus sanctuaries.

THE JOB IS “ALL-CONSUMING,” says Turpin. “When you go home, it’s not like you leave the office and stop thinking about it.” This July, however, he’ll leave knowing that he won’t be returning to the president’s office. Yet he finds that prospect just as invigorating as the work he has done at UVic for the last 13 years. “It’s actually a wonderful position to be in, saying okay, finish this job, take a deep breath, and see what happens.”

Highlights from the Turpin Era

2001
Michael C. Williams $17-million bequest.

2002
Island Medical Program agreement with UBC and the Province of BC.

2003
BC Addiction Foundation donation helps establish the Centre for Addiction Research BC at UVic. NEPTUNE (and later VENUS) underwater observatories unveiled.

2005
Vancouver Island Technology Park acquired. Akitsiraq convocation for law students in Nunavut.

2007
Nobel Prize-winning IPCC report issued with six UVic-affiliated lead authors. Bob Wright $11-million donation.

2008
BC government creates the UVic-based Pacific Institute for Climate Studies. Research funding exceeds $100 million. Mearns Centre for Learning opens.

2010
David Turpin named to the Order of Canada. First Peoples House opens. Naming of the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business.

2011
Naming of the Sardul S. Gill Graduate School of Business.

2012
Five-year funding announced for Ocean Networks Canada through the federal Major Science Initiatives program. Times Higher Education places UVic first among Canadian universities established in past 50 years; 11th worldwide. Maclean’s ranks UVic second among Canadian comprehensive universities.
After a half century, there are features of campus place. They vary in form. Some of them are cherished time and memory. Some have been around as long as UVic. On the 50th anniversary of UVic, a series of essays will explore the different dimensions of campus place.
Campus that take hold of the imagination and come to represent a sense of cherished features of the natural surroundings. Others are more symbolic of as long as the university itself, while others have come along more recently. Essays about the places that are the heart and soul of campus.
While the American Lit prof chalked out *The Scarlet Letter*’s major themes, I sat, too big to fit behind a regular desk, near the back at a table dragged in from a classroom across the hall. To the other students penciling notes on loose-leaf, I must have been a riff on the 1980s PSA. Instead of *this is your brain on drugs*, my belly bloomed: the body on sex.

I’d entered my second year at UVic, pregnant and about to marry a guy I’d met in a first-year theatre class in which the teacher dimmed the lights and had us pair up to exchange shoulder rubs. This relaxation exercise, she promised, will release you into full expression. That next September, Lance and I married at the campus chapel, 19, love-drunk, and with the fullness of our expression due mid-March.

Newlywed and with a baby on the way, my husband and I learned together how to balance a student budget, how to cook more than perogies and grilled cheese sandwiches, how to argue, how to make up, how to breathe through the coming contractions.

Evenings, while he studied for directing class or read up on the history of Elizabethan costumes, I plugged away at poems for workshop or annotated Hawthorne, Twain and Melville.

**BETWEEN CLASSES, ON DAYS WHEN** rain gave way to sun, we’d meet up at the fountain and share a plate of cafeteria fries. Amidst clusters of students talking pub crawls and weekend party plans, I felt completely disconnected, yet glowingly exclusive. All the signs and symbols I copied from the blackboards in Clearihue, Cornett and MacLaurin, felt like minor footnotes to this major text illuminating me.

During our five years in student family housing, Lance and I worked through our Fine Arts degrees. He learned about playwrights, Japanese Noh theatre, and how to block a scene. I learned about poets, the haiku tradition, and how to build a sonnet.

But term by term, we reveled in our real education: where to find vintage children’s books in the campus library; how to lure rabbit kits to take carrots from your hand; the magic of a night walk around Ring Road with a toddler in a backpack, pointing out stars.

Now, almost 20 years later, I cross that same road with our daughter. On mornings when we both have classes, we walk together until our paths diverge. I head off to teach my students how to scan a line of verse. She turns toward the chemistry lab where she’ll slip on a white coat, blue gloves and safety goggles.

While she holds a flask eye-level and swirls a bright liquid, in another building, in another room, I stand at a blackboard with a piece of chalk, writing out a couplet from Shakespeare, noting how the rhythm repeats to lift the higher thought and underscore the themes — love, its constancy, and time, its constant looping through summer, autumn, winter, spring.

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**Constant Looping**

**BY CARLA FUNK, MA ’99**

The circular campus thoroughfare can also serve as a reminder of life’s repeating rhythms.

Carla Funk, Victoria’s first poet laureate, has published four collections of poems and teaches in the Department of Writing.

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Carla Funk, Victoria’s first poet laureate, has published four collections of poems and teaches in the Department of Writing.
What place from student days is my “heart of campus”? And why? I have fond memories of many wonderful profs, yet recall very little about the classrooms. And surely a “heart of campus” can’t be a scattered chorus of professors, no matter how inspiring. So where?

In the fall ’61 when I enrolled in Victoria College the only classes on the barren Gordon Head site were a few labs in old army huts. Everything else happened at the lovely Lansdowne campus. The magnificent Young Building, overlooking treed lawns, was a beautiful scene which still moves me.

But beauty’s not everything. The pavement between Young and its ugly stepsister, the Ewing Building, became my “almost-heart.” That humble “Quad” was our village square, our crossroads. Stand there long enough and you’d see everyone.

On foul-weather days we’d all crowd into Mrs. Norris’ dreary old caf. Awful coffee, great company. Hidden on the second floor was a small room with a file cabinet, battered caf table and hard chairs. There the Student Council met, the Martlet was edited, and small clubs gathered. On that overcrowded campus it was the only “room of our own.”

Most clubs met in classrooms, often with a faculty sponsor — a caring adult to parent the kids. This felt too much like high school. We were “all grown up now,” weren’t we? So we dreamed of a Student Union Building — our very own home. Since 1956 each student had paid up to $10 yearly into its building fund.

Then in May ’61 the college council decided all new development would be at Gordon Head. First to be built were a classroom block...and our SUB!

Student Council soon presented a list of needs and wants to architect John Di Castri. In October of that year they approved his draft plans. Completion was to be September ’62 but labour shortages and design complexities kept it dancing coyly out of reach.

FINALLY ON MARCH 30, 1963, our dream home was officially opened. Sure, a few things were still unfinished and a cement-stained wheelbarrow sat out front. But it was almost ready! Student president Alf Pettersen predicted the SUB would “usher in a new era” in which students would adopt a more responsible, independent attitude.

And perhaps to everyone’s surprise, it did. When classes resumed in September ’63 we all explored the finished building. Wow! Di Castri had created a strikingly original structure. It was handsome, friendly, functional and a spacious 20,200 square feet including a sunken terrace.

Jim Bigsby was editor-in-chief of The Martlet, fall ’63, SUB director ’64-65, and editor of the Tower 65 yearbook.

It started with the dream (and fees) of Victoria College students in the ’50s and since the day UVic opened the Student Union Building has been the centre of student independence.

SUB Script

BY JIM BIGSBY, BA ’67

Jim Bigsby was editor-in-chief of The Martlet, fall ’63, SUB director ’64-65, and editor of the Tower 65 yearbook.
I want to begin by holding my hands up with respect and thank the Lekwungen, Esquimalt and Wsanec Mustimuxw people for allowing us to live, learn and love on their magnificent territories. I also want to acknowledge that the First Peoples House sits on their traditional unceded territory. And, I thank President David Turpin for making the First Peoples House not only a budget priority but also a reality.

I have spent the last few weeks trying to determine how best to take up this time and opportunity to reflect on the First Peoples House. After much contemplation and prayerful moments, I have decided to write from a very personal space and contemplate possibilities.

I remember, like it was yesterday, when I was sitting in classes having a very superficial discussion about an Indigenous topic. Most often, when the
A sacred place, a place of Elder wisdom and art, of gathering, learning and nourishment, First Peoples House is a place of belonging for Indigenous members of the campus community and it’s a place of welcome for everyone.

Qwul’sih’yah’mahnt (Robina Thomas) is a member of Lyackson First Nation. She is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and Co-Chair of the First Peoples House. She has a BSW, MSW and PhD in Indigenous Governance from UVic.

However, when I shared anything controversial, I became the angry person who walked around with a chip on her shoulder. I guess truth can be very discomforting for some.

I could go on and on and share very specific examples, but my point is quite simple: being an Indigenous student in a mainstream institution was often very difficult. In my very troubling moments, I longed for a place to go. A place where I could be who and what I was as an Indigenous person. A place where I felt completely accepted and more appropriately honoured.

I believe the First Peoples House is that place. A place where Indigenous students from across Canada can stop in and just belong. A place where students can find comfort and protection from objectifying classroom conversations. A place where your spirit will be protected.

The First Peoples House opened its doors in June of 2009. It is a magnificent building that was designed by Alfred Waugh, a Chipewyan architect. The building is designed to reflect a traditional Coast Salish style lean house. As you approach the building, two traditional Coast Salish welcoming figures designed by Tsawout artist Doug Lafortune greet you. As you enter the building, the first figures to honour you are house posts designed by Charles Elliott of Tsartlip.
First Nation. And finally, Rick Harry of Squamish First Nation carved the doors into the Ceremonial Hall.

Entering the Ceremonial Hall can be breathtaking. You are immediately comforted by the protection of the X’pey (cedar). This cedar woven room is adorned with sandblasted panels representing the three distinct nations on Vancouver Island: Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwakwaka’wakw, by artists Luke Marsden, Moy Sutherland Jr. and Rande Cook. When this room is not in use, the doors are always open for anyone to pop in and find solace in the sacredness of this space.

The Ceremonial Hall has hosted many people and events since it opened. Twice a year the Indigenous Recognition Ceremony is hosted in the hall. This event honours all Indigenous graduates from the various programs on campus. We have also hosted the former Lieutenant Governor Stephen Point and her honour Gwen Point when they were awarded their honorary doctorates. Thomas King did a reading in the hall when he was launching his recent book *The Inconvenient Indian*. The week of Indigenous Resurgence and Idle No More events brought many visitors to the Ceremonial Hall. The house bustles with sacred energy.

Perhaps one of the most sacred aspects of the house is the Elders. In fact, I would go as far as to say that the Elders are the heart of the house. I cannot stress enough the importance of the Elders. They are the carriers of culture and wisdom. Elders are our link to the past, and as such, are responsible for passing on the teachings to the future generations. Whenever there is an Elder in the house, the Elders’ Lounge is open and students are welcomed to just pop in and chat. Or, if they need, the Elders are there to offer support. The Elders also play key roles in following Coast Salish protocol by opening events with prayers and to welcoming visitors to the territory. But more importantly, they always keep the space blessed with prayers and medicines. I longed for the guidance and direction of Elders when I was a student.

Some days when you enter you are greeted by the sweet scent of burning sage. This is an immediate reminder of a safe and sacred space. On these days, as I enter the building, I am ever so thankful for the possibilities this space has for all Indigenous students, staff and faculty. And I remember that this is the space I longed for as a student.

Other days you are overtaken by the mouthwatering scents of fresh baking bannock, or bison, or smoked salmon, or elk, or clam fritters oozing from the kitchen. There is nothing like food to remind us of home, and on those lonely days bannock can be ever so comforting. Most Indigenous gatherings center around food, so having the industrial kitchen has been a blessing. Recently the kitchen was full of folks from the Indigenous Governance class preparing traditional foods. I can’t help but think how wonderful that experience must have been for those students. I longed to participate in an event like that when I was a student.

Of course, being a university building, the First Peoples House has a number of classrooms. I have felt so blessed to be able to teach in this building. I take every opportunity I can to stress to all students the importance of this building. But particularly, I know how important this building can be to Indigenous students. The house is also offers student support through the Office of Indigenous Affairs and the LE, NONET project for student success.

As you walk down the hallways, the walls are adorned with Indigenous art pieces from the university’s art collection. These pieces are rotated on a regular basis, so in a sense, it is like being in an art gallery and being privy to various art exhibitions.

The student lounge is home to a beautiful etched glass plaque by Tsartlip artist Chris Paul. If you happen to sit in the lounge on a rainy day, because of the slanted roof, it is like sitting in a waterfall. As you look through the cascading water, you are looking at a magnificent bronzed whale tail by artists Calvin Hunt and John Livingston. In the spring a pond full of baby ducks often accompany the whale tail. In the nearby trees you can always see and hear the hummingbirds. Where else would you be so lucky to be surrounded by the beauty of this house and all that it brings? This is what I longed for as a student — a place, a place where I belonged.
If a library is a university’s brain, the archive is where memory is stored. How important are the archives at the University of Victoria? As the university marks a 50th anniversary, much of the fact checking and many of the images are being provided through the archives.

A project called Great Moments elicited more than 200 responses from students, staff, faculty, retirees and alumni. The stack of suggestions ranged from Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling visiting the campus in the 1960s to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau wearing a UVic Thermofloat life jacket to the great Bus Pass experiment of ’76 to the Vikes’ basketball dominance in the 1980s to the establishment of the Victoria Women’s Movement Archives in the 1990s to the installation of the Grey Whale Tail sculpture at the First Peoples House in 2010.

University archivist Lara Wilson, MA ’99, was a member of the Great Moments committee, a reminder of the importance of the safekeeping artifacts for the future. “Our first duty is to preserve the records of enduring historical value that belong to the university,” she says. “We have a long history. We have been in many places — Craigdarroch Castle and Vic High before we became a university.”

The university archives also preserves the history of people and groups active “beyond the Ring Road.” UVic boasts an eclectic collection with materials of all kinds — maps and manuscripts, posters and pamphlets, correspondence and scrapbooks, account books and musical scores, ephemera and erotica.

A cursory look at the holdings is to be amazed at the wide-ranging nature of the subjects — a collection of Columbia River Treaty briefing books; papers from the design and creation of Peggy and Nicholas Abkhazi’s renowned rhododendron garden on Fairfield Road; a famed marine biologist’s squid and sardine slides; the files from the Malahat Review; the fonds of the Wild Horse Summer Theatre Company. The company featured a troupe of university theatre students performing “The Life and Death of Sneaky Fitch” at Fort Steele Heritage Park in East Kootenay for a few months in 1977. The material can be esoteric, but in the right hands it provides a gold mine of information.

THE ARCHIVES WAS FOUNDED IN 1973 and was housed in the basement of the library, wedged between a lunchroom and, of all things, a smoking lounge. An orange Plexiglas sign once warned patrons about a ban on smoking in the archives itself. (Needless to say, smoke, let alone the threat of fire, is the enemy of all archivists.) The archives are still in the basement, but today the space is airy and bright and happily smoke-free.

Perhaps there has never been a better time to be an archivist. “In the digital age we can share so much with so many people around the world,” Wilson says. “At any time day or night, from a computer anywhere in the world, the curious can access historic photographs, or back issues of The Martlet, or an anarchist broadside, or materials from the new Transgender Archive, believed to be the largest collection of materials about people living outside traditional gender roles.

Of course, those of us in Victoria can indulge some old-fashioned sleuthing, “the excitement of coming in and looking in a box of organized archival material to see what you can discover.”
It only takes a few steps down the fairly steep trail leading to Hobbs Creek, at the base of Mystic Vale, to easily forget that the evergreen ravine lies so close and yet a world away from the rest of campus. It’s mostly silent except for birdcalls and distant machinery of one sort or another from the surrounding neighbourhood. The air is fresh, scented by fir needles and the breeze off of Cadboro Bay.

One of the university’s real treasures, Mystic Vale is a reminder of the spiritual and material importance attached to the area by the Lekwungen people who, more than 1,900 years ago, had a village where campus is now situated. The vale is held sacred for the ancestral uses of the more than 75 plant and animal species and the spiritual power and rituals associated with its waters.

Mystic Vale is an outdoor recreation magnet popular for its walking trails and, in that sense, is as much a part of the community as it is a part of the university. Thousands come here each year, from campus and further away.

It’s sensitive ecosystem provides an ideal outdoor classroom and research subject, particularly within the Environmental Studies program.

Just as the university itself was established because of community leadership, in similar fashion Mystic Vale became a formal part of campus 20 years ago. In response to student and community efforts (under the umbrella of the Friends of Mystic Vale and with the early support of former president Howard Petch) the 4.7-hectare area was bought by the university for $2.7 million and saved from imminent and future development with the cooperation of Saanich and the provincial government.

The coniferous woodland features Douglas-fir, grand fir and bigleaf maple, mostly second-growth but with several trees estimated to be between 350 and 500 years old. Below, oceanspray, snowberry, Indian plum and sword fern dominate alongside other species not usually scene in Victoria, including false Solomon’s seal, vanilla-leaf, and rattlesnake plantain.

Among the vale’s wildlife inhabitants are black-tailed deer, raccoons, bats and river otters while the trees attract Bald Eagles, Cooper’s Hawks, Great Horned Owls, ravens and five species of woodpeckers.

The site is not pristine, the result of foot traffic and surrounding urban development. Gone is the nat-
ural source of groundwater that once fed Hobbs Creek all year, so the creek tends to dry in the summer and flood with the winter rains. But over the years, numerous restoration projects have been undertaken to limit the erosion of the stream embankments, reduce sediment run-off, and stabilize the trails that, in places, were established too close to the creek channel.

Environmental Studies students remove English ivy and other invasive plants each semester and students recently built wattles to control erosion along the waterway. The university has also added fencing to keep off-leash dogs out of Canoe Pond. (Dog owners are asked to keep their pets leashed but the restriction is commonly ignored.)

In ways Mystic Vale may be a victim of its popularity yet, for all of its challenges, it remains, as it has for centuries — a tranquil escape, a source of rejuvenation, a forested sanctuary.

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A New Cultural Treasure

Carved by the masterful hands of Jaalen Edenshaw, the Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole tells the story of a groundbreaking agreement, a culture and a history.

BY JENNIFER CHRUMKA, BSC ’03 | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON SHAFTO

A TOTEM POLE READS LIKE A STORYBOOK

and in the case of the Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole, like a history lesson. This spring and summer, in the archipelago of Haida Gwaii, a 13-metre length of red cedar is being carved to tell the story of an agreement between the Haida Nation and the Government of Canada. It is a story of how a region called Gwaii Hanaas, so imbued in a First Nation’s culture, earned the utmost protection — from seafloor to mountaintop.

The pole’s designer and carver is Political Science alumnus Jaalen Edenshaw, BA ’03. Assisted by his brother, Gwaai, and Tyler York, every Monday to Friday, pretty much 9 to 5, Edenshaw travels from his home in Masset to the Haida Heritage Centre in Skidegate, to peel back the pole’s layers and to gradually reveal its story.

Edenshaw’s design, selected by a six-person committee, was inspired by old Haida stories and mythology and from the natural environment. His “land, sea, people” theme tells the story of the agreement to protect Gwaii Haanas (Islands of Beauty). Figures on the pole, from the bottom up, represent: Sculpin, Grizzly Bear, Five People Standing Together, Raven, Visitor, Seal, Sea Grizzly, Dog, Three Watchmen and Eagle.

CARVING AND Haida ART HAVE been mainstays in Edenshaw’s life. “It was all around me when I was growing up,” he recalls. Born into the Ts’aahl (Eagle clan) in Massett in 1980, there are photographs of
him as a boy sitting in a canoe carved by Bill Reid, VC ’37, who helped to inspire a revival of Haida artistic practices. For several years, Edenshaw’s father, Haida artist Guujaaw, carved a totem pole right inside their home. Naturally, Edenshaw took up a set of tools himself, getting started on bowls and spoons, then by 16 he was working on his first pole as an apprentice.

“My generation was the first one to have Haida art in a big way as the norm,” a kind of cultural renaissance, Edenshaw explains. In the early 1900s, missionaries were cutting totem poles down and potlatches came to a halt. The Legacy Pole will be the first one raised in Gwaii Haanas in more than 130 years, when villagers, decimated by epidemics, left SGang Gwaay (Anthony Island).

At UVic, he studied linguistics, history and took an ethnobotany course. Learning First Nation’s history, forestry practices and how to identify medicinal plants gave him a base, he says, to talk and work with Elders.

Two stories he heard as a child feature prominently on the Legacy Pole. The first connects back to Edenshaw’s university days. Once, between classes, he was roaming the halls and saw a newspaper clipping on a professor’s door. “The title of the clipping caught my eye, so I knocked on the door,” he says. The story was about an archaeological find on Haida Gwaii and the door belonged to Anthropology Prof. Quentin Mackie who for the past decade has worked mainly in Haida Gwaii in collaboration with Parks Canada.

There in the room among other bones and artifacts was a 13-thousand-year-old grizzly bear skull, traced back to an old cave dwelling on Haida Gwaii. “There’s actually stories of grizzly bears, bears that made it over from the mainland during the Ice Age,” he says. And while many people passed those stories off as myth, “that skull shows where science is starting to catch up with our legends.”

The second story goes back 25 years to a blockade on Lyell Island (part of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site). Edenshaw describes the blockade as being a catalyst for greater protection from logging. “The Elders and the people down at Lyell Island sacrificed so much for our generation,” he says. “I always heard the stories and it’s almost become part of my family’s mythology.” In respect for those who stood on the line, the totem’s five people standing linked in arms is a symbol of the Haida Nation’s strength.

Miles Richardson, BA ’79, was the president of the Council of Haida Nation 20 years ago and signed off on the Gwaii Haanas Agreement. The agreement was a formal commitment between Canada and the Haida Nation to protect Gwaii Haanas and cooperatively manage the land and marine area. For Richardson, “it was about our generation asserting Haida Nationhood in our homeland.”

The agreement was groundbreaking because on matters of sovereignty, ownership and jurisdiction, Canada and the Haida Nation disagreed; “but more importantly,” says Richardson, “we recognized each other’s positions and understood that the areas where we did agree, were first steps towards moving to resolve bigger issues.” The two nations essentially agreed to disagree over ownership but to cooperate over the protection of the natural and cultural features of Gwaii Haanas.

Today as Edenshaw works to reveal his culture and history, he brings an even younger generation into the story. The father of three young children, he’s had his seven-year-old daughter carving and his four-year-old painting. They will all be there when the pole is raised in Gwaii Haanas in August. Then the legacy of cooperative management between the Haida Nation and Canada will stand among the very trees their agreement protects, for generations to see.
From the 1965 production of "Twelfth Night": John Getgood (Feste), Frederic DeSantis (Malvolio), and Susan McFarlane (Olivia). (Ian McKain/UVic Archives.)
Acts of Community

The setting is UVic, at its opening in 1963. A diverse theatre group, calling itself the Campus Players, begins a “strange eventful history” in a converted army hut. Bringing together faculty and staff, students and community members, the players embark upon an ambitious series of productions under the energetic guidance of the English department’s theatre specialist, Carl Hare.

BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA ’96

IT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA FOR A PLAY: A RAGTAG BAND OF faculty, students, staff and supporters pitch together to build a theatre on a fledgling university campus. Too quaint to be true? Not in the slightest. Such was the genesis of the Campus Players, the forerunner to the Department of Theatre.

Years before the current Phoenix Theatre complex was constructed in 1982, the Campus Players were born in one of the original army huts on the construction site that would soon develop into the campus we know today. While the student-run Players Club had already been a Victoria College institution for nearly 40 years, the idea of developing a proper department of theatre took hold with the founding of UVic.

Enter, Carl Hare. Approached by English chair Roger Bishop with the idea of creating a viable theatre program, Hare directed a production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream for the Players Club after he started teaching at Victoria College in 1962. Armed with the promise of a pair of army huts on the new Gordon Head campus, a budget of $12,500 ($5,000 from the Players Club and $7,500 “coughed up” from the administration) and an enthusiastic ensemble of supporters, Hare began renovating both course structure and buildings with an eye to the future.
“You have to realize that in those days, UVic was just an old army camp,” says Hare with a quick laugh. “There were no buildings, everything was moved into army huts — the bookstore, the faculty club. That first year, we taught our courses at Victoria College while the huts were being renovated. We didn’t get in till January 1963… and I don’t think the university really understood what might happen with them.”

What happened is the stuff of campus legend, as people rallied to the cause of transforming the huts into a viable — if snug — theatrical facility. “This was unique in the history of universities in Canada, because the construction was done primarily by volunteers, both faculty and student,” says Hare. “A chemistry professor would be hammering alongside an arts student.” The result was a tiny 80-seat theatre that proved to be very popular. “We would play 10 nights without a single seat being available.”

One of those hammering first-year students was Michael Whitfield, now an internationally acclaimed lighting designer with a 35-year career at the Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival and Canadian Opera Company — as well as stints teaching at the likes of the Festival, Shaw Festival and Canadian Opera Company. “The Campus Players were remarkable because you’d frequently be working alongside your professors in a completely different environment.”

The Campus Players were conceived as a “town and gown” organization that would allow students, faculty, and local actors to participate in UVic productions, the Campus Players began in 1964 with a production of Ben Johnson’s The Alchemist. A summer festival titled Shakespeare 64 (celebrating the quadrennial of Shakespeare’s birth) quickly followed, with Richard III and remounts of A Midsummer Night’s Dream and the wildly popular Alchemist. And, once the old hut-turned-new Phoenix building opened in the summer of 1965, they participated in A Man For All Seasons and Twelfth Night, as part of the Renaissance 65 festival.

“The idea was that we should be presenting the world’s classics, the best of the past and the best of today, in the university environment,” says Hare. “It was a real alternative to the romances and more popular comedies being presented at the Bastion Theatre or Langham Court.”

Alas, all good shows must end and the lights dimmed on the Campus Players with the creation of UVic’s new Department of Theatre in 1969.

“It really was unique,” Hare concludes. “The Campus Players was the backbone of campus theatre. You had the faculty wives — who did construction and costumes, cleaned the lobby and the dressing rooms, organized receptions and cast parties, sold tickets and were really essential to the first stages of the progress toward a department — plus the faculty themselves and the students. Everyone across the university was assisting with this, literally building the theatre. Didn’t matter what department they were in, they were making it their own.”

Twenty-two former Campus Players and guests reunited with Hare, Whitfield and 96-year-old Roger Bishop at last fall’s 50th Anniversary Alumni Reunion Dinner. Explains Hare, “I thought, we should really do something with some of the people who were instrumental in the theatre’s success, while they’re still alive.”

Honoured first among those present were surviving members of the Women’s Committee, including Barbara Fields, Clara Hare, Joan Lawrence, Mary Jean Smith and Barbara West. Former students included Jim Andrews and his wife Jill, Dougall Fraser, Michelle Bradshaw and Christopher Morley, plus faculty and staff members Ann Saddlemeyer, Don Harvey and Wolfgang Baba. Other guests included Valery Baba, Susan Benson, Joan Coldwell, Betty Harvey, and Reg and Judith Terry.

Hare, retired chair of the University of Alberta’s drama department, has been in Kelowna since 1997 and is active in the arts scene. He sighs at the memory of it all. “We weren’t dealing with a large number of people, of course, but the feeling of community was very strong.” He pauses and offers one more quick laugh. “It sounds like a play, doesn’t it?”
The exhibit features material from the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association archives. The CCBA formed in 1884 as an amalgamation of the more than 30 clan, language, county and social organizations that existed in Victoria’s Chinatown. It effectively served as the Chinese representative in Canada until formal diplomatic offices were established in Ottawa.

Other highlights of the exhibit include urban geography studies by professor emeritus David Lai and publications from Special Collections on the history of the community and the revitalization of the downtown area in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s.

BY LARA WILSON, MA ’99, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

Harmonious Interest

Art and archives exhibit celebrates Chinese history.

Among Victoria’s most compelling landmarks is the “Gate of Harmonious Interest,” at Government and Fisgard streets, marking the entrance to Chinatown. Victoria’s Chinatown is the oldest in Canada, second oldest in North America after San Francisco, and remains the heart of an active and prominent Chinese community. At its height in 1911, more than 3,000 people lived and worked in an area of approximately six blocks.

In this, the Year of the Dragon, the complex history of Victoria’s Chinatown and its place in North American immigration history is showcased in “Harmonious Interest: A Celebration of Victoria’s Chinese Heritage” (on until May 13). The exhibit features items from UVic’s Library and Archives, in collaboration with the University Art Collections. Curated by Caroline Riedel, MA ’98, and Margaret Weller, the exhibition is part of a citywide celebration of the Chinese community and a commemoration of Chan Ka Nin’s Harmonious Interest, a work of symphonic theatre on the Chinese immigrant experience.

Surmounted by the hand scroll Dwelling Of The Immortals from the Maltwood art bequest, the exhibit includes rare glimpses inside the meeting halls and sacred places of Chinatown thanks to Inside Chinatown: ancient culture in a new world, a collection of photo collages and calligraphy by Robert Amos and Kileasa Wong, MEd ’99. The collection was recently acquired by UVic Archives.
Keeping in Touch

1970s

**EUNG-JIN BAEK**, PhD '78 (Linguistics), is professor emeritus in the department of Asian studies, University of Toronto, and last year published *A Colloquial Manchu Grammar* (Hallym University Press).

**MARILYN BOWERING**, MA '73 (English/Writing), has a new book of poetry, *Soul Mouth*, published by Exile Editions. Her opera about Marilyn Monroe (*It Will Be Forever*) with the composer Gavin Bryars is set to debut in Victoria in September. She is also writing songs with the singer, Eivør, and has several of her works on Eivør’s new album, *Room*.

**OSMO JORONEN**, BSc ’75 (Biology), writes: “I have a new retirement home-based business. I developed a propane-free portable gas stove-barbecue that takes biomass such as wood pellets or wood pieces like chips or twigs, gasifies them in the burner/reactor and burns this gas much like propane. The benefit in this is being free from fossil fuels for cooking and barbequing. I am also the webmaster for Pirkko Kiansten, who has the Finnish program on CFUV Saturday mornings.”

**JOAN PAGE**, BA ’79 (Sociology), writes: “After 25 years with the BC Government in Victoria, I moved to Vancouver and completed Canadian immigration law studies at UBC to be licensed as a regulated Canadian immigration consultant. I have a home-based business in Richmond. There is life after government!”

**JULIA ROBERTS**, BSc ’71 (Mathematics), writes: “When our family was making plans to attend my son Thor Kell’s graduation from UVic last June, I realized that my two children and I are all UVic grads. With borrowed robes, we took the attached photo to celebrate that fact. Thor received his BSc in Music and Computer Science and is now working on his master’s at McGill. Sarah’s BA in Linguistics has led to a career as a consultant in First Nations language revitalization. I operate Roberts Environmental Services in Nelson and would love to hear from friends from long ago days at UVic. robertsenvr@shaw.ca.”

1980s

**MICHAEL CAHILL**, BEd ’85, says: “Since leaving UVic, I have taught in the Philippines, Thailand, Brunei and Malaysia. I have always enjoyed the local food, in fact, I accidently became a bit of an Asian gourmet. I decided to put my knowledge to good use by opening an online Asian food shop at asian-foods.biz. We are hoping to sell foods from Asia to the Victoria and Vancouver areas.”

**ROBERT ALAN GILES**, BA ’80 (Political Science/History), works “in Calgary, at the provincial office of the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association. I administer outdoor education programming including the career and technology studies wildlife strand programming through the Alberta ministry of education.”

**WADE KEARLEY**, BFA ’83 (Writing), sends in this note from his home in Newfoundland, where he is an established poet and non-fiction author: “I’m writing to give you a heads up on a new publication that may be of interest for alumni of UVic and other readers of our magazine. *Here’s the Catch: The Fish We Harvest from the Northwest* (Boulder) — a concept book which uses a...”
nonfiction approach to make a carefully crafted argument recognizing the fishery as the basis of the cultural development on the east coast of North America, and linking more informed management of that industry and its stocks to the advancement of that culture.” Wade’s next book of non-fiction, *Facing the Sea: Newfoundland Lightkeepers and Their Families*, is to be released this year by Flanker Press.

DAVID LOVE, BA ’85 (Canadian Government/Political Science), is the manager of strategic initiatives for the Town of Golden: “I completed a very satisfying 22-year career as an officer in the Royal Canadian Navy and then returned to UVic to take the Diploma Program in Local Government Management. I went directly to my present position in Golden and work is a blast. My children are educated and grown and Colleen and I hope to retire in Golden—if I retire at all! Drs. Reg Roy and Warren Magnusson were my mentors. God Bless them. I can still smell the basement of the library where I researched many of the papers I submitted to them both.”

LAURA SMALL, BSc ’86 (Geography), CEO of Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan, is one of seven Canadians named to the International Alliance for Women World of Difference 100 list. The award honours “unsung heroines.” Laura has helped to shape the economic climate and business community for women entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan, helping women start businesses, access financing, training, mentoring and networking opportunities.

1990s

LUCAS AYKROYD, MA ’97 (English), recently became the author of *What in the World?, the Globe and Mail’s* weekly humorous travel news column. He won a gold medal, two silvers, and a bronze at the 2012 North American Travel Journalists Association Awards with features on Peru, California, Victoria, and New Brunswick in the *Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star, Canada.com*, and the *Vancouver Sun*. In May 2013, he’ll cover his 14th straight World Hockey Championship in Finland and Sweden for IIHF.com, and next year, he’s looking forward to heading to Sochi, Russia for his fourth consecutive Winter Olympics. His favourite hockey interview lately was a 20-minute one-on-one with the legendary Guy Lafleur, promoting Hockey Day in Canada at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

LAURIE BRINKLOW, BA ’93 (English), has published her first book of poetry, *Here for the Music* (Acorn). Laurie, who now lives in Charlotte-town, was the founder and publisher of The Acorn Press. She sold it in 2010 to pursue a PhD in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at University of Tasmania, exploring the nature of “Islandness” by looking at artistic expression in Newfoundland and Tasmania.

ISOBEL MACKENZIE, MBA ’95, earned the 2012 Top BC CEO in the non-profit sector from *Business in Vancouver* and Mackay CEO Forums. The award recognizes Isobel’s role in the growth and expansion of Beacon Community Services while pioneering new models of care such as planned giving department, in which alumni could have family heirlooms or other items valued by professional appraisers. Also, Terry Cockerline, Alumni Relations Director, led a sold-out Dining Etiquette dinner. In all, more than 2,400 attended nearly 20 events, talks and alumni branch re-unions. Once again the alumni relations department and its partners across campus presented a fantastic week. Don’t forget to mark your calendar for Alumni Week 2014, Feb. 2 - 8.

Another important date to remember is the evening of June 20, the association’s annual general meeting. Come out and learn more about our activities.

As of this year’s AGM, I will finish my two-year term as your president. It has been a fantastic time. In this last year I also sat as the alumni representative on the presidential search committee to select a new president to replace Dr. David Turpin. I had the opportunity to offer an alumni perspective in this most important decision, but during the six month process I learned how many faculty, staff, students and volunteers are truly dedicated to UVic and demand the very best for this great university. It was inspiring.

UVic is fortunate to have Prof. Jamie Cas-sels as its next president. I wish him the best as he leads UVic forward. Alumni are also indebted to President Turpin for all he has done for UVic in the past 13 years, and I wish him the best for the future.

I would like to thank my fellow alumni association board members, and all alumni volunteers, for their effort, time and dedication to the association and UVic over the past two years. I encourage the entire UVic alumni community to stay engaged with UVic, and help the alumni association continue to prosper for another 50 years.

e-mail: alumni@uvic.ca

Upcoming Alumni events: alumni.uvic.ca

Finishing with a Flourish
Alumni leader ends his term on a high note.

BY PETER TANNER, BA ’91
PRESIDENT, UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

AS WE APPROACH THE CONCLUSION OF THE University of Victoria’s 50th Anniversary year, I’m pleased that the UVic Alumni Association has played such an integral part in the festivities, and that the association continues to grow and flourish.

Alumni Week 2013 (February 3 - 9) was particularly successful. Some highlights included world-renowned *National Geographic* photographer Paul Nicklen, BSc ’90 and his presentation to a full house at the Farquhar Auditorium of Polar Obsession. The recognition event for Alumni Who Made a Difference, hosted by Chancellor Murray Parmer, BA ’68, at the Fairmont Empress Crystal Ballroom showed the tremendous impact of alumni in the growth of UVic. And the Campus Alumni Luncheon, attended by about 150 alumni who work on campus, provided a “magical” start to the week thanks to the talents of magician Murray Hatfield.

Two new events this year were Measure Your Treasure, hosted by the University’s...
Students Stepping Up

The UVic Student Ambassadors (known for their diploma frame and flower sales and convocation, or maybe you’ve seen their puppy playtime de-stress events during exam time) made a big impression during the university’s 50th anniversary year.

Add it all up and they contributed more than $20,000 to anniversary events and special scholarships. Over the past year, the energetic 36-member ambassadors gave more than 800 hours worth of combined volunteer time.

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ALUMNI WEEK 2013 GALLERY

1 / Magician MURRAY HATFIELD entertained at the lunch for alumni who work on campus. 2 / ASHLI AKINS, BA ’09, NANCY TURNER, BA ’69, and BRENDÁ BECKWITH, PhD ’05: Environmental Studies trio at the Alumni Who Made a Difference presentation. 3 / Two Alumni Who Made a Difference honorees TRACIE SIBBALD, BA ’82, and PHIL OHL, MEd ’96, with (centre) Vikes Athletics and Recreation Director CLINT HAMILTON, BA ’89. 4 / Alumni Relations Director TERRY COCKERLINE offered tips at the Dining Etiquette dinner and workshop. 5 / Know your knives: Dining Etiquette participants learned the finer points of table manners. 6 / The Grand Prize of a $2,500 travel voucher from UNIGLOBE Geo Travel went to recent Psychology graduate JOE SAVIDGE, BSc ’12, (shown with girlfriend Jess Cumming). 7 / Victoria Police Staff Sergeant DARREN LAUR, with his son Brandon Laur, led a workshop on securing and managing online identity. 8 / Economics grads in Metro Vancouver, including SCOTT DEKANICH, BA ’11, got together at the Salt Cellar in Gastown. 9 / Victoria College alumni (including JOYCE CLEARHUE, JOY BARRETT, DAVID LEEMING, and SHIRLEY TUCKER) gathered for a talk on Victoria’s education heritage by HELEN RAPTIS, PhD, ’01, and to mark the college’s 110th birthday.
Looking Back, Moving Forward

BY IBRAHIM INAYATI
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

AS THE SPRING CONVOCATION DRAWS CLOSER, WE IN ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT take the opportunity to reflect on the many opportunities we have had to interact with UVic’s alumni and friends since last September, when we commenced the University of Victoria’s 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Thousands of alumni have participated in the many events and initiatives and shared memories. You have joined us on campus at events and lectures, contributed content for the Great Moments database, and financially supported the university via the 50th Anniversary Scholarships. Thank you to all of you who have participated and continue to support UVic. The level of alumni engagement and support seen during the anniversary has been remarkable and reflective of the passion our alumni have for their alma mater.

JUNE 30 MARKS THE END of another era at UVic as David Turpin ends his term as president. Over the last 13 years, Dr. Turpin has demonstrated his commitment to enlist alumni involvement in the university’s future growth. The development of the university’s new Strategic Plan is a good example of this engagement that drew input from many alumni. His commitment to excellence at UVic has served to propel it to be among the world’s leading universities.

Under Dr. Turpin’s watch, the alumni population has grown by more than 50,000. He has hosted and spoken at countless alumni receptions and meetings worldwide. Having a president accessible in this manner reflects a university’s commitment to drawing the community into the life of university, an approach that many students and alumni cherish about their UVic experience. In June, the university community will formally celebrate and honour Dr. Turpin’s legacy. I know many of you will wish to participate to pay tribute to a leader who has fostered such growth and progress on campus and beyond. I invite you to support the legacy scholarships that are being established in Dr. Turpin’s honour.

Professor Jamie Cassels will begin his five-year term as UVic’s seventh president on Canada Day, July 1, and will undoubtedly continue UVic’s unwavering commitment to building strong and enduring relationships with our alumni and friends. I look forward to introducing Prof. Cassels to many of you in the coming year. I wish you enjoyable spring and summer months ahead.

EMILIA NIELSEN, ‘04

I wish you enjoyable spring and summer months ahead.
explore coming of age in a coastal community, the geography of place, and adult life in the queer cityscape. Currently, Emilia is a PhD Candidate at UBC, and teaches in the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice.

COLLETTE OSWALD, BCYC '03, writes: “My degree has opened so many doors career wise. It has been incredible. After working non-profit and opening a youth centre in Lillooet, I moved back to Vancouver and joined the ministry of children and families where I was able to enhance my skills and start covering for my team leader. When my family moved to Alberta 2-1/2 years ago I transferred to Alberta’s child and family services where I am now a team leader. It has been hard work getting here, but the reputation of an education from UVic has also helped.”

LOTTUR Y. PAWILSKY-LOVE, MEd ‘05, is the creative projects director for Silver Quill Creative Group in Victoria: “Have been continuing with my Arts Education/Fine Arts degree in my profession and have recently celebrated my daughter Alexandra’s graduation from UVic just over a year ago. She is applying to the UVic Faculty of Law next and my son, Adam is attending UVic this fall. He will also be rowing for the UVic Vikes Men’s team. My daughter is also working for the UVic Bookstore and really enjoys the campus life!”

JENNIFER LITTLE REED, Med ‘07, moved back to Ottawa after earning a PhD in kinesiology from Penn State University. “I am now a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa as well as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.”

PATRICIA SKIDMORE, BA ‘01 (Women’s Studies), has written her first book, Marjorie Too Afraid to Cry (Dundurn), telling the story of her mother’s life and lost childhood as one of the thousands of British children uprooted and placed in British colonies and the Commonwealth as “white stock” and cheap labour.

Terrific Teaching

TWO CLASSROOM LEADERS RESPECTED FOR THEIR unique abilities to inspire and challenge students are this year’s winners of Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. Annalee Lepp (Women’s Studies) is the recipient of the Harry Hickman Award (for faculty) and Dr. Alex van Netten (Physics) received the Gilian Sherwin Award (for instructor) from the UVic Alumni Association. The honours were presented during Alumni Week’s Teaching Awards Celebration.

Nominators highlighted Lepp’s life-changing impact on learners and her knowledge of the diverse topics covered in her courses, including North American gender and legal history, sex work, human trafficking, and feminist research methods. Lepp has also been a driving force behind UNI 101, the free program for students who might not otherwise have access to university teaching.

Physics is made less intimidating by van Netten’s innovative teaching methods, particularly in PHYS 102 for non-physics majors. He uses a self-built wooden spindle, bow and board for demonstrations of fire starting techniques used by the foraging peoples of Indonesia. His overall effectiveness has been rated by 98 per cent of his students as either excellent or good.

They each receive a $2,000-prize from the alumni association and their photo portraits will be permanently displayed in the McPherson Library, joining a gallery of 46 other outstanding educators who have received Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching since 1989.

One-two Finish

UVic students took first and second place in a national essay contest organized this winter by TD Insurance, whose affiliate — TD Insurance Meloche Monnex — is an official partner of the UVic Alumni Association.

Contestants were asked to submit essays of a thousands words or fewer describing their ideas for corporate environmental responsibility and the social, environmental and economic steps TD could take.

Connor Bildwell was awarded the first prize of $3,000. His proposals included the creation of “EcoBonds” to help fund investment in wind energy, solar power, food commodity production.”

Second prize, worth $2,000, was awarded to Caleb Shortt who offered a list of 28 suggestions for TD to incorporate additional “green measures” into its operations.

TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, through a formal agreement with the UVic Alumni Association, provides group rates on home and auto insurance services to graduates. (The automobile and recreational vehicle insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan because of provincial legislation.)
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 3060, STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3R4
WEB: uvic.ca/torch
E-MAIL: torch@uvic.ca
FAX: 250-472-5955

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Catch up with former classmates. Be a part of an upcoming reunion.

2013
Class of ’53 60th Reunion
School of Nursing 10th and 30th Reunions

2014
Class of ’64 50th Anniversary

Victoria College Alumni Chapter luncheon:
Oct. 28, University Club

Event updates online at alumni.uvic.ca

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

Contact Marlene Bergstrom,
Alumni Engagement Officer at 250-721-6012

University of Victoria
When Dean Met Linda

How a lifelong bond started with a chance encounter crossing campus, a Valentine’s first date, and a marriage proposal in Finnerty Gardens.

BY FR. DEAN HENDERSON, BSW ’84

I’LL NEVER FORGET THE OCCASION OF SEEING LINDA FOR THE FIRST time. I was biking across campus while she was walking to a morning class. In spite of my heroic efforts to get a fractured emotional life under some semblance of control, when I saw her Okanagan beach blond hair, Icelandic sweater (notable in that she and I both had Icelandic grandparents), and beautiful countenance — I’m embarrassed to admit — I lost it.

Powerful for me, it was completely inconsequential to Linda and it would be months before I would actually have the nerve-wracking occasion to meet her, on Valentine’s Day 1982.

A student’s brief period at university is formative and sometimes even transformative. In my case, three years at UVic would influence profoundly and beautifully my entire life because of that chance encounter. In the early ’80s I was floundering from the personal disappointment of family dissolution, and because a UBC degree in commerce, in my father’s footsteps, had not worked out. I fled Vancouver and returned to Victoria where I had attended school. I took consolation in a relatively new found faith in God, volunteer youth leadership, and the warmth of the “Bailey” boarding home.

UVic was a happy, healing backdrop to think about and pray for a vision for my life’s purpose and path. My degree has provided ample opportunity for personal and professional growth and unbeknownst to me then, offered a great foundation for a vocation of service of God and his people.

In the months between seeing Linda and actually meeting her, I attempted to focus on my studies, discovered what I could about “awesome Linda,” and prayed for a chance to meet her. Meanwhile, my sense of calling was taking shape during that first year at UVic and in spite of a non-religious background I was convinced that I was meant to be in some kind of church service and leadership. This posed a potential problem as any future serious relationship would require mutual faith as a priority. The social network (back then it meant word-of-mouth and occasional phone calls) indicated Linda’s social aspirations weren’t exactly, how shall I say, “churchy.” I was confused. Linda was oblivious.

HOWEVER, JUST AFTER CHRISTMAS, MY boarding housemate brought astounding news. John, knowing about my secret admiration, explained with exuberance that friends-of-friends reported that Linda had some kind of religious experience and was seen reading the Bible on the ferry back to Victoria! Laugh if you will, but I knew then that we were meant to be together.

It was a hopeless encounter that first meeting on Valentine’s Day. I was so nervous that I could barely say hello while my roommate infuriatingly schmoozed with ease. But I did muster the courage to make further contact and in due course began a fledgling friendship that had more than its share of fits and starts as she completed her nursing degree at UBC while I continued at UVic.

In 1984, I began a graduate degree in theology in Vancouver with the ulterior motive of solidifying a romantic relationship with Linda. We had determined to get to know each other’s families, laying solid bonds of friendship with a prayerful openness to God’s providence. However, while I was anxious to make the radical decision for marriage, Linda was uncertain. I had successfully won over her mother (a strategic victory) but she was harder to convince. But with faith, hope, and love, while visiting my alma mater, I proposed to her as we walked through Finnerty Gardens. To my great delight, and mild surprise, she said yes. The wedding occurred in Summerland in 1986, which began our adventure and challenge of love together. Since then we have been blessed with five children, the oldest of whom graduated from UVic, in commerce, in 2011.

Linda now nurses at hospice and Mount St. Mary’s. Having been ordained an Anglican in Victoria in 1990, I served Island parishes until the unusual step of becoming a Catholic. Because of my previous ordination, and with an exceptional Papal dispensation from the requirement of celibacy of a Roman Catholic priest, I was ordained a Catholic in 2007 and assigned as Chaplain to UVic. Four days a week, I offer a Mass at the Interfaith Chapel, next to the Finnerty Gardens where our engagement commenced. It’s hard to imagine this fulfilling and happy life of love and service anywhere but where it began, and continues.
The impact of student financial awards often reaches beyond the students they were meant to help. Just ask Steve Lonergan. A graduate student in computer science, Steve commits his spare time to bringing science education and outreach programs like “Let’s Talk Science” and Science Venture to young and old alike.

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

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

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

Many UVic students depend on scholarships to pursue their educational dreams. Find out how your gift of a scholarship will create bright futures for deserving students. Please call us at 1-877-721-7624, visit our website www.uvic.ca/givingtouvic.

Or speak with the UVic student caller who contacts you.

University of Victoria