President Jamie Cassels
The Making of a Leader
Interlude

Tuesday Music and Friday Music — lunch hour performances in the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall during the fall and spring terms — have long been providing a way to break up the day. Pianist Claire Huang, featured here, is in her fourth-year of studies in the School of Music with Prof. Bruce Vogt.

PHOTO BY NIK WEST, BA ’95
Inspired? Find out how to transform the lives of students with your own inspiring gift. 
Contact Deborah Walker: dgwalker@uvic.ca | 250-721-8967

When alumna Brenda Lonsbury-Martin contacted UVic’s Planned Giving office and asked how to establish a bursary for Visual Arts students through her Will, staff members were a bit puzzled.

Dr. Lonsbury-Martin conducts medical research in the fields of hearing and deafness and is a professor at a leading university medical centre in the U.S. We knew about her amazing career, but didn’t quite “get” her connection to the visual arts. Until, that is, she told us the story behind her legacy gift.

Brenda says she owes her professional success to the influence of her mother, Dorothy Butler, who could not afford to go to university herself, but was adamant that Brenda have an advanced education. Dorothy painted in watercolours for most of her life, so Brenda’s award honours her mom’s passion for the visual arts.

Brenda also appreciates the support she received from bursaries while she studied at UVic. In her words: “I now want to ‘give back’ to the system that helped me become successful by helping younger generations achieve the best possible education and training.”

The Dorothy Lois Butler Bursary in Visual Fine Arts will have an impact on countless UVic students.

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University of Victoria

Industrial Alliance

Insurance and Financial Services Inc.
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On the cover: UVic President Jamie Cassels and fellow runners, by UVic Photo Services
Stages

Chapters of campus history.

MORE THAN USUAL, THE WORDS AND PICTURES IN THIS EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE bring together the old and the new, the beginning of the university and the institution it has become.

In the spring of 1964, a crowd of 1,300 gathered in the Old Gym for the “First Annual Congregation for the Conferring of Degrees.”

On that day the first 169 graduates of arts, science and education programs walked in a procession amid converted army huts and the dusty, bustling construction of a new campus. They led the way for thousands of alumni. They symbolized a new era of higher education in Victoria. They carried the hopes of a community.

So it’s compelling that those trailblazers will come back to campus in June to reunite and mark the anniversary of their graduation. In a series of interviews, they have helped to piece together an oral history of that day a half-century ago. Their memories, though coloured by the same nerves and excitement shared by any graduate, carry a special significance.

Their anniversary gathering will coincide with Spring Convocation and its week-long celebration of more than 3,000 graduating students from the Class of 2014.

Among the new grads will be contributors to this issue who, in their own creative ways, help to knit a new chapter in the history of UVic.

Becky Cao, receiving her BFA in Visual Arts, took out her sketchbook to offer her skillful vision of campus’ first five academic buildings.

Sasha Gronsdahl will also be putting on the cap and gown in June, in much the same fashion as her mom, her dad and her brother did before her. All of them are graduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Her take on growing up in a family of alumni accentuates the lasting impression that UVic years can have across generations.

The Gronsdahls represent the many alumni parents and their kids, grandparents and their grandchildren who have, in their own time, crossed Ring Road, stuffed briefcases or backpacks, and filled notebooks — either on paper or in the electronic kind.

THE DAY AFTER THAT FIRST graduation ceremony in 1964, the local press anticipated great things for the fledgling university and the community from which it gained its footing and support.

In its editorial, the Victoria Daily Times remarked on the “stirring aspects of the great day” and the response of the people of Greater Victoria who helped to fill the gym: “This is no small undertaking on which we have embarked. It is a venture in higher education which will influence this community for the rest of its days, shaping many of its policies, focusing many of its efforts, and enriching its future.”

And now that future is here. With our special cover feature on President Jamie Cassels, in the first year of his leadership of UVic, we’re proud to offer an in-depth profile of the man who will have such an influence on the next chapter of the university’s story.

Mike McNeney, Editor
mmcneney@uvic.ca
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UVic Alumni Association
2014 Annual General Meeting

Keynote speaker:
President & Vice-Chancellor Jamie Cassels, QC

June 5

University Club | University of Victoria

6:30 pm registration and refreshments
7:00 pm program | reception follows

- Annual Business Meeting
- Honorary Alumna presentation: Lynda Farmer
- Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award: Fraser Hayes, BCom’11

Register online (alumni.uvic.ca) by May 30
or call 250-721-6000 (toll-free 1-800-808-6828)

Please visit the UVic Alumni Web site (alumni.uvic.ca) for board of director nomination information. Nominations must be received at least seven days before the annual general meeting.
IMAGINE

IMAGINE THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF A 60-FOOT CLIMBING TOWER

This is the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities. For more information or to support the project go to

uvic.ca/carsa

OPENS IN 2015

IMAGINE CARSA

the vision is becoming a reality
Over the fall and winter months, I had the privilege of meeting with more than 60 groups and individuals on campus and beyond. During these "Campus Conversations" with students, faculty, alumni and the community, we discussed strengths and accomplishments in all areas of the university, and the sense of pride and dedication that individuals have in the institution and their role within it. Together we explored what it means for UVic to be a "university of choice."

UVic is ranked among the world's top universities and is recognized for its superb learning environment, in which the classroom experience is enriched by the faculty’s scholarship, research, and artistic activity as well as by a wide range of hands-on experiential learning opportunities.

Our university also has an international reputation for excellent research in a variety of areas, ranging from language and literature, psychology, physics and astronomy, and law to technology, earth and marine sciences and the environment, and health and social wellbeing. These areas of excellence align well with our students’ obvious passion for engagement with environmental and social issues, and our institutional commitments to sustainability and community engagement. They focus on issues and questions that matter and where we seek to make a difference.

I also heard about the importance of place and scale. UVic is located in a spectacular environment, looking across all of Canada in one direction and in the other direction to the Asia Pacific region. I heard that UVic is “the right size” for this point in its history: students can come here and not be lost in the numbers. In other words, our university has, in many ways, reached its sweet spot – “large enough to matter and small enough to care.”

Not that we don’t face plenty of challenges. UVic — like other Canadian universities — faces a challenging time of fiscal constraint, rising public expectations, competition for research funding, global changes, and the demographic challenge of a declining youth population.

These days, the public rightfully has high expectations of universities and demands accountability. We realize that we can do a better job communicating our commitment to serving our students and society and our openness to hearing how we can do better.

While universities are the best pathway to prosperity and success, questions are being asked about the value of universities and of a university education. To me, it is clear that we have a responsibility to guide our students as they develop knowledge and skills to serve them for a lifetime, no matter what their pathway or ultimate destination. That way, their university education can provide good preparation for life success — in terms of employment as well as in terms of social contributions and other outcomes.

So, where do we go from here? Our strengths and accomplishments as a university, our ambition for national and international excellence across many disciplines, and our size and location create the imperative for us to build on our success and to articulate our story. Prospective faculty and students, staff, donors, funders and partners need to know why they should choose UVic over the many other fine universities in Canada.

Building on our strategic plan and the conversations I’ve had, the university community has been engaged in The UVic Difference: Positioning for Success project. This is a great opportunity to bring into focus the qualities that make UVic not only one of Canada’s leading universities, but a one-of-a-kind experience for everyone we engage.

As our Alumni, you are the proof of how well we’re doing. We don’t want to take the credit for your success — that’s a result of your own efforts and contributions. But your success and social contributions reflect on us and fill us with pride. We also want to call on you to stay connected by participating in the public conversation and as co-operative education employers, as donors and as mentors. Your university is working hard to fulfill our mission to make a substantial difference in the lives of our students, our communities and society.

This is an exciting time and I invite you to stay connected with your university, your faculty, your department or school so we can work together to build UVic into the best university it can be.
“The most complex textile can’t be found at NASA or CERN. It can be found collecting dust on a coffee table. To me that’s a great waste which I hope to change by giving us much better control and understanding of how lace is designed,” says Computer Science PhD candidate — and bobbin lacemaker — Veronika Irvine.

She sees lace, with its mathematical and geometric underpinnings, holding big potential for practical applications. Its patterns — delicate in appearance yet strong and durable — could form a network of conductive thread to connect sensors in wearable technology and smart textiles. Or they could be used to create a neural network in artificial muscles or organs.

A former software developer, Irvine was in her early 20s when she was introduced to the process of making bobbin lace. “You need to solve logic and geometry problems, such as which threads to combine to make the next braid,” she says. “Recently I’ve been designing new patterns and the mathematical nature has become even more apparent.”

In Irvine’s courses at UVic, she applied algorithms and data structures to problems in bobbin lace: “There’s potential for exploring new, possibly unsolved problems. It’s a relatively untapped area. I also experienced an improvement in my own meta-cognitive skills (with respect to math and computer algorithms) which really got me excited.”

She’s inspired by Robert Lang and Erik Demaine, whose studies of the art and science of origami was featured in the award-winning documentary, *Between the Folds*. Lang’s mathematical model of origami crease patterns has been used to create intricate art pieces. It has also been applied to engineering problems, like how to fold a medical stent small enough so that it can travel through arteries before expanding in the place where it’s needed.

“These two people are my heroes,” says Irvine. “I’m hoping to follow in their footsteps and shed some of the same light on my own art form.”
Rhodes Ahead

DYLAN COLLINS, BC’S 2014 RHODES SCHOLAR, WILL EMBARK ON A DPHIL IN PRIMARY CARE

health sciences when he takes up studies this fall at the University of Oxford. “I’ll be investigating ways to improve access to basic palliative care in low-income countries,” says Collins, who graduates this spring with his honours BSc in biochemistry.

His undergraduate studies — where he “fell into this passion for public health” — saw his interests evolve from basic medicine and health toward the social factors and policies that influence health care.

Collins is the seventh Rhodes Scholar from UVic in the last dozen years. The scholarship — for outstanding all-round students — covers travel, living and study expenses. He’ll be studying amid the culture and history of Oxford’s Christ Church College, founded in 1524.

Heard on Campus

“I stand here looking out over this assembly and ask myself what I can offer you who are taking from my generation’s hands a troubled world. I am an elder now. There are times many of us old ones feel a deep regret, a profound sorrow, but our sorrow does not have to be yours. You are young and it is soon to be your time...It’s your story now. How do you want it to end?”

PATRICK LANE, POET
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS
FALL CONVOCATION 2013

MicroscoPics

Magnified at this level, it’s easy to see how a larval ant might inspire the design of a great Halloween mask. The food and water channels in a banana plant are revealed. The up-close view of a fly’s wing shows how its structure can detect air currents. And you see how an otter’s hair zip-locks together for insulation.

These images are thanks to the “awesome” scanning electron microscope — or SEM — at the university’s Advanced Microscopy Facility and were provided by the lab’s manager, Dr. Elaine Humphrey.

The SEM relies on the shorter wavelengths of electrons, versus a microscope that uses light, and in this case affords scientists a resolution of one nanometer. (Take a millimeter, divide it by one thousand to get a micrometer. A micrometer divided by one thousand equals a nanometer [nm].)
The Faculty of Social Sciences is something my whole family has in common. My mom Linda, and my dad Craig, graduated in 1984 in psychology and economics, respectively. My older brother Stefan graduated last June with a BSc in geography, and I will receive my degree in political science this year.

Four different programs for four different people. Political science satisfies my love of questions and passion for social justice. My brother’s study of rocks, rivers, and weather systems was an obvious choice for someone who loves to spend time hiking and camping. My mother, the psychology graduate, is a natural people person — she’s always been a good listener. And for my dad, economics makes sense: it fits his logical and rational outlook on life.

My mom, from West Vancouver, and my dad, from Kelowna, met at UVic through mutual friends and were married in 1983. UVic has always factored into our family stories. Stefan and I grew up hearing tales of their antics at UVic. On family vacations to Vancouver Island to visit family and friends, we would cruise around Ring Road, my parents providing the colour commentary and pointing out the buildings they remembered.

Over late-afternoon coffee on a weekend visit to my family home in Kelowna, my mom and dad tell me stories from their university years. My mom remembers races down a dormitory hallway on rolling desk chairs. My dad, always the sports fan, reminisces about Vikes basketball games. “That was a big part of our social life, going to those games,” he says. Between the two of them, my parents can rattle off the names of the star basketball players during those years, when the Vikes were national basketball champions.

The world was a little different when my parents were in school. “We didn’t have laptops to play movies,” my mom laughs. “We would actually have to go out in the world for entertainment.”

Some parts of the UVic experience never change, though — especially the beauty of campus and the surrounding area. “The thing I loved most about Victoria was going back there in September,” says my dad. “Victoria in September is unbeatable. There’s no better place on earth.” People would be playing hacky-sack or reading on the quad, just like I watch them do now on a sunny day. “I went down to Cadboro Bay a lot,” my mom says. “I loved sitting there on those big logs and watching the waves roll in.” It’s the same study break I’ve taken so many times in my four years at UVic.

Campus was the place where my parents met and the place where they made their first memories together. In the midst of a busy day of classes, my mom and dad would find time to meet up for the occasional lunch date in the Student Union Building. They tell me about their habit of buying bagels with cream cheese, tomatoes and sprouts. “We paid something like three dollars for them!”

In 2007, my mom and dad moved my brother into his UVic residence room, in the same building where my dad lived in his first year. I followed in my brother’s footsteps two years later, and my parents have loved coming to visit us in Victoria. Thirty years after they graduated from this school, they’ll watch their youngest child receive her diploma in the same black robes with the same red trim.

This institution has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and it’s an important part of my family history, too. It’s not just a place I went to school — no matter where I end up, UVic will always feel like an extension of home.

In June, **Sasha Gronsdahl** becomes the fourth member of her family to graduate from the university, following in the footsteps of her parents and brother.

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**Alumni Family Circle**

In June, **Sasha Gronsdahl** becomes the fourth member of her family to graduate from the university, following in the footsteps of her parents and brother.

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**#IHeartCornett**

Did you meet your partner while waiting for a class in the Cornett Building? Who was that professor who changed your life? Any Cornett-based secrets you would care to share?

Now’s the time.

Enter the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Cornett Connections contest. Send your story and a photo — new or old — showing your connection to the most enigmatic building on campus.

Details: uvic.ca/cornettconnections
In a 2011 Rugby World Cup game between Canada and New Zealand, former Vike Adam Kleeberger made a tackle near the try line. It was a head-to-head collision. Both players tumbled unconscious. Attended to by medical staff, they eventually walked off the pitch.

Kleeberger has no memory leading up to the incident or for at least a half an hour afterwards. “I went for concussion testing and didn’t pass right away,” says Kleeberger, BEd ’13. “I was lucky it was the last game of the tournament so there wasn’t even the potential to play again in short succession.” He passed the SCAT (Sport Concussion Assessment Tool) a week later but because he still felt woozy during more intense physical activity, he didn’t play in the Pan American Games later that year. The protocol worked for Kleeberger, yet many question how strictly it’s been enforced in sports and whether the assessment tools are valid.

“Honestly, we don’t know a lot about concussions,” says Dr. Brian Christie, a neuroscientist in the Division of Medical Sciences and director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program. “No one knows for sure how many concussions a person can sustain — one, two, three or none.”

However, Christie is helping to standardize concussion diagnosis and pointing the way to new treatment. His research uses the NeuroTracker 3D Perceptual-Cognitive Training system.

Developed by a Quebec company, NeuroTracker resembles a video game. Across a screen, eight yellow spheres hang in space. Four spheres glow orange momentarily, designating them as targets. The player then attempts to track them from among the decoys as they bank off walls in the three-dimensional space.

The Vancouver Canucks and other professional sports organizations have used the NeuroTracker to improve athletes’ visual tracking skills and situational awareness. When a Canucks trainer told Christie that a concussed player’s ability to follow the spheres drops drastically, they twigged to the idea that the NeuroTracker could be a good diagnostic tool. “After injury,” says Christie, “players’ scores drop from 40 to 60 percent.”

Christie and his team have collected NeuroTracker baseline data from over 200 Victoria area minor hockey players, aged 5 to 17. The ability to compare test scores before and after a suspected concussion supplements other tests, such as the SCAT which relies on an athlete’s subjective assessment of symptoms.

The data are also a valuable guide for when an athlete can return to play. As injured players recover, they move closer to their baseline scores.

The testing may also heal the brain. “You’re exercising your brain just like you’d exercise any other body part after an injury,” says Christie. “You do it gently and go a little harder as you experience more recovery.”

Christie’s work is part of a national effort funded by $1.5 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to standardize concussion assessment and research. “We’ve become one of the more central components of that grant,” says Christie. “We’re one of the sites that they want to send researchers to from across Canada to see how we’re using the NeuroTracker as a concussion assessment and return-to-play tool.”

As a member of Canadian Interuniversity Sport, UVic has to meet agreed-upon minimum standards of concussion assessment. It’s then up to each institution to decide how to go beyond that minimum. Vikes Athletic Therapist Traci Vander Byl says the NeuroTracker technology and Christie’s expertise are precisely what the Vikes had been looking for. Starting last September, varsity soccer, rugby, basketball and field hockey players have been required to undergo NeuroTracker testing. With this baseline data in hand, the Vikes have added a third component to their assessment kit.

Now, when a Vikes athlete suffers a head injury, she or he is assessed by Vander Byl, Island Medical Program physician Steve Martin and Christie’s lab. A fail on any of the three — including a score on the NeuroTracker that falls too short of the baseline — and the athlete will need further recuperation and assessment before returning to play.

“Christie’s judgement deepens the layer of testing,” says Vander Byl. “Having built relationships with these athletes after a few years, I know when a normally mentally tough rugby player shows up at my office with tears in his eyes that something is off. But having a numerical value to back that up is extremely valuable.”

Cognition and Concussions

Testing and recording an athlete’s tracking skills takes some of the guesswork out of concussion diagnosis and recovery.

BY BRAD BUIE, BA ’99

A 2011 RUGBY WORLD CUP GAME BETWEEN CANADA AND NEW Zealand, former Vike Adam Kleeberger made a tackle near the try line. It was a head-to-head collision. Both players tumbled unconscious. Attended to by medical staff, they eventually walked off the pitch.

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However, Christie is helping to standardize concussion diagnosis and pointing the way to new treatment. His research uses the NeuroTracker 3D Perceptual-Cognitive Training system.

Developed by a Quebec company, NeuroTracker resembles a video game. Across a screen, eight yellow spheres hang in space. Four spheres glow orange momentarily, designating them as targets. The player then attempts to track them from among the decoys as they bank off walls in the three-dimensional space.

The Vancouver Canucks and other professional sports organizations have used the NeuroTracker to improve athletes’ visual tracking skills and situational awareness. When a Canucks trainer told Christie that a concussed player’s ability to follow the spheres drops drastically, they twigged to the idea that the NeuroTracker could be a good diagnostic tool. “After injury,” says Christie, “players’ scores drop from 40 to 60 percent.”

Christie and his team have collected NeuroTracker baseline data from over 200 Victoria area minor hockey players, aged 5 to 17. The ability to compare test scores before and after a suspected concussion supplements other tests, such as the SCAT which relies on an athlete’s subjective assessment of symptoms.

The data are also a valuable guide for when an athlete can return to play. As injured players recover, they move closer to their baseline scores.

The testing may also heal the brain. “You’re exercising your brain just like you’d exercise any other body part after an injury,” says Christie. “You do it gently and go a little harder as you experience more recovery.”

Christie’s work is part of a national effort funded by $1.5 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to standardize concussion assessment and research. “We’ve become one of the more central components of that grant,” says Christie. “We’re one of the sites that they want to send researchers to from across Canada to see how we’re using the NeuroTracker as a concussion assessment and return-to-play tool.”

As a member of Canadian Interuniversity Sport, UVic has to meet agreed-upon minimum standards of concussion assessment. It’s then up to each institution to decide how to go beyond that minimum. Vikes Athletic Therapist Traci Vander Byl says the NeuroTracker technology and Christie’s expertise are precisely what the Vikes had been looking for. Starting last September, varsity soccer, rugby, basketball and field hockey players have been required to undergo NeuroTracker testing. With this baseline data in hand, the Vikes have added a third component to their assessment kit.

Now, when a Vikes athlete suffers a head injury, she or he is assessed by Vander Byl, Island Medical Program physician Steve Martin and Christie’s lab. A fail on any of the three — including a score on the NeuroTracker that falls too short of the baseline — and the athlete will need further recuperation and assessment before returning to play.

“Christie’s judgement deepens the layer of testing,” says Vander Byl. “Having built relationships with these athletes after a few years, I know when a normally mentally tough rugby player shows up at my office with tears in his eyes that something is off. But having a numerical value to back that up is extremely valuable.”
GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF Business

The Gustavson School of Business and the Centre for Social and Sustainable Innovation recently hosted a public forum on the challenges, issues, responsibilities and opportunities arising from extractive industry companies establishing (or intending to establish) operations in a community. Dave Obee, editor-in-chief of the Times Colonist, moderated the event. Panelists included: Dan Lewis, founding director of Clayoquot Action; Art Mercer, CEO, Nisga’a Commercial Group; Brent Bergeron, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Goldcorp Inc.; Dr. Matt Murphy, Assistant Professor, Business Strategy and Sustainability.

About 100 people took part in a vigorous and largely respectful debate; very interesting and informative. The plan is to make it a regular event.

DIVISION OF Continuing Studies

This year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards recipients included local chef and food writer, Eric Akis, whose columns have been appearing in the Times Colonist and newspapers across the country since 1997. Through Continuing Studies, Akis received a Certificate in Business Administration from UVic in 1996. In 2003, his experiences as a chef and food writer inspired him to create the bestselling Everyone Can Cook cookbook series, which now has seven titles, including his latest book, Everyone Can Cook Everything. Akis was attracted to the Continuing Studies program because it allowed him the flexibility to keep working while he studied. He credits it with giving him the confidence to break out of one kind of work into a more rewarding career path.

FACULTY OF Education

Dr. Anne Marshall, professor of Counselling Psychology, is the recipient of the 2013 Faculty of Education Award for Excellence in Research. Community-engaged research has been Marshall’s passion throughout her career, often involving rural communities, Indigenous communities, and marginalized youth. Her research with youth experience and school-to-work transitions emphasized the need for early and ongoing life and work planning for youth in rural and coastal communities. Her background in counselling and school psychology, with an emphasis on relationship building and communities of practice, influences her approach to research and the partnerships that create, share and implement her findings. Marshall particularly values the transformative impact of research that leads to social benefit for youth, families and communities. As the director of the Centre for Youth and Society, her research continues to have a positive impact.

FACULTY OF Engineering

UVic Engineering students competed at the Western Engineering competition in January and did exceptionally well, with four teams achieving top three finishes in three categories. All this despite a close call when the bus they were traveling on went off an icy road near Mt. Robson in the middle of the night. No one was hurt. Three teams will be going to the national competition in Ontario this spring...The Civil Engineering program took in its first 45 students last fall, and will be expanding over the summer to add a lab supervisor and two more faculty members.

FACULTY OF Fine Arts

Department of Writing Prof. Maureen Bradley (autumn 2013 issue) shot her debut feature film Two 4 One in February, and The Valley, the latest play by alumna and Writing Prof. Joan MacLeod, BA ’78, was mounted in both Toronto and Winnipeg. Phoenix Theatre ended their current season by asking Writing Prof. Kevin Kerr to direct his 2002 Governor General’s Award-winning play Unity (1988)...History in Action Prof. Carolyn Butler-Palmer’s 2013 project to create the world’s largest button blanket was very popular, with the blanket opening UVic’s 2014 Diversity Research Forum and then anchoring the Legacy Gallery exhibit, Adasli: The Movement of Hands...The School of Music has announced Canada’s first master’s degree in string quartet performance. “This will bring an outstanding student quartet to UVic to work directly with the Lafayette String Quartet for a two-year residency,” says director Susan Lewis Hammond...In addition to their winter faculty show Paradox, Visual Arts professors Sandra Meigs, Daniel Laskarin, Robert Youds and Paul Walde all had well-received solo exhibits across Canada. See the work of their current protégés at the annual MFA exhibit, May 2 – 10 in the Visual Arts Building.

FACULTY OF Human and Social Development

An international research project led at UVic will explore borders — real, remote and virtual. Borders in Globalization, or BIG, includes 23 universities plus non-academic partners in Canada, the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Funding for seven years comes from a $2.3-million Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and $1.4 million from project partners. Since 9/11, the study of borders has changed. “Border gates may not be disappearing yet, but the...
state’s capacity to enforce or delineate borders is becoming far more complex and powerful,” says lead investigator, Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, associate professor in the School of Public Administration. One measure of success for the project will be the level of global exchange of expertise and debate about border policies from economic, security, governance, cultural and environmental perspectives. BIG will host several round-tables, summer schools and international conferences.

FACULTY OF International Conferences

Big will host several round-tables, summer schools and international conferences.

FACULTY OF Humanities

To support the internationalization of UVic, and to help bring the world to students — and students to the world — the Faculty of Humanities is offering new Certificates in Language and Cultural Proficiency. These are available in the departments of French, Germanic and Slavic Studies, Hispanic and Italian Studies, and Pacific and Asian Studies. Students from across the university can enhance their education and expand their knowledge of the world around them by focusing on languages, beliefs, literatures, cinemas, and values of non-English world cultures, in preparation for international exchanges, co-op work terms — or the employability in a globalized world.

FACULTY OF Law

Congratulations are in order for Prof. Gillian Calder on the publication of her co-edited collection, Polygamy’s Rights and Wrongs: Perspectives on Harm, Family, and Law (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2014). With co-editor Lori G. Beaman, Calder presents a thoughtful and persuasive examination of a controversial issue that has made headlines in BC in recent years. In the collected essays, eleven scholars seek to complicate an often simplified conversation about choice, dignity, and love in advanced societies. The book’s guiding question of “What is inherently wrong with polygamy?” is approached from a variety of perspectives. Readers are given the chance to explore the lived experiences of polygamous families and communities and are encouraged to rethink their own assumptions regarding family forms, state sanctioning and the dominant model of monogamy. UVic Law is proud to celebrate the publication of this groundbreaking scholarly effort by such a valued member of our faculty.

UNIVERSITY Libraries

From March 21 – 23, the UVic Transgender Archives hosted Moving Trans* History Forward, a three-day symposium devoted to the acquisition, preservation, and access of trans historical and archival materials. Funded in part by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connections and presented in partnership with the UVic Libraries, Moving Trans* History Forward brought together scholars, activists, and community members from around the world to exchange ideas and information, develop linkages, and increase effectiveness in gathering and disseminating the history of trans research and activism. At 320 linear feet (98 meters) of archival materials, books, and periodicals, and representing 17 countries and spanning over a century of activism and research, the Transgender Archives at UVic are the largest transgender collection in the world. (The term trans* should be seen as a placeholder for many identities, most of which are specific to local cultures and times in history, describing people who broaden and expand a binary understanding of gender.)

FACULTY OF Science

In February, the third annual Science Honours Fest showcased our best and brightest students with a research poster competition. Ross Prager, a student in Biochemistry and Microbiology, took home first prize, receiving the inaugural Boehm Family Award for Excellence in Science. Ross also won the 2013 Optional and Professional Co-op Student of the Year Award. Carolyn Tsao from Mathematics and Statistics placed second, and Kayla McLean from Physics and Astronomy placed third. Honourable mentions were given to the best poster from each department. Senior Lab Instructor and Neurobiologist Rossi Marx is the recipient of the President’s Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Service. Rossi is responsible for all of the aquatic animals in the Biology department, and has been a mentor, instructor and passionate contributor to community outreach initiatives since 2007. She has been the Chair of the Vancouver Island Science Fair since 2006, and is involved in Science Venture and Let’s Talk Science.

FACULTY OF Social Sciences

Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater received the CIHR Partnership Award from the Governor General in December for her leadership of the wrrs anti-bullying programs. Leadbeater has worked with community partners, police officers, schools, and parents to help protect kids from peer violence and victimization. “It was very rewarding to have our wrrs programs and partners nationally recognized after 15 years of helping schools create safe places for children to play and learn,” says Leadbeater. Wrrs (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Seek Help) began in response to the murder of Reena Virk, the 15-year-old from Victoria who was beaten and drowned by other young people in 1997. Her death followed several other high profile youth beatings that resulted in death or severe neurological damage to other Victoria youth. Wrrs was started by a local school principal and police officer Tom Woods, who went on to create the Rock Solid Foundation. “Tom Woods had the desire and inspiration to make a difference,” says Leadbeater. “Working with him and the Rock Solid Foundation was key to the success of the wrrs programs.”
Centre of Activity

New recreation facilities will be a hub of healthy living — for students and the community.

BY PATTY PITTS, DIPL. ’90

Don Chow can’t stop smiling as he flips through the blueprints for the new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities. The pages represent a future that the university’s manager of recreation can’t wait to experience.

“The weight rooms are on two storeys with the climbing wall going right past them,” says Chow pointing to the renderings that will eventually become facilities within the mammoth steel and cement structure rising on campus. He lists the new field house, changing rooms, basketball court, activity rooms, studios. But the biggest boost may simply be CARSA’s location near the heart of campus — unlike the current recreational hub, across Gordon Head Road at the Ian Stewart Complex.

“We have significant participation in our programs now and that’s full credit to the students who make the trek to ISC,” says Chow. “CARSA will be front and centre (for) healthy, active living.”

The $77-million, 190,000-square-foot facility across from the McKinnon Building, will include nearly half of its floor space dedicated to recreation and fitness.
The first new recreation facilities to be built on campus in decades will also serve the broader community through well-established summer camps, classes and drop-in programs.

**LARA LAUZON, PHD ’02, A HUMAN** wellness researcher and teacher of the popular first year class Personal Health, Wellness and Potential, echoes Chow’s enthusiasm.

“Students will have time to do a half-hour workout in the morning and still have time to make it to class,” she says. “This is what I’ve been hoping for over my 15 years at UVic. We recruit the best and the brightest but once we get the students here we have to help them take care of themselves.”

Students in her health and wellness class must commit to making a personal lifestyle change and many choose a new physical activity program (or rediscover an old one) to get them moving and distract them from social media.

“Students sometimes use classes in group fitness, yoga and pilates to get them off their Internet addiction. They have to replace that with something else. That’s their lifestyle change,” says Lauzon. “They’re using physical activity as an intervention and they end up liking it.”

One of the most popular “interventions” is yoga. Health and fitness programmer Amy Allen struggles to meet the demand with limited facilities. “Some classes have 50 people in them. I don’t like to turn people away. When CARSA is completed I’ll be able to add more classes and enrol more people.”

Four multipurpose rooms will accommodate dance, fitness and club programs and allow programmers the flexibility to respond to new fitness trends and provide the atmosphere participants expect in a modern facility.

“**TRX** (suspension training for strength, balance and flexibility) classes want cooling fans and yoga classes want heat. Right now we can’t properly control the temperature in the **ISC** facility,” says Allen. “**CARSA** will have a studio for **TRX** and other activities. Right now we have to jam the equipment in a corner when the yoga or dance programs are using the studio.”

Chow expects facility usage to grow 20 to 30 per cent when **CARSA** opens. “Any exercise, whether you’re two or 100, facilitates the creation of brain neurons and enhances the capability of existing neurons to work better,” says Christie. “It’s like fertilizer for the brain.”

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**Exercise... It’s like fertilizer for the brain.**

And while equipment can be upgraded, some of the facility’s infrastructure is beyond updating. Four of the big heaters in the ceiling have packed it in.

People with mobility issues wanting to access the **ISC** field house or upstairs dance studio must walk or wheel across the outdoor tennis courts, go up a back ramp past a storage area and through several doors.

Accessibility will not be an issue with **CARSA**, which will also house CanAssist, UVic’s organization dedicated to developing and delivering assistive technologies.

“The link to CanAssist is brilliant,” says Lauzon. “Students will be working out with different populations and, without even knowing it, be educated to their potential.”

If a brand new facility with purpose-built facilities, cutting edge equipment and a convenient location aren’t enough to convince on- and off-campus community members of the benefits of **CARSA**, here’s another reason — working out may make you smarter.

Research by Dr. Brian Christie, a neuroscientist with UVic’s Division of Medical Sciences, shows that exercise can enhance brain performance.

“Any exercise, whether you’re two or 100, facilitates the creation of brain neurons and enhances the capability of existing neurons to work better,” says Christie. “It’s like fertilizer for the brain.”

“There’s already a ‘wow’ factor among students coming from small towns to the UVic campus,” says Chow. “Imagine what that reaction will be like once **CARSA** is built.”

**CARSA by the numbers**

| **340** | tonnes of annual greenhouse gas reduction — the equivalent of 65 passenger cars — in part from a geothermal system for heating and cooling and ample windows for lighting. |
| **7.5 M** | litres drinkable water per year saved from an improved water system, reducing potable water consumption by 40 per cent. |
| **282** | trees will be planted on and around the site. |
| **400** | different classes offered by UVic Recreation. |
| **70** | per cent of students use facilities or enrol in a program. |
| **81** | weeks of Vikes Summer Camps for kids aged five to 16 offered each year. |
| **1,710** | annual hours of community use of fields for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. |

**Be Involved**

**CARSA** photos, news and donor information at uvic.ca/carsa
Dining Out, Helping Out

Entrepreneurs are tackling social issues and finding value that reaches beyond the bottom line.

BY KEITH NORBURY, BA ’85 | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95

One meal at a time: Mealshare’s Derek Juno and Victoria chef and restaurant owner Peter Zambri. Designated entrées have diners helping the homeless and hungry.
Imagine feeding the hungry while enjoying a meal at a fine restaurant. A social enterprise launched last summer enables diners to do just that. Called Mealshare, it identifies menu items that can result in a donation to charity, enough to provide a free and nourishing meal at the Our Place shelter in Victoria, for example, or elsewhere in the world through the Children’s Hunger Fund. “When people are indecisive about what they want to have for dinner it definitely helps them (choose),” says Jann Frizon de Lamotte, general manager of Zambri’s in Victoria, where Mealshare menu items include their queen pizza and spaghetti aglio olio peperoncino. About 500 Mealshare items have been ordered each month since the restaurant joined the program in November.

Zambri’s chose Mealshare in part because it didn’t require staff to ask for donations, Frizon de Lamotte says. “The Mealshare dollar is already part of the cost of the designated entrée. “It’s local as well, which is something that people like,” Frizon de Lamotte says, noting the connection with Our Place, which serves over 1,200 meals five days a week.

“The calibre of meals at Our Place is absolutely amazing,” says Mealshare’s Derek Juno, BCom ’11. “Everyone that goes there can request a vegetarian option and almost all the vegetarian options come from local farms and it’s all made from organic fruits and vegetables.” By leveraging economies of scale, Our Place can turn 400 of those Mealshare contributions into 400 meals.

Juno, with fellow Peter B. Gustavson School of Business alumnus Andrew Hall and their co-founder Jeremy Bryant, signed up their first restaurant in Calgary last summer. “We all quit our jobs and jumped right into it,” Juno says.

Mealshare now has nearly 30 partner restaurants in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria. The next goal is to support half a million meals, with a place on menus in every major Canadian city.

In the building the venture, they’re bringing a commercial solution to a social problem, says Dr. Matt Murphy, who teaches social entrepreneurship at the Gustavson School of Business.

“Usually these enterprises are innovative,” Murphy says. “So they’re approaching this social problem in a way that either hasn’t been tried in this context or maybe hasn’t been attempted at all.”

Gustavson Prof. Ana Maria Peredo identified five attributes of a social entrepreneur in a paper that appeared in *The Journal of World Business*. She determined that a social entrepreneur: aims to create social value; shows capacity to recognize and take advantage of opportunities to create value; employs innovation; accepts a high level of risk; and is unusually resourceful and relatively undaunted by scarce assets.

Applying business principles to social causes is one thing, but having the business school and business students engage in those causes shatters the stereotype of the profit-obsessed business sphere.

Murphy says UVic’s business school sees its goal as more than just about making money. “We feel like it’s important to give our students the opportunity to develop the skills that will help them engage in resolving some of the really most complex, wicked social problems that we have.”

A social entrepreneur is somebody who uses business principles and revenue generation to make a difference in the world.

Other UVic grads are also applying entrepreneurial principles to social causes. Lisa Helps, MA ’05, founded Community Micro Lending to provide small loans to entrepreneurs unable to access traditional financing. Kim Cope, BCom ’13, helped launch Early Entrepreneurs, which encourages school children to start their own small enterprises. And Dr. Darin Gunesekera, BA ’71, developed a stock exchange in his native Sri Lanka that helps slum dwellers to buy their own homes.

“A social entrepreneur is somebody who uses business principles and revenue generation to make a difference in the world, to have an impact in the community,” explains Helps, who is also a Victoria city councillor.

Guneskera is a fellow of Ashoka, an American-based organization that bills itself as the world’s largest association of leading social entrepreneurs. He sees social entrepreneurship as the next phase of entrepreneurship generally. However, that phase might take a century to unfold. Guneskera also agrees with Ashoka founder Bill Drayton’s view that every young person should take social entrepreneurship and empathy training by the age of 21. “It will make the world better,” Guneskera says.

At age 24, Juno and his colleagues are the kinds of young social entrepreneurs that would warm Drayton’s heart. A challenge for them now is not only to make their venture a social success but a business success. What started as a volunteer effort has already grown to the point where the founders can pay themselves honorariums from a small percentage of dollars collected by Mealshare, although not enough for actual salaries.

“It kind of started growing a bit quicker than we had anticipated and it basically came to the point where we either quit our jobs or we’re going to die of overwork,” Juno says.

For any entrepreneur, confidence and persistence are critical for success. Initially, Mealshare was a hard sell — even for the erstwhile business students. But success has bred success.

“We see ourselves as a successful social venture because we’re providing value back to our restaurant partners,” Juno says, “and they’re supporting people in need.”
A FEW YEARS AGO, I ENTERED A CAVE IN SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE AND REALIZED A DREAM.

Stepping through the wide limestone mouth, I handed a few euros to the cashier and crossed the dirt floor to join the guide and a dozen other visitors. We clambered into small open tramcars, settled onto the benches and, with a lurch, began a clunkety descent into Le Grotte de Rouffignac.

The guide pointed out earthen hollows formed by Ice Age cave bears settling in for long winter naps and described the cave’s geology and history while the electric tram juddered slowly around twists and turns that took us from autumn daylight into twilight and then absolute darkness. Finally, with a soft jolt, we stopped.

Like the artists who had trekked hundreds of metres through the caverns almost 15,000 years ago, we were engulfed in blackness as complete as the charcoal and manganese dioxide they painted with. Then the guide turned on the light and I saw for the first time mammoths drawn on the creamy limestone. They were startling. Exquisite. And so very old.

I cried.

WHEN PALEOANTHROPOLOGIST GENEVIEVE VON PETZINGER, MA ’09, goes into Rouffignac and dozens of other caves across Europe, she is armed with a lot more than dreams and a hanky.

Still, her first cave visit, to Les Combarelles, touched her.

The prehistoric spirals, dots and lines painted on cave walls — and catalogued in a PhD candidate’s database — shed light on the roots of human communication.
“You’re walking in the dark,” she says, “then the guide stops you, up comes the flashlight, and you see for the first time art that was created 20,000 years ago... It connects you with your own history.”

She thinks that’s why her research into the abstract symbols in cave art appeals to so many people, drawing emails from elementary school classes in Australia, grannies in England, and scholars in Mongolia.

“[The art is] mysterious and fascinating,” she says, “and it’s when we came into our own as a species. People from all over the world feel like they own it.”

Which is astonishingly true, if current scientific thinking proves out. A stone found at Blombos Cave in southern Africa shows 75,000-year-old geometric markings that are remarkably similar to European cave signs that date back 10-, 15- and 40,000 years. Some scholars now think, thanks in part to von Petzinger’s work, that our early ancestors brought the symbols with them as they emigrated via the Levantine corridor and the Horn of Africa to Europe, Asia and Australia.

Sparked by the undergraduate course Paleolithic Art, von Petzinger started her master’s thesis by asking two questions: How many different abstract shapes are there in European caves? And do the same signs appear across time and space?

“The questions are so simple,” von Petzinger says, “but so foundational.”

NOW A PHD STUDENT, SHE’S BUILDING on the answers she found in the comparison of 146 sites she did for her master’s degree. Site visits and new technology let von Petzinger add to the inventory of cave art
Wall of red and purple signs, approximately 17,000 years old, La Pasiega, Spain.

Complex red sign (with rare yellow sign, lower left) more than 20,000 years old, El Castillo, Spain.
as well as the understanding of it. For example, red paint shows up better under the white of LED lights, which are also bright enough to illuminate higher up the cave walls.

The number of distinct symbols in her groundbreaking database has grown to more than 30, and she expects that’ll reach about 35 by the time she’s surveyed more caves. Perhaps even more revolutionary is that the symbols appear across Europe in caves that were painted in the course of many thousands of years. That means people were using the spirals, dots and lines to communicate across generations and geography: they no longer had to be face to face with someone in order to pass a message.

“It’s a massive cognitive leap,” von Petzinger says. “It removes the time and space element from communication: words and ideas could survive for the first time beyond the moment they were uttered.”

That was a huge step in our development as a species, and von Petzinger is putting her own humanistic stamp on the field. She and the project photographer (and husband) Dillon von Petzinger have chosen to make both her database and his photographs available to the public and other researchers when their current project is finished.

“That’s the TED influence. It’s more collaborative,” says von Petzinger, who was named a TED Fellow in 2011 and a Senior TED Fellow in 2013. “When you hold data back, you hold back all the research across the field.”

The guide stops you, up comes the flashlight, and you see for the first time art that was created 20,000 years ago.

She’s earned a stellar global reputation. Along with recognition from the TED organization and top-tier journals, great scientists acknowledge von Petzinger’s skill and dedication.

“She is a very enthusiastic researcher and the field she has chosen (the symbols) is not an easy one,” notes French archaeologist Dr. Jean Clottes, one of the world’s foremost authorities on prehistoric rock art. “As she works in a very intensive systematic manner, she is doing very valuable work. Opening her database to other researchers is a very worthy (rare) decision.”

Von Petzinger plans to complete her PhD at UVic in 2015 and already has her eye on a project with another TED Fellow, David Lang, who develops underwater Remote Operated Vehicles. This time they’ll explore caves that were submerged when the Ice Age glaciers melted and sea levels rose.

Some tempting post-doctoral fellowships are also on the horizon. Israel would be interesting, she thinks, because it was through that area that early humans moved from Africa to Eurasia, and their art might offer new insights into our species at that geographical and cultural crossroads.

“I’m studying our collective story. That far back, we’ve moved beyond borders and ethnicity. It is,” she explains, “the story of us.”


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* If you live outside of Victoria, email onecard@uvic.ca for more information.

His career has been inspired by teachers and teaching. His style is defined by integrity and respect. Now, Jamie Cassels — unanimous choice for the university presidency — is focusing it all on the challenge of his academic life.

BY KIM WESTAD
The Making of a Leader

The announcement of a new university president might seem an unlikely draw on a cool December morning just before the holidays. Yet 300 people packed the University Centre lobby Dec. 20, 2012 to find out who would be the first new president since David Turpin 13 years earlier.

Among the assembled students, professors and university staff were members of the search committee that had worked seven months to select UVic’s new president from candidates across the country. In the end, the diverse, 20-person committee was unanimous in its choice. Still, the reaction when Jamie Cassels’ name was announced as UVic’s seventh president took even the committee members by surprise. This was no obligatory corporate clapping.

“We expected a positive response but it was more than that — people were genuinely excited and there was a sense of celebration,” recalls Chemistry Prof. Robin Hicks, Faculty of Science’s representative on the selection committee. “We were confident we had made the right choice, but the reaction that day really reinforced that.”

Kate Hollefreund, BA ’13, who works in student recruitment, applauded until her hands hurt. Hollefreund, a naturally effervescent person, wasn’t surprised at her own reaction. But near her was an elegant and seemingly reserved senior administrator who literally jumped in the air and pumped her fist, saying, “Yessssss!”

The ovation carried on for a solid two minutes. Not bad for a new president who had struggled to make it through high school.
With his 33-year history at UVic, Cassels as president might have seemed like a fait accompli. It was anything but.

Appointment of an internal candidate as president of a Canadian university is rare. Hicks says he came into the process thinking “new blood” would be best for the university, rather than an internal hire. He readily admits to a complete about face. “As we went through the process, I realized that was a secondary issue and a superficial notion. What matters is the person, and Jamie was the best person for the job.”

Cassels arrived at UVic in 1981 to teach at the recently opened law school, eventually became its dean. He then spent 10 years as the university’s vice-president academic and provost before returning to his first love — teaching — in January 2012. That experience could give a candidate more understanding of the university’s culture and issues. But there could also easily be a backlash against a person whose track record is there for all to judge. Not so for Cassels.

“It wasn’t that people agreed with everything he had done,” Hicks says. "But even when people didn’t agree with him, they appreciated that he did things with the best of intentions, with integrity and with respect — the kind of things you want from a leader.”

Beverly Van Ruyven, BA ’79, a board of governors representative on the selection committee, says Cassels’ intelligence and thoughtful, reflective nature stood out. “He doesn’t give you the pat standard answers,” says Van Ruyven. “He’s excellent at building relationships, a skill needed for the challenges facing universities these days. People are drawn to him because of his personality and the way he treats them.”

The lengthy and in-depth interview process let Cassels think about an institution that he knew well in a brand new way: "You develop a fresh view because it forces you to think about it with a real intensity and wearing a different hat.”

The decision to let his name go forward for president didn’t come easily. He had a two-year leave of absence following his decade as provost but had returned to work a year early to teach at the law school. He had missed teaching, and was happy back in the classroom and writing another book.

Like anything he tackles, Cassels thought about it with a great deal of self-reflection, analyzing what he could bring to the role, what service he could provide.

“The environment now is a fairly challenging one and it is a period of change,” he says. “I feel a lot of loyalty to the university and I thought I could make a contribution. The University of Victoria is recognized internationally as one of Canada’s finest universities. Its reputation and impact are national, indeed international, and it has a superb learning environment. I thought that I could help to build on those strengths even in difficult times.”

Emily Rogers, former UVic Students’ Society chairperson and also a member of the president selection committee, says Cassels has a “very tough role. He’s walked into tough economic times, inherited various complex issues but also has the history and knowledge of campus that I believe he’ll use.”

The university climate is much different now than it was even a decade ago. University departments have had to chop nine per cent from their budgets in recent years and UVic is now facing a further $3.7 million cut in provincial support over the next two years. Tuition increases are capped at two per cent. There is increased competition for research funds, concerns about accessibility, affordability and financial sustainability, and some questioning of the value of a university education.

None of this diminishes Cassels’ optimism for UVic. “High public expectations and scrutiny are welcome, and show the importance attached by the public to universities. The level of demand for UVic has never been higher, and our students tell us that they value their education and that it serves them well after graduation. Our research makes a huge contribution to society. I want to make sure that we continue to deliver the very best through our education and research.”

When Cassels took over as president on July 1, 2013, he did what someone entirely new to campus might do — he talked to people. Over several
months, Cassels had more than 60 meetings with faculty, students, staff, alumni and the community, listening to their thoughts on UVic’s strengths, areas of concern and what the priorities should be for the next five years.

UVSS chair Kelsey Mech is optimistic about Cassels and wants to see him advocate for students, particularly on the questions of grants and tuition. “It’s a priority Cassels says he shares. “I’m proud of the fact that almost half of UVic students graduate with no debt, and the median debt of the rest is about $20,000,” he said. “Access to higher education and a diverse student body are important values for this university and I’d like to see us make even more progress. Fundraising for scholarships and bursaries is a priority.”

The job is nearly all-consuming, says Cassels, who runs five or six kilometres on the Alumni Chip Trail several times a week to stay fit and deal with stress. He often invites students, faculty and staff to join him, but when running alone he listens to podcasts or music (some country — Rosanne Cash most recently — and ’80s rock that “works well for running.”)

Even though his new job gives little free time — Cassels has dinner with his wife Erin (a lawyer and justice policy consultant) and their 15-year-old son Jasper most evenings, but then works into the evening or attends university events — he hopes to continue doing some teaching and research. “Teaching is a joy and keeps me connected with students and my research areas.”

GOOD TEACHERS TURNED HIS ACADEMIC LIFE AROUND. “I had a tough time in high school and was convinced the academic track wasn’t for me,” Cassels says. “I really struggled. I didn’t enjoy it and I wasn’t succeeding.”

He loved the outdoors and was considering work in the forest industry, but a week before classes began his parents, who believed strongly in education, suggested he put in an application to Carleton University as a back-up plan. A couple of his friends were going to the Ottawa university. Cassels thought ‘why not?’

At university he very quickly became absorbed in the world of ideas presented in his philosophy and classics courses. An English professor took an interest in Cassels’ writing, spending hours outside class helping him. A few philosophy professors helped to “further turn me on to the world of ideas and scholarship.” Cassels, always an avid reader, started reading even more widely, going to extra lectures, and felt like his mind was “on fire.”

He graduated with a bachelor of arts in law, and after a year in the Yukon (“exploring for uranium”) carried on to get a law degree from the University of Western Ontario and then a master of law degree from Columbia in 1981. His goal by then was to be a university professor. His dream was to advance knowledge and working with his hands. The risks and the challenge of putting his knowledge to the test are part of his teaching, spending hours outside class helping him. A few philosophy professors helped to “further turn me on to the world of ideas and scholarship.” Cassels, always an avid reader, started reading even more widely, going to extra lectures, and felt like his mind was “on fire.”

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First Class

On Monday, May 25, 1964 the first annual “congregation” for the conferring of degrees concluded the university’s inaugural academic year. Members of the graduating class will return to campus in June to commemorate the ceremony’s 50th anniversary. They were asked to share their memories of that sunny spring day and the history that was made in the Old Gym.

INTERVIEWS BY KEITH NORBURY, BA ’85
"What I remember is the dirt. On our way to the graduation ceremony, in our black gowns, we walked the dirt path from the new SUB, past the old Quonset huts, to the big hangar structure standing in the dirt."

— Michael Muirhead, a professional engineer living in Victoria and president of Western Subsea Technology.

"The formal occasion meant that my mother wore a hat and gloves, and my father his navy uniform."

— Ann Scarfe (née Thompson), retired natural history educator, Swan Lake Christmas Hills Nature Sanctuary.

"Both my brother Mike and I were graduating, he with a Bachelor of Arts and I with a Bachelor of Education (elementary). I recall getting our gowns and mortarboards a few days before, and then walking together, gowns flowing, into the Old Gym. I do remember being aware that this was the first University of Victoria graduation ceremony, and that it was a significant and momentous occasion, for me and my family and for the university."

— Patricia Robertson (née McIvor), Victoria.

"(I remember) sitting in the chairs in the gym, wearing the graduation gown, and waiting for my name to be called, realizing what a thrill it was to be the first graduate. I recall some kind words when I got on stage — about being the historic first graduate — from the university principal, Dr. Harry Hickman, who had been my French professor. And some kind words, too, from Chancellor Clearihue."

— Sandy Forbes (née McKeachie). On graduation day she was Sandy Came, married to Frank Came, who also graduated in 1964. Her name was the first on the list of degree recipients. She lives in Canberra, Australia, where she is managing director of Redoak Media.

"I was the 'class poet' and read out my iambic pentameter lines with some trepidation. There was kind applause."

— Sandy Forbes

"My thoughts of the day are buried in 50 years worth of neural overgrowth."

— Patricia Robertson (née McIvor), Victoria.
"We were elated. Four years of grinding work in classes and labs, ingesting fascinating and occasionally dreary principles, facts and methodologies plus four summers of enlightening field work out in the wilds were complete. (In those days our summer jobs paid enough to cover tuition fees, books and some of our personal expenses.)"
— Tom Burgess, happily and actively retired in Sooke after a career as a wildlife biologist in BC and Alberta.

"The main thing that I recall was a sense of satisfaction at having accomplished a goal I had worked towards for several years. I was also aware of the significance of the occasion, being part of the first grad class of UVic."
— Susan Dickinson Scott, Montreal.
For 40 years she has lectured internationally, sponsored by the Inner Peace Movement of Canada.

"The one real memory of the surrounding days is my bus trip from the interior of the province returning to Victoria from my summer job to attend the graduation ceremonies. When I advised a fellow passenger of the purpose of my trip she said to me, 'And now are you going on to university?'"
— Bryan Ralph, 1964 class president, and retired judge of the BC Supreme Court now living in North Vancouver.

"I just remember innocently and naively saying to IBM: Well, I'm going to have to take the afternoon off. And getting some evil looks. I remember virtually nothing about the ceremony itself. And then I had to race. I couldn't even stay for the reception. I had to get back to work."
— Ian Reid, semi-retired former CFO with Sierra Systems.

"Most of our class likely relate most to the old Lansdowne campus so any visit to the Gordon Head campus at that time was like going to the country, even on graduation day."
— John Youson, Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences, University of Toronto Scarborough.

"I recall relief, pride, a sense of accomplishment and a horizon stretching out in front of me. I recall the pride of my parents and sister who sat not far from me and looked decidedly happy. I was also deeply grateful for how well we were trained at UVic. In the psychology department we had several graduates who (did) graduate work at the very best doctoral programs in the world. My thoughts of the day are buried in 50 years worth of neural overgrowth."
— Brian Little, Psychology Professor, Cambridge University.

"The grad ball was held at the Crystal Gardens, as all the formal dances were held there. I remember the pale green wicker tables that were two-tiered. Your ice, glasses and mix were on the top tier, and your liquor, in a brown paper bag, was in the lower second tier!"
— Ann Scarfe

"I was impressed with the love, pride and support offered by those in attendance: parents, families, friends and, in my case, fiancé. It was a reminder that...we didn't get on that stage solely through our individual efforts."
— Tom Burgess

"Both my parents were very supportive of our college/university education — my mother had been a teacher — but it was my dad, (I think perhaps because he hadn't had the opportunity to go beyond high school), who was such a strong advocate of further education. I remember looking at him as we were having our pictures taken and realizing how important this day was for him."
— Patricia Robertson
Some students spend so much time studying in the Clearihue Building that they’ve nicknamed it “Clearihome.” But what about the name behind the first classroom building on campus, and what of the names behind some of the other original academic buildings at Gordon Head? They represent a who’s who of post-secondary education in Victoria.

Come along on a campus tour via the sketches and watercolours of Becky Cao, who will graduate this spring with her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Department of Visual Arts.

McPherson Library

Thomas Shanks McPherson (1873 – 1962) came to Canada from Scotland and amassed significant real estate holdings. He was the university’s first major benefactor, leaving a bequest of $2.25 million and his 50 per cent share of the Central Building in downtown Victoria. The library’s exterior features bas-relief panels by BC sculptor George A. Norris.

Architect: R.W. Siddall Associates

Official opening: November 14, 1964
Classrooms

Clearihue ("A" Wing)

Joseph Badenoch Clearihue (1887 – 1976), born in Victoria, was a student in the original Victoria College class of 1903-04. As chair of the Victoria College Council from 1947 – 63, he played a major role in the establishment of the University of Victoria. He was UVic’s first chancellor, from 1963 – 66.

Architect: Wade Stockdill & Armour

Official opening: January 18, 1963

Sciences

Elliott

Percy Harris Elliott (1882 – 1943) was principal of Victoria College from 1927 to 1943. He joined the college in 1908, lecturing in physics and chemistry, after completing an MSc at McGill. The John L. Climenhaga Observatory is named for the founding head of the UVic Department of Physics.

Architect: W.R.H. Curtis/Province of BC

Official opening: February 1, 1964
Social Sciences
Cornett

Thomason Warren Cornett (1887 – 1924), a graduate of the University of Toronto, was an inspiring, promising teacher of history at Victoria College and Victoria High School in the early 1920s. He died in a drowning accident at Shawnigan Lake on August 26, 1924.
Architect: John A. Di Castri
Official opening: January 28, 1967

Education and Arts
MacLaurin

Donald L. MacLaurin (1881 – 1958) was the founding principal of the Victoria Provincial Normal School for teacher education, from 1915 to 1932 when he became assistant superintendent of education. The Faculty of Education was formed with the merger of the Normal School and Victoria College in 1956.
Architect: Alan J. Hodgson
Official opening: January 28, 1967

Source: The Development of the Gordon Head Campus, Peter L. Smith and Martin J. Segger (1988, University of Victoria).
On a rainy Saturday in February, a student hops up from her seat in the Annual Giving Call Centre and bounces across the room, a smile on her face. She carefully pulls a piece out of a Jenga puzzle, making sure the tower doesn’t collapse. The piece has a number that she adds to her team’s point total before she sits back down to make another call. The team with the most pledge points at the end of the shift will win a small prize.

The room is buzzing with conversation and the 13 students working the phones are chatting with alumni in a very natural way (these are not scripted conversations), getting them up to date on what’s happening at UVic, getting advice from them, and hopefully getting them to donate some money, as well. Today, the numbers on the board look good: the total amount pledged already far exceeds the projected amount, and it’s early in the shift.

“It’s not just to raise money for the university,” says Jennifer Sandmaier, manager of Annual Giving, “but also to help students learn from alumni — and for alumni to share their story and feel reconnected with the university.”

The alumni receiving the calls feel that it’s a great way to help them stay connected to UVic, as well. Laura Fauman graduated in 1999 with an English degree. She says the call centre definitely helps keep her connected with her university experience, and also inspires her to help current students.

“I love that the call centre is staffed by students, and not outsourced,” she says. She once spent over an hour chatting with a student caller. “We talked about what I studied, and my honours thesis, along with what her studies were focused on, what she hoped to do post-grad.

“We chatted about the professors I had who were still on faculty, and how when I was there the campus was rife with bunny rabbits,” says Fauman. “We talked about...”
about how I was worried about what kind of career an English degree could lead to, and how I found that, really, it led to anything, and what a wonderful asset it has been in my professional development. We also talked a bit about the challenges of affording tuition, and how the bursary program had helped her personally.”

SAREESHA NILE, A CHILD AND YOUTH CARE student, is one of the centre’s senior callers. She’s been at the call centre since the start of 2012 and the practical advice she gets from alumni is one of the things she loves most about the job.

“An alumnus will tell me to check out this part of the campus or really look into doing this with my degree or making sure that I have volunteer experience,” she says. “You figure out what they might have wanted to know when they were a university student.”

Nile says that one time she was speaking to an alumna who was going back to school and was in the same program as her (callers are often matched to alumni in their faculty). But because the returning student was taking courses online, Nile learned a lot that day.

“We were talking about the differences between on campus and online and that was really just practical information for me to know,” says Nile. “She didn’t have a job and she really didn’t have all that much disposable income, but we had a great conversation, and she did decide to give a one-time gift. So that felt good.”

THE CALL CENTRE’S MOST RECENT yearly total shows that their approach is working. They raised $265,083 from 2,618 pledges, with the current focus on raising money for scholarships and bursaries.

Strolling around the room watching the callers in action shows that it’s really more fun than anything. One student takes a $100-pledge while another pulls out another Jenga piece.

“They have that connection,” says Sandmaier about the camaraderie that forms among callers. “There’s that social aspect, and it adds to their UVic experiences. They meet tons of other students, and they keep those friends for the rest of their lives.”

Annual Giving Coordinator Rachel Paish, BA ’12, says that it really doesn’t matter how much alumni give to UVic, it just matters that they stay in touch.

“We’re not just calling them to ask them for money. We’re really calling to connect with them. And even if they can’t give, they talk to the students. It’s really engaging for them.”

And while it is about the money in one sense, in another sense, it’s about something else entirely, as words spoken to an alumnus by a caller when I’m there prove. “Thank you for giving me life advice, too!” the caller chirps out, with complete sincerity. There’s no script in sight.

Strolling around the room watching the callers in action shows that it’s really more fun than anything.
UVIC SPECIAL COLLECTIONS’ TREASURE OF RARE AND ONE-OF-A-KIND MATERIAL — AVAILABLE FOR THE RESEARCH AND ENJOYMENT OF ALUMNI, STUDENTS, SCHOLARS, AND THE PUBLIC — STARTED WITH THE ACQUISITIONS OF ROGER BISHOP, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT VICTORIA COLLEGE AND UVIC, AND OUR FIRST UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, DEAN HALLIWELL. THEIR COLLABORATION AND PASSION FOR MANUSCRIPT AND PRINT MATERIALS SET THE FOUNDATION FOR OUTSTANDING HOLDINGS THAT CONTINUE TO GROW THROUGH PURCHASES AND DONATIONS. HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

**Ferial Psalter and Breviary** (Austria/Northern Italy [Trieste?]) c.1450) and **Book of Hours** (Italy Florence; c. 1480-90) (“Codex Lindstedt” and “Codex Pollick”)

Locally named in honour of donor Brian Pollick and his wife Heather Lindstedt, these Latin manuscripts represent contrasting devotional uses: the Codex Lindstedt (*image 1*) is believed to have been used by the Franciscan Order, and the Codex Pollick as a personal female prayer book. The Codex Lindstedt is ink on paper and retains its original boards and binding, while the Codex Pollick (*image 2*) is parchment and includes 3 miniatures, attributed to Florentine master illuminator, Mariano del Buono di Jacopo.

**Gynäikeion, or, Nine bookes of various history concerninge women : inscribed by ye names of ye nine Muses**, Thom. Heywoode (1624, first edition)

Thomas Heywood (early 1570s — 1641) was a successful Elizabethan and Jacobean author, playwright, and actor. His encyclopedic work, *Gynäikeion*, (*image 3*) is regarded by scholars as a celebration of strong women from mythology and history, referencing more than 3,000 women — from ancient Greek prophetesses, to witches, to Queen Elizabeth, and was compiled from a variety of sources. UVic’s first edition includes bookplates and inscriptions of previous owners.

**Storiella as she is syung**, James Joyce (1937, no. 115 of 175)

Consisting of opening and closing pages of part II, section II, this *Finnegans Wake* work-in-progress builds on Special Collections’ holdings in Joyce and other leading modernists. An incredible assortment of Joyce’s work can be found at UVic, including a nearly complete gathering of *Finnegans Wake* ephemera and rare editions of *Ulysses*. Lucia Joyce, the author’s daughter, created the illuminated capital letter (*image 4*) found at the beginning of *Storiella*.

Special Collections also holds photographs and letters by the famous Franco-German photographer Gisèle Freund, acquired in the late 1960s. Freund was the only photographer to have taken colour pictures of James Joyce. The Freund and related Joyce material, including new acquisitions, are being digitized by the English Department’s Dr. J. Matthew Huculak and the Special Collections team for an online exhibition opening this summer: *James Joyce @ UVic*.

— LARA WILSON, MA ’99, DIR., SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST, WITH DR. J. MATTHEW HUCULAK, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Alumni Week began with some extra support from off campus.
This was the first time that we’ve asked the Capital Regional District’s board for a proclamation supporting UVic Alumni Week. More than 31,000 alumni live and work in the region. Their economic, social and cultural contributions are enormous. I was overwhelmed by the CRD’s unanimous and enthusiastic response. Victoria, Oak Bay and Saanich councils then made similar proclamations.

What were your Alumni Week highlights?
Every event was special, but two that especially touched me were the Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Teaching Awards Celebration. The 12 distinguished alumni are incredibly diverse, talented people. It made me very proud to be a UVic graduate. The recipients of the teaching awards also astonished me with their dedication.

What’s been on the recent agenda for the alumni board?
We met with President Jamie Cassels and are encouraged by his recognition of the important part that alumni play at UVic.

The association is involved in the selection of a new chancellor. Chancellor Murray Farmer, BA ’68, who has served UVic so well over the past six years, is completing his final year. Under the University Act, the new chancellor will be chosen on the recommendation of the alumni association to the university.

The board is working on improving benefits for alumni, through affinity programs and the Alumni Card. We’re excited by the many excellent businesses providing discounts for cardholders, and continue to increase coverage.

And we are planning how to grow the Alumni Fund to help individuals and groups that might not qualify for financial support from other sources.

What are some of the main priorities coming up?
For me, the most compelling part of being the president is the ability to take part in convocation ceremonies. Spring convocation this year coincides with the 50th anniversary of UVic’s first graduating class. The board is also looking forward to our annual general meeting on June 5 at the University Club, with President Cassels giving the keynote address.

I invite all alumni to keep in touch, join us at an event, and take full advantage of what the association and UVic offer.

### Alumni Awards

**Distinguished Alumni**

- Continuing Studies
  - Eric Akis, Business Admin. ’96
  - Writer and Chef

- Education
  - Roderick Allen, MA ’93
  - Assistant Deputy Minister/Supt. of Learning

- Humanities
  - Brian Butler, BA ’71
  - CEO, Butler Brothers Supplies/Arts leader

- Business
  - Marilyn Copes, MBA ’99
  - Exec. Director, Island Health

- Law
  - Mary Mouat, LLB ’87
  - Lawyer/Community Builder

- Medical Sciences
  - Dr. David Naysmith, BSc ’71
  - Medical Humanitarian

**Teaching Awards**

- Harry Hickman Award (faculty, senior instructors)
  - Dr. Mark Colgate
  - Gustavson School of Business
  - Prof. Jin-Sun Yoon
  - School of Child and Youth Care

- Gillian Sherwin Award (lecturers, lab instructors)
  - Dr. Kristen Semmens
  - Department of History

**Science**

- Qimin You, PhD ’93
  - CEO, Ustar Biotechnologies

**Engineering**

- Chris Reid, MA Sc ’95
  - Executive Chair, Hydrexia

**Libraries**

- Jan Ross, BFA ’76
  - Curator, Emily Carr House

**Fine Arts**

- Michael J. Whitfield, BA ’67
  - Stage Lighting Designer

**Social Sciences**

- Evan Wood, BSc ’97
  - Intravenous drug use prevention/treatment

**Human & Social Development**

- Jennifer Zelmer, BSc ’93
  - Executive VP, Canada Health Infoway

### New AVP

**TAMÁS (TOM) ZSOLNAY ARRIVED AT UVIC IN**
March to serve as associate vice-president alumni and development. Since 2003 he had been at Laurentian University in Sudbury, where he was executive director responsible for fundraising and alumni strategies.

In his new role he’ll lead a team of more than 50 staff and he’ll work with the university leadership on fundraising priorities that support UVic’s mission, values, and strategic focus.

As a colonel in the Canadian Forces army reserves, he was the chief operations officer of the UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2002 – 03, directing military observers monitoring a peace agreement.
At the start of February, **Alumni Week** featured 20 great events. Among the highlights, the Distinguished Alumni Awards night, a Celebration of Teaching, and a gathering for alumni who work on campus — helped to underscore the incredible economic, social and cultural impact of UVic grads everywhere.

**ALUMNI WEEK 2014**

1 Distinguished Alumna from the Faculty of Human and Social Development, **Dr. Jennifer Zelmer**.
2 Alumni board member **Avis Rasmussen**, MEd ’82, and Faculty of Fine Arts communications maven **John Threlfall**, BA ’96.
3 President **Jamie Cassels**, alumni-on-campus luncheon.
4 Excellence in Teaching Award recipient **Dr. Mark Colgate** (Gustavson School of Business) hamming it up with his family.
5 Victoria College Alumni Chapter leader **Joy Barrett**, VC ’45.
6 Jo-Marie Naysmith and Distinguished Alumnus, **Dr. David Naysmith**, BA ’71.
7 **Jane van Sickle**, MEd ’01, winner of the Alumni Week grand prize of a $2,000-travel voucher from Uniglobe Geo Pacific.
8 **Qimin You**, PhD ’93, Faculty of Science Distinguished Alumnus.
9 Student Ambassador volunteer **Anna Bruce** at the lunch for alumni on campus.
10 Alumni Relations Director **Terry Cockerline** and Rod Allen, Faculty of Education Distinguished Alumnus.
11 **Michael Whitfield**, Distinguished Alumnus from the Faculty of Fine Arts.
1960s

DOUG FRANKS, BSc '67 (Mathematics), retired Dec. 31 after more than 23 years with Nipissing University in the faculty of education (now the Schulich School of Education). After graduating from UVic with a mathematics degree, I went to work in Alberta with Shell Canada as a geophysicist. After six years, my wife Sandra and I and two very young children, moved to the Maritimes where we lived on PEI. I obtained a BEd degree from UPEI and taught at Holland College. Back to Alberta in 1983 where I received an MEd and PhD in education from the University of Alberta. Then on to North Bay and Nipissing where I taught in both the pre-service BEd and graduate MEd programs. And now I am looking forward very much to retirement after a full career! Time flies.

1970s

BONNIE COWAN, BA '72 (Political Science), is a retired mental health clinician and community advocate/activist in her hometown of Merritt. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from UBC.

STEVE KOERNER, BA '76 (History), won the British Archives Council Wadsworth Prize for the best British business history book published in 2013 for his Strange Death of the British Motorcycle Industry (Crucible Books). The judges were impressed by the variety of evidence used to illustrate the decline of an industry that while technologically sophisticated, produced unreliable designs largely unappreciated by customers. This, along with increased competition put the industry in a difficult position from which it was unable to recover.

PAMELA MANSON (HARRIS), BEd '71, writes: "I retired in January 2013 after 40 years as a high school teacher. Like many of us, I was hired directly out of my final practicum in 1971 and I have taught in various districts and even in Laramie, Wyoming over the last 40 years. I was a high school counsellor for the past 27 years: 21 years in Sooke School District and six years in the Nanaimo School District. Retirement is rather a startling change after being surrounded by teens for the last four decades. Thank you, UVic Faculty of Education for getting me started in this great career that I have had."

BILL PARKER, BSc '76 (Psychology), is "enjoying retirement in Victoria after a 32-year career with the provincial government. We have five grandchildren (with one..."

Cunningham Lab

Biology Professor Jeffree Cunningham “had two passions: Victoria College and living nature,” former history professor Sydney Pettit noted in 1978. “He prepared his lectures with great care and delivered them fortissimo and con brio.” The Cunningham lab, shown here in 1934–35, was at the end of the tennis court at Craigdarroch Castle.

Cunningham later became registrar and vice-principal at UVic’s predecessor. He was the first recipient of a UVic honorary degree, in 1964, and the building that now houses the Department of Biology bears his name. At his funeral in 1974 he had arranged to be read a passage from The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin.
more on the way) who I love even more than my new boat.”

KATHRYN PATTEN, BEd ’79, retired from 34 years of teaching to follow her dream: to devote time to continue her research on the neuroscience and neuropsychology of affect and to conduct workshops on emotional literacy and emotion regulation. She is the director of the Neuro Emotional Literacy Program, which began its pilot project in January. Kate/Casey also got married (for the first time) in July 2013 to Robert, “a man who excites her neurons.” She gained her PhD in Educational Neuroscience in 2008 at SFU.

LARRY ROSE, MPA ’75, has written Mobilize! Why Canada Was Unprepared for the Second World War (Dundurn). “The book took more than five years to finish but the best part was talking to so many veterans, some of whom — sadly — have died since I interviewed them.” The book concludes that defeats at Hong Kong and Dieppe were among the many costs Canada paid for being unprepared. At the start of the Second World War the regular Canadian army numbered fewer than 5,000 soldiers, the navy had six destroyers and four small coastal minesweepers, and the RCAF flew mostly museum-worthy aircraft. As noted in the book, one commentator concluded that even as war became inevitable, Canadians “pulled down the blinds and hid under the bed.” Larry retired in 2010 from a 45-year career in broadcasting, including six years as producer of the CTV National News with Lloyd Robertson. Larry also earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science in 1967. He lives in Toronto.

1980s

SHARRON HIGGINS, BScN ’82 (Nursing), received the Public Health Association of BC’s 60th Anniversary Award for significant contributions to public health practice. She is a pioneer in promoting healthy living in schools, working with several school districts in the Capital Region and the province “to foster comprehensive school health within a health promotion paradigm.”

THOMAS MANSON, QC, LLB ’80, and his wife Bo Liu have moved from Vancouver to China, taking up teaching positions at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. In addition, Tom is an arbitrator on panels of the Xi’an Arbitration Commission and the Chongqing Arbitration Commission.

CHRISTOPHER OWEN, BSc ’85 (Economics), assumed the role of academic administrator at Vancouver Island University’s Cowichan Campus in Duncan, last June. Reporting to the provost and vice-president academic, he works with stakeholders on the strategic direction for the campus, which includes collaborating with the Cowichan Valley community and VIU academic leaders to determine the programs, degrees and training that meet the needs of the south-central Vancouver Island region. He has moved to Chemainus and lives close to his three children and new addition — grandson Isaiah.

1990s

KAREN BALLINGER, BA ’93 (Writing), retired from the provincial government after more than 23 years. She has poems that appear in For Kelly, With Love — Poems on the Abstracts of Carle Hessay (Treeline Press). Kelly Parsons was a student in Medieval Manuscript Studies at UVic, a Buddhist and a poet. Since she passed away in 2008, members of the poetry community have stepped in to complete the task that she began. The book was launched in March.

LISSA M. COWAN, Dipl. ’97 (Writing and Editing), has a new novel called Milk Fever (Demeter Press). The character-driven story follows Celeste, a cunning servant girl and Armande, a wet nurse with seemingly magical milk, on the eve of the French Revolution.

MARJOIRE HOPE, BFA ’99, writes: “I attended Malaspina College starting in the 80s and transferred to UVic to finish my BFA in 1999. I immediately left to teach English in Japan and stayed there almost three years. My husband and I enjoyed the culture there. Our family drew us back to Nanaimo and we have been in the same house for 30 years. I love to garden, folk dance, sacred circle dance and NIA dance. Last year we went to Paris for our 32nd wedding anniversary, my 76th birthday and my husband’s 70th. We have between us five daughters and 10 grandchildren and I have two great-grandchildren...”
and another on the way. I love to grow my own vegetables and fruits and I adore cooking.

STEPHEN PIERZCHALA, BA ’90 (History). Since 1999, Stephen has been working in web performance, helping some of the world’s premier businesses improve their online user experience. He has worked at Keynote Systems, Gomez (a division of Compuware), and is now the senior web performance consultant at SOASTA software. He lives in Marlborough, Massachusetts with his wife Samantha and their two sons.

GILLIAN WIGMORE, BA ’99 (Writing), made the shortlist for the 2014 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature for her poetry collection, Dirt of Ages (Nightwood Editions).

Vanessa Winn, BA ’90 (English), has seen her novel, The Chief Factor’s Daughter (TouchWood Editions), included as a course text this coming spring for SFU’s History 436: British Columbia. She recently discovered that her novel’s heroine, Margaret Work, in later life inspired the political career of granddaughter Chase Going Woodhouse, a Victoria-born US congresswoman, distinguished academic, and early feminist. Vanessa is writing another historical novel, revolving around a high-profile bankruptcy in Victoria during the collapsing Cariboo gold rush. She is pictured outside the UVic Centre at the high school graduation of her youngest daughter, Caitlyn, this past June.

torch@uvic.ca

MUHAMMAD ALAM, MASc ’05 (Electrical Engineering), won the Douglas R. Colton Medal for Research Excellence from CMC Microsystems for his research in plasmons, the waves of electrons that form when light illuminates a metal surface. His work shows promise for the development of new devices used in engineering and health sciences. He is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto.

LAURIE D GRAHAM, BFA ’08 (Writing), has news: “I released my first book of poetry, Rove, this past fall. Published by Hagios Press in Regina, Rove is a long poem that looks at the colonial settlement of the prairies, from homesteading through to the proliferation of the suburbs, all through the lens of a single family line. Poet and UVic professor Tim Lilburn has this to say about Rove: ‘The struggle to live deeply in the West, rather than just operate the extractive, Hudson Bay Company grab-and-run, continues, it seems, generation after generation. Laurie D Graham carries the project forward with luminous, sweet vigor in Rove. This brilliant, large-hearted poem is where the quest of Suknaski, Kroetsch, Mackinnon, and Zwicky has gone, picking up new, idiosyncratic preoccupations along the way. How good it is to have this book.’”

FRANCIS L. GUENETTE, MA ’86 (Counselling Psychology in Education), has self-published Disappearing in Plain Sight and The Light Never Lies. Her novels are classified as contemporary fiction with a splash of romance. They deal with the dynamics of family life, grief and loss, trauma and recovery.

MARY LYNN HERON, MEd ’00, writes: “I am enjoying the beauty of my amazing community in Brentwood on the Saanich Peninsula. As principal of Keating Elementary, I am blessed to work and live in the same community. My two daughters Anna and Claire attend Keating, which is truly special for a working mom. This is an exciting time in public education, and I am thrilled to be working with the many talented administrators and teachers of Saanich schools who strive to promote student-centred learning through innovation, choice and inquiry.”

STEPHEN HITCHNER, BENG ’07 (Computer Engineering), is co-founder and CTO of Score Beyond, developers of the SAT Up app for test practice and preparation.

On Your Mark, Get Dressed

You can take competition away from the athlete but you can’t take away his competitiveness. Combine that with an outgoing personality and a lifelong flair for fundraising and you have Paul Statuchuk, a former Vikes golfer whose later life athletic career has led to three world records in pretty unusual “fashion.”

Last October he broke the world record for fastest marathon while suited up in lacrosse gear, adding to his two other world records for fastest marathons in hockey and football equipment.

“After university, I was left with a sporting/competitive void. AAA hockey became beer-league hockey,” he explained in an email message from Toronto. “Competitive hardball became beer-league slow pitch. NAIA golf tournaments became beer-drinking golf rounds with buddies. While all in good fun, nothing challenged me.”

He decided to go back to running (he had competed in high school cross-country) and qualified for the Boston Marathon. But what’s the deal with running in sports equipment?

“I’ve always loved attention. I quickly realized my desire to be noticed could be coupled with raising money for good causes, and ever since then it’s been a win-win. Once I realized there were world records for running in sporting equipment, I set my goals on breaking some of those records. Since 2011, I’ve helped raise over $25,000 for various charities along the way.”

MUHAMMAD ALAM, ’05
HELEN KONING, MPA ’01, became the chief administrative officer for the District of Oak Bay last November. Her appointment follows similar posts at five municipalities and the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District. In her new role she is the general manager for Oak Bay, providing guidance and direction to departments, and is the principal advisor to council. Helen also earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1990 and a Certificate in Local Government Management in 2004.

OLAV KRIGOLSON, PhD ’08, will return home to UVic this summer to become an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education. He’ll continue the neuroscience research he’s currently conducting at Dalhousie.

AMANDA ROSS, BSc ’02 (Biology), was recently appointed travel and style editor at Vancouver Magazine.

SHELLEY ROSS, PhD ’08 (Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies), and her co-authors won the best paper award at the 2013 International Conference on Residency Education in Calgary. The presentation was selected from more than 150 submissions by authors from around the world. She is an assistant professor and education researcher in the University of Alberta’s faculty of medicine and dentistry.

TODD STEPHENSON, MBA ’03, was named the Douglas College Entrepreneur of the Year for 2013. “UpStart Battery is a brand I created in 2007. We have customers in over 100 countries and sell in many different sales channels, including our warehouse in Burnaby and our website.”

DANIEL TONES, BMus ’00, has joined the board of directors of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. He is an educator, arts administrator, and percussionist, and he looks forward to contributing to educational initiatives and performance opportunities with the NYOC.

LESLEY STEDMON, BSN ’03

Prioritizing Pleasure

Pleasure is more than just a pastime for School of Nursing alumna Lesley Stedmon. She’s carved out a career as a sex coach, sexual health educator, and columnist.

“I’ve always had a very positive healthy expression of sexuality through my whole life,” says Stedmon, who’s based in Nanaimo.

While studying at UVic, and in her practicum work, she discovered that gynecological, prostate, and sexual health resonated with her. “I was able to carry that comfort I had with facilitating those difficult conversations into my practice. And I saw the benefits of really taking the stigma and the shame off of sexuality. It’s part of our essence, part of who we are.”

Stedmon started as a surgical nurse in acute care before working in community health nursing. For the Nanaimo School District, she developed the Sharing Safety Program to increase sexual-abuse resistance in children. “The premise is getting kids to trust their intuition,” Stedmon says. She has also introduced the program to First Nations agencies on Vancouver Island and Boys and Girls clubs.

Stedmon balances a busy career with her marriage and raising two young kids. Much of her consulting is focused on helping women in similar circumstances who want to regain passion in their lives. “One of the tag lines I use is making pleasure a priority,” says Stedmon, who is certified by the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. “Because we lose ourselves in work and families and children, at the end of the day it’s nurturing ourselves and pleasure (which) bring the greatest gift.”
A Homestay Story

Takuya Tokihisa was only going to be staying with us for one week. It would be his first time away from home and our first time taking in a UVic Homestay student. When my wife Deirdre and I met him at the airport that July day, we couldn’t imagine the influence he would have on our lives.

Regardless of language differences, we became very active — walking, playing table tennis, shopping, and laughing. We showed him places around Victoria that even we had not seen before. He was a biology student and had a part-time job as an assistant to a veterinarian, loved to run, and did rowing. We had a great week of sharing and getting to know each other, even going to church together and a group picnic at Beacon Hill Park. But just seven days after he had arrived, it was time for Takuya to go to UVic for the remaining five weeks of his stay. Many warm hugs and tears were shed.

A few weeks later, Takuya returned to our house, this time with fellow students. We had a barbecue and enjoyed table tennis, basketball and video games with our son Matthew and his friends joining in. A few weeks later, we had another evening together with the same group. The night before he flew back to Japan, Takuya came to say goodbye. It was amazing how well we had gotten to know this young man. He was like a cherished member of our family.

After he returned to Japan we kept in touch online. When Matthew was studying for a term in Osaka, Takuya made the two-hour trip from Tokyo to visit. Later we heard he was studying abroad again, this time at Berkley in California.

After constant contact on Facebook, we didn’t hear anything for a while. So, just before Christmas, we sent a short greeting for him and his family. Again, no reply. We figured, young people are busy, and we knew we would eventually hear something. At the end of January 2013, we did hear something, but not what we were expecting.

Takuya’s friend Yu, who had been at our house for barbecues three summers before, contacted us with the news: “In the late fall, Takuya had been getting headaches and became unable to attend school. He went to the hospital to be operated on for what was diagnosed as a brain tumour, but unfortunately, did not survive the procedure.”

We were all very upset to hear such terrible news, and couldn’t imagine how his family was coping. Immediately our memories rushed back to when he was in our house as our first homestay student. It didn’t feel like very long ago, and it felt so unfair. He would have been 24 last year. It didn’t feel like very long ago, and it felt so unfair. He would have been 24 last year.

We want to recognize Takuya as a unique individual, with a lovely, accepting and amazing spirit. Because of our positive experience with him, we felt confident in welcoming more students through the homestay program. Three years and 14 students later, we have had many memorable occasions and have made lasting friendships.

We recently connected with Takuya’s father, Yasunao. He has told us how special his son felt about his experience here. We miss Takuya and will always remember that, regardless of language challenges, we can build lasting relationships with new friends from abroad.

And Takuya, you were the one who taught us so well. We will always remember you.

– JOHN HILLIAN, BFA ’82
Save the Dates

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

May 15  8th Annual School of Nursing Alumni Award of Excellence
May 17-18  Child & Youth Care Class of 2004 10-year reunion
June 5  Alumni Association Annual General Meeting & Reception
June 9-13  Spring Convocation
June 13-14  First UVic Graduating Class, 50-year reunion
July 12  Lansdowne Residence Reunion (1982-83 Lansdowne, 4th Hodges, 3rd Trutch, 2nd Helmcken)
August 6  Vikes Golf Classic
Sept. 30  Vikes Championship Breakfast
Oct. 27  Victoria College Alumni Chapter social lunch.

Event updates online at alumni.uvic.ca

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

Contact: UVic Alumni Relations
250-721-6000 / 1-800-808-6828
alumni@uvic.ca
LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

In the SUB, next to the travel agency, there was a metal stand of brochures advertising work abroad and travel opportunities for students. That rack of fliers changed my life. It was the summer of 2009 and I had no clue what I wanted to do with my future. A Visual Arts grad, I was living in a Mt. Tolmie basement apartment and teaching art and drama to children. It was fun, but my curiosity wasn’t satisfied. I Googled “travel the world” daily.

On that fateful rack in the SUB I found a brochure for working holidays in New Zealand. I realised that this was the perfect opportunity to live and travel abroad for the long-term and earn money as I went. While working as a tour guide at Napier Prison in New Zealand I fell in love with another adventurous backpacker. In Christchurch, back when that city was still intact, he proposed the idea of coming back to England with him. Knowing our travel romance was something bigger, the answer was an unequivocal yes.

In Lee’s hometown in Northern England we dreamed of seeing as much of the world as possible. We found a way to make money online so that we could work from anywhere. I built a career as a freelance writer and Lee designed a travel website to chronicle our journey.

We have road-tripped across Canada, partied in New Orleans, swum with sea turtles in Sri Lanka, bathed in the Mekong River with elephants, cuddled with tigers in Thailand, watched the sunrise over Angkor Wat, posed with llamas at Machu Picchu and so much more. It’s been an incredible adventure and it’s not over yet as we enter our third year of working and travelling as “digital nomads”.

It’s not always a glamorous life when it comes to the little comforts. I’m used to lizards crawling up walls, Spartan hostel rooms and cold showers. I have learned to sleep absolutely everywhere — curled up in trains, on buses and in the lobbies of airports. I have been squeezed for seven hours into a train car in sweltering Sri Lanka, pressed shoulder to shoulder and hanging on tight.

This is not the Canadian dream of comfort — of king size duvets, hot chocolate and fireplaces. But comfort is often overrated. It’s nice in small doses, but when you get addicted you become desensitised to it. You need a bigger dose every time.

The best shower I ever had was from a bare spigot spraying cold water onto the ancient tiles of a bathroom of a falling apart hotel in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Why? Because it was the shower I had after that long and sweaty train ride.

Henry David Thoreau, the bearded badass who built a cabin in the woods in which to figure it all out, wrote: “That man is richest whose pleasures are the cheapest.” When I can get pleasure from a heaping plate of street vendor Pad Thai in Bangkok that costs about $0.85, I understand exactly what he means. My pleasures are incredibly cheap. They include sleeping in hammocks, watching the sunrise over the Peruvian desert, swimming in waterfalls in the Malaysian jungle and drinking with strangers from all over the world in grotty hostels.

Everything I own I can carry, which is essential for a lifestyle like this. I’ve become less attached to things. Don’t get me wrong. Things are nice. However, when I gave away my book collection or my canvases I didn’t give away the part of me that loves reading and painting. Things are just objects that we use — our real wealth is inside us.

I have discovered on this adventure that the world has an infinite supply of views to savour, books to read, songs to listen to, artwork to look at, food to eat, people to talk to and landscapes to walk through. I have found comfort in the rhythm of the road and even though I might not know where I am going I’m enjoying the journey.

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