Immersed
Nature, the web and eye-opening live dives.
If you thought a backpack is just a backpack, it only takes a walk around campus to see that’s just not so. The evidence is overwhelming. UVic students assert their individuality in a lot of fashionable ways. The ubiquitous, essential backpack is one of them. Full marks for style.
15 Final Out
W. P. Kinsella arrived at UVic with a stack of unpublished material. Then he met his mentor.

BY TOM HAWTHORN

18 Streaming Life
Scuba is in his blood but when a diving accident nearly claimed his dad’s life, Mike Irvine, MEd ’15, walked away from the water for years. His love for diving regained, he’s making environmental education an immersive experience.

BY MIKE MCNENHEY

22 Stone Age Kitchenware
April Nowell had a childhood fascination with the stories of the past that anthropology and archaeology reveal. Now she’s at the centre of one of the most important discoveries in recent years.

BY MICHELLE WRIGHT, BSC ’99

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Let’s talk about death, and the compassion that defines palliative care.

BY KIM WESTAD
EDITOR’S NOTE

Behind the Mask
Diving, living and trying to make an impact

BY MIKE MCNENNEY

By now you may have seen him, the scuba diver in the recent UVic Edge advertising materials. The photo shows him dramatically semi-submerged on the waterline, air bubbles forming around his regulator mouthpiece.

When I first met Mike Irvine I joked that I almost didn’t recognize him without his mask.

His work, and that of his colleagues FishEye Project, has fairly quickly gained international recognition in the mainstream news media and in esteemed corners such as National Geographic for its interactive, tech savvy approach to environmental education.

By bringing the tools of the Internet into remote, often unseen ocean depths Irvine and company give student viewers (and anyone else) the opportunity to learn and gain a new appreciation for marine life, climate and threats to the environment.

Those things are remarkable and they are big reasons why he exemplifies many of the qualities that set the university apart.

But our feature story about Irvine delves into the personal, nearly tragic twists and turns that for a long time made it doubtful that scuba diving would ever be a part of his future — despite a family history that would have seemed to make a life on the water (and under the water) almost inevitable for him.

It’s compelling how he came to again embrace the plunge into the amazing perspective that scuba divers are privileged to experience.

Beyond his background, his determination to have an impact on young minds by sharing the subsea world by applying his aptitude for communication and technology, is entwined with his entire academic experience.

Now that he’s making waves with “live dives” Irvine has a seemingly endless list of ideas and projects intended to widen the impact of the FishEye Project — on dry land and maybe even into the atmosphere.

He’s an adventurer and an independent thinker with a boundless curiosity.

There is much more, it turns out, to the man behind the mask.
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ideafest

IDEAS THAT CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING 6-11 MARCH

Join UVic thinkers, innovators and artists for a free week-long festival of world-changing ideas. Let your curiosity guide you at uvic.ca/ideafest
As we begin this new academic year, I have been reflecting on the role of universities in the current global context.

I suspect we can all detect a growing anxiety around the world and that can sometimes test even the most optimistic of us. Economic uncertainty, intercultural misunderstandings, acts of terrorism, climate change and environmental degradation, polarized political values, and crises around the world raise concerns for the future, which can often feel overwhelming.

While Canada is among the best places in the world to live, we are not immune from these challenges. In the face of globalization, technological change and industrial restructuring, what does the future hold for the next generation? How will we galvanize our flagging economy to support prosperity and fund our much-valued social programs? Will we be able to preserve the social cohesion of our multicultural society, which could be fractured by growing inequality, racism or simple misunderstanding and misinformation? How will we overcome the legacy of colonialism and residential schools? How will we reverse and mitigate the negative impacts of human activity on the planet?

When I think about the challenges we face, I feel privileged to be involved in a domain that is central to meeting them. For what could be more important in addressing these issues than fresh thinking, innovation and an educated citizenry?

Universities have been contributing to the development of society for hundreds of years through social and technological innovation, and changing and adapting to meet the needs of the societies we serve. As a result, universities can play a unique and important role in addressing and responding to the critical challenges of today.

As centres of learning, discovery and community engagement, universities are places of innovation and ideas, and creative catalysts for partnerships of people working toward shared goals. When we consider the pressures facing our country and the world, it’s clear that knowledge, collaboration, research and education are key to their solution. Universities not only build pathways of success for individual students, they also nurture the kind of thinking and create the tools needed to tackle the world’s toughest problems.

UVic’s role includes empowering students to take their places as problem-solvers and innovators through hands-on learning and supporting their development as global citizens. Last year, UVic partnered with more than 1,000 different employers in BC and around the world to hire enthusiastic students steeped in the latest knowledge and developments in their fields.

Our university endeavours to build bridges, connecting people and ideas from our campus to the global community. We continue to nurture collaborative partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations, and governments, as well as recognize the importance of partnering with Indigenous peoples of Canada. These reciprocal partnerships push the boundaries of what’s possible, move ideas forward, and encourage social justice and human prosperity.

UVic is home to dynamic educational programs and research centres that bring together students and researchers from around the globe to respond to the challenges of international cooperation, resource stewardship, sustainability, oceans and climate change. We have students and researchers in areas such as global studies, religion and society, health, language and culture, who are focusing on reconciliation, mutual understanding, peace and social justice.

Our alumni make a difference in communities around the world every day. Your talents, expertise and leadership have a direct and positive economic, social and cultural impact.

I believe that universities and their members are perfectly positioned to respond to the rapid pace of change and the global challenges of today. And that’s a great reason to be optimistic about where we’re headed as a university, a province and a country.
RINGSIDE

A Good Old Age
Contentment and meaning in golden years

Professor emeritus Neena Chappell would like you to think a little more about the positives of aging along with its frustrations and challenges. Her research — over a span of more than 30 years and dedicated to various aspects of gerontology including caregiving, dementia care and government policy — came to an official close with her retirement this summer. The first director of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Learning, she maintains an office on campus and that’s where she answered questions about aging — and doing it well.

You’ve said that as physical health declines, subjective quality of life becomes better. Why is that?
One thing we know is that priorities change in older age. When you’re younger, you’re very focused on your job, your career, a partner, children — all of those things. In older age, people’s priorities really shift to the people in their lives who are important to them. For many, not all, there’s that sort of coming to terms with whatever your life entailed.

How would you define happiness in old age?
One (component) is using your brain — how do you cognitively evaluate your life? Then there’s that emotional internal component. That’s the happiness that we’re referring to in the paradox that older individuals are happier than younger individuals. Why are older people happier? Well because they have accumulated some wisdom that younger adults haven’t achieved yet, one could argue.

Some practical advice about staying active?
We used to say, with the physical, use it or lose it. Of course we now know, don’t over do it. Then several years ago we started saying it’s basically the same thing for your (mind). A third component isn’t discussed as much: to be meaningfully engaged. That doesn’t mean you go out and try and change the world, although if that’s what you want to do by all means go for it. But find something that you can really become engrossed in, whatever that is.

What could be done to support informal caregivers?
Family and friends provide between 75 and 80 per cent of all care to older adults. For me, because I’m into family caregiving, my area of research, (governments) could make them true partners. They could expand, in a comprehensive way, the home care and home support system. You don’t want the family caregiver to reach a point of exhaustion. So, you provide them with respite. In Norway, the family member is given training and paid exactly the same as what the formal caregiver is paid, and they are given two days off a week. But we say, just do it 24/7 and good luck.

You’ve recently retired. Has that changed your perspective?
Everyone I know who’s retired says I won’t really believe it until I’m six months into it, and I won’t find (my) stride for two years. So it’s early days. There’s something about waking up in the morning, which is much more relaxed, I guess. There are still things I want to do and I want to get done. But in the area of work, it’s not so urgent.

You’ve got some projects going?
I’m a bit worried I haven’t said ‘no’ enough. There are interesting opportunities. The Council of Canadian Academies is doing (an expert panel) on transportation needs of an aging population. They asked me to chair it, and I said yes. I’m really excited; I think we can do something with that.

DR. NEENA CHAPPELL was named to the Order of Canada this past summer.
EXHIBITION

She Defines Herself

Iroquois/Mohawk artist Lindsay Katsitsakatste Delaronde’s “In Defiance” — a series of 32 photographs of Indigenous women now featured at the Legacy Art Gallery Downtown — forms a collective voice against stereotypes and the negative connotations of the term “squaw.”

Three years in the making, the project gave each of Delaronde’s collaborators full control of how their images were composed. As Delaronde explains, the portraits reflect “the rich cultural existence Indigenous women have maintained through traditional knowledge, social roles and power” in contrast to the objectification of women in Western society.

In Defiance
Artist/collaborator – Lindsay Delaronde, MFA’10
Until January 7, 2017
Legacy Art Gallery Downtown | 630 Yates St.
legacy.uvic.ca

CONVOCATION

Selfie by Chance

Graduation gets real when they call your name, you cross the stage and you meet the chancellor. Sometimes friends and family break out into cheers and shouts.

At spring convocation in June, Hendrik Jansen decided to take it up a notch when it was his turn to meet Chancellor Shelagh Rogers.

“While walking towards the ceremony I started talking to one of the guys in front of me,” says Jansen, who majored in biology and originates from South Africa. “He told me about a video that went viral of a guy taking a selfie while graduating. At first I didn’t plan to do it myself, however once I walked onto the stage I decided why not save a memory that will last a lifetime so I did it!”

For her part, Rogers, who now has three convocations under her cap, recently told the Ring newspaper, “If I could do convocation every day of my chancellorship, I would be thrilled. I really feel that energy as the students are crossing the stage. So I try to engage with each of them individually, call them by name, make it personal and say congratulations.”
ALUMNI SNAP SURVEY

Location, location, location

With the city and surroundings, living on southern Vancouver Island can be one of the best parts about attending UVic. More than a thousand alumni responded to our online survey question about the best off-campus hangouts of their student days.

20% The beach at Cadboro-Gyro Park
15% Downtown nightlife
12% The Inner Harbour

Other places:

The Snug in the late ’60s and early ’70s. Walking along Cordova Bay Beach and Willows Beach with a coffee in hand. The “Secret Coffeehouse” in the basement of old Westholme Hotel run by UVic grad Tony Else. Great hangout. Coffee and folk singing downstairs and the occasional beer upstairs in the pub.

Maude Hunter’s pub.
I would ride my bike to Mount Doug and wander the trails.
Walking along Dallas Road waterfront, or the waterfront trails in Esquimalt.
Smuggler’s Cove pub.

Home because of the high study load! Back when I went to UVic there was a comfortable sitting area in Chapters bookstore where I went to both study and chill.

I went to Victoria College in 1951-52. We would go to the top of Mt. Tolmie. George and Dragon at the Fernwood Inn.
Coffee shops on Government Street.
I loved going to Cattle Point and Willows Beach to see the birds.

Arbutus Cove in Saanich.
Beacon Hill Park! There is a rock outcropping below the cliff that juts out into the water, and I used to do homework down there.

Beaver Lake trails.
Cook Street Village coffee shop.
Downtown bookstores: Munro’s, Griffin, Poor Richard’s, Russell, etc.
Pagliacci’s for cheesecake.
Fisherman’s Wharf.

I went to Vic College. No hangout…too busy socializing on campus, studying and commuting to Metchosin.

Habit Coffee in Chinatown.
Royal BC Museum (back when the entry fee was by donation).
Clover Point to fly kites and Ross Bay to dodge storm waves breaking over the road.

The “Secret Coffeehouse” in the basement of old Westholme Hotel…Coffee and folk singing downstairs and the occasional beer upstairs in the pub.

Esquimalt every Friday night for the hockey games against UVic, then a pub like the Colony Motel or someone’s house for a party.

Spinnakers Gastro Brewpub.
Downtown record stores.
Bengal Lounge at the Empress.
Somewhere out there, in the darkness of the night sky, is a pale red dot. Can you see it — a faint, red star in the constellation of the Centauri? To be fair, you would need a small amateur telescope and a good viewing site in the southern hemisphere to catch a glimpse. Even then, this dim, red star would not appear to be anything special. Yet recent developments may one day propel the star known as Proxima Centauri to become the most important star in the sky.

It had long been known as the closest star to Earth when, in August, an astonishing discovery was announced: Proxima hosts a planet, slightly more massive than Earth and bathed in sufficient light from its parent star to possibly maintain a surface temperature similar to our own planet. Proxima Centauri b was detected using a method which is both graceful and precise. The unseen planet orbits its parent star every eleven days and is bound by the same laws of gravity which keep our own solar system in place. Yet Isaac Newton told us that for every reaction there is an equal and opposite reaction. Therefore, every 11 days, Proxima Cen completes a miniature orbit of its own in response to the tug from its tiny planet.

The motion is almost imperceptible — the star wobbles backwards and forwards in space with a velocity of 2 metres per second — that’s walking pace to you and me. The HARPS spectrograph, mounted on the 3.6-metre telescope at the European Southern Observatory in Chile, is sensitive to the faint fluctuations in starlight engendered by this motion.

Careful monitoring, night by night, month by month, reveals the periodic orbit of the planet about the star.

Proxima Cen b is not the first planet to be detected by the stellar radial velocity method. Nor is it the most “Earth-like” or even the most “habitable” — words which have a debatable meaning.
without further, detailed measurements. But it is the closest planet to Earth and that is what makes it special. Proxima Cen is 4.2 light years from Earth and it is very much a case of so near and yet so far. The prospect of traversing a distance of 4.2 light years lies, for many, beyond any act of imagination. The fastest spacecraft ever to have left the solar system, the Voyager, Pioneer and New Horizons space probes, would take approximately 90,000 years to cover such a distance (and just in case you count yourself as a patient person, they are not even travelling in the right direction).

Yet some scientists and engineers have pretty big imaginations. Imagine, not a vast, Battlestar Galactica-type spaceship but a swarm of nanosats, each weighing no more than a gram and packed with a suite of micro sensors. Each would set its own tiny sail, a reflective “light” sail designed to catch a powerful stream of photons from an Earth-based laser, on its ride beyond the solar system. So how fast is this ride? Twenty percent of the speed of light which, given that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light, is impressive (even to a seasoned scientist like myself). Is it possible? Honestly, I don’t know. In fact I am sure that no one knows for certain. It takes cash to find out, to fund basic research into nanosats, light-sails and laser technology.

Audio Rewind

When Mark McIntyre started noticing cassette tapes popping up at record shops and on merch tables at underground music shows, he wondered what was behind the resurgence of a physical format that seemingly died with hairband mixed tapes.

An anthropology student, McIntyre turned his curiosity into a research project supported by a Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award. At first he thought independent artists were just using cassettes as a gimmick to generate digital downloads (by including MP3 download codes with every cassette purchase).

“So I decided to ask some people around town what was going on,” McIntyre said. “And I was wrong.” While the MP3 downloads are a part of it, he found lots of other explanations. Performers use cassettes simply to get their music out.

First, they’re cheap to produce — a few hundred dollars for a small batch of tapes that can be traded, given away, or sold for around $5 each (lower than other physical formats like CDs and vinyl LPs). It’s an affordable way for fans to support musicians and communities of tape traders have sprung up on sites like WeirdCanada.com.

And then there’s the simple, tangible appeal of cassettes. “Holding something in my hand and having to flip the tape…it just feels more real in these digital times,” is the way one listener described it for McIntyre.

Cassettes sales have been experiencing a rebound with US manufacturer National Audio reporting sales of 10 million cassettes in 2014 with continued growth since then.

McIntyre grew up in a home where cassettes were the medium of choice. He didn’t collect vinyl until his teens but now has a house full of albums. With long curly brown hair and a matching beard, McIntyre looks like a throwback to an earlier era. “My girlfriend likes to say that I’m like some guy from the ‘70s or something. But I don’t think so.”

Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, McIntyre’s project supervisor, says she was thrilled when he pitched his study about the “underground cultural phenomenon. It digs into how technologies continue to live after most think they are dead.”

What, then, about eight-track culture? Does McIntyre plan to study that? “Not yet,” he says. “I do have an eight-track player though.”

– KEITH NORBURY, BA ’82
GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The Business and Economics Building’s lobby has been renamed in honour of Lawrence and Marjorie Yeats and their support. Marjorie Yeats knows the value of an education, having worked hard for her own in the fields of the family wheat farm during the Great Depression. A sense of adventure led her to Victoria, a 40-year career at CIBC, and to her husband Lawrence, who shared her conviction that “business makes the world go ‘round.” In Lawrence’s memory, Marjorie set up a bursary that, in 21 years, has helped 83 BCom students achieve their education goals.

Yeats hopes “their adventures lead them on an amazing journey.”

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Child psychologist Dr. Jillian Roberts’ What Happens When a Loved One Dies? (Orca Book Publishers) is the second book in a series that offers tips for talking with young people about difficult topics. Whether children are experiencing grief and loss for the first time or simply curious, it can be difficult to know how to talk to them about death. With questions posed in a child’s voice, and answers that start simply and become more in-depth, Roberts’ book helps guide the conversation to a natural and reassuring conclusion. Roberts also wrote Where Do Babies Come From: Our First Talk About Birth.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

The West Coast Wave Initiative got a provincial funding boost for its research on the potential of ocean waves to generate clean, renewable and affordable electricity. The $150,000 grant from the Innovative Clean Energy fund is for a wave energy measurement buoy — its fifth — making it one of the world’s largest buoy fleets for wave energy assessment. Since 2007, WCWI has become the centre of Canadian wave energy research and development. Hosted by the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems at UVic, the multi-disciplinary group of academics and industry members investigates the feasibility of wave energy conversion in BC.
FACULTY OF
Fine Arts
Dr. Susan Lewis has been appointed Dean of Fine Arts. She originally joined the School of Music as an assistant professor in 2001...Music Prof. Harald Krebs has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada — the nation’s highest academic honour...Shane Book, BA ’99 (Writing), is the Writing department’s new poetry professor, replacing the recently retired Lorna Crozier. Book is also a former student of Crozier’s...Theatre Prof. Kirsten Sadeghi-Yekta is leading a three-year project with Vancouver Island’s Hul’q’umi’num’ Treaty Group to use intergenerational applied theatre techniques to preserve their language, now only spoken by about 65 elders...2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the Lafayette String Quartet — UVic’s Artists-in-Residence and still the only all-female quartet in the world to feature its original members.

FACULTY OF
Human & Social Development
Dean Tricia Marck hosts an all-new event on Nov. 23 at the University Club to share with patrons how their gifts make a difference to students. Each of the faculty’s seven schools and major programs will be profiled to show donors how their gifts enable student success and strengthen the faculty’s impact. Gift sources range from individuals (mostly alumni) to large charitable foundations. “The vast majority of university students struggle to pay for their education and living expenses,” says Marck. “Our patrons have made many essential supports available to our students that help them focus on learning rather than stress about financial hardships.”

FACULTY OF
Humanities
Dr. Chris Goto-Jones began a five-year term as Dean of Humanities on July 1. Goto-Jones, a philosopher, has a distinguished record of achievement as a researcher, teacher and administrator. He’s a highly respected scholar with an extensive publishing record on philosophy in a global context. Specifically, he’s interested in modern Japan and East Asia, with a focus on issues in the history of political and ethical thought. Goto-Jones has taught and lectured in leading centres around the world. Since 2009 he had held the chair in comparative philosophy and political thought at Leiden University.

UNIVERSITY
Libraries
Fronts of Modernity: The 20th-Century Collections is the latest in an award-winning, open access series devoted to showcasing the archives and special collections. Guest edited by postdoctoral fellow J. Matthew Huculak, and featuring articles by faculty, librarians and archivists, Fronts of Modernity celebrates the diversity, collective histories and origins of UVic Libraries’ 20th-century holdings. Visually stunning design (by Clint Hutzulak of Rayola Creative, and art director for the Torch) includes more than 140 pages of high quality images. It’s available in an award-winning, open access series devoted to showcasing the archives and special collections. Guest edited by postdoctoral fellow J. Matthew Huculak, and featuring articles by faculty, librarians and archivists, Fronts of Modernity celebrates the diversity, collective histories and origins of UVic Libraries’ 20th-century holdings. Visually stunning design (by Clint Hutzulak of Rayola Creative, and art director for the Torch) includes more than 140 pages of high quality images. It’s available in a limited print edition and online (uvic.ca/libraries).

FACULTY OF
Science
The BC government is providing $8.7 million to support Canada’s rare isotope capabilities. The contribution supports TRIUMF’s Advanced Rare Isotope Lab. Physics Prof. Dean Karlen, director of the Victoria Subatomic Physics and Accelerator Research Centre says: “ARIEL provides the much-needed tools and techniques for us to answer fundamental questions and gain a better understanding about the world around us and even ourselves.” The ARIEL initiative is led by UVic with 18 university partners across Canada. It’s also funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.
English students sometimes get unexpected insights into Victorian print culture when their classwork involves “adopting” a book from the extensive Victorian book and periodical holdings in Special Collections. They research authors and publishers, and look for “book traces” — the marginalia made by 19th- and early 20th-century readers as well as the inserts they placed in books.

In his detective work, undergraduate English and Psychology student Gregory Johnson found evidence of intriguing links among the book designers, models, painters, and poets in the Pre-Raphaelite Circle of 19th-century English artists.

Wilfrid Scawen Blunt (1840 – 1922) was a prolific poet, anti-imperialist political activist, and notorious lover of women. His life intersected with many in the Pre-Raphaelite circle. The book trace contained in UVic’s copy of his In Vinculis (“In Chains”) is a handwritten inscription: “I think some of these sonnets will please you, if you put away your prejudices and principles before reading them...” Blunt wrote the sonnet sequence while in prison for defying the British government during the Irish home rule “crisis” of 1887, so a contemporary British audience would have found his views divisive.

The cover’s Irish shamrock leaf design evokes the Arts and Crafts Movement — and it has romantic origins. An entry in Blunt’s My Diaries records that “Mrs. Morris, who loved me, had designed the cover...with the shamrock leaves.” Jane Morris (Pre-Raphaelite model and wife of William Morris, the famed writer and Arts and Crafts designer) was romantically involved with Blunt for years and she contributed to the design, review, and printing of his poetry.

Blunt’s travels as a diplomat through Britain’s colonies and parts of the Arab world instilled in him a passionate anti-imperialist position and his Satan Absolved: A Victorian Mystery is a long poetic response. The first-edition copy housed in Special Collections is the very same one that Blunt gave to Jane Morris, with a handwritten inscription to her dated Oct. 30, 1899.

Jane Morris’ influence led to a volume of Blunt’s collected poetry, The Love-Lyrics and Songs of Proteus, to be the third book published by William Morris’ famous Kelmscott Press. Special Collections holds several similarly bound Kelmscott editions — in stiff vellum covers with silk ties manufactured by Morris & Co.

UVic’s treasure of rare and irreplaceable material — founded by English Prof. Roger Bishop and Dean Halliwell, the first University Librarian — continues to grow through donations and acquisitions.

— By Gregory Johnson

with Lara Wilson, MA ’99,
Special Collections Director and University Archivist
The student arrived unannounced but not empty-handed at the front door of the professor’s home on Doncaster Drive. He held a thick pile of papers.

The student had read and enjoyed *Bloodflowers*, W.D. Valgardson’s collection of short stories published the previous year. The visitor was a recent English graduate, frustrated by his inability to place a single story with a literary magazine.

The guest had unruly black hair with the hint of a widow’s peak on his forehead. Later, he would wear a floppy Western hat and trim his facial hair in such a manner that others thought he looked like Buffalo Bill. The student was 39, four years older than the professor he was approaching.

Valgardson accepted the stack of manuscripts. “I took them. I read them. They were terrific. Absolutely terrific,” he recalled recently. “But not publishable. He hadn’t learned any craft.”

Valgardson agreed to admit the student into his fourth-year fiction workshop. The student, named William Patrick by his parents and known as Bill by teachers and classmates, would earn legions of fans as W.P. Kinsella, BA, ’74, the conjurer of baseball players in Iowa cornfields as well as an array of comical characters on an Alberta reserve.

Kinsella, a resident of Yale who died in Hope in an assisted suicide on Sept. 16, aged 81, was one of Canada’s most successful writers, a spinner of popular entertainments. In interviews, he sneered at political correctness, chafed at any restrictions on his liberty. He attacked the Ivory Tower of academe like Don Quixote tilting at a windmill, though he often had words of praise for Valgardson and his own alma mater, where in midlife he learned the craft that allowed him to fulfill a childhood ambition.

“If it weren’t for him,” Kinsella once said of Valgardson, “I’d be out selling toothpaste right now.”

In the *Globe and Mail*, Kinsella proclaimed Valgardson’s Law: “Stories or novels are not about events, but about the people that events happen to. The fact that the Titanic is sinking or a skyscraper toppling — or even that the world is ending — is not important unless you have created an appealing character who is going to suffer if the dreaded event happens.”

**Born in Edmonton in 1935**, Kinsella was raised on a bush farm in the muskeg outside Darwell, about 85 kilometres west of the Alberta capital. He was homeschooled by his mother, Olive, while his father, John, eked a living. The boy lived in isolation, creating his own stories to amuse himself. Young Bill’s formal education began only after his parents abandoned the farm to return to Edmonton.

His father had played semi-pro baseball and the boy became enamoured of the sport. On weekends, he’d go to the ballpark to watch games. He became obsessed with the lore of baseball, though he was never much of a player himself.

In the conformist spirit of the 1950s, Kinsella married, fathered children, and left a job as a government clerk to sell insurance. His first marriage collapsed (there would be four in all). After remarrying, he moved in 1967 into a house south of Mount Douglas. He bought a restaurant. According to his biographer, Willie Steele, an English professor at Lipscomb University in Nashville, the first time Kinsella ever made pizza was on the day he opened the doors of Caesar’s Pizza.

Kinsella registered at UVic in 1970, attending classes by day and flipping pizzas by night. Early
on, he was assigned a reading list of 75 titles and was shocked to realize he had read only one. He sold the restaurant two years later to become a full-time student. One of his most useful classes was a composition course taught by Velma Gooch, from whom he learned the proper use of grammar.

In 1973, Kinsella was appointed editor of the Martlet Literary Magazine, an autonomous publication included with the student newspaper. He was chosen over six other applicants because he said he had “no preconceived prejudices that any one form of literature deserves more attention than another.”

Kinsella was driving taxi after graduation, a stopgap while he applied for jobs he did not get and received only rejection slips for stories he tried to place. The wild-haired hack on Valgardson’s stoop was running out of options.

Valgardson agreed to accept him into his fourth-year workshop. Kinsella would attend the workshop for three years in a row, twice under Valgardson’s direction.

The professor knew just how to edit Kinsella’s stories, telling him, “Look, you warm up for a page before you start your story and you wind down for a page and a half after you finish it. Don’t do that.” The raw stories the professor read were like “panning for gold. Lots of gravel before you found a gold nugget. Those nuggets hadn’t been transformed into jewellery.”

Kinsella accepted rewrite after rewrite instruction from Valgardson, never once complaining. Mentor and pupil worked like this for two years. One day in 1976, Kinsella invited Valgardson and his wife to join him and his wife as a guest for a Chinese dinner. The happy occasion—Canadian Fiction Magazine had accepted the short story, “Illiana Comes Home,” for publication. That same week, four other stories were accepted by magazines. Kinsella was soon off to spend two years at the famed Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

A short story, “Shoeless Joe Jackson Comes to Iowa,” got a two-line review in Publisher’s Weekly. An editorial assistant at an American publishing house asked Kinsella to develop the story into a novel. He balked, at first, never having written a work longer than 25 pages. The resulting manuscript so thrilled the editors that Kinsella became the first foreign author to be awarded the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship, worth $10,000 US.

In turn, the short story that became the magic-realist baseball novel Shoeless Joe was adapted for the popular Hollywood movie Field of Dreams. It introduced into popular culture Kinsella’s timeless line: “If you build it, he will come.”

The picture’s success allowed Kinsella to become a full-time writer, ending an unhappy stint teaching English at the University of Calgary.

The bestselling collections of comical short stories set on a fictional Alberta reserve, beginning with Dance Me Outside in 1977, led to Kinsella winning a Leacock Award for humour in 1986 for The Fencepost Chronicles. (The characters Frank Fencepost and Silas Ermineskin based on some fun-loving fares he had once chauffeured in his taxi.) The stories were controversial for their cultural appropriation and use of pidgin, criticisms Kinsella dismissed.

The writer was named to both the Order of BC and the Order of Canada. In 1991, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from UVic. When he received the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, Kinsella told the Times Colonist that “without Bill Valgardson, I would be a retired taxi cab driver with 33 unpublished manuscripts under the bed.”

On Kinsella’s death, his agent and his website encouraged memorial donations be made to the W. P. Kinsella Scholarship in Fiction at UVic. Those funds will be given to fourth-year students in the advanced fiction workshop. That will make life a little easier for someone struggling, as Kinsella once did, to make ends meet while becoming a writer.

TOM HAWTHORN was the 2014 Harvey S. Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Nonfiction in the Department of Writing.
“Walking into that room, I could feel the electricity in the air, see sparks shooting from people with every new idea they generated,” says Dylan Gedig, BSc ’16, recalling the energy from local teams trying to create entire video games in 48 hours in the Global Game Jam.

Gedig helped organize the event — along with other volunteers from the UVic Game Dev Club — and the energy from the participants replaced the exhaustion he felt after weeks of planning. It was a hands-on learning experience plus a way of giving back to a community that supported him throughout his coursework.

Gedig did some programming in high school but he didn’t pursue that passion right away. “I’ve always loved games,” he says. “But (I had) the impression you couldn’t make a career out of them.” After what he describes as a “mind-numbingly boring” year of college studying business, he transferred to the UVic Computer Science co-op program.

His first co-op placement took him to Victoria-based Codename Entertainment, led by Eric Jordan, BFA ’93. Jordan’s a big proponent of the video game industry and he puts a lot of effort into building community and introducing young people to the growing sector.

“It’s very hard to get high school students interested in tech,” says Jordan, who spearheads initiatives specifically aimed at youth. “Video games are the sizzle that can get the high school student in, that can lead to this much broader career with all of these varied tech industries that are in BC.”

Working closely with UVic, Jordan brought together several companies to create the Tectoria Video Game Industry Award for Developers, a scholarship for an undergraduate computer science student who is both a strong developer and active contributor to Victoria’s game development community.

Gedig was the obvious first recipient of the award. In addition to managing events like the Game Jam, he also volunteered with the Computer Science course union and worked as a teaching assistant in computer science classes, teaching first-year students the basics of game design and development.

Beyond finances, the award earned Gedig some extra credibility in the industry. While his first two co-op placements were essential in laying groundwork for his career choices, Gedig says the Tectoria award gave him confidence to take the next step. He took the entrepreneurial co-op option, and under the mentorship of Jordan, launched his own company, Red Nexus Games. It published its first game shortly before Gedig’s convocation ceremony in June.

Events harnessing collective creativity, like the Game Jam, and joint initiatives like the Tectoria award, are natural spinoffs from the local game development community.

“Game development in general is a very collaborative,” says Gedig. “Even to get a game off the ground you have to bring designers, artists, musicians, programmers and marketers together. And I think the companies in Victoria really build on (that) spirit. They all work together to make the industry more vibrant. Having local companies invest in my education (through the scholarship) meant a lot. I wouldn’t have started my own company if the local scene wasn’t so supportive.”
MIKE IRVINE — diver, tech whiz, educator — eye-to-eye with a Campbell River crayfish.
He defended his master's thesis underwater and now Mike Irvine has big dreams about bringing the environment up close and digital

BY MIKE MCNENNEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY EIKO JONES
So there’s Mike Irvine, bopping around Europe one summer in his early 20s. He’s in France and Italy and Greece. He’s seeing for himself the architecture and the arts that have fascinated him in his Greek and Roman Studies classes.

In a hostel on the island of Crete he reads this thing about diving. It’s for newbies. A “discovery” dive targeted at tourists, people who probably never thought twice about scuba gear. But here’s the deal. If anyone was meant to be underwater and exploring that hidden precious world, it’s got to be someone like him.

Really, just look at his family.

His grandfather, Bruce Irvine, is a retired underwater engineer. He worked on designing the water seals for the Newtsuit — the robotic, aluminum diving apparatus designed for the enormous pressure of deep, deep water dives.

Then you have his dad, Greg Irvine. Another natural born diver. He worked for Aqua Lung at the company’s Canadian base in Saanichton.

Mike spent childhood summers scrambling around the Aqua Lung warehouse trying on scuba masks. When his dad would go out, often at first light to test gear he would bring along Mike and set him up on the dock. Hot chocolate, fishing rod, being around divers: things that could always be counted on to keep the normally restless youngster calm.

Raised near the water. An honest to god Island kid. It was only natural that Mike would take to diving as soon as he was old enough.

And he did. He was 12 and his dad was already teaching him the ropes. Mask, suit, fins and compressed air. They’re part of the Irvine family makeup. Meant to be, like riding a bike.

Then it happens.

Greg, on a test dive in Saanich Inlet, runs into trouble. No one’s sure exactly what causes it. He drowns. But when they bring him up, the rest of the team manages to resuscitate him.

It’s a lengthy road but he makes it back, except there’s permanent short-term memory loss.

So Mike walks away from diving, from the thing that seemed like it would be part of his life forever.

“There are other people who could have taught me but the interest just stopped,” he says. “He was kind of my connection bridge to diving. So when he stopped diving, the involvement and experiences from there were different. Also, when you’re dealing with someone with a brain injury it’s a long recovery process. It’s touch and go.”

It’s a decade later, 2009, and something clicks when he sees the tourist flyer in Crete with its pitch about scuba diving. “I thought, that would be really cool.”

They go in the water, he and the instructor, then below the Mediterranean’s surface.

“It just sparked a lot of old memories. It was a very powerful, incredible experience. I felt very comfortable and in my element. I rested at one point on the edge of a shelf and you’re looking down and it just drops. This massive wall. I thought, I want to go down there. I want to see what’s down there. I want to go further. Let me go,” he says, laughing at the same time.

Returning to UVic, Mike Irvine hatches the FishEye Project — a production house for bringing live, interactive scuba dives online and into classrooms and across the worldwide web. The programming combines education and entertainment. It’s sort of like The
Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau adapted for the Internet generation.

FishEye really gets going when Irvine starts building a network of connections with a talented group of marine scientists and technology whiz kids he meets around campus. There’s Maeva Gauthier, MSc ’12, who had been working on her master’s about the damage caused by deepsea trawlers. She’s FishEye’s co-founder and today shares executive director duties with Irvine.

An engineering student, Matt Bartlett, BEng ’14, helps to build underwater web cameras. Irvine’s dad lends a hand with the design of the team’s first water-tight camera housing that Irvine uses to take a webcam underwater. And Dr. Paul Spong, leading whale researcher, covers the cost of FishEye’s first components.

His BA is in Greek and Roman Studies but Irvine started out in History in Art (now Art History & Visual Studies). He has an interest in film, even doing a directed studies stint on a movie production in Vancouver. He takes a lot of electives. Dabbles in Computer Science and digital media and electronics. Takes a job in the UVic audio and visual department.

“I got to do (class work) on my own terms,” which, he readily agrees, fits his personality perfectly. “When I discovered directed studies I was quite happy that you can design and write your own course.”

So he’s figuring out underwater webcams and live streaming. But things don’t really crystalize until Dr. Jason Price convinces Irvine to enter the Faculty of Education’s Curriculum and Instruction master’s program to look at the potential impact of the technology. “I knew a lot about how to build the stuff,” Irvine says. “I just needed to know what you were going to do with it once you have it.”

Irvine works on research projects with his co-supervisor Dr. Mijung Kim and begins testing the theory behind FishEye in schools and with students. “I was just watching their reactions and responses. Instead of telling kids, you ask them questions.”

Friends start calling him Socrates of the Ocean.

Then, as in now with a typical FishEye live dive, the images almost instantly spark the learning process. “You wait to seconds and then questions and ideas start flying. You run with it. It’s like improv,” he says. “It’s fun because you never necessarily have to know the answer. You can pass it back and say, how can we (find out) together?”

Technology and impact. It’s summed up and refined in his master’s thesis: “Using underwater web cameras as tools to motivate and engage students in inquiry based learning of marine science topics.”

Naturally, when it comes time to complete his master’s, on a clear blue spring day in 2015, Irvine descends about six serene metres down in the waters of Saanich Inlet, not far from where his dad had his near-fatal accident. From there he successfully delivers his master’s oral examination via live stream to his (dry, land-based) advisors.

There’s this sense of excitement in his voice when Irvine talks about his plans for FishEye and the impact it might have — on school students and the wider community. The group has just complet ed its first French-language production, from Campbell River where the salmon are spawning. He finds himself featured prominently in a UVic advertising campaign. And he’s interested in exploring the possibilities of virtual reality. The ocean remains his main focus but other places could be part of the future of FishEye: national parks, live skydives, even outer space.

Essentially, and at the heart of what motivates him, it all goes back to the moment of awe when he peered into the depths of the Mediterranean. The moment when everything changed.

“It’s all about the experience. How can I connect you with natural environments? What I hope to do is create enough of a ripple that we can get to a point where we can appreciate and understand our interconnected relationship with nature. That we are a part of nature, not separate from it. That we can live in unison with it.”
DR. APRIL NOWELL with a versatile hand axe — like a Swiss Army knife from the Stone Age — discovered in Jordan.
Based on the tools they used, our ancestors seem to have had a much more varied diet than thought

BY MICHELLE WRIGHT, BSC ’99
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95

Everyone likes a good buffet. Even — according to forensic analysis of ancient stone tools discovered in the deserts of Jordan — our hominin ancestors of 250,000 years ago.

Dr. April Nowell, a paleoanthropologist and professor in the Department of Anthropology, originally set out to uncover the story behind the early extinction of the Azraq Neandertals. “In order to understand why they died out, I needed to understand how they were living,” says Nowell. She ended up discovering a host of animal protein residue on ancient hunting and butchering tools excavated from the Azraq Marshes in Jordan. What these tools tell us is that inhabitants of the once lush oasis scavenged or hunted a variety of animals, from duck to horse to rhinoceros.

When news of the discovery was announced this summer, it generated international media buzz because it gives us a much better understanding of how our ancestors lived. More importantly, Nowell’s research points to a surprising degree of sophistication from a social, cognitive and technological viewpoint.

“It becomes a tortuous game of gently picking each grain of sand away.”
"I decided when I was 16 that I wanted to be an archaeologist," says Nowell. "It sounds so nerdy but I’d watch these documentaries on PBS, *In Search of Troy*, and all that kind of stuff...and I thought, ‘That’s what I want to do.’" Her first field site was in her hometown, in the heart of Old Montreal, followed by fieldwork in Belize, the Canadian High Arctic, Ontario, France and Spain.

Her career path led her to the excavation sites of the Azraq Marshes Archaeological and Paleoecological Project, at the “crossroads of Africa, Europe and Western Asia.” What was once a lush marsh teeming with plant and animal life is now a windswept desert, punctuated with grand castle ruins, its vastness broken up by long stretches of highways teeming with transport trucks. Directly across from one of Nowell’s work sites is a castle that served as the 1917 home base to author and British military officer, T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia.

The team’s home base is just five minutes away, a place Nowell has arranged through her connections with locals in the small town of Azraq. The archaeologists emerge from their mosquito net-draped cots before dawn in order to avoid the grueling heat of the midday sun. Long hours hunched over a plot of dirt are made less tedious with word games and rounds of singing. Very little dirt is moved over the course of a summer. "Maybe five square meters in a month," says Nowell.

"It becomes a tortuous game of gently picking each grain of sand away one by one," says John Murray, one of Nowell’s graduate students. He found himself working the site in Jordan less than a month after sending Nowell a “cold call email” about joining her team. "Finding awesome artifacts is one of the most amazing feelings in the world.”

The excavators keep themselves fueled with snacks that are as repetitive as their careful brush strokes. "I tend to avoid peanut butter for a few months after fieldwork because it’s definitely a staple," says Murray, who describes fieldwork as, essentially, a “prehistoric forensic case” that has been reopened by “detectives of the past.”

Regardless of profession, reopening a case comes with challenges. For Nowell, this was getting her dating samples out of the country intact. Archaeologists use optically stimulated luminescence (osl) testing to date each layer of earth — essentially determining when the soil was last exposed to sunlight. In order to preserve the integrity of the light-sensitive samples, the team often drilled their boreholes in the cover of night.

“So here we have these soils samples, in a piece of pipe basically, that we want to get from the Middle East to Oklahoma and we’re saying, ‘Oh, you can’t x-ray these.’”

Nowell’s team used a safety-in-numbers approach to the border crossing, shipping out multiple samples with the hope that they wouldn’t all be opened and inadvertently exposed to light. "It was the luck of the draw," says Nowell. And it worked.
Nowell’s third-floor office in the Cornett Building is compact and tidy. Replica figurines and ivory art line shelves that are stacked high with books. Hanging on the wall is a poster of the Venus of Hohle Fels, one of the oldest figurines in the world and the subject of a TEDx talk Nowell recently gave called Paleo Porn. Her lab, just down the hall, is home to hundreds of artifacts, all stored meticulously in individually labeled bags. Her tools of the trade: calipers, electronic scales and a microscope with a built-in camera.

It’s much less exciting than one would expect from a profession that conjures up icons such as Indiana Jones and Lara Croft. Nowell doesn’t mind the jokes when she tells people she’s an archaeologist. “It gets people excited about what we do.” But she does want to clear up one misconception. “We actually excavate sites,” she says with a laugh. “We don’t loot them.”

While the idea of hunting for long-lost treasures might capture the attention of thrill-seeking tweens everywhere, it is clearly Nowell’s passion and skill as a teacher that keeps her classrooms full. The students, several of whom are of the silver-haired generation, clearly come to her classes, not for credit, but out of interest.

Aurora Skala, MA ’15, an archaeologist and First Nations researcher, says that Nowell’s Paleolithic art class actually planted the seed for her own research into the hidden imagery in the Heiltsuk and Wuikinuxv Territories. “There are a handful of university classes I have taken which dramatically changed how I see the world,” says Skala, “and hers was one of them.”

Crossed immunoelectrophoresis (CIEP) is a biochemical test that can detect the presence of any given protein, such as proteins found in remnants of a lion’s blood on a spear head. It is commonly used in the forensic field but underutilized in archaeology. It’s also very expensive.

Looking for protein residue on the Azraq stone tools wasn’t even on Nowell’s radar. The oldest stone tool that had been successfully characterized with CIEP right down to animal species was only 11,500 years old. So when her colleague, Dan Stueber, a lithic technology specialist, suggested they send off a few pieces for residue testing, Nowell was skeptical. “Why would we do this? There’s no way,” she thought.

Despite her doubts, Nowell sent six carefully chosen artifacts for CIEP testing. One tested positive for horse protein residue. It was a huge surprise. “When I got that email from the lab, I think I screamed,” says Nowell. “Everyone was over the moon excited.”

The significance of the Nowell team’s discovery is two-fold. First, success with CIEP means that other archaeologists can use the same technique on artifacts as old or potentially older than the Azraq tools. And for archaeologists, this means, a much richer picture of what our ancestors were doing.

Nowell’s findings also offer insight into ancient human development. It takes incredibly sophisticated behaviors to organize little task groups to go out and get water and gather plants, but taking down large animals raises the bar significantly. “Hunting a duck is very different from how you might hunt or scavenge a rhino,” explains Nowell.

Evidence that hominins were chowing down on such a wide variety of animals also validates the story of evolution as the story of a generalist. Modern day humans exalt in the culinary pleasures of diversity. Our ancestors’ wide-ranging food choices were born out of necessity.

“We’ve evolved to eat anything and everything,” says Nowell. “That’s why we’ve survived so well.”
The Better End

Heartbreaking hospital experiences early in her career led School of Nursing Prof. Kelli Stajduhar to the forefront of palliative care advocacy

BY KIM WESTAD
ILLUSTRATION BY TINE MODEWEG-HANSEN
Kelli Stajduhar was a 21-year-old nurse from rural Manitoba when she volunteered to care for patients dying from AIDS. They were not “good deaths.” Their end-of-life care was delivered in the middle of a busy medical surgical unit, in a large Winnipeg hospital. A few years later, after her mother died an unnecessarily painful death from lung cancer, Stajduhar arrived at the thought that has shaped her career: There’s really got to be a better way to die. Some three decades later, Dr. Stajduhar — professor, researcher, trailblazer — is one of Canada’s leading advocates for palliative care and a renewed focus on how we treat the dying.

When people think of palliative care, they tend to think of a physical space, not a philosophy of care. For many, including those working in the medical system, it may be thought of as a unit tucked in a corner at a hospital with a limited number of beds for people in their final days.

In those places the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of patients and families become a combined priority. Patients are made comfortable. Family and friends are usually present. It’s often peaceful.

Imagine, asks Stajduhar, if the same approach was part of health care at an earlier point in a person’s illness: “What if instead of marginal, often painful treatments, panic for ourselves, distress for our loved ones and wasted costs to the health care system, we could face death calmly and with dignity?”

About seven in 10 Canadians will die in hospitals or care homes. About 50 per cent of people die in acute care units — not from trauma but from the predictable afflictions of aging such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, dementia or cancer. Acute care settings, with their primary focus on medical treatment, aren’t ideally set up to deal with managing the end of a person’s life.

“We have a medical system built on acute urgent care, on ‘fixing’ and interventions. That’s important for those who need it. But with many of these illnesses, people are not going to survive. This is not TV. This is real,” says Stajduhar, recipient of the 2016 Researcher of the Year Award from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.

Ours is not a culture that accepts that life ends. In a bid to avoid death and guided by the idea that extreme efforts to keep us alive are considered “heroic,” Stajduhar warns that many of us will leave life in misery and suffering, our wishes about our deaths unexplored and unexpressed, while families look on helplessly.
blueberry fields that she loved. The doctor, nurses and physiotherapist worked with her for weeks to manage her pain. They made a seat for her to sit comfortably. Eventually she got her wish.

“None of us likes to think about death. We like to think that it is something that will happen down the road,” Stajduhar says. “Would it not be great if we could talk as openly about that as we do heart disease or diabetes? Palliative care should be as essential for dying Canadians as prenatal and obstetric care are for newborns.”

With the recent focus on the federal framework for medical assistance in dying, Stajduhar feels that the case of palliative care has been pushed aside. “There’s so much attention being given to that legislation that we have forgotten palliative care in the conversation,” Stajduhar says. “I think we need to rebalance that.”

Research has shown that some people who initially want assisted suicide change their minds if they are provided with pain management and support for their family so they are not overburdened — the hallmarks of palliative care.

Stajduhar’s community-based research (on campus through the School of Nursing, the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health and with groups like the Initiative for a Palliative Approach in Nursing: Evidence and Leadership) connects her with frontline health care providers on the Island, the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley.

But some of the biggest challenges come from simply getting everyone talking and thinking about better ways to deal with the inevitable. So she often gives talks and writes articles to try to spark the discussion.

“We do health research to make things better for people. The challenge is to actually get the public more aware of what palliative care might offer to them and those around them facing a life-limiting illness. We need to develop more compassionate communities.”
COLLEEN MCGAVIN: Cancer survivor and informal caregiver is now a leader among patients whose voices are being included in health care problem solving.
Everyone has experiences with health care and its singular mix of bureaucracy and altruism. Colleen McGavin knows it inside out.

She says, with a touch of wry humour, that she’s seen almost all that the system has to offer. She fought cancer and related complications for 10 years. At the same time, she was a caregiver to her aging parents.

Having overcome all of that, no one would have blamed her if she wanted nothing more to do with hospitals. But instead McGavin has emerged as a nationally respected voice for the needs and input of patients and informal caregivers in the health care delivery equation.

It’s a rainy September morning on campus and McGavin is with a group of UVic health researchers. Gathered around the boardroom table are a neurologist, a health research officer, a couple of psychologists, and some grad students. Institute on Aging & Lifelong Learning director, Scott Hofer, is talking about assessment tools for a new study, *Seniors with Complex Care Needs*. The study will focus on cognitive abilities and measure subtle signs of decline.

Study participants will be asked to take a 10-minute test every day. It will provide lots of data, but the time commitment has Dr. Hofer wondering if people will follow through. He turns to McGavin for her advice.

“From the polling I’ve done, I believe they would be keen,” says McGavin. “People tell their family physicians that they worry about memory loss, though they are often told, ‘we all get forgetful.’ So this testing may provide the validity they seek.”

Throughout the meeting she weighs her words carefully yet confidently, self-correcting and elaborating with anecdotes to better articulate a finer point. One senses a tremendous empathy for patients, the kind that is hard won from the personal journey she’s been through in health care.

“Beyond this study,” McGavin adds, “I think people would value having this tool in their everyday lives. Just like exercising and eating well, this offers another means to take care of themselves.”

“Yes, that ultimately is the shared vision,” Hofer agrees.

During her cancer treatment and caregiving period, McGavin — who has a UVic English degree, professional diploma in secondary education and a certificate in computer based information systems — discovered the Patient Voices Network. It’s a provincial organization that brings together patients and caregivers with health care providers and administrators to work on improving care.

At the Digital Health Innovations Forum in Vancouver last year she described how her mother, at any sign of her father’s condition faltering, would rush him to emergency. This “catastrophizing,” as McGavin calls it, was due to a lack of communication. Technology, she reasoned, could enable families as informed members of the care team.

Dr. Kendall Ho, an emergency room physician and digital emergency medicine lead at UBC, was in the audience listening intently. What he heard her say confirmed his own perspective and gave impetus to his own research question: if patients with heart failure could monitor and remotely communicate their condition from home using blood pressure, pulse and other sensors, would they feel more secure and visit the emergency room less?

“Including patients and informal caregivers in health research… is an idea whose time has come.”

After discussing the idea with her, Ho asked McGavin to join his team as a patient partner for the TEC4Home four-year program. Years removed from the workforce due to her illness, she had found a new vocation in health research. “I could make a meaningful contribution again,” says McGavin, who has since become a partner on
She admits that the company of doctors — medical and academic — can be intimidating. However, her humility is balanced by her conviction that she and other laypeople have a vital role to play.

Research teams are necessarily multidisciplinary, often including individuals from government, private sector, health authorities and research institutions.

“The patient partner is the citizen,” says McGavin. “He or she can ask naïve yet valid, objective questions that raise the collective awareness: is the study worth doing in terms of resources of time and people, what are ethical implications if we don’t end up with valid measures, how do we prepare with patient participants for these possibilities?”

McGavin is also helping evolve perceptions of so-called knowledge-users. “Traditionally, knowledge-users were policymakers, clinicians, health care professionals,” she explains. “That’s changing, as we put tools in patients’ hands, either to maintain their wellness or manage their illness.”

The movement is gaining momentum through Canada’s new Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research. Funding is dependent on having patients engaged in all dimensions of research to ensure the questions and results are relevant. As each territory and province must roll out its own support unit for the strategy, BC has appointed McGavin as patient and stakeholder engagement lead. She heads an effort to involve more patients as active partners on research teams.

A lot of work lies ahead, yet she has already received national recognition for her work this past May. Partners in Research, a national not-for-profit that educates the public about the importance of health research, awarded her the Ronald G. Calhoun Science Ambassador Award for outstanding leadership as a member of the lay community.

In her acceptance remarks in Ottawa, she said: “My hope all along has been that bringing my experience into the conversation might provide new insights that could help frame a research agenda that will lead to solutions to some of the most significant challenges faced within health care today. Including patients and informal caregivers as true partners in health research is relatively new and quite a paradigm shift — but it’s an idea whose time has come.”

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ALUMNI LIFE

Team Alumni

Three members of the alumni board share their reasons for volunteering

It takes time. It takes commitment. They could be doing other things. But volunteer members of the alumni association’s board of directors say it’s a meaningful way to keep connected with UVic and its students.

Lesley Patten, BCom ’96, is in her second year as association president and says her board members tend to volunteer because they get a new perspective on the university and they make a contribution to alumni engagement.

“I think university is a major step. For me, like many, it meant leaving home, becoming independent, and meeting a whole new world of friends and subjects to learn,” she says. “While it was difficult, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at UVic and have great memories. If I can help the next generation achieve that and remind other alumni of their time at UVic, all the better”

Board vice-president Peter Jong, BSc ’03, says volunteering has built upon his experiences as a student and helped him appreciate the role of the association.

“Before I joined the board I wasn’t fully clear on what it did,” says Jong. “I knew it helped to give direction to the association, but I did not know to what extent. I also did not realize the extent that alumni help countless students and groups through grants and bursaries to help fund their education.”

Patten adds: “What really opened my eyes were all the different programs, activities and projects around campus. When I was a student, I was focused on my faculty, not much else. Now I have a much better picture of all that happens at the university.

A newcomer on the board, CHEK TV news anchor Stacy Ross, BFA ’97, agrees. “It’s ironic perhaps, since I earned my degree nearly 20 years ago, but one of the most compelling reasons for joining the board was to learn more about the university. As a student, I spent the bulk of my time in the Theatre Department. I’m so grateful to share time with alumni from other departments. I’m already impressed with the work ethic and ambition of the board to offer the best possible service to UVic alumni everywhere.”

As a registered society, the UVic Alumni Association operates independently from the university. It has its own constitution and bylaws and it depends on the volunteer involvement of members of the alumni community.

The 16-member board provides direction to the staff of the UVic Alumni Relations office and the delivery of programs and services.

STACY ROSS, LESLEY PATTEN and PETER JONG are part of a dynamic team of volunteer directors who lead the UVic Alumni Association.

Learn more at alumni.uvic.ca.

Events

Alumni Week 2017

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Alumni Week, the annual celebration of UVic grads, their impact on their communities, and the pride of connection to the university.

Events run from February 6 through 12, highlighted by “In Conversation” on-stage interview led by Chancellor Shelagh Rogers and with a special focus on Canada 150.

There will be Distinguished Alumni Awards with recipients from every faculty, a special night of Vikes basketball, and lots of other fun opportunities to learn and connect.

Join in on social media using #UVicAlumniWeek.

November

Fall Convocation
Nov. 9 – 10

Phoenix Theatre
Alumni Reunion
Nov. 11 – 13
Here are some statistics from the past year of UVic alumni activity.

- 6,309 alumni donated, attended an event or volunteered.
- $12,350 in grants awarded by the association.
- 758 volunteer hours by Student Ambassadors.
- $1.3 million donated to UVic by alumni.
- 5,841 account holders with alumni affinity partner services.

**T.O.’s Alumni Connection**

**Volunteer of the Year**

Chris Green likes to think of alumni events as professional recharging stations. “You come back to your job with a new set of tools and ambition,” he says. “How valuable is that in a very difficult and busy life?”

It’s a main reason he’s played a big role in planning and delivering value-added events for the community of alumni who live in the Greater Toronto Area.

His leadership and dependability have earned him this year’s Volunteer of the Year Award from the UVic Alumni Association.

Green (right) finished his BCom in 2000 before starting a career in the financial sector. His choice to stay actively connected to UVic stems from the challenges of getting through his coursework and trying to figure out his career options.

“I feel that I received more than just a degree but also post-graduation support,” Green says. “By staying an active and connected alumnus I feel that I’m acknowledging the university for the extra support they provided.”

Green’s role with the Toronto alumni group has been varied. He contributes every step of the way, from initial event planning right down to stepping-in to emcee.

“Work and life make us so busy that we lose our ability to see the evolution that goes on around us” he says. “As hard as it is to make it out to an alumni event, the reality is that it’s probably the best use of your professional time as you get connected with very bright and progressive individuals who can give you knowledge, encouragement, and direction.”

Every event and guest speaker offers its own take-away, but one that stands out for Green is the sold-out gathering at Ripley’s Aquarium. “It was an event that drew alumni from all faculties of the university. We learned a lot about oceans and UVic’s very strong presence in ocean sciences. All while the aquarium’s sharks were swimming next to us in the open. Amazing!”

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**December**

- **Music Alumni Concert**
  Rudolf Komorous Celebration
  Dec. 8 | Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

- **Tuba Christmas**
  Dec. 10 | Market Square

**January**

- **Health Information Science**
  Social Networking
  Jan. 12 (Second Thursday of each month.)

**February**

- **30th Medieval Workshop:**
  Medieval Medicine
  Feb. 4 | Bob Wright Centre

- **Alumni Week**
  Feb. 6 – 12

- **Gut Girls**
  Feb. 9 – 18 | Phoenix Theatre

**Details + Registration:**
Alumni.uvic.ca

UVIC TORCH  AUTUMN 2016 35
1960-70s

STEPHEN BRODSKY, MA ’76 (English), has published *Joseph Conrad's Polish Soul: Realms of Memory and Self* (Lublin/New York: Maria Curie-Sklodowska Press/Columbia University Press).

MARION BULLER

MARION BULLER, LLB ’87, BA ’75 (Anthropology), is the chief commissioner of the independent national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. A member of the Mistawasis First Nation in Saskatchewan and a Provincial Court judge, she was the first Indigenous woman to be named to the bench in BC. In 2012 she was named a distinguished alumna of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

RIK HALL, BSc ’69 (Biology), retired from the University of New Brunswick in 2005 as manager of instructional technology. “Since then I have been contracted to give instructional technology support to St. Thomas University in Fredericton. I am also a professional book formatter for both eBooks and print-on-demand books, with more than 850 books formatted. And, when I am not sailing or kayaking with my wife of 44 years, I am a magician, performing for corporations, private parties and weddings. We’re still living in Fredericton, but spend some cold months in Florida; we have two grown children and seven grandchildren.”

DAVE HOON, BSc ’77 (biology), is an oncologist and chair of the department of translational molecular medicine at the John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, CA.

BRUCE HORNE, BSc ’70 (Zoology), writes: “I am now into my third year of retirement and moved to Sidney at the end of August. It is now 46 years since I graduated from UVic and it has been quite a journey: nine years in Alberta, followed by a move to Burnaby in 1980, and now with the move back I have completed the circle.”

1970s

DENISE BAINBRIDGE, BEd ’83, writes: “Just sold our property and I resigned (from) my job to live on our 50-foot converted troller, the Ocean Tigress, in Coal Harbour on Vancouver Island!”

KEVIN KEY, BA ’86 (Geography), launched KeyPlan Development Management in 2002 and in 2008 relocated to Vancouver, providing land-use related services and decision-making advice. “Business competition is very high and international, but so is the level of professionalism and capital.” His projects have ranged as far north as Edmonton and south to Egypt. “Despite pressures and temptations, I’ve never lost the principled ethics I refined in university years. They are not to be used only in moments of crisis or Jovian decisions, but instinctively, in everyday work and life.”

AVIS RASMUSSEN, MEd ’82, BFA ’79, BEd ’75, enjoyed 2009-15 on the UVic alumni board. Her paintings are in the UVic Legacy Maltwood Gallery collection and 18 other Canadian university, college and public collections. In September she was artist-in-residence at the Delta Ocean Pointe Resort. Her five children, their families, and seven grandchildren keep Avis “super active.”

1980s

PATRICK ROBINS, BA ’88 (Economics), is chief administrative officer for the District of Central Saanich. “I have come full circle (well, since graduating) returning to the Victoria area some four years ago following 13 years of working in local government around the province. My academic studies after UVic have included accreditation in accounting and public administration. Blissfully married for 18 years to Shala and enjoying our life in Victoria!”

JUDITH SHARPE, LLB ’80, “retired in April 2015 from public service with the federal government. I spent 20 years working in the immigration and refugee determination fields and then moved to the office of the superintendent of bankruptcy for my final six years in public service to try something completely different. After working in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary, I have settled into a blissful retirement life in Campbell River.”

GAIL ANDERSON-DARGATZ, BA ’99 (Writing), released her latest literary novel, *The Spawning Grounds*, her first since the 2007 bestseller *Turtle Valley*. The new story from the two-time Giller Prize nominee is a family saga set in the Thompson-Shuswap region that bridges Indigenous and settler cultures.

1990s

GAIL ANDERSON-DARGATZ

BRUCE DOIG, BEd ’92, and DAWN DOIG, BSc ’88 (Linguistics), write: “Lots has changed in our lives. We left
BRUCE DOIG AND DAWN DOIG

Saudi Arabia after seven years and are now starting into our fourth year in Mongolia, where Bruce is the MYP Design teacher and Dawn, after returning to school to get her certification and master's in education from the College of New Jersey, is now the PYP EAL teacher, both at the International School of Ulaanbaatar. We still get the chance to return to UVic, though, and just saw our son, Colin, graduate this past June with his BFA (Theatre). We would love to hear from any of our old UVic friends. Drop us a line at shadog@yahoo.com.

ROBERT HALL, MEd ’91, retired in 2000 after 30 years as a teacher, principal and college professor. In 2002, he was certified as an Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada electoral officer. In 2015 he was granted the highest INAC electoral officer certification with authority to preside over First Nation elections across Canada under the Indian Act of Canada and the First Nations Election Act.

CHRIS MORASH, BMus ’94, “just celebrated 20 years of ministry at the Church of the Incarnation in Charlottesville, Virginia, as director of worship. Peggy and I have been married 18 years and I have been ordained 13 years as a Roman Catholic deacon. Life is great here in Central Virginia, at the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Hello to all my UVic friends!”

PAT REYNOLDS, PhD ’91 (Biology), an expert in marine invertebrate biology, has been named to an endowed chair at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY where he has previously served as vice-president for academic affairs and faculty dean.

CHRISTIE STEPHENSON, BA ’93 (History/Political Science), is the new executive director of the Peter P. Dhillon Centre for Business Ethics, UBC Sauder School of Business. She has 15 years of experience in topics related to corporate social responsibility and sustainable business practices and her expertise has made her a frequent media commentator.

BABA BRINKMAN, MA ’03 (English), known for his rap interpretations of Chaucer and Darwin, has released the Rap Guide to Climate Chaos. “My goal with this album is to alert people to the scale and urgency of the challenge, and also to create a sense of optimism around what we can still do to remedy things.”

RICHARD CHEN, BA ’07 (Economics), writes: “I just joined Great-West (Vancouver) in March and am now responsible for the

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UVIC TORCH AUTUMN 2016 37
Poolside at the Olympics

Talk about a cool summer job. Chris Hindmarch-Watson, BA ‘03, was the English language announcer at the Rio Olympics swimming venue. His was the voice in the background on TV broadcasts as he introduced competitors, called races, and MCd medal presentations.

The former Vikes swimmer and founder of the swimming alumni chapter says some of the things he’ll remember most are the performances of Penny Oleksiak (and all of the Canadian medalists), Michael Phelps, and Anthony Ervin.

“I was a very proud Canadian (and) it’s an important part of my job to remain very impartial and objective in the introductions and race calls,” he says. “(But) I think there might have been a little extra inflection in my voice when I introduced the Canadian anthem after Penny Oleksiak tied for the gold in the 100 free.”

Team Canada included 22 UVic and Vikes alumni athletes, coaches and staff.

Rowер Lindsay Jennerich, BSc ‘06, earned a silver medal with partner Patricia Obee in lightweight double sculls. Former Vikes swimmer Hilary Caldwell reached the podium, earning the bronze medal in the 200m backstroke.

Wealth management line of business in the Asian market.”

Stephanie Dixon, BA ‘09 (Psychology), has been inducted into the Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame. One of the best swimmers in the world, during her career she amassed 19 Paralympic medals and remains the short course world record holder in two backstroke events. She has been a champion for the Paralympic movement in Canada, and a tireless promoter of parasport as a keynote speaker, blogger, broadcaster, and mentor. Stephanie continues her life’s passion as an advocate for disability rights with the Yukon Human Rights Commission.

Amber (Janet) Freer, Dipl. ’05 (French), is retired and enjoying volunteering and occasionally teaching English as a second language.

Sarah Hanel, BA ‘04 (Women’s Studies), Cert. ’07 (Public Relations), has been appointed vice-president of the Canadian Public Relations Society (the national association that works to advance the professional stature of public relations and regulates its practice for the benefit and protection of the public interest). Sarah is a past president of the Vancouver Island chapter of CPRS.

Angela Heck, MA ’00 (Political Science), has been appointed director of digital and strategic initiatives at the National Screen Institute – Canada. The NSI trains writers, directors and producers in the screen industry.

Daniel Hogg, BFA ’04 (Writing), with fellow producer Amanda Verhagen BFA ’12 (Theatre), and writer/director Connor Gaston, MFA ’14 (Writing), won Best Motion Picture for their film The Devour at the Leo Awards, which annually celebrates excellence in BC film and TV. Gaston also took home Best Screenplay. The film took seven Leos in total, including Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Editing.

Ashley Kereszti, BSc ’09 (Chemistry), leaves this note: “Hello to my peers from graduating class 2009 and future UVic graduates! I am currently living in San Francisco; moved here beginning of 2013. I have been working in the biotech industry with Prothena BioSciences, a late-stage clinical biotechnology company. I’ve been enjoying my time living in California, there is so much to see and do. The culture of San Francisco is major and diverse in terms of arts, music, cuisine, festivals, museums, and architecture. If anyone is interested in pursuing a career in biotech or pharma, do consider moving to the Bay Area!”
STEPHEN KONKLE, BSc ’04 (Biology), is a chiropractor and recently took over as regional manager of GoodLife Health Centres in Ottawa. He manages a multi-disciplinary team including chiropractors, registered massage therapists, a naturopathic doctor, and a physiotherapist.

ANDREA PURCELL, BA ’07 (Child Protection), writes from Nelson: “I have just started a new job in the ministry of children and family development as a resource worker after 10 years in child protection. My 6-year-old and I have raised over $25,000 for BC Children’s Hospital, Make-A-Wish, and Nelson Friends of the Family to give back for all they did to help when we were in crisis with her brain tumor that was found at age 3. She is healthy and doing AMAZING!”

DAGMAR ROTHWELL, BA ’03 (English), updates former classmates on her life in Armstrong, BC: “My work on the book (about the dark goings on that beset our town’s thrift shops decades ago) has been difficult but not without its rewards. I’m now fully stocked in every secondhand kitchen gadget, lawn ornament, and heavy sweater you could ever ask for. All in the name of research! Or so I tell Lex when he complains. Which is a lot. Can’t say I blame him. One day the book will be done with and I’ll turn my focus to him and keeping him out of trouble with the livestock and such.”

NAREENA SWITLO, BA ’09 (Anthropology), has this to say: “Exciting news! I just started my first social enterprise and we will be the first company to export turmeric from Belize! It is an initiative that I would never have been able to do without the inspiration from my education at UVic. Funny thing, my business partner, a.k.a. mom, also went to UVic: UMEEDA SWITLO, BSc ’80 (Biology), on the left in the photo.”

The Tuba-playing CEO
How a music degree led to the top job in a tech startup

“I loved the idea of playing the biggest instrument in the band,” says Stuart Kinnear, who studied tuba on the way to his music degree and before getting his MBA from the Gustavson School of Business. “It suits my personality.”

The versatile Kinnear is a key player in an Alberta startup company that hopes to have a positive impact on the environment and the oil and gas industry.

Kinnear, along with fellow alumnus Tom de Haas, BEng ’10, and former Mechanical Engineering Prof. David Sinton formed Interface Fluidics last year. Their company offers a “reservoir on a chip” service that analyzes at the micro scale how oil, water, gas and other fluids interact in reservoirs.

Sinton is now a professor at the University of Toronto, where de Haas wrote the master’s thesis that created the framework for their venture. They aim to help oil sands companies dramatically reduce the water boiled off in a process called steam-assisted gravity drainage.

“Most of the emissions from the oil sands is just boiling water,” de Haas explains. “So if we can drop that number down or get rid of the water altogether it has an absolutely enormous impact on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.”

The technology has two basic parts. The first analyzes the properties of oil and chemical samples. The second builds miniature oil reservoirs to visualize how fluids move underground.

“It’s like a little ant farm,” says de Haas, who works out of a lab at the University of Alberta.

The chips, the largest of which are hand size, contain tiny pipes that are a seventh the thickness of a human hair.

As a trained musician surrounded by engineers, Kinnear says his academic background is paying dividends.

“It’s a great place to start and learn a bunch of really great skills — things like how to put yourself out there, how to perform, how to prepare for an important event,” says Kinnear, who is based in Calgary. “Arts degrees are valuable beyond their immediate face value. (That’s) one of the takeaways that I’ve learned in the last couple of years.”

– Keith Norbury, BA ’85

NAREENA SWITLO

FAHAD ALRUWAILI, PhD ’16 (Electrical and Computer Engineering), is an assistant professor and information security consultant in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He works at the College of Computer and Information Technology at...
Shaqra University. He says the experience he had in UVic and Victoria is unique and remains fresh in his memory.

BRIANNA CERKIEWICZ, BA '14 (Writing/Ocean Sciences), has authored Summer Camp (Saddleback), a "hi-lo" book about friendship and mystery for readers in their early teens: "hi-lo is short for high interest, low readability. hi-lo books are designed for reluctant readers or readers who read below their grade level. You can’t give an illiterate high school kid a picture book — she’d be bored out of her mind, and that’s not going to encourage her to want to keep learning to read. My book is aimed at kids in grade 6 to 8 but is written at a 1.5 to 2.5 reading level. I had heard of hi-lo books sometime during my undergrad and once I graduated, decided to try writing one as an exercise (it’s kind of like writing form poetry, actually, there are lots of constraints). I submitted the book to a couple of publishers and Saddleback accepted it.

JAMILA DOUHAIBI, BA '12 (Anthropology/Environmental Studies), has published an e-book on Amazon that includes 70 poems discussing the concept of now, and including environmental themes. Partial proceeds from each book are donated to the Wilderness Committee.

KARL HIRZER, BMus ’12, is the resident conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra for the 2016–17 season. “Karl is young, talented and energetic. But he also brings poise and a sense of command to the podium that is quite surprising for someone his age,” Paul Dornian, president and CEO of the Calgary Philharmonic, said in a statement.

JAKE HOLM, BA ’15 (English), sends this: “After taking a year to myself following the completion of my BA, I started the juris doctor program at UBC’s Allard School of Law in September. I plan to be called to the bar in 2020, so I hope my fellow UVic alumni will look me up then if they require legal advice!”

HILARY LEIGHTON, PhD ’14 (Interdisciplinary), sends this: “In January 2016, after a decade as the founding director of Continuing Studies at Royal Roads University, I was appointed to the new College of Interdisciplinary Studies as the director of individualized study. I devote my time to helping (Royal Roads) students discern their unique study trajectories to degree completion and future career paths. I attribute my having an interdisciplinary doctorate from UVic as a significant factor in this opportunity arriving at my door. I am forever grateful!”

AMBER MCMILLAN, MA ’10 (English), has published her second book, The Woods, a non-fiction account of her year living among the small community of residents on Protection Island, near Nanaimo.

DAVID NAMKUNG, LLB ’10, a partner at the Counsel Network in Vancouver, has been elected president of the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, BC chapter, where he’ll lead the group’s efforts to promote equity, justice and opportunity for Asian
Canadian legal professionals and the wider community.

**ART NAPOLEON, MA ’15** (Indigenous Language Revitalization), is a TV co-host on *Moosemeat & Marmelade*, the culture and cooking show on APTN.

**TASHA NOVICK**

**TASHA NOVICK, BSW ’11,** writes: “I have wonderful news. I am now a graduate student in the UVic MSW advanced program and continue to act as a student representative and student mentor. I also very recently married my partner of 15 years! I still live and work as a social worker in Edmonton.”

**ILAN ROBINS**

**ILAN ROBINS, BEd ’10,** got married on July 18 and has studied office administration at Camosun College with the goal of changing careers from education to administrative work.

**EVA SHORTT, BSW ’11,** sends this: “Hello! I attended UVic’s BSW program in 2009 – 2011 and at that time I went by my maiden name, YEKUTIELI. I moved to Guelph with my husband (who I met just two days after I moved to Victoria to attend the BSW program) in 2013. I had our child a year later. In 2015, I started a company called Modern Mommy Events where I combine my passion for event planning and my training in social work to provide parents with fun and empowering events that help them recharge. I learned about the importance of self-care through my social work training that I got at UVic and try and teach parents to do the same.”

**REGAN SHRUMM, MA ’15** (Art History and Visual Studies), BA ’13 (History in Art), returned from a six-month internship from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, and is now the curatorial and administrative assistant at Open Space in Victoria. Regan also received the Dana and Toni Ann Rust Curatorial Fellowship at the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner, WA.

**GURPRIT K. RANDHAWA, MSc ’13** (Health Information Science), is a PhD candidate in Health Informatics and recent recipient of the Steven Huesing Scholarship and Award from the Canadian Health Informatics Association. She thanked all of the UVic faculty and staff who have helped guide and shape her learning and critical thinking in health informatics. This summer she became manager of clinical improvements and informatics at Island Health.

**DANIELLE SWEETNAM HOLMES, MSc ’12** (Biology), graduated in June from St. George’s University school of medicine in the West Indies and is working as a pediatric resident at SUNY University Hospital Downstate in New York City.

**What’s New With You?**

Be in the next Class Notes. Send news and photos to: torch@uvic.ca

In September, dozens of former members of the UVIC OUTDOORS CLUB marked their 50th reunion with — what else? — a hike. This time to Iron Mine Bay in East Sooke Park. There were meals, a campus tour, an afternoon at Cadboro Bay — and lots of storytelling, too.
**FAREWELL**

**President in troubled times**

Bruce J. Partridge, former president of the University of Victoria, passed away in August. Partridge’s term in office lasted just over two years, leading the university during an era of substantial upheaval.

Partridge took office in September 1969 as a youthful 42-year-old American arriving from Johns Hopkins University, where he had served as vice-president administration and treasurer. As an administrative leader, he had contributed to the work of the US National Committee on College and University Business Administration.

In disembarking the scene of growing campus upheavals in the 1960s, however, Partridge was soon caught up in Canada’s own campus crisis. In Victoria, the federal government’s use of the War Measures Act against Quebec separatists in 1970 and a BC-wide ban on “expressions of support” for the FLQ divided public sentiment and civic expectations on and off campus.

Partridge also faced challenges specific to UVic, a young institution barely six years old, that was outgrowing a mix of nonstandard but longstanding hiring practices inherited from its predecessor institutions, Victoria College and the Provincial Normal School.

Historian Ian MacPherson noted in *Reaching Outward and Upwards*, his history of UVic, that Partridge’s predecessor, Malcolm Taylor, “resigned the presidency partly because of the controversies over employment practices” as the university sought to normalize tenure and promotion standards for a newly hired cohort of professors.

Partridge also arrived to news that in his first year as president, the provincial operating grant would be short $1.5 million of its anticipated amount — more than 12 per cent — which delayed the establishment of several planned programs.

Following a year of increasingly personalized protest on campus and acrimonious relations with the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Partridge resigned in November 1971, setting off a temporary but important lull in hostilities.

After leaving UVic, Partridge completed a law degree at UBC in 1975, served as managing director of the law offices of Baker & McKenzie in Hong Kong, and after moving back to BC in 1992, co-authored a textbook on management practices. In 1996, he was a co-founder of the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Victoria.

— Marc Christensen, *The Ring*

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**ARTHUR HILLER**, Hon. DFA ‘95, director of the Oscar-nominated *Love Story*, died on August 17, 2016. He served as president of the Directors Guild of America from 1989-93 and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences from 1993-97. Hiller received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the 2002 Academy Awards. He was 92.

**MARGIE MCELellan**, Victoria College ‘45, Provincial Normal School ‘46, died on June 3, 2016 at the age of 89. Apart from a rewarding teaching career and family life, Margie was for many years a valuable member of, and meticulous newsletter editor for, the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association.

**DR. JAMES OLDFIELD**, Victoria College ‘38, died April 3, 2016 at age 94. He headed the Oregon State University department of animal sciences from 1967 to 1983. One of the world’s leading authorities on selenium, his work in animal nutrition led to the cure for white muscle disease in cattle. He received the UVic Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003.

**DR. ROBERT REID**, Professor Emeritus (Biology), passed away in May at the age of 77. He was a faculty member of UVic’s biology department for 40 years, teaching courses ranging from animal physiology to the philosophy of biology. He authored many papers on malacology, focussing mainly on the feeding physiology of clams, and had a species of chemosymbiotic clam named after him — *Solemya reidi*. Latterly Robert focussed on evolutionary biology. At the time of his passing Robert had a completed first draft manuscript of his autobiography — *I, Clam* — which his daughter Clo Reid, BSc ’00, is looking to have published.

**WILLIAM FREDERICK WALKER**, Victoria College ’38, passed away July 29, 2016. After serving in the navy, Bill remained active with the naval reserves throughout his working life. He successfully ran the family business, Walter Walker & Sons Fuel for 25 years and later refocused his career on the emerging market for small business computers.

**JUDITH WARRINGTON**, Med ’88, died May 7, 2016. Judi taught in all Victoria school districts and was involved with the gifted, talented and creative program. Her lasting legacies include her impact on her students and the Millennium Time Capsule project at UVic, which is to be re-opened in 2101.

**LUCY BERTON WOODWARD**, Victoria College ’39, was born in Dawson City, where she and her brother Pierre (also a VC student) grew up amid the ruins of the Gold Rush. Lucy wrote two children’s adventure books, *Johnny in the Klondike* (1964), co-authored with her mother, Laura Beatrice Berton, and *Kidnapped in the Yukon* (1968). She graduated from UBC and raised two children in Vancouver with husband Geoff. In later years, living in White Rock, she was an avid painter and gardener. She died on Dec. 9, 2015.
**UVIC EMAIL UPDATE**

To prevent security issues caused by dormant accounts, University Systems has locked NetLink IDs and @uvic.ca email accounts for alumni who graduated in 2010 or earlier. This could mean the U Vic Alumni Association has lost email contact with you.

If you need your NetLink ID or @uvic.ca address, contact the Computer Help Desk at uvic.ca/systems/contact.

Update all of your contact information at uvic.ca/alumni.

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alumni.uvic.ca

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Proceeds support campus service projects led by the UVic Student Ambassadors, an affiliate of the UVic Alumni Association.
VOX ALUMNI

Permanence

When bonds are as permanent as your student record

BY MARK LEIREN-YOUNG, BFA '85

I opened the embossed envelope holding my friend’s wedding invitation to reveal a different lifetime. Suddenly, I was sitting in a cramped dorm room, cramming for a test in first-year university as Stan tried to convince me I’d love the taste of something called “scotch.” I took a sip and immediately washed it down with Coke. Despite dismissing me as a “heathen” — a judgment Stan hasn’t retracted in all this time and never will since I still prefer Coke to scotch — we’ve remained friends ever since.

After I filled out the RSVP card, I opened my email to discover a reminder about the 50th anniversary reunion for alumni of the Phoenix Theatre and thought about all the friends I was excited about catching up with in person. I’ve been in touch with people I haven’t spoken to since long before the invention of the computers we’re now corresponding with. But the big surprise was realizing how many of the people I was at UVic with decades ago are still among my closest friends.

Even before the age of the interwebs, these were the friends I stayed in touch with when they moved to new cities, provinces and even countries. These aren’t “Facebook friends” who I’d be lucky to pick out of a police lineup, but people I’ve stayed in contact with for more than half my life — long before it was possible to log into anything other than actual logs.

In my experience, most work friends tend to disappear not long after the job does, but my university friends have been around through weddings, divorces, births and deaths — triumphs and tragedies. We’ve encouraged, cajoled and consoled each other. We’ve loaned each other money, bailed each other out of impossible situations and crashed on each other’s couches. We’ve been there for celebrations and for funerals. Not long ago I delivered a eulogy for one of those friends, where I reminisced about our university days.

When I was teaching a class at UVic I told my students to look around the room because somewhere in that class — or at least somewhere in their program — they were likely looking at the person who would give them their first big break when they left campus and entered the alleged real world. I didn’t say, and I doubt I needed to, that perhaps somewhere in the room — but definitely somewhere on this campus — they were likely looking at their first great love and at least one friend they’d end up walking through fire with, someone they’d still be joking with when that first grandchild arrives.

Students are programmed to worry about their permanent record and, when you’re in school, you assume it’s the grades that will matter forever. It might take a year, maybe ten, maybe 20, before you realize…it’s the friendships.

MARK LEIREN-YOUNG’s new book The Killer Whale Who Changed the World is published by Greystone with the David Suzuki Institute.
February 6–12, 2017
ALUMNI WEEK

Thinkers, changers, difference-makers

- In Conversation, with Chancellor Shelagh Rogers
- Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Vikes for Life Basketball Night
- Talks, Workshops and Get-togethers

alumni.uvic.ca  |  @UVic_Alumni  |  #UVicAlumniWeek
OFF CAMPUS

Baker Looms
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN LIGHT

The volcano is more than a hundred kilometres to the east in Washington State but through the camera of KEVIN LIGHT, and thanks to an optical illusion, Mount Baker seems to dwarf the Victoria skyline.

Light, an Olympic rowing gold medalist and former Vike, captured this image with a 600mm lens from his low vantage point on the West Shore, at Albert Head Lagoon Regional Park.

“When you see an object like Mount Baker or the moon behind something like a skyline or horizon the further you get from that horizon the bigger the object will appear,” Light explains, noting that he was about 10km away from downtown. Heat waves contribute to the shimmer effect along the shoreline.