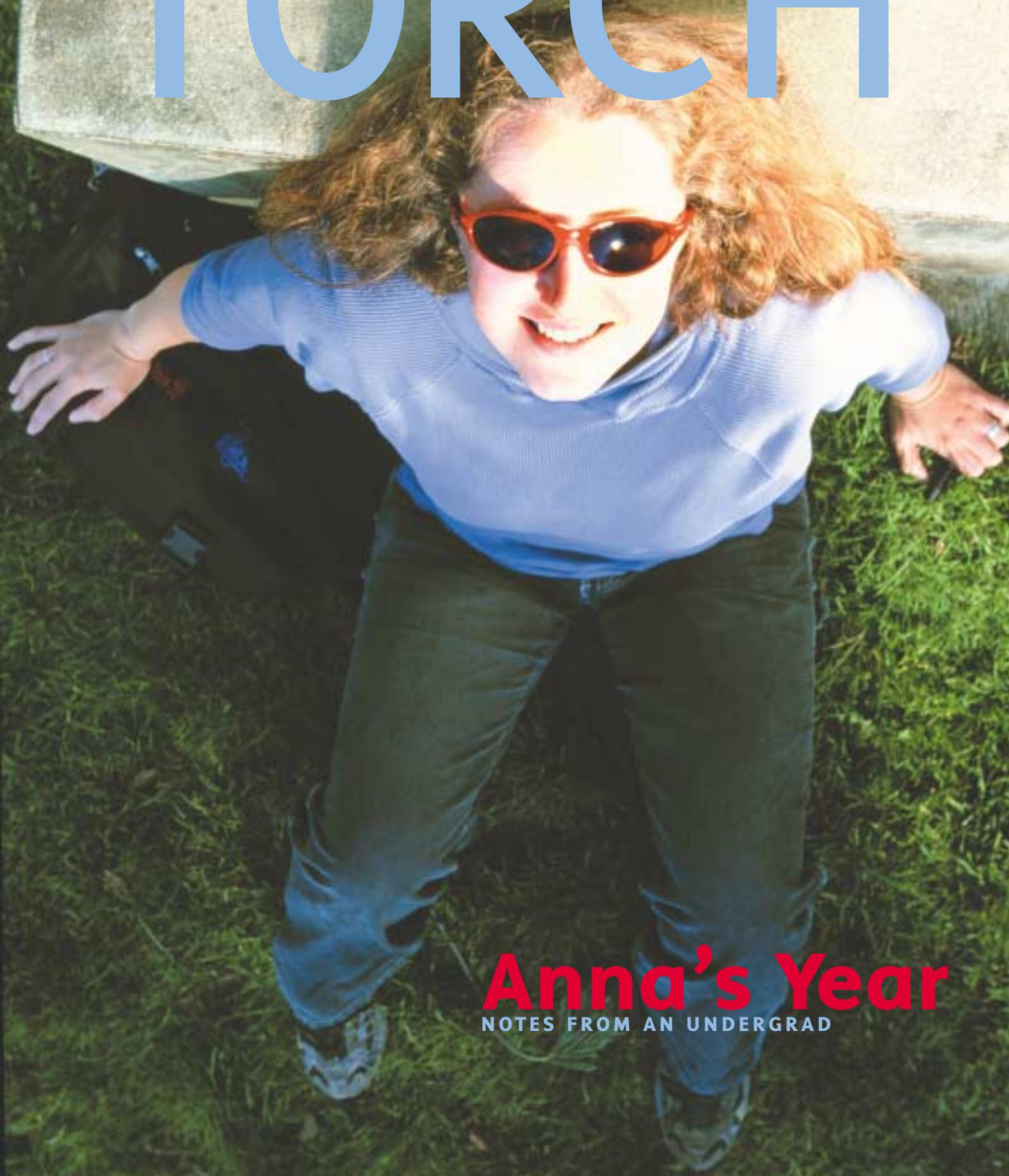


UVIC

# TORCH



**Anna's Year**  
NOTES FROM AN UNDERGRAD



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UVic TORCH SPRING 2001

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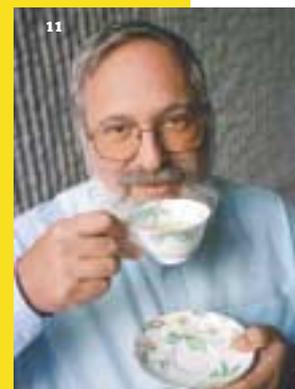
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On the cover: UVic student Anna Pugh

Photo: Richard Warrington

# BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS

## TIM HENDERSON (BA '88)

*You see things; and you say "Why?"  
But I dream things that never were;  
and I say "Why not?"*

—George Bernard Shaw

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS been reviewing its mandate and the services it provides in support of students, graduates, and our university. We have been looking for ways to strengthen support for new graduates as they make their way into the larger community, and to support the work of students, faculty and staff at UVic and around the world. It is quite a challenge when one considers the sophistication of our program and the leadership offered to Canadian universities by the UVic Alumni Affairs office.

For several years, we have hosted an information exchange among alumni associations across Canada. Most of the discussions revolve around issues and programs that have been established at UVic for some time. Our alumni association has blazed a trail among Canadian universities in the use of technology to connect students and new graduates with mentors and alumni who have established themselves in communities and careers around the world. Over the last couple of years we have been making the technology we have developed available to other alumni associations. We are developing new ways of keeping in touch, and providing opportunities for you to offer your ideas and feedback through our new electronic newsletter, Alumni Voice Interactive. We continue to refine the services offered to our alumni by our affinity partners, and to support and recognize our outstanding teachers and students.

We have a great new team in the alumni office, and numerous opportunities to contribute to the development of our association. You can expect to see many interesting and exciting stories about the challenges

and successes of students and faculty at UVic, and alumni around the world. I am looking forward to seeing new people from beyond Victoria on our board of directors, and invite your recommendations for nominations to our board, and a range of association and university committees.

We are sensitive to the privacy and protection of the personal information of our members. All our mailings promoting travel and affinity services, including life insurance, home insurance, the UVic MasterCard, and our investment services, are sent through the Alumni Affairs office. We don't make our mailing lists available to anybody outside of the university, including our affinity partners and travel suppliers, for any commercial purpose. We respect your privacy and will exclude you from mailings that you do not wish to receive. Simply let the Alumni Affairs office know your preferences by calling 721-6000 (toll free in North America at 1-800-808-6828) or e-mail [alumni@uvic.ca](mailto:alumni@uvic.ca).

I encourage you to engage the university through your alumni association and to challenge the minds of those around you. ¶



### DON'T FORGET TO WRITE

*We are always pleased to receive mail from our readers, be it of the critical or laudatory variety. Address your correspondence to the UVic Torch, PO Box 1700, Stn CSC, Victoria BC V8W 2Y2. You can also fax us*

*at (250) 721-8955 or send e-mail to <[mmcneney@uvic.ca](mailto:mmcneney@uvic.ca)>. We reserve the right to edit correspondence for the sake of clarity, brevity or for any nasty aspersions cast upon the campus rabbits.*



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## WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...

A voice of experience can make all the difference to a young person navigating post-secondary education options.

That's why alumni volunteers are needed from a whole range of fields to talk about their university days and their career lives with prospective students and their parents. UVic information sessions are held in different provinces between September and February and are organized by the recruitment unit of UVic Admission Services.

"You can't over-estimate the effectiveness of sharing positive personal experiences about UVic as part of recruitment," says UVic grad Bruno Rocca, manager of the university's student recruitment efforts. "I'm excited about the partnership we are forging and looking forward to meeting UVic alumni across the country."

Having alumni in the room provides an opportunity for prospective students to talk with former students who have "been there." Admissions staff attend and answer specific questions, as do representatives from the Co-operative Education program, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, Student and Ancillary Services, and various academic program areas.

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For information on becoming a recruitment volunteer, contact the UVic Alumni Affairs Office at (250) 721-6000, 1-800-808-6828 or e-mail [alumni@uvic.ca](mailto:alumni@uvic.ca)

## Alumni Garden Adventure



Spring 2001  
Hanging out with UVic

More than 330 people strolled the pathways and hidden adventures of the Crystal Garden Conservation Centre April 3 at the Alumni Garden Adventure, hosted by the

UVic Alumni Association and part of the week-long UVic Community Festival.

Guests were treated to gourmet Caribbean cuisine by Truffles Catering, while listening to music by harpist Alison Vardy and Allegro Con Trio.

Alumni Association volunteers handed out alumni pins, decals, stickers and daytimers. The adventure ended with comments from UVic President Dave Turpin, Alumni Association President Tim Henderson, and Director of Alumni Affairs Don Jones, as well as an impressive selection of door prizes from the event sponsors—Meloche Monnex, TD Waterhouse, Industrial Alliance Pacific Insurance, Advantage Benefits Plus, and MBNA.

Guests also received a keepsake Alumni Garden Adventure t-shirt from Cook Design Studios of Victoria. Go to <http://alumni.uvic.ca/newsletter> for a photo gallery of the vent. †

## Alumni Calendar

**MAY 4** Courtenay Branch Reception  
Introducing President and Vice-Chancellor David Turpin

**MAY 8** Halifax Branch Reception

**MAY 12** All Canadian Universities Dinner in Washington, DC  
Guest speaker, comedian David Broadfoot

**MAY 18** All Canadian Universities Dinner in Chicago, Illinois

**MAY 30** UVic Alumni Association Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony: Distinguished Alumni Awards and Honourary Alumni Presentations

**JUNE 5** Montreal Branch Reception

**OCTOBER 19** Vancouver Branch Reception

### On-going...

Ottawa Branch Pub Nights

All Canadian Universities Alumni Pub Night in Cambridge

For more details contact the UVic Alumni Affairs office at 721-6000, 1-800-808-6828, e-mail [alumni@uvic.ca](mailto:alumni@uvic.ca) or visit [alumni.uvic.ca/news.html](http://alumni.uvic.ca/news.html)



## The UVic Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday, May 30, 2001** at the University Club



6 pm: Annual General Meeting

7 pm: Dinner and evening program including the presentation of the 2001 Distinguished Alumni Awards to: Kirsten Barnes, Tim Price, and Eden Robinson, and Honourary Alumni Awards to: David & Lynda Strong

### Call for Nominations

The Alumni Association is governed by a volunteer board of 15 elected members and seven appointed, honorary and ex-officio members. Terms are two years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms.

Any member of the Association with the consent of the nominee may make nominations for elected directors to the Association. Nominations must be received in writing by the Alumni Affairs office at least seven days prior to the election and should be forwarded to: The UVic Alumni Association, PO Box 3060, Victoria BC V8W 3R4

For further information and to make dinner reservations please contact Marlene Bergstrom at 721-6000 or long distance toll-free 1-800-808-6828, e-mail: [alumni@uvic.ca](mailto:alumni@uvic.ca)

# GALACTIC SNAPSHOT



Fifteen billion years of evolution are represented in this computer-generated image of a large cluster of galaxies, spanning a distance of a few million light-years of universe.

UVic cosmologist Joachim Stadel and his University of Washington counterpart Thomas Quinn programmed the computer model that produced the simulation. A NASA supercomputer worked full-tilt for a week to run the program and produce the brilliant snapshot.

The model depicts how millions of particles, pulled by gravity, would have come together to form galaxies and galaxy clusters as the universe expanded after the Big Bang.

The new Canadian Computational Cosmology Collaboration—based at UVic with links to UW, the University of Durham in the UK, and Germany's Max Planck Institute—uses high performance computers to help us understand how and why galaxies have evolved the way they have.

## THE TEACHING MAYOR

Look for Frank Leonard on most nights of the week and it would seem safe to assume the Saanich mayor might be at council meetings or any number of events that come with the job of leading the Capital Region's largest municipality.

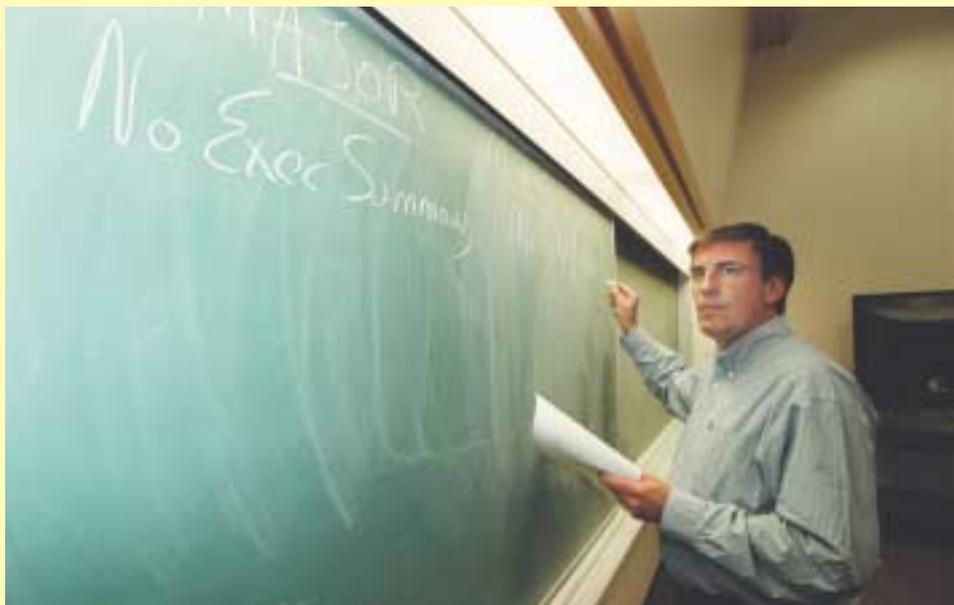
But once a week during the winter session you'll find him at the front of a UVic classroom where, quietly, he has taken on the role of teacher, leading a small business management course offered through Continuing Studies.

Not many of his students seem to know about their instructor's double life, and he keeps it under his hat. "I'll tell them at the end of the course," says Leonard, who graduated from UVic in 1982 with an honours degree in history. The business smarts he shares with students come from years of helping to run the family tire business.

An advertisement for instructors prompted his jump into teaching two years ago. "I'd never taught before. I spent the entire summer choosing my text books and writing notes. In my first class I went through my notes and it only took 45 minutes. I thought 'That's great. Now what do I do for the next

two hours?'" Leonard rebounded in time for the next class and he's been going strong ever since.

Business, public service and school life are rewarding but Leonard—now in his second three-year term as mayor after 10 years as a Saanich councillor—hints he isn't quite done with new challenges. He's also working toward his master's in history. "I'll finish my graduate degree and then I'll figure out what I want to do when I grow up."





NICOLE ANTHONY PHOTO

## HOW THE GARDENS GROW

It always catches you a little off guard, starting with the appearance of a snowdrop here, a crocus there. Next you notice the first pink blooms of rhododendrons. Suddenly winter (can we call it that?) at UVic's Finnerly Gardens is decorated in colour.

By May, the rhodo blooms reach their crescendo. Stop in and have a look. Parking—it's free on weekends—is abundant near the Interfaith Chapel. Stroll through the archway to a brilliant oasis of plants, pathways and ponds.

With your inner gardener fully inspired, come by May 6 and wander over to the McKinnon Gym, where from 10 in the morning till two in the afternoon the Finnerly Garden Friends will be ready to sell you a special addition for your own corner of green earth. They've got it all—from tender young annuals to sturdy trees and shrubs. The best part? Proceeds from the yearly plant sale help keep the Finnerly Gardens in such fine shape.

## CASE CLOSED

UVic Law continues to offer the best legal education in Canada according to recent law graduates who responded to *Canadian Lawyer* magazine's 2001 national survey of law schools. It's the fifth time in six years UVic has earned the distinction.

The school, founded in 1975, received high marks for the open door policy of its professors and their willingness to coach, guide and listen. Grads also gave high marks to the law library, a diverse student body, and the co-op program.

"I'd heard great things about the school and I wasn't disappointed," says Andrew Tam (LLB '97). Spending a term in the only full-time clinical law program in Canada strongly influenced his career path. "I started out thinking I'd be a corporate solicitor in Toronto and ended up practicing criminal law in Victoria. That's a direct result of my experiences at the Victoria Law Centre."

Kathryn Chapman (LLB '98) wasn't a typical student but she fit right in. "I thought the teaching was exceptional and the staff created such a supportive environment. I was a mature student. I didn't start law school until I was 38 and UVic was my first choice because of its alternative programs. I was completely accepted by my classmates."

Aboriginal student Maxine Matilpi singles out professors Heather Raven and Gerry Ferguson. "They are such great people in the law school community. I really respect Gerry and appreci-



Law grads Kathryn Chapman and Andrew Tam with Dean Jamie Cassels (centre).

ate the efforts, welcome and support that Aboriginal students received from him."

Law dean Jamie Cassels puts the schools' success down to a student-centred focus, a commitment to teaching law as a humane profession, and a positive learning environment.

DIANE NETHERCOTT PHOTO



## DOUBLE BUBBLE

**THE ARTIST:** Katherine Knight (MFA '84), recipient of the 2000 Duke and Duchess of York Prize in Photography, Canada Council for the Arts.

**HER TECHNIQUE:** "Careful blowing, humidity and glycerin in the basic soap recipe encourage extraordinary bubbles which lope towards certain demise. 'Double Bubble' encapsulates all I love about photography. It refers to a lived experience yet surpasses what I remember of a long and perhaps frustrating afternoon blowing bubbles."

**ABOUT UVIC:** "I remember graduate studies as lean years when neither my pocketbook nor confidence could sustain much

experimentation. Horrified MFA advisors watched as I jettisoned my photographic work. I wanted to paint and did so with questionable results! But I latched onto sustaining working methods and treasured resources. I worked with Roland Brenner, Mowry Baden, and Fred Douglas, nationally recognized artists and UVic professors. I began to realize how fundamental landscape was to my practice. Buoyed by an 'Aesthetics of Landscape' geography course, I repositioned my art; eventually unpacking my camera once again."

## Nobody Expects the Order of Pi!

The chanting medieval monks of the Order of Pi (a.k.a. UVic Engineering students) added Mechanical Engineering Professor Ron Podhorodeski (right) to their long list of pie-faced victims during their annual fundraiser earlier this year.

Greatly—some may say sadly—inspired by the Monty Python troupe's spoof of the Spanish Inquisition, the Order of Pi includes inquisitors, counselors, pie-bearers and an executioner who roam campus and town for a week each March conducting elaborate trials.

The monks have raised several thousand dollars for the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health and the Mustard Seed food bank since the ritual began one historic day in 1993.

Anyone making a donation to the cause can name an accused, the charge, and a time and place where the accused may be found by the court of the Inquisition. If the accused is unable to beat the donation by at least five dollars, he or she is found guilty as charged and ordered to face the ultimate sentence: a pie in the face.

## Island Opera

The Vancouver Islanders who populate UVic Writing professor Jack Hodgins' fiction leapt from page to stage and burst into song this spring with the help of UVic grad Christopher Donison (BMus '76).

Hodgins and Donison collaborated on the opera *Eyes on the Mountain*, based on three of the author's short stories—"Every



Day of his Life," "Mr. Pernouski's Dream," and "Three Women of the Country."

Donison, a composer based in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, was commissioned by the Victoria Conservatory of Music to come up with an original idea for his first opera. He discovered Hodgins stories last year when he saw a newspaper article about the author. He rushed to a bookstore to buy all of Hodgins' books, read them, and then headed straight for the author's office. Hodgins thought the opera was a fabulous idea.

While Donison wrote the music and the libretto for the show, Hodgins was responsible for transforming his stories into stage plays.

"It's saturated with the Zeitgeist of Vancouver Island," says Hodgins of the opera. "We don't know what makes us Vancouver Islanders, but somehow it affects who we are and how we live, no matter where we end up."

## Turpin Takes Helm

A Coast Salish blessing, an oath of office, a symbolic robing, colourful regalia, greetings from more than 30 universities and colleges across Canada—such were the elements of the formal installation of UVic President and Vice-Chancellor David Turpin, prior to fall convocation ceremonies Nov. 25.

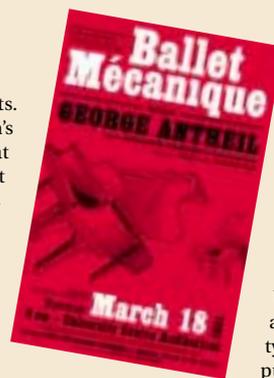
Turpin's oath of office was administered by Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, who would later receive an honorary degree from the university.

Turpin vowed to work with governments to increase funding for universities, enhance the quality of higher education, and improve the success of UVic students in Canada and around the world.

# COMPENDIUM

**HELEN KEMPSTER** (BA '81), the UVic Ceremonies manager who has helped orchestrate convocation ceremonies and special events on campus since 1983, retires in June—but not before an Aussie adventure. Kempster took a six-month job exchange with the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. Taking her place at UVic is **JAMES MOLONEY**. The northern Australian experienced his first ever brush with snow during a rare dusting on campus in February...The **MCPHERSON LIBRARY GALLERY** has issued an invitation to artists wishing to exhibit their work. Send a statement of intent, resume/bio, and photos, slides or colour copies of work to be shown to Caroline Riedel (250) 721-6313 or e-mail [criedel@uvic.ca](mailto:criedel@uvic.ca)...Champion mountain-biker **ALISON SYDOR** (BSc '89) was named People's Choice Canadian female cyclist of the year in ballots cast by visitors to the Web site of Canadian Cyclist Online. And in true sports hero fashion, Sydor is being featured on boxes of breakfast cereal...**KATE BALLEM**, a 21-year-old UVic linguistics student, earned a 2001 Rhodes Scholarship, one

of 11 given to Canadian students. She's planning to study children's language development at Oxford...UVic climate scientist **ANDREW WEAVER** (BSc '83) was awarded UVic's first Canada Research Chair—federal government funding support worth \$200,000 per year and renewable for seven years and the first of 35 CRCs expected for UVic...The Faculty of Education invites nominations for its **DIS-TINGUISHED EDUCATION ALUMNI AWARDS**. Three winners are selected each year. Recipients receive a scroll, their photographs are mounted in the MacLaurin Building, and scholarships in their names are awarded annually to students who have best served the goals of education during the year. Nominations—including a letter and brief profile of the nominee—should be sent prior to August 31 to the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Education...UVic School of Music instructor **BILL**



**LINWOOD** conducted the Canadian premiere of "the world's loudest piece of concert music," written in 1924 by George Antheil and performed at the University Centre March 18. The *Ballet Mécanique* was written for 16 player pianos, two standard pianos, four xylophones, four bass drums, a gong, siren, electric bells and three airplane propellers...A facility containing six greenhouses with computerized climate-control is being built for the **UVIC CENTRE FOR FOREST BIOLOGY**. The 603-square metre "phytotron" will support research in forest regeneration processes when it opens early next year...Computer science profs **ERIC MANNING** and **ALI SHOJA** are collaborating with the Vancouver-based research consortium New Media Innovation Centre ("NewMIC") to find ways to make the Internet perform faster and cheaper to the point where it's capable of delivering digital-quality feature films and video conferencing. ¶

# TO YOUR HEALTH

Proof positive  
of the benefits of going green

BY MARIANNE SCOTT

“GREEN TEA HAS 100 TIMES MORE ANTIOXIDANTS THAN VITAMIN C,” notes biologist Barry Glickman between sips of the cancer-fighting drink, lightly coloured because its leaves have been steamed and dried without fermenting. “This isn’t just New Age stuff. We’ve tested it.”

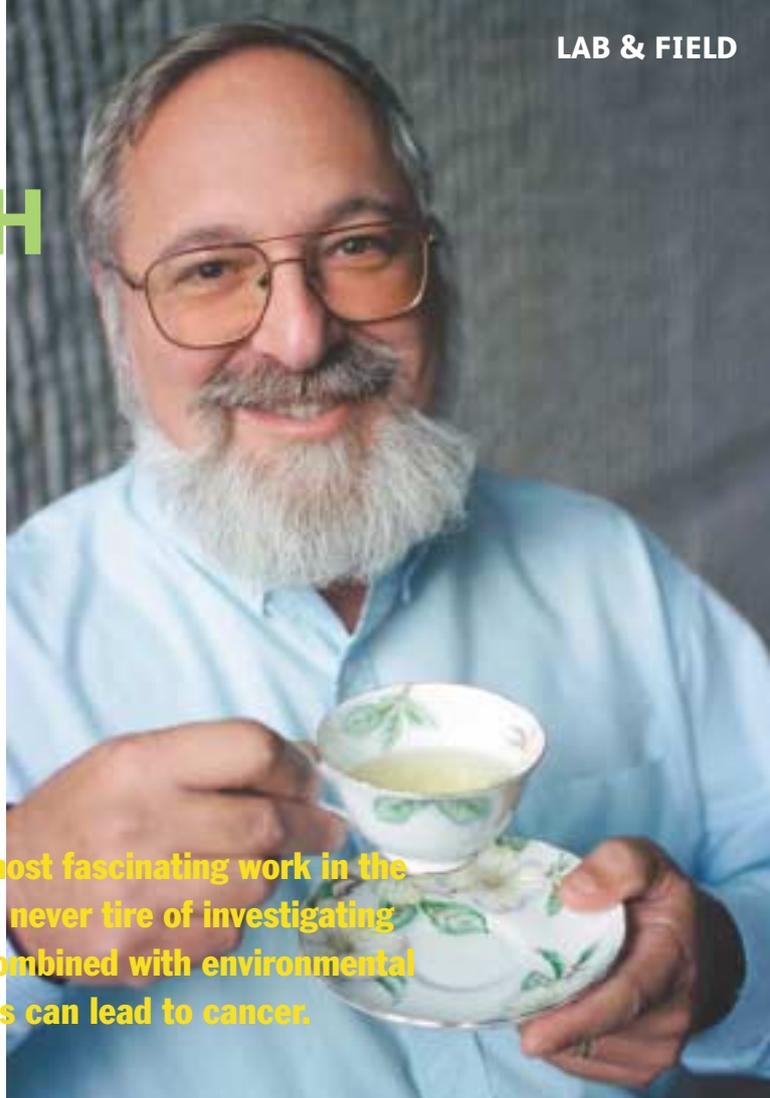
Glickman, director of UVic’s Centre for Environmental Health, and his research team worked with two groups of mice—one drank green tea regularly, the other only water. Both groups were then exposed to benzopyrene, a cancer-causing substance found in charred meat and car exhaust. The tea-drinking mice had significantly lower levels of mutated liver cells than the water-fed mice. “Nobody knows exactly how it works. But we know green tea has antioxidants—a chemical that scavenges mutation-creating free radicals produced by benzopyrene and by the oxygen we breathe. Green tea definitely enhances the immune system.”

Green tea isn’t the only medicinal plant-product to capture Glickman’s interest—the whole field of “green” medicine fascinates him. The CEH is conducting joint research with the University of Guelph to study traditional medicinal plants from Costa Rica, Egypt and India. As herbal extracts are unregulated and even misidentified, the CEH seeks to determine which plants stimulate the immune system. One example is huang qin, a plant long used as an anti-inflammatory agent and thought to have anti-cancer properties. The multi-university team will test huang qin and other plants to determine if the claims of their protective properties are true.

But what stirs Glickman’s soul is discovering how the environment affects human genes.

In an office crammed with binders and books on genetics, molecular biology, mutagens, cancer and radiation, he explains that what makes some people less vulnerable to cancer is their ability to repair their cells. “There’s always damage from the environment—either at the internal, basal cell level, or from the external environment. Lifestyle, work, food, drink, sun exposure, all these affect how cells replicate and mutate. Let’s say we have 100 people over 70 without cancer. It’s likely they have better cell repair capacity than those who end up having cancer. But there’s enormous variation among individuals. Why does one three-pack-a-day smoker live to 94, while others contract lung cancer in their 30s? To me, these are fundamental questions.”

This is the most fascinating work in the world. I will never tire of investigating how genes combined with environmental factors can lead to cancer.



Fighting cancer with “green” medicine: UVic biologist Barry Glickman

Glickman became hooked on genes and how they mutate in his undergraduate days at McGill University. For his masters, he studied the effects of radiation on bread yeast genes at Atomic Energy Canada. Next came a doctorate in molecular genetics from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. All his subsequent research, including the work during his decade at UVic as biology professor and head of the CEH, has focused on human genes—their health and mutations.

Glickman and his colleagues investigate health issues ranging from the effectiveness of sunblock in preventing skin cancer to the impact of radiation on Mir Station cosmonauts who spent three years in space. Studies on biological pesticides, environmental issues around the farming of Atlantic salmon in B.C., natural compounds in food that may cause human cell mutation, cell phone radiation, and a host of DNA-related enquiries round out the research.

Through Glickman’s work, the CEH is also linked to the new Vancouver Island Cancer Centre’s research wing, focusing on breast, prostate and colon cancers.

“This is the most fascinating work in the world,” concludes Glickman as he takes another sip of green tea. “I will never tire of investigating how genes combined with environmental factors can lead to cancer. Our research is devoted to finding clues—like green tea—that minimize the risks.” †

DIANE NETHERCOTT PHOTO

# HAPPY FELLOW

Ben Koop, a specialist in genetic variation, emerges as one of Canada's top young scientists

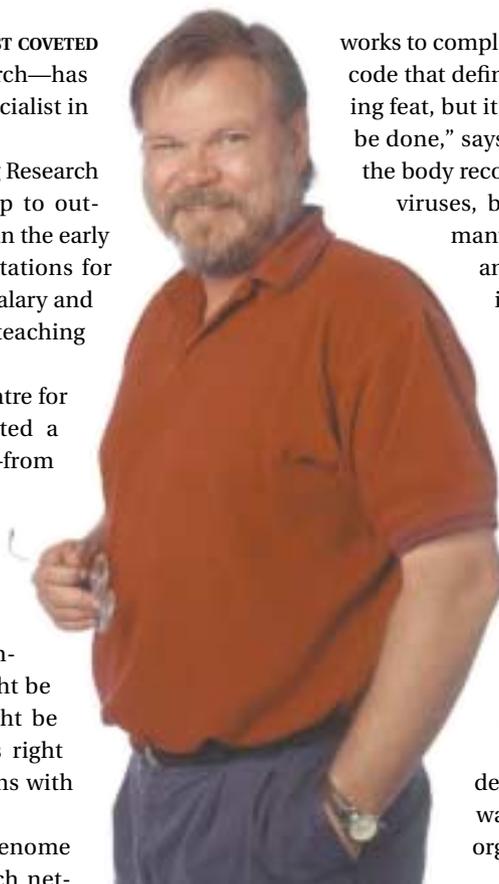
**THE STEACIE FELLOWSHIP**—ONE OF THE MOST COVETED awards in Canadian academic research—has been awarded to Ben Koop, a UVic specialist in the evolution of genes.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council awards the Steacie Fellowship to outstanding scientists and engineers who, in the early stages of their careers, establish reputations for original research. The award provides salary and research funds to free recipients from teaching and administrative duties for two years.

Koop, deputy director of the UVic Centre for Environmental Health, has investigated a wide set of issues relating to genetics—from the genes of the human immune system to the evolution of deep sea snails.

"I'm intrigued by genetic variation. Whether we're talking about people or wildlife populations, there's a tremendous value to variation, and what might be detrimental in one circumstance might be beneficial in another. And it all goes right back to the genes and their interactions with the environment."

Koop participated in the Human Genome Project, one of two worldwide research net-



works to complete a map of the three billion bits of genetic code that define the human organism. "It is a truly amazing feat, but it's a first draft and much work still needs to be done," says Koop, who has identified genes that help the body recognize and destroy foreign invaders such as viruses, bacteria and cancer cells. "There are still many holes in our knowledge of the genome, and it's these holes that are enormously interesting in terms of disease."

With his fellowship, Koop will continue his study of a fragile section of human chromosome linked to various forms of cancer while extending his work on immune system genes even further to include cows, which have similar genetic components to humans. He also plans a major study of the population health of wild and farmed salmon along with wildlife conservation projects, not to mention collaborative studies on genetic diversity in sturgeon and coho salmon.

"The real future in genetics research is to determine how genes interact in thousands of ways in a synergistic manner to create an organ or even thought." †

JO-ANNE RICHARDS PHOTO

# THE RESTORATION OF GRACE

## Youth and Society Research

BY MIGUEL STROTHER

ANYONE DISTURBED BY THE BRUTAL MURDER OF VICTORIA TEENAGER Reena Virk knows that for today's youth the window of childhood innocence is shrinking and the everyday threat of violence seems to be growing.

But how can the trend be reversed? How can some of the lost sweetness of childhood be restored?

UVic psychologist Bonnie Leadbeater and an interdisciplinary team of 27 other investigators have established the Youth and Society Research Group to try to answer those sorts of questions and to examine the factors that promote the well-being of young people.

The group includes faculty members from the School of Child and Youth Care, the Faculty of Education and the Psychology Department and its long-term goal is to create a permanent research centre at UVic focused exclusively on youth issues.

One project currently underway—with funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research—addresses violent injury, a leading cause of death among 12-19 year-olds in Canada and the U.S.

"It's a huge problem," says Leadbeater. "We have a culture that is more nervous about the risks for kids. They have a lot more to deal with today, especially in poorer areas where there is a widespread belief that violence really influences everyday life. There is a real feeling of fear, but somehow in all of that there is still a sweetness to kids' lives and I think there are things we can do to make them more comfortable and safe in their own environments."

UVic researchers along with their graduate and undergraduate students will combine efforts with community outreach groups such as the Rock Solid Foundation and the James Bay Community Centre, for one of the most ambitious co-operative studies of youth-related health issues in Canada.

According to Leadbeater, one of the main problems concerning youth violence in particular has been society's focus on the perpetrator of crimes and the belief that solutions require legal actions and juvenile reforms rather than preventative, public health approaches.

"We're trying to get young people thinking about the context (of their community) and how that context can be changed. The Rock Solid Foundation, for example, just got a small amount of money to fix up an area in Esquimalt that has never been any-



thing more than a drug drop and a garbage dump. Kids are going to clean it up, add murals and a graffiti wall and it's going to be a park where people want to be."

In addition to building long-term relationships with kids in neighbourhood schools and youth programs throughout Victoria, researchers will extend their minds, eyes and arms to corners of the province that many people forget about. Those areas include remote native villages—where cultural displacement leads to extremely high death rates in young men—and inner city neighbourhoods where health problems such as drug abuse, physical abuse, and prostitution arise from economic disparity.

Leadbeater has emerged as one of the world's leading "resilience in youth" researchers. Formerly on faculty at Yale University, she joined UVic's Psychology department three-and-a-half years ago. She has worked with at-risk youth in some of North America's toughest neighbourhoods, including East Harlem and the Bronx in New York City.

"We are dealing with problems that handicap kids before they have a chance to get their feet under themselves. We have to help them do something about it." †

**There is a real feeling of fear, but somehow in all of that there is still a sweetness to kids' lives and I think there are things we can do to make them more comfortable and safe.**



Mystic Vale—with its trail, footbridges and observation platform—was integrated into the UVic campus in 1993. Situated in the south-east corner of campus, the 500-year-old forest bisected by Hobbs Creek forms the 4.4 hectare Mystic Vale ecological protection area.

# ANNA'S YEAR

## NOTES FROM AN UNDERGRAD

In September, Anna Pugh agreed to keep a journal of her final undergraduate year at UVic. Computer frustrations, assignment scrambles, blackberry wine, soccer, loan hassles, eccentric profs, friends, former friends, and The Future—here are the stresses and triumphs of everyday school life, Class of 2001.

**BY ANNA PUGH**

**PHOTOS BY NICOLE ANTHONY**





## September 2000

**I PACK UP MY FAITHFUL MAZDA PICK-UP AND MAKE THE LONG DRIVE** from Whitehorse to UVic. This could be my last 2,000 km commute; I'm headed back for my final year of a BA in English, with a minor in Professional Writing. I started at UVic in the fall of 1994, so it will be good to finally be finished. I'm glad I've taken time in between to work, learn a trade, and be something other than "just a student." But as I start to see an end to student days, I wonder what I'll be doing this time next year. What will my BA lead into?

After two days of hard driving and little sleep, I'm on the ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. I get to my new apartment but Kristi, my roommate, is still in Tofino. I crash at Brian and Cathie's for a few days, until I get keys from my neighbours. Once again, I'm bed-less and sleeping on my Therma-rest. No word from my boyfriend—he has no phone in his cabin near Whitehorse.

Classes look good. I have two non-fiction courses with my favourite prof. One of my other profs, for a class in early English novels, has an eccentric, twitchy way about him—his waving arms and distracted air make the class a lot more interesting and enjoyable! Photojournalism looks fun—we get to use the darkroom. I pick blackberries on the Galloping Goose trail and plan to make wine.

Kristi arrives a week into the semester. We swap summer stories over morning coffee. Heidi comes over from Vancouver and we go sea kayaking to Telegraph Cove. I tore my knee ligaments this summer, so I start physiotherapy. My student loan comes in at less than half of my need-assessment, so I begin revising my resume. I'm disgusted the government tells me to check with my bank if I need more money.

I put in a session at Spinnakers Pub with old soccer friends. My long distance relationship seems non-existent—I have too many questions about things I felt so sure of three weeks ago. I walk in the sunshine and try to concentrate on classes, not my love life.

## October

For the second year in a row I love school, but I still can't shake my procrastination habit. I'm up late, finishing term papers and

scrambling to read *Robinson Crusoe*. My first non-fiction piece is workshopped—the class likes it. Michelle and Moriah come over from Vancouver to visit, then my little sister comes down from Prince George for Thanksgiving—organic turkey, courtesy of my older, gainfully-employed sister. The rare times I talk with my boyfriend, I wish we weren't.

I start bartending at the soccer club I used to play for; tips make great grocery money. Kristi and I start hitting the gym—my knee is getting stronger from the physio and walking the dog every day. I'm eating healthier—mostly vegetarian—and drinking less. October 19, I break up with my boyfriend. My buddy Todd takes me for a consolation lunch and I crawl home at 1 a.m. after countless whiskey sours. I guess I've turned the page.

A head cold and the boyfriend thing puts me behind at school.

**I have no energy and struggle to care about school. What a terrible time to lose motivation. I walk my dog in the rain, enjoy our only snow-day, and try to get my act together. The end is in sight—I just have to keep reminding myself.**

I spend hours developing prints in the dark room, listening to CBC and pondering life in the dim, red light. The computer labs are packed with people right now, due to higher enrollment but no new equipment. Computer frustration gives me more excuses to procrastinate. I

spend Hallowe'en writing a paper, then watch "Rambo" with my friend Matt.

## November

Class presentations and assignments galore. I get a bad mark on a Web site assignment I thought was pretty well done. No time to dwell on it though; I have another, bigger Web site due at the end of the month. I keep thinking about my future after university. Will I get a job? Debts loom and real life seems scary after the insulation of university. Over the summer, I thought about law school or becoming a teacher. The idea of law keeps resurfacing. In between schoolwork in the computer lab, I surf the Internet, looking at law school information. I take action and sign up to write the LSAT in December.

I'm hanging out a lot with Matt. He's a good friend, but other friends, including Kristi, keep asking if it's more. I've decided against attempting another relationship just yet.

Gas prices are shocking, so I'm taking advantage of my U-pass—trying to ride the bus more and drive less. I get a small contract to review a software company's Web site, so I'm skipping school to pay for school. It's the federal election. It doesn't



**I spend a whole weekend catching up on schoolwork. Classes become manageable again, and I start to worry about the present, not next year.**

seem students and other low-income people have much of a voice, but I vote anyway. I feel even less represented when Chretien wins before B.C. and Yukon votes are counted.

My knee is improving, and I get out for a little soccer in the November sunshine. I

rush to finish assignments by semester's end, and I haven't studied at all for my LSAT. In the last week of classes, my favourite prof and I talk about law school. Lynne wants me to take a year before deciding on law versus writing as a career. I respect her advice—it's good to be in a program where professors know you personally and can advise you on your life!

## December

I spend a Friday night at home, studying for my LSAT the next morning. The test isn't too bad, and there's no time to dwell on it before the Great Canadian Beer Festival that afternoon and Kristi's birthday celebration that night. Next morning I drag my aching head to school and e-mail all my final assignments to my profs. I can't believe how early this semester ends. I fly home on a points ticket and finish writing a horrid essay on Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*, while enjoying my mother's tasty cooking.

I go as a chaperone on a winter camping trip with my friend Jeff, an outdoor ed. teacher. It's great being outdoors and working with kids. I also manage to put off seeing Brian, my ex, for a

few more days. Christmas with my mom and sister is great. We go against tradition and have lobster for Christmas dinner.

My friend Sean and I talk a lot about law school. He's considering it too. I still don't know if law is what I want, but it would be a safe bet for future employment, where an English degree is not. My idealistic side hates the idea of treating university as a means to an end, rather than a place for higher learning. I admit, though, I'd enjoy learning law. I get back my LSAT marks, and I do quite well. My high score makes me more confident about pursuing law; I'm looking more seriously at Dalhousie in Halifax.

## January 2001

I ring in the New Year around a bonfire on a frozen lake near Whitehorse. I'm reluctant to leave Whitehorse again, even though it's my last semester. When I fly back to Victoria I'm greeted with smiles and hugs from Kristi and Matt. Instantly, I'm so glad I came back. Having such separate lives in Whitehorse and Victoria always seems so strange.

I start classes eagerly—only four this term—but curb my enthusiasm after back-to-back classes in Jacobean drama and more early English novels. Three hours of monotonous lecturing. One prof mumbles and the other yells in a high-pitched voice. My one writing class, "Writing for Children," looks great, as does my class in advanced Web site development. Two for four isn't bad.

I receive a Millennium scholarship, which helps my money situation. I take back some of my curses against government cuts to education. I'm still forced to take out a line of credit,



town for law, and tries to talk me into staying here. Having a friend at law school would be great—suddenly Halifax seems a long way away. We start meeting on Saturdays for pick-up soccer games and beers at the George & Dragon—spring is here!

though—not something I wanted in my last semester of school. I apply to UVic law school, but wonder about going when I’ll be paying interest on my line of credit the entire time I’m in school.

Matt and I start dating, which is good, but strange. I’m not sure I want a relationship, so we talk about keeping it casual. My Jacobean drama class, in a horrible classroom in MacLaurin, moves to a smaller room, minus the concrete pillars, in Cornett. Once we start into the plays—Marlowe, Jonson—my prof comes alive and is one of the best lecturers I’ve ever had.

## February

Matt and I take the Coho ferry to the Olympic Peninsula for the weekend. Port Townsend is beautiful, but our dating status is tenuous; I don’t really want a boyfriend, and Matt’s been hinting about visiting Whitehorse this summer. I drink lots of coffee, get woken up by rain, and struggle with February blues.

I apply to Dalhousie, and feel better, but then I reinjure my knee and sit on my couch with ice for a couple of days. I stop dating Matt, effectively ending our friendship for the time being. I have no energy and struggle to care about school. What a terrible time to lose motivation. I walk my dog in the rain, enjoy our only snow-day, and try to get my act together. The end is in sight—I just have to keep reminding myself.

My Jacobean drama prof gives us an unexpected pep talk about being sick of school. He says it’s natural to feel tired and unmotivated in the last semester of school. Says it’s healthy. Hearing this from a prof somehow validates my lack of motivation. This, coupled with the increasing sunlight, improves my mood dramatically.

**He’s a good friend, but other friends, including Kristi, keep asking if it’s more. I’ve decided against attempting another relationship just yet.**

## March, and moving on

I’m reunited with some old soccer buddies at the U-20 World Cup games at Centennial Stadium. Chris is moving back to

I spend a whole weekend catching up on schoolwork. Classes become manageable again, and I start to worry about the present, not next year. I meet up with Shel, an old friend, and we share stories over breakfast and lunch. Kristi suffers through two nights of Jane Austen movies with me—novels I haven’t time to read for class.

I expect to be home by Easter, then I find my last exam isn’t till April 26. Kristi and I already gave notice for April 1, so I’ll be couch surfing for the last month of school. I run into Liz in the park, and she kindly offers her apartment for part of April.

The sun keeps shining, but I’m determined to ignore it until the last day of school. I try to focus on my final assignments, but my mind is already skipping a few months ahead. People have started asking that horrible question: “What are you going to do now you’re finished?” All I know is law still really appeals to me, but I won’t know if I’m accepted till June.

In a way, I’m excited to have no purpose or plans, but I’m nervous, too. We move some stuff to Kristi’s parents’ house in Sooke, and they ask when I’ll be moving back. I realize I may never come back, and I’m struck that all these friends, campus life, February cherry blossoms—it might be all over for me. My philosophical side knows that’s just how it goes, but I’m glancing around a little harder now, thinking of all the little things I haven’t done—like eating at Robertshaw Pies on Foul Bay Road or taking the Mill Bay ferry. I think about how reluctant

I was to leave Whitehorse back in January, and now I’m overcome with the same feelings about Victoria and what I’ll miss: my friends from soccer, the rabbits outside Clearihue, Maria, our waitress at the George & Dragon. People ask me what I’m going to do now I’m finished, but all I’m thinking about is what I’ll miss. Victoria has been my second home for seven years now. I’m starting to feel like I’m leaving too soon. †

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Anna Pugh graduates from UVic in June along with more than 2,000 of her fellow students.

# CHALK TALK

Three great teachers talk about life at the head of the class.

**DEDICATION, EXCITEMENT AND A FINE SENSE OF HUMOUR—THEY ARE THE** common qualities that connect the different backgrounds and approaches of this year's recipients of the UVic Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

English instructor Susan H. Elderkin earns student evaluations punctuated with praise. Members of her classes say they emerge with, among other assets, a greater awareness of theoretical and cultural issues.

Reg Mitchell, veteran Chemistry professor, is perhaps better known as Dr. Zonk—his clownish alter-ego who has entertained thousands of school kids with the wonders of science. His teaching philosophy? Make it clear, make it relevant, and make it exciting.

Debby Yaffe of Women's Studies has in some ways set new directions for her department by developing unique courses on lesbian perspectives and Jewish feminist thought. Along the way she's developed an inspiring approach to teaching and research.

We brought the three of them together with Jill Bryant of the UVic Alumni Affairs office to discuss what makes students respond so well to their teaching. Here's what they had to say.

## What is your theory on teaching, and why?

RM—The most important thing is to make it exciting. I feel the textbook is a crutch—something the students can go to for a different explanation. Yes, you want to teach, but also you want to excite them...that's the difficult thing.

SE—I like to ignore the text as well, which when you're teaching literature is a bit of a job. I try to look at the people in front of me and see how different they are from (my other classes) and see what they need me to teach them. Once, I was talking away at the front of the room, and I kept getting these funny looks from everyone in a usually very animated class. And I asked, 'Is this hard for you? You have to tell me when it's too hard, because I don't know.' So I closed my notes, and we just went a different way.

DY—I just go with what excites me. It's all about motivation. As soon as you motivate them, they will do what they need to do. I guess I try to show them how they can find their own enthusiasm.

Top marks: Excellence in Teaching award winners (from left) Susan H. Elderkin, Reg Mitchell and Debby Yaffe.



### How did you develop your approach to teaching?

RM—I'm a showman and I like to make outrageous statements in the course just to see what reaction I get from the class—that's part of exciting them. I think the most important thing is that you find it exciting to teach, to turn people on. A lot of what goes on in our lives every day is some form of chemistry, and I can relate it to something exciting in that sense.

SE—I went to grad school at Queen's, which is a very traditional school, and nobody talked about teaching. I knew I needed to learn it, because it scared me to death. But mostly, I remembered teachers I'd had who'd actually communicated to me, whatever they were teaching. I always have very loud and boisterous classes. They're talking to each other as well as to me.

DY—I'm normally very shy and very introverted, but in the classroom, I love performing. I use a lot of humour, I use a lot of questions, and I just pull it all together and make something of it. I don't think it's so much being a good teacher, it's that being a bad teacher is just so awful to live through.

RM—I remember many of my bad teachers! I still remember my physical chemistry teacher...he was terrible.

DY—I actually feel that I'm not a good teacher...sometimes I feel like, 'why did I say that, and why didn't I say that.' I'm just bumbling through, but at least they're there. At least they're not sitting there with that kind of bored look.

SE—That might be it, because I'm very self-critical too. Until someone comes up and says 'that was so interesting,' you never really know.

### Why do you think you've been so successful as a teacher?

DY—I really don't know. I really cannot fathom why anyone thinks I'm a good teacher except that I think what I do is validate their own confusion. I try to point out that being confused is actually a valid state of mind. Otherwise I have no idea—it must be because I'm funny.

SE—I don't get it. I think I'm an okay teacher, but I don't think I'm doing anything other people don't do. I find the whole thing really difficult to understand. The first time I won an award, I thought it was just because they liked me. I still get terrified before each class, even after 12 years.

RM—One of the first things I do is eat a stick of chalk in the lab...but I tell them really, you need to know what chalk is. This is blackboard chalk, and it's not calcium carbonate, it's plaster of Paris. It hasn't done anything for my indigestion!

### Where do you see teaching headed in the future?

SE—I'm really excited about this on-line course I'm developing...and I've got an idea already for a more advanced course. It's a real interesting possibility, but I wouldn't want to see it replace the classroom teaching. It complements it.

DY—It (technology) is definitely a complement. When you're in the business of arousing their passion, that passion should be shared directly.

RM—It's the difference between a movie and a theatre production. You see something in a movie, and yeah, you can get moved but I find when I'm in a theatre, it's different.

DY—It's the chanciness of it. I think the need for interaction in the university will always be there, and people will always seek the excitement of human interaction, as long as it's fun. †

# TAKING FLIGHT

Coach Lynne Beecroft's teams  
soar beyond expectations

BY BECKY LOCKHART

**HER FRIENDS CALL HER BUZZ. HOWEVER UVIC WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY** coach Lynne Beecroft has more in common with the bumblebee than simply the nickname.

Just as the laws of aerodynamics say the bumblebee shouldn't fly, traditional coaching doctrine suggests that Beecroft's teams shouldn't succeed. She never talks about winning, neither takes statistics nor cares about yesterday's game, and can count on one hand the number of times she's been mad at her players in 17 years of coaching at UVic.

Yet her "kids," as she calls them, have won nine Canadian championships, which makes Beecroft the coach with the most national titles in both Canadian university field hockey and UVic athletics.

Her secret? She has the ability to get her teams to play their best when it matters most. Each year Beecroft comes up with a theme that evolves throughout the season, which she uses to ensure every 'me' on a team, becomes a 'we' just before nationals. "I want my players to have it in their minds that they can soar above and beyond the expectations they have of themselves."

By coming up with a theme and allowing the players to create the meaning behind it and watch it grow, she says, they're given something other than themselves to think about. This year, embracing the fire theme played a big part in the team's success.

Before the nationals, Beecroft had her players follow a path of stones laid out in her home. The underside of each stone was

marked with a word that was special to an individual team member. The path led to a huge paper castle. When the drawbridge came down, out came a giant dragon, symbolizing the internal flame, a fire that can't go out. "The power comes from within," explains Beecroft, adding that the event put everyone on the same path. Her third-ranked team ended up national champions.

Born and raised in Comox, Beecroft played field hockey at UVic from 1975 to 1980 and played on the Canadian national team, which she helped coach this past summer. She says most of her coaching philosophy is a result of lessons she learned as a

**She has the ability to get her teams to play their best when it matters most.**



player who was often hard on herself and afraid of making mistakes. "I played for eight years and got to go to the Olympics, but I think there were probably only three games in which I even came close to reaching my potential."

Coaching to Beecroft is really just an avenue to "plant some seeds" in her players, lessons that reach beyond sport and into life. Central to this approach is her belief that if players can learn to tap into their spirit, anything is possible.

Once they've found their spirit, she says, her kids end up doing remarkable things on the turf because they're able to embrace spontaneity, discard all their doubts and fears, and play from their hearts.

In fact, Beecroft encourages her players to be as creative as possible: "If a coach tries too hard to control the outcome by controlling the athletes, it makes players robotic, which in turn makes teams predictable." In surrendering control, Beecroft believes she enables her players to learn personal responsibility and they come to believe in themselves.

Milena Gaiga, a former player who has known Beecroft for 16 years, says Beecroft sees a player not as an athlete, but as an individual who happens to be an athlete. What Buzz once said about an award nomination captures her coaching philosophy: "To have positively influenced any of the athletes that I coached is truly the only reward that I need." †

BECKY LOCKHART PHOTO

# GRAND SCANDINAVIA



**SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIAN FJORDS, THE SPLENDORS OF ST. PETERSBURG, and fun-filled Copenhagen** are just a few highlights of the UVic Alumni Grand Scandinavia cruise departing next August 18.

The 18-day vacation begins with an overnight stay in Stockholm on board the luxury cruise liner, Marco Polo. Built in the classic tradition of grand ocean liners, with elegant interiors and broad teak decks, the Marco Polo carries just 800 passengers and provides first class entertainment and cuisine.

Sweden's capital has a beautiful setting, built on 14 islands laced by an intricate system of waterways and bridges. In Helsinki the ship docks alongside colourful Market Square with its crafts from villages all over Finland. Two nights in St. Petersburg provide time to explore the opulent Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum (with Catherine the Great's superb art collection) and also visit the Summer Palace on the Gulf of Finland.

In Tallinn, Estonia's splendidly preserved ancient walled capital, medieval spires pierce the sky and narrow cobbled streets twist up to a centuries old castle.

Spend a day cruising the Baltic Sea and savouring shipboard life before calling at Copenhagen. Then cruise on through the

Kattegat & Skagerrak Straits to follow the path of Viking long-boats to spectacular Norwegian fjords. At the Geiranger fjord with its high, misty waterfalls passengers can take a drive to the towering mountain-tops for views of emerald lakes and vast glaciers.

The Marco Polo calls at thousand year-old Bergen, once a key city in the Hanseatic League, and Norway's fjordside capital, Oslo, where highlights are the open-air Norwegian Folk Museum and Maritime Museum displaying Viking burial ships. After calling at Aarhus, Denmark's second largest city, and a gateway to the beautiful lake district, the ship returns to Copenhagen. Passengers now transfer to their hotel with two days to explore Hans Christian Anderson's city before flying home.

The 18-day Grand Scandinavia itinerary starts at \$5,295 and the 11-day itinerary starts at \$3,695 Canadian. Both itineraries include return airfare from Vancouver, two nights hotel in Copenhagen and half-day tours in Copenhagen and Stockholm. The Alumni Travel Program is open to the community and all are welcome to join the escorted trip.

— Edith Knott

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Call University Travel Inc. at (250) 721-4322 for information.

## SMITTEN WITH BRITAIN

**THERE'S NO PLACE QUITE LIKE BRITAIN. IT'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE UVic Alumni Travel Program's 15-day coach tour, "Smitten With Britain," starting Sept. 25.**

The tour heads through medieval Salisbury, ancient Stonehenge, and the Roman town of Bath. Continue through to Fishguard, Wales, and a short ferry trip to the port of Rosslare, Ireland. Visit Waterford Crystal Factory, and don't forget to kiss the Blarney Stone before leaving for beautiful Killarney. The famous Ring of Kerry offers a scenic drive capped with an Irish evening of song and dance. You'll have another day to explore Dublin and see the sights.

Don't miss Caernarfon Castle after a ferry trip back to North Wales. The Lake District is a fine sight on the way to Edinburgh, where you'll visit its famous castle. The original Viking town of York is next, followed by a trip to Coventry Cathedral. Stay overnight in the charming hamlet of Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace, before returning to London and your flight home.

— Jill Bryant

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For information, call Collette Tours at 1-800-209-7114

# GREAT GRADS

The newest additions to UVic's circle of distinguished alumni represent outstanding achievements in athletics, writing, and business and community service.

BY JILL BRYANT

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA Distinguished Alumni Award are a prestigious group—sports psychologist and Olympian Kirsten Barnes, novelist Eden Robinson and business leader Tim Price.

**KIRSTEN BARNES** (BA '93) came to UVic for one reason—the rowing program. But she left with so much more. “I had the luxury of being a student athlete, being at university and being able to row at the same time,” says Barnes. “I remember how accommodated I was by the university, how it supported my dreams of

going to the Olympics. A lot of the athletes I've worked with here in Britain don't have that choice.”

After Barnes completed her human performance studies at UVic, she went on to a PhD in sport psychology at the University of Bristol, England. She won two gold medals at the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, bringing home medals in the fours and eights rowing championships for the Canadian team. She was also voted female athlete of the year three times at UVic and twice among Greater Victoria athletes.



Olympic gold medalist Kirsten Barnes (BA '93)

Now she's on the other side of the competition circuit, leading world-class teams through world-class competition. She was a sports psychologist to the British team at the Sydney Olympics, and helped the Oxford University rowing team to victory in the 2000 Oxford-Cambridge boat race. She's also the sports psychologist to the British squash team and the women's English rugby team.

Barnes was surprised to learn she had been selected for the alumni award. “When I found out, I thought to myself, ‘I'm going to be in the *Torch*.’ It's quite an honour. UVic really means a lot to me, and I have the greatest fondness for my time there.”

When the acclaimed fiction writer **EDEN ROBINSON** (BFA '92) first came to campus to study, her future as a writer seemed a bit bleak.

“I started off quite badly at UVic,” said Robinson, the award-winning author of *Traplines*, a collection of short stories, and *Monkey Beach*, her first novel which was nominated for the Governor General's Award and the Giller Prize. “I flunked a couple of writing courses.”

Robinson was born in Kitimaat, a small northern B.C. village on the Haisla Nation reserve. She had never finished a short story before coming to university. One of her treasured memories of her years here is finishing her first short story in a class. “I had never finished one before, so I was quite thrilled.”

It was the guidance and support of her instructors in the Writing department that made all the difference. “After third year, I really focused down, and decided what I really wanted to do, which was to be a writer. The last two years here were just amazing. I wrote so much, and my professors were just amazingly fun. I could never go back to poli-sci or psych after that, because I never had quite as much fun. It just brought me so much joy.”

The key thing about doing her degree here was that her instructors taught her to not be afraid of experimenting—and that's what keeps it fun.



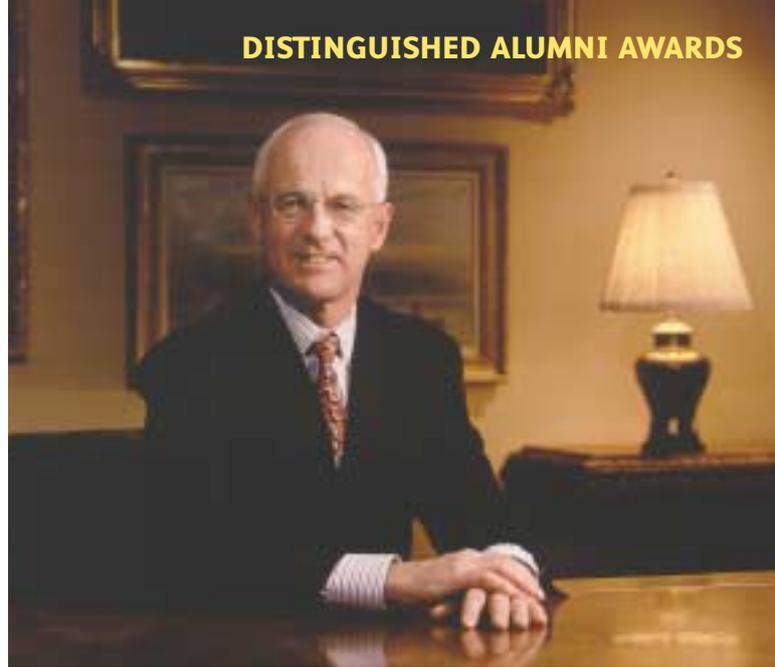
Eden Robinson (BFA '92), writer

**TIM PRICE** (BA '64) was nominated based both on his leadership in business and his service to his community. He's the chair and director of Trilon Financial Corporation, an international financing company. He also serves as director of the boards of Acktion Corporation, Astral Communications Inc., Goldlist Properties Inc., Nexfor Inc., and Dia Met Minerals.

Price's community involvement is also remarkable. He has worked with the Canadian Business and Economic Roundtable on Mental Health as well as serving as director of the Edper Group Foundation, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation and York University's Board of Governors.

Price was in the first graduating class from UVic, and has used his education to his greatest advantage—becoming known internationally as a financial whiz as well as someone with an intense dedication to service.

"Tim's leadership in business and in service to the community is exemplary," says Price's nominator, UVic President David Turpin. "His accomplishments embody the spirit of our university."



Business leader Tim Price (BA '64)

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Kirsten Barnes, Eden Robinson and Tim Price will be recognized at the UVic Alumni Association's annual general meeting and awards ceremony on May 30 at the University Club (formerly the Faculty Club). A one-time scholarship is awarded to a student in an area of study designated by each distinguished alumna/us. Framed portraits of all UVic Distinguished Alumni are displayed in Alumni House. Up to three Distinguished Alumni awards are presented each year to recognize outstanding achievements, present stature and future potential. †



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

## Education

**DR. PHILIP ALLINGHAM** (MA Education '76, MA English '81) and his wife **Andrea** (MA Education Administration '90) have moved to Thunder Bay. After a 30-year B.C. teaching career that included service at secondary and post-secondary levels, and with the Ministry of Education, he joined the faculty of education at Lakehead University on August 1 as assistant professor, English language arts. • **JULIET AUSTIN** (MA Counselling Psychology in Education '93, BA Child Care '89). After living in Texas for three years, Juliet has been building her personal coaching practice in Vancouver for the past two years. She coaches over the phone, specializing in life/career transition, relationships, executive directors of non-profit organizations and mental health professionals wanting to become coaches. <coach@juliettaustin.com>

• **DOROTHY BARTON** (BA Linguistics '99). Dorothy is happy to be operating D's Bed 'n' Breakfast, near Cedar Hill Golf Course in Victoria. She welcomes all involved with the university, past or present. • **SUSAN BOND** (BSc Kinesiology '87) started a personal success coaching business in 2000. "I get to support people on a weekly basis while they create the life they want, increase balance in their life, or find work that is satisfying." Field hockey and PE alum—contact Sue: <suebond@telus.net>

• **JOHN HERRING** (MA Education '73). "After 30 years in the classroom, I developed a hearing problem (tinnitus) that required a career change. I am now self-employed in our small community of Fort Simpson, NT. I am involved in many kinds of activities, most of them in the financial/accounting areas. Sharon and I have been here ever since we left UVic in 1973. We talk of retirement, but as of yet we both seem to find lots to keep us more than busy enough." • **GORDON REDLIN** (BEd '86, MPA '96). "LISA (née Jacobson, BA Psychology '92) and I have been married since 1992. We have two beautiful daughters—Shayla, 7 and Kylie, 4. I've had a wonderful 15 years teaching general science, chemistry and biology and coaching rowing (mostly) at Parkland Secondary School in Sidney. I have recently been appointed

vice-principal at North Saanich Middle School. I hope everyone out there is well and drop a line when you get a chance. Cheers!" <Gord\_Redlin@telus.net> • **CHRIS TULLOCH-WOODS** (MED Curriculum Studies '98). "I moved from Terrace to Invermere with husband **FRED WOODS** (MED '97) where Fred is a high school principal and I teach English part-time. We're kept busy by work and also by juggling the schedules of our three growing boys."

## Engineering

• **YIMIN SHEN** (MSc Computer Science '88). "After graduation, I worked in Victoria for a number of years and moved around the globe. Now I'm settled in Zurich, Switzerland with my wife and three-year-old daughter. Looking forward to seeing good old pals from CS."

## Fine Arts

• **MONIKA DIX** (BA History in Art '88). "I am now doing my PhD in Japanese art history in the department of Asian studies at UBC." • **CYNTHIA MUNN** (née Dojack, BMus Music Education '84) "Hi there! It's been almost 17 years since I left UVic and I think of it often. I've been teaching band and music for almost 17 years now! I am happily married (10 years this July) and we live just outside Saint John, New Brunswick with our three beautiful children. My husband and I are both teachers employed full-time in Saint John and our 'free' time is spent with our adorable kids, travelling, and juggling my private music students and my appointment as second horn with the New Brunswick Symphony Orchestra." • **PAUL FREY** (BFA Writing '96). "I moved to Creston in December 1999 and am now reporting for the *Advance* on news of the community." • **DEBRA KERR** (BFA Creative Writing '91) "After tossing my cap in the air, I worked in marketing and then revenue development/special events in the non-profit sector. Recently, I joined Science World's external relations department. I've lived in Vancouver since 1993, and am engaged to Herman, who got down on bended knee one fall evening in Prague. I wonder

what my former Creative Writing classmates and CWSG executive members are up to? Remember those crazy B-Wing bake sales and the 'Whine & Toast' parties?" <deb\_kerr@mybc.com>

## Human and Social Development

• **DOUGLAS BLACKIE** (BSW '94, MPA '97), **DORI** (BA, '94) and **ALEX** (LLB, 2020) have relocated to Edmonton where Doug is the new coordinator for the health sciences department at the University of Alberta. • **AMY COLLUM** (BA Child and Youth Care '96). "Hello from Nanaimo. I started my UVic journey in 1981. The first three years in the Faculty of Ed. were great and tough! *Les Miserables!* Scales, harmony, conducting...then a slight change of plans—finishing the next year in Early Childhood Education to open my own childcare program here in Nanaimo, Sonshine Christian Preschool. I married in 1985, had three terrific kids to provide the 'real-life practicum experience,' a stint as a single mom, as I completed my BA in Child and Youth Care by distance ed. Remarried, and grandma-by-proxy of eight. UVic provides the means for us all to journey! Thanks, wholeheartedly." • **CHERALYN ORME** (BSW '87). "I have been working in Vancouver's North Shore Neighbourhood House for 10 years. Currently with supported childcare and infant development as well as the school board. Expecting my first child before Christmas. Hoping to finish a diploma in ECCE next year." • **ANN RINEHART** (BA Child and Youth Care '89) moved to Prince Rupert from Nanaimo in 1999 to begin working as a youth probation officer, after completing training at the Justice Institute of B.C. • **NANCY SWETNAM** (BA Sociology '75, BSW '85), her husband Al, and two sons have lived in Phoenix for 18 years. For the past 10 years, Nancy has been employed by the Arizona Supreme Court. • **ADELE TODD** (née Seguin, BA Child and Youth Care '88). "My husband's career in the army keeps us moving around, but we enjoy the thrills of raising our five children. There are days when Profs. Greg Saunders' and Frances Rick's teachings sure apply!" • **WARREN WEIR** (BA Psychology

'86, MPA '91) and his wife (**HELEN**, BA '00) moved to Saskatoon where he is co-ordinator, graduate aboriginal business programs at the University of Saskatchewan. He is also assistant professor in management and marketing of college commerce and was the recipient of the MBA Professor of the Year, 2000. Helen was accepted into the MA of political studies program at U. of Sask. Their daughter is in Pacific and Asian Studies at UVic.

## Humanities

• **DIANE EWEN** (BA English '72, DipEd '73). "From August 1999-April 2000 I was a full-time contract lecturer in English at the College of the Bahamas in Nassau. When I returned to Canada, my husband and I moved to Mississauga and I began work as a tutor at a learning centre. I now teach geography and English with the newly accredited on-line high school (the first in Canada). I'm finding on-line teaching a fascinating and exciting challenge." • **ANIL NARINE** (BA English '00). In the summer of 2000, Anil received a fellowship to study in the department of English, McGill University. He currently serves on the board of the association of graduate students employed at McGill, and he is a member of the English graduate students' association. <anarin1@po-box.mcgill.ca> • **GERALDINE O'SULLIVAN** (BA Liberal Studies '94). "If there is anyone out there that graduated from the liberal studies program at MalU, I would like to hear from you! I am living in Nova Scotia now. I have two wonderful sons and have a home-based consulting business!" <gosullivan@canada.com.> • **LORI RANCHUK** (née Moore, BSc Linguistics '88) is a registered nurse in Ontario, married with three children. • **DR. CAROL WOOTON** (BA '66) has published *Singing-Masters of My Soul*, an anthology of her radio and TV presentations, essays, fiction and memoirs spanning nearly 40 years in the creative life of the Victoria writer, teacher and musician.

## Law

• **TED CHAN** (LLB '95) "I'm contributing to the 'brain-drain' by moving down to Silicon Valley, California to

join an intellectual property firm. I would be happy to connect with anyone else who's making/made a similar move. Best regards." • **PATRICK EWING** (LLB '98, BSc Health Information Science '92) began work as federal/provincial analyst with the B.C. intergovernmental relations secretariat after managing the ministry of health's tobacco enforcement program. Currently serving on the Pacific Northwest district board of Kiwanis as lieutenant governor for Greater Victoria. Wife, **ROXANNE EWING** (née Graham, BEd '97, BA French '98) left the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in October and is now with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. She is in her second term as president of the Kiwanis Club of Sidney and Peninsula.

### Science

**JACK FIRKINS** (BSc Chemistry '65). "I am now product manager for Orenco systems in Sutherlin, Oregon. I am also on the board of directors of the Oregon State seed venture fund, and active helping my graduate school, the California Institute of Technology, recruit top high school graduates for their undergraduate program. **SHARON** (née Smith, at UVic in 1963-64) and I live on the North Umpqua River, and enjoy hiking and golfing." • **BRIAN MONTEITH** (BSc Chemistry '82). "Well, after 15 years of working in the chemical industry, I am now teaching it at SAIT here in Calgary. On the weekends I relieve job stress by teaching skydiving. At SAIT, I share an office with **IAN MACKAY**, another UVic Chemistry grad (BSc, PhD 1987). We do manage to put all that we learned from our chem profs to good use. Also right next door is yet another

UVic grad, **ANDREW JONES**, (Education diploma '92). The three of us are considering getting a UVic flag with a sign, 'University of Victoria, SAIT Campus.' If you are in Calgary, drop in to say hello!" • **SHANE LAVAY** (BSc Biology '89). "I recently moved to Calgary and I'm working as a service technician for Xerox. It's a bit of change from the degree I received at UVic, but it's not a bad job."

### Social Sciences

**EUDORAH BODO** (BA Geography '69). "I married Dr. M.A. Oluoch in 1983. He runs his own private clinic in Siaya, a small town in Western Kenya. Together we run a farm of dairy animals, poultry and some horticulture, and own a shop in Siaya." • **CAMERON BURROWS** (BA Economics '92) is the new owner/manager of DBS Executive Suites in North Vancouver. "We provide executive packaged office suites and corporate identity for small businesses. In addition, I'll be completing my CGA accounting designation in December, and plan to operate a public accounting practice from my new office." • **KERRY COLLINS** (BSc Geography '94). "Hi everyone, I am managing a Canadian Tire store in Calgary and have spent most of my years after graduating in the retail trade. However, I am moving to Mexico next month to teach English. So, hola." • **DR. BARBARA FALK** (BA Political Science '84) completed her masters in political science in '86 and then her PhD in political science in '99 at York University. She was appointed professor, policies at Humber College. "I had the pleasure of returning to UVic in the summer of 2000 to teach

European politics and will hopefully be returning again this summer to teach Canadian politics." • **PETER HEPBURN** (BA Political Science '92). "Following graduation from McGill University with top standing in the MLIS program, I have begun a two-year residency program as a librarian at the University of Illinois at Chicago." • **DAVID ILYN** (BA Political Science '87). "I am considering putting together a Lansdowne Res Reunion for all those that lived in Lansdowne in 1981-82. I'm especially looking for any Trutchies." <dave@thebuccanéeirinn.com> • **LISA POLINSKY** (BA Psychology '88) utilized the excellent psychology training she received at UVic as a foundation for a further career pursuit. Following her interest in herbs, nutrition and homeopathy she completed a four-year doctorate medical degree at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon. She has a private practice in the Portland area and is excited to be sharing the wisdom of these treatments with her patients. "It has been a long and winding road...but what a trip!" • **BRENDAN READ** (BA Political Science '84). "I stay in touch with Victoria and B.C. as part of my work, even though I've lived in New York City since 1990 (except for 18 months in the U.K., San Francisco and Seattle). I cover site selection for *Call Center Magazine*, and I frequently write about Canadian locations for telephone/Internet customer service and sales centers. I've divorced and remarried. My new wife, Christine, loves the city and the environs. We spent part of our honeymoon in Victoria in 1998." • **BASIL SHAW** (BA Economics '73). "I have been living in Norway for the past 25 years. I am working as an environ-

mental therapist in a psychiatric clinic for adolescents. In Scandinavia my profession is known as a 'Miljø Therapist,' a combination psychiatric nurse and social worker helping to treat youth with mental disorders. Greetings to any old timers (rugby)." • **SIOBHAN SMITH** (BA Political Science '98). "After spending last year in Africa, I am currently working as a programme specialist with the UN Development Programme in Kosovo. I am working on programmes related to economic development, community rehabilitation, rural employment schemes and co-ordination of development activities in Kosovo. I am based out of Prishtina and would love to hear from former science students and staff (1994-98). Almost finished the MA, just the defence left to go when I return to Canada!" • **LIA VERSAEVEL** (BA Sociology '76, DPSPM '80). "Since graduating from UVic, I have worked either full-time or part-time in the attorney general's ministry, currently as an accredited mediator in the family justice division. 2001 will mark 25 years since graduation and I'm hoping for a class reunion!"

### Victoria College

**JAN BEVAN** (VC '60s, BA English '89, Dipl. in Applied Linguistics '89) and her husband are proud subsistence farmers on Hornby Island. Besides raising much of their own food, they provide organic non-GMO seeds to Salt Spring Seeds. In the summer, Jan and her adult daughter operate Elderfield Old-Time Farm, an open-air living history museum. Jan is also very involved in community and ecological causes, and in nature study.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE & YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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# GETTING TECHNICAL

A few co-op work terms can teach you a lot about yourself—and it isn't always pretty. But the experience can also reveal surprising new opportunities, as **Jill Thompson** (BA '00) discovered.

AS A CHILD, I LOVED WRITING STORIES. EARLY ON, I'D WEAVE RIDICULOUS plots and wrap them up with a tidy "it was all a dream" ending. I remember reading the comment my grade seven teacher wrote on one of my stories: "You should be a writer!" For some reason, I took his comment to heart, but being the sort to convert dreamy ambitions into practical career options, I translated "writer" into "journalist."

This stuck with me through high school and into university, where I began taking journalism courses in UVic's Writing program. I was incensed by Chomsky's consent, confused by McLuhan's messages, and convinced I'd be the next Woodward (or Bernstein). So how did I, an aspiring journalist, become a stranger in the strange world of high-technology?

After my second year of university, I embarked on my first work term through the Arts & Writing Co-op. I struck out for Smithers for a stint as a reporter at the local weekly paper armed with my camera and a notepad and whatever clothing and stereo equipment I could fit into the back of my 1972 VW Beetle. I'd never been to northern B.C. and had little clue about what the people, or my job, would be like.

Living on my own, really for the first time, and exploring the beautiful terrain of the area taught me a lot about being independent, about entertaining myself, and, at times, about loneliness. Once I found my social niche, I also learned that really wonderful friendships can happen with people who've had experiences totally different from one's own.

But for the first time I got a bitter taste of what being a journalist is really like—long hours and plenty of unpaid overtime, tedious city council meetings, the frustration of leads that go nowhere because people won't talk. And after four months I started coming to grips with the fact that I would probably never get over the anxiety of having to phone complete strangers and grill them for information.

My work term the following summer, at the BC Hydro community relations office in Castlegar, had its low points as well, but I enjoyed meeting members of fish and wildlife groups, working

on projects such as newsletters and annual reports, and doing research for local residents and my colleagues. I began to realize that the job I wanted was one where I could work with people rather than against them to share information, resolve issues, complete projects, and teach others.

So for my third and fourth work terms, I ventured into the mysterious world of high-technology. I'd heard of "technical writing," but really had no idea what it entailed. I pictured myself writing instruction manuals for VCRs.

Turns out there's a growing demand for technical writers in the high-tech industry. Companies realize the value in good documentation for product installers and trouble-shooters as well as the customers who buy and use their products. To create such information, companies need people with strong communication skills and the ability to distill technical details so that those of us without engineering degrees can understand it.

That's where the tech writer comes in. Whether it's working with other technical writers to set standards for our writing, meeting with computer scientists and engineers to gather and organize information about a product, or helping new writers get started, there's always a collaborative aspect to the job, an open sharing of information and ideas. In this position, I've been able to draw on my abilities—writing, communication, and working with others—to produce support documents.

Through UVic Co-op, I was given the chance to strip away my preconceptions about journalism and find out what it really takes to be a journalist. I experienced new career paths I'd never considered before. And I learned a lot about myself, not only about my weaknesses, but also my strengths.

I'm probably one of the lucky ones who's figured out early on what type of work I enjoy. I think that, at least for now, I've found my niche as a writer in the high-tech industry. And this time it's not "just a dream." †

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Jill Thompson is employed by Burnaby-based CreoScitex, a provider of digital technology for the graphic arts industry.