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On the cover:
Love broke out when photographer Vince Klassen asked the grandchildren of GLORIA FRANK (BA ’97), the subject of this issue’s cover story, to “get grandma.”

This page, from top:
Clown Dorid Nudibranch, by Mike Wetklo; Gloria Frank, by Vince Klassen; Chinese dragon boat detail
In 1854, Chief Seattle said that “there is no death, only a change of worlds.” If you believe those words to be true then imagine how many worlds must exist on the lands now occupied by the university campus. In this place—in the heart of Coast Salish territory—how many memories and how many generations echo in the plants and soil? How many spirits come from across the water, with the wind?

It is often easy to overlook the traditions of those who were here before. Maybe that’s partly because the standard university structure of learning is so much different from the way knowledge is traditionally passed along in aboriginal cultures. The post-secondary structure encourages open debate and critical thinking. But many aboriginal students, particularly those from traditional backgrounds, are raised to listen rather than question. To challenge the word of others, especially elders, is disrespectful. This is the sort of cultural issue that—along with the challenges that face all university students—many aboriginal students encounter.

Only two decades ago, the university’s aboriginal students were an extreme minority—less than a dozen. The city and the school were sometimes perceived to be too English, an unwelcome environment to students who often came from remote communities.

Things are evolving though, and now 250 aboriginal students study at UVic. They are still a small minority. Yet the fact they have made it is a credit to their strength and ability to beat the odds, considering that in Canada, the drop-out rate among aboriginal students from kindergarten to Grade 12 is between 60 and 70 per cent. Tragic, but better than the 95 per cent drop-out rate common from 1950-80.

Aboriginal students at UVic are supported by a contingent of aboriginal advisors, counsellors, staff, faculty and specialized programs of study. As well, the university has made it a priority to increase aboriginal enrollment while diversifying curricula and teaching methods to accommodate aboriginal traditions and values. Planning is also under way to build a First Nations House for learning, solitude and healing.

This issue’s cover feature is about a form of healing. I first heard about Gloria Frank when a research paper of hers captured my attention. But by the time I caught up to her, she had moved on to something much deeper and more important. At the core, her story is about perseverance and will. It is about the triumph and empowerment that an educational experience can spark. Like a vision in a dream later emerging in reality, it can cause a person to be transformed. Perceptions change, self-awareness changes, and the past and present become connected in bright new ways.

The days of the season are getting colder now, the nights longer and we are near the time of the Winter Dance—the private, almost secretive ritual gatherings staged by the Coast Salish (and other tribal groups) to celebrate the time of year when supernatural ancestral energy returns from the mountains. At the ceremonies, when young people are gathered, the speaker might rise in the Big House to say in the Halkomelem language “Quam Quinn Tun Shqwalauhn”—make your mind strong.

And he might remind them to gather the best from both worlds—the one of their ancestry and the one offered by the university. It is a place where they—we—are not alone. It’s a place that, in the words of Chief Seattle, does “throng with returning hosts that once filled and still love this beautiful land.”

In April, everyone involved in producing the Torch was honored to receive from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education a silver medal for the best magazine among the smaller budget publications of the country’s universities. We are grateful for the award and delighted by the judges’ decision as we continue to strive for a magazine that uniquely reflects the quality of the university and its alumni.

e-mail: mmcneney@uvic.ca
**Who was on first?**

Re: “Former CFUV Host Leads Hong Kong Alums” (Torch, Spring 2002). Your reference to Alan Cheung as the one who started Victoria’s first Chinese language radio association is an erroneous one. In fact, I had started the “Voice of the Dragon” in 1985-86 at CFUV, as the president of the Chinese Students’ Association. That same year we were awarded the student union’s “Most Co-Operative Club of the Year” award for our efforts. At that time, names like “Ching Ching” (Fancy Ching [BA ’86], and now my wife), Alan, Lily, “Little Tiger” were almost household names within the Chinese community. As the “Voices of the Dragon,” they entertained, informed and instructed. I was and still am very proud of the contributions they all made to CFUV, to the student body at the time and to the Chinese community. I was therefore disturbed to read the reference to Alan Cheung as the pioneer of such a radio format. It was as if all the hard work put in by the team at that time had not existed. Just thought I should set the record straight.

**David Wong (BSc ’86)**

**Victoria**

**Dealing with Terrorists**

Catherine Morris rejects the “power-based” approaches to conflict resolution (“Getting Past Culture Clash,” Torch, Spring 2002). However she leaves unclear how (and even whether) the “interest-based” and “transformative” approaches could resolve conflicts about to erupt into violence or already violent. Being unclear, Morris leaves the reader still wondering if she is or is not “suggesting we negotiate with terrorists.” It is true that “we live in a world in which no one truth is accepted as a universally legitimate moral foundation for law or public policy.” But does this obligate countries targeted by terrorist groups to concede the merits and justifications of the terrorists’ causes? If so, the “root causes” of terrorist grievances become root justifications for terrorism.

**D.I. Solomon**

**Victoria**

**Then and Now**

Congratulations on the recent issue of the Torch (“Expressions of Community,” Spring 2002). It was bright, glossy and interesting. Equally, I was delighted to find so much about the relationship between the wider community and the university. The first issue of the Torch (left) came out in the fall of 1981 and I was the alumni co-ordinator and the publisher. Brian Tobin (not the fishy one), a former editor of the Times of Victoria, became its editor. I christened it the Torch and received the blessing of then-president Howard Petch to go ahead with its publication, albeit with a limited budget. In order to produce the paper we needed to resort to advertising and we had plenty of assistance from the community. There were many articles in that first effort. Robin Skelton, head of Creative Writing, Derrick Sewell, chair of Geography, Harold Foster (Geography), Cleeve Dheensaw, now a sports writer for the Times Colonist, and Petch were all contributors. It was only black and white, but it was a great thrill to see it come off the presses.

**Sonia Birch-Jones**

**Qualicum Beach**

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**LETTERS POLICY**

Feel like commenting on something you’ve read in the Torch? Put pen to paper or fingertips to keyboard and send a letter. All mail—whether critical or complimentary—is always welcomed. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

**E-MAIL:** torch@uvic.ca

**POST:** UVic Torch Alumni Magazine, P.O. Box 1700 Stn CSC, Victoria BC, V8W 2Y2

**FAX:** (250) 721-8955

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**ELECTIONS**

The University of Victoria is conducting elections for its Chancellor and for the Convocation Senators. If you are a UVic Alumnus or Alumna, Board of Governors or Senate member (past and present), full-time faculty (including retired faculty), full-time staff with a degree or have completed one full year at Victoria College prior to 1963 you are entitled to vote in these elections. The elections run until Friday, November 29, 2002.

Vote online at [http://webvote.uvic.ca](http://webvote.uvic.ca) or by mail. You may request a ballot by telephone 250-721-8101 or fax 250-721-6223.

Paper ballots must be received by the elections office by Friday, November 29, 2002.
There were no stone tablets and there was no mountain to descend, but the author and journalist Peter C. Newman brought 10 commandments for new graduates after he received his honorary Doctor of Laws degree during Spring Convocation. Here is a portion of his address:

“If I could give you two quick words of advice before you go out into the cold cruel world, those two words would be: don’t go! But go you must, so please follow the advice of a Nova Scotia politician I once heard say: ‘It’s time to grab the bull by the tail and look the situation straight in the face.’ That’s what you gotta do, and because I don’t want you to go into the cold cruel world unarmed, I want to offer you 10 commandments to light your way.

The sad fact is that your professors have spent the past four years or more preparing you for a world that doesn’t exist. You have been coddled in a forgiving environment, qualitatively different from the turbulent market-place where you will now have to earn a living.

All that you celebrate today is the end of your apprenticeship. In truth, you stand on the threshold of your real education. And yet, believe me, you will look back at these halls of learning with nostalgia, and even love. You’ve been lucky. Very lucky. So repay your good fortune by never abandoning your idealism.

Which brings me to my next commandment: Always remain open to new experience. You may discover that the middle class life and values (for which you now presumably qualify) are less, much less than you bargained for. Don’t allow yourselves to be tamed or housebroken. Be true to the values of your own generation—not those of your elders.

The seventh commandment is a natural sequel to that thought: Don’t trade off your energy, your imagination, your vitality too cheaply. You and you alone are the future. We have no choice. Utilize that leverage. Don’t let us exploit you. Don’t sell out. (But if you have to, don’t go too cheap.)

That leads me to the eighth commandment: Always fight the status quo. Never join it. I haven’t. Reject the assumption that more is better, the efficiency and material gain are the ultimate goals of human activity. They’re not. Having fun is; by that I mean enjoying what you do and how you live.

Your education, which you crammed so hard to achieve, will turn out to be worthwhile. But always remember this: Your education may or may not provide you with a higher standard of living. But it will provide you with a higher standard of life.

My 10th and last commandment: Get excited about being Canadian. This Canada of ours is not some vague, valedictorian’s dream. Go out and touch the earth. Get to know this country, feel its contours, wade across its streams, climb its mountains, sail its waters, savour its forests (if you can find one). Work to enhance the qualities of life that make this blessed land of ours unique and precious. Never ever take being Canadian for granted.

One last thought. If you don’t feel equipped to comfort the afflicted, go out there and afflict the comfortable. I wish you luck. I wish you fun. Thanks for listening (and don’t forget to floss).”
IT’S A GAS

These are the world’s first high quality images of ocean floor methane gas hydrates, explored this summer off the west coast of Vancouver Island by researchers led by UVic geophysicist Ross Chapman using the ROPOS robotic submersible.

The icy substance—located 850 metres below the surface, spread across three or four square kilometres, and created under extreme pressure and sub-zero temperatures—would catch fire if brought to the surface and ignited. It would also smell pretty bad, like rotten eggs.

A relatively new area of ocean science, the fundamental study of methane gas hydrates has two significant implications: it’s a potentially vast hydrocarbon energy source (though the extraction technology is decades away), and it may contribute to global climate change (methane is 21 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide). Image 1: A hydrate glacier. Image 2: A solid hydrate cap or “pingo” the size of a small car. Image 3: Methane hydrate fragments and oil are released by the submersible’s drill.

THE ULTIMATE GAME

“A lot of the fun is about the people who play—we’re all pretty laid-back. It’s always a good time. We play in rain, hail, even snow,” says Cyrille Medard de Chardon, explaining why he’s one of 450 students hooked on the game of ultimate.

In ultimate, two teams of seven trade field position by passing the Frisbee from player to player. The disc-holder can’t take any steps and goals are scored when a player passes to a team-mate in the opponent’s end zone. That’s Mike Zbarsky in the photo, about to make a diving catch while Aislinn Wiley watches.
Mike Wetklo never gave much thought to underwater photography. Then, after graduating with his biology degree in 1994, he took up scuba diving and started bringing along an old underwater camera as he explored the ocean waters of Vancouver Island. These days he rarely dives without his Nikonos II, using macrophotography to capture the region’s marine life in brilliant detail. Clockwise spiral from top: Red Irish Lord; Alabaster Nudibranchs; "The Swan" White-Spotted Anemone Tentacles; Brooding Anemones with Purple Ring Topsnail; Sculpin On Soft Coral Aggregate Green Anemone. More images: mwetklo.com.
FINNERTY FRAMES

The beauty of Finnerty Gardens has been captured in an elegant fundraising calendar for 2003, the first of its kind. Photography—including the image here—was donated by Daphne Donaldson (MA ’98). UVic staff member and volunteer with the Finnerty Garden Friends. Net proceeds from calendar sales will support additions and improvements to the campus gardens and its spectacular collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, companion plants, ponds and walking paths. Get the calendar at the UVic Bookstore (web.uvic.ca/bookstore) or at several Victoria retailers including Munro’s Books and Chapters.

TWO VIE FOR CHANCELLOR

Two candidates—Victoria lawyer and philanthropist Ron Lou-Poy and Theatre Professor Emeritus Juliana Saxton—have been nominated to succeed Norma Mckelson as the university’s ninth chancellor. There are also five candidates running for four seats on UVic Senate—Cheryl Borris (BMus ’69, MA ’92), Mark Bridge (LLB ’86), Pamela Grant (BA ’97), Kim McGowan (BA ’70, MPA ’80) and Vivian Muir (LLB ’96).

All members of convocation are eligible to vote—alumni, full-time and retired faculty, full-time university staff with degrees, past and present senate and board of governors members, and former Victoria College students who completed a full year of study before 1963.

Biographies for each of the candidates, and ballots, are included in the 2002 Convocation Elections guide sent with the Torch to eligible voters. A nine-digit convocation roll number appears on voters’ mailing labels and is required to verify eligibility—either when using the paper ballot or when voting on the Web at webvote.uvic.ca.

VOTES MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 29.

COMPENDIUM

Former Chancellor WILLIAM GIBSON (VC ’31), considered one of the country’s leading academic physicians, has been named to the Order of Canada…ANDREW PETTER (LLB ’81) is the new Dean of the Faculty of Law, the school’s first alumnus named to the post. Petter served as a Member of Legislative Assembly from 1991 to 2001 and held a number of cabinet posts, including attorney-general…FAYE WIGHTMAN, currently President of the BC Children’s Hospital Foundation will become the university’s new vice-president of external relations beginning July 15, 2003. Craig Pinder, a professor in the Faculty of Business, is the interim vice-president…Former head of external relations, JIM GRIF-FITH, was named an Honorary Alumnus by the alumni association…The Michael Smith Foundation is providing $20,000 per year for two years (renewable for a third year) to support the research of five graduate students—PATRICIA EBER (PhD, Psychology), CAROLYN GREEN (PhD, Health Information Science), WENDY HOGlund (PhD, Psychology), JOSEPHINE MACINTOSH (PhD, Social Sciences), MARY WAGNER (PhD, Biochemistry and Microbiology)…The UVic WOMEN’S CONFERENCE is entering its seventh year and participants are welcome for the February 19, 2003 event. The theme is: Celebrating UVic Women: Past, present and future. All members of the university community are invited—students, faculty, staff and alumni. Contact: Diana Nicholson (250) 472-4131…Anthropologist and cultural analyst MICHAEL ASCH and versatile author W.D. VALGARDSON (photo below) have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada for their respective career accomplishments. They are among 36 current and former faculty members who are fellows of the society. The induction ceremony is on November 22 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa…Education grads—Kelowna high school science teacher BRAD TALBOT (Med ’83) and Langford Alternative Education Program teacher LEE CURTIS (Med ’93)—have received the Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence…CONRAD BRUNK is the new director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, taking over from the retiring HAROLD COWARD. Brunk is a bioethicist with interests in religious values and technology, environmental ethics, and conflict resolution…Law Professor JAMIE CASSELS, currently serving as Academic Vice-President and Provost, has been named a 3M Teaching Fellow for educational leadership and his commitment to improving university teaching across disciplines…VIJAY BHARGAVA, a leading researcher in wireless communications in the Faculty of Engineering, won the 2002 Graduate Teaching Award from the IEEE, a worldwide organization representing electrical and electronic engineers…KAREN BHANGOO (BA ’98, MA ’01) won an inaugural J. Armand Bombardier Internationalist Fellowship of $10,000. She is studying for her PhD in conflict analysis and resolution at George Mason University in the U.S. ADRIENNE KISH (BSc ’01) also won the fellowship, assisting her pursuit of a master’s in science from the International Space University in France…KAREN SOLIE, an acclaimed poet and English PhD candidate, was short listed for the $40,000 Griffin Poetry Prize for her first collection of verse, Short Haul Engine…The BAMFIELD MARINE SCIENCES CENTRE—UVic is a member organization—received a $900,000 donation from Don Rix, chair of Burnaby-based MDS Metro Labs. The gift will fund a new lecture theatre, labs, and meeting space.
Norma Mickelson found better methods to teach kids to read and helped change the way the university treats women. Near the end of her chancellorship, reflections on an educated life.

BY MARIANNE SCOTT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROB KRUYT

When Norma Mickelson completes her second and final term as university chancellor at the end of 2002 she will have given the ceremonial tap on the shoulder to more than 20,000 UVic graduates. For her, the convocation ceremony is the best part of the chancellor's job. "Graduations are happy times," says Mickelson. "Students have such a sense of accomplishment. I always attend the receptions afterwards and have witnessed so many poignant moments. I met a couple who'd flown from Singapore to attend their daughter's graduation, the first family member to complete university. Tears flowed as they expressed their pride."

UVic's eighth chancellor—first elected in 1996—has spent nearly half of her life in association with the university. Born in Victoria, Mickelson learned the value of education at home. "During the Depression, my dad was unemployed for seven years. I decided to quit school to help earn income. But my dad was adamant. 'I don't care if we starve first,' he told me. 'You're finishing your education.'"

That edict shaped Mickelson's life. After attending Victoria College, she taught elementary school from 1945–66. In the early 1960s, she finished her BEd at UBC before receiving her master's from UVic and her doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Washington.

She specialized in reading and language acquisition, subjects that still stir her passion. "I've always focused on how children learn to read, on how kids use language to express themselves and determine who they are, and on finding ways of helping those with reading difficulties." Mickelson fought hard to change teaching techniques that labeled, discouraged and demeaned children. She became a reading expert who published more than 140 scholarly articles and a book, gave countless workshops and conference presentations in North America, Australia, Europe and Asia, and prepared a series of popular video courses. All her work focused on providing teachers with the tools to teach reading in an encouraging and supportive manner.

A trailblazer, Mickelson achieved a series of firsts: she was the first female academic dean (Faculty of Education) at a major Canadian university and the first woman president of the UVic Faculty Association. She became the university's first advisor on equity issues. And she's UVic's first female chancellor—the titular head of the university who confers degrees, chairs convocation, and is a member of senate and the board of governors.

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plished women helped me raise consciousness about these issues. We also insisted women should be asked the same questions as men during interviews. And we pointed out that the résumés of women scholars might have gaps not because they lost interest, but because they took time to raise children.” Mickelson left her academic work for most of six years when her own son and daughter were small. She was able to return to full-time teaching only because her husband Harvey shared child-raising duties and the children’s grandmothers pitched in regularly.

The equity work was the most challenging of her career, and it brought rewards. “We changed many practices women now take for granted,” she says. “If some women today believe we no longer need to worry much about women’s rights, it’s because we fought for them.”

Social Work Professor Barbara Whittington, who was in the equity trenches with Mickelson, says the university may never know the complete impact the chancellor has had behind the scenes. “Norma saved people’s careers. She righted wrongs. She did it in confidence, quietly. She’s been the first to do many things at UVic, but she made sure she wasn’t the last.”

Those equity battles led to one of many honours bestowed on her. In 1991, she received the first Sarah Shorten Award, recognizing her commitment to the advancement of women in Canadian universities. She was a given the Victoria Women of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998. She’s a recipient of both the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia. And the alumni association named her one of UVic’s Distinguished Alumni.

“I’ve seen the university grow from a college without a campus into a world-class university,” Mickelson says. “But it’s remained a manageable size, a personal place, a great place for students. My years here gave me a chance to serve students—to serve education. I could not have had a better opportunity.”

Marianne Scott is a Victoria writer and regular Torch contributor.
NEW WARRIORS

In his forthcoming book, excerpted here, Taiaiake Alfred presents interviews with 13 people—young, old, white, native—from across North America who talk about their personal reasons for being involved in what he terms the “new warriorism” of resistance within native communities to colonialism. “I believe there is no one, right way to the future—only good questions and honest answers,” says Alfred, who holds the university’s Canada Research Chair in Studies of Indigenous People. He was born in the territory of the Mohawk Nation, raised in Kahnawà:ke, and as a young man served in the US Marine Corps. He holds a doctorate in comparative government and political thought from Cornell University.

BY TAIAIAKE ALFRED
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROB KRUYT

There is a new warriorism emerging out of our surrender to colonial culture. The new warriorism is a movement to regenerate culture and reconnect the people back to their sources of strength. It is the practice of freedom.

These warriors live by the credo: when lies rule, a warrior creates new truths for the people to believe. They understand that colonialism is not an historical era, nor is it a theory, or merely a political and economic relationship. It is a total state of existence; a social and psychological state of domination-submission that has come to form the very foundation of our individual and collective lives. “Colonialism,” “modernity” and “globalization” are all tag words for the facets of the same vast unnatural and exploiting imperial reality that has been imposed on the world. They are the lie that must be confronted if we are to have any hope of living free and authentic lives.

We are all part of the problem, and we are all a part of the solution. And we can only ever be free of the legacy of colonialism if we all—Indigenous peoples and settlers—make a commitment to confront the injustice in a deep, personal sense. In this, we all have a role in transforming ourselves and transforming our society. But it is young, white Canadians who carry the heaviest burden of change. They are the ones who must not only confront the racist attitudes and assumptions that are their cultural heritage, they are the people who will change the pattern of their existence and construct a relationship with Indigenous peoples based on respect, or they will pay the heavy price of colonial dominion in an era of resurgent Indigenous pride and strength. As the ones who will, along with their Indigenous peers, live the future, their thoughts, hopes and fears are much more important than any politician’s.

Here is the voice of one such young warrior of the truth. Gabriel Haythornthwaite is a master’s student in the Indigenous Governance program and past-president of the University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society.

TAIAIAKE ALFRED: So, as a “realistic radical,” what are you doing about the Indigenous struggle?

GABRIEL HAYTHORNTHWAITE: I’m most sure about what I should not be doing. From my own experience in conventional protest politics, the “activist left” holds no possibility of building the necessary link or the broad cultural base for struggle through local politics or community organization. People in the activist left aren’t willing to do that, mainly because it’s not glamorous—no going to protests and no getting arrested all the time.

TA: No groupies.

GH: Yeah, it’s not sexy. You’re not likely to be anyone’s guru when you have “a rather measured point of view.” Instead of romantic idealism, I’ve been thinking about how my own work and my schooling can help me link to and begin to do this type of on-
Gabriel Haythornthwaite and Taiaiake Alfred at Mount Tolmie Park.
the-ground community work. Not to build a movement myself, but to facilitate and help communities to move toward building the cultural base of a movement. Without that essential foundation, you can have any kind of politics you want, but there won’t be any real meaning in it.

**TA:** That’s some serious dedication on your part. What made you want to do this kind of work?

**GH:** That’s a good question, because when I was a kid, and even when I was starting university, my consciousness about Indigenous peoples, even in the Americas, was very low. It was sort of like I knew that, “Native peoples had been hard done by,” and I wished that things could have been done different, but something was always a bigger priority. Because of my family background, I was always committed to anti-imperialist struggles; but it was always an anti-imperialist struggle somewhere else. I looked to Indigenous struggles in Latin America—although I never saw them as “Indigenous”—and in Palestine and in Africa. I saw them as anti-imperialist, but I never saw that they were rooted in Indigenous communities and culture and history.

**TA:** What opened your eyes?

**GH:** It started for me with a growing awareness coming out of Oka in 1990, which happened when I was really too young to appreciate the significance of what was going on. The constitutional debates in the 1990s had an important effect on me too, but after that my interest kind of drifted away. I was mixed-up in a bunch of different things: anti-fascist activities, international solidarity work, ending the blockade on Cuba…all that sort of stuff. My consciousness of Indigenous peoples drifted away. Those events in the early 1990s brought Indigenous issues to me for the first time, but they didn’t really stick. There was always something else that came up that seemed to be more important. Among student activists, Indigenous peoples rights were never even brought up, much less anything done about them. It’s probably the most ignored struggle out of any that I’ve seen.

What really did bring it all home for me was the Nisga’a Agreement. When I saw what was going on with the Nisga’a, I instantly recognized it as neo-imperialism. In my mind, I related it to what was happening in the Middle East, and what had gone on in Latin America, too. That is how I see the so-called “BC treaty process,” as a kind of “Middle East peace process,” but in the north. The only difference is that it’s not about getting people to surrender and put down their guns, but about getting people to surrender by giving up their court cases. The basic similarity is in the long-standing grievances, and a dispute over unilateral dispossession that is then negotiated in an imperialist legal and political process. And, proposed solutions to the grievances are only tolerated by the state if they are within the confines of what is acceptable to imperialism.

I recognized the Nisga’a Agreement for what it is: a “final solution” for the Native question in BC. With that insight, I began to see the Native land question as the critical problem for those who want to maintain the status quo in this province, and also as the potential struggle around which politics in general could be re-ordered. I saw it as an opportunity to create new political and new social movement possibilities. I recognized that this was the only chance of there ever being any kind of true political movement in this part of the world. I’ve since come to realize that it’s much more complex and difficult than I imagined. I knew from the start that it wouldn’t be simple, but I was not prepared for the reality of just how difficult it will be to create movement in Indigenous communities. I think this is especially true here in British Columbia because of the corruption, division, and manipulation the BC treaty process has brought into, and what it’s done to the people, in these communities.

The gap right now between what people need and what is politically possible is astounding. It’s massive. I’m still trying to figure out how I can be remotely useful.

**TA:** There’s a tinge of despair in your words. You sound like many people working in Native politics right now. But you’re different in one way though, because most people take a lot longer than you to understand the structure and scale of the problem we are facing. Many of our people have lost the spiritual and emotional strength to continue to resist. It’s all used up, especially for those who have been going up against the government for 15, 20, or 30 years. The first priority is to convince people to not give up in the face of all this cooptation, hostility, and manipulation. We’ll only ever make change if we constantly renew the struggle with young people and bold, creative challenges to the old, entrenched power.

**GH:** That whole notion of not giving up is so important. I had sort of given up for a while. I had despaired about ever accomplishing anything meaningful in this neo-colonial country.

**TA:** Now that you’ve come through to the other side, and you’re all stoked for the next battle, what are you thinking these days?

**GH:** How do we work from where people are at right now? How do we form a network of committed people to build concrete projects that will move things forward in a strategic way? How can we make a contribution to the cultural base needed to support resistance in Indigenous communities? If we focus on answering these questions, and take action to apply the answers, we’ll get somewhere.
A ceremonial screen is brought home to the Uchucklesaht tribe on Vancouver Island from a New York art dealer and with it come memories of the potlatch ban, stories of a family’s origins, and hope for cultural revival. It also restores one woman’s sense of identity.

BY HOLLY NATHAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY VINCE KLASSEN
Gloria Jean Frank is in her tiny cedar shake smokehouse next to a shaded section of the Somass River in Port Alberni, hanging freshly split slabs of sockeye salmon. She smoked 300 fish this summer, 100 in one day with the help of her daughter. Outside, the thimbleberries are ripening and ravens bark overhead. “Mmm, we’re set for the winter,” declares Frank, a graduate history student who brings a deeply personal interest to her studies.

These contrasts of modern conveniences and traditional ways of life once caused her to question what it means to be true to her cultural heritage. But those doubts and conflicts are being overcome by her deeper desire to learn and to teach the First Nations version of history. Along the way, things that once seemed lost—the customs of her ancestors, their stories and their rituals—are being recovered in surprising ways.

Frank began to discover connections with her past while studying for the undergraduate history degree she earned from the University of Victoria in 1997. In a class with ethnobotanist Nancy Turner, Frank was inspired to search for a woven basket which her grandmother had crafted and which Frank had given to a residential school nun. Thirty years later, Sister Margaret Marie still had the basket. Frank brought it to class to honour both the grandmother who was steeped in traditional ways and the nun who had taught Frank the modern skill of sewing. “I feel there is a connection between them both.”

When she was studying with history professor Wendy Wickwire, Frank stood before the First Peoples permanent exhibit at the Royal BC Museum for the first time. She looked into Edward Curtis’ black and white photographs of Nuu-chah-nulth women, depicted as anthropological specimens, and thought: that face has a name, and the name is Virginia Tom and I know her daughter Alice Paul. Frank found herself questioning the idea that people who traded canoes for powerboats, and baskets for handbags, were no longer to be considered “authentic.”

She wrote about her reactions with humour and honesty in an essay called “That’s My Dinner on Display” for the historical journal B.C. Studies. It created a stir in media and academic cir-
cles with her criticism that Curtis’ film of Kwagiulth was staged and that the exhibit was potentially more destructive than informative in portraying First Nations culture. It was the first review, from a First Nations perspective, of the 30-year-old exhibit.

Then Frank’s relationship with history—particularly her own—changed dramatically in 2001 when she reconnected with, and began an extended series of interviews with her aunt, Helen Rush Robinson, for her master’s thesis. Frank visited the elder woman—a daughter of a hereditary chief—in her Port Alberni home two or three times a week. Their talks centred on a family curtain or screen—as important spiritually to the Nuu-chah-nulth people as totems are to the Haida—that had hung in the big house and was central to her aunt’s “coming of age” ceremony in 1941. The curtain had not been seen since the 1960s. In those talks with Frank, her aunt tried to relate the songs and stories connected to the curtain. But they were mostly gone and she spoke of them with resignation. She told Frank: “It’s lost anyway…the curtain…the head-dress. Everything’s lost. We’re supposed to be maa-malth-ni (European).”

Considered the occasion of the family’s greatest potlatch, the Ayt’uultcha or puberty ceremony honoured young women (especially the daughters of chiefs), signalling their readiness to receive marriage proposals. There were political implications for her family relationships outside the community. For example, the ceremony indicated privileges, such as the right to take sockeye from certain rivers, that she would bestow upon her descendants. “The coming-of-age ceremony represents the power of women to bring life. I saw a ceremony four years ago,” Frank recalls, “honouring four girls. The hereditary chiefs, who are our royalty, bent down to wash their feet. The impact was indescribable.”

**The Girl and the Wolf**

*This canvas curtain represents 200 years of family history. It forms the centrepiece of Uchucklesaht ceremonies honouring a girl’s passage into womanhood and it is one of two that belong to Gloria Frank’s family. It was recovered last year after several decades in the possession of a New York-based art collector. A key story, as told by Frank, is represented by the image of the girl and the wolf:*

“In the Mowachaht area (of Nootka Sound) a fatal disease was on the rampage. The girl’s parents were afraid that their lives as a people would completely be gone so they prepared a canoe full of supplies for their only daughter. They said, ‘Go! Go, everyone here is dying.’

They pushed the canoe out; she paddled by herself; she didn’t really know where she was going. She travelled the rest of the evening. A storm was coming but she kept paddling. The storm became unmanageable…it was dark, so dark she couldn’t see what was in front of her. In her weariness she fell asleep. She dreamt about a bird that sang her a beautiful song. (That bird is on the curtain.) When she woke up she remembered the song and she also woke up to winds that were stronger than ever. It wasn’t long before the canoe flipped over. She lost everything...the canoe, the supplies, everything.

She started to swim in any direction. She swam and she swam until she suddenly felt something... something furry. She got a grip on it and held it until they reached shore and she realized that what she had a grip on all this time was a wolf crossing from one place to another. It too had got stuck in the miserable storm. The land that this wolf and this girl had swam to belonged to the Tla-o-qui-ahts (Clayoquot). The Tla-o-qui-ahts took this young girl in and raised her as their own. When she was old enough she married a man from Ucluelet; they had one daughter (my grandmother, Ellen, who raised me).”
From the details of the curtain’s origins, Frank began to realize just how defiantly rooted in traditional culture her forebears were. The curtain was commissioned by Frank’s grandfather James Rush, a high-ranking chief of the Uchucklesaht band, more than 60 years ago and in contravention of federal laws. The 3.65 by 4.26-metre screen was painted by Tseshaht artist Tomiish and kept in a tiny attic in case Indian agents should happen along. It was painted on canvas rather than wood so that it could be easily hidden. The curtain depicted the Rush family’s legends through symbols and imagery.

As she and her aunt talked, Frank discovered her own memories emerging. Frank’s mother drowned in a boating accident and the three-year-old went to live with her grandmother at Uchucklesaht, on Barkley Sound, since her father was so often away fishing. Her most vivid memory is weaving traditional cedar baskets with her grandmother, Ellen Rush, in the early 1950s: she learned to gather swamp grasses, and she spoke her language with her grandmother as they sat weaving and dyeing the grasses next to the wood stove. She also learned to pick blueberries, gooseberries, thimbleberries—always with a bit of stem left so that next year there would be twice as many. She played hide-and-seek in the attic where strange masks, and rattles wrapped in cedar bark and placed in specially made boxes, were hidden away. These, she realized much later, were the items—the tuupaatis, or crest objects—used for the illegal potlatches. “Our upstairs was full of it.”

She thought she would live with her grandmother forever. But her traditional way of life ended abruptly the day she was flown to Christie Indian Residential School on Meares Island in 1961. Grandmother Ellen Rush, who felt “that Catholic place” had taken her children away from her, died shortly afterwards.

Only in looking back did Frank realize the impact of residential school. There was the loss of the daily diet of fish and berries. There was the lost connection with her grandmother. There was the imposition of Catholicism on her United Church background. And there was a desperate sense of loss as she and her brother stood on the dock with other children at school’s end and watched, as one after the other, the children were taken home while they remained behind. Sometimes they found a place to stay with distant relatives, but as Frank spent her young life moving from house to house and community to community, she lost touch with family life. The later years brought a painful series of changes and tragedies, too: family alcoholism, a changing fishing industry that saw her husband lose everything and start again, the deaths of relatives, the losses of nieces and nephews. “Every time I get close to a family member, it feels like next they’re gone. Tragedies, one after another, have happened; one after the other. I have learned to balance it out. Smoking fish is therapy for me. Sewing is therapy. But I really do think, looking back on it, the cultural aspects of my life had died.”

Frank’s experiences mirror those of so many of her people: in conversations, they will call it a time of “darkness” and “turmoil” when everything went “dead and quiet” during the long years of the potlatch ban (from 1885 until 1951), the height of the residential school system and the fallout in First Nations communities of economic change and political policies. “That was the psychological backdrop to things, when people felt inferior and sickened,” says Nelson Keitlah, a co-chair of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council.

As ties with culture and family faded, or changed, or were severed, the family’s curtain itself became lost to memory. Her aunt was washing dishes one day, in the 1960s, when it suddenly occurred to her the curtain had vanished. She told a nephew—“because she was in a state of cultural stupor,” as Frank describes—When she picked up the curtain in New York she was so happy; she sang like I never heard before; she danced like she never had.
it—that he could sell the first Rush family curtain (which had ended up in the possession of the Royal BC Museum and was recently displayed with the family’s permission). But she had never intended to lose the second curtain, the one made especially for her.

Early last year Frank received a phone call. Ron Hamilton, researching the Uchucklesaht tribe’s hereditary traditions, told her the curtain had been found. It was in the hands of a New York dealer of American Indian art named George Terasaki. It seemed almost impossible, but perhaps there was a way for Frank’s aunt to get part of her history back. Hamilton’s research determined the curtain had been purchased in the 1960s by a First Nations crafts store in Port Alberni and subsequently sold to a curator of the Denver Art Museum who then sold it, 30 years ago, to Terasaki. The Japanese businessman with a personal interest in Nuu-chah-nulth works sought them out despite the assessment of other collectors who saw the art as too recent and too influenced by other coastal styles. The Rush curtain was painted in a contemporary, naturalistic style which Terasaki’s art appraiser noted was evidence of dynamic cultural expression in work meant to convey tribal knowledge.

When Terasaki decided to sell his collection, he wrote to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council offering the curtain for $26,700. Frank and her aunt’s family moved quickly. “My aunt depended on me and another one of her daughters to get it back. We jumped through whatever hoop there was; and we did it. In the flashbacks of these memories, I see my Aunt Helen doing the cha-cha in her living room. She said, ‘New York, here I come.’ She laughed, she cried, she was so excited.”

The family appealed to the tribal council, representing 7,500 people in 14 nations, for help. Watching a video of the key council meeting, Frank barely contains her emotions as her aunt, dressed in ceremonial clothing, asks the council: “Please help to once again get the curtain back to me. My father put on the curtain the story of our lives…This is all I have left, and I want to save what I have left.” One by one, each tribal representative pledged $2,000.

Robinson went to New York in May 2001, accompanied by Frank and other members of her family, to buy back the curtain. They dressed in full regalia. “When she picked up the curtain in New York she was so happy; she sang like I never heard before; she danced like she never had,” says Frank. Her aunt said in a New York Times article: “That curtain is like a book of family history. It holds the proof of who I am.”

On May 17, 2002 one week after the anniversary of the curtain coming back home, Helen Rush Robinson suddenly died. She was 71. The loss was a deep blow to her niece. “I’m very much different now, after having spent such close months with her,” says Frank. “It seemed like a void was filled. After all those years, I had come back to the culture.

“I’m struggling with the completion of my thesis because, although the last 200 years are embedded in these two ceremonial curtains it was the whole entire year of May 2001 to May 2002 that I learned so much through my Aunt Helen. (It was) her curtain; her life; her story; her everything. Too much tenderness surrounds the stories that she left behind. In time...in time I will finish the thesis on the struggles that we have gone through with our own culture; our own traditions; our own stories...my own story. I will finish. I am confident of that. I want to be part of enlivening our history in a way that the written history of our people can be better understood and better taught and better learned about.”

When Gloria Jean Frank is in her smokehouse she likes to sing. She thinks of her aunt. She thinks of her grandmother. She sings songs to them from their shared language and traditions. And when she runs out of those, she hums the Catholic hymns that are so fixed in her from her residential school days. The mother, weaver, sewer, student and believer in connections—between people, between the past and the present—looks out and says: “I think they would have an appreciation that it’s all part of who I am.”

Tragedies, one after another, have happened; one after the other. I have learned to balance it out.

Holly Nathan is a Victoria journalist and University of Victoria Writing instructor.
Eve Egoyan BMus ’85
Raised in an artistically talented family, Eve Egoyan began playing the piano at a neighbour’s house at the age of 11 and is now considered among Canada’s finest pianists. Based in Toronto, she specializes in modern compositions—many of which have been written by fellow UVic music grads. “I want to be in the present and I want to re-invent the instrument,” she says. “It has only been in the last 100 years where musicians have been totally disconnected from the music of their time. The kind of attention that people give to books is the same thing I’d like to re-acquaint people with—as far as the act of listening.” Egoyan has studied at the Banff Centre of Fine Arts, the Hochschule der Kunste of Berlin and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. She has performed across Canada and as a soloist in national and international festivals.

Walter McLean Victoria College ’55
The Hon. Rev. Walter McLean has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a pastor, politician, diplomat and corporate executive. “Global thinking” is one of his favourite phrases and it’s a view he traces to his formative years in Victoria (his father was a church minister with African and Asian contacts) and the multicultural environment at Victoria College. In 1962, he became the first CUSO co-ordinator in Nigeria. “The kind of perspectives (that came from working in Africa), I’ve never lost.” When he was first elected to parliament in 1979 (Waterloo), McLean was the only MP who had lived anywhere in the developing world, becoming the ranking member of parliament’s foreign affairs committee. A delegate to the UN, he built on his background and during the “evil empire” period, he and other MPs crossed party lines to try to persuade the global superpowers to talk about lowering the nuclear arms build up.

Erich Mohr MSci ’80; PhD ’82
An expert in experimental therapeutics for central nervous system disorders, Erich Mohr is the Victoria-based chief scientific officer of PRA International (formerly CroMedica Global) one of the top five global clinical drug development organizations. Mohr came to UVic for his graduate studies based on the reputation of its neuropsychology program. “It was a very academically stimulating environment. We were always pushed to the limit,” he recalls. His decision in 1995 to found CroMedica in Victoria was two-fold. “We felt a growing international company ought to have a home the West since most biotech research is in the San Diego to Vancouver corridor. We also wanted a highly attractive place to live and attract staff.” The unofficial reason for coming to Victoria is that Mohr’s wife—whom he met at UVic—is from the city. “It was a wonderful opportunity to come home.”

David Lai Professor, Department of Geography
For better than 34 years, Dr. David Lai has shared his knowledge of Asian culture and history with countless students who have become inevitably inspired by his wit and honesty. He presents engaging lectures with photos, films and videos from his vast personal collection. He leads field trips to Victoria’s Chinatown and the Chinese Cemetery (he has been instrumental in helping to preserve the heritage of both). Lai sees himself as a “transformer” helping students examine cultural issues from Western and non-Western points of view. A class on China may examine not only geography but also Chinese history, culture, politics and spiritual values. He has established—with the help of the Chinese community—13 awards, scholarships and travel grants to promote the further study of China, overseas Chinese, and Chinatowns. So, his students are encouraged to adhere to the Chinese saying, “To travel 10,000 miles is better than to study 10,000 volumes of books.”

Gareth Rees Rugby, BA ’91
Gareth Rees was twice named UVic Athlete of the Year and went on to a storied athletic career. “Canada’s gift to rugby,” in one
writer’s estimation, he is the country’s all-time leading point scorer, and led Canada to four World Cup tournaments—something never before done by any other player. “Being a kid who grew up in Victoria, obviously I played my rugby at UVic but before that I came to soccer camps. I came to see the great basketball teams that Ken and Kathy Shields produced,” says Rees. “So UVic as a community sports centre was really important to me. To put on a UVic jersey and play for the Vikes was a huge reward.” After graduating from UVic, Rees played professionally in England, earned his Masters from Oxford and was a history teacher and rugby coach at prestigious Eton College. He has returned home to serve as executive director of Rugby Canada.

**COACHING**

**KATHY SHIELDS BASKETBALL**

Kathy Shield’s record speaks for itself. In 21 years of coaching Vikes women’s basketball, she has compiled a regular season record of 320 wins against only 50 losses. Since 1979, her first season with the Vikes, Shields has coached an unprecedented eight Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championship teams, was named CIS Coach of the Year three times and in 1999-00 received the 3M Coaching Award for Excellence. In addition to her coaching responsibilities at UVic, she has served as head coach and assistant coach for the Canadian national women’s team. The impact of her abilities can be found in other ways, too. Throughout the CIS there are three of her former players and assistant coaches currently serving as head coaches for university teams. Possibly the most respected coach in Canadian Women’s basketball, Shields is responsible for a legacy of excellence at UVic, one that will last for many years.

**KEN SHIELDS BASKETBALL**

Ken Shields was the Vikes men’s basketball coach from 1978 to 1989, in which time his teams won an incredible seven consecutive CIS Championships and he earned four CIS Coach of the Year awards. A former national team program director and head coach, Shields holds a Master Coach certificate from the Coaching Association of Canada. In 1998, he was named a member of the Order of Canada, and in 1999 was inducted into the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame. Known as the most successful coach in the history of Canadian university basketball, he has dedicated his life to the development of Canada’s athletes and coaches. He was instrumental in establishing the National Coaching Institute at UVic, and was the founding president of the Commonwealth Centre for Sport Development. Shields’ commitment and dedication to the country’s premier athletic programs has been invaluable in building excellence in Canadian sports.

**LORNE LOOMER ROWING**

Lorne Loomer graduated from Nelson High School in 1954 after a distinguished school rowing career. He attended the University of British Columbia and was selected to compete in the 1956 Canadian Olympic trials. Loomer, along with his three team-mates, astounded the rowing world when they went on to claim Olympic gold in the 1956 Melbourne Games. In the following four years, Loomer would add a gold medal at the 1958 Commonwealth Games and silver at the 1960 Rome Olympics to his list of accomplishments. It was with this remarkable experience that Loomer built the UVic rowing program—a program that today reflects his determination, competitiveness and his success.

**WALLY MILLIGAN SOCCER**

Wally Milligan, now deceased, had a long association with soccer in the Victoria community. He was a member of the 1951-52 Victoria United Soccer Club, which captured the Pacific Coast Soccer League championship. After a successful playing career, Milligan turned to coaching where he served as the founding coach of the University of Victoria men’s soccer team, a position he held from 1964 until 1971. Milligan’s outstanding dedication and contributions to the university soccer program were acknowledged with a special award presented to him by his former players during the Vikes alumni soccer weekend in 1998.
It’s 10:30 in the morning when I meet Chris Trumpy at the Student Union Building—late by his standards. The 20-year-old is wide awake, used to getting up by 6:30 to hit the gym.

But today, dressed in long shorts and a UVic Athletics t-shirt, Trumpy is ready to take it easy. He doesn’t have to be at basketball practice until later this afternoon.

We are outside Cinecenta and the campus is mostly empty; there are a few stragglers jump-starting the rush at the book store, but in this last week of August the campus is in repose. “I much prefer this to L.A.” says Trumpy, who plans to major in business. “UVic is so much more relaxed.”

Trumpy should know. After spending the 2000-2001 season with the Vikes, he shocked the team when he announced plans to play NCAA ball at Loyola Marymount University in L.A. He red-shirted—which meant he practised with the team but didn’t play in games. This year he’ll be back on the court with the Vikes.

“I wanted to try it,” says Trumpy, adjusting the strap on his back-pack. The 6’2” point guard and former Canada West Rookie of the Year paid his own way to the U.S. school after sending tapes of his games to the coach, and hoped to earn a scholarship for the following year. But while he says the experience was worth it, the L.A. atmosphere and high pressure sports environment didn’t compare to UVic. Nonetheless, Trumpy is happy to have taken the road less traveled. “I didn’t want to have regrets,” he says, “and I had the opportunity to experience something very different. I figured I might as well try and if it didn’t work out, that’s life.”

He’s no stranger to testing new waters, especially in sports. While attending Oak Bay Secondary, Trumpy stretched his time between basketball, rugby, soccer, track, and cross country running.

It wasn’t until he came to UVic that he focused on his first love: hoops. And it is what has brought him back home to Victoria. “Being a varsity athlete is very high pressure in the States,” he says, as we stand in line to buy a cold drink. “If you don’t win, you’re in trouble. Playing up here is more low key, and that makes it much more enjoyable.”

A year of training in L.A., combined with a summer of practising with the Vikes, has Trumpy looking forward to a strong season. “Now I’m back, so I guess L.A. didn’t work out, but you can’t say I didn’t try,” he says with a smile.

He certainly isn’t one to skimp on effort, and his Vikes coaches agrees. “Chris is a tireless worker,” says Craig Beaucamp, a Vikes assistant coach who worked with Trumpy this past summer. “He brings leadership with him—he leads by example, and he works very hard on his game. We’re excited to see him on the court again, and I think he’s going to solidify what I anticipate to be a very good perimeter. Chris has high expectations and high goals for himself, and for his team-mates.”

Trumpy admits he pushes himself hard, although he seems pretty relaxed. But, just below the surface is a fierce competitor. Even thinking that someone else is working harder than him makes him wake up earlier, spend extra time at the gym, and shoot those five extra baskets.

Juice in hand, we sit down on a bench outside the SUB, and Trumpy adjusts his sunglasses. He looks comfortable, enjoying the weather and a few moments of down time. But Trumpy isn’t one to sit still for long. He’s very focused, a trait from the court that translates into his everyday life.

Any spare time he does have he fills with activity. “I just think working out and occupying yourself are more productive than sitting in front of the TV,” he says. “There’s more constructive things I can do than just sit around, which is what drives me to go out and do stuff.”

This summer, Trumpy took up golf as another way of keeping busy, although he admits he’s got to work on his game. He’s also an avid reader, particularly of biographies, something he says helps to motivate him. Right now, he’s alternating between Gandhi and Winston Churchill. “I think it’s interesting to see what great people have done to make themselves the best,” he says. “You can learn a lot about people who have been there before and who have achieved a lot in their life.”

He brought the same philosophy to his summer job teaching basketball camps for kids in Victoria and on Salt Spring Island. It’s something he has done for the past two years. It lets him travel and be outside all day with kids. For Trumpy, his summer job translates into his mantra: “I think you’ve got to find something that makes you happy and as long as you’re happy with what you’re doing then it doesn’t matter what other people think. You can’t be afraid to take chances.”

Joy Poliquin is a Writing major and co-op student working for the university’s communications office.
The objects here are part of the 75-piece “China and Beyond: The Legacy of a Culture” educational exhibit continuing until December 24 at the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery and co-ordinated by History in Art Professor Kathlyn Liscomb. The materials, dating to the 10th century, show the extent Chinese culture has influenced other cultures, in Canada and around the globe.

The 18th-century cloisonné plaque (centre) belonging to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria depicts dragon boat races. The widely popular events originated with a Chinese religious festival to honour the memory of an ancient poet and government official who was unjustly exiled.

The early 19th-century woodblock-printed book (top left) from the Maltwood collection was designed by the Japanese artist Bumpô as a teaching manual for Chinese painting. The use of printed colour for painting manuals was a Chinese concept and the picture here is one of several inspired by Chinese poetry.

Chinese influence isn’t obvious in the 18th-century English Goat and Bee cream jug (bottom left) from the Vancouver Museum, but it is made of soft-paste porcelain—which was an important step to producing true porcelain comparable to that made by the Chinese for centuries. The pitcher is a hybrid of English silver traditions and Chinese blanc de Chine porcelains, popular imports of the time.
NEW TITLES FROM ALUMS

**KIDS’ BOOKS**

Adrienne Mercer (BA ’94) *Rebound* (Lorimer). When a basketball player, 13, suddenly develops arthritis she refuses to accept her condition and instead tries to hide the pain from her teachers, coach and teammates. A fictional Vikes basketball player acts as a mentor to the girl.

**FICTION**

Gail Anderson-Dargatz (BFA ’99) *A Rhinestone Button* (Knopf Canada). After Job Sunstrum, a shy Alberta farmer who sees sound in colour, gives in to the rantings of a Pentecostal preacher he begins to wonder about his chances for earthly love.

Tamás Dobozy (BA ’91) *When X Equals Marylou* (Arsenal Pulp). A collected scattering of perceptions, populated by balding men, enriched by doppelgangers and bibliophiles in towns big and small, nations near and far.

Aislinn Hunter (BFA ’96) *Stay* (Polestar). A love story, set in contemporary Ireland, that revolves around the author’s concept of family history and the way “the decisions, the ideals and the tragedies” of the past mire us in “the muck of our history.”

**NON-FICTION**

Gail Boulanger (MA ’88) *Life Goes On* (Notch Hill). Viewing grieving as a necessary and natural process, the book helps readers identify loss, work through pain, bring closure to the past and reconnect with life.

Eric Damer (BA ’89) *Discovery by Design* (Ronsdale). The origins and history of the UBC mechanical engineering program from 1907 to 2001, in the context of B.C.’s industrial development and the rise of the engineering profession.


Billeh Nickerson (BFA ’98) *Let Me Kiss it Better* (Arsenal Pulp). Essays—wry, sweet, outrageous—surveying contemporary gay life. Sex, relationships, and what it’s like to be the token gay at a house party are part of these “elixirs for the not so straight and narrow.”

Alix O’Grady (BA ’78) *From the Baltic to Russian America 1829-1836* Alaska History No.51 (Limestone Press). A chronicle of the life and experiences of a governor’s wife, Elisabeth von Wrangell, with references to the HBC and Canada’s Pacific Northwest.

J. Douglas Porteous and Sandra E. Smith (PhD ’96) *Domicide: The Global Destruction of Home* (McGill-Queen’s). How the planned destruction of homes affects millions worldwide. Using B.C.-based case studies, the authors propose ways to address loss and mitigation. As a last resort, they urge resistance against unacceptable projects.

**POETRY**

KEY WORD: INVOLVEMENT

BY CATHY WHITEHEAD (MBA ’98) PRESIDENT, UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The days grow shorter, the temperature cools, and the leaves turn bright red and gold; once again it is indeed a pleasure to welcome fall and to send greetings from your Alumni Association.

Our annual board planning retreat in August was devoted to long-term planning, and developing objectives and strategies as input to an updated strategic plan for the Alumni Association. The key areas on which we will focus in the next five years include: increasing the number of alumni actively involved with the Alumni Association, the university and students; making the Alumni Association board more representative of our total alumni base; better meeting the needs of our alumni by ensuring we know what they need and want from the association, and developing strategies to address those needs and wants. Our priorities will be to connect with new grads, re-establish contact with lost grads, and create new opportunities for meaningful involvement by our alumni. In addition, we will be collecting information through our Web site, market research, and face-to-face interaction with alumni, to ensure we are aware of, and responding as effectively as possible to your needs. As always, we welcome your input and suggestions.

One exciting initiative discussed at our planning retreat was to establish a First Nations chapter of the Alumni Association. Doug Johnson, vice-president of the Alumni Association board, will be spearheading this effort and we look forward to his leadership in the formation of this new chapter.

We are also excited about the first annual Legacy Awards, to be held in Victoria at the Fairmont Empress Hotel on November 4. Proceeds from the Legacy Awards will support UVic Scholarships and Vikes Athletic Awards. In addition to honouring recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the Excellence in Teaching Award and the inaugural inductees into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame, we will be looking forward to the participation of members of the broader Victoria community, many of whom may not be alumni of UVic but are certainly friends and supporters of both the university and the Alumni Association. For more information and to order tickets visit alumni.uvic.ca/legacyawards. Please join us. We would be delighted to see you there!

NEW BOARD TRIO

Three new members have joined the board of the UVic Alumni Association for two-year terms: Noel Carawan-Hubin (BA ’89), Colleen Brownlee (BEd ’79, MEd ’90), and Glenn Smith (BA ’95, MPA ’01). Carawan-Hubin is the manager of technical services with Imagis Technologies, a security software technology company based in Vancouver. After working in California, she recently returned to Victoria to be closer to friends and family. Brownlee has been contributing to the education system for 38 years. She has received various awards including a 1999 Faculty of Education Distinguished Alumni. Smith is currently the Senior Associate and founding partner of G.A. Smith and Associates Information and Privacy Consultants in Victoria. He is working to re-establish the School of Public Administration Alumni Chapter.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Nov 4 The Legacy Awards. Fairmont Empress Hotel.
Nov 12 – 13 Fall convocation. 10 am and 2 pm each day, University Centre.
Nov 15 – 16 Vikes Basketball vs. SFU. 6:30 pm, 8:15 pm, McKinnon Gym.
Nov 19 UVic Hearts and Hands Craft Fair. University Centre.
Nov 19 Grad Year Orientation workshops. (Visit stas.uvic.ca/gradyear.htm for location.)
Nov 29 UVic Chamber Singers Christmas Concert. 12:30 pm, Phillip T. Young Recital Hall.
Nov 29 – 30 Vikes Basketball vs. UBC. 6:30 pm, 8:15 pm, McKinnon Gym.
Jan 23 – Feb 1 The Slip Knot by T. J. Dawe, Phoenix Theatre (spotlight on alumni series).
Feb 12 – 13 Career Fair, 10 am to 3:30 pm, Student Union Building.
Updates: communications.uvic.ca/events/
Thelma Brooks is quite the accomplished traveller. From China to Australia, Peru to Italy, she’s seen a good part of the world, and many countries she’s visited twice, for good measure. Her love of culture, physical geography, and world exploration may stem from her adventurous nature, but it’s also a result of her time at the university.

The geography major graduated from UVic in 1972, and went on to teach geography at Parkland Secondary in Saanich. On summer breaks she managed to sneak a trip or two into her schedule, but it wasn’t until her children left the nest that she had a chance to truly explore.

“I’ve visited Japan, New Zealand, Costa Rica,” she says. “Recently I traveled to the Galapagos Islands, which was spectacular.”

Last February she and her spouse Jim Earl embarked on a cruise around South America with the UVic Alumni Travel Program. “My days of tramping with a heavy backpack are over,” she laughs. “I’d looked at UVic’s trips with interest, and the timing was right. It was a chance to visit a part of the world we couldn’t have got to on our own.”

The Alumni Travel Program, celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, offers a variety of cruises and land tours to destinations around the globe each year. Since 1987 the program has allocated $688,000 to help support student grants, awards and other alumni projects. More than 1,100 alumni and friends have experienced tours through the program.

Brooks and Earl flew to Chile to join the boat mid-way through its 55-day cruise. From there they sailed the coast of Chile, through the Straits of Magellan, down to Cape Horn, then up the coast of Argentina, to Brazil and Rio de Janeiro.

“There were countless activities on board for the days we were at sea,” she says. “And in the port cities there were always multiple choices for land excursions, to the point where we often had trouble choosing.”

The ship was a smaller one, as is the case with all of the ships that UVic’s Alumni Travel Program books. “There were only about 600 people on board, so it didn’t feel like we were on a giant floating hotel,” says Brooks. The ship’s size also meant that it docked in smaller ports uncluttered by other cruise lines.

Days at sea were often spent on deck, where Brooks says a loudspeaker provided narrated details when appropriate. “And there was an excellent educational program,” she says. “There were historians giving lectures about regions, and at night there was an astronomer to help you identify stars.”

The real stars of the trip, however, were the countries visited. “The west coast was tremendous, especially the small coast cities,” she said. “I could spend a lot more time there.”

This year Brooks has no immediate travel plans, but says she’d like to go on one of UVic’s Mediterranean tours in the future. She’ll have no problem keeping herself busy, however. Since retiring from teaching six years ago, Brooks runs a commercial berry-picking business out of her farm in Central Saanich. “I’ve really found paradise,” she says. Her farm is now a destination for those who want to spend a few hours picking fruit under the Vancouver Island sun.

—Joy Poliquin

Call for Nominations 2003

2003 Distinguished Alumni Awards

As part of the 100-year celebration in 2003, ten awards will be presented, one for each decade since 1903. Recipients will include alumni of Victoria College, the Provincial Normal School in Victoria and the University of Victoria who have attained regional, national or international prominence in one or more of five fields of endeavor:

Academic Achievement • Athletic Achievement • Fine Arts
Business, Industry or Profession • Public & Community Service

2003 Excellence in Teaching Award

Alumni, students and staff are invited to nominate current faculty members, senior instructors, sessional lecturers or senior laboratory instructors, who have taught at the University of Victoria for at least three years, for this prestigious award. One award will be presented in any area of study at UVic.

Nomination packages for both awards are available from the Alumni Affairs office or Web site at alumni.uvic.ca/awards.htm

Nominations must be received on or before December 13, 2002.

For more information, please contact Alumni Affairs:
Email alumni@uvic.ca
Phone (250) 721-6000, or toll-free at 1-800-808-6828, attention Marlene Bergstrom
Education

SUSIE CARD (BEd '78). "I am teaching at Claremont Secondary, the high school my husband (Tom) and I both attended. Tom and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary and have two daughters (ages 20 and 17)." • VERA GRAVES (née MARCH) (BEd '92). "Hi there! I am a (MA '94) and (née BSc '94). "I am (BA '69, MEd '80). "Since UVic, (VC '33). "My only brother, who is 61.4% (1,687) by Cordell (BA '86, (MA '01). "It was an honour to meet. Although I missed Victoria and Canada for a while, I deeply missed Victoria and Canada for a while." • PAUL WILSON (BSc '94). "I am presently working with Thuber Engineering/Thuber Environmental as a terrain consultant and environmental specialist." <pwilson@vic.thurbergroup.com>

Humanities

TOM MOHSANSKY (BA '88) has written and published the A - Z Guide to Film Terms, a pocket dictionary of filmmaking terms and phrases. • RACHEL PETERSON (BA '99). "Still volunteering at CFUV Radio after eight years. I co-host the Artlet show where I meet and interview great musicians, fine arts students involved in Phoenix plays, and all kinds of other artists. There is so much in the way of arts in this town, it can't possibly all be covered on the show. As a participant in this year's Scraphots, and member of Cinecf Society, I'm proud to be part of the local thriving filmmaking scene, producing and crewing short films with friends." • GARETH REES (BA '91) is the new chief executive officer of Rugby Canada, based in Vancouver. Rees had been living in London after a successful playing career and sports media personality in England. Rees was presented with a Uvic Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999.

Social Sciences

DAVE AHARONIAN (MA '94) and TIM SHUFF (MA '99) spent the summer kayaking 2,150 kilometres from Prince Rupert to Victoria. They chronicled their adventures in a series of reports—written by Tim with accompanying photos by Dave—printed in the Victoria Times Colonist. • MARK FRANKE (BA '86, BA '94, MA '92). "After receiving my PhD in political science from Johns Hopkins University in 1998, I moved to Prince George to take up a teaching position at the University of Northern British Columbia. I taught in the International Studies program at UNBC from 1998 through 2002. During my time at UNBC, SUNY Press published my book, Global Limits: Immanuel Kant, International Relations, and Critique of World Politics. I have now moved to London, Ontario, where I have accepted an appointment as assistant professor in the Centre for International Studies at Huron University College, an affiliated college with the University of Western Ontario." • ANGELA HECK (MA '00), is currently working in the Vancouver studio of the National Film Board of Canada and is responsible for public relations throughout Western Canada. She recently spearheaded the Academy Award bid for the NFB animated short, Strange Invaders by Cordell Barker. Ruth Kidd (BA '78). "Enjoyed every moment of learning at Uvic. I entered university as a mature student and studied under many excellent professors. I felt very fortunate indeed to be at such a lovely campus." • JAMES KWANTES (BA '94). "Recently took a job as a copy editor at the daily newspaper in Red Deer, where I live with my wife Shannon and baby son, Evan. Travelled to Israel in 1999 as a journalist accompanying a Mennonite Central Committee Peace Delegation." • ENOCK E. MOYO (MA '79). "Thanks for all the mail you have been sending through my sister in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe since my graduation. We have two daughters Nontokozo and Ntobakhe. Nontokozo who was born at the Victoria General in 1977, graduated last year with a BSc Honors in Geological Sciences from UBC and is now in Dallas reading for an MSc in Applied Economics. She plans to enroll for a PhD in Mathematical Finance in September next year. Our youngest daughter will be completing her degree in economics next year from the University of Cape Town. Since 1978, I spent two years in Lesotho working for CIDA and in 1980 I joined the government where I spent the next 11 years in agriculture, statistics and co-operatives. Since 1992 I have been heading the local office of a German Liberation Foundation, the Friedrich Nau mann. We promote market reforms and good governance. We are more like a think-tank. In 1990, I took time off to polish my economics at Harvard. My wife KOKELETSO, who is an alumna of the Nursing School, is now in business. Best regards." • ALEX VEY (BA '87, MA '90). "I am a visiting assistant professor teaching English at the Language Center of Seoul National University in Korea. I am now starting my third year as one of the most professional teams of educators that I have ever had the opportunity to meet. Although I missed Victoria and Canada for a time, I now have many Korean friends and my life here is very enjoyable."

Engineering

AARON FYKE (BEng '95) was a CSME Gold Medal recipient from UVic. He graduated in June from MIT with an MS in Engineering and an MBA from the Sloan School of Management. Aaron is employed by AeroVironment, a technology company in Pasadena, California.

Human and Social Development

ANASTASIA CURRY (BA '98, BSW '01). Anastasia and Colin Redekop (BEng '92) married March 31, 2001. They met at UVic and currently reside in the Lower Mainland. Colin is employed at Ballard Power Systems and Anastasia is with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. • PATRICK MCDONALD (BSW '78) worked in social work/counselling for the past 23 years. Also worked in Australia for several years. Married to Cheryl, with two beautiful children, Riley and Olivia. Still skiing and involved in triathlons.

Fine Arts

LIZA PAINTER (BA '93). "I will be walking 26.2 miles (that's 42.2 kms) in the 2002 Ben Bridge Marathon in Hawaii on December 8, in honour of my aunt and father who suffer from arthritis, and to raise funds for the Arthritis Society. Anyone interested in learning more about the marathon or wishing to support my efforts can e-mail me at <zlizap@shaw.ca>.

Science

DEBORAH CHANEY (née BEAR) (BSc '00) has self-published The Little Inspiration Book: Ideas to Empower Women based on journal entries compiled during backpacking, sailing and cycling adventures on the West Coast and in Iceland. • PAUL WILSON (BSc '94). "I am presently working with Thuber Engineering/Thuber Environmental as a terrain consultant and environmental specialist." <pwilson@vic.thurbergroup.com>

Counting Grads

SPRING 2002 GRADUATES: 2,748

WOMEN: 61.4% (1,687)

MEN: 38.6% (1,061)

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED: 20

Source: UVic EXTENSION RELATIONS

PROVINCES & TERRITORIES: 11

TOTAL ALUMNI: 63,917

COUNTRIES: 95

ALUMNI IN VICTORIA: 24,326

Victoria College

JACK GIOLOMA (VC '33). "My only year at Victoria College, trumpeted the end of my formal schooling. I escaped the flying chalk by inches!" • VICTOR D. HARRISON (VC '50). "I moved to Saskatchewan in 1994,
bought a home in Churchbridge. Enjoy reading the Torch. I have fond memories of the college. Now busy with an antique car club, gardening and travel.” • TERRY B. VARCOE (VC ’57). “I was awarded an Honorary LLD at the spring convocation of Brock University. Will be returning to Victoria in the fall after 39 years in Ontario. Looking forward to renewing old friendships at that time.” <varcoe@brocku.ca>

In Memoriam
JOHN ALDOUS (VC ’38) passed away peacefully April 5 in Newport, Hants County, Nova Scotia. He served as head of the Dalhousie University Department of Pharmacology from 1950 to 1975 and was named professor emeritus in 1981. John grew up at Ten Mile Point and during his years at VC served a term as editor of the yearbook (in 1934-35).

YUK W AH JOHN CHAN (BA ’78). It is with great regret that Corinna Chan has informed the university that John Chan passed away May 25 while visiting family and friends in Vancouver and Victoria. John held a number of executive positions while working in Canada and China and was most recently with SUN Microsystems in Beijing and Hong Kong. John will be missed by his friends in British Columbia and by his colleagues who serve as executive committee members for the recently established University of Victoria Hong Kong Foundation.

VCCCAA Reunion
A reminder to Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle alumni—let us know if you plan to attend reunion celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Victoria College and the 40th anniversary of the University of Victoria.

Your VCCCAA executive needs to know how many are interested so that we can plan for parties, events, and set the cost. The dates are September 26 to September 28, 2003 and current plans include visits to Craigdarroch Castle and a banquet at UVic. Please send your name, partner’s name, college year, address and phone number to: Eric Gee, 807 St. Charles St., Victoria, B.C. V8S 3P4. It will be great to see you!

CLIMB TIME
Heather Wallace (BSc ’96), Jennifer Decker (BSc ’97), Samantha Carter (BSc ’96) and eight other B.C. women began to scale Mount Kilimanjaro in early October. Their climb to the “roof of Africa”—the world’s tallest free-standing peak (5,895 metres)—is part of an effort to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation’s programs for kids with life threatening illnesses. “We started our physical training for the climb at the beginning of June,” Wallace said before leaving for Africa, adding the Vancouver-based team had become achingly familiar with Grouse Mountain’s steep and rugged Grouse Grind trail.

HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH
Keeping in Touch notes are collected by the UVic Alumni Affairs office, which can be reached at (250) 721-6000 or 1-800-808-6828 and by e-mail at alumni@uvic.ca. Your alumni association is on the Web at alumni.uvic.ca.

Entries for Keeping in Touch usually come to us either by post or via e-mail. We also compile entries from other public sources such as newspapers and magazines or news releases. We don’t publish pregnancy or engagement announcements, or candidacies for political office. But news of births, marriages and elections to office are encouraged, as are photographs. Obituaries are also accepted. All entries are edited for style, clarity and length.

The deadline for this issue was August 31. Updates received after the deadline and up until February 28 will appear in the Spring 2003 edition of the Torch.

TELL US WHAT’S NEW
POST: If you want to mail us, use this form to submit a Keeping in Touch note or simply to update your mailing address. Send it to: UVic Alumni Affairs, P.O. Box 3060, Victoria B.C. V8W 3R4.
E-MAIL: alumni@uvic.ca with the information requested on this form.

Name (first, surname, married name)
Degree & year
Spouse’s name (first, surname, married name)
Degree & Year
☐ Check if new address
Home address (number and street)
City, Province, country, postal code
Home phone Work phone
E-mail address
Occupation title
Employer’s name
Spouse’s occupation title
Employer’s name
Please attach a separate page with your Keeping in Touch note.
HOME PLACE
Campus and its Coast Salish heritage.

BY NANCY TURNER (BSC ’69) WITH CHERYL BRYCE AND BRENDA BECKWITH

OUTSIDE THE ENGINEERING FACULTY IS A MAGNIFICENT COAST SALISH Welcoming Figure, over seven metres high. This figure is said to encourage the joy of knowledge and learning. More than this, the sculpture symbolizes the traditional generosity and hospitality of local First Nations to those coming in peace to their territory.

Few of us who pass this work of Coast Salish artist Floyd Joseph or wander around the buildings, open spaces and woodlands of campus may realize the antiquity of the human relationships with the landscape. For thousands of years the ancestors of the Lekwungen (Songhees) and WSANEC’ (Saanich) Nations travelled these lands, conducting ceremonies, hunting, fishing, camping and harvesting a bounty of wild root vegetables, greens and berries, woods, fibres and other materials, and medicinal and ceremonial plants. Until the establishment of Fort Victoria by the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1843, there was a permanent Lekwungen winter village situated at Sungayka (“snowpatches”), below campus at the site of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. In the “Douglas Treaties”—established in 1850 by Chief Factor for Fort Victoria, James Douglas—the campus lands were identified as belonging to the “Che-ko-nein Tribe—Point Gonzales to Cedar Hill.” The entire tract was purchased for 79 pounds, 10 shillings sterling.

The landscape has changed but campus is still imbued with cultural history. Mystic Vale, with its spring-fed waters, has always had special significance as a sacred place. WSANEC’ oral traditions identify the spring and ravine with girls’ puberty rites and with enhancing the fertility of young couples unable to bear children. Mount Tolmie, or SNAXE, rising above campus on the south-west, is a place where, according to a WSANEC’ narrative, XALS, the Creator, turned a man and his wife into stone because the man had transgressed a cultural taboo and revealed a secret to his wife. Such stories, told over generations, reinforce peoples’ connections with their landscapes and their histories.

Many of the plants relied upon so heavily in the past still grow here. Among the most important were the carbohydrate-rich bulbs of the edible blue camas. These were pried out with digging sticks, cooked for hours in earth-ovens, then eaten at feasts or dried for winter use. Families would congregate around the camas meadows to dig bulbs in the summer-time, harvesting thousands of bulbs for winter or trading with neighbouring groups. Wild fruits, ripening from late spring to fall, include Indian plums, salmonberries, wild strawberries, trailing blackberries, and Saskatoon berries. The juicier berries were dried in cakes, to be reconstituted in winter. Crabapples and elderberries would be stored fresh or buried in underground caches.

Today, the berries of campus are eaten fresh or made into jams, jellies or preserves.

Of traditional plant materials of the campus, western redcedar is a keystone species. Mount Douglas, north of campus, was aptly known as “Cedar Hill” in the old days. For the Lekwungen and WSANEC’ peoples, cedar provides planking and posts for houses, its logs are crafted into giant dugout canoes, its branches used for rope and basketry, its fibrous bark for mats, cordage, clothing and baskets, and its roots for binding and as coiling for beautiful imbricated baskets.

Herbal medicines have also been sought from this area. Bark—from red alder, cascara, western hemlock, trembling aspen and Pacific yew—is used in traditional medicinal preparations, as are waxberry, Indian consumption plant, wild lily of the valley, cottonwood buds, arbutus leaves, and numerous others.

Most of these plants are found along the chip trail that winds through the wetland woods behind the Fraser Building parking lot, along the edge of the Garry oak parkland near the intersection of Gordon Head and Cedar Hill X roads, and into the Douglas-fir woods across Ring Road from the Cunningham and Petch buildings, and down in Mystic Vale. We often overlook these wild species and take them for granted, paying greater attention to the tulips, rhododendrons and other domesticated flowers and shrubs planted in our landscaped areas and garden beds.

The university has links with traditional leaders in the region for protocol and graduation ceremonies and we hope that in the future there will be even closer relationships between the campus community and the First Nations. Perhaps the Garry oak parkland will become a Lekwungen interpretive area, with a self-guided ethnobotany walk.

It is important to acknowledge the First Peoples’ history and connection to these lands. The Salish Welcoming Pole is about generosity, hospitality, rich oral traditions and peace. Learn about and share the history of the Salish Nations and their land, and think about the campus as a place to experience some of this history. Hy’sh-ka! (Thank you).

Nancy Turner is a professor in the School of Environmental Studies who specializes in ethnobotany. She is this year’s recipient of the Lawson medal, the highest honour of the Canadian Botanical Association. Cheryl Bryce is a cultural researcher and member of the Lekwungen First Nation and Brenda Beckwith is a doctoral candidate in Biology and Environmental Studies. They wish to thank: Mavis Thee-won-o-mot Henry (BA ’78, Pauquchain, Saanich Nation), Earl Claxton, Sr. (YELK’A’ TTE) (Tsowout, Saanich Nation) and William White, UVic Aboriginal Liaison officer.