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From the Seeds of ’63

If the university were a person it would be counting the last few days to its 40th birthday. If the university were a person it would be amazed at the way decades of memories stack up, like volumes of an epic. If the university were a person it would have learned how experience begets confidence. If the university were a person it would try to take more walks on the beach at night. If the university were a person, it would ask itself what have I done to get here, how did it happen so fast, and how much further can I go? If the university were a person it would have greying hair. It would like it. If the university were a person it would know that “midlife crisis” is a cliché. If the university were a person it would still like loud music. Especially on Saturdays. If the university were a person it would laugh a lot. If the university were a person it would embrace the spirits of its roots. If the university were a person it would be amazed every year by velvet red rhododendron blooms. If the university were a person it would demand more peace and more security. If the university were a person it would be more curious than ever. If the university were a person it would deserve a birthday hug.

– MIKE MCNEEY, EDITOR
mmcneney@uvic.ca
Gloria’s Story

Margaret Haughey and I want to congratulate you and your staff on the Autumn 2002 issue of the Torch. It is very gratifying to see this finely researched and well written recognition of aboriginal students, with their own key input. We really enjoyed the very sensitive article on Gloria Jean Frank, as well as Nancy Turner’s piece with accompanying image of Floyd Joseph’s sculpture on campus. Additionally, it was good to see Charles Elliott’s print in the editorial. We get the University of Alberta and Queen’s University, Belfast alumni magazines and the Torch is definitely far and away the best of the group. Your visual appeal is strong and the quality of the writing is high. I rarely feel called to write this kind of congratulatory message, but Margaret and I feel that the creativity and professionalism of this edition, particularly its honouring of aboriginal peoples, deserve to be recognized and duly celebrated.

DENIS J. HAUGHEY, PHD ’86
EDMONTON

I am ashamed to admit this, but I usually don’t read the Torch when it arrives…. But something compelled me to read “The Painted Curtain,” and I am so glad I did! Holly Nathan did a superb job of telling the emotional, disturbing, gratifying, amazing story of Gloria Jean Frank and the curtain of her family’s life. I have been very privileged to spend time in Port Alberni with members of the Tseshaht Band and so could relate personally to elements of her story; it is heartening to know that there are so many there that are pushing through the present to make the past live. Congratulations to Ms. Frank for connecting with her past, present and future, and good luck with the finishing of her thesis. I personally think she deserves an honorary degree for her work in continuing and sharing her culture. And yes, I read the entire issue this month, and will continue to do so in the future!

WENDY SWAN, BA ’89
VICTORIA

“Unethical” ad

I was very disappointed to see that the Torch magazine (Autumn 2002) advertised for the Victoria Times Colonist. It is my understanding that the workers were in a labour dispute with the company and that the company was using “scab” labour to get the paper out. Please do not use unethical ads in the future.

MELISSA MOROZ, BA ’99
VICTORIA

The advertising contract, part of a longterm sponsorship agreement between the university and the Times Colonist, was signed before the newspaper strike. – Editor

Spellbound

I was sorry to read about the death of Alan Gowans in the Torch (“Value in the Common Place,” Autumn 2001). The person who wrote the obituary was probably not a student at the university in the early 70s when Dr. Gowans kept more than 300 students spellbound giving his lectures in History in Art 120.

He took us on a journey through history. He handled huge amounts of information from any discipline and made an incredibly beautiful pattern.

Art history was my discipline, although I had not intended it until Dr. Gowans’ classes. So I thank this professor who dared to think so deeply and with such enormous breadth. What a life!

MARYROSE CLARK, BA ’74
VICTORIA

LETTERS:
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—critical or complimentary—is always welcomed. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

E-MAIL: torch@uvic.ca
POST: UVic Torch
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria BC, V8W 2Y2
FAX: (250) 721-8955
Integrity with a Smile

*He smiles a lot for someone with so much on his shoulders:* senior partner in the province’s oldest law firm, community service commitments, and now the role of university chancellor.

But none of it seems to weigh on Ron Lou-Poy as he sits in the clubhouse at Uplands Golf Course where he and his wife May are longtime members. It’s shortly after his November election by members of convocation has made the news and friends and acquaintances come by the table to offer congratulations. He accepts them all with a gracious smile and a handshake, slightly embarrassed by the attention.

He takes the chancellorship seriously, himself less so. “I am very honoured, proud, and privileged (to be chancellor). I am looking forward to the challenge because Norma Mickelson was such a fantastic chancellor—you could feel she really cared about students, the faculty and the institution.” Earlier, when asked what he hopes to accomplish in his new assignment, he tried to sidestep the question, and said: “I’m just the chancellor. The president’s the boss. But I’ll try to do my bit…tuition is always a concern.”

The chancellor has seats on the senate and the board of governors, and is, of course, the key official at convocation.

Lou-Poy is a third generation Victorian. Neither of his parents finished high school. But they considered education important, so their son completed two years at Victoria College and did his commerce and law degrees at UBC. That’s where he met May. She had grown up in Alert Bay and was one of four students in the community’s first high school graduating class.

When Lou-Poy joined the pioneering Victoria law firm of Crease Harman and Company, colleagues encouraged community involvement. He has never let up. For his efforts, amongst other tributes and recognition, he is an honorary citizen of Victoria and he holds an honorary doctorate of laws from UVic. His family also supports students—funding a scholarship in law and contributing more than $270,000 to UVic Childcare’s Harry Lou-Poy Infant and Toddler Centre.

The new chancellor formally begins his three-year term June 3, at the outset of spring convocation ceremonies. He’ll be gowned in the traditional gold-trimmed purple silk and velvet regalia. It’s a safe bet he’ll be wearing that friendly smile, too.

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Campus at War-time

*This is from a message posted on the university Web site by President David Turpin at the start of the conflict in Iraq.*

“The current international tensions and the armed conflict in Iraq are deeply troubling to many and may be the source of significant stress on our campus.

Under these circumstances it is important that we, members of the University of Victoria community, keep in mind the values and principles that guide our academic activities.

During this conflict, many people on campus will be directly affected because they will have family members and friends involved in one or another dimension. Those who are not directly affected will also experience concern and fear. It is a time, therefore, to be respectful of divergent views, and to be especially careful not to misdirect strongly held feelings towards innocent members of our community. There is concern at UVic and university campuses throughout North America that political tensions may give rise to intolerance and disrespect. Such actions are at odds with the very nature of universities.

Universities endure because they provide a forum to support reasoned, rational and thoughtful public discourse. Universities stand for the fundamental values of intellectual integrity, freedom of inquiry and expression, equal rights and respect for the dignity of all persons.

We remain committed to supporting open discourse, despite the controversy it might attract, to advance our understanding about the complex issues underlying current world events. In everything UVic does, the goal is to provide a safe and welcoming environment. These are the values and principles that guide our actions.”

---

Time Passages

*It’s a year of educational milestones.* Forty years ago the university welcomed its first students to the Gordon Head campus. The dizzying photo on the right was taken circa 1963, during those dawning days in the fresh new Clearihue Building. (Was the roof clock wonky even back then?) And it’s been exactly 100 years since Victoria College opened the doors to its first handful of students. One of them was the young Joseph B. Clearihue, whose later achievements (Rhodes scholar, decorated soldier, judge and politician, the university’s first chancellor) inspired the naming of the first campus building.

All year, UVic is presenting events to commemorate these anniversaries. Go to the Web (celebration2003.uvic.ca) and pick an event. Maybe you’ll come to the Campus and Community Celebration September 5-6. Enjoy the festivities, soak up the back-to-school buzz, and let yourself think back to those days when the local rabbit population was a mere fraction of what it was destined to become.

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*Clearihue Building, ca. 1963*
It’s Called What?

When you deal with 11,000 newspapers, journals and periodicals—never mind those thousands of on-line journals—some of the titles are bound to leave you scratching your head. So we asked Sandra Wiles and her colleagues in the McPherson Library to list their top five picks in the category of Journals that Make You Think, Hmm. Here’s what they came up with:

#5 Experimental Parasitology. “The journal we don’t really want to unwrap.”

#4 Journal of Economic Entomology. “Hey, if you have bugs, money is not the issue.”

#3 International Journal of Control. “The journal that speaks to our type-A personalities.”

#2 Cowboys & Indians. “It should be a philosophy title because it makes us question, why?”

#1 Emergency Librarian. “Our all time favourite. The journal that should offer a mask and cape with every subscription. Sadly, the publishers changed the title to Teacher Librarian in 1998 but we will always refer to it by its original crime-fighting moniker.”

MC Chaucer

Go ahead and make a direct literary link between the first major poet of the English language, Geoffrey Chaucer, and rapper Eminem. As English master’s student Baba Brinkman sees it: “They’re both wizards with words.”

Catch Brinkman on stage and you might be convinced too. With his rapid-fire polysyllabic rhymes and full-on dramatic intensity (he gets into it, folks)—Brinkman brings to life Chaucer’s 600 year-old poetry. His mission: to create more public appreciation of Chaucer’s work. Brinkman (babasword.com) has rap adaptations of two of Chaucer’s poems from the Canterbury Tales—the chivalrous “Knight’s Tale” (complete with plastic sword) and the bawdy, drunken “Miller’s Tale.” He has reduced the 2,000-line “Knight’s Tale” to 400 lines of rhyme (e.g.: “Arcite’s happiness exploded/in him, and he rose and showed it/As above his foe he gloated…”). A tale that might take four hours to read is, in Brinkman’s hands, a 20-minute rap. No notes either—it’s all in his head.

“As far as I’m concerned, Chaucer was the rapper of Medieval England,” Brinkman recently explained to students at Rockheights Middle School in Esquimalt. Just as Chaucer took earlier Italian poetry by Boccaccio and translated it to the language of the people, Brinkman sees a parallel with today’s rappers and hip hop artists who use street language to articulate experience. Then there’s the whole premise of the Canterbury Tales, where 29 pilgrims try to out-do each other with their story-telling skills on the pilgrimage to Canterbury. The contest was similar, says Brinkman, to a group of MCs passing the mic to prove who can unleash the best rhymes (check the movie Eight Mile).

Professors have told him their undergrads do better on Chaucer tests after they’ve seen Brinkman’s act. And the kids at Rockheights seemed to like it too. “That’s hilarious,” a young guy said afterwards to a classmate. Medieval poetry? Hilarious? Brinkman’s clearly onto something. After graduating this spring, he hopes to build his act, add more Tales, and round it out with beats and music. Word up.
Skyscapes

From the camera of Victoria astrophotographer David Lee, BSc ’78 comes this series of images of the partial solar eclipse of June 10, 2002, compiled over a period of 90 minutes. The view was partially obscured by clouds, but that’s how it goes in astronomical viewing.
Growing Campus, Green Campus

THE CHALLENGE: PLAN THE GROWTH OF THE UNIVERSITY, WITH NEW BUILDINGS FOR AN EXPANDING STUDENT POPULATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY, WITHOUT LOSING THE LOOK AND FEEL OF THE CAMPUS SETTING. NOT EASY, SINCE 42 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE ORIGINAL CAMPUS PLAN. BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE CONSENSUS ON CAMPUS AND IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES THAT A DRAFT CAMPUS PLAN—RELEASED IN MARCH, AND WITH APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS LIKELY BEFORE SUMMER—is the map to UVic's physical future.

The 1960s values of the old campus plan—vast lawns, huge courtyards—have been replaced by modern values of compact growth and sustainable development. In 63 pages, the plan deals with natural and landscaped open spaces of campus, its land and buildings, and the way people and their vehicles get to and around the university. The document was written and approved by the 25-member campus development committee.

"We’ll (increase density) in some areas to protect and restore the natural areas," CDC chair and Vice-President of Finance and Operations Jack Falk told the Saanich News. "I think that was a real value change within the institution. That's what the public was telling us they wanted."

The draft plan is almost a complete overhaul of the original document from last year. It was the subject of months of consultation, open houses, workshops and volumes of letters and e-mail.

"Whether they are faculty, students or staff—everybody loves this campus and recognizes the importance of the green spaces, the sense of place," says Sarah Webb, a student and CDC member. "We want to make sure that the way we grow emphasizes those characteristics." Twenty-nine action steps include regular consultation with immediate neighbours and municipalities. "I think that’s where it's got potential," adds Webb.

Committee member and chair of the history department, Eric Sager, says the plan represents "a critical watershed in the history of this campus, the physical space. We now realize the necessity of incorporating environmentally sensitive values in all areas of planning. This university is not land rich and this plan confronts those choices."

The plan puts a 10-year moratorium on development in designated areas outside Ring Road (South Woods, the Garry Oak Meadow, Bowker Creek wetlands, and University Gardens). A building site in the woods inside Ring Road—near the science buildings and the subject of a continuing tree-sitting protest by students—will be protected from development for 10 years and naturally restored. But two buildings slated for the edge of the woods (for the Island Medical Program and Engineering) will proceed.

"I think there are ways we can minimize impact to that area," says Webb. "I'm really excited though, and I think the tree-sitters are excited, to see restoration programs underway (there)."

Sager says putting the plan in action will be a test for everyone involved so far. "They (critics) said the planning process was top-heavy with administrators. We're saying back to them—the community, the students—if you care about this campus, then share in the process. You're all part of this."

The plan is on-line at: web.uvic.ca/vpfin/draftcampusplan/.

— MIKE MCNENY

Compendium

A crowd of 250 walked Ring Road in January, joining retired chemistry Prof. FRANK ROBINSON and his family in the first Alzheimer Society Walk for Memories. Robinson is in the early stage of the disease which gradually robs victims of their memory. "I won't say it's a good disease to have," Robinson said, "but if you have to have it you have a great team (at the Alzheimer Society) working on things." Donations to the society can be made by calling (250) 382-2052. For sale: the waterfront home at Ten Mile Point left to the university by the late MICHAEL WILLIAMS. Mortgage costs, maintenance, zoning, taxes and a stipulation that the house not be used in any way that might disturb the neighbourhood were cited as reasons for the decision to sell. The initial asking price was $6.9 million... EMILY POUPART, completing her master's in dispute resolution, won the Rhodes Scholarship for Quebec residents. A national team rower, she is the third consecutive UVic student (after David Claus and Kate Ballem) to receive the award to study at Oxford University.

HEAD COUNT: Enrolment for the current school year reached 18,036, including 2,305 grad students. Part-time students accounted for one-third of the grand total. Sixty per cent of students are female... THE LAW FACULTY retains its top ranking in the annual survey of recent grads by Canadian Lawyer magazine. UVic has placed first in seven of the past eight surveys... Nominations are invited for the DistinguisheD EDUCATION ALUMNI AWARDS. Three recipients will receive a scroll, their photos will be displayed in the MacLaurin Building, and scholarships will be awarded in their names. Contact the faculty at (250) 721-7757 or e-mail mnemls@uvic.ca for more information or visit the Web site at educ.uvic.ca/alumni... Writing Prof. BILL GASTON (photo) has won the first Timo-thy Findley Award from the Writers Trust of Canada. The award carries a $15,000 prize and recognizes mid-career authors for the body of work they've produced so far... All chemistry alumni, as well as faculty and staff from the past and present are invited to attend CHEMISTRY'S 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. The reunion and mini-conference is from May 16—18. The schedule of events is on-line at chemistry.uvic.ca... What can frogs tell us about cancer? Bio-chemist CAREN HELBING thinks a frog's thyroid hor-mones, and their influence on cells, could reveal keys for a better understanding of human cancer cells. She's received a $100,000 (US) grant from two American chemistry organiza-tions to assist her research... LEARNINg AND THE WORLD WE WANT is the title of a major conference planned for Nov. 20-23 by the education faculty. More information is at: worldwide.ca...
Resident
Gourmets

Chez Melanie: Gendre and friends prepare the evening meal.
In the kitchens of campus housing units, a savoury trend overtakes the burgers-and-pizza stereotype.

**By Lisa Duong**

**Photography by Gregg Eligh**

It's Friday night and Melanie Gendre is slicing zucchini beside a large stainless steel saucepan where fresh vegetables simmer in a sauce made with French herbs. The kitchen is warm and has the sweet and heady aroma of red wine. The essence of eggplants and tomatoes rises in the hot steam from the pot, complementing the rich scent of beef in the air. Gendre adds the zucchini with a splash into the hodgepodge of yellows, oranges and purples already in the saucepan. She's preparing for a dinner party. Her guests—five hungry friends—will arrive in less than 30 minutes. On the menu is ratatouille stew, her variation on the famous Provençal vegetable dish. She's also cooking boeuf bourguignon, a slow roast of beef in red wine sauce with carrots, potatoes and herbs to be served with green salad and hearty French bread. "It's a lot of cooking. It takes all day sometimes," she says. "But I like to have friends over for dinner."

An international student from France, Gendre is in her fourth year of astrophysics. This is her first time living on her own and so far cooking is, well, a piece of cake. "I always like to cook. When you cook [for] yourself, you appreciate what you eat more and then you will eat less and slower, which will also help me control my weight." Gendre also bakes from scratch and, once in a while, has crêpe parties with friends.

Yarrow Anders who, like Gendre, lives in UVic's cluster housing, also finds that cooking on her own isn't as difficult as she anticipated. Her specialty is stir-fry. "I like experimenting in the kitchen," she says. She's learned to make sweet potatoes, curries and sushi since living on her own.

Does this all sound strange and distant from the image of a student eating cold pizza among McDonald's wrappers and empty pop cans by the TV Guide? Gendre and Anders are examples of what may be a growing trend. For different reasons, more and more students living on their own for the first time are opting to cook for themselves rather than become burger junkies. "The stereotype is outdated. Students are more health conscious," says Liisa Gibson, a residence life co-ordinator in housing, food and conference services. Ina Bureau, manager of resident dining production and catering services, agrees: "There is no doubt that over the past ten years, students have become more aware of their nutritional needs." She plans the menu for over 1,000 students living on campus and says it is routinely updated to reflect the changing tastes of students. The menu now includes more vegetarian options and a pasta bar.

In an informal survey of 80 students living in residence, more than 70 percent said they preferred to eat at home rather than out. The average student ate dinner at restaurants was three to four times a month.

Eating at home is more economical than dining out. Gendre and Anders also use cooking to channel unwanted stress. "I like being in control of what's going on in my food. I enjoy cooking, I find it calming," says Anders. "It's a fun time at our place; we can just relax and talk about our day." Gendre says she has to cook during exam week because it's the only way to get a grip on her anxiety levels.

Meanwhile, with her dinner almost ready and guests due to arrive at any moment, Gendre sets her table: yellow dinner napkins, sparkling stemware and even a few flowers she picked on her way to class earlier in the day. She checks on her ratatouille stew, fills a glass half way, and adds water to the simmering vegetables. She glances at her watch. "It's going to be fun."

Lisa Duong is a fourth-year writing student. This article first appeared in the winter 2002 edition of 315 Magazine, a class project of advanced journalism students.

“There is no doubt that over the past ten years, students have become more aware of their nutritional needs.”
Secure in the .com Storm

Sticking to the game plan keeps a Victoria software company strong a decade after its genesis in a fine arts lab.

BY KATHERINE GIBSON, MEd ’90
PHOTOGRAPHY BY VINCE KLASSEN

“It felt as if I was rushing to save Private Ryan while the enemy stormed the beach,” says Eric Jordan, co-founder of PureEdge Solutions, recalling how his technology company weathered the recent economic upheaval. The visual arts graduate, BFA ’93, is a recognized Internet pioneer who is in demand as a speaker at Harvard and numerous industry events. He has plenty to say about staying afloat in stormy seas. PureEdge is a Victoria-based company that is not only surviving the continued market uncertainty, it’s thriving.

Since its inception 10 years ago, PureEdge has become the leading provider of secure e-forms for governments and regulated industries. The company’s technology substantially reduces costs by moving valuable business documents to the Web. This decreases paperwork and processing costs, and improves client service. PureEdge also ensures data accuracy, eliminates lost documents and, most importantly, creates secure electronic transactions.

The youthful, 34-year-old Jordan and his company operate the from an unassuming building in Royal Oak, just north of Victoria’s city centre. Inside the concrete and glass structure, the atmosphere is all business. The flamboyant excesses and “work-cum-play culture” associated with the dot-com era are absent, with the exception of Jordan’s casual attire. His utilitarian office reflects his no-nonsense, focused, prudent attitude. In place of the pretentious trappings one might expect of a successful technology company, Jordan displays a greenish-blue painted sculpture he created from textbooks he used during his student days. Several photos of his wife and two pre-school-aged children dominate his working space.

Jordan and his band of tech-wizards have brought the company from a mere concept to a bustling enterprise with 60 employees, many of whom are UVic graduates and engineering co-op students. When the economic slide turned into a raging avalanche, PureEdge not only rode out the turbulence, it prospered. “We’ve got a real product with bottom-line benefits for our customers,” explains Jordan when asked how PureEdge differs from the legions of failed dot-com companies. But it did suffer some tough jolts during those months of roller-coaster uncertainty. “We dug in and concentrated on the core business that created our initial success.” And that strategy has worked. In 2002, annual revenues reached CDN $10 million. Perhaps their success is also due to Jordan’s tenacious attitude. “I believe we should be brutally honest about what we want to do in life, to commit to that choice, and never give up.

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The PureEdge story begins in the early 1990s when Tony Welch, former dean of fine arts, asked Jordan and engineering student (and company co-founder) David Manning to manage the from an unassuming building in Royal Oak, just north of Victoria’s city centre. Inside the concrete and glass structure, the atmosphere is all business. The flamboyant excesses and “work-cum-play culture” associated with the dot-com era are absent, with the exception of Jordan’s casual attire. His utilitarian office reflects his no-nonsense, focused, prudent attitude. In place of the pretentious trappings one might expect of a successful technology company, Jordan displays a greenish-blue painted sculpture he created from textbooks he used during his student days. Several photos of his wife and two pre-school-aged children dominate his working space.

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PureEdge co-founder Eric Jordan, BFA 93.
saw it as a fit for the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation, established to incubate ideas with commercial potential. PureEdge (originally called UWI.com) became IDC’s biggest success story. It’s an unlikely scenario since, as Welch notes, most technology transfer ideas usually come from science and engineering labs, not fine arts.

Before long, the young men had developed a solution to virtually eliminate a company’s paper burden through its unique e-forms technology. With IDC’s guidance, Jordan and Manning formed a company and entered into a joint venture with BC Systems, a provincial-government technology agency, now-defunct. This provided PureEdge with office space and access to funding, and introduced the company to customers, including Ameritech, a US tele-communications firm. “In 1996, when BC Systems restructured and stepped out of its agreements with the private sector, we made the transition to a truly independent company by raising venture capital,” says Jordan. “And with this support, we moved into the bigger marketing arena.”

PureEdge courted and won significant contracts with the RCMP, the US Department of Defense, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and financial investment giant JP Morgan Chase. Using PureEdge technology, the defense department reduced its paper burden from 18 million yearly paper invoices to an almost paperless environment. In 2002, the company so impressed US Air Force officials it won a US $6.7 million contract to convert approximately 15,000 air force forms into e-format.

With PureEdge’s applications, the SEC radically lowered costs to both subscribers and taxpayers to become the global model for filing and registration applications. The success of this innovation was recognized by CIO Magazine when the SEC received one of the 11th annual Enterprise Value Awards. PureEdge was also named a top 10 e-commerce company by Internet Week and a “Company to Watch” by Wall Street and Technology.

As the company matures, it is making a major shift from a technology focus to customer service. To achieve this goal, Jordan’s team went back to the streets and successfully snagged $15.5 million in venture capital financing. The company plans to expand its North American sales force, extend the company’s visibility and marketing programs, and strengthen existing software products.

As PureEdge pushes new frontiers, it has not forgotten its beginnings. Now that it has reached critical mass, there are hints that it is looking at ways to continue its relationship with the university. The company is also recognizing its place in the Greater Victoria community, with active involvement in the United Way campaign. “We were formed and nurtured in Victoria and we want to give back, to be part of the social good,” says the Victoria-born Jordan.

How will PureEdge continue to move forward and defy fickle business cycles? “As long as a company delivers value to its customers, it has a place in the market,” says Jordan. “And of course, when times get tough, you have to hunker down, keep the faith, believe in what you are doing, and storm the beaches if need be.”

More Discoveries

The roots of PureEdge are in the transfer of university ideas to the commercial marketplace. Discovery Parks Inc. is promising more of that activity with the opening this spring of its on-campus research and development facility for information technology and biotechnology companies.

The two-storey Technology Enterprise Facility offers 9,100 square metres of flexible floor space for existing firms and university-based start-ups. DPI is a non-profit company that operates similar research facilities at other BC universities and institutes, and it paid the cost of construction of the new building. The building—located on Sinclair Road near the Finnerty Road entrance to campus—will complement the technology transfer services of the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation.

The university is also a tenant of the new Vancouver Island Technology Park in Saanich, where the UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre has a new home alongside MDS Metro—BC’s largest independent community lab network. MDS will pay the centre’s rent. In return, the two groups will work on new analytical tools for medical diagnostics and treatments based on the study of human proteins. The centre is also involved in Genome BC-funded research in forestry, fisheries, environmental research, and cancer.
Complex oceans, a changing climate and the future of energy systems: the chase for answers to Earth’s System Problems

BY MIKE MCNENEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROB KRUYT
The calendar says it’s the beginning of spring but on southern Vancouver Island, this year’s version of winter came and went without ever seriously asserting itself. It seems like the days and months are out of step with the seasons. At the same time Arctic and sub-Arctic sea ice is melting at a rate at which it may disappear in less than 50 years. And in the months ahead, forecasters expect drought conditions to continue on the prairies.
**Interactive Sea**

Live from the ocean floor, it’s the VENUS project.

Technology is about to bring oceanographic fieldwork to the computer desktops of scientists and anyone with an interest in understanding the ocean. VENUS—the UVic-led Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea—offers new ways of doing science that will augment the research voyages, remote instruments, and satellite observations that scientists rely upon now. VENUS will let us see, hear, and analyze what’s happening, as it’s happening, under the sea.

"For the first time anywhere, researchers will be able to ask the ocean questions and immediately..."
Mix ‘n’ Math

Understanding the equations of ocean fluid dynamics

OCEAN SCIENTIST MARY-LOUISE TIMMERMANS, BSc ’94 was 15 when her parents took her on a three-year voyage around the world. For someone who had grown up in Whitehorse the first taste of the open ocean—as the family’s 43-foot sailboat exited Juan de Fuca Strait—is something she still talks about with keen fascination.

“I remember being really amazed. The first thing that struck me was looking around and not seeing anything, just vastness. It’s a weird, incredible feeling.”

The waves, waterspouts, moon-bows—even the ocean dolldrums—inspired an intense curiosity about the sea. It’s a state of mind that Timmermans finds herself immersed in every day at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, where she holds a postdoctoral scholarship. A graduate of the physics co-op program, she completed her PhD at Cambridge University.

She studies ocean fluid dynamics. She loves that she gets to “think about how things work,” the way data—on a scale ranging from the minute to the vast—drawn from ocean circulation processes reveal clues about potential shifts in the Earth’s climate. Her theoretical work has implications for general ocean circulation theory and computer-driven climate models.

“The oceans play a huge, essential part in the climate system. If we want to think about what the future holds for us, we have to understand what’s happening with oceans.”

It’s an immense mathematical challenge to find the equations and understand the physics that explain how the ocean behaves. The Earth’s rotation (and its influence on major currents like the Atlantic Gulf Stream), surface winds, internal waves, and ocean floor topography are all factors. Then there are the complicating effects of salt and heat.

[See page 22]

Timmermans usually studies deep ocean ecosystems—including strange creatures like tube worms that thrive near hydrothermal vents. “We’ve learned so much offshore in terms of technology and techniques for observing, recording and interpreting data,” she says. “I know a ton about hot vents, but that particular knowledge is not so important. It’s how you look at them. Methods and insight are transferable to other systems.”

Timmermans’ work with VENUS will focus on the ocean floor and how animal communities have adapted to diverse environments along the BC coast. She’ll also expand her research upward into the water column. “After all,” she says, “the ocean floor community is controlled by what’s happening above it. VENUS will help us make that connection.”

VENUS is the smaller cousin of NEPTUNE, which is being proposed jointly by Canada (led by UVic) and the US (led by the University of Washington). They envision a 3,000-km fibre-optic communications and power network of instruments under the Pacific from BC to Oregon.

—WITH FILES FROM VAL SHORE

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A lot of over the past couple of decades involved in the global ocean and climate system. And we already know the Arctic Ocean plays a vital role in regulating the Earth's climate. Changes in the global climate, says Timmermans, “which affect the Arctic Ocean, which could then have a strong feedback effect involving shallower parts of the ocean may lead to changes in the deep Arctic Ocean.”

In a deployment that took 13 hours, the team installed a 52-piece vertical array of temperature sensors to a depth of more than 3,000 metres. When the instruments are recovered next year, the long-term data will hopefully reveal more about how long the Canada Basin has been isolated from the surface for about 500 years.

Another exciting new area of research, still very much in its early days, is “biohydrogen”—the use of robust bacteria to produce hydrogen from garbage or sewage. David Levin, a UVic biologist, says the idea is basically to put the sewage into a tank and seed it with the appropriate bacteria. The fermentation produces hydrogen and carbon dioxide. The trick is to capture the hydrogen and separate it quickly enough to keep the reaction going in the right direction. “I don’t see this providing megawatts of electricity to run a city. It might be best suited for remote communities, or where you’re not connected to (an electrical) grid.”

“The science has spoken very loudly as far as climate change is concerned,” says Djilali. “We feel that much more emphasis should be given to addressing those issues. Internal combustion engines and gas turbine technology have made huge progress. But they have by-and-large reached maturity. The amount of room left for improvement isn’t that great and it’s barely going to offset the increased demand. Can we say to the 1.2 billion Chinese people, no you’re not allowed to have cars? And yet that’s precisely what they will want once their standards of living have improved. There is no way present technologies are going to be able to keep up with demand. Hydrogen technologies are really at their infancy, so the room for improvements—in terms of efficiencies, costs, usability—are huge. We foresee a future where there’s going to be a very large dependence on fuel cell technology all around the world in a variety of applications.”

Q&A with a Carbon Buster

Out of the debate on the Kyoto Protocol and climate change has sprung a new organization of students called “Carbon Free Campuses.” Interested in cleaner energy systems, the 12 leaders and 70 informal members are starting out with big plans for UVic and other universities. Stephen Albinati, a 21-year-old business student, is the group’s president.

What’s your organization all about? Carbon Free Campuses is dedicated to exploring alternative energy. We facilitate discussion and spearhead student-run renewable energy projects.

What convinced you to join? Over the past couple of years, I’ve become more and more interested in environmental issues. What sold me on CFC was its rational approach to finding solutions.

Who else is involved? We have students from a variety of disciplines including engineering, biology, geoscience, environmental studies, and business. Brian Coffey, Andrew MacDonald, and Tom Owen were the founders. I think it’s imperative that multiple disciplines are represented in our group. The environmental crisis is not an issue isolated to any one area.

What sort of things have you done already? A lot of our work has been organizing members, setting up a board of faculty advisors, launching a Web site and developing our presence on campus. We had a successful speaker series and we’re drafting a recommendation on restructuring the campus development committee.

What about the group’s political philosophy? I think we differ from other environmental groups in that we are non-partisan. We want to approach issues in an analytical and unbiased manner. Any position we take will be based on facts, considering both the negatives and the positives. It will not be ideologically driven.

What’s the biggest thing you can see your group accomplishing? To become a nationwide organization—it would be great to see a network of students working towards new technology and research.
A Cambridge Crime Story

... or how a terrifying ordeal brought a professor to give up academia for crime writing.

By John Lee, MA ’96

Photography by Perry Hastings

“He loved me so much that he stood outside our home for hours on end. He pressed up against the front door, as if trying to hear what we were doing inside. He didn’t offer any violence, not explicitly so; but his hulking presence was always a threat. We couldn’t enter the house or leave without confronting him. We couldn’t let the children out.”

Crime writer Michelle Spring, BA ’68 is used to describing taut scenarios like this in her popular series of Laura Principal detective novels. But the stalking incident, from an account she wrote for the London Sunday Telegraph, was real. Spring was the victim. And while the 18-month ordeal was deeply disturbing, it was also the catalyst for her transformation from successful academic to award-winning novelist.

Now based in Cambridge, England, Spring was born in Victoria and spent most of her childhood in Nanaimo. At UVic, she began in education but was soon diverted by sociology, which she recalls as the “first subject that talked about people like me, from a working-class background.” Spring remembers hanging out with friends in the campus bar, reading Hermann Hesse and the occasional horror book, and writing “nothing more creative than shopping lists.” After graduating, she married and eventually moved to Cambridge, 80 kilometres north of London. In 1971, after working as a part-time researcher, Spring began teaching sociology at a Cambridge adult education college.

Specializing in the sociology of education, Spring combined teaching with graduate research, producing an influential study in the field. “At the time, sociology had an important impact and you could work in areas that you really cared about,” said Spring, who used the surname Stanworth from her first marriage throughout her academic career. By 1983, she was guest lecturing at Cambridge University and in 1989 she became professor of sociology and women’s studies at her college, now Anglia Polytechnic University.

A popular instructor known for her friendly disposition towards students, Spring felt she could help the troubled individual who turned up at her office in May 1990. “He was moving along the corridor against the wall, like he was in the SAS. He seemed a bit strange but I felt sorry for him. I thought he needed as much help as I could give but I suppose I was the first person to show him any concern.”

She wrote letters to tutors and counselling services on the student’s behalf and listened to his problems. But the positive attention provoked a dangerous response. He began calling Spring’s home day and night, eventually insisting he would kill her family so she would marry him. “I became increasingly frightened, and sneaking around feeling afraid all the time was incredibly wearing. But the worst part was not knowing when it would end.”

Police and psychiatrists barely helped, believing a crime had to be committed before serious action could be taken. Then, 18 months after meeting him, the stalker called Spring to say that “Nick” was coming to see her. Even now, Spring doesn’t know if Nick was real or a dangerous alter ego, but Nick phoned soon after to inform her of the violence he had in mind. Within minutes, the stalker was at the door claiming Nick was with him. Her
Michelle Spring: from sociologist to novelist.
husband away, Spring called the police and locked herself in the bathroom, clutching her children and a large kitchen knife.

After they endured a terrifying hour under siege, the police finally arrived and removed the stalker from outside the family's home. He was taken to a psychiatric hospital, where he remains.

Finally free of their ordeal, Spring's family took a four-and-a-half month trip to California and Vancouver. She had intended to write some fiction during the break—she planned a family saga—but the stalker ordeal came tumbling out in a fictionalized tale. “I had to get it off my chest,” said Spring. The story's central character became Laura Principal, a cool-headed, bookish head of the Cambridge branch of Aardvark Investigations.

With no plans to publish the story, Spring took her time finishing the book alongside her teaching over the next two years. Once it was completed, she decided to write a second novel for possible publication, using the first manuscript to hook an agent who convinced Spring of the stalker story's potential. It was promptly sold to Pocket Books and Every Breath You Take appeared in stores in 1994.

Quickly starting on book two, Spring again centred the action on Laura Principal. For a while, she balanced her academic and writing pursuits, finally realizing in 1997 that she had developed a greater passion for fiction. “I cried when I made the decision to leave behind my academic career. It was saying goodbye to an important part of my life as well as the regular salary. But from the moment I handed in my notice, I knew it was right. And since I went full-time (as a writer), I can more wholeheartedly dedicate myself to writing and the books have improved.”

Growing to five tightly-plotted suspense novels, the Laura Principal series has dealt with contemporary issues such as children who kill and the links between privilege and prostitution. In 2002 Spring won the Arthur Ellis Award from the Crime Writers of Canada for her latest book, In the Midnight Hour. The prestigious award is named after the nom de travail of Canada's official hangman. Past winners of the “Arthur”—a figure with a noose around its neck that dances when a string is pulled—include Carol Shields, William Deverell and Nora Kelly.

Fellow “Arthur” winner and best-selling crime writer Peter Robinson has known Spring for more than 10 years. He believes she has several key qualities as a novelist. “Michelle writes a fine story,” said Robinson, “with believable situations that come from her personality. And she writes well about social issues, but not in a preachy way.”

Joe Blades, vice-president and executive editor at New York-based Ballantine Books, the Random House imprint that now publishes Spring's novels, is impressed with her characterizations and sense of place. “I’ve always been very taken with Laura Principal and Michelle's supporting characters. And the tale of two cities—London and Cambridge—is attractive to North American readers.”

Blades believes Spring's greatest writing successes are still to come. Her next novel—about a night lawyer—could be “a bigger leap into the marketplace.” For Spring, the new story is a chance to stretch as a writer. “It's more difficult than I thought but I'm trying something more ambitious.”

She's also planning a novel centred on Venice Beach, California and another set in BC's northern backwoods. And she wants to tackle the short story genre and even write song lyrics. But she hasn't abandoned Laura Principal. The popular stories were recently optioned for TV, and Spring is plotting her next novel in the series, this time tackling the theme of neighbour rage. “I'm happy to work hard, but I want to work on things I care about. I feel I'm still working at all this, but if I wasn't developing, I wouldn't be interested in doing it at all.”

The worst part was not knowing when it would end.
The Bone House
New Star Books, 2002 • 288 pages • $21.00
This strongly character-driven novel, from Luanne Armstrong, BA ’82, follows a young woman’s escape from an economically and socially devastated Vancouver of the near-future and return to her birthplace in the Kootenays. There she meets the eccentric builder of a ghostly “bone house.”

Indian Myths & Legends from the North Pacific Coast of America
Talonbooks, 2001 • 480 pages • $65.00
In 1895, Franz Boas, considered the father of North American anthropology, published 250 BC First Nations myths and legends. But they were in German. The immense, 20-year task of researching, footnoting and annotating the fascinating, translated text has now been completed by Randy Bouchard, BA ’65 and Dorothy Kennedy, BA ’93, MA ’95.

Leaders Talk Leadership
Oxford University Press, 2002 • 288 pages • $45.00
First person insights from about 50 leading executives—edited by Meredith D. Ashby and Stephen A. Miles, MA ’97—reveal philosophies and strategies for attracting and developing top talent, managing intangible assets, transforming companies, governing effectively and competing in today’s market.

Learning by Designing
Pacific Northwest Coast Native Indian Art, Volume 2
Raven Publishing, 2002 • 176 pages • $34.95
Jim Gilbert and Karin Clark, MEd ’84 have created an instructional and reference guide that puts First Nations art into deeper cultural context. It explores philosophy, knowledge and skills foundations, codes of ethics, and interviews. Includes a full-colour, 16-page creation story with 20 designs.

Taking the Names Down from the Hill
Nightwood Editions, 2003 • 80 pages • $15.95
A member of the WSA, NEC tribe on the Saanich Peninsula, Philip Kevin Paul, BA ’03 presents his first collection of poems. His words, and First Nations oral tradition, bring out the wonder and mystery of the natural world.

Words that Walk in the Night
Vehicule Press, 2002 • 112 pages • $12.00
In this edition of Pierre Morency’s prose and poetry, translators René Brisebois, MA ’98 and Lissa Cowan, Dipl. ’97 present one of Quebec’s most honoured writers and his subtle take on the reality of the familiar.

Only By a Greater Sense of Forgetting
FOR LITTLE BIRD
In the mountains, the place
I always go when I am afraid.
In my country, Saanich,
you in Borneo three oceans away—
an earthquake and tidal wave that followed
wiping away five villages.

From my mountain peak, no way
to reach you in your jungle,
your voice still echoing in my head
through cracks in the phone line.
That one last thing before you hung up:
I don’t want to go without
saying how much I love you.
As big as the sky anywhere.

Your postcard taking seventeen days to arrive. Sent seventeen days before the disaster. On the front, white sand beaches and—damn—blue water, all seen from way up. On the back, a small ache of words:
I spent the whole day climbing a strange round mountain,
and when I looked down, this is what I saw:
Kevin, I just had to dance.

On my way home through the sharp rock hills of Saanich
and the fir-tree darkness—the absence of which also makes
Borneo strange to you. There is that one place, remember?
A clearing on a steep hill that leans the weight of an entire
world against the mind. And there’s our green ocean
and our blue sky, and all other things that were
once nameless and not strange and not between us.

PHILIP KEVIN PAUL
FROM TAKING THE NAMES DOWN FROM THE HILL
The Crazy Beauty of Rowing

You don’t have to be a star to be in these boats. Just bring guts, determination and a tolerance for blisters and burning muscles.

BY ADRIENNE MERCER, BA ’94
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROB KRUYT

FOR VIKES rowers, the lure is in the early morning practices, the sunrises over Elk Lake and the sound of oars sweeping through the water.

“I don’t do this to win races,” says men’s captain Bart Stockdill. “It’s a lifestyle. For the eight or nine regattas we go to in the academic year, that’s eight or nine days. The rest of the time, we’re training.” More than 30 Olympians got their start with the Vikes, but Stockdill says that standard is only a small part of what keeps generations of athletes coming to the boathouse.

A 25-year-old mechanical engineering master’s student, Stockdill started as a novice rower four years ago, fresh from a summer co-op placement. “I walked in, briefcase and all,” he says. “I hadn’t participated in organized sports, except in elementary school.”

He remembers the morning light at his first practice, the camaraderie of novice rowing, the feeling that there was nothing to lose. “At our first regatta at Deep Cove, I remember (in the novice race) a boat that started out in lane one and ended up in lane five,” he says. “All of these novices...it was more like a naval battle than a race. On the second day, the varsity eights came over and I saw them glide across the water. I wanted to be in that boat. I wanted to be like that.”

Stockdill advanced to the varsity level through a combination of his own motivation, the support of his teammates and coach Howie Campbell’s direction and encouragement. It took willpower.

“I did a fair bit of running and cross-training before I started rowing, but in the first three months, everything hurt,” Stockdill says. “About a month and a half in, you finish a practice and everything in your body hurts, and all you want to do is go to sleep somewhere. It gets better with time, but it never really goes away.”

Campbell says to succeed, a rower needs focus. “I try to act a bit like a mirror sometimes,” he says. “But I don’t try to steer the athletes any particular way, because my own prejudice can get in the way. Not everyone can be an Olympic champion.”

Women’s coach Rick Crawley takes a similar approach. “I tried coaching as a control freak, but it didn’t suit what I wanted to do,” he says. “I have a quote on my wall by William Arthur Ward. It says ‘Flatter me and I may not believe you, criticize me and I

Your brain is telling you to stop rowing, and then another part of your brain is telling the first part to shut up. It’s not mind over matter, it’s mind over mind.
may not like you, ignore me and I may not forgive you, encourage me and I may not forget you.”

In 1972, Crawley started the women’s program at the Ottawa Rowing Club, though his peers didn’t think women had a place in the sport. “They said it was too strenuous,” he says, exasperated. “I was amazed: women could bear children, yet the powers that be thought they were too delicate to row.” The Ottawa women proved tough enough, and Crawley developed a reputation for winning.

“I think what I’m impressed with about Rick is he is one man amid 60 women,” says 20-year-old varsity lightweight Lindsay Jennerich. “You’d think some things might go over his head sometimes, but he’s really aware of what’s going on.”

In part, Jennerich came to the Vikes because she saw the UVic program as a stepping-stone to the Victoria-based national team. “When (Crawley) gets a rower with that capability (for the national team), he’s really open to giving that person up,” she says. “I’d like to go as far as I can go—at this point my aspirations are the Olympics and maybe a few senior A world championships.”

As head coach of both Rowing British Columbia and the women’s rowing program at UBC, Craig Pond says the national team gives UVic an unfair advantage in recruiting rowers. “They’ve been able to use that as a very key attraction,” he says. “That point would be taken very negatively by Rick, but it’s the truth…as a coach you have to lose talented rowers because of the national team lure. At the same time, it’s a challenge. It motivates me as a coach.”

Stockdill—who rowed for UBC while on a Vancouver co-op term—says Pond has a point, but losing athletes to the national team is hard for the UVic program, too. For exactly that reason, Crawley and Campbell keep building a strong base of beginners. And in cultivating athletes, they stress that determination often matters more than skill.

Take lightweight rower Ian Cooper, for example. “Two years ago Ian came to the program, a little scrawny guy from Shawnigan Lake,” Campbell chuckles. “No one wanted to row with him. I told him he needed miles…I stuck him in any boat where I could put him, and he kept showing up. He just made the varsity eight this year.”

That first year, improving was all Cooper thought about. “I wasn’t good enough to row with anyone,” he explains. “I was stuck in something called a recreational single.” He got the miles Campbell recommended, through what non-rowers might consider a process of self-torture.

“My hands…I would have three blisters on each finger,” he says. “It was pretty bad. You can’t wear gloves (to let the blisters heal) or you lose your grip. And there are times when your legs are absolutely on fire. Your brain is telling you to stop rowing, and then another part of your brain is telling the first part to shut up. It’s not mind over matter, it’s mind over mind.”

Cooper still sticks to a killer schedule. “I row 10 to 12 times a week,” he says. “We do a workout on the erg (rowing machine) once a week called the ‘hour of power’ and I do 16 kilometers. That’s 1600 calories. I’m 5’11”, 157 pounds, so I eat all day.”

Plenty of people ask Cooper if rowing is boring, and he understands why. They see a group of athletes doing something repetitive. They don’t know they are witnessing an unceasing quest for perfection. “There’s a rowing poster that says ‘My love is a noble madness.’ I think the motivation is more than competitive spirit. It’s beautiful and it’s crazy at the same time.”?
Back in the day, convocation was sometimes held at Memorial Arena. 1972 graduate Ian J. McKinnon had to use crutches to help him through the ceremony at the “Barn on Blanshard.” The old arena fell to the wrecking ball this winter to make way for a new sports, entertainment and trade show complex.
Back to Business

BUSINESS ALUMNI IN VICTORIA NOW HAVE THEIR OWN ALUMNI CHAPTER, which fits nicely with new business dean Ali Dastmalchian’s plans for building links between the faculty and BC business. “At recent business alumni receptions in Victoria and Vancouver there was a level of energy and excitement that suggests that the alumni are ready, willing, and able to help the faculty become recognized locally and globally for excellence,” says Dastmalchian. “And the involvement by alumni translates into a richer business education for our students.”

The Victoria office of KPMG is a good example. The staff list has several business alumni, including the faculty’s 2002 Medal of Excellence winner Lenora Lee, BComm ’02 and Sang-Kiet Ly, BComm ’99—both are on the alumni chapter executive. Their colleague Lance Ambercrombie, BComm ’94, recently took part in a one-day faculty retreat and will lead the mentor/co-op committee of the faculty’s board of advisors.

Coming up, Victoria chapter president Rob Sorensen, MBA ’97 will welcome business alumni to Back to Business—the chapter’s official launch on June 6 at the IQ Bistro in the grad students’ lounge. “We look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces and I would like to invite all business alumni and friends of the faculty to join us.”

For more information, contact chairperson Sylvie Gagné, MBA ’98 at gagne92@telus.net or Sorensen at rob@sorensenassociates.ca. For general information, visit alumni.uvic.ca/fac_business.htm or e-mail bizalum@business.uvic.ca.

Kevin Smith, BA ’97 noses the white schooner into narrow Kwatsi Bay on the remote central coast of BC. In the darkness at the end of the day’s cruise, Smith and his crew can’t see the granite cliffs that tower hundreds of feet above. Engine noises bounce off the rock. A waterfall spills from the cliff-tops.

The heart of the province’s central coast is an area in which Smith, a geography and environmental studies grad, has spent a large part of his life. As a park ranger, Smith explored the area for a decade. As an outdoor recreation negotiator on the central coast land and resource management plan, he fought to preserve areas like Kwatsi Bay and the neighbouring Bond Sound/Ahta River valley. Now he’s the owner of Maple Leaf Adventures, an ecotourism company that brings people from across the globe to sail the coast.

“Areas like these are special for many reasons,” says Smith. “They are physically and spiritually stunning. But at times when I look at Kwatsi or the Ahta I see map layers from battles at the negotiating table. I see a lot of conflicting ideas for one piece of land. If we protect them...these places (can be) the blueprints to restore the coast.”

What’s next for the 32-year-old skipper? “To continue to explore the coast. To share it with others, and to know that I am doing something to protect it. I need to do that.”

— MAUREEN GORDON, BA ’94

WILF JEFFERIES, BSc is leading a UBC team of researchers attempting to develop the first curative vaccine for cancer. The vaccine, already successfully tested on mice with lung cancer, is intended to help the immune system identify and destroy cancerous cells. Human trials are expected to begin within a year on patients with late stage skin cancer.

ROBIN HARKNESS, PhD has been appointed vice-president, research at Aventis Pasteur in Canada, the vaccine division of international pharmaceutical maker Aventis. He has been with the company since 1990. Aventis Pasteur makes or distributes 30 vaccines and immunotherapeutic products.

HUGH HENRY, BA, MA ’91 writes: “Recently, I accepted a position as an intelligence analyst with the intelligence assessment secretariat, Privy Council Office, in Ottawa. The secretariat provides policy relevant intelligence assessments for the prime minister, cabinet and senior government officials. I am enjoying my new career as a public servant. The work is extremely interesting and fulfilling, and the position is one that I had been aiming for. Previously, I spent two years in a full-time posting as a military staff officer and historian with the directorate of history, Department of National Defence. I also taught foreign and defence policy masters-level courses for the Royal Military College of Canada’s distance education program. In 1997, I received my doctorate in history from St. John’s College, University of Cambridge.”

BEN GEORGE MYRICK, BSW is a mental health counsellor in Merritt, with his own consulting firm, Ben Myrick Counselling.

SUROMITRA SANATANI, BA has been named vice-president of corporate relations at Partnerships British Columbia, the new provincial agency tasked with setting up public-private partnerships. Sanatani was the BC representative of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. She is also a member of the UVic Board of Governors.

1986

JIM OLCHOWY, MA moved to Nova Scotia, where he completed a PhD in English at Dalhousie. Between 1996 and 1999, following some travel in South-East Asia, Jim completed his LLB at Queen’s University and then moved to Toronto, where he articled with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Currently, he is completing York University’s part-time LLM in Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution while practicing law with Trepagnier Verity, in Brampton.

1987

IAN LAMPLUGH, BA announced his retirement from umpiring professional baseball in November, after 13 years including parts of four seasons in the major leagues. He plans to pursue other interests.

In the Heart of the Coast

KEVIN SMITH, BA ’97 NOSES THE WHITE SCHOONER INTO NARROW Kwatsi Bay on the remote central coast of BC. In the darkness at the end of the day’s cruise, Smith and his crew can’t see the granite cliffs that tower hundreds of feet above. Engine noises bounce off the rock. A waterfall spills from the cliff-tops.

The heart of the province’s central coast is an area in which Smith, a geography and environmental studies grad, has spent a large part of his life. As a park ranger, Smith explored the area for a decade. As an outdoor recreation negotiator on the central coast land and resource management plan, he fought to preserve areas like Kwatsi Bay and the neighbouring Bond Sound/Ahta River valley. Now he’s the owner of Maple Leaf Adventures, an ecotourism company that brings people from across the globe to sail the coast.

“Areas like these are special for many reasons,” says Smith. “They are physically and spiritually stunning. But at times when I look at Kwatsi or the Ahta I see map layers from battles at the negotiating table. I see a lot of conflicting ideas for one piece of land. If we protect them…these places (can be) the blueprints to restore the coast.”

What’s next for the 32-year-old skipper “To continue to explore the coast. To share it with others, and to know that I am doing something to protect it. I need to do that.”

— MAUREEN GORDON, BA ’94
1988

BRAD FORTH, BEng was selected by BC Business Magazine as its 2002 Entrepreneur of the Year, technology and communications category. The CEO of Victoria-based Power Measurement has helped guide the company, specialists in cost control units for electrical systems, to annual revenues of $70 million (2001). • JOHN C. ZANG, LLB writes: “After leaving the practice of law for a year while employed as the Vice President and General Manager of the El Paso Buzzards of the Central Hockey League, I have returned to Calgary as a director, officer and in-house counsel for Argo Energy.”

1989

JONATHAN RATEL, LLB is in Sarajevo where he is part of an international legal team investigating and prosecuting organized crime and corruption in the former Yugoslavia. He’s on a one-year leave of absence from his job as a Crown prosecutor in Victoria.

1991

CLAUDETTE CLOUTIER, BSc and her husband Charles are pleased to welcome their new son James Idris Vincett, born December 4, 2002. “He has big hands and big feet, so we’re hoping for either basketball or rowing!” Claudette will be on maternity leave from her job as the manager of the Gallagher Library of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Calgary for the next year.

1992

LORI HUGHES, BScN is an advisor with the Fraser Health Authority and is in the process of renovating a new, older, home. • Foreign service officer DAVID JEREMY WALLACE, BA, MA ’93, and his wife are expecting their second child and they will be going to Brussels this summer for a three-year diplomatic posting with the department of foreign affairs.

1994

PHYLLIS (HITCHCOCK) CANN, BA is an English instructor at Malaspina University College and plans to marry Mike Ford of Snellville, Georgia in May if the paperwork with US Immigration goes through. She has also published her first book: A Thousand Words: Grammar and Writing in Context.

1995

KANAE SAWADA, BA lives in Japan and is employed by the Tokyo branch of the Deutsche Bank Group.

1996

AILSLINN HUNTER, BFA won the 2002 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award from the League of Canadian Poets for the best first book of poetry, Into the Early Hours. • LEE SI TEK, BSc will be

Water Lines to Ibsen

Paintings by SANDRA WILES, BFA ’93 will often start with small studies that lead to grander, final pieces. Here, the 9” by 12” acrylic and conte on wood series called Water Lines shows the progression to an image entitled Ibsen (48” by 48”, acrylic on fabric). It’s also the result of a recycling project. She explains: “I save all the scraps of fabric and wood from completed works and then use those leftover pieces to experiment as I work towards the next painting. In this case, I wanted a line to enclose and highlight the previous layers of paint while retaining all the implied depth beneath—just as light on moving water marks the highest level of texture both through the surface crests and through their lower, weaker refractions.”
married to Frances Hall in October at the UVic Interfaith Chapel. Edmonton is their home. Lee is employed as a geographic information systems analyst with Genus Resource Management Technologies. Frances is attending the University of Alberta, pursuing a joint Masters of Business Administration and Masters of Forestry degree. Frances and Lee met each other through the Blizzard Bicycle Club while living in north-eastern BC.

Frances and Lee actively participate in the sport of triathlon. The day following their wedding Lee and Frances will be running in the Royal Victoria Marathon and Half Marathon. Lee is also an Ironman Canada Triathlon 2001 finisher.

1998
ANGELA MANGAN, BA writes to say she is teaching senior high English at Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvick. The school has 380 students in grades seven through 12.

1999
The floral and landscape artist, BOBBIE BURGERS, BFA completed a successful exhibition of her new oils and paper monotypes this winter at the Bau-Xi Gallery in Vancouver. She has had more than 20 Canadian solo exhibitions since 1995. Bobbie resides in Vancouver with her husband and family. The accompanying image is called “Beyond,” acrylic on canvas (40” by 40”). • SHAUN HANGENSEN, BA is the CEO of Discovery Computers and Wireless and he made Business in Vancouver magazine’s list of top 40 entrepreneurs under age 40. Shaun and business partner Jim Koutougos were studying together at UVic when they hatched their business plan. Their franchise chain has 14 stores in BC and Alberta, with about 60 employees. • ANDREW MCALLISTER, BA has returned to Victoria to open his own firm, specializing in creative visual communication. After UVic, he spent three years working in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Amsterdam.

2000
INEKE VAN DE LEUR, BEd and MIGUEL C. STROTHER, BA ’01, returned to Vancouver from their current home in Japan to be married in a small ceremony on August 17, 2002.

2001
KEVIN JONES, BSc is a marine information technician with the hydrographic services office, Department of National Defence. • A. MICHAEL KEEP, BSc sends this news: “After graduation I
Reconnect in 2003

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

2003 is a special year for UVic—and for your alumni association. It was 100 years ago when Victoria College was founded. From 1903 to 1915, Victoria College operated as a two-year university college affiliated with McGill University. During the years from 1921 through 1946, Victoria College was housed at Craigdarroch Castle. Between 1946 and 1963, Victoria College co-existed with the Provincial Normal School on Lansdowne Road; the property is now home to Camosun College. On July 1, 1963, with a move to the Gordon Head campus, UVic became an official degree-granting educational institution. 2003, then, marks the 100th anniversary of our founding as Victoria College, and the 40th anniversary of our establishment as a degree-granting university.

On this special anniversary, we encourage you to reconnect with your university. Whether you graduated last year from UVic, or many years ago from Victoria College or the Provincial Normal School, you are part of a very special group of individuals—UVic alumni. The UVic Alumni Association, a proud supporter of the UVic 2003 anniversary celebrations, encourages alumni to come back to campus, renew friendships, and get re-acquainted with their university.

Here are a few of the alumni association events that are planned:
• Part of Spring Convocation, the reconvocation of the Class of 1964 will be on June 6.
• Activities have been organized for two fun-filled days on September 5 and 6. Bring your friends and family!
• The 2nd Annual Legacy Awards will be held in November—more details soon.

For more information on our 2003 events, visit celebrations2003.uvic.ca or call the UVic Alumni Affairs Office at 721-6000, toll free 1-800-808-6828.

And please join us at the UVic Alumni Association’s Annual General Meeting and Reception on June 11. Our guest speaker will be Norma Michelson. To RSVP, call 721-6000, toll free 1-800-808-6828, or e-mail alumni@uvic.ca.

My two-year term as president of the UVic Alumni Association will end at the AGM in June. It has been a rewarding experience. I’d like to thank the exceptional staff of the alumni affairs office and the dedicated members of the alumni association board of directors for their support and their hard work over the past two years. Best wishes for the future to all of you. Stay in touch with your alumni association!

ANDREW ALEXANDER, HON. LLD ’86, SHAPE, DIP. ED.

2003 IS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR UVIC—AND FOR YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.
spent 18 months working for UBC’s Faculty of Medicine in the field of cardiovascular research. My projects involved work with vascular smooth muscle heterogeneity as well as human vascular tissue studies, and were conducted at St. Paul’s Hospital and BC Children’s Hospital. My work on human tissue contributed to a paper published in the American Journal of Physiology. I am now attending St. George’s University School of Medicine, an American medical school located in Grenada, West Indies to prepare to write the US Medical Licensing Exam to complete my MD in 2006.”

KEVIN TKACHUK, BA is working on a master’s degree in English local history at Oxford University while competing with the Dark Blues of Oxford rugby team. He scored a try in Oxford’s loss to rival Cambridge in the annual Varsity Match before 50,000 spectators at Twickenham field in December.

VICTORIA COLLEGE

MICHEL HORN, VC ’58 writes: “I continue to be professor of history at Glendon College of York University. Since July 2002, I am also university historian. This year I have been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and I have won the Milner Memorial Award, given by the Canadian Association of University Teachers ‘in recognition of a distinguished contribution to the cause of academic freedom.’”

IN MEMORIAM

BRUCE BROWN, Hon. DFA ’91, arts and antique collector and benefactor of the university, died December 10, 2002. He was 88. He collected an eclectic mix of historical items, hundreds of which were given to UVic, including a letter signed by Napoleon and a pencil-drawn self-portrait of Charlie Chaplin.

MARY RICHMOND, Hon. LLD ’91 passed away Nov. 29, 2002. She was a pioneer of the Canadian nursing profession and a guiding force behind the creation of the UVic School of Nursing. Donations may be made to the Mary Lewis Richmond Scholarship Fund, c/o the University of Victoria.

PHILLIP T. YOUNG, music professor and chair of the music department from 1969 to 1977, passed away Dec. 9, 2002 at the age of 76. His book, 2,500 Historical Woodwind Instruments: An Inventory of the Major Collections, is a standard reference work in music libraries. The school’s recital hall is named in his honour.
Events Calendar

May 16–18  Chemistry Reunion
May 18  All Canadian Universities Alumni Event in Los Angeles
May 27  Vancouver Alumni Branch Reception
June 6  Business Alumni Chapter Launch
June 11  Alumni Association Annual General Meeting & Reception
June 17–19  Victoria Provincial Normal School 1952/53 Reunion
June 17  Toronto Alumni Branch Reception
June 18  Edmonton Alumni Branch Mixer
Sept. 5–6  2003 Campus & Community Celebration
Sept. 26–28  Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association Reunion
Nov. 24  Legacy Awards, An Evening of Outstanding Achievement

For details visit alumni.uvic.ca/events or contact Alumni Affairs at 721-6000, toll free at 1-800-808-6828.

The UVic Alumni Association

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2003 • 7 pm at the University Club
Guest Speaker: Norma Mickelson, UVic Chancellor-Emeritus
RSVP by June 2 to Alumni Affairs at 721-6000, 1-800-808-6828 or alumni@uvic.ca

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, STN CSC, Victoria BC V8W 3R4.

For further information, please contact Alumni Affairs at 721-6000, 1-800-808-6828 or alumni@uvic.ca

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 February 28. Updates received after the deadline and up until August 31 will appear in the Autumn 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, PO Box 3060, STN CSC, Victoria BC V8W 3R4.
E-MAIL: alumni@uvic.ca with the information requested on this form.
FAX: (250) 721-6265

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.
Let me confess right up front: I chose UVic because of a picture of the sea. I can still remember the admissions brochure, which featured the saturated blue of Haro Strait just a short jaunt from the student residences. Of the three universities I was considering for a bachelor’s degree, only one was on an island and, for me, this gave UVic an unfair advantage. I visited the other two campuses to make a sober and informed decision, but after I’d walked down to the beach at Cadboro Bay, I knew where I’d be spending the next four years.

I can pinpoint the event that would forever change my relationship with the sea. It happened when I walked into the musty confines of UVic’s recreation equipment room 17 years ago. I was halfway through my Creative Writing program when I discovered the battered surfboard hidden behind the hockey nets, tents, and canoes. This was the mid-1980s, long before Vancouver Island’s surf secret had gone mainstream. When I asked the attendant, he explained that there was good surfing up the west coast of the island—at Sombrio Beach, Jordan River, and Pacific Rim National Park. I laughed out loud. I’d already tested the local waters and knew that hypothermia would set in long before a wave could be caught. This was Canada, after all. He shrugged, pulled out a faded two-piece dive suit and said, “Give it a try.”

A quick drive up to Long Beach confirmed the incredible rumour. Before the sun set on that first day of my virgin surf safari, I was hooked. I would never look at the Pacific the same way again.

Surfing has much to teach about power, respect, patience, and timing. All good lessons for life and love. The sensation of paddling out through the kelp, choosing the perfect wave and then dropping down its face are for me a dance, a collaboration, a partnership with the sea. It’s also something I too rarely achieve. I have to admit, after all these years I’m still very much a novice. Still, I have floated in the wake of a breaching gray whale and I’ve shared waves with curious sea lions and seals. I’ve been tossed so hard in the wash that, in complete disorientation, I swam straight for the sandy bottom. I’ve spent many, many of my best days surfing on Canada’s Pacific shore.

Then five years after graduation, I took a sailing course—a “crash” course, as it turned out. Cruising along at six knots, my keel “touched bottom” on a submerged reef and I quickly learned a whole new way of relating to the sea. For the first time, I looked beyond the waves and found more than just a blank space separating chunks of land. My worldview expanded—I became focused on the water in between.

Eventually, I moved to Denman Island and discovered that I still have a lot to learn from the sea. On colossal Vancouver Island, it is easy to forget that one is separated from the mainland, but on Denman and BC’s other Gulf Islands, the sea presses in close on all sides. Here, the grand illusion of endless resources cannot be maintained; the limits are inescapably clear. Once all the trees are chopped down, once all the water-front is developed, it’s too late. Because there are no more forests just over the horizon, no more unspoiled beaches just around the bend. On these islands, it is impossible to ignore the consequences of our actions. For the most part, islanders govern themselves accordingly.

Last spring, research for my second novel took me to the Aleutian Islands. I was saddened to learn just how quickly the human and animal populations of this remote archipelago were irreparably changed when “discovered” by Europeans. The Russian adventurers who arrived in 1741 had little concept of, or regard for, the possible limits of what they encountered. They enslaved the native Aleut people, systematically hunted the sea otter to the verge of extinction and, within the space of a single generation, slaughtered the world’s last Steller’s sea cow (a large northern manatee). The inhabitants of these islands had become perfectly adapted to surviving on the edge—that line of demarcation between land and sea. They had struck a balance. Unfortunately, even their extreme remoteness could not save them from recklessness and greed.

Islands have lessons to teach us continentals. These fragments of paradise allow us to clearly see our destructive potential and what we are in danger of losing. Framed by the sea, they show us our world in miniature—a finite, fragile beauty.

Vancouver-based writer Brian Payton’s first novel, Hail Mary Corner, is set on Vancouver Island. He can be reached at: www.brianpayton.com