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How-To Guide
For Armchair Scholars
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On the cover: School of Music instructor David Clenman as the Greek mathematician and music theorist Pythagoras—one of the roles he plays while teaching his course on the history of music. He holds an imitation kithara, popular in the sixth century BC.

Clenman and Psychology Prof. Martin Smith are this year’s winners of the Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching (page 16). Photography by Vince Klassen.
How do they do that?

Few of us will ever get to go along on an archaeological dig among the ruins and camels of the Jordanian desert, surrounded by the heat and the wind and the echoes of an ancient culture. But it’s something to dream and wonder about.

It would be a rare privilege, too, to spend an autumn evening in the seaside woods of Metchosin, catching, tagging and releasing a mysterious owl species. You would almost feel yourself being absorbed in their wide and curious gaze.

And we always hear about game show contestants beating the odds and taking home a nice fat cheque thanks to an eclectic intellect and a fast buzzer finger. But what’s it really take to outwit the other competitors?

Here’s how a group of University of Victoria people have lived those experiences.

The heart of your new edition of the magazine puts you in their shoes and gives you a sense of the challenges and rewards that flow from their pursuits. Our “How-To Guide for Armchair Scholars” also introduces you to intellectual adventurers, teachers with unusual and colourful classroom techniques, and a group of researchers and their community collaborators who are doing their best to keep alive indigenous Salish languages.

Their stories are meant as sampler of life in and beyond the university. Think of their experiences as food for thought and fuel for the imagination. And who knows? They could just be the springboard of inspiration for your own intellectual adventure.

Mike McNeney
Editor
GOOD MEDICINE

Thank you for the wonderful article on UVic’s new medical students. What an impressive group of young people. Actually, I was recently treated in emergency and one of the students was there learning from the ER physician. My care from both individuals was superb. It’s wonderful that UVic is participating in this joint venture.

SUSAN WILSON, MA ’94
VICTORIA

TSUNAMI AND THE NEWS CYCLE

Reading the article by Mike Corbeil (“Letter from Phuket,” Spring 2005) brought back strong memories of the Asian tsunami. My wife, Dr. Naowarat Cheeptham, and I arrived at Phuket airport a half hour after the tsunami struck. The first hint of the disaster came as a soaked young boy ran screaming “my house is gone, there’s water everywhere.” Six months later, memories of the tsunami still bring strong emotions. The outpouring of help from around the world was inspiring. Nonetheless, in following news of the tsunami, it’s also apparent how much of an instant society we have become. Now, it has largely vanished from the news. It makes me wonder how many of the pledges of support have also disappeared.

JOE DOBSON, BA ’91
KAMLOOPS

A FOLLOW-UP FROM PHUKET

I’ve been volunteering with the Writers Network for Andaman Coast Refurbishment. This group of Thai artists and writers has been working with small villages on the coast, far off the beaten tourist track, assisting them with recovery efforts. In Ranong Province we have been assisting children in a village where, out of 200 residents, 48 were lost to the waves, including a teacher and eight of her students who were practicing a dance performance for New Year celebrations.

As a result of the previous Torch article, I’ve been able to raise close to $2,000 from UVic alumni, which has gone directly into the hands of these children. Further donations may be made to: Thai Military Bank, Patong Beach Branch. Account Name: Andaman Coast Refurbishment Fund. Account number: 444-2-08952-2. Bank code: TMBKTHBK.

MIKE CORBEIL, BSW ’79
PHUKET ISLAND, THAILAND

LETTERS: We always make room for your thoughts, opinions and reactions to these pages.

Send correspondence to:
E-MAIL: torch@uvic.ca
FAX: (250) 472-5955
PAPER: UVic Torch Alumni Magazine
PO Box 3060
Victoria BC, V8W 3R4
LINGUISTICS doctoral student Dave Robertson studies Chinuk Wawa, a pidgin language based on the old Chinookan languages of the lower Columbia River region. When the Alaskan-born Robertson discovered the region had its own distinctive language, it motivated him to learn about it. His dissertation examines Chinuk Wawa shorthand materials created by BC’s First Nations people in their first period of literacy. During the Gold Rush, from about 1858 to 1890, Chinuk Wawa was the dominant language from the California-Oregon border to the Alaska panhandle. Here’s a primer, including a handful of terms that are still in fairly common use today:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinuk Wawa</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kahta mika?:</td>
<td>How are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kloshe nika:</td>
<td>I’m fine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikta okoke kopa Boston wawa?:</td>
<td>How do you say that in English?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leyom yaka iskum nika lemah, pi yaka tikki haul nika kopa Keekwillie Piah:</td>
<td>The Devil’s shaking my hand and he wants to drag me to hell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cheecheako:</td>
<td>a newcomer; literally “just came”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saltchuck:</td>
<td>the ocean, the sea, literally “salt water”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hummy:</td>
<td>smelly, for example a dirty diaper, from hum “smell”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>potlatch:</td>
<td>an honouring feast, literally ‘give’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skookum:</td>
<td>excellent, high-quality, literally ‘strong’ or ‘powerful spirit’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muckamuck:</td>
<td>food, to eat, to bite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high muckamuck:</td>
<td>someone who sits at the head of a table; a bigwig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mesachie:</td>
<td>bad, wicked, untrustworthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cultus:</td>
<td>worthless, no-good, worn out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cooley:</td>
<td>hurry up, to run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cultus cooley:</td>
<td>to wander, sowing one’s wild oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumtum, tumtums:</td>
<td>to feel, think, believe, hope, consider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tyee:</td>
<td>chief or leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tillikum, tillicums:</td>
<td>(Indian) people, person, may also mean “friend”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shantie:</td>
<td>to sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston:</td>
<td>American, white person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wasps on a Roll

New research shows how one little bug can manipulate an entire conifer tree’s reproductive system. Biologist Patrick von Aderkas of the university’s Centre for Forest Biology and his European colleagues say the wasp—inadvertently imported to Europe from BC when Douglas fir from this region were planted there a century ago—can trick a tree into nourishing the bugs’ larvae as if it were a fertilized seed.

“Normally, the sex and seed reserve go hand-in-hand, because the reserves feed the developing plant embryo. Here the surrogate embryo, the insect, dictates development. It’s the only case in which a plant is induced to overproduce fats, proteins and carbohydrates in the seed by a parasitic insect.”

The wasp (Megastigmus, by its scientific name) is also enjoying life in Europe because there are no natural predators to keep it in check. It accounts for only minimal seed loss in BC, but it has caused 95 per cent seed loss in France, where the Douglas fir is the number one lumber tree.

“It is,” says von Aderkas, “a very successful pest.”
Chancellor of Choice

A FEW DAYS AFTER Ron Lou-Poy was acclaimed for a second term as the university’s chancellor he remarked in his usual, affable way: “Well, I guess no one else wanted the job.”

It’s more likely that very few would have been better for the job. Friendly, gracious, generous: pick your description. They all define the man and what he brings to the role of chancellor.

President David Turpin, in announcing the reappointment said, it “is testimony to the respect and affection he has earned during his first three years in this position.”

Lou-Poy attended Victoria College, became a lawyer and when he moved back to Victoria became heavily involved in a wide range of community service groups.

While the chancellor’s position went uncontested, there are eight candidates for the four seats on the University Senate. They are elected by alumni and other members of the convocation. An election guide was mailed with the magazine to eligible voters who may vote either with a mail-in ballot or online at webvote.uvic.ca.

Metamorphoses

The Phoenix Theatre presents Metamorphoses, opening Nov. 10 and continuing through to the 26th of the month. Ovid’s collection of Greek and Roman myths of love are brought to the stage with traditional and modern language. The set will feature a pool, to support the play’s use of water as a metaphor for transformation. This image is from set designer Karyn McCallum’s conceptual drawings.

Voices of Vets

Lessons about history come from the people who lived it in a new undergraduate course designed to record the stories of World War II veterans. Prof. Shawn Cafferky’s students, assisted by the local branch of the Royal United Services Institute, speak to veterans about their war years, write about and archive them for future use.

Gene Johnson, a student in the first session of History 394, produced a fascinating account of the experiences of four air force veterans—Arthur Kinnis, Norman Reid, Arthur Sager and Jim Lang—some of whom were either prisoners of war or evaded capture after being shot down.

Kinnis was held captive in a concentration camp and “occupied his time by thinking of the house he would one day build in Victoria,” Johnson reports. “He even drew scaled diagrams of it, sketching them in the same diaries used to record the toil of his daily existence at Buchenwald and Stalag Luft III.”

Johnson’s paper, and those of Cafferky’s other students, have been added to the McPherson Library’s Special Collections, which also holds the Reg Roy Military History Collection—named for the retired Vic College and UVic history professor who encouraged students to use oral history as a research tool.

“(The veterans) expressed the belief that their wartime experience had taught them a lot about themselves and their fellow man,” Johnson’s paper concludes. “This is perhaps oral history’s greatest value. Even if it does not teach us anything more about the ‘bigger pictures’ than we already know, it still teaches us something about ourselves, and about the resiliency of humankind.”
All-star Lineup

The university’s best and brightest will be honoured Nov. 22 when the fourth Legacy Awards gala dinner takes place at the Victoria Conference Centre. Last year nearly 500 university supporters applauded the work of alumni, professors and athletes. Plus, the popular “UVic Bunny” raffle helped raise upwards of $30,000 for scholarships and athletic awards. For tickets, call (250) 721-7445.

 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

RICHARD FLURY BSC (PHYSICS) ’70
Flury was a chief executive of BP (British Petroleum) when he retired in 2001. He credits his undergraduate Physics studies, the discipline and connection between philosophy and science, for helping him reach a level in international business that few Canadians have achieved.

BRAD FORTH BENG (ELECTRICAL) ’88
Forth was a co-op student when he first came to a small Victoria company called Power Measurement. Today he’s the president, the company’s energy-saving digital power meters are sold globally, and the firm employs more than 100 of Forth’s fellow alumni.

SHERIDAN SCOTT LLB ’81
Head of Competition Bureau of Canada, Scott is one of our most influential public servants and the Globe and Mail once called her “the poster person” for the rise of women in corporate law.

JEREMY SMITH BSC (HEALTH INFORMATION) ’99
A rising star in health information science, increasingly a critical area of health care, Smith is Calgary Health’s chief information officer. He leads the massive effort to build electronic health records for each resident of the region.

 ALUMNI AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

DAVID CLENMAN INSTRUCTOR, SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Clenman is the first winner of the Gillian Sherwin Award (for sessional and lab instructors, and limited-term faculty). With incredible enthusiasm he brings music studies to life, particularly in his music history class for non-music majors.

PROF. MARTIN SMITH DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
Smith is the recipient of the Harry Hickman Award (for regular faculty, librarians or artists-in-residence) for his innovative approach to teaching large groups of students. He uses a variety of tools to present engaging, well-paced lectures.

Sports Hall of Fame inductee Eli Pasquale (left) and Distinguished Alumnus Brad Forth lead an inspiring group of recipients to be honoured at the 2005 Legacy Awards gala Nov. 22.
Burn to Save

Short-term flames bring new life to Yoho National Park.

Last summer a fire ripped through Yoho National Park, consuming 1,700 hectares of Canada’s second oldest national park. The staff couldn’t have been happier.

“It looked like a volcano exploded,” says UVic Biology and Geography Co-op student Andrew Greig, who helped ignite the 100-metre high flames during a work term with Parks Canada. “When the fire was going everyone sat back and watched—it was just wild.”

The fire, the largest prescribed burn carried out in Yoho, paradoxically helped save the forests it consumed. By eliminating tinder-like fuel, burned sections act as guards against wildfires. At the same time, by promoting diverse growth and injecting nutrients into the soil, prescribed burns help clear the single-species forests that attract disease and pests.

The fire was the result of almost four years of preparation. “People think we go in and throw matches at the forest, but there’s a huge amount of planning before the ignition,” says Greig. The weather has to be perfect, and the fuel must be neither too wet nor too dry so the fire burns properly and minimizes ecological damage. The site was chosen to block a mountain pine beetle infestation. It will also serve as a fireguard to protect the nearby town of Field and the surrounding timberlands from large wildfires. Several avalanche chutes acted as anchors for the fire and along with on-site preparation—removing fuel from the perimeters of the major blaze—helped guide the fire’s path.

Having helped start the blaze with a diesel- and gasoline-fueled drip torch, Greig, an avid backcountry hiker, didn’t feel bad when he saw the trees burn.

“When people see a big canopy fire, they assume it’s out of control. In reality, the fire had actually gone as smoothly as possible. In order for the forest to stay healthy fires are utterly necessary. Without fire, the cycle of rebirth of the forest couldn’t happen.”

—ROB McMAHON, BA ’03

Legacy Awards online: alumni.uvic.ca/legacyawards
Making Things Happen

When Susan Perkins, a single mother of two, thought about going to university the “sheer terror” of potential debt caused her to think twice about taking up software engineering studies. Three years into it, she’s well on her way to her degree. And now, because of a $3.6-million gift to the Faculty of Engineering, others in similar circumstances may not have to go through the same pre-registration turmoil that Perkins did.

The Summerhayes Memorial Fund, established by the late daughter of a Canadian engineering pioneer, will provide yearly financial relief to 50 engineering students plus a $20,000 annual graduate scholarship. “This gift will live on in perpetuity. A hundred years from now, students will be receiving Summerhayes awards,” said President David Turpin during the announcement of the gift.

The fund was left to the university by Phyllis Summerhayes, who passed away in Victoria in October of 2004. Maurice Summerhayes, Phyllis’ father, worked in gold mining in Ontario beginning in 1911 and later became president of the Ontario Mining Association.

The bequest came as a surprise to university gift planners, but it was in keeping with the Summerhayes family tradition of getting things done. “There was something about them, they made things happen,” according to the donor’s cousin, Marigold Vodden of England. She was among several extended family members who traveled from overseas to attend the announcement. It’s the largest single gift received by the university in support of student awards and scholarships.

She Relates

Shannon von Kaldenberg—with more than 25 years of experience in fund development and working with alumni and volunteers—has been named the university’s first associate vice-president for alumni and development.

“I’m looking forward to joining the University of Victoria team,” says von Kaldenberg. “It’s no secret that UVic is trying to do a better job at serving the needs and wants of its alumni, and this new position confirms that. I look forward to meeting many alumni.”

The new AVP comes from UBC’s Sauder School of Business where she was the assistant dean of external relations. She was responsible for developing and implementing a three-year alumni relations plan with new programs and a new communications strategy for more than 24,000 alumni around the world.

The question she looks forward to asking alumni is, What can UVic do for you? “I have found that the question often asked is the reverse: What can alumni do for the institution? I don’t agree. I feel that we (the university and alumni services office) are responsible for listening to and meeting the needs of our alumni. I will work with them to create a stronger, more active and proud alumni network.”

She was on campus a month before her appointment officially started in October, meeting individually with staff members and getting a feel for the campus. The listening and learning approach will be a primary focus during her first six months on the job, she says.

Prior to working at the Sauder School, von Kaldenberg ran UBC’s development office for four years, closing out a $240-million campaign and converting UBC’s fundraising structure to a faculty-based model. Her career in fundraising began with the United Way where she became director of development in charge of 5,000 staff and volunteers.
Laws of the North

Nunavut’s 11 new law grads are about to shape the territory’s destiny—on their own terms.

BY JOHN THOMPSON, BA ’04
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN LOWE

Henry Coman, LLB ’05, and Qajaq Robinson, LLB ’05, near Koojessee Inlet, a focal point for Inuit life in Iqaluit.
The Inuit of Canada’s Arctic have a word to define the Canadian legal system, says Qajaq Robinson as she sits inside the Nunavut Court of Justice library. It’s aiva, which translates roughly to “banging heads on silly issues.”

Behind her, light floods in from large windows overlooking a recently thawed Frobisher Bay, where snowmobiles roared no more than a few weeks earlier. June is a month of change in Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut located on the southeastern coast of Baffin Island. It’s a time when purple saxifrage and Arctic poppy blossoms emerge from the tundra, when the ocean melts and the long winter disappears.

This June also ushered in a big change to Nunavut’s legal system. The month marked the graduation of a historic class that many hope will help lead Canada’s newest territory as it finds its way toward self-government. Robinson and 10 others graduated with bachelor of laws degrees from the University of Victoria after completing a special program offered by the university, Nunavut Arctic College and the Akitsiraq Law School Society.

The program, named after an ancient ring of stones where elders used to meet to resolve disputes, launched in September 2001 to bring together Inuit perspectives and legal expertise. Past attempts to establish an Inuit law program in the south failed, so Akitsiraq was taught almost exclusively in Iqaluit with professors from across Canada brought here to teach.

Almost four years and $5 million later, the graduates donned their caps and gowns and filed into the darkened gymnasium of Inuksuk High—a bulging, blue building that looks more like a submarine than a school, complete with the odd porthole. A crowd of supporters and officials awaited them, including Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik, UVic Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy and President David Turpin. As Okalik addressed the grads, he noted it was no coincidence the date of their ceremony, June 21, coincided with National Aboriginal Day. The students picked the date themselves. “This is our day as Aboriginal people,” Okalik said. “You made the right choice.”

Okalik, for now, holds the distinction of being Canada’s only Inuk lawyer. When the graduates write their bar exams in a year, that will change. In the meantime, they’re completing their articles by working in the offices of prestigious law firms, heavyweight Inuit organizations, and within the court system.

Robinson is articling in the Nunavut Court of Justice. Part of her job involves teaching at the local high school. She hopes to get through to students about their legal rights, both under Canadian law and the land claims agreement that created Nunavut—two million km² stretching north and west from Hudson’s Bay—in 1999.

Another graduate, and a mother of five, Aaju Peter is articling with a law firm in Ottawa where she hopes to improve her ability to argue key issues like the copyrights of traditional Inuit knowledge and Canadian sovereignty of the Arctic. “Until you understand how something works, you can’t change it. You have to speak the language,” she says.

Peter remembers the shock she felt as her grades plummeted during the first year. “It was like dropping someone in ice-cold water. It was devastating.” But now that she’s through, she sees herself as a new person. “I’m a lot more aggressive. I think I’m ready to jump into anything and just fight.”

As the only male in the graduating class, Henry Coman hopes to serve as a positive role model for many of the young, aimless men in the territory who wander into lives of crime and eventually pass through the courts. As an RCMP officer, he also hopes to see justice served. He’s currently articling with the Crown counsel office in Iqaluit, and will return to the force when he’s passed the bar.

“At the end of the day you’re helping victims of crime who may not have a voice of their own,” he says.

Scrutiny aimed at Akitsiraq from the media and members of the community was intense during the program, at times making the classroom feel like a rather large fishbowl. Some residents criticized the steep price tag, which helped cover the costs of living of most graduates during their studies.

“It’s made it easier to ask why, and to question things. We need that in Nunavut.”
Others suggested the program wasn’t up to the same standard as southern universities—a suggestion that makes graduates bristle. “It gets me really mad,” says Robinson. “I think there’s no justification to it.” At the courthouse library, she pulls out textbooks written by her professors—John Burrows of UVic and Allan Manson of Queen’s, for example. She also points out the degrees are accredited by the University of Victoria, consistently ranked as one of the best law schools in the country.

The Inuit have an opposite for Aiva, their term for Canadian law. It’s ajiqatigingniq, and it means “to learn to come to understanding,” with an emphasis on Inuit values of negotiation and dialogue. Those values are rooted in a time when Inuit ancestors were too busy hunting for their next meal to needlessly bicker. As Robinson says, “Adversity is dangerous in the North.”

She sees these values born out in small communities like Iglulik, where she was raised, when Inuit elders are invited to speak at sentencing hearings, both to the individual and to the court. “The elders have insight we don’t have.”

But ajiqatigingniq shouldn’t be mistaken for passivity. Robinson says if she took one thing from the program, “it’s made it easier to ask why, and to question things. We need that in Nunavut. We can’t be a carbon copy of the other territories and provinces.”

“The Famous 11” Akitsiraq law graduates, as then-Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, dubbed them:

Lillian Aglukark
Madeleine Alexander-Redfern
Siobhan Arnatsiaq-Murphy
Henry Coman
Susan Enuaraq
Sandra Inutiq
Connie Merkosak
Sandra Omik
Aaju Peter
Qajaq Robinson
Naomi Wilman
Mythmaking in the Modern World

Charles Montgomery’s South Pacific trek yielded an award-winning book and a new perspective on reality and imagination.

BY ROB McMHAON, BA ’03

At a café in Vancouver’s Chinatown, Charles Montgomery takes a break from his KitKat bar and mentions he once asked a snake-shaped stone to bring forth rain. “When I talk about this in downtown Vancouver with buses running by, of course it sounds silly and impossible,” he says. “[But] no-one in the [Melanesian] lagoon was the slightest bit surprised.”

Montgomery, a 37-year old freelance journalist who completed a UVic Geography degree in 1991, is describing the moment he witnessed his first miracle. At the time, he was trekking through the Melanesian archipelago to research his book, The Last Heathen: Encounters with Ghosts and Ancestors in Melanesia. Relaxed and pausing between sentences, Montgomery looks every bit the classic adventurer: khaki shorts, weekend stubble and sharp blue eyes.

“The Melanesians taught me that there’s more than one way to hear and to tell a story,” says Montgomery, who traced the path of his great-grandfather, an Anglican missionary who travelled to the South Pacific in 1892. Montgomery grew up with the images of cannibals and sorcerers that populated his ancestor’s diary and became obsessed with the magic land described in his grandfather’s notes. Yet after years of hanging out with queer activists and reading post-colonial theory, Montgomery became more critical of his great-grandfather’s stories, which began to strike him as a puzzle that needed solving.

“I was searching for the truth of stories that hinge on faith,” he says. “You don’t need to see the video of Jesus walking on water to be transformed.”

Montgomery describes the first miracle he witnessed—a sudden storm that raged after he blew in the ear of a sacred snake-shaped stone—as a gift. After spending time in Melanesia, with its myth-rich culture, the scene seemed straightforward: use an artifact to call a storm.

Later, Montgomery became more critical, and had to decide whether it rained because it rained in that area every afternoon, or because he put his faith in a sacred object. “The [rain came] as if it came to challenge me. I was so cynical about the Melanesian point of view, yet wanting so badly to believe in my great-grandfather’s version of the world, a place where supernatural forces are constantly at work.”

Montgomery’s book, which claimed the 2005 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction, traces his realization of some of the assumptions behind colonialism, mythmaking, magic and travel. He began his journey thinking he could uncover the belief systems of the Melanesians through rational observation, and in this way deconstruct their so-called miracles. Through critical scrutiny, he thought he could decipher how such magic tricks fooled people into believing something that cannot be true.

But after witnessing the culture firsthand, Montgomery’s motives changed. “I realized the struggle in Melanesia and the

There’s more than one way to hear and to tell a story.”
struggle in me and other people in my generation is not the struggle between Christ and Paganism. It’s a dialogue between the rationalists that we feel we’re supposed to be and that part of ourselves that wants to believe and be changed by miracles.”

After visiting over a dozen countries in five continents and witnessing the confluence of globalized and local cultures, Montgomery feels that such miracles can be more real—that they can expose more universal truths—than the objective reality he once pursued.

“The book was partly an exercise in getting over the lessons of journalism school,” he says. “[There] you’re told to remove yourself from the story. For me, it felt increasingly dishonest not to declare my point of view.”

While grounded in fact and experience, Montgomery’s work attempts to sift through pieces of history, experience and feeling to mould a story. For Montgomery, the year he spent writing his book in an office in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver was a period of mythmaking.

“It’s [about] digesting, refining and realizing experiences from the very moment that they happen.”

Like any good journalist, Montgomery reported on and verified the facts in his work. He read widely, studying post-colonial theory, historical accounts of the first European visits to Melanesia and subsequent attempts to colonize and convert its inhabitants to Christianity. He interviewed anthropologists, businessmen, rebels and missionaries. He clearly noted those occasions where the truths he reported were subjective, at least for a Western audience.

Yet even with this careful planning, Montgomery acknowledges that on some level, his story will always be seen as a myth.

“We’re realizing, as storytellers, that we hold tremendous privilege in being the shapers of history. If you compare a journalist’s notes from an interview to a taped manuscript, they won’t match. They never do. The reason is not because the journalist is not writing fast enough. It’s because sometimes we decide what we want to hear.”
How to be a Great Teacher

What makes a great lecture? These winners of the Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching deliver the goods with originality and imagination.

BY MIKE MCNENY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY VINCE KLASSEN

WHEN PROF. MARTIN SMITH WALKED INTO THE DAVID LAM AUDITORIUM for his first Psychology 100 lecture in September he was met by a diverse, possibly daunting sea of more than 300 faces. But this is where he thrives. He’s made it his professional quest to overcome the challenge of bringing a large group of students into a learning experience that feels inclusive and personal.

As the weeks go by, he’ll have memorized most of the names and faces in the crowd. He’ll use multimedia tools to keep the lecture moving at a quick pace. And he’ll roam the aisles, asking questions, engaging the whole group—even those seated way in the back of the spacious room. He calls it the Cheers effect, quoting from the theme song of the old TV sitcom: “You want to go where everybody knows your name.”

One of his tricks of the trade is to invite students to provide digital photos of themselves at the start of the year so that he can memorize faces and involve students in class discussions by calling them by name. “It’s a simple thing but studies have proven that when students are called by name it encourages learning and they feel like part of the process.”

STUDENTS IN DAVID CLENMAN’S SURVEY course on the history of music start the term with a surprise guest from the past, way back in the past. From the beginning of music theory, through the classroom door comes none other than Pythagoras—the Greek mathematician and first to link numerical ratios with the musical scale.

Of course it’s not really Pythagoras but Clenman, in one of several guises he’ll don during lectures that are incredibly popular with his students. A discussion about music of the Renaissance will begin with him entering class in full, 15th-century armour. A lecture on Stravinsky’s ballet music sees him in a ballerina’s tutu. Big and bearded, it’s not a pretty sight. But he makes his point. And with gusto.

Clenman, a sessional instructor, exudes enthusiasm for teaching that is matched only by the seriousness with which he approaches his lectures. If the student is trying but not learning, Clenman takes it as his own failure. So he does whatever he can to bring the course material alive, to make it sing.

“Learning should be fun and I try to make it as experiential as possible,” he says. “But don’t be mistaken—it’s not all fun and entertainment.” Clenman assigns a heavy load of required reading and listening. And to be a member of his class is to be a full participant. “I don’t want students to be spectators. So, I’ll bring in costumes, or get them to dance or sing or play instruments.”

Smith and Clenman will be honoured Nov. 22 at the Legacy Awards. Their portraits will also be hung in the main stairway of the McPherson Gallery, along with more than 30 previous recipients of the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Who’s Watching Who?
A team of volunteers spends autumn evenings inside the nocturnal world of a little-known, very curious owl species.

BY HOLLY PATTISON, BFA ’05
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURIE SAVARD

SHRILL BEEPS PULSE THROUGH THE SEASIDE WOODS AT NIGHTFALL IN Metchosin. For wildlife biologist Paul Levesque, BSc ’01, it’s the same drill each weekend from mid-September until the first weekend in November. He and his dedicated group of volunteers stake-out a section of the Rocky Point Bird Observatory and with the help of their electronic lure, get a little closer to understanding the secret world of Northern Saw-whet owls.

“Most British Columbians have never seen a Northern Saw-whet owl,” says Levesque, who travels down from Black Creek and his daytime job as a forest industry consultant. “They’re one of the least-studied species.”

Loss of habitat through urban development and industrial forestry make owl populations on Vancouver Island a growing conservation concern. The Nocturnal Owl Monitoring Project started in 2002 with a small Public Conservation Assistance Fund equipment grant. The project has thrived on the efforts of “hard-working and enthusiastic” volunteers.

“We banded over 400 Saw-whet owls last year,” Levesque says. “There’s no way this area could sustain that population, which means the owls appear to be migrating. We didn’t know the owls were migrating in BC before this project. The big problem is we don’t know where they’re from and how far south they go.”

At dusk, the team sets up fine “mist nets” near the forest, then backs away to the portable lab, a roofed picnic table a hundred metres away from dense woods in one direction and a few hundred metres away from the ocean in another.

Then it’s out go the lights. Time to engage the audio-lure and enjoy the relentless male solicitation call of the Northern Saw-whet, which can be heard for a radius of 400 metres. “If there’s a male owl in the area,” says Levesque, “he’ll want to see who’s calling.”

Owls chirp, squeal then fall silent as they hit the net. After 15 minutes, there can be up to seven dangling owls to detangle, which is where volunteers are vital—more hands mean the trapped owls spend less time in the nets. “We try to reduce the amount of time handling the birds,” says Levesque. “We’ve never had an injury. I wouldn’t do this if it injured the birds in any way.”

The miniature owls measure about six inches high and weigh between 60 and 110 grams—about the same weight as a Frisbee. Each one is tagged with a tiny aluminum band with a unique nine-digit identification number. Records are filed with Canada Wildlife Service so that recovered owls can be traced and Levesque’s team notified. Although their migratory route is still undetermined, owls have been recaptured as far south as Washington State.

Wings, tails, bills are measured and age is determined by examining feathers. The bird is then placed in a Pringles potato chip can and weighed.

Examined and banded, the bird is freed on a nearby branch. “About half fly off, the other half sit and watch us work,” he says. “It’s pretty weird—there can be as many as five or six sitting around, staring at us. They’re quite curious.”

The team banded eight Barred owls in 2004, an increase from the two banded in the first year. Barred owls are a significantly larger species that Levesque says were introduced from back east about 40 years ago. They are major predators of small owls and could pose a risk to Saw-whets. For now, says Levesque, population numbers appear to be stable. He estimates three to five thousand Northern Saw-whets move through southern Vancouver Island each autumn.

“If that number represents the island population, that’s pretty good. If it’s from the Alaskan panhandle to Victoria, it’s not very many. There needs to be long-term population monitoring. Without it, by the time you detect a decline, it’s already occurring, which is not good for conservation.”
How to Plan an Archaeological Field Study

An archaeological expedition begins months before careful digging reveals the secrets of long gone cultures. Lead a university team to an ancient settlement in southern Jordan and you can count on a pile of prep work, endless data and enough red tape to challenge all of the political finesse you can muster.

But experience pays, and the results of your group’s efforts can be amazing.

John Oleson, the adventurous Greek and Roman Studies professor “knows the ropes pretty well” after some 15 summer field trips to Humayma, the site of an ancient desert trading post established by the Nabataeans in the first century BC. Humayma also features a Roman garrison established around 110 AD—offering “spectacular” evidence of the empire’s occupation of the eastern frontier.

Since his first foray into Humayma—in 1986 to survey the Nabataean water supply system for this hyper-arid region—Oleson has directed excavation of the site. Over the years more than 100 undergraduates and graduate students (mostly from UVic) have travelled with him to Humayma, 300 km south of Amman, for six-week field trips. They’ve endured 40-degree heat, persistent 20-knot desert winds and the thousand-metre elevation. It’s the altitude, more than the heat, that’s the real challenge.

With the hired help of the region’s Bedouin clans, Oleson’s crews have uncovered houses, churches, ivory panels, gold and silver coins, furniture and thousands of other relics of ancient life. The Jordanian Department of Antiquities has established visitor’s centre at the site and a permanent exhibit at the Aqaba museum holds many of the finds yielded by the Humayma excavation. Oleson figures another 100 years of archaeological work remains to be done.

Here’s an abbreviated checklist for Oleson’s Humayma field studies:

“None of this happens without money. Lots of it,” says Oleson. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada has been a regular supporter. As well, students pay a $1,000-camp fee (about a third of the cost). Get a permit from Jordan’s Department of Antiquities. It’s more of a formality now than it was in the early years of the project.

Select your team. Along with co-director Barbara Reeves of Queen’s University, the staff will include an architect, photographer, conservator, ceramicist and excavation staff. An administrator looks after groceries, tools and housing arrangements at a high school dormitory.

Assemble the volunteers. Usually about 10 or 15 students who can withstand the physical demands. This year’s group ranged from 20 to 60 years of age.

The teams head out to the site each day at 6 am, bussing across “fabulously beautiful” sandstone desert and along 600-metre cliffs. Photographer Robbyn Gordon, BFA ’02, says the bus ride and location reminded her of the film version of Jesus Christ Superstar.

Up to 35 Bedouin workers are employed at the site. The jobs are in high demand and Oleson is careful to divide the postings among the clans (who don’t really like each other that much).

Meal breaks, served by the locals, are a big part of the whole experience but best to heed Oleson’s advice and avoid the camel yogurt—it can knock you out for a couple of days.

Prepare for the unexpected. Security in the region is relatively good and the Jordanian economy is booming. But sometimes red tape can come out of nowhere. This year’s team was told at the last minute that each member would have to take an AIDS test before getting tourist visas.

Write, write, write. Oleson will skip next year’s trip so he can catch up on volumes of reports due to be written about the history of Humayma.
Scenes from the dig: Prof. John Oleson (top) near the site of the Roman fort at Humayma. Middle row, left to right: detail of ivory furnishings from an Abbasid fortified house, circa 7th century AD; underside of a dry Nabataean reservoir; project co-director Barbara Reeves of Queen’s University and UVic staff member Barb Fisher uncover a human skull. Bottom: Hills or “jebels” form a backdrop to a Roman-era building. Opposite page: a silver coin, minted around 115 AD, depicts the Roman Emperor, Trajan.

Robbyn Gordon’s photos from Humayma will be featured in an exhibit at the McPherson Library Gallery, Nov. 7 through Dec. 15.
A Helping Stand
A little ingenuity brings easier computer access for a teen with a brain and muscle condition.

BY HOLLY PATTISON, BFA '05
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HÉLÈNE CYR

Dan Spelt is as computer savvy as any other 16-year-old who spends hours in front of a monitor. When he’s not surfing the Web or creating PowerPoint presentations he’s outmanoeuvring his dad when they play Flight Simulator. What’s different is that Spelt, born with cerebral palsy, uses his lips to work the keyboard. Typing is a demanding process, but he keeps at it until he finds the right combination of keys. For a long time, the lanky teen relied on a makeshift stack of books in order to raise the keyboard to a more comfortable level. But it was an awkward solution at best.

“Dan’s quite capable on the computer—he’s always exploring and sending me things he’s discovered—but he was moving his head up and down a lot to reach the keyboard,” says his granddad, John Nieboer. “I thought there must be a way to make it more useable, more accessible for him.”

That’s where UVATT came in. The University of Victoria Assistive Technology Team is a campus-wide collective of professors, students, staff and community members. Most of them volunteer time and skills to produce devices (45 and counting since 1999) that make life a little easier for people with special needs.

After Nieboer contacted UVATT, fourth-year Mechanical Engineering student Darcy Lane was asked to come up with a custom-designed keyboard stand. The first step was to meet with Spelt and his family in his home, and then at school. “It was important to see how high Dan’s head was above the desk since he uses his head for typing,” says Lane. “Dan is constantly moving to different classrooms and working on different surfaces so the design had to be lightweight and portable and able to sit on many different surfaces.”

“I thought there must be a way to make (the computer) more useable, more accessible for him.”

Lane first created a computer-aided design of the stand, then sourced out the parts and manufactured the final product in the machine shop. Once I was confident in the device, I brought it to Dan at his school and watched him test it in his working environment,” says Lane. “The design is a success and it works great.”

His young client agrees: “The keyboard tray has made it easier for me to do computer in different places,” says Spelt, writing in an e-mail. “It’s easier on my neck.”

“The keyboard stand is very flexible,” says Spelt’s mother, Janice. “It adjusts to different heights of chairs and desks, which has been a real problem as Dan gets older and continues to grow.”

UVATT founder and Director Nigel Livingston says each new project “is a response to a community request. We get three to five requests a week. It’s nice, but it presents a bit of a problem. We don’t have the resources. The need is huge—many people need specialized devices.”

One way to meet demand may be through Inspired Devices Inc., a spin-off company created with the guidance of the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation. The company is trying to distribute UVATT’s products more widely and reinvest the revenues to create even more devices—and more stories like the one shared by Dan Spelt and Darcy Lane. “To be involved in this type of project is amazing,” says Lane. “Knowing that others are benefiting from my work in ways that dollars can’t describe is really rewarding.”
**STELLA JOHNNY SOFTENS THIN STRIPS OF CEDAR bark in a sink full of hot water. Crispy when first submerged, the wet wood becomes pliable, like cooked noodles. Johnny slides her 52-year-old fingers down each cinnamon-coloured strip, removing excess water. She thins wider pieces with a vice-like tool clamped to her kitchen counter before weaving the pieces to form small mats and baskets. She remembers the teachings of her elders and the master weaver who mentored her for 20 years. “Cedar is the tree of life,” she says with her gentle voice. “It’s living. There are different practices and rituals when we work with cedar.”**

After all of the years perfecting her craft, Johnny’s eager to share her skills with younger members of her community. It’s also a vital link to saving her ancestral language. For her, preserving tradition and preserving language are intertwined.

That’s why she’s part of the Language Revitalization in Vancouver Island Salish Communities: A Multimedia Approach. It’s a five-year research project to revitalize Hul’q’umi’num’ and SENĆOŦEN, two Salish languages of southern Vancouver Island.

**“THE REASON THERE ARE FEW FLUENT SPEAKERS IS because children learning their language have no one to practice with,” says Lou-Ann Neel of the Kwakw’ak’wakw band and UVic coordinator for the project. “Residential schools had an impact on language—most of our adults have been denied language teaching. That’s the missing piece. The key is to balance immersion in classroom setting with tools that can be used at home.”**

A vital aspect of the revitalization process involves archiving the knowledge of elders. “Our elders—the ones who know our languages—are leaving us,” says Johnny. “It’s a major concern because language ties into our culture.” But while many in First Nations communities support the idea, others remain hesitant. “Old fears are still there. Some people wonder if we’re exposing too much. We’re still feeling effects of residential school. If you get kicked out of your home, how do you feel? For our people, it’s like that all the time.”

Johnny says the lack of fluent speakers places a particularly heavy workload on ceremonial speakers who perform as many as 16 to 20 longhouse rituals—such as naming and funeral ceremonies. Each one may involve five days of work, and must be delivered with precision. “The words, the way they’re said—it’s life or death to our people.”

**“The words, the way they’re said—it’s life or death to our people.”**

**A woven mat by Stella Johnny, who uses her craft as a way of preserving Salish languages: “Cedar is the tree of life.”**
From her point of view, UVic linguist Suzanne Urbanczyk, MA ’89, feels it’s important to break down the structural properties of language. If language is taken apart and its rules analyzed, it not only creates an archive, it may make it easier to find effective ways of teaching it. Working with elders, Urbanczyk searches for examples of linguistic terms within traditional languages. But it’s difficult. “Translation is a high art form,” she says. “Fluent speakers are the only people who know what the words really mean.”

Neel says the language revitalization project also analyzes what’s been done and determines what might work better. That may range from training more language teachers to giving portable recorders to elders in order to self-document their knowledge. Neel would also like to see young people have the ability to acknowledge each other and be able to pronounce and thank neighbouring tribes in the correct manner.

The initial year of work in the language revitalization project has yielded a First Voices Web page—a comprehensive site with educational games and activities in SENĆOŦEN, Hul’qu’umi’num’ and 15 other languages. As well, SENĆOŦEN has been added to BC Transit’s multilingual bus guide.

“The ultimate goal,” Neel says, “is putting our languages back into use. If you can’t speak your language, it’s hard to speak for your rights. And our artists can’t tell their stories without language—they’re pushing for that source material.”

**In just over an hour, Stella Johnny has woven her wet bark ribbons into a fringed mat. She slips it under a small teddy bear that wears a miniature woven vest and hat. She sets the bear and mat beside a collection of intricately woven baskets, which she calls contemporary weavings, the kind she can sell to art galleries.**

“We’re good at keeping secrets,” she says. “We’ve been hanging onto our secrets so well we’ve almost lost our language. We have to break the cycle and open our mouths. If we understand both worlds we can find a balanced state. It’s about putting worlds together and making it work.”
Game Shows for a Thousand, Alex

A Jeopardy! whiz shares the secrets of his success.

**Question:** Although he admits he slept through some of his classes, this five-time Jeopardy! champion has won a total of $129,403 US. Answer: Who is Robert Slaven?

A self-proclaimed “geek,” Slaven, BSc ’85, was one of 144 former winners who appeared in this year’s Jeopardy! Ultimate Tournament of Champions. More than 10 years after his first appearance on the show, Slaven was a quarter-finalist in the champions competition, taking home $66,201 US.

The Torch caught up with Slaven, who works in Vancouver as a product specialist with a software firm. He offered tips for prospective quizsters:

Plan sporadic quizzes. Friends from work brought a box of Trivial Pursuit cards and left them on Slaven’s desk. “The rule was, anyone who passed by had to pull out a card and ask me a question.”

Flex those thumbs. Slaven taped every Jeopardy! show possible. “I’d have my thumb on the [remote’s] ‘pause’ button, and then try to ‘ring in’ and beat the other contestants.”

Spot the clues. According to Slaven, questions often include hidden clues. “Watching the game over and over again gives you a great feel for what the clues are like.” For example, “French emperor” usually means Napoleon.

Stay calm. While nerves aren’t a problem during the game, commercials or wrong answers compound the stress. “I try to find a way to get back into the groove.”

Buy a good almanac and surf the net. Slaven uses these tools for his weak spots: US political trivia, ballet and opera. “A quick Google search helps build up the knowledge bank.”

Focus your breathing. On stage, Slaven checked his breathing to calm his nerves. “I meditate sporadically just to reduce stress.”

Play the categories. Before host Alex Trebek has finished reading a question aloud, Slaven judges whether he will answer. “As the categories are revealed, I start mentally gearing up for them.”

Hope for the best. Luck is definitely a part of the game—an episode taped before Slaven’s had ‘Canadian Provinces’ as a category. “I’d have done much better in that game than in mine, which had categories like ‘John C. Fremont’—who the heck is John C. Fremont?”

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*As told to Rob McMahon, BA ’03*
In the 1970s, creative writing student John Barton left Alberta and came to UVic in hopes of taking a course from revered author P.K. Page. When the budding poet arrived, however, Page had just quit the faculty. So Barton unpacked his pens and spent three years under the tutelage of an equally celebrated word conjurer and academic, Robin Skelton—the ring-encrusted Wiccan witch and co-founder of one of Canada’s leading literary journals, the Malahat Review.

Recently, in a bit of symmetry that would be considered too pat for A-list fiction, Barton came back to Victoria as editor of the magazine that had once seemed something of a beacon, and a bit out of reach. “I first contributed to the Malahat in 1982, the year after I graduated from UVic,” says Barton. “So, yes, it does feel like I’ve come full circle.”

Barton, BA ’81, returned here in the winter of 2004 after spending nearly two decades in Ottawa and most recently served as editor-in-chief of the National Gallery’s quarterly magazine. His poetry, meanwhile, thrived. Barton began winning significant awards in 1986, and has eight volumes of poetry listed on his resumé. Currently he has two projects on the go, including the first-ever Canadian anthology of gay male poetry. And from 1992-2003 he was also co-editor of Arc: Canada’s National Poetry Magazine, a publication similar in quality and importance to the Malahat.

“When John applied for the job here, we just couldn’t believe how fortunate we were to be getting an editor of his talent and experience,” says Lynne van Luven, a professor in the Writing Department. “Not only is he a fantastic guy and a wonderful poet but he truly is a peerless editor. He can spot the little infelicities that the author may be blind to… he improves, but without imposing his own style on the material.”

The Malahat print run of 1,000 copies goes out to subscribers in 16 countries. It publishes about 80 authors a year, winnowed from a towering 4,000 submissions. The quarterly has often punched above its weight—even a partial list of awards runs to several pages. Long-time readers will remember getting debut
peeks at writing by authors such as Michael Ondaatje and Jann Martel.

Barton was eager to make the magazine even stronger, and one of the first things he did was create internships for senior Writing students. “I wanted to get the department more involved in the publication,” explains Barton, who nominally edits part-time but often puts in a pretty full week on the Malahat. “It gives the students an invaluable look at the working of a magazine. Literary writing in Canada is a cottage industry, and getting students to read manuscripts gives them a sense that writing is bigger than themselves.”

“Before John came, the Malahat was like a well-kept campus secret, it wasn’t fully integrated into the university community,” notes Lorna Jackson, a writing professor and occasional contributor of book reviews to the Malahat. “John was committed to strengthening relationships within UVic, and one of the ways he did that was by collaborating with the Maltwood Gallery and accessing their collection to come up with cover art,” she adds. “John’s done a great job as editor, plus his knowledge of the magazine business has been invaluable.”

Used to high production values from his publishing experience at the National Gallery, but equally familiar with the money constraints common to both publishing and museums, Barton has been able to groom and nurture the Malahat on the relatively minuscule budget of $115,000. “I do it by counting every penny,” says Barton frankly, before quipping: “Plus I took a vow of poverty when I quit the government, so I’m personally very familiar with making do without a lot of money.”

Barton has also increased the number of pages devoted to book reviews, adding a lively intellectual ferment to the Malahat. And even though this reduces space for submissions, he thinks the benefit is that only the very best work now gets published. “Authors—especially for poetry and short fiction—need feedback,” asserts Barton. “So we’re giving them a little critical comment… whether they want it or not.”

Another Barton innovation is a new annual award, Far Horizons, that alternates between short fiction and poetry. “This reaches the one really under-served writing sector, that of emerging authors—those who haven’t yet been published in book form,” says Barton. “Plus anyone who applies to Far Horizons gets a Malahat subscription in exchange for the fee they submit. It’s a good way to plump up our mailing list.”

Asked what he’s most proud of with regards to his tenure at the magazine that many people still associate with Robin Skelton, a look of wary hesitation flickers across his face. “It is always daunting when you take over a magazine with iconic significance,” he says eventually. “I like to think that I have at least maintained and maybe even enhanced its reputation.”

BOOKMARKS: SELECTED TITLES FROM UVIC AUTHORS

A Concise Dictionary of the Nuuchahnulth Language of Vancouver Island
John Stonham, BA ’85
The culmination of work begun during his undergraduate linguistics studies, Stonham has produced the first dictionary of the 5,000-year-old Nuuchahnulth family of languages. It collects more than 7,000 headwords with English equivalents, usage examples, dialectal variation, grammar and a 7,500-entry glossary.
Edwin Mellen Press, 2005 • 547 pages • $139.95

Longitude and Empire: How Captain Cook’s Voyages Changed the World
Brian Richardson, MA ’92
Offering a new understanding of Captain Cook’s explorations and their impact on Europe’s world view, Richardson has produced a conceptual field guide to the voyages. It’s a rereading of Cook’s discoveries and modern political philosophy, arguing that Cook’s Pacific became a test case for a new way of knowing and relating to the world.
UBC Press, 2005 • 256 pages • $85

Penelope and the Monsters
Sheri Radford, BA ’96
Illustrated by Christine Tripp
In this new misadventure in the Penelope series, the feisty heroine takes on gnomes and trolls and giants with the same come flair that brought down the house in Penelope and the Humongous Burp.
Lobster Press, 2005 • 32 pages • $21.95

Transitions Through the Perimenopausal Years
Lissa Zala, Méd ’95, Andrea Swan, BSN ’00, and Dr. Jerilynn Prior
The largest number of women in history are now in their 40s and 50s, ages of profound physical and emotional change. The authors provide suggestions on how to recognize changes, they explore the common signs and symptoms of perimenopause, and they suggest science-based therapies for consideration.
Perimenopausetransitions.com, 2005 • 235 pages • $24.95

Dog House Blues
Jacqueline Pearce, BA ’85
The class snob-bully doesn’t like dogs, and Erika thinks she has to keep her three dogs secret to keep the friendship of a new girl in school—until an incident reminds her how much her dogs mean to her. Developed in partnership with the BC SPCA education department. For ages 8-12.
Orca, 2005 • 176 pages • $8.95

UFO: Shoot Out the Lights
Martin Popoff, BA ’84
Popoff’s twelfth book is a biography of British classic rock band UFO. It joins his recent books on Rush and Blue Oyster Cult that take an album by album, song by song approach, with new interviews with many members of the bands.
Metal Blade Records, 2005 • 257 pages • $23.95

Send forthcoming book notices to torch@uvic.ca

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Study Partners

Students Mary McMaster and Victoria Nordal share lamplight and table space in this mid-'60s era image. The two were living in the Craigdarroch residences, the first phase of which was completed during the university’s inaugural year, in 1963-64. Today nearly 2,200 students live in co-ed residence—a total that’s comparable to the lower end of the university’s total enrollment during the early years.

KEEPING IN TOUCH torch@uvic.ca

1971

STEPHEN HUME, BA, along with five co-authors, won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize at the 2005 BC Book Prizes for A Stain Upon the Sea: West Coast Salmon Farming. During his student years, the former Martlet editor played Vikes rugby for coach Howard Gerwing.

1975

CHRISTINE MICALLEF, BA, has worked as a psychologist for the Okanagan Skaha School District for more than 20 years and has a particular interest in autism spectrum disorder. “I have two children, Leneigh (23) and Alaina (20) and have lived in the most beautiful place on earth, Summerland, for the past 25 years. I am married to TOM JOHNSTON, BA ’75, who is also the mayor. Our two daughters have thrived here. Leneigh has a BA from UBC and Alaina is working towards her BSc in nursing at TRU in Kamloops.”

1978

KEVIN GILLETT, LLB, reports: “The University of Victoria Law School opened in 1975 and accepted some 70-odd students. Yes, the students were indeed odd—not to mention the faculty. Nineteen of those students (still odd after all these years), along with their seemingly normal significant others, gathered in Parksville over the May long weekend to celebrate the passage of 30 years since they first wandered into what looked very much like a spare room in the university library but was actually the law school. They were joined in their revelry by the present dean along with some courageous members of the present faculty. Stories were swapped, old photos were viewed, new ones were taken, waistlines were compared, and much wine was consumed. In fact, so much wine was consumed that it led to songs being sung as JULIAN GREENWOOD, LLB and I (in the tradition of many aging rock stars) resurrected some of our greatest hits from the glory days. The weekend was an unqualified success and demonstrated once again that, the older we get, the better we were.”

1983

GREG BEATTIE, BSW, and his wife JO BEATTIE, BEd, graduated in the same year. Many travels later (and three children later) Greg is the acting chair of the School of Social Work at UNBC and is the director of counselling. Jo continues to teach for School District 57 in Prince George. They both have music passions on the side. Jo founded the new international Prince George Folkfest after working for many years as a promoter and agent in the folk/roots music industry. Coerced this year into his role as festival producer, Greg hopes to see lots of UVic alumni come on up to hear the likes of Sarah Harmer, Ruthie Foster, Gordie Sampson. Where have the years gone to? • DEBBIE MCKINNEY (nee COLEBORN), BSc, writes: “My husband BRIAN MCKINNEY (MSc ’86) and I are taking our kids on a year-long around the world trip starting in August. We currently live in Calgary. If anyone is interested in catching up with us, please come and check out www.fatturtletravel.com.”
New Alumni President: It’s a Community Thing

BY LARRY CROSS, BEd ’64
PRESIDENT, UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

I AM REALLY EXCITED AND HONOURED BY THE OPPORTUNITY to serve you for the next two years as president of the UVic Alumni Association.

My connection with the university began in 1959 (Victoria College then), and I graduated from UVic in 1964 with a BEd (Secondary) degree. My classmates and I walked from the old Lansdowne campus to help open the new university in 1963. Ours was the first graduating class. Over the years, my family has maintained a connection to the university. My wife completed her teacher training here and both my children earned undergraduate degrees from UVic.

My active involvement in the UVic Alumni Association began in 1999 when I was approached by a good friend and colleague of mine, Betty Clazie, BEd ’73, who was the association’s president at the time.

Betty and I talked about the changes we had seen in the university over the years. I remembered my experiences as a student and how they bonded me to the university. Back then, we were part of a small institution on the move with an exciting future. I also was aware that there had been a period in the university’s history when, for a number of reasons, students didn’t develop the same sense of connection.

Betty and I talked about those “lost years” and their meaning for alumni. But we also talked about how the university had been changing through the decade of the 90s. We talked about the efforts of the university to build a sense of community among its students, faculty and staff—and with alumni. And I decided then to join the alumni board.

My time with the association has seen the positive trends that Betty and I talked about continue to grow—encouraged and supported by the university administration’s high academic goals for UVic and its strong focus on people and relationships. There is a desire to create of “Community of Learners” on campus that reaches out to include past students and the larger community.

Looking forward to the next 24 months, I want the alumni association to play an even more significant role in the life of the University of Victoria community. We also need to expand the association’s on-campus activities and help students get familiar with what we can offer.

I am convinced that our association can reach out to alumni who don’t feel connected to the university. And I hope that together we can show them the amazing things that are happening here and make them feel welcome in this great community. Then, they too will want to say with pride: “I am a graduate of the University of Victoria—a great university!”

1984
Marilyn Livingstone, BA, completed her PhD in economic and social history at Queen’s University of Belfast in 2003. Since then she has researched and written (with her partner, Morgan Witze, MA ’86) The Road to Creve: The English Invasion of France in 1346. She also undertakes contract research for various clients. Morgan works as a writer, editor and historian. He is the author of 11 books including Doing Business in Greater China (with Tim Ambler); How to get an MBA: Builders and Dreamers: The Making and Meaning of Management. His forthcoming books include a history of the Teutonic Knights and Robber Barons and Muck-rakers: the birth of American corporate culture. He is a regular contributor to the Financial Times and has taught at London Business School and the University of Exeter.

1985
Eric Nash, BFA, has been named head of the Theater Department at the University of Victoria—a great university! He is a past chair of the UVic Alumni Council and has been active in the UVic Alumni Association for over 25 years. Eric has been an active volunteer and has served on the UVic Alumni Board of Directors.

1986
Marilyn Livingstone, PhD is now professor and dean of graduate research at the University of Tasmania. He was on staff in the school of child and youth care (1979-91) and is a registered psychologist in Tasmania specializing in family and adolescent psychology. At UTAS since 1991, he was awarded the University Teaching Excellence Award in 1993 and the University Award for Outstanding Community Engagement in 2004.

Lori Ranchuk (nee Moore), BSc sends this update: “I have 3 children: Zack 12, Samantha 6 and Michelle 5. I work in the emergency room at St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital in inner city Detroit. It’s very exciting.”
Friends Indeed

Chemistry Prof. Gerry Poulton, a long-serving faculty representative on the UVic Alumni Association’s board of directors, is now an Honorary Alumnus of the university. The association is a “great organization that does great things. I’m glad to be officially part of it,” Poulton said after a presentation at the association’s Annual General Meeting.


Picture, Poetry, Piano
See the wonders of the North American continent through the artistry of a distinguished Canadian trio. Ted Harrison’s colourful paintings form the backdrop for pianist Gloria Saarinen’s romantic classics and popular improvisations and the poetry of Lister Sinclair, host emeritus of CBC radio’s Ideas. April 5, University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Tickets: UVic Ticket Centre (250) 721-8480. Image: Pacific Coast by Ted Harrison.

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NEIL MCKINLAY, BA, has published Learning to Swim: Reflections On Living. Looking back on his long involvement with competitive swimming, the book offers insights that illuminate the lives of athletes and non-athletes alike. “It’s really about life,” he says. Concurrent with this release, Neil has embarked on a career as a speaker and meditation coach.

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TOM DINSDALE, MEd, and JOY LAWRENCE, BEd ’85, have an update: After spending 18 years in Kitimat as a secondary and elementary teacher, vice-principal and principal we moved to Kamloops with our two children.” Tom is now a secondary school principal and Joy is a secondary school teacher in Kamloops.

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LORI WATERS, BFA, writes: “After graduation, I earned an MFA in Ghana as a Commonwealth Scholar. Worked in corporate communications upon returning to Canada, earned a pilot’s licence and diving ticket for recreation, designed and built my house, and began studying sciences. In 2004 I gained admission to the Institute of Medicine of the University of Toronto. I will return to BC upon graduation to be with my family. I hope to travel part of the year with research work.”

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Alumni Chapter Update: Faculty of Education

For the members of the Faculty of Education Alumni Chapter, it’s all about providing professional support for teachers to be more effective in their work with kids. “I guess one aspect I enjoy is seeing teachers reconnecting with the university and sharing information with each other as well,” says Wendy Gedney, BEd ’83, who chairs the chapter’s organizing committee and is leading its efforts to keep teachers up to date on what’s happening on campus.

One of the chapter’s current projects involves children’s troubadour, Raffi and his “Child Honouring” initiative. A chapter event is being planned for next May at UVic involving Raffi, who is publishing an anthology on child honouring principles of emotional intelligence, nonviolence, safe environments, sustainability and ethical commerce. The education faculty and Raffi’s Troubadour Foundation have already collaborated on a “Global Arts” project, bringing together the artwork of Victoria elementary school children with that of their counterparts in the war zones of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since starting three years ago, the Education Alumni Chapter has organized a number of events intended to bridge the gap between school classrooms and the latest interests and focus of university faculty.

The “What’s New and Cool in Education” forum last March brought teachers on campus to meet (or get reacquainted with) faculty members and their current research at the university—from bullying to fitness. At the same time, they honoured Distinguished Education Alumni Award recipients.

“We would love to hear from more teachers about the ways we can offer professional development support,” says Gedney. “We also welcome anyone interested in joining our committee.”

Some of the active members include Dean of Education Budd Hall, and retired teacher/principal Betty Clazie, BEd ’73, and retired faculty member Anne McLaughlin, VC ’48.

Interested in joining the chapter? Contact Wendy Gedney by e-mail at wgedney@shaw.ca.

SAA Reunion

A 10-year reunion will be organized next year for past members of the Student Ambassador Association. Contact the Alumni Services office at (250) 721-6000 or alumni@uvic.ca for details.

JACQUELINE BEDARD, BA, writes: “In January I moved back to Victoria from Santa Barbara, where I had been working for the University of California system. I’m now with Camosun College, in international education. It’s good to be home!” • HELEN WALKER, BSW, is a retired social worker/filmmaker/writer and reports: “Happily moved back to Victoria a year ago after four years of living in lovely Qualicum Beach and driving the wild roads to Port Alberni (through magnificent Cathedral Grove), Courtenay and Parksville. Great to be back in this amazing city!” • CHIN YUEN, MA, has lived in Italy and Japan. She returned three years ago to Victoria, where she works as a full-time artist. Her paintings are exhibited and sold worldwide.

Isabel Alberto, BEd, has a request: “I am wondering what some of my old roommates are doing now. If anyone knows where Monika Tang, Kevin Yoshihara or Allison Wagg are, please let me know.” • DOUG BLACKIE, MPA, and DORI BLACKIE, BA ’94, have moved to Armstrong, BC after spending seven (cold) years in Alberta. Doug is manager of Interior Health’s new primary health care centre in Enderby. • MIA GOSS, BComm, checks-in from Calgary: “Since graduation, I completed my CA designation and spent four years in accounting public practice. I have recently made a move into industry, and am now the divisional controller at Producers Oilfield Services of Calgary. I am loving the opportunity to be so involved in such a dynamic public company. Since January we have acquired four trucking companies so it has been challenging and busy, but very rewarding. Recent major accomplishment: paying off my student loan!” • ELIZABETH SKANES, BScN, left Whitehorse this summer (where she was working in public health) to return with her family to Asia—Bangkok,


Josh Blair, BEng, is the vice-president of learning and development with Telus and was named 2005 international Learning Leader of the Year by Thomson NETg for his role in increasing the rate of participation in e-learning courses among Telus employees. • MELANIE JOHNSON, LLB, graduated from the University of Hawaii in 2005 with her masters of social work degree, and is now a medical social worker at Powell River General Hospital. After three years on Maui she, her husband, and their two children are enjoying the Sunshine Coast, near family and friends. • TAMARA VROOMAN, MA, was named to the Globe and Mail’s Top 40 Under 40 list of talented young leaders. BC’s deputy minister of finance was the only public servant to make the list. She became interested in government decision-making while working on her master’s thesis on the history of the province’s sterilization laws.

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1998
Alumni Challenge

MICHEL HORNE WANTS TO ISSUE A CHALLENGE TO HIS FELLOW ALUMNI. THE VICTORIA COLLEGE GRADUATE AND RECENTLY RETIRED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT GLENDON COLLEGE OF YORK UNIVERSITY IS STARTING A NEW SCHOLARSHIP AT UVIC WORTH $2,500 FOR A THIRD OR FOURTH YEAR STUDENT IN HONOURS HISTORY OR HONOURS HISTORY/ENGLISH. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO A STUDENT IN FINANCIAL NEED.

He hopes others will be inspired to do something similar. “One of the purposes (in establishing the scholarship) is to have something of a demonstration effect,” says Horn. “It may not be something people think of when they’re getting older, and some may feel inhibited from drawing attention to themselves. But universities need support and alumni are a natural source of that support.”

Horn is a Canadian history specialist and a leading authority on academic freedom. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was born in Holland but grew up in Victoria, graduating from Victoria College in 1963. “I continue to feel very considerable affection both for Victoria and the university. My reasons for giving are, first of all, I’ve always been pleased with the education I had at Victoria College and secondly, as a student who needed financial support I always appreciated the scholarships I picked up along the way. One way of showing my gratitude is to establish one of my own.”

“There is an obligation for alumni to give something back when they have the opportunity. It is something I feel quite strongly about.”

Horn, 66, is the University Historian at York. He’s at work on a book tracing the history of the university, with publication due to coincide with the institution’s golden anniversary in 2009.

specifically. She lived in Pakistan and completed last her last two nursing courses by distance from Islamabad, Pakistan.

1999

ANDREA BEUHLER, BEd, reports: “I have had another successful year teaching Grade 1. I am really enjoying teaching in Delta. Hello to everyone that I went through UVic with—I miss those days!” • BRAD SKENE, BEd, has been named assistant coach of the national senior women’s rugby team. He teaches at Cowichan Secondary School and has coached the Cowichan Rugby Club’s under 19 women’s team to two consecutive undefeated seasons and back-to-back provincial championships. • RUSS TEED, BSW, asks: “Where are all my former classmates? I’m in Edmonton working for the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal.”

2000

EMMA BURNS, BSc, writes from Kenya: “I spent the school year of 2004-05 taking a break from my medical school training that started in 2001 at Dalhousie. I have been living in Narok, Kenya teaching at an NGO called Maasai Education Discovery, a college that sponsors women to complete their secondary school (which isn’t free in Kenya). It then supports them as they study computer and business skills in Narok. I have been teaching the science requirement, human biology, and have been helping develop health counseling and mentoring programs for the students. It has been a wonderful year. I will return to Halifax to complete my last year of the MD program and graduate in June of 2006. My other news is that in August I married Georg Hofmann, who I met while living in Paris in 2000.” • CATHERINE CLAITER, BSc ‘00, has been appointed chief information officer at the Vancouver Island Health Authority. • TIM LOGE, BA sends this update: “After UVic I went on to earn a bachelor in education from the University of Windsor in 2002. After graduation I took a position with Havasupai Elementary School in the heart of the Grand Canyon. I taught 7th and 8th grade. From there I entered graduate school at Dalhousie University. I have completed my master’s in library and information studies. I’m working full-time as a generalist librarian for the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in Ohio.”

2002

KEVIN ABLETT, BComm, has news: “I’ve got two careers rolling full steam ahead right now. On one hand, I own a real estate investment company that specializes in Alberta real estate—the best place to put RRSP money in Canada right now! And on the other hand, I’m following my other passion, which is sustainable development, by running the wind energy program at the Pembina Institute. Things are going great and I’d love to keep in touch with all of you.”

2003

LAURA KORMOS, PhD, writes from the UK: “I’ve recently taken up a position at Lancaster Univer-
Adventurers Wanted

**The Alumni Travel Program and Adventures Abroad are offering individual and group tours tailored for the travellers looking to get off the beaten track while enjoying comfortable and safe accommodations. The trips are ideally suited for travellers in the 50 to 65 age group.**

Adventures Abroad is the travel program's newest partner and has been operating in Richmond since 1987. It’s licensed and registered with the BC Travel Registrar. Ten tours are being offered to alumni in the 2006 season, including trips to Central and South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Call 1-800-665-3998 for details.

As well, the Alumni Travel Program has introduced an online booking service, at merit.ca/uvic, through Merit Travel. All of the program’s destinations (from University Travel, Merit Travel, Maple Leaf Adventures and Adventures Abroad) are featured online at alumni.uvic.ca/travel/destinations.

sity as a lecturer in physics, and am doing research on the T2K experiment, which is a long-baseline neutrino experiment based in Japan.”

2005

**Anna Hostman**, MMus, joined the Victoria Symphony this summer as a composer-in-residence. Her past work includes an opera with poet P.K. Page and a stint with a theatre company in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**US Alumni Network**

Canada’s ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna, is attempting to build a network among Canadians living in the states. There are 2,200 UVic alumni in the US. To learn more about the initiative and to get connected, visit connect2canada.com.

**In Memoriam**

**Carl Beam**, BFA ’76, contemporary artist, member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and 2005 recipient of a Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts, died July 30 on Manitoulin Island, Ontario after a lengthy illness. He was 62. He worked in a range of media—from large format drawings to pottery—and eight of the Ojibwa artist’s works have been acquired by the National Gallery of Canada.

**Bill Burrill**, MA ’87, died July 13 from stomach cancer. In a life dedicated to pulling up the poor and disadvantaged, Burrill was a volunteer president and board member of the Together Against Poverty Society of Victoria and an active member of the James Bay Community Association.

**Joan Emde** (nee Scythes), BEd ’69, passed away July 20 surrounded by members of her family. After graduation from UVic, Joan taught Grade 2 in Cranbrook for two years before staying home to raise her three children. Joan’s husband, **Wayne Emde**, BA ’69, retired in 2002 after teaching in Cranbrook and Vernon and now freelances for various magazines and newspapers. Joan will be long remembered for her laughter, storytelling, loyalty to friends, and her pride in the achievements of her children.

Prof. **Barbara McIntyre** passed away June 8. An authority on speech and hearing, she came to the university in 1971 to chair the Theatre Department. When the Phoenix Theatres building was opened, the teaching theatre was named in her honour. Her retirement in 1983 was followed by many active and appreciated volunteer hours with the UVic Alumni Association.

**Bob Mckean**, VC ’38, instrumental in starting the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association, died in his 92nd year on Aug. 10. A man known for his sense of duty, Bob attended Victoria College and the University of Washington before WW II and, later, enjoyed a career as a chartered accountant.
Ring Theory
Or, why are there so many rabbits at the centre of the universe?

BY DAVID LEACH, BA ’93
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HÉLÈNE CYR

Friends, colleagues, members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—thank you for gathering here at the University of Victoria for our annual symposium. Today, I will deliver an announcement of such scientific magnitude that few of you will leave this campus the same. Some might not leave at all.

In years past, much of our speculation has focused on so-called “String Theory.” We have charted the notion that infinitesimal “strings” generate the universe from their good vibrations. Granted, we’ve had trouble convincing the public that the world as they know it may be nothing more than a cosmic Grateful Dead tour, billions of tiny jam bands noodling on nanoscopic instruments.

Recently, I stumbled upon another, equally strange astrophysical phenomenon. I have identified a new gravitational force, which may be centered upon this very campus. I call my discovery Ring Theory.

First, the evidence. I began to document gravitational disturbances around the university some 15 years ago, when I arrived in Victoria as an undergraduate. I grew up in Ontario and had never been to BC. Why transfer to UVic? Partly it was to study at the esteemed Writing Department, partly the lure of the unknown—and perhaps an invisible hand drew me westward. Still, Vancouver Island seemed then as distant and as alien as Pluto, a lonely hunk of rock clinging to the margins of the map.

I wasn’t alone in my ignorance. After I paid the registration fees through my local bank, the funds were sent instead to Victoria University, a college at the University of Toronto. My banker couldn’t conceive that anyone would willingly leave the province for an institution on the edge of nowhere. (Of course, even Copernicus couldn’t convince some citizens of Ontario that the sun doesn’t revolve around the CN Tower.)

After solving this snafu, I arrived to find a campus unlike one I’d ever seen. At my former school back east, the buildings were connected by tunnels, so students could dodge the four months of fierce winter. Some pallid scholars relied on this subterranean labyrinth so much that they hadn’t seen the sun in years.

At UVic, on the island of eternal spring, co-eds ambled tree-shaded pathways instead. While much of campus life took place inside the buildings along the university’s roundabout, I noticed that—like the particle accelerators we use in our own experiments—Ring Road exerts a centripetal force that draws visitors toward its centre. Here, in the shadow of the library, student bodies coalesce in various states of languor, and the real learning begins.

(An unusual proliferation of Oryctolagus cuniculus has also been observed on these grassy commons. I leave it to colleagues in the Biology Department to determine why this “Ring effect” attracts the common rabbit and Homo studentus in equal numbers.)

My theory might have remained a footnote had I not tried to escape the campus. I spent a year at graduate school back east (where a -30°C winter left me longing for tunnels again) and another term teaching English overseas. After a flurry of resumé submissions, I found myself drawn once more to UVic, this time as a sessional instructor in the English Department.

A few years later, I tried to leave a second time. I took a new job in Toronto, where I dodged traffic, worked late and raced to meet deadlines. I figured I’d grow old there, perhaps faster than I’d hoped.

Then, like a wormhole in the intergalactic ether, another opportunity opened: a new position at my alma mater. Soon, I had stowed my winter wear again. I was heading back to the Ring, this time for good. Resistance, I realized, was futile.

My experiences might not seem typical. Other UVic grads manage to accept their degrees and exit the campus without looking back—or so they think. My research into Ring Theory, however, helped crack some of the university’s other cosmological mysteries. Why, for instance, does the observatory dome atop the Elliott Building sport such an enigmatic smile? Campus astronomers, it seems, have secretly known a law of physics that many alumni only suspect: We might chase the stars after we leave these grounds, but a far greater force keeps calling us home.

David Leach is a contributing editor for explore: Canada’s Outdoor Magazine and National Post Business, and an assistant professor in the Department of Writing.