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On the cover: The new Social Sciences and Mathematics Building and its distinctive, structural woodwork made from timber recovered from mountain pine beetle-infested forests. Photo by Vince Klassen.
Ring Road’s New Trio of Buildings
(And one old-timer.)

LOTS OF READERS FIND THEIR WAY TO RING ROAD TO VISIT FROM TIME TO TIME. For others, UVic is a constant. It’s part of daily life.

The regulars will have witnessed the day-to-day changes on campus in recent years. First came the earthmovers; then the skyline became dotted by cranes. At times around here, hard hats almost outnumbered backpacks.

Holes in the ground gained form and eventually the neighbourhood’s three new additions took shape.

The thing about construction’s gradual progress is that it sneaks up on you. You turn around and the new structures have suddenly come to life with people and activity and unexpected sights.

Alongside the new Social Sciences and Mathematics Building one day, a crane was typically busy at work. The building was nearing completion but instead of lifting the usual building materials, the operator was doing something really cool: one by one, young maple trees were being lifted to the sky.

So it was that the building’s “green roof” was receiving its new tenants.

The green roof is part of the new, sustainable approach to construction reflected in each of the three new buildings that have opened this year inside Ring Road. As architect Christine Lintott points out in our cover story, they don’t build “disposable buildings anymore.”

In Lintott’s work on the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, but also with the other new construction, the new approach is most immediately apparent in the use of natural light. Visiting the buildings, you’re left with the impression that there’s a barrier that has been lifted from between the interior and the outside environment.

Most of the new tenants of the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building came from the Cornett Building and its legendary maze of hallways. And so, what better time than now to pay tribute to the quirks of Cornett? Our look back the Cornett is a nod to the university’s past, a kind of bookend to our presentation of the new buildings.

We know that the majority of our readers can only come back to the university infrequently at best. For you, we hope that our cover story is the next best thing to being here. Consider it a postcard, sent from campus with care and goodwill. It’s our way of saying, Greetings from UVic.
Foundations to Grow On

BY DAVID H. TURPIN
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

In the summer of 1963, the *Victoria Daily Times* editor Brian Tobin (a graduate of Victoria College, former member of the university senate and board of governors, and an honorary degree recipient) attended a ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone of the McPherson Library. The ceremony, including speeches from various dignitaries, was on campus grounds that were just beginning to take shape. Construction of the library had barely started; the neighbouring Clearihue Building was completed the previous year.

In his thoughtful commentary that appeared a few days later in his newspaper, Brian wrote of the deep symbolism of that ceremony. As he saw it, the block of stone that was dedicated that day represented the seed of the dream of the community. On that day, he observed, “they planted a university.”

Forty-five years later, our university—and the dream on which it was founded—continues to thrive. In the spring and early summer, we officially opened two beautiful new buildings—the Mearns Centre for Learning and the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building. As September classes began, a third major building—the Ocean Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building opened its doors.

The Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, located adjacent to the Cornett Building, provides state-of-the-art facilities for our students, faculty, researchers and staff in Geography, Environmental Studies, Political Science and Mathematics. The building is a wonderful testament to our commitment to sustainability, with a host of proven and innovative environmentally friendly features that you can read about in this issue of the *Torch*.

Across campus, the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning, encompassing expansion and renovations of the McPherson Library, is a fully modern manifestation of the enduring tradition of libraries. It will attract great scholars; it will support our humanists, our scientists, our social scientists, and our scholars in engineering and the other professions. It will support the work of tens of thousands of students each year.

Certainly none of this would have been possible if the University of Victoria had not been built on the vision of people like the late Bill Mearns, and the magnificent generosity of the Mearns family. To all of them, I extend deepest thanks on behalf of the entire university community.

The third new building brings together our earth and ocean scientists, who had been located in seven different locations around campus. It also provides the Chemistry Department with a consoli-

Our capacity for teaching and our potential for research that pushes the boundaries of knowledge is growing.

dated and modernized working environment for synthetic chemistry. As well, a new astronomy observatory has been installed on the roof.

This important new centre of teaching and research will receive its formal opening in November. I look forward to that event, when we will also gratefully acknowledge the unprecedented financial support provided for its construction by a great friend of the university, Bob Wright.

Since its inception, the University of Victoria has grown in a scale that reflects and respects our environment. Our growth stems from the aspirations of the people who stood at our foundations in 1963. And that is what guides us still. Without doubt, the face of our campus is changing, but it’s a much deeper change than what is manifested in the physical structures of these incredible new buildings. Our capacity for teaching and our potential for research that pushes the boundaries of knowledge is growing—and that is the truly exciting aspect of what our new facilities represent.
BEST LIGHT
Sleeping Bag Drive-in

Near-perfect evening weather for an outdoor screening of *Back to the Future*? In September? What are the odds? Well, the odds-makers were smiling on the annual Sleeping Bag Drive-in. Hundreds of students gathered on the grass of the Quadrangle for a movie under the stars. Clear skies, remnants of a warm late-summer day, and only the slightest breeze made sleeping bags purely optional. Best part: the student society’s food bank was stocked with donations from moviegoers.

*PHOTOGRAPHY BY M-A MURRAY*
HATS OFF TO THE CANADIAN OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS FOR this summer’s achievements in Beijing. Student-athletes, alumni, former Vikes, and coaches and support staff gave it their very best—not just at the games but in the long hours of training and preparation that led to their moments in the spotlight.

The games are fading from the headlines, but the Olympic afterglow remains strong.

Mike Lewis, who graduated with a Chemistry degree in 2006, helped the men’s lightweight four team row to an emotional bronze medal victory. Their race was dedicated to their coach Bent Jensen, who was being treated for pancreatic cancer.

Former Vikes rowers Adam Kreek and Kevin Light, members of the men’s eights, earned a wire-to-wire gold medal victory.

In the pool, Business student Ryan Cochrane won bronze in the 1,500 metres. It was Canada’s first Olympic swimming medal since the 2000 games in Sydney.

Also at the Water Cube, in the Paralympics, Vikes swimmer Stephanie Dixon added to her remarkable career by winning four medals (gold, two silver and one bronze). Dixon, who was born without a right leg and hip, also broke the world record in the S-9 100-metre backstroke.

Other alumni competing in Beijing included Catherine Pendrel, BA ’04, who finished a strong fourth in women’s mountain biking.

In late September, the Vikes got an added boost when the first Championship Breakfast raised more than $300,000 in support of student-athletes and, potentially, many more future Olympians.

Savouring the Moments

Mike Lewis, BSc ’06, raises a fist in the air after the lightweight men’s four took bronze at the Beijing Olympics.

Vikes swimmer Stephanie Dixon captured four medals at the Beijing Paralympics.
Changing Chancellors

When he leaves the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium sometime in the late afternoon of Nov. 12, Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy will have presided over his final convocation ceremony. After six years, and more than 70 such ceremonies, Lou-Poy has conferred thousands of degrees, diplomas and certificates by authority of the UVic Senate.

The Victoria College graduate and UVic honorary degree holder is reluctant to say much about reaching the end of his term—“I’ve been a lawyer for too long”—preferring to divert the topic of discussion to anything but him.

A similarly unassuming individual will be inheriting the chancellor’s gown of purple corded silk.

Murray Farmer, BA ’68, was elected by a wide margin of convocation members in voting that closed in June. He’ll be formally sworn-in next spring.

The Victoria business and community leader says he looks forward to continuing his long involvement with UVic (most recently as chair of the board of governors) and to helping promote the university as the “intellectual and academic hub” of the Capital Region.

Because of a provincial amendment to the University Act, 2008 marks the last time alumni will vote for chancellor. Future appointments will be made by the university’s board of governors, based on a nomination received from the alumni association.

Go Fish

When the menu includes deer and spawning salmon, coastal BC wolves prefer the seafood option. That goes against a common scientific assumption that wolves only select salmon when deer are scarce.

Analyzing droppings and tufts of hair, and by observing the behaviour of eight wolf groups during a four-year study, biologist Chris Darimont, PhD ‘07, found a “pronounced dietary shift from deer consumption” to salmon during spawning season—even when deer or elk are readily available.

Darimont’s study, co-authored by Biology Prof. Tom Reimchen and zoologist Paul Paquet, was published in the open access journal BMC Ecology. Primary funding for the study was provided by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation.

The wolf’s preference for spawning salmon, which return to inland rivers and streams in late summer and fall, is one of convenience—they’re easier and safer to catch. Wolves sometimes sustain fatal kicks in pursuit of ungulates.

While the focus is on wolves, the researchers say the bigger story is the wide impact of salmon, including: “the potential transmission of marine-based disease into terrestrial systems, the effects on wolf-deer population dynamics, and the distribution of salmon nutrients by wolves into coastal ecosystems.”

Grad Parents

Carrie Krigolson, MEd and Olav Krigolson, PhD—along with baby Owen—celebrated their graduation at Spring Convocation ceremonies. Balancing family life and studies was tricky: Olav had his cell phone on stand-by during his PhD defense while Carrie was in the hospital with labour contractions. Proud maternal grandparents are Dave Ferguson, BEd ’71 and Joan Ferguson, BEd ’71.
Climate Change: An Urgent Call

UVic climatologist Andrew Weaver, BSc ’83, looks at climate change through distinctly Canadian lens in his new book Keeping Our Cool (Viking Canada). Weaver, lead author for the Nobel-prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, contends that the seriousness of the issue is still not resonating with the public.

His book, written for a general audience, is an urgent call for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. During the federal election campaign, he took the unusual step (for a scientist) of vocally backing the federal Liberal party’s climate platform.

Peru: A student’s passion

A trip to Peru’s rural Patakancha Valley, in the southern Andes, left student Ashley Akins awed by the Quechua people she met and worried about the future of their traditional lifestyle based on farming and textiles. And so she formed two charitable projects. The first purchases fair-priced woven goods and sells them on the international market. Profits are shared between weavers and her second initiative: an education fund that has so far helped 20 young people to attend post-secondary schools.

An exhibit of Akins photography (including this image of Quechua kids using sticks to learn the difference between long and short) appeared this summer in the McPherson Library Gallery. You can learn more about Akins’ work at mosqoy.com.

Legacy of Four

Flickr.com co-founder Stewart Butterfield, BA ’96, will be among four members of the university community honoured at this year’s University of Victoria Legacy Awards on Nov. 24 at the Victoria Conference Centre.

Butterfield will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award from the UVic Alumni Association for his role in creating the pioneering online photo-sharing community.

Faculty of Law professor emeritus John McLaren will be recognized in the research category for work that has helped to define legal history in Canada and the Commonwealth.

The Legacy Award for excellence in teaching will be presented to Prof. Catherine Gaul, whose work in the Faculty of Education and the Island Medical Program has earned the praise of colleagues and students alike.

In the sport category, Margaret Todd, Victoria College ’36, will be honoured for a golfing career that included three consecutive BC amateur titles and 16 BC Ladies and BC Seniors championships.

McLaren’s Molson

Angus McLaren, History professor emeritus, became the first Western Canadian historian to win the prestigious Molson Prize for lifetime contributions to Canada’s intellectual fabric.

The $50,000-prize recognizes McLaren’s work as a leading international authority on the history of sexuality. He has 10 books to his credit.

The latest, Impotence: A Cultural History, was reviewed in the autumn 2007 edition of the Torch.
Comparing Campaigns

An overwhelming response to a course inspired by the “trans-boundary” significance of the 2008 US presidential election.

ALL OF THE INTRIGUE AND IMPLICATIONS of the race for the White House was enough to generate its own Political Science course this fall. “Obama or McCain: American Presidential Politics, Canada and the World” brought together a diverse set of students to dissect the campaign. The class, conceived as a way of bringing together a variety of insights from members of the Political Science department, definitely struck a chord. It attracted 100 credit students and another 60 members of the public who registered through Continuing Studies.

“I was surprised by the overwhelming attention. I’ve been struck by the level of interest,” says instructor and course coordinator Andrew Wender, PhD ’06. “I think there are a number of factors. There’s a compelling narrative involved in the (candidates’) personalities. We have gripping stories of these people. And the election has tapped into profound issues (of) the role of church and state, economics, race, gender—everything is just converging.”

Wender, a US citizen who came to UVic 10 years ago to complete his interdisciplinary doctorate in political science and history, says another key factor generating interest in the next president is America’s changing role in the world.

With the ascendency of China and Russia, the US no longer has the sole status of “hyper-power” that it held after the end of the Cold War. “It might be weaker. It’s stretched economically and militarily after Afghanistan and the morass of Iraq,” says Wender. “It’s a watershed moment, a new stage for the US role in the world.”

The course, divided broadly into three segments, includes an examination of the American electoral process, how it compares to the Canadian system, US foreign policy, and the international implications of the election’s outcome.

Each week Wender provides an overview of the discussion topic and readings followed by a lecture by a different member of the faculty. Class discussion, he says, has been “overwhelmingly positive.”

With the mix of credit and non-credit students, questions and comments take on a whole new dynamic since the two groups of students approach the course differently.

Weekly topics include campaign financing, “image wars,” politics and religion, and a post-election discussion of the world’s response to the results.

A review of technology and communications draws from the perspectives of influential Canadian media theorists Harold Innis and Marshall McLuhan.

For an American living in Canada, Wender says his decade in this country has changed his perspective on US politics. He takes more interest in the candidates’ positions on foreign policy, and he’s fascinated by the way Canadians view the US.

He finds that Canadians can underestimate the complexities of the American electoral system and that “there’s a certain perspective that Canadians often have on the US that Americans don’t have of themselves.” A Canadian identity may be hard to define, but we know we’re different from Americans. In one session this fall, there were audible gasps from the students when Prof. Arthur Kroker spoke about the “apocalyptic” nature of some US campaign narratives and strategies. “It’s that perception,” says Wender, “that the US is fundamentally non-Canadian.”

– MIKE MCNENYEY
Ocean of Data

VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada, the underwater observatories, will generate enough information to sink a ship. Project teams are prepared for the outpouring.

BY GRANT KERR

GOOD RESEARCH AND FINE WINE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON: DEPTH, legs and complexity that lead to a strong finish. Oceanographer Richard Dewey enjoys both. The former is what he lives for on the job, the latter is a treat that he enjoys in his off hours. As the associate director of research for the VENUS ocean observatory, Dewey’s job is to help fellow scientists collect data from the depths of the Saanich Inlet, Strait of Georgia and the Fraser Delta. And there’s a lot of information to digest.

Traditionally, a scientist “is used to going out on a ship and collecting a sample, like [it was] a glass of wine, and then studying this glass of wine. He swirls it around and sips it and thinks about it and sips it again because he’s only got one glass,” Dewey says. Now, with the incessant gush of data, it’s “like trying to drink wine through a fire hose. It’s rich but it’s almost overwhelming. You can get awfully drunk.”

VENUS (Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea) and its larger cousin NEPTUNE Canada (North-East Pacific Time-series Undersea Networked Experiments) offer new paths to marine science by letting researchers conduct experiments and observations from remote locations.

Since VENUS arrived, with the activation of its first fibre optic cable on the floor of Saanich Inlet in February 2006, there has been a steady flow of information from instruments recording everything from water temperature, pressure, and oxygen levels to currents, sounds and salinity. They’ve sent half a billion measurements (and counting) back to the University of Victoria.

VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada—UVic is leading both projects—will share a data management and archiving system (DMAS) to handle the information they gather. DMAS, with a staff of 15, has to have capacity and longevity since the projects will be taking the pulse of the Pacific Ocean over a 25-year period.

By 2010, NEPTUNE Canada, together with VENUS, will generate 50 terabytes annually—roughly equal to an iPod filled with 12.5 million songs.

Some of the 40 scientists who have signed on with Dewey and VENUS won’t be looking at the data for years. “There are climate researchers that want to see long-term trends. They have said, ‘Come tell us when you have five to ten years of data,’” Dewey says.
What the Governors Saw
Digitizing the “Magna Carta” of BC history

In the last week of April, 1864, 14 road workers were killed by an uprising of Chilcotin at Bute Inlet, sparking a 100-day conflict with the governing colonialists. History shows that the British authorities were the victors of the Chilcotin War. But history can change.

“They really had no hope of winning an Indian war,” says History Prof. John Lutz, speaking of governor Frederick Seymour’s efforts to squash the Chilcotins. Based on colonial dispatches between Victoria and London, the governing authority had all but given up, deciding that fighting the natives on the ground was futile. “They changed policies so they could undermine them bureaucratically, rather than militarily,” Lutz says. Such policies have had far-reaching effects—from the courts to land-claim negotiations.

It’s these kinds of little-known aspects of the provinces’ past that Lutz and the UVic Libraries Special Collections and Archives department are bringing to the Internet. Ultimately, says Lutz, it will “change the way we think about BC history.”

Along with colonial dispatches, the digital history project will make other documents available online: hand-coloured maps of Vancouver Island from 1855–59, early tourism pamphlets from Victoria, diaries of an early amateur historian and century-old copies of The Colonist, as well as a rare book published by the newspaper.

But Lutz is particularly excited about a three-decade span of dispatches from the likes of governors Seymour and James Douglas—some 9,000 documents in all—to the London colonial office. “I call this the Magna Carta of BC history,” Lutz says of the correspondence that has been largely inaccessible. The colonial dispatches—or “despatches” as it was spelled at the time—will reveal history that had only been available to the most dedicated historians devoted enough to delve into the warren of the BC archives, which has copies on microfilm.

“This is the official record of everything that happened on Vancouver Island from 1843 until Confederation,” Lutz says. Many mysteries about how this province took shape are contained in these reports. “The governor reported things he saw and that haven’t been recorded anywhere else.”

The dispatches project began in the 1980s when UVic’s James Hendrickson, a professor emeritus of history, undertook a massive transcription process from the microfilm. (The originals are in London).

“When this is all online, amateur historians, professional historians and tourists will be able to see Victoria as people have never seen it before,” Lutz says.

Of course, there is great potential that the correspondence could provide some consternation, even controversy. “Inevitably, history tells us things we want to know and what we don’t want to know as well. There are always surprises,” Lutz says.

This summer, UVic students worked on the dispatches’ 1858 volume—there are 28 volumes in all—for the province’s 150th anniversary celebrations and have published it online.

The aim, says Special Collections librarian Chris Petter is to present the old documents in an engaging context that ties them into other historical events. “This will really blow people away.”

Online: bcgenesis.uvic.ca

—G.K.
Marcy Erskine begins her day knowing she has the chance to help save thousands of lives. Through her work with the Canadian Red Cross, Erskine has helped to distribute millions of mosquito nets across Africa. It’s her role in the fight against the spread of malaria, which is the leading cause of death for African children under the age of five. Since there’s no vaccine, prevention is the best medicine.

Erskine, BA ’95, is at the forefront of distributing long-lasting, insecticide-treated mosquito nets in dusty African villages. She took her first trip to the continent as an adventure. She essentially never left.

“Part of the reason I stayed is that there is always something new to learn, to experience, to laugh at, to be frustrated with, to cry about, whatever,” she says. “Some people find that in their daily lives without ever traveling about, but I guess I found learning about the so-called ‘other side’ more interesting than what I could have been doing at home.”

Her dedication to the cause has earned her a promotion in the international Red Cross network. In recent weeks, she has been put in charge of mass mosquito net distribution worldwide for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

At about $7 each, mosquito nets have been a huge success, protecting young children under five and expectant mothers from a mosquito’s potentially deadly bite. The Canadian Red Cross Malaria Program, funded primarily by the federal Canadian International
Development Agency, is adding another $20-million into the program over the next two years. Since 2004, CIDA has given $46-million to the Red Cross’s African mosquito net cause, and the Canadian Red Cross has distributed five million nets.

“There is always something new to learn, to experience, to laugh at, to be frustrated with, to cry about…”

Erskine is essentially a team of one, flying to where she’s needed for a few days, and then hopping on a plane for her next destination. It’s a routine of long days of meetings, negotiations with governments and health authorities, and trouble-shooting.

Her work has taken her all over the African continent since she joined the Canadian Red Cross in 2004. This fall alone she will visit Nigeria, Togo, Mali, Liberia, DR Congo, along with organizational meetings in Switzerland. She collects so many stamps in her passport that she has to renew it annually for lack of room. She was in Ottawa in June doing just that. “I do 48 pages a year,” Erskine says, a number that even impresses the officials who re-issue her passport.

After getting her scholastic start at UVic, with an undergraduate degree in anthropology and sociology, she went to the University of Toronto for her doctorate and related field research that introduced her to Malawi and the African continent.

Those who knew her when she was growing up in small-town Ontario might well be surprised by Erskine’s calling. As a teenager she was a troublemaker, not a problem solver.

“I was a little hell-raiser,” Erskine says in typically blunt style before >> page 16

With a 2008 Governor General’s award, “Dr. Brute” basks in the praise of his peers.

BY MIGUEL STROTHER, BA ’01

Eric Metcalfe lives on a stage filled with leopard skins and dead personas, terra cotta vases and Super-8 film. It’s at the back of the Western Front—one of Canada’s most important experimental art collectives—bordering East Vancouver, at the point where Main, Broadway and Kingsway join. Metcalfe and seven other artists bought the old hall that houses the Western Front from the Knights of Pythias in 1973. You can still see the gym floor that connected to the old stage that became Metcalfe’s home and studio.

“It was a very organic thing,” says Metcalfe of the birth of the Western Front. “The ’60s and ’70s were full of possibilities for alternate lifestyles and this was one of them.”

Had you knocked at the front door in ’73 Metcalfe may have emerged from rings of jazz and a cloud of smoke wrapped in a leopard skin scarf and beret and introducing himself as Dr. Brute, his alter ego. Dr. Brute led Metcalfe through some of the most important periods of his artistic life, in which he came to epitomize avant-garde art in Canada. This includes “the Leopard Reality,” a series done in collaboration with his wife, Kate Craig (“Lady Brute”), which employs video, performance and installation to question sexuality, exotica, taboo and public taste. It’s now part of the National Gallery of Canada.

Metcalfe says he exorcised his alter ego sometime ago, but the Leopard Reality lives on. In whispers he clearly cherishes, Governor General Michaëlle Jean privately called him Dr. Brute as he walked forward in Rideau Hall to receive the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts on March 28.

The $25,000 peer-reviewed award was created in 1999 and is among the foremost distinctions for excellence in Canadian visual and media arts. Eight are given each year and, for Metcalfe, receiving it was among the biggest thrills of his life.

“It’s a great honour. It’s quite something to have something like this happen in your life,” Metcalfe says with sincerity not often encountered when >> page 17
adding, “you can turn your life around and do something different.”

Erskine utters the latter statement so matter-of-factly that she makes it sound like it’s an every-day thing to spend your life helping people on an impoverished, famine-prone, disease- and war-ravaged continent.

In her first African assignments, she witnessed enough pain and death to last a lifetime. One young boy, to whom she had formed a close bond, died because of a lack of access to the health services that Canadians might take for granted. “The whole reason [for his death] was there was one dialysis machine in the whole bloody country and it was six hours from where they lived and they could never access it. That kind of destroyed me, to be honest.”

Then there’s malaria. According to the Red Cross, an African child dies of the disease every 30 seconds, every year one million people—mostly children and pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa—succumb to it, while more than 350 million are infected. Nigeria alone needs about 54 million mosquito nets to help stave off the affliction. “If you don’t cover Nigeria, you don’t cover malaria,” she says. “Twenty-five per cent of the African malaria burden is in Nigeria, which is 150 million people.”

Properly used and cared for, a bed net can last three to five years. “Nine months after distribution, we go back in the rainy season and we look at coverage and retention and we know that 95 per cent of households that have received the nets still have them,” Erskine says. “The impact is pretty damn good.”

Erskine adds that while nets are important, they can be packaged to improve overall child survival. In Mali last year, nets were part of an integrated child health campaign that included vaccinations for measles and polio, administration of vitamin A to strengthen immune systems, and treatment for worms.

Now a veteran of aid work, Erskine’s experiences have provided a perspective on the differences between Africa and Canada—and the resilience to not be bothered by them. Not like she used to be, anyway. “In Africa, people have bigger problems in terms of living than people in Canada will ever have. But they are always happy there. That’s their context, right? They suffer and they make it work and smile and they get through it. [In Canada], people have different problems. And some people cope with them better than others. I think they suffer better than we do.”
artists talk about awards. “You know, I may never have made a lot of money, but I know that I have the respect of my peers. And what else do you need in life anyway?”

Although Vancouver is home, it was growing up in Victoria and his arrival at the University of Victoria in 1967 that began Metcalfe’s transformation from “just another painter” into the master of “Brutopia.”

“At the time I was working at a variety of s****y jobs,” says Metcalfe. “But I was taking drawing and painting classes with a variety of artists and I did enough to get together a decent portfolio and I started to have shows. I was in one particular three-man show at Bente Rehm’s Pandora’s Box on Wharf St. and, well, I guess you could say it opened things up.”

UVic History in Art Prof. Tony Emery found out about Metcalfe’s struggles and he asked if he’d considered university. Metcalfe said the cost made it impossible but when Emery helped find the funding, Metcalfe jumped.

“I said well why not? I thought, ‘Here’s my chance. If you don’t do it now, you’ll never do it.’”

Metcalfe quickly found himself fully immersed in an artistic community that he talks about with clear reverence, saying it was the turning point of his life.

“University gave me the confidence I needed. I found people who respected me for what I was. I had so many detractors before that. I was working these horrible jobs. Everybody thought I was wasting my time with art because I wasn’t making any money from it. Then all of the sudden I was in the milieu that I wanted to be in so badly.”

Even though he finished his BFA in just three years, school wasn’t at all easy. He had extreme difficulties with simple writing assignments until English Prof. Ann Saddlemeyer took him under her wing. His English 200 class was taught by the poet and writer Seán Virgo, who challenged Metcalfe to create a Super-8 film about T.S. Eliot’s “Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.”

“It was an incredible experience because it taught me to think from words to the image,” says Metcalfe. “That set me up to think about film, video, performance. It was an extremely bright thing for him to do. The fact is I had a pretty damn good education. I went in to UVic to be a painter and I ended up coming out as Dr. Brute, performance artist.”

The Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery collection includes a number of Metcalfe’s works, which can be seen online at maltwood.uvic.ca.
Keepsakes

Sometimes a part of life-before-UVic is what’s needed to get through the transition to campus living. For first-year university students moving to campus housing, the adventure can be bittersweet. They relish the independence. They endure the homesickness. Keepsakes remind them of who they are and how they came to be in this place. Here, five new students share the stories behind their mementoes.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIE NIXON, BA '99

The beat goes on

“I feel music is kind of like my first language,” says Patrick Lavoie. “In certain cases I’m extremely introverted; but when I get onto a musical instrument I become extremely extroverted.”

He’s played piano since he was four years old, and when he was five his mother took him to a music shop to buy a metronome. He remembers the shopkeeper calling it “the world’s smallest metronome.” Lavoie laughs at the memory as he starts up the ticking instrument. “I’m sure they make them a lot smaller now.”

It wasn’t until Lavoie moved from his hometown of Vernon to go to boarding school that he began to truly appreciate music. “Coming to a new environment, it’s unnerving,” says Lavoie. “When I left for that first time, it [piano] became really important and now that I’m here at UVic it’s even more important, because I can rely on that to keep things straight.”

His metronome symbolizes a measure of balance and harmony. At university, “everything has to be like clockwork and every step you take is time metered. And that’s like music in a way; if you don’t follow the time-specific clicks, it doesn’t work.”

In a hectic new life (the 18-year-old is planning a combined major in Biology and Psychology), the metronome offers something familiar. “It’s just always been there, watching over everything, in a way.”

Well-chosen words

On the night of her high school graduation, Émilie Bouchard’s parents gave her a print by the celebrated Yukon batik artist Lynn Blaikie, along with an art card of the same piece. Inside the card are inspiring words of wisdom and humour, written in her first language, French. Bouchard was born in Montreal, and her family moved to Whitehorse in 2004.

Now, at 18, Bouchard is setting out on an unfamiliar journey. “It’s a totally new experience. I can’t say
I’m not enjoying myself, but I’m already homesick. I miss family…I miss friends,” says Bouchard. She’s still trying to find a balance between school and her social life, but she’s intent on getting into the flow of campus life.

The card from her parents helps. When she’s feeling blue and in need of a pick-me-up, she looks at her card and thinks of home. “We’re a lovey-dovey family,” she says.

Some of the quotes, she says with a smirk, are typical of her dad. One of her favourites reads: “Some people still think that earth is flat; don’t waste your time with them.”

Bouchard, a Science major, says the card means a lot because it reminds her of home, her siblings, and her parents—the people who are always careful to give her encouragement and buoy her spirits.

The inner calm sparkles through Shivangani Murti’s voice when she talks about her cherished necklace. The tiny gold aum pendant hangs on a long, spiraled chain—a gift from one of her grandmothers the day she was born in Suva, Fiji.

“It’s tradition in our culture that the first born is given more gifts, and more valuable gifts,” says Murti. Her parents, unsure of the life for their three daughters in a largely gender-biased society, moved the family to Canada 12 years ago, when she was five.

A devout Hindu, Murti respects what aum symbolizes and lives her life accordingly. “Aum is basically the vibrations. If you say it properly it will be the vibrations of everything. When you say it, it calms you, so you become peaceful. And then you are able to do whatever you put your mind to.”

Murti, who’s studying Psychology, explains that Hinduism is based on nature and human nature. “It allows you to be a human, and not just this good person. Because Hinduism knows you can’t always be a good person. Aum just reminds me that I am allowed to be human. As long as I do what I think is right, try to help others as much as I can, it’s okay. Just be me, and that’s what’s important in the end.”

The inseparables

When Taylor Antoniazzi is asked what she brought to UVic that means a lot to her, she barely hesitates before answering: “I brought my best friend!”

Growing up in Vancouver, Antoniazzi (below, right) and Bailey Spraggs have spent nearly their entire 17 years together. Their houses were six doors apart, and since preschool they have enjoyed an ever-growing friendship. “We’ve always known each other; I can’t remember when I didn’t know her,” says Spraggs emphatically. She says they’re more like sisters, because the word “friend” seems like such an understatement.

Antoniazzi replies that she can’t put it into words. Their experience over the years has been extremely visceral. The two girls have been through so much together that they are more like “two halves of a whole,” says Antoniazzi.

And yet they are quite opposite in many ways. “You should see our room,” laughs Spraggs. “Her side is black and she has a bunch of CDs and old posters, and mine is all pink and fluffy and purple with sparkles on everything.”

Antoniazzi, who’s decided to take History, came to UVic to “start growing up.” On a trip to Victoria, Spraggs visited campus and “fell in love with it.”

And it all came together.

Their bond is a comfort in this new and strange place. “I don’t think I could have done it without her,” says Spraggs. Antoniazzi nods her head, in smiling agreement.
COVER STORY

Rooftop greenery: Ken Josephson on one of the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building’s green roofs.

Inside the atrium, which features wood salvaged from the mountain pine beetle infestation. Below: A storm water retention pond.
Then came the day when the first Garry oak was planted in the soil of the centre courtyard. “Everyone was at their windows, watching,” remembers Ken Josephson, a cartographer in the Geography Department. “It was quite captivating for people.” From that point, the place started to take on a new energy.

Tour the building today and what comes through is its integration with the environment—literally and figuratively, from the ground to the roof. While native plants and trees thrive outside, wood salvaged from BC’s mountain pine beetle infestation gives the structure its most unique environmental and aesthetic qualities. In the atrium, the building’s main public space, a series of dramatic wood columns curve like tree branches to support the roof.

It’s the first major building to be completed with mountain pine beetle timber in BC. The Olympic speed skating oval, under construction in Richmond, is also using pine beetle wood.

“The integration of mountain pine beetle wood is an important feature. It essentially responds to a natural disaster,” says Christine Lintott, lead architect of the $37.7-million project. “We wanted to be creative in such a way that it has value. This building should be showcased along with the oval to say, this is a viable option. Good on the university for letting us do it.”

Josephson, who served for four years as the point-person for the user groups, the architects and the builders, says the new structure is the result of “participatory design.” It incorporates the needs and ideas of the people who now use the valuable addition of teaching and learning space.

In one example, the design of the building’s native plant gardens reflects an original sketch by School of Environmental Studies Prof. Nancy Turner, BSc ’69. The school’s long-term goal is to use the gardens—which incorporate bog and marsh wetlands, Garry oak uplands, riparian habitat and coastal bluffs—for courses and student projects.

Two “green” roofs and several smaller patios are “participants in the local ecosystem,” says Lintott. Wild strawberries and sedums provide ground cover, while small vine maples and sumac trees are taking root.

The rooftop greenery helps to filter rainwater and minimize run-off into the storm drain system. In summer, they have the added benefit of absorbing heat.

Throughout the 9,090 square-metre building, meeting spaces are designed to be flexible, with sliding walls to expand or divide rooms. Air flows naturally—there’s no “canned air”—and each occupant can micromanage his or her climate. The four large lecture theatres provide fresh air from beneath each seat.

Above all, natural lighting fills the structure. “I’ll go by at different times of day and no one puts their lights on…what a compliment,” says Lintott, who calls the building a “centre-piece for sustainability. I think we’re in a paradigm shift in terms of how buildings are getting built. We’re not building disposable buildings anymore.”
A library for the times

On a Friday afternoon in the middle of September students pour from lecture rooms and burst into the season’s first hint of crisp autumn air. Anxious for the weekend, they rush back to dorms or to the Finnerty exchange, where a crowd forms for out-bound busses. In contrast, the new William C. Mearns Centre for Learning offers a far more contemplative approach to the afternoon.

The new addition to the McPherson Library building includes a glass stairwell “galleria,” a think-zone that invites silent concentration. Dozens of students have taken positions in pods of armchairs where they tackle reading assignments.

Nathalia Down, in her second year of a Philosophy and Environmental Studies program, would rather study here than at her off-campus home. “It’s my day off, I don’t even have any classes today but I like it here because it’s quiet and bright. I took summer classes as well and spent a lot of time here.”

That’s exactly what library staff members were hoping for when they began mapping out renovation and expansion plans that culminated with the spring opening of the Mearns Centre.

The project was aided by a $5-million donation from the family of Bill Mearns, a UVic founder and graduate of Victoria College. The Province of BC matched the Mearns gift, with the balance of the $20-million budget coming from other donors and the university.

The result, in the age of Google, is a library for the times.

“Google is great but we have resources that are so much deeper.” Entering the main doorway, patrons are drawn in by a spacious main-floor corridor that extends the full length of the facility, including a seamless link to the new addition. To the left, there’s the new BiblioCafé, which rapidly emerged as a campus mecca for coffee or a bite to eat.

Combined with the structural addition (3,772 square metres on the northeast side of the library) and seismic upgrading, the library has been undergoing extensive renovations to adapt to the digital age.>>
An entrance to the new science building. Photos this page by Jo-Ann Richards.

The main lobby “gateway” to the new science building.

Chemistry grad student Katie Coopersmith, BSc ’07, in one of the building’s bright new labs.

The angular main stairway.
and to accommodate e-learning, group studies and learning assistance programs. Apart from the 1.9 million holdings (books, serials and microforms) that form the backbone of the library, there are 184 computer workstations and 46 laptops available on loan.

The Bessie Brooks Winspear Media Commons not only includes video and audio resources, but also eight iMac computers and software for creating presentations. Across the corridor, the C.W. Lui Learning Commons provides space for collaborative studies and tutoring, as well as access to reference and information services.

One area that takes its cue from more traditional scholastic approaches, without coming off stodgy, is the Archives and Special Collections department. The viewing room offers leather furniture and natural light comes in through windows treated to protect rare holdings from damaging UV rays. In the “vault,” rare books and manuscripts are safeguarded by humidity and temperature controls and a waterless fire suppression system.

Nightfall brings out one of the most striking aspects of the new-look library. As McHenry notes, the glassed-in addition, lit from within, becomes something of a “beacon.” At the main doors, spotlighting enhances the white façade above the new stainless steel and glass entrance arch, and light through the floor-to-ceiling windows of the BiblioCafé lends a greater sense of security.

In short, McHenry says, the most common reaction to the new library is: “Wow.”

### A new gateway to science

Build it, and they will come...from offices and labs across campus, from old army huts and points in between. “They” are the members of the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences who, until now, were spread across no fewer than seven locations around campus.

Their new home under one roof is the Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building. The largest of the three new buildings to open this year—at over 12,000 square metres and with a project budget of $66.6 million—rises between the Elliott Building and Ring Road. Support for the building included a $10-million donation from Bob Wright, founder of the Oak Bay Marine Group. A formal ribbon cutting was set for November.

Bringing together the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences who, until now, were spread across no fewer than seven locations around campus.

### In the LEED

The Social Sciences and Mathematics facility was built to meet the gold certification standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—the stringent international guidelines for sustainable building practices. The Engineering/Computer Science Building, the Medical Sciences Building and the university-owned Vancouver Island Technology Park have already achieved LEED gold status. All new campus buildings include “green” features like: energy-efficient lighting; water-saving plumbing fixtures; on-site bike parking; and native plant landscaping.

Online: web.uvic.ca/sustainability

> Comment: torch@uvic.ca
“THAT IS THE MOST COMPLICATED BUILDING AT UVIC,” WARNS A lanky guide leading a half-dozen incoming students on a campus orientation tour in late August. He’s pointing at—what else?—the infamously labyrinthine Cornett Building, bane of students for over 40 years. In a delicious coincidence I’ve eavesdropped on this comment while walking towards the Cornett to begin researching the history, myths, and reality of a building whose perverse layout has given many psychology students their first inkling of what madness surely feels like.

My Sherpa is Psychology Prof. Robert Gifford, who has had an office here since the late 1970s. An environmental psychologist, Gifford also specializes in what is sometimes referred to as the psychology of buildings. “I’m interested in the ‘human’ side of building design, what’s known as ‘social design,’” explains the affable Gifford. “The idea is to talk to a building’s prospective users first, and get their input into how the building needs to function.” Gifford trots out a well-polished quotation to further make his point: “The best person to design the next building is the janitor who knows the last one really well.”

It sure doesn’t take an expert to spot numerous quirks while stumbling through the Cornett. On some floors you can only access the floor below, and not the one above. There are the elevator buttons on the first floor that only show that the elevator goes down. And staggered corridors mean that there’s not a clear line of sight. According to secretaries who work there, it’s common for a visitor to ask for directions, and then show up 10 minutes later, more lost than ever. “Some of them are embarrassed, and a few are literally in tears,” adds Gifford. Even veteran employees still find that’s it’s best to enter through the closest door if they want to get to their destination without any hiccups. And woe betide anyone who attempts a “shortcut” through the basement: parts of the building simply do not connect with each other underground.

According to Cheryl Gonnason, who worked in the Psychology office for 15 years, there’s a story about a late-working professor who could not find his way out of the building and so slept on a couch till morning. “That one’s probably apocryphal,” admits Gonnason. “But what I know for sure is that a prof (from) another building on campus told me the way he found his way up to a third-floor seminar room in Cornett, where he had a class, was to follow one of his students.”

A common urban myth is that the Cornett’s design was derived from the human brain. “Some of the guides used to repeat that one to incoming students,” recalls Gifford. “When I found out about it I asked them to stop, because it’s a complete fabrication.”

Possibly the strangest episode in the Cornett’s history occurred in the mid-1970s. UBC Engineering students raided the building late one night and literally bricked up a couple of corridors with concrete blocks. Although outright vandalism, it was also a satirical comment on the building’s reputation for impenetrability.

OFFICIALLY OPENED IN 1967, the Cornett was dedicated to the social sciences such as psychology, geography, and anthropology. Originally named the Social Sciences Complex, it was rechristened in honour of Thomas Warren Cornett, a gifted professor of history at Victoria College who drowned in Shawnigan Lake in 1924. The building was
designed by noted local architect John Di Castri, who died three years ago. According to fellow architect Chris Gower, BA ’77, “Di Castri was one of Victoria’s most original and creative architects and his preference for detail over modernist minimalism can be seen in the Cornett’s decorative complexity.” Gower contends that the Cornett is a true ‘60s architectural showpiece: “Although it isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, it’s one of the few buildings that really defines UVic.”

Some critics waggishly point out that members of the psychology and geography faculties gave considerable input to Di Castri—implying they contributed to the building’s maze-like failings. The truth, according to Gifford, is very different. Several years ago, Di Castri spoke to one of Gifford’s classes about the Cornett and said the building had originally been four related but distinct structures—“Like three-storey townhouses, with the different faculties each contained discretely in separate buildings.” But UVic was growing rapidly back then, and it wasn’t long before those buildings were merged, with offices and classrooms scattered about with little thought to the integrity of the original design. “I guess you can fault Di Castri for not foreseeing the future,” Gifford insists, “but that future wasn’t his vision for the building.”

Gifford clearly has a lot of affection for the Cornett. Although he’s a possible victim of Stockholm Syndrome, many of his comments are persuasive. “The Cornett’s ‘difficulties’ have obscured the fact that this is one of the most architecturally interesting buildings on campus,” he claims. “There is an attractively monastic feel to it, especially the courtyard with its heavy columns that evoke Oxford’s medieval buildings.” He also praises the Cornett’s varied façade and how the building utilized several different building materials, including local metamorphic rock. That the stairwells have windows giving attractive views outside to the campus is, in Gifford’s view, further evidence of Di Castri’s sensitivity as a designer. “Plus the Cornett has windows that actually open,” he smiles. “These days, that’s one of the first things that people ask for.”

Even with the prodigious spate of building that’s happening on campus, the Cornett is likely to remain a star. Always destined to be a challenge—Gifford admits that even now he only has a firm grasp of no more than half the building—the Cornett continues to perplex all who venture there. But motivation is a great teacher, and it is worth remembering that, many years ago, The Martlet revealed that the Psychology Reading Room was rated one of the top 10 places on campus to make love. Quick, now! What floor was that on again?

>Comment: torch@uvic.ca

It’s common for a visitor to ask for directions, and then show up 10 minutes later, more lost than ever.
Vikes Soccer Alumni Chapter manager Moreno Stefani’s pregame message: “Look at his name and remember him when you go out there.”

A Team’s Tribute

After the loss of a teammate, triumph.

BY TOM HAWTHORN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JO-ANNE RICHARDS
The cinder-block dressing room smelled of ointment and stale sweat, a peculiar odor familiar to every athlete.

The room at Exhibition Park in Chilliwack was like so many others in which athletes spend their final moments before competition. One player’s description: “Four walls. Four benches. Toilet at the rear.”

The players of the Vikes Alumni soccer team had travelled to the Fraser Valley for a showdown to determine the men’s over-35 championship of British Columbia. Their opponents were the Surrey Rangers, a tough squad not known for genteel play.

The match was the reward for uncounted training days in the rain and fog of a Vancouver Island spring. The alumni squad had needed three victories, each a hard-fought conquest decided by a single goal, to advance to this championship game.

Not all thoughts were on the game at hand.

Back home in Victoria, a warrior was being put to rest.

Ken Ross, BEd ’78, had died, aged 57, just 12 days earlier. A memorial service was to be held at the high school where he had taught followed by a celebration of life, at the campus pub.

The mourning family was told the reason behind the absence of so many friends and former teammates. They were also told the team’s efforts in the game were being dedicated to them.

In the dressing room, the players laced their boots, fiddled with the shin guards beneath their blue socks.

The coach had some words about strategy and tactics.

The manager spoke about a fallen comrade.

The room was silent.

“A lot of players took it to heart,” team manager Moreno Stefani, BA ’84, says. “You could see it in their eyes. They were hanging on every word that we said.”

They considered wearing black arm bands as a tribute, but decided not to do so.

Still, the manager felt some gesture was appropriate.

On the spur of the moment, inspired by the circumstance, he tore a strip of white athletic tape on which he then wrote, in block letters, KEN ROSS. He stuck it at shoulder height on the left side of the door.

“Take a look at his name and remember him when you go out there,” Stefani told the team.

Then, overcome by the moment, he turned his head, hiding tears. He could not bear to watch.

One by one, the players filed through the door, each one tapping with their left hand the name on the tape as they prepared to do battle.

“All I could hear,” he said later, “was the tap.”

**BACK IN 1975**, the Vikings soccer team struggled through a tough season.

Sometimes, the number of fans on the sidelines on campus barely outnumbered the players on the pitch. A cool, misty fall made the setting all the more miserable.

Because other varsity teams were so far away, the Vikings also played against top amateur competition in the premier division of the Vancouver Island League. They won only one of five games against Island rivals.

As the season progressed, the squad began to respond to the coaching of Brian Hughes. Vic Escude, a striker, provided a spark for the offence. Mike Armstrong, the goalkeeper, offered steady protection between the posts. His task was made the easier by the fanatical defending of a fullback named Ross.

“Kenny was very skilled,” says teammate Scott Taylor, BA ’76, a 57-year-old chartered accountant in Victoria. “He was tenacious and he was tough. Nobody got an inch off him. His play was inspiring to the rest of the team.”

The team began to click. They knocked off the defending national champions by shutting out the Thunderbirds from the University of British Columbia. The Alberta Golden Bears and Saskatchewan Huskies were the next to fall.

A 3-1 victory over the taller Dalhousie Tigers put the Vikes in the championship game to be played at Centennial Stadium.

The home side was the underdog, as the visiting Concordia Stingers from Montreal were undefeated.

Worse, goalkeeper Armstrong pulled a knee cartilage. The coach called on Danny Lomas, his top scorer, to fill in. Lomas had surrendered four goals in his most recent start—three years earlier. The injury cost the Vikings their best ‘keeper and top scorer.

As it turned out, the Vikes scored the opening goal 20 minutes into the game when midfielder Bryan Barraclough, a biology student, converted a free kick. Gordie Manzini put the home side up by two with 25 minutes remaining when a looping free kick from midfield eluded the Concordia goalkeeper.

The visitors’ frantic attack earned a late goal, but the final whistle delivered to Victoria the Sam Davidson Trophy as Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union champions. It was UVic’s first national university sports title. (Victoria won a national playoff in 1967, but soccer had yet to be recognized as an official intercollegiate sport.) Though he did not feature in the scoring, both the **Victoria Times** and the **Daily Colonist** singled out Ross for his brilliant play.

“He took on their best player,” Taylor recalls, “and shut him down.”

Ken Ross, in his varsity days.
The tired but exhilarated players celebrated in song in the dressing room. Thirty-one years later, the team would be named to the UVic Sports Hall of Fame.

A championship team shares the honour forever.

ROSS BECAME A TEACHER. On the pitch, he took on top scorers. In the classroom, he handled the tough kids others had given up on. He became a well-known staff member at S.J. Willis Alternative School.

He played soccer even after he turned 30, then 40, then 50. He enjoyed the competition, thrived on the camaraderie. He was the locker-room cut up, the guy who flicked lights on and off, keeping the fellows loose with wisecracks and the occasional prank.

“He was a player well liked by his teammates,” Stefani said. “Not necessarily well liked by his opponents.”

“He was tenacious,” says Dave Ravenhill, BEd ’87, a 45-year-old Vikes Alumni player and high-school teacher for whom Ross had been a mentor. “Didn’t mind a good tackle.”

For many years, Ross wore the colours of the Bays United Alumni. The club’s website calls him “talented and uncompromising,” a reference to the delight he took in delivering a solid tackle. Last year, Ross was diagnosed with prostate cancer and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He kept on playing.

Teammates raised money for him to join them in Hawaii for a tournament in January. He was asked to give the ceremonial opening kick off. It was his last touch of a soccer ball. He died on April 29.

SIXTEEN CLUBS CONTESTED THE OVER-35 title in May. After a month of playoffs, only two remained.

Three victories, each by one goal, took the Vikes alumni to the final. They defeated Nanaimo United (3-2), Westside (2-1) and Columbus (2-1) to advance against the Rangers, the defending champs.

The championship game was played on a pitch in Chilliwack that had been the site of an old horse racetrack until a few years ago.

The Rangers ferociously defended their title. Each side missed a penalty kick. The Vikes Alumni grabbed a 2-1 lead, which they nursed into the game’s final minutes. Despite being down two players lost to red card dismissals, the Rangers attacked the Vikes’ goal in desperation. Only with the referee’s final whistle was the outcome certain.

The Vikes, some of them limping, crowded back into the dressing room.

It was noisy now, not quiet like it had been before the opening kickoff.

Players paraded into the room with the trophy, an attractive piece of hardware with a wooden base topped by a silver-plated soccer ball.

A phone call was placed to Victoria to tell mourners the good news.

Someone stripped the piece of tape off the wall.

They stuck it on the trophy.

It is there still. ❯

>Comment: torch@uvic.ca
David Leach knows that in the first moments when a kayak capsizes, intellect vanishes and instinct takes over. The first time he experienced a “wet exit,” off the coast of Pender Island, he didn’t pull the spray skirt’s pull tab. He didn’t try to roll his boat. The moment his head was submerged, he panicked and knew he would “chew a hole through the plastic hull if that’s what it took to reach the surface.”

Leach, BA ’93, is no armchair adventurer. The UVic journalism professor has mountain biked through the remote regions of the Andes and climbed mountains on Baffin Island. He’s watched the development of pop culture’s obsession with extreme sports—from Fear Factor to Canadian Death Race—with a sceptical eye, wondering, why must you be in danger to experience the thrills of the outdoors?

Then René Arseneault, a 22-year-old New Brunswicker, died in the Fundy Multi-Sport Race (an eight-hour adventure triathlon), in June 2002. During the last leg of the race, a storm hit and Arseneault’s kayak capsized. He spent more than an hour in the frigid waters of the Bay of Fundy, clinging to another participant’s boat. By the time the crew of a lobster boat pulled the two men from the water, it was too late to save young Arseneault.

At the time, Leach was an editor at explore, Canada’s outdoor magazine. Since the magazine had promoted the race, Leach felt compelled to report what had gone wrong and, if possible, who was to blame. That 2003 article grew into a five-year feat of investigative journalism, culminating with this spring’s publication of Leach’s first non-fiction novel, Fatal Tide: When the Race of a Lifetime Goes Wrong.

He discovered that the race was riddled with errors. The racers had no flares. The coast guard wasn’t told about the race. The rescue zodiac wasn’t operating. The participants, largely inexperienced kayakers, could have turned around when they realized a storm was brewing, but only a few did.

Leach’s writing is at its best in his description of the actions, thoughts and emotions of people—organizers, competitors, family members—dealing with the events and fallout of the race. He interviewed race competitors and retraced their steps: running the 15-kilometre trail, cycling the 40-kilometre bike route and paddling the 12-kilometre stretch of the bay with Boon Kek, the fellow competitor who had held on to Arseneault after his boat capsized.
Fatal Tide examines everything from the physics of a whirlpool, to the origins of reality television, to research conducted by a UVic professor that has changed the way hypothermia is treated. In fact, it was this research that was the key to solving the puzzle of Arsenault's death.

In 1988, two members of the UVic rowing team died after their skull capsized on Elk Lake. Nine people clung to the hull, shivering in the 4°C water, for over 30 minutes. One rower tired, let go of the boat and drowned. The other was alive up until the moment he was pulled from the water, when his heart stopped.

Eighteen years later, UVic biology professor emeritus John Hayward co-published a paper, “Problems and Complications with Cold-Water Rescue,” that theorized that the second UVic rower died of post-rescue collapse—not hypothermia. When Leach met Hayward and read his study, “the light went on. I realized this was the final clue as to why René, who was conscious up until he was rescued, didn’t make it. He was a fit young man. The cold exposure model said he shouldn’t have died in such a short time.”

Several factors contribute to post-rescue collapse. Some are psychosomatic (“simply hearing the words, ‘Hold on, someone’s coming!’ might be enough to kill you,” Leach writes). Others are physiological. When a person is pulled from the water vertically, as Arsenault was, the abrupt loss of pressure exerted by the water causes a massive drop of blood pressure. People who are pulled out horizontally, in a net, don’t experience the same lethal shock.

Though the adventure racing community stands to benefit from wider awareness of research like this, they’ve remained a largely silent group in the chorus of praise for Fatal Tide. Many of them were leery when Leach started his research. Some worried that any attention brought to the sport would invite government interference and warned other adventure racers not to talk to him.

In part, it was their reticence to talk to him that made Leach realize there was a far greater story to be told, such as the positive side of adventure racing and what these weekend warriors—largely middle-aged professionals—gained from the sport. “I wanted to get inside their heads,” he says. “I hope, if people take anything away from this book, it’s an understanding about what draws people into these activities.” To bridge the gap, as it were, between adrenaline seekers and couch surfers.

Fatal Tide doesn’t entirely bridge that gap; the motivation that drives extreme sport enthusiasts remains frustratingly difficult to define. As the kayakers on the bay that day struggled against 30-kilometre winds and a rising sea, it’s incredible that so many chose not to turn back. But a good story engages readers whether they identify with the characters or not and, in Leach’s deft retelling, this book becomes far more than a cautionary tale. It will compel even the sternest sceptics to go along for the ride.
Imagine attending classes, not in a new high-tech, energy-efficient building, but in the splendid but Spartan interior of a coal baron’s mansion. From 1921 to 1946 Craigdarroch Castle was the home of UVic’s predecessor, Victoria College.

The former Rockland mansion of James Dunsmuir, Craigdarroch housed a diverse student body. In *A Multitude of the Wise: UVic Remembered*, the late Peter Smith noted that “a comparison of the class lists with the city directory will reveal…the children of the prominent or powerful were far outnumbered by the middle-class sons and daughters of teachers, civil servants, merchants and tradespeople of various kinds.”

In a 1980 oral history interview, alumnus Walter J. Kitley (assistant editor of the school annual, the *Craigdarroch*, and later an instructor in the Faculty of Education) recounted that he never felt any discrimination “based on the kind of social background you came from.”

Kitley recalls studies leavened with regular dances, often held in the castle’s old drawing room on the main floor: the uncomfortable wooden benches (“they were slats!”) were cleared away and “fifty to a hundred [would attend]…we had music, it certainly would have been a local band…it was formal in the sense you would wear a collar, a tie and jacket…it was very decorous, very upper class.”

Student handbooks helpfully listed the main social functions of the year: initiation (followed by a dance); distribution of scholarships and prizes (followed by the Hallowe’en Dance); parents’ reception; the college play; the teams banquet; and closing dance. Not to be forgotten was the “Varsity Invasion” described as “Athletic contests with students of the Mother University [UBC] Victoria College plays the part of host.” The handbooks also included college yells (“rack and ruin/blood and gore/Victoria College/evermore!”) and popular songs to be chanted and sung at sporting events.

Notable Craigdarroch Castle alumni include author Pierre Burton, artists Jack Shadbolt, Elza Mayhew and Bill Reid, doctors Frances Oldham Kelsey (pharmacologist, withheld approval of US thalidomide distribution) and John H. Crookston (hematology), academic brothers James and William Gibson (Rhodes scholar, founding president of Brock University; medical historian, former chancellor of UVic, respectively) and businessmen Ian Ross (Butchart Gardens) and William C. Mearns (BC Hydro). A number of UVic buildings are named in honour of the castle’s teaching staff, including Thomas Warren Cornett (history, 1922-24) and Percy H. Elliott (general sciences and principal, 1921-44).

Following the 1982 reunion of the classes of ’37 to ’46, the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association was formed. Other reunions followed, as did monthly and annual meetings, and the creation of the VCCCAA and Rita Perry Hammett Bursaries. VCCCAA maintained the “college room” on the second floor of the castle with displays of college archives and ephemera.

As of this spring, the VCCCAA has been succeeded by the Victoria College Alumni Chapter, and these special alumni continue to be an important part of the UVic community. The University Archives is honoured to be future home of the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle archives. It is fitting that these unique materials (including photo albums, yearbooks, banners and class rings) will be available for viewing in the new Archives and Special Collections reading room—at the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning at the McPherson Library.

University Archives is open to the public Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30 (September to April) and 10:30 to 4:30 (May to August). For information about the Victoria College Alumni Chapter, contact UVic Alumni Services at 250-721-6000.
Looking Back at Lansdowne

New essays chronicle the post-war years of Victoria College.

BY MIKE MCNENEF

EDWARD HARVEY, A FORMER VICTORIA COLLEGE STUDENT, ISN’T about to romanticize his school years. He’ll point out that today’s Canadian campuses—where more women graduate than men and racial diversity has replaced a sea of white faces—are an improvement over the post-World War II times of his youth, where the closest thing to student financial aid had to be co-signed at a bank.

But at the same time, Harvey sensed something special about his generation’s time at Victoria College, a period of unprecedented social and economic change. That feeling has been borne out with the autumn release of *The Lansdowne Era: Victoria College, 1946–1963* (McGill-Queen’s University Press), a wide-ranging collection of candid essays by former students and instructors. Harvey, who teaches at the University of Toronto and runs a busy consulting firm, conceived the project in 2006 after the death of his close friend, Peter Smith, the retired professor and unofficial UVic historian. The book soon gained the formal support of the University of Victoria and President David Turpin.

“I had an intuitive feeling that the Lansdowne era was dynamic. But seeing it in cold, hard facts is another thing,” says Harvey, who entered Victoria College in 1959. “As I got into it more, it became very clear—this was a remarkable period. It really set the stage for (UVic) becoming what it has now become.”

Overcrowded with the legions of soldiers who had returned from the Second World War, Victoria College moved from cramped quarters in Craigdarroch Castle to the more spacious surroundings of the Lansdowne Road campus on Nov. 15, 1946. The college shared the campus with the Provincial Normal School for teacher education before the two merged in 1956. Until UVic was established in 1963, most students completed the college’s two-year programs before completing their degrees at UBC.

The Baby Boom, the Cold War, rapid economic growth and resulting demand for education—not to mention rock and roll, Elvis Presley and the rise of youth culture—frame the stories told by *The Lansdowne Era*’s 27 contributors. They include BC Chief Justice Lance Finch, former federal cabinet minister David Anderson, internationally-renowned scholar and teacher Ann Saddlemeyer, and Martin Segger, director of the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery, which traces the start of its collection back to the efforts of former Victoria College principal Harry Hickman.

Association Roundup

BY KATHLEEN BARNES, BA ’98
PRESIDENT, UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ANOTHER UNIVERSITY YEAR BEGINS, AND THE UVIC ALUMNI Association looks forward to another year of outstanding activities.

We had many significant events take place over the past year with the most important of these being the election of a new chancellor for the university. The association’s nominee for chancellor, Murray Farmer, BA ’68, was elected in June. We are honoured to welcome him as chancellor-elect and look forward to when he is officially the chancellor in 2009. Murray has stepped down as the chair of the UVic Board of Governors but his dedicated commitment to the university will continue in his new position.

Ron Lou-Poy, who attended Victoria College and received an honorary doctorate of laws from UVic in 2000, has served as chancellor of the university for six years and his dedication is greatly appreciated. At the end of this year, his term of office will end. Ron has represented the university with loyalty and enthusiasm. The alumni association thanks him so much for giving his time and experience during his term. Thanks also to his wife, May, whose presence at our many functions was very special.

Welcome to our new board members who were elected at the alumni association’s AGM in the spring. I appreciate their involvement on the board, volunteering to work on various committees and promoting our university. During our AGM, we said good-bye to board members who have given their time over the past years. Many thanks for your contribution to the alumni association, it is most appreciated, and please keep in touch.

There are several scheduled events ahead for our alumni and I hope you take the opportunity to attend and stay connected to UVic. We are always happy to meet you and hear of your achievements and the path your life has taken. Check out our web site too which provides information on upcoming functions.

I look forward with pleasure to the year ahead. It promises to be a full and active one for the alumni association. I hope you participate as much as you can, as you will find the events most enjoyable and rewarding. It will be my pleasure to meet you at our gatherings.
“They really stepped up to the plate and did fine pieces of work,” says Harvey, the “quarterback” of his team of contributors. “There’s a degree of candor and insight...a blend of voices and points of view that give the book strength.”

At the heart the project is its tribute to Peter Smith. Proceeds from the book will support student financial aid in the name of the former Greek and Roman Studies professor and author of A Multitude of the Wise: UVic Remembered.

Harvey’s friendship with Smith began in 1961, when Smith was teaching Classics at Victoria College. “I’d like to think he’d like (The Lansdowne Era),” says Harvey. “I think we would have had a really good conversation about it over a glass of wine at his house.” There’s a pause before he continues. “Peter was a real giver: he gave to the university, to the community, to his students. I mean, he got me a passing grade in Greek. Talk about miracles. I do have my strengths but that wasn’t one of them.”

The Lansdowne Era: Victoria College, 1946–1963 is available from the UVic Bookstore (uvicbookstore.ca) and from Victoria booksellers.

Lansdowne cafeteria manager “Ma” Norris serves coffee—seven cents a cup—for Biology Prof. Jeff Cunningham and his wife Lucy, in 1951.

Transition Time

BY SHANNON VON KALDENBERG
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

ANY TIME I WALK ACROSS OUR BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS AT THE BEGINNING
of the school year I’m amazed by all of the energy and excitement
that our students bring to the place. It’s a very special time of year.
For many students, it’s also a time of incredible transition.

For all of those new students, arriving at UVic for the first time,
each day of the early fall term brings new challenges and discoveries. Whether it’s just getting from point A to point B or juggling class schedules and study time, those first few days can be pretty hectic. Thankfully, our student orientation team do a tremendous job in helping new students get acquainted with their new home.

The alumni association has a role in this, too. If you were around campus during student orientation activities you probably noticed the members of the Student Alumni Association in their bright “Plan A!” t-shirts. Plan A! represents all of the many programs that the alumni sponsor in order to offer support to students.

For other students, the opening of classes is old hat. Many of them are entering their final year of studies—about 3,000 will graduate at next spring’s convocation ceremonies. They’re entering the final stage of one part of their UVic life, to be followed by careers, grad school or maybe some time off to travel.

But wherever their paths lead, the alumni association is here to keep them connected through Torch, the UVic Online Community, our many special events and the special benefits and services that are part of being a member of the UVic alumni family.

Explore the new version of the OLC (olcnetwork.net/uvic), which is marking its 10th anniversary with a new design and tools to help you maintain your network of UVic connections.

And don’t forget to mark your calendar for Alumni Week 2009, during the first week of February. It’s our second annual series of events to celebrate you—UVic alumni. Information about Alumni Week (and other upcoming events) is on the web at alumni.uvic.ca. I look forward to seeing you, and keep in touch!
Recent special events brought together alumni in Victoria, Vancouver, Shanghai and Beijing. [1] At the alumni association’s annual general meeting, Sheila Edwards, BSc ’70, and Vaughn Edwards, BA ’71, enjoyed the patio of the University Club. [2] This year’s alumni AGM also included walking tours of the new buildings on campus. [3] Alumni board member Ivan Watson, BA ’03, and Student Alumni Association President Melissa Lee, at the alumni AGM. [4] Kate Lambert, BA ’02 and Chris Hindmarch-Watson, BA ’02, were at the May 12 alumni reception with Vancouver City Manager Judy Rogers, MPA ’99. [5] Faculty of Law Class of 1989 grads Najeeb Hassan and Michael P. Vaughn, also caught up with each other at the Vancouver gathering. [6] Two alumni get in the picture at an association gathering in Shanghai this spring. [7] In April, President David Turpin presented the 2008 Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award to Beijing alumni branch rep Peter Forster, BSc ’74. [8] The Student Alumni Association helped to distribute prizes and information about “Plan A! – alumni supported student programs” during campus orientation in September.
Keeping in Touch

Let your friends from UVic know what’s been going on in your life. Send your latest news to torch@uvic.ca. You can also go to uvic.ca/torch to find our online reply form.

1964

IAN REID, BA (Mathematics), has been married to Viviane since 1969 and they have two children. He’s semi-retired from a day job after 44 years in the software business in Vancouver but still “keeping my hand in” with several companies.

1967

BARRIE LEE, BSc (Mathematics and Physics), director of the seed and gift store at Butchart Gardens, was recognized for a half-century of service. Robin Clarke, owner of the gardens and great-granddaughter of Jennie Butchart, presented a platinum 50-year pin plus a generous travel allowance to Barrie at a staff recognition ceremony in April.

1971

J. GRANT DONALDSON, BA (Psychology), and Lynne Donaldson have moved back to the Island to enjoy retirement after living in the Lower Mainland for most of the last 28 years.

1972

STEPHEN LANE, BSc (Mathematics), is teaching at Shawnigan Lake School and this spring received a Prime Minister’s Award in recognition of his classroom skills.

LYNNE REEVE (formerly Dumka/Cormack), BSW, was a social worker from 1973 (in Victoria and Kamloops with BC child welfare and community living services) and left during the downsizing in March 2003. She accepted a position as social worker for adults with learning disabilities with the London borough of Merton, and has been on a working holiday there since 2003. She writes: “I am lucky to work with a great team of health professionals and social workers. It is lovely to be able to travel and I have been to France, Germany, Greece, Spain, and many destinations in the UK. My daughter Kimberly joined me for her working holiday in London for most of last year. A great experience for us both. Looking forward to returning to retire in Victoria in 2010 when my current work visa ends.”

1974

PETER GROSSGARDT, BSc (Biology), has an update from the Hub City: “My kids, and I are still living in Nanaimo (still, for me, 55 years and counting!) Our two boys, Josh and Matt, are 15 and 10, respectively, and are doing quite well. Both are attending the Nanaimo Christian School. I am the school’s part-time bus driver. My wife, Peggy, is retired now and devoting most of her time to our kids and our home. I’m always interested to see how others are doing and we encourage anyone from 1970–’74 to drop a line (mpnkids@islandnet.com) we’d love to hear from you!”

1975

RHONDA BATCHelor, BFA (Writing), has published her first novel. She Loves You (Dundurn Press), is for 10 to 13-year-old readers and is set in the 1960s. It explores some of the less than liberal prejudices that still persisted in those days of “peace and love.”

1977

ALLEN HALVERSON, BEd, joined a group of accomplished educators when he received one of the Prime Minister’s Awards announced this spring. The Ballenas Secondary (Parksville) teacher is also a past recipient of the UVic Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

1978

DON STEWART, BSc (Biology), writes from his home in Victoria: “Just bought an electronic set of drums and started taking lessons. I played in a band during the early ’70s but then went disco and ran the music system for the SUB Pub until 1981. Then it was off to Saudi Arabia for seven years. Three children later—now it’s time for music again.”

1979

ANNETTE BELLMAN (née CHAN), BA (Economics), is in England and wants to “keep in touch with my old friends from UVic around 1979, and I would like to hear from them.”

DOMINIC S. HAAZEN, MPA, is a lead health policy specialist with the World Bank, and recently moved to the country office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he will be responsible for the bank’s health programs in Tanzania and Uganda.

AL RYDANT, PhD (Geography), received from Keene State College the Award for Faculty Distinction in Research and Scholarship in recognition of scholarly research, distinguished teaching, involvement in professional organizations, and leadership of the New Hampshire Geographic Alliance.

TERENCE YOUNG, BA (English), is a recipient of this year’s Prime Minister’s Awards recognizing innovative teaching methods. He teaches at St. Michael’s University School.

1980

ELLEN HOUNSOME (née PITURA), BA (Child and Youth Care) is “still living in Victoria after all these years. I have three grown children; two have married since 2007. I have three granddaughters and a grand-
son. Life sure throws us some ups and downs, but it is what we do to keep smiling that is important in the grand scheme of life."

RICK MCKEE, LLB, has joined the Calgary law firm of Code Hunter following six years as senior counsel to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board.

1982
GERI HINTON, BSN, received the School of Nursing's Alumni Award of Excellence this spring. The former executive director of the BC office for seniors, she was cited for her contributions to seniors health policy initiatives at the provincial and federal levels as well as her mentorship of nursing students. She was a member of the third graduating class of UVic nurses.

MICHAEL MARTIN, BA (Pacific Studies), was appointed in May as Canada’s chief negotiator and ambassador for climate change. A career civil servant, he joined the Department of External Affairs and International Trade in 1984, with subsequent diplomatic postings including Islamabad, Tokyo and deputy head of mission in Beijing. Most recently he had been assistant deputy minister of Environment Canada’s strategic policy branch.

1983
DAVID BALL, BSc (Physics), writes from Winnipeg: "I completed a master’s degree in geography with a specialization in meteorology in 1987 and have been working in various storm prediction centers within Environment Canada ever since. I’m currently the science transfer and training meteorologist (STT) at the Prairie and Arctic Storm Prediction Centre in Winnipeg, one of the largest centres of its kind. I’ve been married for nearly 25 years and have two daughters."

JAMES CHABU, BA (Political Science), is in Malaysia: "Greetings from Sarawak. I would like very much to keep in touch with those who know or remember me when I was a student from 1979-83. Cheers." james_chabu@yahoo.com

SANDRA HARDY, LLB, has been promoted to executive vice-president, general counsel and secretary for Cadillac Fairview. She’s been with the commercial real estate giant since 1996.

MARION MORRISON (née EVAMY), BA (Psychology), checks in: "After a 25-year hiatus from beautiful BC, I have returned to enjoy Victoria once again. Multiple careers in marketing, public relations and real estate kept me busy until 2004, when I ‘retired’ from business life and pursued my interest in the arts. I now have a career I love, painting and working as an artist, and living with my wonderful husband and partner of 17 years, Brian Morrison. We enjoy all Victoria has to offer, especially beach walks with our two Golden Retrievers! I look forward to catching up with some of my former UVIC’ers from those ‘excessive early ’80s."

TIM PERRIN, LLB, and his writing partner Lance Rucker, a UBC dentistry professor, won a 2007 Angie Award for best new screenplay at the International Mystery Writers’ Festival in Kentucky for Albatross, a romantic political thriller.

1984
RICK AYLWARD, BA (History/Political Science), continues to put his computer skills to good use: "After managing Coast Capital Savings’ IT operations and help desk group since 2003, I have been appointed as the new director, technology services for the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC."

1985
ARLENE HENRY, QC, LLB, was honoured with the President’s Medal from the BC branch of the Canadian Bar Association. Her career has evolved to focus on aboriginal law, including recent participation in self-government implementation and treaty negotiations. She has also been behind the launch of the Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust and its two new scholarships for Aboriginal law students at UVic and UBC.

1986
WILLIAM NG, BA (Economics), was given the 2007 Community Service Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants for his extensive volunteer work with the BC Regional Council of the Red Cross and the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society. In September he joined the Victoria e-commerce software company, RevenueWire, as director of finance.

1987
SHANNON TURNER, BSc (Health Information Science), is the director of public health for the Vancouver Island Health Authority and recently received the James M. Robinson Award from UBC for significant contributions to the field of public health. She also holds a UVic History degree (BA, ’82).

1988
JOHANNES BOSMA, MEd (Language Arts), retired from teaching in 2004 and since 2005 has been the drama teacher at Eel Ground First Nation School in Miramichi, NB. Along with his drama club, John was the recipient of the national Kaiser Award for 2008 for aboriginal programming for his play After the Thunder: The Simon Bishop Story. The drama deals with teenage stress and suicide. It was also made into a movie and has been distributed to First Nations communities across Canada. John has fond memories of UVic, especially his advisor, Prof. John Harker.

JOYCE THIERRY LLEWELLYN, BA (Writing), has taken a leave from her senior instructor position in the writing department at the Vancouver Film School and is moving to Aix en Provence for a year with her husband and 16-year-old son. While in France, she will be completing her research on Pilgrimage for her SFU masters in graduate liberal studies.

1992
CLINT HAMILTON, MEd (Physical Education), director of Vikes Athletics, has been appointed Canadian Interuniversity Sport president-elect. Clint is also the Canada West Universities Athletics Association president.

SUSAN MIDE KISS, BA (English/Political Science), is in Calgary: “I married in 2002 and I have two beautiful children, ages 4 and 6. I am in the final stages of completing my master of arts in leadership degree at Royal Roads University. I work with the Ward of the 21st Century, an exciting initiative led by the
2008-09 Alumni Association directors

Back row (left to right): Gary Weir, MPA ’87; Ivan Watson, BA ’03; Dale Henley, BA ’71; Glenda Wyatt, BSc ’94; Melissa Lee, Student Alumni Association; Peter Tanner, BA ’91; and Tracie Sibbald, B’83.

Middle row: Dale Bouayadi, Cert. ’05; Patricia Hart, BA ’98; and Bev Bullen, VC ’45.

Front row: Robert McAllister, BEd ’07; E. Marie McKee, MEd ’81; President Kathleen Barnes, BA ’98; Anne McLaughlin, VC ’48; and Don Jones (ex-officio and director, UVic Alumni Services).

Not present: Larry Cross, BEd ’64; Valerie Gonzales, PhD ’97; and Lesley Patten, BCom ’96.

Find out more about this year’s board of directors online at alumni.uvic.ca. To contact board members, or to find out how to volunteer for the UVic Alumni Association call 250-721-6000 or e-mail alumni@uvic.ca.

administration we have been in Kamloops for the past 10 years. Tom is principal of Brocklehurst Secondary and Joy teaches home economics at Valleyview Secondary. We have two children, Darren (15) and Brie (12).”

SARAH SLAYMAKER, BSc (Biochemistry), sends this from her home near Boston: “After conducting scientific research for a non-profit research institute in San Francisco for 10 years, I moved to Switzerland where I married my husband, Ryan Stever. After two years in Europe, we moved to Boston where I am competing for the New Balance Boston running team while awaiting visa processing.”

1994

BRENDA LETTSON-TYE, MEd (Music Education), has been appointed the first deputy director of culture for the government of the British Virgin Islands. A music teacher for most of her career, Brenda brings enhanced coverage to the British Virgin Islands. A music teacher, she has been involved in coaching track and field and cross-country in Lethbridge for more than two decades.

1995

SHARON TURNER, BFA (Visual Arts), is a home childcare resource person in Victoria: “Presently I am raising my adopted granddaughter and care for my twin grandchildren after school, Pro-D days and throughout the summer. It has been a busy and challenging time adapting to the many changes surrounding single parent adoption.”

1996

BERTIL JOHANSSON, MEd (Physical Education), has been named to the Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame in the Builder/Cross-country Running category. He has been involved in coaching track and field and cross-country in Lethbridge for more than two decades.

1997

TAMARA MARIE KUCHERAN, BFA (Theatre), received a 2008 Dora Mavor Moore Award for her costume design for the play Intimate Apparel at the Obsidian Theatre Company in Toronto.

ANIELA MAGON, BSc (Chemistry), is a 2008 recipient of the Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence (Certificate of Excellence) recognizing outstanding educators. Angela teaches at Queen Margaret’s School in Duncan and she completed her teaching certificate in the Faculty of Education in 2000.

1998

DAVID AN, MBA, is the executive vice-president of the CIBT Education Group of Vancouver: “Frequent traveller between Canada and Asia. A lot of air miles.”

ROBERTA COTTAM, BFA (Visual Arts) and ELIZABETH COTTAM, BEd (Language Arts) ’94, created Blue Bear Aware in 2006, Canada’s first allergy awareness product line for anaphylactic children. With Elizabeth’s experience in childhood education (and being a mom) and Roberta’s experience as an illustrator, they design fun and trendy gear, injecting a cool factor into a peanut-free lifestyle. In addition to running an online store, the sister-creators travel Canada to help support groups and non-profit organizations raise awareness about allergies.

PATRICK EWING, LLB, has been elected governor of the Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis International. He’s responsible for an organization of more than 10,000 volunteers in about 350 clubs. At 38, he is the youngest to hold the position.

CAMERON ZUBKO, BComm, is working as a consultant at the United Nations in Beijing, helping foreign-based private equity and venture capital funds to get involved in China’s capital and industrial markets.

1999

MARJOREY HOPE, BFA (Visual Arts), writes: “I started university rather late in life but it was something I always wanted to do. I took a year off in 1997 to go on a teaching trip to Japan for one year. It was such a wonderful experience that I came back and quickly finished my degree and went right back to teaching in Japan again for two years. I have been home in Nanaimo since 2002 and am planning to go back for a six-week visit. My husband Ken is there now teaching English and I will join him and we will take a trip to Hakkaido, Tokyo, Yokohama and Kofu, which is where I was teaching.”
CHRISTINA NEWBERRY, BA (English), resides in Vancouver where she has launched a full-time career as a freelance writer, editor, and communications strategist. She writes and edits web sites, brochures, articles, newsletters, press releases, eBooks, blogs, and other communications materials for a number of clients, and “has more than the usual amount of admiration for a well-used dash.”

KONRAD NG, MA (Political Science), is the brother-in-law of US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. He is married to Obama’s half-sister, Maya Soetoro. The couple lives in Hawaii where Konrad is an assistant professor at the University of Hawaii, where he earned his PhD.

REGAN ROSS, BEd, is teaching at Earl Marriott Secondary in Surrey and in the spring received a Prime Minister’s Award for innovative teaching.

GILLIAN WIGMORE, BA (Writing), won the 2008 ReLit Poetry Award for her book, Soft Geography (Harbour). The ReLit Awards were founded in 2000 to recognize Canadian independent literary publishing.

2000

MALCOLM JOHNSON, BA (English), is living in Victoria after five years in Tofino. He works as a writer for a number of publications in Canada, the US and the UK. The photo was taken at Meares Island, in Clayoquot Sound.

TZENKA DIANOVA, MMus, writes: “Last year I completed my doctoral degree in piano performance (20th century and contemporary music) at the University of Auckland, and now I am back in Victoria. At the moment I am concentrating on an international career as a concert pianist and an extended-piano-techniques instructor. I recently recorded two CDs for Atoll Records (New Zealand): one with solo keyboard works by Satie and Cage, and one with a piano concerto by NZ composer Eve De Castro-Robinson. My book John Cage’s Prepared Piano: The Nuts & Bolts was published in Canada last month. I’m online at tzenkadianova.com”

2001

LISA DOROZIO, BSW, completed her bachelor of education degree from the University of Calgary in April and will be teaching junior and senior high school social studies, as well as counselling women and youth. She finished her UVic Child and Youth Care degree in 1991.

2002

STEPHEN MOGATAS, BSN, writes: “I am entering my fourth year as a clinical intern at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto and was recently elected students’ council president. My wife and I are moving home next summer, where we will start our practice in Vancouver.”

MELANIE SENICK, BA (Political Science), has joined the Spokane, WA law firm of Lukins & Annis as a tax associate. She has worked previously in the US Tax Court in Washington, DC after earning her master of laws at New York University.

2003

DAVID HILL, MSc (Sport Science), has been named the new director of the National Coaching Institute of BC, based at UVic.

THOMAS LAU, BA (Pacific and Asian Studies), lives in Kowloon, China where he has become the master franchise licensee of New York Fries, for Hong Kong and Macau with plans to expand into China and Taiwan.

2004

MARIA GALLO, Dipl (Public Sector Management), sent an update from her home in Ireland: “I married a local Irishman artist, Morgan Ferriter, in January 2008 and we live happily in the breathtaking scenery of County Donegal. I also started a new job this year as senior development officer of St. Angelo’s College, Sligo, the northwest campus of the National University of Ireland, Galway. I am currently reading for my doctorate in education at the University of Sheffield and extend warm greetings to all those who I met at my time at the School of Public Administration.”

2005

TIMOTHY DARVELL, MEd (Counseling), is working with Vancouver Coastal Health: “My new position as a child and family therapist, with the Foundations Program, entails helping foster parents and children in care deal with issues relating to mental health. I have been a pre-games volunteer for VANOC, driving the shuttle for VANOC employees (cutting down on carbon emissions). I also work part-time (weekends) in the Downtown Eastside with adult mental health clients in a supported housing program run by MPA (Motivation, Power and Achievement Society).”

JEREMY LUTTER, BA (Writing), is directing music videos and received the award for best BC music video at the Okanagan Film Festival this spring. That’s the good news. Things took a tragic turn while he was in Vernon for the awards presentation. Riding in a taxi one night, another vehicle broadsided the cab. The taxi driver was killed in the collision. Jeremy escaped with a few broken bones. While the injuries forced him to miss the presentation, he dedicated the award to the cab driver.

RHONDA LEE MCISAAC, BA (English), has an update from her home in the Yukon: “After graduation, our family took a tour of the East Coast for about nine months. We returned to Ontario to work in my traditional territory for seven wonderful months. We then decided that we hadn’t travelled quite enough and figured the only road we hadn’t yet travelled was the highway to the Yukon. We’ve survived two winters up here in Whitehorse. I was recently hired by INAC to work as an implementation officer. There are 17 self-governing First Nations in Canada and we have 11 of them. I am putting my degree to work and am looking forward to educating the public and government about the self-governance
model that is evolving in the Yukon. Life really is better up here!"

MICHAEL MEEHAN, MBA, is leading Carbonetworks, which markets "green software" designed to help companies manage carbon emissions. The Victoria-based company is going through a considerable growth phase as its products are being used by more than 180 organizations around the world. The concept first occurred to Michael during his undergraduate studies at UVic.

ALISTAIR NEWMAN, BFA (Theatre), offers an update: "In August, I wrote and directed The Pastor Phelps Project: a fundamentalist cabaret, part of Toronto's SummerWorks Theatre Festival. I collaborated with (four) fellow Phoenix Theatre alumni. The play parodies Christian fundamentalist pastor Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church of Kansas, and explores religious fundamentalism and the perpetuation of homophobia. The WBC caught wind of the play and promised to picket the opening performance, setting off a media storm. Although the WBC were prevented from entering Canada, over 200 members of Toronto's gay community showed up at the opening night in a show of solidarity. The show ended up selling out every performance, and was selected by Toronto's NOW magazine as best ensemble, best direction, and best production. The experience was the most stressful and rewarding of my brief career."

2006

HARRISON AYRE, BA (Philosophy), writes: "After graduation, I accepted a position as office manager of St. Andrew's Cathedral and the position as a director of the Edith Stein Society. Both positions have offered me invaluable opportunities for growth. Recently, I participated in the Tertio Millennio Seminar on the Free Society in Krakow, Poland, which was a life-altering experience that has only increased my love for learning that was instilled in me at UVic. I have also recently been accepted by the Diocese of Victoria as a seminarian and am now pursuing a master of divinity at Newman Theological College. This will be my first step towards eventually becoming an ordained Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Victoria."

PETER CAVELL, MMus (Composition), performed his one-man multimedia drama Walking the Labyrinth in the Ottawa and Toronto Fringe festivals this summer. He also staged a new, original musical called Death! in the London Fringe festival. www.petercavell.com.

DANIEL POST, BA (History), writes: "In January, through a Canadian NGO (Volunteer International Christian Service), I began a volunteer teaching position in the Kingdom of Tonga. I teach at Api Fo’ou College in the island-nation’s capital of Nuku’alofa. I will be teaching history to form 5, 6 and 7 (grade 11, 12, and 13) until January 2010."

2008

TRACY CARMICHAEL (née FISCHER), BSN, is employed by the Vancouver Island Health Authority: "I am working in the operating room and loving it. Thinking about doing my master’s but enjoying making some money finally."

Farewell

JEROME "JOE" ARMITAGE, VC ’43, died Aug. 9, 2008. An RCAF veteran, after he returned to Victoria Joe operated the Armitage Shell service station at Fort and Yates.

KENNETH BOULTER, VC ’39, died Aug. 26, 2008. Ken had a career in library sciences at Simon Fraser University, following service in the RCAF.

SHAWN CAFFERKY, MA ’90 (History), a professor in the Department of History, died suddenly on Sept. 6, 2008. After completing his PhD at Carleton, he held a joint faculty position between UVic and the Royal Military College. He had been centrally involved in the department’s Veterans’ Oral History Project. Donations may be made to the Dr. Shawn Cafferky Scholarship in Military History, through the History Department.

PAIGE CAMERON, BA ’07 (Child and Youth Care), died on Aug. 11, 2008 at the age of 24. She leaves behind an incredibly large circle of friends and family and had just begun her career with Sooke Family Services. Diagnosed with CREST syndrome seven years ago, she was committed to living her life to the fullest.

SHIRLEY CASE, BA ’00 (Leisure Service Administration), was murdered by Taliban forces on Aug. 13, 2008 while on a humanitarian mission in Afghanistan. Two other aid workers were also killed in the ambush. All were working for the International Rescue Committee. Shirley had arrived in the country in June and had been focusing on improving the lives of Afghan people, particularly women, girls and children with disabilities. She had previously coordinated and supported programs for CARE in Banda Aceh and Chad. During her years at UVic she became known for her dedication, enthusiasm and her ability to help people with exceptional needs. She was 30.

JOHN CLIMENHAGA, DSc ’96, died on May 27, 2008. Joining the faculty of Victoria College in 1949 as the head of physics, John became an influential builder of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UVic. He also served as dean of arts and science during the turbulent years of 1969–72 and became widely regarded for his trademark consistency and fair-mindedness. The Elliott Building’s observatory was named in his honour upon his retirement in 1982.

HORACE DAWSON, VC ’33, died Aug. 23, 2008 in his 95th year. He taught in the Victoria school system for 46 years, beginning at the age of 17.

DAVID FERNE, MPA ’77, passed away April 26th, 2008. He’s survived by his wife Joy, daughters Linda Adams (Marty), Sharon Sinclair (Robert) and son-in-law Mike Waterman. He was an active member of the UVic Alumni Association and the Toastmasters club. A man of integrity and a respected investment advisor, Dave worked for 38 years for James Richardson and Sons (later called Richardson Greenhields). Donations in David’s memory may be made to the UVic Alumni Association.

GLADYS MAH (née NIPP), VC ’42, died Aug. 7, 2008 at the age of 84. She and her husband enjoyed many years of travelling the world together.

MIKE MCCAHILL, VC ’43, died June 18, 2008 at the age of 82. Mike earned his BSc at the University of Toronto and spent most of his career at the U of T’s Robarts Library, having a major role in establishing its computer cataloguing system. Mike returned to Victoria in 1986 and enjoyed politics, culture and volunteering—including an active role with the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association.

INA-MARIE OSTENDORF (née SALMON), VC ’45, died in Seattle on Aug. 4, 2008. Ina and her brother, Dr. Peter Salmon, were excellent swimmers with the Archie McKinnon Flying Y Swim Team.

MARGARET CONSTABLE (née SCHOFIELD), BEd ’89, died of breast/bone cancer on May 10, 2008 in Invermere, a few weeks shy of her 45th birthday. She leaves her husband Greg and their two children, William age 15 and Christine age 8. Margaret taught in Yakh for two years and in Edgewater for a year. She’s also survived by her mother, BETTY SCHOFIELD, BEd ’70.

JONATHAN SUTHERLAND SNYDER, BA ’03 (English), a captain with the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, died on June 8, 2008 while on foot patrol near Kandahar, Afghanistan. He was 26 years old and originally from Penticton. Jon’s commanding officer remembered him as an exceptional soldier and leader.
Alumni Calendar

To November 30
Copper Thunderbird: Invention, Inspiration and Transformation. Art of Norval Morrisseau, Legacy Gallery

November 4
Japan Alumni Branch event, Tokyo

November 6
Hong Kong Alumni Branch event

November 10, 12
UVic Fall Convocation, University Centre

November 24
UVic Legacy Awards, Victoria Conference Centre

December 6
UVic Chorus and Orchestra, University Centre

December 6–7
Tuba Xmas, Market Square

January 31
Environmentalist/actor Ed Begley, University Centre

January – March
Grad Year Connections, campus

February 1 – 7
Alumni Week 2009, campus:
  • Teaching Awards Celebration
  • Alumni Awards Night
  • Campus Alumni Breakfast
  • Young Alumni Reception

For event details visit
alumni.uvic.ca

Aboriginal Alumni

The UVic Aboriginal Alumni Chapter needs you to join our steering committee. It’s a chance to be involved in the First People’s House on campus, which opens next year, as well as other future events. The chapter works closely with the university’s Office of Indigenous Affairs.

Contact: Marlene Bergstrom, UVic Alumni Services
alumni@uvic.ca
250-721-6000 or toll-free 1-800-808-6828

“NEW BEGINNINGS” – CHARLES ELLIOTT
What’s New?
New job? New town? New chapter in your life? You send it, we print it in Keeping in Touch and your UVic contacts keep in the loop. It’s so easy.

Do it by e-mail: send your update to torch@uvic.ca. Include your name, degree and grad year. If you’ve moved, send us your new address.

Say it with pictures: e-mail high resolution photo files (300 dpi, at least 5cm wide) along with your text update.

We also welcome news about fresh babies, new marriages — even election to public office. All updates may be edited for style, clarity and length.

POST: UVic Torch Alumni Magazine, PO Box 3060, STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3R4
WEB: uvic.ca/torch
E-MAIL: torch@uvic.ca
FAX: (250) 472-5955

Online Makeover
UVic’s social networking gets site improvements

The UVic Online Community—the social network exclusively for alumni, students, staff and faculty, and which this year commemorates its first decade of service—has received a series of new upgrades to mark the occasion.

The new UVic OLC is far more easy to use, with more inviting design and with the new tools it offers its members.

There's a searchable directory of members plus photo galleries and other social networking capabilities.

New features scheduled to arrive soon include online mentoring services, groups, blogs and event management tools—all designed to help members of the UVic community create networks and maintain contact with each other.

UVic Alumni Services and the UVic Alumni Association created the Online Community in 1998 and the technology has since been licensed to eight other Canadian academic institutions

Log on at www.olcnetwork.net/uvic.
Notes from a Rwandan Classroom

In the shadow of genocide, a Canadian reporter gains new respect for the art of teaching.

BY MARY VALLIS, BA ’02

IT TOOK 14 YEARS AND A TRIP TO RWANDA FOR ME TO REALIZE WHAT a terrible student I was. Completing my writing degree at UVic, I was the one falling asleep in nearly every class, the one always asking for extensions, the one openly scoffing at my professors’ common-sense suggestions on how to improve my writing.

It wasn’t until this February, when I stood in front of a class of African students, that I understood just how frustrating teaching can be.

My husband and I were teaching journalism through the Rwanda Initiative, a partnership between Carleton University’s journalism school and the National University of Rwanda. The program sends journalists to Butare, a small town with dusty streets and few sidewalks, to share the fundamentals of our craft.

Though Rwanda is now a relatively peaceful country, genocide remains a factor in almost all aspects of life. In 1994 when I was wandering around Ring Road listening to punk rock on my headphones, several of my students were caught in the slaughter of Tutsis and moderate Hutus by government militias. Many of the country’s journalists were either killed or complicit in the genocide, so Rwanda’s publications are now run by outsiders or locals with little training. This makes sharing knowledge with the next generation of journalists particularly important.

On my first day, I showed up in brand-new shoes with freshly photocopied course outlines under my arm. My classroom was the size of a small bedroom, with walls of concrete. Paint had chipped off the walls; metal bars covered the small window. I turned around to write my name on the blackboard to discover that not only was there no chalk, there was no blackboard, either. A big, wooden office desk dominated the room but had no chair, so I sat on top of it.

The students—eight of them, all male—were crammed along one wall in rickety desks, and looked at me blankly. They spoke French, Swahili or Kinyarwanda, the local tongue. English was not a first language for any of them. The classroom erupted in chatter every time I paused—not because they were bored, but because they were translating my words into more familiar languages.

At first, my students were not interested in sharing their personal stories. But over our nine weeks in that tiny classroom, I learned several had lost parents during the genocide that killed 800,000 people in 100 days. Others had lived in exile in neighbouring countries. One young man and his family lived for a month in secret rooms hollowed out beneath a house.

In spite of all this, my students were students all the same. One constantly wandered in and out of lectures to make cell phone calls. Another struggled to stay upright as I droned on. One of my best students put more priority on his work for a campus publication than he did in class, as I myself often did while working on the Martlet.

I tried to make the most of those few weeks. At times I wondered whether it was worth leaving my job to travel so far, just to hope one or two of my suggestions would be absorbed. But as I graded assignments at night—sometimes by flashlight, when the power was down—I could see we were connecting.

Though my students often struggled to find the right English words, they quickly recognized the importance of detail. They wrote about the vivid hue of Butare’s rust-red roads and the burning smell of the blue smoke left behind by speeding motorcycle taxis. Machetes, such a powerful symbol of the genocide, became something quite different when one student described the rhythmic whish-whish sound they make when campus workers swing them to trim the grass: “The reaper in his right arm, he beats grasses from right to left and left to right.” Finding one wonderfully crafted sentence, buried amongst the others, made those days worthwhile.

As I type this now, my computer alerts me to new messages from Etienne, a student on the other side of the world.

“Muraho! I mean Hi!” he types. “I’m now putting into practice what I have learnt from you,” he goes on, and then tells me all about his latest story.

Mary Vallis is a reporter at the National Post, and received a National Newspaper Award for her coverage of the Virginia Tech massacre. She lives in Toronto.