

PUTTING VOTING TO A VOTE | BORN TO 'FLY | THE ECONOMY FORETOLD

# TOUCH

THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

SPRING 2008

HALO 3  
BUILD NUMBER: 11982.W.01.14.1009.Aug04\_0117

## THE ART OF HALO 3

Behind the scenes with Michael Zak



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University of Victoria



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*On the cover: Michael Zak, BFA '99, environment art lead for the Halo 3 video game. Photo by Stephen Brashear at Bungie Studios, Kirkland, Washington.*

# Game On

## What is it about video games, anyway?

**AROUND THIRTY YEARS AGO YOU MIGHT HAVE FOUND ME IN MY PARENTS' SUBURBAN** rec room, eyes fixated on the TV screen, playing game number 3,461 of Pong.

Pong's electronic version of table tennis wasn't the first video game to hit the market but, primitive monochromatic graphics notwithstanding, it was certainly the most popular. Sears struck a deal with Atari in time for the 1975 Christmas shopping season and video game culture had arrived in North America. My friends and I were in the target market, dead-centre.

In the years that followed, I graduated to Intellivision and in high school we spent far too much time and quarters on arcade versions of Asteroids, Donkey Kong and Pac-Man.

The thing about it is that I was never really any good at any of those games. But in the same way a slot machine player is convinced that the big jackpot is one play away, video games have a way of appealing to the player's imagination and the competitive drive.

My gamer days are over, but I understand the massive popularity of today's video games. I'm fascinated by the evermore elaborate graphics and interactive capabilities, especially in terms of online competition and the way game systems like Wii involve the body as well as the mind.

Video games are the recreational byproduct of the personal computing era and just like computers have become more sophisticated, smaller, and more intuitive, so too have video games.

The realistic production values of today's video games really are remarkable. What's also remarkable is the talent and imagination that goes into creating them.

The realistic production values of today's video games really are remarkable. What's also remarkable is the talent and imagination that goes into creating them.

Reading about visual artist Michael Zak's contributions to Halo 3 (our cover story, beginning on page 22), I was struck by his purely eclectic approach to life. For a guy who spends his working hours dreaming up and designing the

futuristic playing fields of some of today's most popular video game enterprises, he approaches his craft from the same sensibilities and tastes that first brought him to our university.

It's also true that behind the computing power that has led from Pong to Halo, at the heart of it all is the human touch: the capacity to imagine, to create and to draw us in. For just one more game. †

**MIKE MCNENEY**  
EDITOR  
torch@uvic.ca

# TORCH



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#### EDITOR

Mike McNeney, Dipl '03

#### ART DIRECTION AND ADVERTISING SALES

Rayola Graphic Design  
Clint Hutzulak, BA '89  
Bonnie Light, BA '95

#### ADDRESS UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

torch@uvic.ca

#### LETTERS

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#### *UVic Torch Alumni Magazine*

PO Box 3060  
Victoria, BC V8W 3R4  
Fax: (250) 472-5955  
E-mail: torch@uvic.ca  
Online: uvic.ca/torch

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Kathleen Barnes, BA '98

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**REMEMBERING PROF. WOOLEY**

While reading the autumn 2007 edition, I was saddened to learn of the death of Prof. Ted Wooley. As a young undergraduate student in the Department of History between 1987 and 1991, I had the pleasure of attending three courses taught by Dr. Wooley: an introduction to US history, which he co-taught with Prof. Brian Dippie (and for which I still have the textbook), his advanced US history class, and his renowned course about the Vietnam War.

In spite of the passage of some 20 years, I still have fond memories of Prof. Wooley's impressive and inspirational teaching style. He had a true gift for conveying knowledge to others. On a more personal level, he always struck me as someone who was completely without pretension and who genuinely cared about his students. He was, simply put, one of the finest educators I have ever met.

Dr. Wooley was a credit to the Department of History and to the University of Victoria as a whole. I offer my sympathies to his family and colleagues.

**ERNIE FROESS**, LLB '94  
VANCOUVER

**LANSDOWNE YEARS**

I read the notice about (the forthcoming book) *The Lansdowne Era*. I attended Victoria College 1952-53. One of my good friends at that time was Alan Pratt. He must have been one of the first students to attend Vic College in a wheelchair. Perhaps the



Prof. Ted Wooley.

building had ramps available to him from the days when it was a hospital/rehab centre at the time of the Second World War.

My father often drove along Lansdowne Road, past the centre, on Sunday family drives. I remember seeing a long row of servicemen and perhaps women, who had been wheeled outdoors to the front lawns likely "to take the sunshine." They were lying semi-recumbent in wicker wheelchairs that looked about eight feet long. They were wrapped up in blankets and shawls and were fascinating to the eyes of a child. So much so, I skip only to delightful memories of 1952-53.

**PATRICIA JONES**, VICTORIA COLLEGE '52  
SAANICHTON

**COMMENTS**

The *Torch* encourages reader mail. Send thoughts, ideas, questions or get-it-off-yer-chest rants to [torch@uvic.ca](mailto:torch@uvic.ca). There's always the tried and true stamp and envelope method, too:

Editor, UVic Torch Alumni Magazine  
PO Box 3060, STN CSC  
Victoria, BC V8W 3R4



# Seeking Solutions



UVic becomes home base for province-wide approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**BY DAVID H. TURPIN**  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS ECOSYSTEMS, SOCIETIES, CULTURES AND economies worldwide. The magnitude of the challenge, and our response to it, demands an unprecedented collaborative effort.

It is within this context that I am delighted to share with you important and exciting news. The Province of British Columbia has allocated \$94.5 million to establish the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions at the University of Victoria. The funding includes a \$90-million endowment—the largest single contribution to a university endowment in Canadian history—and \$4.5 million for start-up expenses. The endowment will generate approximately \$4 million annually to fund research, graduate fellowships, internships and staffing.

PICS will be hosted and led by UVic in collaboration with the province's other research-intensive post-secondary institutions: Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Northern BC. The institute will also engage the expertise of our colleagues from across all sectors: in government agencies, non-governmental organizations and industry. PICS will be the focal point for the considerable intellectual capacity, dedicated to climate challenges and solutions, which already exists in BC and will continue to grow.

Essentially, the institute will coordinate research on climate change impacts and solutions and it will lead the assessment of mitigation and adaptation options, including new technologies. It will promote education, capacity-building and technical training. And it will transfer new knowledge about climate change issues to government, industry and the general public.

British Columbians will be required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent below 2007 levels by the year 2020, a

target mandated by provincial law. Additionally, BC is expected to reduce emissions by at least 80 per cent below 2007 levels by 2050. It is against that backdrop that the new institute will provide a valuable resource to our province, Canada and indeed the world.

The new institute will provide a valuable resource to our province, Canada and indeed the world.

With a high-level advisory board, the institute will be in an unprecedented position to frame questions and provide answers on immediate technological, economic, societal, regulatory and public policy challenges related to climate change.

That our university is poised to lead an initiative of this magnitude is due to the tremendous knowledge, expertise and dedication of faculty, students and staff at UVic who helped make this happen.

Congratulations to them on this outstanding recognition and this enhancement of our collective capacity to make a difference. I hope that as a member of our community you will share in our pride in leading this exciting new initiative. †

## Study Spaces

Part of the art of studying is finding the right place. When you have to plow through a pile of assigned reading or prep for the next big exam, it's hard to be "in the zone" if your surroundings aren't quite right. We found second-year Psychology student Tamara Meixner upstairs in the University Centre. "It's quieter than the cafeteria," she says, "and the couches are comfy."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIE ANDERSEN, BA '99







Melting away: 2007 Arctic summer sea ice, as viewed from a NASA satellite, when the perennial ice coverage reached its lowest level on record. The loss has implications for the ecology, climate and industry.

CREDIT: NASA/GSFC/SCIENTIFIC VISUALIZATION STUDIO

# Collaborating on Climate

THE NEW PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, LED BY UVIC AND introduced earlier this year, will harness the expertise of the province's leading thinkers on climate change mitigation and adaptation and form a gateway to similar work on the international scene.

UVic researchers will work in collaboration with their colleagues at UBC, SFU and UNBC to form a broad network addressing all sides of the climate change equation: scientific, technological, economic, social, cultural, political, and legal approaches. An education and outreach component will pro-

mote the exchange of information and ideas.

The institute—"PICS" for short—will operate on proceeds from a \$90-million endowment fund established by the provincial government to fund research, graduate fellowships, internships and staffing. The province contributed an additional \$4.5 million for start-up costs. Among its key priorities, PICS will advise senior decision-makers in government and industry on ways to enhance BC's green industries, identify new technologies, and promote economic opportunities.



DIANA METREKOTT PHOTO

Walker: report is a climate change resource.

## Report: Adapt, and Now

**Water shortages, threats to infrastructure, fires and pests in timberlands, stresses on fisheries and agriculture:** these are some of the main climate change impacts faced by BC and they are impacts that need to be addressed proactively at the community level.

Those findings were part of a study co-authored by Department of Geography Professors Ian Walker and Terry Prowse. The report, "From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate" was completed for Natural Resources Canada.

"Climate change is not just a concept. It's very real and the time to adapt is now," says Walker, one of the main authors of the report's BC chapter. He says the report should be a resource for anyone who wants to know what climate change is doing to their region.

## Path to Action

**Sustainability is the focus of a year-long, cross-campus effort to create a formal policy and action plan for UVic.** The issue is about making sure the campus supports a healthy community for generations to come—economically, socially and environmentally—according to a discussion document released by the university's Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability. The policy and plan will set out a commitment to sustainability and empower groups and individuals to take action. Ample opportunities to offer your input will be available in the coming months, beginning with an online survey, at [uvic.ca/sustainability](http://uvic.ca/sustainability).

## Convocation Elections

MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION WILL ELECT A NEW chancellor this spring to replace Ron Lou-Poy, who completes his second term on Dec. 31.

The nominees for chancellor are retired Victoria heart surgeon James Dutton and Murray Farmer, BA '68. (Farmer was nominated by the UVic Alumni Association. See page 33 for details). Three members of senate were elect-

ed by acclamation: Betty Clazie, MEd '77, Larry Cross, BEd '64, and Gail Flitton.

The election will be conducted by the Office of the University Secretary from noon (PDST) May 20 to 4:30 pm (PDST) June 20. Voting will take place via web vote ([webvote.uvic.ca](http://webvote.uvic.ca)) and mail-in balloting. The election is open to all alumni of UVic as well as past and present members of senate and the board of gover-

nors, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members holding a university degree who have been employed for at least 12 months, and those who completed one full year at Victoria College.

The new chancellor and members of senate will serve for three years, starting Jan. 1, 2009.



## ATLAS(t)

After a design and construction period of about two decades, the ATLAS experiment is almost ready now that the final pieces—9.3-m, 100-tonne “wheels” (one of which is being lowered in the photo)—are in place. The high-energy proton collisions that ATLAS will produce beneath the French-Swiss border, have the potential to reveal “breakthroughs in our understanding of matter and the universe,” says Prof. Rob McPherson, UVic physicist and official spokesman for Canada’s role in the project.

“UVic was a founder of the ATLAS collaboration, and our faculty and students are readying for the analysis of the data,” says McPherson. “We’re all a bit nervous, but at the same time we’re confident. We’re entering the most exciting era in particle physics in decades.”

## Child Soldiers

Cockburn, Dallaire featured in research benefit.

SINGER-SONGWRITER BRUCE COCKBURN AND retired Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire will appear at the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium on Oct. 4 to raise funds for research on ways to end the use of child soldiers.

Dallaire, known for his efforts to stop the Rwanda genocide, will speak and Cockburn, whose music often addresses global political and environmental issues, will perform.

An estimated 300,000 children in 30 countries are used as soldiers, human mine detectors, porters, spies, suicide messengers and sex slaves. The involvement of young people also contributes to cycles of violence that undermine peace efforts.

The benefit will raise funds for the School of Child and Youth Care’s Child Soldier Initiative. The UVic team includes professors Sibylle Artz, Marie Hoskins, Dan Scott and adjunct Prof. Phil Lancaster, a former military assistant to Dallaire.



The project members, with international partners, are preparing to ground-test intervention strategies designed to involve all community stakeholders. A UN peacekeeping mission in the Congo is the tentative base for the study.

Cockburn and Dallaire are both recipients of honorary degrees from UVic, largely for their humanitarian efforts. Tickets are available (starting April 26) at the University Ticket Centre or by phone: (250) 721-8480.



# Law, Nunavut Style

Learning the subtleties of circuit courts in the land of the Inuit.

**IN ANY GIVEN YEAR A SMALL NUMBER OF ADVENTUROUS FACULTY OF LAW** students make their way to Nunavut, where they discover a way of life that challenges their notions of law and justice.

“It’s a great place to be professionally,” says second-year student Leah Pence, BA ’02, who returned in December from a four-month co-op term with the Nunavut Court of Justice, where sentencing and legal decisions are often made by consulting community members, often in makeshift courtrooms. “Everyone is crammed in. There is no separation between participants in the trial, none of that physicality we’re used to southern courtrooms.”

Co-op students typically assist judges with cases, legislative reforms, and they provide general administrative and research support to the court. “We’re a small court compared to others in Canada. There is no budget to hire full-time support for the (three) judges, so the students are a real benefit,” says court director Heather Daley, speaking from her Iqaluit office on a day when the temperature outside was -30 C. “More than anything they bring back a broadened perception of justice.”

About 40 times each year, the Nunavut circuit courts travel across a vast territory equal to the combined size of BC, Alberta and Newfoundland. “There’s a chartered plane, with a judge, a court clerk, a

court reporter, two prosecutors, two pilots, and an interpreter,” recalls Karrie Wolfe, LLB ’04. “When you land, the group goes to the biggest building [in the community]. You have two folding tables to set up and then you staple the flags to the wall.”

The circuit courts are built on a restorative justice model. Judges are often flanked by elders and community justice workers who address the accused and give advice on appropriate sentencing.

Outside of court, students immerse themselves in the northern lifestyle. After learning to hunt and shoot a rifle, Wolfe was rewarded with an entire caribou leg. And Pence spent an evening trying to improve her Inuktitut language skills by playing bingo with a hall full of smiling Inuit women.

Court cases normally combine law and culture in a territory where the Inuit people account for more than 80 per cent of the population. Bert Terzian, LLB ’06, attended a trial about the killing of a narwhal, complete with a three-metre tusk presented as evidence. “The community is more involved in sentencing suggestions,” he says. “As a law student it was very different from what I had studied. Sometimes people just wanted, and received, an old fashioned apology.”

—MIRANDA POST, BA ’02

PHOTO: INUIT. NUNAVUT. NATION WONG ZEPACORRIS



## Older and Stronger

**Like Prof. David Docherty tells seniors who attend his popular talks: you’re never too old for strength training.**

He encourages older people to develop a balanced training program that involves weights and other resistance systems like Thera-bands. The advantages are increased bone density, aerobic fitness, strength and endurance. Better “core” strength helps lower back pain. Type II diabetes can be prevented or controlled with a regular routine of reps and sets. Best of all, it can mean a longer life of independence.

“Many older people believe they won’t benefit from some form of strength training,” says Docherty. “A lot of research shows they can and do respond. Studies show that older adults can improve strength which increases their independence and quality of life.”

Docherty, with the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, is a regular participant in the UVic Speakers Bureau.



# Talk to Me, Baby

What infants have to say about language development.

BY MARK VARDY, MA '07

**BURLING AND GURLING INFANT VOICES FILL THE DEPARTMENT OF Linguistics lab in Clearihue D-wing. The babble is from video clips of Canadian, Chinese and Moroccan babies who sound to the untrained ear, well, like a bunch of babies.**

“Listen to all the manners,” says Prof. John Esling, drawing attention to a baby whose family speaks Bai, a Tibeto-Burman language.

“Notice what these infants are doing. They’re not just going ‘ba-ba-ba’, they’re going ‘rrrrmmm ba-ba-ba, rrrrrmmm ba-ba-ba’, like a little starter motor. That’s the pharyngeal articulator,” says Esling, who possesses the astonishing capacity to distinguish and replicate many of the several hundred discrete sounds that form the world’s languages.

Another video clip shows a baby sitting on a living room floor waving his arms at a dog and making a guttural sound. “That infant’s doing pharyngeals as well. It’s an English infant. So basically the kid is talking to the dog in pharyngeal-ese.”

The discipline of phonetics traditionally concentrated on sounds formed in the front of the mouth, primarily because that’s where most of the sounds used in English are made. But Esling has found that the first sounds babies produce—sounds which have meaning in many languages including Bai and Arabic—are formed further back in the throat, where the pharyngeal articulator is located. “The larynx does a lot more than people thought it was doing before we started analyzing all these different languages.”

The research began when linguists discovered that the International Phonetic Alphabet did not fully account for sounds

essential to the language of the Nuu-chah-nulth people of Vancouver Island’s west coast. Listening to Nuu-chah-nulth, Esling realized other languages contain similar sounds, also produced by infants.

With colleagues and a team of graduate and undergraduate students, he compiled video clips of infants raised in different languages. All of the babies produced sounds from the larynx, but those sounds tapered off in English infants as they aged.

“In the second half of their first year, babies start to put sounds together that predominate in their own language. So that means, in Arabic, you would expect they would be using more sounds from the pharynx (the upper part of the larynx). And indeed they do, in fact, vocalize with more pharyngeal sounds. And the Tibeto-Burman infants in China are vocalizing with even more pharyngeal sounds during that second part of the first year.”

It’s not just that the babies are making particular sounds—Esling’s research with the Nuu-chah-nulth also documented the physical mechanisms involved in making those sounds. That breakthrough, combined with the research on how babies respond to the sounds in the languages they hear, provides a whole new way of understanding what infants are up to with all of that burbling and gurgling.

“We have evidence now that no one had before, until we analyzed it from the point of view of complicated languages. It leads to a completely new theoretical model of how sounds are combined between different parts of the vocal tract.”

ELEONORA GHIO/DICOMBI PHOTO

# Class of 2008

T.S. Eliot wrote, “The end is where we start from,” noting how we complete a journey, only to discover the beginning of another. On the eve of convocation, some of this year’s graduates reflect on their UVic years and cast their minds into the future.

Writing student **Barbara Stewart** posed two questions, framed in hindsight and hope: What would you tell yourself if you could turn the clock back to the start of university? And in four years, what would you hope to be saying about the life you are living?



**The start:** “Get more involved in the happenings of campus right from the start. School becomes so much more than just a place to take classes when you’re working at things you love with other people who share the same passions.”

**The future:** “It’s easy to feel pressured to have your whole career path planned out, and I worry even now about where I’ll end up. Four years from now, I’d like to be able to look back and say that there was no need to panic, that opportunities come from surprising places, and being open to those opportunities can be the best long-term plan.”

**ROSEMARY WESTWOOD**, WRITING  
VICTORIA



**The start:** “What I would tell my 18 year-old self is, ‘Just relax, everything works out.’”

**The future:** “Take the risks. You

don’t remember when you got the eight hours of sleep; you remember the times that you did the unexpected.”

**KATE COSTIN**, THEATRE  
TORONTO



**The start:** “I would tell myself that I would have had way more fun if I didn’t procrastinate so bloody much. But I would also tell myself to never hesitate to get involved with something, or try something out. The best experiences I’ve had here have mostly been outside of the classroom.”

**The future:** “I hope that I’ll be able to congratulate myself on living a life that lets me do what I want to do. If I’m not doing something that excites me, I had better have a bloody good excuse why I’m not doing it.”

**SPENCER ANDERSON**, POLITICAL SCIENCE  
TSAWASSEN



**The start:** “Speed it up a little, because it got a lot more expensive from 2000 to 2008. It’s been an epic journey.”

**The future:** “I hope to say, I knew I could pay (my loan)

off! I have a Mercedes Benz in education.”

**JANICE ARNOT**, HISTORY IN ART  
CALGARY



**The start:** “It’s really good that we don’t know the details and trials that are ahead of us, and yet at the same time, it’s important to trust the process as you move forward.”

**The future:** “It was always a dream of mine to be in hospice nursing. That would be lovely. To know that all the difficulties served as stepping stones to get me to that place, it would be worth it.”

**MARCY RICHARDSON**, NURSING  
VICTORIA



**The start:** “Try to diversify my courses a little more by stretching out the time that I’ve spend here, in order to take some non-engineering courses. I would have loved to take some courses in Greek

and Roman History.”

**The future:** “I should have slowed down and spent more time with the bunnies. I’ll probably miss them.”

**SIMON RAMAGE**, COMPUTER ENGINEERING  
OKOTOKS



**The start:** "Although it was great to learn the fundamentals through UVic Business, what I'm taking away (after almost six years) is my added confidence and certainty of success. I don't think I could have gained this any better way."

**The future:** "I hope that I still have these beliefs and that I'm still utilizing my ambition to move myself forward."

**AMY KLECKNER**, BUSINESS  
VICTORIA



**The start:** "Take a variety of courses and don't try so hard to graduate in four years. Take the time to enjoy the experience."

**The future:** "I hope definitely to be done graduate school. I'd want to know that I'm waking up in the morning to a career that I actually want to do."

**NOORIN CHATUR**, POLITICAL SCIENCE  
RICHMOND



**The start:** "You need to make the sacrifices to do what you need to do, but you sacrifice a part of yourself in the process."

**The future:** "Make the most of what you've been given. So many don't have the university opportunity. In four years, I'd hope to be graduating from law school. I'd hope to be starting life."

**ASIF MUHAMMAD**, PSYCHOLOGY  
CALGARY



**The start:** "It took me about four years to get involved with volunteering and with clubs. When I did, it enriched my experience. I wish I had gotten involved sooner. It allowed me to network, to meet a lot of people I normally wouldn't have, and it expanded my horizons."

**The future:** "I hope that you didn't spend the last four years of life worrying about being a good person because you are a good person and you're going to do good things, no matter what."

**CLAIRE BRUMMET**, PHILOSOPHY/FILM STUDIES  
SEATTLE



**The start:** "Ninety per cent of success is holding on when others let go. That quote got me through school. I was a single mom when I started. I didn't even have \$10 to pay for a transcript. The kindness of strangers got me to this place."

**The future:** "Education is empowering. I would hope to hear how I have inspired and empowered others."

**MARCIA KOENDERS**, SOCIOLOGY  
COOMBS



**The start:** "Get involved with Co-op. I didn't until my third year and it's been the best part of the biochem program. I learned more in a co-op term than I did in a semester. I'd come back re-energized about the program. Biochem labs are the devil. Stay away from them."

**The future:** "All the time was worth it. It paid off in the end. No wait. Actually, I just want to sit on the beach. After four years, I want to say, 'Look at my tan.'"

**ERICA DALEY**, BIOCHEMISTRY  
UCLUELET



**The start:** "My interest right from the start was to go to graduate school, so the only thing I would say to myself is, 'It was worth it.'"

**The future:** "I'd like to be able to ask myself, 'Have you been able to use your education to make a difference in someone's life?'"

**BRANDON LUM**, POLITICAL SCIENCE  
NANAIMO



**The start:** "Get into everything, do everything you can, as soon as you can."

**The future:** "I am on the right track. I'm walking into a (medical school) residency."

**DAVID URQUHART**, BIOLOGY  
TRAIL



**The start:** "When I started this process, I thought I would achieve an end."

**The future:** "Instead, I have achieved a beginning."

**BEVERLY DUTHIE**, ENGLISH  
INVERMERE



# Born to 'Fly

Meet swimmer MacKenzie Downing, Vikes female athlete of the year.

**BY TOM HAWTHORN**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARMANDO TURA

**THE TWO DOWNING CHILDREN WERE WITH THEIR FATHER IN THE CHANGE room at the swimming pool. He got them dried and dressed and had just dropped his own Speedo trunks when his daughter bolted out the door.**

Only 13 months old, she didn't so much run as totter towards the water. Her mother, working as a lifeguard, came running. Her father, his trunks pulled back up, scrambled onto the swimming deck.

Both were too slow and too late.

Little MacKenzie Downing jumped in. She splashed about before hauling herself out just as all the adults arrived.

Her overalls and sweater were soaking wet. She didn't care. The headstrong toddler hadn't been ready to call it quits on her daily swim, so she had returned to where she was happy.

These days, at 21, the University of Victoria undergraduate student remains just as eager to enter the pool. A butterfly special-



ist, she puts in several hours in the water every day.

Downing is broad in the shoulders, narrow at the waist. A lifetime in the water has given her the ability to cut through water with ease.

"I just love being underwater," she says. "It's a whole different world down there."

On land, her shoulders ache and her kneecaps have the discomfiting habit of popping out, a dislocation as painful as it sounds. In the water, those hurts disappear. It is where she is most comfortable.

In the water, at least, no reporters come asking questions. She is a reluctant interview, shy by nature, and, like many her age, not much given to introspection, nor to having strangers poke around her life.

**HER TEAMMATES CALL HER YUKON**, after the territory in which she was born. Back home, she was a Glacial Bear.

The Whitehorse swimming club hosts an annual memorial swim meet named for Ryan Downing, the brother she lost one week after his 13th birthday and just before Christmas in 1996. Ryan liked to compete in the pool and was known to never miss a practice. He collapsed during gym class one day, the result of a congenital heart defect that had gone undiagnosed. Just like that, he was gone. MacKenzie was 10. In Whitehorse, Ryan is remembered at an event in which improving your personal record trumps even a first-place finish. His sister describes him as the most influential person in her life.

Their parents had met at Queen's University. A job offer from a mining company brought the couple north. David worked as a geologist, Jane as a lifeguard, an appropriate job for someone who had been on the university swim team. The pool became a part of the family's daily routine.

One day at poolside, a parent asked David Downing if he planned to bring the children to a weekend meet at Fort Nelson, BC, a 12-hour drive. "Oh sure," he replied sarcastically, "I'm going to take two days off work for a 30-second race." When he realized the other parents were doing just that, he loaded up the family for the first of uncountable marathon road trips.

**DOWNING TOOK A SINGLE LATIN** course this past term. Her days in this Olympic year were filled with intense training. She was in the pool each morning by 5:30, putting in 6,000 metres—that's just about the distance from campus to Saanich Commonwealth Place—before breakfast. She would do some cardio work, perhaps some weights, during the day. The pool beckons again each afternoon at 5:30, during which another six kilometres will be covered.

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the distance from campus to  
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before breakfast.

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Last fall, at the Universiade Games at Bangkok, Downing had the race of her life, winning the 100-metre butterfly in 58.88 seconds. The time was a personal best, as well as a Canadian record.

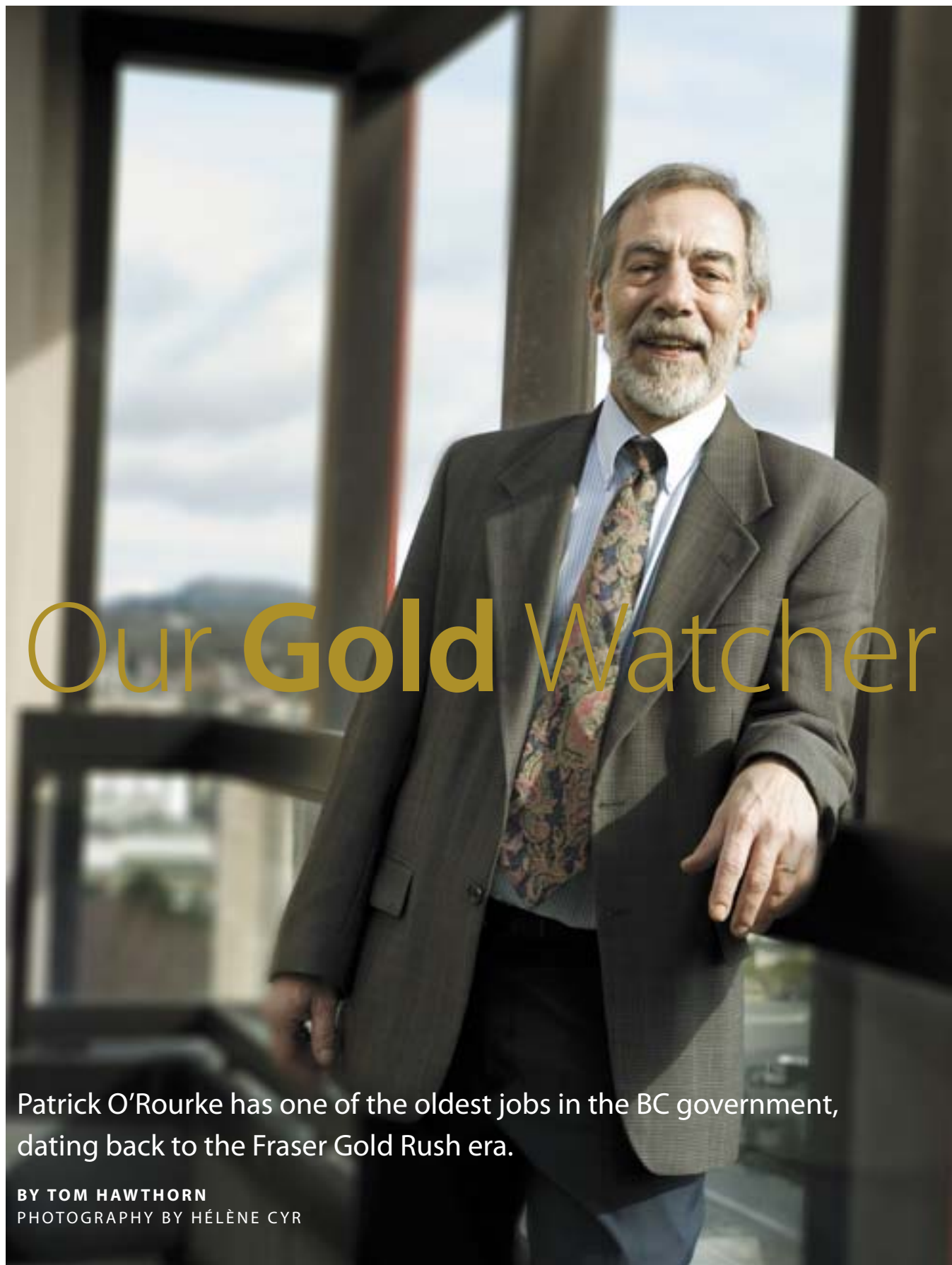
In February, she claimed four medals, including two gold, at the Canadian Interuniversity Sports swimming championships.

The stunning performances contributed to her being named UVic's outstanding female athlete of the year. She also won the prestigious President's Cup, which recognizes the athletic and scholastic achievements of a student in fourth or fifth year. Downing had to skip the ceremony at the Fairmount Empress on March 31, as she was in Montreal for Canada's Olympic qualifying meet.

The next morning, she splashed into the pool as a favourite in the 100-metre butterfly. A minute later, she emerged in second place and just a shade over the Olympic cut-off. She had swum a full second slower than her national record. A second is an eternity at this level.

She had one last chance at redemption. Three days later, she raced in the 200-metre butterfly. She finished third.

It was a heartbreaking conclusion to a spectacular season. The next Olympics are scheduled for London in 2012, by which time she will be 25. Will she train and sacrifice for four more years, or pull the plug on a dream? That is one tough decision. †



# Our Gold Watcher

Patrick O'Rourke has one of the oldest jobs in the BC government, dating back to the Fraser Gold Rush era.

BY TOM HAWTHORN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HÉLÈNE CYR

**PATRICK O'ROURKE HOLDS THE POST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S CHIEF Gold Commissioner.** You expect to find him behind a majestic desk in a wood-panelled office reaching for a quill pen jutting from an ink jar at one corner. The commissioner should be sitting stiffly in a throne-like chair, a tricorne hat atop his powdery, white horsehair wig. Across the vast expanse of the desk would be a man in a soiled checked shirt, his pants hoisted by suspenders, a grizzled beard covering his features and, perhaps, a heavy satchel on the floor beside him.

No such luck. O'Rourke, LLB '88, works in an ordinary office on the eighth floor of a government building with a glorious panorama of downtown. He dresses like any 21st-century bureaucrat in as laidback a capital as Victoria.

O'Rourke, 60, speaks softly, his words precisely chosen and carefully enunciated. At first meeting, he comes across as a cautious bureaucrat with a speaking tone like that of a counsellor.

He sounds like the therapist portrayed by Peter Bogdonovich on *The Sopranos*. As it turns out, O'Rourke spent years helping addicts.

He was entering middle age when admitted to the Faculty of Law despite lacking an undergraduate degree. He won the Law Society gold medal upon graduation, embarking on a civil service career that has seen him handle the file on offshore oil and gas, help negotiate the Charlottetown Accord, and sign off on the negotiations for the landmark treaty with the Nisga'a.

Looking back on law school, he recalls having "a hell of a good time," other than for sweaty palms before his first exam. "When I went to law school I took it as my job," he says. "I worked at it. I had an office and that was the only place I did law. And I didn't do anything else in that office." After all, he was far more familiar with working than with studying.

Twenty years later, he holds one of the most venerable positions in the province's civil service.

**WHO KNEW WE EVEN HAD** a chief gold commissioner? The position was created in 1859, one year after gold was discovered in the Fraser Canyon. Governor James Douglas appointed a 43-year-old, Irish-born Crimean War veteran to the post, ordering Chartres Brew to send constables to Yale to suppress a challenge to authority by an American desperado. Brew spent months on routine duties—issuing licenses, recording claims, settling disputes—while awaiting the appointment he truly wanted as chief inspector of police. Brew would get his wish,

going on to serve the colony in several important positions until his death from acute rheumatism at age 54. He fared better as chief than did the Cariboo region's first gold commissioner, Philip Henry Nind, who suffered a nervous breakdown from working 20-hour days. Nind was succeeded by Thomas Elwyn, who soon had to resign because he would not abandon a claim likely to make him rich.

O'Rourke has no chance to find himself in such a conflict of interest.

"I've never been a miner, never been a prospector," he says.

He hails from a land also known for 19th-century gold rushes.

O'Rourke was born in California to a family that would not put down roots for many years to come. His father was a military pilot whose postings forced many moves. By Grade 8, Patrick had attended nine schools in six states.

His undergraduate years at Penn State coincided with growing unrest on the campus in the late '60s. Student protests became more ferocious as the war in Vietnam threatened to ensnare college men. Like many his age, O'Rourke went north at 21.

He wound up near the University of Toronto campus, where he worked at a crisis intervention centre. "I did druggies and drunks," he says.

The facility was named 12 Madison for its address just north of Bloor Street, near the University of Toronto campus. In three years of sometimes harrowing overnight shifts, O'Rourke handled most every crises that came his way, needing to call an ambulance only twice and the police but once.

He wound up in Vancouver, where he eventually got a job in which he handed out government money to the kinds of organizations for which he once worked. After being rejected for a job due to his lack of a degree, he decided it was time to return to school.

Now, much like his predecessor a century and a half ago, he administers titles, adjudicates disputes, and exercises legislative authority to reserve mineral rights to the government beneath such things as parks.

He hands over a business card crammed with tiny printing. It has the province's logo, the province's slogan, the name of his ministry (Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources), and its division (Titles and Offshore), as well as his contact information. His two job titles are in the tiniest print. It must be said the government has plenty of assistant deputy ministers, but only one chief gold commissioner. That makes Patrick O'Rourke the gold standard. †



BC's first gold commissioner, Irish-born Chartres Brew, was appointed in 1859.



# Good Calls

Don Drummond is among of country's top economic forecasters.

BY GEORDIE CLARKE, BA '04  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GLENN LOWSON

AMID THE FINANCIAL TURMOIL THAT DESCENDED ON THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL markets in January and caused the biggest drop in the Toronto stock market in seven years, there was one Canadian economist who was reassured by what he saw—Don Drummond.

As the senior vice-president and chief economist at the TD Bank Financial Group, Drummond was among the first to foresee a market downturn, recognizing in 2005 that the US sub-prime mortgage market was on weak foundations. "It was somewhat gratifying, having been on the pessimistic end of the forecast, to see the other banks racing to lower their forecasts down to our level," says Drummond, BA '76.

Drummond's expert analysis of anything from government budgets to blips in the stock market features prominently in the national press, his razor-sharp commentary delivered with an Ontario twang that comes from more than 30 years of living in the Toronto-Ottawa corridor.

His forecasts often stagger some observers. Economics Prof. Don Ferguson, one of Drummond's former instructors, recalls a prediction he'll never forget. It was 2004 and the resurgent Canadian dollar had broken the 80-cent US barrier. "It was his view that it was going to stabilize at the 85-cent point and stay there for a long period of time," Ferguson says. "What struck me was that was exactly what the dollar did."

DRUMMOND'S INSIGHT is almost certainly the product of his previous life as a federal bureaucrat. After earning his master's degree at Queen's University in 1977, he joined the Department of Finance in Ottawa, working alongside eight finance ministers and rapidly ascending the ranks, ultimately becoming associate deputy minister of finance before moving to the TD Bank in 2000.

He would work closely with the eccentric, pipe-smoking David Dodge who, in Chretien's Liberal government of the 1990s, was the debt and deficit slashing deputy finance minister.

Compared to Dodge, Drummond was never one to draw attention to himself, choosing instead to quietly build his reputation.

"He's not a hail-fellow-well-met, he's not gregarious," says Jim Peterson, former minister of international trade in the Liberal government. "I don't think he's highly political in the sense that he goes out of his way to ingratiate other people. He lets his job speak for itself."

Drummond's proudest achievement would come during Paul Martin's reign as finance minister, who he helped to eradicate the deficits racked up by the Trudeau and Mulroney governments. "I was there all through that period when the deficit was going up and up and up," Drummond says. "I wouldn't have been very happy with my career in the Department of Finance if I had left in 1993. I got a second chance to clean things up, things that I watched deteriorate."

Yet economics wasn't his first career choice. Born and raised in Victoria, in his earlier years he thought he might teach history or

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"Whenever I do some work on public research, people are always suspicious... The real reason I do it is because it's the right thing to do."

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English literature. But a semester of Economics 100 with the late Prof. Leonard Laudadio changed that. "He was just one of the most dynamic people I would ever meet," Drummond says. "He was really into the policy applications of economics and that's what interested me."

He would soon be consumed by the subject, turning heads in the process. "Every year there's one, two or maybe three students who sort of shine, who have something special about them in

terms of their motivation and their understanding,” Ferguson says. “Don clearly was one of those.”

It was also at UVic that he would find another lifelong passion: squash. And it was through this sport that he would meet his wife, Susane Latrémouille, in 1981. “There was a young pro at the squash club who put on a clinic on a Saturday night. The kinds of people who go on a Saturday aren’t really going out with anybody,” he says. “Why else would you go to a squash clinic?”

**IN HIS CURRENT ROLE** at TD Bank, Drummond—who became a vegetarian at the behest of one of his two daughters—has used his influence to campaign for improvements to public policy on the environment, social welfare, housing and immigration. To some observers, Drummond’s position within Canada’s second-largest bank is at odds with such a stance, but he makes no apologies.

“Whenever I do some work on public research, people are always suspicious because they think a bank doesn’t do anything unless it’s to make money. I’m not going to be apologetic about that. Obviously if the Canadian economy is stronger and people in Canada are wealthier, the TD Bank will make more money, so what’s wrong with that?” he says. “The real reason I do it is because it’s the right thing to do and people will be better off.”

In particular, he believes as a country we are ignoring the barriers that confront new Canadians. “It bothers me the denial of the difficulties that immigrants have and I don’t think that we’ll ever approach it until we accept it.”

His efforts are making a difference—Ontario welfare policy has moved towards his recommendations—but it’s an arduous process. “I have my moments of getting discouraged, but I don’t think I’ve given up on anything. I still think I’m going to be a better squash player tomorrow than I’ve ever been before, even though I’m 54. It may not be realistic, but that’s what I think.” ¶

Low-key and steady: Drummond  
"let's his job speak for itself."



# The Art of Halo 3





With natural creative flair, Michael Zak's designs bring life to futuristic video games. His life-like landscapes and scenery have helped to make Halo 3 a cultural phenomenon. But there's more to him than meets the eye. >>

**BY BLAINE KYLLO**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN BRASHEAR; HALO 3 IMAGES COURTESY OF BUNGIE STUDIOS

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**Michael Zak isn't the kind of guy you would expect to find at the centre of the video game industry.** He's an athlete who took up meditation at 14, studied art in university, and worked as a sanitation engineer. He's an urban gardener who grows his own food, and would visit a modern art museum before he'd go to a comic store. But such wide-ranging interests, these varied talents, are why he was a key creative contributor to Halo 3, one of the most popular video games ever made.



Got your back: Zak, with one of only two life-size statues of Halo's protagonist, Master Chief.

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**"It's about pushing your imagination and making fun choices."**

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The son of two University of Victoria graduates, Zak, was born and raised in Victoria. His first exposure to video games came when he was five and his father brought home an Apple II. "I played a fair bit of that," he says, confessing that he had a box of bootlegged games for the early personal computer. "Back in that day, any idea could be a game. Today if you don't have production value it's considered a 'small' idea." As he got older, though, he became more involved in sports. He was too busy doing other things to play video games.

Coming out of high school and preparing for UVic, he wasn't sure what to study. "All my friends went into computer science," he said. Having taken classes in every subject in high school, "I didn't know where I wanted to go." After a bit of soul searching, he realized that art was an effortless task for him. When making art he would lose his sense of time. "There was no will involved in initiating a project. Art was something I didn't have to think about."

Zak, BFA '99, is based at Bungie Studios, the celebrated video game studio in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland. Bungie became a household name among gamers in 2001 when its video game, Halo: Combat Evolved, helped establish Microsoft's Xbox gaming system. Since then, the Halo franchise—which also includes comics, novels, and a planned feature film—has become a cultural and entertainment phenomenon. In the US, 1.7 million copies of Halo 3 were pre-ordered, leading to first-day sales of \$170 million when it was released last September. Worldwide, Halo 3 racked up sales of \$300 million in the first week and by the end of the year, 8.1 million units had been sold worldwide. On average, there are about 14 million Halo 3 matches played online every day.

**THE STORY OF HALO**, which features super soldier Master Chief as its primary protagonist, is an epic about an intergalactic war between humanity and an alliance of aliens, called the Covenant. Halo 3 takes place on a battle-ravaged Earth as well as locations in another far off galaxy.

As environment art lead, Zak guided the artists who created the game's picturesque backgrounds and sweeping landscapes. Computer-generated vistas of the African plains around Kilimanjaro, nooks and crannies of industrial warehouses, the close confines of space vessels, the game's mountains, trees and grass, and water—all were created by Zak and the production team's other artistic wizards.

"We're trying to take the player on a galactic journey. We certainly build impossible structures, because it's a sci-fi fantasy game," says Zak. But a lot of his attention goes into the natural details that give Halo 3 its realistic visual appeal.

The different ways that leaves decay or tree branches grow are evidence of his push to “get more entropy into the system.”

In February, Zak presented a session entitled “Environmental Design in Halo 3” at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco. It said something about his success in creating the worlds for Halo 3 that the meeting room was standing room only with about 500 people wanting to hear how he and his team made Halo 3 look the way it does. He spent an hour talking about everything from aesthetics and the beauty of painting with light, to pragmatic issues such as the need to create an environment that provides the player with cover and a clear path from one place to another.

**ZAK’S DAYS AS A YOUNG** UVic Visual Arts student were split between his studies and McKinnon Gym, where he played Vikes volleyball. He admits to being “an anomaly in both those worlds.” On a volleyball trip to New York, when everyone else went to see a game at Madison Square Gardens, Zak went to the Museum of Modern Art. In class, his flair for computer-generated art began to flourish. He specialized in photography and was part of the early movement toward digital image manipulation. He learned to use computers to do things that are difficult to do otherwise, like isolating objects in a field. He later completed a master’s degree, specializing in computer graphics and game engines, at Maharishi University of Management in Iowa. He’s been with Bungie Studios since 2004.

He still hits galleries and museums when he can and the more traditional art world is very much a part of his life: he paints in his spare time and his wife is a contemporary artist working in photography and video.

An eclectic background—with past interests and studies ranging from computers and math to English and art history—means he brings a certain depth to the production of a video game. On Bungie’s development team, his position puts him in a sweet spot because he has a sense of how to take technical issues into account when designing the game art. “I don’t do any programming, but I understand how those things work.”

With Halo 3 completed, there are new ideas to explore and new games to create. Even as he speaks on the phone from his work space, Michael Zak has his note book in front of him and he busily sketches away. The next, top secret, game project is taking shape and he is clearly excited about it. “Preproduction is the most interesting part (of game design). It’s the most fun...it offers the most freedom to create ideas and let your mind go. It’s about pushing your imagination and making fun choices.” †

Prof. Kathy Sanford says alternative literacy skills can be picked up, outside of school, in video games.



## Literacy and Video Games

**While critics of video games often denigrate the medium as being frivolous—and even dangerous for adolescent and teenage boys because of concerns about addiction, isolation, and media violence—a Faculty of Education researcher is finding that video games have more benefits than once thought.**

Prof. Kathy Sanford, Associate Dean of Teacher Education, is running two studies looking at the impact of video games on the learning and literacy of boys. In the first, she is working with teachers and students at a Victoria high school where computer programming is being taught through the development of video games. “Their literacy far exceeds what can be measured by traditional reading and writing assessments,” Sanford says.

The difficulty, Sanford explains, is that the skills learned while playing video games are not often recognized by teachers or parents. The boys themselves take their abilities for granted and don’t view them as being as important as math and reading. By videotaping the subjects while they are creating their own video games, and having the boys explain what they are doing, Sanford is getting a much clearer picture of what’s going on. “It’s ironic, because experiential learning prepares them for other kinds of tests that we can’t prepare them for.”

The second research project is an in-depth study of nine young men from very different backgrounds as they play video games. “We’re looking at the kind of learning they are doing by the game play,” Sanford explains. One early finding, she says, is that while the subjects are aware of the addiction issue, what is motivating them to play for long hours is the game’s storyline: “They want to get to the end of the story.”

# A Brighter Idea

Sam Goldman is leading an effort to replace kerosene lamps in the developing world with a safe, cheap and clean source of lighting.

BY MARK VARDY, MA '07

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM MERCER MCLEOD

**THE OPEN-AIR WEDDING PARTY IN THE REMOTE WEST AFRICAN** village of Guinagourou, Benin was in full swing when suddenly the rented generator powering the electric lights failed. With no light to dance to, the party crashed to a halt. That was when Sam Goldman pulled out a clearance-store LED headlamp, and lit up the courtyard. With yells of glee, the party resumed and Goldman had found his calling.

Since that night four years ago, Goldman, BSc '01, has worked to bring affordable, safe, and efficient lighting to the rural poor in developing nations. About one-quarter of the world's population relies on candles and kerosene for light, says Goldman, who worked in Guinagourou for the American Peace Corps after graduating from UVic with a degree in Biology and Environmental Studies.

The romance of candles and kerosene disappears when you are forced to rely upon them, says Goldman. Kerosene lanterns emit noxious smoke, their poor quality of light hampers work and study, and they start fires that burn thousands of people each year. "And it's a significantly large emitter of carbon dioxide, which you would never think of when you light one candle, but if you light two billion, it's a different story," Goldman says.

After realizing the potential for LED lamps to improve the lives of 1.6 billion people, Goldman couldn't find manufacturers interested in serving the developing world. He decided to form a company and do it himself. But first he had to learn how, so he took an MBA at Stanford.

"Stanford was one of my top picks primarily because it has a very social entrepreneurial atmosphere to it, but it also has this



class called Entrepreneurial Design for Extreme Affordability." He and four classmates designed and field-tested durable, bright and cheap lighting systems that can be recharged with solar energy. They formed a company called d.light design, won a couple of prizes, including \$250,000 for their business plan, and secured funding from the same venture capitalists who backed Hotmail. >>

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“Our primary goal is not to return value to a shareholder, but to create social value for the world, and because we have investors who care about that, we’re able to do it.”

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Now Goldman is in Delhi, establishing d.light design’s global headquarters. Their lighting systems, designed specifically for the rural poor, are being distributed in batches of 5,000 across India. Orders are also coming in from Africa.

Reached via an Internet video link, the 28-year-old CEO seems unfazed by a week of 19-hour days hiring staff and scouting properties. He maintains a laidback, West Coast vibe. “Our goal is pretty simple. I mean, here we are in 2008, we’re in an age where I can talk to you and see your picture on my computer screen and have this conversation for free. And yet one quarter of the world’s population is still using a flame as their source of lighting, whether that’s a candle or kerosene lantern. It just seems unacceptable.”

Hence d.light design’s objective to bring better light to the rural poor within 10 years.

“I don’t mean that d.light alone is going to be able to supply 1.6 billion people with light. But I am pretty confident that we can supply tens of millions.” With the ethic of social entrepreneurship driving d.light, Goldman is looking forward to competitors entering the market. “It’s really (about) building a network, and community of people, and starting a business mindset to solve this problem.”

D.light’s cheapest lighting system sells for about \$6, but they have also have a partnership with One World Children’s Fund to donate lights to those who can’t afford them. “Our primary goal is not to return value to a shareholder, but to create social value for the world, and because we have investors who care about

that, we’re able to do it.”

Goldman plans to ride one of the world’s largest economic booms, producing products for the rural poor and India’s rapidly expanding middle class. “I think we can provide not only lighting but also other devices that will meet a certain social need as well as a commercial need. So this is really the start of something much, much bigger.”

Jordana Froese, BA ’02, has known Goldman since childhood, and they were in the same residence building at UVic. “Some people take a long time to become conscious of what contribution they can make to life,” she says, “but Sam has always known that he can make a difference.” Froese says Goldman’s parents, who worked for the US Agency for International Development, gave him his ethic of helping others. Goldman concurs, adding that he was raised in numerous developing countries, including a stint of high school in Delhi.

“Part of my upbringing was, How do we develop these areas that have a lot of latent potential? So (when) I went to UVic I always knew that I wanted to get back and understand what it really means to be living at the bottom of the pyramid.” Guinagourou, with no telephones, electrical grid or running



Cheap, safe and solar-rechargeable: d.light design’s feature product.

water, launched Goldman on the path to Delhi, which he says has grown almost beyond recognition since he was there as a teenager.

“I think the next 100 years or 50 years (will be) the age of India and China. When I look at what’s happening around me, India is booming; it’s an exciting time. So as a young team, spending this time here getting to know this culture and getting to understand people and be part of what’s happening—it’s just an unbelievable adventure.” †

# Putting Voting to a Vote

Prof. Dennis Pilon makes the case for electoral reform.

BY MARK VARDY, MA '07

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HÉLÈNE CYR



**IMAGINING POLITICAL SCIENCE PROF. DENNIS PILON IN HIS FIRST CAREER AS RADIO DJ** IS not difficult. For one thing, his attire—tight cut blazer, narrow-collared shirt and skinny black tie—reflects a '60s fashion sense that he calls “Kennedy administration meets the Beatles.” And then there is the way he talks. Pilon speaks with energy and ease about his research on electoral reform, articulating his points about different voting systems with punchy epithets. As he sits at his office desk for our interview, the only thing needed to complete the “Pilon-as-DJ” picture is a broadcast-quality microphone.

“I loved being on the air,” he says. “I like being a performer, and my students know that; they get a charge off that enthusiasm.” Indeed, in his third-year course, “Representation and Electoral Systems,” two or three students are often waiting at any one time, hands in air, to participate in the discussion. But working as a DJ at age 18, Pilon learned two things about the commercial radio industry: it doesn’t share his love of music, and it’s homophobic.

“As a young gay man, I thought, ‘I don’t want to live the rest of my life in a closet.’ So I decided it wasn’t really the career for me.”



**The Politics of Voting:  
Reforming  
Canada's Electoral  
System**

By Dennis Pilon

*Emond Montgomery  
Publications, 188 pages, \$30*

After working various jobs, Pilon moved to England in 1987 for a pivotal year that sparked his enduring interest in voting systems and electoral reform.

“It was an interesting time to be in England, because you had the Clause 28 debate where the Thatcher Conservatives were trying to make it illegal for educational authorities to say positive things about gays and lesbians. So there were some really important political issues going on.”

Pilon became acutely aware of what he sees as a discrepancy between the promise and delivery of democracy. He began researching the mechanisms that translate votes into representation, earning a PhD along the way.

**DOES THE CANADA’S VOTING SYSTEM DELIVER?** “No, it fails miserably in the most basic things that it promises. So I’m saying, ‘Hey citizens, let’s start here, and make sure the building blocks of our system are sound.’”

Pilon’s 2007 book, *The Politics of Voting: Reforming Canada’s Electoral System*, written for the general public as well as an academic audience, systematically tests the claims made about both Canada’s current “first past the post” voting system and an alternative, proportional representation.

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“It’s not fair whether you’re a left-winger, or whether you’re a right-winger; it’s not fair for the voters.”

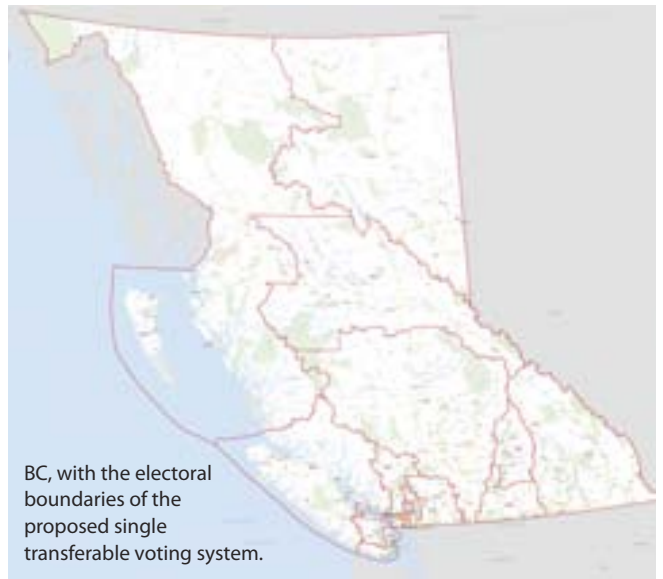
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“It seems to me that PR [proportional representation] validates [democratic values] and first past the post violates them, in terms of our analysis of how the systems actually work. Not their theories, not what’s claimed for them, but their actual results in western industrialized countries.”

In short, Pilon makes three arguments against the current system. First, candidates often win ridings with a minority of votes. Second, parties are compelled to field candidates they think will appeal to as many people as possible. Such candidates are typically white, professional, heterosexual males, thus reducing representation of Canada’s social diversity. Third, parties whose supporters are geographically dispersed receive fewer seats per voter while parties with geographically concentrated support receive more.

“It’s not fair whether you’re a left-winger, or whether you’re a right-winger; it’s not fair for the voters,” says Pilon.

Defenders of the current voting system argue that extremists and special interest groups would find it easier to enter electoral politics under proportional representation. The current system, they say, encourages engagement through the established parties, thus uniting disparate elements of the polity and



BC, with the electoral boundaries of the proposed single transferable voting system.

## PR for BC?

British Columbia will hold a referendum on proportional representation, for the second time in four years, on May 12 next year. In 2005, 77 out of BC’s 79 electoral districts voted in favour of proportional representation. But with only 57.7 per cent of total votes for the “yes” side, it failed to gain the “super majority” of 60 per cent it needed to pass.

Prior to the 2005 referendum, much attention was paid to the different systems of proportional representation—single transferable vote and mixed-member proportional. Some parties declined to support the referendum because the specific system put forward was STV.

However, cross-national studies of western industrialized countries using proportional representation shows the difference in actual outcome, for all parties, between STV and MMP is negligible.

promoting Canada’s cohesion. And the current system tends to produce governments wherein one party is given the majority of seats, which leads to greater stability.

“There are lots of arguments in favour of a first past the post,” Pilon says. “But they’re just not democratic ones. To say, ‘We need first past the post governments because they’re stable.’ Well, dictatorships are stable. If that’s what you want, you don’t need democracy for that. Or the argument, ‘They provide majority governments.’ Well, if you think that giving a majority of support to people who only earned a minority of votes is democratic...” Pilon shakes his head. “It doesn’t sound democratic to me.”

Pilon asserts that the choice of voting systems is itself political. “We have to have a very robust, and critical, discussion that will challenge some of the things that people think they know about politics. I think it’s important that you understand the range of opinions. Then whatever decision you make, that’s your decision.” †

## Highest Honours

On May 31, 1969 Sir Edmund Hillary accepted an honorary degree from the University of Victoria. Sixteen years and two days earlier, Sir Edmund and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay had become the first to conquer the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak (at 8,850 m). They braved excruciatingly cold temperatures, debilitatingly thin air, and winds of 180 kmh. When the news spread around the world, they became instant celebrities.

Sir Edmund went on to write and lecture extensively. His Himalayan Trust raised funds for more than 30 schools, a dozen clinics, two hospitals, airfields and infrastructure in the Sherpa villages of Nepal.

His UVic tribute came during sixth annual convocation, which was conducted at Centennial Stadium. As the stadium's ever-present biting winds swirled around the podium, Sir Edmund joked that it seemed almost colder than Everest.

His UVic tribute came during sixth annual convocation, which was conducted at Centennial Stadium. As the stadium's ever-present biting winds swirled around the podium, Sir Edmund joked that it seemed almost colder than Everest.

Sir Edmund Hillary died on Jan. 11 at the age of 88 in his home of Auckland, New Zealand.

(Photo: Jim Ryan/UVic Archives photo. Ref. # 028.0108)



## Association's Choice for Chancellor

**THE UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS NOMINATED** Victoria community leader Murray Farmer for chancellor. The association has traditionally nominated candidates for chancellor who demonstrate exemplary service to the community and to the university.

Farmer graduated from UVic in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in economics. He received the UVic Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2007, he currently serves as the chair of UVic's board of governors and he has long been a dedicated supporter of the university.

Farmer is president of Farmer Industries Group, a family partnership established more than 50 years ago with interests in the construction, development and hospitality sectors. He is also a co-owner of Westside Equestrian Centre in Central Saanich.

Farmer has provided exceptional volunteer leadership in a variety of capacities for the Victoria Foundation, the BC Government House Foundation, the United Way of Greater Victoria,



Nominee for chancellor,  
Murray Farmer

the Sidney Marine Discovery Centre Campaign, the Royal BC Museum, and the Royal Jubilee Hospital Foundation. In 2003 he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for community service.

The election, via mail-in and web voting ([webvote.uvic.ca](http://webvote.uvic.ca)), concludes June 20. (See page nine for details.)

## A Full Agenda

Alumni activities keep president on the move.

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

IN MAY 2007, AT OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, I WAS ELECTED president of the University of Victoria Alumni Association for a two-year term. President David Turpin was the keynote speaker at our AGM and his contribution to our meeting was most interesting and much appreciated.

The keynote speaker at our annual meeting this year will be UVic Board of Governors Chair Murray Farmer, BA '68. Murray was appointed to the board in 2002 and became its chair last July. Murray's position on one of the main governing bodies of the university has put him at the forefront of the exciting developments at UVic in recent years. He has been involved in the university's rise to greater prominence in climate and ocean science research, with the additions of the NEPTUNE and VENUS ocean observatories and this year's introduction of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. The physical changes on campus have also been remarkable, with four new buildings opening this year that will add significantly to classroom and laboratory space.

This year's AGM will include tours of these remarkable new facilities.

Murray is also the association's nominee for chancellor, a position of great importance that the association's directors

believe should, if at all possible, be filled by an alumna or alumnus. It has become standard practice of the association to carefully select and nominate the best possible candidate and representative of alumni. Murray was nominated by the board after consideration of several potential candidates. He was chosen for his many years of dedicated service to the university as well as his contributions to the community. We encourage all alumni to give him their support.

In other association matters, our strategic plan was finalized and designed to work in concert with the strategic plan set out by the university. This important framework document was completed with contributions from our board members and with the guidance of Don Jones, our director of Alumni Services.

From my vantage point, the future of the UVic Alumni Association looks exciting so please keep in contact via our website or through our helpful alumni services office. There is always an event or activity for every member of our alumni, and I look forward to meeting you in the coming year.

Finally, my thanks to the association's board of directors for their continuing contributions and to those who have served on our various committees over the past year. Your time and experience is invaluable.



## Sailing Along

The UVic Sailing Club is going strong with the help of grants of \$2,000 from the UVic Alumni Association and \$1,000 from the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association. The contributions capped a two-year fundraising effort and helped the club to purchase six junior training sailboats and a coach boat. The fleet is housed at Cadboro/Gyro Park and supports an active program of recreational sailing, racing, and teaching.

"This purchase has solidified a sailing community at UVic, and will ensure that every UVic student who wants to learn how to sail, race, or just get out on the water for fun will have that opportunity to do so for years to come," says club president Arel English.

The club has more than 300 members and was formed in 2005. Plans are to promote sailing and racing in the Victoria area while meeting the demand for affordable sailing lessons. The first annual Western Canada Cup will be hosted by the club with the Royal Victoria Yacht Club May 10 and 11—an Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association sanctioned regatta.

The UVic Alumni Association provides grants (annually totaling up to \$15,000) to students and recent graduates who promote the quality of education and campus life at UVic. Funding comes from donations to the Alumni Fund ([external.uvic.ca/development](http://external.uvic.ca/development)).



James Pettit and Rahul Mittal at a UVic Sailing Club intermediate sailing lesson on Cadboro Bay.

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# Alumni in Our Own Backyard

The week of events that put campus alumni in the spotlight.



BY SHANNON VON KALDENBERG

ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

**UVIC ALUMNI CAN BE FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD—IN MORE THAN 90** countries. But one of the largest, most concentrated groups of grads is right here on campus, in our own backyard.

It might be surprising to consider just how many of our alumni work at the University of Victoria. In one capacity or another, about 1,400 alumni are employed at UVic. They account for almost one-third of all UVic faculty and staff. The importance of alumni in the day-to-day business of the university was really brought home to us in February when we hosted our first annual Alumni Week on campus.

An initiative of the UVic Alumni Services staff and the UVic Alumni Association, Alumni Week 2008 was geared towards the many alumni on campus. Throughout the week, events were produced that not only were fun and informative, but they really helped to spotlight the important role that alumni play in the teaching, research and support functions of the university.

One of the real highlights for me was the launch breakfast, at the University Club. About 150 hearty souls braved the early Monday morning hour and joined us for a delicious meal. Vice-President Academic Jamie Cassels brought greetings from President David Turpin and offered a word of thanks to alumni on campus for choosing UVic as their place of work and for helping to build such a great university.

Old friends and co-workers got caught up on each other's lives and there was a really positive vibe in that room. That's the sort of thing we hope to build on in the future.

Alumni Week also offered a career networking event featuring four outstanding young graduates. A-Channel Vancouver Island's sports anchor Jason Pires, BA '96, served as our master of ceremonies. Jason was joined by Victoria Poet Laureate Carla Funk, MA '99, Faculty of Business entrepreneur-in-residence Eric Jordan, BFA '93, and Latitude Geographics founder Steven Myhill-Jones, BSc '99. They all did a terrific job of sharing their experiences with an appreciative group of new alumni and current students.

We are also extremely grateful for the sponsorship and partnership support we received from the Aerie Resort and Spa, the UVic Computer Store, the UVic Bookstore, Vikes Recreation and alumni affinity partners MBNA Canada, Industrial Alliance Pacific and TD Meloche Monnex.

Alumni Week 2008 was our first attempt at this type of event. Watch for it next year (in the first week of February), when we'll be coming back with an even bigger and better version that will involve even more of our alumni, both on campus and in the community.

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## Celebrating Celona

**MARJORIE CELONA CONFESSES TO BEING JUST A LITTLE STUNNED** WHEN IT was announced that she had won the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. "I don't think I moved for an entire minute—a complete 'deer in the headlights' moment," she wrote in an e-mail in the days after the award presentation. "I am so honoured and thrilled and surprised. It gives me hope that these endless hours of writing have been meaningful and will continue to be."

Celona's short story, *Othello*, works with themes of loneliness and growing up. It is also, according to the award's judges, "a gift, a world created and presented perfectly."

The award was presented Jan. 16 in a posh 40th-floor suite in the Royal Bank headquarters in downtown Toronto. "Michelle Berry (novelist and daughter of retired UVic English Prof. Ed. Berry) stood at the podium and read out a description of my story that will stay with me for the rest of my life."

Berry was part of the judges' panel that found *Othello* to have "the mark of a mature and experienced writer. An autistic boy and his depressed father create a powerful frame around this



coming of age story. The non-linear writing is bare and raw—an entire life summed up in so few pages."

The Wallace award, with a \$5,000 prize from the RBC Foundation, is for Canadian writers under 35 who haven't been published in a book. Celona completed her undergraduate studies in the Department of Writing in 2006 and is midway through her master's degree at the Writers' Workshop, University of Iowa.



### Photos from All Around

[1] Wilson Wong, MBA '00, and Max Lam, BCom '97, at the Hong Kong alumni branch event in November. [2] Three alumnae, with a well-travelled magazine, at a special event for alumni in Tokyo last fall. [3] Vice-President of External Relations, Valerie Kuehne chats with Tokyo-based alumni. [4] More than 500 alumni and friends of the university gathered in November for the annual Legacy Awards dinner, at the Victoria Conference Centre. [5] Distinguished Young Alumni award recipient Michaela Tokarski, MBA '01, at the Legacy Awards with her new baby. [6] Marguerite Casey, MEd '00, and Raveen Sanghera, MBA '05, share coffee at the Alumni Week breakfast in February. [7] Vikes Women's Field Hockey Coach Lynne Beecroft, MEd '94, Campus Security officer Shelley Soukoreff, BA '91, and Geography Prof. Larry McCann, BA '66, model specially-designed alumni gear introduced for Alumni Week.



# 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](mailto:torch@uvic.ca). You can also go to [uvic.ca/torch](http://uvic.ca/torch) to find our online reply form.

## 1950s

### 1953

**GEORGE BOWERING**, Victoria College '53, sends a dispatch: "A new edition of my novel about Cap-



GEORGE BOWERING

tains Vancouver and Quadra, *Burn-ing Water* (New Star) has been published, Fall 2007, for Captain Vancouver's 250th birthday." (Signed) G. Harry Bowering, Born to hit opposite-field singles.

## 1960s

### 1966

**DON STEVENS**, BSc (Math/Zoology), has retired from the University of Guelph. He has moved to take up a position as adjunct professor at the department of biomedical sciences at the University of Prince Edward Island and continues to pursue research in the general area of comparative physiology.

### 1969

**STEEN JESSEN**, BA (English), is senior master of the MV Mayne Queen, based at BC Ferries' Swartz Bay terminal. "Still enjoying the life of a sailor. Have been with BC Ferries now since 1994, following 31 years in the RCN which I left in 1993 as a senior captain. Since 2005 I have been the senior master of the Mayne Queen sailing out of Swartz

Bay and servicing Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna islands. Great job in the most beautiful waters anywhere!"

## 1970s

### 1971

**PAUL PEARLMAN**, BA (History), was named Judge of the Supreme Court of BC on Feb. 1. He earned law degrees from Dalhousie and Cambridge universities and had been a lawyer with the Victoria firm of Fuller, Pearlman, McNeil.

### 1972

**ROSS MORGAN**, BSc (Psychology), is a retired psychologist. "I have moved back to Victoria for retirement after 34 years."

### 1974

**DESMOND LINDO**, BA (Spanish), recalls registering sometime in the mid-1980's in a couple of creative writing classes. "You want to become a writer? You?," exclaimed one instructor, "Get serious." Taking this advice to heart, he tried to become a serious writer, scribbling away for 20 years, only to find he was no good at it. Everyone laughed at his efforts. It finally dawned on him: write humour. This he did, and now has a collection of his humorous pieces out in book form. Bearing the deliberately provocative title, *The Liberals Must Be Crazy*, the book has been entered in the Stephen Leacock Memorial Award for Humour. Copies are available in Victoria at Ivy's Book Store and at Sorensen Books on Cook St. or from the author. He can be reached by e-mail at [deslind@shaw.ca](mailto:deslind@shaw.ca). He swears he bears no grudge against the instructor who gave him such bad advice. (Submitted by Desmond Lindo, Courtenay, BC.)

### 1979

**KATHLEEN BOWLES**, BMus, earned a master's degree in ethnomusicology and her bachelor of education degree in 1995. Now living in Surrey, she teaches music and operates a studio designed for brass instruments.

**SUSAN CARTWRIGHT**, BA (Geography), is a veteran diplomat and ambassador who now serves in the federal public service as one of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's top foreign policy and defence adviser. She entered the foreign service in 1981, serving in Africa, Australia, India and Europe and was appointed ambassador before age 40.

## 1980s

### 1980

**PATRICIA CIA**, BA (French/German), spent nine years in the South Okanagan as a travel consultant before changing careers. "After graduating from UBC with an MLS (1993), I stayed in Vancouver, working in specialized (mostly corporate) libraries. Wanting to try something new, I moved to Langara College. One of my major projects this past year has been to help with the final stages of planning for the new library and then plan our move into our wonderful new building. In June 2007, I became a Fellow of SLA (Special Libraries Association) in recognition of my active work in the Western Canada Chapter and at the international level!"

**HAROLD RHENISCH**, BA (Writing), took second prize in the 2007 CBC Literary Award for Poetry for his collection, *Catching a Snare Drum at the Fraser's Mouth*. He resides in Campbell River.

**NELSON RUEST**, BA (Political Science), recently moved back to Victoria from Quebec City. "It's nice to be back in this wonderful town."

### 1982

**LUANNE ARMSTRONG**, BA (Writing), novelist and young-adult writer, has released *Blue Valley: An Ecological Memoir* (Maa Press)—a meditation on what it means to be connected to a place, in this instance a family farm beside Kootenay Lake.

**CAROLE BAWLF**, BA (History in Art), writes: "I've been a realtor since 1987, and recently moved my License to DFH. I keep in regular touch with other university grads in the area through the University Womens' Club (CFUW), of which I've been a member for about 12 years. My son Michael recently returned from working as a marine engineer in Italy, France, and Greece."

### 1983

**LAURI ANN FENLON**, LLB, was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of BC on Feb. 1, 2007 after developing expertise in civil litigation, family law, administrative, commercial law, privacy law, and health law with the Vancouver firm of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin.

### 1984

**DEBRA MARCHAND** (née THORNTON), BEd, and Linda Picciotto, long-time teachers at South Park School in Victoria have published a book about the school. Constructed in 1894, it is the oldest building in Western Canada that has been in continuous use as a school. The book gives readers a "flavour of the times" through photographs (mostly from the school's own archives and contributed by alumni) and through the memoirs of former students. Find out more at [southparkbook.com](http://southparkbook.com).

### 1985

**MATTHEW HOWE**, BEd, has returned home to Victoria to work with the Canadian College of Per-

forming Arts as artistic associate and education administrator. He spent 10 seasons as master teacher and resident director at the Tony Award-winning Children's Theatre Company.

**ROBERT SLAVEN**, BSc (Computer Science), writes: "My wife Linn and I are training to run in a half-marathon in Anchorage as members of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training, in memory of my father James R. Slaven. Please visit us at [active.com/donate/tntvan/Slaven](http://active.com/donate/tntvan/Slaven)."

## 1986

**JACQUES FARGES**, BSc (Mathematics), is working for Silicon Vision, a company specializing in image processing.

**VALERIE LAWTON**, BA (History), is working as a freelance illustrator in Calgary. Her most recent books, *Emily's Magical Journey with Toothena the Tooth Fairy* (Strategix), and *Raising Baby Green* (Jossey-Bass) were published in September 2007.

**TIM LOBLAW**, BA (Anthropology/Linguistics), recently achieved a master of education (specializing in educational technology) from the University of Calgary, and is set to begin a doctor of education from the University of Nottingham. All of this applies nicely to his professional role as a curriculum faculty development facilitator at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary.

## 1988

**KEVIN BAZZANA**, BMus, was one of five finalists for the 2008 Charles Taylor Prize for Canadian literary non-fiction for *Lost Genius: The Story of a Forgotten Musical Maverick* (McClelland & Stewart), a biography of Hungarian pianist Ervin Nyiregyházi. The success of *Lost Genius* follows Bazzana's earlier award-winning work, *Wondrous Strange*, about the life and music of Glenn Gould.

**MARK GAILLARD**, LLB, completed his diplomatic assignment to the Canadian Joint Delegation to NATO in Brussels and returned to Ottawa in August 2007. He has taken up his next assignment as a foreign service officer, this time within the Department of National Defence. He is currently the senior foreign policy advisor in the directorate of NATO Policy at defence headquarters.

## 1989

**JANET MUNSIL**, BFA. Janet's play, *That Elusive Spark*, a commission of the UVic Phoenix Theatre and first produced there in 2005, had its professional premiere at Alberta Theatre Projects in Calgary in February. She's also the artistic director of Victoria's Intrepid Theatre.

**ALISON SYDOR**, BSc (Biochemistry), is a 2008 inductee into the BC Sports Hall of Fame. The induction recognizes the mountain biker's many successes in international competition, including three world

titles and a silver medal at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Alison is a past recipient of the UVic Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award.

**KENTON KROKER**, BA (History), is an assistant professor at York University and reports: "My first book (a history of sleep as a scientific object), *The Sleep of Others and the Transformations of Sleep Research*, has been published by University of Toronto Press."

## 1991

**HUGH HENRY**, MA (History), has been appointed, through competi-

**GARETH REES**, BA (History), considered by many to be the finest rugby player Canada has ever produced, is a 2008 BC Sports Hall of Fame inductee. Playing fly half, Gareth played for Team Canada in four Rugby World Cup tournaments and represented his country in 55 international matches. Gareth is a past recipient of the UVic Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award and he's a member of the UVic Sports Hall of Fame.

## 1992

**TARA MACART** (née **WHITFORD**), BA (Psychology), is a naturopathic physician based in Qualicum Beach: "Since graduating from UVic, my husband, **JONATHAN MACART**, BA (Psychology) '91—whom I met while dissecting a human brain in abnormal psych class—and I pursued further education in Toronto. After graduating from CCNM as a doctor in 2000, we returned to our beloved West Coast. We are proud to say that we have a thriving clinic called Opti-Balance Naturopathic Medicine. We love what we do, we have two wonderful daughters and we live at the beach. Things are good."

**JANE WILLIAMS** (née **MEAKINS**), BA (Political Science), has gone to the USA to join her husband in his career move. They have one son, Zachary. Jane is on leave from her position as senior HR advisor for corporate education at WorkSafeBC and is looking to connect with other UVic grads who are involved in corporate education in BC.

**TREVOR WONG-CHOR**, BA (History), is married, has two beautiful kids and lives in Calgary. Following UVic, Trevor attended law school in Calgary, where he practices as a securities lawyer at Davis LLP. Trevor would like to get in touch with the members of the men's junior varsity basketball teams from 1988 – 90 to recount the teams' days of glory, at their favourite Victoria pub sometime this spring or summer. He is trying to organize a reunion of the teams and is easy to find on Google.

## 1993

**KIRA HILLIDGE**, BA (Psychology), is living in New York City where she's a vice-president with the marketing communication agency, Drafftcb Healthcare.

**SUSAN KELLOCK**, BA (Geography/Environmental Studies), has

# Save the Date!

**What:** Lower Mainland Alumni & Friends Event

**Guest speaker:** Judy Rogers, MPA '99 Manager, City of Vancouver

**Topic:** "The City of Vancouver – Preparing to Play on the World Stage"

**When:** 5 p.m., Monday, May 12

**Where:** Fairmont Waterfront Hotel (Malaspina Room)

Judy Rogers was the first woman to be appointed city manager for the City of Vancouver and she played a key role in the bid for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Be sure to join us to hear about her unique perspective on the Vancouver games. Last year, Judy was named the first recipient of the School of Public Administration's Alumni Award for Excellence in the Public Sector.

**Register:** [www.alumni.uvic.ca/events](http://www.alumni.uvic.ca/events) or call 1-800-808-6828.



tion, to head the current reporting unit section of the international assessment staff, Privy Council Office. He's responsible for producing classified intelligence summaries dealing with everything from terrorism to trade for senior government decision-makers, including the prime minister and the national security advisor.

## 1990s

### 1990

**MARK DICKENS**, BA (Linguistics), writes from Cambridge, UK: "Thought you might enjoy this picture of our two-year-old daughter Talitha enjoying the *Torch*. 'Don't bug me, Dad. I'm reading your alumni magazine!'"

**IAN INDRIDSON**, BA (Writing), "is kicking back for a few months after nine years with the BC government and six years in advertising. Most recently, he served as manager, writing and editorial services, overseeing the unit that prepares speaking notes and other materials for

tion, to head the current reporting unit section of the international assessment staff, Privy Council Office. He's responsible for producing classified intelligence summaries dealing with everything from terrorism to trade for senior government decision-makers, including the prime minister and the national security advisor.

**NICK PORCINO**, BSc (Computer Science), has been working in computer graphics since the earliest days in the field. For the last several years, he has been working on the convergence of the game and film effects production pipelines at LucasArts, and has now joined the engineering staff of Industrial Light & Magic, a LucasFilm company, to bring real time and interactive technologies to film production and special effects.

this update: "My daughter Amy and I are busy running our restaurant—Skinny Legs & Cowgirls - A Sort of Bistro. We just celebrated our first year in business and oh what a year it has been! We were in Air Canada's *enRoute* magazine as one of Canada's 20 Best New Restaurants. Quite a shock for us! We have had numerous write-ups and life is a buzz! Our customers are happy and that is what is most important. My degree from UVic is part of me and I am so fortunate to have had some of the best instructors ever, like Nancy Taylor and Rick Searle, who taught me lifelong lessons. Fond memories I carry with me!"

**DAVID LEACH**, BA (English), has released his first book, a "non-fiction novel" entitled *Fatal Tide* (Viking Canada/Penguin Group). He says: "It



DAVID LEACH

explores the causes and consequences of a tragic kayaking accident on the Bay of Fundy, as well as the history of extreme sports, the psychology of risk-taking in the outdoors, and other topics." In the course of developing the book, he conducted several interviews with retired Biology Prof. John Hayward, the renowned hypothermia researcher. David has been on the faculty of Department of Writing for the past four years.

## 1995

**JOSH BLAIR**, BEng (Electrical Engineering), has become a member of the leadership team at Telus with a promotion to executive vice-president for human resources. He's been with the company since graduation.

**MARCY ERSKINE**, BA (Anthropology/Sociology), is a Red Cross malaria program advisor based in Mali. She has led eight mosquito net distribution campaigns across Africa and is currently working as the program advisor for the distribution of 1.8 million mosquito nets in Madagascar and Mali.

**PAUL FORD**, BCom, has been appointed vice-president of finance for Genologics of Victoria, a software developer geared toward life sciences research. Paul had previously worked for a private equity firm in Tokyo.

**SHELAGH PLUNKETT**, BA (Writing/Women's Studies), received the 2007 CBC Literary Award for Creative Non-Fiction for *In a Garden*. "This is a prestigious award that carries great honor," she says. "My winning piece has been published in *enRoute* magazine and has been broadcast on Sirius satellite radio. I (also) have a regular column in the Victoria-based magazine *Boulevard*."

## 1996

**SUWAN TANGMITCHAROEN**, MSc (Biology), is a forest biologist with the National Research Council of Thailand: "I am married with a four-year-old pretty girl (Jima). My wife, Mariyad Tangmitcharoen, also works for NRCT, as a computer scientist." Suwan is the national coordinator of two research projects. He is involved in a tree improvement program and in research on the



SUWAN & MARIYAD TANGMITCHAROEN

reproductive biology of tropical forest species. "We also moved to a lovely new home (to avoid traffic jams in Bangkok)."

**JOHN WENSVEEN**, BA (Geography), recently started as the dean, school of aviation at Dowling College on Long Island, New York. "My goal is to grow the school into the number one aviation training facility in the nation for flight training as well as undergraduate and graduate degree programs."

**JONATHAN WILLCOCKS**, BSc (Kinesiology), is the owner of Principle Pursuits, a Vancouver-based firm specializing in action-based group learning experiences and was named to the list of 2007 Top 40 under 40 by *Business in Vancouver* magazine. Hundreds students and executives from around the world



JONATHAN WILLCOCKS

have benefited through programs designed by Pinnacle. "I think we are products of two things," Jonathan says, "our environment that we're brought up with, and our choices based on who we think we want to be—whether we want to change our world, or whether we want to be bold and step forward, and be courageous to take new risks."

## 1997

**JOEL CASSELMAN**, BA (Geography), finished his master's degree in city planning at the University of Manitoba and now works as a planner with the City of Calgary.

**MOIRA MILWARD** (née RUSH-TON), BSN, moved to Gilberts Cove, NS "for a quieter life, and opening a B&B next season on our 90-acre property."

**CHRISTINE SMART**, BA (Writing), received the Acorn-Plantos "People's Poet" award for her first collection of poems, *Decked and Dancing* (Hedgerow Press). Fellow poet Don McKay calls her poems "acts of clear-eyed unsentimental recollection and fierce longing." The award, established in 1987, recognizes



CHRISTINE SMART

poetry written with the common (non-academic) reader in mind. It's named for the late poets Milton Acorn and Ted Plantos. When she's not crafting award-winning poetry, Christine works as a community health nurse on Salt Spring Island.

## 1998

**MORGAN COLLINS**, BFA (Theatre), is proud to announce that his wife, Robin Imrie, has given birth to their first daughter. Vada Jordan Collins was born Oct. 1, 2007 at BC Women's Hospital in Vancouver. Vada weighed eight pounds-and-one-ounce and was 21 inches long.

**LARISSA KARNAOUKHOVA**, PhD (Biology), has been named director of strategic partnerships with Gene Express Inc. The Ohio-based biotech firm specializes in standardizing genomic data for drug and diagnostic development.

**SARA TOPHAM**, BFA (Theatre) and **GRAEME SOMERVILLE**, BFA '96 (Theatre), appeared opposite each other earlier this year in the Belfry Theatre's production of *The Turn of the Screw*, adapted from the Henry James gothic ghost story. For both actors the play represented a return



SARA TOPHAM & GRAEME SOMERVILLE

home. Sara has been a regular performer at the Stratford Festival since graduation and Graeme, for the past five years, has been in the ensemble at the Shaw Festival in Niagra-on-the-Lake.

**ROBIN WHITNEY**, BA (History), moved to London, England after graduation and completed six backpacking trips to Asia in the years that followed. He is now back in Victoria, serving as a Canadian Navy sub-lieutenant at Joint Task Force Pacific Headquarters.

## 1999

**DONATO MANCINI**, BA (History in Art), has published his second book of poetry—*Æthel* (New Star).

**FRANS PRETORIUS**, MSc (Physics), made the sixth annual "Brilliant 10" list of the "most impressive young scientists in the US" compiled and published by *Popular Science* magazine. Frans, 34, is credited with devising a long-sought computer simulation of the gravitational energy created when black holes

merge. He solved the problem, one that had confounded physicists for 40 years, while he was a postdoc at the California Institute of Technology. He's currently a faculty member in the department of physics, Princeton University.

**SARAH RIECKEN**, BSc (Biology), writes: "I've transferred from the UVic Libraries to a new position as advising officer in the Faculty of Education Advising Centre. I'm enjoying working with students preparing to enter kinesiology, recreation and health, and teacher education programs. As well, my daughter Sylvia is two years old. She's a riot—loves gymnastics, sportball, books and puzzles. So, both work and home are a lot of fun these days!"

## 2000s

### 2000

**DARREN ALEXANDER**, MEd (Curriculum Studies), has returned to Toronto where he focuses his multimedia talents on themes of environmental sustainability, media literacy, and social justice. His monster puppets (for protest marches and parades) have been featured in *Time* Magazine.

**CHRIS BRACKEN**, BEng (Computer Engineering), is employed by Morgan Stanley Japan where he's developing equities trading software.

**ANGELA HECK**, MA (Political Science), has been appointed director of public relations at Quest University Canada. She and husband Ivan Hughes are pleased to announce the arrival of Tobias Wolf Hughes on April 21, 2007. A brother to big sister Thea Elizabeth.

### 2001

**LISA HANLON** (née **ELLINGSOHN**), BEd and **ROBERT HANLON**, BA '02 (Political Science), are living in Hong Kong where they've recently had their first baby.

**SAM PATCHELL**, BSc (Geography and Environmental Studies), has been living in Halifax for four years. "I was promoted to lieutenant (Navy). Served two years as the navigation officer on HMCS St. John's and now serve as the deck officer for HMCS Preserver."

**STEPHEN RUNGE**, BA (Music), offers news from his home in

Sackville, NB: "I completed my doctorate of music from l'Universite de Montréal in April 2007 and have now begun a position as assistant professor of music at Mount Allison University."

### 2002

**SALLY BERTRAM**, BA (Geography), is living in Nanaimo: "I love working as a GIS technician with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. I work on very interesting and challenging projects with a great team of people."

**KRISTIL HAMMER**, BA (History), went on to earn a law degree at the University of Toronto and in Oct. 2007 was appointed commercial



JENN WYKES

worked with women in fair trade craft production, I began a new life as mom of a now spritely toddler. Also on the go is a master in environmental studies at York University, aimed for completion (fingers crossed) by this spring. Cheeriodle to friends at Women's Studies!"

## One for the Kids

**Writer Richard Van Camp has applied his infectious wit and storyteller's soul to *Welcome Song for Baby*, an illustrated lullaby book given to the families of British Columbia's 2008 newborns. It's a community literacy project funded, largely, by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.**

Van Camp told the *Vancouver Sun*, that he was inspired to write the lullaby's chorus "Hey ya hey, hey ya hey, hey ya hey" because it's something his mom always says when she's overjoyed. "It's something I don't think she even knows that she does. I love it."

A member of the Dogrib First Nation of Fort Smith, NWT, Van Camp completed a UVic Writing degree in 1997. He teaches creative writing at UBC.



KRISTIL HAMMER

and corporate solicitor with Bernard & Partners of Vancouver, the country's largest maritime law firm.

**JENN WYKES**, BA (Political Science/Women's Studies), writes from Toronto: "Upon return from a two-year posting in Vietnam where I

### 2003

**JANINE FRASER**, BSc (Biology), a naturopathic physician, has returned to the Island to open the West Shore Naturopathic Family Clinic in Langford: "I'm so happy to be back home in the Victoria area



JANINE FRASER

and I am looking forward to providing naturopathic services to the West Shore and surrounding areas."

**DARREN LEUNG**, BCom, lives in Kowloon and recently took up a new job as a marketing executive with a watch manufacturer.

**MARYANNE MCGRATH**, BA (Anthropology), has contributed her research and writing skills to the popular three-volume series *This Old House*, published by the Victoria Heritage Foundation. The latest edition, released last fall, focuses on the heritage buildings of six neighbourhoods, including Rockland, Burnside and Harris Green.

**JEFFREY PATRICK O'BRIEN**, BA (Philosophy), is in Vancouver where he's the art director at Fonil Design. He's also doing photography: [otto-obrien.com](http://otto-obrien.com).

### 2004

**JODY SHIELDS**, BSc (Biology/Environmental Studies), writes from Litzelstetten, Germany: "After completing my MSc at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research through the University of Windsor, I moved to a little city on the German-Swiss border to begin my PhD in evolutionary biology with Prof. Axel Meyer at the University of Konstanz."

### 2005

**BETTY ALLISON**, BEd (Music), is a member of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio, an advanced study and practical experience pro-



BETTY ALLISON

gram. In June she'll be singing in the role of Donna Elvira in the company's production of *Don Giovanni*.

**CECELIA CANT**, BA (Psychology), reports: "I have since completed my accounting diploma at Camosun College and am working towards my CGA."

**CATHERINE CONGER CEN**, MBA, rejoined Esquel Enterprises, one of the world's largest high value cot-

ton shirt makers. Catherine is responsible for process re-engineering and the development of sustainable products for key clients like Nike and Nordstrom.

**JASON JIACHUN FAN**, MBA, is associate general manager and director of content with Dragon New Media, the largest mobile TV service provider in China.

**KENT GLOWINSKI**, LLB, self-released a book, *Narcissistic Personality Disorder*. Information is at narcissism.ca.

**HONGYU SHI**, MBA, is an investment manager for DTZ Debenham Tie Leung, a global property advisory firm listed in the UK.

**WAYNE VOLLRATH**, Dipl (Local Government Management), served as interim administrator of the BC interior districts of Barriere and Clearwater during their transitions last year to municipal status. Among his responsibilities: advising new council members on their roles and responsibilities.

**KENT JIAN WANG**, MBA, is working with SINA, the largest Chinese portal web site, and has been working with clients like Nike and Coca-Cola to construct cutting edge internet-based communities.

**XIN WEI**, MBA, works in Shanghai for UVic Business Executive Programs. She is also one of the alumni contacts for alumni in Shanghai. Let her know if you need access to China or would like to connect with other alumni there: xinwei@uvic.ca.

**MORRIS WU**, MBA, is with a business consulting firm, BDA Consulting, leading consulting due diligence projects for a number of private equity firms. He is also doing market entry consulting projects for corporate clients in telecom, media and technology.

**LANE LEI YU**, MBA, is the general manager of Shanghai AIAL Information Consulting. The Shanghai-based and China-focused company offers consulting services to assist multinational corporations doing business in China.

## 2006

**DEAN DOUCETTE**, MEd (Leadership Studies), is a vice-principal at Quesnel's École Baker Elementary. "After graduation, we went on a much-needed camping trip for 30 days down the Oregon Coast and to Disneyland."



DEAN DOUCETTE

**SAM LAI**, MBA, recently joined Founder Software, the software division of Founder Group of China. Sam is the sales and marketing manager, based in Suzhou, China, responsible for promoting the company's software outsourcing services to the North American customers.

**MIKE TAN**, BCom, is the CEO and co-founder of TeamPages, a social networking and organization site for amateur sports leagues and teams. The service aims to save time



MIKE TAN

with two common issues that face teams: communication and scheduling. TeamPages has secured seed funding from Burda Digital Ventures, venture capital arm of Hubert Burda Media, one of Germany's largest media companies.

**JANE ZHU**, MBA, is co-founder and general manager of DragonPass Consulting of China, focusing on airport VIP services and other luxury business travel.

## 2007

**MOMOKO ASAI**, BA (Psychology), is an account executive with Dentsu, in Japan: "I'm back in Tokyo and doing fine though I miss UVic soooooo much!"

**ADAM BARKER**, MA (Indigenous Governance), is a research analyst with the Ministry of Education: "My first real professional job! I have to tell everyone about it!"

**AARON HILTON**, BSc (Computer Science), is the co-founder of

CellMap, along with fellow alumni **WAYNE CHOI**, BEng '04 (Computer Engineering) and **NONIE DALTON**, BSc '00 (Biology). The company provides a web-based cell phone map service. Hilton came up with the idea while attending UVic. A class was about to begin and he needed directions. CellMap has been in a pilot project to deliver the UVic campus map to students and visitors. Long range plans are to expand across Canada and the US.

**WENDY MUSCAT-TYLER**, MEd (Curriculum Studies), developed the "Travelling Suitcase" of Holocaust and anti-racism education tools for her master's project. Now, with a grant from the Isaac and Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund, a set of the suitcases have been produced for Grade 8 English classes in the Victoria, Sooke, Saanich and Island Catholic School Districts. The resources provide a hands-on, comprehensive program in Holocaust education. Wendy has completed fellowships in Holocaust education at Yad Vashem in Israel and the Imperial War Museum in London.

## In Memoriam

**JOHN "JACK" BANKES**, Victoria College '34, died on June 15, 2007 in Toronto. He played VC rugby and served on student council before embarking on a career at the Royal Bank, where he became senior vice-president. He was 91.

**YOUSUF EBRAHIM**, senior lab instructor in the Department of Biology, died on Feb. 1, 2008. He brought enthusiasm and humour to his teaching on campus and in Malaysia, participated in public outreach courses through Continuing Studies, and led countless field trips to the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

**GWYNETH KOENIG** (née **PETERSON**), BA '79 (Psychology), died suddenly at Victoria General Hospital on February 10, 2008 at the age of 54. She and Sociology Prof. Dan Koenig were married in Victoria in 1982. Together they began a commitment for fostering children which Gwyneth continued after Dan died on November 29, 2002.

**SHELLEY MARTIN**, BA '98 (English), died on May 3, 2007 in Baton Rouge, LA when a drug-impaired driver rear-ended her vehicle. She had completed her PhD at the Uni-

versity of Louisiana, Lafayette the previous month and had been planning to return to Canada to teach. A scholarship in her memory has been established at UVic.



SHELLEY MARTIN

**LUCILLE MACKAY**, manager of UVic Child Care Services for more than 25 years and a leading advocate of child care for students and employees, succumbed to pneumonia on Jan. 16, 2008. She was 71.

**MICHAEL MELOCHE**, MFA (Theatre Design) '93, died on March 17, 2008. As a student, he designed and built many shows for the Phoenix Theatres. He later worked as a set designer, and taught at UVic. An award/book prize is being established in his name at the Theatre Department. Donations may be made to the Michael Meloche Award, Theatre Department, c/o the UVic Development office.

**LUCIEN UKALIANNUK**, Hon. LLB '05, died on Iqaluit, Nunavut on Sept. 29, 2007. A tireless defender of traditional Inuit law and justice, he was elder-in-residence at Nunavut's first law school, the Akitsiraq Law program offered jointly by the Faculty of Law and Nunavut Arctic College. He was 67.

**BARBARA COURTNEY YOUNG**, BSN '79, one of the first graduates from the School of Nursing program, died on Jan. 30, 2008. She was also one of the first proponents of the program, spearheading a successful coalition which resulted in the founding of the school. She also worked as a program coordinator in Continuing Studies.

**BILL WEST**, retired Theatre professor, died Nov. 21, 2007 at the age of 89. He taught from 1972 to 1985 and contributed significantly to the design of the Phoenix Building. Donations in his memory may be made to the W.D. West Alumni Burial Fund. †

# Ticket to Paradise

LESLIE KENNY, MA '93, WILL REMEMBER FOR SOME TIME THE FIRST annual Alumni Week. She was the winner of the grand prize draw: a weekend for two at the fabulous Aerie Resort & Spa, just north of Victoria. Sponsors and supporters stepped-up with all kinds of prizes to help the alumni association commemorate Alumni Week, with its particular focus on the 1,400 alumni who work on campus. Fittingly, Kenny, works as an administrator for the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society. That's her in the picture with the Aerie's front office manager Brian Beitz.



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## Alumni Calendar

- May 9–10** Faculty of Law Homecoming Weekend
- May 11** 30th Annual UVic Plant Sale, McKinnon Gym
- May 12** Lower Mainland alumni and friends: reception with City of Vancouver Manager Judy Rogers, MPA '99.
- May 15** Nursing Week Luncheon, University Club
- May 25** Beijing: Alumni send-off for new students
- May 28** UVic Alumni Assoc. AGM & Campus Tour
- June 3–6** Spring Convocation
- June 10** Kelowna alumni and friends lunch
- September 6** 1983 Social Work Reunion
- September 22** Seattle Alumni Branch event
- September 30** Vikes Championship Breakfast
- October 4** Benefit for the Child Soldiers Initiative, with Roméo Dallaire and Bruce Cockburn, University Centre Farquhar Auditorium
- October 8** Grad Year Connections information fair



**UVic**

For event details visit  
[www.alumni.uvic.ca/events.html](http://www.alumni.uvic.ca/events.html)

# Travelin' Man

The life of a travel writer:

"No, I'm not always 'on vacation.'"

BY JOHN LEE, MA '96



IT'S FALL 1997 AND DAY THREE OF A MEANDERING SIX-NIGHT TREK ON the old Trans-Siberian Railway between Beijing and Moscow. My reward for an exhausting year spent teaching English in Japan, the trundling Soviet-era train is the world's longest passenger railroad—and the only one I know with hot water samovars and grubby cold water showers where hygiene fears to tread.

Despite the camp-like conditions, I'm here to catch my breath and decide what comes next in a life so far spent almost entirely at school.

Gazing hypnotically through grimy windows at sun-dappled larch forests and paint-peeled wooden shacks, I sink easily into a natural rhythm of reading, eating and sleeping. In fact, my ruminative stupor is broken only when the train lurches into occasional station stops.

At Lake Baikal, I jump out with a gaggle of excitable Chinese traders who proffer thick fur coats to a waiting group of matronly local ladies. Heavily made-up and dressed in their Sunday best, the middle-aged women squeeze into the coats and parade around like catwalk stars. Giggling and preening, they're out for an afternoon of free fun and have no intention of buying.

Back on the train—with some buttery boiled potatoes procured from a platform *babushka*—I crack open my empty journal and begin writing feverishly about the fur coat fashionistas. I also mention the ancient *babushkas*. Then I throw in some lines about life on the train. Within an hour, I've written 18 pages and my wrist is aching.

When I eventually fall asleep that night, lulled by the train's rattling soundtrack, I'm seized by the idea of becoming a travel writer. The rest of the journey is spent plotting career strategies and ideal trips and polishing my initial Trans-Siberian story. It later becomes my first big published piece, appearing in Britain's *Observer* newspaper.

I've been on the travel writing train ever since. Despite my British-bred reserve, I might even admit to having done fairly well.

A committed freelancer (nine-to-five routines appeal about as much as a bucketful of dead frogs), I've written for 125 different publications—including *National Geographic Traveler*, the *Los Angeles Times* and even *Russian Life Today* (yes, that Trans-Siberian story again). I've also won a few awards and I've elbowed my way into becoming a *Lonely Planet* author.

Naturally, it's not nearly as glamorous as everyone thinks—no, I'm not always on vacation—and there are certainly downsides. Relationships take a bit of a hammering, the former pleasures of travel have been obscured by a curmudgeonly hatred of airports (take a bow Heathrow) and I have to force myself to stay in museums for more than 20 minutes, since that's how long my brain processes them for guidebook entries.

I understand the absence of sympathy for my "plight," though. In fact, I often remind myself when I'm getting lost in Cairo's labyrinthine Khan al-Khalili market, sampling local stouts in peat-warmed Irish pubs or clambering around cathedral-like ice caves in New Zealand that I'm lucky to have stumbled on a challenging vocation that I truly love.

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When I eventually fall asleep that night, lulled by the train's rattling soundtrack, I'm seized by the idea of becoming a travel writer.

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A decade later, a quite different train is in the picture. Researching a magazine story on pub-crawling by rail, I'm clattering along a countryside branch line in the sheep-strewn hills of southwestern England. Winding through several village pubs—I'm required, on behalf of my readers of course, to drink in each one—I'm inching towards a seaside town of cobbled streets and ancient smugglers' inns.

After four pubs, my notes are increasingly vague and my brain has switched from observational alertness to a dozy, languorous fuzz. By the time I arrive at waterfront Falmouth, I've made the executive decision to slack off for the rest of the day.

Ordering a dark ale at the Quayside Inn's chatty bar, I slip outside to the patio to bask in some unexpectedly warm sunshine. Crowded with wooden tables and buzzing with early evening conversation, I sit back and enjoy the harbourside's beady-eyed seagulls and bobbling, bright-painted fishing boats. This really isn't such a bad job, I think, as I count my money for another pint. †