

UVIC

TOPDOG

VICTORIA ALUMNI MAGAZINE WINTER 2015

# Purple Reign

**Shelagh Rogers, a voice (and ears) for Canada, makes a fine fit for chancellor.**

# ON CAMPUS





## Cherry Blossom Special

The arrival of ornamental cherry tree blossoms signaled the end of another mild and mostly snowless winter on the Island. Photographer Adrian Wheeler, using an ultra-wide lens, captured the blossom bounty during class change one day in mid-March, between the Elliott Building and the McPherson Library.

**PHOTO BY ADRIAN WHEELER, BA '15**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

UVIC TORCH ALUMNI MAGAZINE | SPRING 2015



## FEATURES

### 16 Decisions, Decisions

Neuroeconomics research brings together psychology, economics and neuroscience — and it's starting to reveal more about the choices we make.

BY MICHELLE WRIGHT, BSC '99

### 19 Alice's Secrets Decoded

An alumnus links the hidden meanings to the lessons to be found in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

BY JESSICA NATALE WOOLLARD, MA '07

### 22 Her Next Chapter

A CBC radio icon, Shelagh Rogers brings personality and passion to her new role as university chancellor.

BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA '96

### 26 Long Drive Home

Paul Loofs completed three solo trips around the world in his VW Bug, part of a journey that began with a young life fragmented by war.

BY KIM WESTAD



22



32

Victoria College pins, some of the cool objects to be found in UVic Archives and Special Collections.

## DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Editor's Note**
- 6 President's Perspective**  
THE REACH OF RESEARCH. BY PRESIDENT JAMIE CASSELS, QC
- 7 Ringside** PROFESSOR/PAINTER OFF TO RIDEAU HALL •  
AT THE STARTING LINE: CARSA OPENS ITS DOORS • UVIC'S EDGE •  
BEFORE YOU PROPOSE: SOME HELPFUL TIPS • HEARD ON CAMPUS
- 11 Across Campus** NEWS FROM YOUR FACULTY
- 12 Electives** THE LATEST IN LEARNING
- 32 The Collection** THREE DIMENSIONAL TREASURES
- 35 Alumni Life** CLASS NOTES • NEWS • PHOTOS
- 44 Vox Alumni** SECOND ACT. BY MARK LEIREN-YOUNG, BFA '85



8



19

Cover: Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, with ceremonial hat, at First Peoples House. (UVic Photo Services.)

# A Storied Canadian



A skilled interviewer knows. She knows what to ask, and when. She knows when to speak and when to listen. She hears meaning where meaning might not make itself apparent. Not on the surface. And she knows a good story.

For better than three decades, Shelagh Rogers has been helping Canadians get to know each other through their stories. Her varied roles in front of CBC Radio microphones have explored Canadian lives, whether the stories of those lives have been told in words or in song.

And like all great broadcast journalists, her personality — a joyful presence — has shone through in a way that encourages rather than interferes with the process of helping listeners, develop a deeper kinship, one story at a time, with others who share this home of ours.

And now she's becoming a part of the University of Victoria's story, by accepting the nomination to become the university's 11th chancellor. The chancellor's role symbolizes the connection between UVic and the widening circles that extend beyond Ring Road and campus.

In many ways, the chancellor is the face of the university, except in this case the university is also gaining a dynamic new voice and the ears of an active listener.

What I love about this issue's cover photo is that it tells its own stories. It was shot near the entrance to First Peoples House, a

reminder of Rogers' work as an honorary witness for the Aboriginal Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The photo also gets across Rogers' infectious, fun nature. You can almost hear her laugh coming off of the page.

And the image shows that, while she began her chancellor's term in January, technically the deal won't quite be sealed until her installation ceremony at Spring Convocation. That's when the purple and gold-trimmed, Tudor style cap you see above her on the cover will be hers to wear in all its ceremonial glory.

During the summer of 1980, just before she was hired for her first job at the CBC, Rogers, who was born and raised in Ontario, hiked the West Coast Trail. Later, her work brought her back to BC permanently and she now resides on (and broadcasts from) Gabriola Island.

That time has brought her back out west, where one trail began and another is beginning, is something the great Canadian novelist (and Jungian) Robertson Davies might have called a meaningful coincidence. Whether it's synchronicity or just chance, her arrival here is to be celebrated. It's like meeting someone for the first time and yet feeling you've been acquainted forever.

Welcome, Chancellor Rogers, to the start of your next chapter. †

**MIKE MCNENEY, EDITOR**

## TORCH University of Victoria

Volume 36, Number 1 • Spring 2015

The *UVic Torch Alumni Magazine* is published in the spring and autumn by the University of Victoria, Division of External Relations and the UVic Alumni Association. We acknowledge with respect the history, customs and culture of the Coast and Straits Salish peoples on whose traditional lands our university resides.



**ADDRESS UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS**  
torch@uvic.ca

**LETTERS**  
The *Torch* welcomes mail from readers who wish to comment on anything they've read in the magazine. Correspondence may be edited for clarity and length prior to publication.

*UVic Torch Alumni Magazine*  
PO Box 1700 STN CSC  
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2  
**Phone:** 250-721-6000  
**Toll-free:** 1-800-808-6828  
**E-mail:** torch@uvic.ca

**EDITOR**  
Mike McNeney, Dipl '03

**ART DIRECTION**  
Rayola Creative  
Clint Hutzulak, BA '89

**CHANCELLOR**  
Shelagh Rogers

**PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR**  
Jamie Cassels, QC

**VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL RELATIONS**  
Carmen Charette

**PRESIDENT, UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
Dale Henley, BA '71

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40010219  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
Advancement Services  
University of Victoria  
PO Box 1700 STN CSC  
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2

Printed in Canada ISSN 1191-7032

**uvic.ca/torch**

# UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



*Join us for a review of the past year's activities.*

**Plus:**

**Antiques & Collectibles: What's Hot, What's Not**

A special presentation by Alison Ross, MA '94, Owner, Kilshaws Auctioneers



**Wednesday, June 3 | 7 pm | University Club of Victoria | Reception to follow**



Please register by Friday, May 29

**alumni.uvic.ca | (250) 721-6000 | 1-800-808-6828**

**Follow us on Twitter @UVic\_Alumni**

See the UVic Alumni Web site ([alumni.uvic.ca](http://alumni.uvic.ca)) for information about proposed bylaw amendments. You will also find nomination criteria for the board of directors. Nominations must be received at least seven days before the annual general meeting.



# The Reach of Research

Learning, surrounded by innovation, has big benefits.

BY JAMIE CASSELS, QC  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

When the university confers degrees on the Class of 2015 we will celebrate the accomplishments of the newest members of our alumni family. No matter which academic program they pursued, they will have the skills and versatility to do research, solve problems, think critically, and communicate effectively.

Those attributes are gained in a learning environment driven by the pursuit of ideas and innovation through research, scholarship or creative activity. They are abilities that will contribute to individual success and our long-term social and economic prosperity.

UVic is one of Canada's research powerhouses. It's a place where research, teaching and learning are integrated. Students learn from world-renowned researchers in every faculty, and also learn to do research themselves.

The research and creative activity of our faculty and students spans across all of our academic disciplines. UVic researchers in language and literature are ranked among the best in the world, as are our scientists and engineers who work in the fields of matter and energy, oceans, climate and the environment.



Touring TRIUMF: President Jamie Cassels with Dr. Dean Karlen, principal investigator for the UVic-led ARIEL particle physics lab.

Research ranges from the quiet work done in the library and archives by the individual researcher to large international collaborations. It takes place in labs and offices and studios on campus; in the field with geographers, biologists, anthropologists, and researchers of language and culture; and in communities, with our many interdisciplinary research centres and community-based researchers.

The results are disseminated through journals, lectures, conferences, art galleries, stages and public spaces and seen in the patents, inventions, innovations, performances and companies that were incubated and born on this campus.

The tools of research can be a pencil and notebook or massive research platforms and infrastructures that no single researcher or university could purchase or maintain alone. These include enormously powerful computer arrays, mountain-top telescopes, and mind-boggling particle accelerators, such as CERN in Geneva (where UVic researchers have a strong presence) and the TRIUMF facility in

Vancouver, where a UVic-led team is building a new accelerator that will produce rare isotopes for research and medical use.

UVic itself hosts globally leading scientific infrastructure such as the STEHM microscope (the most powerful in the world), the Proteomics Centre, and the VENUS and NEPTUNE cabled undersea observatories, used by 500 researchers around the world.

In every case, our researchers are tackling questions that matter and pursuing answers that have an impact. And this research intensity is great for our students.

Everywhere on campus I see the role of UVic research in our educational environment. Students are involved in research, both individually and as members of teams on virtually every research project on campus.

A recent highlight for me was the annual undergraduate research fair. More than 100 students from virtually every department and school on campus presented their research through poster presentations. With the skills they have developed, wherever their paths lead, these students will know how to find their way.

A few weeks ago faculty and students in a biology lab had me (a legal academic by training) peering through microscopes at insect parasites, explaining their evolutionary and ecological significance (and relating their recent discovery and naming of a new genus).

I visited another project where faculty members, students and First Nations community members are assembling, documenting and analyzing the children's artwork of survivors of the disastrous residential schools program.

During our university's annual Ideafest I had the privilege of judging the "three-minute thesis" competition, where graduate students concisely explain the meaning and significance of their research. That same week I visited the Faculty of Science where 50 students were presenting the results of their honours theses.

These events left me feeling uplifted about the ways in which universities contribute not only to their students' success, but to a better world.

We don't know exactly what information the Class of 2015 will need 20 years from now. But we know they'll need the ability to confront issues, ask questions, identify problems, and systematically learn about and solve those problems. Those are all the skills of the researcher and students learn those best by being in a research-rich environment.

It's an exciting time to be a learner. It's an exciting time to be engaged in research. And it's what makes me enthusiastic about the prospects of this year's graduating class and the possibilities ahead. †



Red. 3011 Jackson. (Mortality),  
from *The Basement Panoramas*.  
Dimensions: 72 X 300 in



Detail of Red. 3011  
Jackson. (Mortality)

TONI HAFKENSCHIED PHOTOS

## Big Pictures, Big Prize

**“You can call it a lifetime achievement award,** but in a way I see it as the beginning of a new lifetime,” Visual Arts Professor Sandra Meigs said after winning one of the 2015 Governor General’s awards for career excellence in visual and media arts. “Some artists make brilliant work in their last 20 years.”

Meigs, a member of the Visual Arts department since 1993, is known for her vivid and enigmatic large-scale paintings. Her work is in the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Canada.

The honour includes a \$25,000-prize and medallion presented by Governor General David Johnston at Rideau Hall. Her work will be part of an exhibit featuring all eight recipients of the awards at the National Gallery of Canada.

“You get benchmarks of recognition as you go along but this is something very ceremonial, very special,” she said. “I feel totally thrilled.”



New beginning:  
Painter/professor  
Sandra Meigs.

NIK WEST PHOTO

Signed and sealed: Vikes basketball players Jessica Renfrew, Reiner Theil, Chris McLaughlin, Cassandra Goodis, and their teammates autographed the subfloor of CARSA's gym before the hardwood went down.



## Workout Ready

**M**ay first brought the highly anticipated campus opening of the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities. “We want the community to come and experience this wonderful new facility,” said a beaming Clint Hamilton, MED ’92, director of Vikes Athletics and Recreation.

CARSA offers 17,700 square metres of much needed space for fitness and weight training, court sports, dance, yoga, climbing and more for students, faculty, staff, retirees and alumni.

The \$77-million project also includes a new home for CanAssist, doubling space for its unique technologies and services for people with disabilities.

A new parkade adjoins CARSA. Renovations to the McKinnon Building will expand space for the School of Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education.

Later this summer the new Walk of Excellence will be completed, with exhibits lining the ramp to the new 2,100-seat gym and chronicling the proud history of Vikes athletics.

As CARSA opened, the official capital campaign for the building came to a close (after raising \$4.5 million) but two fundraising initiatives remain.

“Fundraising will still continue,” says UVic’s associate director of corporate relations, Alison Ducharme, BA ’83. “However, the focus will be on what’s happening in the building as opposed to the building itself.”

There are time-limited opportunities for corporate naming rights inside CARSA. “This is new territory for UVic fundraising,” says Tony Gage, BA ’70, a member of the volunteer CARSA fundraising cabinet. “But it has been successful and will allow for other corporate naming opportunities in the future.”

The Take a Seat campaign gives donors opportunities to have their names on selected gym seats (for a set term). Donations can be directed to specific CARSA-related programs.

*For CARSA’s alumni membership fees, visit [vikesrec.uvic.ca](http://vikesrec.uvic.ca).*



**CARSAscaping:** Grounds crews planted more than 6,000 plants and trees around the new building.

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES IMAGES

# UVic's Edge

**W**hy choose UVic? More than 10,000 participants — on campus and off, and including a large contingent of alumni — helped to find answers to that question over the past year in conversations and research for the UVic Difference project.

The result is the UVic Edge.

“Our ‘Edge’ is dynamic learning, vital impact and an extraordinary academic environment,” President Jamie Cassels said in unveiling a package of initiatives that pinpoint UVic’s appeal.

Cassels called it a “critical milestone” in developing a more focused narrative for the university in a highly competitive environment.

The strategy will emphasize UVic’s hands-on learning and research-inspired teaching, its impact on issues facing people, places and the planet, and the way in which the university’s location can serve as inspiration for discovery and innovation.



The “Edge” will be supported graphic design elements, social media, a three-year advertising strategy, and merchandising through an agreement with the UVic Bookstore.

It will play a critical role in student recruitment activities over the coming years.

## Heard on Campus

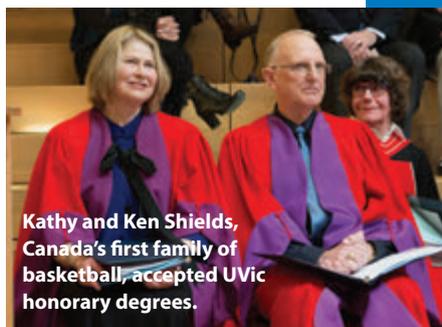
**Kathy Shields**, coach of eight national title-winning women’s basketball teams at UVic, received an honorary degree from the university in April, as did former men’s coach Ken Shields. Here is some of what she had to say in her acceptance remarks:

“There were very few female coaches. Ken and I were both committed to learning and improving as coaches and were constantly seeking opportunities to attend clinics but I was almost always in a distinct minority.

At one session a famous coach called attention to my presence in a room full of mainly male coaches and made it clear that basketball was a ‘man’s game’ and proceeded to use extremely foul language and tell especially off-colour stories. This was the late ‘70s and the road ahead proved to be a tough one for women in coaching.

But regardless of the challenges and changes...the beautiful game of basketball remains about the people who play and coach the game and the teams they create.

This shared experience is worth its weight in gold whether you end the season as champions or measure your success in less tangible ways.”



Kathy and Ken Shields, Canada's first family of basketball, accepted UVic honorary degrees.

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES IMAGE

# I Do's and Don'ts

**Marriage on your mind?** Before proposing (or accepting) consider these tips from Psychology PhD candidate **Lisa Hoplock, MSc '12**, whose research looks into factors that influence close relationships, such as self-esteem.

- ✓ Do talk about where the relationship is going and whether you both want to get married in the future. Unsuccessful proposals often involve miscommunication (or a lack of communication) about marriage.
- ✓ Do talk to your partner to figure out what kind of proposal your partner might want and plan something that you would both like. Successful proposals are often planned; unsuccessful proposals are often spontaneous.
- ✓ Do figure out your partner’s opinion about rings. Remember that the ring won’t be a reflection of how long you’ll be married. Get someone else to ask your partner about ring preferences if you don’t want to discuss it directly.
- ✗ Don’t think that a relationship is over if the answer is no. Many couples break up after a proposal is turned down but a percentage of couples stay together. Some of these couples even get married at a later date.
- ✗ Don’t propose as a way to save the relationship. A theme of unsuccessful proposals in my research is that people will propose after or during a breakup. Consider professional help for you and your partner and wait until your relationship is strong and healthy before proposing.



# ACROSS CAMPUS

## GUSTAVSON SCHOOL OF Business

2015 marks the 25th birthday of the business school. Festivities kicked off on January with a campus birthday party. Over 700 pieces of cake were served in two hours. Whew! Next up is a global gathering of Gustavson alumni. On June 11, we're celebrating our inaugural **World Gustavson Day**. Alumni can attend



hosted events in select cities, or join us online for a live webcast with *Love-marks* author and executive chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, Kevin Roberts. We'll also reveal our list of 25 Alumni to Watch recipients. For further details, visit [uvic.ca/gustavson/alumni/involved](http://uvic.ca/gustavson/alumni/involved). World Gustavson Day is your day to shine.

## DIVISION OF Continuing Studies

Are you a graduate of UVic's **Public Relations Program**? This year, the Division of Continuing Studies celebrates the Diploma in Public Relations Program's 20th anniversary. We invite you to share your memories by visiting

[uvcs.uvic.ca/publicrelations/20years](http://uvcs.uvic.ca/publicrelations/20years). You might see some faces you recognize and people you'd like to add to your network...Continuing Studies is also celebrating 20 years of the **Certificate Program in Environmental and Occupational Health**. There'll be an opportunity to catch up on the stories graduates have shared about their studies, their careers and what they see has changed in two decades of continuous learning. Please visit the Continuing Studies website for more.

## FACULTY OF Education

The faculty will celebrate **100 years of Teacher Education** in 2015. Victoria Provincial Normal School opened in Victoria in 1915, and enrolled 45 students. We're planning various celebratory events and a publication to commemorate our first 100 years of Teacher Education. Alumni and past and present faculty will gather in the

fall for several events, and we will celebrate in conjunction with a celebration of 25 years of partnership with the College of the Rockies where we offer the East Kootenay Teacher Education Program. If you would like to contribute information or artifacts to commemorate our past, please be in touch: [adte@uvic.ca](mailto:adte@uvic.ca).

## FACULTY OF Engineering

**Nicholai Dechev**, an associate professor in Mechanical Engineering has successfully produced 3D-printed prosthetic hands (below) for amputees in Guatemala for the cost of \$200 — an eye-opening advance given that standard prosthetic hands in Canada start at about \$12,000...An inexpensive, non-invasive urine test to detect cancer is being developed by a research team led by engineer **Reuven Gordon** and chemist **Fraser Hof**. Clinical trials for lung cancer detection are now



underway, and are proving that the test could save lives by detecting early-stage cancers before a person is symptomatic... Prof. **Joanne Wegner**, a founding member of the department of Mechanical Engineering at UVic, passed away on September 14, 2014. A celebration of her life was held at the university.

## FACULTY OF Fine Arts

There's are numerous retirements on the horizon, including veteran School of Music professors **Eugene Dowling** and **Louis Ranger**, Art History & Visual Studies Prof. **Anthony Welch** and Visual Arts Prof. **Lynda Gammon**... Fine Arts is also active in China this spring. Visual

Arts Prof. **Robert Youds**, BFA '79, participating in the exhibit *The Transformation of Canadian Landscape Art: Inside & Outside of Being* at Beijing's Today Art Museum. Writing Prof. **Tim Lilburn** will be offering readings and lectures in Shanghai and at Beijing Normal University...Fine Arts also had a banner year at the annual Governor General's Literary Awards



in November, with five nominees including poet **Arleen Paré**, MFA '12, who won for her latest volume, *Lake of Two Mountains*.

## FACULTY OF Human and Social Development

School of Child and Youth Care teaching Prof. **Jin-Sun Yoon** earned a 2015 3M National Teaching Fellowship, recognizing her teaching and educational leadership. Yoon's experience as a child of immigrants helped shape her commitment to diversity and equity, resulting in collaborative work with immigrant, refugee, queer/trans\* and Indigenous youth and communities. The 3M Fellowship





Jin-Sun Yoon

recognizes exceptional contributions to teaching and learning at Canadian universities. Yoon is a past recipient of the Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UVic Alumni Association.

## FACULTY OF Humanities

In a first-of-its-kind partnership between the departments of English and Visual Arts, the **Digital Fabrication Lab** opened its doors in February. Located in the Visual Arts Building, the DFL is modelled on “makerspace” approaches to computer-aided manufacturing and will ultimately feature an array of machinery, including a laser cutter, computer numerical controlled miller (CNC, above), CNC



CNC miller

router, structured-light 3D scanner, and 3D printer. The space emerged from conversations between Prof. **Jentery Sayers** (Eng-

lish) and Prof. **Paul Walde** (Visual Arts), who share an interest in the role new media plays in creative and cultural expression. The DFL will enable Sayers, Walde, and their collaborators to produce scholarship in fields such as media history, material culture studies, sculpture, and experimental art. It also extends the design and prototyping research conducted at the Maker Lab in the Humanities, which Sayers directs.

## FACULTY OF Law

The **Business Law Clinic** is a cornerstone program of UVic Law. Guided by director Michael Litchfield, upper-year law students provide legal information on business planning and operations and offer expertise on matters such as incorporation, financing, charitable registration, and more. The clinic is a community resource and provides students with valuable practical learning opportunities. UVic Law has launched a sponsorship program for the Business Law Clinic, in which Vancouver firms renowned for their business law practice are invited to provide financial support and expertise to the clinic. McMillan LLP, Miller Thomson Lawyers, McCarthy Tétrault, and Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) have each signed on with a five-year pledge. Our thanks to these firms for supporting clinical legal

education! For information on how your firm can become involved, contact Amy Hinrichs, Development Officer, by email at lawdev@uvic.ca.

## UNIVERSITY Libraries

Free life-time access has been successfully negotiated for all BC and Yukon residents to the entire Gale Digital Collections — nearly 200 million pages of digitized historical content. This agreement was spearheaded by the UVic Libraries in collaboration with libraries at SFU and UBC and with the support of the BC Electronic Library Network. It’s the first of its kind in Canada and offers **access to over 30 databases** including digitized versions of such periodicals as *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, as well as digitized materials from the Smithsonian Institution, the world’s largest museum and research complex. Resources also include maps, photos, manuscripts, pamphlets, and poems in many subject disciplines. In addition, you can explore the *Indigenous Peoples: North America*, and make discoveries with access to *Nineteenth Century Collections Online* and *Eighteenth Century Collections Online*. Visit [pointstothepast.ca](http://pointstothepast.ca).

## FACULTY OF Sciences

The faculty continues to grow its research and program offerings in **health-related disciplines**. The Department of Chemistry offers a BSc in chemistry for the medical sciences for students with a strong interest in chemistry and who plan on entering health-related fields. The Department of Physics and Astronomy has established a graduate certificate in medical physics to train and accredit those who already have a PhD in a related discipline other

## FACULTY OF Social Sciences

Makenzie Zouboules, a third-year Political Science and Writing Co-op student, is part of a team that won the \$1-million Arctic Inspiration Prize for their sexual health education among Northern youth. Based in Yellowknife, **FOXY (Fostering Open eXpression among Youth)** uses traditional beading, theatre, digital storytelling, photography, and music to help teenage girls express themselves about health and relationships. “For me, FOXY has been like a

**“For me, FOXY has been like a lifeline that I somehow managed to catch in a white out.”**

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT MAKENZIE ZOUBOULES

than medical physics but who want to become clinical medical physicists. On the research side, the faculty is recruiting three new Canada Research Chairs in medical physics, biostatistics, and new materials and techniques for health research...The UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre Director Christoph Borchers has established a lab at McGill University, which will use the technologies developed at UVic in a clinical setting.

lifeline that I somehow managed to catch in a white out,” Zouboules said in her acceptance remarks at a gala ceremony in Ottawa in December. “For the first time I felt that I could have an impact on issues that affected me and other youth like me in my home community.” FOXY has reached more than 500 Indigenous and Northern youth from nearly all 33 communities in the Northwest Territories through school-based sexual health education program, and on-the-land peer leadership retreats. Zouboules was the first peer leader hired by the organization.

## The Universe, Minus Most of the Math



No barriers: Dr. Arif Babul teaches Origin Of Space, Time and Matter in the Universe.

An upper level course helps non-physics majors understand space, time and energy.

INTERVIEW BY MICHELLE WRIGHT, BSC '99

### Physics 303 is a mind-blowing look at the creation and evolution of the universe. **What happens if you fall into a black hole? What is a parallel universe or a wormhole?**

To tackle such questions, Dr. Arif Babul, a cosmologist in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, brings pop culture — as well as philosophical discussions — into the classroom.

His course is proof that physics is more than equations and formulas.

**Michelle Wright: Do you have a hero in the world of physics?**

**Arif Babul:** I tend to look at Einstein's approach to science, his approach to life, in general. He tried to maintain a degree of balance between a social engagement with broader society and, well, being sort of a rebel in science.

**So are you a bit of a rebel?**

I would not say I am a complete rebel but I try not to follow the herd either. Several times in my career I have made a left turn when people were telling me to turn right because intuitively it felt like the

right thing to do. I think it is wiser to think about things and then carve out a new path.

**Can you take me on a quick tour of Physics 303?**

The course is designed to introduce students to the cutting-edge of physics, while avoiding much of the mathematics. It often involves asking things like, "Is our universe the only universe? What is the nature of time? What is our current understanding of the structure of the universe? And what is a warp engine?"

**One of the topics your course touches on is the physics of *Star Trek*. Would you consider yourself a *Star Trek* fan?**

Oh definitely. Well, not anymore. I grew up on a steady diet of Leonard Nimoy, Spock, and *Star Trek*.

**There was much discussion of the film, *Interstellar*, in your classroom. Tell me about a scene that blew you away with its scientific accuracy.**

The scene that made me drop my jaw, because it was so amazingly well done, was the black hole. I could not believe how absolutely realistic it was. Even NASA's artists do not get that right.

**What about wormholes? Do they really exist?**

Theoretically, there is nothing stopping them from existing. Einstein's theory makes allowances for wormholes. I tell my class that as far as physicists are concerned, the answer is yes. Can you make one? Well, that is an engineer's problem.

**What do you want students to take away from this course?**

One thing that I want them to take away is that science is incredibly creative. There is this notion that scientists are rational and artists are creative. I try and convey to them that all areas of study at their frontiers are completely creative-based, whether it be science, art, or poetry.

**I find it reassuring that you acknowledge on your website that these topics can be quite difficult to grasp.**

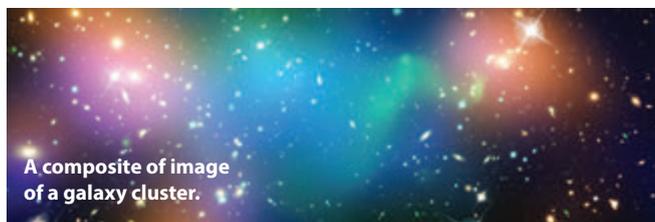
Oh, the topics are incredible. This is what makes it fun. The reason that I teach this class is because I get immense delight in watching (students) grapple with something that is so counterintuitive. I can literally see their brains turning into pretzels.

**Have your students ever stumped you with a question?**

I have had students ask questions that would completely take me aback and I have absolutely no problem telling my students, 'I actually do not know the answer to your question.' Then I run down and talk to my colleagues on the second floor...that is what keeps this course fresh for me.

**What about you? Do you have any burning questions that have gone unanswered?**

I would love to be able to solve some of the technical challenges in my field that we are trying to address.



A composite of image of a galaxy cluster.

**So what are the challenges in your current research?**

I am trying to understand how structure forms in the universe. We cannot just go and reproduce a galaxy, but we can do it virtually. The trick with doing it virtually is that you have to figure out how to get the mechanisms right, so that you can actually make the effects you want. Trying to build it into a computer simulation, that is the challenge.

**Is there life out there?**

I would be very surprised if there was not.

**What is the most important thing the universe has to teach us?**

Wonder, amazement and humility. This amazing sense of all-encompassing unity, that the rich diversity of physical phenomena can actually be tied together. †

# Students First

"It's all about the students — not about the subject matter — and you have to put them absolutely first in everything you do," **Dr. David Blades** says of the style of instruction that earned him one of the two Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching this year.

Blades, a faculty member in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, specializes in science education. His ability to teach future teachers how to get school kids fired up about science led to his selection for the Harry Hickman Award (for faculty).

**Rebecca Gagan**, a sessional in the English Department, earned the Gilian Sherwin Award (for instructors). The award caps a decade in

**"There are few places left in the world where you can inhabit that space and think together, share ideas and learn and grow."**

which Gagan's skills have gained the admiration of colleagues and students alike.

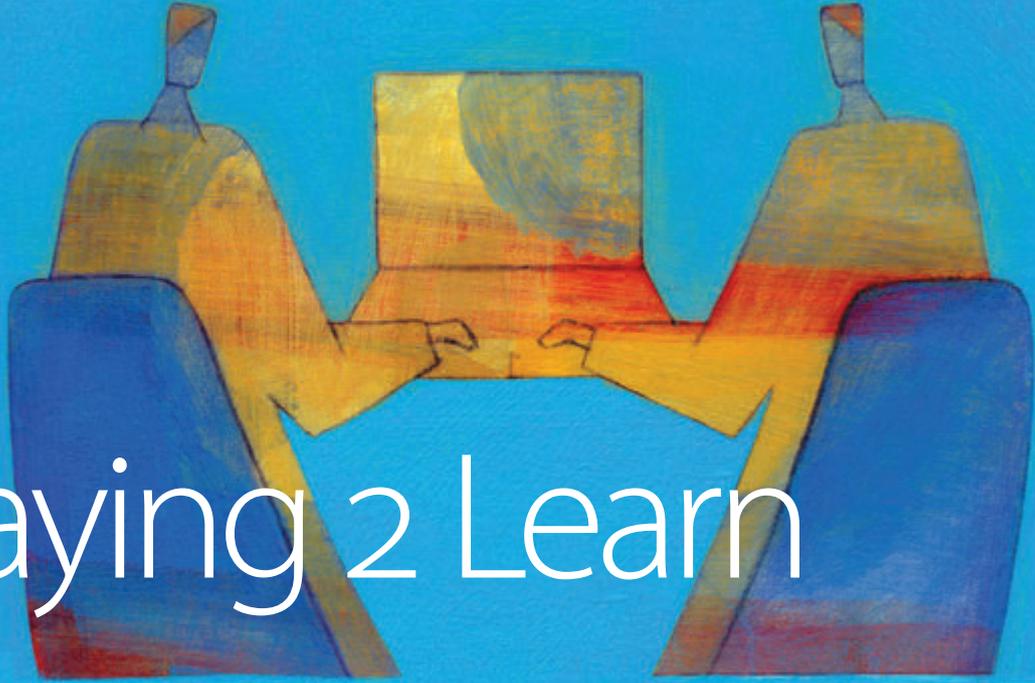
"I think (students) would be surprised to know how much my teaching is informed by them," Gagan says.

For her, the interactions that can take place in a classroom are increasingly rare.

"Really, there are few places left in the world where you can inhabit that space and think together, share ideas and learn and grow."

Detailed nomination dossiers capture the recipients' "spirit and excitement and innovation," says Dr. Catherine Mateer, Associate Vice-President of Academic Planning and chair of the selection committee. "You realize what an outstanding learning opportunity these individuals create."

Photos of more than 50 recipients of Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching, awarded since 1989, are displayed in the McPherson Library. Each winner receives \$2,000 from the alumni association.



# Playing 2 Learn

## Can elements of video games be used to help motivate learning?

BY BRAD BUIE, BA '99

Last summer in a pilot course called The History of Video Games and Interactive Media, Reece Giroux demonstrated the finer points of *Call of Duty 4*, one of the best selling video games of all time. The hundred-student class watched him save critical fractions of a second with a move known as “wall-strafing.” It was an object lesson in serious play.

Giroux, undergraduate student and teaching assistant, grew up immersed in the gaming culture. That’s not unusual. What’s different is he rose to greatness as a top multi-player game competitor in North America. “The team aspect is most applicable to life,” Giroux says. “You have to learn to communicate and work with people in high pressure situations.”

He is just the type of student David Leach, BA '93, wants in his classroom.

“I realized the profound effect video games had for my, and subsequent, generations,” says Leach, Associate Professor of Professional Writing and Director of the Technology and Society program. “There was a social element, too, at the beginning of the video game age with the arcades, that was lost with the console era and has returned in the Internet era.”

For Leach, “gamification” is a potentially powerful teaching tool. He defines it as “the application of game mechanics and game tools to motivate people in non-game contexts.”

Leach cites numerous examples of gamification software already in use, from health care promotion to peace negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis. At UVic, examples include Digital Fishers, a game that challenges players

to identify marine organisms in video from Ocean Network Canada’s undersea observatory. The Department of Psychology uses face recognition programs in autism research.

However, Leach notes an absence of research on the effectiveness of gamification in formal classroom settings. So he decided to run his own experiment. He randomly assigned students in his Technology and Society 200 class into either a control group or an experimental group.

Both groups completed the same assignments and contributed to online forums, but only the experimental, or gamified, group was rewarded with points and badges. Personalizing their online avatar with a photo for example, earned them a badge.

These motivators are rudimentary gamification tools, admits Leach, yet the experiment yielded interesting results. More than 80 percent of the gamified group changed their avatar, compared to none for the control group. As well, the gamified group spent about twice as long on the online community and posted 171 replies to 49 topics on their non-required discussion forum, compared to zero replies to a sin-



**Giroux: It's about how to "learn and communicate."**

gle topic for the control group.

It's debatable whether these kinds of behaviors embody true learning. Between the control group and experiment group, the data revealed no significance difference in student grades.

However, the measures for increased engagement are inarguable. Giroux, assigned to the experimental group, expresses his

ambivalence: "I don't find that achievement system alluring. For me, that's just vanity. But that said, I did find myself contributing to discussions to get that next achievement."

**T**he Commerce Program in the Gustavson School of Business reports similar experiences for students in Commerce 405: Career Preparation Across Borders. Designed by experiential learning manager Jennifer Gill and formally launched in 2013, the course allows students to choose activities that develop career-specific skills. Each activity has a point value. For example, attending a networking event could earn students three points, whereas competing in a case completion in another city could earn them six points. Over the course of a year, students must accumulate fifty points.

Gill says the gamification element motivates students, but it has also evolved in her teaching. "Each student and I are working together over and over again, communicating through Skype, email, webinar platforms, and Facebook as they share their 'points' with me and receive ongoing coaching," explains Gill, "It enables me to have a very strong mentorship relationship with them that extends well beyond the end of the course."

"This course — and the structure of the point system — still provides them with a similar 'feel' as grades," she adds, "but begins to transition them to a place where they will commit to their own professional development, without a clear and immediate reward."

For his part, Leach is now moving gamification beyond badges and leaderboards towards more interactive media: "I think games and gamification are fundamentally about that equal level of interactivity, and I think that's becoming more and more important, both in education and other fields."

His next project will bring students from across campus together with organizations and NGOs in a Fine Arts course to design interactive media.

"Students are allowed to adopt the 'mantle of the expert," he says. "Getting students to create a game will be both a more meaningful learning experience as well as effective for understanding systems. Games are all about how systems work and a lot of the problems we face as a society are systemic problems that leap beyond one discipline to the next." †



## Top off graduation day with frames and flowers!

### Diploma frames

- Wide selection
- Highest quality wood or metal frames
- Acid-free mattes emblazoned with the university crest
- No wires, no screws, or complicated assembly
- Made in Canada

Pre-order today at [uvicbookstore.ca](http://uvicbookstore.ca) or 250.721.8311. Also available in the University Centre at Convocation.

### Roses

- Great price value
- Wide selection of colours
- Convenient, on campus service

Available in the University Centre at Convocation.

### Give back to support the future.

Proceeds support campus service projects led by the UVic Student Ambassadors, an affiliate of the UVic Alumni Association.

 UVIC BOOKSTORE





Listening in: Krigolson attaches electrodes to an EEG cap worn by undergraduate honours student Marianne Brimmell. The imaging technique measures electrical activity generated by brain cells.

# Decisions, Decisions

Neuroeconomics and the choices we make.

BY MICHELLE WRIGHT, BSC '99

**A**uthor and philosopher Albert Camus said, “Life is the sum of all your choices.” It seems fair to reason, then, that the more we understand about how we learn and why we make the decisions we do, the better we can live our lives.

“Learning is crucial. If we do not learn, we do not survive,” says Dr. Olav Krigolson, a Department of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education researcher, who uses computational modeling and neuroimaging (EEGs and functional MRIs) to study how the mind learns and makes decisions.

At 6’4”, Krigolson might seem more the semi-pro basketball player he was in his 20s rather than a leading researcher in the emerging field of neuroeconomics — the fusion of psychology, economics and neuroscience.

“If you would have told me in 1997, when I walked out of (UVic) with a BEd and a job in the Victoria school district, that I would be a cognitive neuroscientist, I would have been the first one to fall over laughing,” says Krigolson.

The former high school teacher and basketball coach “fell into” neuroscience after taking an elective course in learning and motor control — with the hope of improving his basketball team’s performance on the court. He ended up with a doctorate and a passion for new discoveries.

“The answer to one question is the start of another,” says Krigolson, PhD ’08.

The 17th century mathematician, Christiaan Huygens — one of Krigolson's heroes — saw decision making as fairly straightforward: calculate the expected value of each option and choose the one with the highest probable value. Unfortunately, Huygens' basic assumption about the human species was inherently flawed.

"Huygens thinks we are like Spock," says Krigolson, a self-described nerd who insists that throwing out at least one *Star Trek* reference per lecture is mandatory, "but we are not Spock. We are Captain James Kirk. We get angry, push back, our tempers rise."

Combine emotions with the fact that value is both relative and dynamic along with the fact that, in Krigolson's words, "people are horrendously bad at probability," Huygens' model doesn't really tell us a whole lot.

Think of the brain as having two systems that are constantly engaged in a sort of neural tug-o-war: an emotional system and a rational system.

These systems are observed in fMRI scans of the brains of people contemplating morally-laden, emotionally-charged questions, such as, "Would you push an old man in front of an oncoming train if his death prevented the deaths of a family of five walking on the track farther down?"

fMRI scans show that irrational decisions correlate with an increase in activity within the amygdala — the emotional part of the brain — while more rational choices are associated with enhanced activity in the prefrontal cortex. In fact, researchers can predict the decision a person will make based on neural imaging patterns.

Krigolson teamed up with colleague, Dr. Kent Hecker, in order to study the role of two similar neurological systems described by psychologist and author, Daniel Kahneman, as: system 1: unconscious, quick, instinctive thinking; and system 2: deliberate thinking rooted in facts, calculations and logic.

We all know that a tired doctor is more likely to make poor decisions, but it may come as a surprise that experienced physicians also approach clinical decision making differently from new doctors — and not always in the best way.

Krigolson has discovered that fMRI scans of expert clinicians tasked with reading a case study and deciding on a diagnosis, show far more system 1 activity than do third-year medical students, who spend more time in system 2 mode — as shown by enhanced activity in the prefrontal cortex region of their brains.

"The fear is, as doctors gain more experience, they slip into system 1 decisions," says Krigolson. Relying on reflexive decisions, without checking in with system 2, can leave patients at the mercy of intuition and potentially erroneous judgment calls.

Monitoring doctors with an fMRI scanner as they work presents a bit of a challenge, thus Krigolson's next step is to reproduce these fMRI findings with EEG data.

"We actually have some pilot data right now where we think we can differentiate system 1 versus system 2 based on EEG activity," says Krigolson.

Krigolson, in collaboration with colleague Dr. David Turk, has also made discoveries into the effects of ownership on reward processing by studying gambling behavior.

"People are better at remembering things and care more about things that belong to them," says Krigolson. "If you are gambling for someone else, your reward system is not doing anything."

Krigolson observed that gambling wins and losses are associated with fluctuations in neural activity within the basal ganglia of the brain — our reward processing centers. The catch is that if the subject is gambling for someone else, the basal ganglia don't do anything at all.

"If you think of the role of an investment banker," says Krigolson, "presumably what is happening when they are making decisions is that their reward system just does not care."

Does this mean you should be worried about how your investment banker is managing your stock portfolio? Maybe, but Krigolson also acknowledges that the one-off study needs to be expanded and replicated before any strong conclusions can be drawn.

It also doesn't mean that when a person is gambling for someone else that they don't care logically or emotionally, it simply means that on some deep level their

brain's reward center is responding differently than it would if they were gambling for themselves.

If you were to peek into his lab

on any given day, you would most likely find someone sitting in the "hot seat", amid a tangle of EEG wires, working on anything from ancient Sumerian symbols to gambling calls — a neuroimaging study in progress.

PhD student Cameron Hassall is trying to work out the optimal ratio of a person's tendency towards exploration (choosing an unknown) versus exploitation (falling back on the familiar). After all, how can you be sure you've made the best choice possible if you haven't tried all the options?

Krigolson would like to take his findings about how we effectively learn to a whole new level — neuroeducation. By using a real-time classroom full of EEG-wearing students, he hopes to create a blueprint for successful learning, enabling the early detection of learning disorders through distinct neural pattern recognition.

As for future endeavours, Krigolson has his sights set high. This spring, he will be hiking to the base of Mt. Everest, the sole cognitive neuroscientist on a 15-member Canadian research team, mostly made up of physiologists.

Setting out from Lukla, Nepal, the group will climb 8,215 feet with Krigolson administering daily EEG assessments of team members.

As far as he knows, he will be the first to use EEG data to study the effects of extreme altitude on neural learning and decision systems.

Krigolson hopes to demonstrate that the effectiveness "of neural learning and decision systems is reduced at altitude — an important finding, if true, for people who work in extreme altitude environments." ¶

## "Researchers can predict the decision a person will make based on neural imaging patterns."



Pool of Tears illustration by Arthur Rackham from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll. (London: William Heinemann, 1907).

# Alice's Secrets Decoded

Author David Day and the lessons within *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

BY JESSICA NATALE WOOLLARD, MA '07

One hundred and fifty years ago, a little girl called Alice tumbled down a rabbit hole and into the hearts of millions of readers around the world. Since its first publication in 1865, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, the pen name of Oxford mathematician Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, has been the subject of extensive literary criticism and the inspiration for countless pop culture tributes, including more than two dozen movie adaptations.

The anniversary attests to the book's lasting influence and the enduring appeal of characters like the enigmatic Mad Hatter, the philosophizing Cheshire Cat, and the bloodthirsty Queen of Hearts. This year brings a re-release of the original book edition, sequels, and biographical studies of Dodgson and Alice Liddell, the girl who inspired the underground adventure.

Coinciding with Alice's big birthday is this fall's publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded* (Doubleday Canada) by David Day, BA '76. It's a comprehensive, richly-illustrated hardcover that includes Carroll's original story and examines the biographical, mathematical, social, philosophical, and mythological elements hidden within what appears to be nonsense and absurdity.

**“The mathematical references, word play, allusions, and social satire are very, very calculated.”**

---



“(Wonderland) is a very, very complex object, a real artefact of the period,” says Day. “There are so many levels and without understanding these different levels, it’s total confusion. If you follow through his diaries, through the various stages of the story’s development, you realize the mathematical references, word play, allusions, and social satire are very, very calculated.”

With more than 40 titles in a variety of genres, Day’s books have sold more than four million copies and have been translated into 20 languages. His *Doomsday Book of Animals* was selected as a Book of the Year by *Time* magazine; his children’s novel, *The Emperor’s Panda*, was runner-up for both the Governor General’s Award and the National Library Award. The likes of Margaret Atwood and the late British poet laureate Ted Hughes have praised Day’s poetry.

For a time, Day focused his writing on ecological issues. He published several books on the subject and wrote environmental columns for a few London newspapers while living in the English capital until six years ago. But looking over his titles, on topics as varied as natural history, fantasy, and children’s literature, he seems to be a free spirit when it comes to choosing subject matter.

“A publisher suggested I might do a book for the centennial of Lewis Carroll’s death, which would have been in 1998,” Day says. “But when I started reading *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* as an adult, I thought it was the strangest book I’d ever run into. It eventually took me 18 years to figure out.”

It’s a huge task to write anything on *Wonderland*, says Lisa Surridge, UVic English Literature Professor. Surridge, who studied at Christ Church (where Dodgson lived and worked and set many scenes from *Wonderland*) for a year during her undergraduate degree, teaches *Wonderland* and its sequel, *Through the Looking-Glass*, in her undergraduate- and graduate-level classes.

“Perhaps the most comprehensive book on *Alice*, up until now, is the *Annotated Alice* by Martin Gardner. What Gardner does is footnote the allusions, conundrums and logical puzzles, but he doesn’t draw them together to form a theory about *Alice*,” she says. “I think (Day’s) book knits together those connections with his thesis that Dodgson’s great gift to Alice Liddell was to offer her a classical, mathematical, and logical education in a book.”

Day stumbled into *Wonderland* much the same way he stumbled into his creative writing degree in the 1970s — by gravitating to what captured his attention. “I started (my degree) in 1966, taking

courses that were interesting to me. By the time I got to '76, I'd done courses in 12 different faculties," he remembers.

The late Robin Skelton, poet and founder of the Writing Department, eventually told Day that if he did a few more classes, he could earn his creative writing degree. He did.

"It was an odd way to approach university, I suppose but it turned out to be the best way, for a writer," says Day.

Another Carroll-like coincidence in Day's life was the timing of the Distinguished Alumni Award he received in February. The UVic Libraries nominated him prior to knowing about the forthcoming publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded*.

"The timing was truly serendipitous," says University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson. "One of the criteria for the award nomination is career distinction, someone who is recognized as outstanding or has attained prominence. Their work has a demonstrated impact. David certainly fits this criteria."

**D**uring Alumni Week, Day gave a talk at the Royal BC Museum and enchanted the crowd with glimpses into the mathematical equations that he proposes are part of Carroll's code.

Examples include the application of Fibonacci's sequence to Alice's plunge down the rabbit hole and the connection between the number on the Mad Hatter's hat — 10/6 — to Fermat's theorem.

Day also pointed to parallels between Wonderland and classical mythology, such as Alice's underground adventure as a variation on the Persephone myth.

If the buzz in the room was any indication of what is to come upon the release of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded*, Day may very well have another hit on his hands.

"(Carroll) has become more popular with time rather than less," Day says, noting that the book is so often quoted because people from different academic disciplines and backgrounds find ways to relate to it. Day's personal favourite line from the book is, "Curiouser and curiouser."

"That's certainly life, isn't it?" †



DAVID DAY PORTRAIT BY I. DIANOVA

First-edition illustrations by Sir John Tenniel, here and opposite.



---

## DAVID DAY, BA '76

### *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded*

The Full Text of Lewis Carroll's Novel with its Many Hidden Meanings Revealed

---

Doubleday Canada

---

320 pages | ISBN: 978-0-385-68226-8  
On Sale: September 29, 2015

---



Campus formal wear: Shelagh Rogers and the chancellor's gown.



# er Next hapter

Shelagh Rogers — broadcast journalist, advocate for Aboriginal reconciliation, literacy and mental health awareness — signs on as university chancellor.

BY JOHN THRELFALL, BA '96

**T**here have been educators and physicians, conservationists, lawyers, and business leaders. Add journalist to that list of UVic chancellors as CBC Radio journalist Shelagh Rogers sets out on her three-year term.

“It’s a huge honour, I’m absolutely delighted,” says the characteristically humble host of *The Next Chapter*. “I must say, though, it came rather out of the blue. It just hadn’t occurred to me — this isn’t something you apply for — so I was hugely surprised when I got the call.”

While the idea of being chancellor may never have occurred to Rogers, she seems an ideal match for the university. Nationally respected for her nearly 35 years with the CBC and her role as honorary witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Rogers holds five honorary doctorates and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2011. She’s even a West Coast island-dweller, having called Gabriola home for the past decade.

Likening the weeks leading up to her acceptance of the position as something of a “courtship period,” Rogers says she quickly fell for the academic environment.

“Obviously, it’s very beautiful and I love the size, which is very attractive to students, faculty and staff. That’s a value that should be promoted and protected,” she says. “But I’m just blown away by what UVic is doing to reach out to the community. There isn’t an elitist mentality here. There’s a nice flow between the community and the university. That’s a big part of why UVic rocks.”

Rogers “has a deep commitment to higher education and to the Aboriginal reconciliation process,” says Dr. Lynne Van Luven, associate dean of fine arts and one of Rogers’ nominators. “She has the ability to ask the right questions and to tell the whole story so that others can understand complex and urgent issues and ideas. UVic could not ask for a better ambassador.”

She will continue to host and co-produce *The Next Chapter* — her weekly showcase of books and ideas — from the backyard studio constructed by her husband, retired CBC technician Charlie Cheffins. As we talk, Cheffins sits next to us in a tearoom in Victoria’s historic Chinatown district, and Rogers often glances his

way for supportive nods and encouraging smiles. (“I’m already calling him the Chancellor-in-Law,” she quips.) But at the mention of the praise bestowed upon her, Rogers waves it away and instead shifts the spotlight to how her new role as chancellor dovetails with her other longstanding role: being a witness.

“Witnessing is an active verb,” she explains. “And if you’re seriously committed to the retelling of what you’ve seen and heard, it’s not always comfortable.” Gesturing at the two pins gracing her lapel — one from the Order of Canada, the other from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — Rogers’ voice takes on a serious tone. “The Order of Canada motto is ‘They desire a better country,’ and I do desire a better country, so I wear this button as a reminder. And this one” — she strokes a small strip of moosehide dangling from a silver shield — “reminds me of how important it is to be a witness, to recount and retell things you have seen and heard, to make sure the word gets out. It’s broadcasting, in a way.”

Rogers pauses and quotes an Ojibway elder who, on the eve of her testimony at the TRC hearings in Ottawa, told her to remember the words *debwe win*. “That means ‘speaking from the heart’ in Ojibway. And the word ‘witness’ itself is from *in wit*, which means ‘having a clean heart’ in Old English. The relationship with witness is very beautiful, how it all relates back to the heart. It’s not just hearing and seeing, but feeling too.”

**B**efore accepting the position, Rogers made a point of speaking with former chancellor, Dr. Norma Mickelson, MA ’68, UVic’s first female chancellor. “I was worried about how I could uphold the values of the university and support all the ways the university engages with the community and the students and respect all the relationships on campus and started thinking, ‘Wow, am I even qualified to do this?’ And Norma gave me a great piece of advice: ‘Just be yourself.’ She

reminded me that I was asked for a reason, and talked about what joy the role had brought her. She really bulked up my muscles!”

While her formal installation will coincide with her officiating at June convocation ceremonies, Rogers is already settling into her role on campus. “I feel incredibly stimulated — like my mind is always dancing — and that’s a very nice feeling,” she says. “This is a much broader discourse than what I do at the CBC. It’s going to be a huge stretch, but I feel I can go into the outside world and really talk about the UVic differ-

ence. And there really is a difference here. I want to get to know it and represent it to the best of my abilities.”

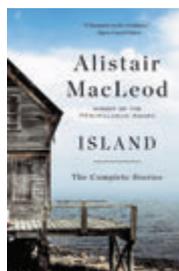
**R**eminded about the list of predecessors as chancellor — (“Oh my!”) — Rogers takes a thoughtful pause. “I’m different. I’m a journalist, and that will help me trying to understand the whole UVic story. As a journalist, my training has been to get at the real meaning — the truth — and to create dialogue. That’s important to me.” †

**There isn’t an elitist mentality here. There’s a nice flow between the community and the university. That’s a big part of why UVic rocks.”**

**TOP SHELF**



Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, host of CBC Radio’s *The Next Chapter*, went through her library and picked some of her favourite books. **Here’s her list:**



**ALISTAIR MACLEOD**  
*Island*

I have read these collected short stories dozens of times. Each time is like the first. I revel in his compassion for this characters, a compassion Alistair practiced in real life.

**PEMA CHODRON**  
*When Things Fall Apart*

The book begins with a younger Pema throwing a rock at her husband upon learning of his infidelity. This leads her to awakening. This book challenges the reader to embrace chaos, to sit with uncomfortable feelings and to become “unstuck.”

**ROHINTON MISTRY**  
*A Fine Balance*

At 600 pages, I found this exquisite novel too short. I never wanted it to end and when it did, I sobbed until I had dry heaves.

**THOMAS KING**  
*The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*

This book began life as the CBC Massey Lectures in 2003. Tom delivered his talks from a rocking chair. Not to give away the ending, but Tom taught me: “The truth about stories is that’s all we are.”

**KAY REDFIELD JAMISON**  
*An Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Moods and Madness*

A groundbreaking book from the 1990s. Dr. Jamison writes with such candour about her own manic depression. Raw, honest, poetic. The most sane book about madness.

## IN CONVERSATION



Tech talk: Shelagh Rogers and Stewart Butterfield at the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium.

**D**uring Alumni Week in February, Chancellor Shelagh Rogers conducted an on-stage interview with Stewart Butterfield, BA '96. They talked about many things — Butterfield's philosophy classes on campus, his rise to fame as part of the Flickr team, and his return to the spotlight this past year with the arrival of Slack, an office communication platform. Here are excerpts from that conversation:

**Shelagh Rogers: What did your background (in studying philosophy) here and at Cambridge give you in your daily life now?**

**Stewart Butterfield:** Studying logic meant long periods of concentration, really getting at the essence of things. I think that helps. I also think that because philosophy is at least 90 per cent bullshit (laughter). That means that there's a huge emphasis on clarity and — this is a word I learned at UVic — the 'perspicuity' of the writing. Clarity was highly valued.

I do a lot of written communications. Actually, my nephew once asked me, what do you do for a living — this is about 10 years ago — and I said, I read and write email professionally. A lot of people do that. That's how they make their living. So, the abilities to write and think clearly have been invaluable, much more valuable than specific, career-focused training would have been.

**I have a Stewart Butterfield quote: If someone I worked with emailed me I'd probably fire them. Is that true?**

It is true, now. Because we've been working for several years in a way that doesn't require email internally. I use email everyday, but there's no reason for someone to email me inside (Slack)...

If you work at an organization whose primary means of communication is email you have this tiny little slice of all the communication that happens at the company or in the team. Everything else is totally opaque to you. Using a system like Slack, where the default mode of communication is public, everything is available.

**The name Slack. Today I was in the Swans Hotel, and there are many more mirrors in a hotel room than I have in my house. I could see parts of me that were 'slack.' Why did you pick the name Slack? (Laughter)**

Perfect lead in. One, it was a super weird name. Here were our criteria: It had to be short. People had to know how to spell it if you said

it. We had to be able to get the domain name and the trademark. We had to not be embarrassed when people asked us what the name. The principle connotation is slacking off, slacker. But there's actually very positive connotations. In formal project management, slack is the amount of spare capacity in the system. What we hope to bring to people is a bit of spare capacity.

**How are you feeling about Slack now?**

Very positive. It's actually astonishing to me every week that things don't fall apart.

**I have a question from Jim Balsillie, the co-founder of Research In Motion. He wants to know, 'What have you learned about growing a leading tech company that policy makers in Ottawa should know, so that we can enhance Canada's commercializing of our ideas?'**

We should be as liberal with respect to immigration policy as we can because getting more talented people helps. We're right next to the US and they have a worse, from my perspective, immigration policy than Canada does. That means there's a lot of fantastically talented Indian, Chinese, British, Polish — people all over the world — who can't get in to the US. If they come here, they're not taking someone's job. They're starting a business or enhancing someone else's company. **(Question from the floor) When do you think it's necessary for an early stage company to move (to the San Francisco area)?**

**SB:** I get asked a lot about what we can do to make a Silicon Valley north or to make Vancouver or BC a more attractive place for technology investment. I don't think it's totally hopeless but I think people don't have a realistic idea of the challenges of doing that.

It's difficult to overestimate the strength of networks. (In the Silicon Valley) everyone knows everyone else. The other thing is, there are literally tens of thousands of tech millionaires in the Bay area. They are better resourced to make angel investments in companies and to give advice. That really makes a profound difference.

(On) Sand Hill Road, near Stanford University, there's a huge concentration of venture capitalists. In that one kilometre there's more capital under management for investment purposes than there is in all of Canada, probably five times as much. I wouldn't say that you have to move to the Bay Area to start a company (but) it can make your life much easier.

*A full recording of the interview is online at: [bit.ly/1EceJxg](http://bit.ly/1EceJxg).*



**BY KIM WESTAD**  
BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS **BY PAUL LOOFS**  
COLOUR PHOTOS **BY NIK WEST, BA '95**

# Long Drive Home

Paul Loofs and his Volkswagen Bug went around the world three times. His solo adventures depended on self-reliance and meticulous planning. But would he find the sense of belonging and the family bonds that were torn away by World War II?

There was the time he chased camera-stealing baboons off the roof of the 1955 VW Beetle. The car provided refuge from 30 or so pygmies with bows and arrows. In Peru, when the road ended at a river bank, they floated across. “Up to a point, **I owed my life to my car.**”



**P**aul Loofs and his Beetle went around the world three times. They clocked 200,000 km between 1957 and 1967, driving across continents and riding freighters in between.

They crossed deserts. Went, through snow and sand storms. Endured deep-rutted terrain, often without maps. They wouldn't see another vehicle or talk to another soul for days. They kept going, and Loofs came to regard the Bug as he would a close friend. “You entrust yourself to a little tin can.”

### Nothing's Permanent

Paul Loofs is no stranger to seeking new shores. On Nov. 5, 1951, at the age of 22, he left his native Germany on the *MS Anna Salén*. With him were his few belongings in a small battered air raid suitcase. Behind him were what was left of his home and close-knit family, fragmented by the Second World War.

Loofs' home city of Leipzig was hard hit by Allied bombing in the Second World War.

“The whole scene is engraved in my memory as one devilish noise: masses of bombs detonate, fragments shriek, powder smell and fire everywhere,” he recalls.

Buildings that had stood for hundreds of years were rubble. For days, the afternoon sky was dark with ash and smoke. That sense of impermanence left a deep impression.

His older brother, a pilot, died in a crash during the war, a sister disappeared to a Russian prison camp, an uncle was exiled to Siberia. After the war, Loofs beloved brother Helmut left for the west.

A year later, Loofs followed, escaping the Soviet occupation of his home where he felt little hope. With his family scattered, Loofs also looked west.

He heard the Canadian government loaned immigrants ship passage in exchange for 18 months of work in agriculture, forestry or mining. There wouldn't be



any agriculture or forestry jobs until the spring but the mines could put him to work right away. So that was his choice, never having set foot in a mine. Within days of arriving, Loofs was living and working near Trail. His new life had started.

But the seeds were already in place for the first of three trips that would feed his wanderlust and reunite him with his brother Helmut.

## Southward, Solo

In 1957, the new Canadian had heard about the Pan-American Highway in Chile and it sparked his imagination. Soon after, he learned that Helmut would be joining a film crew in Tierra del Fuego, off the southern tip of South America.

The brothers hadn't seen each other in a dozen years. So why not customize the car he'd been driving over the icy Kootenay roads — a 1955 VW Beetle, bought new for \$1,750 — and drive? "Some friends thought I was a bit crazy. Others were a bit envious," Loofs says.

He was 28, single and confident his Beetle was the right car for the journey. It was simple, sturdy, and had, crucially, an air-cooled engine. "The Beetle had been used in the coldest cold and the hottest heat and had to keep going. You can't buy that kind of field testing," Loofs says.

He replaced the passenger seat with a bed. In the rear were two wooden boxes: one for motor oil, the other for food. He stored water and a gas cooker. Behind the driver's seat were fastened two cans for an extra 40 litres of gas. Under the hood were a spare wheel, two extra tires, two jacks and two short planks in case of being stuck in mud. "The idea was to be as independent as I could."

Loofs left Trail on Dec. 2, 1957, and would travel 61,800 km — 1.5 times around the globe — in 196 days on that first trip.

Politics and changing government regimes had to be dealt with as well as hairpin curves on steep single lane roads. There were civil-war-like conditions in Colombia, and he passed numerous bullet-pocked vehicles and worried about being attacked. He was searched often by police and warned "not to dawdle."

The Bug made it over the Andes, through mud that felled much larger vehicles, across isolated tire-popping deserts, often on its last drops of gas before finding a place to fill up.

Communication while travelling was difficult and Loofs couldn't be sure he would even see his brother. But there, nearly four months after leaving Trail, on a parched road in southwest Chile, "a cloud of dust appeared from the opposite direction, approaching and shrouding a jeep inside it...Both vehicles stopped, then reversed toward each other. It was my brother Helmut. I cannot describe the

**"The 'road' to Dabola is indescribable. Ten to 15 mph; rocks; washboard. Monkeys and black vultures."**



**Loofs documented his travels, with photos, journals, and itineraries.**

**Opposite page (top): Nullarbor Plain, Australia, 1962, and unloading from a freighter in Sierra Leone, 1962.**

**This page, top: Tierra del Fuego, 1958.**

**Previous page: Washboard road through the Atacama Desert of Chile, 1958.**



**GUINEA - SOUTH AFRICA**

Route #	From → To	Country	Miles	Condition etc.
112	CONAKRY - KOUTOUKA	GUINEA	400	OK
113	KOUR. - BOUGOUNI	MALI	250	OK
110B	Boug. - Bobo Dioulesso	VOLTA	250	OK
111	Dobo - Ouagad. - NIAMEY	NIGER	550	OK
43	Niamey - Kano	NIGERIA	600	OK
35	Kano - Maiduguri		400	OK
32	Maid - FORT LAMY	CAMEROON	150	OK PERMIT!
-	Ft. L. - Ft. Archambault	CHAD	350	OK
31	Ft. A. - Ft. Sibut - Bambari	C. AFR. REP.	400	100% OK
30	Bambari - BANGASSOU		250	OK
29	Bang. - Monga - Buta	CONGO	250	OK
28A/69	Buta - Mungbete - Beni		600	OK
	Eeni - Uganda Res - TORO	UGANDA		OK
	Tor. - Kenya Res - NAIROBI	KENYA		OK
	Nair. - Athiba (Kili) - Mombasa			
	Momb. - Tanga - Morogoro	TANGANYIKA		mostly OK
	(Mor. - Dar es Salaam - Morogoro)			
	Moro - Iringa - Tunduma			
	Tund. - Mpika - Kapiti Mpori	N. RHOD.		
	Kap. M. - Lusaka - Livingstone (V.F.)	S. RHOD.		
	Liv. - Bulawayo	BECHUANA		
	Bulawa. - Kimberley - CAPE TOWN	U. OF S. AFR.		
	Cape - Ft. Elizabeth - DURBAN	S. AFR.		

CONAKRY - FT. LAMY	2525 mi	RV - N. AFR.	~ 3,000
FT. LAMY - NAIROBI	~ 1750	PERTH - ACT	~ 1,000
NAIROBI - LIVINGSTONE	~ 2500		
LIVINGST. - CAPE - DURBAN	~ 3000		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15-17,000 mi</b>

Niamey Feb 52.  
 Ft. Lamy, Feb 2nd  
 Bangassou, Mar 10th  
 Nairobi Apr 20th

10/1964

joy I felt at our first reunion after 12 years," Loofs wrote in his diary. The brothers spent the next week together before parting.

Loofs took the long way home, via freighter to Portugal, a drive through Europe, followed by another freighter crossing to the east coast and the cross-country drive to Trail. Already he was thinking of the next trip. "If I can do South America, maybe I can do Africa."

Four years later he was off, saying a temporary goodbye to his new wife and infant daughter. Again, seeing Helmut, now living in Australia, was the incentive. "He was the anchor I could rely on."

After taking a freighter from New Orleans to West Africa — passing by Key West and "considerable destroyer activity as the Cuban Missile Crisis was about to break out" — the plan was to drive to east and South Africa, sail to Australia, drive to Canberra and sail back to Vancouver. His budget: \$2,000.

In Africa, missionaries warned him it was unsafe, that there had been several massacres. Some of those missionaries, Loofs later learned, would themselves be killed.

"It's nothing short of miraculous that I got through there without any real trouble," he says. At one point, two dozen Congolese customs officers detained him and everything was removed from the car. After the search, the head officer said, "You are our first tourist after independence."

### Saying goodbye

Loofs worried more and more about the car. Heat and rough roads were tough on the VW. Loofs often improvised makeshift fixes. VW garages in Africa, and later Asia, were hundreds of miles or more apart.

"The 'road' to Dabola is indescribable. Ten to 15 mph; rocks; washboard. Monkeys and black vultures. The motor is getting too hot. The car is taking an awful beating — it's a real pity to have to punish it so," says one note in his diary.

Concern for the Beetle permeates the journal from Loofs' third trip. "I suffer with my car: hundreds of miles of washboard stones. It's unreasonable to expect an old car to carry on. But it (and I) must."

He had sailed in December 1967 from San Francisco to Thailand to meet Helmut on an archeological dig, before carrying on through southwest Asia, the Middle East and Europe and shipping back to Canada.

Finally, in Toronto in May 1967, Loofs knew his Beetle was near its end. VW Canada bought the car for \$110 — the cost of a plane ticket to Trail. After 10 years and almost 200,000 km, Loofs and his Beetle parted ways. "I said goodbye to a friend."

### Finding Home

Loofs would work at all levels of mining for 20 years before becoming a translator in Ottawa for another

two decades. After reading an article about volunteering in Central America, he joined Medical Ministry International and completed his 102nd medical mission last year. He spends half the year in Honduras with his second wife, Elia, and their 15-year-old son. As well, he had nine foster children over 25 years in Latin America.

Between 1983 and 1997, Loofs completed six university programs, including two from the University of Victoria (Certificate of Adult and Continuing education in 1994, a Diploma in Applied Linguistics in 1996). His youngest daughter Karen Loofs also received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from UVic, and father and daughter graduated the same year.

Loofs offers no easy explanation about what led him around the world again and again and again.

“These travels, I can safely say now, are unique. No one else has done this, on their own, in their car with no help or sponsor. It was just me and my Beetle,” said Loofs, now 85. “It was an adventure. If you have a car that works, you can go anywhere you want. If you take that attitude, the sky is the limit.”

He always had the curiosity to see what was beyond the other hill. That was difficult, if not impossible, to do in Germany either before or after the war. “You felt,” he says, “like an animal in a cage.” But in the late 1950s in Canada and beyond, there was freedom, an inexpensive, reliable vehicle and readily available gasoline.

Karen Loofs still associates the distinctive sound of the Beetle engine with her dad. “His self-reliance is the real core of the story,” she says. “It’s not necessarily what he did, it’s how he did it, the circumstances under which he did it.”

There was a sense of adventure, she says, but also a search for something else. She sees her father as a displaced person — with his loss of home and separation from family in the war, his move to Canada on his own.

“I think on some level, he won’t stop (searching) because he never really has had that place to return to. There is a sense that nothing is permanent. There really is no place you can keep returning to except yourself.” †

**“The motor is getting too hot. The car is taking an awful beating — it’s a real pity to have to punish it so.”**



**Opposite page: At the Equator in Uganda, 1962. The meticulous planning of a solo driver and navigator.**

**Above: The world map that hangs in Loofs' living room, lined with the routes of his three epic journeys.**

## On the Road Again

The car that took Paul Loofs around the world is still on the road, and its new owner has plans to take it on a fourth around-the-world trip in 2017 to mark the 50th anniversary of Loofs' last trip and to raise funds for prostate cancer research. But Emmanuel Thuillier said he won't travel to some of the places Loofs did — “they're not safe” — and he'll do it with a lot more comfort and modern conveniences.

VW Canada kept Loofs' Bug for several years, using it in promotional material and displaying it at events. In 1973, a collector in Scarborough bought and restored it. When he died, his wife had to sell it.

Thuillier saw the advertisement and knew he'd found the car he had been dreaming of. “I saw the photos and knew I had to have this car,” Thuillier says. He knew nothing of the car's storied past until the widow sent him an article from a VW magazine.

Loofs shared the documentation of his travels with Thuillier, and even gave him the two wooden boxes that held the all-important oil and provisions.

**Loofs (right) in his study, in February 2015, with a photo of the restored Bug. His journeys are the subject of documentary — “Once More” — for Volkswagen Canada, directed by Academy Award winning Canadian director Hubert Davis. It's online.**



# From the Vault

## 3D Objects of Fascination

The UVic Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives vault holds more than 1.5 km of documents, rare books and periodicals. It also includes unique, three dimensional objects.

These items have been acquired and donated to UVic because of their historical value, or their association with private papers and personal libraries. Ancient and modern treasures, they have a special role to play in teaching and research, and in engaging with new users of archives and academic libraries.

— LARA WILSON, MA '99, DIRECTOR,  
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST,  
WITH FILES FROM DR. J. MATTHEW HUCULAK



### Egyptian Ushabti

Bruce and Dorothy Brown were generous donors to the libraries, and their personal collection of rare items continues to surprise researchers. In a previous issue of the *Torch* we featured from their collection an Assyrian cuneiform tablet (2046 – 2038 BCE) and an Egyptian woodblock decorated with hieroglyphs and figures of deities (1085 – 730 BCE). Here we feature an ancient Egyptian Ushabti (date unknown). Ushabti are small funerary statuettes made of various materials such as stone or wood (the Brown Ushabti is faience, a ceramic). The purpose of these figures was to act as a substitute for the deceased, should the gods require the soul of that person to undertake tasks in the afterlife.



### Naval Officer's Sword

Special Collections is well known for its extensive holdings in military history. Some highlights include: the oral history collection, originally established by Dr. Reginald H. Roy and his students, comprised of hundreds of taped and transcribed interviews; the military maps collection with 1,550 maps and 378 aerial photographs; the records of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's); and the papers of Major General George R. Pearkes, VC, PC, CC, CB, DSO, MC, CD. Complementing these materials is a Royal Navy ceremonial officer's sword and scabbard, also from the Brown Collection. The proof marks date the blade to 1872-81, and its decoration includes a beaded and gilt handle with a lion's head, a striped golden cord, chased designs on the blade and basket, including a crown and anchor, and the owner's name — G.E. Wheatley — engraved on the lock.



## Herbert Siebner Woodblock Matrices

Our artists' archives holdings include the papers of modernist artist and master print-maker Herbert Siebner (1925 – 2003). Siebner was born in Stettin, Prussia (Szczecin, Poland) and immigrated to Canada with his wife Hannelore and daughter Angela in 1954. He apprenticed to Atelier Max Richter in Stettin and at the Berlin Academy. In Canada, he taught at various institutions, including UVic, and was a founding member of the Victoria artists' group, the Limners. His style was heavily influenced by the German Expressionists, art forms of ancient and indigenous cultures, and by mythological iconography. His extensive archives include examples of wood block print matrices, carved in relief by Siebner. In the printmaking process, colours were applied to the areas in relief, and the block was pressed into paper to create a mirror image.



## Victoria College Pins

UVic's predecessor, Victoria College, was affiliated with McGill University between 1903 and 1915. The college took up residence in Robert Dunsmuir's former mansion, Craigdarroch Castle, in the Rockland district. From 1921 to 1946 classes were held in various rooms, including physics and chemistry in the old billiards room, and the fourth floor ballroom became the Victoria College library (where many of our rare volumes were first housed). In 2008, the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association donated its historical collection of photographs and ephemera to the University Archives, including beautiful enameled pins and class rings, treasured by Victoria College students.



## Glenn Howarth Floppy Discs

Our rare and unique collections also include digital artefacts, such as the floppy discs containing digital artworks by Glenn Howarth, BFA '70, (1946 – 2009). Howarth was born in Vegreville, Alberta. He taught drawing, painting, computer arts and art history at a number of institutions, including UVic. His papers include dozens of discs containing word processing files and artworks. Archivists and librarians face challenges accessing and preserving our cultural heritages contained on these once ubiquitous 3.5-inch disks. However, we are currently working on retrieving the files from these discs using software emulation, so that Howarth's works can be seen in their born-digital medium. In the near future, we hope to make these images available.

## Serious Illness. Critical Coverage.



If serious illness interrupts your life, don't let worries about money get in your way of getting better. Critical Illness Insurance provides a tax-free cash payment to spend any way you need.

### Critical Illness Insurance

For a personalized quotation or to apply online, please visit us at:

[www.solutionsinsurance.com/uvic](http://www.solutionsinsurance.com/uvic)

1.800.266.5667



**FACT: You are more likely to carry a picture of your pet in your wallet than you are to have a valid Will.**



### Why not have both?

All it takes is a little planning.

Support your human loved ones first, then, unleash your imagination!

What are your passions and ideals?

Preserve them with a bequest to your favourite cause.

If UVic is one of those causes, we will help bring your legacy to life with dogged determination.



Contact UVic Planned Giving:  
250-721-8967 | [dgwalker@uvic.ca](mailto:dgwalker@uvic.ca)

**GIVE ONE EDUCATED GIFT TODAY.**

*Impact countless tomorrows.*

## Sharp Focus

People often talk about giving something back to their communities. Rachel Forbes is doing just that with her company Sharp Six, which, among other services, provides microloans to “world changing” non-profits, social enterprises and charities organizations.

Typical loans range from \$8,000 to \$20,000, and the funds are intended to increase the efficacy of the organizations themselves, rather than bankrolling specific projects.

What really sets Sharp Solutions apart from other microlending programs is that Forbes, LLB '08, is using her own money to bankroll the initiative.

“I inherited some funds, and having some extra money to invest I looked into finding an ethical way to make a return on my money,” says Forbes, who received the inheritance from the sale of her grandparents’ estate. Failing to find a comfortable investment option, she opted make her own opportunity.

“I created the program because I thought there was a potential to fill a gap, and it’s also a way to strengthen connections with communities where I want to build my own business,” she says. “I wanted to have control and say over what the money went towards, and make a difference in the things I care about.”

Wanting to “make a difference” is what first drove Forbes into a career in law. She specialized in Aboriginal and environmental issues but something didn’t feel quite right. The passion for the work was there, but law wasn’t the right vehicle.

“Originally I had no inclination to be an entrepreneur. It was never something I thought I would do,” says the Pender Harbour, who has served for several years on the boards of the Georgia Strait Alliance and the Whistler Centre for Sustainability.

Considering of her legal and volunteer experience, it dawned on Forbes that there just might be a niche for her skillset. And so in 2013, Forbes founded Sharp Six (which takes its name from the four types of services it offers plus two principles of efficiency and ethical practice).

A lot of what the company does is what she calls “capacity building,” or “working with an organization that needs temporary help to strengthen themselves, build their own ability to grow.”

That can take on the form of funding — either direct from Sharp Solutions or indirectly from outside sources through grant writing — connections to appropriate government channels, implementing more effective organizational strategies or simple administration assistance.

Forbes says her former and current role have more in common than it may appear. “I still use my legal education every day. From the time I spent practicing law, I made connections I still use. It’s the same story to me even though it may look different to others.”

– BENJAMIN YONG, BA '04



MARK WHITEHEAD PHOTO



## What I've Learned

BY DALE HENLEY, BA '71  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It won't come as a shock to anyone that time has a way of slipping by without us noticing. But in a few weeks, my two-year term as your president of the UVic Alumni Association will come to a close and I can't help but look back on what I've experienced during these fast-passing years.

Whether it's in university governance or in our careers or community service, alumni make a tremendous difference. It's an impact that's strong, and will be even stronger.

We attended a great university. Our lives have been changed in ways that we sometimes don't fully grasp until years after graduation. Our university years can really set the course for our lives. For a lot of us, UVic is part of who we are.

And so when you see the energy and promise of students and young alumni, you can see a bit of yourself in them. The times they've grown up in are unique, just as they are for every generation. But there is, among all UVic graduates, a common bond from spending time engaged in a UVic education.

We're a community. And like all strong communities, we depend on each other. That's why I'm asking all alumni to become more involved. Support a bursary or a scholarship of your choice. Contribute to the Alumni Fund. Help a student or new graduate with questions about their career or academic choices. In my experience, few endeavours have been more fulfilling.

I offer sincere gratitude to everyone who supports alumni initiatives. The volunteers on the alumni board of directors give countless hours so that our association reaches its goals. The Alumni Relations staff have an incredible level of professionalism and attention to detail. Thank you all for being so committed and for the support you've shown me.

And to the many alumni who volunteer, attend events, participate in programs and services, and support students either financially or with your expertise — thank you!

I'll remain on the board, as past-president after the association's Annual General Meeting (June 3, at the University Club — all are welcome to attend) and I know you join me in wishing our next president, Lesley Patten, BCom '96, the very best.

## The Survey Said...

In November, a survey went out to more than 53,000 UVic alumni worldwide. It asked about alumni impressions of UVic in general, about attachment to UVic, communications, and programs and services. From more than 5,600 responses, here are some highlights:

### What you told us

- 81% of alumni are somewhat or highly engaged with UVic.
- 74% are satisfied with their academic experience.
- 76% are proud to be alumni.
- 42% give to support students.
- 48% want more alumni programs for personal or career development.
- 63% say the amount of alumni email they get is "about right."

Email is the preferred communication link, closely followed by the *Torch*.

The strongest connections to UVic are via classmates, academic department or faculty.

### What we'll do

- ✓ We'll try to include more learning opportunities at alumni events.
- ✓ We'll be having more department or faculty specific programming.
- ✓ We'll be increasing the frequency of alumni events in areas further afield.
- ✓ We'll be increasing efforts to stay connected with our international alumni.
- ✓ We'll be careful not to email too much.
- ✓ We'll keep mailing the *Torch*.
- ✓ We'll be offering more services and benefits exclusively for UVic alumni.

Congratulations to David Oscienny, Cert. (Business Administration), winner of the prize draw for a \$1,500-travel voucher from Uniglobe One Travel.

## EVENTS

### 50, 50

Two 50th reunions are in the works. The Class of '65 will celebrate its milestone on Sept. 19. The Class of '66 will be doing the same next year. Volunteer, contribute memorabilia, or find out more from Marlene Bergstrom in the alumni office at 250-721-6012 or email [mbergstr@uvic.ca](mailto:mbergstr@uvic.ca). And congrats to the Class of '64 after raising \$25,000 for a new scholarship in the Faculty of Science.

Campus life: From the Tower 65 yearbook.





## The Alumni Eleven

Distinguished Alumni Awards, one of the highlights of Alumni Week 2015, honoured grads who represent the week's focus on "thinkers, changers and difference-makers." They were selected by their faculties, divisions or the university libraries. Thanks to all of the recipients for your good work and making us proud.

- 1 Victoria Wells**, Cert '13 (Continuing Studies) Leader, Indigenous language revitalization. **2 Anne Tenning**, MA '10 (Education) Leader, Aboriginal education. **3 Josh Blair**, BEng '95 (Engineering) VP human resources, Telus. **4 Mercedes Bätz-Benét**, BA '06 (Fine Arts) artistic director, Puente Theatre. **5 Kim Henderson**, MPA '02 (Human & Social Development) Deputy Minister, Premier's Office. **6 Lucas Aykroyd**, MA '97 (Humanities) Hockey & travel writer. **7 Douglas S. White**, LLB '07 (Law) Treaties and reconciliation advocate. **8 David Day**, BA '76 (Libraries) Author. **9 Dr. Tom Rimmer**, BSc '89 (Medical Sciences) Patient care leader. **10 Robert Beecroft**, BSc '84 (Science) Founder, ImmunoPrecise Antibodies. **11 Susan Cartwright**, BA '79 (Social Sciences) Diplomat and civil servant.



## JUNE

**Alumni AGM**  
**June 3**  
University Centre

**Spring Convocation**  
**June 8 – 12**  
University Centre

## JULY

**unlimited edition**  
**July 4 – September 26**  
Legacy Art Gallery  
Downtown

Event details at:  
**[alumni.uvic.ca](http://alumni.uvic.ca)**

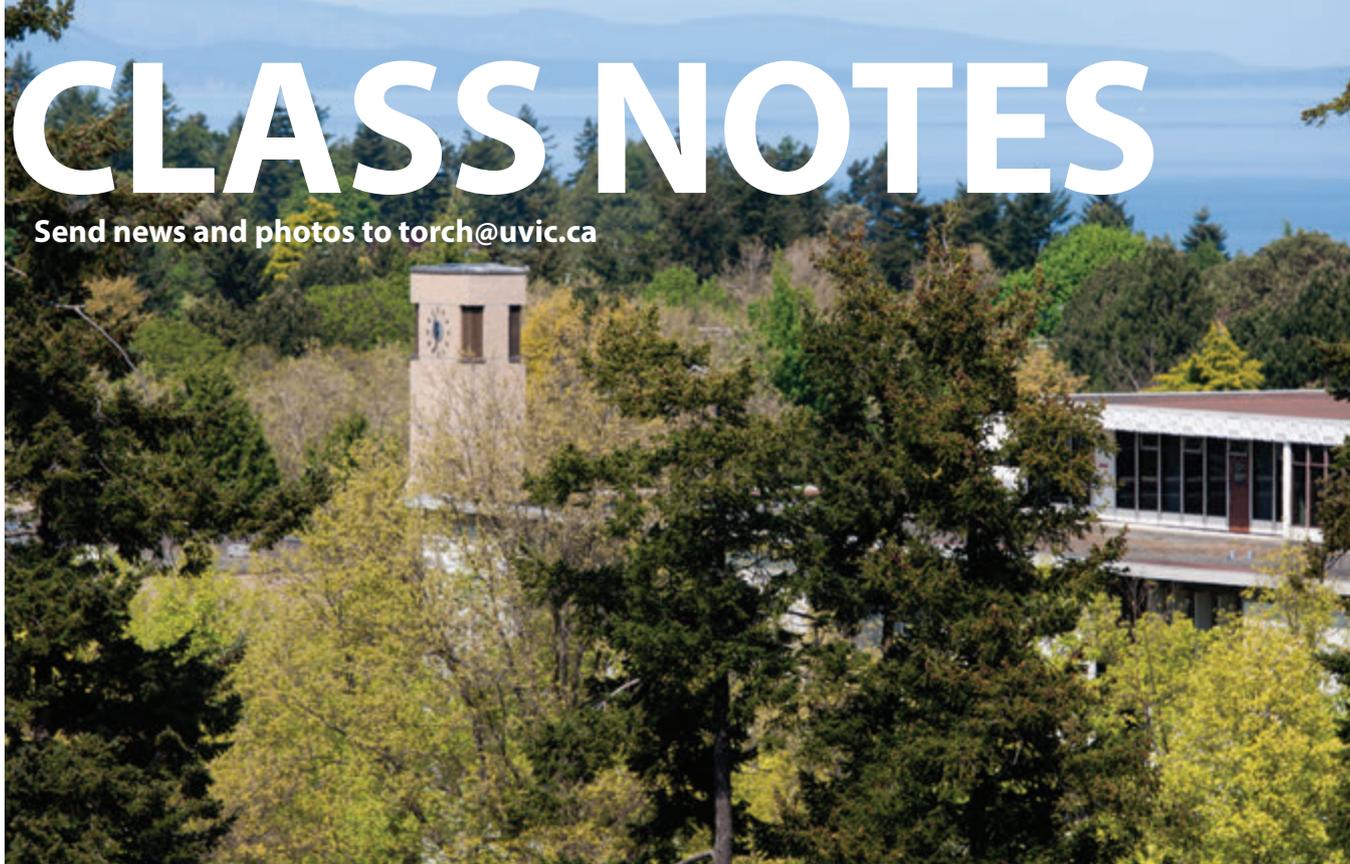
## SEPTEMBER

**Fall classes start**  
**September 9**  
All faculties

**Class of '65 Reunion**  
**September 19**  
University Club

# CLASS NOTES

Send news and photos to [torch@uvic.ca](mailto:torch@uvic.ca)



## 1960s & '70s

**MANDAYAM N. ANANDARAM**, PhD '74 (Physics), writes from Bengaluru, India: "After my retirement a few years ago from the faculty of Bangalore University, I got busy with personal research in computational astrophysics. These days are a golden age for computational research in utter contrast to the days when I did my PhD. Then, I used an IBM 370 — a Mainframe computer with a puny memory and we had to feed it our Fortran 66 programs, on individually punched Hollerith cards which used to make quite a bundle!"

honorary fellow at the University of Exeter. My monograph, *Apple of Discord: The Hungarian Factor in Austro-Serbian Relations 1867-1881*, was published by Purdue University Press in 2014, and I am currently working on a textbook history of twentieth-century Eastern Europe for Bloomsbury Academic Press."

**KATHRYN PATTEN**, BEd '79, has edited *Educational Neuroscience: Initiatives and Emerging Issues*. As the outreach coordinator of ENGRAMMETRON, the educational neuroscience laboratory at Simon Fraser University, she is also the director of the Neuro Emotional Literacy Program, her



**WILL SPARKS, '70**

**WILLIAM J.A. (WILL) SPARKS**, BA '70 (Political Science), reports: "I am now working not only as a lawyer but certified as a mediator and arbitrator in New York, including serving on federal and state court panels. I am continuing my *pro bono* legal work for the Nassau County Bar Association and was selected as a Champion of Justice for my work assisting home owners in the ongoing mortgage foreclosure crisis, representing them in state court and in monthly NCBA clinics. I am also active as a lawyer in not-for-profit corporations."

**DON STEVENS**, BSc '63 (Victoria College, Math/Zoology) retired from the University of Guelph in 2004 after teaching biology for

almost 30 years. He moved to PEI where he was "adopted" by the vet school as adjunct professor and continues to do research and work with graduate students in the general area of comparative physiology. A recent project was as associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Fish Physiology*.

## 1980s

**FREYA KRISTJANSON**, JD '87, has joined the Toronto firm of Wardle Daley Bernstein Bieber LLP where she is continuing her practice in administrative law and civil litigation. Freya and her husband Andrew live in Toronto, where they are the proud parents of 13-year-old Zahra, who plays trombone in a jazz band and is an aspiring Broadway singer. "Love to hear from UVIC classmates!"

**VAL LAWTON**, BA '86 (History), has illustrated her 30th children's book, *The Home Team: Calgary Flames*, endorsed by the National Hockey League. Other NHL team titles include the Pittsburgh Penguins, Toronto Maple Leafs, Winnipeg Jets, Chicago Blackhawks, and the New York Rangers.

**"These days are a golden age for computational research in utter contrast to the days when I did my PhD."**

MANDAYAM N. ANANDARAM, '74

**IAN D. ARMOUR**, BA '74 (History), "took early retirement in 2014 from Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, and settled in north Devon in the UK. I continue to do some part-time teaching as an

current research project. She conducts workshops for parents, foster care givers, teachers, and students, with a focus on recognizing and managing emotions.



IAN MACRAE, '88

**IAN MACRAE**, MSc '88 (Biology), is an entomologist at the University of Minnesota where he is perfecting the use of drones to scrutinize vast farm fields in order to find pockets of insect pests. Once they're detected, insecticides can be deployed in a targeted fashion instead of sprayed indiscriminately. "These devices will save farmers time, energy and money while decreasing pesticide inputs," MacRae explains. "We are minimizing chemical use and keeping crops healthier and safer."

**THOMAS MANSON**, LLB '80, is "teaching in Beijing at the University of International Business and Economics and Peking University. Serving as arbitrator on panels with China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, Xi'an Arbitration Commission, and the Chongqing Arbitration Commission."

**NANCY MOLLENHAUER**, BEd '89, is among the first four inductees into Field Hockey Canada's Hall of Fame. She had a successful career with the Vikings and the Canadian national team, representing Canada in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and the 1988 games in Seoul. She was the flag bearer for the Canadian team at the 1987 Pan-Am games in Indianapolis and captained the bronze medal-winning team. She was inducted into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame in the class of 2003.

## 1990s

**LESLIE D. BLAND**, MFA '99 (Theatre), has produced and directed the comedic documentary, *Gone South: How Canada Invented Hollywood*. It's billed as a funny and investigative look at



MARK REID, BMUS '03

## Instrumental Teaching

**We've all wondered what we'd do if we had a million dollars.** But School of Music alumnus Mark Reid got closer to that dream than most when he became one of 50 finalists for the \$1-million Global Teacher Prize.

One of only three Canadians to make the worldwide list, the 34-year-old Vancouver Technical Secondary School music teacher easily fits the prize's requirements of being a teacher "who has made an inspirational impact on their students and their community."

Yet the humble Reid doesn't take sole credit.

"The community I work in is full of very supportive colleagues, families, administrators and kids who are really excited about something that's so community driven," he says. "There are very few teachers who get to study and work in the classroom in such an engaged manner."

In addition to leading Van Tech's band, choir, symphony orchestra and theatre classes, Reid teaches orchestra at the Saint James Music Academy, an after-school orchestra program for vulnerable kids.

Winner of the 2013 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year award and past-president of the BC Music Educators' Association, Reid is currently the president of the Canadian Music Educators' Association and serves on the ministry of education arts curriculum development team.

Obviously, he thinks about music a lot, as well as its role in the education system. "We're really doing something unique in terms of the learning experience here. We give our kids an opportunity to not only grow as individuals but also grow in their own instrument section and as an ensemble."

Reid sees music — and arts education in general — as an essential part of any curriculum.

"We want scientists and technicians and engineers who can find creative, collaborative solutions to problems," he says. "If the goal of our education system is to prepare a comprehensive, educated citizen, then they should have some experience going through the creative process, understanding how to select the right strategies and refine them without a sense of failure."

— JOHN THRELFALL, BA '96

the long history and major influence Canadians have had on the development of American pop culture. It features exclusive celebrity interviews and classic archival images from the very beginnings of Hollywood right through to the present day. The lineup includes actor **ERIN KARPLUK**, BFA '00 (Theatre). (Corrects a version that appeared in the Autumn 2014 Torch.)

**YVONNE BLOMER**, BA '95 (Linguistics/Anthropology), has been appointed City of Victoria Poet Laureate. The Zimbabwe-born Blomer has published three poetry collections, including her latest, *As if a Raven* (2014). During each year of her four-year term, the poet laureate writes three works that reflect ideas and issues of importance to the people of Victoria. Blomer will give readings at official city events, council meetings and the annual Victoria Book Prize awards gala.

**ANDREW MACLEOD**, BA '96 (English), released *A Better Place on Earth: The Search for Fairness in Super Unequal British Columbia* this spring from Harbour Publishing. In it, he explores consequences and potential solutions to income inequality in BC, where the "top 10 percent in BC hold 56.2 percent of the wealth, a greater share than anywhere else in Canada." He is also the legislative bureau chief for the *TheTye.ca* website.



**"The top 10 percent in BC hold 56.2 percent of the wealth, a greater share than anywhere else in Canada."**

.....  
ANDREW MACLEOD, '96



**ANNITA MCPHEE**, BSW '95 and LLB '99, earned Ecotrust's Indigenous Leadership Award for her work in the advancing the economic prosperity of her Tahltan Nation people while protecting their lands and way of life in northwestern BC. Annita has negotiated agreements with industry and the BC government on revenue sharing and shared decision making, and helped to permanently protect the Sacred Headwaters region from resource development.

**THOMAS MADDEN**, BA '97 (Geography), was recently appointed director of economic development for the city of Stamford, Connecticut.

**DUANE SEIBEL**, MA '96 (Human and Social Development), is the new director of student affairs and services at Douglas College following 23 years in various posts in the BC post-secondary system. He has presented widely on the topics of harassment and discrimination in higher education and other environments, civility in the workplace, and the challenges and appropriate use of social media.

al video to expand the certification to other cities.

**DAGMAR ROTHWELL**, BA '03 (English), has an update from the North Okanagan: "Just a quick note to say how much I have been so moved by the concerned responses from former classmates after our note in the last issue about the challenges Lex and I have been facing over the past year or so. Thank you all! I'm happy to report that we're doing much better. Lex is playing guitar again and has even begun performing regularly at one of the seniors' residences here in town. It

school districts 61, 62, and 63 about the Métis Nation, its history and culture. I have also returned to teach Indigenous education to pre-service teachers in the Faculty of Education."

**"After retiring in 2009, my husband and I researched our genealogy and discovered we are both Métis."**

S. FERN PERKINS



**BRUNO N. ST-PIERRE**, MBA '96, last December crossed the Honolulu Marathon finish line and crossed a big to-do off his bucket list: running a marathon in every Canadian province and US state before his 50th birthday (he completed his challenge almost five years earlier than expected). A project management specialist, Bruno is used to planning and executing projects, but this particular one was dear to him since it started in 2003 after he underwent surgery to remove a spinal cord tumor. He plans to run his 120th marathon at the 120th Boston Marathon in 2016.

## 2000s

**JILL DOUCETTE**, BCom '09, (Biology) picked up a renewal grant from the Co-operators Foundation — IMPACT! Fund for her Vancouver Island Green Business Certification program. It offers affordable certification in both environmental and social sustainability for small businesses. The funding will be used to update the website, provide new workshops, and film a promotion-

keeps him on his (nine remaining) toes. As for me, with the llama/alpaca debacle behind us, I've been able to turn my attention to a new book project. I'll just say that there was a lot more to Armstrong's 1979 thrift store scandal than you might think!"

**S. FERN PERKINS**, MED '06, writes: "After retiring in 2009, my husband and I researched our genealogy and discovered we are both Métis, making up one-third of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. We now teach grades 4 – 12 in

**JENNIFER ROBERTSON**, BA '08 (Psychology), sends this: "Togeth-



JENNIFER ROBERTSON, '08

er, with Dr. Julian Barling, I have co-edited a new book, *The Psychology of Green Organizations* (Oxford University Press). The book reviews leading research in different areas of organizational environmental sustainability and consolidates available knowledge on employees' contributions to corporate environmental initiatives, stimulates future empirical research on this topic, and provides recommendations for how organizations can improve their environmental performance through their employees."

**ALISHA SEVIGNY**, BA '02, is a writer based in Toronto: "Hi there! Just wanted to share that I minored in the Professional Writing program (majored in Sociology) and just had my first novel published, *Kissing Frogs*. **AARON UNTERMAN**, LLB '06, and I met while I was working at the law school and we have two beautiful children: Aira (3) and Nolan (6 months)."



ALISHA SEVIGNY, '02

### DID YOU KNOW LOUISE?

The family of **ELOISE ROADS HARRISON WILSON**, who passed away last December in Nanaimo, would love to hear from anyone who knows anything about Louise's art or her book, *The Judge's Wife*. "Louise didn't like to talk about herself much and we only knew her as family for the past five years," says Phil Harrison. "We have her paintings and some of her writings and would love to fill in the blanks. Such an interesting life should not be forgotten." Wilson came from a family of BC judges and lawyers. After obtaining her law degree, she received a UVic degree in Visual Arts and Art History. Contact Phil and Helen Harrison at phab@shaw.ca. 📍

# Dorm Daze

Returning to the residences after 30 years.

BY KEITH NORBURY, BA '85

Things could get pretty cheesy with students living on the ground floor of the Haig-Brown residence in 1984-85. A group of peckish floor mates sallied forth and infiltrated a nearby pub. One of them, Brian Walker, BA '86, ordered a cheese plate and seized the moment to recite Monty Python's famous cheese shop sketch.

At other times, Walker and fellow floor mate Neil Stubbs, MA '92, would rattle off lines from the sketch in the Commons cafeteria. "We'd just go back and forth and reconstruct the entire thing," Stubbs says. "We had a good chemistry going. I think it bored the hell out of everything else."

"No, it was hilarious," says Kristin (Meyers) Ross, BA '87. "I never laughed so much in my life."

Walker, Stubbs and Ross plan to gather former floor mates from their old haunts this July to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their year on 1st-C, as the floor was known.

A recent return to the old dorms brought back a lot of memories. Ross hadn't stepped inside the building since she was a student. "It seems small," she says, wandering down to what was then the women's wing of the floor.

Ross was 21, homesick, and very much an introvert when she first arrived. It took her about a week to work up the courage to go to the cafeteria, seek out someone she had seen in passing on her floor, and strike up a conversation.

"It was just really easy to meet people on the floor," recalls Ross, now a program leader and instructor of mental health and addictions programs at Camosun College. "It was such a good, welcoming, friendly group."

Among the floormates she met was Roberta (Ross) MacDonald.

"I know that they would often go for meals together," MacDonald said. "That wasn't necessarily something that always happened but it happened with us."

First-C is much as it was back in the day. The laminated counters and tiled floors of the men's washroom look as they did in the mid-'80s. "This was one of those gathering points for the guys in the morning," says Stubbs, who returned to Victoria after a career as an English instructor at several colleges and universities in western Canada. "You'd stumble in here, brush your teeth and talk about the night before."

By all accounts Walker (his former surname was Kostiuk) was the jester of the floor — even if at age 26 he was among the more



Hawaiian night on 1st-C:  
Tom Weegar and  
Brian (Kostiuk) Walker

"mature" students. Anyone could be the brunt of his jokes, including the floor's residence advisor.

That year, the RA was Tom Weegar, BA '87, now president of Cumberland College in Saskatchewan. Weegar used to enjoy playing a cheesy hit of the period, a cover of Irving Berlin's "Puttin' on the Ritz" by the Dutch singer Taco. Walker hated the song and once, accompanied by a few other floormates, broke the record over his knee.

Weegar was shocked. "I said, You owe me a new record! And meanwhile everybody else is laughing — he had replaced the record with a fake one" before breaking it.

MacDonald and several others once moved all of the RA's belongings to a different room. Another time, they placed a water-filled condom in his bed.

"We were always playing jokes on him and he was pretty good natured about the whole thing," says MacDonald, who also pursued a career in education and is now principal of Elizabeth Buckley School, an independent elementary in Victoria.

Weegar also got in on the fun when he donned a white shirt stained with ketchup and mustard, and smeared Kraft Roka blue cheese spread in his armpits for an inter-residence Family Feud competition.

"We wanted to make a dramatic entrance," Stubbs says, recalling that they stole the spotlight from the talented theatre student who played the part of Richard Dawson, the TV show's host.

They won with the best answers to questions about residence life, such as naming the top 10 foods in the cafeteria. ("The answer is...Cheese!")

Their trivia skills probably had something to do with being serious about their studies. The jokester Walker points out that he graduated with distinction. "Even if we pulled all-nighters," he says, "it was good quality stuff."

*Anyone wishing more information about the reunion of 1st-C Haig-Brown floor mates of 1984-85 can contact Neil Stubbs at [stubbsn@gmail.com](mailto:stubbsn@gmail.com) or 250-507-7126.*



TED HARRISON (1926-2015)

## Artist, Author, Educator and Northern Ambassador

**EVEN THOUGH TED HARRISON** was honoured with the Order of Canada and the Order of BC, he remained very much the miner's son. Born in the Wingate, County Durham, he traveled broadly, teaching in Malaysia and New Zealand before emigrating to Canada in 1967. After a year in northern Alberta, he moved to the Yukon where he taught school and when not in the classroom, defined a style of painting that swirls with stunning colours and everyday

themes. In 1993, he left the Yukon for Victoria, where he lived until his death.

Harrison's relationship with the University of Victoria ranged from inspiring student educators to giving two murals that once graced the walls of his Victoria home. Today they hang in the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building. In 1998, the university honoured his contributions to the arts with Doctorate of Fine Arts, one of four honorary degrees he received from universities in BC and Alberta.

Motivated by an unceasing need to express joy and happiness in great, cheery splashes of paint, shaped by a loving family, supported by his wife Nicky, and nurtured by a caring community in the rugged environment of the Yukon, Harrison shared the joys of his "perfect world."

His paintings glow with pirouettes of colour, music, and joy. Land and sky swirl and spiral and ripple across each canvas. The magic of his work is revealed not only in his extraordinary artistic vision of the North, but also in how it makes us feel. A keen ear will hear in his work the music of the land. A keen eye will discern his philosophies: that organized religion may not always reflect the needs of society; children and little dogs should be cherished; women, especially those who raise families on their own, are deserving of the highest respect; and that Indigenous people have much to teach us.

The world he painted tells us — and Harrison lived this — that life is coloured by attitude and perception.

Weeks before he died on January 16 of this year, he received with delight the news that *A Brush Full of Colour* (Pajama Press), the story of his life adapted from his biography for young readers, had been released. In his foreword, he wrote: "Develop your own style and keep it honest and true to who you are. Find inspiration in the world around you and you will make the world a happier and more creative place."

— SUBMITTED BY KATHERINE GIBSON MED '90  
AUTHOR AND BIOGRAPHER OF TED HARRISON

KATHERINE GIBSON PHOTO

## Farewell

**JIM BRAMLEY**, Victoria College '44, died Feb. 24, 2015 at the age of 90. After VC, he was in active service in the tank corps at Camp Borden and then completed his commerce degree at UBC and became a chartered professional accountant. Joining the City of Victoria in 1955, he held the positions of deputy director of finance, director of finance and city manager from 1973 until his retirement in 1988. He served on the boards of a number of organizations that were dear to his heart, including the Victoria College Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association.

**MARGARET SWEENEY** (née Ross), Victoria College '35, passed away Oct. 24, 2014 at the age of 98. She graduated from Victoria College during the Craigdarroch Castle era. She was a fourth generation Victorian and was a direct

descendant of Charles and Isabella Ross, one of Victoria's pioneering families. She was a member of Native Daughter's of Victoria and proud to live her whole life in Victoria.



**RONNIE WILSON**, Victoria College '46, died July 17, 2014 in Hampshire, England at the age of 84. An acclaimed British television director, he was credited with giving Daniel Day-Lewis and Jeremy Irons their first acting breaks. According to *The Telegraph*, the productions of

which he was most proud were *Frost in May* (from the Antonia White book) and an adaptation of Alice Munro's *Lives of Girls and Women*. †

**"He was credited with giving Daniel Day-Lewis and Jeremy Irons their first acting breaks."**

— ON THE LIFE OF RONNIE WILSON, '46

[torch@uvic.ca](mailto:torch@uvic.ca)

# What's New?

New job? New town? New chapter in your life? You send it, we print it in Keeping in Touch and your UVic contacts stay in the loop. **Easy.**

**Do it by e-mail:** send your update to [torch@uvic.ca](mailto:torch@uvic.ca). Include your name, degree and grad year. If you've moved, send us your new address.

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

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

**POST:** UVic Torch Alumni Magazine,  
PO Box 1700, STN CSC,  
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

**WEB:** [uvic.ca/torch](http://uvic.ca/torch)

**E-MAIL:** [torch@uvic.ca](mailto:torch@uvic.ca)

# #LetsBeSocial



It's easy to stay connected.  
News, announcements and event invitations are just a few clicks away.  
Join the conversation!



[alumni.uvic.ca](http://alumni.uvic.ca)



# Save with pride when you show your



## Use it for savings from...

- Cinecenta
- Hot House Pizza
- IMAX Victoria
- Menchies Frozen Yogurt
- Monk Office
- Optics International
- Royal BC Museum
- Softmoc Shoes
- University Centre Farquhar Auditorium
- UVic Athletics and Recreation
- UVic Bookstore
- UVic Food Services
- and more...

Show your Alumni ONECard and **save 20%** off room rates and function space rentals.



See the full list of 48 card partners at [alumni.uvic.ca](http://alumni.uvic.ca)

Pick up your lifetime UVic Alumni ONECard for \$20 from the ONECard Office in University Centre. Bring your student number and one piece of government issued photo ID with you. If you live outside of Victoria, email [onecard@uvic.ca](mailto:onecard@uvic.ca) for more information. Get updates on the UVic ONECard and additional campus ONECard perks coming soon at [uvic.ca/onecard](http://uvic.ca/onecard)



# Second Act

Returning to campus to teach means getting in on professorial secrets. Doesn't it?

BY MARK LEIREN-YOUNG, BFA '85



The day I was invited back to the university as the 2014-2015 Harvey S. Southam Lecturer in Writing, I told my friend and fellow UVic grad Art Norris and he started singing the theme from *Welcome Back Kotter*. I laughed and thought, "I have to share that with my class" — until I realized none of my students was likely going to be old enough to remember John Travolta in *Pulp Fiction*, never mind his role in Gabe Kaplan's TV high school.

I was returning to my alma mater just shy of 30 years after wearing the cap and gown. And this meant one thing: it was time to discover the secret life of university professors.

When I was a student I knew there had to be a secret room where professors gathered to plot our fates and coordinate their schedules to insure that all assignments were due the same week and, if possible, on the same day.

But the closest I've found to a secret room for the Writing department is a tiny kitchen next to the secretary's office that barely fits the microwave, toaster and coffee pot. I visited the Phoenix Theatre and couldn't find the secret lounge there either.

I also couldn't find anything else on campus. Since I'm a grad everyone assumed I'd know my way around, but as a double major in Theatre and Writing I visited exactly five buildings as a student — the Phoenix, Clearihue, the library, the bookstore and the pub.

I had almost no idea what was inside Ring Road. When I discovered my classroom was in the circle I panicked — until I realized that while I can't find my way to the David Strong Building, Google Maps can.

Then one of my former profs invited me to the University Club and I braced to discover the secret society. I envisioned the Legion of Super Heroes silo, or at least Avenger's Mansion.

I was shocked to discover that not only was there no secret gym, Jacuzzi or even a cool TV room with bean bag chairs and video games, but professors had to pay for their food. It didn't look like a secret clubhouse at all. It looked like a Keg restaurant.

And when I scoped the room I thought...hmm...when I was a student the faculty members were definitely older or, at the very least, older than me.

The most debauched thing about the club was a pool table, which is only debauched if you still worry that Trouble in River City starts with a capital P that stands for pool.

Speaking of that capital P, I visited the security building to ask about instructor parking. The officials stared at me blankly. Clearly I did not know the safe word,

which meant I would be buying a parking pass and scrambling for the same spaces I had as an undergrad.

I waited for fellow faculty members to conspire with me about reading lists and deadlines. It still hasn't happened. And I'm still waiting for someone to show me "the permanent record" I was always being warned about.

The biggest shock was discovering that marking papers took more time than writing them.

Thankfully, there was one thing I learned as a student that saved me. Secretaries know everything. In my student days, the only way I was able to complete a double major was because the Theatre secretary, Kathy Turner, understood my schedule better than I did. Coming back, Valerie

Tenning, the Writing secretary, knew where my office was and when I was allowed to use it, how to input grades and how I got paid.

When one of my students said the word, "professor" I turned to see who he was talking to. After I realized he was talking to me I suspected I was being mocked. But when I asked Valerie what my status was she informed me that I was, indeed, a professor.

Although that lesson didn't quite stick. A few weeks later I was on a flight marking essays and the woman in the seat next to me smiled and asked, "are you a teacher" and I immediately replied with, "no I'm a... um...sort of." Yes, words are my life.

After a full term I have two things to say to all my former profs — apologies for any grief I caused you and can you please tell me where they hide the parking? †

**"The biggest shock was discovering that marking papers took more time than writing them."**

Mark Leiren-Young won the Leacock Medal for Humour for his memoir *Never Shoot a Stampede Queen* — a look at his misadventures as a reporter just after graduating from UVic.

**TD Insurance**  
Meloche Monnex

Chart the best course for your life in the years ahead.

Start with **preferred insurance rates.**

**On average, alumni  
who have home and auto  
insurance with us  
save \$725.\***

Supporting you...  
and University of Victoria.

Your needs will change as your life and career evolve. As a **UVic Alumni Association** member, you have access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program, which offers preferred insurance rates, other discounts and great protection, that is easily adapted to your changing needs. Plus, every year our program contributes to supporting your alumni association, so it's a great way to save and show you care at the same time. **Get a quote today!**

**Our extended business hours make it easy.**  
**Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Home and auto insurance program recommended by



HOME | AUTO

Ask for your quote today at 1-888-589-5656  
or visit [melochemonnex.com/uvic](http://melochemonnex.com/uvic)



Average based on the home and auto premiums for active policies on July 31, 2014 of our Alberta clients who belong to a professional or alumni group that has an agreement with us when compared to the premiums they would have paid with the same insurer without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile.

Due to provincial legislation, our auto and recreational vehicle insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

\*Average based on the home and auto premiums for active policies on July 31, 2014 of our Alberta clients who belong to a professional or alumni group that has an agreement with us when compared to the premiums they would have paid with the same insurer without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile.

© The TD logo and other TD trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

## Of Scuba and Scallops

Along the Victoria waterfront, near Ogden Point and in 20 metres of water, resides this swimming scallop. The image is courtesy of Mitch LaRue, president of the UVic Scuba Club. He notes the creature uses its 60 (!) eyes to sense light and dark while moving around by quickly opening and closing its jaws. The things you'll see under the sea.



Alumni House  
Ian Stewart Complex  
3964 Gordon Head Road  
Victoria BC V8N 3X3