PROJECT: DISCOVERY
Research and the Undergrad
Sanctuary

“Whenever I am stressed with school work, I like to escape to Finnerty Gardens for a moment to relax,” says Lawrence Wong, a student in the Secondary Education Post-Degree Professional Program. Wong set out to capture the “peaceful...visual feast” of the gardens and used the Orton technique (layering two slide transparencies) to produce the picture’s fuzzy, dream-like effect.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAWRENCE WONG, BA ’01
Mark Brown
Founder of
Northern Trailer

I feel it is important that we tell the world that Kamloops, British Columbia is where opportunity is awaiting. My story is proof of it.

Northern Trailer provides building solutions with custom manufactured workforce facilities. Entrepreneur Mark Brown believes that a large part of his company’s success can be contributed to the readily available resources in Kamloops.

For Mark’s LIVE interview on the benefits of doing business in Kamloops, visit: VENTUREKAMLOOPS.COM 1-888-526-5667

or follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/venturekamloops
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He arrived in the fall of 1978, a gangly freshman with a bowl cut. The Vikes basketball team had yet to win a national championship. That would soon change.
BY TOM HAWTHORN

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Food security: the consequence of our meal choices.
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Talk about high achievers. These students take undergraduate studies to a whole other level.
BY KEITH NORBURY, BA ’85

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Über organizer Rachel Lewis, BA ’96, talks soccer and her role as the business strategist for the Vancouver Whitecaps.
INTERVIEWED BY MIGUEL STROTHER, BA ’01

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His legend spans from the conservative dawn of the 1960s at Victoria College to the troubled political and cultural landscape of 1968.
BY GRANT KERR

Cover illustration by Sam Shoichet, BFA ’96
The Age of Discovery
It’s getting a little younger.

It’s one thing to plan for grad school. It’s another thing to actually learn research skills before you’ve finished your bachelor’s degree. With a new program designed to involve undergrads in the research process, a growing number of them are doing just that — they’re getting a jump on research. The results are often remarkable.

And so on another one of this season’s rained-out early spring days, many of these emerging researchers took their seats inside the Cinecenta theatre. They had converged during that tense period around the end of classes and the start of final exams. But neither the weather nor the stress seemed to bother anyone.

They had gathered to take stock of the past year and to hear about academic work that went above and beyond the typical undergraduate course load and assignments. Later, outside the Cinecenta, they would host poster displays and talk enthusiastically about their projects and their new knowledge.

These third- and fourth-year students represented virtually every corner of campus, almost every discipline in the course calendar. What they shared in common was that they had been inspired by curiosity, the pursuit of knowledge and the possibility of discovery.

They had embarked on their research initiatives back in the fall, at the start of the school year. Each of them had conducted their explorations under the guidance of a faculty member. They had set objectives — sometimes got sidetracked by other possibilities for investigation — and found ways to re-focus and keep their schedules on track.

In this way they became more than undergraduate students at a research university. They became active participants in the process. They followed their interests. Reached conclusions. And in many cases gained the experience that will help to take them to the next stages of their academic and working lives.

Next year the program will expand to include more than 100 undergrads and will be known as the Jamie Cassels Research Awards. The title is a tribute to the former vice-president academic and provost who came up with the undergrad research concept. It arose from his vision for greater interaction between research faculty and undergrads, while offering a form of financial aid. Each student receives a $1,500 stipend.

Starting on page 22, we invite you to get to know six of the students from this year’s group of 78 young researchers. They’ve just discovered something and they would love to tell you about it.

MIKE MCNENY, EDITOR
mmcneney@uvic.ca
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University of Victoria
Future Talk

Strategic planning sparks discussion about the university’s priorities.

BY DAVID H. TURPIN
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

FEW HAVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OR APPRECIATION FOR THE life of the University of Victoria than our alumni. You share years of interactions with professors, lecturers, instructors, staff, and fellow students. You have been immersed in the unique academic environment that our university offers. You have a lifelong connection to the intellectual challenges and growth that defined your university years. And you are among the university’s best ambassadors.

Based on that experience — multiplied by the nearly 100,000 individuals who have graduated from UVic since its inception in 1963 — alumni have contributed thoughts, insights, and understanding of UVic. As we evaluate the university’s goals and priorities for the immediate future, I appreciate your suggestions on the best ways for our university to continue to provide an outstanding, comprehensive range of arts, sciences and professional programs.

Our current strategic plan was adopted in 2007. It has been incredibly useful in helping us define the direction of the university over the intervening years. Now it’s time to take stock of what we’ve accomplished as an institution, the challenges that face us going forward, and the opportunities that may present themselves.

In recent years our efforts have been focused on solidifying UVic as a university of choice for outstanding students, faculty and staff from British Columbia, Canada and around the world. Along the way, we have identified that features that make UVic stand out. For example, more than 70 per cent of our students come from outside our immediate region. We attract a greater proportion of out-of-province students than any other Canadian university west of McGill. As a “destination” university we’ve moved to guarantee first-year students a place in campus housing and we continue to expand residence capacity to address the increased demand.

The depth of our research expertise is strong and we take pride in the many prestigious awards received by our faculty members across the disciplines.

UVic continues to be well known for our Co-operative Education program — one of the largest in the country — along with other hands-on learning opportunities that strengthen the learning experience.

The participation rate among our Aboriginal students has grown tremendously, and we’ve seen the successful completion of the First Peoples House in the heart of campus.

Our emphasis on civic engagement enriches education and research and aims to make a difference in the life of our communities through co-op placements, community-based research or community involvement.

AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, we now find ourselves in a very different operating environment than in 2007. The importance and recognition of higher education and research is growing, with countries around the world expanding and changing their approaches to post-secondary education.

In terms of demographics, projections show that the traditional university-age population will be decreasing over the coming years. At the same time, the under-25 age group in the Aboriginal population is growing and constitutes almost half the population. The youth population among new Canadians is also increasing.

Combine these forces with the recent economic downturn, public debt and deficits, and increasing healthcare costs and it becomes clear that our university will be operating in an environment that contains some challenges and likely significant resource constraints.

As a consequence, we are asking a number of key questions. Is UVic the right size? How can we continue to recruit exceptional students in an ever more competitive environment? What are the best ways to continue to support research endeavours across the disciplines?

Over the summer, we will be drafting a new Strategic Plan based on the input received and on our strategic focus on quality and excellence. Again, I will be inviting all members of our alumni community, from their unique and valued perspective, to provide feedback on the draft.

Your views will help shape the renewed strategic plan that will be presented to the Senate and Board of Governors early next year and prior to the university’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2012-13.
It was early Friday morning when I heard about the news. As I was entering a computer room, my friends rushed to ask me if my family was okay. Feeling puzzled, I hesitated and replied, “Yeah?” They told me an earthquake hit Japan. They showed me a clip of a big tsunami. I froze. I felt numb. My mind went blank. I saw a map with tsunami warnings spread along the Pacific side of the main island, including where my family lives. My heart was pounding. I tried to gather information but I was having a cognitive traffic jam. Everything that came into my brain just slipped from me. I slowly discovered the earthquake hit northeast Japan — not where my family lives. I knew they would be safe. But seeing the tsunami engulfing houses, I lost words. I felt tears brimming in my eyes. I could not hold them back.

A few days later, I received an email from my friend Haruka in Ibaragi prefecture. She told me that she and her family were safe, although they had no water and were getting aftershocks every 5 to 10 minutes. Weeks later, she said the aftershocks were down to six or seven times a day. The roof of her house and fences were completely destroyed, and they don’t know when they will be fixed. I lost my words, again.

My friend, Yoko, in Iwate prefecture, said her family and relatives were missing after the earthquake. Several days later, she found them all except her grandma, who is still missing.

For the first week, every time I heard an earthquake warning on TV, all I could do was pray for the safety of my family and friends. I felt powerless, and my heart was wrenched. I also felt strange and hazy, since everything was normal here. I could have water when I wanted. I could turn the light on when I flicked the switch. There was food in my fridge. These things felt unreal.

Then, when the nuclear plant fell into a dangerous condition, I was worried about my friends in Tokyo and a friend’s family in Fukushima. I was trying to concentrate on my work, but my mind was somewhere else. Many of my friends in Canada felt the same way. Some felt guilty for being away from their family, and some couldn’t sleep. Many looked for something they could do to help.

Several days later, it just came to me that what I could do was to appreciate what I have. Seeing towns wiped out by the powerful tsunami and hearing news about survivors who lost everything in a matter of minutes, I realized how I have been taking a normal life for granted. Natural disasters don’t choose people. Whether you are politician or fisherman, rich or poor, adult or child, they take your life away equally. Then, I truly appreciated what I have from the bottom of my heart.

As I write, they are still getting many aftershocks, including big ones. Because of nuclear contamination, when people hear that products are from Fukushima, they don’t buy them, even if they’re safe. The news reported a farmer committed suicide after the government took his cabbages off the market because of radiation. Fishermen were devastated when they lost boats. These people, many of whom are above 60 years old, may not be able to re-start. Starting over is not easy — physically, psychologically, or financially.

Yet people there are supporting each other. Those whose house survived the tsunami are offering their neighbours food and shelter. Survivors are delivering food and necessities to other survivors in an isolated area. They are trying to stand on their feet. They are slowly recovering. Even though they lost homes, jobs, and loved ones, they are trying to be appreciative for what they have left.

The thing that I’m hopeful for is people’s supportiveness — within the affected area, within the country, as well as outside Japan. Then, I think where there is support, there will be recovery.

Donate:
Consulate General of Japan: www.vancouver.ca.emb-japan.go.jp
Canadian Red Cross: redcross.ca
“These slides reflect both the dream of world travel and the nightmare of nuclear confrontation,” write Public Administration Prof. John Langford and his sister Martha Langford, an art historian at Concordia University in their book, *A Cold War Tourist and His Camera*.

The focus is on the roughly 200 slides taken by their dad, Warren Langford while he was enrolled in National Defence College in 1962–63. The lone federal civil servant among a class full of defense and foreign affairs types, Langford took up photography when he travelled with his classmates to Northern Canada, the US, Africa and Europe as part of their Cold War response training. The result is an insightful, personal combination of iconic Cold War images and amateur photography.

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**Helping Honduras**

“WHAT DID YOU DO FOR READING BREAK?” IT WAS A FAMILIAR QUESTION around campus in February. For Tribesty Nguyen, Sara Tabet, and 32 other students involved in the UVic chapter of Global Brigades, reading break meant bringing medical and dental help to about 1,000 people in impoverished rural Honduras.

They spent much of their week packaging and distributing the $12,000 of medical supplies that they had purchased and brought from Victoria. “We confiscated everyone’s luggage to pack medicine,” Nguyen says. “So everyone was only allowed to bring a carry-on for their personal items.”

In the clinics, the students — joined by two nurses and three doctors from Victoria — organized health assessments and offered treatment while dentists hired in Honduras performed cleanings, fillings, and extractions.

Months of fundraising efforts precede the annual trip. Formed in 2007, UVic’s was the first Canadian university chapter of the US-based Global Brigades, which includes nine program areas and bills itself the world’s largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization.

Tabet, who speaks Spanish, helped to lead dental hygiene clinics. “It was actually shocking how much people reacted, and didn’t know what floss was,” she says. “And one gentleman, I gave him a toothbrush and he wasn’t sure what that was.”

Students also travelled to the remote coffee-growing community of Zurzurlar to help build sanitation facilities for a family. “If somebody has a toothache forever and then you come and take it away, it’s pretty magical,” Tabet says. “But it’s also kind of nice leaving behind a stove or a bathroom, things that they can use daily.”

— **KAT ESCHNER**
Skywatchers: Astronomer Russ Robb and fourth-year Astronomy student Matt Taylor beside the new As students, brothers Ryan Robertson, BEng, ’03 and Bryson Robertson, BEng, ’05, with their friend Hugh Patterson, BEng, ’05, often surfed Vancouver Island’s west coast. They loved the waves, but they were alarmed by the amount of plastic garbage they found along the beaches.

So in 2002, they made a pact that five years later, no matter what else they were doing with their lives, they would put it all on hold to sail around the world. The journey turned into a quest to catalogue the extent of polluted coastlines. They called it the OceanGybe Expedition.

In sailing, “gybe” is a difficult maneuver in which the stern is pulled around to change a sailboat’s direction without losing power. It became the trio’s metaphor for stemming the tide of plastic pollution. “What we need to do is not an abrupt turn all the way around,” Bryson says. “But we need to just shift a bit and move it in a more sustainable direction.”

The Robertson brothers grew up in South Africa and came to Canada as teenagers, finishing high school in North Vancouver. “We grew up living on the beach in South Africa and the closest thing we could find to it was UVic,” Bryson says.

Plastic Beaches

Distinguished alumni awards were presented to graduates of nine faculties and two divisions at a special event during Alumni Week in February. Page 36 has more Alumni Week photos:

Elton Pereira, BCom ’98 Co-founder, ParetoLogic software Peter B. Gustavson School of Business

Barbara Wilson Kil’iljus, Dipl ’99 Cultural resource specialist Division of Continuing Studies

Robert (Bob) Young, Victoria College ’48 Leading physician Division of Medical Sciences

Bronwyn Taylor, MEd ’95 Educator Faculty of Education

Gerry Douglas, BSc ’95 Founder, Baobab Health Trust Faculty of Engineering

Paul Beauchesne, BMus ’88 Musician Faculty of Fine Arts

Charlayne Thornton-Joe, BA ’83 Community leader Faculty of Humanities

Lynn Stevenson, PhD ’03 Executive Vice-President and Chief Nurse, Vancouver Island Health Authority Faculty of Human and Social Development

Sharon McIvor, LLB ’86 Legal scholar and activist Faculty of Law

Robert Young, BSc ’67 Pharmaceutical scientist Faculty of Science

Chris Fibiger, BSc ’66 Neurological scientist Faculty of Social Sciences
Chancellor Murray Farmer, BA ’68, has been reappointed and will remain at the position through Dec. 31, 2014. “It’s very gratifying to have the trust of the university community in my current role,” Farmer says. “I look forward very much to my second term and to serving UVic as chancellor during its 50th anniversary year.”

Amendments to the provincial University Act allow university boards of governors to appoint a chancellor based on a nomination by a university’s alumni association and after consultation with the university senate. Previously, chancellors were elected to the position.

Since 2009, Farmer has presided over the graduation of more than 8,000 alumni. “Convocation is sometimes long and people ask me, how do you do it? All those students. But it’s a wonderful experience,” Farmer says. “All I have to do is crack a smile and most of them just beam. It’s their day and it’s a privilege to be part of it.”

Four seats on the UVic Senate are to be elected by members of convocation, with a webvote this spring (see page 18 for details).

— KEITH NORBURY, BA ‘85

BRIEFLY...

Dr. Reeta Tremblay is the university’s new Vice-President Academic and Provost. In January she succeeded Prof. Jamie Cassels, who had served in the role since 2001. She had previously been vice-president academic and pro vice-chancellor pro tempore at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Born and raised in India, Tremblay earned her PhD in political science from the University of Chicago. She is highly regarded for her research on the secessionist movement of Kashmir and Indian federalism.

The Peter B. Gustavson School of Business awarded its 2011 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award to cable TV pioneer JR Shaw. Beginning as Capital Cable Television in 1966, Shaw Communications became one of the country’s largest media and communications companies with 13,300 employees and 3.4 million customers. The DEYA annually acknowledges an inspirational entrepreneur who has made a significant and positive impact through his or her business leadership.

The Quadra Island-based Tula Foundation has granted $2.75 million to UVic Law, renewing its support of the faculty’s Environmental Law Centre while aiding a new environmental law and sustainability program.

The BC Psychology Association has introduced the Catherine Mateer Scientist-Practioner Award. It honours the UVic clinical neuropsychology professor’s groundbreaking work with the survivors of head trauma.

The first students in the new School of Public Health and Social Policy start classes in September. The school offers a Graduate Diploma and Master of Public Health and an undergraduate degree in Health and Community Services. An undergraduate Diploma in Aboriginal Health Leadership awaits final approval. Students will get an in-depth knowledge of health determinants. They’ll take part in community-based professional practice. And they’ll use research strategies that promote health and social justice.

Live from UVic, it’s spring convocation: watch graduation ceremonies online and as they happen, June 14-17. Go to uvic.ca/resources/convocation for links and schedule information.
The last place you’d expect to find the origins of an internationally acclaimed string quartet would be in a fast food joint. But that’s exactly where it all began for the Lafayette String Quartet in 1986. “We were all in a chamber orchestra in Detroit and had this dream of becoming our own string quartet,” recalls violinist Sharon Stanis, “so we met at a McDonald’s and made the big decision.”

Not the classiest of venues, to be sure, but it’s all been up from there. Over the past 25 years, the artists-in-residence at the UVic School of Music have played concerts and festivals in all but one Canadian province (better tune in, PEI), more than half the American states, and eight countries. They’ve won major prizes, received awards for their recordings (notably 2003’s *Death and the Maiden*), have been the subject of a book (David Round’s *The Four and the One*) and still maintain a punishing touring schedule, in addition to their teaching duties.

They also remain the only all-female ensemble in the world to still feature the original members, which Stanis credits to their individuality. “In our earlier years, it was always the group first. But the reason we’ve been successful for 25 years is that we’ve changed the focus to, ‘What’s great for the individual?’ If the individual is happy, then the whole quartet is happy. We’re such four different personalities but somehow the whole *vive la différence* has helped bind us together.”

The collective acclaim of the Lafayette String Quartet can very much be attributed to the sum of their parts: Ann Elliott Goldschmid (violin), Joanna Hood (viola) and Pamela Highbaugh Aloni (cello), as well as Stanis.

Over the years, two of the group members became mothers, which meant touring with infants, and one has survived breast cancer, which led to the ongoing annual Lafayette Health Awareness forums. “Twenty-five years ago, it was common to have one or two women in a quartet,” Stanis notes, “and there were probably only six all-female quartets — but now? They’re all over.”

And not only is the LSQ popping the cork on their silver anniversary in 2011, but they’re also celebrating two decades at UVic. “They took a chance on a five-year-old quartet,” says Stanis. “But UVic has shown a strong commitment to us...I feel very fortunate to be here. Not all universities have a resident string quartet, and there’s a real mentoring (opportunity) by having all of the string teachers in one ensemble.’

Asked to look back over the achievements of the past quarter-century, Stanis feels the lasting contribution of the Lafayette String Quartet can best be found in their students. “In music, as with other professions, you’re handing down to the next generation. When I first arrived here, I felt like I was educating people to become working violinists in symphonies. But now I feel like I’m educating people on how to live and be passionate, how to work hard to make something beautiful. That’s our job, basically.”

Anniversary performances include a residency at the prestigious Banff Centre, a return to Ontario’s acclaimed Festival of the Sound, an eastern Canadian tour, and the Victoria Summer Music Festival in July.

Is there still an ultimate musical goal for the LSQ? “We’ve learned all 16 Beethoven quartets, which is a cornerstone for any string quartet,” says Stanis. “But I think Shostakovich is the one that we’d all like to set our sights on (we only know two of his 15 quartets) — so we’ll need to put a couple in our pockets every year.”

— JOHN THRELFALL, BA ’96
Vikes Summary

Erg!
The Vikes rowing programs hosted the 26th annual
Monster Erg (above) in February in McKinnon Gym.
More than 400 participants — about 70 of them varsity
rowers — took part. Apart from the sweat and pain it
produces, the Monster Erg also generates funds for the
Vikes rowing teams through the sales of new and
used ergometer machines. On the water, Vikes women
won their 17th Brown Cup in 18 meetings, and the men
won their 17th Brown Cup in 20 meetings against the
UBC Thunderbirds at the annual head-to-head compe-
tition, on the Fraser River in March. The Vikes also won
the alumni race.

Awards and Honours
Perri Espeseth, a midfielder/defender on the
women’s field hockey team, won the President’s Cup,
which is awarded annually to the student-athlete in
fourth- or fifth-year studies who best combines
scholastic achievement and athletic skill. She’s com-
pleting her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (Theatre).
Men’s rugby player Phil Mack and golfer Anne Balser
were the male and female athletes of the year. Swim-
mer Greg Streppel, BSc ’91 (swimming), basketball’s
Eric Hinrichsen and the 1970-71 men’s rugby team are
this year’s inductees into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame.

In the Swim
Ryan Cochrane, a 2008 Olympic bronze medalist, was
named the Canadian Interuniversity Sport male swim-
mer of the year and rookie of the year. He won three
gold medals and a bronze to lift the Vikes men to a
fifth-place finish in the team standings at the CIS
championships. Stephanie Horner earned five
medals and Hilary Caldwell won three to guide the
Vikes to fourth place on the women’s side.

Heard on Campus
“It’s the journey that’s always most important. But I did
learn one other thing: sometimes it’s really important to get
a good lawyer. I was part of a crew here (that) took on the
responsibility of pulling some pranks in the Greater Victoria
area. And without going into detail, the police were getting
quite frustrated. In my fifth year, they did catch us. There
was no question that, in terms of career progression, for
me, having a good lawyer was really important.”

DR. CHRIS FIBIGER, BSC ’66
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
AWARDS, FEB. 9.
Office Space

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA '95

English Prof. Kim Blank's office is at the end of the hall in the Clearihue Building’s C-wing. A window fills the east wall, offering a third-floor view of the SUB and casting a glow on his quirky collection of memorabilia and furnishings. Blank, a specialist in English Romanticism and cultural studies, has occupied this prime bit of departmental real estate since leveraging it in return for accepting a stint as graduate adviser. That was about 15 years ago. Agreeing to allow his corner of the UVic world to be documented, he had but one request: “Don’t make me look like a criminal. Don’t make me look insane. And don’t make me look criminally insane.”

Thrown by his son from three floors below, through the window and into the ceiling tile. “An amazing shot.”

A bed, for a quick snooze.

From Namibia, milk carton with four languages: German, Afrikaans, Oshiwambo, and English.
Keats, subject of a current book project. “My #1 target.”

Carved wooden chair: “surprisingly comfortable.”

Collected paper clips. “She’s right-side up in Australia.”
THE MAN CALLED KAZ

A dominant force on the court, Gerald Kazanowski takes his place among Vikes basketball legends with the retirement of his jersey, No. 24.

BY TOM HAWTHORN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95

THEY CALLED HIM KAZ. He arrived at university as a strapping, 6-foot-7 teenager, lean as a beanpole. He had not yet stopped growing, later adding another two inches to an already ridiculously thin frame. One of his coaches called him a “skinny minny.”

Gerald Kazanowski, BA ’83, came to school to learn, to earn a degree, to find a path to a profession. He was joined on campus by his twin brothers, older by 18 months, the trio from Nanaimo chasing their immigrant parents’ dream of gaining an education and with it a career. The pursuit would be difficult for the youngest of five children, as he was also going to play varsity basketball.

He had offers from other schools, but for someone from Vancouver Island it was an easy decision. “UVic had both things — good basketball and a good education,” he says.

Before entering university, the three Kazanowski brothers shared two jobs at a mill in Ladysmith. The arrangement ensured at least one was always available to dress for the Islanders, the Nanaimo District Senior Secondary school team. Twins Greg, BA ’83, and John, BA ’83, often broke down court to receive long passes from the powerful arm of their younger brother. (A fourth brother, Rick, had earlier played hoops for Simon Fraser and Carleton universities.)

“I’d be pulling lumber off the green chain,” Kaz said. “That was pretty physical.” A sore back was
the reward for a day’s work. Happily, the star forward completed the job without any damage to fingers so capable of making deft shots on the court.

By their senior year, students dubbed the trio the Razz-Ma-Kaz Show. A Calgary Herald headline captured the feeling of opponents: “Kazanowski boys are terrors.”

Kaz had natural ability, but became a better player as he proved to be coachable, following instructions, willing to subsume his individual style in favour of the coach’s grand design.

“He had this disposition, just calm,” says high school coach John Levering. “He wasn’t a boisterous young man. Unassuming. Some kids are driven. He had that quiet, inner strength. A lot of that had to do with his family background.”

Walter Kazanowski had been a sergeant in the Polish Army, his wartime experience so harrowing that afterwards he rarely spoke of it.

“He was captured, taken to Russia, and pretty well left alone to starve to death,” Kaz says. “But the Russians eventually said we’ll feed you if you fight for us.

“My dad had some pretty tough times. He didn’t openly discuss it. It was a dark, dark side that he kept to himself.”

The war cost Kaz’s mother’s family their land.

“She was displaced. They lost their farm. She used to talk about a little river going through it. She had to leave that and go to a work camp. Then she had to wait until she could come to North America.”

Helen Wiercinski first met Walter at a social event in Victoria, where a small but active Polish community offered support. They married and moved to Nanaimo. She worked as a nurse. He went into the bush to cut down trees.

The family of six children grew up in a small house. “My mom would often say, ‘Kids, get out of the house!’” In summer, the boys retreated to nearby sandlots where Gerald played softball. In winter, hockey equipment was too expensive, so basketball was the
Young Kaz got his first coaching in Grade 6 at Harewood Elementary.

In Grade 11, as the Summer Olympics in Montréal approached, coach Levering told the shy boy that he should consider trying to qualify for the Canadian team. Gerald thought to himself, That’d be pretty cool. The Olympics became his goal.

When he showed up on the Victoria campus in the fall of 1978, a gangly freshman with a bowl haircut, the Vikes basketball team had yet to win a national championship. That would soon change.

Kaz spent his first year in a room in the Lansdowne residence before deciding to share a rental with his twin brothers. (The older boys had been held back a grade in elementary school, so the three graduated from high school and university together.) “We kept our expenses down,” he said. Before the start of one term, a housing crunch forced them to take a basement suite in Esquimalt, where Kaz’s head brushed the ceiling.

At university, he quickly gained a reputation as a dominant front court presence. Under the guidance of coach Ken Shields, the Vikes established a dynasty not seen before or since on Canadian campuses. Kaz played for four straight championship teams (1980-83) in what would extend to a streak of seven consecutive titles for the university.

“Every time we played,” said Eli Pasquale, a point guard, “he seemed to have his hands on the ball. He had great mitts.”

Pasquale’s parents were Italian immigrants who settled in the mining and smelter city of Sudbury, so he and Kaz shared a similar blue-collar background. The pair made an odd couple, as Pasquale, BA ’85, was as exuberant as Kaz was quiet. They worked together on the parquet and they collaborated on class projects in economics. They also joined forces on the national team.

At the World University Games in Edmonton in 1983, the Canadians faced a favoured American squad that included Charles Barkley and Karl Malone. Kaz remembers watching the opponent’s pre-game drill, during which he mistook Barkley — a heavy, lumbering figure on the court — for a coaching assistant. Then he saw him dunk, experiencing the marvel many felt when they first saw Sir Charles in action. Barkley and Malone would later earn fame and fortune in the NBA, but the underdog Canadians scored a shocking upset on their way to claiming the gold medal.

That triumph was followed by a fourth-place finish at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, as Canada missed out on a medal by los-

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**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The University of Victoria Convocation Senators

Nominations are invited for the positions of four members of the Senate elected by and from the Convocation, for three-year terms commencing January 1, 2012. Consistent with Section 35(2)(i) of the University Act, these positions are for persons who are not faculty members at the University of Victoria.

Members of the University of Victoria Convocation are eligible to make nominations and to vote. Convocation members include alumni, past and present members of Senate and the Board of Governors, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members holding a university degree who have been employed at the University of Victoria for at least 12 months, and those who completed one full year at Victoria College prior to 1963.

For information about eligibility to serve or to obtain nomination forms, go to www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/voting/nominations, call 250-721-8101 or e-mail usec@uvic.ca.

Nomination forms must be received by the Office of the University Secretary by

Monday, May 16, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. PST

If more than four (4) valid nominations are received by the deadline, an election will be conducted using the university’s electronic voting system, WebVote (webvote.uvic.ca), from Monday, June 13, 2011 at noon PST until Monday, June 27, 2011 at 4:30 pm PST.

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ing 88-82 to Yugoslavia. Four years later, at Seoul, Kaz and the
Canadians finished sixth in the Olympic tournament.

The NBA’s Utah Jazz selected Kaz in the seventh round of the 1983
draft. He never played in the league, instead beginning an odyssey
through foreign professional circuits. He suited up for teams based
in Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Mexico, Argentina and
Luxembourg before hanging up his size 14 basketball shoes in 1993.

Three years later, he married Claudia Solórzano, whom he had had
met while playing in Mexico. They have two daughters, aged 11 and 13.

These days, Kaz works as a certified financial adviser. He has
securities and insurances licenses. He sells stocks, GICs, and mutu-
al funds through Manulife Securities and his Kaz Consulting in Sid-
ney. He says, “I want to excel at this profession, too.”

Kaz has been inducted into the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame,
the Basketball BC Hall of Fame, the Vikes Hall of Fame, and the
Nanaimo Sports Hall of Fame. His hometown even as a street
named, aptly, Kaz Court.

His most recent honour came with his family in attendance at half-
time during a Vikes game in February, when his No. 24 jersey was
retired. A banner indicating the honour was raised on the wall of
McKinnon Gym, where it is next to that of No. 13, once worn by
teammate and friend, Eli Pasquale and the No. 20 of Robbie Parris.

Defending another title: Kaz
was part of four consecutive
national championships.

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Pacific Insurance and Financial Services Inc.
A TYPICAL VICTORIA SUPERMARKET FEATURES THE WORLD’S BOUNTY. Bins overflow with imports from the tropics. Even cool weather produce like broccoli and lettuce often have foreign pedigrees. In general, our foodstuffs are long-haul travelers, racking up 4,000 km en route to Vancouver Island tables. And although it boasts a long growing season and good soil, only five to 10 percent of our sustenance grows on home turf compared to roughly 80 percent 50 years ago. Simple economics make it cheaper for a large producer to ship fruit and vegetables than to farm locally.

And we’re not alone in our insatiable appetite for foreign-grown foods. "No region feeds itself anymore: we all stand in reference to the same global food system," wrote Alisa Smith, MA ’97, and J.B. MacKinnon in The 100-Mile Diet. But our reliance on food from distant lands presents serious downsides. Supply-chain disruptions and extreme weather events can inflate worldwide food prices. Besides causing a crunch at the cash register, price volatility can lead to political instability. Witness the recent riots and revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa.

And there’s more. The UN’s Food and Agricultural Organization says rising oil prices may prompt farmers to plant more corn — destined to become the biofuel ethanol — so that other food crops won’t be sown.

So if food security is in jeopardy, how can local food production fill the void?

That may be a Herculean task. Our food and farm structure has atrophied from disuse, and our farmers are aging. Arable land is expensive. "But though we have challenges, there are also lots of opportunities," says Linda Geggie, community food lead with UVic’s Office of Community Based Research. "There’s been a huge increase in awareness of the problem, and demand for local produce is definitely rising."

Bustling farmers’ markets demonstrate the public’s keen interest. Shoppers enjoy meeting the growers, and they relish the community interaction that’s spawned al fresco. But volume buying would help speed the return to local cultivation.

"There is a need to get large institutional buyers on the Island to directly source food from local farmers," says Geography Prof. Aleck Ostry. "Local agriculture will develop if we support local farmers and the consumers who want local produce." UVic food services now access 47 percent of its food from Island producers. Supermarkets could follow suit.

Currently grocers stock blueberries and peaches in chilly winter, though nutrient-rich kale and Brussels sprouts are better adapted to this area’s cold and damp days. "People should be eating foods that are in sync with the seasons," says Lorenzo Magzul, who, with Geggie, teaches a Continuing Studies course on eating locally.

Our ties to the global food supply have made us inclined to reach for succulent fruit in December. Like most Canadians, Islanders...
have been shielded from the staggering upswings in prices that plague food shoppers globally. Consumers in the developing world spend 50 to 70 percent of their total income on food, says Geggie. Europeans commit 25 percent to dietary expenditures, while our grocery purchases take a modest 14 percent of our wages. "We have to increase the bottom line for farmers, so we need to get our heads around the fact that that food is expensive," she says.

Yet local food provides myriad benefits to people and the environment. For small-scale farmers to access Island soil, they may be able to lease land they can’t now afford, says Magzul. "There’s a big movement among young people to get into agriculture, and leasing land could make it possible," he says.

By adding labour and seeds, even backyard gardening and community garden plots can sprout vitamin-rich produce all year long and propel a modicum of self-sufficiency. "A family can grow 10 percent of its food each year," says Smith. Box delivery programs bring local fare to the front door. It’s an option for those unable or unwilling to convert lawns to raised beds.

Celeriac, purple potatoes and Jerusalem artichokes may one day elicit raves from kids and adults who’ve discovered these nourishing oddities. "Try weird vegetables," Smith suggests. "People can challenge themselves every month by replacing a supermarket vegetable with one grown close to home. The process is enjoyable."

Besides introducing new flavours to the diet, healthy fare can stave off certain metabolic disorders. Today, one third of the population is over-nourished and consuming excess amounts of fat and salt. In fact, Canadians are currently digging their forks into 30 percent more food than they swallowed in the 1960s, says Ostry. Combine high-calorie meals with a sedentary lifestyle and the prevalence of illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and kidney disease skyrocket.

Locally grown, minimally processed foods can promote good health for us and for the ailing planet. Instead of clementines from Sicily or Chinese lychee nuts, the produce departments of the future might be chockfull of the colourful array of the Island’s abundance: rutabagas, mizuna, or arugula. 😊

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### Sea Farming, Naturally

It’s an ancient concept with real relevance today. Over 5,000 years ago, Chinese manuscripts detailed the cultivation of carp and shrimp in ponds. This venerable example of polyculture fish farming has spawned a modern multispecies system called sustainable ecological aquaculture.

At his research facility on pristine Kyuquot Sound, along the northwest coast of Vancouver Island — a seven-hour trip to the farm site from UVic via highway, gravel-strewn logging roads and water taxi — Geography Prof. Stephen Cross, brings together commercially viable species in a fashion that “mimics the way nature functions.”

In an ecosystem, waste never accumulates. It’s effectively utilized and dispatched by resident species. Similarly, Cross’ aqua-experiment eliminates the need to artificially contain, treat or capture waste. “We place species around the fed component (sablefish) to convert waste to other food,” he says.

Filter feeders like oysters, scallops and mussels intercept particles as they drift downstream. Solids that settle on the bottom provide nourishment for sea cucumbers. Seaweed metabolizes dissolved nitrogen, and another saleable commodity results. Some residual waste remains, and the effectiveness of the program is still to be evaluated. “Nothing’s perfect,” he says.

Cross’ concept has garnered interest from around the world, and he plans to build his own commercial production system and use it as a showcase for others. “Whether and how it might be incorporated into existing systems is yet to be seen,” he says. "We are, however, designing infrastructure (for) such an evolution."

His business model has been structured to reduce fossil fuel use by integrating alternative energy. A hand-operated winch system is geared to raise the shellfish, and energy from the wind or sun can be harnessed to power electric motors. Fish are fed by hand, and prickly sea urchins keep nets clean. The farm is completely organic, with no antibiotics on board.

Graduate students conduct their studies on site, while six employees handle administrative and farm-related tasks that include grading, feeding, harvesting and maintaining equipment. Other researchers are examining the potential of multi-culture fish farming, says Cross, with many carrying on parallel research and development efforts. Even though the concept is well received, his search for investors during the global economic slump has been challenging.

Aquaculture increases the available aquatic protein worldwide, yet West Coast salmon farming has generated negative press for years.

“The controversy is always quite polarized and often perception-based rather than fact-based,” says Cross. "The system we’re trying to develop is intended to address those issues that are common among many forms of farming, are quantifiable, and can be dealt with accordingly."

Once it’s fully operational, the farm is slated to generate 500 tonnes of sablefish per year, 50 tonnes of oysters and scallops, and 15 tonnes of kelp — levels that are unlikely to compete with larger producers, Cross says, but he hopes to operate four commercial farms by 2012. Two will be dedicated to the production of sablefish and two are slated to produce chinook salmon instead of the Atlantic salmon commonly found in BC salmon farms. “Our local First Nation members do not want Atlantics in their territory,” he says. “We felt that the use of these (local) species would satisfy their concerns and many of those of the consumer — whether founded or not.”
They are rookie researchers — exceptional undergraduate students who are taking their first bold steps into a world normally reserved for master’s or PhD students. And they are all inspired by the idea that the most important questions haven’t been answered yet. Here are six stories — from among many — about journeys completed, the paths to be followed, and the skills that are at the heart of the discovery of new knowledge.

BY KEITH NORBURY, BA ’85
ILLUSTRATION BY SAM SHOICHET, BFA ’96
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIK WEST, BA ’95
LAURIE KAN’s analysis of emergency department admissions data and the so-called “Welfare Wednesday” effect is regarded by her supervisors as master’s level work. But it wasn’t without its obstacles.

“Getting any data as an undergrad was so incredibly challenging,” says Kan. “First of all, they question your motivation. Second, there are no facilitators for doing this type of research unless maybe you’re in nursing.”

Fortunately, one of her supervisors, Economics Prof. Larry Frisch, used to work for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. He helped her navigate the system and obtain three years of emergency department data sets — 69,000 uncoded records — from Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals. The UVic-based Centre for Addictions Research BC stepped in to help out too.

She devoted about eight hours a day, seven days a week to apply an algorithm to find words and patient attributes that are predictive of substance use.

In a converted storage room on the third floor of the Engineering Laboratory Wing, CHRISTIAN McMECHAN holds an electronic stethoscope to his chest. A visitor listens to the steady thump-thump-thump of McMechan’s heart.

“Here’s the volume, you see, right there. Here’s your battery, and then here’s filtering,” McMechan gestures, adding, “and this is for frequency. It’s got a full digital filter bank in there. If you want to record, you hit that. Now it’s recording.”

The prototype he’s demonstrating is a major step toward his goal of creating a relatively inexpensive, web-based stethoscope capable of connecting patients in remote communities with medical specialists far away.

“There are commercially available stethoscopes that do just this, but the systems, hardware and software are well over $1,000, up to $3,000,” says McMechan, who is among the first six students in the Faculty of Engineering’s biomedical engineering option. “Our thesis is that electronic stethoscopes would be much more widespread if you can bring the cost down.”

Among its potential applications, the stethoscope would enable a parent in a remote community to accurately measure the heart rate and respiration of a sick child and transmit it in real time over the web to a doctor, miles away.

“Let’s say there’s somebody in a rural community and they would like some means of getting data to their family doctor very quickly,” McMechan says. “They can just be instructed to place it here, place it there. And, voilà, you have some telemedicine happening.”

Before the stethoscope is ready for use in the field, McMechan still has to write more software and improve its functionality. He envisions the final version having Bluetooth connectivity.

“I think it has huge market potential if he can make it affordable for home use,” says his faculty supervisor, Dr. Poman So. “He can make it as common as a thermometer.”
“This method, algorithm learning, is becoming popular in epidemiology and pharmacology, not just for coding patient records but for finding answers in massive databases where doing it manually isn’t feasible,” she says.

Her analysis found no correlation between the timing of welfare payments and substance-related emergency department admissions. However, she notes that the result could change if the admissions data were manually coded.

Beyond that, she sees the need for future research on emergency department data by using alternative coding methods. “It could lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the pattern of care that emergency rooms provide,” she says.

After UVic, she plans to pursue a master’s degree, specializing in health economics, at McMaster University. “I want to influence health outcomes. That’s my ultimate goal.”

If there’s such wide agreement on the implications of climate change how come it’s so hard for clean technology entrepreneurs to find a market niche?

**JILL DOUCETTE**, a biology student and budding green entrepreneur, looked at that question with Dr. Charlene Zietsma, a specialist in sustainable entrepreneurship in the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business.

“Jill’s interdisciplinary background was an unexpected bonus for the project,” says Zietsma. “She drew analogies from the natural sciences into the social realm and she helped us to think more creatively about the strategies of entrepreneurs.”

Doucette analyzed interview data and discussed emerging themes, then initiated new avenues for data collection based on what initial results suggested. “I had this idea throughout my undergrad that I was ‘not the research type,’” she says. “But it turns out, there are areas of research that are fascinating and when you are engaged with it directly, you can make an impact.”

In their research, Doucette and Zietsma interviewed leaders of 17 clean technology business and industry groups based in Victoria and the Lower Mainland.

Apart from the usual challenges and risks associated with business start-ups (85 per cent fail within the first five years), green tech companies pointed to several additional barriers. They struggle with government relations, integrating with traditional industry and infrastructure, and overcoming social and cognitive barriers. Many of them, while maintaining their BC-base, are going elsewhere for partnerships, production and markets.

For Doucette, who operates a green business consultancy and has been accepted into the Gustavson school’s PhD program, being involved in formal research has reshaped the way she approaches learning. “It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my degree. I have a clear vision of what grad school would look like and I am a stronger candidate for two reasons: I am familiar with the research process and I have an idea of what my thesis will be.”

**EARLY STARTERS**

Working alongside faculty supervisors — and picking up $1,500 in financial assistance along the way — there were 78 recipients of the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards this past year.

“The purpose of a university education is not to stuff students’ heads full of facts,” says Cassels, “but rather to help them develop skills and abilities that will serve them no matter what they do. Those skills are the skills of the researcher — the ability to recognize an important question, to develop a way of investigating that problem, to organize and analyze information, and to communicate new knowledge.”

Cassels came up with the idea for the awards during his 10-year appointment as vice-president academic and provost. The awards, now two years old, were named in his honour in December by the university senate. The program will expand to include up to 103 undergrads next year.
Seeing an ad for removing belly fat on a middle school website convinced Faculty of Education Prof. Valerie Irvine to apply for one of the first undergraduate research grants, in 2009-10, for one of her students. That student was Dallas Hermanson, whose mission was to examine 1,062 academic websites at 354 schools on Vancouver Island.

They found that 51 per cent of the schools’ public websites contained advertising, that half of them lacked clear information or appropriate design elements, and that only seven per cent “were complex, clear, and informative.”

The professor-student team presented the findings from that project to the World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education in Florida last October.

Their paper concluded: “policies need to be developed which will help school administrators regulate appropriate content on school websites.”

“I’m just starting my master’s but I feel I’ve been in (it) for awhile now,” says Hermanson, who received a second undergraduate...
research scholarship to examine how student-teachers use (or don’t use) computer technology and social media in the classroom. “It's just a great experience. You are just building up all these skills in these different areas: data collection, literature review, working with a supervisor, and publishing papers.”

Once he completes his education, Hermanson is looking at applying his skills in government as opposed to the classroom. “I’d really like to get into how they write policy, make policy for using technology and having technologies come into high schools.”

The first thing that springs to mind when one associates the Holy Grail and film is Monty Python. Next, one might think of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

The Grail, though, has featured in dozens of movies and in many more texts, stretching back to the 12th century French poet Chrétien de Troyes’ Percival, The Story of the Grail. ADRIAN COCKING’s research challenge was to explore as many of those portrayals as possible and to determine why the story remains as popular as ever.

“In a way,” Cocking says, “my research is kind of like the quest for the Grail — it’s never over.”

The impetus for his own Holy Grail pursuit came from French Prof. Hélène Cazes, who teaches a 400-level course on the subject. “When we heard of this opportunity, I was thinking it would be good to link the research to the classes that I teach whether Adrian (a former student) is in the class or not,” says Cazes.

Cocking, who was doing a minor in French when Cazes approached him, dived into the research, up to eight hours a week, as much time as he has left after taking a four-course load and working three days a week.

“I’ve had a lot of freedom,” says Cocking. “She told me the basic idea and said this is my own project. I just wanted to dig into as much information as possible. She actually had to remind me, this is not a master’s thesis. You need to remember the scope.”

In the end, Cocking says the Grail has become a metaphor for modern culture and what it values most. “Those who seek the Grail for selfish reasons, such as wealth and glory, never truly find it. They find alienation and death — spiritual and literal,” he says. “Those who embark on a journey of self-discovery, searching for what’s truly important, find that the Grail is a symbol of love and connection. In helping others we better ourselves in the process. We ‘find the Holy Grail.’”

Grail Quest

Endless search: Adrian Cocking pursued the reason for the enduring nature of the Holy Grail myth.

The Wired Classroom

The web and the classroom: Dallas Hermanson set out to determine the role of social media in schools.
Whitecaps business boss
Rachel Lewis, BA ’96.
I played soccer as a really little kid, and I wasn’t very good at it. My family was very active, however. We spent a lot of time skiing, sailing, hiking. My dad and my brother played soccer at a high level and as a family, we were all very involved with that.

I grew up in Richmond and I wanted to go away for university. I wanted to get out of the house and venture out my own. I looked at a number of schools across the country but I’m a West Coast girl and loved the small-town feel at UVic. It was far enough away and has great weather. It was the best of both worlds.

Learning to shop for myself and cook and budget for myself at UVic were major growth and learning experiences. Combining that with the constant challenge to think provided me with a great foundation for the rest of my life.

Events and event operations and event management: even at UVic I worked for a year as a residence advisor, which demands a lot of coordination, logistics, and people management.

I volunteered for the PGA Air Canada Championship as a sponsorship coordinator and ultimately settled into a full-time position. So I gave up that short-term paycheck to get my foot in the door in what is a small industry in this market. It was probably the best decision I ever made. It gave me an opportunity to get experience and turned into a full-time position. Here I am 10 years later doing what I love.

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Major League Soccer is the top league in North America and when I joined the Whitecaps seven and a half years ago, even then, we started talking about aspirations to play in the best league in North America.

I was interviewed originally by the Whitecaps part-owner Greg Kerfoot who brought me in through a mutual connection from the PGA. Eventually I sat down with Bobby Lenarduzzi. It was one of those things where I grew up watching Bobby play and being interviewed by him was special. I remember calling and telling my mom and dad, “You would never guess who I was in an interview with today.”

Bobby has really taught me to realize that everyone in your organization is a member of your team and you have to work together to get the most of these skills and to drive the success of your business. You don’t have to love each other, and some days you don’t.

We had been told that the MLS was going to make a decision in 2008 and that process kept getting delayed. Eventually, I went on maternity leave to have my first son. And it was early March when I got a call from Bobby. He said, “It looks like we’re going to get the franchise. We need you to come back.” And I thought to myself, this is what I’ve been working for and dreaming about for my whole career. But it’s not like I’m on vacation. I have a three-month-old son. So I started making some calls and found a wonderful woman to come into our house and help us, and I was back at work seven days later. About a week after that we announced the franchise.

The business of sport may be non-traditional, but we run a business here. And while I can’t personally control if we win or lose the games, I can help (to) provide incredible customer service and memorable experiences. Those things are all very important to the success of the product on the field.

I hope that at the end of the day people will see that we’ve made a difference, that we’ve helped build a stronger sense of community across BC and that we’ve contributed to getting kids active in sport.

Soccer is the number one participation in sport in the world. It’s the world’s game and bringing that back to a market that has passion for soccer is incredible. In 1979, 100,000 people lined Robson Square to celebrate the (NASL) championship. I’m looking forward to seeing the reaction when we bring home an MLS Championship!
Daniel’s Story

Love him or despise him, no one else had quite the same impact on early campus life as Daniel O’Brien in a student career that spanned from the conservative dawn of the 1960s at Victoria College to the troubled political and cultural landscape of 1968.

BY GRANT KERR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY J.J. PHILION

Staggering from campus, arms loaded with pilfered refreshments from his graduation ceremony, Daniel O’Brien vanished into the subculture of the 1960s. In a way, he was the embodiment of that decade — the good, the bad and the outrageous. And like the decade itself, he burned brightly for awhile, then disappeared into a cloud of memories.

To some, O’Brien, BA ’68, was a merry prankster. An agitator and satirist. A delightful distraction from the conservatism of the early '60s. To others, he was little more than a loud attention-seeker. His student years coincided with a time when UVic grew from a buttoned-down, conservative college to a university where students were caught up in the throes of Vietnam protests and the new “menace” of LSD.

“Daniel would have been a great source for Animal House,” says Nels Granewall, BA ’64. “Everybody knew Daniel and every time there was an outrageous event, Daniel was at the heart of it.”

Tall and muscular with a shock of unruly dark hair, O’Brien emerged from Victoria’s St. Louis College in 1960. He may have had the athletic potential to play pro football. Academic awards piled up, too. But he chafed at the conventions of the time. He was once ejected from a high school religion class for challenging the teacher on a dogmatic principle.

Born a decade before Catcher in the Rye was published in 1951, O’Brien held much in common with its protagonist, Holden Caulfield. Stuffiness and phoniness were favourite targets. Bore-
dom he couldn’t abide. So, he dove into student life. He served as the Student Union Building director for a year, wrote a column for the Martlet, performed in plays, ran for student council and was president of the Arts and Letters Club.

O’BRIEN MAY BE BEST REMEMBERED among classmates as the editor of the Centurion magazine, named for the Classics student’s love of ancient Rome. The Centurion became a vehicle for O’Brien’s offbeat humour, fuelled by beer, a love of Mad magazine, and his fascination with the American humorist, S.J. Perlman. Its motto was “Humour by the megaton” but it also featured poetry from Robin Skelton, a play penned by Lawrence Russell, and covers by contemporary artists Herbert Siebner and Maxwell Bates.

Working alongside him at the Centurion was friend and co-conspirator, Bob Bell. Reached in Edmonton, where he was a long-time journalist, Bell recalls good-naturedly targeting the student government, the Alma Mater Society. “That was our own little culture war. It was the rebel group versus the more conservative group,” Bell says.

Located next door to the Martlet in the new SUB building, the Centurion was a hub of activity, though not necessarily work related.

“That was the party room,” says Jim Bigsby, BA ’67, who edited the Martlet in 1963-64. “They were a far more fun group than we were. They were more about the lifestyle since there were no weekly deadlines” at the Centurion.

The Martlet editors once called the Centurion: “The University of Victoria’s dictionary of debauchery and wit, edited by everybody’s favourite twit, Daniel O’Brien.” A typical example of the editor’s humour was a cover blurb, alongside the 25-cent price tag: “Liquor or cigarettes accepted in lieu of cash.” Regular features included the Bad Joke of the Week and the editor’s cartoons that managed to either amuse or offend. One back-cover creation sparked scandal in October, 1964. Rolling up a piece of paper and lacing it with airplane glue, “Mr. Science” shows a beanie-wearing youth how to make a “joy stick”, a quick route to a big high. “Jeepers, it feels funny, Mr. Science,” says little Jimmy, eyes swirling. O’Brien’s cartoon outraged local pharmacy owners with some drugstores refusing to sell the magazine.

IN A LETTER TO THE MARTLET in January, 1964, Ted Pulford wrote of observing O’Brien for the better part of three years. “Mr. O’Brien suffers from an acute case of word intoxication, a disease which triggers an outpouring of rather disconnected phrases, demands, invocations and complaints without even superficial coherence... The only cure is maturity.”
Later that fall, a copy of the *Centurion* was seized by the AMS, citing libel concerns. That was the last straw for O’Brien and Bell, then AMS publications director. Crying censorship, both resigned, killing the magazine (although the editorial tandem would soon strike again).

A rival of sorts, Bigsby still remembers O’Brien fondly. “Daniel was extremely likeable. He was one of the few people I have ever met who travelled with his own entourage. He was the engine of that group and the magnet.”

John Philion, a friend from high school days and a skilled photographer, was often brought along to document O’Brien’s antics. It was a way the working class kid built himself into a minor legend. Philion, BSc ’67, recalls photographing O’Brien riding his Harley-Davidson through Ross Bay Cemetery, weaving around tombstones and monuments. Or the time O’Brien and friends shot up abandoned fuel tanks on the Chatham Islands. “He seemed to want to always go against the flow,” Philion says.

“He was a personality who did enjoy that rebel look, the rebel reputation,” Bell adds.

Surely O’Brien was one of the few Victorians who kept a metre-long carnivorous caiman in his bathtub. “It was the most vicious, snapping, miserable, smelly reptile I’ve ever had the displeasure to be around,” Bell says. “I wouldn’t be surprised if it still ruled Victoria’s sewers.”

The life of the party, O’Brien organized chair races through the hallways of the SUB, often booked the music for a downtown student hangout and provided the comic relief during his years working summers for the college registrar. Long, tedious days were buoyed by O’Brien’s boundless good humour. He once made cardboard chastity belts for his female co-workers and handed them out as awards.

One of those co-workers, Elsie Wollaston, BA ’65, says: “He was the racehorse hitched to the plow. But he could focus.” She remembers her first O’Brien encounter in the summer of ’62. “I just barely got onto the elevator and there he was, tall and dark with this amused look on his face. And he said, ‘You just about developed a split personality there.’”

The two became friends and even dated. “Daniel was delightful company but you were never going to be the only woman he was interested in,” Wollaston says over the phone from her Vancouver home.

Olivia Barr, BA ’64, was not always so amused. The *Centurion* cartoon tempest and libel scare were under her watch as AMS president. O’Brien had run against her in the student election. He settled for VP but resigned after one month over a fiasco at the fall frosh
dance. “I didn’t particularly like him,” says Barr, a retired teacher and guidance counsellor. “But he was good at pointing out things in university society or society at large. Somebody like that is necessary but I didn’t admire him because he embraced the drug culture and I thought he was destroying his brain.”

**NOTHING O’BRIEN TOUCHED INVOKED** the wrath of other students more than his turn as editor of the 1964 *Tower* yearbook. According to Bell, he and his friend were stuck with a tight deadline and little material. The result was a depiction of campus life, *Centurion* style. “We slapped it together in about a week in Daniel’s basement,” Bell says. Satire replaced reportage and at least 16 photos featured the editor, many more of his friends. One couple threatened a lawsuit because their daughter was misidentified snogging in a yearbook photo. In typical style, O’Brien was defiant. “Everything in that book was justifiable and truthful. If anybody wants to sue, let them go ahead,” he said.

Incensed students came up with a 125-name petition protesting the *Tower’s* content. *Martlet* editors weighed in, penning a satirical response: “It sort of gives you a good feeling to know that the *Centurion*, the Classics Club and that funny little artsy-craftsy group that ran them, and produced the *Tower*, so spectacularly dominated campus life last year. Golly, all those other clubs were dumb.”

O’Brien and Bell left town for Edmonton in 1965. Bell remained there after he landed a job and embarked on a career with the *Edmonton Journal*. O’Brien worked in the oil patch but returned in 1968 to complete his BA in Classics. In his book about UVic history, *Multitude of the Wise*, Dr. Peter Smith recalled the O’Brien crew knocking back wine in the stands at the Centennial Stadium ceremony, the convocation marshal greeted with the mirthful cry: “No grapes for you baby!”

A year later, Michiel Horn, VC ’63, ran into O’Brien, by then pushing 30. It was the last time he saw him. Gone was the jacket and tie uniform of the early 1960s college student, replaced by black leather. “He described himself as a fascist hippie and seemed less good-natured and more truculent than the inspired eccentric I had once worked with,” Horn observed in his memoirs, *Becoming Canadian*. Still, Horn has fond memories: “He was difficult not to like. There were people who didn’t like him because they thought he was loud or they had tasted his wit, which was pretty sharp.”

Years earlier, in a typically irreverent *Martlet* column, O’Brien wrote about the virtues of hard-living. “Excess is good for you in a million ways,” he wrote. In the long run, it wasn’t. Daniel O’Brien died in 1977 of an apparent drug overdose, a cruel irony since he had worked for the province as a drug counsellor.

“We wonder what he would have been like if he had been approaching 70 like we all are. I suspect he would have lived in poverty and died early no matter what,” Wollaston says. “I always think of those years in Dan’s close-knit group as a living rehearsal for *The Big Chill*. In a way, his death still links us together.”
Preserving Artists’ Archives

WHAT PREPARATION GOES INTO THE CREATION OF A PAINTING, print or sculpture? How might an artist address social issues? What connections exist between teaching and art practice? These and many other questions are posed by researchers studying art movements and individual artists, and the answers may be revealed in an artist’s archive.

Preserving the documentary heritage of arts and culture on-campus and in the Victoria community has long been a part of archives and special collections activities, but in October 2010, the university librarian announced that local artists’ papers would be formally included in UVic archives acquisition strategy. The focus is on historical and contemporary artists with strong links to the university, Victoria and Vancouver Island, and who have established a reputation nationally or internationally.

The archives of artists who have taught at UVic and whose works are a part of the University of Victoria Art Collections form a key part of these holdings. The materials will be available to faculty members for research and teaching, students will have access to them, as will alumni and members of the general public who are interested in unique sources concerning the arts community in Victoria.

Archival material may include diaries, notes, letters, exhibit invitations sent and received, correspondence with dealers, CVs, grant applications, sketches, plans, small art works, inspirational objects, art supplies (including favourite tools, photographic prints and slides, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks).

A key component is the archives of the Limners Society, the Victoria’s artist collective that formed in the late 1960s. At a ceremony and reception in October, the Limners officially donated 36 years of letters, minutes and photographs.

The Limners included a number of UVic faculty and honorary degree recipients: PAT MARTIN BATES, DFA ’94, who taught in Fine Arts from 1965 to 1991; writer/collagist ROBIN SKELTON, DLit
‘97, founder of the Creative Writing department; painters Maxwell Bates, Richard Ciccimarra, Nita Forrest, COLIN GRAHAM, LLD ‘78, Leroy Jensen, MYFANWY PAVELIC, DFA ’84, and Jack Wilkinson; printmaker and painter Herbert Siebner; printmaker and sculptor ELZA MAYHEW, DFA ’89; sculptor Robert de Castro; potters and sculptors Walter Dexter, Helga Grove, and Jan Grove; book designer and painter Alexander Lavdovsky; textile artist CAROLE SABISTON, DFA ’95; calligrapher Sylvia Skelton; and photographer, painter, collagist and video artist Karl Spreitz.

Artists in the Limners group are well represented in the university’s art collections.

The papers of James Gordaneer, Judith Foster, Ted Harrison, Max Maynard, and Margaret Peterson have also been donated. Visitors to the Mearns Centre for Learning/McPherson Library will recognize Peterson’s large mosaic “Source of Sources” (1964) from the main floor.

The archives’ mandate also embraces contemporary artists associated with Victoria who have made their mark in the national and international art scene. Holdings include the archives of Sandra Meigs, professor of painting in the Faculty of Fine Arts, who was profiled in Canadian Art’s Summer 2010 issue.

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By Lara Wilson, University Archivist, MA ‘99, with files from Leah Pearce, Archivist, BA ‘99

University Archives and Special Collections is open to the public Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30 (September to April) and 10:30 to 4:30 (May to August). A number of the artist’s papers are being processed.

Please contact the archives for availability.
Great Week, Great Two Years
Annual spotlight on grads bigger and better than ever.

BY GLENDA WYATT, BSC ’98
PRESIDENT, UVIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni Week 2011 was another phenomenal success. I was fortunate enough to be involved in many of the fantastic events that took place from Feb. 7 – 13. We had a record setting 1,946 alumni take part, attending 17 events in our fourth annual event. Every year gets better and better.

The week kicked off with a lunch for on-campus alumni. This fun event took place in the Student Union building and included a personal greeting from President David Turpin. There was a paper airplane contest and a terrific skit from Theatre students. Their skit reminded us to use our travel mugs for our coffee as thousands of disposable cups go into the garbage every month at UVic. I’ve diligently been carrying my travel mug around ever since.

The Alumni Week Pub Night took place at Canoe Brewpub. This fun evening brought together alumni of all ages. Everyone enjoyed meeting new and old friends and sampling the delicious food and locally crafted brew.

I was honoured to once again co-host our main event, the Distinguished Alumni Awards, with Chancellor Murray Farmer, BA ’68. Eleven awards were presented to 11 exceptional alumni. The award winners included community and business leaders, scientists, a teacher and an accomplished musician.

The University of Victoria has inspiring teachers and we recognized a group of them at the Excellence in Teaching Awards. We were honoured to have our new VP Academic and Provost, Dr. Reeta Tremblay, host the ceremony. I had the extreme pleasure of presenting the Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Ranald Donaldson. The wonderful stories from his students made me wish I could be in one of his classes.

The week wrapped up with the Victoria College Alumni Chapter’s Lunch-and-Learn with History Prof. John Lutz, MA ’89. There was a terrific turn out to this informative and delicious lunch. Prof. Lutz presented a wonderful talk about the history of Victoria. Some of the attendees were able to add some fascinating history stories of their own.

This column marks my final one as president. I have had a wonderful two years and have been fortunate to meet many amazing alumni. This position has really made me feel part of the community of UVic and the City of Victoria. With my goodbye, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Associate Vice-President of Alumni and Development, Ibrahim Inayatali. I look forward to seeing what exciting things Ibrahim has in store for us.

Thank you for this opportunity. It has been a huge honour.

e-mail: alumni@uvic.ca

Alumni Week 2011 put the spotlight on UVic graduates and the contributions they make to their communities. The February series of events involved nearly 2,000 alumni. Neil Frelick, BA ’10, won the big prize — a $6,500-travel voucher — courtesy of Uniglobe Geo Pacific travel and IA Pacific Insurance.
Less than a week after I joined the University of Victoria — I arrived at the beginning of March — I attended the executive meeting of the UVic Alumni Association. One of my first impressions from this meeting, called to provide input in the review and renewal of the university’s strategic plan, was how much alumni care for this institution and, in turn, how much the university values and engages its many stakeholders. It’s a dialogue that I look forward to joining in the coming days as I meet more of our alumni. I invite all of you to contribute and participate (see President David Turpin’s message on page 7 for details).

I have spent 28 years in the Canadian corporate, not-for-profit, and post-secondary sectors. I have been fortunate to have been influenced by some extraordinary people. Of these, one person under whom I have had the good fortune to have been a student and, much later a colleague, is Governor General David Johnston. When I graduated from McGill in 1982, His Excellency was the university’s principal. Later, I served under him when he was University of Waterloo’s president and I (in my most recent post) was director of development and alumni affairs with Waterloo’s faculty of engineering. In his installation as governor general, he expressed his vision for Canada: “We want to be the smart and caring nation; a society that innovates, embraces its talent and uses the knowledge of each of its citizens to improve the human condition for all.” This inspiration has guided my interest in joining UVic.

The UVic family, with its enduring values that embrace inclusion and community service, embodies what is possible when everyone comes together under a singular purpose and plan. UVic’s 50th anniversary, to be celebrated in 2012-13 will offer a unique and special opportunity to recognize and involve many alumni, among our more than 100,000 graduates. This occasion will also create opportunities for legacies, which will benefit students and our community in the years ahead.

I want to conclude by reflecting on the university’s response to the tragedy in Japan. On March 17, in the Bob Wright Centre, UVic organized the Japan Forum, which brought together students, faculty, staff and community members. We heard from faculty experts on earthquake, tsunami and nuclear safety issues, student support services on campus, emergency preparedness counsellors, Japanese Canadians and Victoria community representatives, spiritual counsellors and many others. This was an extraordinary, caring event, and illustrated for me the values of UVic. These are some of the ideals that form the hallmark of a great institution.

Going forward, I intend to build upon the successes of my predecessor, Shannon von Kaldenberg, and in particular, engaging alumni in areas of Canada and the world where we might not have reached out in the past. I look forward to meeting you and thank you again for your ongoing commitment to UVic.
Keeping in Touch

Let everyone from UVic know what’s up. Send news and photos to torch@uvic.ca or use our online reply and change of address forms at uvic.ca/torch.

1965
William Hubbard, BA (Botany), is “comfortably retired after a rather mixed career (most recently as a biologist with the BC Government) and doing a bit of contract work when I feel like it. Spending a lot of time travelling to Europe (Italy mostly for the food, wine, art and history). Life is good!”

1966
Carol Wootton, BA (English and German), has published Chopin Revisited. Her sixth book is her homage to the Polish composer and piano virtuoso on the bicentennial, in 2010, of his birth.

1969
K. Terry Brown, BA (Sociology), and E. Rosemary Brown (née Garland), BEd ’70, recently moved. Terry writes: “After 43 years living in Victoria we have moved to Surrey and are enjoying satisfying jobs with opportunities to make a difference in our world by the authority of King Jesus, whom I met while at UVic. One daughter lives in Rosedale with her engineer husband and three wonderful adopted children. Second daughter works at UVic with her author husband.”
Wayne Emde, BA (English), continues to strap on his backpack and find another path to follow. In January, 2010 he tramped the hills of the south island of New Zealand; in March he returned to Japan to complete the last 45 km of the 1200-km pilgrimage route on Shikoku, Japan; and in September he hiked half of the Offa’s Dyke trail in Wales.

1972
John Henderson, BSc (Psychology), is a “retiropractor” after a “successful practice as a chiropractor in Ottawa and the United Arab Emirates for 30 years. Now retired and indulging in my favourite hobby, raising teenagers (Carleton University, sorry Victoria). In the words of St. Joni Mitchell: ‘we all go round in the circle game.’

1973
Lanny Pollet, MMus, is an associate professor in the School of Music and Frances M. J. Pollet, BMus, is minister of music for First Metropolitan United Church. Lanny announces that, after teaching flute since 1971,
he will be retiring at the end of June 2011. He expresses how fortunate he has been to have taught, performed and been part of the school’s community during all those years.

1976

Cassie Doyle, BA (Sociology), is Canada’s new consul general for northern California, Nevada, Hawaii and Guam. She previously served as deputy minister of Natural Resources from 2006 to 2010 after three years as associate deputy minister of Environment Canada.

Manon Elder, BFA (Visual Arts), collaborated with the Royal BC Museum to bring a “fresh and vibrant perspective” on Emily Carr as part of the museum’s The Other Emily, showing until October. It’s the first time that museum has formed a partnership with a living artist. Manon’s work strives to bring a “fresh and vibrant perspective on Emily Carr, (through) documents and photographs from the BC Archives.” Filmmaker and artist Kristina Campbell’s documentary film on Manon and her art-making process, will be screened as part of the exhibition.

Wendy Jones (née Atkinson), BEd, and her husband retired from teaching in California after 34 and 35 years respectively. She says: “A number of years ago we found a golfing/retirement community in central Florida that looked too good to be true. We tried out the lifestyle preview for a week and then spent the next six years planning our retirement to sunny Florida. We have so many new, fun and interesting neighbours that there isn’t enough time in the day to do everything that we want. This is the life! Retirement is great!”

Bill Parker, BSc (Psychology), writes: “Following graduation I went on to complete an MA in psychology at University of Alberta in 1979. I then returned to Victoria and have been employed by the provincial government ever since. For the first nine years I worked as a research officer in the coordinated law enforcement unit, Ministry of Attorney General. I then moved on to the Ministry of Advanced Education (and its various iterations) where I have worked since 1988. In the intervening years, Louise and I lived in Colwood where we raised our three children and are now enjoying five grandchildren.”

1983

Alice Cassidy, BSc (Biology), is an educational consultant and science educator.

1985

Robyn Thornton, BSW, says: “I have been living 20 minutes outside of Vernon for 20 years, but am now finding the yard work and snow removal too much as my osteoarthritis increases. I shall miss the peace and quiet and all the birds which come to visit my feeders, suet cake and pond.”

1987

Denye Koo, CYC, and Bill Schulte, BSc (Computer Science), ’91, just missed meeting each other at UVic, but have now been together for 10 years. Still working with children and families, Denye recently received her national CHRPS designation (Certified Human Resource Professional). Bill continues to use his BSc degree working for DND as a civilian after a successful 31-year career in the navy (reired Lcdr). With a 14-year-old son, the family is very active in the scouting community.

1988

Nancy Holland, BA (Geography), writes: “After road running for 18 years, I’m now a NAASF certified marathon coach. Next up: NCCP coaching certification. Running has taken over my life! I also coach runners in the NS Lung Association’s Learn to Run for Smokers clinic. Don’t laugh…it’s incredibly successful! All this is on a volunteer basis. I’m still making a living as a technical writer and editor. But some day, the coaching thing may pay off!”

1990

Donna Miller (née Oswald), MEd (Education Administration), is retired and has started an education consulting business called the Oceanwood Group.

Paul Nicklen, BSc (Biology), featured in the spring 2010 edition of the Torch, continues to gain recognition for his spectacular nature photography. Outdoor Photographer listed him as one of the 40 most influential nature photographers; he was featured in the cover story in the January 2011 issue of Photo Life, and Up Here named him Northerner of the Year. Earlier in 2010, Nicklen won first prize for nature photography in the World Press Awards. And he had two images selected for inclusion in the International League of Conservation Photographers’ 40 Best Nature Photographs of All Time auction.

1991

Diana Cooper, BA (Anthropology), sends an update: “After seven great years as a consultant, now working in the inventory section at the BC Archaeology Branch. Not as dirty, but still very interesting!”

Rachel Goldsworthy, BSc (Chemistry and Microbiology), recently “went public with my private life when I started Calorie Neutral, a blog about my weight-loss experience…with my father! I hope the information and humour will encourage other people to look after their health, too. And I hope my dad doesn’t kill me.”

Andrew Kitchenham, MEd (Language Arts), recently edited two books: Models for Interdisciplinary Mobile Learning and Blended Learning Across Disciplines (IGI Global).

Wendy Martin, BA (French), and Coreen Hanson, BSc ’96 (Geography), live together with their children (ages 6 and 7) on Protection Island, BC. Wendy writes: “We own Inspiration Point Consulting through which we carry out research and project management. We work with health regulatory organizations and others to increase access to the professions for internationally-educated professionals.” Wendy has also returned to UVic as a master’s student in Studies in Policy and Practice.

Patrick Reynolds, PhD (Bioly), has been appointed vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty at Hamilton College, in New York State. He leads a 184-member faculty and supervises the college’s academic affairs, including programs in Beijing, Madrid, Paris, Washington, D.C., and New York City. The college has 1,800 students and will mark its bicentennial in 2012.

1992

Alex Murray, LLB, writes: “I am still training race horses and practicing law in the Vancouver area. I am a sole practitioner mostly working in the area of criminal defense and refugee and immigration law.”

1993

Chad Turpin, Diploma (Public Sector Management), is deputy manager for the City of Burnaby: “I am in my 38th year with the City of Burnaby (which was) last year named best-run city in Canada by MacLean’s magazine. I also chaired the 2009 World Police and Fire Games held in the Lower Mainland. Both in my job and with the special projects I have been involved with the skills I learned at UVic have been of great value to me.”

Laura Zitko (née Morrison), BA (Geography), says: “I am a mortgage broker at Dominion Lending Centres Mountain View. Would love to help my fellow grads get approved for mortgage financing and save money with much lower interest rates than what they could get at their own bank.”
Girl Gone Wilde
Sara Topham on the Importance of her Broadway Debut.

She’s played the Stratford Shakespeare Festival for more than a decade and earned raves for her work at Victoria’s Belfry Theatre. Now, Sara Topham, BFA ’98, can add another feather to her well-plumed theatrical hat: Broadway.

Topham spent the winter appearing in the Oscar Wilde classic, The Importance of Being Earnest, alongside veteran performer and director Brian Bedford. Already a hit during the 2009 Stratford Festival, Earnest was remounted on the Great White Way in December, and Topham was one of three members of the original production asked to reprise her role — playing Lady Bracknell’s vivacious daughter, Gwendolyn.

Earnest debuted in 1895 — and hadn’t appeared on Broadway in 33 years — but Wilde’s satirical farce still clicks with New Yorkers. It’s held over until July.

“It’s a perfect play,” says Topham. “Human beings haven’t changed over the century — mistaken identity, people in love and being thwarted, two guys competing with each other — it’s instantly recognizable.”

Variety described Topham’s performance as “vivacious” while the New York Times felt she played her part with “silken self-satisfaction.”

The Broadway production of Earnest continues into the summer while Topham is returning to Stratford for her 12th season — playing Olivia in Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night and Celimene in Moliere’s The Misanthrope.

— John Threlfall, BA ’96
STEPHEN MOGATAS, '00

beauty immortal. Holly is a postdoctoral fellow at McGill University and teaches creative writing.

2000

Teresa Boucher (née Spyksma), BEd, writes from Quebec: "I have been working for the Central Quebec School Board for seven and a half years, the last three as the consultant for special needs. I travel to all our schools and support the administration and teachers with the best services for our students with special needs. But I am currently on maternity leave. I had my first child, a son named Noah, (born Oct. 16, 2010, two months early) who is happy and healthy."

Jamie Beuthin, BCom, operates a Men’s Skincare & Grooming products store – MASC – in Vancouver’s Yaletown district.

Simon Cox, BCom and Sylvia Cox, (née Craigmyle), BA (History in Art), recently made their long anticipated move back to Vancouver Island. They are settling into their new home in Cobble Hill and are expecting their first born in July. Simon is managing the newly developed Vancouver Island division of Yacht Sales West.

Heidi Krajewsky, BSc (Biology), writes: "After working as a wildlife guide in Antarctica for four years and running the research vessel, Acheiver, for Raincoast Conservation Society in BC, I have set out on my own voyage of discovery. My husband and I are planning to circumnavigate the Pacific aboard our 33-foot sailboat over the next four years.

2001

Mitchel du Plessis, BA (CYC), was awarded the School of Child and Youthcare’s Exemplary Practicum Supervisor Award. She is a youth and family counsellor at Landsdowne Middle School and the current president of the South Vancouver Island Youth & Family Counsellors Association. Mitchel is known for sharing her experience, knowledge and guidance with a generosity of spirit and wisdom that has fostered the development of strong child and youth care practitioners.

Helen Edwards, BA (History in Art), writes: "I was elected the BC governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation. I am a writer, researcher and heritage professional in Victoria, who has a long-time association with the Hallmark Society and Heritage BC where I have been a director for eight years. I am the past-president of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals and recently completed a third term as president of the Heritage Legacy Fund of BC."

Gwen Thornburn, BSc (Biology), and her husband Brian reside in Surrey, where she’s high school head teacher with Regent Christian Academy. "We are celebrating life as a family. We love our children (Sarah, 5 and Daniel, 3) growing up and being able to learn and enjoy so much of our world. We often walk in the woods and I can tell my kids about the environment, how to care for it and can name what we are looking at. I am thankful for my biology degree and being able to teach high school science and encourage my students to study what they love in a deeper way."

2002

Simon Ibell, BA (Leisure Service Administration), has launched the “Be Fair to Rare” campaign to draw attention to the fact Canada is the only developed country without a healthcare policy supporting research and treatment of rare diseases. He hopes to have thousands of Canadians sign an online petition to create a federal plan for rare diseases. Support has come from 60 Canadian athletes and sports personalities, including his friend Steve Nash. Simon was born with the rare metabolic disorder, MPS II Hunter Syndrome.

2003

Colin Plant, MEd (Leadership Studies), was re-elected to a second two-year term as president of the Association of BC Drama Educators. Colin teaches drama at Claremont Secondary in Saanich.

Stephen Mason, BCom, has joined Peak Performance sportswear as western Canada sales manager, based in Vancouver. Steve was an off-ice official for ice hockey during the 2010 Olympics and has continued this role with the Vancouver Giants. He is also a committee member on the UVic Alumni Branch and UVic Business Alumni Chapter in Vancouver.

Mark Reid, BMus, heads the fine arts department at Vancouver Technical Secondary School and is president of the BC Music Educators’ Association. The music program at Van Tech has received more than $20,000 in grants during his time at the school and the program has grown to more than 400 students, or nearly 25 per cent of the school population.

2004

David Ferry, MFA (Theatre), has been guest artist at the Phoenix Theatre, directing the world premiere of Daniel MacIvor’s Inside in March. While in Victoria he also directed an adaptation of the short story Mount Appetite by Department of Writing Chair Bill Gaston (with Dede Gaston) as part of Belfry Theatre’s Sparks Festival.

2005

Jeremy Lutter, BFA (Writing), a film and video director, earned the MPPIA Short Film Award, presented by Motion Picture Production Industry Association and BC Film, for Joanna Makes A Friend. The award includes $10,000 from MPPIA, $5,000 from BC Film and up to $100,000 in-kind services. The production team includes producer Talitha Cummins and writer Ben Rollo, BFA (Writing) ’10.
2011

Lauren Woolstencroft, BEng (Electrical Engineering), after taking home five gold medals at the 2010 Paralympics, was voted the recipient of the Best of BC Award at the 45th annual Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards. Open to amateur and professional athletes, past winners of the award include Steve Nash and Justin Morneau.

2006

Wendy Marie Baker, LLB, is now employed as a human rights officer with the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission.

Av Hundle, BCom, and Omar Lalani, BCom ‘04, have formed Adepta Properties. The company owns two full-service hotels in BC: a Howard Johnson and a Travelodge. In two years, Adepta has been able to acquire over $10 million in properties and continues to expand.

2008

Josh Patton, BEng (Electrical Engineering), and Heather Persoon Patton, BFA (Theatre) ‘06, recently returned to Victoria where he works as an engineer with BC Hydro.

2009

Ila Willerton, MA (Anthropology), is a researcher with Vanden Berg & Associates, a small research firm specializing in contracts for First Nations around the province. “I enjoy the opportunity to put my writing and editing skills to meaningful use while learning about aspects of British Columbia history and First Nations issues. I try to indulge my abiding interest in archaeology through membership in the Archaeological Society of BC, and am looking to adapt my master’s thesis analysis of local zooarchaeological material for publication in the journal Canadian Zooarchaeology.”

2010

Christian Van Buskirk, MBA, has co-founded Tourism Roatan, a Honduras-based destination management company. Roatan is best known in the international scuba diving community as a mecca for reef and wall diving.

Victoria College Luncheons

Victoria College alumni (Craigdarroch and Lansdowne campuses) are invited to informal networking and social luncheons. These are great opportunities to stay connected with classmates.

June 20, September 19, November 14

University Club of Victoria, UVic Noon – 2 p.m.
$25 (cheque or cash at the door)

To reserve, please contact UVic Alumni Services:
E-MAIL: events@alumni.uvic.ca
TEL: 250-721-6000
Bill Gordon

assistant and associate dean of arts and science, head of mathematics, assistant to the VP academic, and for more than 20 years, served as a member of the UVic senate. He was an architect of athletics and recreational programs, an active rugby player, jazz aficionado and a devoted family man. Contributions to the W.R. (Bill) Gordon Scholarship fund may be made payable to the University of Victoria and sent to: Mary-Lynne Britt, UVic Development Office, University of Victoria, PO Box 3060 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2.

Toby Jackman, DLitt ‘91, a founding faculty member in the Department of History, died Feb. 27, 2011. Born in Victoria in 1925 and raised in Victoria, he received his PhD from Harvard. He served the university in many vital ways, especially during the turbulence of its early decades. Besides his enduring commitment as a teacher his other consuming engagements were with the McPherson Library and with the university’s art collections. An expert and discerning collector, he served for more than 40 years on the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery’s various boards and committees.

David Lam, LLB ‘95, former lieutenant governor and philanthropist, died Nov. 22, 2010. The David and Dorothy Lam Foundation supported the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives, the Institute for Dispute Resolution, the Centre on Aging and the David Lam Professor of Law and Public Policy. The Maclaurin Building’s David Lam Auditorium is named in his honour and, after the 1994 Commonwealth Games, the portion of the athletes village near Finney Road was named the David and Dorothy Lam Family Student Housing Complex. He was predeceased by Dorothy Lam, LLB ‘95.

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. Include your name, degree and grad year. If you’ve moved, send us your new address.

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

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

POST: UVic Torch Alumni Magazine, PO Box 3060, STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3R4
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The Wall
The night pranksters cemented a new obstacle in the Cornett Building.

BY ALISON FARQUHAR, BA ’73

IN THE EARLY ’70S THERE WAS A GROUP OF MOSTLY GEOGRAPHY students who were certainly the most “social” of the social sciences. Amongst us though, was an Economics major whose professor declared in a class one day “the school spirit at UVic is dead!” The seed was planted; the plans drawn up.

Students who have had classes in the Cornett know what a puzzle the building was and still is. Going from the third floor of one tower, down to the first floor and then trudging back up the stairs to get to the second floor in another tower. Or going outside to the roof area and using the wooden walkway and hoping that the access door was open. We decided to add another obstacle to the puzzle: a wall. But where to build the wall? The building was reconnoitred. The width of the hallway outside the Economics department on the third floor was the narrowest.

In the dark on Sunday evening, April 1, 1973, a group was dispatched to the Commons Block residences. Cinder blocks, still warm from being used as a barbeque for the residents, were loaded into an old Cortina and brought to the southwest corner of the Cornett. From there, they were carried up to the Geography grad student office on the second floor. Another group was sent to the McPherson Library where a new extension was being built. Two bags of masonry cement were absconded.

The cinder blocks were moved, using office chairs, from the second floor up the elevator to the third floor building site. The walls and floor were protected by newspapers to minimize damage and allow an easy cleanup. The mortar was mixed in waste paper baskets in the Geography staff room and brought up. The wall was constructed with great geographical engineering skills. Posters were added for a camouflaging effect.

The next day, it’s rumoured an Economics professor came out of his office reading a paper and ran smack dab into the wall. This may have been fitting as he is the one who is also rumoured to have uttered the famous phrase “the school spirit at UVic is dead.”

Reactions were from disbelief to laughter. The Times Colonist sent a photographer and writer to report on the story. A maintenance crew was called in to take it down. My roommate’s Cortina was used for the great cinder block heist. It so happened that someone watched the heist and reported the license plate number to campus security. My roommate was called in and endured questioning for more than an hour that would have made the Inquisition proud. She never gave up names and in due course she was sent out the door. In the end, security actually said they were impressed with the prank because of the care taken. The Economics students took great umbrage to where the wall was placed – the narrowest corridor in the building. They believed they had been blasphemed and retaliated by placing plastic sheeting and odorous chicken manure in front of the Geography Department offices.

We weren’t finished with the wall that night. How did that Riley car end up on the pyramid-shaped ziggurat in front of the MacLaurin Building? Ah, but that is another story.

Alison Farquhar originally wrote this for the Cornett Memories Project, organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences.
As recent graduates of UVic’s school of music, Julie and Carli Kennedy’s adventures in music are just beginning. Both top music students, the identical twin sisters are pursuing a career in music as a performing duo, Carli on guitar and Julie, violin. And thanks to a scholarship given by Dr. Betty Kennedy (no relation), this dynamic duo got a boost in their studies too.

“The time commitment to study and practice is heavy, and the scholarships allowed us to focus on our musicianship without worrying about finances,” says Julie.

“We’re so grateful for the support,” says Carli. “Scholarships provide the added inspiration that spurred us on.”

As a retired UVic professor of mathematics, Betty Kennedy wanted to make a difference in students’ lives. “I feel I’ve had a good life and now I want to enhance the lives of others.”

Betty chose to create scholarships in areas that reflect her personal interests: music, law, engineering and mathematics. “Mathematics was my own discipline,” she says, “law was my husband’s, engineering was my father’s and music because I love classical music.”

Many UVic students depend on scholarships to pursue their educational dreams. Find out how your gift of a scholarship will create bright futures for deserving students. Please call us at 250.721.6003, visit our website www.uvic.ca/givingtouvic.

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