University of Victoria
Distinguished Alumni Awards

February 5, 2014
Hotel Grand Pacific
It’s my pleasure to welcome you to the Distinguished Alumni Awards, a signature event of Alumni Week 2014.

I join you in looking forward to an inspiring evening as we honour 12 outstanding members of our alumni community as selected by each of the faculties, divisions and the university libraries.

This week’s events underscore the economic, social and cultural impact of UVic alumni here and around the world. Tonight’s recipients exemplify this theme in truly remarkable fashion.

To the recipients, I extend sincere congratulations. Your fellow alumni are proud of your accomplishments and we’re proud of your connection to our university.

Dale Henley, BA ’71
President, UVic Alumni Association
Division of Continuing Studies

Eric Akis, Business Administration Certificate, ’96
Journalist, author, and chef

Before studying business administration, Erik Akis worked for 15 years as a chef and pastry chef. His popular food columns have appeared in the Victoria Times Colonist since 1977 and he runs a food consulting business, mainly working with Thrifty Foods.

Faculty of Education

Roderick Allen, MA ’93
Assistant Deputy Minister/Superintendent of Learning

Roderick Allen taught for 10 years before pursuing his Master’s in Educational Administration. An internationally recognized advocate for education system reform, he envisions a personalized learning model combining students’ passions with community-based learning experiences.

Faculty of Humanities

Brian Butler, BA ’71
President and CEO, Butler Brothers Supplies Ltd.

While leading his family’s aggregate and ready-mix supply business, Brian Butler has a key role in arts, culture, and literacy initiatives: he’s a founder of the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and he has played for leadership roles for the Victoria Symphony and the Conservatory of Music.
Peter B. Gustavson School of Business

Marilyn Copes, MBA ’99
Executive Director, Island Health

As Island Health’s executive director of acute interventional services and site administrator for the Royal Jubilee campus, Marilyn Copes combines education and business acumen to lead programs in strategy, planning, and service delivery with the goal of improving care and service.

Faculty of Law

Mary Mouat, LLB ’87
Lawyer and community builder

Mary Mouat’s numerous and varied volunteer efforts include work on the boards of the Victoria Women’s Sexual Assault Centre and the Victoria Heritage Foundation. Her dedicated has been recognized with the Victoria Bar Association’s Pamela Murray Award and the Dean’s Cup.

Division of Medical Sciences

Dr. David Naysmith, BSc ‘71 (Zoology)
Surgeon and medical humanitarian

David Naysmith is tireless in his humanitarian work—in Cambodia, Bosnia, and India, among others—with groups such as Doctors Without Borders, Operation Rainbow, and Rose Charities. He’s also a founder of Victoria Microlending Group, providing loans to individuals in developing countries.
Faculty of Science
Qimin You, PhD ’93 (Biochemistry)
Chair and CEO Ustar Biotechnologies Hangzhou Ltd., China
Quimin You and Ustar Biotechnologies—the firm he founded in 2005—offer simple, affordable nucleic acid tests for diagnosing infectious diseases in regions where resources may be limited. He has also led 44 granted patents, advancing technologies in a range of areas.

Faculty of Engineering
Chris Reid, MASc, ’95 (Mechanical Engineering)
Executive Chair—Hydrexia and founder of Cellex Power
Chris Reid has helped transform energy storage and clean energy systems through his work with Hydrexia, an early stage technology company creating hydrogen storage systems. He is also entrepreneur-in-residence at Foresight, a BC non-profit supporter of cleantech companies.

UVic Libraries
Jan Ross, BFA ’76 (History in Art)
Curator and community activist
Jan Ross has been influencing heritage initiatives for the past 35 years while showcasing Victoria’s historic sites, museums, and heritage attractions. The resident curator of Emily Carr House, Jan and her family have been stewards of the historic site since 1995.
Faculty of Fine Arts

Michael J. Whitfield, BA ‘67 (Theatre)
Stage lighting designer

Michael Whitfield has designed lighting for hundreds of theatre performances throughout North America and overseas. The Canadian Opera Company has featured his designs extensively. He is a mentor and frequent guest designer at UVic, where he teaches.

Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr. Evan Wood, BSc ‘97 (Geography)
Physician and researcher

Evan Wood is dedicated to the prevention and effective treatment of HIV infection among drug-addicted people, particularly in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. He’s also a founder of North America’s first medically supervised safer injecting facility.

Faculty of Human and Social Development

Dr. Jennifer Zelmer, BSc ’93 (Health Information Science)
Executive Vice President, Canada Health Infoway

Jennifer Zelmer is a leader of Canada Health Infoway, established by the federal and provincial governments in 2001 to transform health care through health information technology. She was previously chief executive officer of the International Health Terminology Standards Organization in Copenhagen.
Be proud of your achievements!

TD Insurance is honoured to support the Distinguished Alumni Awards Night. We proudly join the UVic community in celebrating the success of this year’s Awards recipients. Whatever your insurance needs, we’re here for you. Enjoy competitive group rates, outstanding customer service and quality coverage tailored to our needs with our TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program.

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- Monk Office
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- Uniform Central
- Ajna Yoga
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- LifeMark Heath Centre, Victoria

How to Get Your UVic Alumni Card?
Pick up your lifetime UVic Alumni Card for $15 from the UVic Photo ID Centre in the lobby of the University Centre. Bring your student number and one piece of government issued photo ID with you.

* If you live outside of Victoria, email idcentre@uvic.ca for more information.