

2022 REPORT TO DONORS



University
of Victoria



I open this report by recognizing language and land. I acknowledge, respect and thank the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands — and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. I would like to pay my respects to Elders past and present, and personally pledge to walk the path of reconciliation together.

Prior to being installed as UVic's eighth president, I stood in UVic's First Peoples House and humbly asked for permission to live and work on these lands, and was honoured to be welcomed by the Songhees Nation. Making this request was fundamental to being a respectful guest, to working in partnership in a good way with the host nations of this land and to living our commitment to decolonizing this institution.

During that ceremony, I promised to ensure that all members of our community feel included and have increased access to education. You are an integral partner in that commitment. Generous support from alumni and other community members is helping us redress historical and continued barriers and increase educational access and success for Indigenous students.

The photo on the front cover speaks to me of community.

It's symbolic of all those who came together to support the world's first Indigenous law program and who are now helping us build the National Centre for Indigenous Laws.

After reading last year's report, one donor shared a reflection about the connection between donors, students and the community. He said, "I'll coin it as *the circle of a better society*."

Every donor is part of this circle.

Your generosity touches the lives of thousands of students and researchers at UVic, but it doesn't end there. The thread carries through the lives of people they influence along the way. And your generosity will be vital in determining what kind of university UVic will be in the coming decades.

With my utmost gratitude,



Kevin Hall
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Victoria

ON THE COVER: Jolene Ashini (JD '22, JID '22) from the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation alongside Chief Eugene Hart at the recognition ceremony held on April 9, 2022 at the Songhees Wellness Centre. Jolene is one of 23 students graduating with a joint degree in Canadian common law and Indigenous legal orders (JD/JID). Jolene is also the first Labrador Innu woman with a law degree. Photo by UVic Photo Services.



ABOVE: President Kevin Hall standing in First Peoples House during the Welcome to the Territory and Installation Ceremony. After being blanketed, he was drummed into the ceremonial hall by Eugene and Christine Sam. Photo by UVic Photo Services.

On the following pages you will read other examples of your generosity and impact.

STUDENTS *page 2*

A BIPOC nursing student challenging systemic racism, and one of the youngest graduating students discovering her passion for social justice;

DONORS *page 6*

Three members of our donor community who are advocating for Indigenous law students or student mental health initiatives;

COMMUNITY *page 11*

Philanthropy that impacts the wider community, through a story bank for climate crisis survivors and new training technology for the psychology clinic.



STUDENTS

The Art and Science of Caring

Tribute award enables nursing student to make a difference

Margaret A. Evans had a caring disposition that inspired her adoring husband, Bernie, to create a scholarship in his late wife's name for students who modeled her attributes of kindness, gentleness and cheerfulness. The award benefits University of Victoria nursing students.

James Matthew Besa (BSN '22), who self-identifies as a fourth-year cis-male nursing student of colour, received the award last year. He is completing his studies through the UVic Selkirk College partnership program and his values fundamentally align with Margaret's.

"Nursing is the art and science of caring," says James. "If you look at what we must do every day and you can do it with kindness, then everything that follows will be positive."

While his home is in Nelson, BC, James' practicum placements have taken him to Trail and the Iskut Valley in northern BC. Receiving this award meant that he could purchase a reliable vehicle to get to his practicum placements safely. It also allowed James to focus on what matters most to him: advocacy and his patients.

James' academic and professional journey shows his compassion for patients. Throughout most of his degree, he worked as a student nurse at a long-term care facility. "Dementia care, palliative care and end-of-life care are quite hard to do, but I like the atmosphere of home while doing your job and being able to build strong relationships with my patients."

While he was advancing his nursing skills, James also worked on behalf of fellow students to challenge systemic racism. He served as the People of Colour caucus chair for the Canadian Nursing Students' Association and published his own research, the Diversity Embrace Project. "My aim in making this project is to inspire other nursing students like me to challenge social injustices in nursing programs and society in general."

So, what's next for James? After graduation he plans to work in underserved communities in BC with a goal of one day working for the World Health Organization. Ultimately, his dream is simple: "I want to advocate for people like me and to make a little difference."

PREVIOUS PAGE: James Matthew Besa checks in with a resident at a long-term care facility in Nelson, BC. Photo by Adrian Wagner Studio.





The Invaluable Gift: Sense of Community

Donor scholarships fund young student who faced barriers to other financial supports

At just 18 years old, Arista Marthyman (BA '22) is graduating with a degree in sociology and a strong passion for labour rights, thanks to her volunteer and research experience. The largest hurdle Arista faced in starting post-secondary at 15 was not how to fit in, but how to access financial support at her age.

"A lot of scholarships have minimum age requirements or want community service examples with defined qualifying timelines," she says. "Youth is not something people think of as a barrier, but it is."

Despite this, Arista's academic excellence and rigorous scholarship application processes paid off. She is thankful that approximately 75 per cent of her university tuition was covered by scholarships, many of them funded by donors.

"The actual impact of these scholarships goes way beyond the financial," she says. "It makes me feel very honoured that other people are willing to give that gift to me and support me in that way, whether it's [individual donors] or different departments, or the university as a whole. There's a sense of community that I feel knowing other people are invested and care about my success and my educational journey. That's invaluable."

Arista says the community support she received through scholarships motivated her to dedicate herself to academics and give back to the community. Arista was introduced to the Workers Solidarity Network (WSN) through a sociology class on work and employment. She began volunteering at the WSN and supported non-unionized workers dealing with oppressive or illegal working conditions. Her passion for labour rights grew and inspired her honours thesis. Recognizing the challenging situations workers can find themselves in, Arista's research explores the role and ethical challenges of uncertified interpreters when interpreting for migrant workers.

After graduation, she plans to take a break from school, find work in the community and potentially return to the university for graduate studies. She also hopes to become a scholarship donor one day.

"These people entrusted me with resources to finish my education, and I feel that I have a responsibility as a steward of those resources. I need to use them wisely and pass it along."

FOLLOWING PAGE: *As a younger than average student, Arista Marthyman is grateful for scholarship donors who supported her throughout her degree. Photo by UVic Photo Services.*



SUPPORT FOR *students*

\$7.7 million

in donor-funded awards

(bursaries, scholarships
& athletic awards)

went to 2,909 students

(up 12% from last year)

1 in 8 students

received a donor-funded award



DONORS

A New Path for Justice

Donor award supports students in groundbreaking Indigenous Law Program

When Drew Mildon (BA '99, JD '06) was at law school, students didn't have the opportunity to study Indigenous law in depth. "I remember Indigenous women in my courses talking about making the choice to stay and learn from their grandmothers or going into this Western education system," he recalls.

UVic is addressing this tension with the world's first joint degree program in Canadian common law and Indigenous legal orders (JD/JID), launched in 2018. The program includes curriculum to obtain a Canadian law degree alongside learning about a range of Indigenous legal processes. Through field studies in Indigenous communities across Canada, students can observe first-hand the ways these processes are being used today.

Drew and his partner Dr. Athena Madan, a new faculty member with the Department of Sociology at UVic, created the Presquito Murdoch Indigenous Law Award to support Indigenous students pursuing the joint degree program. At the heart of their generous donation is Athena and Drew's desire to amplify Indigenous voices. They want to "help maintain a pathway for those Indigenous students, who will further unlock the future for their descendants and continue to oppose oppression in all its forms."

The couple named the award to honour their grandmothers, who didn't have access to

educational opportunities. "My Lola [Presquito] would sit and eavesdrop outside of the gated area of schools in the Philippines and squint through the slats of the wooden fence and learn how to read and write," shares Athena. Drew's grandmother [Murdoch], who was deaf, also overcame adversity to raise four children alone.

"My hope is that someone might be inspired by our grandmother's stories and feel more able to give to their own communities. Hopefully, the fruit of their labours will assist with self-determination and help facilitate our own commitments to reconciliation in the Canadian landscape," says Athena.

Through his legal practice at Woodward & Co. LLP, Drew works for First Nations governments and organizations in their fight for self-determination. Drew and the firm have supported the JID program since its inception.

"For a decade I've loved talking [the JID] up to my clients," says Drew. "I tell them: *your law — the law your grandmothers talk about — is becoming accepted and recognized. There's going to be an opportunity for you to get a degree in Indigenous laws.* Watching that understanding dawn on young people in those communities is a really powerful thing."

PREVIOUS PAGE: Drew Mildon and Dr. Athena Madan with their son, Deven.
Photo by UVic Photo Services.



Giving for the Past, Present and Future

Former UVic rower contributes to student health and wellness

Alumna Linnea Turnquist (BSc '92) remembers her years at UVic as some of the best in her life. She made lasting friendships in residence, rowed on the varsity team and was inspired by her academic courses. "It felt like an explosion of growth, exploration and possibility," she says. "And it set me on the path for life-long balance."

In 2016, Linnea made a generous gift to the Centre for Recreation, Athletics and Special Abilities (CARSA) for the Gwynne Studio, named after the hamlet in Alberta where her family has deep roots. After losing both her parents and moving from Calgary to Victoria, Linnea's intent was to create a space on campus for students where "they know they belong."

Linnea and her daughter, Vanessa, enhanced the studio with inspirational words and pictures. "Gwynne Studio is a sentimental space for me and I am very proud of it," says Linnea. "It's my way of honouring my parents because they had such an impact on me and gave us so much. If that space influences just one student's life, then I know our gift has made a difference."

When Vanessa started university in Vancouver, Linnea realized how much the university experience had changed since her time at UVic.

"Sure, I remember the stress of exams, or jitters before a race, but I don't ever remember talking about mental health or suicide with my friends," she says. "Youth today have a lot more that they need to manage mentally and emotionally."

Concern for students' mental health led Linnea to make a bequest in her will directed towards future mental health initiatives at UVic. The exact terms of that gift are open so it can be used in response to evolving challenges. While Linnea's gift to CARSA was about honouring her past, and the bequest is her legacy to students of the future, Linnea is now asking what else she can do to improve student health and wellness.

"I know UVic is working on its student mental health strategy. I'm interested in understanding what the big ideas are, what needs to be done and how donors can support student mental health."

When she finds answers to those questions, she plans to share them with other donors. "It's rewarding for me to engage other like-minded members of our community and champion student mental health together," she says.

FOLLOWING PAGE: *Vikes Nation ambassador and third-year student Jordan Feist (right) regularly attends fitness and yoga classes in the Gwynne Studio, which was named by Linnea Turnquist (left). Photo by UVic Photo Services.*

THE *donor* COMMUNITY

2,391
alumni

528
Monthly Giving
Club Members

1,398
gave for
the 1st time

5,032
donors in 2021/22

296
Members of the
T. S. McPherson
Legacy Society
*(donors who have
made a gift in their will)*

634
faculty & staff

2,489
Ring Road Loyalty
Circle Members





COMMUNITY



Sharing Fears and Truths About Climate Change

Donor's visionary gift creates a memory vault for disaster survivors

Recent climate-related disasters make it clear that adaptation is now as important as prevention. Journalists and scientists must work together to improve media coverage and better prepare the public for what is to come. To help support this work, humanitarian and political activist Wayne Crookes funded a professorship in Environmental and Climate Journalism at UVic.

Sean Holman (BA '99), who assumed that role in September 2021, says the power of the professorship is the marriage of both teaching and research. It allows him to "involve students and members of the broader community in this research in very direct ways, so that they can take action on climate change."

The gift also funds the Climate Disaster Project, initiated by Sean. For this research and outreach initiative, students at UVic and several partner universities work with people who have lived through climate change-related disasters to share their stories. Those stories will be published and broadcast by the project's media partners and added to a publicly available memory vault that will serve as a virtual gathering place for anyone who has experienced climate disasters.

UVic student Sandra Ibrahim shared her personal anxieties and fears about climate change in Sean's class. "One of the things Sean said that I've taken to heart is, 'what if the truth was a gift?' What if sharing pain, insecurities — or grief, in my case — what if sharing that was a gift, even if it makes us feel vulnerable?" She described the process of sharing in community as "absolutely healing. It may not solve the problem of climate change, but it solves the problem of loneliness and despair and grief about climate change."

Perhaps that's the crux of why this gift is so important, not just to UVic, but to the world. It permits the sharing of truth — a truth belonging as much to one individual as to humankind. It shifts the focus from data and temperature percentages to empathy and shared experience, from the enormity of prevention to the reality of adaptation.

"So much of the narrative about climate change has been around *can we stop it?*, without acknowledging that it's happening. The hope is that by creating these stories, we can build community, and by building community, we can create hope." — Sean Holman

PREVIOUS PAGE: Sean Holman (left) coaches students like Sandra Ibrahim (right) on trauma-informed interview techniques, in preparation for speaking with climate disaster survivors. Photo by UVic Photo Services.



Out with the Old Tech, In with the New

Community foundation funds new technology for psychology clinic serving adults and children

Many people struggling with their mental health are unable to access help quickly. Waiting lists to see a psychologist can be six to nine months and fees can be up to \$220 per hour. Fortunately, the UVic Psychology Clinic is helping those who need it most, while training the next generation of psychologists. The clinic provides psychotherapy and psychoeducational diagnostic assessments on a sliding scale for adults and children in the community.

Psychology graduate students conduct assessments and therapy under the supervision of clinic faculty who are all registered psychologists. Previously, this supervision was done via one-way mirrors and a VHS recording system that was cumbersome and often distracting to clients. "Sometimes I had to show students how to insert a VHS," explains Dr. Lara Robinson, former director of the clinic. "The tapes were becoming more expensive and cameras were frequently breaking down."

Thanks to a \$25,000 donation from the Ottawa Community Foundation, the clinic replaced the old training system with new audio video equipment. This gift funded nine cameras, five dedicated laptops and installation. Clinic

supervisors and students saw an immediate improvement in the services they provided. "This has definitely contributed to greater confidence in my assessments and therapy with clients, as well as building stronger rapport with clients the first time we meet," says Lauren, a graduate student at the clinic.

The clinic also purchased three telehealth laptops, which allowed the clinic to keep teaching and serving clients during the pandemic. The telehealth system has also created unique practicum opportunities for students. With location no longer a barrier, the clinic can respond to community needs creatively and efficiently. Following the 2021 BC forest fires, supervisor Dr. Natasha Wawrykow and several students provided psychological first aid via telehealth to Indigenous families who were directly affected by the fires.

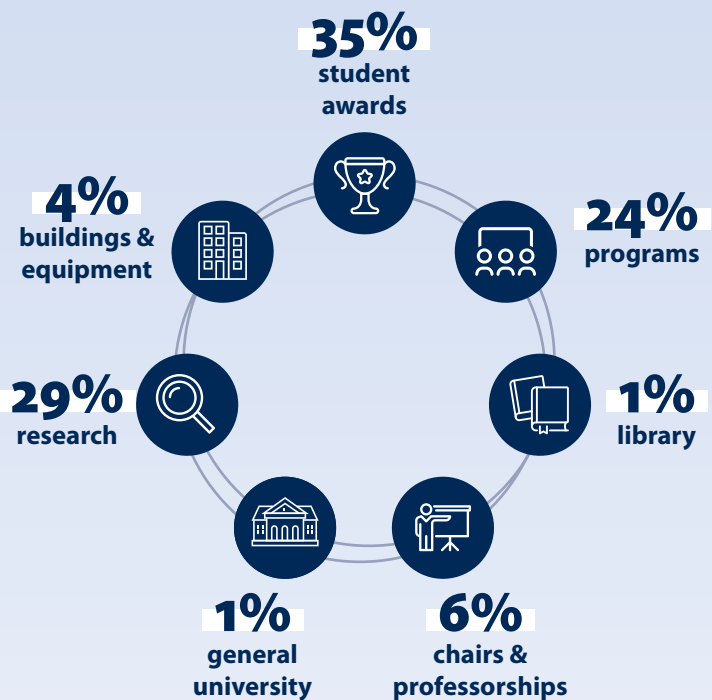
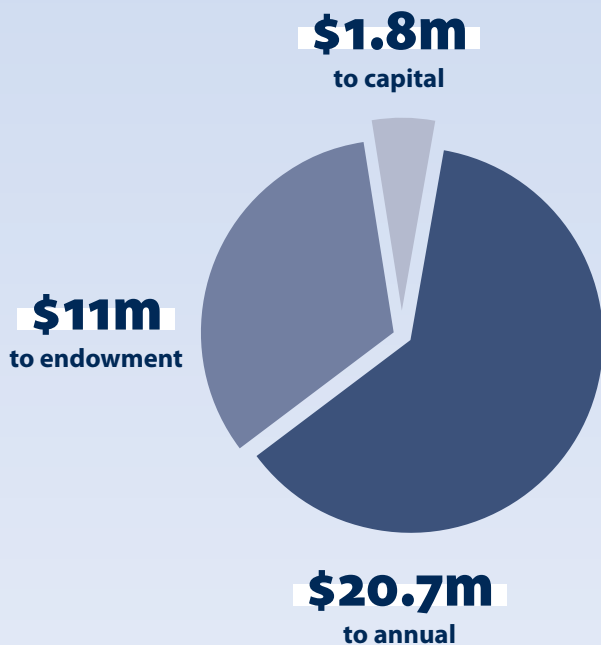
"We are so grateful for this gift," says Lara. "Our aim is to provide gold standard training for students. Not only does that help our clients now, but it allows students to help more people as they graduate and move onward. We will ensure fees are never a barrier to care."

FOLLOWING PAGE: Director of Clinical Training, Dr. Marsha Runtz (left), and graduate student, Emilie Longtin (BSc '16) (right), demonstrate how the new donor-funded technology is used during client sessions. Photo by UVic Photo Services.



together

5,032 donors gave \$33.5 million



Donor Relations

University of Victoria
PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2
donorcare@uvic.ca

give.uvic.ca