

Alumni Who Made a Difference

Honouring outstanding citizenship in support of the University of Victoria



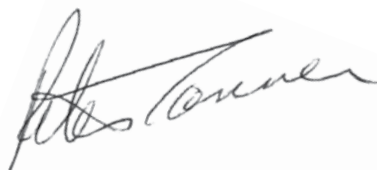
Inspiring Citizenship

The UVic Alumni Association strives to foster alumni support for the university. To achieve this goal, year after year, a great many individual members of the alumni community offer their time, talent and resources. Our university is stronger because of their involvement.

As UVic commemorates its golden anniversary, we acknowledge the contributions of all alumni by recognizing a group whose remarkable citizenship has demonstrated pride in their university. They have helped UVic become internationally recognized for excellence and innovation.

On behalf of the volunteer members of the UVic Alumni Association's board of directors and alumni around the world, it is my distinct pleasure to honour Alumni Who Made a Difference. They are inspiring examples, from among many members of the alumni community, of the difference we can make to the life of our university. To each of the honorees, well done and congratulations!

Sincerely,



Peter Tanner, BA '91
President, UVic Alumni Association

50 Alumni who made a difference

The UVic Alumni Association, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the University of Victoria, is proud to recognize the leadership of individual alumni and couples who have contributed to the successful growth of the university.



Lance Abercrombie
BCom '94

Lance has been a member of the Gustavson School of Business board of advisers and executive council for many years, contributing to the school's branding, program reviews, accreditations, and planning for building and program expansion. Lance has also served on the school's Distinguished Entrepreneurship of the Year planning committee.



Ashli Akins
BA '09 (Environmental Studies/Writing)

At UVic, Ashli founded Mosqoy, a group dedicated to development work in Peru. The organization works with traditional weaving communities and offers scholarships to disadvantaged students pursuing higher education. Many students who participate in Mosqoy continue their volunteer efforts in their communities and at UVic.



Mitch Banks
BSc '67, PhD '71 (Chemistry)

Mitch is a long-standing champion for UVic alumni in Toronto. A major philanthropic supporter, Mitch's most recent gifts established scholarships designed to encourage Aboriginal students to pursue science education.



Aimy Bazylak
MASc '05, PhD '08 (Mechanical Engineering)

Her commitment and enthusiasm for research at UVic is matched by Aimy's efforts to enhance public awareness of energy issues and related career opportunities. She is known for her leadership, natural poise and ability to motivate others. Her ongoing involvement includes participation in the UVic-initiated Canada-China Clean Energy Workshops.



Brenda Beckwith
PhD '05, (Biology)

A lab instructor with the UVic School of Environmental Studies, Brenda's contributions to the university extend to her role as a volunteer lecturer with University 102 and co-founder of The Red Fish School of Change, a six-week field school held in the interior of BC. In both roles she shares her teaching, encouraging students to pursue their dreams.



Jessica Bekker
BEng '09 (Electrical)

Jessica is a role model and mentor for Aboriginal students in science and engineering. She has had an active role in building community partnerships and recruiting students and she has led the successful First Nations Renewable Energy Forums. She is a part-time First Nations co-op coordinator while pursuing her master's in engineering.



Rob Bennett
BSc '83 (Computer Science)

Rob has served on the advisory council to strengthen initiatives in the Faculty of Engineering. As a frequent guest lecturer and guest panelist on campus, he provides students with advice based on his wealth of experience in the tech sector. His motivation is in knowing how valuable such advice would have been early in his own career.



Rob Calnan
BSN '87, MEd '90

An outspoken advocate for the value of nursing and the future of healthcare in Canada, Rob is respected for his effectiveness in working with policy makers in health care, government and the public. An active member of the School of Nursing Advisory Council, he is an inspiration to nurses young and old.



Eliza Chan
LLB '82, LLD '08 (Hon.)

An esteemed member of the Hong Kong legal community, Eliza has maintained strong ties to UVic. She has always been an exemplary ambassador for the university, providing important Asian connections on behalf of the university. Eliza supports the activities of the alumni branch and hosts events. She is also a member of the 50th Anniversary Honorary Cabinet.



Jennifer Charlesworth
BA '81, PhD '05 (Child and Youth Care)

A founding member of the advisory council for the School of Public Administration in the Master's of Community Development program, Jennifer also serves on the Faculty of Human and Social Development advisory council. The university has benefited from her expertise and leadership among community groups across the province.



Catherine Claiter
BSc '00 (Health Information Science)

Catherine is the vice president and chief information officer for the Vancouver Island Health Authority and is a strong supporter of the UVic co-op program (a co-op student often works alongside her). She provides students with opportunities to engage in conversations about health information science and she serves as a guest lecturer.



Jim Crawford
BA '68 (Economics)

The Vikes Men's Soccer Alumni Chapter depends on Jim's leadership and vision, which has helped the group form a network of alumni and community supporters. He also started the Wally Milligan Soccer Scholarship, the Crawford Family Athletic Scholarship and he's an organizer of the annual Vikes Men's Soccer Alumni Game and Dinner/Auction.



Larry Cross
VC '59, BEd '64

Larry was the first president of the Education Undergraduate Society and he later became active with the UVic Alumni Association, first as vice president and then president. He served on the University Senate for nine years as a provincial appointee and as a senate member elected by the convocation.



Jennifer Davison
BA '01 (Economics), MA'03, MA'08 (Russian Studies)

Jennifer created the Davison Graduate Bursaries in Economics and Slavic Studies and her volunteer efforts led to the formation of the successful Economics Alumni Network. With her leadership, the network established the Economics Alumni Scholarship Fund for graduate studies.



Sandrina de Finney
BA '00, PhD '07 (Child and Youth Care)

Sandrina de Finney, of the Maleseet/Ojibway people, has provided outstanding leadership at UVic and her contributions have helped to make the First Nations Partnerships Program a flagship program for the university. She also provides extensive support and consultations to Indigenous communities conducting child welfare research.



R.C. (Tino) Di Bella, BA '76, LLB '79, and Denise Heap (Deceased), LLB '79

Tino and Denise met while attending UVic Law and remained great supporters of UVic Law. Denise spent countless hours teaching students about the practical aspects of legal practice, supervising and mentoring more than a thousand students. Tino has been involved in the CBA's mentorship program that connects local lawyers to law students. He has given generously of his time to speak on panels and participate in classes. His experience, particularly in the areas of wills, trusts and estates law, has helped train a future generation of lawyers.



Don Drummond BA '76 (Economics)

Don, one of Canada's most trusted and well-know economists, has long demonstrated his pride in his UVic connection. He regularly offers his insights through speaking engagements with students and alumni – particularly in events with Toronto alumni – and through his support of the Alumni Fund. Don is a member of the 50th Anniversary Honorary Cabinet.



Kara Flanagan BSc '02 (Math), MA '04 (Economics)

Kara's determined efforts renewed interest and events for Toronto Alumni from 2005 until her return to Victoria in 2010. She was a member of the UVic Alumni Association board of directors and continues to be a dependable volunteer for many other alumni initiatives, including the recent Class of 2002 10-year reunion.



Richard Flury BSc '70 (Physics)

Richard is co-chair of the UVic Faculty of Science external advisory board, furthering the mission of the university. He and Liz Flury are generous supporters of a scholarship in their name and they gave a significant contribution toward construction of the Bob Wright Centre, Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.



Dean Fortin BA '91 (Geography), LLB '84, MEd '97

Dean frequently participates in projects and speaks at events at UVic, including the UVic Town Hall organized by students and the UVic Grad Luncheon. Throughout his involvement with the university and in the wider community as Mayor of the City of Victoria, Dean is a proud ambassador for UVic.



Carla Funk BFA '97, MA '99 (Writing/English)

Carla was Victoria's first Poet Laureate (from 2006-08) and she's an instructor in the Department of Writing. Through the years, she has been a reliable volunteer at numerous alumni events in which she has been called up to share her insights with students and alumni.



Tony Gage, BA '70 (Economics), and Laura Gage, BA '70 (History)

Together through their generous support, Tony and Laura have been deeply involved in university life since graduating together in 1970. Tony has been a member of the UVic Board of Governors since 2007. He was also an expert panelist at the 2008 Money and the Meltdown public forum attended by more than 1,100 people at the Farquhar Auditorium.



Wendy Gedney BEd '83

Wendy's extensive volunteer record includes leadership of the alumni association board and founding the Education Alumni Chapter. She led changes and improvements to the alumni association constitution and by-laws, and she oversaw the introduction of the Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching.



Nels Granewall (Deceased) VC '59, BA '64 (English)

Nels had a lifelong affection for UVic. Working in the Student Financial Aid office for many years, he helped countless students succeed at UVic. Later, his wide network of contacts among former students helped him develop alumni branches in more than 70 cities around the world. He also formed the Student Alumni Association (now the vibrant UVic Student Ambassadors).



Mike Holmes BA '87 (Economics), LLB '87

A strong advocate for UVic athletics and the men's rugby program, Mike's leadership has created legacies. In the 1980s his fundraising efforts for men's rugby paid for many of the team's international tours. He is a cornerstone of support, especially in providing disadvantaged students the opportunity to come to UVic.



Jennifer Kroeker-Hall BA'83 (Psychology), MPA '00

A founder of the School of Public Administration Alumni Chapter, Jennifer has served as vice-chair and chair of the group and is known for her strong leadership skills and her creativity. She is a role model for volunteerism, earning the alumni Volunteer of the Year Award in 2011.



Lara Lauzon BA '82, MA '92, PhD '02 (Physical Education)

Lara has been a member of the UVic Speaker's Bureau since its inception some 30 years ago. She engages the wider community with her expertise and research in health and wellness and work/life balance. She has had an enormous impact on the reputation and profile of UVic.



Lindsay LeBlanc LLB '05

Lindsay is a member of the UVic Board of Governors where she shares her expertise in property development, corporate and commercial law, estate planning, and administrative and municipal matters. She has also served on the Aboriginal law student scholarship committee of the Canadian Bar Association.



John McDonald BA '92 (Pacific & Asian Studies)

John's pride in his education and time at UVic shows in his volunteer work. A valuable ambassador for the university from his base in Shanghai, John is often helping organize alumni events and serving as a key contact for student co-op opportunities. He also regularly participates in student recruitment efforts.



Cathy Whitehead McIntyre MBA '98

Cathy's wisdom and experience was shared generously with the university through her seven years on the UVic Alumni Association Board of Directors, her service on the UVic Senate and her mentorship of business students. UVic has benefited greatly from Cathy's business and community service expertise.



Susan Mehinagic LLB '87

Her current role, as the chair of the UVic Board of Governors, follows previous appointments in which her background in personal and corporate taxation have contributed to the success of the university. Susan is also a former chair of the UVic Foundation and she is a long-time supporter of the UVic Foundation Scholarship.



Norma Mickelson VC '60, MA '68 (Education), LLD '03 (Hon.)

Norma was UVic's first female chancellor, the first female dean of education at a major Canadian university, and the first female president of the UVic Faculty Association. Her vision, leadership, and commitment to equality have had an enormous impact on the university, her colleagues, and her former students.



Erich Mohr MSc '80, PhD '82 (Psychology)

Erich, along with Shelley Mohr, BA '84 (Psychology), established a fellowship in Psychology and the chair in Adult Development and Aging. Erich, an expert in experimental therapeutics for central nervous system disorders, also serves as vice chair of the UVic Board of Governors.



Valerie Murray
BA '78 (History in Art)

Valerie is a community garden design specialist who has served for more than 17 years with the UVic Garden Friends advisory board. She has been instrumental in the development of Finnerty Gardens and she plays a key role supporting the gardens through the popular UVic Plant Sale.



Steven Myhill-Jones
BSc '99 (Geography)

Steven's successful Web-based mapping and GIS software development company, Latitude Geographics, was formed shortly after graduation. Since then, he has employed many co-op students, providing specialized work experience. He created a scholarship in the Faculty of Engineering and is a regular speaker at alumni events.



Phil Ohl
BEd '05, MEd '12
(Physical Education)

A dependable volunteer for Vikes athletics, Phil has put in countless hours as an assistant basketball coach. He also facilitated the department's work toward defining its vision, purpose and values. He is often involved in alumni activities and encourages other alumni to stay involved.



Lesley Patten
BCom '96

Lesley was one of the founders of the Business Alumni Chapter in Victoria and frequently talks about career planning, career goals and networking with BCom and MBA students. A dedicated alumni association board member since 2008, she currently chairs the communications committee.



Robert Pearce
BA '78 (Economics)

Robert enjoys strong ties to UVic. He first met his wife Ellen Pearce, BA '77 (Geography), at the McPherson Library and went on to a successful career in the financial services industry. He remains involved with UVic through the 50th Anniversary Honorary Cabinet and through support of the Robert and Ellen Pearce Scholarship.



Tim Price
VC '59, BA '64 (English)

An ardent supporter of UVic, Tim enjoys interacting with students and he is a strong supporter of the Gustavson School of Business – both financially and by donating his time and insight at events. He has provided keynote remarks for the Commerce Students Society Banquet.



Doug Ransom
BEng '90 (Electrical)

Doug has been the driving force behind the Engineering Alumni Chapter since 2007 and he has helped plan or host events to strengthen the Engineering alumni network. Among recent initiatives, Doug helped to introduce a new web site for the chapter and started monthly breakfast meetings in Victoria and Vancouver.



Tracy Redies
BA '84 (Economics)

Tracy has spoken inspiringly at many events for students and alumni. In her role of president and CEO of Coast Capital Savings, Tracy also orchestrated the credit union's support for the Economics Speaker Series. In 2012 she was named to Women's Executive Network Hall of Fame.



Catherine Roome
BEng '90 (Electrical)

As a mentor and teacher, Catherine inspires the next generation of engineers. Her volunteer efforts with the Engineering faculty's advisory council have provided insight and advice on student programs. Her talks and guest lectures engage students on the topics of leadership, safety and risk management.



Tracie Sibbald
BA '83 (Geography)

Tracie is a strong link between Vikes athletics and the UVic Alumni Association Board of Directors, where she volunteers as chair of the student and alumni programs committee. Her interest in alumni engagement and sports goes back to her five seasons playing for Vikes basketball and four seasons as assistant coach.



Mike Sider
BCom '08

The formation and success of the UVic Young Alumni program is largely due to Mike's role in defining its strategic direction and branding. He helped create and plan many of the group's events and after moving to Vancouver, he stayed involved through the Vancouver Alumni Branch.



Robina Thomas
(Qwul'sih'yah'maht)
BSW '93, MSW '00, PhD '11

Her students in the School of Social Work recognize Robina as a campus leader and as someone who is committed to anti-oppressive, cross-cultural education in order to improve the campus climate for everyone. She was at the forefront of the creation of the First Peoples House, ensuring its welcoming and vibrant atmosphere.



Nancy Turner
BA '69 (Biology)

Nancy is a pioneer of ethnobotany, documenting First Nations knowledge and cultural heritage. Her work has attracted countless students to study at UVic and she has shared her insights as guest speaker at alumni events. She also donated her book, periodical and research archives to Environmental Studies.



Beverly Van Ruyven
BA '79 (Anthropology)

Beverly is a member of the UVic Board of Governors and a strong supporter of the Vikes Championship Breakfast. The university benefits from her experience, including her past positions as executive vice-president of BC Hydro and her appointments to the Fraser Basin Council and the Vancouver Board of Trade Women's Leadership Circle.



Andrea Walsh
BFA '91 (Visual Arts)

First Peoples' art, artists and patrons have come to the university as a result of Andrea's efforts to foster better understanding of the cultures, the art and the stories of the First Peoples. She organized the highly successful Pit Cook during the 50th Anniversary Festival.



Laura Walsh
BA '93 (Russian Studies)

Laura has demonstrated citizenship to UVic in many ways. She speaks at Co-op and Career Services events to tell students about the value of her degree, both personally and professionally. Laura is on the board of the Ukrainian Studies Society and has helped facilitate gifts to UVic from the Ukrainian Canadian community.



Glenda Wyatt
BSc '98 (Earth and Ocean Sciences)

The past president of the UVic Alumni Association, Glenda generously gives her time in support of building alumni connections to the university. Whether chairing meetings, public speaking, or participating in alumni events, Glenda takes pride in serving her alma mater and serving as a role model for young alumni.



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The UVic Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges the support of TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, presenting sponsor of the Alumni Who Made a Difference Celebration.

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