The University of Victoria’s Vision Statement says “...we challenge one another to become thoughtful engaged citizens and leaders, prepared to contribute to the betterment of a rapidly changing global society.” The goal of UVic Planned Giving is to help our students become those thoughtful engaged citizens and leaders. The wonderful thing about planned, or legacy, gifts is that they empower future generations of students to go on and transform other lives. We are pleased to present these stories of people just like you who believe that a little planning goes a long way.

**Never too young to make a planned gift: an alumna’s extraordinary experience**

Hannah Sun is 26 years old and moved from Taiwan to study in Canada. She graduated from her geography program at the University of Victoria last year and is looking for a job. Sounds like your typical, recent grad, right?

Well, not really...

In August of 2007, after completing a year of university in frigid Ontario, Hannah moved to Victoria seeking warmer climes. One month into her first semester at UVic, life as she knew it changed forever.

Hannah was hit by a car when crossing Ring Road. She was struck on her left side, landed on her head and immediately went into a coma. After the doctors put a titanium plate in her head she began to recover but, even after many surgeries, Hannah is still coping with physical and psychological side-effects.

As an international student, Hannah did not have a local doctor. At the Jack Peterson Health Centre on campus she was assigned a regular doctor who took out her post-surgery stitches and provided her with the notes she needed to register with the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability. The clinic also helped her look after her mental well-being by providing psychological care and more. Forced by her injuries and ongoing recovery to spend a lot of time there, Hannah got to know the clinic staff well. So well, in fact, that she says, “it was almost like my second home.”

But Hannah's extraordinary story doesn't end there. With a fresh Bachelor of Arts degree in hand and a settlement in her pocket, Hannah wanted to give back. “I like things with history, and I feel part of UVic’s. I want to help it flourish, to continue the support I still receive,” she explains.

Extremely rare for someone her age, Hannah made a gift in her will to the Jack Petersen Health Centre ensuring that students will continue to benefit from the clinic’s care long after she is gone.

Now that’s payback.
Servant leaders: a faculty member and her spouse are fine examples

What does it mean to lead by serving others? If anyone knows, it's the Crippens.

This ambitious couple came from the humblest of beginnings and worked hard to achieve a wonderful life for themselves and their two children. Inspired by their Quaker faith, they have consistently given back to the communities they have lived in, firmly believing that people in a position of privilege should serve those around them.

Carolyn Crippen was raised by her grandmother and obtained a teaching degree on a government loan. After receiving a BA and MEd, she flourished in the classroom, taking on increasing responsibility until she became a vice-principal and then a principal in Ottawa. Next, she qualified to become Superintendent of Schools in both Ontario and Manitoba.

While in Winnipeg, Carolyn spent every weekend for 38 months driving to the University of North Dakota to earn her PhD in leadership studies (higher education). She was an assistant dean at the University of Manitoba before moving with her husband Al to Victoria, where she became a tenured associate professor of leadership studies in the Faculty of Education at UVic. Carolyn is also a graduate advisor, a job she describes as “an investment in the future through my grad students.”

More recently, Carolyn has become known for her research into the leadership style of twins Daniel and Henrik Sedin, former co-captains of the NHL’s Vancouver Canucks.

Al Crippen grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan and earned some post-secondary education by entering the army (Royal Military Signal Corps) and becoming a radio mechanic. He then joined Northern Telecom, where he worked with semiconductors and moved into middle management. He was also very involved in the Emergency Response Unit at NT. Al took early retirement after 27 years’ service, but he didn’t stop there. His volunteer experience in Community Policing inspired him to then go on and achieve his BA in criminology.

Al’s good nature found its perfect expression in clowning, and he applied these special skills to volunteer roles in Friendship Centres and other charities. In Victoria, he has been heavily involved with the street community, offering his time and support to those who need it most.

The Crippens have had the opportunity to travel widely, sometimes through Carolyn’s work (three trips to Iceland!), and sometimes for the sheer joy of it, such as a recent holiday in New Orleans where they soaked up the jazz they both love. But they are always happy to come back to Victoria, the home they call “our paradise.”

This mixture of concern, gratitude and zest for life prompted them to endow the Crippen Scholarship in Leadership Studies in the Faculty of Education at UVic through gifts in their wills. In their words, “Our schools need strong capable leaders. Such leaders must first be willing to serve and then to lead. They need to know when to pull back and become followers while others assume leadership.”
Thoughtful and engaged: a student who lives UVic’s vision

Our T. S. McPherson Society lunch was a big hit again this year. Donors who have made a commitment to leave a legacy to UVic were treated to a talk by UVic neuroscience researcher Dr. Paul Zehr, author of *Inventing Iron Man* and *Becoming Batman*. Student Montanna Diakun was also on hand to tell us what a legacy gift from the late Bill Ross means to her. Here is an excerpt from her speech:

“I’ve been fortunate enough to have been chosen for the Ross Geography Scholarship for two years in a row, and both times when I wrote thank you letters for this award, I tried to picture Dr. Ross. I would imagine him pursuing the many varied interests that he had, and I’d wonder what he would have thought of the endeavours I’ve pursued during my time at UVic. My heart was always so full when writing the letters, and it seemed like all of my sentiments couldn’t be expressed on paper. But I’m trying anyways, because I know that donors like you will all touch the lives of students at UVic, as Dr. Ross has done with his generous contribution.

My classes have exposed me to so many different facets of geography—from environmental conservation, to the sciences of climatology and hydrology, to how to use computers and satellites to get geographic information. I’ve been able to embark on a couple of research projects through my experiences here: one on flood modelling in a South American wetland, and the other examining how moose might respond to temperature in a changing climate. I’ve gone water-sampling on ferries, looked for wildlife from a helicopter and collected data on the mountains of Glacier National Park—all through my geography degree.

And yet, for me, the greatest contribution UVic has brought me hasn’t been the research opportunities, wonderful though they’ve been. It’s been the knowledge that so many people here care about their environment, and show their care in what they do. It’s been the community. On behalf of every student who has benefitted from a donation to UVic, I want to thank you so much for helping to give us a chance to learn, grow and give back to this and other wonderful communities. Thank you.”

Right, some happy lunch attendees. (*Deborah Price Photography*)
T. S. McPherson Legacy Honour Roll

Donors to the University of Victoria who are committed to leaving a future gift are invited to join the T. S. McPherson Society. Members recognize the importance of legacy giving and the impact these gifts have on UVic’s ability to maintain and exceed its standard of excellence. Some of our members have graciously allowed us to publish their names in order to encourage others to leave a legacy gift to the University of Victoria. Thank you!

Frank G. Ainsworth
Anna I. (Bunty) Allen
Pamela Allen
Sylvia Bandoian
Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Caroline Bartlett
Judd and Kay Buchanan
Gerald W. Burns and Lorraine E. Burns
A. Robert Carter
Joyce Clearihue
Gary and Consuelo Corbett
John Cowlin, P.Eng.
Carolyn Crippen, Ph. D.
Prof. John Fitch
Joyce Folbigg
Joan Anne Forsyth
Elsie and Geoff Fox
Dan Gillett
David E. Gramlich (BSc, ’93)
Carolyn Speakman Granewall
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Len Hindle
Patrick Hlavac-Winsor
James and Carol Joerin
A.D. (Sandy) and Glenda Kirk
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Dick and Sandra Nichols
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D. Heather Raven
Dr. Jillian Roberts and family
Michael Sampson
Erich Schwandt
Lois M. Smith
Philip R. Smith
Richard A. Steffin and Anna L. Steffin
Kris and Pushpa Tangri
Vickie Thomas
NK and Santosh Varma
Deborah G. Walker
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