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.

**Strong will passed on: Chronic disorder doesn’t stop alumna and her husband**

“Never!” That’s what her doctor said when 12-year-old Viviane Falconer, who was subject to frequent epileptic seizures, told him she wanted to be a nurse.

Devastated, Viv returned home and went to her father for comfort. His reassuring words instilled a lasting ambition in her. “As long as you have the will,” he told her, “you can be and do whatever you want.”

Meanwhile, a young boy named Lynn was raising his four siblings. His mother’s focus was on rehabilitating his father, an RCMP officer who was injured while on duty. The trust Lynn’s mother put in him caused him to grow up quickly, taking on one adult responsibility after another. But his busy life was interrupted when he experienced a grave seizure at the age of 19.

As Viv grew into adulthood, the words of her father echoed in her mind, and she was proud when she secured a demanding position serving people with mental health issues. Realising the potential of her seizures to hold her back, Viv resolved to stand out through the dedication and quality she put into her work. Two years into the job she suffered a seizure in front of a fellow employee.

“I was sure they were going to let me go because of my condition,” she recalls. Instead, they did the opposite: “They told me I was one of their best staff and they had no wish to fire me.”

Reinvigorated by this trust, Viv took correspondence courses and then applied to UVic. She was thrilled to be accepted into the Faculty of Human and Social Development. It was hard work, but she enjoyed the challenge and her critical thinking skills blossomed.

Lynn, too, was undeterred by his epilepsy diagnosis. He excelled in the Sea Cadets and, in his spare time, took apart and rebuilt old radios, leaving them “working magically.” Lynn decided to follow his natural inclinations and pursue a career in electronics.

A year into her Child and Youth Care program at UVic, Viv met Lynn. They shared an appreciation of nature and spent time camping, canoeing and fishing. This, as well as their mutual unflappable determination, formed a bond between them. They built a life together that combined their appetite for hard work with using their hands; never buying something if they could make it themselves. Viv says this continues today: “You can find Lynn building himself a fishing rod, working on his model trains or fly tying while I am knitting a sweater, crocheting a baby blanket or making our own jam.”

Viv and Lynn are leaving a gift in their Wills to endow a scholarship for future generations of students at UVic. Quoting her father David, Viv declares, “Where there’s a will, there’s a way! Students really need to hear that constantly. I hope our legacy passes that message along.”
Care for the elderly: Professor emerita passes on her devotion and expertise

You could say that Jessie Mantle has come full circle. Born in Chemainus, she visited and lived in places as close by as Vancouver and as far away as South Africa, before finally settling back in Victoria.

But her world travels pale in comparison to her vocation. In a 2006 book called Geriatric Nursing: Growth of a Specialty, Jessie was hailed as “one of the pioneers of … geriatric nursing … in Canada.”

“My interest in aging probably began with my parents,” Jessie says. “I was the only child of older parents – my mother being 42 when I was born. I grew up being comfortable with older people and was amazed to find that others were uncomfortable around them or considered them ‘has-beens.’ ”

In 1950 she received her diploma in nursing from Victoria’s Royal Jubilee Hospital School. After 10 years, she sought further education at McGill where she graduated with her baccalaureate degree in nursing in 1966. Over the next 10 years, she received a certificate in psychiatric nursing in Boston, scooped up training in public health nursing and a master’s degree in nursing in San Francisco, and ended up in Seattle doing post-degree work in gerontological nursing.

As soon as she had her first diploma, Jessie started working as a nurse, advancing up the ranks to head nurse at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, where she later taught anatomy and physiology. Teaching quickly became her focus. At the University of Western Ontario, she developed learning tools for students, chaired the graduate program and was the keynote speaker of the first Ontario gerontological nursing conference.

In 1981, Jessie accepted a unique joint appointment: she became both a professor of nursing at UVic and a clinical nurse specialist at the Juan de Fuca Hospitals. Fifty percent of her time was spent at each institution. Over the next 13 years she taught registered nurses at UVic, developed one of the distance learning programs for the School of Nursing, and established courses in gerontological nursing. At Juan de Fuca Hospitals she led a team that established a wide-ranging set of clinical programs and committees to improve patient care. The clinical nurse specialist position at Juan de Fuca Hospitals was so successful it became permanent.

Jessie retired in 1995, but that didn’t slow her down. She co-authored a book, developed a parish nursing project, and helped coordinate a night shelter for street youth. Along with a colleague, she created a document for seniors called a Personal Health Record and taught people how to use it to maintain an ongoing accurate story of their health and illness events. Seniors take the Record with them when they visit health care professionals and travel. “I love helping people find out that they have a major role to play on their personal health care team,” Jessie says.

Her dream is “to see the practice of gerontological nursing continue to develop through connections with faculty and students in academia.” In that spirit, she established the Jessie Mantle Fellowship in Nursing, which helps students enrolled in the graduate programs in nursing; specifically those who wish to place an emphasis on improving the care and lives of the elderly, and strengthening the relationships amongst service agencies, researchers and academics. She will add to the fellowship through a gift in her Will.

Erin Donald is already making a difference with that fellowship. As a doctoral student researching palliative care, she is grateful to be able to focus on her studies and “make a meaningful contribution to maintaining quality of life in the elderly population through research and education.” Through her research, Erin helps to bring Jessie’s work to the next generation. Now that really is full circle!
Empowerment: Gift changes student’s life and she vows to pay it forward

The 2015 T. S. McPherson Legacy Society luncheon took place in November in the performance gym at the new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA). At right are some of the attendees.

UVic Chancellor and CBC broadcaster Shelagh Rogers, the keynote speaker, shared humorous and poignant anecdotes about generosity of spirit.

Student and single mother of two, Samantha Magnus, described how a bursary established through the Will of the late Doris Stastny took her from living on welfare, through to successful completion of a Masters in Public Health, and on to gainful employment as a researcher. Here’s an excerpt from her speech:

“I don’t know if you know, but while the costs of food and rent have gone up every year, welfare rates in BC haven’t budged in the last eight years and trying to get by with kids on the tiny welfare cheques is stressful, to say the least.

You can imagine the relief I felt when I found out that I had been awarded bursaries from UVic, including the Doris Stastny Bursary. It was a pretty magical moment. I had already started my degree and, finally, I was confident that I would actually be able to finish.

And it is a really special feeling to know that Doris Stastny did a very similar kind of juggle. She went back to school after the end of a marriage, and she struggled to raise four kids alone while commuting from Campbell River to Vancouver to study library science. Doris taught me through her gift - it is a lesson about paying it forward and about thinking of the future beyond your own.

This kind of forward thinking about good for others is very much what drew me to public health, which focuses on improving the conditions that people need to live and thrive in this world. The lessons I hope to teach through my career are in some ways similar to the lessons that donors teach through giving.

Your gifts are embedded with a selflessness that is inherently inspiring. There is a sense of kindness, hopefulness, optimism and faith that a person cannot help but pass on. And yes, I hope to be sitting where you are one day!”
T. S. McPherson Legacy Honour Roll

Donors who are committed to leaving a future gift to the University of Victoria are invited to join the T. S. McPherson Legacy Society. These supporters 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 them have graciously allowed us to publish their names on the list below. This is a mere fraction of the more than 230 members of the Society, but these donors have agreed to this publicity in the hopes that it will encourage others to leave a legacy gift to the University of Victoria. Thank you!

Frank G. Ainsworth
Anna I. (Bunty) Allen
Pamela Allen
Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Caroline Bartlett
Judd and Kay Buchanan
Gerald W. Burns and Lorraine E. Burns
A. Robert Carter
Doreen Chadwick
Joyce Clearihue
Gary and Consuelo Corbett
John Cowlin, P.Eng.
Carolyn Crippen, Ph. D.
Professor John Fitch
Joyce Folbigg
Joan Anne Forsyth
Elsie and Geoff Fox
Dan Gillett
David E. Gramlich (BSc ’93)
Carolyn Speakman Granewall
Jane and Robin Hall
Len Hindle
Patrick Hlavac-Winsor
Scott Iverson
Carol and James Joerin
A.D. (Sandy) and Glenda Kirk
Prof. Anthony V. Liman
Fae Logie
Dr. Brenda L. Lonsbury-Martin
Maria Luisa Macrae
Linda Magnusson and Jim Rierson
Jessie Mantle
B. Marilyn McCrimmon
Cathy Whitehead McIntyre
Hazel Morris
Dick and Sandra Nichols
Gerald A. Poulton
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
Lois A. Voigt Stockey
Kris and Pushpa Tangri
NK and Santosh Varma
Deborah G. Walker
Susan E. Wetmore
Beverly Anne White
Dr. Diana White
Dr. Patrick White
Allister Wilmott
Audrey Woodward
Eva Wynand
Prof. Derk Wynand
M.W. Yeats
Patricia M. Young
John H. and Betty M. Youson