“It took other people believing in me to see that I could do it.”

Kaeli Rose Sort, Student
THANK YOU
YOUR STORIES, YOUR IMPACT

At the University of Victoria we have an edge that is distinctly our own. This edge, our edge, drives us to make learning exciting and real, and to create change that improves the future for our communities and across the globe. We know we can’t do this alone. Our vital impact is made possible by you—our alumni and donors. Your continued partnership and generous support are crucial to our success.

There’s a donor behind each inspiring student, research breakthrough, or community initiative, behind each achievement we celebrate. Our donors share our vision and desire to open doors to educational opportunities and push the limits of possibility. In the following pages we pause to reflect on the difference you make to our university and to the wider world as we present a few examples of how your support for students and programs transforms people, places and the planet.

We also demonstrate the breadth and depth of your support in the past fiscal year. Your gifts will have significant impact long into the future. I’m particularly proud to highlight three examples of collective giving. The 2014 gift from the 1964 graduating class, the Rugby Challenge, and the Student Award campaign celebrating UVic’s 50th Anniversary show what happens when alumni come together to create a legacy for future alumni. Donors are also helping us on our highest priority, student support, by establishing new awards and growing our Endowment Fund.

I want to thank you for investing in what gives UVic our edge.

These are your stories. This is your impact.

Jamie Cassels, QC
President, University of Victoria
By giving to UVic you’re not just changing the course of a student’s life. You’re also fuelling their desire to improve the lives of others. Through community involvement, advocacy and innovation, UVic students are doing amazing things, inside and outside the classroom, that wouldn’t be possible without your support.

KAELI ROSE SORT
Youth In Care Tuition Award

At age 15, Kaeli Rose Sort was living on her own, working three part-time jobs and struggling to finish high school. “I didn't think I would ever attend university,” Kaeli remembers. “I was barely making ends meet and it didn't seem like an option for someone like me.” But Kaeli says the desire to do more with her life and encouragement from friends pushed her to enroll in university. "I think it took other people believing in me to see that I could do it, if I put my mind to it," She’s just graduated with a degree in Child and Youth Care.

The BC Representative for Children and Youth recently highlighted the need for universities to increase financial support available to students who were previously in care. Several donors came forward with generous contributions to help establish a new bursary fund at UVic. Kaeli was again reminded of the power of others believing in her when she learned she was one of the first recipients of this bursary.

The award not only covered Kaeli’s last semester of tuition, but bolstered her determination to use her education to advocate for the rights of other youth who have grown up in care. She also hopes to use her passion for teaching yoga to help traumatized youth heal. “I believe the responsibility for young people in care rests with all of us,” Kaeli says. “Our society needs to do more for them.”
"I think it took other people believing in me to see that I could do it, if I put my mind to it."
As chairperson of the Society for Students with a Disability (SSD), Patrick Dwyer spends a good portion of his time advocating for fellow students. He’s also busy acting as group facilitator for a peer-run autism support network. Somehow Patrick finds time to maintain top grades in his psychology and political science courses, earning several scholarships that help towards his tuition.

Patrick had extreme sensory sensitivities when he was younger so he struggled in his middle school environment, but started to excel academically once he moved to an alternative education program. During his late teens he was exposed to UVic through an outreach activity delivered by the Centre for Autism Research Technology and Education (CARTE). “One of the reasons I chose to come here was the supportive community for people with disabilities,” he explains. “The transition to university is difficult for everyone, but for someone on the autism spectrum it can be especially traumatic. Changes in routine, support networks and peer groups can create a lot of stress.”

Patrick’s scholarships not only recognize his achievements despite these challenges, but also free up time for volunteering instead of working. Under his leadership, SSD successfully campaigned for a respite room that offers a sensory-reduced safe space in the Student Union Building—an example of the group’s commitment to creating a barrier-free campus that helps all students succeed.
Christmas came early last year for Tristan Knapp-Fisher when CanAssist’s engineering team provided him with a highly customized gaming system. Tristan, who has progressive muscular dystrophy, loves gaming, and it’s one of the few activities he’s able to enjoy. But as his dexterity deteriorated, Tristan’s Xbox had been gathering dust for two years. Within 15 minutes of receiving his new controller, Tristan was speeding through his favourite driving game.

Nathan Müller, who was a mechanical engineering co-op student at the time, worked closely with Tristan to design and build something that would work perfectly for his specific abilities. “That image of Tristan’s excited grin will stay with me for life,” he says. “It was gratifying to see the value of our hard work and know it enables Tristan to enjoy an activity he thought was lost to him.”

On top of the profound impact for clients like Tristan, donor funding brings rich benefits to UVic students involved in the project. Nathan incorporates his hands-on experience into his current role in medical product development. He also has a greater appreciation for the limiting factors faced by people with all sorts of disabilities. “It totally spun me around and helped me see from their perspective. That’s really important going forward in life, whatever industry I work in.”

“That image of Tristan’s excited grin will stay with me for life.”
Canadian artist Ted Harrison’s well known colourful style originated from his other passion—education. He developed this style while teaching in the Yukon in an effort to inspire his students with a more vibrant image of the northern landscape. One of these paintings, ‘Vast Yukon’, hangs prominently in the David Turpin Building, inspiring the hundreds of students who pass it each day.

Harrison’s close ties with UVic go beyond his many contributions to the university art collection. The successful local artist, teacher and children’s author often visited classes and mentored students across programs in fine arts and education. Dr. Robert Dalton, associate professor of art education, remembers Harrison’s visits to his classes as valuable learning moments:

“His storytelling, like his artistic style, was extremely vivid. He regaled my students with tales from his life as an artist and teacher. Experiencing his imagination, warmth and humour first-hand taught my students an important lesson: a clear understanding of who we are must be reflected in the art we create.”

Harrison’s legacy at UVic will live on through a bequest to support education materials in the library. This gift will be endowed, ensuring that the man who dedicated most of his life to teaching will continue to offer inspiration and support for future art educators.
UVic's commitment to hands-on education and civic engagement nurtures rich community connections on campus and beyond. You’re providing resources and opportunities for students to examine their role in building better societies. Your gifts are supporting students and programs that have a far-reaching impact throughout the world.

KEAR PORTTRIS
UVSS Student Parent Child Care Bursary | Norah & Calvin Banks
Aboriginal Leadership Award in the Sciences

Like many Indigenous students, civil engineering student Kear found a home away from home in the First Peoples House. As a Campus Cousin, Kear is a role-model and mentor for new Indigenous students, helping them make the transition from their home communities and adjust to life at UVic—culturally, emotionally and academically. Kear balances a long list of volunteer commitments with his educational goals and family responsibilities. He acknowledges that he couldn't do all three without bursaries and scholarships. “I'm trying to be the best father I can, not just by creating financial stability, but by contributing to the kind of community I want my daughter to grow up in, and spending time and energy on things that, in my eyes, have a much greater impact on society.”
"I'm trying to be the best father I can, not just by creating financial stability, but by contributing to the kind of community I want my daughter to grow up in."
JALILA JALILA

Maurice William Summerhayes Memorial Bursary

Students graduating from high school face some big decisions, like where to go to university, and what to study. But how many students stop and think how lucky they are to have these choices? Jalila Jalila, a second year computer science student, is acutely aware of her privilege. “I was blessed to be born in a family where education was encouraged,” she says.

In her birthplace, Kashmir, Jalila’s cousins were forced to leave their village because local extremists opposed the family’s decision to educate their daughters. Her parents sacrificed their own careers and immigrated to Canada so that their daughters could be educated without fear.

Jalila is determined to return to Kashmir after she’s established a career and advocate for women’s education. “To me, there’s no greater gift than education, and I intend to pass it on. If I can encourage just a handful of women who are thirsty with the desire to learn, it will be worth it.”
JESSICA ROUND
Graham Branton Co-op Award | Thouvenelle Co-op Scholarship

Jessica Round’s co-op placement in Uganda made a lasting difference in her life, and the lives of many others. Jessica, an aspiring doctor in her final year of biochemistry, spent 12 weeks in Uganda with the International Christian Medical Institute (ICMI), volunteering for a children’s rehabilitation centre, a health administration education course and a rural HIV education program.

She recalls leading a community discussion about HIV and hygiene in a village 50 km from the closest health centre. “Before the talk I assumed they would all have heard these messages before. Even though they live in a country where HIV is prevalent only a few people knew how HIV is passed on and how to prevent it. That’s when I understood the power of these scholarships from UVic. By granting me this opportunity, donors are also supporting the important work of international non-profits.”

The experience made Jessica even more determined to become a doctor and opened her eyes to the differences between first- and third-world medical systems. “Seeing what they do with so few resources gave me a greater appreciation of everything I have.”

JASON MICHAUD
Holocaust Studies Fund

“When you’re in such close contact with the whole topography of the Holocaust, it puts things in perspective and makes you contemplate your hopes for the future,” says Jason Michaud, a teaching assistant and former participant of the UVic I-witness Field School.

The field school gives students a first-hand view of the way the Holocaust is memorialized throughout Europe, and helps them understand how the lessons of the Holocaust are relevant in today’s world. Donors make it possible to hire two teaching assistants for the school and keep participant fees as low as possible.

Jason’s presence was crucial in creating a comfortable atmosphere for students to examine and share their thoughts through blogging and group discussions. These opportunities for deep reflection bring students to a place most classrooms can’t.

Jason notes that the effect can be so profound it changes how participants view their role in the world. “The program’s about more than the memorials we see. It’s about life, the future, and the positive contributions they can make to their community, and the greater community.”
When the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary was threatened by LNG pipeline development proposals, bear biologist Wayne McCrory came to UVic's Environmental Law Centre (ELC) for help. Years earlier McCrory, who was the director of the Valhalla Wilderness Society at the time, played a key role in getting the sanctuary protected, so he knew pipeline construction would have significant environmental impacts on this special area. It would also set a dangerous precedent for all protected areas.

“This is one of the jewels of BC’s wilderness, but who else will help concerned citizens stand up for it, if not the ELC?” asks student Matt Hulse, who worked on this assignment. The grizzlies are an iconic symbol of the Canadian wilderness that play an integral role in the area’s unique ecosystem, but their survival depends on that ecosystem remaining undisturbed. The LNG company subsequently re-routed their proposed pipeline around the sanctuary.

Generous support from the Tula Foundation allows the centre to take on cases like this, while at the same time inspiring and training the next generation of Canada’s public interest environmental lawyers. In this way, the Tula Foundation is investing in the future of BC, and places like the Great Bear Rainforest in particular. “The opportunity to cut my teeth contributing to real environmental issues is what brought me to UVic,” says Matt. He will continue to develop his practical experience and his passion for environmental issues when he returns as an articling student with the ELC in November.
“The opportunity to cut my teeth contributing to real environmental issues is what brought me to UVic.”
Marine biology PhD student Jackson Chu is an underwater explorer in training, and he’s asking some big questions no one has tackled before. Jackson’s research into low-oxygen zones at the sea-floor will provide new criteria for assessing climate change impacts on animal life. This will potentially push discussions about the health of our oceans in a new direction.

While government scholarships pay his salary, donor funding allows Jackson to take risks in his research and to think outside the box. In one case he used this additional funding to actually build a box—an experimental apparatus for measuring the metabolism of his animal samples.

“The health of the ocean affects everybody. My supervisor Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe taught me that we have to take risks in our research. A lot of what we attempt may not work, but when it does, it’s a game changer.”
CONSTANCE SOBSEY & CUONG LE

Rix Family Leading Edge Graduate Student Awards

On the surface, the research of graduate students Constance Sobsey and Cuong Le have little in common. Constance is looking at the effect of chronic psycho-social stress on the body, while Cuong is exploring ways to increase the poplar tree’s suitability for biofuel. But in the lab they both study the same building blocks of life—proteins.

It’s partly due to their diverse interests that proteomics pioneer Dr. Christoph Borchers brought them onto his team at the UVic–Genome BC Proteomics Centre with the help of the Rix Graduate Awards. Proteomics, which is the study of all proteins—antibodies, enzymes and molecules—has far-reaching applications across human and environmental health. “We’re at the forefront of an emerging field of science, working with world-class expertise and technology,” says Constance. “It’s an extremely unique opportunity for students.”

Attracting bright minds is also a long-term investment in the sustainability of the centre and the advancement of proteomics science. Constance is excited for the opportunities in this field: “Proteomics is relevant to our understanding of any living organism so its future applications are almost endless.”
“This award sharpens my focus, accelerates my research timeline and ultimately gets us to our goal faster.”
REGIE SOBRAL-FILHO
Yvonne Allen Cancer Research Scholarship

Although he works with nanoparticles 10,000 times thinner than a human hair, PhD student Regie Sobral-Filho is focused on a goal much larger in scale: disarming cancer. “What drives me to be in the lab at 7:00 a.m. on a Sunday is that I’m not just doing this for myself,” he says.

Regie, who works in Dr. Alex Brolo’s lab, is collaborating with scientists at the BC Cancer Agency to develop biologically adaptive radiotherapy, treatment planning based on a patient’s individual biochemistry. He also uses inexpensive and accessible nano-fabrication techniques so that his methods can be replicated in labs all over the world.

Regie’s research is supported through a scholarship established in memory of Yvonne Allen, who died from cancer at age 44. This support enables him to reduce his teaching hours and deepens his determination to complete his leg in the research race to eradicate cancer. “This award sharpens my focus, accelerates my research timeline and ultimately gets us to our goal faster.”
DONORS GAVE $14,560,000 IN FY 2014/15

ILLUSTRATING YOUR SUPPORT

- 31% to Program Funds
- 25% to Student Support
- 15% to Chairs & Professorships
- 26% to Buildings & Equipment
- 3% to General University
THERE’S POWER IN NUMBERS

3,140 alumni gave to UVic in FY 2014/15.

The 1964 Grad Class commemorated their 50 year reunion by endowing a new student award in Science.

Alumni & friends helped celebrate UVic’s 50th Anniversary by pledging $436,000 to create 10 new Student Awards: 3 endowed awards and 7 annual awards.

One alumnus’ Rugby Challenge to former team mates and friends raised $400,000 for athletics awards.

An anonymous donor matched these endowed awards, and many more!
WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE

**AFFORDABILITY**
Student awards help cover tuition and reduce student loans

**ACCESS**
Bursaries reduce barriers to post-secondary education

**DIVERSITY**
Supportive programs and financial assistance create a welcoming environment for students from all walks of life

**QUALITY**
Scholarships, fellowships and professorships help us attract and keep the brightest minds

**CAMPUS**
Buildings, labs and other teaching resources enrich the student experience

**RESEARCH**
Tackling essential issues that matter to our society and engage the community

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**
Co-ops, field schools, service learning and extracurricular programs that foster civic engagement
THE ENDOWMENT FUND CONTINUES TO GROW

$4.3 MILLION
added to the endowments in 2014/15

Current value of the fund

$394 MILLION

Generating

$12 MILLION
this year in distributions

DONORS SUPPORTING STUDENTS

1,510 students received $3,055,474 in donor funded scholarships in 2014—that’s an average of $2,023 per student

551 students received $1,113,579 in donor funded bursaries in 2014—that’s an average of $2,021 per student

80 Number of new donor funded awards set up in 2014

Almost 1 in 10 students are helped through a donor funded award.

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