There comes a time in every educator’s career when they exit the classroom door in pursuit of their next great lesson. For four of Gustavson’s long-term instructors, that moment came this year as they each embrace the art of retirement. Their next chapters hold the promise of many new adventures, and we wish them all the best. Thank you, Dr. Angela Downey, Dr. Rebecca Grant, Dr. David McCutcheon and Mr. John Oldale for the lessons, wisdom and advice you’ve shared with us over the years. Class won’t be the same without you!

An accomplished researcher with a flair for making finance fun, Dr. Angela Downey brought her unique perspective to the classroom. Her research focuses on the financial implications of changes in healthcare system delivery and in her managerial accounting courses she drew examples from the health sector to show students that finance careers aren’t limited to accounting firms alone.

Angela is an outstanding accounting professor. Her tough-love approach and humour always keep the classroom lively. Angela truly cares about her students and teaching them what they need to do to be successful in the boardroom.

– Kate Donavan, director administration, undergraduate programs

You may not know this, but Angela started her academic career later in life. I can attest to the fact that she is very proud to have earned her education while raising three children on her own. Students describe Angela as ‘tough as nails . . . but only on the outside: She has been and always will be vivacious, sassy and gregarious—and some say ‘kinda out there’.

– Pat Ekmann, assistant dean, external relations

Angela gave us so much energy and instruction during our very first case competition. (BCom students) benefited so much from her coordination and dedication to the work.

– Nello Yua, BCom ’17

A trailblazer in e-commerce and tech, Dr. Rebecca Grant always connected the broader community with the business school. In addition to bringing business leaders into the classroom, she recruited them to be volunteer judges for the school’s annual RBC Case Competition. Grant also connected her students to community organizations, such as CanAssist and United Way, through integrated class projects. And if that wasn’t enough, she always had a spare tie or two on hand for students in need of a wardrobe upgrade before a big presentation.

Rebecca’s business technology class was the only one of its kind. It had a lasting impact on me because it was so ahead of its time. She saw an opportunity that was only going to get bigger and kids needed to know about it and how to take advantage of that industry.

– Don Reid, BCom ’86

Rebecca gave us so much energy and instruction during our very first case competition. (BCom students) benefited so much from her coordination and dedication to the work.

– Nello Yua, BCom ’17

With issues arise and I make my way over to Dave’s open door, I am always greeted with an amused, sly smile that says, ‘Come on in, I’m looking forward to hearing what interesting problem you have!’ Then, Dave will effortlessly provide great advice that is meticulous and fair to resolve the issues at hand. He will be greatly missed. Happy retirement!

– Wendy Mah, program manager, PhD program

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– Wendy Mah, program manager, PhD program

Known in our hallowed halls as “Super Dave,” Dr. David McCutcheon has been a driving force in the administration of our programs, from spearheading the implementation of our 2+2 model for the BCom program to overseeing our assurance of learning details for accreditation. McCutcheon has used his military precision to keep Gustavson’s programs in top form, all while maintaining his research and teaching duties in the classroom. Super Dave, indeed!

Dave’s leadership style is giving others the space to feel confident in the innovations they suggest, and then providing a steady hand to support their implementation.

– Sherif Kass, director administrative, pre-experience masters programs

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– Wendy Mah, program manager, PhD program

Dr. David McCutcheon
UVic – 1993-2018

John Oldale has been at the heart of our Master of Global Business program ever since its inception in 2010. Over the years, Oldale has welcomed hundreds of students from all over the world to Victoria, supported and assisted them on a transformational, international journey of learning and discovery, and congratulated them when they became MGB alumni.

I’d like to congratulate John on his retirement, and thank him for all he has done for this program. It was a life-changing experience for me, and for so many others, and John was a big part of making it all possible! I wish him luck with wherever life takes him next.

– Rachel Mark, BCom ’14, MGB ’16

John’s tenacity of purpose and ongoing support throughout the MGB program cannot be overstated. He helped all of us in our search for global education, added a familiar face to UVic, and was a pillar of support through each step of our journey. I wish him nothing but the best in his retirement; there is nobody more deserving.

– Garrett Senez, MGB ’11

John Oldale
UVic – 1996-2018

Many of Gustavson’s long-term instructors are now in the classroom. Super Dave, indeed!

Rebecca Grant
UVic – 1993-2018