



vic report

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A Place for Exploration

BY WILLIAM ROBINS

This spring we will wrap up another term marked by challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. Once again, I have an opportunity to express my gratitude to students, staff and faculty for their expert work in keeping morale high, and for maintaining our excellent academic programs and our deep sense of community.

We have learned how to excel at connecting with each other remotely, in our classes, in our work responsibilities, and in our social activities. Without a doubt, to reach more students and enhance the variety of our programming, we will continue to harness many elements of remote



learning even after pandemic measures soften. At the same time, we have come to appreciate how much we gain from seeing each other in person. Victoria's unique identity has long been expressed through the rich texture of campus life. When we are on campus together, we almost inevitably encounter a wider mix of students and staff and community members, and spend more serendipitous, unstructured time with each other.

The spark of face-to-face encounters enkindles many aspects of Victoria's mission. A good example is in the area of research. As soon as possible, Victoria's beautiful campus will once again host lectures and conferences of all sorts, from the meetings of large academic associations, to public lectures on topics of pressing current interest, to powerful cultural events. As I write, plans are afoot for our in-person Undergraduate Research Day in March, showcasing student research projects in all fields. Also scheduled for March is the biennial Book Launch, celebrating the ambitious academic projects achieved by faculty members of Victoria and Emmanuel Colleges. These face-to-face gatherings enhance Victoria's impact as a site of creative inquiry.

Promoting a dynamic culture of research is one of the commitments spelled out in Victoria University's Strategic Framework. That commitment emerges from the theme given the name "Explore," which is one of the four central themes—Belong, Encounter, Explore and Transform—of the Strategic Framework. Vic hosts research centres of international renown, and supports undergraduate research initiatives in the humanities that are without parallel in Canada. We have an integrated community encompassing undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members, research fellows and emeriti. This cultivation of an interlinked community of exploration creates an atmosphere in which academic coursework, co-curricular activities, and social connections are imbued with a common purpose: to share our curiosity and to sustain each other as we discover new forms and expressions of knowledge.

Another theme in the framework, named "Encounter," underscores our inspiring sense of place. Victoria University's beautiful campus profoundly shapes how students and others experience the University and its mission. The pandemic has underscored just how meaningful that sense of place is for so many members of our community. The campus and the residences have stayed open for most of the pandemic; and students and staff who shifted their activities to remote delivery will soon be participating more fully in the vibrancy of life on campus, with a revitalized sense of belonging.

In this issue of the *Vic Report* you will read articles that spotlight the ongoing importance of all four themes of our Strategic Framework. The cover story featuring alumna and documentary filmmaker, Lisa Hepner, beautifully illustrates how the culture of creative inquiry that we cultivate at Vic resonates with creative endeavours pursued by our alumni. Other pieces highlight students' learning abroad, Victoria University's remarkable art collection, and the extraordinary volunteer work of Ruth Bentley—further examples of Victoria's orientation around our strong and inclusive community (Belong), our inspiring sense of place (Encounter), outstanding academic offerings (Explore), and signature learning experiences (Transform). ◉



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BELONG ENCOUNTER EXPLORE TRANSFORM



Ruth Bentley Vic 4T3: An Extraordinary Victoria Volunteer

BY JENNIFER LITTLE VIC 9T5

Ruth Bentley passed away on November 7, 2021, after celebrating her 100th birthday on July 10. The Vic community mourns her passing and many people have come forward to share their memories of her.

Like Bentley, Nancy (Adams) Ruhnke Vic 7T3 is a founding member of Vic's highly successful, annual book sale and a founder of the Friends of the Library. "Ruth and I worked together on many projects over the course of 30 years," says Ruhnke. "We became good friends. She had such a big heart and was a real character." Ruhnke also recalls Bentley's passion for education which she saw as the key to unlocking future success in students.

Thanks to her remarkable and long-time volunteer support for Vic, Bentley was granted an Arbor Award in 1995, the highest honour for volunteers offered by the University of Toronto. She was subsequently named the winner of Victoria College's 1999 Distinguished Alumni Award. Over the decades, Bentley also contributed generously to the Vic library, to all of Vic's capital campaigns, led an initiative to create a student award in memory of Nobel Laureate and Victoria College alumnus, Arthur Schawlow, and established the Ruth M. Bentley Scholarship.

In addition to helping plan every one of her Class of 4T3 reunions, one of the many tasks Bentley undertook was chairing the committee for a gala dinner as part of Victoria University's sesquicentennial celebrations in 1986. This massive undertaking at the Harbour Castle Hotel saw nearly 3,000 guests gather to celebrate 150 years of Victoria.

"I first met Ruth when I was on the sesquicentennial committee with her," says Frank Collins, professor emeritus of French. "She was irreverent and had a reservoir of energy, an energy that was contagious. She really found joy in volunteering and participating in events. When a job had to be done, she would jump in with both feet and harness her raw enthusiasm."

"She really was her own person," says Bob Brandeis, former chief librarian. "I first met Ruth in 1977 when I joined Vic. Although she was strong-willed and outspoken, her heart was most certainly in the right place. In her later years she held court at Toronto's Old Mill where she would entertain her many friends over lunch and share the best anecdotes."

"Ruth had a strong belief that things should be done 'the right way,'" says Sharon Gregory, associate director of gift planning at Vic. "Things had to be done to a standard with Ruth and she put in the work to make it so." Gregory recalls a botched print job of programs that arrived just as the tables were being set for the sesquicentennial gala. "We didn't dare tell Ruth. We strategically placed what good copies we had around every table with the hope that couples and friends could share. We couldn't let Ruth down!"

Bentley also supported many causes outside the University: women's education; endangered wildlife; and child welfare.



Ruth Bentley

She studied social work and later became a teacher. She was known to be tough but fair and took on the challenge of teaching so-called "incorrigible" young women at the Ontario Training School for Girls in Galt, Ontario.

Martha Wreford, Bentley's niece, remembers her aunt as a kind and generous woman. "She had a real drive to make things better for the less fortunate," says Wreford. "She always had some kind of project on the go, be it for Vic or another organization. Vic, however, was extremely important to her on a personal level. I think some of her drive came from the inspiration she derived from her father. He arrived in Canada from England with only £20 in his pocket. He went on to have his own successful business as a barber and tobacconist. The business was still in existence a few years ago."

Wreford spent a great deal of time with her aunt when she was growing up. "Aunt Ruth was wonderful to me and my brother Andrew," says Wreford. "She took us all over the world to learn about other cultures and expand our horizons. We also explored Canada by tracking grizzlies in northern B.C., taking a polar bear tour in Churchill, Manitoba, watching whales on the St. Lawrence and Saguenay rivers, and observing birds and seals on the Pribilof Islands."

Bentley lived independently until she developed dementia and had to be moved into a long-term care facility. Her new living space was adorned with Vic paraphernalia, including her chancellor's medals celebrating her 55th to 70th anniversaries of graduation. She managed through COVID-19 and was never afraid. "Until the end," says Wreford, "Aunt Ruth was still correcting people at the home and telling them how to run the place. She never lost her spark." ◉

VIC INTERNATIONAL

Increasing Access to Experiential Learning

BY LIZ TAYLOR SURANI

Jane Yearwood

It is incredibly motivating for students to see how their academic learning can be expanded and transformed by an international research or work placement,” says Victoria College Principal Angela Esterhammer Vic 8T3.

More Vic students will have the chance to gain a new perspective through experiential learning opportunities made possible by a \$500,000 grant from Universities Canada and its Global Skills Opportunity program.

This fall, the Office of the Principal launched Vic International: Work-Integrated Learning Abroad to help support students interested in multinational learning experiences. The grant is part of a government-funded initiative that aims to increase student access to international learning opportunities, with a focus on facilitating increased access for students from underrepresented groups.

“We are really excited to receive this generous grant, and eager to get the word out to Vic students,” says Esterhammer. “This is a fantastic opportunity for students to acquire global skills and competencies, and take their university experience to a new level.”

Broadening opportunities for more experiential learning and international study is a priority for Victoria University’s president, William Robins, and is included in Vic’s five-year *Strategic Framework*, approved by the Board of Regents in June 2021. “Increasing student access to international study and providing financial support for this kind of activity will ensure that more students can engage in unique and life-changing experiences,” says Robins, who over many years taught in U of T’s summer-abroad program in Siena, Italy. “Currently, the Vic International program is funded through to 2025 and will support at least 70 students for international work-integrated learning opportunities. Most of those places are designated for Indigenous students, students with disabilities and students from low-income backgrounds.

Victoria’s registrar, Yvette Ali, believes that creating a more inclusive learn-abroad program for students is a positive step. “Learn-abroad experiences have traditionally favoured students with greater financial resources at their disposal,” says Ali. “One of the most significant barriers to learning abroad is financial due to additional travel and living expenses as well as a loss of income if experiential learning takes places over the summer months.”

This new, four-year grant will provide funding for students to travel and learn internationally within the context of credit

courses. Eligible courses may involve a wide range of experiential learning, such as internships or other work-integrated placements, research experiences, and fieldwork. All Victoria College students are eligible for this funding for international experiential learning in any field or program of study.

In addition, notes Esterhammer, ongoing opportunities within some Vic academic programs are also still available. These include a teaching internship in Beijing Foreign Languages School and at Branksome Hall Asia in South Korea, both offered through the Education and Society Program. Additionally, a planned expansion is underway to open up international placement opportunities in Israel through an existing partnership with Hebrew University in the Material Culture and Semiotics Program, and there are more program-related opportunities currently under development. Members from the Office of the Principal are working closely with the Office of the Registrar and Academic Advising to notify Victoria College students about these exciting opportunities, in preparation for the restart of international programming this summer.

The program is also an important step towards achieving Canada’s trade diversification goals and strengthening international networks. The Global Skills Opportunity Program is a central component of Canada’s International Education Strategy. It is funded by Employment and Social Development Canada, and jointly administered by Universities Canada, and Colleges and Institutes Canada.

“This grant is both unique and exciting because it’s not only focused on academic knowledge,” says Ali. “Experiences like these offer students tangible skills that they can apply to their next steps after graduation. Pursuing this grant opportunity on behalf of Vic students was really a response to how our graduates are expected to have a global perspective. A learning-abroad opportunity provides them with a competitive edge for post-graduate coursework or working after graduation—an opportunity to which all students should have access.”

Esterhammer agrees: “The range of skills summed up in the term ‘global competency’ is becoming increasingly important for students contemplating a wide variety of careers. These skills include cross-cultural understanding, communication, problem solving, flexibility and adaptability.”

In winter 2020, then third-year student David de Paiva travelled to Switzerland and enrolled at the University of



David de Paiva

Geneva for a semester. “Having grown up in the greater Toronto area, it was a great opportunity for me to travel and learn in a new environment. I decided to go to Geneva so I could learn about politics in one of the great historical cities for world politics. Living there also provided me with an opportunity to practise my French.”

“I think it probably would have been a life-changing experience,” he says, “but my stay was interrupted after three weeks by the COVID-19 pandemic. I had to flee Europe a couple of days after I received my Swiss residency permit, which was an unexpectedly exciting and scary experience! Still, the subsequent three months of online school from Toronto felt new.”

In spite of not living abroad for the whole semester, de Paiva still feels that he benefitted in unique ways. “In the short time I was abroad, I had learned how to make proper mulled wine from someone from Boston, played Dungeons and Dragons for the first time with someone else from Pennsylvania, and went swimming in Lake Geneva in February with someone from Malaysia. Even after my return, I worked on a project on D.H. Lawrence across a 16-hour time difference with an Australian student. These were all really exciting experiences, and what they say about meeting people from across the globe when you study abroad is true!”

He also had the opportunity to enroll in online courses through the University of Geneva and the experience was both challenging and rewarding—something he says he will never forget. “I had a class taught by an English professor from England who was so passionate about literature. He was also very kind and helpful as I adapted to both long-distance and online learning; his patience and understanding as I worked through an unfamiliar subject area has stuck with me.”

De Pavia graduated from Vic this past June with a bachelor of arts degree in political science, urban studies and Russian literature. He looks forward to travelling again when he can do so safely.

Fellow graduate Jane Yearwood Vic 2T1 knew since she was in high school that she wanted travel to be part of her undergraduate experience—learning abroad options was one of the reasons she chose U of T. What she did not anticipate is that her travels would make such an indelible impression that she would change academic majors upon her return to Canada. It’s not a decision she took lightly, as it did add a fifth year to her studies, but she’s certain she did the right thing.

“I was so grateful I had the opportunity to travel pre-pandemic,” says Yearwood. “I was fortunate to travel to Beijing through the Education and Society Program to complete my teaching placement abroad. Prior to joining the program in Beijing in the winter of 2019, Yearwood went to South Korea for a month to study modern Korean literature—a learning experience she organized herself. She used the Korean experience to gain a cultural credit, and in Beijing engaged in courses ranging from Chinese language and comparative literature to Chinese painting and martial arts. She describes her learning experiences abroad as “magical:” “Once I was further away from home, I started noticing in a more visceral sense how my worldview had been shaped by my own lived reality. It was important for me to see how my worldview differed from others.”

It was during her stay in Beijing—and subsequent trips in the region—that Yearwood started to see the world around her in a new way. “When I was in Asia, I was so intrigued by all of the different cities I went to, especially the buildings and architecture. I became very interested in the development of these cities, and in urban planning more generally. My travels encouraged me to ask questions about transportation, housing, health, food access, social inequities and more.”

Having taken some geography courses at U of T prior to her departure, Yearwood knew that she could study these subjects more seriously upon her return. And yet, when she did get home, she was only one semester away from graduating. “I was so close to completing my degree requirements; however, I ended up switching majors, took a fifth year at Vic and enrolled in a series of geography courses instead,” she says. It was a huge shift academically, but my experiences abroad really showed me a different path from which I could not easily turn away. It really cemented my love for my minor in education and society and opened my eyes toward geography. For me, the experience was transformational.”

This past June, Yearwood graduated with a major in human geography and a triple minor in French, English, and education and society. She is in the midst of applying to a master’s program in geography at U of T.

Both Yearwood and de Paiva met people from all over the world and became classmates with students from different universities. Working and learning abroad enabled them to develop new interests, new ideas and ways of looking at the world, and to gain deeper self-knowledge. In short, they returned to Canada as global citizens with a broadened sense of the importance of discovery, what is possible, and where they might have an impact.

Fieldwork and internships are crucial to learning and research. Whether choosing to study overseas, conduct research abroad or pursue professional internships, students should not be limited in furthering their academic goals by financial barriers. Students speak of their learning abroad experiences as life changing; providing support for additional experiential opportunities and access to such programs for all Victoria College students continues to be a top priority for the University. ◉



LISA HEPNER VIC 9T3

THE HUMAN TRIAL

BY JENNIFER LITTLE VIC 9T5

Lisa Hepner, an L.A.-based filmmaker, credits Victoria College and the University of Toronto for leading her to the career path she is on today. “I studied English and history at Vic. Studying English helped me find my footing in the world of documentary storytelling. And having a good understanding of history helps to inform my understanding of current events,” says Hepner. “It was at Vic where I discovered my true love—reporting the stories that people should know about.”

Hepner first dipped her toe into the world of reporting when she joined Vic’s newspaper, *The Strand*. “I remember working late into the night re-writing my stories—even if it was a story about touch football,” she says. “I was so pleased to be part of the Vic community within the much larger University of Toronto campus. I worked hard to find my own voice.”

Hepner saved up to spend her third year of undergraduate studies in Edinburgh, Scotland. “This was a watershed year for me. I remember being fit at the time as I was a runner. But I didn’t have the energy to walk up a hill.” Tests were run and much to her surprise, Hepner was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1991. “Being diagnosed with diabetes really changed my world view. I learned that life is short—really short—and I became more of a risk taker because I felt I had nothing to lose. I had considered going to law school after Vic, but I chose to follow my heart instead and go into documentary filmmaking.”

Upon returning to Toronto, Hepner

started working for U of T’s student newspaper, *The Varsity*. She continued to work for the paper after graduation in the paid position of opinions editor. “There were so many great people at *The Varsity*. It served as a respected stepping stone to other publications such as *The Globe and Mail* and *The New York Times*.”

After Vic, Hepner worked for a radio wire service on Parliament Hill. “I found out quickly that I didn’t like working in radio but it did whet my appetite for journalism,” she says.

Full of confidence, Hepner moved to New York City after Vic. Here, she targeted all the film production companies she could find. “I’m a Pollyanna that way. I sent my writing samples to everyone and clogged up people’s fax machines with my resume. I must have contacted 200 people. Even though I had just arrived from Canada, people made the time to meet with me. Finally I landed a job at Thirteen-WNET, a flagship station of PBS. “I met a director who liked my writing and didn’t care if I hadn’t been on a lot of sets.” Hepner, a fan of big cities, relished her time in New York. She moved into freelance directing and producing, and ultimately started Vox Pop Films with her husband and business partner, Guy Mossman, in 2008.

Hepner and Mossman left New York City for Los Angeles when the bottom fell out of the U.S. housing market that same year. “The tipping point was when my Welsh springer spaniel was standing on my dining room table. We were living in a tiny, 600-square-foot apartment.



Even the dog felt cramped. But New York real estate maintained most of its value during the crash. So Guy and I were able to get our money out of New York and buy a decent house in Los Angeles.”

Re-locating to the west coast, Vox Pop Films built up its roster of commercials and branded content. “It’s important that I be my own boss. Taking care of my health is my number one priority. There’s no way I could handle the hours and demands that go with working for a Hollywood director,” she says. “And I was harboring thoughts about directing a doc.”

One morning, after a particularly bad night of low blood sugars, her husband Guy said they needed to make a documentary about diabetes. And so the seeds were planted for their feature documentary, *The Human Trial*.

“In 2014, we heard about an innovative stem-cell treatment for type 1 diabetes. It took us a year to get access to the regenerative medicine company, ViaCyte. Based in San Diego, the company is working on a functional cure for type 1 diabetes and next generation treatment for insulin-requiring diabetes,” says Hepner. “We started this project at a time when diabetes was killing more than five million people annually. That number shot up to 6.7 million by 2021—that’s a person dying every four seconds.” It’s hard not to draw comparisons to the COVID-19 crisis that has plagued the world for two years. The world has witnessed how the research community can band together and work feverishly to solve a medical problem. It did, however, take public-private initiatives such as Operation Warp Speed (that started with a massive injection of \$10 billion USD), and a collective will to beat COVID.

As Hepner says in her director’s statement for the film, “When we began making *The Human Trial*,



we had no idea that our film would mirror the headlines of a breakthrough vaccine 10 years later. Unwittingly, our first-person narrative captured the zeitgeist of how cure research should be conducted. The swift rollout of a vaccine for COVID-19 showed us that we are capable of innovating in ways we didn't think possible. It showed us how critical clinical trials are to support breakthrough research. It showed us what's possible when the public and private sector collaborate, and when funding isn't an issue. In a post-pandemic world, how do we apply

these hard-won lessons to curing other diseases and chronic illness? How do we un-glove ourselves from an outdated model of biomedical research?"

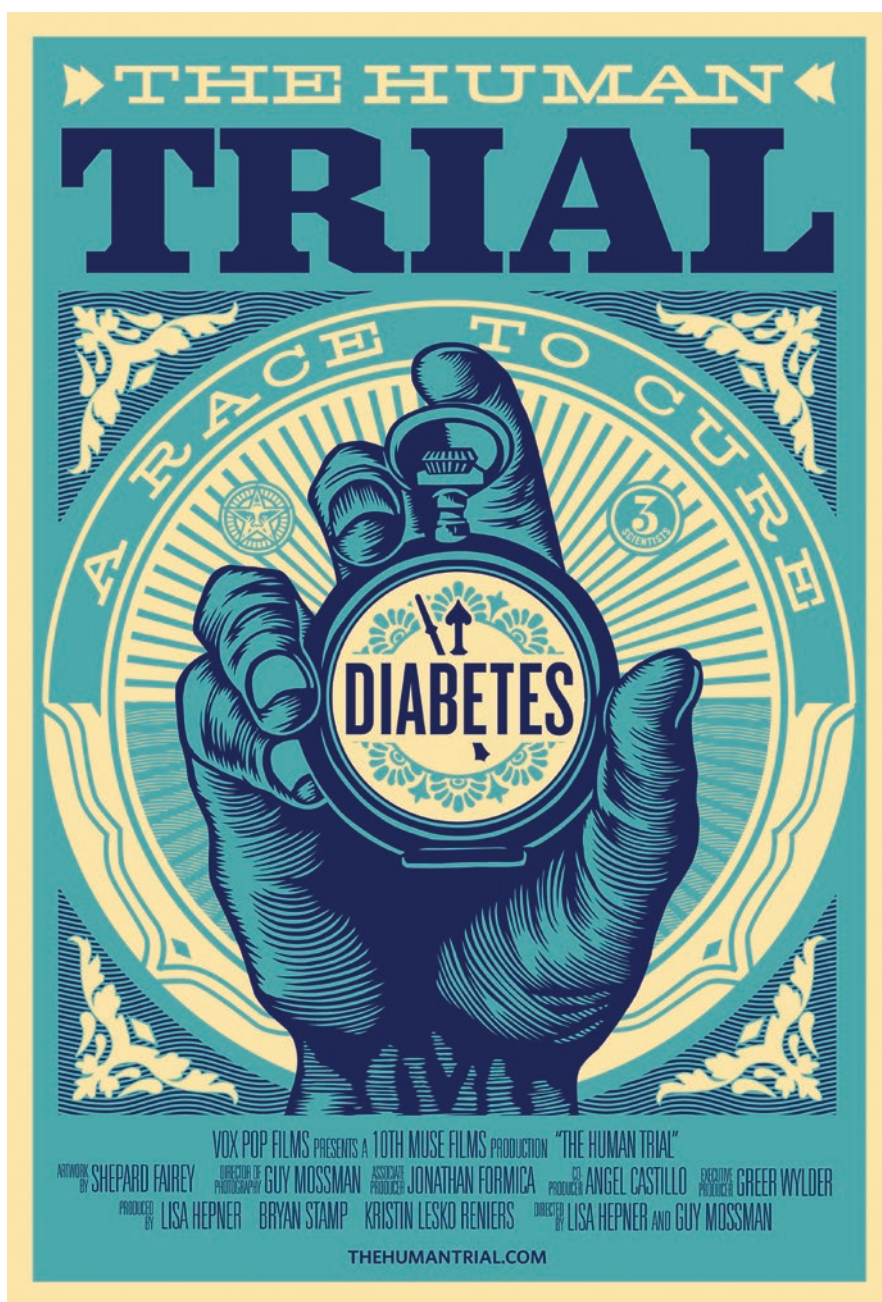
Hepner goes on to say, "When I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 21 years old, I was told the cure was five years away: 'Stay strong the cure is on the horizon.' But 30 years later, I'm still waiting. . . . As our film shows, it doesn't have to be this way. The cure for type 1 diabetes is no longer an empty promise that's 'five years away.' There's reason to be hopeful if we support pioneering research in a meaningful way."

The Human Trial follows the lives of two patients, Maren and Greg, and the emotional and physical challenges of being part of a clinical trial. Although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has to approve human testing, that does not mean it comes without risks. Why would somebody take this risk? According to Hepner, some people are altruistic and believe they can help advance science; some people hate their disease enough to take a chance on a cure; and some people will participate in a trial to have access to free medical supplies.

In this case—only the sixth-ever embryonic stem cell trial in the world—cells are programmed to grow into pancreatic islet cells. They are placed in a credit card-like device that is then implanted under the skin until the cells mature into healthy, insulin-producing cells. ViaCyte has gene-edited the stem cell line to minimize the need for anti-rejection drugs. The trial, however, is not without its tribulations. The film depicts a very emotional Maren, "patient 1," as she endures five surgeries over the course of five months to see if the credit card technology is working. She puts on a brave face and calls herself a pioneer. "I would rather take a chance on this than win the lottery," she says.

"Insulin has been used to treat people with diabetes for over a century," says Hepner. "but it's not a cure." It's a treatment that can be lethal. So the billion dollar question is—why hasn't there been a cure? Maybe it's because diabetes isn't a 'sexy' disease. It's largely invisible. People get blamed for having it. And we don't see its ravages until long-term complications start to rear their ugly head. There is a huge emotional, physical and financial toll living with this disease. "The world has been brought to its knees by COVID-19. But people need to know that diabetes is the other pandemic. Shockingly, \$415 billion USD was spent on diabetes in North America last year. If we could channel that money into research, diabetes would be cured by now." ◉

The Human Trial will open in theatres (in-person and virtually) in June 2022. Visit thehumantrial.com for more information.



Doug Floyd Vic OT2: An Extraordinary Career in Theatre

BY MEGAN MUELLER VIC 8T8

Like most high school students, Doug Floyd Vic OT2 wasn't sure which university would be right for him, so he sought guidance. "My history teacher, Mel Greif at Humberside Collegiate, was one of those educators whose advice came with real gravitas," he recounts.

Victoria College was the resounding response. "Mr. Greif told me this was a well-rounded, liberal arts college and a supportive community," says Floyd. "He was right. Victoria was a very welcoming environment that became my home base."

He was, admittedly, shy in first year. That abruptly transformed in second year after a life-changing event in an unassuming location: the washroom of the Pratt Library where he spotted a poster urging students to audition for the UC Follies' production of *Guys and Dolls* at Hart House Theatre. He had seen the musical at Stratford so, throwing caution to the wind, he auditioned and earned a spot in the chorus. (He had one line, which he remembers to this day: "Where's the game?")

"It exceeded all my expectations," he recalls. "It was a fun show with a talented cast, many of whose members went on into show business."

More than this, the show created a sense of community. "I think that's what I needed: to be part of a group dynamic," he states.

Comparing his first year to his second, "It was like night and day. I became a much happier and more engaged person."

Floyd continued with UC Follies, jumping headfirst into *Cabaret* then *Fiddler on the Roof*. Over time, he became more interested in producing, marketing, publicity and media relations rather than acting.

This realization further shaped his trajectory. He was approached to produce *A Man for All Seasons*, so he put together a partnership of Hart House Theatre, Hart House Drama Society and what he called the University of Toronto Stage Company, his own start-up student company.

This production showed what the future could hold for student theatre.

After graduation, armed with the experience he had gained shouldering governance, marketing, financial and sponsorship responsibilities in tandem with the pressure-cooker expectations of filling a 450+ seat auditorium, Floyd secured coveted marketing positions at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and Tribute Entertainment Media Group. He was also the co-founder and executive producer of the Canopy Theatre Company, which co-produced outdoor summer seasons with the Theatre on Philosopher's Walk no less than 11 seasons.

Today, the Victoria alumnus is Hart House Theatre's general manager.

Looking back, Floyd firmly believes that experiential education played a key role. Indeed, Hart House Theatre facilitates priceless, outside-the-classroom opportunities because it focuses on the development, training and showcasing of young emerging artists.



Doug Floyd began in 1997; studied English, philosophy and history; became a regular at the E.J. Pratt Library, Old Vic and Northrop Frye Hall; and frequented the Cat's Eye Pub and student lounge.

He specifically credits the informal mentorship he gained in this environment and loves the fact that he can provide that kind of support for students now.

Generous of spirit, Floyd has a few nuggets of advice for students: "Take risks. Take an audition. This experience is really important, even if you don't get the part. There's huge value in trying new things, testing your limits. That's the biggest part of the university experience."

Emphasizing that Victoria is the ideal place to grow as a person, Floyd adds that the College offers many opportunities for students via the Isabel Bader Theatre, which he describes as "a beautiful venue."

Theatre at U of T is galvanized by the Drama Coalition, administered and supported by Hart House Theatre. The Coalition is made up of the many student dramatic groups at U of T, including but not limited to St. Michael's College Troubadours, Trinity College Dramatic Society, UC Follies, UTM Drama Club and the Victoria College Drama Society.

The annual Hart House U of T Drama Festival is a focal point for student drama. Hart House is also the setting for the U of T Drama Coalition Awards, now in its 10th year and affectionately called the 'Dougies' in his honour.

"It's all about celebrating the community," he says humbly—a community in which he clearly flourished after having spotted a seemingly random poster at Victoria College more than two decades ago. ◉

Megan Mueller is a communications officer at Hart House.



Catherine Schmid

Art at the Centre: Victoria's Valued Collection

BY LIZ TAYLOR SURANI AND JENNIFER LITTLE VIC 9T5

Victoria University has been collecting artefacts since its inception in 1836, but its art collection did not really begin to grow until after the institution moved from Cobourg to Toronto in 1891. Today, the University has holdings of nearly 1,100 works. The holdings range from historical artworks in a variety of media, including presentation silver, medals and other decorative arts to paintings and sculpture by the Group of Seven and Emily Carr.

Of course, its geographical position in the heart of a city with an evolving and stimulating art scene continues to be to Victoria's advantage—as has been the increasing involvement and emphasis on women artists since the 1930s. The Women's Art Association of Canada, formed in 1887, is still located on Prince Arthur Avenue, only steps from Victoria's campus, and they frequently hold their visual and performing arts programming here.

Current art curator, Gerrie Loveys, notes that the collection as we know it today enjoyed a boost in the 1930s and 1940s when the women's committee received funding to make an annual purchase of a work by an emerging Canadian artist. It was during this period that Jessie MacPherson, then dean of women, “undertook a cultural crusade in music and the visual arts.”

Loveys recalls that an early *Globe and Mail* article stated that the women

students of Victoria College were among the first Canadian student bodies to have a ‘picture-buying program.’ The buying policy was to offer a set sum annually to a reputable artist in return for a painting. As this program began early, the University was fortunate to acquire a variety of works. The paintings were purchased primarily for the women's residences and included notable artists such as G.A. Reid, Marion Long, Isabel McLaughlin and Yvonne McKague Housser, among others. In addition to these works and the remaining on-site collection, there are approximately 800 works on permanent loan to other institutions, including the Royal Ontario Museum and the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

The early collection has roots in teaching and learning and there is a renewed interest in moving back to collecting this type of visual media. Accordingly, the University has more recently focused on acquiring works by professors and alumni. One example is the Canadian artist Catherine Schmid Vic 6T5, who is based in Provence, France. As an undergraduate student, she studied modern languages at Victoria College, and received an honours bachelor of arts degree in French and German. During her undergraduate studies, she also took part-time courses at the Ontario College of Art (now OCAD), and studied painting with Aba Bayefsky C.M. By the late 1980s, she was exhibiting her work

internationally in addition to teaching. Schmid has continued to teach and exhibit her work, mainly in France and Europe, Indonesia, the Art Gallery of Ontario and in private collections.

Schmid was visiting Toronto in 2017 at the conclusion of one of her exhibitions. Rather than bring one of her remaining paintings home, she inquired if the University might take it as a donation. Then curator, Gillian Pearson, was looking for a large-format piece to display in the Goldring Student Centre. The two connected; Pearson ended up choosing *Fragmented Space*, and the painting now hangs above the stairway on the first floor. Like many of Schmid's works, the triptych reflects elements of chance and capturing a world full of possibilities, originating in her travel experiences. She cites the source of her inspiration as the fascination of bold contrasts. The contrasts of dark and light reveal a psychological metamorphosis from the internal to the external world, evoking mystery, consciousness and hope.

In the meantime, Pearson contacted Lisa Sherlock, Victoria University's chief librarian, to see if she would be interested in more of Schmid's work and her archives:

“When she visited with President William Robins and Gillian Pearson, Catherine had brought along her sketchbooks showing her work in progress, over time, and at that time

we decided to create an archival collection of her body of work, or a fonds, containing her sketchbooks,” says Sherlock. “It helps to have these in Victoria University Library’s Special Collections, to show the development of her work and her style. We have, too, an example of the final results, a painting that will hang eventually, above the North Information Commons area in E.J. Pratt Library.”

Most recently, Schmid provided the maquette for her large-scale painting *Out of the Darkness*, which she donated in 2019. She has remained active during the pandemic. “COVID took away a lot of social pressure,” she says. “It allowed me to concentrate solely on my work. I guess I am a positive person; where there is a problem, I always believe there is a solution. That’s how I try to direct myself, especially in difficult times. It doesn’t take much to inspire me!”

Schmid hopes that she will be able to return to Canada and to the Vic campus soon. Until then, she will continue to “take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself. If you can, do it!” From living in residence to joining a club, Schmid believes the art world opened up to her because she was ready to embrace every opportunity that came her way.

Current students have noted that hearing stories and seeing visual representations of inspiring Victoria

Fragmented Space by Catherine Schmid Vic 6T5

Schmid’s works reflect elements of chance and capturing a world full of possibilities, originating in her travel experience. She cites the source of her inspiration as the fascination of bold contrasts. The contrasts of dark and light reveal a psychological metamorphosis from the internal to the external world, evoking mystery, consciousness and hope.



alumnae, like Schmid, is empowering and instills a sense of both belonging and pride. This past year, in an effort to welcome the new Annesley Hall residents, Loveys installed nine photographs and four paintings of notable Victoria women in the hall. Some portraits currently on display include: The Hon. Pauline (Mills) McGibbon Vic 3T3 and first woman to be appointed lieutenant governor of Ontario; climate scientist, Katharine Hayhoe Vic 9T4, Hon. 1T9; Kahontakwas Diane Longboat Vic 7T4, an elder, traditional healer and project manager in Aboriginal engagement and outreach at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Tasha Schumann A.K.A Tasha the Amazon, an indie hip-hop producer-musician, entrepreneur and mentor; and Tanya Talaga Vic 9T3, an Ojibwe author and truth-teller. Talaga’s portrait was created and donated by another Canadian artist, Jeff Sprang Vic 7T7.

Sprang took art courses at OCAD after attending Vic for English literature. He always had an artistic side and enjoyed perfecting his use of watercolours. As he pursued his career in PR for the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association, he had the rare opportunity to meet Nelson Mandela in 1990 at Toronto’s Central Technical School. Sprang was moved by Mandela’s message. With the help of photos he had taken of Mandela, Sprang was inspired to paint the hero’s portrait. Mandela generously signed a selection of the prints and thus began Sprang’s foray into philanthropy through fine art. All money made from the sale of this print went to help Black students in South Africa.

“I really love painting portraits of people I admire,” says Sprang. “Portraiture is a real challenge—to create a likeness of someone else. I love the process and am often pleasantly surprised by the end result.”

As a past student of Northrop Frye Vic 3T3, Emm 3T6, Sprang felt the draw to paint the famous, literary scholar. In 2005 he donated his portrait of Frye to Victoria University with proceeds from prints of the portrait, *The Conspectus of Genres*, supporting undergraduate students.



Tanya Talaga portrait by Jeff Sprang

Later in 2005, Sprang donated his portrait of Stephen Lewis to the Peel District School Board. This time, proceeds earned from prints went to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support funding for community-based organizations for people suffering from HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition to painting world figures, Sprang has painted many famous Canadians including Drake, Gord Downie, Penny Oleksiak and Leonard Cohen. When asked about his favourite portrait to date, Sprang is quick to say, “My favourite is always the next one!”

His most recent project came about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. “I began watching a lot of hockey during the lockdowns,” says Sprang. “I chose to do a portrait of Auston Matthews, captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Before I knew it, I had built momentum and completed 12 portraits. I am going to auction off the portraits this spring to support the Toronto Education Opportunity Fund (TEOF), an organization that brings nutrition programs to 6,000 students in priority neighbourhoods.”

Victoria University is grateful for the support of its art collection by so many generous community members. Vic is proud of its collection and delighted that alumni are counted within the pool of talented artists who have created these wonderful works of art. The next time you are on campus, keep your eyes open for some of the many beautiful and unique pieces that are owned by Victoria University. Look carefully—you might know the artist or the subject from your days at Vic! 🍷

Planning for the Future

BY LOUISE (HUNTINGFORD) YEARWOOD VIC 8T6,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AFFAIRS & ADVANCEMENT

Some of our *Vic Report* readers may be familiar with the term “planned giving.” It means exactly what it says: it’s a plan to give—in the future, and to things that mean a lot to a donor. And it’s about legacy; the donor’s own legacy and their contribution to the legacy of the organizations they support.

Victoria University has been remarkably fortunate to have received numerous planned gifts over its storied history. Vic grads are fiercely proud of their alma mater and are keen to leave their own indelible mark on the future of the University by providing for it, after they have—to quote Shakespeare (because this is Vic after all)—shuffled off this mortal coil.

Visionary leaders in Vic’s past saw fit to support the establishment of a formal planned giving program, allowing the University to devote staff time to working with donors who wish to include planned gifts to Vic in their Wills. These could take the form of outright bequests or employ other giving vehicles, such as life insurance. Of course, donors typically plan for these gifts many years in advance of their being realized, so, ironically, institutional planning related to a gift planning program can be challenging. Institutional commitment, therefore, to such a program is no small thing

as there is a significant upfront investment with a long-term horizon in terms of the realization of gifts.

Realized planned gifts have played a significant role in the fundraising campaigns at both Vic and U of T, and *Defy Gravity*, the current campaign which officially launched in December 2021, will be no exception. At Vic, already in the fiscal year 2021–22 we have received several millions of dollars in realized planned gifts. The stories behind these legacy donations are as varied and as interesting as the donors who planned them.

Vic alumnus, Jack Heron Vic 4T0, and his wife, Catherine, lived and worked in Toronto before retiring to Cannington, Ontario. After his Vic undergrad, Jack continued on to the U of T’s (now) Temerty Faculty of Medicine, graduating in 1943 with an MD. Jack remained fond of Vic up until his death and, while not a Vic grad herself, Catherine was equally Vic positive and enjoyed visiting the campus with Jack for reunions and special events, including Victoria’s Sesquicentennial celebrations in 1986.

The couple had been stalwart supporters of Vic’s annual fund and general bursary fund since the early 1980s. In 2008, after Jack’s death, Catherine established the Dr. John Stewart Heron Bursary in his memory. Mrs. Heron also made a significant gift toward the Goldring Student Centre at Vic in 2008. She confirmed her planned gift to Vic in 2009, making Victoria University a major beneficiary of her estate.

Another such instance of gift planning philanthropy was realized this fiscal year from alumna and Heritage Society Member, Carol Nunn. Carol graduated from Vic in 1960 with a BA and went on to achieve an MA in Library Science at U of T. An Annesley Hall resident during her time at Victoria College, Carol loved the University and remained a loyal donor to both Vic and McMaster University (where she was a librarian for over 30 years) up until her recent passing.

Carol left a portion of her estate to Victoria, divided between the E.J. Pratt Library, the President’s Fund (area of greatest need), and a bursary, which she had previously



Donors and award recipients meet at Charter Day. Pictured here, left to right, Elizabeth (Eastlake) Vosburgh Vic 6T8 and her award recipient, Linsey Gong.

established, named The Carol and Victor Nunn Bursary for International Study. Carol and her husband, Victor, attended many Vic alumni events on campus, as well as regional alumni events held in the Hamilton area where they lived.

The thread that binds together all planned gifts to Vic is the donors' thoughtful and long-term approach to their philanthropy. Typically, planned gifts are significantly larger than annual gifts to the University so they can have a different kind of impact. For example, an annual fund donor on a fixed income may only be able to give a modest \$100 a year to Vic's Annual Fund. That same donor may be able to leave a bequest of several thousands of dollars in their Will, after their loved ones and friends have been remembered.

Because planned gifts are proportionally much larger than other types of gifts, inevitably they have a powerful impact on the long-term vision of the University. Over the years, realized planned gifts to Vic have made possible such things as the construction, maintenance and care of buildings on campus; the launch of signature programs, such as Vic One and Scholars-in-Residence; and the creation of numerous student scholarships and bursaries, totalling many millions of dollars.

Sharon Gregory has served Victoria University for many years as associate director, gift planning. She says, "The Herons, the Nunns and so many others have demonstrated, through their extraordinary philanthropy, their abiding fondness for Vic and their enduring commitment to improve the student experience for generations to come."

To show its gratitude to donors making a planned gift to the University, some years ago Vic launched its Heritage Society. This giving society includes both permanent, on-campus recognition for Society members with realized gifts, as well as yearly recognition of all Society members in our donor listing. Donors who have made a gift commitment of this type also receive a certificate and invitations to Heritage Society events both at Vic and at the University of Toronto.

To all our current Vic donors with planned gifts, we offer our sincere thanks. Your gifts, when realized, will have a profound impact on Victoria University and what it will achieve in its bright and hopeful future. ◉

Where There's a Will ... Planning Your Legacy

Whether it is recognizing the impact of your education on your life and career, expressing gratitude for your University experiences, or paying forward the help you received from a bursary or scholarship, there are many reasons for choosing to remember Victoria University in your estate plans. Charitable bequests and other forms of planned gifts can help you plan your legacy, while providing financial benefits.

For more information on charitable bequests, other forms of planned giving, the five steps you should take to plan your legacy, or to receive a free Victoria University estate planning primer and workbook, please contact Sharon Gregory, associate director of gift planning, at 416-813-4050, or sharon.gregory@utoronto.ca.

All those who have made a provision for Victoria College or Emmanuel College in their estate plans are eligible to join Victoria University's Heritage Society.

If you are considering a bequest to Victoria or Emmanuel, here is suggested wording:

I give and bequeath to the Board of Regents of Victoria University, Toronto, Ontario, the sum of \$ _____ or _____ % or _____ shares of my estate.

If you would like more information about how you can plan for your estate, or if you have already planned a legacy gift to the university but haven't yet let us know, please reach out to Sharon Gregory, associate director, gift planning at sharon.gregory@utoronto.ca or call (416) 813-4050.

MILESTONES

Alumni are invited to send information for inclusion in *Milestones*. For marriages please indicate, if applicable, whether you prefer to be known by your married or birth name. An obituary must accompany notices of death.

E-mail your *Milestones* news to vic.report@utoronto.ca.

Grad Year: Vic _____ Emm _____

Name _____
(Please add title and/or maiden name if applicable)

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

E-mail _____

◉ Please include my e-mail address in my *Milestones* notice.

CAREERS, AUTHORS, HONOURS

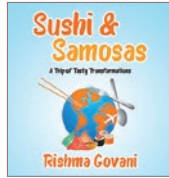
Gordon Chisholm Vic 7T3 recently published *Bud* (Friesen Press, 2021), a children's book.

Bud is a boy in grade two starting the year at a new school. When he experiences kids “budding in line” he becomes increasingly uncomfortable and upset. When he hears, “Don’t bud!” he thinks they are yelling, “Don’t, Bud!” and directing their anger at him. Soon he becomes very unhappy at school. Even after his parents explain that what the kids are saying is not directed at him, he is still upset. When his teacher learns the reason for his unhappiness, there is a discussion with his classmates about what to do. They decide to put up posters and write a short play as part of a “no budding” campaign. Then their music teacher writes a song about “budding in” which Bud’s class performs. Soon kids in the school start behaving more politely in line. Bud feels relieved. He is happy to be at school once again and enjoys playing with his friends.

Janice Fukakusa Vic 7T6 was named a Member of the Order of Canada for her leadership and mentorship in banking, and for her boundless community engagement—notably in education and health care. Fukakusa, who earned a bachelor of arts degree from U of T as a member of Victoria College, is a former chief administrative officer and chief financial officer at RBC. She was also the first female chancellor of Ryerson University. Fukakusa was on the cover of *Vic Report* for the Winter 2019 issue.



Rishma Govani Vic 9T7 has published a children's book called *Sushi & Samosas*. It is about two bright yet stubborn kids, Raine and Asha, who are afraid to try new foods, and prefer to stick to their familiar diet of chicken nuggets and fries. Their adventurous foodie parents are on a mission to change their minds, and have some tricks up their sleeves to get their children to open up and



open wide. Take this delicious journey around the world with Raine and Asha and their parents, and be sure to bring your hungry appetites along for the globe-trotting ride. What better way to create global awareness than through the love of food? This fun book advocates for diversity, tolerance, and cross-cultural understanding, and believes that breaking down barriers by the spoon is an essential introductory step for kids to learn more about the world around them.

Hugh W. McKervill Emm 5T9 has just self-published a revised edition of *The Sinbuster of Smoky Burn—The Memoirs of a Student Minister on the Prairies*. Nonagenarian McKervill spent 10 years

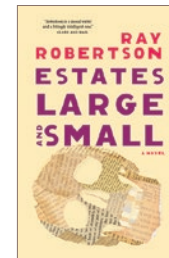


as a United Church minister, another 10 years in New Brunswick as regional liaison officer for the federal Department of the Secretary of State, plus 15 years as the Atlantic regional director for the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Now retired, he lives with his wife in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where, among other interests, he is an award-winning editorial contributor with the *Atlantic Salmon Journal*. McKervill is author of *Darby of Bella Bella* (Ryerson Press) *The Salmon People* (Gray's Publishing and Whitecap Books) and *Like an Ever Rolling Stream* (Four East Publications). *The Sinbuster of Smoky Burn* was originally published in 1993 by Whitecap Books. It recounts the relationships that developed between a young pre-theology student from urban Ontario and the work-hardened pioneers in northern Saskatchewan's mud, flies and mosquitoes during the wet years of the mid-fifties. It also gives an intimate account of Tommy Douglas' experiment in cooperative farming for veterans of World War II.

As expressed in one of the work's many positive reviews: “Hugh McKervill has written a wonderfully perceptive book about pioneer life in the 1950s. As well as being well-written and worth reading this book is a loving tribute to

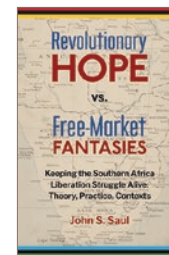
some good people, some good places and a way of life long gone.” The work is available from mckervill@bellaliant.net.

Ray Robertson Vic 9T3 has published his ninth novel, *Estates Large and Small* (Biblioasis). After Phil Cooper reluctantly closes his Toronto second-hand bookstore



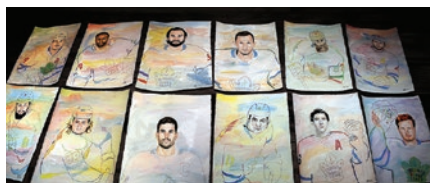
of 23 years and moves his entire business online, he meets Caroline, an ex-postal worker and fellow book lover who's agreed to join him in his attempt to teach himself 2,500 years of Western philosophy.

John Shannon Saul is a Vic grad from the Class of 5T9 and also father of the current chancellor of Victoria University, Nick Saul Vic 9T0. Since Vic days, John himself has continued to deepen his own work, both scholarly and activist-oriented, on southern Africa where he has also taught (as he has at York University in Toronto) and lived. Saul's new book, *Revolutionary Hope vs. Free-Trade Fantasies* (Daraja Press), captures clearly a number of key theoretical, personally experiential, and concretely socio-political dimensions of southern Africa, the latter with deft case-studies of important moments in the histories of the several countries there. Moreover the broad themes mentioned are those he also evokes expertly to shape the overall



volume, including a chapter that casts a cold eye on the role of Canada's own state and corporations, so late in abandoning Southern Africa's racist redoubts as states worthy of Canadian support.

As for “what next?” Saul has now moved on to embrace the task of completing his final book—the 26th with which he has been associated as an author and/or editor—entitled “*Race, Class and the Thirty Years War for Southern African Liberation, 1960-1994: A History* for Cambridge University Press; it is this book that will close out his career when it is published in 2022.



Jeff Sprang Vic 7T7 recently completed a labour of love: original watercolour portraits of 12 Toronto Maple Leafs. His most recent project came about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. “I began watching a lot of hockey during the lockdowns,” says Sprang. “I chose to do a portrait of Auston Matthews, captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Before I knew it, I had built momentum and completed 12 portraits. I am going to auction off the portraits this spring to support the Toronto Education Opportunity Fund (TEOF), an organization that brings nutrition programs to 6,000 students in priority neighbourhoods. I have witnessed first hand the importance of the availability of good food in schools.” Read more about Sprang on page 11.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert J. Acheson Vic 6T1, in Oakville, Ont., January 1, 2022.

John Adams Vic 5T4, in Newmarket, Ont., December 24, 2021.

Mary Jean (Williamson) Affleck Vic 6T1, in Collingwood, Ont., December 14, 2021.

Eva (Karrys) Andrews Vic 5T0, in Brampton, Ont., December 24, 2021.

Shirley A. (Tyte) Beatty Vic 5T1, in Toronto, October 21, 2021.

Jeanne (Merifield) Beck Vic 4T9, in Hamilton, Ont., November 24, 2021.

Chrys A. Bentley Emm 1T8, in Mississauga, Ont., December 23, 2021.

Ruth M. Bentley Vic 4T3, in Toronto, November 7, 2021. See *In Memoriam* on page 3.

Donald H. Bitter Vic 5T4, in Toronto, December 31, 2021.

Leesa Jane Blake Vic 7T8, in Toronto, January 10, 2022.

R. Grant Bracewell, in Surrey, B.C., October 31, 2021. He was the first

theological librarian at Emmanuel College and coordinator of the Toronto Schools of Theology Libraries.

J.P. Burk Vic 6T0, in Kingston, Ont., December 29, 2021.

John R. Carbert Emm 6T1, in Orillia, Ont., December 9, 2021.

Mary E. (Lewarne) Cole Vic 4T5, in Ottawa, December 2, 2021.

George W. Coros Vic 5T2, in Peterborough, Ont., May 2, 2021.

James E. Cruise Vic 5T0, in Simcoe, Ont., November 27, 2021.

Frankland R. Dawe Vic 6T0, in Plymouth, MA, November 22, 2021.

Irvine Dean Vic 6T9, in Toronto, November 13, 2018.

Paul Mathieson Deighton Vic 4T7, in Oakville, Ont., December 18, 2021.

The Rev. Dr. T.D. Forgrave Emm 6T6, in Edmonton, Alta., October 18, 2021.

Terrence W. Fox Vic 4T9, in Uxbridge, Ont., October 23, 2021.

Edith A. Gear Vic 5T6, in Toronto, October 15, 2021.

Robert N. Granger Vic 5T9, in Hillier, Ont., October 28, 2021.

Jean E. (Ronan) Gray Vic 4T9, in Fonthill, Ont., September 8, 2021.

Glenn Barry Guest Vic 6T1, in Barry's Bay, Ont., November 19, 2021.

Douglas C. Hartry Vic 4T9, in Etobicoke, Ont., December 4, 2021.

John A. Honderich Vic 6T8, in Toronto, February 5, 2022.

Stewart C. Howard Vic 5T3, in Willowdale, Ont., November 12, 2021.

Christopher K. Keen Vic 7T3, in Prince Edward County, Ont., November 19, 2021.

Fraser Kelly Vic 5T6, in Toronto, January 19, 2022.

Alexandra H. (Koohtow) Kerr Vic 6T5, in Oakville, Ont., November 6, 2021.

Nancy V. (McKenzie) Kosowan Vic 4T9, in Toronto, February 4, 2021.

Letitia (Sullivan) Lamb Vic 5T2, in Toronto, October 31, 2021.

Jean E. (Laird) Laundry Vic 5T1, in Toronto, October 31, 2021.

Lawrence Allen Lundy Vic 5T3, in Toronto, October 29, 2021.

R.J. Madge Vic 5T8, in Mississauga, Ont., September 29, 2021.

Marion R. McLeod Vic 5T8, in Newmarket, Ont., December 23, 2021.

James H. McNair Vic 5T8, in Hamilton, Ont., November 19, 2021.

Frederick L. Milne Vic 4T6, in Toronto, November 15, 2021.

Barbara J. (Johnston) Moffat Vic 6T2, in Peterborough, Ont., February 19, 2021.

Elaine J. (Lu) Moores Vic 7T7, in Oakville, Ont., October 13, 2021.

Graham R. Muir Vic 6T8, in Mississauga, Ont. December 11, 2021.

Gary W. Nathan Vic 6T7, October 18, 2021.

Joyce (McConnell) Northcott Vic 4T7, in Toronto, September 3, 2021.

Sherrill A. (Graham) Pennington Vic 6T3, in Toronto, October 5, 2021.

Bradley J. Riddell Vic 9T6, in Newmarket, Ont., December 13, 2021.

Edward Moxon Roberts Vic 6T0, in St. John's, N.L., January 14, 2022.

M.N.R. (Young) Rowntree Vic 4T8, in Etobicoke, Ont., October 9, 2021.

Robert G. Sheath Vic 7T3, December 31, 2020.

William W. Sherwin Vic 4T8, Emm 5T1, in Orillia, Ont., October 10, 2021.

Shirley A. (Trott) Shortt Vic 5T6, in Toronto, October 4, 2021.

Allan G. Stanley Vic 9T5, in Ottawa, December 6, 2021.

Donald Smith Vic 5T2, in Stittsville, Ont., November 13, 2020.

Wayne R. Thomas Vic 7T0, in Simcoe, Ont., January 17, 2022.

Donald E. Waterfall Vic 6T5, in Toronto, April 11, 2021.

Helping students succeed long after they graduate

At Victoria College, our commitment to inclusive excellence forms the bedrock for all that we do—indeed, many Vic students are the first in their families to attend university. Through our exceptional academic and co-curricular programs, Vic students are trained to think critically, to be creative and to collaborate. They develop empathy, a global perspective and cultural fluency, while engaging with each other and their communities.

“We work to inspire a new generation of fearless and compassionate leaders who will succeed in a complex and ever-changing world,” says Heidi Pepper Coles, associate dean, student success at Victoria College. “Your generous support for Victoria College is critically important to providing our students with a life-changing University experience, so they may achieve their full potential as engaged citizens of the world.”

You can inspire a new generation of fearless and compassionate leaders by making your gift to the Victoria College Annual Fund today. Your support is invaluable to advancing the rich learning environment that ensures our students’ success long after they graduate.

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For more information, contact Ruth-Ann MacIntyre, senior development officer, at r.macintyre@utoronto.ca.

Thank you for helping Vic to prepare outstanding citizens who aspire to be the best version of themselves!

