

# VIC VISIONARIES



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

donor newsletter **march 2021**



# Executive Director's Message

I am continually amazed by the generosity of Vic alumni and friends, no more so than now, during these unprecedented times worldwide. This fiscal year we have witnessed remarkable generosity across the spectrum of our donor community. Concern for our students' wellbeing is at the forefront of our donors' minds: their gifts are supporting financial aid, mental health and wellness; research activities; access to materials and technology; and career development.

We are especially mindful at this time of Vic students from underrepresented groups and you will read more in an interview with Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo (page 6) about some new courses and other initiatives targeted to Indigenous students. In addition, student leaders of VUSAC, with strong support from our donor community, have established the VUSAC BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) Award which you can read more about on page 8.

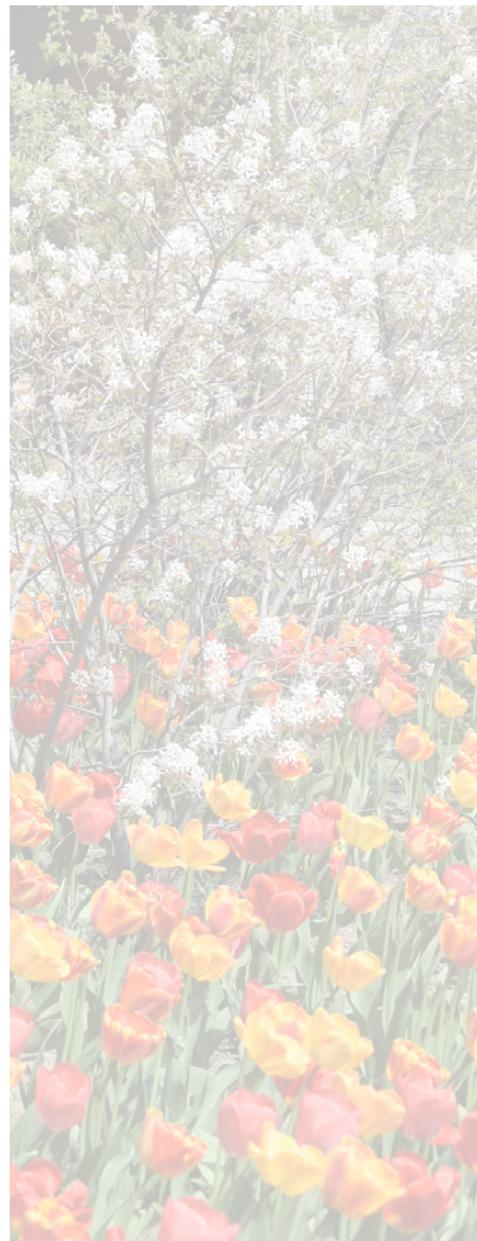
At Emmanuel, donors Jane Brushey-Martin and Geoffrey Martin's matching gift, which we wrote about in the last issue of Vic Visionaries, has galvanized the generosity of the Emmanuel community such that the College is well within reach of its target of \$50,000 this fiscal year, with the resulting \$100,000 being made available to Emmanuel students with financial need.

On page 11 you will read about a recent transformational gift to Vic, made by Vic alums, Stephen Lister and Molly Rundle. The couple have been stalwart supporters of Vic for many years, serving in a variety of volunteer leadership roles, establishing an important bursary, and now taking the next significant step in their philanthropic support for Vic with a major gift to the new Vic Ready program. Their outstanding generosity will have a lasting impact on the student experience.

And, speaking of impact, collective giving to Victoria University has never been more keenly felt than it has this fiscal year. On behalf of the University, I offer sincere gratitude to all our donors—both large and small—who have risen up so magnificently to the current challenges, in order to help us meet the continuing needs of our learning community. Your unwavering support is so very much appreciated!

## LOUISE YEARWOOD

Executive Director, Alumni Affairs & Advancement



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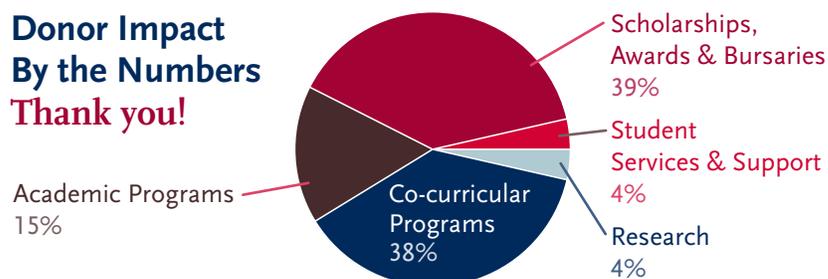
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# Donor Impact— Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries

Vic's extensive scholarship and bursary programs (through endowed and annual funds) play a significant role in offsetting the cost of university for hundreds of students every year and in helping students focus more fully on their studies in order to reach their full potential.

## Donor Impact By the Numbers Thank you!



**Total Donations**, realized and pledged as of December 31, 2020, equals **\$3,812,605**

### VICTORIA COLLEGE

Total Number of Conferred Awards as of Dec. 31/20

**93** Admissions Scholarships  
**1035** In-course Scholarships

**26** Graduating Awards  
**351** Bursaries

**21** Post-graduate Awards  
**272** Emergency COVID-19 Bursaries

Total **1798**

### EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Total Number of Conferred Awards as of Dec. 31/20

**13** Bursaries  
**14** Emergency COVID-19 Bursaries

**113** Scholarships and Awards  
Total **140**

# Thanks to you, Gabrielle da Silva Vic 2T1 is staying future-focussed!

BY RUTH-ANN MACINTYRE

Gabrielle da Silva Vic 2T1 is in her fourth and final year at Victoria College, pursuing an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and a double minor in Political Science and French. Victoria College featured Gabrielle in its fundraising campaign this past fall 2020, highlighting her undergraduate experience and her many contributions to the life of the College.

Gabrielle's first-year participation in Vic One's Lester B. Pearson stream inspired her interest in ethics, human rights and international law. She credits Vic One with preparing her to network with students and scholars, teaching her critical thinking skills and sparking her passion for community-building. It was the close-knit network that Gabrielle experienced in Vic One that encouraged her active involvement within the Vic community where she participated in Orientation, VUSAC (Victoria's student government) and VUSAC's Equity and Mental Wellness Commissions.

"Getting involved in all that Vic has to offer truly has made me feel as though I can make a difference within our community. Many of the students I know, including myself, participated in these fantastic opportunities because of scholarship support made possible by gifts from alumni; these awards help to alleviate the financial burden on students like me and allow us to pursue our goals," says Gabrielle, who is a double recipient of the Muriel McCuaig Memorial Scholarship in French.

Thanks to donors like you, Gabrielle's dreams of having a positive impact on her community are already coming true. Your support for Victoria College empowers students to become exemplary participants and leaders in their communities and in the world.

The Victoria Office of Alumni Affairs & Advancement has been in contact with Gabrielle to find out how she is adjusting to her final undergraduate year at Vic during an extraordinary time filled with many challenges, unexpected changes and the need to adapt to evolving circumstances due to the impact of COVID-19.

Gabrielle is resilient and continues to pursue her goals with optimism. She is happy to share with us, on the following page, her academic and personal experience as a university student studying during the pandemic, as well as her plans for post-graduation.



Gabrielle da Silva Vic 2T1

# IN GABRIELLE'S WORDS

The pandemic has absolutely changed the way that we learn at Victoria College and has challenged students, faculty and staff to adapt and to create new ways of staying engaged.

When I selected my courses in June 2020, they were all scheduled as small classes and in-person learning. In August, University policy changed due to COVID-19, and all of my courses moved online. There were definite bumps in the road for both students and faculty; however after completing the 2020 Fall Term, we are now more familiar with this new way of learning. I have appreciated my professors' understanding of the difficulties associated with online learning.

I have found it incredibly important to stay connected this year. I try to recreate the sense of camaraderie that the Vic campus typically provides by speaking with peers from my extracurriculars and residence through the video conferencing platform, Zoom, or engaging with professors and classmates.

I am particularly impressed with Vic's pages on Quercus, U of T's online academic technology toolbox, which keeps students updated on what's happening at the University and allows us to access course content, to interact with our professors and classmates and to stay informed about student opportunities at Victoria College.

Outside of online learning, I am working part-time and remotely as a legal assistant at a law firm. This shift in my school and work life has challenged me to adapt and to learn new online skills that will be helpful in my future

career as I anticipate that some companies may adopt a hybrid model that combines remote work and in-office time.

I have officially requested my graduation at Victoria College for June 2021. Plans for convocation remain uncertain, but I am optimistic that we will be able to find a way to celebrate the Class of 2021. I will graduate with an Honours BA in International Relations with minors in Political Science and practical French.

My experiences have certainly been shaped by the education and the opportunities that I have been exposed to as a Vic student. I truly believe that Victoria College creates a sense of community and students are in a place that is truly like no other. There are resources, opportunities and communities that support us every step of the way in our pursuit of success.

I have been considering my plans for post-graduation. Although I will be sad to leave Vic, I have applied to a few programs for next year that are aligned with my primary area of study.

As for the future, I would like to work in an environment in which I can have an impact on people's livelihood and wellbeing.

Thank you very much for your generous contributions that allow Vic students like me to think beyond the scope of the (virtual) classroom, to gain confidence and to develop leadership skills that empower us to make both a local and a global impact!



Thank you! Your annual support helps Vic provide the high-impact education and financial resources that students like Gabrielle need to emerge as tomorrow's leaders.

In an academic year different from any other other due to the effects of COVID-19, your annual donation to Victoria College is appreciated now more than ever to help offset the costs associated with pursuing a university education.

If you have not yet made your Annual Fund donation this 2020/21 academic year and wish to help Vic students continue to adapt, thrive and pursue their dreams, please send your gift before our fiscal year-end on April 30, 2021.

**ONLINE:** [my.alumni.utoronto.ca/vicaf](https://my.alumni.utoronto.ca/vicaf)

**MAIL:** Cheque payable to Victoria College  
Office of Alumni Affairs &  
Advancement  
150 Charles Street West, 3rd Floor,  
Toronto, ON, M5S 1K9

**CALL:** 416-585-4500 or 1-888-262-9775

# Indigenous Voices — Building the Fabric of Community at Victoria University

BY MARY HEINMAA

**J**onathan Hamilton-Diabo has a long-standing history of leadership in Indigenous education and community-building at the University of Toronto (U of T) as a staff member, student and educator. He started his career at U of T in 2000, originally in the business of student recruitment and three years later as director of the University's First Nations House, providing support services for the estimated 650 Indigenous students on the three campuses.

It is because of this experience and his extensive relationships across U of T's three campuses that he was invited to co-chair its Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Steering Committee in 2016. He co-led a diverse group of faculty, students, and staff in creating a series of calls to action to the University. These calls would be critical to addressing the continuing barriers faced by Indigenous members of the U of T and Victoria communities.

Hamilton-Diabo joined Victoria University in 2019. At Victoria College, he leads a Capstone course in Community-Engaged Research. This course provides students with an experiential learning opportunity in community-engaged research combined with critical reflection and academic discussion within a seminar setting. At Emmanuel College, he instructs a course called Indigenous Relations — Exploring Faith, Church and Family and is a member of the teaching team for a new course on Multi-Religious and Theological Education and Leadership. Furthermore, Hamilton-Diabo helps to



Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream in Theology, June Callwood Professor in Social Justice and Special Advisor on Indigenous Issues

develop Indigenous content in both Victoria and Emmanuel Colleges' curricula.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Assistant Professor Hamilton-Diabo on the work he has done this academic year to increase Indigenous visibility on campus. We spoke about the programs and activities he'd like to develop in future years and how Indigenous students are being supported at both colleges.

**MH:** Tell me about the work that you have done this year to deepen the understanding of the Indigenous perspective and to increase Indigenous visibility on campus.

**JHD:** There have been two key areas where I have focused on exposing students to Indigenous perspectives—through their academic studies and through community events. From an academic standpoint, at Victoria College

# Indigenous Voices —

I've been able to introduce diverse Indigenous perspectives in courses like Vic 150-School and Society. This course examines schools and learning as social, political, intellectual, and economic phenomena. Exposing students to the Indigenous voices has been possible by introducing more Indigenous writings and special guest speakers into the classroom, albeit a virtual classroom this past year. I've also been able to introduce more Indigenous content through various resources, such as writings and website, along with guest speakers, in the Vic 435 Capstone Course in Community-Engaged Research. In some of our classes, we've also welcomed members from Indigenous organizations to share their perspectives with our students.

At Emmanuel College, through a new course entitled 'Multi-Religious and Theological Education and Leadership', Indigenous spiritual practices and worldviews are introduced. In 'Indigenous Relationships—Engaging Faith, Church and Family', I've invited two Elders, Dan and Mary Lou Smoke, to share their viewpoints as well as a variety of Indigenous guest speakers, most notably Lee Maracle, who will speak about the impact of TRC and thoughts on what reconciliation means.

From an events standpoint, at Victoria University, the Office of the Dean of Students, First Nations House, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives at U of T, and I are planning the 5th Annual Campus [Re]Conciliation Student Conference. This year's conference, one theme that we are considering is the impact of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. At Emmanuel College, the upcoming Colloquium will explore the impacts of the Calls to Action on relationships, nationally, with churches and theological education, five years after its release. Lastly, on the Victoria University campus, the Indigenous Advisory Circle will continue to develop and grow.

**MH:** What are some programs and activities you would like to introduce at Victoria University over the coming years?

**JHD:** Next year, I will be introducing two new courses at Emmanuel College, one which will focus on Indigenous spirituality and theological worldviews, and the other exploring the Residential School System. At Victoria College, I'd like to introduce a course in the Education and Society program for upper-year classes, on residential schools, the TRC and Calls to Action. Basically, I'd like to focus on introducing more Indigenous-specific courses, and not just incorporating Indigenous aspects into the current programs

at Vic. This will offer students some grounding and a place to start in conversations about Indigenous peoples and issues that are encountered.

With respect to events, I am excited that I will be developing a film project which will engage Indigenous alumni of Toronto School of Theology to explore how their theological education influenced them personally and professionally. I am also looking at whether they saw their worldviews reflected in the courses they took. We've recently received funding from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives at U of T's Provost's Office to help us launch our efforts on this film project and we hope to secure other funding from supporters over the coming year. This is an important initiative as it is an opportunity to receive and analyse information from the theological colleges. We will be able to see and assess what changes have occurred and what the differences are amongst alumni from different decades (from the late 1960s to present). It will also illustrate the different theological Indigenous worldviews across Christian denominations (i.e., Catholic, Anglican, United, etc.).

**MH:** Can you tell me how Indigenous students are supported and engaged at Victoria University?

**JHD:** There are three important ways we can further support Indigenous students at Vic. First, by increasing access to scholarships and bursaries specific to Indigenous students. Interestingly, it is important to have these supports in place so students feel more comfortable to come to Vic and also, self-identify. The awards are one way that send a message that the needs of Indigenous students are important.

Second, by enhancing supports and increasing Indigenous presence through staffing. Faculty members serve as mentors and role models for students, engage in important research across various disciplines, and offer leadership at all levels of the university. In addition to faculty, Indigenous staff enrich the educational and cultural experience for Indigenous students by creating a more inclusive environment.

Third, by engaging and supporting students through various events and conferences. The conferences, like the annual TRC student conference, help build a more diverse and respectful community. I believe these conferences become engrained in the fabric of the student experience and the more these events take place, students expect it as a part of their overall university experience. ■

# Supporting Students Identifying as BIPOC

(Black, Indigenous and Persons of Colour)

BY SHARON GREGORY

In his 2017 paper entitled “Creative Inquiry, Conversation and Community”, President Will Robins highlighted the importance of fostering intercultural understanding at Victoria University. He characterized both Victoria and Emmanuel Colleges as places where an openness to others and a willingness to question cultural assumptions exist. He highlighted the need for Victoria to seek to develop a deeper understanding of Indigenous and other underrepresented communities, and to support its students in increasing their capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect.

In recent months, with the global pandemic heightening awareness of systemic social inequity, the needs President Robins outlined have become increasingly important. Led by the Victoria University Students’ Administrative Council (VUSAC), Vic students have stepped up to establish the VUSAC BIPOC Leadership Award, which will be conferred upon a student identifying as BIPOC who demonstrates involvement and service

to others through positive and significant contributions to student life, the community at large, or both.

Vic alumnus and current member of the Board of Regents, Brian Johnston (Vic 8T1), hearing about this new award, immediately offered matching funds up to \$12,500 to help students achieve their goal of \$25,000. Victoria University will in turn match all gifts, making this a collaborative effort while initiated and led by students. Brian says, “I wanted to express strong support for VUSAC’s initiative; and by adding a match we hope to encourage more students to donate and thus reach the \$25,000 goal faster.” For more information about this important new award, please visit [VUSAC BIPOC Leadership Award](#).

Inspired by Vic’s commitment to EDI (equity, diversity, inclusion) and by Chancellor Saul’s and President Robins’ remarks at the virtual Charter Day Chancellor’s Council event held in October 2020, past chair of the Board of Regents and newly elected Alumni Governor of U of T’s Governing Coun-

cil Paul Huyer (Vic 8T1) and his wife, Judy Huyer, have recently established The Paul and Judy Huyer Bursary, which will be awarded annually to a Victoria College student who identifies as BIPOC with demonstrated financial need. Paul says that the VUSAC BIPOC Leadership Award and the event he attended, “started Judy and me to think about how we could help and so we decided to focus our donation on supporting BIPOC students.”

Recognizing the financial difficulties faced by many students during the pandemic, alumnus Michael Foulkes (Vic 7T9) has also been motivated to endow a bursary. “I wanted my gift to address the current challenging circumstances for students” says Michael. “I believe that student financial need is great, and I wanted to help ease the burden.” The Michael Foulkes and Linda Brennan Bursary will be awarded to Victoria College students with demonstrated financial need, with preference for those who identify as Indigenous. ■



Vic Students  
and Alumni  
Step Forward

VUSAC 2019

# One Family

BY MARY HEINMAA

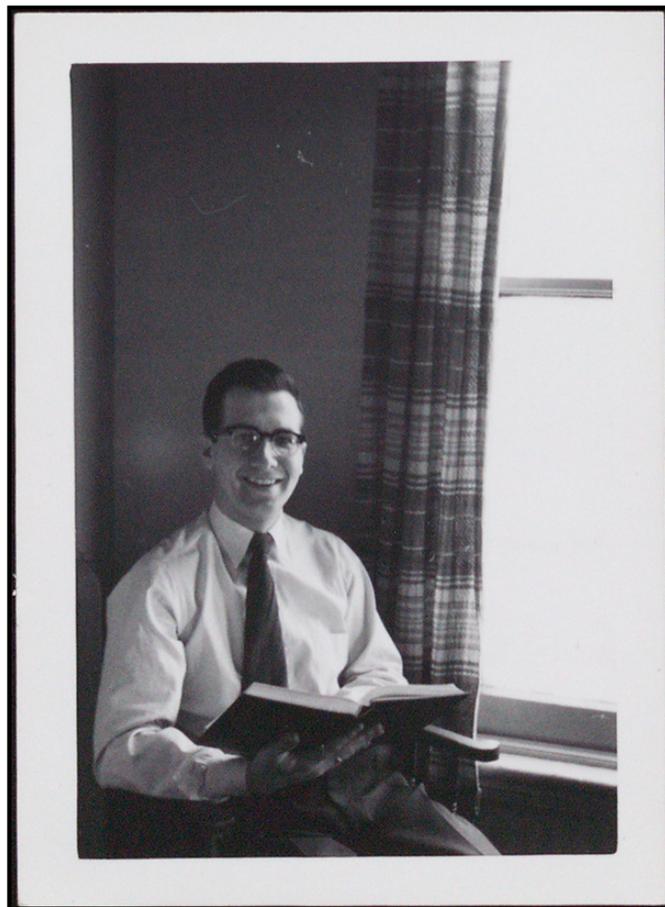
## One College

## One Lasting Connection

In thinking back about his long-standing and deep connection with Victoria College, Professor Charles Edward (Ted) Rathé expressed great appreciation for Victoria's welcoming ethos—one which continues today, as students are welcomed into a community where they are supported, challenged and prepared for life after their undergraduate degree.

Ted was an undergraduate student in Modern Languages and Literatures (French and German) at Vic from 1946 to 1950. He feels strongly that during his undergraduate years at Vic the close relationships formed with students and faculty in intimate classroom settings provided him and his colleagues with the opportunity to flourish in their studies, as well as to enjoy one another's camaraderie. "I was an active member of the Victoria College French Club. At that time, the French department at Vic was independent from the Faculty of Arts & Science at U of T. This meant that the French Faculty was very involved in the French Club activities and students became close friends of faculty who attended club activities", recounts Ted. "Professors, like Laure Rièse, not only were important characters and influencers, but also provided memorable learning experiences for students. For instance, Professor Rièse hosted Sunday Afternoon French Teas at her home and encouraged Vic students to speak French and to socialize. At that time, professors didn't hesitate to invite undergraduate students to their homes – social mixing with professors was a 'given'."

Another example, recalls Ted, of the 'intimate' classroom experiences at Vic includes French conversation classes at Alta Lind Cook's home on St. Mary's Street. "Professor Cook brought a contagious enthusiasm to her classes. She was my French instructor during my undergraduate years



CHARLES EDWARD (TED) RATHÉ (1958)  
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES (TORONTO, ONT.).  
CHRISTOPHER CHARLES LOVE FONDS. 1996.020, ITEM 30.

and was an important influence in my life as her area of interest was 16th c. French Renaissance literature – a passion that she passed on to me."

Ted has many fond memories of Vic from Orientation shenanigans, his involvement in a variety of clubs like Vic's French Club, International Relations Club and the Bob where he helped with stage production, and acting in French plays. As a commuter student, being actively involved at Vic enriched his overall university experience and resulted in life-long friends.

After graduating from Victoria College, Ted's connection with Vic transformed in many ways. From a professional perspective, Ted completed an MA in History while working at Vic as an Instructor in the French Department. Completing this program in 1952, he continued as an Instructor, later as Lecturer, in the French Department at Vic while he began work on a PhD in that field. His studies and research led him to Syracuse University where he earned an interdisciplinary doctorate in Renaissance Studies after which he returned to Victoria as an Assistant Professor. It was in 1969 that he was invited to Chair the Department of French Studies at York University.

## One Family, One College ...

On a personal level, his connection with Vic left an indelible imprint on Ted. During the period when he began his PhD at U of T, Ted was also a Don of North House at Burwash between 1959 and 1961. It was during this time he met his future wife Alice, who was a French instructor at Vic while she was completing her PhD in French Literature. Alice was a Don at Annesley Hall during this time too and, of note, she was the first Catholic Don to be appointed to this position. They both had offices in the French Dept. (their offices were located in a Victorian house on the south side of Charles St. just east of Burwash). Crossing paths at their offices was a daily occurrence; sharing a mutual interest in French language and literature they got to know one another during this time and married in 1961.

Ted noted that his wife had a challenging journey growing up. “Alice was born to a Jewish father and a Catholic mother, Isaac and Makrik Widner in Galatz, Romania, and spent her early childhood in the city before the war and then moved to Bucharest. Her family was eventually able to leave Romania and reached Paris in 1949. The warmth and

generosity she encountered as a refugee contributed to her enduring affection for the city and for the French people. She excelled at the convent school of Notre Dame de Sion before studying Lettres Modernes and Law at the Sorbonne. In 1954 she immigrated to Canada where she taught high school in Port Perry, Ontario. She took a post as teacher of French language and literature at Victoria College, University of Toronto and completed her doctoral thesis on French Baroque poetry of the 17th century. She remained at Victoria College for 40 years and retired as a full Professor.”

Alice’s love of Vic was not only illustrated by her dedication to her students, but also to the Vic community. She was an active member of a number of organizations on campus including the Victoria College Board of Regents, the Victoria University Senate, where she chaired the Senate Art Committee, and on the Victoria University Women’s Association Executive Committee. Her sudden passing while on holiday in France in 2011, was a loss to all who were touched by Alice’s grace.

The decision to create The Alice Rathé Scholarship, in honour of Ted’s late wife, was an easy one. Alice spent 40 years at Victoria College as a lecturer, instructor, and professor. The establishment of the award is a way for the entire family (all three of Ted’s children attended Vic – Charles, Martine and Jean-Marc) to give back to Victoria College and to honour her many contributions to the college. This new scholarship will be conferred upon Victoria College students with a preference for those who are studying the French language (learning or literature) and who have achieved excellence during the course of their academic pursuits. Financial need may be taken into consideration.

Another reason for establishing The Alice Rathé Scholarship is that the family understands the importance of recognizing student merit and providing the financial resources to help students continue their pursuit of academic excellence. Ted, as well as his children, have also received scholarships and awards during their undergraduate education. “I was proud to have received awards from Victoria College, including the Sir Wilfred Laurier Prize for conversational French in my 3rd year and most notably The J.J. Maclaren Gold Medal in my 4th year which was awarded to me as I graduated with the highest overall ‘A’ standing in French. I still own this medal and keep it secure in its original box,” recounts Ted.

The Rathé family’s long and deep connection to Victoria College will endure in perpetuity with the establishment of The Alice Rathé Scholarship – a lasting hallmark in Alice’s memory and honour. ■

ALICE RATHÉ (1990)



# Readying Vic Students for the Future Through Philanthropy

BY LOUISE (HUNTINGFORD) YEARWOOD VIC 8T6

Victoria University has received a significant investment in its new Vic Ready program from Margaret (Molly) Rundle, Vic 8T5 and Stephen Lister, Vic 8T2. Like many Vic grads, the couple met at the now legendary Vic Pub and, as Molly tells it, at the time she was busy focusing on her studies to become a physician and had no time to go to parties; however her roommate in the Margaret Addison residence convinced her that it would be a good thing to take a break. It turns out that this was a stellar piece of advice as she was destined to meet her life partner that evening. And the rest, as they say, is history!

These many years later, united in their continuing desire to support Victoria University and to make a difference in the lives of its students, the couple have made a transformational \$1.5M gift toward the new Vic Ready program.

Established in 2019, Vic Ready takes a holistic and individualized approach to students' future career and life planning, and draws upon the skills of advising teams from both the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of the Registrar and Academic Advising, and the generosity of Vic alumni in volunteering their time, to deliver its content to students. In keeping with the presidential priority to prepare Vic students to flourish beyond University, the Vic Ready program offers students personal advising within a supportive group setting in which to explore, plan, and shape their present time at university and their future beyond it. In other words, the program "readies" students for success.

In the way that many alumni have responded when hearing about Vic Ready, Molly and Stephen express their wish that such a program was around when they were at Vic. Stephen says, "The Vic Ready program is really about learning how to plan and prioritize; essentially to plan for your life at a critical time in your development. We are tru-



STEPHEN LISTER VIC 8T2 AND MOLLY RUNDLE VIC 8T5

# Readying Vic Students ...

ly thrilled to support such an important endeavour.”

Growing up in Ottawa, Stephen came to Toronto and moved into Gate House at Vic where he stayed for all four years of his undergraduate degree. He describes it as a coming of age story in the big city. From their first days on campus, both he and Molly describe how they loved the warmth and inclusiveness of the Vic community and being surrounded by so many people studying a variety of academic subjects. They talk about the Vic community as being welcoming, tolerant and inclusive—attributes they see are still very much in evidence on campus. The couple have continued many of the friendships they forged in residence and feel that the experience of living and interacting with others at a crucial time in their personal development was very important in contributing to who they are today. One of the reasons why Molly and Stephen have chosen to support the Vic Ready program is because of the exceptional opportunities it offers for students to meet, interact and forge friendships with each other.

Molly breaks the Vic Ready program down into three key words: interconnectedness, preparation and networking. She says, “Especially for students commuting to campus who don’t have the opportunity for a residence experience, the Vic Ready program creates a wonderful place to make connections with other students and to feel a part of a community.” As alumni themselves, the couple are thrilled that Vic alumni play a key role in the delivery of the program by participating in teaching select learning modules and in acting as mentors in the new mentorship component of Vic Ready, which launches in the winter term of 2021. Molly says, “The mentoring program will provide a great opportunity for students to build their professional net-

work—something which is so important to career development today.”

The couple acknowledge that universities in Canada and around the globe could take more of a leadership role in preparing students with the life skills they need to succeed beyond their undergraduate education. This is why they feel the Vic Ready program is so special. They commend Vic’s current



VIC READY STUDENTS

PHOTO CREDIT: HORST HERGET

senior leadership team, and those who have come before, for their innovative ideas and willingness to take risks and to pilot new programs, like the Vic Ready program and the Vic One before it. These programs sit outside typical university offerings, reinforcing Vic’s distinctive, high-impact approach to learning.

A former member of the Vic One Advisory Committee, Stephen describes the Vic Ready program as, “an amazing bookend to the Vic One program and something that will change the University for the future as it provides new and critical learning opportunities for students.” Mol-

ly says, “Both Stephen and I feel real gratitude for the opportunities that we were given during our time at Vic and the University of Toronto, and so we are delighted to be in a position to give back to Victoria College.” The couple were both raised among families who believed deeply in philanthropy and the importance of giving back and doing good in the world—an ethos which was present in the early beginnings of Victoria University and continues to the present day.

In the spirit of the Vic Ready program, when asked what advice they might offer to current students, Stephen has a succinct piece of advice to share: “Planned perseverance pays!” He says, “All Vic students have unlimited potential and the ability to drive their own dream. The trick is to plan your own path and to persevere in the face of adversity.” Molly counsels, “Be open to experience and step outside your comfort zone. And don’t be afraid to ask questions—lots of them! I know from first-hand experience that it’s a habit which will sustain you throughout your lifetime.”

The couple’s extremely generous gift to the Vic Ready program will secure the program’s long-term viability and, over time, ensure that more and more Vic students are able to take advantage of all that the Vic Ready program has to offer. Molly and Stephen are especially excited that they have had a significant hand in creating something enduring and sustainable at Victoria College.

The day Molly Rundle and Stephen Lister met on the Vic campus was a great day for Victoria University! Our community has been profoundly enriched by their loyalty and by their most generous support. Our students will be forever grateful to them for their foresight in investing in the Vic Ready Program. ■

## WHERE THERE'S A WILL... PLANNING YOUR LEGACY

Whether it is recognizing the impact of their education on their life and career, expressing gratitude for their experiences inside and outside the classroom, or paying forward the help they received in the form of a bursary or scholarship, Victoria and Emmanuel alumni have many reasons for choosing to remember Victoria University in their estate plans.

Charitable bequests and other forms of planned gifts—such as proceeds from a registered retirement plan or a life insurance policy—can help you plan your legacy, while providing financial and other benefits. Planned gifts provide support for scholarships and bursaries, academic programs, as well as the University's heritage buildings and grounds.

If you are considering a bequest in your Will 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.**

Please contact Sharon Gregory, Associate Director, Development at 416-813-4050, or [sharon.gregory@utoronto.ca](mailto:sharon.gregory@utoronto.ca)

- For more information on planned giving, and 5 steps you can take to plan your legacy;
- To receive a copy of Victoria University's Estate Planning Primer and Workbook; or
- To inform the University of your planned gift or to enrol in the Heritage Society of Victoria University for those who have made a provision for Victoria or Emmanuel in their estate plans.

# A Legacy of Faith and Impact

## Gift of Insurance Endows The Rev. Dr. John C. Hoffman and The Rev. Nettie (Wilson) Hoffman Award

BY SHARON GREGORY

Faith and service characterized the remarkable lives and ministry of the late Rev. Dr. John C. Hoffman Vic 5T4 and his wife, the late Rev. Nettie (Wilson) Hoffman Emm 5To. Professor, preacher and counsellor, John concluded his academic career as principal of Emmanuel College (1990–1996). Nettie, the first ordained female minister in the province of Quebec, was a devoted volunteer and passionate advocate for refugees.

Some years before John's death in 2012, the couple committed to continue their customary generosity and philanthropy beyond their lifetimes when they pledged to make a legacy gift to Emmanuel. The College was named as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, the proceeds of which were received by the College after Nettie passed away in 2019. As a result, The Rev. Dr. John C. Hoffman and The Rev. Nettie (Wilson) Hoffman Award was established. The bursary will be awarded to PhD degree students who have demonstrated financial need.

"John and Nettie Hoffman's generous legacy gift will impact generations of graduate students at Emmanuel", says Principal Michelle Voss Roberts. "It is a fitting and lasting testament to their many contributions to the College."

The Rev. Dr. John C. Hoffman and The Rev. Nettie (Wilson) Hoffman Award will be conferred for the first time in the 2021–22 academic year. ■



JOHN AND NETTIE HOFFMAN IN EMMANUEL COLLEGE LIBRARY CIRCA 1990

# Donor Events—2020-21

## UPCOMING EVENTS



ALUMNI REUNION 2019

## Save the Date: 2021 Alumni Reunion – Home Edition May 26–30

The 2021 Alumni Reunion is going virtual! One of the few benefits of the imposed restrictions of the pandemic is that they have provided us with the opportunity to connect with Vic alumni virtually, renewing ties with alumni around the globe. We hope that many of you will consider joining us for the upcoming spring reunion which will offer terrific events including: a sparkling wine tasting event with vintner Vicki Samaras Vic 9T8, from Hinterland Winery in Prince Edward County; an art tour with multidisciplinary Toronto artist, Nick Sweetman, Vic 0T8; and an event focusing on the art of writing poetry, with Vic One Professor and Toronto's Poet Laureate, Albert Moritz.

These fun and engaging events will take place from May 26-May 30. There will be special events for those celebrating a reunion in 2021 as well as those who missed their reunion in 2020, which include graduating years ending in 0, 1, 5 or 6. More information will be sent to those in an honoured year in late March via email.

For up-to-date information on upcoming Vic alumni events, please visit <https://vic.utoronto.ca/alumni/>.

## Emmanuel College Convocation

May 20, 2021, 2pm

Victoria University will be celebrating the Emmanuel College Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 with a virtual convocation on Thursday, May 20 at 2 p.m. EST.

The ceremony will include the installation of Victoria University's 15th Chancellor, Nick Saul, C.M., Vic 9To.

Event registration info will be sent out closer to May 20.

## PAST EVENTS

### Life After Vic

The virtual Life After Vic event took place on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Members of the alumni community volunteered their time to participate in this annual student-lead mentoring event. Life After Vic exposes students to a variety of career paths in order to provide them with a more fulsome appreciation of the opportunities available to them beyond Vic. A short and informative panel session took place after the networking sessions. The panel included two of the 2019 Emerging Leader Award recipients, Peter Politis 0T4 and Erin Macpherson 1T3. If you are interested in participating in next year's mentoring event, then contact Helena Herscovici at [h.herscovici@utoronto.ca](mailto:h.herscovici@utoronto.ca).

### MidLife ReThink webinar workshop series February 10, 17, 24

This successful 3-part online series, delivered by 20-first CEO, Avivah Wittenberg-Cox Vic 8T1, provided Victoria University alumni with the opportunity to creatively review work, wealth, and wellness for longevity. "Ready or not, each phase of life demands that we grow and change," says Wittenberg-Cox. "A bit of thinking goes a long way in becoming a skilled life transitionist, ready to redraw (or just update) the map of our lives." This well-attended workshop engaged alumni from around the world to re-connect, re-think and re-evaluate 2021...and the future ahead!

Avivah Wittenberg-Cox

Victoria University in the University of Toronto

**The MidLife ReThink**  
ReThink 2021... and the Rest of Your Life!

20-FIRST

EMMANUEL COLLEGE  
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

2020-21  
Convocation

# Victoria University Heritage Society

The Victoria University Heritage Society was founded in 1992 to express the University's enduring gratitude to those who have declared their intention to include Victoria or Emmanuel College in their estate plan. Benefits include membership in the Chancellor's Council, which meets on Victoria's Charter Day each October for a luncheon and panel discussion. Heritage society members are also eligible for membership in the University of Toronto's King's College Circle Heritage Society and receive special invitations to campus events.

If you have included Victoria University in your Will or arranged another type of planned gift but do not see your name listed, please contact Sharon Gregory at 416-813-4050, toll-free at 1-888-262-9775 or email [sharon.gregory@utoronto.ca](mailto:sharon.gregory@utoronto.ca).

Phyllis D. Airhart  
Roy Allen 5T0 and Elizabeth Allen 5T6  
Peter Allison 8T8 and Robin (Hollands) Allison 8T9  
E. Patricia Andrews 4T0  
Susan M. Armitage 6T4  
John Armstrong 8T2 and Barbara Armstrong 8T3  
Doris A. (Jessinghouse) Arnold 6T6  
Jeanine C. (MacDonald) Avigdor 5T4  
Gillian (Smiley) Bartlett 7T0 and Kenneth R. Bartlett 7T1  
John Baty 6T6  
A. Phelps and Judy (McGill) Bell 5T3  
Bernice Bell 5T2  
David K. Bernhardt 5T8  
Harris and Ann Bixler 5T1  
Ann Black  
Diane Hoar Bond 7T2 and David E. Bond  
William R. Bowen 7T5 and Sandra J. Gavinchuk  
Michelle E. Brotherton 9T7 and John Rumerfield  
Eleanor J. Burton 5T6  
Dan Camposano 8T3  
Muriel M. Spurgeon Carder 6T9  
Ben Chan 8T7  
Lawrence R. Cohen 7T2  
Annalijn Conklin 0T2  
Dick Cousland 5T4  
Marcia D. Cuthbert 5T9  
Robert A. Davidson  
Larry Davies  
Marion (Chatterjee) Davies 5T5  
Janet Davison 8T9  
Martha Drake  
L. Diane Dyer 6T2  
Freda M. Eickmeyer 4T7

Konrad Eisenbichler  
John E. Engeland 7T5  
Lesley Evans 7T6  
Jean (Birkenshaw) Fennell 4T8  
Judy M. (Caldecott) Fleming 6T1  
Jane C. Freed 7T4  
Elaine (Westheuser) Godwin 6T1  
Paul W. Gooch  
Fred K. Graham  
John Bryan Green 6T5  
Diana L. (Rieder) Heard 8T2  
Robert Heard 8T3  
Kim Heath 9T9 and Alex Heath  
Catherine W. Hellyer 7T7  
Debbie (Hearst) Herridge 7T5 and Doug Herridge 7T6  
Glenn Hickling 7T7  
Beth Holt 5T0  
Dorothy (Flannery) Horwood 4T8  
Gilbert E. Howey 5T6  
Ian G. M. Howey  
Paul Huyer 8T1  
Lynda L. Jenner 6T2  
Alexandra F. Johnston 6T1  
Patricia A. Kennedy 6T9  
Dennis Glasgow and Renate Kozarov 8T7  
F. H. Kim Krenz  
Eva Kushner 0T6  
Donald G. Lawson 5T1  
Julie Y. Lee 7T1  
Teza Layos Lwin 9T3  
Carole Linton MacFarquhar 7T4  
Janet G. (Macrae) MacInnis 5T9  
Linda E. MacRae 6T7  
Keith and Pamela McCallum 7T0  
Frances (Bond) McElroy 5T8  
Claire McLellan 4T9  
Sharon Gregory and Andrew Mitrovica 8T3

Elizabeth (Holgate) Myles 5T4  
Mary Neal 6T1 and Stan Neal 6T2  
M. Carolyn O. Neal 4T8  
Jean (Reilly) O'Grady 6T4  
Maryleah (Bullock) Otto 4T9  
W. Michael S. Philp 6T4  
S. Walker Poppewell 7T2  
Andrew N. Poulos 8T2  
Eileen Prettyman 4T8  
Walter Pridham 5T3  
Edward Roberts 6T0  
Diane P. Rogers 5T0  
Patricia Romans  
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Mary E. Sarjeant 5T2  
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Shirley Ann Shortt 5T6  
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Shirley (Wilson) Sims 5T3  
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Valerie Story 7T0  
Nancy (Caldecott) Sutherland 6T5  
Mary Elizabeth (Teskey) Sykes 4T7  
Anne (Weldon) Tait 5T4  
Brian Tennyson 6T2  
Pauline A. Thompson 6T3  
Joy E. Tyndall 8T5  
Elizabeth (Eastlake) Vosburgh 6T8  
Germaine Warkentin  
Nora R. Wilson 5T5  
Mary P. Winsor  
Paula (Mitás) Zoubek 6T2

All those who wish to remain anonymous.

# Victoria University Ivy Society

The Ivy Society proudly recognizes the extraordinary philanthropic commitment of Victoria College and Emmanuel College donors whose cumulative giving totals \$100,000 or more since 1903. An asterisk (\*) following a name indicates that the donor has passed away.

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