Welcome to Vic Visionaries! Brought to you from the office of Alumni Affairs & Advancement at Victoria University, Vic Visionaries is a bi-annual newsletter for those visionary donors who have invested in Vic with their philanthropy, their commitment and their long-time support.

During this time of pandemic, the value we place on community here at Vic has never been higher. Our donors are a vital part of what makes Vic such a special place.

In my role at Victoria University, it has been my privilege to witness our donors at work, quietly supporting our fundraising initiatives each year making so many things possible: an array of student awards including new named scholarships; academic and co-curricular programming; library collections; building upgrades; and the beautification of our campus. Beyond this, many of our donors have provided thoughtful legacy gifts to sustain the University into its future.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the ways in which your gifts have had, and continue to have, such an impact on Vic and its ability to sustain an extraordinary standard of excellence in higher education.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our Vic donors for their generosity and support. I also want to thank the Alumni Affairs & Advancement team—all of whom are donors and many of whom are contributors to this publication—for their ongoing work and support for Victoria University.

Wishing our wonderful donor community continuing health and well-being in these uncertain times.

Louise Yearwood
Executive Director, Alumni Affairs & Advancement
Elaine Goes to College

BY RUTH-ANN MACINTYRE

While standing in line at the Registrar’s Office during her first day at Victoria College, a reporter from the Toronto Star asked Elaine Westheuser for permission to take a photograph of her, and to write a feature article about her enthusiasm as a first-year student. Elaine (Westheuser) Godwin Vic 6T1 has held onto a copy of the published article, entitled “Elaine Goes to College” ever since that time! Almost 60 years later, Elaine continues to be engaged with Victoria College by attending reunions and local alumni events; staying in residence during her travels to Toronto; and supporting the Victoria Annual Fund through her long-standing annual donations.

Elaine describes her time at Victoria College as “truly wonderful” and cites fond memories of walking the beautiful Vic campus where most of her geography, English, anthropology and Near-Eastern Studies courses were held. “Attending Vic was like a flower opening. Living in and studying at the College—I majored in geography—gave me many opportunities to meet people. It was so liberating and it helped me to build my confidence,” says Elaine. “My experience at Vic also sparked my passion for books, music, teaching and travelling to the Mediterranean to admire its history and archeology.”

Elaine was involved in many co-curricular activities as a student including football, swimming and the Vic Bob Revue. When asked “What activities did you enjoy most at Vic?” Elaine grins and answers, “I was social so I wanted to be involved in everything; however, I was advised not to play Bridge because playing cards would mean I’d never study!”

Elaine lived her first year of residence in one of the Bloor Street houses (147 Bloor) where Jay Macpherson was her residence don. (Macpherson had just won the Governor General’s Award for The Boatman and later she received her PhD at Victoria College where she was mentored by Northrop Frye.) In 1959, Elaine was in the first cohort of female students who moved into the newly-built Margaret Addison Hall. “I loved residence. It was a chance to see a whole different aspect of university life and to connect with many interesting people,” says Elaine. “I also remember the residence Common Room, on the 5th floor, which was a special place where everyone gathered frequently. Living in ‘Marg Ad’ gave us the opportunity to meet other students and we had a close relationship with the all-male residence, Middle House in Burwash Hall.”

Elaine also met her late husband during her time at Vic. In 1959, a friend had organized a day of skiing at Blue...
Elaine Goes to College

Mountain Resort in Collingwood, Ontario, and arranged a car ride up north for Elaine with a second-year student at U of T’s Faculty of Medicine, named Tom Godwin. After spending a wonderful day of skiing with the group, Tom asked Elaine on a date and they married the year of their graduation in 1961.

Life was busy after graduation as Tom interned at the Toronto General Hospital and Elaine attended the Ontario College of Education (OCE). Then spending a year in Vancouver, she began her career teaching students with learning disabilities. Moving back to Toronto, Elaine taught geography at East York Collegiate Institute and Tom completed his specialization in cardiology and the new field of heart catheterization. Two children later, the couple moved back to the West Coast in 1968 where Tom started the cardiology unit at the Royal Columbian Hospital. Having two more children, the family moved to establish a farm in North Surrey where they lived for 43 years.

Elaine was happy to answer a few more questions about her experience at Victoria College:

Q: What inspires you to give to the Victoria College Annual Fund?
A: Attending Victoria College was very memorable to me, so I still wish to be attached to the College by giving back. Supporting the Annual Fund is really important to me and I am also a Heritage Society member with a legacy gift in my Will for Victoria University. I feel very connected to Vic after 60 years and enjoy attending local alumni events where I have the opportunity to meet students and fellow alumni!

Q: What would you say to someone about the importance of funding education?
A: Don’t stop funding! It’s more important than ever. Support things that you are passionate about and where you see a need. Education for women is really important to me and I think Vic is very good at supporting women. You know what they say: “If you educate a woman, you educate a community.”

Q: What advice would you give to incoming Vic students?
A: Take advantage of everything going on at the University—but don’t play bridge! Participation is key. And stay connected to Vic after you graduate!

Elaine plans to attend her 60th reunion in the spring of 2021. In the meantime, during these unprecedented Covid-19 times, she encourages fellow alumni to stay connected virtually and to support students financially through the Victoria College Annual Fund.

On behalf of everyone in the Office of Alumni Affairs & Advancement, Ruth-Ann would like to express her thanks to Elaine and all of Vic’s loyal annual donors who continue to support the Victoria College Annual Fund and other initiatives. The generosity of Vic’s alumni and friends, particularly in this historic pandemic time, has been, and will always be, instrumental to the College’s ability to help offset the many student costs associated with pursuing a university education. Thank you for supporting Vic students and, wishing you the best of health and well being!
Vic’s extensive scholarship and bursary programs 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. These awards are funded by gifts from Vic alumni and friends as well as by monies prioritized by the University for student support. All statistics are for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

**1,295** awards were conferred on Vic students

$400,000 conferred on students

**EVERY A avg.**

Victoria College is the only college at the University of Toronto that annually guarantees a scholarship for every Vic candidate who achieves an overall A average.

- **37%**
  - Annually, roughly 37% of about 3,500 Vic students are awarded scholarships or bursaries.

- **20%**
  - Vic students represent 20% of all Dean’s List students in the Faculty of Arts & Science

- **30%**
  - 30% of Vic students are on the Dean’s List of Victoria College

**Graduating Awards**

- **28**

**In-Course Scholarships**

- **809**

**Admission scholarships**

- **85**

**Postgraduate Scholarships**

- **23**

**Bursaries**

- **350**
The Importance of Giving Back

BY MARY HEINMAA

Susan Armitage, Vic 6T4, has many fond memories of her time at Vic: connecting with other Vic students (who have become life-long friends); participating in a multitude of co-curricular activities; engaging with “wonderful professors” who provided expertise in a nurturing environment; and, spending time in many of Vic’s “iconic buildings steeped in tradition and history”, like Old Vic, E.J. Pratt Library, and Wymilwood.

Arguably Susan’s most important connection to Vic is that both she and her late-husband, J. Murray Armitage Vic 6T2, attended Victoria College. The couple met in high school while Susan was at Havergal College and Murray was at Upper Canada College. They continued dating during university and married shortly after Susan graduated from Vic with a BA.

“Vic offered me an opportunity to soak up all the knowledge that was available to me and helped define my career path,” says Susan, who was employed as a copy writer at Eaton’s for about 5 years, followed by some freelance work before joining Havergal College where she worked for 10 years in the school’s Alumnae office.

“Education sets the tone for your life-long learning and career. Vic provided this for both Murray and me: this is why I feel it is important for me to give back to the place that helped start both of our successful careers. For me, it’s a no-brainer—if you have the means, then it’s important to support your alma mater.”

Susan has been generously supporting Vic for a number of years, and volunteered her time and expertise on the President’s Advisory Committee of the Vic One program, when it was first established. She passionately believes in the importance of Vic One as it offers students a unique educational experience that draws upon the College’s rich tradition and identity. The program provides students with solid research and study principles as well as writing and presentation skills which assist them beyond university and into their careers. “For me, the Vic One program was the natural place to designate my gift. Vic helped me start my career,” says Susan, “and I will always be grateful.”

In 2019, Susan established the Susan and Murray Armitage Scholarship to honour her connection with Victoria College and to memorialize her and Murray’s shared belief in the importance of education. This scholarship is awarded to students who have achieved excellence during the course of their academic pursuits, with financial need being taken into consideration. The award recipient of this scholarship in 2020 is Minyoung Chung, a Vic student now in second year pursuing a specialist in Molecular Genetics & Microbiology.

Reflecting upon words of advice that she could offer to Vic’s students, Susan notes “take everything in, take advantage of the many great resources and expertise available, and enjoy every minute as your four years at Vic will go by so quickly!”

A group of fast friends created their own 55th Alumni Reunion in St. Jacobs, ON on June 6, 2019. Members of the Class of Vic 6T4, from left to right, Pat (Stone) Fowler, Louise (Harris) Capper, Susan (Ortved) Armitage and Donna (Turner) Geddes. Missing from the photo, Willo (Murby) Heesom (U.K.).

Susan Armitage J. Murray Armitage Vic
Vic 6T4 6T2 (1940-2001)
Since 1895 Victoria University has been presenting scholarships and awards to exceptional students. The first College in Canada explicitly founded upon the ideals of a liberal education, Victoria has attracted many donors to invest in its awards program who uphold these ideals, and who display a shared commitment to academic excellence.

One such donor was the late Professor Donald Oakley Robson (1905 – 1976) who left a considerable bequest to Vic in order to establish a series of awards. These include graduate scholarships, in-course scholarships, an admission scholarship and a travelling scholarship in classical studies. Professor Robson's extraordinary gift also provided for the establishment of the Robson Classical Lectures, which bring together, to Victoria College, outstanding visiting classics scholars from around the world who deliver lectures on aspects of Greek or Latin civilization.

There are many wonderful stories associated with Vic's program of scholarships and awards from both the donor and the student perspective; one such story concerns the Traill family whose name has been synonymous over the years with the Robson scholarships. Victoria College professor, John Traill, 6T1, and two of his daughters, Ariana 9T1 and Corinna 0T6, are all Vic grads who have won scholarships bearing the Robson name.

John Traill has been a classics professor for many decades at Victoria. He attended the College to complete his undergraduate BA (Hons) in classics. He holds MA and PhD degrees from Harvard University and spent two years as a post-doctoral research associate at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and 8 years at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Aside from publishing an extraordinary 25 books as well as numerous other scholarly papers, for the last four decades Traill has directed the Athenians Project, a fascinating research venture applying modern electronic technology to ancient data. He was presented with his Robson travelling scholarship by the Chancellor of Victoria University at that time, Lester B. Pearson. Pearson had recently received the Nobel Peace Prize and Traill was able to congratulate Pearson on his achievement while at the same time receiving his own scholarship!

Traill’s eldest daughter, Ariana, received her BA (Hons) in classical philology from U of T in 1991 and completed her PhD at Harvard in 1997. She is now a Associate Professor of the Classics and the Lynn M. Martin Professorial Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Also affiliated with Theatre Studies, her
research interests include Greek and Roman comedy, women in antiquity, and the reception of ancient comedy. According to her father, several of her Harvard professors who had also taught him said she was “a much better student than the ol’ man!” Whilst at Vic, Ariana was the recipient of numerous awards; however she credits the Robson travelling scholarship with having had the biggest impact on her career as it allowed her to go to Rome to study as early as possible in her academic career.

Traill’s youngest daughter, Corinna, graduated from Victoria with a BA (Hons) in Greek and Latin in 2006. Thereafter she went to Osgoode Hall Law School and graduated with a Juris Doctor in 2011. Her areas of specialty are employment law, family law and human rights law. She too won the Robson travelling scholarship and credits it with having opened her mind to the power of global citizenship and of getting involved with one’s community. Her law practice today and her entry into politics are in part a result of this early time away in Rome as a student.

Traill credits his wife with their daughters’ many academic achievements. It was she who taught the girls from an early age, including instructing them in how to read and write some Latin before they entered nursery school! Their middle daughter, Larisa, Vic 9T9, having received this early encouragement in the classics opted to move away from the family tradition to study medicine. She currently holds a faculty position at Michigan State University and is an emergency medicine physician practicing in both Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. Interestingly Larisa uses her knowledge of the classics almost daily, medical terminology being full of Greek and Latin terminology.

When asked about Victoria, all the Traill family members cite the spirit of the Vic community as being central to its ethos. All three daughters grew up proctoring exams for their Dad and have a high regard and respect for those who teach and work at Vic. Certainly, the Traills, with their many academic achievements and awards, have had an equal impact on Victoria University!
Northrop Frye Centre—
a Community of Scholars

BY MARY HEINMAA

For the past six years, the Northrop Frye Centre (NFC) has been a welcoming space for scholars of all generations to come together for stimulating academic discussion and exchange. During this time, two important programs have been introduced or expanded: The NFC Doctoral and Undergraduate Fellowship program, which promotes and facilitates research in the humanities and social sciences at Victoria College; and, the Research Affiliate Program, which encourages Victoria College fellows to apply for funding for an undergraduate research assistant thus allowing undergraduates to learn about research methods while working closely with a faculty member.

This year’s ongoing COVID pandemic has not only brought challenging circumstances, unlike any of us could have imagined a year ago, but also has meant that our academic programs have shifted to remote delivery—the antithesis of the convivial spirit enjoyed and promoted by the Northrop Frye Centre!

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Professor, Robert (Bob) Davidson, Director of the Northrop Frye Centre and Professor of Spanish and Catalan. His enthusiasm for the success of the programs at the NFC this year is palpable and his energy to engage with students in innovative ways is profound.

MH: Why are the programs and initiatives that the NFC offers important?

BD: There are three main reasons why the Doctoral and Undergraduate Fellowship program is important: to encourage and facilitate research opportunities; to promote academic discussion at Vic and U of T; and, to professionalize the scholarly work of the fellows.

All these activities are strengthened by the Centre’s convivial space and the multi-generational dialogue that takes place within it.

Also, another reason for the importance of the program is that many of our doctoral students easily get locked into a field and get comfortable with a familiar viewpoint. The promotion of open and diverse academic dialogue at the Centre provides students with the opportunity to come together in meaningful conversation and to broaden their way of thinking.

MH: Tell me about this year’s Fellows at the NFC.

BD: We have an exceptional cohort of Doctoral, Undergraduate and Visiting Fellows this year. Our Doctoral Fellows, as listed, will be expected to engage with students and the larger intellectual community at Victoria College and to present a lecture or seminar related to their research.

Patrick Marshall (Cinema Studies Institute) studies the proliferation of the political conspiracy thriller in Europe and America in the 1970s.

Tavleen Purewal (English Department) works on relations between Black and Indigenous communities, histories, and politics in contemporary Black Canadian literature.

Robert Twiss (Comparative Literature) studies how eighteenth century beliefs and ideas about indigenous American peoples were used for sociopolitical polemics by French and English satirists.

The Undergraduate Fellows are undergraduate students at Victoria College working on an independent research project in the humanities or social sciences. This year’s Undergraduate Fellows are:

Cheryl Cheung, who is working with Professor Ryan Hurl to better understand political communications in the digital age.

Ori Gilboa, who is working with Professor Ron Levi to examine the justifications that legal actors make for legal interventions designed to address cases of war crimes and atrocities.

Lana Glozic, who is assisting her supervisor, Professor George Boys-Stones, with a translation and commentary of Clement’s Stromata from the original Greek.

Catia Dignard (Spanish and Portuguese) works on representations of black characters in contemporary Cuban fiction.
Northrop Frye Centre —

**Kate Schneider**, who is working with **Professor Christopher Cochrane** on political polarization on Twitter in both a Canadian and American context.

The Visiting Fellows are scholars working on research projects in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. Visiting Fellows have access to the University of Toronto library system and the E.J. Pratt Library's special collections. Visiting Fellows participate in the intellectual community at Victoria College and communicate the results of their own research in a public lecture organized by the Centre.

This year’s Visiting Fellow is **Anastasiya Lyubas** (Binghampton University) who is investigating the site of plasticity between the sense (the philosophical, speculative) and the sensuous (the literary, fictional) in works by Debora Vogel, John Dos Passos, Gertrude Stein, Béla Balázs, Rudolf Brunngraber, and Lu Märten.

**MH:** How will the COVID pandemic affect the delivery of the fellowship program and the student experience?

**BD:** As I mentioned, one of the important aspects of the fellowship program is the promotion of open and diverse academic dialogue in a convivial, intimate space. With modern technology, this intimacy and encouragement of meaningful conversation is possible. We have been able to connect with our fellows through ZOOM and we also plan to use this technology as a means for fellows to present their research results. I am excited that through these on-line mediums, the NFC can continue to build a scholarly community and create virtual spaces for rich academic discussion.

**MH:** Tell me about the new Research Affiliate Program and why it is needed.

**BD:** The Northrop Frye Centre Research Affiliate Program is a special opportunity that provides financial and administrative support for the research projects of Victoria College Fellows. The program is of special interest to fellows who work with, or would like to work with, undergraduate research assistants.

This program is important as it provides fellows access to a work study research assistant (NFC covers the residual wages), who is a Victoria College student, and it provides the fellows with priority-booking access to the Centre for research-related activities.

**MH:** Can you tell me about the Fellowship Awards?

**BD:** There are awards for both the Doctoral and Undergraduate Fellowships. Up to four one-year Doctoral Fellowships and up to six one-year Undergraduate Fellowships will be awarded each year to outstanding University of Toronto candidates chosen by the fellowship selection committee. Each Doctoral Fellows award is $3,000 and each Undergraduate Fellows award is $2,000.

We are grateful for the support of Vic alumni who have contributed towards these scholarships. Last year, an anonymous donor established the Centre’s first endowed scholarship, The Northrop Frye Centre Undergraduate Fellowship Scholarship. Proceeds from this endowed scholarship will help support one undergraduate fellowship student per year. For more information about the NFC Doctoral and Undergraduate Fellowship Program, please contact Mary Heinmaa, Director of Philanthropy at mary.heinmaa@utoronto.ca or 416–585–4502.
This year, when so many students are in financial need, Emmanuel graduate Jane Brushey-Martin (EMM OT2) and her husband Geoffrey Martin, have stepped forward with a generous matching gift which will double every gift this year to Emmanuel’s Annual Fund up to a total of $50,000. All proceeds from the Annual Fund this fiscal year will be used to support student financial need.

Principal Michelle Voss Roberts says, “This is a wonderful gift to Emmanuel, and it will make such a difference in the lives of so many of our students. I encourage all Emmanuel alumni and friends to step up this year and make a gift to our Annual Fund so that we can take full advantage of the Martin family’s generous matching gift. Let’s match their faith in our community to support our students to the best of our ability.”

Long-time supporters of Emmanuel College, Jane Brushey-Martin and her husband, Geoffrey, in 2001 generously endowed Emmanuel’s Jane & Geoffrey Martin Chair in Church and Community, held by Dr. Pamela Couture who is also, at present, the director of the Toronto School of Theology.

photo credit: Michael Barker

Donor Events—2020-21

upcoming events
Victoria College’s Annual Christmas Luncheon (virtual via Zoom)
Saturday, December 12, 2020
1pm est

GUEST SPEAKER: Professor Kenneth Bartlett
on the topic Love & Marriage

In Conversation with
Professor Paul Gooch—Teaching and Learning in This Pandemic
Tuesday, November 24, 2020
4pm est (via Zoom)

past events
Chancellor’s Council Charter Day Luncheon
Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Members of the Chancellor’s Council, Principal’s Circle and the Victoria University Heritage Society were cordially invited to hear Vic’s newly-appointed Chancellor, Nick Saul, O.C., Vic OT0, in conversation with Victoria University’s President, William Robins on topics including the Chancellor’s key interests as they relate to his new role, his personal connection to Vic, his current work at Community Food Centres Canada, and his thoughts about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter on society.

To hear the conversation, visit https://vic.utoronto.ca/about-victoria/victorias-charter-day-2/
Thank you to our alumni, friends, faculty, staff, foundations and corporations who have made a donation to Victoria University’s Annual Fund in support of student scholarships and awards as well as to help ensure the ongoing maintenance and beautification of the campus and its exquisite green spaces. The following donor listing recognizes those donors who have contributed $100 or more to Victoria College or to Emmanuel College between May 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020. The University would like to thank its many anonymous donors at this time. The red V after each name indicates 10 years or more of cumulative giving to the University. An asterisk (*) following a name indicates that the donor has passed away subsequent to making their donation. Every effort has been made to list names accurately. If your name has been omitted or displayed incorrectly, or if you wish to change your preferred recognition name in University publications, please call Elicia La Valle at 416–585–4500, toll-free at 1–888–262-9775 or email at elicia.lavalle@utoronto.ca.
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