

# One Family

BY MARY HEINMAA

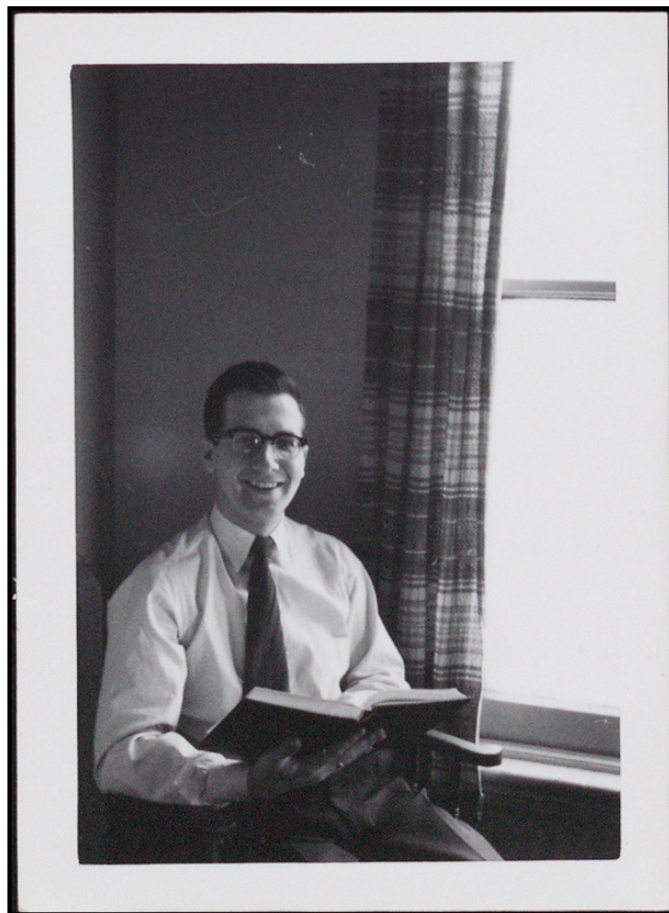
## One College

## 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