



vic report

SUMMER 2021

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Resilience and Hope

BY WILLIAM ROBINS

For the second spring in a row, Victoria's beautiful campus is very quiet. No families will be gathering in the quad anticipating graduation—convocation for Victoria College had to be celebrated virtually instead, and the graduation for Emmanuel College, including the installation of Chancellor Nick Saul as the University's 15th chancellor, was also online. No summer students will fill the residences—their courses are all being delivered remotely. None of the usual camps and conferences will enliven our spaces—with continuing lockdown worries, they have been cancelled or postponed.

It has been quite a year, with challenges all round. The past academic year saw universities across Canada, including Victoria University, step up to respond quickly and deliberately to the coronavirus pandemic. Our students, faculty and staff demonstrated great creativity and resilience, especially in the shift to learning and working remotely. They, as well as the University's friends and alumni, conducted themselves with generous compassion, discovering new ways of tapping into technology to create community, helping each other through stormy weather.

At Victoria we have been deeply affected by changes to how we encounter each other. We are known for our welcoming, student-centred community, a community that is created through getting to know each other, through listening to and respecting each other's situations, stories, and dreams. It is a remarkable achievement to have kept this up while physically separate. One great example of our success at maintaining togetherness during a time of profound upheaval has been the second pilot year of the Vic Ready program, described in detail later in this issue.

The drop in activity on campus has struck similarly at a valued part of the Victoria experience: our strong sense of place. Our buildings and grounds promote the rhythms of an inclusive and vibrant campus life, offering both the calm needed for study, and the stimulation of engagement with the wider world. By providing the inspiring venues for encountering others, the campus makes Victoria's relationship-rich environment possible. Over the last months we have started establishing an online presence that complements our physical campus, yet we will be glad once we can gather again in our familiar haunts.

When COVID-19 struck over a year ago, we were well advanced in a strategic planning process, and this June we will present a Strategic Framework for Victoria University for the next five years. As is described in this issue of Vic Report, the consultations with students, staff, faculty and alumni identified four fundamental, overlapping themes: a strong, inclusive community;

an inspiring sense of place; outstanding academic offerings; and signature learning experiences. A shared commitment to these four themes has helped steer us through the pandemic, while at the same time the resilience and creativity of the Victoria community over the last year has helped refine our strategic priorities for the years to come.

At this time, many of us are beginning to allow ourselves to feel a renewed sense of optimism. Even as the coronavirus pandemic lingers, and no doubt will bring new complications, the vaccine roll-out promises safer days ahead. Although we don't yet know what the start of classes in September will look like, we know that soon enough we will gather on campus again, and share our smiles and laughs in person. We have made it thus far through a time of immense and unprecedented challenge, all too marked by solitude, weariness and worry. The University is ready for what comes next.

As I reflect upon the thoughtfulness and care shown by the members of the Victoria community, I am filled with great hope for the year ahead. ☉



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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

In Conversation with Chancellor Nick Saul, C.M., Vic 9To

BY JENNIFER LITTLE VIC 9T5

Nick Saul, founder and head of Community Food Centres Canada (CFCC), was named Victoria University's 15th chancellor in February 2020. More than a year into his role, *Vic Report* asked Saul about his thoughts on Victoria and some of his goals as chancellor.

JL: The pandemic delayed your formal installation until May 2021. How have you been able to connect with the community over the past year?

NS: It's been a difficult year for everyone but I have found the Victoria community to be extraordinarily compassionate and empathetic. Staff, faculty, students and alumni have worked tirelessly to stick together. I think the word of the year is "perseverance." I have managed to be active in the life of both colleges. At Victoria College, I participated in the amazing Humanities for Humanity program where we discussed the power of food and the role it plays in helping to create a more equitable society. At Emmanuel College, I spoke about food as a community builder at an interfaith gathering. I have also joined a VUSAC meeting and a number of on-line conferences and talks. I've particularly enjoyed getting to know the students. Many have reached out to me to talk about their challenges and stresses as well as their hopes and ambitions. They are an impressive and inspiring group.

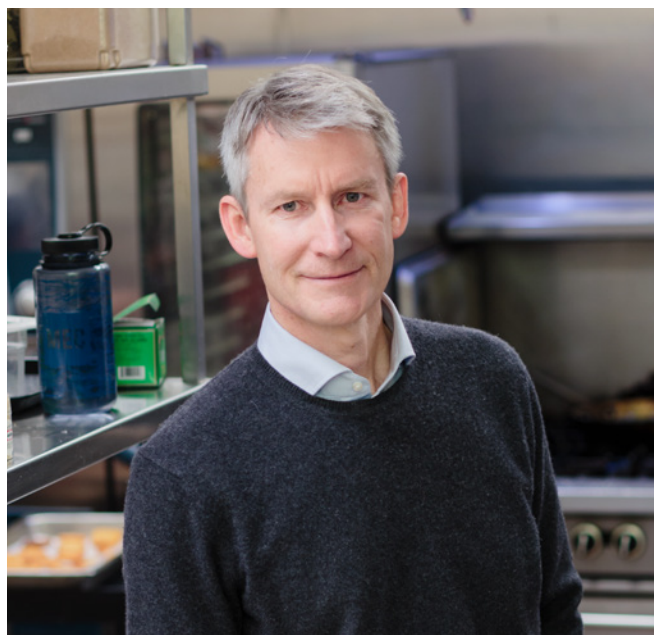
JL: You come from a long line of Vic alumni (Dorothy [Shannon] Saul Vic 1923, Karen [Chalmers] McCutcheon Vic 6To, Bill Saul Vic 6T3, father John Saul Vic 5T9, and mother Patricia [Chalmers] Saul Vic 5T9). Why do people place so much value on their time at Vic?

NS: You would not believe how many people have come out of the woodwork in my life to tell me how important their time at Vic was. They've told me about bringing the Mullock Cup home to Vic, their experiences in student government and so many other good memories. The community really promotes intellectual and social curiosity. Vic definitely has an influence on people's formative years and they don't ever forget it.

JL: What is your top priority as chancellor?

NS: I want to continue to champion issues related to equity and justice. We live in difficult and deeply divided times. We need to get to the root of these divides, whether they are economic, racial or gender based. We need to strive for inclusion and justice and build in supports so people can thrive. It is not inevitable that things will get better or be more equitable post-pandemic. We need to shape a new conversation and ensure all voices are heard. I want to support people to find their voice.

JL: You once told *Vic Report* (Summer, 2018) that in terms of Canada and food security, "It's hard to be proud of a country that leaves so many people behind." How do we not leave people behind in post-secondary education?



Chancellor Nick Saul, C.M., Vic 9To

NS: That's a good question. We need to try to even the playing field and work to dismantle the myth of meritocracy. We have to acknowledge that race and class have a significant impact on student success, that some high school students, for example, are working multiple jobs to support their families and that this has an impact on many things, including their grades. We need to find a way to take these different lived experiences into account when it comes to university admission. And once this broader range of experience makes it to campus, let's provide people with the resources they need to ensure success. The recently established BIPOC Leadership Award is an example of what we should be investing in. Victoria's student body should reflect the diversity of Toronto and Canada.

JL: What positive side to the Victoria community have you witnessed during COVID-19?

NS: I'm a runner and I often jog through Victoria. One day I stopped to take in the beautiful gardens. I complimented Dan, one of the staff members. Without skipping a beat, he said, "We work hard as a team." I think Dan's attitude really sums up why Victoria works so well.

JL: What's the first thing you look forward to doing once COVID-19 is over?

NS: I feed off the energy of others. I can't wait to eat a meal with a big group of people and feel the goodness of breaking bread together. ☺

Inaugural Shaftesbury Creative Writer in Residence: Canisia Lubrin Appointed

BY JAMIE QUADROS

In February, Victoria College announced the introduction of the Shaftesbury Creative Writer in Residence position made possible by the financial support of Shaftesbury, a Toronto-based entertainment company. This first-of-its-kind position at the College will support and enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in the Creative Expression and Society program and in the Norman Jewison Stream of the Vic One program. Victoria College is delighted to announce that Canisia Lubrin has accepted the position of inaugural Shaftesbury Creative Writer in Residence for the 2021 academic year.

Born in St. Lucia, Lubrin is a renowned Canadian poet and fiction writer who was recently named poetry editor at McClelland & Stewart. Her debut poetry collection, *Voodoo Hypothesis*, explores race, oppression and colonialism, while her latest work, *The Dyzgraphxst*, addresses themes of selfhood, capitalism and climate change.

“This is an exceptional time to be a writer and reader, and I am lucky for this chance to listen, think, create, and imagine with the students and community at Victoria College,” says Lubrin. “Such a residency will, no doubt, deepen my own creative practice in the Creative Expression and Society program’s unique context and core principles of literary citizenship. Yet, as challenging a time as this historical moment has proven to be, it will be rewarding to bring these hopes into experiential practice as I work to complete my next book.”

Lubrin’s work has garnered widespread recognition. Some of her recent accolades include winning the 2021 OCM Bocus Prize for Caribbean Literature, as well as being named a 2021 recipient of the prestigious Windham-Campbell prize awarded by Yale University. She has also been shortlisted for Canada’s Griffin Poetry Prize and the Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry.

“Warmest congratulations to Canisia on the international acclaim that her work has received! We are honoured to welcome her to Victoria College as the inaugural Shaftesbury Creative Writer in Residence. Her writing, mentorship and literary community-building will make a wonderful contribution to Vic’s dynamic culture of creative expression,” says Angela Esterhammer Vic 8T3, principal of Victoria College.

The selection of Lubrin was based on her accomplishments in the field of creative writing, including national and international recognition; aptitude for and commitment to mentoring student writers; and a record of experience that shows the ability to make positive contributions to Victoria’s programs and community. Lubrin brings a wealth of experience to the position, having taught creative writing at OCAD, U of T’s School of Continuing Studies, and the University of Guelph. She was also the writer in residence for Queen’s University in 2019.

“As a Vic graduate, it’s an honour to partner with Victoria College in the University of Toronto to create the Shaftesbury Creative Writer in Residence program,” says Christina Jennings, CEO and chairman of Shaftesbury. “This program will support and enhance the thinking of a new generation of artists and writers, furthering Victoria College’s commitment to creative excellence. The Writer in Residence program will build on the Norman Jewison Stream of the Vic One program—how fitting, given the incredible achievements that Norman has made as a Canadian filmmaker.”

Shaftesbury is an award-winning creator and producer of original content for television, film and digital. Shaftesbury’s current slate includes 14 seasons of *Murdoch Mysteries* for CBC and UKTV, the detective drama *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, the critically acclaimed horror series *Slasher*, police drama *Hudson & Rex*, and several new primetime series including *Departure*, *Dead Still* and *The Sounds*. Building on a library of award-winning kids’ programs, Shaftesbury also has an extensive slate of family programming including *The Solutioneers*, *Miikshi*, *Stinky Science* and *Emerald Code*. 🍷



Canisia Lubrin, Canadian poet and writer

Riley Yesno Vic 2T1: Indigenous Student of the Year

BY JENNIFER LITTLE VIC 9T5

Riley Yesno of Victoria College has received the University of Toronto's 2020 President's Award for Outstanding Indigenous Student of the Year. The award is given to First Nations students of Indigenous ancestry (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) based on academic achievement and previous and/or intended future contribution to the native community. U of T selects one full-time, undergraduate student and one graduate student to receive the award annually.

Yesno grew up in Thunder Bay, Ont., and is a member of Eabametoong First Nation. The first Indigenous member of her family who will graduate from a university institution, she wanted to spread her wings and study in Toronto, a vibrant and diverse city. "Moving to Toronto was not quite as easy as I expected," says Yesno. "There was definitely a transitional period. I left a city that is 30 per cent Indigenous to come to a city that is so diverse the Indigenous population can be harder to find. It was initially a challenge for me to find a community where I felt at home."

Yesno has since found her community, in part, by being an active member in U of T's First Nations House and a successful student in Indigenous studies and political science. "First Nations House encouraged me to apply for this award. The house is a wonderful place of community support," she says.

Yesno has been remarkably active in her community since high school. In 2017 she was selected to serve as a member of the Prime Minister's Youth Council. For two years she provided advice on youth issues to Prime Minister Trudeau and the Government of Canada. "I learned a lot during my time on the council. The experience opened doors for me and showed me the good and not-so-good side of politics and its ability to effect change. Power," says Yesno, "doesn't come from having a seat at the table, it comes from your agency to occupy it as you see fit."

As a part-time writer and public speaker, Yesno has voiced her concern for Indigenous, environmental, youth and LGBTQ2S+ issues in major Canadian media outlets including *Maclean's*, CBC, TVO, CTV, APTN and the *Toronto Star*. On campus, she has been involved with U of T Pride, she has helped moderate the Hart House rooth anniversary series on Indigenous sovereignty and she and President William Robins have discussed ways to make Victoria University more inclusive by permitting smudging indoors. For the past three years, she has also spoken at Victoria's Campus (Re)conciliations, an annual conference that addresses the role post-secondary institutions can play in heeding the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report.

Yesno's efforts have not gone unnoticed by the public. In 2017 Yesno was both named Thunder Bay's Leader of Tomorrow and received the Arts and Heritage Award for Outstanding Youth. In 2018 she was profiled by the United Way as a GTA



Girl to Make You Feel Better about the Future and was selected as an advisor to the board for a federally mandated National Self-determination Framework for First Nations. The year 2019 saw Yesno profiled by APTN as a top Indigenous voice in Canada and in 2020 she was named one of six Youth Combating Racism by The Mosaic Institute.

Yesno also has an extensive amount of research experience. She has worked as a research assistant for Toronto's Yellowhead Institute, the most influential, Indigenous-focused, policy think tank in the country. She currently serves as a research fellow for the institute, chosen as one of a handful of Indigenous thinkers from across Canada. She is also a research assistant to U of T's Dale Turner, who studies Indigenous politics in Canada with a focus on the role of Indigenous women in Wet'suwet'en First Nation politics and the Anishinaabek Nation of Ontario. And finally, she is a contract researcher at U of T's Rotman School of Management. She provides expertise to Rotman's Gender and the Economy (GATE) Indigenous women in business case studies.

How does Yesno keep up this pace and stay motivated? "I try to push beyond what seems possible," she says. "A wise Elder once told me to find my passion. He asked me, 'Before you go to bed at night, and you are resting your head on your pillow, what keeps you up?' It was the well-being of my community. The pace is exhausting but I try to imagine that I am planting seeds with all the work that I do. I may not benefit from the shade my plants cast, but my grandchildren will and that keeps me going."

Editor's note: In June, Yesno was awarded a Golden V by Victoria College. She also received the Frances Joan Lambier Scholarship for graduate studies in political science. ☺



Victoria's Vision for the Future: A Strategic Framework

BY LOUISE (HUNTINGFORD) YEARWOOD VIC 8T6



In the fall of 2019, the president of Victoria University began a significant undertaking to envision what the next five years would look like in the life of the University. With the support and endorsement of the Board of Regents, and with the help of Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA), the president and senior leaders reflected on the strengths, opportunities and challenges facing the University and directed HESA to host two rounds of consultations with all stakeholder groups—staff, faculty, students, alumni and board of regents.

The first round of meetings was open-ended and exploratory. Several hundred people participated in focus groups, town halls, engagement sessions, and surveys, where they were invited to share their ideas and explore the current differentiating features of Victoria University and to reflect on how these might be enhanced and grown for the future. This led to the development of a consultation guide which supported a second round of more focused meetings. At their annual Strategy Day in November 2019, the Board of Regents engaged in considering the ideas that had emerged from the consultation process and further contributed to imagining Vic's future.

The overwhelming response to this collaborative work was the sense of community all stakeholders felt is present at Vic—the sense of the place being, as one person put it, “a warm embrace,” providing an oasis within the larger University of Toronto. As well, there was much appreciation for the progressive thinking at both Victoria and Emmanuel colleges around diversity and inclusion as a strong foundation on which to build.


When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March of 2020, all work on the strategic framework was halted, the focus of the president and senior leaders turning to address the immediate crisis. In January, 2021, work resumed with a renewed intensity, with a determined focus on submitting the final framework document to the Board of Regents at its June 10, 2021 meeting. Now, with COVID-19 vaccines available and the hope of an end to the pandemic in sight, a renewed energy has emerged around envisioning the future for Vic—a new, post-pandemic future, incorporating learnings from the global crisis.

The resulting Victoria University Strategic Framework is a guiding light for the community and will help it to focus its energy and attention around four strategic pillars: A Strong, Inclusive Community; An Inspiring Sense of Place; Outstanding Academic Offerings; and Signature Learning Experiences. Each of these pillars reflects Vic's unique place in Canadian higher education.

Victoria University's distinctiveness lies in ensuring that all four of these aspects of engagement are prioritized. To build on its strengths, in the coming years the University will aspire to function at a high level in all four of the areas described in these strategic themes. Since the majority of participants in the consultation process leading to the development of this strategic framework emphasized that Victoria is, above all, a community—a close-knit association of learners, teachers, advisors, creators and problem-solvers—the themes are presented in such a way that they highlight how this learning community is experienced by individual stakeholders: students, faculty, staff, and alumni who “belong,” “encounter,” “explore” and “transform.”



The Strategic Framework gives voice to a shared understanding of Victoria University's distinctive mission and ethos, and provides a high-level vision of the overarching strategic aspirations of the University for the next five years. Its aim is to ensure that Victoria University remains an outstanding place to pursue undergraduate studies in arts and science and graduate studies in theology. With this framework in place, Victoria is well poised to be an “engine of hope” in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please visit the University's website for the complete Strategic Framework document, which can be [downloaded as a PDF](#). 

Ikran Jama Vic 2T1 Named Rhodes Scholar

BY JENNIFER LITTLE VIC 9T5

On November 21, Ikran Jama received a life-altering phone call. She had been named a Rhodes Scholar. The Rhodes Scholarships support outstanding students and allow them to pursue post-graduate studies at the University of Oxford. Eleven Canadians were awarded the scholarship in the latest round and only two of them are from Ontario. “It was a beautiful moment,” says Jama. “My whole family cried.” Jama describes her family as being a “team that inspires” her. “I would not have won without the support of my six siblings and my mother, especially my mother—winning the Rhodes is her moment, too,” says Jama.

The Rhodes is arguably one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world. Although she also credits her community, friends and mentors for helping her excel, Jama is an extraordinary student who has worked remarkably hard on her academics and her extracurricular involvement. She is a Dean’s List Scholar with a double major in international relations, and criminology & sociolegal studies, and a minor in African studies. She has won both the Margaret Slater Scholarship and the Elizabeth Anne Sabiston Scholarship at Vic for high academic achievement and entered U of T as a University of Toronto Scholar for high academic achievement and outstanding performance on admission.

Jama has been elected president of U of T’s Arts & Science Student Union (ASSU) twice and as such advocates for the academic rights and policies that affect 26,000 undergraduate students. She oversees a budget of \$500,000 and manages a team of three staff, six executive members and over 60 academic course unions. “I found first-year hard—I suffered from imposter syndrome as a Black, Muslim woman. I didn’t feel this way in high school as I was with my community. I chose to get really involved at U of T and help give a voice to other students who were struggling. I am so grateful for my position as president.”

Jama gives back to the student community and also to her Somali community. She has volunteered as a youth mentor for Say Somali and as an assistant settlement worker for the Dejinta Beesha Multi-Service Centre. For the former, she mentored Somali high school and undergraduate students with a focus on breaking stigmas, fostering empowerment and encouraging academic interests. At the latter, she provided translations for refugee claimants. She has also been a senior counsellor for a summer day camp that provides daily camp routines, activities and trips for marginalized children between the ages of seven and 16. As well, as a fellow of Toronto’s Mosaic Institute, Jama has worked to dismantle prejudice. She designed and implemented a national social action campaign combatting prejudice that reached over 800 people through exhibits and facilitated discussions.

At Oxford, she plans to take the criminology and criminal justice program. “After my master’s degree, I am exploring the idea of becoming a defense attorney. My community is



over-policed and something needs to be done. I would provide legal services at a reduced rate.” Her long-term goals include going into politics. “I want to create change. I don’t want to fight and beg others to do it for me,” says Jama. “I already have a lot of ideas of how I could make changes as an MP in my community—such as doing away with mandatory minimums in the criminal system.”

Jama plans to take full advantage of her time at Oxford but she will miss Victoria College. “I cannot emphasize enough how much I love Vic,” she says. “There is kindness, compassion and empathy across the Vic community. Staff, profs and instructors are nothing but supportive.” Jama took part in Vic One’s Lester B. Pearson Stream and says the experience will have a life-long effect on her. “I will never forget the close friends I made in Vic One. One of the profs who taught me, David Wright, amazed me with his personal tales of international diplomacy, and Anne Urbancic taught me the importance of bringing out the under-represented voices of history. All told, Vic One inspired me to move forward and commit to international relations.”

Without a doubt, no matter what Jama does after Oxford, she will be a bright light bringing attention to voices and communities that aren’t always heard.

Editor’s note: In spring 2021 Jama was awarded U of T’s prestigious John H. Moss Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate student who intends to pursue a second degree or studies at the graduate level. ☉

Reflecting Upon a Turbulent Year

BY MICHELLE ZHAO VIC 2T1, VUSAC PRESIDENT 2020–2021

One of my most prominent memories from this last year is March 13, 2020, before I was elected VUSAC president. This was the day that the University announced that classes would be cancelled until the end of term and that any discretionary events would be cancelled or postponed. Normally on Fridays, the Goldring Student Centre (GSC) would be bustling with student activity and excitement for the weekend, but that day it was eerily quiet and empty. There was only a handful of students in the VUSAC office, and everyone was feeling a little lost and confused about the recent announcements. By the end of the day, we said our goodbyes and left the building, thinking that we would see each other again in a month or so. Not one of us could have predicted that over a year later, we would still be studying and working from home.

When I was asked to write this piece reflecting on my time as VUSAC president, I thought it would be fairly straightforward to share what challenges and initiatives we experienced. After all, I have been in the role for the past year and I have had hundreds of meetings about these very topics! But the truth is, there is no simple way to sum up the experience of being VUSAC president—not during a “normal” year and certainly not this year, when everything was so different and (dare I say) unprecedented. It’s easy to look back on this year and to feel grief for what “could have been”—seeing smiling faces in the VUSAC office and GSC, getting free food from the numerous events around Vic, meeting students and administrators in person. But what I will remember long after I leave this role is how I was continually inspired by the unwavering leadership of students during this turbulent period, and the way that students came together to build a supportive community as they adapted to the changing pandemic landscape.

The pandemic forced VUSAC to think about the role that we play in student experience at Vic and U of T. In prior years, we planned events and had an array of services that students could access: five-cent printing, study spaces, merchandise sales, free menstrual and safer sex products. These were not so easily transferred to an online modality, and the question became: “how do we maintain a tangible and supportive connection with students in a virtual environment?” We had to get really creative with online events, both synchronous and asynchronous. Many of our much-loved events were cancelled, while others were moved online with a twist. Some events changed completely; instead of a holiday party, the Commuter Commission Home for the Holidays (from Home) sent out 75 holiday gift packages, and weekly pancake breakfasts turned into weekly grocery gift card giveaways. But the online format also worked to our advantage; the Academic Commission’s Alumni Networking Dinner turned into a networking night that used rotating breakout rooms to facilitate connections between alumni and students, who tuned in from around the world.



The online modality also gave us the opportunity to reflect on student experiences within the University and to advocate more for student concerns at a campus-wide level. Issues that students were concerned about before the pandemic became more apparent; mental health, cost of tuition, housing, academic rigour, the experiences of international students and so much more. I had the opportunity to meet with other student leaders at Vic and across campus to convey concerns and suggestions to various levels of administration, such as the Dean’s Advisory Committee at Vic, or with the Provost’s Undergraduate Students Advisory Group (PUSAG). Throughout the year, leaders spearheaded conversations and action on campus with regard to anti-racism initiatives, and continued to push for meaningful measures to make campus more sustainable. New committees, collectives and task forces were created and, through all of this, I was again deeply inspired by the drive and passion for creating a more equitable, inclusive, and accessible campus for all students.

Overall, the past 12 months have been defined by confusion, stress, sadness and grief. But throughout these difficult times, students came together and supported each other. Communities came together to inspire and to help each other, and students were at the front of many of those efforts. I may never know how tall the members of the Board of Regents are, but the lessons learned and experiences from this year will stay with me forever.

Michelle Zhao has earned a BSc specialist degree in health and disease. She looks forward to staying connected with the Vic community and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.” ☉

Remembering Jean Little, C.M., Vic 5T5, *Hon. oT4*: A Life in Three Acts

BY JENNIFER LITTLE VIC 9T5



Jean Little, an award-winning author of children's literature and two autobiographies, passed away at the age of 88 on April 6, 2020. Born with scarred corneas, she was declared legally blind and spent her life portraying characters who were faced with similar challenges. Little wrote more than 50 books and explored themes including physical and emotional challenges. Despite the sadness faced by many of her characters, she emphasized the resilience that can be found in children.

Little was born to medical missionaries in 1932. Her parents, Flora Gauld and John Llewellyn Little, were stationed in Taiwan under the auspices of the United Church of Canada. "Our parents were very open-minded and loving people," says Patricia (Little) de Vries Vic 6To. "There's nothing we kids liked better than to go on a medical call into the countryside with one of them. It was a chance to get one-on-one time with Mum or Dad during the long car ride. Jean relished these opportunities."

But World War II loomed on the horizon and the Littles returned to Canada in 1939. The family settled in Toronto where Little had access to a school that taught children with varying degrees of vision. The school suggested Little be put in a school with sighted children. When the family moved to Guelph, Ont., in 1940, Little attended a regular school. "Jean was very bright," says de Vries. "She did not find the schoolwork overly challenging, but the children were cruel to her. They threw stones at her and chased her because she was different. She didn't make any friends until she got to high school."

Despite the six-year age gap between the sisters, Little and de Vries were very close. "Jean was a voracious reader even though she had to hold a book up to her nose to see the text. She would borrow everyone's library card—our brothers', our grandmother's, our parents'—so that she could maximize how many books she could take out. In the winter months, she would load me onto a toboggan and pile up the books around me so that I could keep the snow off of them."

Even during these early years, Little was not only an avid reader of fiction but she was a keen storyteller. "Jean would start telling me one of the amazing stories she had made up but would withhold the ending until I did her chores," remembers de Vries. "She would make up song lyrics, too, if she didn't remember all of the words. She sounded so confident in her lyrics that I assumed they were correct. We would sing together as we did the dishes, and it wasn't until I encountered these songs elsewhere that I realized I had been singing words Jean had made up."

With an aptitude for words, Little's biggest fan was her father. He encouraged her story telling and poem writing. He was proud that she wanted to pursue a B.A. in English language and literature at Victoria College.

Little arrived at Vic in 1951. The administration advised her not to take a full course load. Not only did she enroll as a full-time student, she excelled. "I lived with Jean in Upper Annesley Hall and we became fast friends," says Judy (Wicks) Alexander Vic 5T5. "She relied on her amazing memory to recall texts and lectures. She had no special help at University other than having good friends who would help her get to and from classes." One of Little's close friends, Sally McCrae Vic 5T5, took all of the same classes and also lived in Upper Annesley Hall.

Little was an eager participant in the life of Victoria College and would attend intramural basketball games to support her Annesley Hall friends. "At one such game, the Annesley team found itself one player short and was faced with conceding the game," says Alexander. "Jean, despite being legally blind, agreed to put on running shoes and play. She stood, feet planted wide apart at centre court, and we would call out when we were about to place the ball in her hands. Both teams had a lot of fun and I surely don't remember who won!"

Patricia de Vries has fond memories of visiting her sister at Vic. "I used to visit her on weekends and we would go to football games. To this day I still have dreams of coming down the Annesley staircase." Although their father was busy with his medical practice, he read everything on the English language and literature curriculum so that he could have great debates with Jean when she came home for visits. "We said the two

of them were going to University,” says de Vries. Sadly, their father died of a heart attack during the extraction of a wisdom tooth while Little was still at Vic. “Our father would have been so proud to see what Jean accomplished as a writer,” says de Vries.

After graduating from Vic in 1955, Little taught at what was then known as the Rotary Club’s Crippled Children’s Centre. Children would spend half the day in class with her and the other half of the day doing physical therapy. These children were an inspiration for Little. She taught there for about five years and also pursued courses in special education in Florida and Utah. Little was teaching when her first book came out, *Mine for Keeps*. Published in 1962, the book won the Little, Brown Children’s Book Award. This novel was about a child with cerebral palsy, and it was not the only book of hers that would receive an award.

Little wrote from the vantage point of lived experience. She wrote about people you didn’t necessarily see represented in fiction at the time and she avoided pat, happy endings. She was absolutely livid when a Japanese publishing house changed the ending to one of her stories so that it would have a saccharine conclusion. “Jean disliked books with unrealistic endings such as Johanna Spyri’s *Heidi*. Thanks to a summer of goat’s milk and fresh, mountain air, Heidi’s friend Clara is suddenly able to leave her wheelchair behind and walk,” says de Vries. “Jean found it objectionable that a disability had to be ‘solved’ by the end of a book.”

After *Mine for Keeps* was published, Little decided to make writing her full-time vocation. “Aunt Jean was a full-time writer by the time I was one,” says her niece Maggie de Vries. “Her writing was always a part of my life.” In fact, the two co-authored a book, *Once Upon a Golden Apple*, in 1988, while Maggie was living with Little.

The niece and aunt soon teamed up professionally. Maggie travelled with her aunt and read portions of her speeches at events. Maggie helped her travel and managed her public appearances. Soon, the duo was working together at the University of Guelph teaching a children’s literature class. “It was wonderful to teach that class with Aunt Jean,” says Maggie. “It was an amazing experience.”

From the age of 30 to 60, Little wrote about 20 books. Children would often send her fan mail and adults would ask her for professional writing guidance. “Aunt Jean really enjoyed giving people her time, especially children,” says Maggie.

“A child at heart,” according to Maggie, not only was it natural for Little to write for children, she excelled at it. Over the course of her career she was awarded six honorary degrees, was named a Member of the Order of Canada, had a school named after her in Guelph and received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Just as Little was approaching what might have been retirement age, tragedy struck the de Vries-Little family. In 1998 her niece, Sarah de Vries, daughter of Patricia and sister to Maggie, went missing in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. Sarah had been murdered by serial killer Robert Pickton. At the time, Little was living with her sister Patricia and the two of them were raising Sarah’s children, Jeanie and Ben. “Jean got her first baby when she got her first old-age pension cheque,” says Patricia pensively. “We borrowed a big, old-fashioned buggy and Jean would walk down our long, winding driveway singing lullabies to Ben. She adored those children.”

This led to a new chapter in Little’s life. Little and her sister worked as a team to raise Jeanie and Ben. The sisters ended up living together for the last 27 years of Little’s life. “Jeanie and Ben were a great boon to my Aunt Jean as both a person and a writer,” says Maggie. Inspired by her great-niece and great-nephew, Little went on to pen almost 30 more books. Completely blind in her latter years, advances in computer technology aided her writing process immensely. She also enjoyed a new independence with the help of four guide dogs over the years. She was latterly working on a project that was to be a third autobiography about her time living with Patricia, Jeanie and Ben. She called it *Sing Your Way Home*. And although this is one story that will likely go untold, she once said, “Your only responsibility as a writer is to be true to the story that chooses you.” The world is lucky so many stories chose Jean Little. ♦



Jean Little and family

A Gift for Vic Ready

BY LOUISE (HUNTINGFORD) YEARWOOD VIC 8T6

Launched in the fall of 2019, the Vic Ready program at Victoria College takes a holistic and individualized approach to students' future career and life planning, and draws upon the skills of the advising teams in the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of the Registrar and Academic Advising, and upon the generosity of Vic alumni in volunteering their time to deliver its content to students. The program offers students personal advising within a supportive group setting where they can explore, plan and shape their time at University and their future beyond it.

In the fall of 2020, amidst the global pandemic, the Vic Ready Year Two (VR2) stream was added to the program and a series of learning communities was launched, each focusing on a different aspect of potential career pathways, industries or post graduate programs. And, an important new element was added—a formal mentoring program which matches VR2 students with an alumni mentor with whom they meet throughout a semester to engage in important life and career conversations.

Rosemarie Shephard, a student participating in the VR2 program this year, says "I was able to connect with a fantastic alumni mentor in my field of interest who helped me to learn more about and build confidence in my next steps. I am so grateful to the Vic Ready program for preparing me for life beyond undergrad and helping me to achieve my grad school goals!"

In the way that many alumni have responded when hearing about Vic Ready, Margaret (Molly) Rundle Vic 8T5 and Stephen Lister Vic 8T2 express their wish that such a program had been around when they were at Vic. United in their desire to support Victoria University and to make a difference in the lives of its students, the couple recently made a transformational \$1.5M gift toward the Vic Ready program. Lister 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 truly thrilled to support such an important endeavour."

From their first days on campus, both he and Rundle 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 Rundle and Lister 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. Rundle breaks the Vic Ready program down into three key words: interconnectedness, preparation and networking. She says, "Especially for students commuting to campus who



Stephen Lister and Molly Rundle

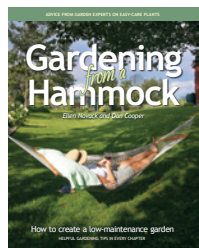
don't have the opportunity for a residence experience, the Vic Ready program creates a wonderful place to make connections with other students and to feel a part of a community."

The couple is 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. Rundle says, "The mentoring program will provide a great opportunity for students to build their professional network—something which is so important to career development today." A former member of the Vic One Advisory Committee, Lister 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." Rundle 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." The couple's extremely generous gift will secure the program's long-term viability, ensuring more and more Vic students are able to take advantage of all that the program has to offer. Rundle and Lister are especially excited that they have had a significant hand in creating something enduring and sustainable at Victoria College. Our community has been profoundly enriched by their loyalty, generosity and foresight.

If you would like to volunteer to become an alumni mentor for either the VR2 or Alumni-to-Alumni streams of the Victoria University Mentorship Program, please contact Meghan Junke, mentorship coordinator & alumni liaison, at meghan.junke@utoronto.ca. or find her on LinkedIn. ☺

CAREERS, AUTHORS, HONOURS

William Blaikie Emm 7T7, Hon. 0T9, a former member of the House of Commons, was named to the Order of Canada as an Officer of the Order in recognition of his lifelong contributions to parliamentary service, and for his steadfast commitment to progressive change and social activism.

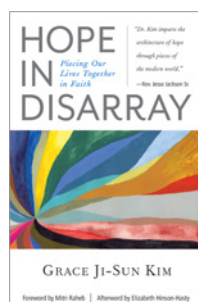


Dan Cooper Vic 7T2, a master gardener, has reprinted his popular gardening book *Gardening from a Hammock* after it sold out again (www.GardeningfromaHammock.com, 2019). Cooper does

garden presentations on low-maintenance gardening using Zoom and has spoken to horticultural societies and garden clubs in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick and New York. His book features easy-care plant selections as well as tips on how to reduce the chores in your garden to find more time to enjoy your plants and relax in the hammock. The book comes with a separate Botanical Reference Guide that shows the 300 plants in his book and describes their growing needs, including climate zone, drought tolerance, deer resistance and more. *Gardening from a Hammock* is suitable for beginner and experienced gardeners alike and features the gardens and plant selections of 17 expert garden designers, horticulturalists and master gardeners. Cooper has traveled around the world four

times visiting botanical gardens and also organizes tours to exotic gardens around the world to see tropical plants in the natural environment.

Rob Fennell Emm 9T4, 0T5 recently released two books. *31 Short Spiritual Practices: Getting (re)started in a daily spirituality of gratitude and contentment* is an invitation to a spirituality that empowers us to be our best selves, to care for the planet, and to strive for a more loving and just society. *Sarpedon: The Secret of the Sand* is Fennell's first novel, a work of speculative fiction set 50 years into the future. He continues to teach in the faculty of Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax.



logian Kim reflects on the practice of sustaining hope during turbulence and injustice. *Hope in Disarray* is a collection of essays that invite a conversation on culture and faith, creation and identity, as the author appeals to readers to engage life's troubles with the conviction of God's goodness. *Hope in Disarray* takes the world's pain seriously in order to ignite our intentional, revolutionary, and integrated living.

Dennis Lee, O.C., Vic 6T2, Hon. 0T2 received the Matt Cohen Award from the

Writers' Trust of Canada for a lifetime of distinguished work by a Canadian writer. Among his achievements, Lee co-founded the House of Anansi Press in 1967 and wrote the beloved children's classic *Alligator Pie* in 1974.

In the midst of multiple COVID-19 lockdowns, Toronto poet and bestselling author **Bruce Meyer Vic 8T0** has published a new collection of writing that comes with a message of joy and hope for these terrible times. *Grace of Falling Stars* is an autobiographical coming of age story that follows Meyer's life from childhood through adulthood to seniorhood, bringing joy to his readers through strong and vivid imagery.

Peggy Nash Vic 7T3, a former member of parliament and senior labour leader, was named to the Order of Canada as a Member of the Order in recognition of her contributions to women's employment equity, human rights and gender representation at all levels of public office.



Olivia Radocchia Vic 1T2 recently published a children's book called *Hugo and the Sad* as part of her master's thesis at the Adler Graduate Profes-

sional School in Clinical and Counselling Psychology. The book focuses on building emotional resilience in children who are experiencing sadness and includes a parent/teacher resource section at the end of the book. The book is available through Amazon.

ATTENTION

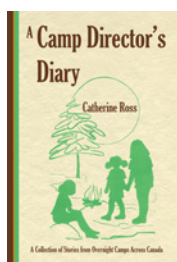
All Loyal *Vic Report* Readers!

THE VIC REPORT
IS MOVING ONLINE!

In an effort to be more sustainable and to reduce costs, the *Vic Report* will now be offered to *Vic* alumni electronically. All those for whom the Alumni Office has an email address will receive the publication in their in-box.

If you received a paper copy of this edition but are happy to receive it electronically, please contact the Alumni Office at vic.alumni@utoronto.ca so that we can update our records with your current email address.

A small number of copies will continue to be printed for each edition to accommodate those who require a printed copy. We do appreciate your continuing interest and loyal support for the *Vic Report*.



Catherine (Wells) Ross Vic 6T2 has recently published her eighth book on Canadian camps and camping. *A Camp Director's Diary* is a collection of stories from overnight camps

across Canada gathered over a lifetime of camping experience. Unexpected, exciting, inspiring and humorous events happen at camp and provide an abundant source of great stories. Half of the proceeds are donated to Kids in Camp Charity to enable more children to enjoy a life-enhancing experience. Available from Volumes Publishing, Waterloo.

John David Runnalls Vic 6T6, former president of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, was named to the Order of Canada as an Officer of the Order in recognition of his decades-long commitment to promoting environmentally sustainable development around the world. He studied political science and economics at Vic.

Tanya Talaga Vic 9T3, Anishinaabe journalist, speaker and bestselling author, has been named an honorary Doctor of Laws by Ryerson University.



Prior to passing away in March, **Ian G. Waddell Q.C. Vic 6T3** was elected president of the Association of Former Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

Foundation. Waddell was an MP for 15 years and a Minister of Culture for B.C. His recent memoir, *Take the Torch*, has been getting favorable reviews. Laterally he was a documentary filmmaker and government consultant.

BIRTHS

To **Sara-Jane Figliano Vic 0T6** and **Joshua Craig Vic 0T7** a son, Owen Jason, on May 20, 2020, a brother to Chloe Victoria and Luke Teo.

To **Maria Robinson Vic 0T6** and Liam Maughan a son, Thor Magnus Maughan-Robinson, on July 6, 2018, in New Westminster, B.C., and a daughter, Freyja Valeria Maughan-Robinson, on July 29, 2020, in Abbotsford, B.C.

IN MEMORIAM

Grace K. (Shimizu) Arai Vic 5T8, in Anchorage, Alaska, December 28, 2018.

John David Ayre Vic 7T1, in Guelph, Ont., October 2, 2020. Ayre was a former editor of *Acta Victoriana*.

Michael Broun Ayre Vic 6T1, in Toronto, November 8, 2020.

Agnes P. (Loughy) Beckett Vic 4T7, in Gravenhurst, Ont., November 7, 2020.

Bridget A. Belton Vic 9T7, in Toronto, January 27, 2021.

Robert N. Bissell Vic 6T2, in Richmond Hill, Ont., December 11, 2020.

Susan M. (Ditursi) Bradley Vic 7T3, in Owen Sound, Ont., July 10, 2020.

John S. Burnie Vic 8T1, in Toronto, November 25, 2020.

Susan Erdman-Burton Vic 7T7, in North York, Ont., May, 2020.

Annabelle Fasken Cameron Vic 5T9, in Toronto, April 25, 2021.

Bette M.M. Campbell Vic 4T4, in Beaconsfield, Que., October 31, 2020.

Robert Capel Vic 5T1, in Barrie, Ont., February 11, 2020.

Rosalind (Faulk) Cartwright Vic 4T5, in Chicago, Ill., January 15, 2021.

Rosemary D. (Cicio) Cassano Vic 6T3, in Windsor, Ont., December 4, 2020.

Andrew T. Clarke Vic 0T1, in Etobicoke, Ont.

Lillian Ruth (Rackham) Cooley Vic 5T0, in Nashville, Tenn., June 13, 2020.

Carman W. Cumming Vic 5T4, in Ottawa, March 25, 2021.

Kenneth G. Dewolf Vic 6T5, in Toronto, December 10, 2020.

William B. Donaldson Vic 6T2, in Toronto, February 18, 2021.

Raymond Dugan Vic 5T7, in Toronto, March 1, 2020.

Lillian Joyce (Joy) (Washington) Eagle Vic 4T0, in Barrie, Ont., October 15, 2020.

Mary Lu (McGill) Ellis Vic 5T0, in Burlington, Ont., January 27, 2021.

Anne Marie (Riedl) Ellis-Taylor Vic 4T6, in Scarborough, Ont., April 25, 2021.

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.

Robert Farquharson, in Toronto, April 10, 2021. Farquharson was a professor of German at Victoria College from 1960 to 1988.

Graeme Ferguson Vic 5T2, Hon. 9T9, in Lake of Bays, Ont., May 8, 2021

Jane E. Finnan Vic 8T9, in Toronto, November 14, 2020.

Thomas H. Fitzsimmons Vic 6T6, in Whitby, Ont., June 22, 2020.

Diane Fleming Vic 6T3, in Toronto, October 16, 2020.

Ruth Elaine Found Vic 4T9, in Ypsilanti, Mich., April 20, 2020.

Isobel K. Ganton Vic 5T2, in Toronto, December 15, 2020.

Ronald B. Glenesk Vic 5T6, in Scarborough, Ont., November 24, 2020.

Helen Louise Goggin Vic 6T2, in Oakville, Ont., February 12, 2021.

Norma MacMillan Greig Vic 4T8, in Brantford, Ont., July 13, 2020.

Dorothy Jean Gunn Vic 4T7, in Toronto, January 22, 2020.

Kathleen Constance (Smith) Haigh, in Richmond Hill, Ont., April 20, 2021. Haigh was a past secretary at Victoria College.

Agnes Gillies (McArthur) Hendry Vic 5T1, in Peterborough, Ont., October 26, 2019.

James F. Ingham Vic 6T5, in Regina, Sask., June 19, 2020.

Mary Margaret (Hodgson) Irvine Vic 4T9, in Kanata, Ont., December 5, 2020.

Paul Frederic Laurence (Larry) Johnston Vic 6T9, in Toronto, January 10, 2021.

Judith A. (McMacken) Jung Vic 6T7, in Strasbourg, France, May 2020.

E. Frazer Lacey Vic 5T3, in Port Perry, Ont., August 8, 2019.

John Lazier Vic 6T0, in Halifax, N.S., March 9, 2021.

Gloria M.K. (Wilson) Lillie Vic 5T0, in Burlington, Ont., January 27, 2021.

James D. Lipsett Vic 7T0, in Toronto, March 26, 2021.

Gilbert Alexander Little Vic 5T6, in Bracebridge, Ont., December 3, 2020.

Shirley (Johnston) Lorimer Vic 5T1, in London, Ont., January 22, 2021.

Douglas G. MacLeod Vic 5T3, in London, Ont., October 22, 2020.

Donald N. Major Vic 4T9, in Burlington, Ont., October 4, 2020.

Cameron H. McDonald Vic 5T2, in Toronto, March 27, 2021.

Caryl M. (Smily) McKay Vic 6T6, in Ottawa, May 22, 2020.

Catharine J.F. (Turnbull Fleming) McKenty Vic 5T2, in Montreal, Que., January 22, 2021.

Moore G. Miller Vic 9T5, in Toronto, March 31, 2020.

Barbara J. (Lillie) Misener Vic 5T1, in Woodview, Ont., August 13, 2020.

William Cameron Mitchell Vic 7T6, in Newmarket, Ont., January 4, 2021.

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

Lyall E. Molleken Vic 5T8, in Toronto, November 4, 2020.

Alastair G. Moran Vic 7T7, in Toronto, February 1, 2021.

Warren H.O. Mueller Vic 6T4, in Mississauga, Ont., March 23, 2021.

Walter Ross Murray Vic 5T4, in Whitby, Ont., November 30, 2020.

Janette (Muir Whiteford) Neate Vic 5T0, in Burgettstown, Pa., October 6, 2020.

George R.S. Nelson Vic 8T2, in Toronto, December 27, 2020.

David E. Newall Vic 7T5, in Toronto, April 10, 2021.

Carol Diane Nunn Vic 6T0, in Burlington, Ont., October 29, 2020.

Edward A. Overton Vic 5T8, in Toronto, October 19, 2020.

Paul P. Pandos Vic 6T3, in Oakville, Ont., March 11, 2021.

Margaret A. Parker Vic 4T6, in Mississauga, Ont., December 17, 2020.

Kathleen (Kate) (Raymer) Peterson Vic 7T7, in Sudbury, Ont., January 22, 2021.

M. Frances (Hill) Puskas Vic 5T4, in Toronto, December 28, 2020.

Richard (Rick) C. Ransom Vic 6T7, in Mississauga, Ont., January 18, 2021.

Julia (Maniates) Reibetanz UC 6T6, in Toronto, May 4, 2021. She was an English professor and friend to Vic.

Margaret (Bette) Elizabeth (Anderson) Roberts Vic 4T8, in Nassau, Bahamas, September 8, 2020.

Allan Shaw Vic 5T5, in Unity, Sask., February 2, 2021.

Peter D. Shaw Vic 8T3, in Guelph, Ont., January 16, 2021.

Marjorie (Marge) A. (Gilchrist) Sheridan Vic 5T6, in Toronto, December 27, 2020.

John P. Sherin Vic 4T8, in Lakefield, Ont., February 21, 2021.

Robert L. Shirriff Vic 5T3, in Toronto, April 11, 2021.

Albert (Al) Shupe Vic 5T0, in Dundas, Ont., December 6, 2020.

Ronald H. Stone Vic 5T2, in Waterloo, Ont., November 27, 2020.

Anne E. (Wood) Tough Vic 5T8, in Toronto, February 28, 2021.

John "Jack" Tweddle Vic 5T5, in Owen Sound, Ont., March 11, 2021.

Mary Isobell (Kerr) Alford Ue Vic 5T1, in Toronto, December 31, 2020.

Jack G.A. Vermeeren Vic 6T7, in Kitchener, Ont., December 16, 2020.

Ian G. Waddell, Q.C., Vic 6T3, in Vancouver, B.C., March 17, 2021

Harold R. Walker Vic 4T9, in Mississauga, Ont., January 1, 2021.

Arthur Waters Vic 5T0, in Guelph, Ont.

John Paul Wesley Vic 6T6, in Scarborough, Ont., May 2, 2020.

Alexandria M. Wesson Vic 7T3 in Toronto, December 11, 2020.

Joan I. (Welsh) Williams Vic 5T1, in Brampton, Ont., January 15, 2021.

Susan D. Wiseman Vic 7T3, in Toronto, January 10, 2021.

Joyce A. Woodward Vic 5T4, in Whitby, Ont., November 4, 2020.

Janice (Shaw) Yalden Vic 5T2, in Ottawa, May 2, 2021. ☉

Please give to the Victoria College Annual Fund!

Your gifts to the Vic Annual Fund each year demonstrate how our alumni and friends champion the importance of an outstanding university experience.

Your generous support for Vic empowered Lana El Sanyoura Vic 2To to detect gaps in her community and lead the way for others. Majoring in computer and cognitive science at Vic, and now pursuing a Master of Computer Science at U of T, Lana has stepped forward to make technology skills more accessible to all students by teaching computer programming workshops, co-founding a club for women in computer science courses and contributing to student events as a speaker and panelist.

Lana was invited by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to address Canada's 2020 graduating class and has received numerous awards including the John H. Moss Scholarship.

You helped make Victoria College an incredible place for Lana to learn, explore and grow. **You can support tomorrow's trailblazers like Lana by donating to Victoria's Annual Fund today.**

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT
OF VICTORIA COLLEGE!**



Lana El Sanyoura

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 can help you plan your legacy, while providing financial benefits.

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.

Please contact Sharon Gregory, associate director of development, at 416-813-4050, or sharon.gregory@utoronto.ca

- For more information on charitable bequests, other forms of planned giving, and five 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.

Photograph: Roya Shams

