

# UVRA 50th ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

## "Transformational Events" Interviews

May 28, 2012

This project has had two components:

a) The President's Great Moments Committee.

The UVRA was represented on the President's 50th Anniversary Committee by Trevor Matthews. The function of that committee was to select a limited number of "Great Moments" from the University's first 50 years, to receive particular emphasis during the celebrations. The committee received scores of suggestions, from which a select few were chosen in February/March, in a rigorous winnowing process. Our thanks go to Trevor for his undoubtedly critical eye in that endeavour.

b) Retiree Interviews

Following up on Trevor Matthews' idea, first mooted at the 2011 AGM, a Planning Committee was formed in fall 2011, to map out the procedures for gathering interviews of those 40+ people who had responded to the Association's first request for participants. The goal is to collect a representative array of individual memories (personal, departmental, or institutional) which are avowedly subjective. The unedited results are being deposited in the University Archives, for safe-keeping and controlled access by future researchers and the University's own 50th Anniversary committees.

*(Members of the Planning Committee: Sharon Crumly, Isobel Dawson, David Docherty, Elaine Gallagher, Peter Liddell, Trevor Matthews, Victor Neufeldt, Bev Timmons).*

We were fortunate to gain the interest of the instructor of the senior 'Communications' course in the English Dept., *Elizabeth Grove-White*. As a former CBC journalist and producer, Elizabeth teaches her students all aspects of information-gathering and publication, including interview techniques. The interviews became a significant part of the student grades on this occasion.

Using 5 voice recorders bought for the project, and the good offices of the Humanities Computing & Media Centre (where Peter was Acad. Director for 20+ years), the students conducted 20 interviews in late March/April with UVic retirees from all areas of campus life. Coordinated by some of the above Members, plus *Agnes Lynn, Bob Campbell, and James Pearce*, the students wrote brief summaries of the key points of their respective interview, which, along with the digital recording itself, and a brief bio of the interviewee, were passed to Univ. Archives. So far, two of those interviews have been chosen for additional

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write-up by the University PR office, and are posted online. More can be expected, as the celebrations begin in earnest in September.

At the same time, the Second Phase of the interviews was being planned, to organize interviews with the now much increased roster of interviewees (Total now is almost 80!). The Implementation Committee members who are doing these interviews consist of those named above, plus *Walter Muir* and *Barbara Jackson*.

Using an online booking system to avoid bottlenecks, each interviewer arranges a convenient time with their interviewees (max. of 5 each), either in HCMC, or at the interviewee's home.

The project is to be completed by late June 2012.

Our thanks to Stewart Arneil and in particular Judy Nazar of HCMC for providing space, storage, and the technical coordination for the interviews and inevitable paperwork accompanying each one (bio's, waivers, summaries). Without them and their expertise in converting the digital files into the format required by Archives, this project could not have succeeded to the extent that it has.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Liddell, Project Coordinator