"I cannot imagine what life would have been like without UBC," says Thelma Sharp Cook, professor emerita in the Faculty of Education. "It’s allowed me to contribute in ways I never imagined."

Since graduating from UBC’s first teaching class in secondary education in 1958, Thelma has demonstrated an overwhelming compassion for young people striving to better themselves through education. Her ongoing efforts as a volunteer and donor have opened doors for countless students.

"NITEP (Native Indian Teacher Education Program) began in 1974 as a response to needs expressed by Aboriginal people for a more relevant education program," explains Thelma. In 1977, she was second director of NITEP and had taken on the role of raising scholarship and bursary money for native students.

"I learned how disadvantaged these students were," says Thelma. "It was almost impossible for a First Nations student to come to an institution like UBC without assistance."

Thelma was also instrumental in the creation of the Wesbrook Scholars Group. "I was chair of Senate Awards Committee, and we recognized the need for an award that looked beyond academic achievement, so we established Wesbrook Scholars."

After being recruited as a selector for the Wesbrook Scholars, Thelma became increasingly immersed in fundraising work for undergraduate awards and bursaries. "When I saw that I could put some money towards a scholarship, I thought I might as well," says Thelma. She went on to establish the Thelma Sharp Cook Scholarship, which recognizes qualities like leadership, athletic achievement, and volunteer work—as well as academic standing.

Thelma and her husband Donald also recently announced their intention to bestow UBC with a legacy gift, although the designation has yet to be decided.

When asked about her generosity, Thelma responds, “I just hope it makes life a little easier for students and allows them to spend time learning things outside of class, whether it’s playing on an athletic team or volunteering in one of the hospitals.” ◆
As Development Liaison Officer for UBC’s Development and Alumni Engagement, Kate Bush knows firsthand how estate gifts to the University help shape the experience of students through financial aid, academic opportunities, and extracurricular initiatives. “Supporting students and research is such a thrill. I can’t work in a place if I’m not passionate about the cause.”

In 1997, Kate decided to make a bequest for undergraduate awards in Medicine: “I couldn’t give a gift in real time, so I thought an estate gift was a good solution,” she explains. “It takes an organization like UBC to find a cure for major diseases like cancer, which is prevalent in our family. If I could contribute towards a cure, even in some small way—well, that would be awesome.”

Kate’s generosity inspired her husband and daughter, who are also members of the UBC community, to follow suit. Robert is an alumnus who has worked in Plant Operations at UBC for almost 34 years while Laura works in Campus and Community Planning and is pursuing her degree at UBC part time.

As a graduate of Physical Education, Robert plans to leave his bequest to the Athletics Department while Laura’s gift is currently undesignated, so it can be put towards the area of greatest need.

“Students come to UBC to figure out who they are,” explains Laura. “You never know—you could be sitting next to someone who cures a major disease, produces great composition or becomes the next Olympic champion. Students have so much potential, so why not support them?”

Robert’s decision to donate to UBC was founded in a strong personal conviction that higher education leads to a stronger society: “Kate talked about donating and I thought it was a good idea,” he says. “I’ve come to realize that the most important institution in the province is not government, but the university. Higher education means higher wages. If people want more money in the province, it’s important to support the university.”

“A lot of UBC grads have gone on to start companies that hire people and benefit their communities,” says Kate. “Supporting students just feels good. Right now, there’s a kid out there who’s going to change the world. If my contribution goes into the pot, grows and helps that kid tackle one of the big challenges we’re facing today—that would be amazing!”

Kate, Robert and Laura all agree that financial need shouldn’t bar any student from university. “If my gift helps someone gain access to higher education, that would be great,” says Laura.

“People who undertake university on their own, without the help of parents or scholarship money, have a really hard time,” says Kate. “I like the idea of making someone’s life a little easier.”

“Besides,” adds Robert, “you never know. The money you put towards UBC could benefit you in ways you never thought possible.”

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**A Family’s Legacy of Giving**

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**UBC is honoured to acknowledge the generosity and kindness of the following people who, in the past year, left a bequest to the university upon their passing:**

- Ken Arthur
- Charles William McKay Burge
- Allistair Stuart Calder
- William Francis Cavalier
- John Currie
- Jacqueline Dahm
- Charlotte Jane DeVitt
- Paul Douglas
- Marlene Flater
- William C. Gibson
- Elwyn Emmerson Gregg
- Richard Irving Greyson
- George Motley Griffiths
- Katherine J. (Kitty) Heller
- Mary Ellen Henley
- Kenneth Archibald Hodgert
- Robert Farrer Jackson
- Judith Jardine
- Clifford Stewart Jones
- Myrna Kolberg
- Ulrich F. Mache
- Norah Mansell
- Barbara Mennie
- Albert Michael Leonard Parker
- Edna Mary Robertson
- Jody Michael Alexander Rud
- Ulla Ryghe
- Iris Scherrer
- Kathleen Simpson
- Maribeth Jeanne Sinclair
- Jan Solecki
- Dorothy Porter Stewart
- John Stoddart
- Lorne Forster Swannell
- James V. Taylor
- Orville Lloyd Wilmot
- Warren Leland Wolmuth
The husband and wife team of Shelly Naiman and Linda Vickars devoted their careers to solving the puzzles of hematology, including bleeding and clotting disorders. So when the time came for the couple to plan their giving, they decided to enable such sleuthing by others.

Drs. Naiman and Vickars created an endowment with a $30,000 gift and also made a planned gift to the Centre for Blood Research. The funds will support the education and research of trainees, a clinician-scientist to conduct research and a visiting professor – all in the areas of non-malignant (i.e., non-cancerous) hematology, a category that includes inherited and acquired bleeding and thrombotic disorders, red blood cell and platelet disorders, and white blood cell abnormalities.

“Our careers were part of our lives in an enormous way,” Dr. Naiman says. “We would like to see the learning continue, particularly in the field we truly love.”

Dr. Naiman, former Clinical Professor and the founding head of the Division of Clinical Hematology at Vancouver General Hospital, was instrumental in establishing the Bone Marrow Transplant Program for British Columbia and later became head of the hematology laboratory at St. Paul’s Hospital.

Dr. Vickars, a Clinical Professor in the Division of Hematology who headed the St. Paul’s division for 12 years, oversaw the establishment of the adult Provincial Hemoglobinopathy Program, and was director of the hemophilia and iron overload programs.

“My career was a career of teaching and laboratory work,” Dr. Naiman says. “Making a diagnosis of a bleeding disorder was always a challenge – I loved that sort of thing. My wife did too, and she did it well, at the bedside.”

During their combined 65 years of diagnosing and treating blood disorders, the couple have seen major changes in these areas. In the 1960s, people with severe inherited bleeding disorders usually did not survive past their teenage years; now they may live into their 80s or beyond. That success brings new challenges – for example, treating heart attacks or strokes with blood thinners, which carries obvious risks for people who are prone to excessive bleeding.

“The estate gift will open up all kinds of opportunities for education and training of future generations,” says Professor Ed Conway, Director of the Centre for Blood Research. “And the thinking behind the gift is fitting. Clinical practice has changed dramatically, but it would never have happened without the knowledge-base built through research.”

“More and more, especially lately, we’re getting answers and solving puzzles because of the research that’s being done,” Dr. Vickars says. “I’ve looked after families and known something wasn’t quite right, yet didn’t have the tools at the time to work it out. Then I’d get a phone call from a research laboratory with the answer. It was very exciting, not only for me, but especially the patient and their families.” ◆
Giving retirement assets is one of the easiest ways to give

UBC is grateful to the many generous donors who have left all or a portion of their RRSP, RRIF, or company pension to support university projects they are passionate about.

If you are considering an estate gift, you may name The University of British Columbia as a direct beneficiary of your retirement plans. Because the funds transfer outside of your estate, they are not subject to probate fees. In addition, taxes owed on retirement assets will be offset by the tax credits generated from your donation.

You may also make withdrawals from your RRSP and RRIF plans during your lifetime and use the proceeds to support an area on campus of your choosing. Although the withdrawal will be considered taxable income, you will receive a donation receipt that offsets the taxes owing. This option may appeal to people who have accumulated more in their RRSPs or RRIFs than they will need and are concerned about the growing tax consequences.

Your gift supports UBC’s start an evolution campaign – the most ambitious fundraising and alumni engagement campaign in Canadian history. To learn more about how you can start an evolution with a legacy gift to UBC, please contact UBC Gift and Estate Planning.

startanevolution.ca

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