

A Tribute to John

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I’ve known John since my time as an undergrad at the University of British Columbia. Well, I didn’t know him personally, but I knew his work. This early introduction came via my interest in dialectology, where John ‘the author’, ‘the phonetician’, was a local figurehead. I’ve since come to know John ‘the person’, ‘the colleague’, ‘the friend’. In these respects I’m among a large and lucky group, and I know it. Large because John always has open arms; lucky because John is not just smart, he’s also wise. John was Department Chair when I interviewed at UVic in 2009, a job he continued in until very recently. All this to highlight that my UVic career started under illustrious leadership.

John, you know very well all that you’ve done for me during my time at UVic. You may not appreciate the magnitude of your collegiality and support, but suffice to say that you created an indelible culture of amiability and joint enterprise. I suppose that one day I too will be Chair (sigh). If I can be even part of the mentor you have been, then I will have played a small part in paying it forward, though the debt will be impossible to pay in full.

I hope you continue to grace our halls with your wisdom, your smile, and your quirky humour. We are all the richer for them.