

## passing through middle-earth

UW Drama grad is a proud member of the vibrant Canadian theatre community.



Photo: Helen Laesey

BY CHRISTINE WOODS

**D**ylan Roberts, BA '96 Drama, dabbled in acting while attending Cameron Heights Collegiate in Kitchener and with the K-W Little Theatre, but really found his calling to the theatre while attending Waterloo. Ten years later, he is catapulted to the world premiere production of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic *The Lord of the Rings*.

Roberts plays the role of Merry Brandybuck, a young hobbit, in the breathtaking musical adaptation that has been described by the director, Matthew Warchus, as a hybrid of text, physical theatre, music, and spectacle never previously seen on this scale. "To read the novel is to experience the events of Middle-earth in the mind's eye. Only in the theatre are we actually plunged into the events as they happen. The environment surrounds us. We participate. We are in Middle-earth," says Warchus.

Roberts was quite skeptical when the call came out for the *LOTR*. How on earth could you condense three very detailed and rich novels into a single evening at the theatre? How will the music be woven into the story? What about the battles and the plethora of races and species involved in the story? "These were all questions that came to mind," he says. "I looked at who was involved on the creative team and quickly became very interested."

Auditions were the first indication of the sheer magnitude of the production. His initial audition with the Canadian casting director was somewhat typical: "The actors were measured to make sure they met the maximum height for a hobbit, sang, read through the scene, and that was that," he recalls. A few weeks later he

*continued on page 4*



Photo: Manuel Harlan

Dylan Roberts (Merry) and Owen Sharpe (Pippin) in a scene from *LOTR*.

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## editorial



Welcome to the Fall 2006 edition of *Arts & Letters*.

This past year has been an exciting one for the Faculty of Arts. We've welcomed a new dean, published our first Arts report, and started an alumni authors library.

In this issue of *Arts & Letters*, you will discover a diverse range of Waterloo Arts alumni. You will read about one grad's adventure in Middle-earth; another who has built a 30-year career in the entertainment industry; and yet another who has excelled in human resources.

As editor of *Arts & Letters*, my goal is to keep in touch with you, our alumni, and find out what's new in your life. It would be great to hear from you.

*Happy reading  
and stay connected!*

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## UW DRAMA 2006-2007

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

*By Oscar Wilde*  
Directed by  
Anne-Marie Donovan  
November 15-18, 2006  
Theatre of the Arts

### UPSTART 07

*A festival of  
new plays directed by  
UW Drama students*  
February 1-10, 2007

Studio 180  
Hagey Hall

### THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

*By Bertolt Brecht*  
Directed by  
guest director  
Alex Fallis

March 15-24, 2007  
Theatre of the Arts

For more information, visit [www.drama.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.drama.uwaterloo.ca)

BOX OFFICE 519-888-4908

TIME 8:00 p.m.

TICKET PRICES \$12 general public \$10 students/seniors

## first impressions of a new dean

It is an enormous privilege and pleasure to be contributing my first missive to the alumni of the Faculty of Arts. As some of you may know, I joined the University of Waterloo on July 1, 2006, having previously served at universities in Saskatchewan, British Columbia, New Brunswick, and New Zealand, in both administrative and teaching positions. I am delighted to be here and consider it a tremendous honour to be asked to serve as the dean of this truly impressive and internationally renowned Faculty of Arts. The departing dean, Robert Kerton, did a terrific job of preparing me for the new post and of ensuring that the Faculty was in superb shape financially and administratively, setting an impressive standard for me to match.

Given that I have been on campus only a few short weeks, I was unsure of the first message that I should share with you. After all, you folks spent years at the University of Waterloo and know the campus, with all its delightful eccentricities and great qualities, with far greater depth and insight than I can offer at present. I have, these past weeks, been wandering around campus, map in hand, trying to identify all of the major buildings and find my way to the key administrative offices, the library, recreational facilities, and cafeterias. So far, I have only been lost a few times! But as I made my way around the campus, the community, and the region, I have had many opportunities to reflect on how fortunate I am to be here.

One of the advantages of being an outsider, I believe, is the fact that I see the University of Waterloo from a very different perspective. Before my job interview in February, I had not been to the UW campus nor to Waterloo. But the university was well-known to me. This came, in part, through professional encounters with faculty members from UW, which firmly established the academic reputation of the place in my mind. It came, as well, from the impressive results in the annual Maclean's survey, which reported statistically what is widely known in the Canadian university community – that UW is the most innovative and creative institution in the country.

This general impression is certainly well-entrenched across the country. Many people, when learning that I had accepted a post at UW, commented favourably on the choice and the opportunity. Even if they did not have a particularly firm sense of where Waterloo was located, they knew the quality and well-deserved reputation of the institution, its faculty, and its alumni.

First impressions are important ones for incoming students, staff, and faculty, and even for deans. I am delighted to report to you that the impressions gained from afar and from my initial meetings at the University of Waterloo have been more than confirmed during my first months on campus.

My initial experiences with faculty, students, and staff in the Faculty of Arts confirm what I had believed about

Waterloo. The people that make up this remarkable Faculty are truly impressive. We have, as you well remember, a group of talented teachers and researchers, support staff dedicated to providing the highest quality service, and students who bring a wonderful combination of skill, energy, and intellectual curiosity to their studies at UW. I have been terrifically impressed with the quality of the undergraduate and graduate programs, uniformly given high marks by the top national and international reviewers we bring in to assess the curriculum and student learning experiences.



“I will...no longer wonder how King Street manages to go in all four directions...”

The list of research grants and major academic accomplishments continues to grow each year as UW solidifies its place in the first rank of Canadian universities. Perhaps most importantly, these academic successes are matched by a strong sense of social commitment and outreach, reflecting a widely shared belief that the university must make a solid and continuing contribution to the broader world.

You know that the University of Waterloo is a remarkable place and a truly impressive university. While this was my general impression, gained from many years in Canadian post-secondary education, it is now even more firmly etched in my mind. I am

delighted to be the Dean of Arts and thrilled to be part of the community of alumni associated with this great university.

When I write to you again next year, I will have three academic terms under my belt, will no longer wonder how King Street manages to go in all four directions within a few short kilometres, will be used to driving the 401, and will have absorbed the unique energy, excitement, and commitment to innovation that is so central to Kitchener-Waterloo and the University of Waterloo. Until then, I wish you the very best in your personal lives and professional careers. I hope that 2006-2007 brings many blessings and much success. ■

received a call that the creative team from England was in town and wanted to see him. “I had three callbacks with the creative team, including a gruelling physical fitness test and dance session.” A month later, while in the dressing room preparing for *The Taming of the Shrew*, Roberts got the good news. (Another UW grad had good news, too. **Melanie Klodt**, BA ’01, who is a

graduate of Waterloo’s Cultural Management Specialization, was the assistant stage manager for the *LOTR* production).

“Each job brings its own challenges,” says Roberts. “That’s how I like it. I like to explore new things each time I get out on stage or in front of the camera. With *LOTR*, it was the music and dance elements that were the challenge for me. I have never done a musical

received a Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for the acting ensemble.

Roberts had planned to concentrate on economics and political science while at Waterloo, but quickly discovered where his real calling lay, switched majors, and graduated with a degree in drama and theatre arts. He attributes his success in the theatre industry to the broad base of knowledge and experience that he received during his studies. “Political science, psychology, history, literature, all of these are as important to me as any of the voice or movement classes,” he says. “I bring all of the knowledge and experience I gained at Waterloo into every audition.”

After graduation, Roberts moved to Toronto with a pack of UW graduates, including **Mark McGrinder** (BA ’94) and **Anthony Lemke** (BA ’94). The three started working at Tim Horton’s in the Sick Kids Hospital and began hitting the pavement. At the time, McGrinder was writing a one act play based on the idea that a group of Shakespeare’s

tragic characters all find themselves in the same group therapy session. “We found a free slot at Second City,” says Roberts, “did one show, and then we were off. We found agents, started auditioning, left Tim Horton’s, and began to work.” McGrinder spent three seasons at the Shaw festival, Lemke landed a lead role in the TV series, *Queen of Swords*, and Roberts did commercials and theatre work. “The crazy thing about this business,” explains Roberts, “is that there is no one career path that guarantees success. Some people hit it big right out of the gate and others are never able to make a career out of acting.”

Roberts recalls his early years at UW where the Drama department kept the students busy, either rehearsing for a show or helping to build sets for the next one. “The campus population was wonderfully supportive,” he says, “and I loved that the productions weren’t exclusive to drama students. Any student in any program could audition.”

One of the great strengths

“The crazy thing about this business is that there is no one career path that guarantees success.”

Following is a list of some UW grads who have successful careers in theatre, film, and TV:

**Derrick Chua**, BA ’89

**Deborah Drakeford**, BA ’88

**Brad Goddard**, BA ’01

**Joel Harris**, BA ’94

**Marvin Hinz**, BA ’91

**Melanie Klodt**, BA ’01

**Anthony Lemke**, BA ’94

**Mark McGrinder**, BA ’94

**Joey Morin**, BA ’96

**Samara Nicholds**, BA ’96

**Kimwun Pehinec**, BA ’95

**Darlene Spencer**, BA ’92

before and was looking forward to tackling the incredible amount of movement and singing that this play contains. It’s been a very rewarding experience.”

Roberts made his first professional stage appearance in Ted Dykstra’s directorial debut, *Science Fiction*. His recent credits also include: *The Taming of the Shrew* (ShakespeareWorks); *The Tempest* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Resurgence Theatre); *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Globe Theatre); and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* (Waterloo Stage Theatre). Roberts is also involved in the legendary VideoCabaret. He has portrayed Louis Riel in the last two installments of the Canadian history cycle. VideoCabaret’s *Confederation*



Photo: Manuel Harlan

Owen Sharpe (Pippin) and Dylan Roberts (Merry), encounter the Ents of Fangorn in a scene from *LOTR*.

of Waterloo's Drama and Speech Communication department is that professors and instructors are very active in the professional community. Roberts has worked on numerous projects with the new and emerging Toronto-based theatre company Studio 180. Professor Joel Greenberg and some Drama grads named the company after Room 180 in UW's Humanities building where many of the acting courses are taught. Roberts played a number of characters in Studio 180's first production, the highly-acclaimed Canadian premiere of *The Laramie Project*. The cast included Waterloo drama alumni spanning 20 years. "UW grads are everywhere," says Roberts.

With the Toronto-based production of *LOTR* coming to



The Fellowship of the Ring assembles in Rivendell in a scene from *LOTR*.

Photo: Manuel Heitan

was magnified by a million. It was a new piece of work. We struggled with some growing pains, but the audience response has been fabulous. I'm very proud of the work the company brought to the stage."

Record Store Campaign, Lays potato chips with NHL star Mark Messier, and Miller Lite. His film and television credits include *Sue Thomas F.B. Eye*, *G-Spot*, *Blue Murder*, *Doc*, and *Death To Smoochy*, among others. "I've really only wanted

Roberts notes that there is no right or wrong path to an acting career in either theatre or film. "I can tell you what I've learned and that is don't listen to anyone who says they've got the answer. We all have to find our own way, but like any other career you need to bring the best of yourself to everything you do," he says. "As a great British actor once said, 'Be prepared, say your lines, and don't bump into the furniture.'" ■

**“You have to find joy and challenge in everything you do in this line of work. For me, it’s the only way to stay sane. Who knows – this month was Tolkien and Attenborough, next month might be pizza commercials and catering.”**

a close this fall, Roberts is on to new challenges. "The business of live theatre can be quite fickle," he says. "You can never tell what the audiences or the critics are going to gravitate towards. Theatre requires the combined talents of so many people all coming together on the same project. You can just concentrate on your piece of the puzzle and contribute as much as possible to the people around you. Sometimes all the pieces come together and sometimes they don't. With *LOTR*, that

Roberts recently landed a role in the upcoming film *Closing the Ring*, directed by Sir Richard Attenborough. "He is one of those legendary directors that is on every actor's 'Wish I could work for them!' list," says Roberts. The feature film is set in Belfast and North Carolina in 1943 and should hit the theatres in spring 2007.

Roberts can also be seen in dozens of television ads, including Rogers highspeed internet, Crispy Crunch

one thing from my career and that's to keep working," he says. "I enjoy the balance I have found. I work in theatre, film, voice-over, commercials, and TV. I also love to teach. You have to find joy and challenge in everything you do in this line of work. For me, it's the only way to stay sane. Who knows – this month was Tolkien and Attenborough, next month might be pizza commercials and catering."

Born on the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales, Roberts moved to Waterloo when he was ten. He grew up in the KW area and moved to Toronto after graduating from UW. He now lives in Fergus, Ontario, with his wife Shari and two-year-old twin boys.

*The Lord of the Rings* was the winner of seven Dora Mavor Moore awards and played at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto.

# award-winning international film and TV executive wins 9th annual Arts alumni award

**L**enora Hume (BA '74) is the ninth recipient of the Faculty of Arts Alumni Achievement Award. The award recognizes Waterloo Arts alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professional field or in community and public service.

Born in Vancouver, Lenora was recently appointed Executive Vice President of production and programming with HIT Entertainment in London, England, one of the world's leading pre-school children's entertainment producers and rights owners.

"In a world and a business where we have to think globally and produce locally, we could not have found a more qualified individual to head up our production and programming group," says Bruce Steinberg, CEO of HIT. "Lenora brings a wealth of production experience with her, [and] we are thrilled she is joining us."

Lenora is responsible for building on HIT's existing slate of classic preschool entertainment, including *Bob the Builder™*, *Thomas & Friends™*, *Barney™*, and *Angelina Ballerina™*, as well as building new brands through content development and acquisitions. "I am honoured to have the opportunity to work with some of the most respected brands in pre-school entertainment," she says. "HIT has assembled an amazing executive team and together we will continue to grow the brands around the world."

Lenora has 30 years experience in the entertainment industry. She spent 16 years



with Disney, most recently as the Senior Vice President Worldwide Production, DisneyToon Studios, where she oversaw global production of the studio's movie releases including *Bambi II*, *Pooh's Heffalump Movie*, *Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas*, and *The Lion King 1 1/2*. Prior to that, she was Senior Vice President of Production for Walt Disney Television Animation (1998 to 2003).

"[Lenora] is personable, thoughtful, graceful under pressure, and the most ethical executive I have ever met," says Stephen Swofford, Vice President of Editorial and Post Production at DisneyToon Studios. "The last trait may not be rare in her native Canada, but I assure you, it is very rare here in Hollywood."

In 1976, Lenora started her career with Nelvana Ltd. (Toronto) as a cinematographer, and eventually moved

over to production. Under her guidance, such hits as *The Care Bears*, *Babar*, *Ewoks* and *Droids* for Lucas Film, and *Beetlejuice* the animated series for Warner Brothers were produced. In 1989, she received a Gemini Award for her contribution as supervising producer on *Babar*, and in 1990, a Daytime Emmy for *Beetlejuice*.

Lenora is an active member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television and Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. She is also a member of the board of directors for Women in Animation (WIA) International, a professional, non-profit organization established in 1994 to foster the dignity, concerns, and advancement of women who are involved in the field of animation (for more information on WIA, visit [www.womeninanimation.org](http://www.womeninanimation.org)). In 2006, Lenora was a judge for Canada's annual JUNO Awards. As well, she is a member of Founder Committee, a Canadian Studies Program at the University of California (UCLA) in Los Angeles.

Lenora says that her husband James Leier is looking forward to a few years in Europe and hopes to have time to attend some cooking schools. He is also interested in perhaps renovating/restoring properties while in London. Their son Adam Leier has completed his BFA at the Tisch School of Fine Arts at New York University and is living and working in New York.

To read more about Lenora, see the 2004 issue of *Arts & Letters* online at [www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni). ■

we want  
your  
nominations!

The Faculty of Arts is seeking nominations for the 2007 Arts Alumni Achievement Award. This award recognizes Waterloo Arts alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professional field or in community and public service. Candidates must have a minimum of ten years post graduation from UW to be considered. For more information, contact Christine Woods at 519-888-4567, ext. 32119, or [cwoods@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cwoods@uwaterloo.ca). The nomination deadline is April 30, 2007.

## FACULTY OF ARTS



**I** work everywhere there is an opportunity to learn. I'm mobile. I pack up my life every four months and head out of the city, out of the province, and sometimes out of the country.

I listen. I watch. I learn.

I take the experience from each work term to the next and adapt it to fit. Fast. I'm not afraid to try.

I'm not afraid to speak. I embrace challenge.

I leave something behind everywhere I go that makes things a little different, a little more

productive, and maybe even

a little better than it was

before I got there.

I'm an Arts student.

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## Arts Co-op Student of the Year

Shaneika Bailey (Social Development Studies/Applied Studies Co-op) was named Arts Co-op Student of the Year for 2005. "Shaneika spent a work term with a charitable agency in Guyana where she was instrumental in acquiring funding for building renovations, as well as toy and clothing donations for children. The quest to aid orphans gave her the opportunity to form important relationships with government officials within the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Services, and within the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation. Shaneika also assisted in a peer education program about HIV/AIDS awareness." ■



Photo courtesy of Co-operative Education & Career Services

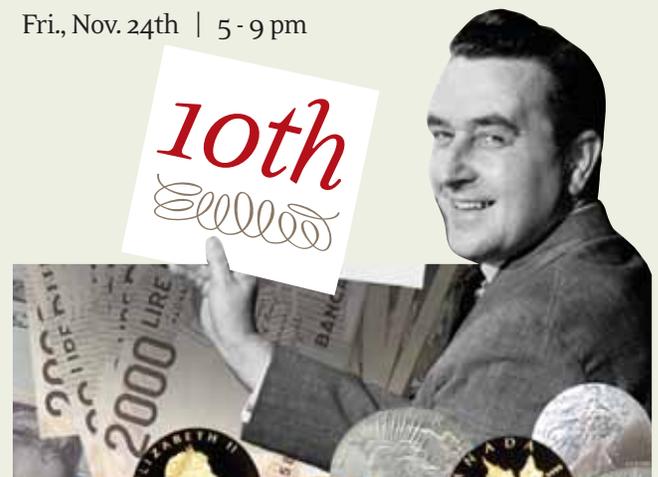
Taken from UW's Daily Bulletin, March 17, 2006.

## The 10th Annual Art Sale and Silent Auction

*New Location:* Modern Languages Building  
University of Waterloo | 200 University Ave., W. | Waterloo | ON

*Preview:*  
Tues., Nov. 21st – Thurs., Nov. 23rd | 8:30 am - 4 pm

*Sale & Silent Auction:*  
Fri., Nov. 24th | 5 - 9 pm



[www.finearts.uwaterloo.ca/annual.html](http://www.finearts.uwaterloo.ca/annual.html)

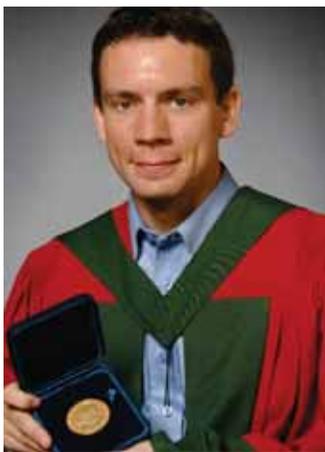
Proceeds from the Silent Auction are for the establishment of the Fine Arts Endowment Fund.

## Arts Alumni Gold Medal



**Claire Hong**, BA '06 (Four-Year General Liberal Studies/ Management Studies Option), was the winner of the Arts Alumni Gold Medal for the highest academic standing in the Faculty of Arts.

## Governor General's Gold Medal



**Brandon Mitchel Wagar**, PhD '05 (Psychology – Behavioural Neuroscience), MA '03, was presented with the Governor General's Gold Medal at the fall 2005 convocation ceremonies. This medal is awarded to a student with the highest standing in a master's or doctoral program.

## 2006 Valedictorians



For the first time in UW history, the Faculty of Arts had two spring convocation ceremonies and two valedictorians. **Lauren Marie Hall**, BA '06 (Honours Fine Arts – Studio Specialization), presented the valedictory speech to the Arts graduating class in the morning and **Paul Francis Lehmann**, BA '06 (Honours Political Science), presented in the afternoon.

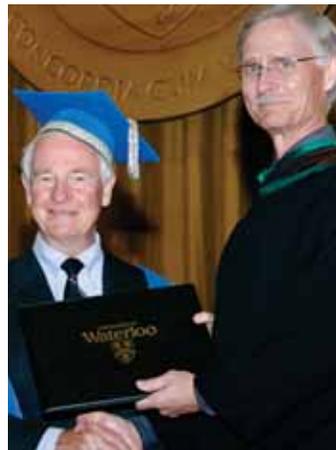
## Governor General's Silver Medal



**Carol Kar Long Wong**, BA '06 (Honours Chartered Accountancy Studies – Co-op), was presented with the Governor General's Silver Medal at spring convocation. This medal is awarded to a student with the highest academic standing in an undergraduate program at UW. The Governor General of Canada awards three medals each year to recognize UW's top three graduates.

## 2006 Distinguished Teacher Awards

The Distinguished Teacher Awards are presented each year at spring convocation "in recognition of a continued record of excellence in teaching at the University of Waterloo." This year's recipients were **Jim Barnett** (School of Accountancy) and **Erik Woody** (Psychology).



President David Johnston congratulates Jim Barnett (left photo) and Erik Woody (right photo) on their Distinguished Teacher Awards.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST ARTS ALUMNI

A total of 1007 undergraduate students and 93 graduate students received degrees at Waterloo's spring convocation on Thursday, June 15, 2006.

## Grad class giving



Grad class challenge committee members Alice Pfeifer and Catherine Schneider present 2006 pledges to Dean of Arts, Bob Kerton.

The annual Grad Class Challenge encourages graduating students to make a contribution to their alma mater. This year's class pledged \$37,520 toward Arts Entrance Scholarships and new Arts technology and equipment. Grad class committee members Michael Duffy (BA '06), Kris Thompson, Matt Campbell, Alice Pfeifer (BA '06), Catherine Schneider (BA '06), and Adam Amyotte volunteered their time and energy to coordinate this year's challenge.

### 2006 Arts Alumni Entrance Scholarships

Thanks to your alumni donations, the Faculty of Arts offered ten new students Arts Alumni Entrance Scholarships this year. The scholarship is valued at up to \$3,000 with \$2,000 payable in first year and an additional \$1,000 payable in second year providing the student achieves an overall average of 83 percent. This year's recipients had admission averages ranging from 92 percent to 96 percent.

**You can make a donation to these or other Arts scholarships online at [www.arts.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca).**

**For more information on giving to the Faculty of Arts, contact Diane Wiles, development officer, at [dwiles@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:dwiles@uwaterloo.ca) 519-888-4567, ext. 35450.**

## Kapur scholarship recognizes teaching excellence

The Professor Ashok Kapur Scholarship fund has been established to celebrate Kapur's retirement after 30 years of teaching excellence. Established by Andrea Sparrey (BA '99 Political Science) and her husband, Amitab Kapur (Ashok's son), the named scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding student entering first year in the Faculty of Arts, with preference to students expressing an interest in Political Science.

Andrea comments: "As a former student, there were times I wish Professor Kapur had taken a more lenient approach to teaching or grading, so that I didn't spend long nights in the library

researching the relationship between two countries that I chose to write a paper on. His biggest gift to me, however, was in teaching me to always challenge myself and to not shy away from hard work, but rather to commit to it and then enjoy its results. Over time, I learned to appreciate just how valuable the challenges were that he presented both as a teacher and as a mentor."

This endowment was made possible by a lead gift from Andrea and Amitab, plus donations from friends and alumni to recognize Ashok Kapur's distinguished career at UW and to encourage talented young students to pursue their education in Arts at the University of Waterloo.

## Gladys Srivastava graduate award in Arts

The Srivastava family honours the memory of Gladys Srivastava – a wife, mother, and proud alumna – through the creation of the Gladys Srivastava Endowment. Gladys earned a Masters in English in 1976 from Waterloo and worked as a reference librarian and Arts co-op coordinator.

The Srivastava family have donated \$100,000 towards an endowment that will support graduate scholarships and library internships. The beneficiaries of this generosity will be talented, deserving young students, who like Gladys, will bring new perspectives to the world

through their studies, research, and career.

Born in Scotland on April 4, 1934, Gladys had a varied career and created many ties while at UW. "Gladys Srivastava always brought a thoughtful, wide-ranging, cool, and unflappable intellect," states retired UW professor Warren Ober. "She was invariably well-prepared, and her eclectic approach and outlook more than once opened new avenues and brought new perspectives to her fellow students – and to her professors." Gladys passed away in Aldergrove, British Columbia, on January 14, 2005.

## Alumni authors read in Waterloo

On October 20, 2005, five English alumni read from their work during a brilliant evening at Starlight Club in Waterloo, hosted by former English major Bernard Kearney, and MC'd by funny man professor Neil Randall. They were joined by special guest, St. Jerome's professor and fabulist, Eric McCormack. In attendance were 120 alumni, current students, and faculty from the main campus English department and St Jerome's.

Carrie Snyder (BA '97) began the evening with a story from her well-received collection *Hair Hat*, published by Penguin, followed by Emily Anglin (BA '03) reading a whimsical tale about meeting Byron in the Montreal Metro. Before a break for socializing, McCormack entertained the gathering with a gruesomely delicious tale from his early collection, *Inspecting the Vaults*. Melanie Cameron (BA '96), just back from Winnipeg, where she has published two books of poetry, led the second half, followed by poems from Colin Vincent (BA '03), freelance technical writer and drummer with the Ottawa punk band The Bandits. Much acclaimed poet, novelist, and University of Toronto professor, George Elliott Clarke (BA '84), concluded the evening with a lively performance from his latest work, a libretto.

## Our Town – theatre night 2005

Alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and retirees enjoyed an evening of theatre along with a few special treats, including a variety of homemade pies. Guests enjoyed a production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* by UW Drama on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. Watch for your invitation to this year's production – *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.



## Our Country's Good – spring theatre night

The cold weather didn't hold off over 300 alumni from enjoying the second annual Arts alumni spring theatre night. UW Drama's production of *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker was both engaging and provocative, with vocal inmates in both the lobby and theatre entrance. Join us in March 2007 for the premiere performance of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht.



## UW Homecoming 2006

Homecoming was held on Saturday, September 30th, with events across campus. New to the Homecoming schedule this year was a "Battle of Waterloo" – Laurier vs. Waterloo – football game, the Environmental Studies Amazing Race, and we welcomed Stephen Lewis as our Homecoming keynote speaker. As well, the Faculty of Arts hosted a Sing-A-Long with Blue from Blue's Clues™.

Watch for special Homecoming events next year in celebration of UW's 50th anniversary.



© 2006 Viacom

## Cambridge Galleries Cineseries Event – SHOW ME with UW Arts Alumna Cassandra Nicolau

On April 27th, the Arts alumni office partnered with Cambridge Galleries for a special showing of filmmaker and Arts alumna Cassandra Nicolau's film *Show Me*. The evening was a great success with more than 180 people attending. Plans have been made with Cambridge Galleries to host an annual Arts alumni event.



Bill Poole (Director, Centre for Cultural Management), Lisa Mahoney (BA '05, Fine Arts/Applied Studies Co-op/Cultural Management Specialization), Cassandra Nicolau (BA '90, English/Applied Studies Co-op/Cultural Management Specialization), and Brandi Gillett Woods (Arts Alumni and Communications Officer).

## The Arab-Israeli Cookbook hit for Studio 180

Studio 180 was proud to produce the Canadian premiere of *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook*, a documentary theatre piece by British playwright Robin Soans. *Cookbook* was created as a result of the author's visits to Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, and is an inspiring statement on how people go about their lives amid political and military tensions.

Faculty of Arts alumni enjoyed a special performance that featured an audience-actor talkback session with guest panellist, Shira Herzog, writer with *The Globe and Mail*.

Studio 180 is the company initiated by Professor Joel Greenberg and Drama alumni Derrick Chua, Mark McGrinder, Samara Nicholds, and Kimwun Pehinec.



The cast of *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook*.

*Save the Date!*

## All Arts Alumni Event



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007**

In celebration of the University of Waterloo's 50th anniversary, we will be hosting a special all Arts alumni event during Homecoming 2007. Save Saturday, September 29, 2007, on your calendar today.

Visit

[www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni)

for more information on this exciting event.

*Looking forward to seeing everyone  
back on campus in 2007!*

## ARTS ALUMNI THEATRE EVENT

### The Importance of Being Earnest

**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**

Theatre of the Arts

Join us for the premiere performance of Oscar Wilde's renowned play *The Importance of Being Earnest* presented by UW Drama and directed by Anne-Marie Donovan.

*Watch for you invitation coming in October!*

Complimentary tickets from the Dean of Arts for Arts alumni, faculty, staff, and retirees. Limited seating – first come, first served (limit one guest)

For more information, visit [www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni).

## message from your arts alumni and communications officers



Brandi Gillett Woods



Alexandra Lippert

The Arts alumni office has been very busy over the past year! We hope that you have seen or heard from us a few times, as well as noticed some of our new initiatives.

### Off the Shelf: Arts Alumni Authors Library

Over the past few months, we've started a collection of alumni-published books for our "Off the Shelf" library. With the help of fellow alumni, faculty, and staff, we have collected over 40 books from some of our published alumni. These books are now available for loan from the Arts alumni office. To see the list of books in our library, visit [www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni).

If you are a published author, we'd love to add a copy of your book to our library. Contact us for more information. Thank you to all who have donated to date.

### Arts STAT program

The Faculty of Arts Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) program has been created in partnership with Career Services to encourage students to participate in career planning sessions. This program also provides a way for us to connect with young alumni before they leave campus and help with job search and future planning wherever we can.

Watch for our next edition of *eArts & Letters*, at [www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni).

### Communicating with you

In our alumni survey last year, many of you told us to communicate with you by email. To be able to do this, we need your email addresses. We recently sent out an information update request to all of you who gave us an email address, and the response was fantastic. Over 300 alumni responded with address changes and updates. See our Class Notes section to catch up with all the latest news.

Now we are asking everyone to join us in our efforts to better communicate with you. Visit our web site to update your contact information, choose how and when you want to hear from us, and if you have an email address let us know. That way, we can keep you up to date on the latest news from Waterloo, events happening in your area, and you'll receive our electronic newsletter – *eArts & Letters* each spring.

We're here for you, so stay connected!

Brandi Gillett Woods and Alexandra Lippert  
Arts Alumni and Communications Officers  
519-888-4567, ext. 37705



**You won't *believe* what you're missing ...**

**... and you won't know unless we have your email address!**

Email is an easy, efficient and environmentally-friendly way to:

- share UW successes
- invite you to alumni events and reunions
- contact former classmates
- keep you connected to UW

Update your email address and not only will you stay connected to UW, but you can also win great monthly prizes including a chance to win a 42" plasma screen TV.

Enter your email address at <http://alumni.uwaterloo.ca/email>

**Win a 42" plasma screen TV!**

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OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS

**Stay connected and stay in the loop!**

We respect your privacy and communication preferences. To learn more please go to <http://alumni.uwaterloo.ca/privacy>.

## retiree leaves legacy

**W**hen Isobel Mackay arrived on the University of Waterloo campus in 1963, she had no idea that she would leave behind a legacy. After numerous job titles (her final one being academic counsellor for distance education and mature students) and three decades working on the second floor of the Modern Languages building, she took early retirement in 2005.

Upon her retirement, Issy was honoured for her many years of service with the establishment of the Isobel Mackay Upper Year Scholarships. These awards are presented each year to undergraduate students in a degree program in the Faculty of Arts who have been away from formal education for a number of years, and who have achieved a high academic standing. The scholarships, as well as bursaries, are funded by an endowment that was created many years ago by Issy. Under her stewardship and with generous support of friends of the Mature Student Services office, the endowment had reached the \$95,000 mark by the time she retired.

According to Issy, however, her greatest legacy is the Mature Student Services office. In the early 80s, when older students were returning to the classroom in large numbers, she was rewarded for her advocacy work on their behalf with her own office devoted entirely to what she fondly likes to describe as “a very untidy bunch of students,” meaning those with backgrounds, needs, and concerns very different from those of the regular students.

Issy’s other legacies included a long list of innovations designed for students who spent very little time on campus: a library of taped lectures on academic skills, a newsletter which focussed on how students can navigate the university bureaucracy, expanded day care services, and local networks for distance education students. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of students have been steered into and through their UW studies with her help, guidance, and initiatives.

She was passionate about looking after the needs of “mature” students – a group made up mainly of women enrolled in the Faculty of Arts, who came to UW when they were older than traditional students, and mostly without the usual academic credentials. Issy, driven to ensure that these students had the

basic skills required to pursue university studies, created a non-credit course in 1984 entitled *Preparing for University: We’ll Show You How*, which was designed to help mature students make the transition to academic studies after being away for a number of years. And for the math anxious in the Faculty of Arts, she created

another non-credit course entitled *Preparing For Statistics*.

Testimonials from grads like Cathy Davey (BA ’05), speak to Issy’s commitment and dedication: “Thanks so much, Isobel. Your *We’ll Show You How* seminar made an incredible impact on my life. And thank you for all of your support and encouragement to mature students working their way toward a degree.”

As these students went on to jobs, faculties of education, graduate study, or other successful futures, Issy cheered them on and reported on their achievements in her monthly newsletter. In one of her last mature student newsletters, Issy wrote: “I’ve had the honour of watching their academic progress, their self-discovery, their confidence grow, and their sheer joy of learning. Could I have been given greater rewards than this?”

Issy has been given other honours including a KW

Oktoberfest Woman of the Year Award in 1982, and an appointment as chair of KW Community Resources for Women in 1980.

Born in England and a University of Manchester graduate, she came to Waterloo in 1963, six years after the University of Waterloo began, as a graduate student in biology, and “almost immediately” was hired as a special lecturer to teach vertebrate zoology. She spent a year doing fish research in the River Thames at Britain’s University of Reading, then returned to UW as a research assistant in the Faculty of Science. But it was her work as Assistant Dean of Women, starting in 1969, which inspired her to devote the rest of her career in academe to mature students.

Issy lives in Waterloo with her husband Don Mackay, retired professor of chemistry at UW, and runs a free B&B for sons Duncan and Iain whenever they come to visit. She enjoys her beautiful English gardens and meeting with friends, old and new. ■



Issy Mackay celebrating with one of her students, Colleen Craig (BA '05 History), at her graduation in October 2005. Colleen is a graduate of UW's Distance Education program.

Adapted from UW's *Daily Bulletin*, June 14, 2005.

## faculty awards and accolades

**Jim Barnett** (Accountancy) has been appointed Director of the School of Accountancy as of August 1, 2006. Jim has been an integral member of the School since 1990 and was Director of the Master of Taxation program since its inception in 1997.

**Phelim Boyle** (Accountancy) was awarded the title University Professor at the June 2006 convocation ceremonies. University Professor is the university's highest academic honour and recognizes exceptional scholarly achievement and international pre-eminence. Boyle was also named Financial Engineer of the Year by the International Association of Financial Engineers, only the second Canadian to receive this prestigious award.

**William Chesney** (Drama and Speech Communication) received the Special Jury Award of the Kitchener-Waterloo Arts Awards for his leadership involvement in *eyeGO to the Arts*. *eyeGO* is an innovative Waterloo region initiative that encourages high school students to attend local arts performances and cultural events for \$5.

**John Goyder** (Sociology), along with Steve Brown (WLU) and **Guil Martinelli** (MA '05 Sociology), won the Chris Commins Award for best paper in 2005 in the Canadian Journal of Marketing Research. Martinelli is the first graduate of the Sociology Specialization in Survey Methodology for Master's students. Waterloo's specialization

is the only graduate level program in Canada devoted to training researchers in techniques for survey research.

**Mariela Gutiérrez** (Spanish and Latin American Studies) is the recipient of a University of Waterloo Award for Excellence in Research. The award includes a \$1,500 grant for research and will be presented to Gutiérrez at the fall convocation ceremonies.

**Barry McClinchey** (Sociology) won the 2005-2006 award for Arts Professor of the Year.

**Christine Wiedman** (Accountancy) was awarded her FCA from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario in recognition of her significant contributions to teaching, research, the profession, and the community.

**Anne Zeller** (Anthropology) has been appointed the latest president of the Society for Visual Anthropology. A division of the American Anthropological Association, this large international organization focusses on the visual aspects of Anthropological research including ethnographic film, dance, use of photographs, and a wide variety of other visual media. Zeller is widely known for her primate research and has a vast collection of primate images available on the web, as well as having over sixty North American institutions using her research videos.

## new faculty

The Faculty of Arts hired 18 new faculty members over the past year with more to join in the coming months, including:

**Ramesh Thakur**, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Senior Vice Rector of the United Nations University, Tokyo, will join the Department of Political Science in early 2007. Professor Thakur is a pre-eminent international scholar and expert in the fields of international relations theory, nuclear disarmament, and global governance.

**Janice Aurini** will join Sociology in July 2007, following a year of post-doctoral research at Harvard. Janice received her PhD from McMaster, where she conducted research on private tutoring franchises such as Kumon and Sylvan.

## UW Gallery welcomes new director

Andrew Hunter has joined the University of Waterloo Galleries as the new director/curator. He replaces Carol Podedworny who has gone on to the McMaster University Art Gallery. Andrew has all kinds of new and exciting plans for the galleries, so watch our web site for upcoming events.



## Accountancy students join living-learning community

Some first year students entering the School of Accountancy this fall will be experiencing a new initiative from Waterloo's Housing and Residences. The Living-Learning Community will see students immersed in academics, campus life, and career-related programs. Peer leaders from upper-year classes will guide students through the program and provide a link to many activities across campus. For more information, visit the Housing and Residences web site at [www.housing.uwaterloo.ca/live\\_learn](http://www.housing.uwaterloo.ca/live_learn).

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## New home for Digital Arts Communication Specialization

As of July 1, 2006, the Digital Arts Communication Specialization is now housed in the Department of Drama and Speech Communication. This move also brings well-known professors David Goodwin and Glenn Stillar into the department.

As part of Honours Arts and Business Co-op, the Specialization in Digital Arts Communication provides students with the knowledge and skills required to design communication for an increasingly digital world.

An expert in interaction design, visual communication, and digital branding, Goodwin has consulted on issues relating to interaction design methodology, digital marketing strategy, and brand experience design for international companies, and has published on designing with digital images. He is the director of the Digital Arts Communication Specialization.

Glenn Stillar is well known for his work on discourse analysis and rhetoric. His research focus is semiotics of multi-modality in design, linguistics, contemporary rhetorical theory, stylistics, and social semiotics, and his publications include a book on *Analyzing Everyday Texts* which outlines a systematic and comprehensive theory of the discursive, social, and rhetorical consequences of everyday texts. Stillar is the director of the Canadian Centre for Cultural Innovation (CCCI).

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## Drama and Speech Communication professors creating e-book

Jill Tomasson Goodwin, David Goodwin, and Glenn Stillar are working on an electronic book entitled "Digital Design: A Rhetoric of Multimedia." The e-book will focus on the theory and practice of designing multimedia texts, images, sound, and video, and will contain, among other interactive links, "born digital" materials created by the authors. The planned publication date is August 2007 and will be published by Parlor Press, an academic e-book publisher linked to such institutes as The Future of the Book, as well as the MacArthur and the Carnegie Mellon Foundations.

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## Students enjoy first Drama exchange

For the first time in its history, eighteen students and faculty members of the Department of Drama and Speech Communication, in conjunction with students of the University of Toronto's undergraduate Drama program, participated in an international exchange with the *Theaterakademie Vorpommern*, one of the most unique theatre training institutes in Germany.

Graduating students from Germany arrived in April and staged performances of Carlo Goldoni's comic masterpiece *The Servant of Two Masters* in both Toronto and Waterloo. Waterloo students then travelled to the scenic town of Zinnowitz on the Baltic coast to perform Timberlake Wertenbaker's play *Our Country's Good*.

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## New graduate program in Public Issues Anthropology

The Anthropology department is pleased to announce a new graduate program in Public Issues Anthropology. This new joint program with the University of Guelph will examine the importance of evolution, differing cultural values, and varying concepts of basic policies such as land claims, artifacts, and ideas. The unique program will combine four subdisciplines of anthropology to offer students a broad spectrum of research. The first students will begin the program in fall 2007.

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## The Victor J. Matthews Classics collection

The Classical Studies department recently received a substantial part of the classical library of Professor Victor Matthews (1941-2004) of the University of Guelph, through the generous donation of Mrs. Irene Matthews. The collection, which specializes in Greek history, poetry, and sport, comprises over 1,000 books and 500 journal issues. Mrs. Matthews also donated a number of volumes to the Dana Porter library. A specialist in Greek epic poetry, Victor Matthews published two scholarly books and more than 30 academic articles. His interest in ancient sport reflected his passion for competitive distance running.

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## Spanish students visit Holguin, Cuba

Students from Waterloo's Spanish and Latin American Studies and the University of Western Ontario participated in an exchange program at the Universidad de Holguín. The students enjoyed a day at the Gibara Beach as part of their activities.



## Classics alumna wins Desmond Conacher Scholarship



**Jessica Higgins** (BA '06 Classical Studies) has been awarded the prestigious Desmond Conacher Scholarship. This award, the only one sponsored by the Classical Association of Canada, is granted annually to the student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, professional promise, and preparation for graduate studies. The scholarship commemorates Desmond Conacher, formerly Honorary President of the Classical Association and professor of Classics at the University of Toronto, where Jessica is pursuing an MA degree. We are proud of Jessica's achievement, which shows that Waterloo graduates are among the best in the country.

## Share your Sociology memories

2006 marks the 40th anniversary of the first admission of graduate students to the Sociology department. Over the years there have been many changes, in particular the past few years saw many retirements and a re-building phase for the department. This past term Rick Helmes-Hayes began compiling a history of Waterloo's Sociology program. Sociology grads are invited to share their stories and memories of the department with Rick at [rhh@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:rhh@uwaterloo.ca).

## Silversides welcomes award-winning playwright and mathematician

Eminent mathematician and multiple Dora Award winner, Dr. John Mighton was this year's speaker for the Silversides Theatre Artist series held in the UW Bookstore on October 4th.

Mighton is a two-time Governor General Award winner for playwriting, most recently for his work *Half Life* in 2005. He is also the founder of Junior Undiscovered Math Prodigies (JUMP) which provides free tutoring to elementary-level math students from disadvantaged families. The JUMP program has spread across Canada and is establishing chapters in other countries as well. Mighton is also the author of *The Myth of Ability* and the *Jump at Home* workbooks.

## Independent Studies students share AIDS experiences

Three Independent Studies students shared their recent experiences in Africa at seminars held last term. Jane Karago Odongo, who emigrated from Kenya several years ago, relayed the overall situation in the continent where 1,000 people, mostly women, die each day from AIDS. In Odongo's home country of Kenya, one third of children have lost one parent to the disease and one in nine has lost both parents. Odongo shared how offers of medicine and informative posters to combat the disease are hindered by high costs and difficulties in transportation for many patients. She also shared how women are not in the position to negotiate safe sex with their husband or partner, but it is women who must take care of the sick and orphaned.

Ruth Plett spent two months in Sudan and Kenya volunteering at AIDS clinics and interviewing clients for her university studies. Plett researched the effects that caring for patients with HIV/AIDS has on the women involved.

Bracha Shapiro worked in a clinic in Kenya during the winter term and learned that although there are many posters about how to combat AIDS, many people do not understand what they mean – for example, how do you explain "Say No" to a kindergarten class? Shapiro was also surprised by how few clients visited the clinic and how funding was wasted.

## First students arrive for Computing and Financial Management program

The first class of the Bachelor of Computing and Financial Management program will arrive on campus this fall. This joint program with the Faculty of Mathematics is a new initiative under the leadership of Professor Duane Kennedy from the School of Accountancy and Peter Forsythe from the David Cheriton School of Computer Science.

## Confucius Institute comes to Waterloo

Renison College was recently selected as a site for the second Confucius Institute in Canada. The Confucius Institute (CI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and development of Chinese language, culture, studies, and business. Its mission is to facilitate engagement with China in ways that strengthen the understanding, opportunities, and bonds between individuals, enterprises, communities, and institutions in Canada, the People's Republic of China, and the global Chinese diaspora. The Institute is a joint venture between the Office of the Chinese Language Council International ("Hanban" - Ministry of Education, Beijing), Renison College, UW, and Nanjing University, one of the highest rated research universities in China.

## faculty retirements

The Faculty of Arts wishes to express its sincerest gratitude for the many years of contribution by the following recent faculty retirees:

**Phelim Boyle**, School of Accountancy

**Art Green**, Fine Arts

**Ashok Kapur**, Political Science

**Alister Mason**, School of Accountancy

**Robert Ryan**, French Studies

**James Van Evra**, Philosophy

## University of Waterloo's 50th Anniversary

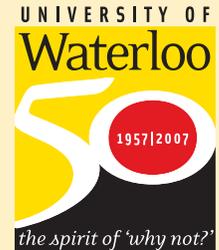
1957-2007

It's going to be exciting around campus next year as the university celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1957, the University of Waterloo has grown from a small school in Waterloo to the country's leading comprehensive institution in just a short fifty years.

To celebrate there will be a number of events throughout 2007 on campus and around the world.

Watch the 50th anniversary web site, [www.uwaterloo.ca/50th](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/50th) for celebration information.



## founder of Arts Computing Office is remembered

BY PHILIP HILLYER SMITH III

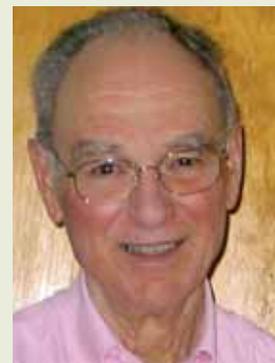
**R**etired Faculty of Arts professor Philip (Phil) Hillyer Smith, Jr., died unexpectedly in his sleep on June 11, 2006. He was in his 80th year.

Professor Smith taught computing and linguistics at the University of Waterloo from 1969 to 1989. During that period, he also founded the Arts Computing Office, whose mission is to provide computing resources and support for those in the humanities and social sciences.

Born in the United States, he served in the US Navy in World War II, and graduated from Harvard University in 1947. After his undergraduate work, he continued his education, travelling to Prague to study Czech. He fell in love with the city, the language, and the Czech people, and he visited the country many times over the next six decades, especially after the fall of Communism.

Professor Smith received his PhD in Slavic Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1959, and worked for IBM on early computer-translation projects. He then was a pioneer in creating a computer-generated concordance of *Beowulf* while at New York University, before emigrating to Waterloo in 1969. While at the University of Waterloo, his principal research focussed on creating concordances of the Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records, all Virginia Woolf's novels, and Freud's works in both German and English. He studied and taught overseas in Brazil, Germany, Peru, Colombia, and the Czech Republic, and was the recipient of two Fulbright grants and a Smith-Mundt grant.

He is survived by Elisabeth (Liz) Papas Smith, his wife of nearly 53 years; his daughter Dorothea (Thea) Elisabeth Smith and her spouse Sheldon Wein, of Halifax, Nova Scotia; his daughter Jennifer Louise Smith, of Toronto, Ontario; and his son Philip Hillyer Smith III, his daughter-in-law



Anita Hillyer Smith, and his only grandchild, Katherine Elisabeth Hillyer Smith, of Oak Hill, Virginia.

When Professor Smith died, he and Liz were in Chapel Hill, where they had spent winters since he retired from the University of Waterloo in 1989, and they were selling their house and returning permanently to their John Street home in Waterloo. He will be sorely missed by his immediate family, a circle of more distant relatives, and a wide range of friends around the world. ■

**'69 Paul MacDonald**, BA '69 Geography, has travelled extensively around the world, including Europe, China, Indonesia, Australia, and Scandinavia. As a gay activist while living in London, England, he helped organize the first gay and lesbian political action on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in 1971. He was also a founding member of the editorial collective for the *Body Politic*, Canada's first gay liberation journal, published in 1971. Paul currently works for Bay Bloor Radio in Toronto. In 1979, he founded the Mirage Loudspeaker product line.  
[paulmacd@sympatico.ca](mailto:paulmacd@sympatico.ca)

**'72 Leslie McKanday**, BA '72 Psychology, works as a mortgage administrator with the Effort Trust Company in Hamilton. "I have come full circle back to the financial sector after many years in the manufacturing and service sectors," says Leslie. "Been married and separated, no kids, but am the proud roommate of a five-year-old Maine coon cat who rules with a furry paw."  
[beechguider@cogeco.ca](mailto:beechguider@cogeco.ca)

**'76** Vancouver artist, **Barb Wood**, BA '76 Fine Arts, runs her own company, Barb Wood Graphics Ltd. "Please see [www.barbwoodgraphics.com](http://www.barbwoodgraphics.com) to see what a good backing from the University of Waterloo has led to!" she writes.  
[barb@barbwoodgraphics.com](mailto:barb@barbwoodgraphics.com)

**'77 Charles Nienkirchen**, MA '77 History, PhD '85 History, is a professor of Christian History and Spirituality at the Alliance University College/Nazarene University College in Calgary. On May 16, 2006, he received the Award of Distinction from the Alberta Government, Ministry of Advanced Education, for The Internationalization of the Teaching and Learning Practice. "This was given for my educational travel study program entitled "Down Ancient Paths" which has been operating for 10 years," says Charles. "[It] was an open competition for all the faculties of Alberta's universities, colleges, and institutes, and ten awards were granted in all." He adds: "My years at UW were the original inspiration for the program."  
[CNienkirchen@auc-nuc.ca](mailto:CNienkirchen@auc-nuc.ca)

**'80 Paul Tacon**, BA '80 Anthropology/Psychology, writes to us from Australia where he is a professor and research leader in Griffith University's School of Arts. Paul tells us that he developed and leads a new research program called The Human Question. For more information, visit [www.griffith.edu.au/school/art/p.tacon@griffith.edu.au](http://www.griffith.edu.au/school/art/p.tacon@griffith.edu.au)

**'81 John Heung**, BA '81 Economics, writes to us from Hong Kong where he was recently recruited by a leading building material supply company to promote sanitary wares in the southern part of China. John tells us that his eldest daughter was just admitted to university and plans to major in English and education.  
[johnleung\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:johnleung_2000@yahoo.com)



**'82 Patricia Anderson**, BA '82 English, informs us that she is showing some of her canvas-printed photos at a local cheese fine foods shop. For details, see [www.patanderson.net](http://www.patanderson.net).  
[patanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:patanders@sympatico.ca)

Since graduation, **Jeff Soltysiak**, BA '82 English/Co-op, has been employed at CTV Southwestern Ontario (formerly CKCO-TV). "I did my last co-op work term there," he says, "and was hired full-time three days after convocation." Jeff started as a writer and then assignment editor and has been the news producer since 2004. "A career highlight was originating and being the first producer of Good Morning Canada, CTV's weekend morning show," he writes. In 1982, Jeff married **Cheryl Kehn**, BA '81 English, who teaches for the Waterloo Region District Catholic School Board. "We have three kids," he says, "and our oldest is continuing the tradition, studying English at St. Jerome's University." Jeff tells us that his area of expertise is grilling. "I have five grills, a smoker, and a turkey deep fryer, and I have been asked to be a judge at the Canadian Open BBQ Championships in Barrie again this year."  
[jsoltysiak@ctv.ca](mailto:jsoltysiak@ctv.ca)

**'84** Last fall, **Cheryl Guerin**, BA '84 Sociology, went to Ireland where she "toured, golfed, and drank beer." She writes: "It's a beautiful country to visit, and the people are wonderful. While in Dublin we stayed at Trinity College, which is right in the centre of all the action and the rates were really reasonable. While visiting the rest of Ireland we stayed in B&B's, which are plentiful and everywhere. My fav places were Kinsale, Glengarriff in West Cork (the whole West Cork area is breathtaking), the Cliffs of Moher, Newgrange and Knowth, and of course, Dublin (I believe U2 wrote the song "Where the Streets Have No Name" as a tribute to Dublin, their hometown)." Cheryl also tells us that her brother **Jeff Guerin** (BMath '91) and his wife are proud of their little girl Caitlin who was born in 2004.  
[cheryl.guerin@bell.ca](mailto:cheryl.guerin@bell.ca)

After 20 years in the military, **James Pickett**, BA '84 History/Political Science, has just retired to accept a position as director of the North-East Florida Region of the School of Continuing Education for Saint Leo University.  
[jpickett38@hotmail.com](mailto:jpickett38@hotmail.com)

**'87 Nancy Bradley**, BA '87 English, continues her pursuit for higher education. In May 2005, she graduated from Atlantic Baptist University with a BEd and is currently an instructor in the business department of New Brunswick Community College. Nancy has recently been accepted into Mount Saint Vincent's Master of Education program in educational psychology with a focus on teaching students who are blind/visually impaired.

After finishing her Waterloo degree, **Stephanie Fysh (Moskal)**, BA '87 English, completed her PhD at the University of Toronto in eighteenth-century English "with a heavy dose of theory," published a scholarly book, and had three children. She is now a downtown-Toronto-based freelance editor and proofreader to book publishers, co-coordinator of Ryerson University's Publishing Certificate program, and a director of the Book and Periodical Council. "I'm also 'coming out' this year," says Stephanie, "as an architectural and artistic photographer." This past spring marked her first show, a group exhibit (*Urban Optics*) at the Gladstone Hotel, part of the CONTACT Toronto Photography Festival.  
[sfysh@sympatico.ca](mailto:sfysh@sympatico.ca)

After 12 years with Sun Life Financial (including three and a half years in Toronto and eight and a half years in Wellesley, Massachusetts), **Keith Moore**, BA '87 History, MA '91 History, left the company in 2003 and spent two years doing freelance consulting and writing, teaching, and working part-time. In the fall of 2005, he decided to return to full-time work, taking an "excellent" position with Textron Inc. (a large multi-industry conglomerate best known for owning Cessna, Bell Helicopter, and several industrial businesses, such as E-Z-GO and Jacobsen) in the corporate headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island. "I'm directing manager of communications across the company, to all our businesses and all managers around the globe," says Keith. "It's a great position, very challenging as there's so much to learn about the company, its products, and its processes. Greetings to all who remember me from my years at UW, especially working at Fed Hall and being a don in V2."  
[kamoore63@mac.com](mailto:kamoore63@mac.com)

**'88** **Shayla Goldstein (Gunter)**, BA '88 Sociology, keeps busy as a new mom, and publications manager, editor, and freelance writer of her own company, Shayla "Gee" Enterprises. She writes: "The newest happening in my life is the birth of my son, Matthew Jeremy (Matti), who was born in October 2005, the day before my 39th birthday!" Shayla and her husband Jack celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary in April 2006, and are currently looking for a house in which to raise Matti and any future siblings. "Self-employment means no maternity leave," she says, "so I'm juggling new mom-hood and producing 12 publications a year for a variety of associations. Challenging, for sure, but also rewarding. Thank goodness for grandmas who babysit! Hello to all my former W2 mates! I welcome people to stay in touch by email!" [shaylagee@rogers.com](mailto:shaylagee@rogers.com)

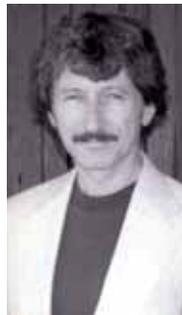
After graduating and spending three months travelling Europe, **Illona Haus**, BA '88 Fine Arts, returned to Waterloo and to UW for employment. She worked for nine years on campus, the bulk of those as the undergraduate secretary in the English department. She left UW in 1997 to move to Baltimore, Maryland, and has supported herself with her writing ever since. Although she has since returned to Waterloo, her psychological thrillers/police procedural novels are still set in Baltimore and have been received with outstanding reviews. She is currently working on her third book in the Kay Delaney series, published through Pocket Books/Simon & Schuster in NYC. *Blue Valor* was released in February 2006, and *Blue Mercy* (the first Kay Delaney novel, released May 2005) was nominated for the prestigious Arthur Ellis awards here in Canada. "I would love to hear from fellow students, as well as the graduates of the English programs," says Illona. [illona@illonahaus.com](mailto:illona@illonahaus.com)

**'90** **Tara Casagrande (Lassel)**, BA '90 Economics, lives in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC. Tara and her husband Jerry have two children Baker (6) and Riley (4), and are adopting a third child from Korea. "Loving our chaotic life," she says, "and practicing photography and playing a little volleyball when I can." [tcasagrande@verizon.net](mailto:tcasagrande@verizon.net)

**'91** **Sri Kanagarajah**, BA '91 Economics, has been married for over 12 years and has a daughter (4) and a son (1). He moved from Toronto to Ottawa in 2000, and has worked for Statistics Canada since graduation. Sri has managed surveys (including Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing) and administrative data projects such as the Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program (LEAP). He has also written a few publications and papers, the most recent publication titled "Business

Dynamics in Canada" was released in 2006 and is available at STATSCAN web site. [srikanagarajah@rogers.com](mailto:srikanagarajah@rogers.com)

**Ron Leonard**, PhD '91 Philosophy, published his doctoral thesis, *The Transcendental Philosophy of Franklin Merrell-Wolff*, (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1999). He also edited (with a forward) the last half of Wolff's philosophical treatise, and published it as *Transformations in Consciousness* (SUNY Press, 1995). Since 1992, he has been teaching (primarily reasoning and critical thinking) in the Department of Philosophy at UNLV, Las Vegas, and for the past year has been director of the Franklin Merrell-Wolff Fellowship, Inc. For more information, visit [www.merrell-wolff.org](http://www.merrell-wolff.org). [pleroma@mindspring.com](mailto:pleroma@mindspring.com)



**'92** **Jeffrey Epstein**, BA '92, Political Science/Applied Studies Co-op, reports to us from Vancouver where he is a product marketing manager with Sophos. Jeffrey and his wife Susan Silos have a six-month-old son Alexander Lev. [shmeppuj@telus.net](mailto:shmeppuj@telus.net)

**Paul Nethercott**, BA '92 Chartered Accountancy, works as a chartered accountant with Nethercott & Company in Toronto. He and his wife Lisa have three daughters, Montana (7), Emma (3), Molly (6 months), and one son Cameron (5). [paul@nethercott.ca](mailto:paul@nethercott.ca)

After stints in Toronto, Ottawa, and Paris, France, **Lisa Sansom**, BA '92, French/Applied Studies Co-op, is now living in Kingston, Ontario, with her husband **James Fraser** (BSc '94), and their two sons, Adrien (4) and Xan (2). Lisa works for Export Development Canada as an organizational effectiveness advisor. She is also transitioning her career to Kingston, so she is working with the Queen's School of Business doing team facilitation, as well as some small consulting and writing on the side. Lisa invites friends and classmates to drop her a virtual line. [lisa.sansom@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.sansom@gmail.com)

**Doug White**, BA '92 History, is currently the senior vice president of North American Compendiums in Waterloo. He travels all over North America developing new products for the company. "I am still writing music," he says. Check out [www.sequentialvibe.com](http://www.sequentialvibe.com). [doug@naccvp.com](mailto:doug@naccvp.com)

**'93** **Peter Misiaszek**, MA '93 Political Science, is the director of stewardship development with the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. Peter and his wife Ginette Miron are the parents of three wonderful kids – Alex (5), Sarah (3), and Catherine (3 months). [pmisiaszek@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:pmisiaszek@toronto.anglican.ca)

**Robert Vanderheyden**, BA '93 Social Development Studies, has had quite a journey since his days at Waterloo. He writes: "[After graduation], I looked for employment in the social services, but found that I was better off returning to my career as an electrician. Though my studies at Waterloo did not lead to employment in social services as I had hoped, it has been very helpful to me in my daily contacts with people whether that be at work or in volunteer activities. My studies in Social Development Studies at Renison College were very beneficial to me, as I came to an acceptance of my being gay. That is a journey where one can learn very much. I met a wonderful person, Ian McKay, who is a professor of Canadian History at Queen's University. I have lived in Kingston since December 2003, and enjoy it here even though it is a long way from southwestern and midwestern Ontario where I lived for most of my life. We live in a wonderful old heritage home close to Kingston's downtown. I keep myself busy with work in the electrical trade and with renovations in our home." [rvdh@sympatico.ca](mailto:rvdh@sympatico.ca)

**'94** As soon as she graduated, **Kelleigh Johnson (Wing)**, BA '94 French/Applied Studies Co-op, accepted a proofreader's position with *maranGraphics*, a small book publisher based in Mississauga. Over the past 12 years, she has worked her way up the ranks and is now a writer with the same company. "Loving it!" says Kelleigh. "I married my husband Mark in 2000, and we are proud parents of two wonderful kids – Emily (4) and Brandon (1)." [kelleigh\\_j@sympatico.ca](mailto:kelleigh_j@sympatico.ca)

**Christine McKenna**, BA '94 English/Speech Communication Minor, has been appointed director of public relations at The Fairmont Hotel, Dubai. Christine has had 10 years of experience in PR and her career has included roles with Toronto Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment and Canada's music TV brand, MuchMusic. More recently, she was director of communications at War Child, Canada, a non-governmental organization that works closely with the Canadian music industry to provide humanitarian assistance to children affected by war. [christine.mckenna@Fairmont.com](mailto:christine.mckenna@Fairmont.com)



**'95 Kelly Bourassa**, BA '95 German/Applied Studies Co-op, has been named co-recipient of the first annual Lloyd Houlden Research Fellowship awarded by the Canadian Insolvency Foundation. She is currently completing a LLM degree at Osgood Hall Law School at York University. From November 2002 to October 2004, Kelly was an advisor to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce. She practiced at Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer in Calgary during January 2001 to June 2002, after having earned her LLB at the University of Western Ontario in 1998.

**Cathy Tang**, BA '95 Economics, has been an economics, math, and business teacher for seven years. After UW, she took a year off to work and travel in Asia. She lived in the UK for five years and Colombia for two years. "I've been really lucky to have travelled extensively and work at the same time," she says. "I am presently living and teaching in Cairo, but I am moving to Kuala Lumpur in September to teach at a British International School. I am still single, but planning to get married in the next year. Got to get a move on if I want to have a team of kids! Hope you are all well!"  
cathytang@canoemail.com

**'96 Fannie Dimitriadis**, BA '96 History, attended law school. Following the call to the bar, she began working for the Ontario Government as legal counsel to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. In 2005, she completed a LLM program that focussed on health law and co-authored a book with two colleagues entitled *Guide to the Ontario Personal Health Information Protection Act* (Irwin Law, 2005).  
fdimit@yahoo.com

After graduation, **Jeff Parks**, BA '96 Psychology, spent the first five years working with clients with acquired brain injuries and young offenders. He then went back to school for a post-graduate degree in information technology at ITI. After working with a small publishing company in the creation of Corel's web and computer-based training system, as well as co-authoring a Microsoft certified training program (teaching adult learning theory, communication, planning, motivation, and training delivery), he took on contract work within the Federal Government. His last employment was with Export Development Canada where he helped to create the strategic vision for their Enterprise Portal solution. Last year, he decided to start his own consulting company around information architecture. "I have had great success and am enjoying the benefits of being an entrepreneur, including going to Sydney, Australia, in the fall for a conference about information architecture," says Jeff. "My experiences at Waterloo were incredible! From playing on the men's varsity volleyball team for two seasons, to friends made, all were very positive experiences! My degree in

psychology has helped me tremendously in my role as an information architect today. I am applying many of the lessons learned while at UW in helping to resolve issues of usability and findability."  
jeff.parks@iaconsultants.ca

**Joanne Verstege (Monk)**, BA '96 Social Development Studies/French, and her partner are blending their families (his two girls and her two boys) and moving into a new house. "Dave and I met while working together on the board of Women's House, a shelter for abused women in Kincardine," she says, "and things are going very well." Joanne is just finishing her fourth year of teaching and reports that she is happy to be in one school, after working at two schools in the past three years. Dave is area manager for Home Hardware. "My boys are now five and almost eight-years-old and Dave's girls are 12 and 15," she adds. "Everyone is excited to get settled into the century home and anxious to make it our own space!"

**'97 Juliana Billing (McKergow)**, BA '97 Speech Communication, and her husband **Lindsey Billing** (BAsc '99), are ecstatic to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Katherine Ruth, on Thursday, February 9, 2006. Big brother Taylor Charles (22 months), welcomes his sister warmly and graciously. Juliana is taking a break from her career in gerontology to be a full-time mother.  
juliana\_billing@yahoo.com



**Elizabeth Blake**, BA '97 History, completed most of her degree as a mature student, through correspondence. "Most faculty and some students will remember me as (Elizabeth) Ann Gonneau," she says. In 1998, Elizabeth ended a six-year relationship with Cumberland Village, a living history site in Cumberland, Ontario (now part of the National Capital region), and headed off to Seoul, South Korea, to teach English in private schools. "While there, I met my now husband, Gordon Blake," says Elizabeth. "Gord hales from Thunder Bay and was teaching in Seoul, as well, albeit at a different school." In February 2000, they were married in Ottawa and returned to Seoul to teach together. At the conclusion of their contract, they returned to Canada for an extended stay. Elizabeth acquired a position as operations manager at Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London, and Gord worked with the Diocese of London on their World Youth Day celebrations and with the Ontario Lung Association. In March of this year, they moved to Kingston when she assumed the executive

director position with the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes (for more information visit, [www.marmuseum.ca/](http://www.marmuseum.ca/)).  
ga.blake@sympatico.ca

After graduation, **Kari Mathers**, BA '97 Anthropology, worked for a few years with the City of Waterloo before moving to Ottawa. After a year there she decided to go back to school to pursue veterinary medicine and got her diploma in veterinary technology. During her correspondence program, she made the move west to Vancouver and then north to Whitehorse, where she is currently settled. In the fall of 2005, she joined a group called CAAT (Canadian Animal Assistance Team) and was dispatched to New Orleans to aid in the rescue and care of animals displaced by Hurricane Katrina. She is currently working as a veterinary technician in Whitehorse, where she lives with her husband John Miller and their pets.

**'98 Heidi Vanstone**, BA '98 French/Applied Studies Co-op, is pleased to announce the birth of her daughter, Sarah Evelyn, on January 7, 2006.  
heidivanstone@yahoo.com

**'00 Linda Brubacher**, BA '00 Fine Arts, became involved in the arts community through volunteering and sitting on the boards of the Waterloo Community Arts Centre and the Kitchener Waterloo Society of Artists (KWSA), where she has been the president for the past three years; KWSA is celebrating its 75th year of operations. "Our membership has grown from about 40 members to a current high of 118!" says Linda. You can check out the web site to see current members' work at [www.kwsa.ca](http://www.kwsa.ca). Linda has also been painting a lot and has recently been selected to present her work at the Amsterdam Whitney Art Gallery in New York. She is a founding member of the Kissing Bridge Trail Studio Tour in Elmira, now in it's fourth year, and takes place every autumn in the last weekend of October. "Hope to see you there," she adds.  
LBRUBA1661@rogers.com

**Steven Kleinknecht**, BA '00 Sociology/Applied Studies Co-op/Legal Studies & Criminology Option, has completed his MA in Sociology at McMaster University. He did a qualitative study on the computer hacker subculture for his thesis. Steven is now in the third year of his PhD program in Sociology at McMaster. He is currently researching social change among the Old Order Mennonite community, and holds a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canada Graduate Scholarship. Steven resides in Waterloo with his wife of nearly two years.  
kleinksw@mcmaster.ca

**Tanya Sirois**, MA '00 English, is a communications and marketing advisor for an international print and communications company. "In October 2005, I gave birth to our first child – a beautiful daughter named Amelia," says Tanya. "Currently, I am on maternity leave and loving every minute!"  
[blumonn872@aol.com](mailto:blumonn872@aol.com)

**Kim Sunseth**, PhD '00 Psychology, works as a psychologist with Fitzpatrick & Associates in Cambridge, Ontario. She has two children, Madison (born 2001) and Jack (born 2004), a new old house (built in the 1800's), and tries to stay in touch with classmates as much as she can.  
[sunseth@execulink.com](mailto:sunseth@execulink.com)

**'01** In November 2005, **Jude Billard**, BA '01 Social Development Studies, BSW '02, relocated to the Yukon, at a period when the days were getting shorter and colder. "I was driving to and from work in the dark for regular business hours," she says. "Now the daylight is closing in on 18 hours a day and will keep moving towards 23 hours of daylight by June...sleep mask in order! My daughter Amber (19) just moved up to spend the summer with me and has found work locally at an organic farm, and we intend on exploring the north this summer while she's here. Canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and camping are on our agenda. Working in the north has been challenging for many reasons. The population I work with is very different, and drug and alcohol abuse are very prominent compared to my previous agency, unfortunately. I am truly enjoying the north though, and expect to spend a few years in the land of the midnight sun!"  
[jude.billard@gov.yk.ca](mailto:jude.billard@gov.yk.ca)

**Jennifer Brown (Diebold)**, BA '01 Classical Studies, is in the midst of pursuing her love of writing poetry, and she has been recently published. She wrote a children's book entitled *Lost and Found, and Found Again*, for her two-year-old daughter. Says Jennifer, "If you don't find me writing, then you can find me with my husband of six years, playing with our very busy toddler." To find out more about Jennifer's book, visit  
[www.brownandbrown.ca](http://www.brownandbrown.ca).

"Well, it took a while, but I finally got the career I worked so hard for," says **Susan Hatt**, BA '01 Legal Studies and Criminology Option. "I became a police officer with Halton Regional Police in August 2005. It took a lot of hard work, but I finally achieved my goal of becoming a constable," she says. "It has been a very challenging job so far, but I would not change it one bit. It just proves that no matter what, if you work hard and give it all you have, you can achieve anything."  
[susan\\_hatt@hotmail.com](mailto:susan_hatt@hotmail.com)

## '03 Jennifer Bates

BA '03 Psychology, will join thousands of other dedicated women and men at the Phoenix, Arizona Breast Cancer 3-Day walk (November 3-5). The 60-mile walk will raise money to support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. "This will be my second year participating in this event," she says. Jennifer is honouring two special women in her life: her Grandma Pat who died from lung cancer five years ago, and her mother who passed away from cancer in 2004.  
[jenbates007@hotmail.com](mailto:jenbates007@hotmail.com)



**'04** "I embarked on an adventure of a lifetime," says **Melissa Soward**, BA '04 Psychology. "I have spent the last year backpacking around Australia, visited every state, and even travelled through the outback three times. The highlight of my trip, however, was working for Steve and Terri Irwin (*The Crocodile Hunter*) at the Australia Zoo. I spent a month there, learning all about the native animals, teaching the public about them, and even participating in the daily shows...I have experienced so much in just a year," she says. "I am back at home in Canada, although I'm not sure for how long. I have the travel bug now and am currently looking for ways to incorporate travel into my career!"  
[melissa@soward.ca](mailto:melissa@soward.ca)

(Editor's Note: Condolences to the Irwin family on Steve's tragic passing in 2006.)

After continuing education in a post graduate program at Humber College, **Jason Stanley**, BA '04, was invited to do an internship with John Milloy, the MPP for Kitchener Centre. "After my great experience working for Mr. Milloy, I was fortunate enough to land a job working for the Minister of Research and Innovation, Dalton McGuinty!" he says. "Things couldn't be better, and I owe it all to my political interests that were rejuvenated at the University of Waterloo!"  
[jstanley@alumni.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jstanley@alumni.uwaterloo.ca)

**'05** **Michael Connolly**, BA '05 Fine Arts, is currently working as a coordinator for international relations for the Mitoyo City government in Japan. "Having a great time doing interpretation for foreign visitors, handling sister-city relations, and doing presentations on various cultures for the local community," writes Michael. "I will be trying to cook and sell Jamaican food at an upcoming festival. After that, I generally spend my weekends mountain climbing around some of the beautiful coastal mountain ranges nearby." Michael has

a basic web page at <http://karaoke-mike.blogspot.com> and he publishes photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/kansai](http://www.flickr.com/photos/kansai). "I'm looking forward to upcoming reunions whenever I have a chance to make it back to Canada," he says.  
[seizei@gmail.com](mailto:seizei@gmail.com)

**Kate McGartland**, BA '05 History/English, tells us that she has had an eventful summer. "I bought my first car, prepared for teachers college, and married the love of my life. I met Sean Kinsella in our first year at Waterloo (2001) in Shakespeare class with Professor John North. We dated and were engaged in August 2003 (the night before the big blackout!). We had a wonderful wedding and are loving newlywed life! I have just completed the course and practicum components of teachers college and am returning to UW to complete the internship component. I will be working in residence life, another passion of mine! I hope to either get a teaching position or a residence life coordinator position this summer. I have fond memories of Waterloo, many surrounding my two years as a don. I met so many great people and learned so much about life, I will never forget my four short years at UW!"  
[kate.mcgartland@gmail.com](mailto:kate.mcgartland@gmail.com)

**Emily Phillips**, BA '05 French Teaching Specialization, spent six months travelling around Australia and New Zealand. She has now moved to Calgary to be with her boyfriend and to teach Grade 7 with the Calgary Board of Education.  
[smartypants\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:smartypants_2000@yahoo.com)

**Heather Vitkuske**, BA '05 Psychology/Applied Studies Co-op, is currently employed as an ESL teacher in Namyangju City in South Korea, teaching Grades 1 to 6. "I have been busy sight-seeing and absorbing the culture!" she says.  
[hlvitkus@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:hlvitkus@uwaterloo.ca)

## In Memoriam

The Faculty of Arts expresses deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following graduates who have passed away:

**Kenneth Laidlaw**, BA '71 Political Science

**Mark Muellejans**, BA '96 Political Science/  
Canadian Studies

Where are they now? An interview with Christine Woods.

## Hann mines for talent

Ingrid Hann, BA '76

Ingrid Hann graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1976 with a BA in human relations and counselling studies. She is an accomplished senior executive whose interests, expertise, and management contribution focus on the areas of human resources and administration, and in delivering organizational and community services excellence. She is a member of the Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario (HRPAO).

Ingrid started her career with Denison Mines in Elliot Lake, Ontario (1976 - 1985), and then spent three years with Denison Potacan Mining Ltd. in Sussex, New Brunswick. After 12 years in the mining industry, she turned her focus to other areas, working with Enersource Mississauga; Compass Food Services, Toronto; Spar Aerospace Ltd., Mississauga; and Sodexo Marriott MS Canada Ltd., Burlington.

She recently accepted the position of vice president of human resources with De Beers Canada Inc. in Toronto. As the world's leading diamond mining company, De Beers produces over 40 percent of the world's supply of global gem diamonds. In Canada, three new mines are being developed. With transition from exploration to production, Ingrid assists the organization in converting large capital projects into viable, sustainable, and profitable mines.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany, she spent most of her childhood there. After spending some formative years in Canada, she returned to Germany for family reasons. Canada left such a vivid impression on her that she returned in 1969 at the age of 18 and became a proud Canadian on April 10, 1975. Her long-term goal is to become fluent in the French language.

*Arts & Letters* communicated with Ingrid, who now lives in Oakville, to discuss her career in human resources and her University of Waterloo experiences both as an employee and a student.



Ingrid feeling nostalgic in her 1976 sweatshirt.

### What is your most memorable experience as an undergraduate student at UW?

In 1973, I was initially admitted to UW on probation, as I had not completed any Canadian high school education. This was a period of high anxiety with many struggles throughout the first semester. My most memorable experience was when I was officially accepted to full-time student status. It was an honour for me to be able to complete my education at UW, and I was and will forever be, appreciative of such a wonderful opportunity, without which I would not be where I am today.

### Were you involved in any student organizations or extra-curricular activities on campus?

Because I had come from Germany, I was very involved with events hosted by the Germanic and Slavic department, including fundraising. We put on plays for the students studying the German language, hosted educational forums, and administered Student Exchange Programs with German universities. We were exposed to visiting professors and helped with the adaptation of the Canadian culture and environment. I particularly recall when Professor Meixner from the University of Mannheim joined UW for a one year period. Subsequently, I was invited to visit him at the University of Mannheim, which I accepted in

1975. It was a wonderful experience.

While involved with the Germanic and Slavic department, I remember two professors vividly: one was a very elegant and eloquent lady, Gisela Brude-Firnau, who is now retired; the other, a most dynamic individual, Heidi Richter (Strack), who has since passed away. Professor Pat Rowe of the Psychology department, who was very well-known on campus, also made an impact on me.

### How did your degree impact your career path?

My degree was a prerequisite to building my human resources career. While working as a secretary at Westinghouse Canada in Hamilton, my outstanding boss, Irene Watson, who was the

personnel manager, recommended that I pursue a degree. One day I asked her what I needed to do in order to obtain a position like hers. She immediately responded that a degree was essential. UW had the most closely associated program for this purpose at that time, and my research showed that human relations and counselling studies was a program which would lend itself very well to the facets and challenges of human resources.

### **Tell us about your new position with De Beers.**

On August 1, 2006, I started my new position with De Beers Canada Inc. The company has been in an exploration phase in Canada for many years and is now mandated to transition into producing operations. I accepted the position of vice president of human resources for the primary reason of being able to impact this critical phase. All facets of human resources will be put to the test.

The opportunity came about through an executive search firm inquiring about my level of interest in returning to the mining industry and addressing an exciting Canadian human resources opportunity at their most senior level. I was contacted on the strength of my sound reputation as a HR professional and my proven track record with various industries, inclusive of mining. I was interviewed by the incoming CEO and President, Jim Gowans, as well as HR associates from London, England, and Johannesburg, South Africa. While it was difficult to leave my former employer, Sodexo Marriott in Burlington, where I had been for the past five years, after lengthy deliberations with De Beers I accepted.

I very much look forward to the exciting challenge which lies ahead and am extremely pleased and proud to be able to play such an important part. My goal is to contribute to the successes of De Beers and to further enhance my HR knowledge and profession. I love this profession and am pleased to be able to put it to great use in the years to come.

### **Prior to coming to UW as a student, you were a UW employee. Tell us about that.**

I had applied to UW after completing a Business College Diploma with Loughheed College in Kitchener. There I learned how to type in English, as the German keyboard is different. I also learned Pitman shorthand and took other business subjects. In the spring of 1970, I applied to UW's Germanic and Slavic department. While there was no opportunity in that department, I was offered a secretarial position in the Finance department. After six to eight months, I was promoted to work as a secretary for Vera Leavoy, a former research grants officer, who has since retired. I held the position from 1971 to 1972.

I have fond memories of Vera's and my time together and must say she helped to "Canadianize" me. As much as I wanted to be Canadian, she reminded me of some peculiar "German" habits which I exhibited. Initially while at work at UW, I addressed everyone in a formal manner (for example, by their last name). It took me a long time to call her Vera and not Miss Leavoy! Vera and I have remained friends, and we chuckle about that today.

From UW, I moved to Westinghouse in Hamilton and worked there from 1972 to 1973. [And] in 1973, I decided to be brave and venture forth as a probationary student at the famous UW!

### **What is one of your most memorable experiences in your career?**

In the past, I had served as a governor on the Sheridan College Board, and in 1999, the College invited me as a convocation speaker for the graduating business class. It was very memorable, but just slightly intimidating, as I had to follow the previous speaker who was none other than William Shatner! How do you beat that? Well, I did, as some students and my parents told me following my speech.

Also, I am proud to say that I have met my heroine, Maggie Thatcher, former Prime Minister of England. As well, I have met one of my favourite comedians, Steve Martin.

### **What are some of your interests outside of work?**

I have a passion and high level of interest in photography. After years of shooting with a film SLR, I just switched to digital. I enjoy nature photography the most, although I am persuaded to do weddings for friends and family. It is an enjoyable hobby and serves as a release from the demands of work. Some of my photos have been published in various magazines, which I find particularly rewarding.

**“I decided to be brave and venture forth as a probationary student at the famous UW!”**

### **Do you have any advice or insight to share with graduating students, especially those planning a career in the human resources field?**

Find a job you love and you will never have to work another day in your life! And if it is in HR, do the profession proud! HR is an exciting field. It is demanding and requires not only strong technical know-how, but also good judgment, discretion, and flexibility. HR is the voice and conscience of the organization. ■

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