Crossroads: scholarship for an uncertain world

BY JAMES SKIDMORE

RESEARCH IS A CONVERSATION.

Scholars in the humanities and social sciences often appear to be working in isolation, but in actual fact, their work depends on communication. Scholarship simply wouldn’t accomplish much without opportunities to meet and talk and debate ideas with peers – the work of university professors and graduate students benefits enormously from the communication afforded by publishing and conferences.

It’s for this reason that the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo was so keen to co-host, along with Wilfrid Laurier University, the 2012 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This annual conference is Canada’s largest interdisciplinary scholarly gathering, and it brings together faculty members, policy makers, students, and practitioners from across Canada and around the world. In late May, 7,400 delegates descended on Waterloo for eight days of meetings, colloquia, workshops, and socializing. Our campuses came alive as thousands of attendees went to their sessions, got lost between buildings, and made use of the two beer tents set up specifically for them.

Congress is actually a meeting of meetings. Hundreds of academic associations exist in Canada, and over 70 of them hold their annual conference under the umbrella of Congress, which is a service provided by the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences. These associations cover the breadth of humanistic scholarly inquiry, and range in size from thousands of members to fewer than 100.

» continued on page 4
» upcoming **ALUMNI** events

See the complete list of **Waterloo alumni events**.
See the latest **Waterloo Arts alumni events**.

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**WATERLOO ALUMNI THEATRE EVENT**

Join Waterloo Alumni for a presentation of *Top Girls*

By Caryl Churchill

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 7 p.m.
Theatre of the Arts Modern Languages Building

Join us for a performance of Caryl Churchill’s play *Top Girls* directed by Saúl García López

Watch for your invitation coming in February!

Cost to attend: $5 per person; free parking

Limited seating - registration is required, or reserve by phone: 519-888-4973

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**WATERLOO ALUMNI EVENT**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Maria Soklis (BA ’91, SDS), Vice President and COO of KIA Canada Inc., will talk about how she (and the Waterloo Way) are working to drive change in the automotive industry.

**December 6, 2012**
6 to 8 p.m.
KIA Training Ground
85 Carl Hall Rd.
Downsview Park, Toronto

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**WATERLOO DRAMA 2012-2013**

**Macbeth**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Lee Wilson

November 14-17, 2012 at 8 p.m.
Theatre of the Arts Modern Languages

**Performance Creation**

A play written and performed by our current crop of students

Directed by Naila Keleta-Mae

February 6-10, 2013 at 8 p.m.
Studio 180
Hagey Hall

**Top Girls**

By Caryl Churchill

Directed by Saúl García López

March 13-16, 2013 at 8 p.m.
Theatre of the Arts Modern Languages

BOX OFFICE: 519-888-4908
TICKET PRICES: $17 general $13 students/seniors
For more information, please contact us.

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**CONRAD GREBEL MUSIC CONCERTS 2012-13**

**orchestra@uwaterloo**

November 29 at 8:00 p.m.
Humanities Theatre
University of Waterloo
Free admission

**Stage Band Concert**

December 2 at 2:00 p.m.
Grebel Great Hall
$10 general
$5 students/seniors

**Instrumental Chamber Ensembles Concert**

December 3 at 7:30 p.m.
Grebel Chapel
Free admission

**Noon Hour Concerts 2012-13**

November 21, 28
January 16, 23, 30
February 6, 27
March 6, 13

Noon hour concerts at 12:30 p.m.
Grebel Chapel
Free admission

For details, visit grebel.uwaterloo.ca/concerts
Phone: 519-885-0220, ext. 24226

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Creating a strategy for Waterloo Arts

This past year has been an especially exciting one for Arts, and a particularly rewarding year for me as Dean. Not only did we co-host Congress 2012, which thanks to our faculty, staff, and students, came off wonderfully and managed to exceed our attendance projections (about which James Skidmore, ‘Mr Congress’ as he became known, has more to say in this issue), but we initiated a planning process to guide our activities over the next five to ten years.

Beginning in January of this year, a strategic planning task force comprising faculty, staff, and students, orchestrated an amazing number of consultations in a short period of time. Adroitly led by two of our faculty members, David DeVidi and Theresa Libby, the task force managed more than 40 meetings in just over two-and-a-half months. Reaching out to all of the departments and units within our community, our federated university and affiliated colleges, and even beyond to other Faculties, the task force collected from them not only their hopes and aspirations for the Faculty of Arts, but also any concerns as well as possible challenges ahead. A report was produced in which were identified a mission and a vision for the Faculty. So too were a number of priority areas that will frame our ongoing efforts to make Arts at Waterloo a unique and empowering environment for the students who choose to come here, and for the faculty and staff who wish to build their careers here. I encourage you to read the report – it is available on our Strategic Planning website. And if you have any thoughts or responses to it, please do not hesitate to contact us. The success of our strategic plan depends on our treating it as an ongoing process and long-term commitment, and in ensuring that we hear from as many in our community as we can.

The report has been heartily endorsed by faculty and staff: an eloquent testimony to the diligence and thoughtfulness of the task force who did all the heavy-lifting. It is now time for me and my colleagues in the Faculty to put words into action. The report has given me a clear sense of how this Faculty wishes to position itself, as well as identifying a number of key principles that will inform how we identify priorities and plan accordingly for them. Not surprisingly, high on the list is increasing and improving student space – our growth in numbers has not been matched by growth in space, and given the increasingly collaborative nature of teaching and research, we want our students to be able to work – whether individually or collectively – in space appropriate to a top-ranked university. Over the next several months we will be assembling working groups, again drawing widely from faculty, staff, and students, that will begin to dig more deeply into the priority areas and produce for the Faculty not only action plans for moving forward, but also help to establish the benchmarks by which we can measure success.

Alumni have already featured prominently in the planning process to date. We had several meetings in Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto with alumni from across the Faculty. These were some of the best meetings we had – alumni produced some of the most intriguing insights we received. They were also not shy about telling us in no uncertain terms where we had fallen short. But more importantly, they demonstrated a powerful commitment to the University of Waterloo, and made me appreciate even better the unique qualities of Arts at Waterloo. In fact, the alumni I met were amongst the most persuasive advocates for the relevance of an Arts degree that I have ever heard. I won’t forget their voices – we need them.
The other advantage to holding these meetings together is that colleagues from different disciplines can interact with each other and with the community at large. The flagship program of Congress is the Big Thinking lecture series, a set of high-profile presentations open to all, delegates and general public alike. This year’s Big Thinkers – Governor General David Johnston, Vietnamese-Québec writer Kim Thúy, Ontario writers Jane Urquhart and Margaret Atwood, social justice advocate Mary Eberts, environment scholar Thomas Homer Dixon, journalist Chris Hedges, English scholar Sidone Smith, technology thinker Don Tapscott, and economist Janine Brodie – enjoyed large audiences for their presentations. Chris Hedges spoke at 7:45 a.m. to a standing-room only crowd, bleary-eyed yet happy to see one of their ideological idols. Margaret Atwood’s talk was given in the largest venue available on either campus, the 700-seat Humanities Theatre in Waterloo’s Hagey Hall, and yet it wasn’t large enough; people still had to be turned away.

The Congress 2012 theme – Crossroads: Scholarship for an Uncertain World – highlighted the role that social scientists and humanists play in helping us comprehend how our world is changing. As uWaterloo’s Dean of Arts, Doug Peers, has written, “Just look at the front pages of any major newspaper or watch any newscast and you will quickly realize that most of the major problems facing society today cannot be fully grasped without an appreciation of the social, political, cultural, or economic contexts in which we live and dream.” The Big Thinkers addressed this theme, and a number of associations adopted it for their own meetings as well.

The logistics required to mount such a large conference are considerable. Planning had been underway since 2008 when then Deans of Arts David Docherty (Laurier) and Ken Coates (Waterloo) put together the bid to host Congress. Even though Kitchener-Waterloo is not a convention city, accommodation was not a problem as both Laurier and Waterloo had ample residence space. More problematic was the need for meeting space; on its busiest days Congress required 165 classrooms. Thankfully, the Registrar’s Office was able to rearrange classroom assignments for that week, and the space needs of every association were met. Waterloo’s Food Services, which during the summer months might have 10 events a day, had to bring in extra staff and equipment to handle the 60 daily events it catered, including two large President’s Receptions open to all delegates.
THE CONGRESS 2012 THEME

Crossroads: Scholarship for an Uncertain World – highlighted the role that social scientists and humanists play in helping us comprehend how our world is changing.

Scores of Faculty of Arts professors and graduate students participated in Congress.

Here are a few examples:

Martin Cooke organized a symposium on the use of well-being indicators to measure community development.

Jay Dolmage chaired a panel on creativity and innovation from a disability studies perspective.

Rick Helmes-Hayes was presented with an award for the best monograph by a Canadian sociologist.

David John won the Boeschenstein Medal of the Canadian Association of University Teachers of German.

John H. Smith. Waterloo’s Diefenbaker Memorial Chair in German Literary Studies, gave a keynote address to a packed lecture hall on the importance of humanist scholarship in an uncertain world.

Jill Tomasson-Goodwin, Glenn Stillar, Marcel O’Gorman, Neil Randall, and others mounted exhibitions demonstrating the Faculty’s research in digital media.

Colleagues Angela Roorda, Gerry Boychuk, Shannon Dea, Lynne Taylor, Monica Leoni, Jasmin Habib, and Lorne Dawson participated in career development sessions for visiting graduate students.

The University of Waterloo Art Gallery curated a special exhibition centred on the Congress theme.

Congress 2012 was an opportunity for the University of Waterloo to demonstrate its commitment to its less technologically-laden disciplines. Thanks to the superhuman efforts of the university’s office for Communications and Public Affairs and the Faculty of Arts own Wendy Philpott, our valuable scholarship in the social sciences and humanities was able to shine through in news releases, blog posts, specially-produced researcher videos, and thousands of tweets. Where uWaterloo really made its mark, however, was in our hospitality. An event of this magnitude is impossible without the support of volunteers. The Office of Student Success coordinated the volunteer effort, and hundreds of people heeded the call to provide support during Congress. You couldn’t walk across the south part of campus without bumping into students and staff wearing the neon-coloured volunteer t-shirts, providing directions, offering assistance, and doing whatever was in their power to create an environment that enabled scholars to meet and talk (and talk, and talk, as only academics can do). And it is no exaggeration to report that delegates from out of town were uniform in their praise of our volunteers. This warm and friendly welcome set the tone for the joyous celebration of the humanities and social sciences that invigorated our campus in late May.

Want to learn more about Congress?

Check out these links:

Watch the “Big Thinking” videos from this outstanding lecture series. And read the “Blog” posts from other lectures and events that took place during Congress.

Skid’s personal take on his work as academic co-convenor.

The Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

uWaterloo’s Congress 2012 portal.
Leaving a **Lasting Legacy**

Penelope J. Glasser, BA ’65, was a Kitchener native and a proud University of Waterloo graduate. Upon her death, the University received a generous bequest to support scholarships in Arts, Science, and Graduate Studies. Her family shared with us that “Pen, a gifted artist, was very interested in native Canadian spirituality and art and always wanted to learn more. She believed strongly in the Arts, and through the establishment of this scholarship she continues to encourage the importance of learning and the study of the Arts.”

Several scholarships, valued at $1,000, are awarded annually to outstanding students entering first year of any program in the Faculty of Arts, in memory of Penelope J. Glasser.

**Scholarships for Stratford**

September 2012 marked the beginning for the Bachelor of Global Business and Digital Arts Program at the Stratford Campus, the first of its kind in Canada! Joining with us to help attract the best and brightest students and provide critical financial support for students, the Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation established a scholarship, valued at $2,500, to be awarded for the next ten years.

Jim Young, past-president of Rotary Club of Stratford, shared that “a longstanding emphasis of the Club’s activities has been to encourage young people in preparing for their futures. It is therefore appropriate that the Club decided to celebrate its 90th anniversary by marking the creation of the University of Waterloo Stratford Campus. Our hope is this award, the first at the Stratford Campus, will help lead the way for many more awards to come.”

**SAF reaches Goal**

The School of Accounting and Finance (SAF) is pleased to report that they have reached their campaign goals. “We have effectively doubled the size of the School’s endowments,” announced fundraising campaign chair Mike Garvey (BA ’69). The campaign, launched in 2007, reached its $8 million goal six months ahead of schedule, finishing in June 2012. “Our alumni really banded together,” reports Alex Lippert, SAF’s alumni and development officer, “because they believe in the projects we put forward.”

SAF’s reputation for taking risks, showing leadership and innovation, and maintaining a dynamic, inclusive community, are all portrayed in a recent book-length narrative titled Vision and Challenge/Growth and Opportunity, recounting the 30-year history of the School.

If you would like to learn how you can make a lasting legacy through a planned gift, please contact Sharon McKay-Todd at 519-888-4567, ext. 35413, or smckaytodd@uwaterloo.ca, or refer to development.uwaterloo.ca/giving/planned.html.
Experience the World – A valuable lesson

Marina Selioukova, an Arts and Business/Economics student, experienced the value of a different culture and a new language, gaining a broader international perspective by travelling to Israel this past September as part of the uWaterloo Arts International Trade Specialization program. “The ability to see firsthand what the world has to offer has been an invaluable part of helping me to become a conscientious world citizen, and I’m very grateful for this opportunity,” says Marina.

A generous gift from The Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Foundation made this life-affirming and life-changing experience possible.

In 2011-12, more than 100 Waterloo Arts students (the most ever) participated in an international exchange or study abroad experience. To learn more about the Waterloo Arts International Exchange Program and how you can help broaden a student’s perspective and experience, visit arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/exchanges.

More Than a Job for Arts Students

Out of the 30 student callers working in the Annual Giving Student Phone Program, nearly half are Arts students. So when you receive a call from one of our student callers, we encourage you to take a few minutes to speak with them. Share with them your memories and experiences as a uWaterloo Arts student and allow them to share with you the news from campus. You never know where the conversation could lead!

“I have been lucky enough to have some wonderful conversations with alums through the calling program. So many people have been genuinely interested in sharing their experiences and insights in order to help me along the path they have travelled. It always amazes me how a shared connection to UW creates an instant bond between two strangers. Knowing that our alumni are out there, feeling connected to the university so many years later, really does give me so much to look forward to!” – Kavita Saini, Religious Studies student and student caller supervisor (pictured far left).

To make an annual gift in support of Waterloo Arts, visit ecommunity.uwaterloo.ca/giving.

For more information on the Faculty’s fundraising priorities and to learn how you can make a gift in support of the Faculty of Arts, please visit arts.uwaterloo.ca/alumni-friends/support-arts, or contact Patti Cook, Senior Alumni Advancement Officer, at 519-888-4567, ext. 37705 or plcook@uwaterloo.ca.
Wayne Fox (BA ’71 History) is the 15th recipient of the annual Faculty of Arts Alumni Achievement Award. The award recognizes Arts alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professional field and in community service.

Beyond Waterloo, Wayne’s academic credentials include an MBA in 1973 from the DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University, where he later received his Chartered Director designation. In 1992, he completed the Advanced Management Program from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business. In 2000, Wayne received McMaster’s inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award which was renamed in his honour; and in 2007, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from McMaster University.

Wayne has an impressive record of volunteer work at senior leadership levels with numerous organizations including, Appleby College, Junior Achievement of Central Ontario, CanadaHelps.org Incorporated, and Canadian Investor Protection Fund. He was a distinguished member of McMaster’s Board of Governors from 1997 to 2005; a member of the DeGroote School of Business advisory committee from 1997 to 2001; and president of the DeGroote alumni board. “Mr. Fox tirelessly supported our Changing Tomorrow Today Campaign all while leading a highly successful banking career at CIBC,” says David Wilkinson, Acting President, McMaster.

Over the years, Wayne and his wife Isabel have been quite active in community service. They have made major lifetime gifts to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Foundation, the Credit Valley Hospital Foundation, United Way Tomorrow Fund, and Ryerson University, as well as the Wayne C. Fox Chair in Business Innovation at DeGroote. They have also created the Wayne and Isabel Fox Family Foundation. Since 2008, Wayne has been a member of Oakville Hospital’s campaign advisory council. “[Wayne and Isabel have] provided invaluable counsel, both with regard to the corporate landscape and best practices in fundraising strategy,” says Tina Triano, Oakville Hospital’s CEO. “In addition to their volunteer role, [they] have been long time philanthropic leaders in our community hospital and are subsequently recognized for their lifetime giving,” she notes.

In 2007, Wayne was one of the recipients of the University of Waterloo’s 50th Anniversary Alumni Awards. As a proud Waterloo Arts graduate, he continues to stay connected to his alma mater. He attends university events in the Toronto area, and “has shown his passion for study in the arts through his commitment of time, energy, and intellect,” says Robert Kerton, former dean of arts.

He endowed both the Wayne C. Fox Graduate Scholarship and the Wayne C. Fox Entrance Award for Arts students, as well as helped to create six annual CIBC scholarships for outstanding University of Waterloo students. According to Wayne, “those with a liberal arts education can add depth and breadth – and a new perspective – to any profession they choose to enter.”

In 2012, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Wayne currently resides in Oakville, Ontario, with his wife Isabel Fox.

Those with a liberal arts education can add depth and breadth – and a new perspective – to any profession they choose to enter. — Wayne Fox
Award-winning media entrepreneur receives
Arts Young Alumni Award

NATALIE MACNEIL (BA ’08, Honours Political Science/Arts and Business) is the 4th recipient of the annual Faculty of Arts Young Alumni Award. The award recognizes alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professional field and in community service.

While studying at Waterloo, Natalie was awarded first place in Canada for the Impact Apprentice National Business Competition. This award earned her the status as one of the “Top 30 Students in Canada.”

Natalie is an award-winning media entrepreneur, who is best known as the founder and editor-in-chief of She Takes On The World, one of the leading blogs for entrepreneurial women, which appeared on the Forbes list, “Top 10 Entrepreneurial Sites for Women.” She was also the 2010 winner of Blog of the Year at the Stevie Awards, dubbed “the Oscar’s of business awards.”

In May 2012, Natalie was the grand prize winner at a LaunchPad competition in Kitchener, Ontario, where she pitched her latest business venture. Some of her other accolades include “40 Under 40” recipient in 2011; the “Women 100” award from the International Alliance for Women in 2011; and in 2010, she was recognized as Canada’s “Young Entrepreneur of the Year” by the Impact Organization. She has appeared in many print and online publications including Forbes.com, Entrepreneur.com, Wall Street Journal, and Financial Post.

Natalie is the co-founder of Imaginarius, a digital media company known for its groundbreaking work in interactive innovations and creative online marketing strategies. She won an Emmy award as the company’s media producer of Out My Window, the world’s first 360-degree interactive documentary which was developed with the National Film Board. Her business partner Vincent Marcone (BA ’97, Geography) nominated her for the young alumni award. “I’ve worked with Natalie for a number of years now, and I’ve come to really appreciate what a wonderful and generous human being she is,” says Marcone. “Her tremendous ambition and positive nature is completely authentic. You can’t help but want to be a better person when you are in her presence!”

Natalie’s ambition is also evident in her community and volunteer work. She often mentors young entrepreneurs through her work with organizations in the Waterloo Region; and serves on the board of directors for Treehaus Collaborative Workspace, a not-for-profit coworking space for entrepreneurs that she co-founded. She is also an inaugural member of the Young Entrepreneur Council comprised of the world’s top young entrepreneurs, business owners, and thought leaders; its mission is to help young people build successful businesses and fight the devastating epidemics of youth underemployment and unemployment.

With her many speaking engagements and busy schedule, Natalie still makes time to connect to her alma mater. In October, she returned to campus to speak to a Political Science undergraduate class about her experiences as a PSCI graduate. She also has fond memories of her undergraduate days. “I loved the fourth-year seminars in the winter, when I got to wear warm sweaters and have great discussions with amazing people,” she says. “Sometimes I miss those kinds of discussions from Political Science classes.”

Being an international media entrepreneur has given her the opportunity to travel the world. “Travelling is one of my biggest interests,” says Natalie. “I’ve been to over 60 countries, and I want to get to 100 by the time I’m 30.”

WE WANT YOUR NOMINATIONS!

The Faculty of Arts is seeking nominations for the 2013 Arts Alumni Achievement Award and the 2013 Arts Young Alumni Award. The nomination deadline is April 30, 2013. See alumni awards web page for details.
The Faculty of Arts had two spring convocation ceremonies and two valedictorians. Alana Vandervoort (BA ‘12, Joint Honours History and Legal Studies) presented the valedictory speech to the Arts graduating class in the morning, and Foyo Juma (BA ‘12, Honours Political Science) presented in the afternoon.

**Governor General’s Silver Medal**

Susan Breit (BIS ’11, Independent Studies) 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 Waterloo. The Governor General of Canada awards three medals each year to recognize Waterloo’s top three graduates.

**Arts Alumni Gold Medal (Graduate)**

Kristin Laurin (PhD ’12, Psychology) was the winner of the Arts Alumni Gold Medal for outstanding academic performance in a doctoral program. Recently, she also received the prestigious SSHRC Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for her doctoral work.

**Honorary Degree Recipients**

**John G. Ruggie (Doctor of Letters)**

John G. Ruggie is Berthold Beitz professor in human rights and international affairs at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and an affiliated professor in international legal studies at Harvard Law School. He is one of the world’s leading scholars of global governance and has made seminal contributions to the study of globalization, multilateralism, territoriality, and constructivism.

**Maurice Elmer Schroeder (Doctor of Laws)**

Rev. Dr. Maurice Schroeder, OMI, is a Canadian priest and medical doctor who has spent more than two decades in humanitarian work with indigenous peoples in Peru. He exemplifies the commitment to global citizenship of St. Jerome’s University and the Centre for Responsible Citizenship.

**Valedictorians**

**Arts Alumni Gold Medal**

Olivia Szeto (BAFM ’12, Honours Accounting and Financial Management) was the winner of the Arts Alumni Gold Medal for the highest academic standing in the Faculty of Arts.

**Distinguished Professors Emeriti**

Delbert Russell received his doctorate from the University of Toronto in 1973, and then taught at Nipissing University before joining the Department of French Studies at the University of Waterloo in 1978. Russell is the founding member of the MARGOT group and has published major research contributions relating to the digital humanities, Anglo-Norman hagiography, medieval multilingual cultural theory and practices in England, and the works of Québécois writer Anne Hébert.

Paul Socken received his PhD from the University of Toronto in 1974. He joined the University of Waterloo in 1973, and became full professor in 1997. He has published major contributions in the fields of French Canadian Literature, teaching French as a second language, and Jewish studies, and is considered the most acclaimed scholar of Gabrielle Roy in English Canada.
University Professor

François Paré (French Studies) became the fourteenth University of Waterloo University Professor at the 2012 Convocation. Paré is recognized internationally for his multidisciplinary work on minority and diasporic cultures and literatures. He has received many prestigious awards including the Governor General of Canada’s Award in 1993, the Trillium Book Award in 2004, the Gabrielle-Roy Award in 2008, the University of Waterloo Distinguished Teacher Award, and the CSRS Life-time Achievement Award in 2009. Paré has been a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada since 2010.

Honorary Member of the University

Betsy Zanna (BA, MAT) received the Honorary Member of the University designation at this year’s spring convocation. This is the highest honour a staff member can attain at the University of Waterloo. It recognizes the individual for outstanding service to the university as a whole, not limited to one department or faculty. Zanna joined Waterloo in 1976 and worked with students in the Faculty of Arts for 34 years, primarily as senior academic counsellor and co-ordinator of transition and retention. She established the notably high standard of academic advising for students in Arts, whom she engaged with clear, practical, and empathetic advice.

Distinguished Teacher Awards

Tim Kenyon
Tracy Penny Light

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.” The 2012 Arts recipients were Tim Kenyon (Philosophy) and Tracy Penny Light (Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies, St. Jerome’s University).

Elizabeth Seto (BA ’12, Economics/Arts and Business) joined the ranks of the more than 47,497 Arts Alumni in more than 83 countries around the world!

Congratulations to our newest Arts Alumni

A total of 1,509 undergraduate students and 395 graduate students received degrees at Waterloo’s spring and fall convocation ceremonies in 2012.
Alumni Reconnecting and Sharing
Visit our Arts alumni website, to get a glimpse of all the alumni activities that took place in the past year.
Following are a few highlights:

Arts Top 40 Under 40 in Waterloo Region
Seven uWaterloo Arts alumni, one Arts undergraduate student, and one Arts assistant professor were named to the Region’s Top 40 Under 40 list for 2011. The award recognizes young leaders who are making an impact in the community. On April 20, 2012, Dean Doug Peers hosted a luncheon to honour our local Arts recipients.

Russ Wong (BA ‘02, English)
Stephanie Ellens-Clark (BA ‘05, Social Development Studies; BSW ‘06)
Mark Sedra (Senior Fellow/Assistant Professor, Political Science)
Tim Rollins (BA ‘96, Accounting; MAcc ‘96)
Ingrid Schiller (BA ‘97, German)
Jessica Del Rosso (2nd-year student, Social Development Studies)
Renjie Butalid (BA ‘10, Economics)
Justin Heimpel (BA ‘97, English)
Anne Wilson (PhD ‘00, Psychology)

Graduate Alumni Career Night
On June 27th, the Faculty of Arts hosted a graduate alumni career night for graduate students. The graduate alumni panel included:

Emily Pomeroy (BA ‘05, Sociology; MA ‘09, Sociology)
Edmund Pries (MA ‘88, History; PhD ‘95, History)
Alessandra Prioreschi (BA ‘87, English; MA ‘92, English)
Rachel Smith-Spencer (BA ‘85, English; MA ‘88, English)
Martin De Groot (BA ‘79; MA ‘81; PhD ‘95, History)
Kayleigh Platz (BA ‘07, English; MA ‘09, Public Issues Anthropology)
Bjanka Pokorny (BA ‘07, Psychology; MA ‘09, German)

Reunion Weekend
Arts Orientation leaders held their second annual Reunion on September 29, 2012, at the Bombshelter Pub on campus, during the annual uWaterloo Reunion Weekend.

Macbeth – fall theatre night 2012
On November 13th, alumni, faculty, and friends gathered for a night of theatre, hosted by the Faculty of Arts. Guests enjoyed Shakespeare’s Macbeth, presented by uWaterloo’s Drama department.
new online mentorship program

Consider being a mentor for students.

This fall, the Faculty of Arts implemented a new mentorship program – another way for alumni to get involved and stay connected.

The Ask Arts Alumni Mentorship Program will connect current students with Arts alumni. It will allow students to have their questions on a variety of topics answered by alumni, like you, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Students will submit their question within a topic forum, and mentors can easily share insights and offer guidance.

When you mentor students, speak to classes, hire co-op students, or share your story and life experiences, you help current students understand the benefits of an Arts education.

For more information, please contact Patti Cook (senior alumni advancement officer) at 519-888-4567, ext. 37705, or plcork@uwaterloo.ca.

Our mentors at the time of publication

Jacqueline Armstrong-Gates
BA ’91, Political Science
(Partner, Gowlings law firm)

Jeffrey Brown
BA ’91, Political Science
(Lawyer/Partner, Stikeman Elliott LLP)

Jeffrey Charles, BIS ’06
(Account Executive, Jones Brown Inc.)

Gregory Culp
BA ’06, Fine Arts
(Lighting and Compositing Artist Disney Animation Studios)

Bob Ewen, BA ’71, Philosophy
(VP, National Bank Financial)

Patrick Hofmann
BA ’94, English
(User Experience Designer Google Inc.)

Kathryn Ladano
BA ’99, Music
(CD “Open” released in 2010; MA in bass clarinet, University of Calgary)

Kate Nichols
BA ’07; MA ’09, English
(Business Enablement Communications, IBM)

Rosemary Peros
MA ’87, Economics
(Product Manager, Manulife Financial)

Renata Rusiniak
BA ’01, Psychology
(Community Relations, RIM)

Ingrid Schiller
BA ’97, German
(Director of Charities Formulating Change)

David Tubbs
BA ’08, History
(Marketing & Communications Lead, Greater K-W Chamber of Commerce)
Arts Co-op Student of the Year

This past March, Mei Chen, a fourth-year Accounting and Financial Management student, was named Arts Co-op Student of the Year for 2011. Mei’s interest in tax law led her to two productive co-op terms as tax analyst at IBM Canada. In her most recent term, Mei completed 30 per cent of the IBM Canada tax return and 80 per cent of IBM’s alliance companies’ tax returns. As a result of her advanced understanding of tax concepts, Mei’s manager chose her to sit on the due diligence team for an IBM acquisition valued at $387 million. She worked with a team of top professionals to identify potential issues with the transaction, and to provide recommendations. Outside of work, Mei gives her time to numerous student groups and has volunteered with the YWCA and Canadian Mental Health Association.

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FACULTY retirements

The Faculty of Arts expresses its sincerest gratitude for the many contributions by the following recent faculty retirees:

Zina Gimpelevich
Germanic and Slavic Studies

Robert Hiscott
Sociology and Legal Studies

David John
Germanic and Slavic Studies

William Moul
Political Science

Stan Laiken
Accounting and Finance

Ireneusz Szarycz
Germanic and Slavic Studies

Jan Uhde
Fine Arts
New SSHRC-funded Research Partnerships in Arts

BY ANGELA ROORDA

When it comes to research, Waterloo Arts professors are taking it to the next level. Already known for individual research excellence, Arts researchers are increasingly branching out into multi-disciplinary collaborations and scaling up into cross-sector research networks that bring together universities, private-sector companies, and community and government organizations. Such efforts were recognized and spurred on this past year with an infusion into Arts of nearly $3 million in new partnership funding from Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Games and player immersion: On May 25, 2012, with English professor and Games Institute director Neil Randall by his side, Federal Minister of State for Science and Technology Gary Goodyear announced the recipients of SSHRC’s 2012 Partnership and Partnership Development Grants. Randall and his multi-disciplinary team were awarded one of the largest of these: a Partnership Grant worth over $2.5 million to pursue research in the area of player immersion and player experience in games and game-related technologies. Titled IMMERSe (Interactive & Multi-Modal Experience Research Syndicate), the 6-year initiative will establish a network of universities across Canada and in California to work alongside a growing list of industry partners in the games sector to advance our understanding of the influence – and potential – of games.

Race-related challenges in Canada: In a very different vein, Drama and Speech Communication chair Jennifer S. Simpson is heading up a film and new media project to examine and address persisting challenges related to race and colonialism in Canada. The team is composed of researchers from universities across Canada as well as film makers and media artists. Partners include the Saskatchewan Teacher’s Federation, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, and Toronto’s Colour of Poverty. The project’s central objective is to develop a series of educational films and web projects aimed at increasing possibilities for anti-racism and anti-colonialism in Canada. Simpson’s team received a $198k SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to pursue this two-year project.

Terrorism and security: Elsewhere in Arts, Lorne Dawson, Sociology and Legal Studies, and Veronica Kitchen, Political Science, are working with colleagues at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University to establish the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security, and Society (TSAS). Funded by a $200k SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, as well as a $460k grant from Public Safety Canada’s Kanishka Project, the two-year initiative brings together researchers and policy analysts to better understand processes of terrorist radicalization and to develop strategies for improved security response and enhanced resilience. Partners include Citizenship and Immigration, Public Safety Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the RCMP.

Knowledge mobilization: Building on over a decade of experience in the area of community-partnered research, psychology professor Kathleen Bloom recently launched a new initiative to develop best practices for sustainable knowledge mobilization, a term used to describe the process of capturing and summarizing the information organizations need to develop evidence-based programs and policies. Funded by a $176k SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, Bloom and her team of university researchers and community leaders have partnered with the Province of Ontario, Peel Region, industry groups, and Saskatchewan’s International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, to design a community service that includes training for students seeking careers in knowledge mobilization.
faculty awards and accolades

**Geoffrey Fong** (Psychology) together with David Hammond (School of Public Health and Health Systems), and Mary Thompson (Statistics and Actuarial Science), received the 2012 Lise Manchester Award from the Statistical Society of Canada. The award recognizes excellence in statistical research which considers problems of public interest and which is potentially useful for formation of Canadian public policy. They were honoured for their work on the International Tobacco Control (ITC) Policy Evaluation Project.

**Colin MacLeod** (Psychology) received the 2012 Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) Donald O. Hebb Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology as a Science from the CPA. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant career contribution to Canadian psychology as a scientific discipline. The award recognizes MacLeod’s almost 40 years of research on human attention and memory together with his extensive administrative involvement in Psychology in Canada.

**Jennifer Schulenberg** (Sociology and Legal Studies) is the principal investigator for a $100,000 SSHRC Public Outreach Grant examining the accountability, accessibility, transparency, and outreach activities of Ontario’s police complaints system. To date, no systematic research has explored Ontario’s oversight system. Working with the Toronto Police Service, Ryerson University, and community organizations the goal of the grant is to engage key stakeholders (community, marginalized peoples, police, and policymakers) from across the province in collaborative knowledge dissemination and the development of recommendations.

**Keith Warriner** (Sociology and Legal Studies) along with two colleagues in the School of Planning at uWaterloo and in the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, have won a SSHRC Insight Development Grant ($70,858), entitled “Effectiveness of Rural Land Stewardship Programs,” to investigate the social psychological determinants of biodiversity stewardship practices among rural landowners.

**Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship Winners**

Tanya Jonker (Psychology) and Paul Seli (Psychology) both received prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) in support of their doctoral work. The Vanier CGS program aims to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by supporting students who demonstrate both leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies.

**Waterloo philosopher, classicist, and psychologist win Ontario Early Researcher Awards**

The Early Research Award (ERA) is a prestigious grant offered by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation to support emerging researchers and their teams. Each will receive up to $140,000 to hire graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to build their research teams.

**Andrew Faulkner** (Classical Studies) studies Greek poetry in order to explore cultural interaction within the Mediterranean Basin and near East in the period of Late antiquity (3rd - 7th centuries AD), a time of great political and cultural change. Faulkner is particularly interested in how the study of this period can inform our understanding of multicultural interaction in modern-day Ontario.

**Roxane Itier** (Psychology) is using brain recordings and other cutting-edge techniques to explore connections between gaze, emotion, and social skills. Her research aims to improve diagnosis and treatment for people with mental health disorders such as autism.

**John Turri** (Philosophy) studies human speech and cognition. He’s specifically interested in how social factors affect our interpretation of verbal behaviour, and the fundamental role that knowledge plays in governing speech. His project will help put Ontario on the map in the field of experimental philosophy.
Shultz generosity makes Waterloo's MFA program unique in Canada

Win Shantz, who passed away in February 2012, was an enduring supporter of the arts and culture in Waterloo region. She, and her husband Keith, were the benefactors of the Shantz Internship in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program at the University of Waterloo. Their genuine interest in the professional practice dimension of the arts world gave the Department of Fine Arts the opportunity to shape and define a graduate program that fundamentally prepares aspiring artists for the multi-faceted career of artistic practice. It is a unique program in Canada.

While on the Shantz Internship, graduate students work with professional artists in a wide range of capacities in locations around the world. Graduates of the program attest to the formative effect such experiences have on their artistic and personal growth.

To date, 64 students have been awarded a Shantz internship, enabling them to experience varied locations such as London, Berlin, New York, Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, Korea, and China, working with such renowned artists as Denyse Thomasos, David Mach, and Dana Schutz. Sixty of uWaterloo's MFA graduates are vigorous, active, professional artists, many with prominent reputations—a very high success rate indeed!

In the fall of 2012, the University of Waterloo Art Gallery (UWAG) mounted an exhibition of the work of some of uWaterloo's graduates of the MFA Win Shantz Internship. Win's vibrant energy and unequivocal support for the arts will live on in the legacy of the internship. She will be deeply missed and forever appreciated by our faculty, staff, and students, whose lives have been so touched and enriched by her generosity, curiosity, and dedication.

Sharing Knowledge Series introduced by Spanish and Latin American Studies

The Spanish and Latin American Studies department recently introduced the Sharing Knowledge series, which allows them to invite various specialists to come and speak to their classes when a particular expert’s field is being addressed in one of their courses. Due to the interest in the Spanish-English Translation programs, in November 2011, the Sharing Knowledge series continued with a presentation by Joan Shnier. (MA, MBA, C. Translator, Certified Member of ATIO, and the American Translators Association) to Monica Leoni and her SPAN 390 students (Introduction to Spanish Business Translation). The presentation was entitled “So You Want to Be a Translator: The Real World of Professional Translating.” As a result of this talk, the idea to create a course aimed at offering the students a real-life/real-time insight into the life of a translator was born. In the 2013 winter term, Shnier will be offering a unique, hands-on learning opportunity to students. The course will be modelled on the reality of a translation agency. Real translation assignments, commissioned by actual clients with tight deadlines, will be given to the students, as they experience the pressures and challenges of people working in translation.

Students studying abroad

Students of Spanish and Latin American Studies continue to take full advantage of the various Study Abroad programs offered by the department. Recognizing that to fully understand a language one must understand the people who speak it, the students regularly immerse themselves in the varied Hispanic cultures. This year, Nick Maldonado (Honours Spanish Co-op) completed a study abroad term at Universidad de Alicante, in Alicante, Spain; while Marcela Ferro (Liberal Studies) and Heather Wood (Honours Social Development Studies) studied at the Universidad Antonio de Nebrija, in Madrid, Spain.
OUTREACH

The Faculty of Arts is committed to sharing and exchanging ideas and experiences with communities in our region and beyond. We regularly hold public events and programs on- and off-campus that engage a range of interests. Check our Events page regularly – there’s always something happening, and you’re invited!

Lecture Series on Testimonial Literature and Human Rights

Since 2009, the Spanish and Latin American Studies department has regularly sponsored guest lectures by visiting scholars, enabling them to invite world-renown researchers, with a view to enlightening their students’ vision of the world.

The Lecture Series on Testimonial Literature and Human Rights has drawn respected scholars and human rights advocates to campus to speak to students and community members about testimonial literature from a Hispanic perspective. On November 9, 2011, Professor Jordi Diez of the University of Guelph offered a fascinating talk entitled “Latin American’s Sexual Revolution: The Recent Expansion of Gay and Lesbian Rights.”

In March 2012, the department heard the work of another colleague, Professor Margorie Ratcliffe of the University of Western Ontario, who spoke about her work on the stolen children of Spain. Her presentation, “Solos en America: Children of the Spanish Civil War,” offered a crucial, but painful perspective of Spanish history that is not often discussed.

Lecture Series on Hellenistic topics

The Classical Studies department delivered a series of lectures on Hellenistic topics to the third Age Learning Group this past winter. The series was an exciting and rewarding experience for everyone involved and provided an occasion to strengthen ties with alumni and the broader community.

Outstanding students recognized

In November, the Spanish and Latin American Studies department held its annual Spanish Book Prize event. The event brought together alumni, students, faculty, and friends for an afternoon of performances, music, and lively conversation. Following a long-standing tradition, their most outstanding students were recognized with the Spanish Embassy Book Prizes, the Portuguese Embassy Prize, and the Antonio Fama Award in Spanish and Latin American Studies.

ARTS 301 Studies in Humanities – a course and public lecture series

Offered each year, ARTS 301 is an interdisciplinary course open to the public alongside enrolled students. In winter 2012, ARTS 301 was themed ‘Scholarship for an Uncertain World’: our understanding of society, environment, and human existence has been particularly challenged in recent years. Professors from a range of disciplines explored and discussed these issues.
The human interacting with technology

Tuesday, October 16th, was a big day for Waterloo’s Stratford Campus as the magnificent new building and digital arts facility was officially unveiled. Already housing two Faculty of Arts programs, the Bachelor of Global Business and Digital Arts (GBDA) and the Master of Digital Experience Innovation (MDEI), the building is home base to 117 students this year. From among the many important speakers marking the event, the building, the digital media resources, and the aspirations of the Stratford Campus, here are a few highlights of what was said:

**GINNY DYBENKO**  
*Executive Director, Stratford Campus*:

“By mixing arts, technology, and a side order of business, the University of Waterloo has once again established leadership in innovation and academic programming. Here we have an Arts program that is truly informed by technology and industry... It is time to pay attention to the human in content, the human in design, the human interacting with the technology. And that’s what our programs focus on.”

**DOUGLAS PEERS**  
*Dean, Faculty of Arts*:

“What we are trying to do here is bring together the content, creativity, and the cultural dimensions of humanities and social sciences with technology and with business. And we are also bringing together Stratford’s strength in arts and culture with what the University of Waterloo is known for – innovation and entrepreneurship – in such a wonderfully rich environment such as this building, creating new opportunities for our faculty and students. And this is just the beginning.”

**FERIDUN HAMDULLAHPUR**  
*President and Vice Chancellor, uWaterloo*:

“The University recognized early on that open-mindedness, diversity, collaboration and integration are the building blocks of innovation... And of course digital media has emerged as one of the fertile places where there is the unprecedented opportunity for creativity, and growth. This is a sector that creates value by blending content, technology, and application.... Today we give credit to something without which innovation would not exist: imagination and creativity.”

**JANA ZACHARIAS**  
*MDEI student, Stratford Campus*:

“See what happens when you throw together a Drama student, an Engineering student, a Psych student, and an Accounting student... Working with such a diverse group of people that are united in a common pursuit of the extraordinary is a gift that is made possible by the uniqueness of this program.”

*PHOTO: JONATHAN BIELASKI*
1976
Peter Abrams (BA ’76, English) spent 30 years as an English teacher at Bowmanville High School in Bowmanville, Ontario, before retiring three and a half years ago. He has been married to Deborah Henderson (Queen’s, Fine Arts) for 23 years, and they have two children, Cameron (20) and Heather (17). “There is life after retirement,” says Peter. “It allows me more time for volunteer work in my community, where I have been an active member of the Kinsmen Club for over 25 years.” Some of his volunteer activities include, ushering and maintenance at a local theatre; raising interest and funds to rebuild a town fountain; Christmas and Canada Day parades; and two local festivals that have been running for about 10 years – the All Canadian Jazz Festival and the Shelter Valley Folk Festival. This past August, he helped organize a successful town-wide reunion. “There’s a lot to do if you want to help your own town,” he says. “It’s fun and I meet wonderful people, but I still find time to see friends, former colleagues, read, and play bridge. And the best part is, sometimes I don’t do anything at all, and don’t feel guilty.” Peter tells us that he has always enjoyed the outdoors and has made many canoe camping trips over the years, in Ontario lakes and rivers. “My winter downhill skiing days are numbered, but cross-country is always a possibility, regardless of age,” he says.
abrahend@sympatico.ca

In 2011, Donna Neff (BA ’76, Religious Studies) was certified by the Law Society (Ontario) as a specialist in estates and trust law.
donna.neff@nefflawoffice.com

1978
John Mangone (BA ’78, Psychology) is currently employed with the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie as a unit manager, in the Social Services department of the Ontario Works Division. He is also a community volunteer, leader, and an advocate for literacy and employment training services. Some of his other activities include, board president of Program Read Inc., director of Northern Credit Union Ltd., Friends of the Library, Family Literacy Committee, Knights of Columbus, and a member of St. Paul School Council. In 2010, John was honoured with the Volunteer of the Year Award for service with Program Read. As well, he is enrolled in the Credit Union Director Achievement program.

1986
Shelly Sanders Greer (BA ’86, English) published her first novel Rachel’s Secret, in April 2012. “It has received wonderful reviews, including a starred review in Booklist,” she says. “Inspired by my grandmother’s escape from a Russian pogrom, Rachel’s Secret tells the story of how an entire community was destroyed because of anti-Semitic newspaper stories in 1903 Russia.” The synopsis and reviews can be seen on her website at www.shellysanders.com. Shelly is currently working on the sequel – Sergei’s Rebellion.
shelly@shellysanders.com

1983
Lorie Walton (BA ’83, Psychology) is the owner and lead child psychotherapist of Family First Play Therapy Centre Inc. She met her husband Greg Walton (BSc ’84) at Waterloo when they were students. “We have three beautiful boys – 22-year-old twins and 18-year-old Scotty, who is currently attending Management Engineering at Waterloo,” says Lorie. “He loves his program and is quite active with the engineering society; Waterloo is his favourite place to be!” Lorie and Greg would love to hear from any of the Waterloo alumni they went to school with.
familyfirstlw@belinnet.ca

1987
Laurie Soper (MA ’87, English), author of Red Wine and Popcorn: Doing Business Like a Bohemian (2004), has taken an extended sabbatical from her consulting business to write her second book. “Because it involves an inordinate volume of research, I uprooted myself from my Cambridge home of 11 years, sold all my earthly possessions, except my books and my Paderno French press, and moved into a student home in Waterloo close to both libraries,” she says. Entitled Civilized Anarchy and the Fiction of Law and Order, the book surveys the 6000-year history of civilization, and marshals Laurie’s prolific multi-disciplinary studies that span the 25 years since she graduated from Waterloo.
lauriesoper@gmail.com

1995
Bill Bunn (BA ’95, English; MA ’96, English) has had his first young adult novel, Duck Boy, accepted for publication by Bitingduck Press, in Altadena, Los Angeles.
WBunn@mtroyal.ca

Monique Rochon Scott (BA ’95. Economics; BMath ’87) and Greg Scott (BMath ’91) have been married since 1993. They have a daughter Melissa Simone (16) and a son Matthew Jonathan (12). Monique completed a Human Resources Management Certificate in December 2011.
moniquerochonscott@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

2008
Nicole Battista (BA ’08, Fine Arts) owns and operates Chrysalides House, a new art school and gallery in Waterloo, Ontario. The school features an art studio, printmaking and clay studio, and creative play lounge, where they offer services such as children’s weekly art classes in all media, holiday camps, and birthday parties. As well, there’s a graphic novel class for teens and an adult weekly open studio. The gallery features local artists, who practice in a variety of media, “and is an excellent place to visit for that one of a kind gift,” says Nicole.
Emma Dines (BIS ‘11) was awarded the Arts Departmental Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement in Independent Studies. Her pre-thesis work took her abroad to study cultural, ecological, and social sustainability in several established eco-villages, including the small community of Findhorn in Northern Scotland, and the diverse city of Auroville in Southern India. “My educational focus was “alternative, experiential, environmental, holistic − you name it, I’m interested in it,” she says. She currently teaches narrative-driven yoga full-time at Queen Street Yoga in downtown Kitchener, Ontario. She is also a design apprentice for the Upstart Collaboratory for Collaborative Culture Designing, a think-tank and learning community based in Kitchener-Waterloo. To learn more about Emma, you can read her blog, emmadines@gmail.com

in memoriam

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

ARTS FACULTY

Virgil Burnett, professor of studio and art history, joined the Fine Arts department in the early 70s and was there until his retirement in 1993. He had a remarkable career as an artist and illustrator with an international reputation.

David Carter, School of Accounting and Finance professor, came to Waterloo in 1978 and retired in 2003. After retirement, he continued teaching as a sessional lecturer until recent years. Outside the university, he was very active in the not-for-profit sector in his community.

Richard Nutbrow, professor of political science, joined the department in 1982, where he served for nearly thirty years. In 2002, he received the University of Waterloo Distinguished Teacher Award “in recognition of a continued record of excellence in teaching at the University of Waterloo.”

Stanislaw Reins joined the Psychology department in July 1973 in the behavioural neuroscience area. He was awarded the designation of Professor Emeritus at his retirement in 1997.

Betty Thalman began her career at the University of Waterloo in July 1969, and retired circa 1988. She was an assistant professor of Romance Language in the Spanish department.

ARTS ALUMNI

William Larry Ceasar, BA ’70, History
Anthony J. DeLuca, BA ’86, CA Studies/Economics
Terrence G. Dunlop, BA ’65, History
Bruno Friesen, BA ’68, German; MA ’71, English; MPhil ’71, English
Carol A. Gierak, BA ’80, History
Raymond D. Knarr, BA ’80, Liberal Studies
John P. Krueger, BA ’79, Liberal Studies
Catharine M. LePage, BA ’80, Psychology
Terry McCain, BA ’89, English; MA ’92, English
Mario G. Romano, BA ’87, History
Barbara D. Rosinski, BA ’72, Anthropology
Jacqueline S. Scherbarth, BA ’87, Psychology
Marinea J. Smith, BA ’05, Psychology
H. G. Snyder, BA ’85, Liberal Studies
Michele S. Stranz, BSW ’02
Douglas J. Torney, PhD ’67, Psychology
Jeffrey N. Wilson, BA ’97, Economics
Katherine A. Zettel, BA ’78, English
Andrew Askes and Jon Lucas
thrive as digital media artists and entrepreneurs

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINE WHITE

In 2011, Andrew completed his BA in Economics at Waterloo, with a Management Studies minor. Jon graduated from Fanshawe College in 2009, with an Arts and Science Diploma, majoring in film studies; and in 2012, he received his BA degree in Liberal Studies at Waterloo.

The two met in their third year of study at uWaterloo, in a DAC 400 class led by Professor Glenn Stillar. In January 2012, they formed their own company Arc Media, producing video content for organizations in both industry and academia.

After Congress 2012 was over and the dust had settled, Arts & Letters caught up with them to chat about their uWaterloo experience.

Can you reflect on your experience as an undergraduate student at the University of Waterloo?

Andrew: I had an amazing undergrad experience. My favourite courses were in Digital Arts Communication. In second year, I took Glenn Stillar’s DAC 202 course, which studies topics in designing digital video. Video has always been a passion and the course offered a lot of hands-on learning. This class was among my favourites.

Jon: Most of my memorable experiences at uWaterloo didn’t come as a guaranteed part of a particular program, but rather from the encouragement and opportunities presented to me by a few highly involved and incredibly supportive professors. Because of those opportunities, I was able to work in video production and post-production while still studying. I volunteered for the Multicultural Cinema Club of Kitchener, which ultimately led to a part-time job shooting and editing videos for a local commercial production house. After that, I obtained several independent contracts in videography and post-production for local organizations and businesses, including the Canadian Centre of Arts and Technology (a uWaterloo research centre).

How do you feel your education at uWaterloo made an impact on your career path?

Andrew: My education continued outside the classroom. Along with some friends, we started the Waterloo Snowboard Coalition, a student club through Feds, which has since grown to over 300 members a year. I had two different radio shows at uWaterloo’s radio station, Sound FM, and I also worked part-time for the Feds’ making videos. These experiences taught me practical skills to complement the concepts that I was learning in the classroom.
Andrew Askes filming from a helicopter.

Jon: I actually bounced between a few programs, including Environment, English RPW, and Computer Science, before landing in Liberal Studies. Professors Larry Smith (Economics) and Brian McNamara (Astronomy) stand out in my mind for their passionate and engaging lectures. As well, professors Glenn Stillar, Dave Goodwin, and Jill Tomasson-Goodwin, made the biggest impact on my education and career path. The consistent support and mentorship of Professor Stillar played a very big part in making my undergraduate experience at uWaterloo unique, engaging, and applicable to my career. I owe a lot to that man.

How did Arc Media come about?

Andrew: As students, Jon and I ended up working together at Feds, as well as on several freelance projects. Our mutual involvement in REAP, an ongoing initiative headed by Dave Goodwin and Jill Tomasson-Goodwin, eventually led to starting our own business making videos under the name Arc Media. One of our first projects was a helicopter shoot for a golf course in Muskoka, and we have since done projects ranging from startups, to Fortune 500 companies, and in between.

Jon: When we were students, Andrew and I helped establish the Feds’ video marketing team. During that time, and while working on other projects together, we found out that we had similar interests and goals, and that we were graduating around the same time, so we pursued the idea of starting our own company. Our first job was a golf course in Muskoka last summer. We’d never shot from a helicopter before, but we decided to go for it and see what we could produce. Things ended up working out really well, and we’ve been rolling along ever since.

You were the official videographers for Congress. Can you tell me a little bit about that experience?

Andrew: Working with Congress was a great, but challenging experience that resulted in us spending a few nights sleeping at the office in order to meet deadlines. The work required a tonne of footage, so it was a challenge for a crew of two. For example, we documented eight of the Big Thinking lectures; each of the one-to-two hour talks had to be edited and online within 24 hours, so that the presentation was available for all those who missed the live talk. It was a good networking opportunity, where we made some great contacts, and had a chance to work with some fantastic people.

Jon: We did three major jobs for Congress. Including the Big Thinking lectures, we also created 16 professor profile videos for the Faculty of Arts, which showcased the Faculty’s diverse research. The sheer volume of video content resulting from shooting the individual interviews made for an interesting challenge in the editing room. As well, uWaterloo’s Communications and Public Affairs hired us to film and edit messages from uWaterloo and WLU administrative staff for a 10-minute welcome video that was displayed on Christie Digital MicroTiles – an unconventional-shaped display (approximately six feet high and two feet wide), which we assembled at the WLU campus.

Do you have any advice or insight to share with graduating students, especially those seeking a career in digital media?

Andrew: I don’t have any profound advice, since my career is very, very young. However, students at uWaterloo who are interested in a career in digital media should get involved in the DAC program, as well as REAP. Extremely passionate professors, who want to see students succeed, run both of these programs, and they’ve played an integral part in getting our business off the ground. Get involved with any course or program associated with Glenn Stillar, Dave Goodwin, or Jill Tomasson-Goodwin.

Jon: When I was doing my undergrad, a couple of students asked me what program I was in that gave me so many hands-on opportunities in digital media. Really, it wasn’t a particular program structure that gave me my undergrad experience, it was relationships with motivated and encouraging professors, as well as getting outside the classroom and getting involved in as many relevant projects as I could. There are lots of ways to make your undergrad degree your own; for me it was supportive professors, courses from the Digital Arts Communication program, and involving myself in extra-curricular organizations like REAP and the Feds.

Besides your obvious passion for digital media, do you have other interests or hobbies?

Andrew: Snowboarding is my favourite hobby. I’ve been snowboarding since I was six and started filming and editing snowboard movies as a kid; that’s how I sparked my interest in video-making.

Jon: I like learning new things, or at least trying them out. Last summer, I got into swimming, then in the winter, Andrew convinced me to take up snowboarding. Right now, it’s rock climbing (at least trying) and it looks like this fall will be either boxing or diving.

To see a sample of their work, view the Economics promotional video created by Arc Media – it’s on the Arts YouTube channel: youtu.be/oovyfSTSr8Y.
stay connected...

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STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

ARTS & letters

Thank you for your ongoing involvement in the Faculty of Arts. Please send your class notes and photos for publication in Arts & Letters. It would be great to hear from you, so be sure to update your profile.

Keep in touch!

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