Like many of you, I am wondering where the summer went. It seems that only yesterday we were celebrating our spring 2014 graduating class. Now fall is in full swing, and that includes welcoming 30 new faculty and 21 new staff. This issue of Inside Arts is an opportunity to introduce them and the expertise they bring to the Faculty.

We had a great turnout for the Ontario Universities’ Fair and I am grateful for the student, faculty, and staff who took part. There was an unmistakable buzz around our booth. Based on feedback from prospective students and their families, our message connected very well.

The weekend after featured Arts’ participation in UWaterloo Reunion, and again our volunteers from across the Faculty did a fantastic job. I was delighted to see so many faculty and staff turn out to welcome back graduates from years’ past. While attendance might have been lower than we had hoped, the feedback we got was extremely gratifying with several who attended writing notes of thanks to the Advancement Office.
October 1 saw the launch of our United Way Campaign - the University of Waterloo and within it the Faculty of Arts are proud contributors to the community and I thank all those who are involved. For my part, I’m challenging all members of Executive Council to contribute, and should we reach 100% participation, which is my goal, I will share with them a very rare bottle of single malt. Otherwise, I will have to drink it myself - and I have asked them to protect me from that eventuality. The President has generously promised to match my contribution as we strive for total participation.

I am also pleased to report that Arts was at the forefront of the recent jet-pulling competition to kick off the United Way Campaign. James Skidmore and Alex Lippert joined me for the event, and initially I was quite honoured to be asked to lead the UW team, however, I realized that they likely put me in front to cushion the blow should we stumble. We did not fall and I was reintroduced to muscles I had long forgotten.

We are continuing to work with architects and engineers on the plans for the new student space in Hagey Hall. While communications about this project have been impeded by delays in finalizing the plans for the extension, we have created a website dedicated to the project, which will be updated as more information becomes available. In the meantime, I encourage faculty and staff to think about making a gift in support of the renovation through the Keystone Campaign. We have already had a number of very generous gifts from our alumni for this important project.

And finally I would like to remind everyone that we will once again honour the many contributions made by students, staff and faculty at Celebration of Arts on November 12 at 4pm. Please save the spot in your calendar for a reception, which will include our new provost Ian Orchard (if all goes to plan!), where we’ll recognize those whose excellence in teaching, service, and research make our community so vigorous and vital.

Welcome to our new faculty and staff
who joined (or rejoined) Arts between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Garvin Blair | Lecturer | has experience in financial markets, capital raising and mergers & acquisitions for public and private companies across a wide variety of sectors. He will contribute to SAF by strengthening teaching in the finance area.

Joanna Garcia | Assistant Professor | studies archival research in taxation related to corporate social responsibility, corporate lobbying, tax policy and the political process. She is a certified Public Accountant and worked as a Senior Tax Consultant for Deloitte Tax, LLP from 2005 to 2010.

Sheilaah Guthrie | Associate Director, Advancement | has extensive experience and a successful fundraising career with diverse organizations. Sheilaah will provide strategy and guidance for fundraising and development initiatives, alumni and stakeholder relations and communications.

Frank Hayes | Lecturer | has experience in Corporate Finance, particularly for technology companies, and has been a lecturer in Finance in the MBA program at Rotman School of Management at U of Toronto. He will contribute to SAF by strengthening teaching in the finance area.

ARTS ADVANCEMENT

Logan Walsh | Senior Development Officer | joining Arts in June, Logan’s main responsibilities are to reach out and connect with alumni, friends and donors and find meaningful ways to match their passions and priorities with the financial needs of the Faculty of Arts.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Seçil Dagtas | Assistant Professor | is a sociocultural anthropologist, specializing in the anthropology of religion and the anthropology of gender and feminism.

Adrianne Lo | Visiting Associate Professor | is a linguistic anthropologist whose current research examines ideologies of multilingualism in the South Korean popular media and the history of the racialization of Asian American linguistic competencies.
Stacy Reda | Administrative Assistant | first joined the Department in November, 2013. Stacy maintains effective administrative processes for the department, and is also the Undergraduate and Graduate Coordinator. She holds a UWaterloo MA in Classical Studies.

Christopher Watts | Assistant Professor | is an archaeologist who has focused on the Woodland Period (ca. 900 BCE – CE 1550) communities in the lower Great Lakes, including the experiential aspects of longhouse life and food collection vs. production.

DEAN OF ARTS OFFICE

Juli-Ann Sannuto | Assistant to the Dean | manages the Dean’s demanding schedule and keeps things organized at the ‘front of the house’. New to the University, her background includes the financial services, dentistry and advertising industries. She is an avid runner and animal lover.

DRAMA AND SPEECH COMMUNICATION

Jennifer Doyle | Speech Communication | Lecturer | examines the representation of environment and events in contemporary texts, especially how public spaces, architecture, and cultural texts function in discourse and in everyday life.

Sorouja Moll | Speech Communication | Lecturer | is interested in the critical discourse analysis of all forms of media. UBC Press will be publishing her latest work on the 19th century Canadian news coverage of Louis Riel’s trial.

Kim Nguyen | Speech Communication | Assistant Professor | rejoins the department after one year in a term position; her research focuses on media and rhetorics that inspire questions about cultural identity and values, memory, and violence.

Vershawn Young | Speech Communication | Associate Professor | focuses his scholarship on contemporary African American experience, dealing with African American language, literature, gender (masculinity), and performance/performativity.

ECONOMICS

Ryan George | Lecturer | holds a doctorate in History and MA in Economics; he has previously taught in the Department, including developing a course in Urban Economics which is related to his PhD research.

Kayla McKinnon | Undergraduate Coordinator & Advisor | has been advising Economics students for the past two years in this renewed position. Kayla holds a Master of Public Service degree from Waterloo Arts.

Olivia Mesta | Lecturer | holds an MBA and will teach courses in marketing and business finance in Economics and Stratford programs. Since receiving her PhD she has focused her career on teaching, most recently at McMaster.

Thomas Parker | Assistant Professor | holds a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his research interests are in theoretical econometrics and its applications in empirical microeconomics.

Kathleen Rodenburg | Lecturer | has researched experimental economics and decision theory. She also has a decade of experience working in marketing in the private sector. She will teach marketing and other courses in Economics and Stratford programs.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Bruce Dadey | Lecturer | specializes in rhetorical theory including cross-cultural communication, professional writing, nonfiction prose studies, and graphic narratives. He coordinates/develops the department’s graduate teaching assistants.

Andrew Deman | Lecturer | focuses on comics scholarship and the many connections that it makes with other fields of academic study such as visual semiotics, narrative theory, and multimodality.

Danielle Deveau | Lecturer | explores the role of culture and the creative economy in smart growth and talent attraction in the Waterloo Region. She has published on Canadian comedy industry, humour and cultural industries.

John Savarese | Assistant Professor | focuses on the relation between poetics, the history of science, and philosophy of mind. He is writing a book titled Romanticism’s Other Minds: The Science of Poetry from Hume to Mill.

Stephanie White | Lecturer | is currently working on case studies of students’ perspectives on what they learn from community-engaged writing classes, using interviews with undergraduates from institutions in Canada and the US.

FRENCH STUDIES

Rocky Penate | Lecturer | is a specialist in French literature of the 19th and 20th centuries. He works primarily on literary representations of the speeds that characterize the modern experience; other interests include animal studies.

Maria Petrescu | Lecturer | specializes in the literature of the 20th century and the Renaissance; she is writing a doctoral thesis about the image of the prison in the 20th
century France and French Canada.

GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH

Sarah Morse | Administrative Coordinator | holds an MA in History and was previously the Graduate Coordinator for English, followed by a position with the Graduate Studies Office. Sarah assists in the administration of graduate and research activities, and serves as a resource for faculty, staff and students.

PHILOSOPHY

Greg Andres | Lecturer | has previously taught in the Department of Philosophy for which he won an inaugural Arts Award for teaching; his research and teaching focuses on Philosophy of Economics and Business Ethics.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Marina Ivanova | Administrative Assistant | is a UWaterloo graduate and current part-time graduate student. She comes from the School of Pharmacy where she was a research and administrative manager for five years.

Mariam Mufti | Assistant Professor | is a comparative political scientist by training. She works on regime change and political participation in hybrid regimes; she is currently working on a book manuscript entitled *Accessing Political Power and Democratization in Pakistan*.

PSYCHOLOGY

Michelle Bishop | Senior Research Assistant | ITC project | assists with ITC project’s administration, knowledge translation, and research support including grant applications and progress reports, production of ITC newsletter, website and social media updates, database maintenance, and training RAs and co-op students.

Lynette Eulette | Lecturer | teaches graduate students in the practice of psychological assessment and supervises teams who are conducting assessments at the Centre for Mental Health Research. Her work is focused on identifying and diagnosing learning disabilities.

Heather Henderson | Associate Professor | is focused on the role of early temperament in children’s social development; affective and cognitive influences on self-regulation in typically- and atypically-developing children, and developmental psychophysiology.

Grace Li | Data Analyst | ITC project | is responsible for development, maintenance, analysis and interpretation of trends or patterns in complex datasets. Grace holds an M. Math in Biostatistics and a BMath Hons. in Actuarial Science & Statistics from UWaterloo.

Vince di Ruzza | Lecturer | is the Program Director for the Human Resource Management minor.

Winny Shen | Assistant Professor | is focused on leadership (women and minority leaders and leadership and health) and diversity and inclusion in organizational and educational settings. Identity development and management are common themes in her research.

Paul Wehr | Lecturer | studied evolutionary psychology; his current focus is course development including student response systems (SRS) in the classroom, scaffolding assignments, team-teaching, and problem-focused instruction.

SOCIOLOGY AND LEGAL STUDIES

Philip Boyle | Assistant Professor | studies contemporary developments in policing, security, and surveillance, with a particular focus on cities and urban governance. Past work examined the securitization of the Olympic Games post-9/11.

SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Tata Ruffle | Administrative Assistant | comes to us from a university in Israel with extensive experience as an Executive Assistant to a VP. Tata provides assistance to faculty and students of the department and is responsible for its administration.

STRATFORD CAMPUS

Susan Cole | Internship & Experiential Learning Manager | is dedicated to ensuring students fully participate in experiential learning and enter the workforce as professionals, developing coaching and employment awareness programs and assisting with internship job development. Susan has extensive corporate experience and a strong background in Learning & Development as well as Recruitment & Selection.

Jordan Mandel | Media Lab Instructor/Media Technician | came to Waterloo Stratford Campus after working as a creative trainer for Apple. He holds an MA in Popular Music & Culture from Western University.

WATERLOO CENTRE FOR GERMAN STUDIES

Lori Straus | Administrative Assistant | celebrates the stories of humanity for a living. As a freelancer, she interviews and writes about people; at WCGS, she works on an oral histories project. Lori’s other project: reading the original German version of The Neverending Story to her kids.
If you were telling a newcomer about your department, what would you want to say about it first?

The economics department at Waterloo is one of the most collegial departments of economics we know. This is an important feature that attracted us here in the first place. Our colleagues are a group of dedicated scholars and, without exception, they are fun to be around. The demographics of the department are also atypical in that there is an unusually large group of young researchers. They make the atmosphere in the department full of energy and buzz. They are always willing to get involved in extra activities that contribute to enliven the research life of the department. The internal workshops, for instance, allows faculty and grad students to come together to explore new lines of research, each year choosing a different topic. We love that there is so much interaction within and without the department. This congeniality is essential to come up with new research projects and teaching ideas to improve our undergraduate program, and we can see it happening every day.

What is the most popular (but not necessarily required) course currently offered by Economics?

The most popular course is - surprisingly - not economic theory or econometrics, but “Economics of Sport”. It has not been in the books very long, but already the department had to increase the number of sections offered. It is easy to see why it is so popular. Undergraduate students are able to relate the concepts they learn in those other economic courses and apply it to an environment they know well and that appeals to their imagination - something that they associate with fun too! That said, the department offers a number of other courses that have the same characteristics but geared towards other areas of interest, such as Labour Economics, Law and Economics, Canadian Contemporary Problems, or International Economics. All are wonderful applications of economic thought designed to make our undergraduates think about real issues from the economics perspective.

What is a particularly unique feature or tradition of the department?

We would say that the inclusion of our graduate students in the active social life of our department is a distinctive feature. We were surprised by the amount of interaction between graduate students and faculty. This fits with our own vision of a successful graduate program, which should promote this interaction, which cannot be limited to the classroom. From the “Meet and Greet” at the beginning of the year, to the Christmas Party and the summer Golf Tournament or the winter Curling Day, the Department of Economics is committed to make the grad students feel part of the life of the department. For instance, our graduate students are in charge of taking our weekly guest speaker to lunch, giving them a chance to interact with other established researchers in a somewhat relaxed environment. All these opportunities create a place where students are willing to work hard and feel we take their education seriously.

What do you like good about living in the Waterloo area?

We have always lived in big cities because we love seeing people walking by the street and absolutely need to be able to have coffee without having to drive. We were concerned about what Waterloo would offer in this regard. And yes, initially we found Waterloo a bit small for our taste. But fortunately, it only meant that we had to do a bit of exploring to find our way around. So our favourite coffee place is further than a few blocks away from home, but it is well worth the walk. Also, we absolutely love the way you can go on little trips around the area, to Guelph, Stratford, Niagara (and so many other places!) for a change of scenery. We have learnt that small is not the same as isolated and that going for a ride to try a new restaurant in the next town adds a sense of adventure to the whole dinner experience that is missing when you just walk down the street!
If you were telling a newcomer about your department, what would you want to say about it first?

It has the atmosphere of an extended family. It’s a place where everybody knows your name. The ability to know everybody is a real advantage. The outcome is that people help each other; everyone is on the same team and things get done. There’s a sense of expansion in Fine Arts, a sense that things are happening. A quick review of our recent record is a testament to this. In the last few years we’ve expanded our visiting artist program, implemented a course where students participate in off-campus field trips, renovated our main gallery and our student gallery, transformed an Airstream Trailer into a mobile gallery, held a symposium on Performance Art, significantly expanded our digital offerings and hired four new faculty. It feels exciting to be part of such a vibrant department. This year the department celebrates its 40th year. There’s a strong foundation, but the department still has a youthful glow, a glow of possibility.

What is the most popular (but not necessarily required) course offered in Fine Arts?

Most of our studio courses are popular and fill up quickly (who doesn’t want to learn how to work with ceramics, weld, screen-print or make large format digital prints?). Painting, however, still holds top court. Over the last 40 years Waterloo has become known for its strong painting. I suspect it has something to do with Professor Doug Kirton, who’s been at Waterloo for 15 years. I’ve worked with Doug over the past 2 years, co-teaching a third year studio course and he sees the world through the eyes of a painter. He gets particularly excited about materials, the haptic qualities of something that is made (you can literally see the boyish glint in his eyes). There are two new digital courses in our offerings that are also gaining popularity—an online introductory course about digital imaging within the realm of fine arts and Video and Sound (which covers both shooting and editing). The advent of DSLR filmmaking has really changed the landscape of videography and this course addresses that. I’m constantly surprised by how this technology has seeped into everything from watching the multiple projection screens during a concert at the Air Canada Centre, to seeing how the New York Times tells a story.

What are the department’s most unique or surprising features?

There are a few nuggets that are distinct to Waterloo Fine Arts. The first is the Keith and Win Shantz Summer Internship. The internship is offered to MFA students, facilitating a six-week stint with an established artist. It is an international endeavor. The cohort from last year travelled to Glasgow, Chicago, Los Angeles and London, England. Students provide a dream-list of artists that they would like to work with and the faculty make it happen. It makes me wish I could apply to Waterloo (I already know who would be at the top of my list—Maira Kalman and Mark Dion). Another is our annual 4th year graduating exhibition. What’s special about Waterloo is that the affair is held in UWAG—a well respected, established gallery. The curator, Ivan Jurakic is involved throughout the process so the students get a real sense of how the art world works, from writing statements and promoting the show, to professionally installing artworks and hosting the opening. It’s a gala event where everyone gets dressed up in their finest.

What do you like about the idea (and the experience) of living in the Waterloo area?

The last few years I’ve kept my house in Toronto and rented an apartment in Waterloo, staying a few nights during the week. But Waterloo has been working its charms on my family (which includes my husband Terry who went to Waterloo for architecture many years ago and our dog Lipton). We’ve decided to sell our house and move permanently to the area. Some of the things we like about Waterloo region are the Princess Cinema, the Iron Horse Trail, KWAG, the Clay and Glass Gallery and the Contemporary Art festival CAFKA. I’m also excited about biking to work, going to Vincenzo’s and buying Mennonite sausage at the farmer’s market (the one wrapped in cloth, made with beef and a lot of vinegar). There is however a secret to commuting, something to revel in, something that I’ll miss—listening to audio books and the CBC on my drive home.

» TARA COOPER, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts
As the student space project begins, consider your role

LOGAN WALSH, Senior Development Officer

There is a bustling across our quadrangles, in our lecture halls and throughout our meeting rooms. Our students have returned. They seek out comfortable places to study, collaborate and just hang out – and, as you know, they fill every nook and cranny available.

In response to a student identified need for more student space on campus, the Arts corner of UWaterloo will be filled with the sound of construction as building commences in the Hagey Hall courtyard.

The glass atrium enclosure will be a point of pride. It will be the locus of student life for Arts at UWaterloo. It will be where faculty and students engage and where alumni and guests connect with the energy and enthusiasm of teaching and learning in the 21st century.

Our goal is to fundraise approximately $1M towards this project and we’ve already received a $100,000 gift from a Philosophy alumnus.

Faculty, staff and retirees, along with alumni and friends of UWaterloo, will play important roles in reaching our $1M goal. Current students have already committed $200,000 from the student-funded Arts Endowment Fund. This is the chance for faculty, staff and retirees to join the student body in supporting this Arts student space project.

When you make your gift to UWaterloo (through the Keystone Campaign) please consider allocating or making an additional gift to the Arts student space project.
Portal is the new Black

UWaterloo’s student portal has started launching across the Faculty of Arts this term. The portal provides undergraduate and graduate students with a mobile-friendly site that delivers customized campus and academic information – just what they need, just when they need it. Read about the launch in Arts.

Author of my own story:
Recognizing the words and choices of people without voices

Dr. Elizabeth Bloomfield, Arts fall Convocation honorary doctorate recipient, presents a public lecture on Thursday, October 23 at 4pm in Hagey Hall 1102 (SAF wing). Dr. Bloomfield is being recognized for her lifetime of social innovation on behalf of persons living with disabilities.

Celebration of Arts – save the date!

Join your colleagues at the second annual Celebration of Arts reception: Wednesday, November 12, 4pm to 5:30pm in South Campus Hall, Festival Room. Highlighting the event will be the presentation of this year’s Arts Awards for Teaching, Service, and Research.

Feedback, please

We publish five issues of Inside Arts per year.
Send your comments and ideas to wphilpott@uwaterloo.ca.