September is always a busy month, but it seemed even more so this year with the late start to term. The usual whirlwind of orientation activities was soon followed by Ontario Universities Fair (OUF) and tomorrow is Reunion. It was great to see so many students, staff, and faculty at OUF - there was a definite buzz around the booth, an enthusiasm we hope will prove to be infectious amongst the prospective students who braved the temptations (and ensuing traffic) of the Jays’ games to visit us.

Closer to home we welcome recently appointed faculty and staff to our community -- you can read more about them below. While hirings will slow down as we have filled nearly all vacancies and are preparing for the new budget model, I am pleased that the demographic profile of our Faculty shades less to the grey than many other faculties of arts, humanities, and social sciences. This positions us better to withstand the enrollment challenges facing North American universities over the next decade or so.

I am writing this at 33,000 feet, as between OUF and Reunion came the fall meeting of the Council of Ontario Deans of Arts and Science (CODAS) and the annual meeting of Canadian Association of Fine Arts Deans (CAFAD). Among the key takeaways from those meetings is that we need to reduce the number of acronyms in play in higher education. And then there is the federal election which featured in a number of the sessions - the consensus was that, so far, none of the parties have come out with anything that bold or thoughtful on the higher education front.
Of greater concern has been the deafening silence on the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). I had briefly flirted with optimism back in June when the report was released. It garnered national attention, and at Congress there was considerable discussion about the role of universities in acting on the recommendations. Since then it has largely disappeared from public discourse (I guess they don’t count as Old Stock Canadians). I was therefore very pleased to see that TRC emerged as an important topic at both CODAS and CAFAD: the deans at CODAS have agreed that identifying ways to improve access to and success within higher education for First Nations students by collaborating with each other and more importantly with First Nations communities would be a priority for the foreseeable future. At CAFAD, sessions on place, community-based research, and indigeneity fed into plans over how best to conceive of Canada’s visual culture during the events intended to mark the 150th Anniversary of Confederation. Stay tuned for more about how our Faculty and students can participate.

Many of you will already be aware that the University of Waterloo was selected to be one of the participating institutions in the United Nations’ HeforShe campaign. Momentum has been building across campus, with each faculty and the colleges having named champions. The attention and resources directed at gender issues creates opportunities for our Faculty to address gender and equity more broadly, for example within the context of curriculum, orientation week, student success, and mental health. I am delighted that two of our colleagues have agreed to serve as Faculty champions: Heather Smyth (English), a scholar of postcolonial studies and feminism, and David Moscovitch (Psychology), CRC in Mental Health Research and executive director of the Centre for Mental Health Research.

We continue to make progress on the strategic plan - construction on the Hagey Hub is on schedule and hopefully will stay that way, opening in time for next year’s intake of students. I would like to once again thank everyone for their patience during the construction. I know from experience how disruptive construction can be. Plan standardization is nearly complete, with a new website to assist the transition, Arts Majors Reset. And we are working with departments across the Faculty to design first year programming that will align with the University’s commitment to ensure communications competencies for all first-year students, regardless of faculty, to be delivered in small classes by regular faculty.

Welcome to our new and newish faculty and staff

Introducing faculty and staff who joined Arts between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Jordyn Gray-McInnis | Computing and Financial Management (CFM) Program Manager | is a proud UWaterloo alumna who holds an MA in English Literary Studies and was previously the Financial Aid Data & Systems Analyst in the Graduate Studies Office; she now manages all aspects of CFM.

Jeong-Bon Kim | Professor and Wadsworth Chair | was previously the Canada Research Chair in Corporate Governance and Financial Reporting at John Molson School of Business Concordia University. Over the last six years he is ranked as the ninth most prolific researcher in accounting.

Xuyang Ma | Assistant Professor | joins the finance area of the School. Her research interests include banking and shadow banking, systemic risk and regulations of financial markets, macro finance and asset pricing.

Sasan Saify | Assistant Professor | joins the accounting area of the School. His research interests include corporate governance and economic and capital market consequences of accounting information, corporate financial disclosure and regulation for financial and non-financial institutions.

ARTS UNDERGRADUATE OFFICE

Tatum Bizony | Manager, Academic Advising (secondment) | has worked in the Registrar’s office in Admissions for the last 10 years, as an Admissions Officer for Arts/Environment/Applied Health/Architecture and International Operations. She left her role as Manager of Admissions to take on her current AUO position.

Jennifer Book | Curriculum Assistant | spends her days working away at undergrad curriculum development, calendar content, student discipline cases, and course scheduling. Her nights are spent reading, playing clarinet, painting, and enjoying wine.

Eric Jardin | Academic Advisor (secondment) | is responsible for advising students in Liberal Studies. He has 10 years of admissions experience, including 5 as the Admissions Officer for the Faculty of Arts.
Jessica Jordao | Student Services Assistant | is a Waterloo alum and TA for Legal Studies. She has previous experience working at a local college, and is currently completing her Masters of Adult Education.

Amaan Khan | Senior Student Services Assistant | graduated this year with a BA in Economics from UWaterloo. He currently helps international exchange students and Waterloo students understand the academic processes in Arts. He also enjoys playing sports!

ARTS COMPUTING OFFICE

Sherry Hartung | Administrative Coordinator | was in Computer Science for 3 years. It is a home coming to return to PAS after starting in Psychology back in 2009 on contract. Previously a Software Tester, Website Administrator and Pcard Administrator with an insurance company.

DEAN OF ARTS OFFICE

Kathryn MacDonald | Executive Officer | joined Arts earlier this year, her first foray into higher education after many years in both the public and private sectors. She is focused on the smooth operation of the administration and enjoys working with all stakeholders across the university.

Juli-Ann Sannuto | Assistant to the Dean | is happy to now be a permanent fixture outside of the Dean’s office. Her favourite part of the job is being referred to as “The Time Lord” by Doug, even though she has never watched Dr. Who. She strives to keep Doug’s world running smoothly and believes that Arts is the best place to be.

DRAMA AND SPEECH COMMUNICATION

Lennart Nacke | Associate Professor | leads research in the Stratford Campus’ Engage lab, teaches in the GBDA and MDEI programs, as well as in the Digital Arts Communication unit of Drama and Speech Communication. His work is transdisciplinary including communication technologies, gaming user experience, human health, wellness, and digital arts.

ECONOMICS

Becky Moore | Support Services Assistant | has a background in education, career planning and public service. She studied Fine Art at Laurier and University of Guelph, graduating with a BA in Art History. She assists in the general administration of academic programming in the Economics department.

Xiaofei (Vivian) Yang | Lecturer | holds a PhD in International Trade. She was an adjunct assistant professor in Economics at UWaterloo in 2007-2008 and has been working since then for Deloitte in Toronto as a senior manager and economist in international transfer pricing.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Jenny Conroy | Undergraduate Studies Admin | comes to UW with five years of administrative and advising experience in graduate studies at Trent University. She is now responsible for advising English students and the coordination of the undergraduate program.

Lamees Al Ethari | Lecturer | has a research focus on Iraq-North American women writers and is an expert in ESL instruction with extensive experience in Iraq and Canada. Dedicated to pedagogical innovation, she brings a record of outstanding teaching performance to the department.

GERMANIC AND SLAVIC STUDIES

Aleksandra Srsa Benko | Visiting Lecturer | teaches courses in Croatian language and culture, and is further developing online courses in Croatian, organizing the student Slavic Club and participating in outreach activities on campus.

Ann Marie Rasmussen | Professor | holds the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker Memorial Chair in German Literary Studies. Her research interests embrace medieval literature & culture from the 12th century to the Reformation. Her many publications include gender studies combined with manuscript studies, visuality studies, and material culture.

PHILOSOPHY

Jacqueline Feke | Assistant Professor | focuses on the philosophy and rhetoric of Greco-Roman mathematicians, and has a forthcoming book on Ptolomy. She contributes to teaching in the history of ancient philosophy and to department research strengths in philosophy of mathematics and philosophy of science.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Ena Devedzija | Graduate Program Coordinator | holds a Master of Public Administration from Queen’s
University and has previously worked in the Dept. of Biology and for Desire2Learn as a Client Development Representative. Ena assists in the administration of graduate activities and serves as a resource for faculty and students.

Aaron Ettinger | Assistant Professor | focuses on international relations and political economy as well as American and Canadian foreign policy, with special interest in military privatization. He contributes teaching and research in American foreign policy and develop the department’s International Studies minor.

Heather Whiteside | Assistant Professor | has research expertise in government and business, including public-private partnerships in Canada’s health care sector. She has a strong publication record and makes important contributions in political economy, global governance, public policy and administration, and Canadian politics.

PSYCHOLOGY

Shelly Jordan | Survey Management Associate | ITC Project | is involved in production and quality control for ITC surveys. Her background is in Library and Information Science (MLIS) and History and Philosophy of Science (MA).

Michelle McAvoy | Survey Management Associate | ITC Project | assists with questionnaire management, quality control, and documentation for an international evaluation of tobacco control policies. She has over 13 years of experience in global market research and a B.A. in Psychology.

Ian McGregor | Professor | is a social psychologist focused on motivational substrates of diverse enigmatic social phenomena, from delusional conviction, religious extremism, and intergroup bias, to relationships, self-control, and meaning in life. He has over 30 publications in top-tier journals and is widely recognized for his research talks.

Emily Mininger | Administrative Coordinator and Advisor, Undergraduate Studies | moved from the Arts Undergraduate Office to Psychology in May. She is kept busy learning all she can from Heather Smith before Heather retires in December; her responsibilities in Psych include undergraduate advising and program administration.

Ian Nicholson | Director, Centre for Mental Health Research | is a registered psychologist with over 25 years experience in clinical practice and management with expertise in professional development, clinical supervision, models of service delivery, and ethics/standards of practice.

Michael Wagoner | Computer Systems Manager | joins Psychology with over five years of systems administration experience; in his current role, he supports the computing environment for faculty, staff, and grad students.

SOCIOMETRY AND LEGAL STUDIES

Pauline Dawson | Administrative Assistant & Undergraduate Co-ordinator, Sociology | returned to the Department last fall after a spell as Administrative Coordinator for Undergraduate Studies in the School of Public Health and Health Systems.

Camille Graham | Graduate Coordinator, Sociology | is a UWaterloo graduate. She previously worked at Perimeter Institute in the Academic Programs department, and also worked for UW Center for Extended Learning and Chemical Engineering Administration.

Emily Snyder | Lecturer | recently held a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the Indigenous Law Research Unit at the University of Victoria. Her research focus is socio-legal theory with a specific focus on indigenous laws, feminist legal theory, and legal pedagogy.

Marina Topalcevic | Undergraduate Coordinator & Advisor, Legal Studies | holds a Master of Industrial Relations and was previously an Admissions Assistant with the Registrar’s Office.

Jennifer Whitson | Assistant Professor | recently held a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship, working as an embedded ethnographer in the Technoculture, Arts and Games Research Centre at Concordia University. Her main areas of research are surveillance and new media, the socio-economics of the games industry, and gamification and the governance of public health.

Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme | Assistant Professor | recently held a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Ethnic Studies at the Université de Montréal. Her research examines religious polarization and religious-secular inequalities in North America and Europe as well as religious and political attitudes and behaviour in North America.

STRATFORD CAMPUS

Sheri Maguire | Administrative Assistant | has ten years' experience in the financial field and, most recently, seven years with the Chamber of Commerce, Stratford.

WOMEN’S STUDIES

Srabani Maitra | Lecturer | is a feminist scholar focused on migration, Canadian labour market, employment training, entrepreneurship and equity. Her doctoral and SSHRC post-doctoral research examined employment patterns and training of immigrants from a gender and race perspective. She will play a key role in redesigning the Women’s Studies curriculum.
The stunning experience that was Arts Orientation 2015

KELLY BURKE, 4th year Psychology major

Anyone who ever had any hand in planning Orientation at the University of Waterloo knows that it’s an absolute whirlwind. Summing it all up in just a few words is something of an incredible task. Not to brag, but that’s what I’ve aimed to do here - give a small snapshot of the absolutely stunning experience that was Arts Orientation 2015.

As a member of the Federation Orientation Committee (F.O.C.) for the Faculty of Arts, I was one of three undergrads who were responsible for planning all of Arts Orientation 2015, top to bottom. After three years of being either a Boar Tribe member or coordinator, it was time to give back in a bigger way, to both our leaders and our new cohort of first years.

Speaking of first years - what a fantastic group. There’s always a great deal of variability in new generations of students. After all, just this year Arts had over 900 students officially check in for Orientation. The spirit of the new group was something to behold (I might be a tiny bit biased, but we’re going to run with it!)

Despite buckets of rain on every day of Arts programming this year, our first years were always at events and raring to go; a trait which I am positive they’ll keep well into their career with UW Arts. While the F.O.C. role doesn’t leave much time to interact one-on-one with many first years, it was indescribably moving to see them all connecting with one another and getting involved.

Despite the workload, I don’t believe I’ve ever made a better decision in my life. Along with my major and a club that I run through Feds, Orientation has been the greatest pillar of my experiences at Waterloo.
Rookie reflections on the controlled chaos of OUF

TIM KENYON, Associate Dean, Research

I had never been to the Ontario Universities Fair (OUF). So when my schedule finally let me attend this year, I was keen to see for myself the event about which I had heard so much from Dean Peers and my Associate Dean colleagues: the chaos, the crowds of eager students, the excitement, the shimmering fountain of champagne in the secret Faculty Lounge, and the free smoked salmon bar for Arts. It turned out that not all the reports from my colleagues were entirely accurate.

OUF is a key recruiting and outreach event for the Faculty of Arts, where dozens of volunteers from Arts and from across the University meet with prospective students. Institutional recruitment aside, this was also a great chance to find out how 17 and 18 year-olds are thinking about their education, and what they expect from it.

As a first-generation university attender myself, I recall being utterly clueless about... well, everything involving university (inter alia). Although they have already been pitched hard by universities and guidance counselors through their schools, I found that many students (and their parents) had little clear idea of the processes or options for programs in Arts.

My initial impression of the event was one of order amidst confusion. With tens of thousands of people passing through and around the Waterloo installation in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the confusion bit is easy to understand. Yet the Faculty of Arts recruitment team, and principally Nga Tran and Amy Meredith, coordinated and refined the efforts of the Arts booth to enable meaningful exchanges with visitors even in such large numbers, over many hours, and often at shouting volumes.

The atmosphere resembled Orientation Week in its invigorating powers: the energy and excitement of students was a great reminder of all the reasons why I looked forward so desperately to attending university as a teenager, and why I continue to find it a wonderful place to be. I hope to meet here at Waterloo some of the students I met at OUF; and that they find the university experience as brilliant as I did. And I hope that next year I can find the secret entrance to the Champagne Lounge; for some reason, my colleagues’ instructions to chant the password in front of the U of T booth didn’t seem to work.
Refugee crisis: Hear the stories and take action

A recent gathering of W3 (Waterloo Women’s Wednesdays) allowed me to hear a refugee story that inspired me to take action, to make a positive difference for those who have fled danger in their homeland to seek safety and peace in a new and unfamiliar land. Dr. Lamees Al Ethari, a Lecturer in the Department of English Language & Literature, shared her experience as a young woman and new mother in Iraq during the years when that country was invaded by coalition forces aimed at toppling the Hussein government. Lamees and her family were witnesses to abuses and atrocities, and feared for their lives. They were fortunate to escape the country and make their way to the US, and eventually Canada where Lamees completed her PhD in English at the University of Waterloo.

Lamees spoke at W3 of the compounding traumatization she experienced when she attempted to share her story – at times she’d been cut off, misunderstood, or misinterpreted. I heard her lament the lack of open ears to her story and those of fellow refugees.

The experience Lamees shared gave me greater energy and deeper insight for the important work of a local agency with which I’ve recently become involved. Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support (MCRS) works with newcomers to Canada through the refugee claim process. Unlike sponsored refugees admitted by the government, MCRS is focused on those still in the refugee claimant stage – they have been allowed into the country for a limited period in which they can make their claim for refugee status. These claimants do not have access to the services and programs that admitted refugees have, yet their story is similar; and now they must make their way through a complicated legal system, grapple with a new language, find housing, settle families, and more.

MCRS works with these individuals through the process to make their claim, providing them with legal support, translation services, and connections to community resources. More than that, MCRS staff and volunteers are present for these individuals, to hear their stories of the violence they fled, oppression, and untold rejection. MCRS provides the emotional support that I heard Lamees identify as vital in assisting refugees to successfully rebuild shattered lives in a new land.

You can help. Visit. Volunteer. Donate to this important work.

www.mcrs.ca

ANDREA CHARETTE, Faculty Relations & Appointments Manager, Board member of the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support

» ANDREA CHARETTE, Faculty Relations & Appointments Manager, Board member of the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support

Feedback, please

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