It is hard to believe that we are reaching the end of October. Fall term seems to be flying by, despite, or perhaps because of, the unusually long spell of good weather we have enjoyed. But as I write this in the airport at Ottawa, with reports of possible snow to greet me on the drive home on the 401 later this evening, I realize that winter is not too far off.

I was in Ottawa for the first meeting of the Expert Panel on the State of Science and Technology and Research and Development in Canada, a review which the Government of Canada commissioned the Canadian Council of Academies to undertake. Much of what we have seen is still under embargo, but suffice it to say that there are a number of areas in the social sciences, humanities, and creative arts where Canadian researchers can be counted amongst the best in the world. Moreover, it is clear that this research is making a real difference to Canada and to the world more generally.

Closer to home, we celebrated another graduating class this past weekend. The number of Arts alumni is fast approaching 60,000, a rather appropriate number given that we will be
Welcome to our newest faculty and staff members

Each fall we welcome and introduce faculty and staff who joined Arts over the past year.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Steven Balaban | Lecturer | has ten years’ experience in the financial services industry specializing in investments. He has teaching experience with the University of Waterloo and other institutions, and he recently advised the Waterloo team that won the 2016 global championship at the CFA Institute Research Challenge.

Lynn Carty | Lecturer | has eight years’ experience across several positions in accounting and finance. Since 2001 she has been teaching at the business schools at Laurier and Guelph. She is interested in enhancing our teaching and improving learning outcomes.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Alexis Dolphin | Assistant Professor | examines human dentition and is currently working with the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study to examine the correlation of dental isotopes with health. She previously taught in graduate and undergraduate programs at Western University. Her work will enhance the Public Issues Anthropology focus of the department.

ARTS COMPUTING OFFICE

Jameson Schildroth | Information Technology Specialist

ABOUT THE ARTS UNDERGRADUATE OFFICE

Stephanie McCoy | Student Services Assistant |

Sarah Robertson | Academic Advisor | is responsible for advising students in Liberal Studies. Sarah joined the Arts academic advising team in February on secondment and became a permanent AOU staff member October 1st. She is a University of Melbourne alumn and enjoys AFL football and toasted vegemite and cheese sandwiches.

Taryn Stutz | Student Services Assistant | is a Waterloo Arts alumnus. She provides support to students with academic advising requests and ELPE inquiries. She has worked in several departments at UWaterloo, most recently coming to Arts from Alumni Relations, where she worked as a Program Coordinator.

Samantha Wiebe | Undergraduate Recruitment Coordinator |

DEAN OF ARTS OFFICE

Joshua Bowman | Senior Development Officer | is a fundraiser with over a decade of experience connecting passionate supporters to vital work. He is also a blogger, improvisational comedian, and guitar player. Josh is thrilled to be part of the Arts team, and to work with all of the wonderful, kind, and creative people here.

Christina Kroeker | Research Development Officer (secondment) | assisted faculty members with grant applications from May-October before returning to her permanent role in the Office of Research. She thinks the people in Arts are fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed her time here.

Claire Prime | Communications and Graduate Recruitment Officer | is new to the University of Waterloo. She has worked for local magazines and newspapers as a copy editor, writer and graphic designer. She is enjoying promoting all that the Faculty has to offer.

Celebrating UWaterloo’s 60th anniversary next year. Great weather outside the PAC was matched by equal warmth within. Cindy Blackstock honoured Arts as not only the recipient of our honorary Doctor of Laws but by delivering one of the most moving and heartfelt convocation addresses I have had the pleasure of hearing over the past quarter century. It eloquently captured the spirit of truth and reconciliation, and was a powerful reflection on how we as a nation can and must do better if we are to make Truth and Reconciliation a reality for all Canadians. This was her second visit to the University of Waterloo in as many weeks: her keynote address to the Integrating Knowledges Summit was entitled Why Canada does not do better when it knows better for First Nations Children.

We also recognized two of our distinguished alumni at convocation, Mark Ceolin, a leader in the promotion of Canadian culture and business in Asia, and Danielle Rice, a PhD candidate in clinical psychology at McGill whose contributions to mental health in Canada are on par with many already established scholars. I was also delighted to see Gordon Pennycook receive his PhD and the UWaterloo Alumni Gold Medal for outstanding academic achievement – he has recently experienced considerable acclaim as one of this year’s winners of an Ig Nobel prize for his work on bullshit reception and detection (as I type this I can already hear your quips). He was recently awarded a prestigious post-doc at Yale.

I would like to take this occasion to welcome all the new faculty and staff who have joined the Faculty of Arts since last September. One of my greatest pleasures is to boast of the vigour, rigour, and sense of commitment of our community and I have no doubt that our most recent arrivals will contribute to what is without question one of Canada’s leading centres for scholarship and learning in the social sciences, humanities, and creative arts.

In closing and in response to those who have asked questions about life in the Zipper Club: life without charcuterie is possible if not desirable, good decaf is difficult but not impossible to find, scars are just tattoos with better stories, and the rescue dog who rescued me has been rewarded with her own leather chair in my study at home.

Douglas Peers’ rescue dog has taken a liking to this leather chair.
DRAMA & SPEECH COMMUNICATION
Greg Campbell | Support Services and Technical Assistant

ECONOMICS
Chris Riddell | Associate Professor] joins Waterloo from the ILR School, Cornell University. He is well recognized for research in labour economics and industrial relations. He is Editor-in-Chief of the journal Industrial Relations. He complements the growing expertise in the department on labour market research.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
Tina Davidson | Graduate Studies Coordinator
Clive Forrester | Lecturer | was a program coordinator for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at York University with expertise in linguistics, Caribbean languages, and legal discourse. At Waterloo, he teaches linguistics as well as academic writing and communications courses.

FINE ARTS
Brian Lau | Lecturer | is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts (UK) and a member with the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada. In addition to years of teaching, he has been managing his own firm specializing in brand design. He teaches graphic design theory and practice in Fine Arts and Global Business and Digital Arts.

FRENCH STUDIES
Nicolas Hebbink | Lecturer | has broad experience teaching French as a Second Language at Canadian universities, as well as French conversation, drama, video production, and news reporting. He contributes expertise in new technologies, multimedia, and educational video production.

GERMANIC AND SLAVIC STUDIES
Andrea Speltz | Assistant Professor | previously held appointments at the University of Guelph and Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. Her research interests include the German literary Enlightenment, French-German and English-German cultural exchange in the eighteenth century, and the history of the imagination.

HISTORY
Howard Chiang | Assistant Professor | is an expert in modern Chinese and global history with an emphasis on the history of science, medicine, gender and sexuality. His research proposes new paradigms for Sinophone studies, including mapping the biopolitics of gender and sexuality onto the geopolitics of world systems.

Anne Leask | Administrative Coordinator Undergraduate Studies |

PHILOSOPHY AND WOMEN’S STUDIES
Angela Christels | Administrative Assistant | holds an MA in Philosophy from UW and is now administrative assistant for both Philosophy (including the new, exciting Applied Philosophy stream), and for Women’s Studies.

Katry Fulfer | Assistant Professor | was previously Sophia M. Libman NEH Professor of the Humanities at Hood College. Her research is in the areas of feminist philosophy and applied ethics. She is the first faculty member ever hired at Waterloo whose primary undergraduate teaching duties will be in support of the Women’s Studies program.

PSYCHOLOGY
Karen Barna | ECEC Administrative Assistant | provides a range of administrative support functions for the Early Childhood Education Centre program and the Psychology department.

Tommy Neal | Program Manager | came to Psychology after 4.5 years as Undergrad Manager in Electrical & Computer Engineering. She has been employed on campus in various roles since she was in high school. It feels good to be back on the Arts side of campus, where she did her degree.

Simon Thompson | ITC Survey Research Assistant |

SOCIOLOGY AND LEGAL STUDIES
Kathryn Henne | Assistant Professor | was recently Senior Lecturer, School of Regulation and Global Governance, Australian National University. She is an expert in biometrics, surveillance, embodiment and gender and contributes to research in the areas of human rights, the law, health, safety, and social justice.

Vanessa Iafolla | Lecturer | recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Alberta. She is a legal studies specialist with a primary research focus on financial crime and counter-terrorism financial policies. She will support the department’s Crime, Law, and Security thematic area.

Geralda Palanco | Assistant Professor | is a migration studies specialist with a strong publication record. She comes to Waterloo with considerable teaching experience and will support the department’s Migration, Borders, and Transnationalism thematic area and be an important resource for undergraduate and graduate students working in this area.

SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
David Rozotto | Assistant Professor | has a current research focus on Guatemalan testimonial literature, specifically Indigenous women’s testimonies as alternative perspectives on State persecution. He is also a certified translator and will contribute his expertise in this area as Director of the Spanish-English Translation Plan.

Katherine Schmidt | Experiential Learning and Events Coordinator | provides critical support for the delivery of all events, experiential learning and internship activities at Stratford Campus. She provides administrative support to the Manager, Outreach Programs, and to the Internship and Experiential Learning Manager.

Geraldina Polanco | Assistant Professor | joins Waterloo with expertise in linguistics, Caribbean languages, and legal discourse. At Waterloo, he teaches linguistics as well as academic writing and communications courses.

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GUIDE TO THE HUB

• The Hub is currently open Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. Upon completion, the Hub will be open 24 hours a day.

• H3 Café features Planet Bean Coffee, Pluck Tea, cold drinks, baked goods and grab ‘n’ go lunches. The current Café hours are, Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please visit the café often!

• Founders Hall (HH 1042, entire ground floor area) Founders Hall is social and study space for Arts students and therefore is not bookable for events.

• Project Cube (HH 2034 glass-walled room at the front of the Hub’s second floor) The Project Cube is available for booking by Arts students with a valid Watcard by contacting Debbie Stanley-Pallas, Dean of Arts Office, extension 32400.

• Study Deck (HH 3042, top floor of Hub) This room is quiet study space for Arts students.

New quiz helps students navigate digital media programs in Arts

Over the past year, a working group of faculty and staff members developed a fun quiz to help students understand the range, strengths and applications of digital media learning within the Faculty, while also helping them hone-in on their interests and aspirations. Students in the Faculty of Arts have long benefited from digital tools in the classroom. And over the past ten years or so they’ve had a growing range of program and course options to develop their skills as digital makers and users.

The suite of digital media-related programs for Arts undergraduates includes six plan options: Digital Arts Communication minor; Digital Media Studies specialization; Global Business and Digital Arts bachelor’s program; Rhetoric, Media and Professional Communications major/minor; Studio Art major/minor; and, Visual Culture major/minor. The proliferation of digi-programming is bound to be both exciting and overwhelming - if not occasionally confusing - for our students.

“We don’t promote just a single view of digital media,” says Doug Peers, dean. “Like the Faculty as a whole, our teaching and research in digital areas excels because of the diversity of our perspectives.”

Many of us on campus may appreciate the strength of diverse perspectives, but that is a tough sell for undergraduate recruitment where future students are looking for their ideal university program and career path at the same time.

Now we have a tool to help them (and all of us) navigate and differentiate Arts digital media programming.

Launched as a pilot project, the Faculty just rolled-out a fun and meaningful online quiz to help undergraduates and prospective students find the program that most closely matches their interests and goals. The BuzzFeed-like quiz takes three-to-five minutes to complete and results in a suggestion for the user’s ideal program, as well as prompting them to learn more about all six digital-related programs in Arts.

The Your ideal University of Waterloo digital media program is... quiz, and its accompanying website, Arts digital media programs, are the outcome of more than a year of interdepartmental meetings, working group discussions, prototype building, and user testing. Faculty and staff members who worked on the project focused on creating an engaging quiz that would give prospective students a sense of the strengths and multiple applications of digital media learning within the Faculty – while also helping them hone in on their own interests.

Since the Ontario Universities Fair (OUF) a few days ago, when the quiz was announced on UWaterloo social media channels, it has been taken over 443 times. What’s it like? Do the quiz now at qzzr.com/c/quiz/236080/your-ideal-program-is

Feedback, please

Inside Arts is published each term. Comments, ideas, submissions are always welcome. Please contact Wendy Philpott at wphilpott@uwaterloo.ca.