

SPRING 2023

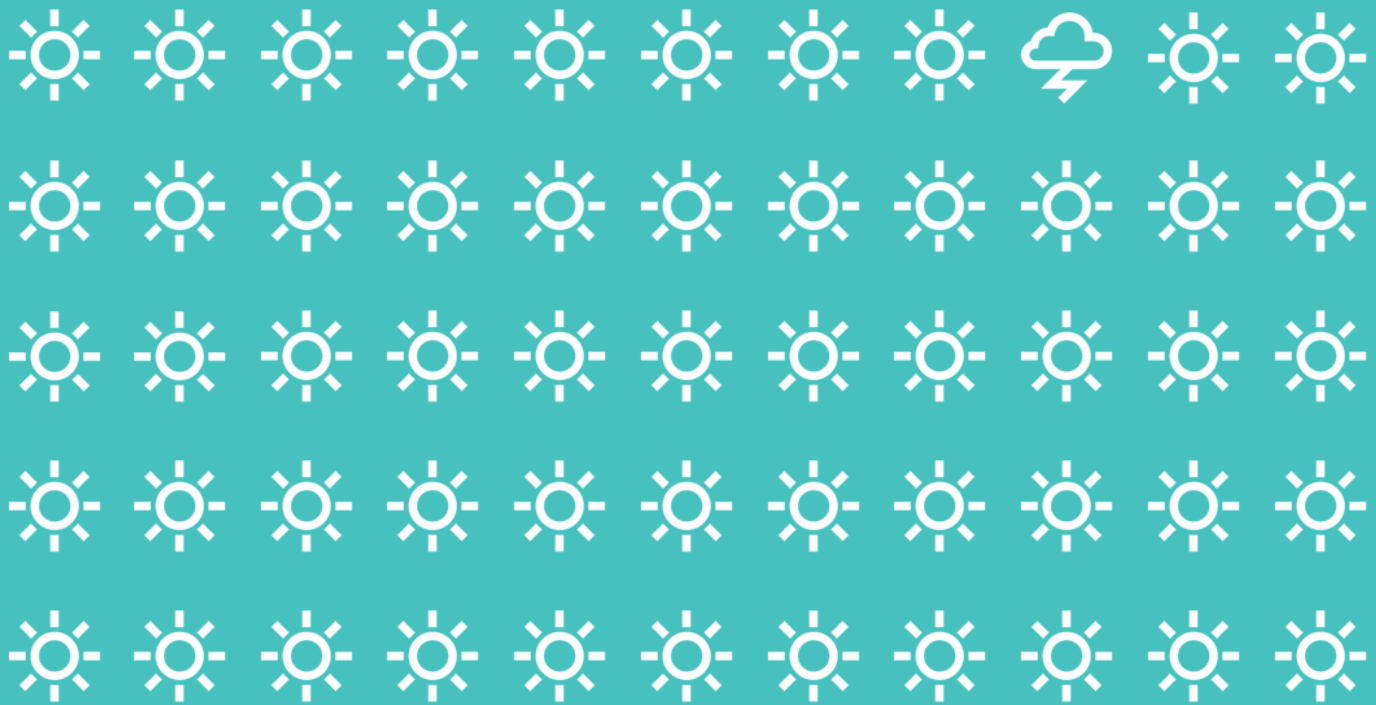
WATERLOO MAGAZINE

THEN AND NOW



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO





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With Waterloo's rich history, President and Vice-Chancellor Vivek Goel says Waterloo is poised to create meaningful change and the best solutions for our shared future.

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SHELLY SANDERS (BA '86)

shares how discovering her family history gave her new direction for the future

FEATURED ILLUSTRATOR:
MICHAEL BYERS illustrated this issue of the Waterloo Magazine.

michaelbyers.com

A SPECIAL THANK YOU:
This magazine issue drew heavily from the content and expertise of University of Waterloo's Special Collections & Archives Department. Archivist **Nicole Marcogliese** helped our team source photography and information to illustrate Waterloo alumni through the years. Marcogliese joined the University in 2017, where she preserves and manages valuable items and collections. Marcogliese plays an essential role in helping our Waterloo community access, discover and learn from historical information.

THEN AND NOW

In this issue, we celebrate how Waterloo's legacy of learners, innovators and changemakers are fueling a future of opportunity and impact.



THAT BAND PLAYED HERE?

Alumni Betty Anne Keller (BA '69) and Joe Recchia (BASC '68, MASC '71) share how the power of music did more than bring people together at UWaterloo. It transformed the social scene.



COMING HOME

Alum and professor emeritus Ken McLaughlin (BA '65) dives into Waterloo's unique history and describes how the University helped shape his life.



THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER(LOO)

The success of global tech giants and Waterloo's rich startup ecosystem fuels a collaborative spirit by attracting the best talent to a thriving community.



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uwaterloo.ca/magazine

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is co-ordinated within our Office of Indigenous Relations.



PRESERVING AND PROTECTING MEMORY

Items featured on this page are pulled from the University of Waterloo Library's Special Collections & Archives. The department is housed in the Dana Porter Library, a repository for rare books, archives and historical material.

“The Library’s Special Collections & Archives Department stewards the University’s official records through history – the evidence of activities that tells us more about individuals and the institution. Archives tell stories, unlocking the past through evidence that has been carefully preserved and curated. They increase our sense of identity and understanding of organizations, people, and cultures.”

Beth Namachchivaya
University Librarian



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LOOKING TO OUR PAST TO INSPIRE OUR FUTURE

The origins of the University of Waterloo are genuinely inspiring. An institution founded by its local community has grown over the past 65 years to become a globally recognized driver of innovation and impact. Motivated by Waterloo's rich history, our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community are helping shape its future. This issue will undoubtedly stir up nostalgia as you return to campus through photography and stories.

Waterloo's founders defied tradition by integrating academic and research excellence with work-integrated learning. In our rapidly changing world, we continue to honour this legacy by seeking new ways to be unconventional. To evolve and become an institution fit for the future, we must address inequities and challenges in a constantly changing educational and global landscape. We continue to work towards maintaining excellence in our historic areas of strength while delivering on new directions and solutions desperately needed for humanity's future.

In these pages, you'll find some inspiring stories of our students and alumni making a difference in their communities. One of my favourite pieces is Ken McLaughlin's (BA '65) story highlighting the Waterloo campus' evolution over the past 65 years. McLaughlin has dedicated many years to documenting and preserving Waterloo's history through published books, articles and interviews. His work has been invaluable in helping me understand the wonderful history of this institution.

While we celebrate our successes, we need to be prepared to take risks and learn from our mistakes. This will ensure we continue to have a bright and impactful role for our communities.

Over the past 18 months, we have been undertaking an exciting long-term visioning exercise titled Waterloo at 100. We've heard from our community through consultations and feedback about their ideas and aspirations for what the University will become by its 100th anniversary in 2057. Being innovative means considering our past as we set our sights on the future. Waterloo at 100 will help guide us so that we can continue to positively impact our communities and beyond. ♥

Dr. Vivek Goel, CM
President and Vice-Chancellor

→ **LEARN MORE** about Waterloo at 100

uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-100



Talk of the campus



WATERLOO WELCOMES AN EAGLE STAFF

On March 27, the University of Waterloo community came together to welcome an Eagle Staff to our institution. An Eagle Staff is an important element of the Indigenous relationship to Earth and those that have protected it. It reflects the wisdom, strength and honour of those that carry it in representing the Nations across Turtle Island. By introducing the Eagle Staff, the University honours the responsibility to take on Indigenous perspectives in the ways we teach, govern and behave as an institution. The Eagle Staff will be present at future Waterloo ceremonies and celebrations and will have a prominent place in convocation ceremonies.

The Eagle Staff represents the University's First Nations, Métis and Inuit community members, as well as their traditions, cultures and strengths.



It is my hope that the Staff will serve as an important symbol and reminder of the commitment we made to reconciliation and serve as inspiration for our University community today and for future generations.

VIVEK GOEL, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

UW WELL-FIT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Two decades ago, University of Waterloo faculty members created a unique exercise program for people undergoing cancer treatment. UW WELL-FIT was inspired by successful cardiac exercise programs and trends among athletes with cancer. To date, the program has helped more than 2,000 people improve their fitness during cancer treatment and find support among others with similar experiences. Over time, UW WELL-FIT created a template for other exercise programs, including STEPS (for stroke survivors) and Brain and Body (for those experiencing early cognitive impairments).



→ LEARN how you can support UW WELL-FIT participants





WATERLOO CELEBRATIONS RETURN TO ASIA

There are more than 238,000 Waterloo alumni living around the world, and some of our most active communities are on the other side of the globe. Winter 2023 marked a return to large-scale in-person events for Waterloo alumni living in Asia.

On February 20, 65 alumni in Indonesia gathered for an event with University of Waterloo President and Vice-Chancellor Vivek Goel. The following day, the new Singapore Alumni Chapter hosted their first in-person event, with Goel and more than 80 alumni in attendance. During his time in Singapore, Goel also attended the inaugural Canada-in-Asia Conference, where alumni and other attendees heard from leading minds from Canada and Asia, including Nobel Laureate Donna Strickland and Waterloo Chancellor Dominic Barton.

On February 24, the Hong Kong Alumni Chapter celebrated the return of its marquee event, an annual dinner and gala for local professionals to gather, network and hear from expert speakers. After a two-year hiatus, alumni were thrilled to reinstate the event with special guests Goel and Strickland in attendance. Thank you to this year's sponsors, and the more than 200 alumni, students and friends of the University who attended!

FACULTY OF SCIENCE TO BID FAREWELL TO DEAN BOB LEMIEUX

Waterloo's Faculty of Science will celebrate Dr. Bob Lemieux as he ends his eight-year term as dean this summer. Appointed in July 2015, Lemieux leaves behind a strong legacy on campus and in our community in both new scientific discoveries and subsequent future applications that have a long-reaching impact.

Throughout his tenure, Lemieux focused on the importance of fundamental science and its cardinal intersection with innovation and social impact. He led the development of the Centre for Eye and Vision Research, a collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University that performs ground-breaking research in critical areas for vision health. True to his belief that "chance favours the prepared mind," Lemieux enabled the enhancement of multiple research facilities on campus to help the Faculty's fundamental research across all science schools, disciplines and programs. He welcomed the University's first Nobel Laureate, Donna Strickland, and saw the steady rise of the Faculty's international reputation.

At the heart of Lemieux's efforts is a commitment to innovation through science - discoveries, applications and technology to improve lives. Lemieux expanded Velocity Science, an on-campus facility for student and faculty-led businesses with an element of science needing entrepreneurial guidance. And he established a space for interdisciplinary problem solving, the Science Innovation Hub, in partnership with existing science-focused entrepreneurial groups on campus. Lemieux has also been a strong supporter and champion of the Waterloo Eye Institute, which will significantly enhance Canada's leading eye and vision care centre.

Thank you,
Dean Lemieux,
for your many
contributions. 🍷

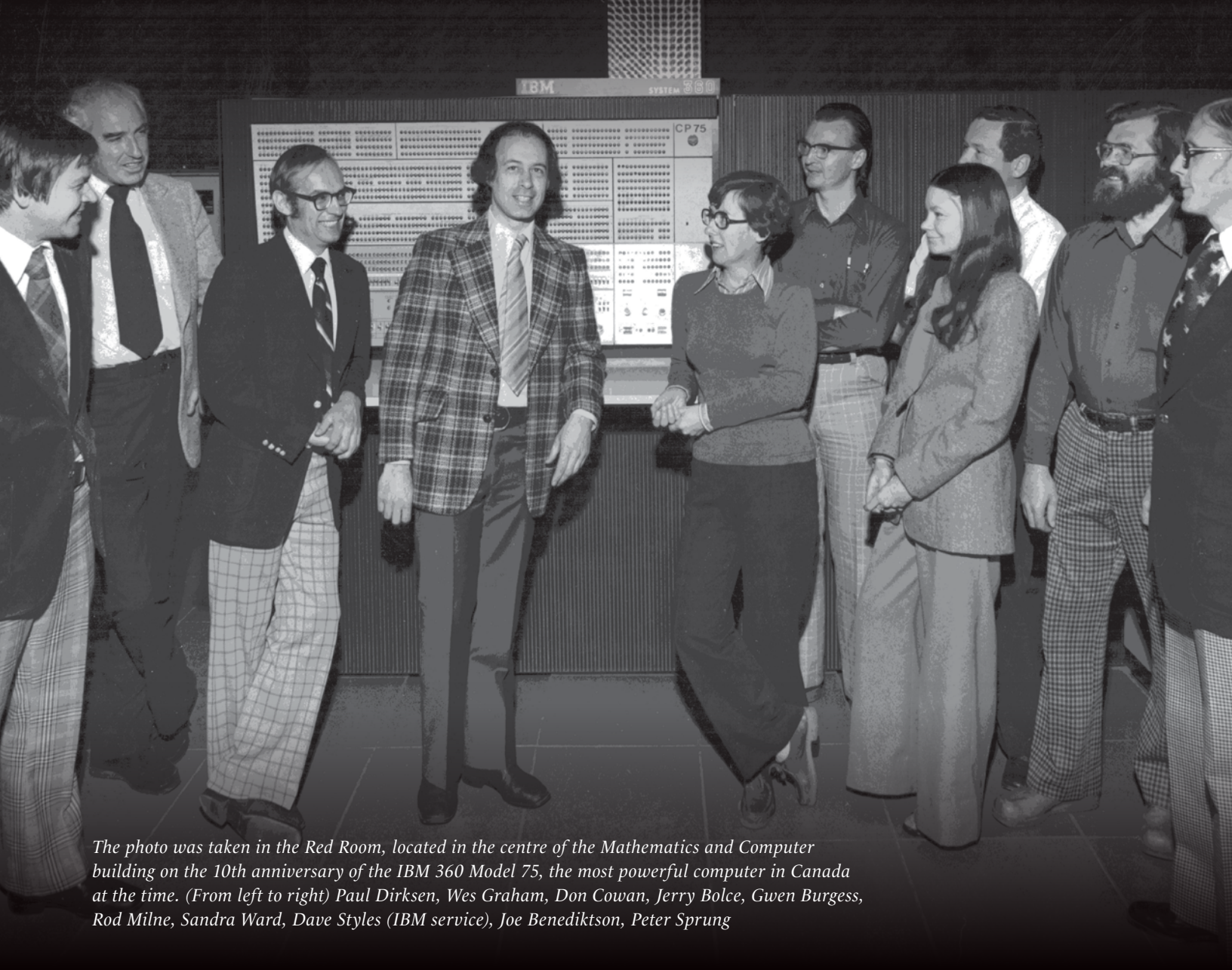


THE GOLDEN ERA

of computing at Waterloo

A pioneer of computing recalls the early days of computer science at Waterloo and the spirit of openness that set the University apart

By Robin Morden



The photo was taken in the Red Room, located in the centre of the Mathematics and Computer building on the 10th anniversary of the IBM 360 Model 75, the most powerful computer in Canada at the time. (From left to right) Paul Dirksen, Wes Graham, Don Cowan, Jerry Bolce, Gwen Burgess, Rod Milne, Sandra Ward, Dave Styles (IBM service), Joe Benediktson, Peter Sprung



The machines felt like magical beasts in those days.

JERRY BOLCE (MSc '66)

What makes computer science at Waterloo so special? You could point to the larger-than-life figures, the spin-off successes or the technological breakthroughs.

But for Jerry Bolce (MSc '66), an early pioneer of computing at Waterloo, it all starts with culture.

As a final-year undergrad at Queen's University in the early 1960s, Bolce sought out a recently created computer lab, only to be rudely apprehended at the door. "What are you doing here? This lab is for faculty only."

"Fine, I won't be returning," Bolce remembered thinking.

A couple of years later, after a stint working for IBM, Bolce came to Waterloo to do a master's degree and worked for Wes Graham in the Computing Centre.

From the beginning, Waterloo felt different. The people were young and adventurous. And the University had made the uncommon decision to let undergrads access its computers. Once, a local high school student even turned up at the centre, asking if he could use the computers. Wes Graham's response was telling: "As long as it's educational, sure!"

The ethos was in sync with the free-spirited 1960s and Bolce enjoyed the youthful camaraderie.

The problem solver

Yet, for all its virtues, the open-door computing policy created its share of technical and logistical challenges, many of which fell to Bolce to solve. With so much demand for computing, finding ways to allocate the resource fairly and efficiently proved challenging.

Bolce wrote code that enabled computers to move programs from the foreground to the background, ensuring that lower-priority and slow-processing projects didn't create huge backlogs. His efforts were also crucial to developing Waterloo's famous "cafeteria-style computing," in which students could put their jobs into a card reader and get the output at a printer nearby. In the 1980s, he created JANET, the first local area network (LAN) to connect an IBM Personal Computers (PCs) lab at Waterloo.

Never a "salesman type," Bolce avoided the spotlight, yet his innovative contributions were foundational to computer science at Waterloo. Without his behind-the-scenes work, no one else could do theirs.

He retired in 1996, turning his attention to his extensive orchid collection and travel, but he has remained connected to the University. In 2016, he established the Jerome Bolce Entrance Award.

Change and continuity through the years

Bolce has seen remarkable advances in computing in his lifetime but retains a fondness for the early IBMs with their physical switches and flashing lights: "Those were exciting days when you felt like you really had your fingers in it."

He recalls how students would crowd around the windows of the Red Room (the lab that housed the University's supercomputers) to see the work unfold. "The machines felt like magical beasts in those days," said Bolce.

The University has grown and evolved too, but in many ways the spirit of the early days lives on. The Faculty of Mathematics is planning a new building, Math 4 (M4), which will be home to some of its top researchers in cybersecurity, statistics and computer science, among other fields, and that will accelerate research in data science. Just as the early Waterloo math researchers were powered by the Red Room and its IBM computers – some of the fastest in Canada at the time – today's math researchers will benefit from state-of-the-art computing housed in M4. Specifically, the building will feature the Green Room, an energy-efficient data centre containing computing infrastructure capable of fueling the Faculty's most cutting-edge research while simultaneously heating the building. Its name is a nod to the Red Room and pioneers like Bolce, who helped make the Faculty what it is today.

When he sees the success of the Faculty and the David Cheriton School of Computer Science – ranked the top computer science school in Canada – he is proud to have played a part. But, forever humble, he is quick to deflect praise. "There were so many people involved," said Jerry. "It was always such a strong community." ♥

THAT BAND PLAYED HERE?



From Stevie Wonder to Joni Mitchell, iconic musicians rocked this town

By Nancy Harper

For people coming of age in the late '60s and early '70s – when politics, protest, free love and Vietnam were top of mind – Waterloo wasn't exactly ground zero for the prevailing counterculture.

Yet the power of music had become a unifying force for an entire generation like never before, and thanks to an enterprising young engineering student, it did more than bring people together at the University of Waterloo. It transformed the social scene.

"That band played here?" is a familiar refrain from those who can't quite believe their moms and dads got to see the likes of Elton John, the Bee Gees, Joni Mitchell, Ike and Tina Turner, Cat Stevens, Joe Cocker, Stevie Wonder, Chicago, Frank Zappa, Steppenwolf, BB King, Chuck Berry and Johnny Winter – on campus, in Waterloo of all places – for a couple of bucks a pop.



Betty Anne Keller
(BA '69)



Joe Recchia
(BASC '68, MASC '71)

Now, the documentary *Rock This Town*, produced by Waterloo alum Betty Anne Keller (BA '69), gives alumni of a certain age an opportunity to relive the glory.

Shining a spotlight on iconic musicians who performed on campus and around the region in the late '60s and early '70s, the film's narrative thread is woven around the experiences of engineering student Joe Recchia (BASC '68, MASC '71) and others who helped put Waterloo on the map.

"I came onto the campus and it was a social wasteland," Recchia said. "There was nothing. But I was driven. People back then were dying to have entertainment in their lives. They came to the University of Waterloo to learn but they also came to socialize."

Recchia's wildly successful run as a concert promoter started with a first dance. More bookings followed as Waterloo students showed up in droves. And when word spread across the region and beyond to culture-starved students at other campuses, Recchia knew he needed to attract more talent. He reached out to New York agencies with a lot of big acts on their books, and things snowballed from there.

→ 12

→ 12A

→ 23

→ 23A



“They knew Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal,” Recchia said. “They were like, ‘Holy shit, there’s another market in Canada?’”

“I developed a relationship, and they believed in me. If your word is good, people will trust you. They started offering me everything under the sun. We were getting calls when they needed a venue in a hurry – and we were making enough money that we could payroll anything we wanted to.”

In fact, one of the acts Recchia booked – the supergroup Chicago, then called Chicago Transit Authority – was virtually unknown until they did a gig in Waterloo.

“They were nobody,” Recchia recalled. “Their agent sent the act up to be showcased and they got 30 dates in Canada. That’s when the American colleges started to pay attention. The more acts I booked, the closer I got to these people.”

Although hard-pressed to pick a favourite act, Recchia said the Bee Gees, who played on campus in 1975, were particularly awesome.

“It was a time in their career where they were very hot. We paid them the most money we paid anybody. It was a band at their peak, and they lived up to it. They did it magnificently.”

Given that the University of Waterloo was founded on a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, it’s not all that surprising that Recchia and his engineering peers, who knew so little about the music business when they started, got the support they needed to make a go of it.

“In those days, student politics were pretty left of centre,” said *Rock This Town* producer Keller, who was dating Recchia at the time and was active behind the scenes. “A student activity fee was being collected and Joe was given a mandate to spend the money on entertainment, so he set out to buy talent for rock ‘n roll concerts for ridiculously low prices (as low as two dollars). I have a memory of these tremendous concerts where everybody just sat on the floor of the PAC.”

“My purpose in producing the film was to make the case that for a music scene to happen, one of the key factors is the entrepreneurs who are willing to take the risk to make stuff happen.”

“I set out to interview the people I knew had done that kind of work in the community. All these people gave their perspective on the business side of the music, but the juicy bits in the film are the stories people tell of their experiences in a particular time period from ‘65 to ‘75.”

“Music drove the culture, and we were part of the music scene. Kitchener-Waterloo is not Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal. It required a certain level of entrepreneurship to make the music happen here. That’s the message I’m hoping to convey with *Rock This Town* – that music is a key part of a cultural ecosystem





It required a certain level of entrepreneurship to make the music happen here. That’s the message I’m hoping to convey with *Rock This Town* – that music is a key part of a cultural ecosystem in any community and that it was possible to have that in Waterloo region.

ROCK THIS TOWN PRODUCER **BETTY ANNE KELLER** (BA '69)



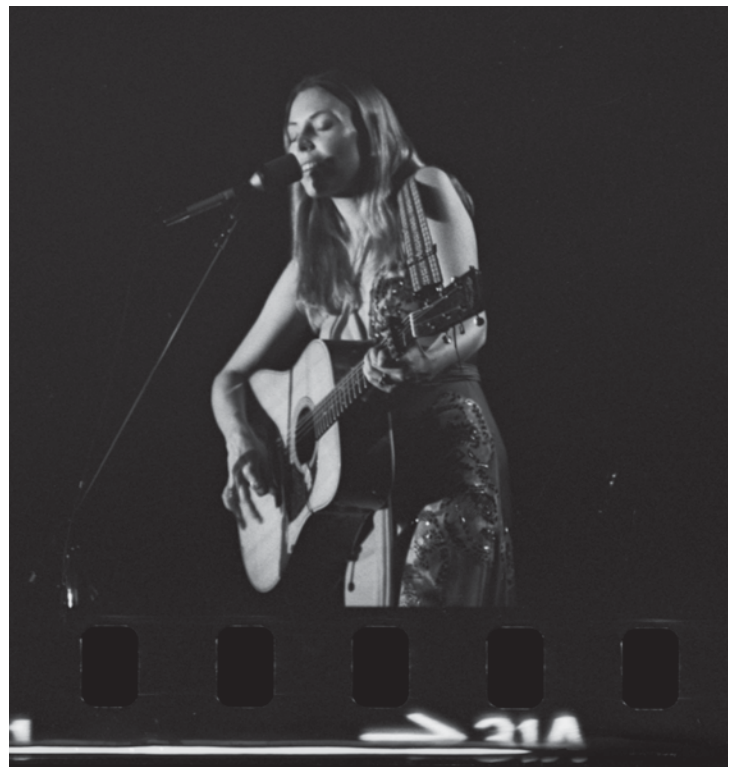
in any community and that it was possible to have that in Waterloo region.”

When *Rock This Town* premiered at Waterloo’s Princess Cinemas in March 2022, Keller was expecting perhaps five shows. The film ended up running for four months – and although most movie-goers were alumni from the era it depicts, Keller was pleasantly surprised at the reaction from younger viewers.

“The boomers played the music they love, and their kids grew up listening to it,” she said. “The film has been very well received. It includes lot of music, about 30 songs. It’s very entertaining.”

Recchia said *Rock This Town* is a faithful depiction of the Waterloo of that era, and he’s confident alumni will get a major shot of nostalgia from watching it.

“They’re going to get their memories. This is their history,” he said. ♥



As part of Alumni Weekend 2023, a special screening of *Rock This Town* – produced by Betty Anne Keller (BA '69) and co-directed by Paul Campsall and Tom Knowlton – will take place **Friday, June 2 at Fed Hall.**

→ SCAN TO REGISTER

COMING HOME

For more than six decades, the Waterloo campus has been the backdrop to many of Ken McLaughlin's fondest professional and family memories

By Stephanie Longway



*University of Waterloo
campus (1962)*

*Kenneth McLaughlin
(BA '65)*

As a professor of history, Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin (BA '65) is skilled at piecing together records and events to tell stories that make sense of our past. He is fondly known around campus as **the expert** on the University of Waterloo, carefully documenting the University's origins and important milestones. His three books on the subject include *Waterloo: The Unconventional Founding of an Unconventional University*.

While McLaughlin has been the keeper of many important Waterloo memories, the University holds many of his. The distinguished professor emeritus reflects on some of his personal memories of campus, starting from his first visit as a high school student in 1960.

"My friend from Preston High School drove us up in his dad's car to view the campus, but we initially couldn't find it," McLaughlin laughed. "There was just a gravel road back then." He added that the campus only had two buildings at that time: the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering building and the Physics and Mathematics building.



University of Waterloo campus (1962)

McLaughlin returned the following year, enrolled in the second class ever to be taught in the Faculty of Arts. He earned a BA in 1965, continued his education at Dalhousie University and then at the University of Toronto where he earned his PhD. Throughout these years, he remained in touch with his Waterloo professors. When McLaughlin accepted a Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship at Dalhousie he wanted to visit Waterloo before leaving for Halifax. Newly married, he took his wife, Elizabeth, to show her the campus and meet the professors that had inspired him.

“We walked into the history department and ran into the chair, Paul Cornell. He told me they were moving into a new humanities building that was under construction. Paul said, ‘We’re identifying offices for people on the blueprint, and we put your name on this office.’ I was flattered but I had already accepted the Killam at Dalhousie.”

Soon after, McLaughlin wrote to Cornell saying he would like to come back to Waterloo.

“It was the link between the professors and students, and the personal touch of Waterloo that moved me – literally.” He and his wife left Halifax and McLaughlin officially joined Waterloo faculty in 1970. “For me, it was coming home.”



“My granddaughter, Carrie Hallman, at age 1 and her dog, Shadow, watching over her at my 65th birthday with the Rt. Hon. David Johnston who said, ‘You need to meet people on their level.’” (2008)



“The McLaughlin family at St. Jerome’s for the introduction for my book, *Race, Religion and Politics*.” (2019).

Front row, from left: Jamie Hallman, Skye vanHeiningen, Carrie Hallman, Janet McLaughlin, Nicola McLaughlin, Dylan Hallman, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Sebastian vanHeiningen. Back row, from left: John Hallman, Ken McLaughlin, Willem vanHeiningen.



“My retirement party hosted by the history department in 2008. My shirt depicts a Chevrolet and other images from 1957 in memory of the year of the University’s founding and of my first years at Waterloo.” (2008)

Waterloo has remained home to McLaughlin and his family ever since. He chuckles recalling that his daughters, Nicola and Janet, were practically raised on campus, attending social events and spending weekends together at St. Jerome’s where he began teaching in 1975. McLaughlin believes that families are vital to academic and professional success. “It is the support of family of all generations that makes it possible.”

His grandchildren are now part of the traditions. McLaughlin remembers the exact moment he understood the generational impact Waterloo has had on his family.

“I used to bring my grandchildren to the engineering science quest summer program. One day they took me to see their projects, marching me across the campus and leading me on their own route. It was in through the Physics and Mathematics building, the very one I had first been in when I came to campus. It is so full of memories for me and to see this new generation – a third generation now – running through the same hallways of this building is amazing. They have the same excitement of being on campus as I had.”

McLaughlin hopes Waterloo will continue to be a campus where the excitement of learning, in whatever field students embrace, is combined with a sense of community.

He is now retired but still no stranger to campus. His work has helped tell the story of Waterloo – and both the University and McLaughlin are better because of it.

“I have always felt incredibly fortunate to have been part of Waterloo. And I still do. It has shaped my life in ways that no other university could have done.” ♥



I have always felt incredibly fortunate to have been part of Waterloo. And I still do. It has shaped my life in ways that no other university could have done.

DR. KENNETH MCLAUGHLIN (BA '65)



“Touring campus with the current President and Vice-Chancellor, Vivek Goel.” (2022)

→ TAKE A WALK THROUGH TIME as Waterloo alumnus and distinguished professor emeritus Ken McLaughlin



Going the **DISTANCE**



Waterloo alum brings a decade of student experience to her innovation work

By Melodie Roschman

Stephanie Whitney's (BASc '04, MEB '13, PhD '19) Waterloo experience has been a marathon, not a sprint.

When Whitney enrolled at the University of Waterloo in 1998 to study environmental and chemical engineering and management science, she pictured herself acing her classes, building professional connections in co-op, and then moving forward to a career in industry. She did not realize that her career would bring her back to campus repeatedly – first for a master's degree, then a PhD, and finally last summer to take on the role of director for research and innovation partnerships in the Faculty of Mathematics.

Before all those achievements, however, she had to learn how to fail.

Although Whitney had excelled in high school, her first year of university was a big adjustment. Despite acing some of her classes, she failed her first semester by 0.5 per cent. "That failure shook me to my core," she recalled. "I had to accept it in order to learn how to succeed."

Twelve students in her cohort failed that semester and only four returned. Whitney was one of the four.

"Failure is just a learning experience," she said.

"It's not something to shy away from. It's better to be ambitious and fail than to always play it safe." Whitney threw herself into her work, building connections with classmates and mentors.

Although her first co-op experience at a chemical distribution company was "nerve-racking," she loved learning on the job, eventually doing terms in Waterloo, Toronto and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Whitney also discovered the passion that would sustain her throughout her career: long-distance running. She volunteer-taught "learn to run" courses at the Running Room and realized she loved to support learning.

After six years of working in industry, Whitney found herself back at Waterloo again, in a new master's program focused on helping industry partners address sustainability challenges. She built enduring relationships: with Amelia Clarke, who has served as the inaugural director of the Master of Environment and Business program and the associate dean of research for the Faculty of Environment, and with Ian Rowlands, associate vice-president of Waterloo International.





Failure is just a learning experience. It's not something to shy away from. It's better to be ambitious and fail than to always play it safe.

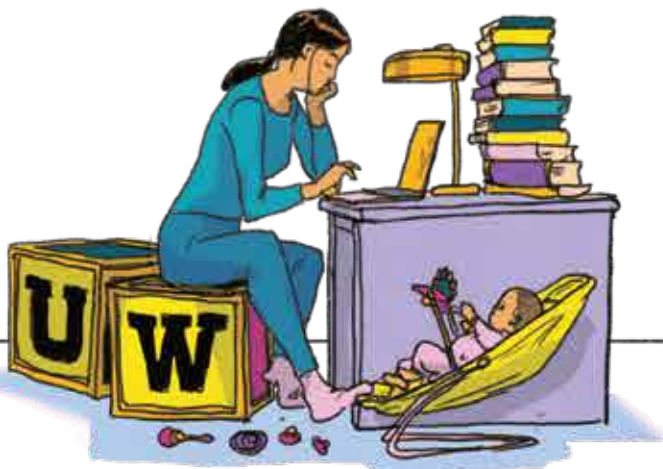
STEPHANIE WHITNEY (BASC '04, MEB '13, PhD '19)

A few years later, while pregnant with her second child, Whitney enrolled in a PhD program in Social and Ecological Sustainability. She gave birth two weeks into the first term and brought her daughter to class so she could keep learning. When she graduated, her advisor urged her to consider the more conventional route of the professoriate. But she knew what she wanted to do: help build those relationships that had shaped her research and career.

Last year, Whitney accepted a position as director for research and innovation partnerships in the Faculty of Mathematics. She helps faculty engage existing and prospective partners in the research process, from program design to co-creating outputs and impact. She also uses her experience and connections as a student, researcher and practitioner to help build mutually beneficial relationships with industry.

“Her broad background in science and engineering makes her ideally suited to connect researchers with partners outside the traditional tech industry, including partners in finance and partners addressing the climate emergency,” said Charles Clarke (MMath '90, PhD '96), associate dean for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. “With her deep knowledge of real-world problems, she magnifies the research efforts of professors and graduate students in the Faculty of Mathematics.”

Whitney is bringing the lessons she learned in her long journey at Waterloo to her innovation work. Experience is a lens, helping her envision the best way forward for the next leg of this race. ♥





THE COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT AWARD

CULTIVATES POSITIVE CHANGE

*TRACE Showcase event (April 2, 2022)
hosted by the University of Waterloo
African Student Association (UWASA)*

Inspired by Waterloo’s student-led clubs, Arts alum gives back with award to help African, Caribbean and Black undergrads build community

By Claire Francis (BA '99)

Initially drawn to Waterloo’s Speech Communication program, Michael Robson (BA '13) began playing varsity football at Waterloo. As an athlete, he was familiar with team spirit and building community with his teammates. Through interactions with student clubs, he discovered a different aspect of the importance of community.

After a hip injury in Robson’s third year, he had to step away from playing football due to surgery. Consequently, he spent more time in the Student Life Centre and connected with some of Waterloo’s student clubs. In particular, he spent time with members of UWASA (the University of Waterloo African Students Association), UW BASE (the Black Association for Student Expression) and ACS (the Association of Caribbean Students).

These clubs offered Robson a welcoming environment. Despite being new to the clubs, he found himself in a non-judgmental space among people who embraced him as one of their own. “They listened to me talk and included me, even though I had never participated before.”

Besides being a great place to make friends and feel at home, the student-led clubs also work to promote social and cultural awareness and give students opportunities to volunteer and build new skills, said Robson.



A big part of why I got to where I am was the support I received as a student from these clubs.

MICHAEL ROBSON (BA '13)



Sumaya Nur (BSc '21)

Reflecting on his professional success, Robson noted that he doesn't believe in the idea of a self-made individual. "A big part of why I got to where I am was the support I received as a student from these clubs." The time Robson spent with these clubs inspired him to establish the Collective Movement Award for Community Leadership. "If I needed these clubs back then, there are probably students now that need them as well. And I wanted to give back to say thank you to those who were there for me during that time."

Robson acknowledged the importance of not only community but coming together and supporting community leaders. The award recognizes and provides financial support for University of Waterloo undergrads who are actively involved with or have positively impacted African, Caribbean and Black communities through extracurricular or volunteer involvement. Established by Robson, the fund is maintained via contributions from fellow alumni and friends who share his vision.

One graduate who benefited from the alum-funded award is Sumaya Nur (BSc '21). She was deeply touched to receive the award in 2021. In highlighting her experience, Nur noted the meaningful impact a gift to diverse students can have when it comes from diverse alum. "I think that's the most inspiring part of it all. I admire those who give back to those who come from a shared identity and those who are contributing to the community."

During her last year of studies, Nur founded a community organization called The Rights Project. The project aims to work alongside racialized communities to share and spread information on their legal rights and provide those within these communities with the tools to confidently advocate for themselves. In the role of executive director, Nur learned the importance of supporting those who are systemically overlooked.

As a philanthropy co-ordinator at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Nur credited her time in Waterloo's community for her life's trajectory. "I would not be who I currently am without the support that I had at Waterloo – without the friends I made, without the professors that I encountered," Nur said. Her passion for social justice grew through conversations with her friends while at Waterloo. Their discussions were powerful and "ignited a fire" within her.

Robson recalled the sense of community planted during his time at Waterloo. Heading into the working world, his sense of confidence came from having a loving home and loving communities at school, including teachers who cared. "My life is very different now after having been given this award and meeting people I didn't know beforehand."

Waterloo's communities foster positive interactions and provide students with unforgettable experiences that positively impact their lives. Like Nur, Robson encouraged Waterloo students to invest in their communities. "I feel like the more we put out positive energy, the more our lives become a positive space." ♥

Donate to the Collective Movement Award

→ SCAN TO GIVE





CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF GLOW

The Glow Centre spans decades of making a difference to thousands of 2SLGBTQIA+ folks

By Angelica Marie Sanchez (BA '21)

The Glow Centre (previously GLOW, GLOW and WUGLM) is the oldest continuously running university-based 2SLGBTQIA+ group in Canada. The group of dedicated student volunteers provide a wide variety of peer support, social events, advocacy work and resources for anyone who needs it.



Glow became an important piece of my story because it opened the conversation.

MARK SCHAAN (BA '02)

Despite knowing about Glow before starting his undergrad at Waterloo, Paul Barton (BSc '82) spent the first two years passing by the Glow Centre and weekly coffeehouse meeting held in the Student Life Centre (SLC). In the summer of 1980, he finally dared to act and joined Glow as a volunteer.

"I answered the phone helpline, advocated for gay rights with the local municipality and wrote regular columns in Imprint and the Glow newsletter," Barton said. He remembers the monthly dances held by Glow in Waterloo's humanities building (now Arts Lecture Hall) becoming a meaningful experience he could never forget, and he even met someone.



"It was just such a profound experience to finally do something that I had thought about my entire life," Barton said. "To actually go somewhere where I did not have to guess if someone was gay or not. To finally be among my chosen family."

For more than 50 years, Glow has fostered a supportive network that aims to promote a positive, welcoming environment to everyone regardless of sexual orientation, romantic orientation or gender identity.

Throughout his degree, Mark Schaan (BA '02) was very involved with the Federation of Students – now known as the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) – where he spent a lot of time in the SLC and eventually became an assistant editor of Imprint. Although he wasn't involved with Glow, he knew many volunteers through Imprint and the student government. One of those connections helped him come out.



Glow has provided me with incredible ways to find community among fellow members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community at Waterloo. While also providing invaluable professional development in team management, self-direction, and advocacy work.

AJ, CO-ORDINATOR OF GLOW CENTRE



Rahim Thawer (BA '08)

“Glow played this extraordinary role in my coming out,” Schaan said. “Before university, I was a sheltered kid from a Mennonite community in Manitoba. At Waterloo, I was exposed to the world and was kind of figuring things out. Glow became an important piece of my story because it opened the conversation. I had never met a proud, out, queer individual before university. Glow created the infrastructure that allowed for this connection to happen, ultimately driving me to find a huge chunk of myself.”

Glow continues to be a safe space where students can visit the centre during peer support hours and experience confidential help from trained student volunteers.

For Rahim Thawer (BA '08), after coming out to his family, he was ready to engage in community programs and found the Glow Centre to be a lifechanging experience. Thawer started attending Glow discussion groups that were held on Wednesday nights in Hagey Hall, as an opportunity to meet other people from the community and discuss really important issues.

“I realize now that you can get accepting spaces and you can get fun spaces,” Thawer said. “But explicitly affirming ones, where you are celebrated and not merely tolerated – they are hard to come by. Glow really provided that for me.”

TAP INTO EMERGING TALENT

Hire a Waterloo co-op student

Then, Mark was an engineering co-op student at R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited. Now, he hires co-op students to work on community-driven development projects for the company.

Finding his own passion while on co-op, Mark understands the low risk and high-reward of hiring co-op students.

Hiring students (like Mark) can have a lasting impact at your organization.

MARK KABBES

Co-op alum,
BASC '13



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FP2345

KEEP YOUR HEAD UP

Two Waterloo alumni launch foundation to help those recovering from traumatic brain injuries

By Angelica Marie Sanchez (BA '21)

Athletes are often at risk of experiencing sports-related concussions – a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI) that can result in temporary or persistent symptoms and can have a lasting impact beyond physical symptoms.

In 2011, Felicia Corrado (BPH '19) sustained a concussion during a ringette game. She had persistent symptoms: chronic headaches, nausea, light sensitivity and ringing in her ears. Corrado had difficulty going through the recovery journey on her own, where her symptoms resulted in multiple stressors in her life.

Allie Harrison (BSc '21), who was a year younger, had heard about Corrado missing school but did not fully understand how chronic headaches can impact a person's life. It was not until a year-and-a-half later, when Harrison sustained a concussion while playing rugby, that she quickly learned Corrado's absence was much more than a headache. She reached out to Corrado for advice.

Discovering a connection through recovery

"We both found ourselves struggling with post-concussion syndrome with no one else to relate to," Harrison said. "But we were able to share our experiences and support one another in a way few others could understand. We leaned on one another to get through our tough times and to celebrate our victories."

Corrado and Harrison ended up attending the University of Waterloo for Public Health and Health Studies. Courses in both programs had significant overlaps so the two often worked on group projects together and even chose concussions as their topic.

"Our experiences are not identical, but we confided in each other with the ongoing struggles we both face with traumatic brain injuries," Corrado said. "As athletes who were really driven academically, it was hard to suddenly not feel like who we were before our injuries. We were lucky to have our connection and support for each other."

Keep Your Head Up Foundation

Immediately after their connection, Corrado and Harrison started talking about making a difference in the TBI community one day so that others do not have to face the challenges they faced alone.

Founders Felicia Corrado (left) and Allie Harrison



We were lucky to have our connection and support for each other.

FELICIA CORRADO (BPH '19)

"Those living with the effects of TBI often mask how they are really feeling," Corrado said. "It can be tough to pretend like your symptoms are non-existent when they impact your ability to function, but constantly explaining to those around you can be challenging and overwhelming."

A decade later, while their recoveries continue to this day, Corrado and Harrison founded the Keep Your Head Up Foundation, through which people affected by brain injuries can feel supported, connected and empowered to build the resilience they need to navigate their recovery journeys.

The foundation offers free programs and recovery toolkits for those in the Region of Waterloo, and there are plans to expand across Canada. It also provides resources for families and friends to support loved ones through their TBI recovery.

"Living with our injuries has presented many challenges throughout the years," Harrison said. "But it has been a very therapeutic part of our healing process to share our stories with the community. It led us to where we are today with the Keep Your Head Up Foundation – making an important impact within a community that is in dire need of more support." ♥

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER(LOO)

The University fuels a collaborative spirit by attracting the best talent to a thriving community

By Kira Vermont

John Baker (BASC '00) remembered exactly where he was when he had a eureka moment that would not only change his life, but the lives of more than 15.5 million people worldwide. It happened in the late 1990s when Baker was walking to his systems design engineering class.

As he booked it across campus, Baker wrestled with a question that had been percolating for months: What was the most important problem he could solve that would have the biggest impact on the world?

“And it hit me. I couldn’t think of anything bigger than transforming the way the world learns,” Baker said recently. “Learning has this wonderful ripple effect. It really is the foundation upon which we make progress.”

Fast forward to 2023. Baker’s global online learning company D2L has more than 1,100 employees, millions of users and offices in Australia, Brazil, Singapore and the U.S., yet retains a head office in Kitchener. And for good reason, said Baker. The University supported him as an undergraduate, even when he took a co-op term off to start the company – something that was unheard of back then.

“The cool thing about Waterloo is they never said ‘no.’ They just said, ‘I don’t know how we’re going to do this,’” he said.

D2L’s origin story is just one of hundreds that have become lore since Waterloo, a university that sprung up in the middle of muddy southwestern Ontario farm country in 1957, evolved to become an inspiring springboard of technological innovation drawing students and innovators from around the world.

Think BlackBerry, which put instant communication in the palm of our hands. Think OpenText, which went from helping create the first online Oxford English Dictionary to becoming a leader in enterprise information management software. And don’t forget Maplesoft, with its user-friendly platform that crunched algebra and calculus for more efficient, accurate data.

Tom Lee (BASC '88, MASC '90, PhD '96), remembers the early days of technology and software development on campus, back when math, engineering, tech and science students came together to simply build, as he called it, “weird stuff.” Forget Silicon Valley career dreams, stock options and mega bonuses. Back in the '80s and early '90s, it was about bringing cool ideas to life, not building companies or getting rich.

“When you look at the very successful companies, none of them came out of some orthodox business analysis of markets. It was a bunch of people who knew how to cobble together interesting, advanced things that were fun to make,” said Lee, who started his Maplesoft career in 1989 and eventually earned the title “chief evangelist.”

Since then, an incubation framework has emerged in the region that includes Communitech, Velocity and the Master of



John Baker
(BASC '00)



Tom Lee
(BASC '88, MASC '90,
PhD '96)



Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology (MBET) program, which has produced more than 750 MBET alumni in 150 countries. The real shift from Waterloo's scrappy beginnings to tech startup and commercialization mecca might never have happened, however, without the University's Intellectual Property (IP) Rights policy, which grants ownership to the inventor.

That's what David Yach (BMath '83) believes. He once worked for University spinoff software company WATCOM, run by Wes Graham, widely regarded as the "father of computing" at Waterloo.

"I worked for his startup except I don't think the word had been invented yet," Yach quipped, explaining he was one of the few graduates who worked for a software company at the time. Most tech grads found positions at banks or utility IT departments. "I felt very privileged and thrilled to actually get a salary for writing code!"

That was before Yach joined BlackBerry (then Research in Motion) in 1998. He worked there until 2012, but when he arrived, he had no idea what a BlackBerry device was. By then, Waterloo's reputation for encouraging IT and commerce was taking form and the University drew some of the best talent from across Canada and beyond. Momentum grew as companies such as BlackBerry matured.

Although BlackBerry has since shrunk in size, Yach described its influence as a dandelion blowing in the wind.

"You know, the seeds are planted everywhere," he said. When he now talks to local tech leaders, they'll often bring up their former BlackBerry devices. "BlackBerry is having, interestingly, a huge long-term impact on the tech community here because of the people we brought to the area."

Waterloo is a thriving hub of innovation, and with its myriad of tech startup support and co-op opportunities, the University is evolving to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world.

That means students and professionals from other disciplines are building careers in technology, too. Take Mandy Lam (BA '05, MA '07), strategic communications director at D2L who also spent 14 years at OpenText. The former English major remembers how Waterloo's spirit of innovation spread to every student, no matter their discipline. It didn't hurt that the area's tech industry was but a few streets away.

"It informed a lot of those decisions I made as an Arts student. 'Hey, maybe I should learn how to build websites. Hey, maybe I should take those tech courses,'" she said. "It's just part of the culture at UWaterloo – to generate employees of the future."

“

It was a bunch of people who knew how to cobble together interesting, advanced things that were fun to make.

TOM LEE (BAsc '88, MASc '90, PhD '96)



David Yach
(BMath '83)



Anna-Maria Brokalakis
(BA in progress)



Mandy Lam
(BA '05, MA '07)

Anna-Maria Brokalakis (BA in progress), a third-year English major, agreed that the University – and its renowned co-op program – helped her shape a potential career path in technology. Although she did well in math and science in high school, she chose a path as an Arts student, but still wanted to explore her inquisitive and pragmatic side. Technical writing fit the bill.

"I realized that it's essentially back-door access to the tech industry as a non-tech person," she said.

That decision paid off. Despite having no professional technical writing experience, BlackBerry hired her as a co-op student. It turned out her hiring manager was an Arts grad from Waterloo, too, and knew her education gave Brokalakis what she needed to be up to the task. This spring she'll be completing a third work term with the company.

This next generation of risk-takers and technology enthusiasts will continue what Waterloo's alumni started.

"I think the genius of Waterloo is it loves innovators," said D2L's Baker. "If you bring in smart students who want to change the world, and you sprinkle other entrepreneurs into that ecosystem, it's going to be very fertile ground for a generation of new ideas that lead to great companies." ♥



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From capstone project to **INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS**

Throughout Vidyard's evolution there has been one constant: Talent from the University of Waterloo

By Rose Simone

When Michael Litt looks back at Vidyard's 13-year timeline, he is amazed.

Then: Michael Litt (BSc '11) and his business partner Devon Galloway (BSc '10) were finishing up their Systems Design Engineering studies in 2010 when they saw an opportunity for a startup in the video sharing space.

Now: Vidyard has about 300 employees, international hubs in the United States and UK, more than 12 million users and is selling its products and services to about 160,000 companies.

What started as a video production company that embedded videos on company websites has become a dynamic video creation, sharing and analytics platform that incorporates sophisticated chat and artificial intelligence into its products.

Throughout it all, there has been a constant: The talented graduates and co-op students from the University of Waterloo.

"We've been able to amplify our efforts in the innovation arena because of access to the incredible talent that the University generates," said Litt, who is the chief executive officer at Vidyard. His classmate Devon Galloway is the chief technology officer.

Litt attributes the successful launch of the company to the skill set taught in the Systems Design Engineering program at Waterloo.

"It helps you think at a level that is truly solution oriented. You're equipped with this mindset of breaking down a problem into its solvable components. That, I think, is an often-overlooked aspect of what an engineering degree is at the University of Waterloo."

The co-op program that alternates work terms with university studies helps form the entrepreneurial and innovative mindset, he adds. It also allowed Litt and Galloway to be self-employed for a term, which led to them launching Redwoods Media, which evolved into Vidyard.

Also, in the final year of their degree, Litt and Galloway worked on a Capstone design project that formed the basis of their video startup.



Founders Mike Litt (left) and Devon Galloway (right)

They won a highly coveted spot in the Y Combinator accelerator program, one of the most successful startup accelerators in the United States. It provided seed money, advice and connections.

Then they landed back in the Region of Waterloo, where they initially set up shop in the Velocity Incubator before outgrowing the space and establishing offices in Kitchener.

The University's policy of allowing innovators to fully own their inventions was also key to their success, Litt added. "The University of Waterloo steps out of the way completely and allows innovation to naturally happen."

Litt was named to Canada's Top 40 Under 40 list in 2019 due to the company's success. But there has been no time to rest on laurels.

Today, in the era of Zoom, TikTok and rapidly changing video technology, Vidyard has innovated and remade itself several times over.

While other companies focused on live video, Vidyard developed a business in "asynchronous" video communication.

It serves businesses that want to record and create a video presentation for an online meeting, or to send to their customers by email. The video presentation can be enhanced with an animation or chat tool. There are analytics to determine, for example, how long a customer was engaged with a video presentation. In all of this, artificial intelligence tools are being deployed.

To do that, Vidyard wants to be connected to the fountain of talent at the University and the region. "It is really important to be in a culture where innovation is embraced," Litt said.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the pace of change. Suddenly, with travel suspended, staff and salespeople were working from home. Vidyard's solutions became even more attractive. "Overnight, the volume of new users we were acquiring on a weekly basis quadrupled, and it hasn't stopped

since,” Litt said. “The pandemic truly validated what we were working on.”

Today, Vidyard is not just continuing to innovate and draw from the University’s talent pool. Its co-founders are giving back as well.

Along with another Waterloo alum, Mike McCauley (BASC ’11), who was the co-founder of BufferBox that sold to Google, they have started a venture capital firm called Garage Capital that has invested in about 140 local startups.

“We are part of the early-stage financing ecosystem, not only for Waterloo but for Canada,” Litt said. “We want to prove Canada has a strong place in the future of innovation, not only for this country but for the world.”

On a personal level, mentoring the next generation of founders is a “phenomenal journey,” Litt said. “I love learning from them as much as I teach them.”

Vidyard co-founders Devon Galloway (left) and Michael Litt stand on the roof of 1 Queen St. North in the heart of downtown Kitchener (Communitech photo: Anthony Reinhart)



We’ve been able to amplify our efforts in the innovation arena because of access to the incredible talent that the University generates.

MICHAEL LITT (BASC ’11)

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Building bridges and **SATELLITE CAMPUSES**

Away from the main Waterloo campus, specialized schools are anything but isolated

By Jon Parsons

When many people think of the University of Waterloo, they think of the sprawling main campus, with its iconic buildings and courtyards, bustling with students.

But the University also has satellite campuses spread out across the Region of Waterloo and beyond, including the downtown Kitchener campus of the School of Pharmacy, the Cambridge campus of the School of Architecture and the Stratford campus of the School of Interaction Design and Business.

Although geographically separate from the main campus, there is a gravity that holds these distinct spaces together in common purpose.

Stratford campus

For Austin Jack (GBDA in progress), a fourth-year student in the Global Business and Digital Arts program, building a sense of community is second nature.

He's been helping students to become better design thinkers through an initiative called UWCube, a collaborative program giving hands-on experience and linking students with mentors.

"Having a little bit of separation from the main campus allows for a tighter community, and everybody in my program knows everybody else," Jack said. "But during the pandemic almost everything was online, and I think that made for a different sense of connection with the broader Waterloo community. Since things have returned to in-person, there's still lots of connections and collaboration across the campuses."



*Austin Jack
(GBDA in progress)*





Cambridge campus

Arfa Aijazi is a new School of Architecture faculty member whose research focuses on how climate change impacts building performance. Although much of her work as an architectural engineer is at the Cambridge campus, she also spends time on the main campus.

“Waterloo has a reputation of being among the leading engineering schools in the world,” Aijazi said. “I was excited by the new architectural engineering program and the ambition to bring architecture and engineering disciplines together. The program is building bridges, and the students and professors hop back and forth, depending on our course assignments for the term.”

As a new faculty member who joined the University in 2022, Aijazi said she immediately felt welcomed by her colleagues in the School of Architecture and the Faculty of Engineering.

Along with its campus in Cambridge, the School of Architecture also has a studio in Rome, Italy, one of the most architecturally impressive cities in the world. The studio hosts students and researchers with a desire to take the satellite campus experience even further afield.



Arfa Aijazi



Kitchener campus

When Dr. Rui Su (BSc '18, PharmD '18) completed her degree at Waterloo's School of Pharmacy, she already had a clear idea of the challenges facing the health-care and pharmacy sector.

“Working in diverse co-ops in the community, hospitals and rural and urban settings allowed me to see the systematic gaps within the health care system and the systematic challenges that pharmacists from different practice settings face,” Su said.

That's what inspired Su and her co-founders to launch their own startup, MedMe Health. It's a system that connects patients and pharmacists in a streamlined and intuitive way. The platform has been used by more than 20 million patients across Canada.

Su feels the University's entrepreneurial ecosystem and spirit of innovation links all the campuses together.

“There's a whole network that allowed me to speak to other founders and entrepreneurial people, and that's how I connected to the co-founders I work with today.”



Dr. Rui Su
(BSc '18, PharmD '18)

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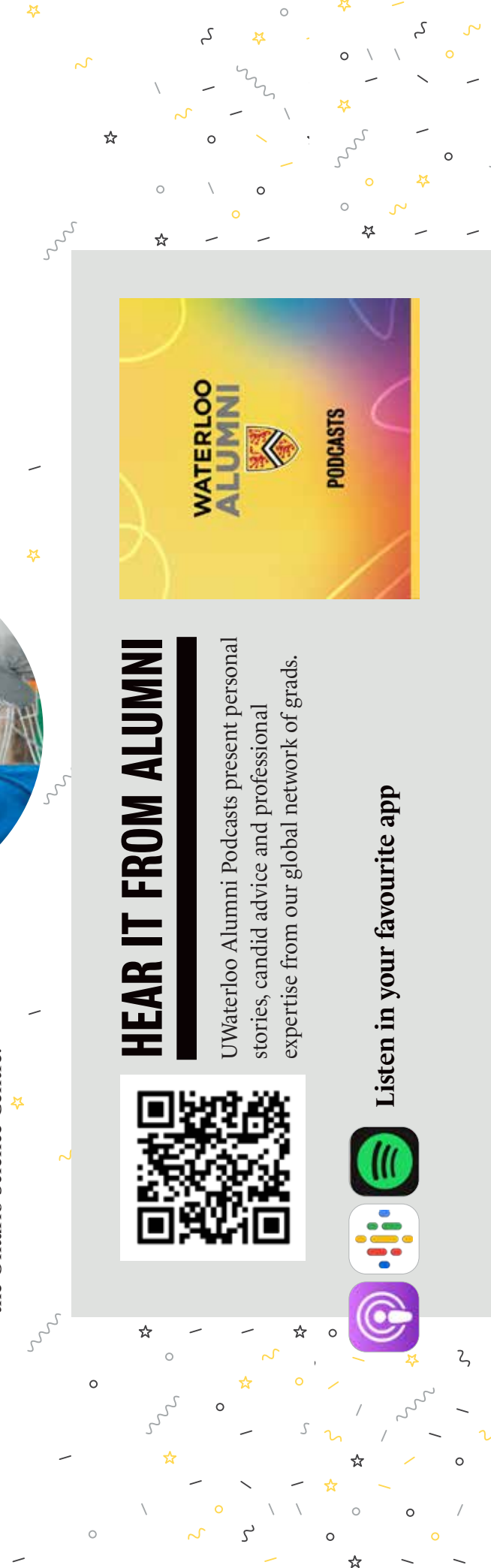


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THE BIG POTENTIAL OF TINY HOMES

An academic and municipal partnership provides hope for Waterloo region's homeless

By Charlotte Danby

A lack of available and affordable housing in the Region of Waterloo is affecting a growing number of people. An estimated 1,000 people in the region have no home to call their own, and almost half experience chronic homelessness.

The Tiny Homes project, an initiative of the University of Waterloo's School of Architecture in partnership with the City of Cambridge, explores how thoughtfully designed tiny homes can help by offering a fast, flexible, cost-effective and dignified emergency housing solution.

The project's prototype was designed and built by Waterloo architecture students tasked with developing a practical abode that meets human needs. Its minimalist design – two mirror halves joined by a pitched roof – offers privacy, autonomy, insulated shelter, plenty of natural light and an entrance area that can be used as a greenhouse, mud room or solarium. And all of this is contained in just 180 square feet.





This project is a good example of how architects can use design to make a meaningful difference to society, creating visibility around an issue while simultaneously contributing to its solution.

POORNA PATANGE (BAS '20, MArch IN PROGRESS)

“We’re really excited by the Tiny Homes project’s potential to promote, facilitate and participate in the development of affordable, welcoming and vibrant neighbourhoods,” said Hardy Bromberg (BASc '97), deputy city manager of Community Development in Cambridge and a Waterloo Engineering alum.

“The City of Cambridge is growing and changing. Partnerships with industry and academia are crucial to ensure that the future design of our city is more than just 30-storey apartment towers. We need to think about the landscape of our communities in such a way that allows for inclusive change and dignified living for all.”

Poorna Patange (BAS '20, MArch in progress) was part of the student team involved in the Tiny Homes research project, which included a display of the prototype at Cambridge City Hall for six weeks last year.

“The Tiny Homes project gave us students an incredible opportunity to bring architectural research into reality,” Patange said. “We know it won’t solve the housing crisis, but it can provide the region and those most affected with some support. This project is a good example of how architects can use design to make a meaningful difference to society, creating visibility around an issue while simultaneously contributing to its solution.”

The Tiny Homes project is led by Dr. Martine August, a planning professor, and architecture professors Adrian Blackwell (BES '89, BArch '91) and John McMinn.

“Two of our graduate students, Elizabeth Antczak (BAS '16, MArch in progress) and Katherine Kinsman (MES in progress), are busy gathering feedback on the prototype from individuals with lived experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity,” Blackwell said. “This will help us refine the design and give social service providers and city officials a better understanding of how a supportive or transitional tiny home community could work in Waterloo region.” ♡



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Congratulations to our 2022 Alumni Award recipients

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Dr. Jillian Roberts (BA '91)
Faculty of Arts
Alumni Achievement Award



Lehlé Baldé
Faculty of Arts
Young Alumni Award



Susan Uthayakumar (BA '95, MAcc '95)
School of Accounting and Finance
Alumni Achievement Award



Matthew Roman (MTax '12)
School of Accounting and Finance
Young Alumni Award



Mark Nixon (BASC '82)
Faculty of Engineering
Alumni Achievement Medal, Professional Achievement



David Foell (BASC '89)
Faculty of Engineering
Alumni Achievement Medal, Professional Achievement



Camille Mitchell (BAS '06, MArch '10)
Faculty of Engineering
Alumni Achievement Medal, Community Service



Kayli Dale (BASC '20)
and **Jacquie Hutchings** (BASC '20)
Faculty of Engineering
Team Alumni Achievement Medal



Stephen Kozary (BASC '79)
and **George Roberts** (BASC '79)
Faculty of Engineering
Team Alumni Achievement Medal



Dhanaja Jayalath (BASC '12)
Faculty of Engineering
Young Alumni Achievement Medal



Chris Derksen (BES '97, MA '98, PhD '01)
Faculty of Environment
Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award



Laura Maxwell (MDP '17)
Faculty of Environment
Young Alumni Inspiration Award



Intact Financial Corporation
(received by Carla Smith)
Faculty of Environment
Friend of the Faculty Impact Award



Dr. R. Harvey Lemelin (PhD '04)
Faculty of Health
Alumni Achievement Award



Michelle Morrissey (BSc '80, MSc '83)
Faculty of Health
Alumni Volunteer Award



Natasha Knier (BSc '18)
Faculty of Health
Young Alumni Award



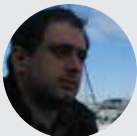
Bonnie Foley-Wong (BMath '97, MAcc '97)
Faculty of Mathematics
Alumni Achievement Medal



Judy Dinn (BMath '94)
Faculty of Mathematics
Alumni Achievement Medal



Kevin Kimsa (BMath '88)
Faculty of Mathematics
Alumni Achievement Medal



Mohammad Taghi Hajighayi (MMath '01)
Faculty of Mathematics
Alumni Achievement Medal



Rudy Karsan (BMath '79)
Faculty of Mathematics
Alumni Achievement Medal



Ashwin Vadivelu (BMath '16)
Faculty of Mathematics
Young Alumni Achievement Medal



Dr. Karima Ladhani (BMath '10)
Faculty of Mathematics
Young Alumni Achievement Medal



Dr. Joy Jiang (PhD '18)
Faculty of Mathematics
Young Alumni Achievement Medal



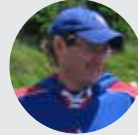
Vy Le (BMath '11)
Faculty of Mathematics
Young Alumni Achievement Medal



Dr. William Leggett (MSc '65, DSc '92)
Faculty of Science
Distinguished Alumni Award



Ron Allensen (BSc '77)
Faculty of Science
Contributions to Science Award



Dr. Stephen Wescott (BSc '87, PhD '92)
Faculty of Science
Contributions to Science Award



Dr. Paul Malik (BSc '16, PharmD '16, PhD '21)
School of Pharmacy
Alumni Achievement Award



Issa Ebombolo (MPACS '17)
Conrad Grebel University College
Distinguished Alumni Service Award



Rebekah Churchyard (BA '13, BSW '14)
Renison University College
Young Alumni Award



Veen Wong (MSW '20)
Renison University College
Young Alumni Award



Tracy Primeau (BA '98)
United College
Distinguished Alumni Award



Cassie Myers (BA '18)
United College
Young Alumni Award

→ READ about their achievements at

uwaterloo.ca/alumni/2022-alumni-awards



Beyond the Campus



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

1967 – Student band “Denny and the Dinos” (their song actually played on radio)

1980’s – Ingrid Bajewski and Dr. Ellsworth LeDrew work on the latest technology

1980’s – Larry Lamb class field trip

1987 – From Paul Bendetti (BA '90, BAsC '93): Student Orientation Week

1995 – Arts Student Union executive in the ASU office in Arts Lecture Hall



2019 – From Yash Shah (PhD '22): “A tale of two supervisors,” Professor Andrea Sciacchitano was visiting our lab, headed by Professor Serhiy Yarusevych
Nostalgic view of the sunset from the Dana Porter Library

2020 – From Tracey McGillvray (MEDI '20): My very first visit to the UWaterloo campus after being accepted into the MEDI program in Environment

2022 – From Ji Hye Oh (BAsC '22): Lovebirds outside QNC





FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

1967 – From Dennis Heacock (BASC '67): Mechanical Engineering grads

1967 – Wives of Mechanical Engineering grads

1970 – Faculty playing dress up: Dr. Gordon Nelson, Peter Brother and Dr. Peter Nash

1980's – Students and faculty enjoy lunch: Dr. Paul Parker (left), Dr. Jean Audrey (second from right)



2004 – Submitted by Sara Syeda (BA '05): Pakistani Student Assoc Eid celebration

2013 – Former student Mike McGuinness proposed to Mary (BA '06) on campus

2014 – From Vismit Joshi (BASC '18): 4th year Nano Engineering grad prank, crashing a materials science lecture

2014 – First MBET class



Impact of Giving

Computing pioneer Wes Graham: **INSPIRING THE IMPOSSIBLE**

The innovator, entrepreneur and “father of computing” helped chart Waterloo’s path to the future

By Beth Bohnert

When math student Don Cowan (MSc ’61, PhD ’65) arrived at Waterloo, one of the first people he met was statistics professor Wes Graham. It was the beginning of a relationship that would last nearly 40 years. During that time, the two men would work to transform a small, unknown university into a globally recognized leader in computer science. And now, more than two decades after Graham’s death, Cowan and others are helping ensure the legacy of Waterloo’s “father of computing” lives on.

In 1962, Graham – an IBM computer expert – was appointed director of the University’s computing centre. Five years later, Cowan became the founding chair of Waterloo’s computer science department. Together with a group of committed students, faculty and staff, they turned Graham’s ideas into programs that revolutionized computer science education.

“Wes was able to inspire other people to do things. He’d throw out an idea and we’d throw bricks at it,” Cowan said. “And if we decided it was a good idea, then we’d give it a try. Most of the time, things worked out very well.”

Very well indeed. Graham and Cowan pursued government funding that brought Canada’s most powerful computer to Waterloo. They launched outreach programs that introduced thousands of secondary school students to computing. Graham also helped pave the way for a new kind of entrepreneurship at Waterloo.

Building on the success of WATFOR – groundbreaking software developed by Waterloo undergraduates that provided students with hands-on coding experience and immediate learning feedback – Graham and Ian McPhee (BMath ’73, MMath ’79, DMath ’11) launched WATCOM in 1981. WATCOM created educational software for personal computers while generating employment for students and a source of revenue for the University. It created a mutually beneficial model that hundreds of Waterloo spin-offs and startups would follow.



“Wes wasn’t a developer himself,” McPhee said. “He didn’t create any of the software. But he was the person who provided the environment where young people could do the things that more experienced people considered impossible.”

Today, Graham still inspires people to do the impossible. After his death in 1999, Cowan, McPhee and other colleagues established the J.W. Graham Information Technology Trust, continuing Graham’s mission and pushing the boundaries of what computer science can achieve.

The Trust’s Graham Seed Fund (GSF) supports Waterloo’s strategic initiative to apply information technology to transform health care, a cause Graham himself championed as he wrestled with terminal cancer. Trustees McPhee, Cowan and Jim Welch (MMath ’69, PhD ’74) participate in the GSF grant proposals review. They hope this funding will allow recipients to create solutions to challenges in health care through collaborative, interdisciplinary partnerships with clinicians and providers.

In January 2023, the Trust announced the fund’s first 10 recipients, whose projects range from a mobile app to support those caring for people with dementia to a transdermal patch that painlessly tracks and treats diabetes.

The Trust’s endowment continues to grow through the generosity of those who remember Wes Graham. And he would no doubt be proud to see how technology continues to change Waterloo – and the world – for the better. ♥



[Graham] was the person who provided the environment where young people could do the things that more experienced people considered impossible.

IAN MCPHEE (BMath '73, MMath '79, DMath '11)



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the Graham Seed Fund

Wesley Graham (left) talking with an IBM representative while others unpack various components of a computer.

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**WATERLOO
ALUMNI**



Class notes

1967

Anne Dagg (PhD '67, DSc '19) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

1976

Mike DeVillaer (BA '76, MAsc '78) has written a book *Buzz Kill: The Corporatization of Cannabis*, published by Black Rose Books, Montreal.

1978

John Lounds (BES '78) was appointed as a Member to the Order of Canada.

Cindy Matthews (BA '78) released her debut literary short story collection, *Took You So Long*.

1981

Peter Taylor (MA '81) published his latest poetry chapbook *Hell-Box* with Frog Hollow Press, and his next full-length collection, *Cities Within Us*, will be published with Guernica Editions.

1982

Judi Hess (BMath '82) transitioned to new positions with Copperleaf: vice-chair of the board and chief strategist. Copper Leaf was named one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

Dr. Tom Morell (BSc '82) is the Perth hospital's new chief of staff.

1983

Auvik Networks, co-founded by **Marc Morin (BAsc '87)**, **Alex Hoff (BMath '04)** and **David Yach (BMath '83)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

Kaush Rakhit (BSc '83) was appointed executive chairman of Canadian Discovery Ltd.

1984

Charmaine Dean (MMath '84, PhD '88) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

1985

Clear Blue Technologies, co-founded by CEO **Miriam Tuerk (BAsc '85)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022. The company was recognized on the Deloitte Technology Fast 500.

1988

IDENTOS Inc, co-founded by **Hamid Arabzadeh (BAsc '88)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

Frank Yam (BMath '88) is the first recipient of the prestigious 2022 ISACA Eugene Frank Founders Award, the highest recognition bestowed upon a dedicated ISACA member.

1989

Jean Andrey (PhD '89) received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Clean50.

1990

FYidocors, founded by **Alan Ulsifer (OD '90)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

1991

Grindr appointed **Vanna Krantz (BMath '91)** as chief financial officer.

Andrew McDonald (BAsc '91) was appointed chief product and technology officer at AlayaCare.

Host Papa Inc., founded and led by CEO **Jamie Opalchuk (BSc '91)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

1992

Antonia Cetin (BA '92) received the McGillivray Award from Canadian Parents for French Ontario, in recognition of her initiative, leadership and commitment to promoting the development of FSL learning in Ontario.

Diane Freeman (BAsc '92) was re-elected Waterloo Ward 4 councillor.

Mary Roe (BES '92) was elected Waterloo Ward 6 councillor.

1993

Gordon Bowman (BSc '93) released the first book in his new series, *Telepath: Fractured*.

1994

Crypto4A, co-founded by **Jim Goodman (BAsc '94)**, was named to the Deloitte Technology Fast 500.

Kate Schooley (BA '94) and her husband David are the new owners of the Kitchener-Waterloo Titans basketball team.

Herb To (BA '94) is the new CFO for Attura.

1995

Skyline Group of Companies, co-founded by **Roy Ashdown (BA '95)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

In October 2022, **Todd J Pokrywa (BES '95)** captained Team Viera in the world's largest street hockey tournament, the Princess Margaret Road Hockey to Conquer Cancer tournament.

Report on Business Magazine named **Barbara Zvan (MMath '95)** Corporate Citizen of the Year.

1996

Soma Gold Corp announced **Chris Buchanan (BSc '96)** as the company's vice-president, exploration.

1997

Brad Miller (BSc '97) joined Moderna as its chief information officer.

1998

Kathy Hay (BA '98) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

Corey Kimpson (BA '98) was elected Cambridge Ward 3 councillor.

Adam Scott (BA '98) was appointed vice-chairperson at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

1999

Jennifer Clipsham (BES '99) was recognized with a Clean50 award, in the Consultants and Enablers category.

David Eby (BA '99) is British Columbia's 37th premier.

Intelliware appointed **Chris Ford (BASC '99)** as its president.

2000

PharmAchieve, co-founded by CEO **Hooman Katirai (BASC '00)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

Lim Geomatics Inc., led by **Kevin Lim (MES '00)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

Robert Pockar (MSc '00) was appointed CEO of Canadian Discovery Ltd.

2001

Xiaowu (Shirley) Tang (BASC '01) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

Stephanie Thompson (BASC '01) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

2002

Malgosia Green (BASC '02) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

Karen Luk (BSc '02) joined Vivante Health as senior VP of product.

Ron Saporta (BASC '02, MEng '05) was recognized with a Clean50 award, in the Buildings category.

Phillip Zoldak (BASC '02) recently completed a PhD in mechanical engineering at Michigan Technology University and is currently the vice-president, engineering at Enginuity Power Systems.

2003

Rewind, co-founded by CTO **James Ciesielski (BMath '03)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

Brian Roth (BASC '03) is the new CEO and director of Three Sixty Solar.

2004

Natalie Gordon (BMath '04), Founder and CEO of Babylist, was named one of the Most Influential Women in the Bay Area.

Manifest Climate, co-founded and led by **Laura Zizzo (BES '04)**, is one of the 2022 LinkedIn Top Startups Canada.

2005

Super (previously known as Snapcommerce), co-founded by **Hussein Fazal (BMath '05)** and **Henry Shi (BCS '14)**, is one of the 2022 LinkedIn Top Startups Canada. The company was also named to the Deloitte Technology Fast 500.

Postmedia Network Canada Corp appointed **Mary Anne Lavallee (BA '05)** as executive vice-president, chief financial officer and chief transformation officer.

Archon Systems, co-founded by **Louise Leung (BMath '05)** and **Stephen Fung (BMath '05)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

2006

Simone Harrington (BSc '06) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

James Johnson (BASC '06) was named a shareholder at WalterFedy Kitchener. He joins a group of architecture, engineering and construction management professionals in guiding the direction of the firm.

Later, founded by CTO **Ian MacKinnon (BMath '06, MMath '08)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022. The company was also named to the Deloitte Technology Fast 500.

Jennifer Vasic (BA '06) was re-elected Waterloo Ward 5 councillor.

Ryan Watkins (BA '06), a partner at Whitten and Lublin LLP, is a 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars winner. The award recognizes him as one of Canada's leading lawyers under 40.

Samantha Zimmerman (BES '06) is the new executive director of the Guelph Youth Music Centre.

2007

Ammar Atlaf (MASC '07) joined SPARK Utilities Company as CEO.

Mark Crowell (MA '07, PhD '17) is the new chief of Waterloo Regional Police.

Ibraheem Khan (MASC '07, PhD '11) was recognized with a Clean50 award, in the Research and Development category.

Dr. Tom Morell (BSc '82) is the new chief of staff at Perth & Smith Falls District Hospital.

Top Hat, co-founded by **Mohsen Shahini (PhD '11)** and **Mike Silagadze (BASC '07)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

Class notes

2008

Clearco, co-founded by **Andrew D'Souza (BAsc '08)**, was named to the Deloitte Technology Fast 500.

Jane Hung (BMath '08, MAcc '08) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

Bonfire Interactive, co-founded by **Alex Millar (BCS '11)** and led by CEO **Omar Salaymeh (BAsc '08)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

2009

Jeff Robertson (BAsc '09) was recognized with a Clean50 Emerging Leaders award.

2010

Cinchy, co-founded by CTO **Karanjot Jaswal (BAsc '10)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

TextNow Inc., led by CEO **Derek Ting (BAsc '10)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

2011

Prodigy Education Inc., co-founded by **Rohan Mahimker (BAsc '11)** and **Alex Peters (BAsc '11)**, is one of Canada's Top Growing Companies 2022.

The Family Crow: A Murder Mystery, a puppet show by **Adam Prolux (BA '11)**, won best original script and patrons pick honours from Orlando Fringe and best new play at the London Fringe Festival.

Shelly Rampersad (BSc '11) was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

2012

Nicolas Ermeta (BES '12) was re-elected Cambridge Ward 8 councillor.

Kitchener's Westmount Golf and Country Club named **Garret Rank (BA '12)** an honorary member.

2013

Applyboard, co-founded by **Martin Basiri (MAsc '13)**, is one of the 2022 LinkedIn Top Startups Canada. The company was also named to the Deloitte Technology Fast 500.

Nighthawk Gold announced **Salvatore Curcio (BAFM '13, MAcc '13)** as chief financial officer.

2014

Truzaar Dordi (BA '14, MES '16) was recognized with a Clean50 Emerging Leaders award.

Drop, co-founded by CEO **Darren Fung (BSE '14)**, is one of the 2022 LinkedIn Top Startups Canada.

2015

Noram Lithium Corp appointed **Dr. Vahid Sohrabi (PhD '15)** to its advisory board.

Dr. Joey Spohn (BSc '15) opened his practice at the Community and Primary Health Care clinic in Gananoque, Ontario.

Aurum Lake Mining Corporation appointed **Weizhe Zhong (BSc '15)** as a new director of the company.

2016

Keith Choy (BAFM '16, MAcc '16) and **Jade Choy (BAFM '17)** were named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 North America, in the Enterprise Technology category.

2017

Helen Huang (BSc '17) and **Sefunmi Osinaike (BAsc '17)** were named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 North America, in the Education category.

Ariola Papajani (BA '17) released the e-book *85 Original Life and Philosophical Quotes*, a collection of quotes, the stories behind them and prompts for reflection.

2018

Shu Jiang (PhD '18) was named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 North America, in the Healthcare category.

Eric Lam (BES '18) was named to Corporate Knights' Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leaders.

2019

Ripple Ventures promoted **Dominic Lau (BAFM '19)** from principal to partner.

2020

Jacqueline Hutchings (BAsc '20) and **Kayle Dale (BAsc '20)** were named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 North America, under the Social Impact category.

2021

Mario Kangeswaren (MPH '21) is the new medical officer of health in Chatham-Kent, Ontario.

Ayo Owodunni (MBET '21) was elected Kitchener Ward 5 councillor.

Matthew Rose (BAsc '21) and his sister Danielle were named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 North America, under the Science category.

2022

In November 2022, **Sabrina Boyer (BA '22)** performed the latest addition to their ongoing body of work. With *Late Stage Cavalier No. 1*, Sabrina gilded their first car with gold leaf.



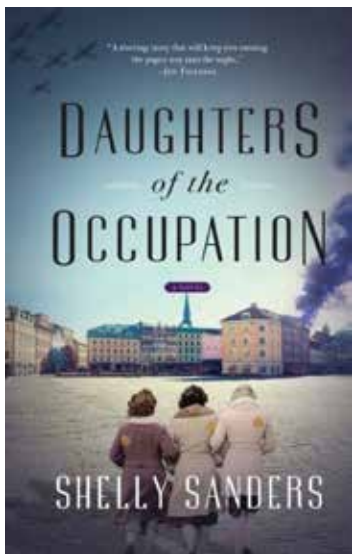
Gary Albach (BSc '70)
Jane Ballantyne (Ferguson) (BSc '71)
John Beresford (BES '72, BArch '74)
Jason Bramham (BMath '04)
David Brubacher (BA '22)
Jack Bryant (BMath '70)
James Burkimsher
(BASC '67, MASC '68)
Heather Carnahan (PhD 89)
Lawrence Carr (OD '79)
Andrew Carter (MASC '76)
Yun Yiu Chang (BASC '73)
Rodney Chin (BSc '87)
Donald Clark (BASC '65)
John Clayton (BSc '87)
Kathryn Cseff (BSc '74)
John Cseff (BSc '75)
James (Allan) Day (BA '90)
Gary Dennison (BA '70)
Carol Fick (BA '81, BA '82)
William Fick (BSc '80, MSc '83)
Stanley Gray (MMath '68)
Sukhdial Grewal (MASC '79)
Damian Hanel (BASC '87)
James Hayter (BASC '73)
John Heibein (BA '75)
Waldermar Hernberger (BASC '71)
Andrew (Jake) Hiebert (BA '89)
David Hill (BSc '64)
Glen Holmes (BSc '85)

George Hunsberger (BA '64, BPE '65)
David Hutton (BASC '63)
Norman Huxley (BASC '70)
Sarah Inam (BA '05, MA '07)
Ivan Kent (BASC '63)
Robert Kienzle (BA '75)
Terrance Knight (BA '87)
Robert Krieg (BA '66)
Celeste Lew-Lee (BA '81)
Philip Lichtenberger (PhD '75)
Harland Lichti (BA '63)
James Lotimer (BASC '76)
Brennan Malleck (BCS '16)
Rene Mayorga (PhD '81)
Eva McFadden (Gibbons) (BA '91)
Patrick McKelvie (BA '80)
Alan Medcalf (BMath '76)
Bruce Mottershead
(BASC '73, MASC '74)
Keith Oswald (BSc '87)
Jane Plas (BA '05)
Greg Priamo (BES '86)
Ruth Rector (BA '98, BSW '99)
Vivian Remington Anderson
(BMath '82)
David Rich (BASC '71)
Glynis Robbins (Bergsma) (BSc '92)
Reinhilde Rochow (BA '94)
Hugh Rogers (BA '70)
John Schroeder (PhD '67)
Paul Schultz (BA '87)

Samantha Schultz (BSc '16)
Richard Shepherd (BASC '75)
Joan Skelton (Prudom) (BA '68)
John (Peter) Sprung (MA '66)
Gerald Stark (BA '75)
Paul Sullivan (BASC '64, MASC '65)
P.K. Venki Venkiteswaran
(MASC '68, PhD '73)
Steven Voll (BASC '91)
Stephen Westcott (BSc '87, PhD '93)
Richard Wilson (BES '78)
Charles (Douglas) Wilson (BASC '69)
Raymond Wiseman (BA '85)
Diane Wiszniowski (BSc '74)
Margaret Anne (Shirley) Woolley
(BA '89)
Dietrich Wunderlich (BPE '66)
Eric Wynes (BASC '77)
Leslie Zoltan (BASC '73)



UNCOVERING THE PAST, FINDING NEW PURPOSE



Shelly Sanders (BA '86) shares how discovering her family history gave her new direction for the future

Before excavating my family's repressed history, I had no idea why my grandmother was born in Siberia, no idea that I had dozens of relations in Latvia and no idea that one act of defiance led to my existence. Old photographs became the impetus for my research and while they tugged me back to Riga, Latvia, where my roots were planted, they also nudged me forward, helping me understand why I've become the person I am, as well as my purpose for the future.

Three revelations changed everything. First, the director of the Jews in Latvia Museum, explained that my great-grandfather, Max Talan, was involved in the Workers' Revolution, a march through Riga on January 13, 1905, that left 70 people dead. Max was exiled to Siberia because of his participation. He married my great-grandmother Sophie so she could travel with him. That's why my grandmother was born in Siberia.

Pride surged through me, knowing my great-grandfather was a rebel. And I was enthralled by my great-grandparents' love story, how devoted they must have been to each other for Sophie to intentionally marry a political exile.

The second disclosure came from an archivist at the State Archives of Latvia, based on information I'd sent earlier. She'd found 26 relatives in Riga, all of whom were murdered in the Holocaust.

I was riven with shock and gratitude as I scoured identity papers, recognizing faces I'd seen in my grandmother's photos – cousins, aunts and uncles, who were amongst the 93,000 Latvian Jews murdered in World War II. Then, it hit me: a devastating exile saved my family. I was born because my great-grandparents were exiled to Siberia. It was eye opening and tragic all at once.

My final discovery came in Riga's Rumbula forest, where these 26 relatives were murdered. As I took in the scale of the mass graves and thought about how they'd died without dignity, without their names etched in stone, my heart stirred with grief. At that moment, I knew my purpose: to live a Jewish life, to speak out against anti-Semitism and to give a voice to those whose lives were extinguished far too soon. ♥

*Shelly Sanders is the author of the bestselling novel *Daughters of the Occupation* (Harper Collins, 2022), a story based on Sanders' findings in her family history.*

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