We’re always happy to see you here at the college! But in case you can’t get to Renison, we wanted to send a piece of Renison to you. Our mascot, Reni Moose, has caught the travel bug and can’t stay away from a camera. So we thought we’d send him to visit you!

Why not show us where you’ve been and take a picture of yourself with Reni? (see insert)

The pictures will be posted on Renison’s Facebook page and website so that everyone can see how big and widespread the Renison family really is.

However, if you’re going to send us the gift of a photo, it’s only right that we give you a gift in return. Therefore, Alumni & Friends of Renison who send in a photo with Reni will be sent a free Renison University College water bottle.

Submit your pictures online:
uwaterloo.ca/renison/where-in-the-world

You can view all the pictures submitted:
uwaterloo.ca/renison/where-in-the-world/gallery

Renison’s Facebook page: facebook.com/RenisonUniversityCollege

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PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Reaching out and reaching up continue to be themes that reflect our activity these past six months. We have moved beyond boundaries and opened our doors to new students, growth, and opportunities.

On May 7, 2013, we officially opened the doors of the new East Side Extension, which is a direct result of the new Master of Social Work program that began in August 2012. Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable David C. Onley, was in attendance to officially open our new wing (See page 8 for photos.)

The new building creates much-needed space for classrooms, a student lounge, and offices. We finished the building on time and on budget, allowing us to begin the spring term with classes in this East Side Extension.

The Master of Social Work surpassed our expectations for applications and capacity in the first year. 2013 appears to be no exception, with applications that are three times the number of spaces available.

This graduate degree is Canada’s first health-focused, online Master of Social Work program, offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, University of Waterloo.

As we move forward, we want to develop a second graduate degree, through our Social Development Studies program. An initial proposal for a Master of Arts has been developed and is awaiting final budget submission.

Research has taken a new step forward at Renison, with the addition of a Director of Research, who will work closely with Renison faculty to maximize their opportunities for research funding. With almost every full-time faculty involved in research projects, a person dedicated to this focus has been a welcome addition to Renison’s staffing.

Continuing with opportunities, a new Academic Dean has been appointed to provide leadership to our growing academic programs and faculty. Dr. Tom Brenner has accepted the role of Academic Dean and will assist me in a number of duties. Two of his central tasks will be to implement the Strategic Plan (approved by the Board of Governors on December 6, 2012) and to further define the role of Academic Dean.

And, we have also increased our faculty with four new researchers, lecturers, and scholars expert in their individual fields of study.

Staffing is a very important goal in the Strategic Plan. To that end, we have hired a full-time recruitment officer and created a full-time marketing and communications portfolio so that our external reach to the community will deepen and strengthen.

Lastly, as we continue to refine our vision for the future, I will be speaking with you, our stakeholders, as we engage in a dialogue to position our next opportunity for growth.

It is an exciting time and Renison continues to thrive because of its guiding principles: promotion of learning, integrity, responsible stewardship, dignity for all, and creative action. As we consider our place in the future, we know that there will be challenges but those challenges will be surpassed by our will to succeed and excel.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor
DR. PETER ROE, a long-time faculty member in the Faculty of Engineering, has a history at the University of Waterloo almost as long as the institution itself. He came to Waterloo in 1959 as a graduate student, and received the very first PhD from Waterloo in 1963.

His connection to Renison and his tenure on the Board of Governors go back almost as far. In 1986, he was recruited to the “Council of Regents” by Rector JS McLean, who was the clergy at Roe’s Anglican church, the Church of St. Columba, and the chair of Renison’s Board of Governors. He then joined the building committee, and soon found himself as Vice-Chair of the Board. He served as chair from 1989 to 1994.

“When I became past-chair, I thought I’d stay until Michael Carty stepped down,” said Roe. “I didn’t know that he’d stay for another ten years!” Although he has since left the executive committee, Roe remains active as a board member.

Roe has fond memories of his almost 30-year involvement with Renison. “George Renison ... had more stories than you could shake a stick at,” remembers Roe, speaking of Renison’s chancellor from 1986 to 1992. “It was a fun time at the college.” During his many years on the Board, Roe has seen first-hand the growth of the college, including new buildings and new academic programs.

Trained as an engineer, Roe appreciates the interdisciplinary approach that Renison takes towards education. “I believe in a well-rounded education... [university] is a place to learn how to be a true citizen.” In his current role as Director of Engineering Exchange Programs, Roe sends Waterloo engineering students all over the world to study abroad. “We send a lot of students to Renison to learn Mandarin, Korean, and Japanese.”

As he learned more about what Renison contributes to the University of Waterloo community, he began to see value in the work that Renison does to educate well-rounded students in the liberal arts and social sciences. “Without the social sciences, social work, international relations... you will probably have less commerce at the end.”

As an entrepreneur, he says he is a “dreamer who looks at the big picture.” He brings to the Board a sense of optimism that Renison can grow and achieve its goals. “Renison has an awesome future. It is going in the right direction,” he said.

A painter by trade, Conrad found his passion in real estate. He gradually bought and restored older homes, until he got to the point that he had to give up painting, and put all his efforts into building the Cora Group Inc., developers and managers of commercial real estate. His advice to Renison students, to be successful, is to find what they are passionate about and pursue it. “If you feel like you’re going to work, it’s not the right feeling to have... by following your passion, you have a better chance of being successful. It’s very simple.”

Together with his wife, Penny, Conrad has found a new passion in philanthropy. “It gives us great joy to give back,” said Conrad. “We see it as an investment in our community.”

Conrad is excited about Renison’s future, and feels honoured to be part of the Board. “I will probably stay until they kick me off,” he said with a laugh.

L-R: Dr. Peter Roe and Manfred Conrad at Founders’ Day
Each day as I walk into the classroom, the students I teach in Social Development Studies amaze me with their critical insights, level of engagement, and openness to wrestling with complex equity issues in our society past and present. And it is wrestling with how to re-conceptualize education for democracy that motivates my teaching and research. My research interrogates past and present relationships among democracy, education, and citizen (dis)engagement using qualitative methods, that include interviewing, oral history, narrative inquiry, and discourse analysis.

My book *Democracy’s Angels: The Work of Women Teachers* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2012) examines the paradox of school systems post-WWII that were intent on producing ideal democratic citizens for a modern state while simultaneously denying the very women charged with teaching citizenship the full rights of the imagined democracy. I detail through oral histories how women teachers negotiated this paradox, depending on their social positioning, by embodying and altering citizenship lessons through their powers of practice. This work provides a rare empirical application of feminist theory from political science, cultural studies, and sociology to unravel the ideological underpinnings of democracy as an educational objective. I was pleased to share my historical scholarship on schooling for democracy as the H. Sanford Riley Fellow in Canadian History at the University of Winnipeg in October 2012.

Most of my work makes oral history central to socio-historical inquiry. For the past five years, I have been the co-editor of *Oral History Forum d’histoire orale,* (www.oralhistoryforum.ca). With the co-editors, we are producing the first collection of oral history scholarship in Canada, *The Canadian Oral History Reader,* which will be published by McGill-Queen’s University Press. Oral history seeks to democratize knowledge, that is, to write marginalized voices into our history and to help marginalized people join a global movement in which they tell their own stories toward social transformation. It is this democratizing potential that I wanted to introduce to students in Social Development Studies. For the first time this past term, students in the *History of Education in Canada* (SDS 205R) equipped themselves with digital recorders and stepped into the community to hear people’s diverse educational experiences. The stories have been rich and the process has been rewarding.

It is this type of experiential learning that I see as a necessary element for the contemporary relationship among democracy, schooling and social change. My current research seeks to understand how youth have developed and continue to develop political identities. I conduct empirical research in civics classrooms and discourse analysis of curriculum guidelines to assess objectives for informed citizenship and active citizenship. I was honoured to receive with Dr. Jacqueline Kennelly the award for Outstanding Publication from the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies for our article “Educating for Active Compliance: Discursive Constructions in Citizenship Education,” published by the journal *Citizenship Studies.* I am also examining restorative approaches to citizenship education. At the core of a restorative approach is relationality or attentiveness to just relationships that allow for human flourishing. Relationality is missing as an explicit objective within social studies, undermining our political objectives for participatory democracy in this country. Lastly, my interest in civic identities extends to the international. I am in the third year of a SSHRC-funded project, *Citizens of the World: Youth, Global Citizenship, and the Model United Nations.* This project examines how the Model United Nations (MUN) encouraged Canadian youth to become global citizens from 1945 to the present.

Students in Social Development Studies, most of whom enroll in our Research Apprenticeship course (SDS 495R), have been an integral part of these projects. They have conducted literature reviews, surveyed school programs, conducted curriculum analysis, and completed archival research. It is only in collaboration with these students that I have been able to expand my interrogation of democratic education in our history and today. I am fortunate that Renison attracts students, not to mention interdisciplinary faculty, who are committed to justice-oriented, community-based learning. Renison strongly supports the idea that research informs our teaching as much as teaching informs our research. This is a principle of higher education that is being eroded in many institutions to the detriment of producing engaged and relevant scholarship and fulfilling communities of learning.
TOM BRENNER
Dr. Tom Brenner has been appointed Academic Dean, effective April 1. In this position, Tom will assist the Principal in a number of duties. Two of his central tasks will be to implement the Strategic Plan (approved by the Board of Governors on December 6, 2012) and to further define the role of Academic Dean.

Tom knows Renison well, having joined the faculty in 1988 as a member of the Social Development Studies department.

PETER DONAHUE
Dr. Peter Donahue will begin his term as the Chair of the Department of Social Development Studies on July 1, 2013.

Peter has worked for a number of years in the School of Social Work but will now turn his attention to furthering the expressed aims of the Department of Social Development Studies and helping develop its proposed new Master’s degree.

JUDI JEWINSKI
In response to the final report of Waterloo’s Task Force on Support for English Language Competency Development, the University of Waterloo will develop programs across all faculties to help all students achieve lifelong communication skills. To assist in this task, Renison’s previous Administrative Dean, Judi Jewinski, agreed to be seconded as Special Advisor to the Provost on English Language Competency, effective January 2, 2013.

Judi has made significant contributions to Renison and to our English Language Institute, in particular. This is a great opportunity for her and, although she will be missed, the Renison community wishes Judi the very best of success in her new role.

LOIS CLIFFORD
A staff member for 13 years, Lois Clifford, Librarian for Renison University College, will retire at the end of June 2013. Her hard work, her kind and helpful nature, and her great dedication to the College have helped to grow the spirit of community here at Renison. It is with some sadness but with much gratitude that we wish Lois well with all her future endeavours. She will of course always be part of our Renison family.

DEBORAH CLARK
Deborah Clark’s long association with Renison began in September 1990 as a part-time instructor. In 1998 Deborah was hired as the Practicum Coordinator for the BSW program, a role she has held until her retirement in June 2013.

Deborah plans to enjoy her new cottage as a retreat, fly “across the pond” to visit one of her daughters, and has plans to train as a Life Coach in September.
RENISON’S FIRST GRADUATE DEGREE UNDERWAY!

In August 2012, the new and innovative Master of Social Work degree was launched as the first graduate program in Renison’s history! This graduate degree is also Canada’s first health-focused, online Master of Social Work program. The MSW Program is being offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, University of Waterloo.

Social work practice in the field of health involves working with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations on issues such as disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, building community partners and social support, and health promotion in the community, workplace, and through social policy reform.

The first part-time cohort of 33 graduate students spent a week on campus before returning to their respective home towns to begin their online journeys. Students came from coast to coast to be oriented to the program, Renison support services, and online learning at Waterloo. While at Renison, they also completed their first course: Diversity and Health. Feedback from this first group of students was extremely positive:

- I felt very welcome and I leave here confident in my choice in doing my MSW at Renison University College.

The social work staff knew every student by name. I have never seen this kind of interest and investment in students from a university!

The program’s initial and final courses are held at Renison as one-week Summer Institute courses. The remaining MSW courses for both full-time and part-time students are supported by self-directed learning delivered online through Waterloo’s Centre for Extended Learning (CEL). A core component of the MSW Program is field education, which provides students from across Canada the opportunity to complete their practicums in their own community or region. This flexibility for working professionals allows them to continue with their family and community/volunteer commitments.

As our first part-time students now engage in their course work and field education, new excitement is evident at Renison. The MSW Admissions Committee has made offers to 25 new part-time students who will join us at Renison in August 2013. In addition, our first full-time cohort of 25 students has also been offered admission to the MSW program. We look forward to meeting our next 50 students on August 19, 2013!

For more information on the MSW program, please contact Deborah DeJong at deborah.dejong@uwaterloo.ca

LIVING STUDENT LIFE

by Steve Prentice

Student Life Co-ordinator

In September 2012, the Student Life Team at Renison stepped up to formulate a cohesive vision for our student groups and activities. As Renison continues to grow, so do the opportunities for students to get involved and as a result Renison has seen the creation of numerous new student life groups and initiatives over the past several years. Existing student groups such as RASC and Renisix re-examined their roles within Renison, and new groups and leaders challenged the existing formula for student success and engagement.

This past year has seen more collaboration than ever before. Renisix worked with students from the other University of Waterloo colleges to organize the Winter Frost Party – a winter carnival complete with a winter football tournament. With the help of our Warrior Athletic Leadership Community Peer Mentor, Renison came home from the Pack (the PAC) event waving a new Warrior flag. Our relationship with Athletics continues to grow and we are extremely excited to work with them next season.

Together, the SDS Society and RASC have become a powerhouse of student activity. Their collaboration has allowed RASC to develop a strong team of students focused on community outreach and student activism. The SDS Society, both in name and spirit, brings SDS students together as a strong social group. These forms of collaboration foster relationships that otherwise would not exist. After months of hard work, busy schedules, and hours of meetings, our Student Life Team can safely say that they have achieved their goal and continue to show why Renison is the best student community on campus.

RENISONreports SPRING 2013
On May 7, 2013, Renison University College opened its newest building, the East Side Extension. With new classrooms, a student lounge, and office space, the East Side Extension was constructed in response to the ever-growing number and size of academic programs offered at Renison.

The Hon. David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, delivers remarks and officially opens the East Side Extension.

This is not the first time a representative of the Crown has been to Renison. The ongoing relationship between Renison and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor stretches back to Renison’s beginnings. The Honourable J. Keiller MacKay, Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor from 1957-1963, laid the cornerstone of Renison University College’s first building, the Founders Building, in 1962.

L-R sharing the ribbon cutting duties: The Rt. Rev. D. Ralph Spence, Chancellor of Renison; the Hon. David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Dr. Feridun Hamdullahpur, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waterloo; Dr. Keith Hipel, Chair of Renison’s Board of Governors; and Dr. Glenn F. Cartwright, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Renison.
Renison was also pleased to unveil two pieces of art donated in honour of the opening of the East Side Extension. The first piece, a bas relief sculpture, was donated by Deborah Clark, a School of Social Work staff member, and created by Nicholas Rees, son of Renison’s first Principal, Dr. Wyn Rees. The sculpture was created from two trees that were original to Renison’s property but were cut down to make way for the new building. The second piece, a painting, was donated by the former Director of the School of Social Work, Dr. Ellen Sue Mesbur and her husband, Mr. David Mesbur. (more on page 12)

After two years in the position, Dr. Keith Hipel, Chair of Renison’s Board of Governors, is stepping down. Dr. Hipel has helped Renison grow and develop in numerous ways, especially greater outreach to East Asian countries. In addition to his role as Chair of the Board of Governors, he served as President-Elect of the Academy of Science, Royal Society of Canada (RSC), commencing on November 17, 2012. This appointment consists of serving one year as President-Elect followed by two years as President and a final, fourth year, as Past President. In 1998, Keith was inducted as Fellow of the RSC, which was established under an Act of the Canadian Parliament in 1882. Renison extends best wishes to Dr. Hipel in all his future endeavours and our sincere thanks for all of his involvement with Renison.
The Venerable Harvey Southcott, a retired Anglican Archdeacon, and one of the Founders of Renison University College, returned to Renison for Founders’ Day 2013. He was the visionary for an Anglican college in Waterloo and one of the greatest community proponents of the College’s construction.

L-R: Dr. Keith Hipel, Chair of Renison’s Board of Governors; Rt. Rev. D. Ralph Spence, Chancellor of Renison; Dr. Geoff McBoyle, Provost of the University of Waterloo, Honorary Senior Fellow 2013; The Rt. Rev. Robert Bennett, Bishop of Huron; Dr. Glenn F. Cartwright, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Renison. Dr. McBoyle delivered the convocation address.

1962

THEN AND NOW
2013 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA

1996
CHARMAINE HAMMOND, BA (SDS)
Charmaine is an international transformational speaker, speaking on the topics of leadership, resilience, and courageous dialogue. She also hosts three radio shows. Since graduating she found her passion for writing and has been published by four publishers, including Health Communications Inc., where her story Volunteering From the Heart was published in Chicken Soup for the Soul: What I Learned from the Dog. Her book On Toby’s Terms has been an international best seller and is in development to become a major motion picture. Her co-authored book, GPS Your Best Life – Charting Your Destination & Getting There in Style, was released in late 2012. She has also written a children’s series of books, the first being Toby The Pet Therapy Dog & His Hospital Friends. The second in the series will be released spring 2013 and is entitled Toby Says Be a Buddy, Not a Bully. She won the 2012 international Business Matchmaker of the Year award and launched a global mission: A Million Acts of Kindness-Toby’s Global Mission.

1996
JOHN NEUFELD, BA (SDS)
A graduate of Renison’s Social Development Studies program, John Neufeld has gone on to have a tremendous impact on his local community. Having also achieved a BA in Theology and an MA in Social Work, John achieved an MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University so that he could be better equipped for an administrative role within social services.

John Neufeld became Executive Director of the House of Friendship in 2009. This organization, inspired by Christian faith, is a charitable agency serving low income individuals and families. House of Friendship programs focus on addiction services, feeding and assisting those in need, family services, and housing.

2013
TIMAJ GARAD, BA (SDS)
She discovered SDS as the path that allowed her to articulate her passion for community activism, particularly in relation to immigrant and refugee communities and marginalized youth. Having facilitated workshops for Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto youth, Timaj knows the importance of play and exploration as part of expression and healing, and the need for communities to implement programs for youth that encourage such development.

After graduation, she hopes to continue applying her studies in community settings and wants to follow up with more academic research and action plans.

Two members of the Renison community have been recognized among Waterloo’s Top 40 Under 40

Each year, John oversees more than 1,000 volunteers with the House of Friendship, which annually serves the needs of more than 42,000 individuals within the community.

Not only has her academic research, so far, focused on the healing capacity of an arts education for immigrant and refugee groups, but Timaj is herself a talented spoken word artist. She has been involved in the Kitchener-Waterloo poetry slam, and her performance poetry has been featured at several cultural events, fundraisers and community gatherings, including World Refugee Day in Kitchener. She has worked with the Community Coalition on Refugee and Immigrant Concerns, the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Coalition of Muslim Women.
THE PAUL JEFFREY MESBUR AWARD

The Paul Jeffrey Mesbur Memorial Award was established by Dr. Ellen Sue Mesbur and Mr. David Mesbur (left), in loving memory of their son, Paul. As Director of the School of Social Work from 2002 to 2012, Ellen Sue asked that the award be available to social work students and was pleased to endow the award in 2007.

Since its initial donation, the Paul Jeffrey Mesbur Memorial Award has grown to over $46,000 and disbursed its first award of $1000 to Amal Ali Abdurahman.

In 2012, in recognition of Dr. Ellen Sue Mesbur’s commitment to the School of Social Work, and as a farewell as she moved into retirement, a recognition event was held on June 21.

It was Ellen Sue’s wish that in lieu of gifts, donations be made to the Paul Jeffrey Mesbur Memorial Award.

It was truly a testament to the high regard in which Ellen Sue is held that over $16,000 was raised!

Thank you for the generosity of so many donors for their support of this worthy award.

Note:
The first Paul Jeffrey Mesbur Memorial Award winner, Amal Ali Abdurahman (right), originally from Ethiopia, moved to Canada in 2004. After first settling in Toronto, she moved to Kitchener in 2008. As a self-supporting, single mother of two children, she became a full-time student at Renison, graduating in 2012.

JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST AWARD

Sachie Saijo, a Hope for Youth participant, and Cohl Jonston, one of Renison’s Japanese language Teaching Assistants, who was the 1st place winner in the Ontario Japanese Speech Contest, were invited to attend a lecture as part of the Kizuna Project that was hosted by the government of Japan on March 18. This project is an exchange program for high school students in Canada and the tsunami-affected areas in Japan. Sachie and Cohl were keynote speakers.

Cohl is a co-director of an NPO to help the Tohoku area (the tsunami affected area). One of the projects they have worked on is a cookbook. The cookbook is written in English and Japanese and includes traditional dishes from the Tohoku area. The cost of the cookbook is $30 and can be ordered through Cohl Johnston, canadacohl@mac.com. All profits will be applied to recovery of the area.
I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the University of Waterloo and the University of Science and Technology, Beijing (USTB) by teaching a course in China in August 2012. The course was called “North American Culture,” and for many of the students, it became a place to learn about many aspects of North American life and to ask the questions they wanted answered before applying to study here.

The month-long summer class in Beijing was as much a learning experience for me as it was for the students. We learned about each other’s cultures by discussing issues as varied as food, academic expectations, geography, religion, politics, and student life. Most students had not had classes with a foreign teacher before, and they appreciated that learning in a more “North American” style gave them the opportunity to be active in group discussions, debates, and to participate in critical reading.

I think that learning about each other’s academic programs is important, but just as important is understanding each other’s academic cultures. A deeper understanding can only strengthen the relationships between Waterloo, Renison and their international partners.

I hope to meet some of my students from USTB again in the halls of Renison.

Adds Ron Champion, Manager of the Renison International Office: USTB has been a long-time and enthusiastic partner of Waterloo and, more recently, Renison. USTB sends students to Waterloo for dual-degree and other programs in Science, Economics, and Social Work. Sending one of the ELI’s talented instructors to Beijing to teach for a month was Renison’s way of saying “thank you” and strengthening an already-strong partnership.

Universities in China are always asking for teachers for short-term courses.
The Right Reverend Morse Cyril Robinson, who died on December 7, 2012, was among the founders, builders, and friends of Renison University College who were fondly remembered at Founders’ Day in April.

Bishop Robinson served as Chancellor of Renison College, as it was then known, from 1974 to 1987 and his many contributions to Renison were recognized when he was made an Honorary Senior Fellow in 1986. But this was only the beginning of Bishop Robinson’s service to the College. When he “retired” in 1987 from his responsibilities as Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, and as Chancellor, he founded the Renison Institute of Ministry (RIM) and served as its Director until 2001.

Bishop Robinson’s work with the Renison Institute of Ministry built on a lifetime of visionary servanthood. The Rev. Dr. Timothy Connor, a long-time instructor with the Renison Institute of Ministry, recalled at Bishop Robinson’s Requiem Eucharist in December that “the missional spirit of his youth never waned” and that Morse Robinson embraced a vision of the Christian Church that is “always calling, inviting, equipping and mobilizing” the community of disciples to serve others. Week by week, Bishop Robinson and the team he assembled offered courses and workshops to strengthen and equip parish ministry teams to live out RIM’s motto, “All of us, called to serve.”

The programs Bishop Robinson offered through RIM had a profound impact on the lives of individuals and communities but what we remember most warmly is the impact of Bishop Robinson’s lively presence, sparkling eyes, and the interest he took in each person.

Morse Robinson, creative visionary, generous servant, friend and mentor.

Renison University College is fortunate that our hallways are filled with his memories and the continued legacy of his work among us.

Elizabeth Breithaupt, who died on April 11, 2013, at age 89, was a founding member of the Town and Gown Society at Renison. She was also a great community leader and a founding member of the K-W Art Gallery.

She established the Elizabeth Massey Breithaupt Bursary at Renison, awarded to students (academic or resident) who are in good academic standing and who demonstrate financial need.

The Renison family wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the families of the following persons who recently passed away and who supported the college in so many ways.

The Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC CC OOnt CD QC, HSF; Nina Burnham, HSF; Eva Leflar, HSF; Sharon Nagler; Bill Payne, HM; Joan Renison; Helen Waind.

We are pleased to congratulate the following recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow countrymen, their community or to Canada during the sixty years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Dr. Dan Andreae, Brendon Bedford, The Rev. Canon David Bowyer, Dr. Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Dr. Glenn F. Cartwright, Joan Euler, Shu Hing Man, Joan McKinnon, Peter Ringrose, Dr. Peter Roe, The Rt. Rev. D. Ralph Spence, Merilyn Thompson.
1968

GERRY SAUNDERS BASc (CHEM. ENG.)

After four years of residence at Renison College, Keith Carr and I graduated together as chemical engineers in 1968 and Keith went on to join Suncor at its refinery in Sarnia, eventually becoming Refinery Manager. Unfortunately, Keith suffered a heart attack and passed away while dealing with a refinery fire at Sarnia in the early 1980s. By accident I became an Industrial Hygienist, even though I didn't know anything about the field at the time except that I had learned how to measure industrial noise levels using a sound level meter. I worked 40 years in the profession, working for the BA Oil Company, the Ontario Department of Labour, Imperial Oil Limited, and even became a partner in a private consulting company for a few years before ultimately retiring as the industrial hygienist at the Cominco lead-zinc smelter in Trail, BC (home of the Trail Smoke Eaters, twice Ice Hockey World Champions - 1939 & 1961). When I retired in 2008 we sold our home in Rossland, BC, bought a 34-foot motorhome and drove it across Canada on a five-week odyssey to Nova Scotia. We now live on the edge of the Bay of Fundy in a small Acadian lobster fishing village called Cape St. Mary, where I continue to remain active. I have started my own consulting company specializing in the generation of material safety sheets for industrial chemicals, as well as building a woodworking shop where I have been busy designing and building small pieces of furniture like bed side tables and coffee/ end tables, wooden toys and wind whirligigs. I have also continued to perform in community theatre from time to time, something I took up 12 years ago in Trail.

1977

RICK MACFARLANE, BA (SDS)

My journey post-Renison has been an interesting one indeed, and when I do the math it hardly seems possible that it was so long ago that I left the University of Waterloo. The foundation I received in my B.A. served me well for the following three degrees, as well as my career with the Lambton Kent District School Board, where I taught for 10 years before going into administration, serving as Vice Principal and then Principal at seven schools within our Board. In May of 2013 I plan to retire, hoping to do a little part-time work with the Board or local college, while still allowing some time to get some good rides on the Harley. Thank you Renison for giving me a good start.

1984

WALTER DEMZCUK, BSc (BIOL)

After my Renison days, I took a few extra courses at the University of Huron. The past 18 years were spent as Rector of the Parish of Saint John, Cambridge. He has been a Canon of the Cathedral of Saint Paul, London since 1994. Currently he enjoys being chaplain to the Cambridge Fire Department and to the Royal Canadian Legion and continues to serve on the boards of the city archives, St John Ambulance and other community groups. Retirement has also allowed him more time to enjoy his garden and grandchildren and to pursue his interest in heraldry. The Governor General of Canada recently awarded him the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.
G R A P E V I N E

Guelph until I found employment as a microbiologist working with Salmonella and E. coli with Agriculture Canada in 1988. Since then, I got married in 1990, and in 1998 began working with the Public Health Agency of Canada in Winnipeg with surveillance of food-poisoning organisms and more recently, pneumococcal disease. We have a lovely daughter, born in 2002, who is now very active in choral music. I still listen to music from the “golden age” that they now call “Remember the 80’s” and more recently have come to really enjoy the “ambient down-tempo” genre of music (a sort of instrumental easy-listening electronica - Brian Eno-esque).

1985
MICHAEL LEFEUVRE, BA (HONS.) (ECON)

I've been living in Calgary for twenty-plus years. I remarried seven years ago and I am now a step-dad and Nordic ski coach in my spare time. I work for Risk Advisory—a division of SAS Canada in Calgary—and spend my days building financial risk management software for the commodities and energy industries. Annalee and I are avid Nordic skiers, triathletes, paddlers, and mountain bikers, and we love staying active and fit.

1995
RACHEL MAHRER, BA (SDS)
I'm working as a social worker with students at the University of Guelph and as a social worker at the University of Waterloo with staff/faculty. I am a clinical supervisor for McMaster's Residency Psychotherapy program, training psychiatry residents in CBT as part of McMaster's Waterloo Region campus. I have a small private practice in Waterloo and Guelph. I live outside Guelph in Rockwood with my partner. My kids are 23 and 26. My son is almost done Civil Engineering at Queen's and my daughter has an English degree from the University of Toronto.

1996
LYNDA HARLING STALKER, BA (HONS.) (SOC)
Lynda and Andrew (BES 1997) live in Antigonish, NS with their two children, Asta Merie and Adam. Lynda is a professor of Sociology and Andrew is an adult educator.

1997
VERONICA SMITH, BA (SDS)
Hi folks! I enjoy reading the Renison Alumni news, and seeing what everyone is doing!! Since graduation I've been very busy. My first employment opportunity was working with Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County as its Aboriginal Social Worker. I moved on to manage D'binooshnowin Women's Shelter for a short time on my First Nation. However, my preference was working with child welfare. I managed the Native Child Welfare program at Cape Croker for a few years then moved to North Bay and worked with the Children's Aid Society of Nipissing & Parry Sound. I also had the opportunity to work with the Children's Aid Society of Owen Sound & Grey County before moving back to my community where I am once again the Family Services Supervisor for Native Child Welfare. In the last six years I've been an elected official for the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation Council. Over the years, I have loved going back to Renison during the annual pow-wow at St. Paul's College. I'll be there again this September, dancing with a group of youth who I will be bringing. My daughter attends the University of Waterloo, and works there!! Life has been good! Miigwetch

1999
LIZ RYAN, BSW
I have been working at the Children's Aid Society in Brantford since January 2000. I started my career there as a Family Service Worker. In 2008 I took on a new role as a Children's Services Worker. I now work in the agency’s Permanency Services Unit. I love working with our Crown Wards.

2006
KATRINA HELM, BA (SDS)
I got married in 2007 and moved to the small town of Plattsville. I work in Stratford as a Mortgage
Administration Officer for Scotiabank, handling mortgage discharges. I gave birth to my first baby, Scarlett Keenan Helm, last October and am currently on maternity leave and loving being a new mom. Life has certainly taken me to an exciting place and I am grateful for all my memories and knowledge from Renison and Waterloo.

RITU ASHRAFI, BA (HONS.) (SDS)

The year after I graduated from Waterloo and Renison was a tough one. It was a strange coming of age and finding my feet in the “real world” at the same time. I tried working in HR and then PR in Toronto then took an entry level position in dot-com in New York City (founded by a fellow Canadian and Laurier grad) called Everydayhealth.com. Slowly building a career in online advertising and after scraping through a ‘huge quarter-life crisis’ I took a job in London and moved there in 2011. Now I’m launching a website to help girls in their 20s navigate this strange phase in our lives of graduating, entering the job-world, finding love, searching for success and happiness. The website is www.TheLifester.com. I would love to see some fellow Renison alums on there and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TheLifester

2007

SHANEIKA BAILEY, BA (HONS.) (SDS)

I’ve started the first and only adoption agency in Guyana that supports Canadians in their journey of expanding their family via this route.

CINDIE NEUDORF, BA (SDS)

Since graduating from Waterloo I worked as a coordinator for Red Cross Respect Ed, a violence and abuse prevention program in Saskatoon for a couple of years. In 2012, I completed a Master’s in Counselling Psychology through Yorkville University. I am currently working as a counsellor in Saskatoon, SK. I love what I do and am grateful for my education through the University of Waterloo, which showed me the way to achieve a lifelong goal.

CARA VAN DER LAAN, BA (HIST/ANTH)

Following that amazing first year at Renison, I completed my degree and began to work for The Children’s Museum (now known as TheMuseum) in Waterloo. There I discovered my passion for museums and decided to pursue a Masters of Museum Studies at the University of Toronto.

The move to Toronto was a great decision and a lot of fun. My then-boyfriend and I first lived in a condo near the Harbourfront and a few years later we bought a house near the Danforth, where we still live with our dog. In 2011, we got married in a lovely ceremony in Waterloo and had a fabulous party at the Walper Hotel. After completing my Masters, I went on to do a number of fun contracts in the arts and culture sector, including working for the Toronto Zoo’s Education department and the Luminato Festival of Arts and Creativity. I’m now very happily employed at the Ontario Science Centre as their Artifacts Coordinator.

2010

DELIA VARADARES, BA (SDS)

It’s been about only three years since convocation but it feels a lot longer. I got married in November 2011 and moved to Houston, TX where my husband was living. I am now working as a recruiter for an IT start-up in Houston. I am loving being part of something growing! We rescued a wonderful puppy last year and named her Kona. For now, she is enough of a handful for us! Cheers to all my fellow Renison alumni!

DANIEL PUGH, BA (2003), BSW

Since November 2011, I have been working in knowledge-exchange
through the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance of Ontario (based in Toronto). Last spring I completed a community-based research fellowship with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (www.universitieswithoutwalls.ca). This experience allowed me to build upon my knowledge base of (community-based) quantitative research and continue as Co-PI for the Health in Middlesex Men Matters project (funded by CIHR). As of last week I was granted admission into University of Toronto's MSW program in the Health and Mental Health specialization stream for fall 2013.

2011
DEVON FUSICK, BA (SDS)
After Renison, I attended Western for my Bachelor of Education in the Primary/Junior Division. Teacher’s college was an amazing experience and Renison definitely prepared me for what I walked into. I had always planned on living in Waterloo and becoming a teacher, but after some bumps in the road I quickly changed my mind and accepted a teaching position in Kuwait. I had never dreamed of moving away from Waterloo, let alone moving to the Middle East. On a Monday evening, I received an email offering me a grade one position at the Canadian Bilingual School (CBS), and without much thinking I accepted the position by Tuesday morning. I have now been living in Kuwait for eight months and have no intentions of returning to Canada any time soon. This opportunity has given me a myriad of chances to travel, including to Jordan, the UAE, and soon Egypt. I love my job as a teacher and cannot imagine doing anything else. Having my degree in SDS is a strong asset for me since many Arabic children in the country suffer from ADHD and, LD’s and are being raised by nannies or drivers. I believe that this degree prepared me a lot. I am able to use my skills and education from my experience at Renison to help me throughout this time in Kuwait.

DAVID KING, BSW
After my time at Renison, I went on to complete a Master’s in Social Work at Dalhousie University in Halifax. I am now working as a social worker with Homewood Health Centre’s community division and as a private individual and family therapist with Bayridge Family Centre. I am in the process of writing a journal article regarding feminist narrative conceptualizations of male anorexia nervosa. Additional activities include serving as a board member for Danielle’s Place, program development for the Eating Disorder Services of Brant, and catching up on reading some Russian literature.

2012
ALI ABDURAHMAN, BA (LIB)
I am continuing my studies to obtain a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. I hope I will complete it successfully by June.

JOHN NEAL, BSc (HONS) (KIN)
After graduating in Kinesiology from the University of Waterloo in June 2012, I was accepted into the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College’s Doctorate of Chiropractic program in Toronto. It is an extensive and very rewarding program that keeps me busy, but I make sure to enjoy life to the fullest while I continue to build towards the future. I have participated in the AHS Fun Run and the Santa Pur-Suit in the KW region as well as the “Coldest Night of the Year” in Toronto. Next on the horizon is the “Tough Mudder” in May 2013! Even though school is a priority right now, I am trying to keep life balanced by being active both personally and in the community.
Renison University College values its traditions. This year, we’re starting something new! Renison has created a school ring that we hope you will wear with pride. Be the first to wear a Renison University College ring!

Each ring is customized to your specifications. Any graduation year can be included on the ring’s shoulders.

For more information, go to: www.waterloostore.uwaterloo.ca

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

19th Annual East Asian Festival
Saturday, September 28, 2013
11:00am – 3:00pm
Raffle Prizes|Performances|Demonstrations|Activities
FREE ADMISSION

Motivational Talk & Book Launch
Tuesday, October 1, 2013
with Charmaine Hammond

Alumni College Dinners
Tuesday, September 10, 2013
Wednesday, November 27, 2013
Alumni Reception @ 4:15pm
College Dinner @ 5:00pm
$10 per person
Families welcome
ALL-COLLEGE ACROSS THE CREEK EVENT

Saturday, October 19, 2013

Come ride the rails with your fellow Renison alumni, as we take a private trip on the Waterloo Central Railway. Please check Renison’s Events page online for more details.

If you are interested in supporting student scholarships, awards, and bursaries, please contact Caroline Tanswell, Director of Development, Renison University College. 519.884.4404 ext. 28605 or caroline.tanswell@uwaterloo.ca

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