On September 29, 2012, as part of the University of Waterloo’s Reunion, Renison University College celebrated held its 18th Annual East Asian Festival. Generously sponsored by the Consulates General of Japan, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, the event was again a great success.

With 200 guests from outside the college, in addition to our resident students, Renison was surging with excitement. Renison hosted a variety of informative and interactive booths that included Korean Art, trying on Japanese Kimonos, and Chinese cultural information.

In keeping with Renison’s dedication to excellent student life, we also incorporated activities that were of great interest to our students and local community alike. These included karaoke, an Anime movie theatre, Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) and a Star Craft tournament. Renison also held an interfloor competition to see which residence floor could fold the most paper cranes. The floor ‘Euphoria’ emerged victorious with a total of 430 paper cranes! The cranes were used to decorate the great hall for the Festival.

The performances in the East Meets West Garden raised the bar, this year. The Korean traditional costume fashion show (that transitioned into Gangnam Style), the Japanese Taiko Drummers, as well as the Chinese Lion Dance (pictured on front cover), among many others, managed to keep the excitement at a fever pitch.

We always try to top the previous year’s Festival, however 2012 has set a truly strong benchmark.
There are always a lot of questions about the energy people feel when they visit Renison. Perhaps it is because there is much going on. It is a “happening” place, and sometimes it feels as if it is all happening at once. I’d like to give you a few examples.

In our last issue of Renison Reports, I mentioned that it was my goal for Renison to “reach up” toward graduate work and research and to “reach out” to meet community aspirations.

Both of these, of course, are intertwined: our Sakura Japanese language school for preschoolers is growing to meet community needs and at the same time attracting outside funding. Programs like PEAR (Peer Education At Renison) are ways of meeting senior needs in the community, and help us reach out to those who might not otherwise attend classes or functions at Renison as well as to recruit new volunteers, assistants, donors, and language monitors. Similar programs exist at Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, Calgary, and McGill, among others. Though a non-academic program, PEAR complements our new, highly academic, Master of Social Work degree program, dealing as it does with the learning and well-being of seniors and is expected to attract corporate sponsorship in addition to being a natural subject for future research.

We continue to reach out to improve facilities for our resident students. This past summer we fully renovated another two residence floors (Animal and FUBAR) at a cost of $400,000 and we are currently developing new food standards for improved meal service for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Recognizing members of the Renison community who contribute to society in so many ways is another way of us “Reaching Out”. This year, eight individuals connected with Renison in diverse ways received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. We are so very proud of them and their accomplishments. (See page 13)

An example of “Reaching Up” is our innovative Master of Social Work (MSW) program - one of the first non-theological Masters’ degrees in any of the colleges and, in conjunction with the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, the first such on-line degree in the county to be health orientated. The program is not only a first for Renison; it is the first of its kind in Canada!

To situate this program as well and to add some growing space, in September we began construction of a new, $1.3 million building, to be completed by February 2013. Financed entirely from the proceeds of the MSW program, it is the right building, at the right price, at the right time and just another example of how Renison is moving forward.

One of the most important parts of “Reaching Up” is through the renewal of our faculty with highly qualified, research oriented, professors whose cutting edge investigations are featured in numerous academic and popular publications. Though in past decades research was a less significant facet of the university colleges, today that has changed dramatically with keen minds leading research in new and exciting areas like civic education, ethics, public health, interpersonal behavior, ethnicity and diversity, and social cognition, to name but a few. With exceptional teaching credentials, Renison’s faculty members use their most research findings to inform their teaching. It is an exciting time to be at Renison!

As you read further in this edition of Renison Reports, I hope that you too will see what all the excitement is about!
May Yan, Chair of the Development Committee and Secretary for the Renison University College Board of Governors, exemplifies what it means to be a Renison volunteer. She is accomplished, talented, energetic, and generous with her time and heart.

When she joined the Board in 2008 at the behest of former Principal Gail Cuthbert Brandt, she rethought her idea of “taking a break” from volunteering. She had been involved with the KW YMCA (as a director for three years) and, after learning more about Renison, was impressed with what she saw and felt Renison was a place she wanted to be. Her initial involvement began when she worked at the uWaterloo Bookstore and helped put together a panel on Chinese Literature featuring well-known writer Jan Wong and Renison’s own distinguished author, Yan Li. May subsequently took an English Literature course at Renison and her appreciation of the college deepened.

May is currently Director of Retail Services at uWaterloo, a position she has held since 1997. A graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University, she joined uWaterloo in 1974, working at the Dana Porter Library. She knows what it means to be involved: she has been a member of the Search Committee for Associate Provost Students, the uWaterloo Identity Task Force, uWaterloo Student Engagement, and the Media Agility Network Project. And, in case that isn’t enough, she is a founding member and served as Director of Campus Stores Canada as well as President of the Eastern Association of College Stores.

Her career accomplishments make her an invaluable asset to Renison’s Board of Governors. She might argue, however, that the raising of three daughters with her husband John has provided her with the crisis management skills and impetus to continue contributing to the shaping and education of young minds of the future.

With heart and a cheery smile, May has been, and will continue to be, an enthusiastic champion of Renison, a place she calls “homey, a place with a real community atmosphere. The college is a welcoming place—especially for students not wanting to be lost in a big, impersonal university. The most telling thing about Renison is the way staff and faculty bend over backwards to support the students.”

May looks forward to working with the Development Office and the other members of her committee to bring their creative talents to the fundraising challenges of Renison.

Christine Grin, Renison University College’s Board Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, proves that you can go home again. You can go home and it can be a satisfying experience. Christine lived at Renison during her first year as a Mathematics student at uWaterloo. She describes it as “a great experience,” despite having trepidations on her first day. She recalls seeing a U-Haul at the entrance and thinking “I hope that’s not my roommate”…only to discover it was. All that “stuff” aside, they got along well and Christine remained so positive about her time here that she decided to settle in Waterloo with husband Aaron (also a uWaterloo grad).

Receiving her B.Math from uWaterloo, Christine also graduated at the same time from Wilfrid Laurier University with an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration degree. With her degrees and CMA designation, Christine worked as a financial analyst, originally with Mattel Canada and then Equitable Life, where she has been employed for four years. This financial experience makes her a valuable asset to Renison and over the past years she has offered insightful advice as the college has grown in size and breadth. As the college continues to expand and offer more courses, Christine looks forward to providing Renison with accurate, thoughtful counsel geared to our continued success—financial and otherwise.

One of the things Christine values most about Renison is its ability to provide a warm and nurturing environment, especially for new students from small towns venturing into the larger world for the first time. A native of Teeswater, she was grateful for the support she received her first year at Renison. Like many other volunteers at the college, she wants to contribute to the school and to the community at large. She hopes this will still leave time to pursue her other interests—running, cooking and travelling.

We know Christine’s commitment to Renison is genuine, given the number of lunch hours and evenings she has given up for Board meetings and related duties. We look forward to having her on the Board for a long time.
Throughout my sabbatical, friends and colleagues often asked how it was going or how I was enjoying my time off. Since this was the first sabbatical of my academic career I had no basis for comparison to answer the first question, and only a blank-eyed stare (meant to convey “Are you kidding me?”) in response to the second. Initially, I had grand designs, but as my time out of the classroom progressed, I found myself returning over and over to a set of questions that has, at some level, informed every aspect of my research over the last decade.

How do we come to think about the things we do—and not other things? Why do different people think differently about the same things? That is, given roughly the same data, why do we not infrequently arrive at opposite conclusions? And, if we do think differently, does it remain “the same thing”? How, in the face of immediate and conclusive disconfirmation, do we continue to cling to particular beliefs and positions? How do various social psychological processes—our willingness to believe things we hear more often or our bias toward things with which we already agree—inform our belief engines and decision-making processes. Moreover, given the fact that we do not think only (or even primarily) as individuals, but as members of various cultural and sub-cultural groups, how do the social aspects of cognition shape the answers to these questions? How does the way we communicate our beliefs condition the beliefs of those around us?

These questions have led me to the beginnings of what I am calling an “ecological model of social cognition,” a theoretical framework that seeks to incorporate the variety of influences on thinking, rather than focus on a single independent variable, whether sociological (e.g., class) or biological (e.g., sex). Much like social networking models that illustrate the proximity and strengths of different interpersonal relationships, this framework seeks to understand the relationships between the wide range of different influences on how we think as individuals and groups. For example, I suspect that the vast majority of people reading this brief note have never (knowingly) met a Scientologist. Yet, few would be unaware of Scientology and, I dare say, few would have failed to form an opinion. Where did that opinion come from? For me, it’s far too simplistic to say, for instance, “the media,” because there is far more at play than that.

As I am discovering, this is an extraordinarily complex, often messy process and requires familiarity with a wide range of literatures. But complexity is the stuff of human life, and, sometimes, Occam’s Razor cuts us off from the truth. The beauty of the model as I am beginning to see it is that it could be applied to any issue—poverty, terrorism and radicalization, religious belief, pornography, you name it—and offer us a more comprehensive (though not exhaustive) understanding of that issue.

Not a bad way to spend one’s time, it seems to me.
Dr. Hsiao d’Ailly joined the Social Development Studies (SDS) department in 1995, having also taught part-time in the program while holding a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship. As a Social Statistics and Research Methods professor in SDS, Hsiao has probably taught most of our SDS alumni who have come and gone over the past two decades, both on-campus and through online education!

In 2007 Hsiao became the chair of Social Development Studies and quickly got to work on implementing many new and exciting changes for the department and for the program. Existing academic plans were streamlined, and new academic plans and courses were and continue to be added, offering students a wider variety of topics to study within the SDS major. Moreover, dedicated efforts have been invested to ensure that SDS continues to be a leader in online education, offering a variety of web-based courses for students both on campus and at a distance.

A recent seven year program review was very positive and SDS is well on its way to implementing its strategic plan recommendations. As the department saw rapid changes in just a few years, there was a definite need for more faculty. Hsiao has been a member of seven Renison faculty search committees since 2003, looking for brilliant and talented new faces. Since 2007 six new faculty have joined Social Development Studies, and two administrative support positions have been added as well. Hsiao also served on the selection committee for the Vice-President, Academic and Provost of the University of Waterloo in 2009.

Through her involvement in both the academic and local community, Hsiao has been able to contribute knowledge from her areas of research, which include cross-cultural psychology, immigrant adaptation, community mental health, and participatory action research.

She has delivered several conference presentations in the last few years. The latest one (2012), was done in collaboration with Rich Janzen (Centre for Community Based Research), and dealt with “Planning Transformative Change for Mental Services for Cultural-Linguistic Communities.” Their contributions along with those of other research collaborators will be published in a book on “Transformative Change in Mental Health”, expected to be released in 2013 by the Oxford University Press.

In 2011 Hsiao helped to organize and secure funding from the Taiwan Democracy Foundation for the Taiwan-Canada Bilateral Conference: “Democracy and Minority Rights in Taiwan: an Interdisciplinary Conference at the 100th Anniversary of the Hsinhai Revolution.” For this conference she organized a panel on “Migration: Issues and Challenges for the Newcomers in Taiwan.”

In addition to leadership at Renison in her academic field, Hsiao has taken on leadership roles in several community organizations. She has served as the Vice President of the Waterloo Region Canadian Chinese Women’s Federation since 2006. Now at 50 members, they hope to serve as a role model for other ethnic groups by promoting community involvement and supporting organizations through fundraisers. They have worked to strengthen ties between the Chinese community and the broader population. “We want to make sure we serve as a bridge,” said Hsiao in an interview for The Record newspaper. In June of 2011 the group raised $3,000 from a walk-a-thon for Women’s Crisis Services of Waterloo Region, which operates two emergency shelters for abused women and their children.

Hsiao has also been involved with K-W Counselling Services since 2002, serving as the President of its Board of Directors between 2005-2007, during which time she played a significant role in acquiring funding from the Ontario Government for the new capital facility.

Teaching, research, successfully managing a growing department and engaging in community leadership are not Hsiao’s only talents - in her spare time, she fosters a passion for music, and enjoys playing the piano and walking with friends!
Social Development Studies (SDS) was officially approved by the University of Waterloo Faculty of Arts in 1974. By 1982, SDS was the fourth largest Arts program, and by 1984 all of the core SDS courses had been made available to students at a distance through the University’s correspondence program. Twenty some years later, the SDS program has maintained its popularity both on campus and off. To date, over 3,000 students have graduated from Renison with a major in SDS.

Currently, more than 500 students are registered in SDS with ten core, full time faculty members supporting the program. It attracts many bright and motivated high school graduates, as well as mature students with work experience looking to further their education. SDS continues to innovate and remains one of the very progressive programs at the University of Waterloo.

The Living-Learning Community, supporting first-year SDS students housed at Renison, has doubled just within the last year. Along with the creation of an SDS student society, the LLC will grow a strong sense of community among our students and provide a stimulating academic and living environment.

Each year more new courses have been added that address issues and studies related to social actions and social change, and are tangibly relevant to our globalized world, the local community, and also to individuals. Along with the many advanced new courses, the addition of four specializations will now let students explore in greater depth topics within Social Policy, Education, Individual Well-Being and Development, and Social Work.

Not only have the areas of study expanded, but students now have the opportunity for more hands-on learning through the Applied Apprenticeship. Taught every winter since 2010, the course offers a mix of classroom learning and placements in community organizations that allow students to contribute their knowledge while taking away real world experience. The benefit runs both ways, as this initiative enriches students’ education and allows a path for academic knowledge to benefit the community.

Similarly, the Research Apprenticeship available to Honours students is a very popular course, as it offers the chance to work on the many projects with which SDS faculty have been keeping busy. During the last four years, six new faculty have joined the department, each bringing unique strengths and exciting research initiatives to an already well-founded interdisciplinary academic mosaic. Dr. Denise Marigold’s research focuses on social psychology, including positive psychology and close relationships. Dr. Kristina Llewellyn offers her expertise in the history and sociology of education, as well as child and youth studies. Interested in issues of identity and deviance, Dr. Sharon Roberts’ studies have even included furries! Dr. J.C. Blokhuis specializes in education, with a background in law and a particular focus on children’s rights. Busy with many studies in health psychology, Dr. Christine Logel is exploring areas of research relating to stereotypes and personality. With a background in community based research, Professor Robert Case’s studies examine the process involved in grassroots social development and social change initiatives.

In addition to the new faculty, the SDS office welcomed two new faces in May 2012. Florence Bray has joined us as the new Assistant to the Chair, and Michaela Tatu as the SDS Program Assistant. More administrative support will mean better service to students and faculty as the department continues to grow and flourish.

The department would like to thank its alumni for participating in the needs assessment study that was carried out this past spring to evaluate the possibility of a graduate program focusing on community based research. We want to acknowledge not only the time that alumni took to respond, but also the very insightful and helpful feedback. As SDS moves forward, the suggestions of alumni are invaluable in strengthening the program - we couldn’t do it without you!
When Glenn Cartwright joined Renison University, he made a commitment to “Reach Up,” and that is just what he did. The School of Social Work’s new and innovative Master of Social Work degree is the first graduate program in the Renison’s history! This graduate degree is 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 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 uWaterloo’s Centre for Extended Learning (CEL).

A core component of the MSW Program is Field Education which provides the opportunity for students from across Canada to complete practicums in their own communities or regions. This flexibility for working professionals allows them to continue with their family, community, and volunteer commitments.

Renison welcomed the first cohort of graduate students in the part-time MSW program on August 20th. Students were oriented to the program, Renison support services, and online learning at uWaterloo, and the students completed their first course; Diversity and Health. The grad students also enjoyed quality time with their classmates, living both on and off campus.

Renison shares in the excitement of the inaugural graduate students and the journey they have just embarked upon. Although we may not see them regularly on campus we wish them, the staff and faculty all the best as they reach boldly into the future to shape and inform our healthcare system and provide professional interventions to enhance individual, family, group, community, and population welfare across our country. We look forward to seeing them again when they return to campus for their final course in August 2014!

Since graduating from Social Development Studies in 1990, I am thrilled to share that my path has come full circle and I am back at Renison in the newly created position as the MSW Program Coordinator. I completed my Master of Social Work in 1992, then, I took some time to travel the world, stopping in Australia for a year at many awe-inspiring beaches (a refreshing change from the pace of academics.)

After returning to work in children’s mental health, education, corrections and health promotion, I wrote D.A.N.C.E: Five Steps to Living Your Best Life, a motivational self-help book to encourage individuals to find their strengths and passion and live their best life. I found my passion working with children/youth and making a lasting difference in their lives but also supporting and educating their parents/caregivers. I have hosted three television series, most recently Parenting with Passion with CTV SWO, and led community health promotion projects on positive parenting strategies because every caring adult has the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child, and every child deserves to be loved unconditionally. My greatest accomplishment obviously is my role as a mom to two beautiful children.

I would be very excited to hear from those friends from days gone by who spent countless hours together chatting in the (former) Moose Room between classes. The Moose is still here (and so are many of our profs)! I would also be happy to share more about our new MSW program. Please email; deborah.dejong@uwaterloo.ca
Dr. Susan Cadell was previously Director of the Manulife Centre for Healthy Living in the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research concerns the positive aspects of stress and coping in various health situations, particularly posttraumatic growth. She has a deep interest in palliative care and is a member of several multidisciplinary research teams.

Susan is also involved in a team working to increase social work education in palliative care through the development of social work competencies.

Susan has always been passionate about strengths in social work and human service. She has advocated for more inclusion of spirituality in social work by helping to establish the Canadian Association of Social Work and Spirituality and organize their conferences for many years. She has written about the need to incorporate spirituality more into the notion of posttraumatic growth.

By the Rev. Canon Megan Collings-Moore, Renison Chaplain

Last year a Japanese student turned up at the Ministry Centre door, a bag of Japanese candies in her hand and shyly offered them to me saying, “Thank you for all the tea and cookies you have given me!” Visiting Chinese professors wrote about the Ministry Centre in a publication when they got home, extolling the benefits of having a place that nurtured students in this way.

And the chaplaincy programming continues also. “Dinner with the Chaplain” and “Fermented Faith” both encourage wide-ranging discussion. Last spring we started Re:Verse, a Bible study which “takes the Bible seriously, not literally.” We specially choose difficult or problem passages from scripture, and look at them critically, before discussing what value this passage might still have for us today, if any...

I have become increasingly aware of the need to nurture solitude and reflection in a generation of students that are always connected, and who receive instant feedback on almost everything they do. New this year, the Ministry Centre offers a range of daily prayer resources, as well as books which encourage reflection. I also have a box of blank journals which I hand out to any student who asks for one. Hopefully this encourages students to take time to recognize their own inner voice and to learn to discern who and what is calling to them.

Classes and academic learning are only one part of the larger university experience. The Ministry Centre provides hospitality, and Chaplaincy provides resources and support for encouraging spiritual growth. Together they continue the proud Renison tradition of “higher learning!”

www.facebook.com/RenisonsMinistryCentre
This year marks the 40th anniversary of English language teaching at Renison University College. It all started in the early 1970s when Professor Harry Tuyn developed and taught English classes for University of Waterloo students whose first language was not English. In the mid 1990s, the English Language Institute was formed on the basis of Renison’s expertise in English language teaching.

The first program offered by ELI was the English for Success (EFS) summer program, now in its 19th year. From this one-month language program, ELI has branched out significantly in its diversity of course and program offerings—a reflection of the changing needs and desires of its students and the university community.

To best accommodate and promote this diversity, ELI this year reorganized its administration into English Language Studies (ELS) and English Language Centre (ELC). ELS offers credit courses to University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University students in need of language support and offers an accredited teacher training program called the ACE TESOL program. The ELC offers a variety of programs and courses for individuals and groups who want language training but who do not necessarily have access to the English language credit courses. In addition to the EFS program, ELC offers the English for Academic Success (EFAS) program which helps prepare students for university studies in Canada, IELTS preparation courses, an ESL Grammar and Writing for the Workplace course, and the Exploring Graduate Studies program.

Of course, what lies at the heart of all these programs and courses is the people—the students, staff and faculty of ELI. In the past year, ELI has hired two new staff members as well as a number of sessional teachers to accommodate the growing student population. ELI students come from all over the world and the world in turn is sending its best and brightest to Canada. The ELI is proud to host scholarship students from Saudi Arabia, Libya, Iraq, Chile and Brazil as well as non-scholarship students from approximately 18 other countries.

It is anticipated that ELI programs will still be in hot demand over the coming years. A Government of Canada advisory panel charged with reviewing Canada’s international education strategy recently released a report that called for doubling the number of international students studying in Canada by the year 2022. We look forward to the significant role that ELI will continue to play in welcoming new students, staff and faculty to Renison and the University of Waterloo!
The ground has officially been broken for the new building that is due to be completed by February, 2013.

The ceremonial first shovel took place on Thursday, July 5, 2012, with (L-R): Board member Paul Pink, Board Chair Keith Hipel, retiring Director of the School of Social Work Ellen Sue Mesbur, and Principal Glenn Cartwright donning hard hats and doing the heavy lifting.

The “East Side Office Expansion” is being built on the side of Renison adjacent to St. Jerome’s University.

It will be a single storey, 8,300 square foot building with 15 offices, one meeting room, two classrooms, a student lounge, and washrooms. The building will also have a hybrid HVAC system to allow for aboriginal smudging ceremonies to be held in one of the classrooms.

In addition to the new building, this year Renison has seen the complete renovation of two residence floors (Animal and FUBAR).

Renison continues to maintain a dedication to excellent and updated facilities for both its academic and residence students.
IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES BELAIR

Charles Belair, renowned photographer and good friend of Renison University College, passed away on September 17, 2012. He was 98.

Charles and Keiko Belair have been long-time, generous benefactors of Renison University College. Charles was a remarkable man who lived a remarkable life and who stood proudly beside his wife, Keiko, in their support of Renison University College.

It was well-known in the Kitchener-Waterloo community that anybody who was anybody had their photo taken by Charles Belair. Charles continued taking photographs well into his 80s and for many years, was the official photographer of Renison’s East Asian Festival.

Together, Charles and Keiko Belair established the Keiko and Charles Belair Centre for East Asian Studies, donating the largest gift in Renison’s history. Their generosity continued with sponsorship of the East Asian Festival and the donation of a Japanese lantern for the East Meets West garden at Renison.

Most recently, the Sakura Japanese Language School for children ages four to seven, and offered at Renison University College, was founded through the Belair’s vision and support.

Charles Belair was an Honorary Senior Fellow of Renison, as well as the recipient of the Rotary International Paul Harris Award and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. He was granted a K-W Arts Award for lifetime achievement and was invested into the Waterloo Region Hall of Fame.

We, at Renison, are fortunate to have known Charles and are grateful that his memory will live on at the College.

JUSTIN STRICKER

On September 4, 2012, Renison alumnus, Justin Stricker, passed away in Toronto.

A former Renison Don of Treetop (2003-2004), Midway (2004-2005) and Loft (2005-2006), Justin was an accomplished student at the University of Waterloo.

Having achieved a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies, a Bachelor of Arts in Medieval Studies, and a Master of Arts in Ancient Mediterranean Cultures at Waterloo, Justin went on to achieve his Bachelor of Education from York University.

Always a source of much fun and smiles at the college, he will be greatly missed by the Renison community.

MARION CAMPBELL

Passed peacefully at Grand River Hospital on Monday, July 23, 2012, at the age of 85. Beloved wife of the late Ian Campbell, former principal of Renison University College, Marion was an Honorary Senior Fellow of Renison.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Campbell family.
On September 9, 2012, Renison held a community celebration and BBQ in honour of Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee. Generously sponsored by the Government of Canada, over 200 of Renison’s friends, students and wider community members gathered on the front lawn of the college to recognize our Queen’s dedication to service over 60 years and the dedication to service displayed by the recipients of the Diamond Jubilee Medal. It was a tremendous day with family fun, entertainment provided by musician Michael Bridge, the performance of the national and royal anthems by the 80 KW Spitfire Squadron - Royal Canadian Air Cadets, and the gifting of a new portrait of the Queen to Renison University College by Bradley Barbour, on behalf of the Monarchist League of Canada. It can definitely be said that Renison’s community is a dedicated and vibrant one.

PEAR
(Peer Education at Renison)

Fall 2012
www.uwaterloo.ca/renison/pear

Location: Renison University College, 240 Westmount Rd. N, Waterloo

Time: 10:30am-12:00pm (refreshments served plus an optional lunch following)

Cost: $10.00 per session or three for $25.00. Registration is required. Please contact 519-884-4404 x28649 or pear@uwaterloo.ca

Events

November 2, 2012 – Bradley Barbour, Chair of the Waterloo-Wellington Branch of The Monarchist League of Canada, will join us.

November 9, 2012 – Video clips and debate on the role of the Monarchy in Canada.
1970
Bob Hamilton, BMath

I first resided in the men’s building at Renison in the fall of 1966, in my first year at uWaterloo. My roommate was Mustapha bin Besar, a visiting student from Malaysia, and a favourite in the social scene at Renison. Next to us were roommates Pete “Stretch” Tremaine and Gord McFaul. I was accepted into Renison, I believe, due to the intervention of Bishop Townshend (I think that was his name), who I was referred to by our local Anglican minister, Rev. Ronald Hunt. I also roomed for a term or two with Bill Edmunds, from northern Ontario, and he and Mustapha and I often hung out together. One of my memories of this time was a float Renison had in a local parade up King Street. The float was a bar scene—what else?? The live band in the float on the pub consisted of myself—playing bagpipes and another resident James Tennyson, who played tuba!! I actually think we didn’t sound too bad!

For a time, we had a chaplain, Father Joe, who I came to know pretty well. In fact, Father Joe and his girl friend and I and another Renison resident, who I remember as Alma, took a motor trip to Mexico over Christmas holidays one year. I remember us stopping overnight on the beach at Tampico, MX, with just our sleeping bags beside the Gulf of Mexico waters. Very pleasant...except the next day, we were all scratching hundreds of sand flea bites! One part of our excursion involved leaving our car at a river, crossing the river in a leaky boat, and trekking to a village buried in the Mexican jungle. I spent the night in the local pub, drinking beer with the local crowd, and when I returned to where we were spending the night, was soundly lectured by Father Joe for pulling out a 100-peso note to pay for the beers, because travellers had been beaten for a fortune of 100 pesos. Didn’t sleep too well that night!

I left Renison to live off-campus for a number of terms, completed my BMath in 1970, and an MMath in 1971, and began working on a PhD - which I did not complete. During my grad work, I applied and was accepted for a don-ship at Renison. So I met a new generation of Renison students. At this time, my sister Bonnie was also a resident at Renison. I remember at one of the special event dinners, where they were “roasting” individual residents, Bonnie was singled out with the then current pop song “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.”

The floor I was don of may have been the original “Animal floor.” We had a weird mixture of residents who were up for anything for a laugh. I remember games of “tennis ball hockey” up and down the hall, when all residents would come out of their rooms, with sawed-off hockey sticks, or any weapon they could propel a tennis ball with, and a maze of bodies struggling up and down the hall, whacking away at the tennis ball until a goal was scored at one end of the hall or the other. The game was great, until a mis-placed hard shot happened to hit the clock, near the ceiling in the middle of the hall, breaking the glass cover. Result: empty hall. From this time period I remember Doug Bradford, Brodie Hart, and...oh, the memory fails. I remember some of the other dons, nicknames “Grouse” (from Stratford) and “Thumper” (Owen Sound).

I’ve saved my best memory for last, as you will see. During the year I was a Don, I met a female Don, Pam Winter. Nothing much happened between us during first term—in fact Pam thought I was not a very nice person when she observed me hassling some frosh during frosh week.

I remember on the return to classes after the Christmas break, how I would walk from the men’s residence over to the dining room, and the curtains on Pam’s window (bottom floor, left side, right beside the office space), were drawn, and she had not returned. Something inside me made me wonder, and I ended up calling her home number to enquire. Her mother answered the phone and said that Pam had been recovering from the flu/cold, and I spoke to Pam briefly. Pam says that when she hung up the phone, her mother told her that something would come of our relationship—she had a “feeling.”

Well, her mother was right. In Pam, I had met my soul-mate. We connected after she returned to Renison that winter - I a graduate Math student studying Einstein’s theory of relativity, and Pam, the math-challenged English major, whose high-school math teacher agreed to give her a pass in grade 11 math, provided that she NEVER take a math course again. A bargain Pam was only too happy to agree to!

We married in 1973, and within weeks, we had moved to London, Ontario, I had left the PhD Math program at uWaterloo, started working for a Chartered Accounting firm, Pam enrolled in the Western teachers program, and we never looked back. We currently live in Georgetown, Ontario with our 5 cats. I work as Chief Financial Officer for a chain of ophthalmology clinics in the West end of Toronto, and Pam has retired from her teaching career, and is doing contract work, building and running a cooperative education program for adult students in Peel county.

My sister Bonnie married a great guy she also met at Waterloo, and they have 8 or 9 wonderful children, with grand-children.

We at Renison, and your fellow alumni, would love to hear your latest news.

Please submit a Grapevine column online at: uwaterloo.ca/renison/grapevine

www.uwaterloo.ca/renison
1995

Todd J. Pokrywa, BES (Honours Urban and Regional Planning)

Todd graduated from the University of Waterloo with his Bachelor of Environmental Studies, Honours Urban and Regional Planning, in 1995. Both a former Fubar resident at Renison and bartender at Fed Hall, he has long since established residence in sunny Florida. Todd has been involved in the land use and development field across various areas of Florida for the past seventeen years. He joined Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. (“SMR”) in January 2003 as a Corporate Officer and serves as the company’s Vice President of Planning. In this role, he serves as SMR’s primary liaison with local, state, and federal government officials and departments on issues concerning the future planning and development of the mixed-use and master planned community of Lakewood Ranch in Southwest Florida.

Todd is a member of many professional organizations, including the American Planning Association, Florida Planning & Zoning Association, and the Urban Land Institute. In addition, he serves on Boards of Directors for the Association of Florida Community Developers, Manatee Chamber of Commerce, and Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance. Todd is also a graduate of both the Leadership Manatee and Leadership Sarasota programs. Furthermore, he is committed to community involvement as evidenced by his current service on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Red Cross as well as the Finance Council for Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic Church in Lakewood Ranch.

Todd’s wife, Cyndi, is currently pursuing her Master’s degree at Loyola University New Orleans via distance education. In addition, his stepdaughter Samantha is attending Florida Atlantic University (“FAU”) in Boca Raton as a sophomore where she is a softball pitcher for the FAU Owls.

In his spare time, Todd enjoys attending Tampa Bay Lightning games, but he is still a Toronto Maple Leafs fan at heart.

2007

Amy Eagle (nee Hughes), BA (SDS)

Hello Everyone! It does not seem like 5 years have passed since I graduated from Renison. I guess time flies when you are ridiculously busy. Chris Eagle, a former Renison resident who fortuitously was on my floor in first and second year, and I got married in 2010. For those of you who knew us—yeah, you told us so. Chris is now working on his PhD in math at UofT. After finishing up with SDS I went to McMaster and graduated from the midwifery program. I am now working in Oakville and loving my job as I work with moms and help them welcome their little ones into the world.

2009

Lisa Kelly, BSc (Kin)

8 years ago I can remember leaving my small native Kincardine to move to the “big city” of Waterloo for university. I remember being greeted by the enthusiastic dons at Renison and although I felt completely overwhelmed I was ready and excited to start a new chapter. I met so many great people at Renison where I was a resident and also a don.

After graduating in 2009, I went to Nipissing University where I completed my Bachelor of Education. I had always wanted to be a teacher but so did thousands of others—so the “teacher market” was saturated, which meant only a select few could land a job. With few options, I moved back into my parents’ home where I began the job search. I had promised myself to apply everywhere, knowing that I wanted to teach and I didn’t care where. After a summer with no interviews I was getting discouraged. The job search was exciting, exhausting, frustrating, and timely, but with patience and perseverance, things started turning around. I was interviewed for an elementary teaching position in Cape Dorset, Nunavut and got the job! In less than a week I was moving up to the arctic, leaving behind family and friends and not knowing a single person in the “fly-in” community. I am currently in my 3rd year teaching Grade 3. Every day is a new challenge but I feel incredibly blessed to have had this opportunity.

I am reminded about something Jeff Newell, Renison’s Director of Residence, said to me. We were chatting about school and rugby and Jeff pointed out that I was part of the minority. I had no idea what he was talking about. He explained that most people do not go to university and of those, most do not play a varsity sport. I felt proud of myself. He taught that it is incredibly important to not ever sell yourself short and to look back proudly at the things you have accomplished. If you stay true to your goals, you will surprise yourself every day!”
GUESS WHO’S INVITED TO DINNER...?
YOU ARE!

Alumni College Dinner

Thursday, January 17, 2013
Alumni Reception @ 4:15pm
College Dinner @ 5:00pm
$10 per person
Families welcome but tickets are limited. Order early!
For more information or to order tickets, please go to:
www.uwaterloo.ca/renison/alumni-college-dinner
or
Contact:
Brendon Bedford
Special Events and Alumni Affairs Coordinator
519-884-4404 x28657
brendon.bedford@uwaterloo.ca