Your Trust. Our Promise.

We thank you for your support of Renison University College and for trusting us as one of your philanthropic priorities.

We remain consistent in our support of students through further developments in the areas of Student Life, Residence and the Ministry Centre.

Please take a moment to scan the QR Code below with your tablet or smartphone and watch a short video.

We value your trust in us and continue to keep our promise to you and to our students.

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*Effective January 1, 2014
The Spirit of Archbishop Robert John Renison

Seventy years ago, Robert John Renison addressed the Empire Club of Canada for the second time. His topic was “Our debt to Northern Ontario.” There was no better expert than the man who lived among the Cree for fourteen years, learned their language, and tended to their needs.

Recently, I was honoured to be invested as a chevalier of the International Knightly Order of St. George. Coincidentally, the ceremony took place at St. Paul’s on Bloor Street in Toronto, the very church that Archbishop Renison served as Rector from 1933-44. As I processed down that same aisle, walking in Renison’s footsteps, I almost felt his spirit accompanying me. And I began to think of all the parts of Canada he touched and improved. Following his work in the North at Moosonee, a river and a railway stop were named for him. Christ Church, Vancouver became a cathedral due to his untiring work. As Bishop of Athabasca, he touched the lives of residents over a 200,000 square mile area, and when he returned to Toronto, his weekly column in the Globe and Mail influenced both Anglican and non-Anglican readers alike.

I like to think that his values and spirit live on in the college founded and named for him two years after his death - a college he never knew existed. A college devoted to educating students to their highest level of competence in a caring, compassionate environment. We owe a great debt to Archbishop Robert John Renison. Though we can never pay it back, each of us can pay it forward by honouring his legacy and carrying on his work in the university college that bears his name.

Glenn F. Cartwright
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Board Talk

Waterloo’s Anglican Archdeacon is Part of the Family

As Rector of the Church of the Holy Saviour in Waterloo, The Venerable Peter Townshend’s involvement on the Board of Governors at Renison University College is steeped in history - the relationship between Renison and the parish goes back to the College’s beginnings. The Venerable Harvey Southcott, one of Renison’s founders, was the Rector at Holy Saviour at the time of the College’s founding. Since that time, many of the Parish Priests from Holy Saviour have served as volunteers on Renison’s board.

Peter came to Waterloo in 2003, and in the spring of 2004 he was invited to join the Board at Renison. Over the past ten years, Peter has been involved in numerous committees of the board including search committees for the Chaplain and Chancellor and as chair of the Chaplaincy committee.

Peter’s long-standing tenure on the board attests to his strong commitment to the work that Renison does. For undergraduate students, he sees the benefit of a small, residential college on the campus of a larger university. “It’s the best of two worlds,” said Peter. “The students are also very fortunate to have the Ministry Centre. It’s a welcoming place for students.” He describes the Ministry Centre as a ‘living room on campus’ where students don’t feel isolated.

Peter also believes that the programs and courses offered by the Renison Institute of Ministry (RIM) offer personal faith development and leadership development for Anglican church members, and many programs are of benefit to the clergy.

Peter sees great value from the multi-cultural and multi-faith approach to the academics and culture at Renison, which is also home to programs such as East Asian Studies and Studies in Islam. “Renison’s openness to discussion is also a strong tradition of the Anglican Church,” said Peter. “We all grow from having a better understanding of one another.”

Peter has both professional and personal reasons to volunteer on the Board of Renison, and will continue to offer assistance and provide a supportive role to the leadership of the College. “I appreciate that it is a family community, one that fosters strong relationships.”

Our thanks for years of service

Doris M’Timkulu

Doris has served Renison University College first as a sessional lecturer and then as a board member. A longtime advocate of community based services, Doris’ experience has been an invaluable asset to the Board.

Thank you, Doris!

The Venerable David Pickett

Archdeacon David Pickett joined the Renison Board of Governors as the representative to the Diocese of Niagara. He is an Honorary Senior Fellow of the College and a recipient of both an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree and the Alumni Award Distinction from Huron University College, University of Western Ontario.

Our thanks, David, for your work on the Renison Board of Governors!
There are several roles that I play as the Director of English Language Studies, and these roles are unified by the theme of second language acquisition. The largest part of my work is the direction of the English Second Language (ESL) credit courses for uWaterloo. I lead a team of skilled, dedicated instructors who teach undergraduate and graduate courses in English grammar and composition, oral presentation techniques and pronunciation. Last year, we taught over 1000 students from faculties across the university. We also teach English language courses tailored to specific disciplines. For example, we teach a graduate level English course for Master of Engineering students, and provide enhanced language training to foreign trained optometrists studying at the School of Optometry. We have won grants from the Centre for Teaching Excellence to teach ESL to first year economics students (in 2010) and to third year international students in Earth Sciences (in 2013). Over the last ten years, I have written five textbooks that are used in ESL classrooms in Canada and around the world, and much of my writing has been informed by my teaching experience here.

Coordination of the minor in Applied Language Studies (APPLS) is another of my responsibilities. APPLS students are interested in the theory of second language learning and the practice of second language teaching. In my courses, APPLS students are paired with ESL learners for conversation or email exchanges. This allows students to see how theory applies (or does not apply) to the reality of second language learning.

I also supervise Renison’s English second language teacher training programs that are accredited by TESL Canada and TESL Ontario. It is rewarding to see new instructors develop their knowledge and skills in our profession.

At uWaterloo, there is increasing interest in and commitment to developing the English skills of both international and domestic (Canadian) students, and many departments are considering how best to integrate English language instruction across the curriculum. This makes it an interesting time to be working in the field of second language acquisition.

In 1995, I came to Renison as a practicum student under the supervision of Judi Jewinski, and in the summer of 1996, I started teaching in Renison’s newly established 4-week summer program. Today we run multiple programs and have an outstanding team of dedicated staff and instructors. One thing is for certain, there is never a dull day in the English Language Centre (ELC)!

We are thrilled about our role in the University of Waterloo’s pilot project called Bridge to Academic Success in English (BASE), a program for students who have been offered conditional admission into select undergraduate programs. BASE is truly an integrated project. Marketing and Undergraduate Recruitment, the Student Success Office and the ELC have been working together to create a program that supports students in their bridging term(s) to help them successfully transition to full-time university studies. The ELC is providing the language training and we are working with the Library, the Centre for Teaching Excellence, Organizational and Human Development, the Office of Academic Integrity and Learning Services (Student Success Office) to expose students to the wide variety of support services available to them on campus. This fall, 40 students are registered in BASE. These students are from five faculties - Applied Health Sciences, Arts, Engineering, Environment, and Science. This will be an exciting project!

But the excitement doesn’t stop there. Our core program, English for Academic Success (EFAS), runs 48 weeks a year. This program helps students meet the University of Waterloo’s English Language requirement for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Recently, we had 135 students in our 6-week EFAS program. The majority of these students were international students from the faculties of Science, Environment, and Arts. Our expert team of staff and instructors enjoyed working with these students to help them prepare for their studies this fall.

And there is still more. We also organize short-term and custom programs. This summer we ran three English for Success (EFS) programs serving 150 students as well as custom programs for 2 groups from Mexico and 1 group from Japan. This fall, for the first time, the ELC is offering two custom courses at two universities in China. Meeting students from around the world is one of the best parts of my job. The opportunity to learn from and interact with students from different cultures is motivating and inspiring. I am amazed by the courage and motivation of our students.
Let’s pretend you are a participant in one of my studies.

Please read the following list of values and pick the one that is most important to you, personally:

- Relationships with friends and family
- Religion and spirituality
- Creativity, art, and/or music
- Politics and/or economics
- Membership in a social group or cultural group
- Nature and the environment
- Science

Now, spend a minute thinking about why this value is important to you. What does it bring to your life? What are some times when this value has been especially important in your life?

I’ll wait here while you think it over.

Finished? You just completed a version of a Values Affirmation. A growing body of social psychological research shows that tasks like this one, that allow people to reflect on important values or otherwise bolster the sense that they are good, effective persons, can have a wide range of psychological and physiological benefits.

As a participant in my study, you would be invited to come to Renison, where a bright Social Development Studies student would greet you and bring you to my lab office. After completing a Values Affirmation or similar task, the student, acting as my research assistant (RA), might give you paper-and-pencil surveys to measure your self-esteem, stress level, or perhaps the sense that you can handle the challenges you face. Neither the RA, nor anyone else involved in the project, would ever know which survey answers were yours - your surveys, marked only by a participant ID number, would be added to a spreadsheet with dozens of others. Next, you would probably do some mysterious-seeming tasks that I would explain to you after you were done. You might be asked to hold numbers in your short-term memory while playing a computer game. Or perhaps you would watch a mildly interesting nature video while eating snacks that I provided.

If you came recently, you might be asked to remove your shoes and, if you felt comfortable, stand on a scale so the RA could record your weight. But don’t worry, your confidentiality would be protected - she would give you a shoebox full of rocks to hold while you stepped on the scale, and she would record your weight with the box of rocks included. Months later, another RA, who had never met you, would weigh the box and subtract that number from each participant’s recorded weight.

Now I can debrief you, as I do all participants (students, community members, and pretend participants like yourself). The purpose of all these tasks is to help me examine how tasks like Values Affirmations, by buffering people against stress, can help people meet their health and performance goals. In studies I have conducted together with researchers at University of Waterloo, University of Colorado, UBC, and Stanford University, I am showing that tasks like this have the potential to help people lose weight, score higher on tests, quit smoking, or treat others in a more egalitarian way. Other social psychologists in North American and Europe are investigating similar questions in different ways. Our basic research findings are already being applied by educators to vulnerable students.

Renison is the best place for me to pursue my research agenda, because the faculty, staff, and students share a vision of using rigorous, evidence-based methods to improve people’s lives.

Christine Logel is an assistant professor in the School of Social Development Studies. Dr. Logel’s research is funded by SSHRC. She has been a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellow, Chronic Disease Prevention, University of Waterloo and a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University.
The newly created Master of Social Work degree program at Renison is unique in that it is Canada’s first, health-focused, online Master of Social Work program. Colleen McMillan, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, has a research interest in using qualitative health methods that result in empowering the end users of physical and mental health services. Colleen uses the methods of photovoice, participatory action research and community based research in the development of use of self management tools for people in primary health care settings. Populations include females with disordered eating, individuals with chronic mental health issues such as depression, older adults with dementia, marginalized elderly living in the community, and people with spinal cord injury.

A philosophical shift in health care has meant that more people want to manage their own health and have a voice in the creation and delivery of services to them. One of the studies for which Colleen was Principal Investigator involved the piloting of a self management toolkit for people living in Waterloo Region with a spinal cord injury (SCI).

People with SCIs experience difficulty in accessing health care due to highly complex physiological and social issues that require a specialized set of knowledge, training and equipment. The lack of specialists for this population group resulted in such patients being ‘orphaned’ in the community with no preventative or basic health care, with no choice but to use emergency room visits for routine items like blood pressure checks.

A previous study found that many of these individuals had to commute long distances (Toronto) for simple items such as prescription renewals. Working with a physician from the Centre for Family Medicine, an SCI toolkit was adapted from an Australian model and piloted for 6 months among 10 SCI patients and family physicians in Kitchener to determine how to reduce this service delivery gap. Service users were actively involved in the adaptation of the toolkit to ensure relevancy and to reflect their lived experience.

Clinical, educational, and research outcomes resulted from the study. Clinical outcomes included the drafting of an SCI template being included on electronic medical records (EMR) at the Centre for family medicine where 22 physicians each committed to assuming the health care for one new SCI patient ensuring no individual was orphaned in Waterloo Region. Educational outcomes resulted in a series of training sessions for current family physicians and 22 family medicine residents from McMaster School of Medicine. Research outcomes informed grant writing for the funding of specialized equipment such as a Hoyer lift allowing for gynecological exams, skin examinations and weight measurement.

The toolkit is a model of service user-driven research showcasing how two seemingly opposed models of practice – the medical model and critical or anti-oppressive – can be collaborative toward optimal care and best practices for a marginalized group of individuals.

Recently, Dr. McMillan obtained funding to bring one of her co-researchers to talk about lessons learned in Australia. Dr. James Middleton, Director and Chair NSW Statewide Spinal Cord Injury Service
This has been a busy year for Dr. J.C. Blokhuis. In February, he delivered two invitational lectures at the University of Amsterdam based on his current monograph project, “Public Educational Authority and Children’s Rights from a Parens Patriae Perspective.” In June, he capped off his Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress with a public lecture based on a paper entitled “Student Rights and the Special Characteristics of the School Environment from a Jurisprudential Perspective.” A version of this paper has since been accepted for publication in the Journal of Philosophy of Education.

All three lectures were part of an ongoing interdisciplinary research project for which Dr. Blokhuis has received both a $37,400 grant from the Spencer Foundation in Chicago, IL and a $25,200 fellowship from the John W. Kluge Center in Washington, DC. The Spencer Foundation supports research that brings the tools and perspectives of contemporary moral and political philosophy to bear on concrete problems in educational policy and practice. The John W. Kluge Center supports outstanding interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and multilingual research in the humanities and social sciences. In his research, Dr. Blokhuis examines how judges interpreting and applying the parens patriae doctrine in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom have conceptualized public educational duties and the corresponding educational rights and interests of children.

In September, the fifth edition of Education Law was released, while in October, the fifth edition of A Teacher’s Guide to Education Law was released. Dr. Blokhuis is the coordinating author of the former and a co-author of the latter. Both are widely used in graduate schools of education in the United States. Renison hosted a formal book launch on October 17, 2013 featuring Dr. Blokhuis and Dr. Tyll van Geel of the University of Rochester. Dr. Blokhuis will also deliver a book talk at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC on December 11, 2013 alongside co-author Jonathan Feldman of Cornell University.

Dr. Blokhuis joined the Social Development Studies faculty at Renison in 2011 after four years in full-time faculty positions in the United States and the United Kingdom. He holds a J.D. in Common Law from the University of Ottawa and a Ph.D. in Educational Thought and Policy from the University of Rochester. He has published in academic journals including Public Affairs Quarterly, Theory and Research in Education, and the American Educational Research Journal.

Yan Li’s new novel, The Deep, is written in Chinese and depicts life of new immigrants in Canada and the journey of their soul transformation. This is the 8th book published by Yan and is published by what is considered the most prestigious publisher in China: People's Literature Publishing House. Mary Anne Dehler, the Culture Counsellor of the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, attended the launch to express her congratulations to Yan Li.

Yan Li also lectured on Chinese Literature in the Eyes of Canadian Readers at the Lu Xun Literature Institute, Beijing, China, to the 20th Advanced Writers' Workshop.

Yan Li is an adjunct associate professor, the Coordinator of Chinese Language and Culture, and the Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Waterloo.

Earlier this summer, Dr. Idrisa Pandit was an invited speaker at the University of Kashmir’s Media Education Research Centre. She delivered two lectures on Islam and the Media: From Orientalism to Islamophobia and Media Ethics and conflict zones: A case of Kashmir.

In her ongoing effort to create an awareness of the issue of family violence, Idrisa was invited by the Kashmir Civil Society and Jammu and Kashmir Youth Enlightenment Forum to conduct a day long workshop at Sri Partap College, Srinagar, on Islamic perspectives on gender violence. The workshop was attended by leading social activists, social workers, academics and student activists.
Grants and Awards


Susan Cadell, University of Waterloo, CIHR Research Incentive Grant - *Understanding Meaning Making in Caregiving and Bereaved Parents*

Yan Li, Canada Council for the Arts, for her new novel, *The Deep*

Colleen McMillan, International Research Partnerships Grant - *Collaboratively Building Capacity and Improving Health Care for Patients with Spinal Cord Injury - Lessons Learned from Australia*

Sharon Roberts, SSHRC Insight Development - *From Furries to Sport Fans: Do conventional and unconventional forms of fantasy-based group activities differ in terms of their association with identity formation?*

Sharon Roberts, SSHRC SEED Grant - *From Furries to Sport Fans: Do conventional and unconventional forms of fantasy-based group activities differ in terms of their association with identity formation?*

Sharon Roberts (co-investigator), CIHR Knowledge Translation Grant. Health Quality Ontario (HQO) - *Primary Care Learning Collaboratives: Lessons Learned from a Mixed Method Evaluation of a Provincial QI Program.*

Alice Schmidt-Hanbidge, Judi Jewinski, and Trudy Smits Quosai, Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement (LITE) Grant (Pending revisions) - *Enhancing Written Communication in Social Work*

Trish Van Katwyk, UW/SSHRC Seed Grant Program - *Access to Postsecondary Education as a Response to Poverty*

Julia Williams, Judi Jewinski, and Brewster Conant Jr; Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement (LITE) Grant - *Enhancing Writing and Communication Skills for Earth Sciences Students*

To review those awarded the first Renison Research Grants, visit: uwaterloo.ca/renison/research

New Faculty

This fall we welcome two new faculty members to Renison. Take a look at their research interests:

**Dr. Arshi Shaikh**  
joins the Social Development Studies department. Arshi’s most recent research projects focus on the intersections of aging, health and housing as well as on issues of family homelessness encountered in the small communities of Northeastern Ontario. In addition, Dr. Shaikh has a broad number of research interests including:

- Aging, health, and housing
- Environmental justice and human rights
- Poverty, homelessness, and migration

**Dr. Rachelle Ashcroft**  
joins the School of Social Work. Dr. Ashcroft’s overarching research focus is on health equity particularly in relation to separate yet key intersecting areas: primary health care, social work, social and structural determinants of health, and mental health care. She is interested in ways that primary health care can help to achieve greater health equity.

Along with Dr. Kwame McKenzie at the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) and Dr. Jose Silveira at St. Joseph’s Health Centre, she is currently conducting a qualitative study titled *Incentives and disincentives for the treatment of depression and anxiety in Ontario Family Health Teams - Physicians’ perspectives*. The purpose is to identify barriers and facilitators to the treatment of depression and anxiety in collaborative primary health care.

Rachelle has completed interviews with physicians and is in the process of analyzing data.

Rachelle is also working to help build a new research team who intend to conduct a provincial-wide study to investigate the impact that social work across Ontario’s Family Health Teams have on health outcomes.
Growing up in North Dakota, Darrol Bryant could see across the American-Canadian border from his family’s farm. Cross-border trips to Manitoba were a common occurrence for the Bryant family, but as a child, he never thought that one day he would live, study, raise a family, and build a forty-year career in the country that was his neighbor to the north.

Today, Bryant is Professor Emeritus and Director of the Centre for Dialogue and Spirituality in the World Religions at Renison. His career at Renison has stretched over forty years, beginning in September 1973 when he joined the College as a professor of Religion and Culture.

Bryant’s academic career started at Concordia College, a small liberal arts institution in Minnesota. There, he studied philosophy. “I just knew that I loved philosophy, and that meant religion too,” said Bryant. After completing his undergraduate degree, he then went to Harvard to study at the Divinity School. He completed an MA and PhD at St. Michael’s - the first protestant student to do so - and began a one year teaching appointment at the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (now Wilfrid Laurier University) in Waterloo.

“I thought about going into the ministry,” said Bryant. “But my first love was teaching. I quickly knew that’s what I wanted to do.” A turning point for Bryant’s career was in the 1980s, when he traveled to India with his wife and four children - ages 4 to 14 - while on sabbatical. It was during this time that his interest in studying and teaching about the world’s religions grew.

“We ate 3 meals a day for 3 months with a Muslim family. It was a great way to learn about Islam,” said Bryant. “It was a welcoming, interesting community.” Bryant has since traveled to India 22 more times, with dozens more trips to Korea, Japan, Latin America, and Kenya.

Bryant retired in 2007, but has since started the Centre for Dialogue and Spirituality in the World’s Religions at Renison. The Centre engages in research, provides a forum for dialogue among the world’s religions, publishes research and educational material, and provides public education in the areas of dialogue and spirituality.

While Bryant has spent the greater part of his life in Canada and at Renison, he still feels a strong connection to the life he lived on the farm in North Dakota. In 2010, he returned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his high school basketball team’s State Championship. Of the twelve members of the team, nine were in attendance. Bryant still plays basketball today - a passion that has continued through his life from the days on the farm when he played with his cousins.

When asked why he has stayed at Renison for forty years, Bryant replied: “I was always extremely happy right where I was, teaching courses I liked. What more could I want?”

**Professor Darrol Bryant: Worldwide Research**

On February 10, 2013, Professor M. Darrol Bryant joined 30 million Hindus at the Kumbha Mela, a remarkable festival held on the banks of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers outside the city of Allahabad in North India. He had earlier attended this largest gathering of human beings on our planet in 1989 (16 million) and 2001 (21 million). This time he was accompanied by two of his children: Benjamin and Emma. As before, they stayed in the camp of Acharya Srivatsa Goswami, a Hindu religious leader from Vrindaban. 30 million people came from across India by train, bus, and many by foot. The event unfolded over 55 days, but February 10th was the most auspicious day. Over the course of the whole event more that 150 million people came for various periods of time. Typical were the pilgrims Professor Bryant met from Bihar who had spent a week walking to the Kumbha Mela, stayed a week, and then spent another week walking back to their village. When he asked them why they had come, they said, “to bathe in the Ganga” (the Hindu term for the river Ganges). It is widely held that performing the ritual bath during this time purifies the soul and frees one of bad karma. During their time at the Kumbha Mela devotees listen to
discourses by Gurus (teachers), participate in worship/puja, sing songs, listen to music, watch plays, read scriptures, pray, and visit with one another.

Following the Kumbha Mela, Professor Bryant then led a group of twelve on a study tour of North Indian sites for three weeks. They visited Muslim, Sufi, Hindu, Sikh, and Bahá’í sites in New Delhi; visited the holiest city of India, Benares/Varanasi; went to Sarnath, the place of the Awakened One’s (Buddha) first sermon, and to Bodh Gaya, the place of the Siddhartha Gautama’s Awakening (he was then known as the Buddha). The group then travelled to Kolkatta where they visited the Mother House of Mother Teresa, the temple of Ramkrisha, and the College founded by Swami Vivekananda. The group’s trip ended high in the Himalayas in Kalimpong where they encountered Tibetan Buddhists and Samdup, a student who Professor Bryant had supported throughout his education, and his family, the Dogahs. Now in his 30s, Samdup is an accomplished performer of Tibetan arts including dance, music and Tibetan Opera.

In May 2013, Professor Bryant journeyed to Turkey for a conference sponsored by a Muslim University on “Religious Studies and the Quest for Global Peace.” It was held in Konya, the city of the great Sufi mystic/poet Rumi. Scholars from Muslim, Jewish and Christian traditions contributed papers on varied aspects of quest for global peace. Professor Bryant met outstanding scholars from Turkey, Israel Bosnia, and many other countries.

Hugh Miller

Hugh Miller died of a heart attack on Monday, August 5, 2013. Husband of Dr. Judith Miller, retired professor of English at Renison, Hugh was a former dean at Renison University College, provincial NDP candidate and, most recently, executive director at Youth in Conflict with the Law.

For the past 20 years, Miller served as executive director at Youth in Conflict with the Law, an organization that provides supervision to youth and adults out on bail as they face criminal charges.

During his time at Renison University College, Miller was “the principal architect” of its Social Development Studies program. He was an academic with a lively social conscience who saw the academic world as contributing to social change.
1972
BARB (DAVIS) FLEMING BA (Soc)
I worked at Family & Children’s Services for five years and had three children and fostered. I went back to work at Family & Children’s Service for another four years and became a group home housemother with teenage girls, then boys, and had two more children. I was also a housemother for St Monica’s (home for unwed mothers). I was an Administrator for a Montessori School for three years.
I worked at Subway then TCBY and am now the manager of a Tim Hortons at Grand River Hospital in Kitchener. I have six grandchildren.

1980
MIKE HOWELL BA (Env Studies)
I married another Renison alumni, Julie Valentine. I moved from architecture to teaching. Retired as a vice principal June 2013 to spend more time writing. (Most books on www.lulu.com)

1983
MIKE WILSON BMath
My wife Kathy and I started a Traditional Japanese Martial Arts school called Conestoga Karate. (www.ConestogaKarate.com) We teach more than just Karate, however. We also teach Aiki-Jujitsu and Iaido (Samurai Sword). We’re located right in KW on Manitou Dr. Check us out, the first class is free. It keeps us very busy in our spare time!!

1988
SUSAN MIFSUD BA (Hons) (Psych)
I have been working in Human Resources at Brock University in St. Catharines since I graduated in 1988. I have two grown sons (Christian - 21 years old and Michael - 17 years old). Would love to hear from others who were in Residence between 1984 and 1986.

1992
BRIAN ALLISON BA (SDS)
I have worked as a Disability Services Worker for Family & Children’s Services of the Waterloo Region since 2002. In my spare time, I am a First Aid Instructor for the Canadian Red Cross and a Hockey Trainer for Kitchener Minor Hockey. I have been married to Lisa since 1994 and we have two children.

VALYA ROBERTS BA (SDS)
Finally finished my Master’s Thesis and graduated from Nipissing University with a Master’s degree in Education. I was very surprised to find out I also won the gold medal from the Governor General for academic achievements and the Presidents award for highest academic average. To reward myself I did a trip around Europe for the month of June with our daughter Hayley Roberts who also graduated with her undergraduate degree from Bishop’s University in Quebec. Next step for our daughter is Queen’s for her Master’s degree in Science and I’m contemplating doing my Doctorate. Although I graduated from Renison a few decades ago, there is still so much to learn.

1999
LYNN C. ALBRECHT BA (SDS)
After receiving my MSW from Laurier in 2001, I went on to work at Grand River Hospital in Children’s Psychiatry and then at St. Mary’s Hospital where I continue to hang my hat. Sun Dragon Press just published my first novel, a funny murder mystery called “Dying For Sex” in which the social worker is murdered. Available on Amazon, Kindle, and other on-line book stores. You can read about it at lynnncalbrecht.com
JUDE BILLARD BA (Soc) BA (SDS) ’01
BSW ’02
I have left the scalding lands of Central Australia where I was working for NPY Women’s Council as a domestic violence caseworker on APY Lands and now work for Department of Human Services in Melbourne, Victoria, as an Advanced Practitioner in child protection. I will miss the gorgeous red earth and clear blue skies of the red centre, however I will not miss the blistering heat of summer. I am thoroughly enjoying my life in Australia these past few years and have managed to visit nearly all states except for Tasmania and the ACT. If anyone is interested in following my adventures down under, please feel free to check out my blog at: talesfromaustralia.blogspot.com.au and feel free to leave comments or questions. I miss Canada from time to time, especially the sweetness of summer by the ocean, however I have yet to miss the snow - be it shovelling it out of the driveway, walking in it, or sliding all over the road.

2007
BECCA KADAR, BA (SDS) ’06, BSW
I am married with two boys. One is almost four and the other will soon be one. I have been a child protection worker since 2007. I have recently returned to school and have completed my first year of my MSW.

2008
RYAN ALBER BA (Hist)
I am currently living in Gainesville, Florida with my wife, Julia, (and our many cats) while she pursues her PhD at the University of Florida. I am employed by Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine as Student Support Staff. It’s hard to pin down an exact job description. Our program’s umbrella encompasses an enormous amount of stuff. I work primarily with the Online Graduate Certificate Program and a little with the On-Campus Professional Certificate Program. The on-campus certificate operates in tandem with the University of Florida, while the online certificate is a private enterprise that operates with the blessing of UF, but is self-sufficient. Our students and faculty do a lot of national work with education, shelter assessments, and disaster response. I handle (and assist in handling) student registration, grading, class design and implementation, convention logistics, intense 1-2 week course logistics, simple video editing, simple graphic design (mostly just documents), and whatever odd jobs they decide to throw my way.

Life is good. I do miss my hockey league from back in Greensboro, North Carolina, though.

2010
RHYAN AHMED BA (Econ)
I absolutely loved living at Renison when I started at UW. In the 8 years since moving into my dorm room on Fubar floor, I graduated from Windsor Law School. I’m now practicing law at Kazembe & Associates, Barristers and Solicitors. You can check us out at www.kazembelaw.com!

NIKKI BEST BA (Hons) (Legal Studies)
I moved to Whistler, BC 2 years ago for a career opportunity to manage a flagship store for DAVIDsTEA. Upon moving to BC, I fell in love with my surroundings and decided to make the West Coast my permanent home. I now work for the municipal government as the Council Coordinator for the Resort.
Municipality of Whistler. Years of student government leadership in the Arts Student Union and Federation of Students paid off. I volunteered my time in student government, and now my career is in municipal politics. Now, my first publication to Municipal World Magazine should be released early 2014. What a dream!

2011

SAMANTHA FISCHER BA (SDS)
Hello, Renison! It feels like a lifetime ago that we were working as hard as possible at those online courses (remember the group assignments?), sitting through Wednesday Night DEATH class (er, Social Work of Death and Dying), and trying really hard to figure out what Hume was going on about.
I moved to the lovely West Coast with my lovely partner (the 18-day drive across the country in my beater car for the move, with all of my textbooks in the trunk, was epic), and I am living in Vancouver. I am loving it here, and I never want to leave. I am currently working on my master’s degree in Educational Psychology at SFU, but and I am trying to make a pretty big career change once I am done (I’ll be sure to update you if it happens, but it’s just in its very basic stages now). One thing I can say that I am really thankful to Renison for was the way SDS taught me to see the world; I knew things were subjective before I started my degree, but didn’t know how subjective they were. I like that Renison taught me that pretty much everything exists in some sort of shade of grey. Then, when a mobile communications provider messes with my service, I use all of those active listening skills from individuals, and score a free phone. Thanks, Renison! I hope everyone is doing well! I sadly didn’t meet many of my classmates (which is what happens when you do most of your degree online), but I remember you, hope to hear from you, and hope that you all are exactly where you wanted to be! If any of you are in Vancouver, be sure to give me a shout! samantha.fischer@gmail.com

ELIZABETH WONG BA (Geography)
I am now working at the University of Waterloo in the Department of Housing and Residences. I am part of the Living-Learning teams that include the colleges. Just this summer I had to chance to come back to Renison for the Peer Leader training that was with the Renison Peer Leaders as well which went very well.

2012

MUSHFIQUR RAHMAN BSc (Bio)
I have just finished travelling Canada and visiting most of the cities from Quebec City, QC to Victoria, BC. Other than that I have been working on my start-up (Feedband Labs) which is a part of InnovioLabs Group of Companies now. I am currently based in Vancouver.
Celebration of the 70th anniversary of the ordination of Florence Li Tim-Oi
The first woman ordained a priest in the Worldwide Anglican Communion

Saturday, January 25th, 2014
3:00 pm

The Cathedral Church of St. James, Anglican
65 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario

The Rev. Florence Li Tim-Oi’s exemplary conduct as a priest helped pave the way for the ordination of women in the Anglican Communion. Renison University College continues to support the continuation of her work and memory through a memorial reading room and holding her archives in the Lusi Wong Library.

Cradles of the Renaissance: Venice, Florence & Rome
A cultural tour for Alumni & Friends of Renison
May 3-16, 2014

Travel with us and experience an intimate and personal introduction to regions, communities and cities that nurtured the Renaissance in Italy. Walk the lands of the Veneto, Romagna, Tuscany and the Papal States. Explore their cities of Venice, Florence, Assisi and Rome where art and architecture, food and wine are interwoven.

For more information on the tour and the free lecture series hosted at Renison University College, or to register for the tour, please visit:

uwaterloo.ca/renison/cradles-renaissance
Alumni College Dinners

Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Join us for evenings of fun, food and community at an Alumni College Dinner.

4:15 p.m.— Wine & Cheese Reception
5:00 p.m.— Dinner

To request tickets, go to: uwaterloo.ca/renison/events/alumni-college-dinner

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• Are you wanting the chance to help Renison grow and develop?
• Would you like to develop and direct alumni events?
• Would you like to better engage with Renison and help your fellow alumni do the same?

Be a part of Renison’s new Alumni Association

Meetings are held once a month at the College.

Please contact Brendon Bedford for more information.
Email: renison.alumni@uwaterloo.ca

If you are interested in making a planned gift to the College, please contact Caroline Tanswell, Director of Advancement, Renison University College. 519.884.4404 ext. 28605 or caroline.tanswell@uwaterloo.ca

Please check Renison’s events page for more updates uwaterloo.ca/renison/events

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