GOODBYES | PG 8
Staff members with nearly 70 years of combined experience say farewell

GOING GLOBAL | PG 10
See how the college is reaching out to students on an international scale

COLLEGE LOVE | PG 14
A residence romance leads to a unique wedding and Renison reunion
Welcome to our re-imagined Renison Reports! I liken this issue to the renovation of a home. You decide what your needs are, you choose a design, create a floor plan, choose colours and finally add the finishing “decorator” touches to your newly designed space.

It’s exciting, it’s rejuvenating, it’s worrisome but in the end, you sit back and enjoy the new look.

So it is with this new edition. We looked at the needs of the magazine and how it engages our audiences. We wanted a more relaxed feel, so that you can sit down comfortably and enjoy reading about Renison.

We have also added a new email edition of Renison Reports that will supplement the two magazine editions so that you will be able to stay current with our news. Check out previous editions at uwaterloo.ca/renison/renison-reports.

We hope that you find the re-imagined Renison Reports interesting and that you take the time to sit back and have a relaxing read!

Caroline Tanswell
Director of Advancement
$5000 was awarded to outstanding members of the Warrior Academic Leadership Community, courtesy of Chartwell's Canada (March 2014)

The zoo came to Renison, and students had an opportunity to cuddle a kangaroo, a fox, a giant snake, numerous birds, and other wildlife (March 2014)

Elizabeth Fraser, granddaughter of Bishop Appleyard, donates an oil painting to Renison for the new Appleyard Lounge (April 2014)

Social Work’s Colleen McMillan named one of the Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW) Inspirational Leaders (Feb 2014)

Gail Cuthbert Brandt signed copies of the second edition of “Bold and Courageous Dreams” at Founders’ Day ceremony (April 2014)

SDS students Justine and Maggie donate $650 to KidsAbility on behalf of Renison Academic Student Council (“Kids Can’t Wait” Radiothon, May 2014)

EAS student Pryangka Rao won the Grand Prize at Canada’s National Japanese Speech Contest at the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa (March 2014)

Mr. Li Fang, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China, visited and spoke on “China’s Development and the World” (Feb 2014)

The Confucius Institute hosted an international literary forum for ethnic minority writers from China and Canada (April 2014)

The Warrior Academic Leadership Community got competitive with some water polo (April 2014)

Food is always fancy at Founders’ Day thanks to Chef Craig David and the Chartwell’s kitchen staff (April 2014)
Some months ago, I began organizing my journey to England as I prepare to resume my Visiting Fellowship at the University of Cambridge. I am incredibly proud of the work we have done together. I argued strongly that Renison needed to “Reach Out!” and “Reach Up!” We did exactly that: We reached out on the internet with an improved web site and live webcasts of Renison special events, and out to the community through new programs like Sakura (Japanese for preschoolers) and PEAR (for senior citizens); we reached up toward new graduate teaching with the approval and launching of Renison’s first graduate program (Master of Social Work), and up toward an improved research profile with innovative research grants and increased publications. We established a novel research fund to support Faculty, created a new position of Associate Research Director, and grew our full time academic faculty by 62%, from 13 to 21. Likewise, we increased our number of support staff members who are naturally key to
broadening the work of the College. A list of their titles is indicative of this breadth: eleven people in novel or restructured positions including Supervisor of Operations/Facilities, Student Life Coordinator, Special Events Coordinator, Alumni and Development Officer/Liaison with the Anglican Church, Undergraduate Recruitment Coordinator, Manager of Marketing and Communications, Manager of the Renison International Office, and Human Resources Officer, to name but a few. Financially, we wiped out the deficit, retired two mortgages, developed a strategic plan, balanced the budget, brought in a series of yearly surpluses, acquired significant, long term support for our Studies in Islam program, built a new building to house our MSW program, and established an International Office to house our international and exchange programs. We undertook the renovation of most of our residence floors, negotiated a new food services contract, remodeled the servery and the Great Hall, and commenced construction of yet another building, this time with room for future upward expansion. Although these things occurred on my watch, none could have been accomplished without your help! I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on these projects. It has been a creative and exciting time. Keep on Reaching Out, Renison - and keep on Reaching Up!

God bless you all!

Glenn F. Cartwright
6th Principal and Vice-Chancellor
On behalf of the Board of Governors, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Wendy Fletcher as the next Principal of Renison University College, effective August 18th, 2014. Dr. Fletcher is enthusiastic to also assume the newly created position of Director of International and Cross-Cultural Development. The purpose of this new position is to promote strategic directions that will develop the capacity of Renison’s programs to meet the needs for language and cultural studies of both the College’s and the University’s growing numbers of students either from abroad or intending to work or study abroad. Further, the Director will seek to increase opportunities offered by Renison for dialogue and learning between different cultures and faiths.

Dr. Fletcher brings to Renison extensive experience as a Professor and administrator. For the last 13 years, Dr. Fletcher has served in a number of capacities at the Vancouver School of Theology – as Professor, Academic Dean, Dean, Vice-Principal and, for a period of seven years, as Principal. Prior to joining the Vancouver School of Theology, Dr. Fletcher taught as a Lecturer and Professor at Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Fletcher obtained her PhD in 1993 from the University of St Michael’s College, Toronto. She also holds the degrees of Master of Divinity with Honours from Huron University College and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Fletcher’s area of specialization include the intersection of culture and Christianity in the 20th century, the history of colonization and its impact on Canadian First Nations, and the decline of Christianity in the North American culture. She has authored a variety of books, book chapters and articles over the course of her career. As an educator, she has developed special relationships with a number of First Nations and has been adopted into two of them.

As an experienced administrator, Dr. Fletcher comes with a strong reputation for managing in a style that is characterized by open communication, collaborative relationships and an emphasis on team building.

Please join with me in welcoming Dr. Fletcher to Renison and the University of Waterloo community as we look ahead to exciting developments in our future.

Peter Ringrose
Chair of Renison’s Board of Governors
Rose Padacz has been the Director of AccessAbility Services (formerly the Office for Persons with Disabilities) at the University of Waterloo since 1996. Her department directs campus accessibility initiatives and collaborates with all academic units to provide academic accommodations and support services to over 1900 students with disabilities in their journey to achieve their academic goals. She is a graduate of the Social Development Studies program and is happy to give back to her alma mater as an alumna of Renison University College and a new member of the Board.

“I am proud to promote the diverse inter-disciplinary curriculum offered at Renison which provides an excellent foundation for students to pursue careers in many fields such as social work, law, and education. I commend the faculty, staff, and Board for their efforts to enhance accessibility and to create an inclusive, culturally rich community for all.”

Rosita Tse came to Canada from Hong Kong in 1974 to further her education. She received her Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto and obtained her Certified Management Accountant accreditation with the Society of Management Accountants of Ontario. She has over 25 years of experience in the financial field, with a diverse curriculum from municipal taxation and budgeting, collections, investments and procurement. With her career spent both in a non-union environment as the Director of Finance for the Township of Wilmot (2004 to present) and also in a unionized environment overseeing the Accounting Division for the City of Cambridge (1986 to 2004). Prior to working in the municipal field, she worked as an auditor in a national firm.

“I am open to learning and growing, with a philosophy that in our lifetime, we should never stop developing and growing our knowledge,” says Tse.

The Reverend Matthew Griffin is the rector at the Church of the Nativity, an Anglican parish in Hamilton (in the Diocese of Niagara). He’s a proud alumnus of Renison and the University of Waterloo (Independent Studies ’01), and the experience of being the Don of Watchtower (which is now the Renison floor known as Euphoria) and then the senior male Don and Don of Loft was vitally important in forming his vocation as a priest.

The experience of community at Renison continues to shape how he cares for and contributes to community life, and so he was delighted to become a member of the Board of Governors to help Renison continue its work.

When not involved in working with the Church of the Nativity and the Board, Matthew enjoys having some downtime with his family, especially “reading, cooking, and spending time with my beloved and our young son.”
After 36 successful years at Renison, Barbara J. Checketts, Executive Officer, will be retiring. Barbara came to Renison in 1978 to work as administrative assistant to Principal Ian Campbell. She had worked previously at Bishop’s University and Sir George Williams University. Barbara was Renison’s first ever Executive Officer, with a broad job spectrum, overseeing facilities, human resources, procurement, and IT services. She acted as a staff resource to the Board of Governors as well as the long-standing “Floor Mom” to the residents of Fubar. She became an institutional memory for many, having seen six Chancellors, six Principals and Vice-Chancellors, 10 Chairs of the Board of Governors, and four Chaplains. She also saw an incredible amount of building construction over her three-plus decades as a Renison staff member, including the Link, Great Hall, Academic Centre, Chapel of St. Bede, Great Hall Extension, Dunker Family Lounge, residence floors Moose Crossing and Oasis, and the East Side Expansion. Professor Thomas E. Brenner, Renison’s Academic Dean, has worked with Barbara for nearly 30 years. “It has been my privilege to work with Barbara Checketts for over 20 years. I have seen many alumni return to Renison who remember Barbara and how welcome she always made them feel,” says Professor Brenner.

Mary Jane Crusoe, Renison’s Registrar, is retiring this August after thirty-two years. As Mary Jane wrote in her letter of resignation, “In this year of the Olympics, it is time for me to ‘pass the torch.’” She joined Renison as Assistant to the Registrar (and as an Alumna) in 1982, became Acting Registrar in 1994 and Assistant Registrar in 1995, and then accepted the position as Registrar in 1996. In total, with nine years of high school teaching prior to coming to Renison, Mary Jane has worked for forty-one years in the field of education!

When asked about her favourite memories of Renison, Mary Jane is quick to speak about the community at Renison, where everyone feels welcome and where growth and innovation are encouraged. Warm friendships, collaborative creativity, and the sharing of spiritual values were particularly enriching and rewarding for her.

Mary Jane also noted that with Renison’s diversity of interdisciplinary programs, its respect for inclusivity, and its enrichment through international connections, the Renison motto, “One Sky Over All,” is all the more relevant today. As she enters the next phase of her “re-engagement,” she looks forward to getting involved again with volunteer work – Adult Literacy; or possibly a Children’s reading program. Learning to speak Italian, to play the piano, to take Pilates or just spend more time with family and friends are all on her list of things to do.

As her career concludes at Renison, Mary Jane will always remember the wonderful staff, faculty and above all, the students, whom she watched grow in leadership and confidence throughout their time at university.
This year’s Annual Appeal promised to focus on three things: student life, the Ministry Centre, and residence renewal. Thanks to your trust, we were able to deliver on our promise. (Watch the video at bit.ly/RenAppeal)

The warm fire crackles in the newly renovated Appleyard Lounge while several students watch TV. Another group studies at a nearby table, debating in (mostly) hushed voices. It’s an example of student life at its finest, and it’s all thanks to the generosity of you, our valued donors.

With three key fundraising priorities this year - student life, the Ministry Centre, and residence renewal - we were able to keep the focus on our students, and we’ve already started delivering.

Many of you likely remember the big brown couch in the Ministry Centre; well, it has been lovingly relocated and replaced with a fresh new sofa and stylish wingback chairs. It’s a well-deserved facelift for the Ministry Centre furniture, which has seen its fair share of students.

Our goal to support student life has seen new scholarships introduced for outstanding residents, athletes, and academic performance.

And of course, our residence facilities continue their upgrades, with the final floors scheduled to be completed this fall. On top of that, our Great Hall and servery are newly renovated as well, courtesy of Chartwell’s Canada.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support.
Ron Champion wears two hats at Renison – he’s the Business Development Manager for the English Language Centre (ELC) and also manages the Renison International Office (RIO). He’s been a part of the Renison community since the spring of 2002, when he taught his first course for the English Language Institute.

One of Champion’s responsibilities at the ELC is managing the English testing of candidates for most of Waterloo’s 2+2 programs. The 2+2 program has students from China complete the first half of a degree at their home university and then come to Waterloo to complete their final two years of schooling. Each 2+2 student graduates with two degrees instead of just one. It’s an important program for Waterloo and Renison; the faculties of Science, Environment, and Arts each have 2+2 agreements with more than 20 top Chinese universities, and Renison’s Social Development Studies program plans to recruit its first 2+2 students in 2015. Last fall, Champion and his ELC colleague Louann Nhan tested 216 students at 18 universities in 10 cities across China. (Nhan’s role as a tester was added in response to the 33% increase in the number of students over the last two years.)

Champion’s visits to China have often gone beyond English testing – he has also helped establish new special programs at Renison and Waterloo, such as new 2+2 programs for Science and Arts, delivering full-semester English language courses at universities in China, and working on future collaboration between a university in Hong Kong and our School of Social Work.

His work at the Renison Inter-
In today’s globally competitive environment, internationalization is a very important component for an individual or organization to recognize as a need rather than a desire.
The keynote address at Founders’ day 12
Renison RepoRts / spRinG 2014

55 YEARS OF INCLUSIVITY

Why would a Roman Catholic Bishop be honoured at an Anglican college? At Renison, with one of our fundamental values being inclusivity, it just makes sense.

The Most Rev. Thomas David Dowd, a Roman Catholic Bishop, was named an Honorary Senior Fellow of Renison University College, an honour that highlights Christian unity and cooperation, a passion for which Bishop Dowd, former Chairman of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism, is well known. Renison, which was founded by the Anglican community, bestowed the fellowship at their 55th Founders’ Day celebration Saturday, April 26, 2014. The celebration commemorated both the efforts of the founders to build the college and the founding of Renison itself.

“We are very excited to have Bishop Thomas Dowd with us on Founders’ Day,” says Dr. Glenn Cartwright, Principal and Vice-chancellor of Renison. “He has been a long standing proponent and a tireless worker in the cause of ecumenism. It is highly appropriate that a college like Renison, whose motto is “One sky over all,” recognize his valuable contribution.”

During the convocation, Bishop Dowd’s many accomplishments were recognized, including being the youngest Roman Catholic Bishop in Canada (and second youngest in the world) at the time of his appointment in 2011. Bishop Dowd also delivered the keynote address at the ceremony.

Dr. Adel Sedra, former Dean of Engineering at the University of Waterloo, and Joe and Stephanie Mancini of The Working Centre were also installed as Honorary Senior Fellows. Dr. Ellen Sue Mesbur, retired Director of the...
School of Social Work at Renison University College, was installed as a Fellow of the College. The Outstanding Alumni Award went to Linda Jackson, a graduate of the Social Development Studies program at Renison University College, and the Vice-President, Residential Programs, Memory and Neurotherapeutics and Mental Health at Baycrest in Toronto. “This is a day in which we pause to remember the contribution of Renison’s founders by honouring individuals who have continued the work of the College in the spirit of volunteerism, service, and community,” said Dr. Cartwright.

He has been a long standing proponent and a tireless worker in the cause of ecumenism. It is highly appropriate that a college like Renison, whose motto is “One sky over all,” recognize his valuable contribution.

Dr. Ellen Sue Mesbur served from 2002-2012 as Director of Renison’s School of Social Work. She was integral in the development of the BSW and MSW programs.

In 1982, Joe and Stephanie Mancini established The Working Centre, a community development organization, in response to unemployment and poverty in KW.

Linda Jackson, a Renison student from 1979-1982, has worked extensively in the healthcare field supporting community-based care.

Dr. Adel Sedra served as dean of Waterloo Engineering from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2012. He is a specialist in microelectronics.
The Renison crowd at the wedding even included a Renison baby (and several on the way!)
Ronak and Heather met at Renison, and married in April 2014. Photo: Rhommel Photography

Ronak was a Renison resident for all four years that he was an Honours Science student. (Fubar, Moose Crossing, Midway’s Don, Loft, Fubar’s Don). Heather, also a resident, was Renison registered for Arts and Business, majoring in SDS. Both graduated in 2008 and Heather went on to graduate from the BSW program in 2009.

In November, 2013, Ronak surprised Heather with a proposal at Renison’s Alumni College Dinner. In front of nearly 200 people, he popped the question - and she said yes! And in April 2014, they got married in a split Hindu-Anglican ceremony. It was truly a Renison affair, with Renison Chaplain Megan Collings-Moore performing the Anglican marriage and nearly 40 Renison friends (and new babies!) in attendance. (Want to watch Ronak pop the question? You can see the video at bit.ly/Ren_Wed)

OTHER RENISON ROMANCES

Chris Drope (Chem Eng 1990) and Julie Mulvey (BA 1989): We met during our 2B summer term in 1987. I’d lived at Renison since 1985 (Floor: Young and Restless), while Chris lived off campus during 1st year and then moved to Renison in Fall 1986 (Floor: The Zoo). The summer term was very relaxed with drinks at the Bomber and dancing at Fed Hall with Saskia, Ron, Milt and Frank. Our love story began with dinner at Ginsberg and Wong’s at the plaza followed by a movie (The Untouchables, a very romantic choice). After graduation I started working at UW and Chris finished his MEng at U of T, then began work in environmental consulting. We married in 1993, and have lived in Waterloo, Guelph and, for the past 13 years, Sarnia. I am still working at UW, telecommuting from home, while Chris works at Lanxess (formerly Polysar) in Health, Safety and Environment. Our daughter Laura just turned 18 and is off to U of Ottawa this fall and our son Stuart is almost 16. We can’t believe it was 27 years ago that we met. Seems like only yesterday!

Shawn Tucker (BA 2010) and Catherine Cecchetto (BA 2009): We became friends in 2006, both of us starting our third year. Catherine lived on Loft and Shawn was the Don of Animal. Our chats over many cups of coffee in the Great Hall made us realize that we were both crazy for the show Seinfeld which quickly turned into nightly marathons until we had watched every episode together. Our first official date was at Curry in a Hurry in the University Plaza. Since Renison, Shawn has been working for the City of Kitchener and the Kitchener Public Library. Catherine worked as a Child and Youth Worker and recently returned to school to become a nurse. We married in September of 2013 and are forever grateful to Renison, not only for bringing us together, but also for giving us many lifelong friends.
Remember when your friend didn’t get that promotion at work? The friend who already suffered from low self-esteem? Many of us might smile and say, “Don’t worry, you’ll get the next one – you’re too great to be passed up twice!” But Professor Denise Marigold’s research has been shedding new light on matching social support to a recipient’s individual needs. For example, that friend with low self-esteem will likely prefer to receive feedback in the form of negative validation (e.g., “it’s really disappointing that you didn’t get the job, isn’t it?”) rather than positive reframing (e.g., “Cheer up, it’s not that bad. You’ll do better next time.”). The reason? Negative validation is more consistent with the self-views of those with lower self-esteem. In other words, when someone sees themselves in a negative light, positive reframing of their situation sounds false to them, and may make them feel that they are not understood or accepted for who they are.

One of the most interesting things about Marigold’s research is that even when supporters are aware of their friend’s emotional spin, they still tried to provide “positive reframing” forms of support anyway. When their low self-esteem friends were not receptive to this kind of support, support providers felt worse about themselves and the quality of their friendships afterwards. (Marigold, D.C., Cavallo, J.G., Holmes, J.G., & Wood, J.V. (in press). You can’t always give what you want: The challenge of providing social support to low self-esteem individuals. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.)

Marigold’s research is just one example of the in-depth academic exploration that is happening at Renison. “I am very proud of Renison University College’s growing reputation as a centre for world-class research and scholarship,” says Professor Thomas E. Brenner, Academic Dean at Renison. “Across all our departments and programs, our faculty members are doing some amazing things.”

Here is a quick look at other research projects happening around the college:

Professor Kristina Llewellyn has two projects on the go. The first explores the changing educational conceptions of global citizenship through a critical review of the Model United Nations in Canada (MUNC) from 1945 to the present. This project will determine: how MUNC defined global citizenship over time (i.e., doing good, global ethics), how the organization’s pedagogy informed global consciousness (e.g., intellectual tourism or global intelligence), and how this program served youth as both Canadian and global citizens (e.g., democratic civilizers or transformative ideology). This study suggests that if educators and policy-makers desire a Canadian citizenry that is civically responsible on a global scale, then they need a historical understanding of earlier forces that stimulated global awareness.

Llewellyn will also be co-investigating restorative justice in Canadian schools. Restorative justice is an approach to justice that focuses on all stake-holders in a community - relationships rather than abstract rules are the priority. Over the last two decades, school boards across Canada have started to adopt restorative approaches (e.g., peer conferencing, learning circles), particularly in response to bullying. Llewellyn will conduct research that explores what restorative approaches are being implemented, how restorative justice is being interpreted, and what outcomes have been produced from restorative approaches in schools.
Professor Susan Cadell, Director of the School of Social Work, has published a study that suggests benefits often coexist with the negative and stressful outcomes for parents who have a child born with or later diagnosed with a life-limiting illness. Despite life-changing challenges and high stress levels, the vast majority of parents who participated in the Waterloo-led research reported positive outcomes as well, a phenomenon known as posttraumatic growth. The findings appear in the most recent issue of the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.

“The main finding is that meaning in caregiving is central to the experience of positive aspects,” says Cadell. (See how her research impacted one family: bit.ly/RENcadell)

She has also received $6,000 in funding from the Dixon Foundation for her project, “Capturing Experiences of Families of Children with Life-Limiting Illnesses: A Video Project.”

Professor Colleen McMillan has partnered with Tony Tin, Director of Library and Information Services, to create a mobile app that examines the link between exercise and mental health. Users are prompted to identify their mood before and after performing Qigong exercises (low-impact Chinese movements that focuses on deep breathing, flowing movements, and a meditative state of mind). The app then tracks their mood, shedding more light on the connection between exercise and mental health. The Qigong Wellness app, designed for adults with minimal fitness levels, is now available in the Apple store (bit.ly/Qigong_app). The app was premiered on May 31st at the 1st Toronto Health Qigong Tournament and Exchange in which over 1000 delegates used and evaluated the app.

Professor Tracy Perissini is currently developing two new research projects: The Sociology of Mental Health, which will look at the social construction of mental health in the 21st century; and The Role of Animals in the Health and Well-Being of Canadians, which will examine the expanding role of animals as agents of health and well-being, particularly with respect to mental health and recovery. She is also continuing her work on the health and well-being of single parents and their children on welfare, as well as looking at social and economic inequality and homelessness.

Professor Kimie Hara, Director of East Asian Studies, has been awarded an SSHRC Insight Grant for her project entitled, “The San Francisco System and the Regional Conflicts in the Asia-Pacific.” The grant is worth $157,456 over three years.
We asked our alumni to update the Renison community on what they have been doing since graduation. Thanks to everyone for staying in touch with your Renison family.

1971

Tom Atkinson, BSc (Mech. Eng.)
atkinstw@hotmail.com

I’ve had a varied career in mechanical engineering with many interesting side journeys. From heat exchanger/vessel design at the beginning of the computer revolution, to hitchiking around the world for two years, commercial helicopter pilot (turbine rated), aviation R&D test eng in Montreal, engineering procurement construction Engineering in Edmonton, Houston and San Francisco. I’ve worked in other locations around the world including Jakarta, Anchorage, Saudi Arabia, and was part of the Kuwait rebuild team after the Gulf War. I’m the Manager of Mechanical Engineering session leading to semi-retirement and a part-time professional photographer (www.ravenseen.photoshelter.com). It’s been interesting.

1973

Richard Hung Ling, BA (Gen. Arts), LLB, BCL (McGill)
rling@deloitte.com.cn

Upon leaving Renison, I worked for Howard Johnson’s in Hamilton, Markham and St. Catharines. Joined CIBC in ’75 in Hamilton and went to Law School at McGill shortly thereafter. Joined Messrs. Stikeman Elliott LLP in Montreal and also worked in their HK Office. Most recently, I spent over 15 years at Messrs. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Toronto, serving mainly HSBC Bank (Canada), CITI Bank (Canada) and the Concord Pacific Group (part of KS Li Group of Companies).

While in Toronto, I served on the Foundation Boards of Sunnybrook and St. Michael’s Hospitals and Mon Sheong Foundation for the Aged; the Boards of LCBO, Ontario Realty Corporation, Powerstream and Markham Hydros, Chinese Cultural Centre; appointed to the Board of Governors at Sheridan College; and chaired the Youth Justice Committee under the then Attorney General, the former Hon. Jim Flaherty and was the Chair of Cancer Care Ontario nominated by then Premier Dalton McGuinty of Ontario.

In February, 2012, Deloitte China was most gracious in offering me an opportunity to contribute to the development of the internalization of the PRC economy by working on mainly outbound cross-border transactions and IPOs.

This is an open invitation to any Moose-head who passes through Shanghai that this old Renisonite is good for at least one good lunch.
It has always been a pleasure over the years to receive the “Renison Reports” and read up on the various activities and events underway by the undergraduates, the teaching staff/administration and of course the alumni (through the Grapevine). In doing so, it brings back very fond memories of my days at Renison and the many friendships made.

I am first reminded of the kindness shown by Mrs. K in 1969 when a young man first away from home (Burlington) looking for accommodation was directed by the dean’s office at the Environmental Studies Faculty to try Renison College. Mrs. K was more than accommodating and assigned Brodie H. as my don. Brodie in turn made sure I was part of the Renison Community immediately and placed me with a fourth year engineering student, Ian W., who guided and assisted me through my first term - I still remember Ian driving me home December 23rd after our last exams (on his way to Toronto) in a snow storm after asking me to assist in starting his “mini” with a front end “crank” and to watch my thumb when cranking in case the crank sprang back.

In my first year, I also had the pleasure of meeting a number of individuals from all areas of the country (Regina, Timmins, London, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Brockville, Wawa, etc.) and overseas (Hong Kong, New Dehli, etc.) whose bond resulted in the ultimate creation of the “Animal Floor.” From athletic endeavours to assisting each other with course requirements the floor members were always willing to provide assistance. I also can’t forget the 4:00pm Chess Matches with Richard L. from Hong Kong who was the first to teach me this challenging game and who on occasion (I believe!) would let me win the odd match - to keep me coming back for more. Then there was Armando (my first experience with a person who was visually impaired) and for whom we would take turns reviewing audio tapes and course materials and who we generally enjoyed just visiting throughout the day - to this day I continue to marvel at his abilities to overcome his disability and function within the university environment. There was also the afternoon “Star Trek” gatherings where we would grab our meal from the cafeteria and race back to the dorm to catch the next episode of Kirk and Spock. Who can forget the outdoor “shirts” and “skins” football games located on the grounds between the women’s and men’s dorms.

One of my most memorable occasions was the floor (and other Renisonites and university students) coming out to celebrate my 21st Birthday by taking me out for an evening of sociable drinking, an evening that the next morning required Louie (our chef and mentor) to provide me with a special breakfast to get me “back on track” and Tommy R. (my roommate) to look after me throughout the early morning hours.

Speaking of Louie and including Alice and all the kitchen staff, they took a great deal of pride in providing a good health menu selection every day and truly enjoyed their time with all the students whether it was just talking to them and enquiring how they were doing or just joining the students to watch a good game of cards (which there were many) during their work breaks.

I also know we as students appreciated the level and quality of the food and the conversations and the kindness shown by each member (such as providing bread, jams, etc. and a toaster overnight in the cafeteria for those of us who missed dinner attending classes or practices or staying late into the evening to complete assignments - of which there were numerous occasions).

Over my five years at Renison, I was indeed blessed to have wonderful roommates such as the noted Ian W., Tommy R. (the boy from Brockville), Don B. (with his magnificent sound system and many nights just enjoying the tunes!), John B. (loved talking football), Eddie T. (always spinning his basketball), and of course Paul T (who we spent a number of terms together with and who was always a very good friend!).

At the end of the fall ‘72 term, I had to leave Renison to attend to a family medical emergency which occurred earlier that fall and which also resulted in my losing touch with many of those who had become an important part of my life. With the medical emergency resolved I returned in the fall of ‘73 but had lost touch with a number of the students/friends who had graduated earlier.

Upon graduating in the spring of ‘74, I was fortunate to immediately be employed by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). It was through the Commission that I
subsequently attended the University of Wisconsin (in Madison) and then on to Ohio State University (in Columbus) to further my education related to Transit Planning through the respective Civil Engineering/Transportation Departments. While very respected educational institutions, I still missed the closeness provided in my earlier years as a student at UWaterloo and especially at Renison College.

I have now retired from the TTC Executive and since 2007 have been a Senior Policy Advisor to the Province of Ontario assigned to the introduction of the PRESTO electronic fare card within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area and living in Toronto.

While at the TTC, I met my lovely wife Vickie and we were married in the fall of ’75 and who are proud parents of two terrific young men and now a lovely daughter-in-law and an eighteen month old beautiful granddaughter and a handsome six month old grandson.

In closing, I do want to express my special appreciation (in addition to my roommates and those mentioned earlier) for the special kindness shown to me by: Pam W., Terri O’B., David B. (the Bishop), Liz O’B., Phil G., Eddie T., Delories F.

What I regret the most is not being able to keep in touch. Would love to hear from all of you.

1977

Elizabeth Gardner, BA (SDS)

Elizabeth will be retiring from teaching at the end of the current school year. For the last 34 years she has taught Special Education in High Prairie, Alberta. Elizabeth started her teaching career with the Waterloo Public School Board in 1979 teaching ESL at Cameron Heights Secondary School. She answered an ad in the Globe and Mail for an ESL/Special Education teacher at Prairie River Junior High School in High Prairie. She has been there ever since! She and her husband own a farm outside of the town where they live with all of their furry children.

It’s been a good working life and now it’s time to move on to other endeavours!

1987

Wayne Ambrose-Miller, BA (SDS)

I am working as a social worker in a Family Health Team in the Niagara Region. I’m father to two daughters and a step-daughter (all in their teens at this point). I completed my PhD in Social Work last April and have been teaching part time through Renison’s Faculty of Social Work for the past two years. It’s great to be back!

1992

Brian Allison, BA (Psych)

I have been employed by Family & Children’s Services of Waterloo Region as a Children’s Services Worker (CSW) since August 2002. I am also a Certified First Aid Instructor with the Canadian Red Cross.
1994
Mary Crome (née Ryan), BA (SDS)
merrymary@eastlink.ca
I just graduated with an MSW from Wilfrid Laurier. I’m working with Circles, part of the Bridges Out of Poverty Program. I have four beautiful children aged three to 15. I’m embarking on a big family road trip to Florida to get a bit of Disneyness!!

1996
Krista Jonker, BA (SDS), Diploma in Social Work
krista@kristajonker.com
After graduating from Renison I worked with young offenders for a few years until having my own three darling young offenders! Staying home with them became a priority for a number of years until I got the itch to join the workforce again. After working for a year and a half in administration in a real estate office I proceeded to get my licence. For the past seven years I have been practicing real estate here in Kitchener/Waterloo and enjoying every (well, almost every) minute of it. This field puts into practice so many of the skills and knowledge I learned in my classes at Renison. From confrontation, negotiation, counselling, to interview skills I feel like I’m working in exactly the right field to use my skills. Thanks Renison for the training and knowledge!

My husband and I and our three daughters live in Waterloo and are starting to prepare our oldest for her own adventures at university.

Did you know: 87.5% of UWaterloo grads had jobs within six months of graduation? (2013 survey)

1997
Shelagh McCartney, BES (Arch), BArch [2000]
Residence Floor: Upper Deck
smccartney@hotmail.com
After receiving my B.Arch. from Waterloo in 2000, I went on to work in South Africa for a CIDA project and there I defined that I wanted to contribute to the plight of the urban poor through urban planning and design. I returned to Canada, became a licensed architect, worked with DTAH and co-led the team that won the Toronto Waterfront competition and then decided I needed to continue my dream, so I headed back to school. Graduating from Harvard with my doctorate in 2012 I worked at the Carleton School of Architecture and Urbanism and now the Ryerson School of Urban and Regional Planning as an Assistant Professor.

I live in Toronto with my husband Joe (B.Eng, M.Eng McGill) and our three year old daughter Niabh. I recently connected (live! I know) with a good friend from Renison and another who lives around the corner, and what a reminder of the fun we had there and the memories. I may have worked too hard when I was there but I remember a lot of fun and smiles from Renison - shout out to the ladies of Upper Deck!

2001
Jude Billard, BA (Soc/SDS), BSW [2002]
dreama_gal@hotmail.com
I’m currently working in the greater Melbourne area as an advanced practitioner in child protection for the Victorian Department of Human Services. It’s challenging work with a very ethnically diverse population in an urban setting. It’s often thankless work, but there are rewarding moments when you see the families you work with achieve their goals. It’s those moments that child protection workers hold on to in the midst of the ongoing stress and verbal abuse.

I’m enjoying the urban life once again after more than two years in the Australian outback, bumping around bush roads across the desert, dodging camels and kangaroos. Now I head to the beach on my days off, or head into the downtown core with friends for pints at one of many pubs. I volunteer weekly for AMES Foundation, teaching English to a Vietnamese woman. I don’t know when I’ll return to Canada, but for now, Australia is my home. You can read about my adventures here: talesfromaustralia.blogspot.com.

2002
Allyson Hilbert (née Parker), BA (SDS), BSW (Hons.) [2002]

After spending more than 10 years working in child welfare, domestic violence and mental health I stepped away from front line work. I still use my Social Work skills as a volunteer in the non-profit area and as an owner/operator of my own pet care business, Ally Cats Pet Services. My Social Work skills come in handy when planning fundraisers and giving back through Ally Cats Cares.

I have been happily married for seven years, and have remained in the KW area. My cats are my kids and being an Auntie has changed my life!!!
It’s hard to believe it has been 10 years since I graduated from the BSW program! I remember graduation day receiving my diploma and after years of focusing on reports and exams I found myself saying “now what?” I knew I wasn’t ready to settle into a 9-5 job so I spent a year preparing for a big change and moved to England in May 2005. I went with nothing...no job, no family, no car...just me and my degree. It took three months to find a job as a social worker on a team for children with disabilities. Not only was I doing social work – what I trained so hard to do – but I was doing it in another country, driving on the other side of the road, with roundabouts...many, many roundabouts!

I remember my co-workers applauding when I would find my way back to the office, and in one piece!

After working with children with disabilities I found myself in Liverpool as a social worker on a Child Protection team. I met the most amazing people and found myself in the most unusual experiences, testifying on the stand and looking for foster children with police escorts. There was never a dull moment!

I took some time off to travel Europe and settled into the British culture. Three years later I walked away from this position not only with some lifelong friends, amazing social work skills but also a husband - my co-worker on the team along with two beautiful step daughters. After moving into the fostering sector, I eventually went on maternity leave for a year after the birth of our son. My career as a social worker in foster care took me full circle when a UK based fostering agency opened an office in Mississauga. I jumped on the chance to work for Key Assets which was a very well respected fostering agency in the UK and one that does so much good for foster children. After sponsoring my family we settled down the street from my parents in Kitchener.

Since then I have been working as Recruitment Officer/Manager recruiting foster carers. As a UK-based agency I have the luxury of visiting my home-away-from-home on business from time-to-time and visit my friends and husband’s family in Liverpool. I can’t begin to describe how incredible this journey has been since that graduation ceremony. Not only did my degree open doors to career opportunities, but it also gave me the freedom to create the most incredible experiences in another country and most importantly it led me to my husband and the family we have created.

2005

Kathy Dobson, BA (Lib. Studies)
dobson.kathy@gmail.com

In November 2011 I had a book pub-
lished entitled “With a Closed Fist” (Véhicule Press, Montréal), which chronicles growing up in the 1960s and 1970s in Point St. Charles, a slum of Montréal that was then described by the National Film Board as the “toughest neighbourhood in Canada.” Since the book’s release I have been invited to speak across the country at many schools of social work, including McGill University, Wilfrid Laurier University and Algoma University.

In 2012 I completed my master’s degree in Communication Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, and this fall I’ll be pursuing a PhD at Carleton University’s School of Journalism and Communication. I can be reached by email or at my website, kathydobson.ca.

2006

Faith Lee, BA (SDS)

I am working as a children’s ministry worker with SIM in Cochabamba, Bolivia for the next several months. In September, I will return to school for the post-graduate certificate in international program management at Humber College.

2009

Elyse Rodgers, BA (Fine Arts)
Residence Floor: Euphoria and Moose Crossing

Since graduating from University of Waterloo and living at Renison, I have graduated from a Master’s of Museum Studies from the University of Toronto. I have worked and interned at cultural institutions including TIFF Bell Lightbox, The Art Gallery of Ontario, and The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery. Currently I reside in Toronto and am working as a part time Gallery Educator and a part time Community Youth Outreach Coordinator at The Power Plant. I am working on an outreach program called Power Youth which serves youth in priority neighbourhoods in Toronto.

2010

Jennifer Dupuis (née Taun), BA (SDS), BSW, MSW
j_taun@hotmail.com

A lot has changed since college. I have completed my MSW and am currently working as a child protection worker on the parent and capacity team. In August 2013 I got married to my husband Jared Dupuis and we are expecting our first child in September 2014.

2012

Mushfiqur Rahman, BSc (Hons.) (Biochem)
Residence Floor: FUBAR
immushfiq@sigmachi.com

Vancouver’s welcomed me nicely. I’ve been keeping busy running my two companies, Feedband Labs Inc. and Tanzimat Apparel Corp. The team at Feedband Labs is working hard to build the next-generation of home-automation and wearable technologies. We recently acquired Activ8 to complement our niche R&D portfolio. Tanzimat Apparel is a different endeavour altogether. It is a clothing manufacturing company. Who knows, we may soon be supplying the University of Waterloo itself. I’m currently back in Canada, having finished further studies at Cornell University.

What’s new with you? Send us your Grapevine submissions and we’ll share your story in our next issue! uwaterloo.ca/renison/grapevine

In Memoriam

The Renison community sends its sincere condolences to the family of Renison student, Kirsten Ashley Gopie. Kirsten passed away unexpectedly on May 12, 2014 at the age of 20 years.
EAST ASIAN FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
Renison University College hosts the 20th annual East Asian Festival. Experience the vibrant cultures of China, Japan and Korea with live performances and demonstrations, music, food, and educational and interactive booths. It’s fun for the whole family, and admission is free!

uwaterloo.ca/renison/events/20th-annual-east-asian-festival

FALL OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2014
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
Know someone who might be interested in Renison or the University of Waterloo? Why not bring them to the campus-wide Fall Open House, where they can meet with current students, staff, and faculty and help figure out what program is the best fit. Or if you are interested in a one-on-one tour, contact Alecz at renison@uwaterloo.ca.

uwaterloo.ca/renison/future-students/visit-us

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