

1959



1961



2019

# RENISON REPORTS 60 YEARS



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UNIVERSITY OF  
WATERLOO



# RENISON REPORTS

Renison University College's  
Alumni and Friends Magazine  
2019

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Board Chairman Carl Dunker, Bishop George Luxton, and Mrs. Elizabeth Renison participate in the College's official dedication at its original location on Albert Street, in October 1959.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write my reflection for our 60th Anniversary edition of *Renison Reports*, we have just finished our annual President's Christmas Lunch! We were delighted to hold this annual gathering in our newly completed third floor addition to the Academic Centre. Through the great leadership of our Director of Facilities, Jim Robson, and the efforts of our great team with Walter Fedy, led by our long time friend and supporter Fei Wei, this beautiful new space was completed in a 7-month period! The new classrooms and offices will be buzzing when the College reopens after the holidays in January.

This annual Christmas gathering brings together our current working team and our retired friends who, in years past, handed on the work of Renison to us. The feeling in the gathering was so warm and enthusiastic. It is a community which delights in being together. It is comprised, across generations, of like-minded people with a vision for education in the service of a more liveable world, which continues to inspire and empower learners to realize their potential and their dreams.

Drawing the celebrations of our 60th anniversary year to a close with this event was so entirely apt. This celebration marks the movement into the holiday season for Renison—the only time in the calendar year when most of the system is entirely at rest. The intense pace of Renison throughout the year is a striking contrast to this unique sabbath space. As we marked the importance of rest in our annual rhythm, we noted that we were coming together in the season that heralds the approach of the longest night of the year, paired with the promise of the coming of the light. We were poignantly aware of the complexity of the story of which we are all apart.

Life is beautiful. Life is hard. Holding the paradox of this with imagination and courage becomes, for us, a window through which we make real our hope for the world.

By way of this window we glimpse our future: through the encouragement found in our side-by-side straining toward a more equitable, compassionate and just world, we find a WAY. Our history of companionship in the project of a Renison-style education has taught us this. There is a WAY. As we turn toward the next 60 years of the Renison story we know this. There IS a WAY toward the future we can imagine but know not yet. We are committed to forging that WAY together, we who work daily at Renison, our students, our partners, our donors and friends. Together we will fashion a WAY.

Sufi poet Rumi, many centuries ago, said it this way: "As you start to walk on, the way appears."

In the holiday season we took our rest. And then once again with deep gratitude, we walk on together, toward a future in education which reflects our shared imagining: a new day, a new world with dignity and place for all. *One sky over all.*

WENDY L. FLETCHER, Ph.D  
President and Vice-Chancellor





# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

by Cort Egan  
Director  
External Relations and Communications



BACK ROW: CORT (HELD BY MOM), LARRY, VINCE, PHIL, DAD  
CENTRE: BEV, BARB BOTTOM: MARY JANE, PAUL, VICI, FRANCES

Big anniversaries and milestones always invite inner reflections: *How did we get here?* In the following pages, you'll find a number of columns written by students, former staff and faculty who help paint a picture of Renison's storied past. An important part of our story is rooted in research and other scholarly initiatives and I am so excited to share a few these current endeavours with you, too.

*Sed Coelum Solum: One Sky Over All.* Our motto reflects our foundation; firmly built on principles of equity, inclusion and diversity. It is little wonder that these values remain embedded in, and are a guiding force for, everything we do today.

When I was completing grade 13 in my hometown of Sarnia, and preparing to attend university, my father's business went into receivership. He fell victim to the recession of the early '80s. My OSAP application was declined due to my father's previous earnings. I had saved up a few thousand dollars working in a local restaurant

as a busboy and dishwasher, so I was confident I could fund my first year university, and I would figure things out after that. My eldest brother, Phil, drove me to the train station and, as I boarded the train to London, Phil tucked an envelope into my jacket pocket. "Just in case," he said. The envelope contained 12 cheques for \$150 each – not an inconsequential amount in 1983. I vowed not to use them, but each month, as rent came due, I cashed another cheque. Throughout the academic year, a package would arrive about every two weeks from my sister Barb: canned goods, KD, fresh fruit, veggies – even dryer sheets. What I learned that first year at Western had little to do with academics: if not for the support of family, I would not have made it through my first year.

Halfway through my second year, on a blistering cold night in January, a house fire erupted in my sister Fran's new apartment, killing her while she slept. I don't remember much from that period. I remember my sister Vici was in Nigeria with CUSO and didn't make it home in time for the funeral. I remember my mom meticulously preparing

beds for all the family coming home, desperately trying to cling to some sliver of normalcy that would never return. And I remember that the only communication I ever received from the university during that dark period demanded tuition fees: Overdue, it said in bold, red ink. I share this with you as a reminder that we cannot always know what students face when they enter and are enrolled at our institution.

I know that we can't remove all the barriers that stand in the way of Renison students reaching their full potential. We also can't predict or protect our students from the punishing wallops that life is sure to throw their way. But we can strive to do better: build stronger relationships, ensure resources are available and known to students before they need them, and make students a part of our

planning and review processes so that these relationships, resources and supports are part of our planning process.

I meet regularly with students, our Registrar's Office, and our Scholarships and Awards Committee to identify how we can better support students, and where gaps exist. Renison has one of the largest counsellor to student ratios at any college or university, and a dedicated chaplain. This is something we can be rightfully proud of. We have people who are there to offer support and guidance when students are navigating through challenging times that sometimes come without warning.

I am proud that we continue to find new ways to support our students and be there for them, *just in case*.

Learn more about our newest student initiatives here:  
<https://uwaterloo.ca/renison/alumni/support-renison>



# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TOWN & GOWN SOCIETY

Long before there were *100 Women Who Care*, there was the *Town & Gown Society*; the original women who care.

In 1993, Renison University College was growing rapidly. The College needed help, and Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Principal at the time, had a plan. The idea seemed simple enough: provide a small group of women the opportunity to network while, at the same time, supporting growing needs of the College. Funds would be raised through membership fees which were originally set at \$94.95 per year, to mark the year that the Group was formed.

The first executive team of the *Town & Gown Society* was made up of a small but mighty group of women: Elizabeth Breithaupt, Jean Downer, Mary Dunker Guy, Joan McKinnon and Emily McLean. Through their efforts, the group grew to fifty members by the Spring of 1995 and awarded its first bursary the following year. By the end of the decade, the Fund exceeded \$50,000 and the Society was funding a second award.

Since its inception in 1994, the contributions of the *Town & Gown Society* have combined to support over 80 students with scholarships that have ranged in value from \$750 to \$3500; almost \$100,000 in scholarships has been awarded. This has been life-changing for students in Social Development Studies, the Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work programs, most of whom have entered University through non-traditional means. In turn, these graduates have gone on to careers as social workers, community support workers, counsellors and other advocacy roles that work to improve our lives.

In early October, 2019, the current membership of the *Town & Gown Society* came together at Renison to celebrate this milestone over tea, sandwiches and conversation. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit from KW Symphony Music Director, Andrei Feher, who shared stories of his early life, his introduction to music, and his journey to the KW Symphony. Andrei, and his fiancé Geneviève stayed to enjoy the company of the *Town & Gown Society* and share more stories over tea.

It was very fitting for Andrei to speak with the *Town & Gown Society*; there is something here about the power of the group. Without the strength of the orchestra to amplify the message, a conductor is reduced to a baton, waving silently in the air. When a talented and committed group of people work together in harmony, we see some extraordinary outcomes.

The *Town & Gown Society*, not unlike a well seasoned orchestra, has produced some beautiful results. By the time you are reading this, almost 100 students will have benefitted from scholarships and awards totalling close to \$100,000. This is the power of the many. Most incredibly, the membership fee to join the *Town & Gown Society* is the equivalent of two lattes per month: only \$100 per year.



DIANA NAZAROV

## THANK YOU TOWN AND GOWN

This generous award granted me the opportunity to focus solely on my passion for social work. A student's life is much harder in moments of financial strain. It is challenging to give 100% when we are stressed over tuition deadlines. I am beyond grateful to Town & Gown for your support, and for enabling me to pursue my passion for this field with peace of mind. I intend to support the *Town & Gown Society* upon starting my social work career, so that future students may continue to receive the support I was so lucky to have. I sincerely thank you.



MARY GUY, ANDREI FEHER, CARLA MCLENNAN



WENDY FLETCHER, ANDREI FEHER



If you're interested in joining this group and contributing to the power of many hearts and many hands, please visit:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/renison/alumni/support-renison>



# RENISON THROUGH THE DECADES:

## ABOUT THIS SECTION

This section, pages 12 to 33, was made possible through great articles written by former students, faculty and staff, recounting their time at Renison. Thank you to all my contributing editors. In some cases, I was provided with accompanying photographs; in others, I found photos that I thought helped to reflect the article. But who is in the photos?



## WIN RENI-MOOSE SOCKS!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We want to know who is in the photos. Provide the most names and win a beautiful pair of Reni-Moose socks (not available in stores!). Every numbered photo from pages 12 to 33 is open to the contest.

So... it's time to really knock our socks off by identifying who is in these photos.

Email us your answers at:

[Renison.alumni@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:Renison.alumni@uwaterloo.ca)

The winner of the contest will be announced in the May edition of the Alumni E-Newsletter, being launched in January, 2020.



# RENISON THROUGH THE DECADES:



## TOP OF THE CHARTS

THE TWIST  
CHUBBY CHECKER



## AT THE BOX OFFICE

PSYCHO



## ON THE NIGHT STAND

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS  
JAQUELINE SUSANN



## IN THE NEWS

JOHN F. KENNEDY WINS  
US PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION

## 60s: FRED MAY AND RUTH ARGO

### FORMATIVE YEARS

Ruth: Fred wanted a small campus community and his first-year history class of 15 with Prof. Reese was so different from what friends back home were saying about UofT. It was still called Renison College back then.

Fred: Making friends in residence helped getting over homesickness, especially since the only phone back then was the one pay phone (no smart phones or email). Ruth's parents had no phone and mail from up north was always so welcome. We all came from different places and picked Waterloo because it was the 'new fresh face' back then. Ruth loved the little Anglican chapel and the quiet Wednesday morning service, except for the early wake up call!

Ruth: The one TV in the lounge off the dining hall was popular but the new Moose Room felt more like the living room at home; on cold winter nights it was no fun for Fred going back to the dining hall just to watch TV. Fred lived just down the hall from Terry Findlay. Who would have predicted that one day Terry would be Archbishop of Toronto?



FRED MAY AND RUTH ARGO



FRED MAY



RUTH ARGO

THROUGH THE DECADES

# 1960s

Fred: Residence food took some getting used to but we soon found out that Louie was the best chef on campus. Omelet night was a big favourite and steak on Friday night was to die for!

Ruth & Fred: One of the worst features of Renison was walking back from the main campus up the hill on a cold winter day with the wind howling across a campus that then had few mature trees. That is when we learned that a good parka was our best friend.

Ruth & Fred: One of the best features was talking to all the folks about their different programs; Fred's roommate the physicist; the computer science guru across the hall; the English grad student; the floor Don. This likely planted a seed for Fred because the last half of his career in education was spent as a high school guidance counsellor and eventually head of a guidance department. In retirement, he still does private career counselling with secondary students. Ruth deepened her love of English back then, became a high school English teacher and still tutors part time today.

Ruth & Fred: Of course, the lasting impression of Renison was meeting each other; life partners since 1967.



# RENISON THROUGH THE DECADES:



## TOP OF THE CHARTS

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER  
SIMON & GARFUNKEL



## AT THE BOX OFFICE

LOVE STORY



## ON THE NIGHT STAND

JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL  
RICHARD BACH



## IN THE NEWS

FOUR KENT STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SLAIN BY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

## 70s: MICHAEL WATKINS LONG-TIME FRIENDS

I arrived at Mac Dover's Animal floor in Renison College in the fall of 1975 to the opening wail of Supertramp's *School* wafting down the hall. "I can see you in morning when you're going to school..." *Crime of the Century* had been released a year earlier, but I, coming fresh from Thunder Bay with a trunk containing all my worldly possessions, and clad in my blue jeans and flannel shirt, hadn't heard it before. I was transfixed.

The music of those times is very much connected to my experience in what was my first year at Waterloo and only year at Renison. Both my neighbors across the hall and next door had turntables and great collections of vinyl...and open doors. Elton John's *Captain Fantastic and Brown Dirt Cowboy*, Springsteen's *Born to Run*, Pink Floyd's *Wish You Were Here*, and David Bowie's *Young Americans* all had been released during the previous spring and summer, and songs from those and other albums always evoke memories of a wonderful year. Given the then male-to-female ratio at Waterloo, I couldn't believe my good fortune that there was rough gender parity at Renison...leading to fun disco dance parties and much machinating about how to get the attention of the girls.

I remember many great get-togethers in the Moose Room. Flag football and fussball. A variety of practical jokes, ranging from setting someone's room furniture up out in the field, complete with illuminated study lamp, to seeing some else's room filled with branches, and of course the infamous Cheezies cannon. And wonderful people, some of whom, for example Sandy Bell/Cameron, became long-time friends.

through the decades



## FUSSBALL



This page is sponsored by:  
KEITH MILLIGAN & the  
RENISON SNACK BAR.

FUSSBALL CHAMPION  
Mike Watkins without his  
partner, Dave Solomon.

# 1970s



## RENISON THROUGH THE DECADES:



### TOP OF THE CHARTS

ROCK WITH YOU  
MICHAEL JACKSON



### AT THE BOX OFFICE

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



### ON THE NIGHT STAND

THE BOURNE IDENTITY  
ROBERT LUDLUM



### IN THE NEWS

KEN TAYLOR, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, HELPS 6 AMERICANS ESCAPE DURING IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

## 80s: RICK BERETI THE GOOD OL' DAYS

Every once in a while we hear the term “the good ol’ days,” and this captures my time in the late 70s and early 80s. Renison College was a very exciting and inviting environment; there were students from all over the globe, in all faculties.

There was a strong social environment promoted by the student-body and the administrative staff led by Reverend David Hartry and Principal Ian Campbell. The college at that time had approximately 100 male residents and 80 females. Classrooms were situated in the lower portion of the men’s residence. The hub and central gathering area was always the cafeteria, where students would both socialize and meet to study and, of course, eat.

The camaraderie soon became apparent in the College as those who were from Ontario would invite those from afar for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter celebrations. There were floor parties - College parties with the themes like toga party (mimicking the *Blues Brother’s* movie). We would all be chastised the following Monday by the cleaning staff for using the sheets from our beds. The green space just outside of the residence resulted in many impromptu games of football, study sessions and a new activity: ultimate Frisbee, introduced to us by a resident Rimes Mortimer.

There were times when some of the residents would create chaos decorating the Moose Room and the moose, or spray painting Bill the custodian’s plough blade; he was always searching to find out who the culprits were. He likely knew, but enjoyed the cat and mouse game that ensued.

I was a Don for one year and Senior Don (along with Linda Jackson) for my final year. We were supported by David Hartry who provided us with both spiritual and personal guidance and support. As Dons, we were often invited to Ian and Marian’s place for social gatherings, David and Janet Hartry would provide us with an opportunity to have a home-cooked meal and

# through the decades 1980s

a break from academics. The administration would put on formal dinners for all residents. These occasions were a nice opportunity to mix with the staff; the evening would include fine food, presentations and awards.

Being a Don provided me with the opportunity to support residents at Renison while building skills that have helped me throughout my career. I often smile when dealing with staff situations today, reflecting on the many experiences that confronted me as Don.

The friends and contacts that my wife and I made while in Waterloo and in Renison have remained after 40 years.



REVEREND DAVID HARTRY AND...





# RENISON THROUGH THE DECADES:



## TOP OF THE CHARTS

VOGUE  
MADONNA



## AT THE BOX OFFICE

HOME ALONE



## ON THE NIGHT STAND

BURDEN OF PROOF  
SCOTT TUROW



## IN THE NEWS

GENERAL MANUEL  
NORIEGA SURRENDERS  
TO US MILITARY IN  
PANAMA

## 90s: TODD HEWLIN HONOUR THE MOOSE

Honour the Moose. Words to live by back in my days at Renison, and ever since. At its core, Renison is about the power of inclusion. You are part of a warm, accepting, and encouraging community that honours the individuality of every student, resident, administrator, and faculty member. Hanging out in the Moose Room is just the physical manifestation of the Renison culture.

I did a lot of growing at Renison. Early memories of meeting my first-year roommate, Chris LeBrun, in September 1985 are still fresh in my mind. Chris was one of the most positive people I have ever met and utterly unflappable, even in the face of seemingly too-high expectations in our shared Math classes. The "Get It Done for Chris LeBrun" campaign that raised awareness of the ongoing fight against leukemia is a lasting legacy of Chris' remarkable impact. I miss him.

I lived on The Loft for all five years of my time at Renison. It was like the Hotel California – once I checked in, I could not leave. Never quite understood why it was called The Loft. Each room was a single story, just like the rest, unless you count skydiving off of the wardrobe closets. My hearing has still not fully recovered from listening to *Tears for Fears*, *The Cure*, and *Depeche Mode* played at 11. We went full *Spinal Tap* in those days.

Renison also provided my first chances to explore public service and leadership. I loved serving as a Summer Don and then as Student Council President. Both gave me an up-close view of how complex big organizations are run and how important listening is when you are asked to play a leadership role. I have used those lessons ever since in the corporate world.

So Happy 60th Birthday Renison. May the Moose continue to thrive for another 60 years!

through the decades



KEITH THOMSON, TODD HEWLIN



TODD HEWLIN, CHRIS LEBRUN, PETER WILLIAMS

# 1990s



PETER WILLIAMS, JOANNA RITCHIE, TODD HEWLIN



# RENISON THROUGH THE DECADES:



## TOP OF THE CHARTS

SAY MY NAME  
DESTINY'S CHILD



## AT THE BOX OFFICE

CROUCHING TIGER,  
HIDDEN DRAGON



## ON THE NIGHT STAND

THE DA VINCI CODE  
DAN BROWN



## IN THE NEWS

MANUAL RECOUNT  
OF FLORIDA BALLOTS  
ORDERED IN US  
ELECTION

## GAIL CUTHBERT BRANDT RENISON RECOLLECTIONS

Some events remain forever deeply etched in our memories. In my own memory bank, two Renison-related events stand out – my arrival as a first-year student and my return as the College's sixth principal.

It was a Sunday afternoon in 1963 when I arrived at Renison, both excited and apprehensive about what was in store for me. Moving into residence was a much quieter affair than it is nowadays. There were no welcoming hordes of second-year students to guide us to our rooms and lead us in icebreaker games, and no barbeque luncheon for parents and family.

The two-storey College building was only two years old, and housed 40 women on one side and 40 men on the other. All rooms were double rooms, and roommates were assigned.

My roommate, an American who had been given late university acceptance, did not arrive until much later that week. Had I been in a much larger institution, I surely would have been lonely those first few days. But this was Renison and, within a day, I had already made several lasting friendships.

From its foundation in 1959, Renison was a teaching institution with its own professors, registered Arts students, and classrooms. As a result, I also benefitted from the small classes in History and English offered at the College.

Nearly thirty years later, I returned to Renison as its new principal. By now the College was larger in terms of physical space and numbers of students, faculty members, and staff. Nonetheless, it remained a unique, close-knit community dedicated to supporting students not only in their academic endeavours but also in their social and spiritual lives.



## GAIL THROUGH THE DECADES...



During my ten years as Principal (1992 –2002), I had the enormous pleasure of watching Renison grow more diverse in its student base and academic activities, more research intensive, and more influential in its outreach. The establishment of the BSW program, the substantial growth of the East Asian Studies program, the creation of the English Language Institute, the development of the Renison Institute of Ministry, and the completion of the Link building with its new office space and residence rooms were some of the highlights of those years. Substantial fundraising for the Lusi Wong Library and new academic building was also completed.

Over the past two decades, Renison has blazed new paths in pursuit of the "bold and courageous dreams" its founders envisioned. What has remained constant is the purposefully constructed, strong sense of community I first encountered in 1963. It has been a fundamental component of the College's success story and is an increasingly precious commodity in our digital and fast-paced world.

through the decades  
**2000s**



# RENISON THROUGH THE DECADES:



## TOP OF THE CHARTS

RAISE YOUR GLASS  
PINK



## AT THE BOX OFFICE

THE SOCIAL NETWORK



## ON THE NIGHT STAND

MOCKINGJAY  
SUZANNE COLLINS



## IN THE NEWS

33 CHILEAN MINERS  
RESCUED AFTER  
BEING TRAPPED  
UNDERGROUND  
FOR 68 DAYS

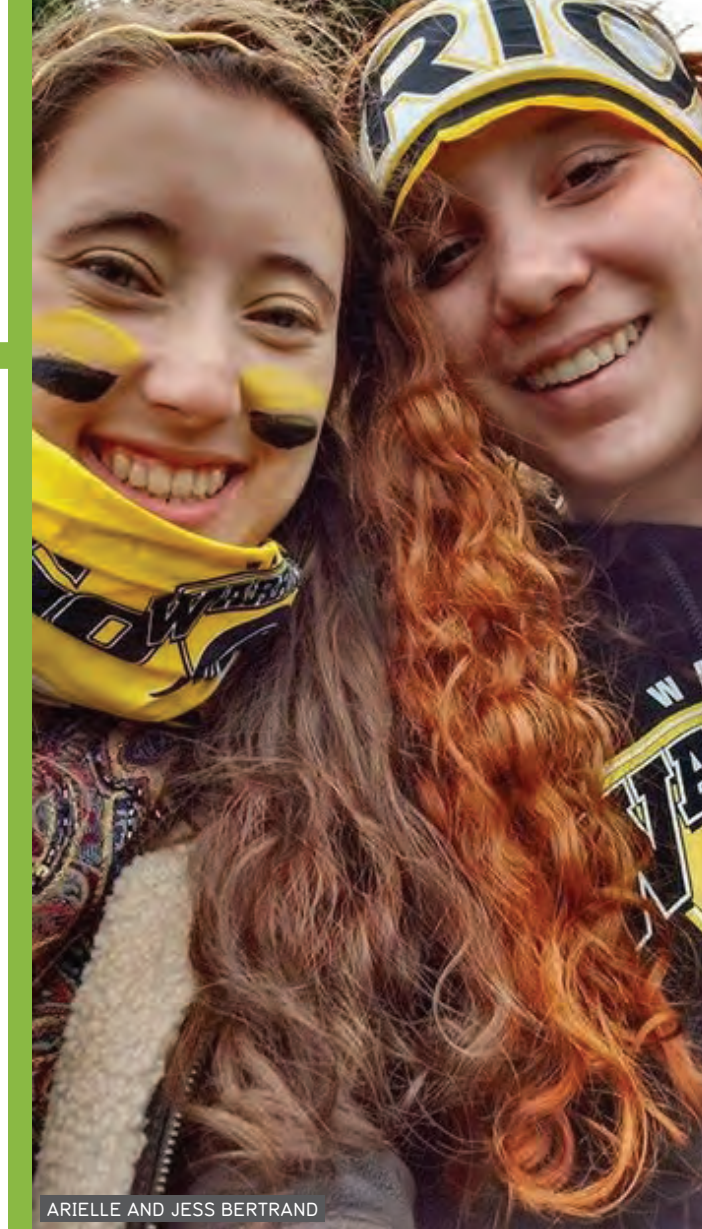
## 10s: ARIELLE SHEILA BARBER ONE BIG FAMILY

I attended Renison for the Social Development Studies program from 2015 to 2019. I knew that I wanted to attend school at Renison right after my first tour of the building, before I was even accepted into the program. Luckily, I was accepted and lived on Timbuktu for my 1st year. Being on a small floor was nice because we were able to really get to know and support one another. We always had lots to do; going to sports games to support our floormates; and, one of my favourites: dressing up for Haunted Hallways to scare the other floors.

I loved living at Renison because it felt like a big family. Within the first few weeks I was able to recognize faces and names. Embarrassingly, some knew me too well, and by the end of October my standard “grilled cheese” dinner was known to everyone in the cafeteria. Best of all, at Renison, I didn’t have to go outside to get to my classes during the winter!

After my 1st year I moved out of Renison but missed the close feeling of the building, so I decided to get involved through Renison’s Academic Student Council for 2 years. I really enjoyed this role because I got to put on events to bring Renison students together. At Reni’s Birthday we had cake and bouncy castles. We also got to give back to the community through events like “Trick or Eat” where we collected food on Halloween for the Food Bank. As well, I got to participate in Open House days and show future students around. It was exciting to introduce other students to Renison as a place that could become their new home.

Through Renison I made amazing friends and was able to get to know my Professors and Academic Advisors really well. This close safety net gave me the confidence to go abroad for a semester to study in England. My time and experiences at Renison also enabled and inspired me to continue my education and pursue a Graduate degree.



ARIELLE AND JESS BERTRAND



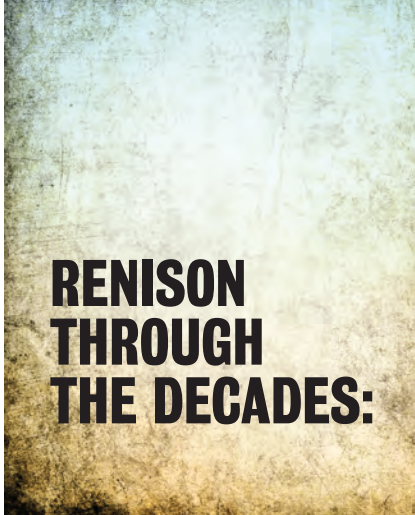
ARIELLE AND SCHOOL FRIENDS



ARIELLE AND BETTINA BIGONIA

through  
the decades  
**2010s**





## AMIE JEANETTE DURSTON

### HOME AWAY FROM HOME

What residence you live in before starting university truly shapes your University experience. I toured Waterloo's on-campus residences and found them too minimalistic and isolated for me. This drove me to investigate the University Colleges for their community oriented and tight-knit atmospheres. Renison specifically stood out for those attributes, along with their supports and events showcased on the website. It looked like home and, come September 2016, it was. My parents attended the "parents meeting" on move-in day and knew it was the place for me. Memories from first year came and went, Sky Zone trips, floor challenges (being on Down Under of course we never won, but man we tried), Open Houses, College Dinners, haunted halls, movie nights in the Moose Room, and life chats with my Don. During exams in my first year, my floor had gone home for Christmas, so I was in the caf alone. A girl who was sitting at a table full of people, invited me to come sit at her table. Although I did not know everyone at the table, and I was very shy, I said yes and met new friends. That act of kindness made me feel important, wanted, and included: all things that Renison really promotes.



MARCH BREAK OPEN HOUSE  
AMIE AND TAYA VANDERMEERSH



WIND-IN DINNER



DON TEAM AT BLUEMOUNTAIN



OPEN HOUSE  
AMIE AND RACHEL NEUFOLD

I decided I wanted to stay in Renison and be a Don, which I had the chance to do for Moose Crossing in 2017, and Treetop in 2018. Donning was one of the most fulfilling experiences I have ever had. As a floor, we would attend concerts that floormates were performing in, support athletes at their games, and embrace the cultures and differences of everyone on the floor. Both of my birthdays as a Don were symbols of the "Renison-spirit" – diversity, community, and inclusivity. First, my floor staged a fight in the caf, getting one of the Dons to call me for assistance, just to surprise me with a cake that read "Amie, best Don ever." The second time, my floormates hunted me down at 12:00am on my birthday, singing happy birthday, and writing happy birthday all over my door in various languages.

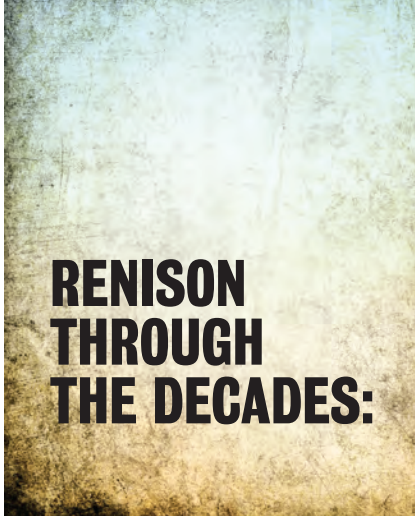
Renison was my true home away from home, a place of growth, community, diversity, and support. I had never felt as loved and appreciated by a community in my life, and I hope that everyone who passes through Renison's doors feels the same.

CHRISTMAS STUDENT LIFE DINNER



BLACK AND GOLD DAY





## SUSAN BRYANT

### THE EAST-WEST GARDEN: HARMONY IN DIVERSITY

The East-West Garden at Renison University College is now 15 years old and is unique in North America. It is a “double” garden: plants native to East Asia side by side with their native Canadian counterparts. In other words, it features a Japanese flowering dogwood and a North American dogwood, a native magnolia and an Asian magnolia. And so on.

This concept was the brainchild of renowned garden expert Larry Lamb. It represents Renison’s cultural identity as a North American institution with a specialty in East Asian culture. Larry has generously volunteered his expertise in the garden over 15 years.

Maintaining the garden is the work of volunteers, supported by many friends of the College who have donated the plants and architectural features. Notable among them is the gift of the Japanese Consulate--the flourishing cherry trees lining the entrance to the College and the garden. Several of the plantings and architectural features are memorials to people who have played key roles in the life of the College.

In addition to its symbolic role, the East-West garden offers significant practical benefits to students, faculty and staff. It is a peaceful and beautiful place of respite from the stresses of everyday life on campus. The natural setting invites conversation, contemplation and restful moments in the midst of everyone’s busy day. To our many Asian foreign students especially, the shapes and show of familiar plants and iconic sculptures give a glimpse of home. The garden conveys the message that they are most welcome here.

If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come.” Chinese Proverb.



DARROL AND SUSAN BRYANT



OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING: BISHOP RALPH SPENCE, PRINCIPAL GLEN CARTWRIGHT, SUSAN BRYANT, GAIL CUTHBERT BRANDT, BETTY TOWNSEND, LYNN SCHUMACHER.

**If I keep a  
green bough in  
my heart, the  
singing bird  
will come.**

CHINESE  
PROVERB



**RENISON  
THROUGH  
THE DECADES:**



HUSTON SMITH AND DARROL BRYANT



DARROL BRYANT, MAHARAJ GOSWAMI, SHRIVATSA AND SANDHYE GOSWAMI



DARROL BRYANT AND THE VENERABLE DOBOOMB TULKU

**DARROL BRYANT  
RELIGION AND CULTURE**

It was late June 1973 when I received word of my appointment as an Assistant Professor of Religion & Culture at Renison. I was thrilled.

In July, I came to the campus for the first time, to meet with the Dean and Principal. It immediately struck me as a welcoming place, and I was excited to be at a young, so young, college in a new university. It did not have much of an institutional footprint, and everyone around was dedicated to helping bring to life the new vision of Renison.

In 1973, Renison was transitioning from being primarily a student residence to a College with its own academic programs. Social Development Studies (SDS) was being born, bringing together studies in Psychology, Sociology, Social Work and interdisciplinary Social Sciences. It was an innovative initiative, and is still the only Social Development Studies program in Canada. There was an air of excitement.

We had 10 full-time faculty, teaching courses in English, History, Religious Studies, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, and Chinese Thought and Culture. It was a small and diverse group of faculty from Canada, India, the USA, and South Africa. In our faculty meetings, we were all involved in putting the finishing touches on the new program.

A vivid memory from my first fall term is marching down to the main campus along with other faculty and students to join a protest rally in the Theatre of the Arts. It was against the recent ousting of Salvador Allende, the President of Chile, in a coup d'etat led by the Chilean military with the support of the CIA. I had earlier traveled throughout Latin America and been deeply impressed by what was happening in the movement of Liberation Theology. Liberation Theology argued for a reorientation of the churches to champion movements for social transformation, "the preferential option for the poor." I was impressed with the immediate response on the UW campus and pleased to see that Renison had a social conscience.

Since then, we have seen remarkable growth in every aspect of Renison University College. Rather than two buildings, we have a complex of interlocking buildings. We have our own chapel, a modern library and a whole new teaching facility. Our SDS program ranks among the most popular programs in the Faculty of Arts. We now offer degrees in Social Development Studies, Honours Arts & Business, and a BA and an MA in Social Work. We have a program in East Asian Studies, Arabic and Islamic Studies, along with an English Language Institute that draws students from around the world.

In 1973, Renison was a happening place, full of promise. The Renison University College you encounter today is the fulfillment of that early promise.









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# GALA AND 60<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CELEBRATIONS



DESTA LEAVINE ENJOYS A LAUGH



WENDY FLETCHER AND ASNAKE MESHESHA DABALA



Renison's 60th anniversary culminated on Thursday November 7 with a Gala Celebration, attended by well over 300 staff, faculty, donors, alumni, students and community members.

After a land acknowledgement and some brief opening remarks from the Board Chair, Reverend Cannon Matthew Griffin, President Wendy Fletcher shared her memories of a visit in 2007 to the home of the grandparents of Megan Reid, an SDS student who died tragically in an automobile accident at the age of 19. Megan's grandfather pointed to a tree that was growing in their backyard in Victoria BC, a tall willow that stretched high into the sky – the tree had been planted the day Megan was born. Growing beside the tree, and climbing through its boughs, was a wisteria in full bloom, its purple flowers cascading down the branches of the willow. The wisteria had been planted by Megan on her 5th birthday. Upon reflecting on the scholarship that was created in their granddaughter's name, and under the shadow of this incredible gift of nature, Megan's grandfather thanked Wendy for keeping Megan's hope alive.

Thus began an evening of reflections on our past, how much we have grown and strived over the years, and our desires to keep the hopes and dreams of our students alive and growing.

Honoured at the Gala were Asnake Meshesha Dabala, who received the Distinguished Alumnus Award; Caroline Tanswell as Honorary Member; and Archbishop Anne Germond was presented with the title of Honorary Senior Fellow. New this year, we introduced the One Sky Over All Award, which was presented to the Consul General or designate from each of: China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates.

As the crème brulees were served, Rachael Ann Fowler came to the podium to reflect on her time as a BSW student at Renison. Rachael was fortunate to receive several privately funded scholarships and awards; even still, she needed two part-time jobs in order graduate without the burden of debilitating debt. Rachael gave back to Renison during her time as a student, volunteering as a Peer Helper, Residence Council Member, and she worked in the library. She is now, like so many Renison alumni, giving back to her community. Rachael is a fully registered Social Worker in a long-term care facility in London. Her responsibilities are diverse and range from palliative care and medically assisted dying care to running fun social groups such as young at heart and a new ambassador's program for incoming residents.

The evening's finale was the performance of "One Sky," by Sonja Malton. Those interested can download the song here: [Renison.ca/one-sky-sonja](http://Renison.ca/one-sky-sonja)



RACHAEL ANN FOWLER





# ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE

“If you’re not breaking them, you’re making them.” Referring to the barriers that racism creates, these words were spoken by Dr. Kathy Hogarth, a professor in Renison’s School of Social Work, to a room full of delegates during one of the Conference’s closing sessions. ConversAction, a 2-day anti-racism conference, was hosted by Renison and UW, and was attended by over 150 delegates from 25 universities from across Canada. Dr. Hogarth’s message was clear:

“There is no room for neutrality on this issue – if you are not actively fighting racism and intolerance with your words and actions, then your very silence is contributing to it.”

The summit, held over 2 days at the Inn of Waterloo, was conceived by Renison Vice President and Academic Dean, Dr. Kofi Campbell. It was intended to pick up the threads of the (e)RACE(r) conference, held three years earlier by Wilfrid Laurier University and,

as the name suggests, turn words into action. Delegations from each university were made up of student leaders and senior administrators – members of the university community seeking change, and those with the power to implement change.

One of the planned outcomes of the conference is the development of a sector-wide task force to hold universities accountable to the calls to action from the conference. “What we learned through (e)RACE(r),” said Campbell, “is that the work required to make change is too much for one department, or one university, to handle. If we truly want to see change, we need an independent, sector-wide task force committed to see that change through.”

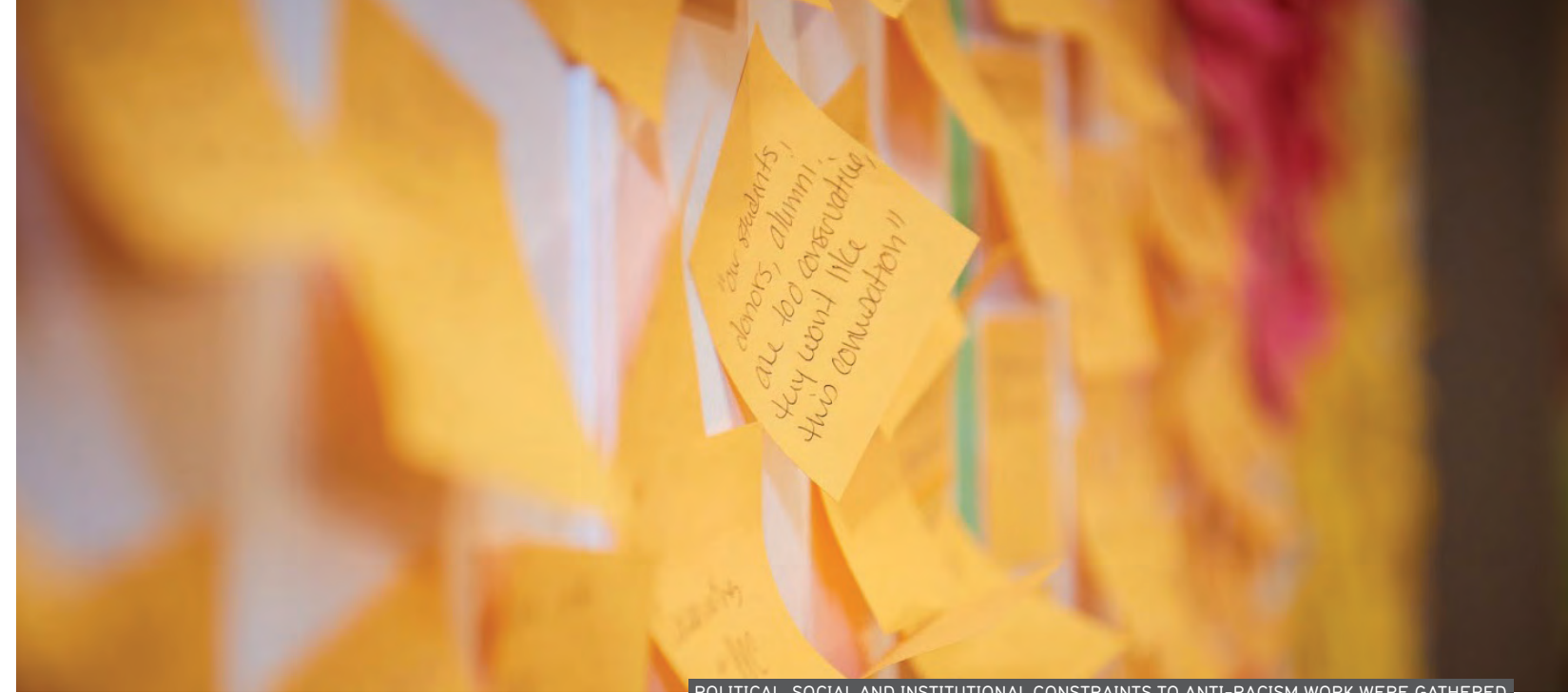
The conference opened with keynote speaker Dr. Malinda Smith, co-author of *The Equity Myth*, contextualizing the need for, and use of, good data in equity work. Later in the day, Smith would lead a workshop on data and its

use. Following Dr. Smith’s keynote address, Dr. Laura Mae Lindo, who was the chief architect of the (e)RACE(r) conference held in 2016, provided the historical framework for the conference and addressed the social, political and institutional constraints to anti-racism work.

The second day began with a student-led panel discussion in which the administrators listened to what the students had to say. A key takeaway from that panel discussion came from student leader and RAISE Advocacy Director, Ethan Candler: “just believe us. When racialized students tell you their experiences, believe us.”

The balance of day 2 was spent envisioning what a sector-wide, anti-racism task force might look like, how it will hold university administrations accountable, and how the work will be organized.

The conversation has taken place, now we need action.



POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS TO ANTI-RACISM WORK WERE GATHERED

“

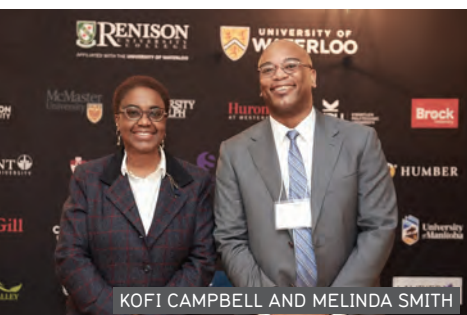
There is no room for neutrality on this issue – if you are not actively fighting racism and intolerance with your words and actions than your very silence is contributing to it.



KOFI CAMPBELL



STUDENT DIALOGUE CIRCLE



KOFI CAMPBELL AND MELINDA SMITH



LAURA MAE LINDO



CONFERENCE DELEGATES

**CONVERSATION**  
RACE MATTERS



# 25 YEARS OF ONE SKY *festival*

2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the One Sky Festival, formerly known as the East Asian Festival. This event celebrates cultural diversity through music, dance, art, food and song, and attracts well over 500 community members each year. The Festival is always held on the third Saturday of September. Everyone is welcome - join us!

Following is a photo retrospective of the past 25 years...



25 YEARS OF ONE SKY *festival*





*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization"*

- Mahatma Gandhi

# ONE SKY festival

25 YEARS OF ONE SKY festival



# WHAT IT MEANS TO SUPPORT A STUDENT



TED APPELYARD, VAIVA DZEMONIA, AND ELIZABETH APPELYARD

When I started my university career I enrolled in a church-based college, like Renison, as a university resident. It was not long before I realized what a good decision that had been. I found myself in a vibrant, stimulating community where I was happy to stay for my remaining time at that university.

Many years later I found myself associated with the University of Waterloo where my father was the second Chancellor of the newly established Renison College. On his retirement from this position he was honoured to have the Bp. H.F. Appleyard Student Award set up to provide financial assistance to especially worthy students.

In recent years I have had the pleasure to meet or to correspond with a number of the recipients of this award and have always been greatly impressed with the abilities that they have brought to their studies and with the goals they have established for their lives. This year it has been a particular pleasure for my wife and me to meet with Vaiva Dzemonia, the current recipient of my father's Award. She is exactly the kind of recipient that my father hoped this award would support. We look forward to following her progress in her studies and wish her great satisfaction in her subsequent career.

*Ted & Elizabeth Appleyard*



VAIVA DZEMONIA (CENTRE) FLANKED BY BRENDON BEDFORD (LEFT) AND CANON MATTHEW GIRFFIN (RIGHT)

When choosing a University, I loved the intimate, tight-knit Renison Community; Renison was relatively simple for me to learn to navigate (I'm totally blind). Throughout my time on campus, I have been a Peer Leader with the SDS Living Learning Community and the English Language Institute, both at Renison. I have been one of two Coordinators with UW MATES, a peer counselling-based program on main campus. I have also worked with the International Peer Community as a Community Leader, as part of the Student Success Office. I graduated from SDS in Fall 2018. I am now completing my BSW. I love having conversations with my professors, and I love participating in my classes! I think the most rewarding aspect of my education here has been the opportunity to meet so many cool folks: peers, staff members, and professors! Many people have supported me in growing as a person, developing my confidence, and strengthening my resiliency.

I am involved in the planning, and I teach at a music camp for one week every summer for the visually impaired! I also teach music Braille, piano, and songwriting, and coordinate a Leadership in Training program at the camp. I also volunteer with the Sexual Assault Support Centre. After graduation, I plan to work in mental health, or some type of education program (I love teaching and learning).

I really appreciate this award. This financial support will help me with tuition, as well as my rent and expenses. I am now living independently, and learning all the aspects of independent living (i.e. meal prep, paying bills, cleaning, etc). My apartment is a safe and comfortable place for me to be learning to live on my own for the first time. Every day is a challenge for me, and provides many opportunities to learn and reflect. Thanks for your support.

*Vaiva Dzemonia*



# ROLLING UP YOUR SLEEVES, FOR GRIEF'S SAKE

by Cort Egan

Duncan Bureau looks a bit like John Slattery, the actor who plays Roger Sterling on AMC's *Mad Men*. He has a thick head of white hair, brushed with a few flecks of pepper near the back. He keeps it neat and trim – very corporate. He has a strong jaw line and bold, dark eye glasses that make him look studious. On most days of the week, Duncan arrives to work in a full suit and tie, starched cuffs edging slightly out of his suit jacket sleeves.

When I first met Duncan, I was heading up sales and marketing for a Canadian tour operator and Duncan was Vice President in charge of sales for WestJet Airlines. We were business colleagues. Duncan had a way of commanding the room – not in a pretentious way – he just carries authority naturally, along with his briefcase and Starbucks coffee.

After WestJet, Duncan became Vice President, Global sales for Air Canada, then President of Air Canada Rouge and, when we touched base just a few weeks back, he had recently been appointed Senior Vice President, Global Sales and Distribution, for Etihad Airways. Duncan is comfortable presiding over a boardroom table.

I might be forgiven, then, for registering some surprise when I was scrolling through my LinkedIn pages and saw a photo of a smiling Duncan Bureau with his arm draped around the shoulder of a bearded man, covered in tattoos, who would look more comfortable on the set of *Sons of Anarchy* than *Mad Men*. I scrolled through the photos and soon understood that Duncan was posing with the tattoo artist who just inked a baseball on

Duncan's forearm in memory of his brother who had recently died of cancer.

My interest in memorial tattoos originated when I learned about the research that Dr. Susan Cadell is conducting in this area. Susan is a professor of Social Work who is exploring memorial tattoos, their role in the expression of grief and as a voice of activism: "Eff Cancer" is a common message. I decided to conduct a little research of my own; I called Duncan to find out more about his decision to remember his brother in this way.

Not that long ago, Duncan questioned his sister for her decision to blemish her body with a tattoo. "I just felt it was wrong to brand your body in that way." Soon, though, Duncan would rethink his position. His first memorial tattoo was in honour of his father. "My dad, Larry, had a great sense of humour. He was a graphic designer and created a wee Scottish creature – all beard and tartan – holding a great, long pike, twice as tall as he was. My dad used to doodle this wee, Hagar-like image on everything he did... it became like an avatar, or an extension of himself.

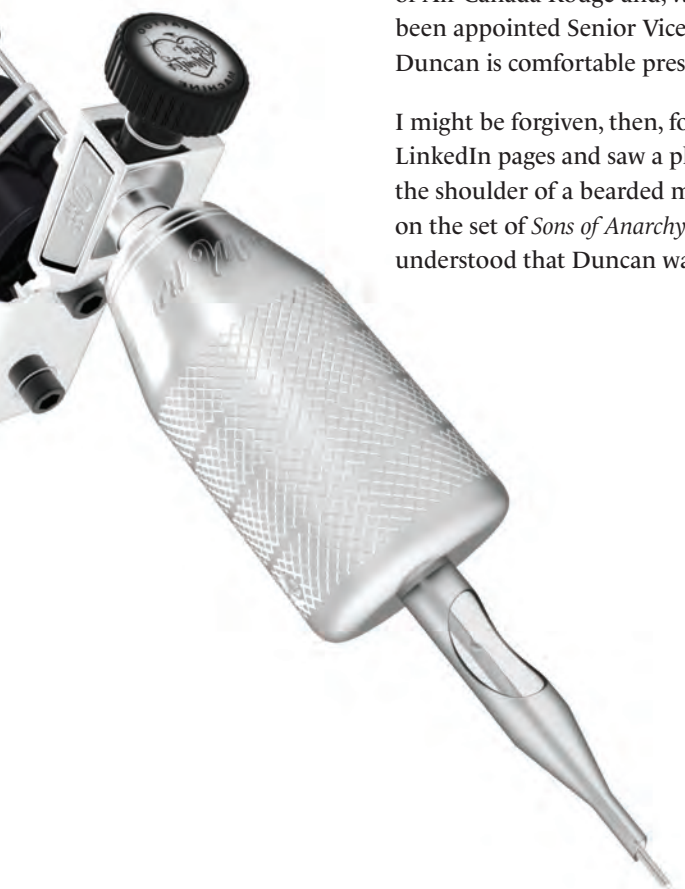
I love my dad, and I love telling stories about what a character he was. When he died of cancer 8 years ago, I found myself thinking about him a lot. I wanted to find ways to work him into conversations so I could keep his memory alive. I found myself jousting with that wee little Hagar the Horrible man in my thoughts – sometimes he wouldn't let me sleep. Eventually, I decided to get the image tattooed onto my right forearm. Each morning, over coffee, I'd find myself rubbing that tattoo and having a morning chat with my dad, just like I did when he was alive. The tattoo brought him back to me, in a way.



DUNCAN AND TATTOO ARTIST



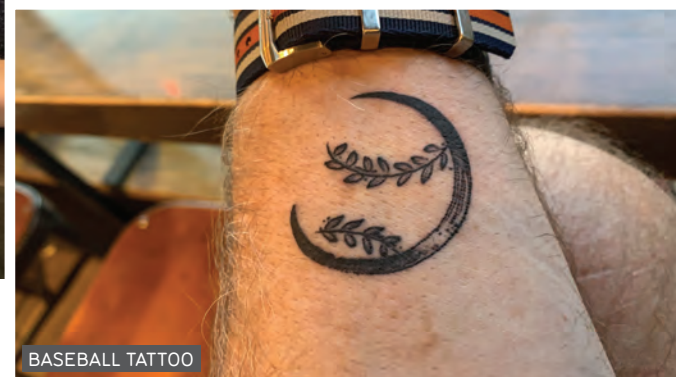
HAGAR TATTOO







DUNCAN AND LAURENCE



BASEBALL TATTOO

My brother Laurence is 11 months older than me. People joked that we were Irish twins; others thought we were natural twins.” Laurence, like Duncan, is tall, slim and handsome. Even after the cancer started to gain the upper hand, you could still see the athleticism in Laurence’s frame. He looked like a big-league pitcher; someone whose pitch would be in the back catcher’s glove before you even thought of swinging the bat.

“Laurence and I played ball competitively. Our summers were spent in ball parks and travelling to tournaments across Canada and throughout the US. We always tried to outdo each other, but Laurence was the better player. I remember us playing catch in the back yard and my hand aching for days from the impact of his throws.

When he died, I knew right away how I wanted to mark his life. A baseball was the natural symbol of what brought Laurence joy in life, and how I most wanted to remember him. But the design I chose is unique. The ball is represented by a crescent moon and the stitching is in the form of two curved olive branches. I decided on a crescent moon because it represents a rebirth or a new beginning; I have to believe that my brother’s new journey has only just begun. The olive branches represent peace – inner peace – which I have approached through this process. As I sat in the tattoo shop, getting the baseball inked onto my forearm, I realized it was a year to the day from when I got the tattoo for my dad.

These tattoos have helped me through my grief. They are a daily reminder of two people who mean the world to me. I start my mornings by rubbing both my forearms and saying a few words to both my dad and my brother. The best part, though, is they open up conversation with strangers and colleagues alike, and allow me to share stories about two of my favourite people. It keeps them alive.”

# RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: MEMORIAL TATTOOS

The research being conducted by Dr. Susan Cadell, a professor in the School of Social Work, involves the work of three Renison graduate students, each of whom is gaining hands-on experience in conducting research with human subjects including interview techniques, data gathering and coding and analysing data.



## OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH

When someone dies, their absence is keenly felt by those who care about them. The scholarly understanding of grief has grown to recognize that a relationship shifts, rather than ends, when a person dies.

Memorial tattoos depict the relationship with the deceased on the outside, on the skin. In effect, they are inking the bond with the person who has died.

The overarching objective of this research was to investigate the experience and meaning of memorial tattoos through the photo documentation of such tattoos and the collection and analysis of the narratives that go along with them. Specifically, what meaning do memorial tattoos have for those griever who wear them? How do the tattoos fit into the wearer’s understanding of grief? Do they help with the pain of grief? Do they help establish for the wearer a sense of community? What stories do people tell others about these visible reminders of their loss?

Learn more about Susan’s research:  
<https://inkingthebond.org>

 @inkingthebond  
 @inkingthebond

*Note: The interview with Duncan Bureau was conducted by the Editor, and is not intended to be a reflection of Dr. Cadell’s research.*



SUSAN CADELL



# STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT SANDEEP MANKU



Sandeep began her post-secondary education studying Early Childhood Education (ECE) at Guelph Humber. Sandeep knew she wanted to work with youth but soon realized that ECE was too young.

Her interests were varied and included Social Work, Psychology and Sociology. This led her to the Social Development Studies (SDS) program at Renison, which is interdisciplinary and grounds students in all three of these areas of study.

Sandeep loved the small class sizes at Renison and she soon became interested in conducting research. She wanted a deeper understanding of her field of interest. She was interested in not just joining a field, but helping to shape it. She also wanted to understand what constitutes research. When writing essays and assignments she used research and referred to it, but what was it exactly?

These questions were driven by a strong desire to make a meaningful contribution in the lives of youth. She wasn't sure what that contribution would look like, but knew

that helping young people was her area of interest. She worked at the Y during the Syrian refugee crisis and learned first-hand the importance of helping youth and, more specifically, helping them deal with issues of bullying and social exclusion.

These interests brought Sandeep directly to the door of Dr. Christina Parker, a Renison professor in Social Development Studies, whose research (*Restorative and Peace-Building Practices in Schools: Challenging Responses to Bullying, Violence and Social Exclusion*) explores healthy resolution to conflict.

Sandeep was fascinated by the research and the power it invested in students. Peace-building education fosters inclusion of racialized and at-risk students in classrooms, and challenges young learners to engage in difficult conversations. It makes them part of the solution.

Dr. Parker was just beginning to conduct her research, so Sandeep was involved in all aspects; she conducted a literature review, held peace-making circles in classrooms, had discussions with elementary students, participated in note-taking, observation techniques; transcribing, coding and analysing data. All of these skills would serve Sandeep well as she transitioned into the Master of Education program at OISE after graduating from Renison.

Now, as a teacher, Sandeep is sometimes amazed at how many of the techniques she learned under the mentorship of Dr. Parker she continues to use in the classroom. She credits Dr. Parker for not setting limits to her questions, encouraging her to ask bigger, deeper questions.

“If, rather than asking what do I want to do for a living, I ask myself, what problem do I want to help solve? I become rewarded with a fulfilling career, and I find myself conducting research. It’s exciting to be reshaping and redefining your field – it helps your field to grow and it helps you to grow.”

Conducting research helped Sandeep better understand what was important to her in the field, and the impact she wants to make in her profession. “I learned that impact can be global in nature, or it can be as small as a classroom. I love that I am making a positive impact on the lives of others.”





# AWARDS, GRANTS, BOOKS AND ACCOLADES

## GRANTS

Colleen McMillan (et al): Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement (LITE) Grant  
Decolonizing health studies: A workshop aimed at promoting cultural safety and mitigating bias among UW faculty

Colleen McMillan, Alice Schmidt Hanbidge (et al): Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Grant  
Combating Stigma and Social Isolation Among People Living with Lymphatic Filariasis in Ghana through Culturally Appropriate Interventions

Colleen McMillan (et al): Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Grant  
Curriculum and Web Development Services Health Professional Education – Opioid Use and Opioid Use Disorder (HPE-OUOUD) Project

Denise Marigold (et al): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant  
Responsive social support for vulnerable individuals

## AWARDS

Colleen McMillan: 2019 University of Waterloo Online Teaching Award  
English Language Institute: awarded “Silver” Green Office status at the 2019 EcoSummit

Alice Schmidt Hanbidge (et al): 2019 National Award Winner  
Integrity Matters: Foundations for Academic Success

Alice Schmidt Hanbidge, Tony Tin  
The Canadian Network for Innovation in Education Excellence in Innovation and Partnership in Education Award

Kristina Llewelyn (et al) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant  
Thinking Historically for Canada’s Future

Yan Li: Shortlisted for first Fangzhimin Literature Prize for The American Bud in the Garden

## PUBLICATIONS

Kristina Llewelyn: Oral History, Education, and Justice: Possibilities and Limitations for Redress and Reconciliation, Routledge, 2019

Doug Cowan: Magic, Monsters, and Make-Believe Heroes: How Myth and Religion Shape Fantasy Culture, University of California Press, 2019

Andrea Daley, et al: Madness, Violence, and Power: A Critical Collection, University of Toronto Press, 2019

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI)

## 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

The English Language Institute had a very busy Spring and Summer...here is a snapshot:



Students attend during the Spring/ Summer terms



Teaching hours conducted with our students

## WHAT'S HAPPENING? APRIL - AUGUST 2019

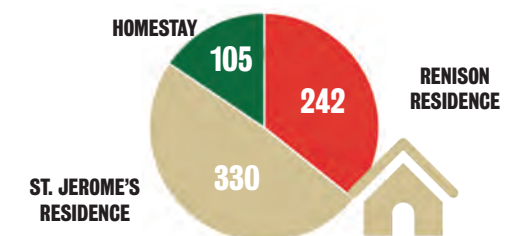


Events, workshops, bus trips, information sessions, and volunteer committee meetings hosted for students



One-on-one check-in meetings conducted by our Student Advisors and Peer Leaders for our academic language programs

## WHERE ARE THEY LIVING? APRIL - AUGUST 2019



Buses booked that brought students to exciting Canadian destinations like Toronto, Niagara Falls, Canada's Wonderland, as well as educational excursions



Orientation sessions conducted to welcome new cohorts of students



Peer Leader student staff members who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to support our students and help them experience life in Canada





AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WATERLOO**

If you are interested in supporting the work at Renison University College, please contact Cort Egan, Director of External Relations and Communications, at 519-884-4404, ext. 28605 or [cort.egan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cort.egan@uwaterloo.ca)

You can also donate online.

[uwaterloo.ca/renison/support](https://uwaterloo.ca/renison/support)

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
240 WESTMOUNT ROAD NORTH  
WATERLOO, ON, CANADA N2L 3G4

[uwaterloo.ca/renison](https://uwaterloo.ca/renison)