

2017

*Renison University College
Alumni and Friends magazine*

RENISON REPORTS



Renison celebrates 58 years of service by honouring those who serve / PG 18

Walking the talk of reconciliation | Renison offering first ever Indigenous language course at the University of Waterloo / PG 14

Renison professors sweep the podium at inaugural Online Teaching and Design Awards / PG 23

RENISON REPORTS

Renison University College's
Alumni and Friends Magazine
2017

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On the cover: Renison students with Renison's
mascot, Reni Moose, on
Move-In Day

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It's the beginning of another, school year and the excitement can be felt through our halls as staff, faculty, and students start returning to their places in the Renison landscape. This summer, Dr. Fletcher and I were given the wonderful opportunity to meet with some of our alumni and reminisce about what it was like to live and study at Renison. It was a fun and interesting time as we talked, listened and shared experiences across decades. People change, styles change, ideas and cultural norms change, but one thing remains constant — the experiences our alumni had while living and studying at Renison are all very similar. They talked about the community, the camaraderie, the friendships, the practical jokes, the professors, the chefs — most notably Louis and Andy — and the feeling that they belonged at Renison and loved it!



After one of our meetings, an alumnus wrote the following to me:

“To young people, alone, away from home, often for the first time, Renison College provided our basic needs:

- › Physiological — Food and shelter
- › Safety
- › Social Belonging
- › Esteem — Respect.

Our basic needs fulfilled, we had a foundation for Self-Actualization — the academics. As a CPA-CMA (retired), I recognize the value of providing academics. Nonetheless, I am grateful that the Founders gave me the opportunity to live in residence while at the University.”

Those words struck a chord with me, because the sentiment was often repeated by alumni when we asked them to speak about their time at Renison. Students graduate and move into their careers, but for many the memories of the Renison community, and of the friendships forged, still remain.

This edition of Renison Reports allows us the opportunity to not only welcome a new term, but also to say goodbye to some long standing friends. Inside, you will be able to say goodbye to one of our longest standing residence directors, Jeff Newell. Jeff has the opportunity to move into a new role with the Municipality of Bluewater, and we wish him all the best. Although Jeff was with Renison as Director of Residence for 14 years, his association with Renison started as a student here. We will miss his presence and large smile.

Retirements have claimed three more of Renison’s long serving staff: Judi Jewinski, Ron Champion and Cathy Plunkett (formerly Henke). All three gave amazing service to the College, and we are grateful for their dedication to us.

Additionally, this will be my last column as the editor of Renison Reports and as Director of External Relations and Internal Communications. I will be finding new experiences as I move into my own retirement in the spring of 2018. It has been a wonderful 17 years at Renison. Initially, I came on secondment for a period of one year to help the College through a capital campaign, and I ended up enjoying 16 more years.

So, like our alumni, I leave with great memories, with many friendships created, and with the knowledge that at Renison, we are all held with caring hands and know that we do live our motto “One Sky Over All”.



TO YOUNG PEOPLE,
ALONE, AWAY FROM HOME,
OFTEN FOR THE FIRST TIME,
RENSON COLLEGE PROVIDED
OUR BASIC NEEDS:

- › PHYSIOLOGICAL —
FOOD AND SHELTER
- › SAFETY
- › SOCIAL BELONGING
- › ESTEEM — RESPECT.



CAROLINE TANSWELL

Director of External Relations
and Internal Communications,
Renison University College

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*“The more things
change, the more
they stay the same.”*



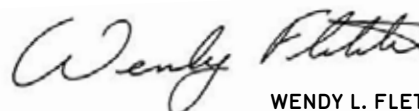
I was reminded of this old aphorism recently at a Renison alumni gathering in Ottawa, where alumni who had lived in the Renison residence from across several decades shared stories of their Renison experience. Although the generations were distant from one another in time, their memories were recognizably common: community; deep friendships; laughter; shared struggle; challenging ideas; and strong institutional support for their growth and development. From kitchen staff, to housekeeping, to faculty, to eccentric Principals, they reminisced about the place our college had made in their stories and their hearts.

As we look toward another new year in the Renison adventure, I am very aware of how constant much of what we are is, even as the face of who we are continues to change rapidly. Over the past several months, several long-serving members of the Renison community have retired or moved on to new opportunities. We have welcomed several key new team members, including our new Academic Dean, Kofi Campbell. The size of our student population, and our staff in support of them, continues to grow. Our annual operating budget for this current fiscal year has reached \$21 million: a more than 30% increase over the last three years, and a seven-fold increase over the last twenty.

Even as I observe our rapid growth, I am struck by the persistence of our mission. Our founders decided that we would support a student-centred living experience through a smaller, more intimate residence community. We retain our commitment to that vision through a well-supported and well-loved student residence community of 220 students. From a total full-time staff of six people in 1967 (the period when our programmatic directions were fully clarified) offering only 8 courses, we have evolved! Those early visionaries determined that our educational foci should be social work and international studies. Today, that core definition of our work has been retained, and now expresses itself in strong annual undergraduate admissions into Social Development Studies (the second largest major in the University of Waterloo's Faculty of Arts), and through our School of Social Work, which this year admitted its largest ever entering classes into both the Bachelor of Social Work and the Master of Social Work degrees.

The seminal vision for international studies has grown exponentially into our large Culture and Language Studies department; our Studies in Islam program; and our Centre for Community and Professional Education, including our English Language Institute. This area empowers several thousand students each year to engage the world across wide linguistic and cultural differences. Starting this academic year, we are offering a course in the Mohawk Language in response to the summons made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Canadian educational institutions. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the University of Waterloo this year, in tandem with our commitment to these several inter-cultural conversations, we proudly celebrate our role in supporting the internationalization goals of the University.

Currently, Renison's Board of Governors and the people who hold the daily mission of the College are engaged in a strategic planning process. As we move through this process, we are able to hone the fine legacy of past anticipation into an incisive vision which will sharpen and focus our capacity to hold the past well, as we educate this new generation to empower the possibility of a more liveable world. As with every generation, the needs of the present and the expectations of the future are pressing. As a society, we have framed ourselves around the values of respect for difference and a commitment to inclusion; to the principles of equity and justice in all quarters of our society; and to a genuinely multicultural Canada. History teaches us, however, that we have a long way to go in creating that world in practice which we have imagined in theory and in law. In our shared commitment to the creation of a genuinely just, humane, and accountable society, every voice is needed. It is Renison's intention, that through the life changing work of a community focused, socially engaged, and culturally and linguistically empowered education, we will continue to contribute our part to the Canadian landscape and the well-being of the world community. We are grateful for your ongoing support and companionship as we continue this journey.



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

AIMING TO GROW INTO OUR BEST SELF

**NEW ACADEMIC DEAN SETS HIS
SIGHTS ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES WHILE
STAYING TRUE TO RENISON'S IDEALS**

BRENDON BEDFORD



This year, Renison welcomed its new academic dean, Kofi Campbell. Coming from Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus, Campbell was an associate dean in the Faculty of Liberal Arts. Holding a doctorate in English Literature from Western University, Campbell's teaching and research areas have included queer Caribbean studies, post-colonial literature, medieval literature, women's literature and gender studies, popular culture/cultural studies, science fiction, fantasy, and creative writing.

When asked what attracted him to Renison, Campbell was quick to point to the community spirit he felt when her first toured the College. "The sense of community that Renison's size fosters was truly irresistible," said Campbell. "It brings with it the opportunity to develop truly meaningful relationships with students, faculty and staff."

Beyond the strong community, Campbell saw that there was something else that Renison offered its students. "The strength of the College's academic programming is incredible. I love the interrelated, interdisciplinary collection of programs which really prepare students to take their place in the larger world, beyond the university, and to work intentionally to make that world a better, more just place."

Dean Campbell aspires to help Renison increase and diversify the types of courses offered at Renison in order to continue to attract the best and brightest students, qualifying that the highest grades alone do not always signal the best students.

"I want us to recruit students who have an affinity for Renison's strong commitment to social justice and to building bridges among communities, both locally and globally. Globalizing and Indigenizing our programs — that is, reflecting Renison's commitment to representing the presence of Indigenous peoples in Canadian life within our curriculum — are priorities for us."

"But Renison has to also support these students by being aware that education does not take place exclusively within the classroom," explained Campbell.

"I believe that in an increasingly globalized world, the creation of international experiences for our students is vital — I plan to expand the number of opportunities for our students to study in other countries, and to find ways of recruiting a greater number of international students to Renison for our degree programs."

While new ideas and new directions are not rare at Renison, Campbell recognizes that there is a continuing spirit that has always been a part of the College. "All of what we do in this place, moving forward, must be done without changing the fundamental character of Renison — that spirit which has made it a place of education that equips everyone; of community that includes everyone; and of change-makers ready to champion everyone in the hopes of a better society and world."



**“THE SENSE OF
COMMUNITY THAT
RENIISON’S SIZE
FOSTERS WAS TRULY
IRRRESISTIBLE”**



SOMEONE NEW IS COMING TO VISIT



THE RT. REV.
LINDA NICHOLLS

A LESSER KNOWN ROLE AT RENISON HAS A LOT OF HISTORY

BRENDON BEDFORD

At Renison, there is a position of which many people are unaware — The Visitor. The role of the Visitor finds its origins in the churches and universities of medieval England where, in the case of educational institutions, the individual acted as an arbiter between the institution and its faculty and students.



RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED BY ANGLICANS IN WATERLOO, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON

Though the role of the visitor has significantly changed from its origins, the position has continued in many Canadian universities and schools, often in an advisory or honorary position. For example, the Governor General of Canada automatically serves as McGill University's Visitor and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario serves as Western University's Visitor. Additionally, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, has served as Visitor to Upper Canada College in Toronto since 1955.

Renison University College was founded by Anglicans in Waterloo, under the authority of the Anglican Diocese of Huron. As such, in 1962 it was decided that the Bishop of Huron would serve as Renison's ex officio visitor. Over the course of its history, the College has had eight visitors.

In November 2016, The Right Reverend Linda Nicholls assumed the role of the Anglican Bishop of Huron and with it, the position of Renison's Visitor. She is the first woman to serve as Bishop of Huron and, likewise, the first woman to serve as the College's Visitor. A former music and math teacher in Woodstock, Ontario and Mussoorie, India, Renison was pleased to welcome Bishop Nicholls as a member of the Renison community, and looks forward to continuing the partnership between the College and the diocese in the hopes of serving those who study and teach at Renison, as well as the wider community.

BEAUTIFUL U: WATERLOO

A SERIES IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO BY ARTIST AND PRESIDENT, WENDY FLETCHER

WENDY FLETCHER

The paintings in this series are a collection of eleven canvases done in oil and acrylic with glass, charcoal, gold leaf and calligraphy ink: one canvas which gathers all of the branding colours of the University; one for each of the six faculties; and one each — to be hung as a collective — for the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo.

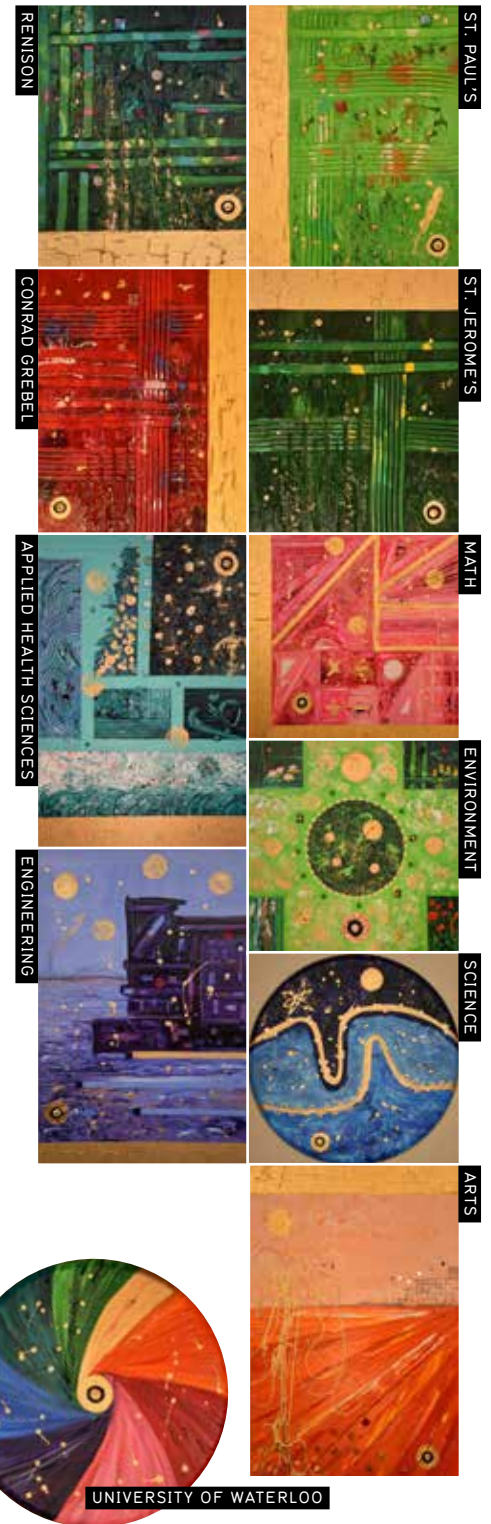
The style used in the paintings is known as neo-modern expressionism. The theory behind this genre of work is that meaning through art can be communicated most deeply through the use of colour and symbol.

The symbols are particular to each painting, reflecting core aspects of the work in each faculty and college. Embedded in each painting are a variety of symbols which the viewer should read through the lens of their own experience of the discipline areas.

Each painting for me was a journey in coming to know the University of Waterloo and its particular but shared work in new ways. It is my experience that you cannot paint something with which you have no relationship. Moving more deeply into a reflective space, with reference to the work of each of our parts has been very illuminating. The necessary contribution of each part to the project of a more livable world has impressed itself upon me.

I wanted to include in each painting a reference to the university's colours of black and gold in a way which expressed something about the shared energy which I have come to know as Waterloo. Then I hit upon it — the roundel.

The roundel is an international symbol — an international aeronautical symbol. Using colour in circular configuration, every country in the world has its own roundel, which identifies its aircraft in flight, to others. I had found my symbol: circular colour which communicates the university's colours — black and gold — but also our spirit — flight, internationalization, innovation: on its 60th anniversary the University of Waterloo is flying high. Yet we have only just begun to soar, only begun to reach. So much more will be possible; so much more is yet to come. And so, I dedicate these paintings to the story come before, which has given the university the possibility of our future together: Beautiful U: Waterloo.



RENISON CONTINUES STRONG TRADITION OF CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

3RD PLACE FINISH IN WORLD COMPETITION

BRENDON BEDFORD

In July, Daniel Cressman, a student majoring in Computer Science, finished in third place at the 16th annual Chinese Bridge Competition, held in Beijing and Changsha, China. With 145 participants from 112 countries, this contest represents the highest level of Chinese proficiency competitions for university students learning Chinese. Cressman was the only Canadian competitor to enter the final stage of the world competition.

Having studied Chinese at Renison for only two years, with no prior knowledge of the language, Cressman took first prize in this year's Ontario University Students Chinese Competition to progress to the world competition.

In the last ten years, students from Renison's Chinese language program have participated seven times in the Ontario competition, with the College's competitors receiving five first place finishes and two second place finishes. Renison has also sent a student to the world competition once before, in 2008, where they also placed third.



DANIEL
CRESSMAN

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE IN WATERLOO CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

BRENDON BEDFORD

The Confucius Institute in Waterloo, based at Renison University College, celebrated its tenth anniversary in July. A celebration was held at the College to commemorate this special occasion, and to recognize the good work the Confucius Institute has done in furthering the understanding and appreciation of both the language and culture of China at the University of Waterloo and in the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

Attended by over 100 people, the event's speakers included He Wei, Consul General of the People's Republic of China (Toronto); Dr. Professor Li Yang, Vice-President of the Shanghai International Studies University; His Worship Berry Urbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener; and Waterloo City Councillor Jeff Hendry.

Renison's president, Dr. Wendy Fletcher, remarked on the significance of this anniversary.

"The Confucius Institute in Waterloo is a partnership between Renison University College, Shanghai International Studies University, and Hanban of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China," said Fletcher. "It is a partnership which over these ten years has demonstrated itself to be rich in possibility, in friendship, in diligence and in commitment to a shared project: the project of building bridges between Canada and China, between peoples separated by wide geographical distance, language, and distinct and complicated histories. From a small beginning ten years ago, a wide and good work has been born."

Bringing greetings on behalf of the other university colleges at the University of Waterloo and speaking in Mandarin, Dr. Richard Myers, principal of St. Paul's University College, emphasized the role that the Confucius Institute must play in the wider institution and community.

"It is especially important these days for Canadians to have the opportunity to better understand China," said Myers. "For the sake of global peace and prosperity, it is important to ensure that we better understand each other. The presence of a Confucius Institute in our region is a significant asset in this respect."

Attendees also heard from Confucius Institute students who had taken part in an educational trip to China. They heard of the students' experiences, the knowledge and understanding they gained, and what the opportunity had meant to them.

The celebration finished with a ribbon cutting for the new Confucius Institute Resource Room, a reflection of Renison University College's ongoing commitment to and support of the role of the Confucius Institute in Waterloo.



TOP (L-R): Dr. Prof. Li Yang, He Wei, Consul General, Dr. Wendy Fletcher, May Yan, Chair of Renison's Board of Governors

BOTTOM: Dr. Wendy Fletcher addresses students and those gathered for the anniversary celebration

RETIREMENTS



CATHY
PLUNKETT

FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS, CATHY PLUNKETT EMBODIED THE RENISON SPIRIT

JEFF NEWELL

For almost 30 years, Cathy Plunkett has been known to Renison residents, students, staff, and faculty. She began her career at Renison in the kitchen as a staff member for Beaver Foods. She then became a member of the College's Facilities team as a custodian. This past year, Cathy began her well-deserved retirement.

The Renison motto of "One Sky Over All" has been embodied in Cathy, demonstrated through the care she has shown each and every one of Renison's students over the years. She truly was the mom away from mom to every student who lived at Renison. As a custodian, she cleaned rooms exceptionally well on a weekly basis, but the best thing about Cathy was that she spoke with students on a daily basis. She would always call people by name, welcome them with a smile, and ask how they were doing. To the students, she was never 'the cleaning lady' — she was always Cathy.



GLENN
CARTWRIGHT

FORMER PRINCIPAL BIDS FAREWELL AFTER 52 YEARS OF TEACHING

COLIN DURKIN

Former principal of Renison and professor, Glenn Cartwright retired this spring, concluding a teaching career that goes back to 1965. Professor Cartwright came to Renison after teaching in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology at McGill University, and acting as interim dean of the Centre for Continuing Education there.

Some of Renison's most notable accomplishments under Cartwright's leadership have been the establishment of the Master of Social Work program; the founding of the Sakura Japanese Language School; the building of the East Side Extension (to house the School of Social Work); and the conception and construction of a two-story building in 2014 to support the growing demand for international and language programs.

The Renison community thanks Professor Cartwright for his dedicated service, and wishes him all the best in his retirement.



JUDI
JEWINSKI

AFTER 47 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION, A RENISON TRAILBLAZER RETIRES

BRENDON BEDFORD

The Renison community, along with colleagues from the University of Waterloo, celebrated the work and contributions of Judi Jewinski, Administrative Dean of Renison University College, when she retired at the end of June 2017.

Jewinski began as a Renison and University of Waterloo student in 1970 and has taught at Renison since 1973. Over 47 years, her impact on the College and the University has been substantial.

Her work includes, but is certainly not limited to, such notable accomplishments as:

- › Acting as the first manager of the University of Waterloo's Writing Clinic (1978-81)
- › Launching WordsWork Associates (1986)
- › Launching and promoting Renison's English Language Institute (1994)
- › Developing English programs for Distance Education (later the Centre for Extended Learning)
- › Administrative Dean of Renison University College (2008-2017)
- › Launching *Accessibility Matters* (2015), a committee dedicated to increasing both practical accessibility at Renison but also raising accessibility awareness on campus

True to her nature, Jewinski asked that the only gift she wished to receive would be donations to *Accessibility Matters*, a project she spearheaded to identify real and potential barriers to accessibility and promote universal design principles across the College.

The College, on behalf of the entire Renison community, extends congratulations to Jewinski. Her legacy will live on at Renison as the College continues to grow, expand, and develop along the many paths which she first blazed.



RON
CHAMPION

RON'S GONE. A HEADLINE APPROPRIATE FOR A MAN WHO TEACHES THE ART OF PLAIN LANGUAGE

COLIN DURKIN

Retiring this past spring, Ron Champion concluded a 15-year career at Renison. However, in a fashion that those familiar with Champion will know, he won't "retire-retire."

He's taken on the role of Academic Director of the Ontario-Jiangsu Student Exchange Program (OJS), which involves 11 Ontario universities and the same number of universities in Jiangsu Province, China. OJS is a project of Ontario Universities International, in partnership with the Government of Ontario.

At Renison, Ron has been a language instructor and Manager of the Renison International Office (RIO), developing and implementing language and professional development programs for various audiences from first-year students to university professors.

Tanya Missere Mihas, Director of Non-Degree Programs and Student Affairs, has worked with Ron since he started at Renison. She had nothing but high praise for Ron's work and role at the College.

"There is no one quite like Ron," she said. "He has continuously kept the best interests of students as his focus as he provided opportunities through testing, innovative programming, and encouraging students to study abroad. Ron's vision and innovation have served Renison well. I'm going to miss his endless optimism, enthusiasm, and determination to make all things possible."

The new part-time position and his trademark writing courses will keep Ron busy, but not so busy that he can't take advantage of his cottage each summer, which no one will hold against him.



WALKING THE TALK OF RECONCILIATION

**RENISON OFFERING FIRST EVER
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE COURSE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO**

BRENDON BEDFORD

This fall, Renison University College is offering the University of Waterloo's first Indigenous language course, Introduction to Kanien'kéha (Mohawk Language). Offered through Renison's Culture and Language Studies department, in collaboration with the Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre (WAEC) at St. Paul's University College, ARTS 190 is intended for University of Waterloo students in any faculty or discipline with minimal to no knowledge of Kanien'kéha.



“A RESULT OF COLONIZATION AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES OF ASSIMILATION HAS BEEN THE DISRUPTION OF THE NATURAL TRANSFERENCE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES FROM PARENTS TO CHILDREN,”

- Lori Campbell,
Director of WAEC

A university college at the University of Waterloo, Renison University College has long been a provider of language education, including degree level East Asian languages since the 1980s and, more recently, Arabic. The college is well positioned to add the Mohawk language to its course offerings, according to the college's Academic Dean, Kofi Campbell.

“From its origins, Renison has sought to be a bridge between cultures and peoples, often through language instruction,” said Dean Campbell. “It is our hope that Renison can again serve as that bridge, but perhaps, this time, between peoples closer to home and at a time of great significance. We see this course as one step towards meeting our important obligations under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.”

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action Number 16 highlighted the need for post-secondary institutions to offer degree and diploma courses in Indigenous languages. “A result of colonization and government policies of assimilation has been the disruption of the natural transference of Indigenous languages from parents to children,” said Lori Campbell, Director of WAEC. “Post-secondary institutions play a key role in knowledge transference, and offering an Indigenous language course through Renison is a good way to work towards supporting Call to Action Number 16.”

Given the current number of Kanien'kéha speakers, this course is coming at an important time. According to the course instructor, Nicole Bilodeau, within the community of Six Nations of the Grand River there is only one first-language speaker of Kanien'kéha, an extremely limited number of second-language speakers that have achieved a fluency level close to first-language speech, and approximately 20 second-language speakers who have a functional conversational vocabulary.

“Technically it is a very complex language,” said Bilodeau. “It would be on the same scale as trying to learn Arabic or Japanese. It is just so different from Indo-European languages that learning Kanien'kéha requires a totally different approach. The language is so well constructed that it almost feels mathematical, but it's also very beautiful and intuitive once you're able to open your mind to how the language actually functions.”

Bilodeau is hopeful that this course could be the beginning of new conversations and understandings for students. “I think teaching Kanien'kéha will help non-Indigenous people understand a little bit about who Indigenous people are and what our priorities are. I hope it sparks interest in people, Indigenous or not, to learn more about our collective history.”



EMPATHY THROUGH VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROFESSOR TO USE
VIRTUAL REALITY TO AID IN EDUCATION ABOUT HISTORICAL
AND ONGOING HARMS IN HOPES OF RECONCILIATION**

BRENDON BEDFORD



Reconciliation is currently a topic of much discussion in Canada. What does reconciliation look like? How can reconciliation be achieved? These are some of the questions people ask about reconciliation as a process.

Renison professor Kristina Llewellyn is taking on some of these questions and exploring different pathways to reconciliation as the founder of *Digital Oral Histories for Reconciliation (DOHR)*. Llewellyn sees a potential path to redress historical harms through virtual reality (VR) in education. The subject of her current project is the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children (NSHCC) and survivors' oral histories of their experiences. The NSHCC opened in 1921 as a welfare institution for African Nova Scotian children who were segregated from white-only religious orphanages and industrial schools. Residents suffered institutionalized racism and significant abuse during its almost 70 years of operation.

It was a conversation with Llewellyn's nephew, Owen, which was the initial spark for Llewellyn's project. Owen spoke with her about an oral history he completed for a Halifax heritage fair. His oral history was with Tony Smith who is a former NSHCC resident and co-director of VOICES, which is an activist group of former residents. Both Owen and Tony have spoken about the transformative impact of the oral history process — Owen understood the real and ongoing impact of institutional racism on his community, and Tony had the opportunity to share his story with a young person who can make a difference in race relations going forward. From the sharing of a person's story, a young, white boy, from a comparatively privileged background, and an older black man who has suffered through abuse and discrimination, formed a relationship. Could this type of relationship through the power of story be replicated for a larger community?

Llewellyn, who was introduced to the virtual reality system "Oculus Rift" by Renison librarian Tony Tin, immediately saw the potential for, and connections between, emerging technology and her work on oral history, education, and reconciliation.

"VR provides a medium for place-based learning that is immersive, and has the potential to build relations across time and among peoples that otherwise would not be possible," said Llewellyn. "We cannot have every young person visit the site of the NSHCC, nor can we have former residents visit every school to tell their story. We can, however, through VR, bring people and places together to tell a story about historical harm that has gone unheard for too long."

Working with the Games Institute at the University of Waterloo, the final product of this DOHR project will be a ten minute VR experience about the NSHCC for use by Grade 11 students in two Halifax-area classrooms. The launch is scheduled for early 2019. Students will be able to interact with the environment and with individuals within the recreated school.

What's different than perhaps an experience one might get from a documentary film or other means of digital storytelling, is the potential for relationships to be created among people through technology in schools.

"(In the DOHR project,) we are seeking to do something very new with VR storytelling. We know from oral history research that stories build relations among people. We are attempting, for the first time, to our knowledge, to focus on relationality as the core of historical learning through using a virtual encounter."

Llewellyn's team is seeking to assess the value of VR for education, and its ability to make students aware of the ethical dimensions of historical thinking. Rather than the VR experience being an end in itself or a source of entertainment, the hope is that the technology will be a medium for building student empathy for those who suffered historical harms; for recognition of the ongoing and systemic issues these oral histories convey; and for reconciliation between African Nova Scotians and non-African Nova Scotians.

RENISON CELEBRATES 58 YEARS OF SERVICE BY HONOURING THOSE WHO SERVE

BRENDON BEDFORD



THE MOST REV.
COLIN JOHNSON

HONORARY SENIOR FELLOW

Renison's Founders' Day is a time each year when the College community comes together to honour the founders of Renison and celebrate the ongoing realization of their vision for what Renison could become: an institution with a focus on service to the world. The honourees recognized at this year's celebration of 58 years of education and community at Renison represent the realization of that vision and mission, being lived out in a variety of ways.



PETER RINGROSE

HONORARY SENIOR FELLOW

As Founders' Day has become larger and larger over recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to house all the activities associated with it. Therefore, Renison was grateful for the generosity of All Saints' Anglican Church, here in Waterloo. All Saints graciously offered to host this year's Founders' Day service and convocation in their church building, reiterating the partnership Renison has had with the local Anglican community from its very beginnings.

As is tradition at Founders' Day, one of the honourees is asked to present a keynote address to convocation at Founders' Day. This year, the keynote address was given by The Most Rev. Colin Johnson, who was made an Honorary Senior Fellow of Renison University College in recognition of his long record of service in the Church; commitment to social and human rights issues; and willingness to speak truth to power. Johnson is the Anglican Archbishop of Toronto and the Metropolitan (or head bishop) of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

Also made an Honorary Senior Fellow of the College was Peter Ringrose. Ringrose served as the Chair of Renison's Board of Governors from 2013-2015, and as past-chair, has chaired the Board's Governance Committee, leading a review and update of the by-laws and governance policies. In all, Ringrose's dedication to the cause of Renison University College, and his work with the Board, has had a direct effect on Renison's ongoing success. In his career, beginning in 1979, Peter worked for the Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region for 31 years, until he retired in 2010. For 25 of those years, Ringrose served as Executive Director of the agency, having developed numerous programs and strategies to further aid families and children in care.



RICK GREEN

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

An additional honour this year recognized Rick Green (B.Sc. '75) as a tireless educator and advocate on the subject of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), as a Distinguished Alumnus of Renison. Best known for his work as the co-creator of, and a writer, director, and actor on *The Red Green Show*, Green has had a long career in television and film. However, after his diagnosis with ADHD in his late forties, Green turned his talents to educating the public about the condition, helping to dispel the myths and stereotypes about ADHD. He has received numerous awards and honours for his work, including being appointed a Member of both the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. A graduate of the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Science, Green is a residence alumnus of Renison University College.

BUILDERS CLUB GROWS SUSTAINABILITY AT RENISON

COLIN DURKIN

Renison's Builders Club held its second annual fundraising evening this past June. Bringing together a wide range of community members, the event supported the Club's prioritized project to reduce energy use at the college and help Renison increase its environmental sustainability.

The event was hosted at the home of Renison's chancellor, Dr. Manfred Conrad, and featured gourmet food provided by the chefs of Renison University College, Conestoga College, and the University of Waterloo.

"It's exciting to see the number of community members — staff, faculty, friends, and alumni — who have joined the Builders Club, which supports important and sustainable projects at Renison," said Caroline Tanswell, Director of External Relations and Internal Communications at the College.

This year's project supports the installation of solar panels on Renison's roof. These will preheat water before it reaches the college's boilers, thus reducing the energy required to heat water in the boilers to the required temperature.

The Builders Club is a visionary group of individuals whose primary purpose is friend-raising and fundraising to support the development and outreach activities of Renison University College.

For more information about the Builders Club or to become a member, visit:

bit.ly/renisonbuildersclub



A LABOUR OF LOVE

ALUMNI HONOUR DEPARTING DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE FOR 14 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO RENISON COMMUNITY

BRENDON BEDFORD

“A Renison institution.”

Those were the words many alumni used to describe Jeff Newell when they heard, after 14 years as Director of Residence, he would be departing from Renison for new adventures in late August. Newell was the second longest serving Director of Residence in the College’s history, next only to Fr. David Hartry (1975-1992). Newell established a culture of leadership, personal development, service, caring, fun, and school spirit in the don teams and student leadership he supervised, and vicariously, the residence as a whole.

A resident at Renison in the late 1980s, Newell valued and carried forward the College traditions he had experienced, like College Dinners, “Wind In” at the Concordia Club, and “Wind Out”, recognizing that they helped residents form that tight-knit community for which Renison is known. His ability to foster community was especially recognizable in the energetic, eager, and professional don teams he assembled each year — a community unto themselves within the larger residence. In turn, many of the dons who worked under him viewed, and still view, Newell as a mentor and a friend.

So it was not a surprise that when news of Newell’s departure was shared through alumni networks, residence alumni, many of them former dons, were eager for the opportunity to honour his 14 years of dedication to Renison and the residence community he served. While there was a large crowd at the event, many other alumni who were unable to attend sent in messages of appreciation for Newell, often making note of the impact he had on their lives, and the skills and knowledge which he had imparted.

Wendy Fletcher, President of Renison University College, speaking at Newell’s farewell event, commented that Newell always carried out his role with love, caring, and commitment to the success and support of Renison’s residents.

Alumni in attendance signed a Renison University College jersey as a gift for Newell. Thanks to donations from numerous alumni and friends, a Jeff Newell Award will be established. Though details of the award are still being worked out, Newell has requested that each year it recognize the contributions of an outstanding don.

Should you wish to make a contribution to the Jeff Newell Award, you can do so at

uwaterloo.ca/renison/support







MARCH BREAK OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY
MAR
10

Proud Renison Alumni!

Do you know someone considering university who wants to be a change-maker in the world and is a leader in their community? If so, we want to know them too!

Help share the great Renison experience that you enjoyed with the next generation of students.

WHEN

Saturday, March 10, 2018
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WHERE

Renison
240 Westmount Road North,
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Visitors will experience Renison's academically engaging, tight-knit community by attending a lecture, visiting our residences, meeting our faculty and student leaders, and exploring what Renison has to offer.

QUESTIONS? ASK US!

renison@uwaterloo.ca

uwaterloo.ca/renison



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

RENISON PROFESSORS SWEEP THE PODIUM AT INAUGURAL ONLINE TEACHING AND DESIGN AWARDS

BRANDON SWEET

Earlier this year, the Waterloo Centre for Extended Learning (CEL), together with Associate Vice-President, Academic Mario Coniglio, announced the winners of the inaugural Online Teaching and Design Awards. These awards, which will be presented annually going forward, were both presented to Renison professors.

The Online Teaching Award was given to Edwin Ng, an Assistant Professor in Renison's School of Social Work, for his *SWK 605R: Knowledge Mobilization and Evidence-Based Practice*, *SWK 601R: Health Policy*, and *SWK 609R: Social Work Practice in Mental Health* courses, all part of the Master of Social Work program at Renison.

"Whenever I think about it — reading the student comments, winning this award, I'm just really humbled by everything," said Professor Ng. "I'm very grateful and appreciative for the opportunity to even facilitate students' learning. It's a privilege and I'm really thankful."

When discussing what Ng finds the most rewarding about teaching online, he said, "I appreciate the students so much. I really do believe that if I know them better, as people, as professionals, and as students, I'm in a much better position to help them meet their learning needs." Ng is always trying to empathize with his students and create a learning environment in which they can thrive and succeed.

Ng's online teaching philosophy is simple but effective: be present online to show students that you care; set high and clear expectations to motivate students to succeed; and be authentic. This approach resonates with his students, who commented overwhelmingly that Ng shows a genuine interest in them and continuously puts in effort to make connections with his students and offer them support.

The Online Course Design Award was given to Professor Doug Cowan who teaches Religious Studies and Social Development Studies at Renison. Professor Cowan developed the online version of *RS 270R: Religion and Popular Film* with CEL support.

When notified of the award, Professor Cowan commented: "It's nice to know that you've done something that works for people. The reason that I teach is so that students can take something valuable away from their experience in the classroom. Finding out about the award, means that, at least in this little corner of my universe, I was successful in doing that."

Cowan's design of *RS 270R* included a thoughtful emphasis on providing opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, interaction among students, instructor presence, and effective feedback. Overall, Cowan's main goal is to "give students critical and analytical tools, so that they can go out and live their lives." In other words, Cowan wants to give students a tool kit that will help them think critically, no matter what context they're in.



DOUG COWAN



EDWIN NG

I'M VERY GRATEFUL AND APPRECIATIVE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EVEN FACILITATE STUDENTS' LEARNING. IT'S A PRIVILEGE AND I'M REALLY THANKFUL.

- Edwin Ng

ALUMNI CELEBRATE 40 RENISON FRIENDSHIPS



What a fantastic time we had up at Blue Mountain when 14 former Renisonites rented a ski chalet for a two day reunion in June. It had been 40 years since some of us had last seen each other, and of course, none of us had changed a bit! Lots of extra inches around the waists, gray hair, and prescription lenses, but inside we were all 20 years old again and bouncing down the halls of our old home: the residences of Renison College. Our time together in Collingwood, Ontario was epically sweet — wonderful adventures were recounted, mountains of delicious food consumed, and absent friends toasted. We even got outside — half for a muddy scramble up the escarpment to the top of the ski hill and the other half down the rail path, cycling vigorously to Meaford, Ontario, 28 kilometres away, and then slowly back.

The Renison Alumni t-shirts that the College so kindly provided were a huge hit! A thousand thanks for passing these excellent souvenirs to us along with the copies of the Renison College

YEARS OF WITH REUNION



history book. We had a hoot finding familiar names and faces in those almanacs. All fourteen of us remember our time at Renison very fondly and proclaim the excellence of our residential experience back in the mid-1970s. We are grateful to all the staff of that era and also to the current Renison administrators who are continuing to provide such a dynamic and caring place for its residents and students.

Thank you!

Fraser Brown (1973-1978 resident)

PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT. PHOTO 1: Susie Servos, Lynda Thompson, Jan Langfeld, Denise Bonnell, Cathy Pearson

PHOTO 2: Back Row (L-R): Fraser Brown, Bill Ashton, Cathy Pearson, Bill Huiskamp, Bob Breuls, Lynda Thompson, Front Row (L-R): Denise Bonnell, Pam Bullard, Deb Gray, Jan Langfeld, Susie Servos

PHOTO 3: Friend, Pam Bullard, Lynda Thompson, Mary Hogan, Janis MacElrea, Cathy Pearson, Denise Bonnell, Jan Langfeld, Susie Servos



THE GRAPEVINE

We ask 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.

Send us your Grapevine submissions and we'll share your story in our next issue:

uwaterloo.ca/renison/grapevine

1968



GERRY SAUNDERS B.A.S.C.
CHEM. ENGINEERING
capestmary@hotmail.com

In 2016 my wife Linda and I spent a total of 19 days in Europe, first on a long boat cruise up the Rhine River from Amsterdam to Basil, Switzerland, then by high speed train to Paris and Brussels. We then spent the last nine days with our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter in a charming Belgian village just outside of Ghent. The photo was taken aboard the cruise ship after the Captain's Dinner on our last evening.

1989



ANNE GLOGER B.A.
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
agloger@connectedcommunities.ca

Social Development Studies offered me the opportunity to learn about not one discipline, but the intersection of several: social work, sociology and psychology. I've been

fascinated about the intersection of disciplines ever since.

In 2000, I became the founding Director of the East Scarborough Storefront. The Storefront has allowed me to focus my work on developing practical and meaningful connections between and among people, organizations and institutions in the East Scarborough community of Kingston Galloway Orton Park.

My experience with the East Scarborough Storefront has allowed me to work with hundreds of people to develop a new approach to community development, the Connected Community Approach (CCA).

CCA is all about the intersection of people and disciplines. It is a unique place based approach to community development which focuses leveraging a community's assets for the good of the community. In CCA, a Community Backbone Organization (like The Storefront) has the mission and mandate to strengthen connections among players by facilitating collaborative initiatives with residents, social service agencies, academics, corporations, governments, architects, lawyers, urban planners, artists, property owners and anyone else with a stake in creating strong social fabric in our marginalized communities.

Organizations, communities, activists and students from across the country have been inspired and motivated by The Storefront story and the potential of the Connected Community Approach. In direct response to requests for workshops, courses, blogs and articles, I have recently embarked on a new venture,

1984 / YESTERDAY AND TODAY!



DAVE GRAY B.A., LIBERAL STUDIES

d4gray@uwaterloo.ca

Residence Floor: Animal

We met on Animal Floor at Renison College in September 1980 and 1981, then had 4 fantastic years at Waterloo. In our final year we made a contract to meet at the Bombshelter every 2 years, on the Friday after Thanksgiving, starting in 1986. We had so much fun the first year we decided to meet every year. Don Parakin, Andy Asbil, Bill Sleeman, Walt Demczuk, Dave Gray, Paul Berrevoets, Joyce Palmer and Jim Falconer have been getting together for 31 years. Not everyone has made it every year and other Renison alumni join us from time to time but we catch up with whoever attends. Walt, who lives in Winnipeg, has made a few trips for the sole purpose of the reunion (fly in Friday, fly home Saturday).

After the first several years at the Bombshelter we started meeting in Toronto. 2016 was the 31st year of the reunion and while getting together in Toronto we decided a return trip to Waterloo was required. We returned to Waterloo on December 2. Once on Campus our first destination was the Bombshelter. We had dinner, a few beers, then went on a tour of Renison College and the campus (wow it's changed). After the tour, we went back to the Bombshelter for a few beers. We had a fantastic time. Even though it's been 31 years, it felt like our reunion was just another Friday night together at the Bombshelter. The students we met were happy to meet alumni and we were treated extremely well at the pub. They even saved our table when we toured the campus. We had such a great time we've decided to meet at the Bombshelter for our annual reunion from now on. Our next reunion is set for Nov 3, 2017 at the Bombshelter (date subject to change). Any Renison alumni from 80/81 and 81/82 who would like to join us in 2017, send me an email and we'll make sure you're in the loop as the time gets closer.

Waterloo connections last a lifetime.

developing a Centre for Connected Communities (C3) which seeks to:

Celebrate and elevate community building Connect people to community building ideas, knowledge, tools and strategies ... and to each other Translate and share knowledge across sectors knowledge across sectors

I have won several awards, including the William P Hubbard Award for Race Relations, the Leading Women Building Communities Award, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal, the 2014 Vital People's Award and a Bhayana Collaboration Award.

1993



TANYA VERBURG
(NÉE BOONSTOPPEL), B.A.
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

I am currently the Executive Director at Monica Place for Pregnant and Parenting Youth and their children in Waterloo. I am currently taking my EMBA through the University of Fredericton and loving it. My daughter is currently living at Renison and is in her first year of SDS. So thrilled that the Renison tradition is continuing. I met up with Chrissy Park Hollingsworth recently with our daughters. Her daughter is living at St Jerome's and is taking classes at Renison as well. Two proud alumni mamas for sure.

2000



BREE BEAUPRE
(NÉE SMITH), B.A.
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
breeannebeaupre@hotmail.com

Hello alumni! I started my first career in corporate sales right after graduation! After 2.5 years and my wedding, I moved to the travel industry, breaking sales and service records for 12 years. During that time, we welcomed Connor and Addison into the world and have loved our adventures.

During the tail end of my travel sales career, I earned my Master of Science degree in Education, volunteered in many classrooms as a teacher volunteer and have enjoyed 3 years of supply teaching in Halton District School Board as a priority elementary supply teacher.

I see myself teaching for the rest of my life! I even get to teach my own kids! Luckily they still find it "cool"!

2002



JUDE BILLARD B.A.
SDS [1999] & SOCIOLOGY
[2001], BSW
dreama_gal@hotmail.com

I'm currently living in my 26' RV (The Gypsy Wagon) and working on Vancouver Island, based in Victoria, British Columbia.

I'm a permanency coordinator with the Adoptions team and complete proposal packages, birth family histories, extensive family trees (genograms), predominantly for Indigenous children currently in care. I love the work and making a difference in children's lives! When I'm not working, you can find me and the resident feline, Nash, travelling about in the Gypsy Wagon, attending music festivals, camping out in the old growth forests, or hitting the many beaches on the west coast of our beautiful country.

2006



MATTHEW KIESWETTER B.A.
(HONS.) RELIGIOUS STUDIES

On December 6, 2016, the Feast of St. Nicholas, I was ordained to the priesthood, and made priest-in-

charge of St. Andrew's Memorial Anglican Church in Kitchener. In March I led a (full!) workshop for the Renison Institute of Ministry on the life and thought of William Stringfellow, a fascinating 20th century Anglican thinker who was involved in the women's ordination movement and was known for his critical engagement with the state and other worldly 'powers.'

It has been an honour and pleasure serving a congregation and the Anglican Diocese of Huron.



KEVIN MILLER B.A.
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
kevinmillerxi@gmail.com

I graduated with a degree in Social Development Studies, but after working in the field for a short time, about 21 years ago, I launched a career as a professional writer, working in everything from newspaper reporting to the film industry to book publishing. As a screenwriter, I have a dozen films to my credit, including feature films, feature-length documentaries, and short film projects. I've also worked as a director, producer, and film editor. On the book publishing side, I have worked on over 100 books as a writer, editor, and co-writer. Recently, I've launched my own series of children's novels. Called the Milligan Creek series, it's set in a fictional version of the small town in Saskatchewan where I grew up. I just released book two, "Unlimited," which is about how four friends

figure out how to hijack the signal from a Wetlands Unlimited radio station that is being broadcast from the local marsh and use it to launch their own pirate radio station. You can read all about my publications and me here: kevinmillerxi.com.

2008



RONAK PATEL B.SC.
HONS. SCIENCE

Residence Floors: Fubar, Loft, Midway, Moose Crossing

Achievements unlocked since graduating and moving out of Renison 3386 days ago:

- > Engaged to Heather MacNeill — November 2013
- > House Acquired — December 2013
- > Married to Heather Patel (nee MacNeill) — April 2014
- > Started part-time MBA — September 2014 (Wilfrid Laurier University)
- > First Child Arrived — April 2015 (Male)
- > Second Child Arrived — January 2017 (Female)
- > Completed MBA — April 2017
- > Moved to a new house — August 2017
- > Not Balding! (but grey hairs in beard)

2014



MICHAEL CHARRON B.SC.PHARM

Residence Floors: Animal, Loft

I'm a clinical pharmacist at Victoria Hospital in London Ontario. I work in orthopaedic surgery and trauma. I live with my fiancée in St. Thomas, Ontario, where we recently had a house built. We're getting married in October. I'm still very close with many of the friends I met at Renison. A couple of them are even going to be in the wedding party, and my Don, Brendon, is going to be the MC.

2015



MAHA ELMAHI B.A.
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
mahafazaa27@gmail.com

I am so proud to graduate from Social Development Studies as a mature skilled immigrant woman who compete for Canadian Universities from a non-traditional high school route. I received an award from Renison regarding this success. I am currently working as an Arabic interpreter with the Waterloo Reception House helping a lot of Syrian refugees. I am looking to do a lot of research and specialization related to Early Childhood Development.



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If you are interested in supporting the work at Renison University College, please contact Caroline Tanswell, Director of External Relations and Internal Communications, at 519-884-4404, ext. 28605 or caroline.tanswell@uwaterloo.ca

You can also donate online.

uwaterloo.ca/renison/support

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

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

uwaterloo.ca/renison