LAURENTIAN

SUMMER 2007

Roberta Bondar's earthly reflections

TREKKING
INTO THE
HEART OF
MONGOLIA

Bruce Mau by design

NEPTUNE'S BEST

GRAD MAIRI
BEST LINKS
RESEARCHERS
AT CUTTINGEDGE OCEAN
OBSERVATORY



FOR MEGAN DILLABOUGH, LIFE WAS ACTUALLY *LESS* STRESSFUL OVER CHRISTMAS.

Dillabough, a Laurentian science graduate student, is the 2007 winner of the Felix and Maria Lopes Bursary, a prize she received last winter.

The Lopes Bursary came as a relief, arriving as she was finishing her master's research. "I could finish my thesis and just write. It gave me some peace of mind," she says.

Dillabough, who earned her Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of Ottawa in 2003, began her master's in 2004 at Laurentian. She is now a chemical engineer at CVRD Inco. She

☐ First payment due: ___

is working toward her professional engineering designation and defending her master's thesis.

Felix Lopes Jr. named the bursary in honour of his parents, Felix and Maria, who founded Lopes Mechanical and Electrical Limited in Coniston over 30 years ago. "My education came from my parents," he says. "My mom [gave me] discipline. My father taught me my work ethic. I was taught to work hard and well."

Lopes, who is now the company vice-president and chief operating officer, believes education improves society. "Anything to do with education and children and adults, who need help in their education is so important to me."

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LAURENTI

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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The university does not sell lists and your personal information is kept confidential to university staff on a need-to-know basis. If you do not wish to be contacted, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations by e-mail at alumni@laurentian.ca, by phone at 705-675-4818 or by fax at 705-671-3825.

> The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect official positions of the LUAA or Laurentian University.

Laurentian University Magazine is published three times per year by the Office of University Advancement.

Circulation: 26,000

ISSN 1489-5781 Publications Mail Agreement Number 40063502

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: University Advancement Laurentian University 935 Ramsey Lake Road Sudbury ON P3E 2C6

Advertising, inquiries and address updates can be directed to magazine@laurentian.ca or 705-675-1151 x4120.

For alumni inquiries, please contact Alumni Relations at 705-675-4818.



AN OCEAN OF RESEARCH

Marine scientist Mairi Best (B.Sc. 1990) makes deep links in underwater research.





FRIENDS IN FAR PLACES

Crossing geographic and cultural boundaries, adventurer Sébastien Nault (ADVL 1998) forges lasting connections in Mongolia.

NO INHIBITIONS

Design guru Bruce Mau's unregulated upbringing informs his liberated style.





BOLDLY GO

Astronaut Roberta Bondar speaks at Laurentian University, connecting her space flight to her reverence for life on Earth.

In every issue

Readers' correspondence and editor's message.

Campus news including awards, Voyageurs' men's basketball update, and a message from the university president.

> Test your knowledge of Laurentian for great prizes.

> > News from academic departments.

News from your alumni association including chapter happenings, events, and the LUAA president's message.

Alumni updates and grads in the news.

Profiles and campus happenings · Mining the land "down under" · Laurentian grad "digs" Egypt **ALUMNI**

NOTEBOOK

LETTERS

LATEST

OUIZ

DEPARTMENT NEWS

CONNECTIONS

Shawn Swords is back.

MEMORIES

Grab your wetsuit, space boots, and bug repellent

FROM THE EDITOR, JENNIFER NAULT



THEY SAY YOU can never go home, and I agree. But you can get close to home.

Though still transitioning from my move to northern Ontario from out West, I am enthused and proud to be the new editor of Laurentian University Magazine for Alumni and Friends. Consider me a friend ... if I hadn't moved from my hamlet south of Sudbury after high school, I may have been counted among Laurentian alumni.

Diving right in, the theme of this issue is "Go Deep," meaning "the deeper you go, the more likely you will discover something of value." This idea comes from designer Bruce Mau, one of our feature profiles, who was awarded an honorary doctorate from Laurentian during spring convocation. He reflects on the value of an early childhood spent living on the outskirts of Sudbury, where no rules applied. We launch into deep space with a story on astronaut Roberta Bondar, explore the wilds of Mongolia with adventurer and guide Sébastien Nault, and plunge underwater with marine scientist Mairi Best, who is coordinating research at NEPTUNE Canada, the first cable-linked undersea observatory in the world. I was thrilled that we could arrange a photo shoot of Best exploring tidal pools off Vancouver Island – these pools piqued her interest in the ocean as a child.

Like many of us, these four individuals are immersed in their own adventures and specializations, but coming up for air is just as important. It allows us to make connections. This, too, is the purpose of the alumni magazine: to share knowledge, reflect on the value of your education and experiences, and stay in touch with one another:

Publishing a magazine involves mass collaboration; I'd like to thank Alumni Relations, our freelancers, and our in-house publications team (writers, designers, photographers) for making my transition as effortless as possible — no need for a decompression chamber.

LETTERS

Kudos from Malaysia

I am a LU graduate based in Malaysia and I appreciate the way you have kept me up-to-date for the past 21 years. I have received and read every single issue of Laurentian University Magazine. Well done.

Thank you,

Lian C. Nee, Mining Engineering, 1986

Food for thought

I am sorry to see the closing of C-CIARN (Spring 2007) if it means that work toward climate change adaptation is jeopardized. I would like to see food security included in our analysis of how we will have to adapt, which was lacking in C-CIARN's strategy for Sudbury.

Though we in the North may enjoy longer growing seasons, we do not have the processing capacity to support a locally-based food system in the event of climatic collapse. It will take years to develop true food security for the Sudbury area, and we need to be revitalizing it for younger generations of organic farmers!

So, though some aspects of adapting to climate change are clear – floods, heat waves, drought, etc. – we still have not explained how we can support a sustainable food system in the midst of the ruin of our natural resources that the climate crisis will surely create.

More work needs to be done to integrate systems on a large scale, from human systems to natural systems, to even economic and cultural systems. Once we start to define our food system, though, we soon become aware of our own "food shed food print." Right now, we are all contributing to climate change through our food choices, and by supporting a food system that distributes food from centralized points across the globe. We have to "get back to the garden" and start realizing where our food comes from. We cannot afford to keep flying our food in from around the globe. Food is a good way to get people involved in climate change — but no one seems to be doing it, not even C-CIARN.

Doreen Ojala, B.Sc. ENSE 1996

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love hearing your take on stories we publish in the magazine.

Letters to the editor should be exclusive to Laurentian University Magazine. Please send your letters to magazine@laurentian.ca and include your name, the city where you live, and your daytime telephone number (phone numbers will not be published).

Please note that letters are published at the discretion of the editor and are subject to fact-checking and editing.

NURSING A LAGGING SYSTEM BACK TO HEALTH

LU grads run Canada's first nurse practitioner's clinic

By Laura E. Young

PROMPTING A HEARTENING health care story from Sudbury, two Laurentian graduates are in charge of the first clinic in Canada to be run exclusively by nurse practitioners. The clinic opened this summer in the Riverside Medical Centre in Sudbury.

Nurse practitioners are already working across Canada, but this is the first time they have ever been funded to establish their own not-for-profit corporation and to govern themselves and their own clinic. Last fall, the Ontario government announced a \$1-million investment in the clinic.

The clinic, though based in Sudbury, will also operate out of the town of Dowling, a 30-minute drive north of Sudbury, with an outreach clinic in the town of Chapleau. Six full-time nurse practitioners (four working in Sudbury and two in Dowling) will be hired over the next three years, and each will take on 800 clients.

"This is history-making," says Marilyn Butcher, a graduate of Laurentian's nurse practitioner program (BScN 1996), who is celebrating her 30th year of nursing. She will be in charge of the clinic and employed as the head nurse practitioner.

Butcher's colleague Roberta Heale, also a graduate of Laurentian's nurse practitioner program (BScN 1999), and a teacher for Laurentian's nursing and nurse practitioner programs, will be the president of the clinic board, which means she will not be directly employed as a nurse practitioner.

"We're a model and there is going to be an evaluation process. There are many interested eyes watching us closely," Butcher says.

Innovative health care solutions are much needed in northern Ontario. While there's a growing shortage of doctors, nurse practitioners have been in the news for *not* being able to find work. Recent estimates show that 30,000 people in Sudbury do not have a family doctor, though there were seven unemployed nurse practitioners.

After earning her degree, Butcher did placements all over Ontario, including Chapleau, Peterborough, and London. The Ontario government declined Butcher and



Heale's numerous proposals to open clinics.

Deeply discouraged, they agreed to give it one last try. By then, even Butcher's husband had misgivings. He requested a signed piece of paper to ensure it was her last attempt.

Finally, last fall, Doris Grinspun, the executive director of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), intervened after learning there were unemployed nurse practitioners in Sudbury.

The RNAO's involvement ensured "that the needs of the people of Sudbury and the region were responded to," Grinspun says, adding that Butcher and Heale played a critical role in their community. With the new clinic, and collaboration with two doctors the nurse practitioners will bring on site, the public has access to the expertise of both professions, Grinspun says.

The \$1-million funding announcement was made at the nurse practitioners' conference in November 2006. Though elated at the news, Heale admits "it's been a battle."

For Butcher, the practice is not the sole solution to Sudbury's medical needs. "We are not naive enough to think we are going to solve Sudbury's health care problems. The solution to Sudbury's problems is to take a multi-disciplined approach. This is one of the pieces," Butcher says.

The clinic "will be utilizing a resource that, up until now, has not been utilized in our city," Heale adds.

"It won't be a walk-in clinic. It will be very much like a community health-centre model, where the nurse practitioners will provide all the care that we are able to provide. Then, we will collaborate with physicians whom we've hired to come in. All of the care will be provided at our facility."

Nurse practitioners manage a range of health care services from prenatal care, breastfeeding and infant care, along with other aspects of family medicine care, including flu shots, blood work, and prescription renewals. Physicians and other specialists are called in when client needs are beyond their scope of practice. The clinic in Sudbury will have a permanent and continuous relationship with physicians, Heale says.

"Our vision is that the physicians who come to our clinic to see our patients will be primary care specialists. They are coming to review [a specific condition]."

Recalling the trials and logistics of setting up the clinic, Butcher and Heale laugh as they add their total years of nursing experience – more than 50 years – and celebrate their success. "We know how clinics should work," says Butcher. "We have an opportunity now to put it into place."

"We are also thrilled that the clinic will ensure that full scope of practice," says Heale. "The profession will have a chance to grow and really come into its own."

Let the grad life begin

PRESIDENT JUDITH WOODSWORTH



ceremonies kept us busy from the end of May until the middle of June, just as the first hot wave of summer swept across the North. Not a moment to relax, it's a time of year that is both exciting and rewarding. This year, more than 2,000 new degrees were conferred, with a record nine ceremonies at the Sudbury campus alone. We also recognized more than 200 graduates at our two affiliates.

Algoma University College and College universitaire de Hearst, and held graduation ceremonies for our partnership programs at Cambrian College (Sudbury), Georgian College (Barrie and Orillia), Northern College (Timmins), and Sault College (Sault Ste. Marie).

That made for a lot of folders to hand out, hands to shake, and pictures to pose for, but I find it so gratifying. As in previous years, I meet students of all ages and backgrounds. I learn a little bit about each one as they come across the stage, just as I do when I'm out meeting with alumni. I always discover just how much a Laurentian education has meant to them, and how prepared they are to go on to even greater heights - or depths - like the members of the extended Laurentian family we are profiling in this issue.

As an institution, we continue along our path of unprecedented growth, with new academic initiatives, enhanced student services, and capacity-building in key areas of research. I extend my deepest appreciation to those of you who have provided financial support in the past, and hope that we can count on you in the future. Join us in investing in our students, our faculty, and our facilities, so that our graduates can go out into the world armed with new knowledge and the confidence to turn their degrees into a bold future, and so that the university can continue to generate expertise and stimulate innovation that will meet the needs of our citizens, in our community, the rest of northern Ontario, and the world beyond.

First radiation therapy grads in high demand

The first students in a unique radiation therapy program, established four years ago by Laurentian University and the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, graduated at Laurentian on June 1. Twelve students received Laurentian B.Sc. degrees as well as diplomas in radiation therapy from the Michener Institute.

This program was developed as part of Laurentian University's health program initiatives. Students complete radiation science courses from Laurentian and clinical courses from the Michener Institute in Toronto through an online education network. In their final year, students are placed at cancer centres in Sudbury and other Ontario communities for the clinical training component of the program. Demand for radiation therapists is currently high, and most of the graduates had placements lined up.

In honour of the first graduating class of the Radiation Therapy program, a new bursary, the Stewart Cameron Bursary in Radiation Therapy, was created by the department of physics to support extra expenses incurred by students who complete their clinical year at cancer centres outside of Sudbury.



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\$8 MILLION DEEPENS MINING OPPORTUNITIES

By Laura E. Young

WITH AN INVESTMENT of \$8 million to support deep-mining productivity and safety research, the Ontario government made the single largest research grant ever in the history of Laurentian University on March 8.

This investment "shows once again that Laurentian is on the cutting edge and gaining international acclaim in mining research," said Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth.

Coupled with the Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation, the grant ensures the exploration field will remain strong for many years to come, said Rick Bartolucci, minister of Northern Development and Mines. "In the good times you have to look to the future to maximize the [boom and bust] cycle before it goes down."

Mining at greater depths is a priority for the mining companies in Sudbury, but the risk is twofold in deep mining: the risk to the workers and to the investors, said Dr. Peter Kaiser, who leads the Productivity Enhancement and Risk Management for Underground Construction and Mining (PERM), which received the \$8-million grant.

"As you go deeper the risk of something going wrong is more costly. Therefore, you have to design a mine like you design an airplane. You cannot afford to have things go wrong. This program [PERM] is designed to improve the design and planning process so the risk is minimized for mining at depth."

For Kaiser, however, Laurentian is not big enough to do the work alone. In fact, Ontario may not be large enough, he added. Researchers in Quebec have similar problems with mining at depth, and "we have to bring those resources together."

Most of all, PERM hopes to attract more researchers now that funding is in place.

"There are huge amounts of opportunities for students, post-doctoral fellows, and research engineers to come to Sudbury and get involved in the projects. We need to bring the intelligence together to solve these problems," Kaiser said.

The government's \$8-million investment will help fund 14 specific projects at PERM. The PERM program is divided into three themes: design and construction of underground excavations, led by Kaiser; integrated planning, design, and optimization, under chair of mining technology Dr. Paul Dunn; and environmental management through water and waste management, led by Dr. Graeme Spiers.

The funding announcement was part of a first-round investment of \$115,409,851 from the Ontario Research Fund for 26 projects at 12 Ontario universities, institutes, and hospitals.



THE TORCH OF MEN'S basketball at Laurentian has passed with the departure of Voyageurs' coach Virgil Hill and the arrival of 2000 Olympian Shawn Swords (BA 1997).

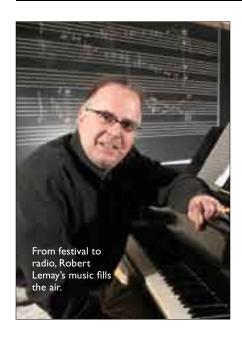
Hill returned to Vancouver to spend time with his young family and to coach at a private school west of Vancouver. He had been separated from his family for so long that one day, "I realized I wasn't missing my wife and kids and that my family wasn't missing me. It seems terrible, but from that moment on, I knew it was time for me to leave."

Swords' list of accomplishments could fill the Ben Avery gymnasium: He played at Laurentian from 1992 to 1997 and earned OUA first and second team all-star status in four of his five seasons. He was a CIAU second-team all-Canadian award winner in his final season.

After graduating from Laurentian University, Swords played professional basketball in Europe for 10 years where he was the European Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004 and a three-star MVP in 2003. He also spent nine years with the Canadian national team, and played at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Team Canada finished seventh with a 5-2 record.

"We feel that Shawn has the marketability and postsecondary contacts to recruit elite level student-athletes to Laurentian University. Recruiting is the most crucial element of coaching, and we feel Shawn's background as a player here at Laurentian and abroad has prepared him to conquer this challenge," said athletics director Peter Hellstrom. — Magazine staff

MUSIC INSTRUCTOR ROBERT LEMAY STRIKES A CHORD



COMPOSING INVOLVES more than just sitting down and writing a piece of music for Robert Lemay. "You need to think about it beforehand. You have a lot of preparation before starting:

finding the inspiration, finding what you want to express."

Lately, Lemay's musical expressions are easy to find. When the Laurentian University music instructor tunes in to his favourite radio station, his own music fills the air.

The work of Lemay, an award-winning composer, was broadcast several times on national radio this past spring. On April 25, his work "Fragments/metamorphosis" was part of Radio-Concerts-Espace Musique on Radio Canada, CBC's French equivalent, and played by Quintette à vent Estria of Quebec. The piece was written over nine days in 1999, Lemay says. It's a set of nine short pieces, no longer than a minute each.

Being played on Espace Musique has become a normal state of affairs for the Sudbury-based composer who has been teaching at Laurentian since 2000. "I am quite lucky my music is played regularly. I don't have the problem of an artist whose work is not recognized."

Another one of his compositions was played at a saxophone festival in Louisiana. On April 11, Lemay's works were broadcast – from the first classical music concert in Sudbury – on Espace Musique on Radio Canada. The concert, "The World of Luciano Berio," was presented by the 5-Penny New Music Concerts of Sudbury.

Robert Lemay is currently working on a piece for a brass ensemble in Quebec City. He also wrote a three-minute piece that Yoko Hirota, director of Laurentian's music program, played at the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival.

It's been about 20 years since Lemay seriously played piano. What's more, Lemay doesn't play most of the instruments that ultimately play his music. But he has an intimate knowledge of how they work. Lemay likens the process to being an architect: architects can design a building, but may never pick up a hammer.



ON THE TRAIL: GRAD WRITES DEFINITIVE TRAIL GUIDE FOR GREATER SUDBURY

Angie Charbonneau guides student hikers.



WHEN ANGIE CHARBONNEAU

(B.Sc. 2006) shows off her year's work with the Rainbow Routes Association, she hears the same comments: "It's about time. It needed to be done," she says.

Charbonneau spent a year working with Rainbow Routes of Sudbury writing the ultimate guide to 10 walking and hiking trails in Sudbury, "Trail Tours Greater Sudbury Self-Guided Non-motorized Trail Tours."

"I'm pleased to say I was part of it," Charbonneau says. "I hope people enjoy it as much as I did working on it. It really was one of the greatest experiences I've had in a job."

Her focus was not only to create the trail guide but to give residents a reason to use the trails. She began by hiking with university professors and other experts to get their take on the interesting points along the trail. "I wanted to find the interesting things that would make kids say, 'Cool,' or parents say, 'I didn't know about that.""

Laurentian University experts who

guided Charbonneau's work include Peter Beckett, Chris Blomme, Gerard Courtin, William Grieves, and David Pearson.

Charbonneau is currently working in the biology department before beginning her master's this fall. She will continue to study restoration biology, and will be working on a project for DeBeers Canada in the James Bay lowlands.

For more information visit: www.rainbowroutes.com

IN THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP: LU STRENGTHENS BONDS WITH COLLEGE BOREAL AND CAMBRIAN COLLEGE

By Laura E. Young

OVERCOMING ECONOMIC, academic, and financial barriers to higher education means the North's post-secondary institutions need to work together, says Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth.

One institution can't deliver every program alone, "so partnerships are critical and partnerships are what we are good at," she said.

Woodsworth celebrated another collaborative agreement in May, this time with College Boreal. In March, Laurentian and Cambrian College capitalized on the northern mining boom by signing an articulation agreement to increase mining education opportunities. Now, honours graduates of Cambrian's three-year geological engineering technology program can earn a B.Sc. in geology by pursuing two additional years of instruction at Laurentian. If students graduate with a 70 per cent average or higher, they will also obtain an honours geology degree.

With College Boreal, Laurentian has signed a general agreement and made arrangements in specific programs that will benefit both institutions and the Franco-Ontarian community, said Boreal president Denis Hubert.

Their collaboration won high praise

from Ontario's deputy minister of education, Philip Steenkamp, who attended the official signing ceremonies.

"We look forward to more [agreements]. There's a spirit of partnership in the North that is second to none and I hope this rubs off on our southern colleagues," he said.

For Steenkamp, the Ontario government wants to ensure geographic barriers don't limit students' choices. Universities and colleges have different missions, but the needs of students and employers are changing, he said.

"Ontario students need to know their credentials will be recognized," Steenkamp said. Agreements like the ones Laurentian signed with Cambrian and Boreal – as well as with other partners across Ontario – help students better plan their education and careers, he said.

These agreements help eliminate the hassle and streamline the process when students try to transfer between colleges and universities, said Woodsworth.

Laurentian also has partnerships with Northern College in Timmins, Sault College, St. Lawrence College, Georgian College in Barrie and Orillia, and Lakehead, through the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.



PARKER COACHING OLYMPIC DREAMS

By Greg Hoddinott

FOR SIX LAURENTIAN swimmers, the dream of competing at the world's biggest sporting event is ever closer. Under the tutelage of varsity swim head coach Phil Parker and assistant coach Alain Delorme these swimmers are training for the Olympic trials. Currently, only Stephanie Kuhn, recruit Jeff Byrne, and two-time Laurentian Athlete of the Year Ryan Smith have qualified for the Olympic Trials, however, Parker is confident that Kyleigh Commito, Amanda Long, and Blair Smith will be able to make the grade.

For these six swimmers, the time they spend preparing to peak at the Olympic trials should not be measured in hours, but rather in years. "A good coach has a four- or five-year plan for national-level athletes" said head coach Phil Parker. "These athletes have to be prepared to swim fast every year at the national championships, however, they need to swim their fastest every fourth year."

Early morning workouts and countless hours in the pool and weight room bring these Olympic hopefuls closer to their goals. Over the next year, the athletes and coaches will spend more than 2,000 hours training and preparing to make the 2008 Olympic team.

The Olympic trials will be held in April 2008 at Montreal's Olympic Pool.

CAMPUSQUIZ

How much do you really know about your university?

Who is replacing Virgil Hill as the new coach of the Voyageurs' men's basketball team?

Send the correct answer to magazine@laurentian.ca with the subject line "Summer 07 Trivia" before August 31, 2007, and we'll enter your name in a draw for a Laurentian gift-pack. Good luck!

Congratulations to Scott Cameron (B.Com. 1998) who entered our last Campus Quiz contest. He won the draw and will receive some great Laurentian swag for submitting Clarence Virtue's name, one of the Laurentian professors who won the John C. Polanyi award for working on the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) experiment. The other professors were Doug Hallman and Jacques Farine.

DEEP CONNECTIONS

BY LAURA E. YOUNG
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DON PIERCE

Mairi Best began investigating the sea as a toddler, collecting shells and staring into tidal pools along the West Coast of Scotland with her grandmother by her side.

old fast to that image, for it has changed little – she is now a marine scientist. Best, who has spent the past few years ashore at McGill University in Montreal, has recently become the new associate director of science at NEPTUNE Canada (hereafter, called Neptune) in Victoria, British Columbia. Today, at age 41, she's returning to the sea not just to collect shells, but to collect vital information.

While her specialization includes the study of the biological, physical, and chemical factors related to the preservation of shell fossils and their role in the carbon cycle, Best is now a key coordinator for an immense ocean-research project. Based at the University of Victoria, Neptune is the world's first plate-wide cable-linked undersea observatory, an Internet link from the coast to the deep sea. This observatory will allow scientists and researchers to monitor the ocean in a whole new way.

Throughout 2007, as Neptune builds its infrastructure, Best and the science team are acquiring and testing instruments and lining up ships for deployment in 2008. She is also orchestrating the development and integration of the ocean community's research initiatives, bringing scientists together via the Internet as information starts flowing – tidal wave-like – in late 2008. "It's like being asked to run the space program, but this is much more appealing [for me] because it's the ocean," Best says from Victoria.

Neptune, and the information it delivers, will completely alter the way scientists conduct ocean research. Best hopes our relationship with this 70 per cent of our planet will improve as a result. "The more we know about the ocean, the more I hope we can match our management with understanding. I would like to make people feel the oceans are part of their world."

The Neptune network is a loop of 800 kilometres of powered, fibre-optic cable, off the coast of British Columbia, that crosses the entire Juan de Fuca tectonic plate – essentially, "wiring the ocean," as Neptune director Chris Barnes puts it. While this started as a joint Canadian-U.S. project, American funding has only recently been approved. Deployment of a similar sized network in the United States is expected in 2013. Other observation sites are planned around the world, but Canada will be the first regional ocean observatory in the water. "Basically, Canada leads the world in the area of undersea networking," Barnes says.

The main cable loop is scheduled to be laid this summer, with more instruments to follow by fall 2008. Data should start flowing soon after. Scientists will control and monitor sampling instruments, video cameras, and remote-operated vehicles to collect data. Information will flow 24 hours a day, every day, for about 25 years, tracking everything beneath the surface and informing our understanding of such phenomena as climate change and whale migration. Neptune may also help scientists understand and predict earthquakes and Tsunamis, according to the Neptune website.



"I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL THE OCEANS ARE PART OF THEIR WORLD."





Such abundance of information requires scientists to find new means of data management and ways of working together, Mairi Best says. On the frontline, Best sees the need for interdisciplinary research. "We know things are interconnected and that one thing affects another, but the culture of scientific research has to change in order to [integrate this knowledge]," she says. "We've all been brought up to be specialized. It's forcing us to come together."

Best was offered the job of associate director of science shortly following her interview last fall. Neptune director Chris Barnes has known Best since she was an undergrad at Laurentian University, studying with Dr. Paul Copper, now a professor emeritus in Laurentian's department of earth sciences.

"The things she has done demonstrate a real passion for science. She has taken some courageous steps," Barnes says, noting

her trips to Australia, her work in Chicago, and the difficult conditions of some of her fieldwork: in Nicaragua, the Arctic, and off Papua New Guinea. When she went West on trips with the Mc-Gill research team, Best would drop by to visit Barnes in Victoria. "She was always very outgoing, wanting to share what she was doing."

To say Mairi Best

comes by her passion for science through her genes would be a true – though simplistic – view. Her grandfather is Charles Best, the Nobel Prize winner who discovered insulin with Dr. Frederick Banting. Later, Charles Best purified heparin, an anticoagulant used in open-heart surgeries. And, as Best points out, there is a historical connection linking her grandfather and Sudbury: The

first successful coronary bypass surgery was performed in the city in 1968.

She has not followed the typical route of a geology graduate

She has not followed the typical route of a geology graduate of Laurentian, she admits, choosing to navigate her own course – a characteristic from her famous grandfather. "He was inherently curious. He was a biochemist [who] never practised medicine.

His focus was on the chemistry of the body and discovering the [pathways] that make us work."

Still, her grandfather cast a "very long shadow," says Mairi, the first person in her family to become a research scientist since. "It's a bit of a challenge to be a scientist and not just Charles Best's granddaughter. It's gotten better. Living in other parts of the world by myself helped."

Mairi Best's maternal line sparked her deep affection for the ocean; Mairi's mother, Janna Ramsay Best (MA 2002) took her on trips to Scotland to visit family. In fact, Mairi's first marine biology teacher was her Scottish grandmother, Freda Ramsay. With Freda by her side, the toddler explored the tidal pools off the West Coast of Scotland. Mairi was amazed with the natural world, Janna recalls. "She still hasn't lost it. She is passionate about things

and curious about what makes it all work. That she learned young."

Added to her strong family ties, the Laurentian University/ Best connection goes deep. Mairi Best's father, the late Henry Best, served as Laurentian president from 1977 to 1984. This well-respected historian was "the ultimate people person," according to Best. He couldn't go past a fisherman with-

Folger Passage
ODP 889

Barkley Ganyon

Endeavour

ODP 1027

Neptune broadens our understanding of the ocean environment. To learn more about this observatory, visit: www.neptunecanada.ca.

out stopping to chat. "His interest with the sea was with the people of the sea."

In 1990, however, Mairi Best only squeaked by to earn her honours geology degree at Laurentian. "It means I have a very colourful transcript," she laughs. Because of ill health in the family, she once thought she would never finish university, not to mention going on to graduate school and a faculty position.

Though she was a professor at McGill, Best vividly recalls her life as a student: She was sometimes frustrated by measuring her ability against the expectations set by her instructors. Struggling at times, she would try to reproduce what was expected, but she couldn't change the fact that she saw some things differently.





"That independent thinking has got me into trouble, and has meant that I've sometimes reinvented the wheel, but it has stood me in good stead in the long run."

Despite some bumps along the way, Mairi Best remained at the top of her class in paleontology/paleobiology, working hardest "at the 'difficult' labs that required time to digest and complete," says Paul Copper. "She had wide-ranging interests and a natural curiosity in the tradition of Charles Darwin and Alexander von Humboldt. She travelled and was cultured – probably because of her [family] background."

Best accompanied Copper on summer geological field work on both Anticosti and Manitoulin Islands before she graduated in 1990. After an internship in Australia, she contacted Copper for a reference, with plans to pursue graduate studies at the University of Chicago. Best wanted to study taphonomy, and was particularly interested in how marine fossils, especially shell fossils and reefs are preserved in the geological record. The University of Chicago "was one of the best places to do this," says Copper. He was candid

"BEST KNOWS HOW TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH SCIENTISTS."

about her strengths: her persistence, curiosity, drive, independence, but also how, on the flip side, she took time to digest information.

Above all, Best knows how to make connections with scientists, which is "a very important point if you want to get somewhere in a field," Copper says.

She found advisors who valued her scuba diving experience and her love of languages and travel – mentors "who were able to take me on based on the whole picture and not just my undergraduate GPA." In 2000, she earned her PhD in geophysical sciences (from the University of Chicago Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute) and began teaching at McGill the following year.

Now, as we see a scientific explosion in ocean knowledge, Best may recognize similarities between her work at Neptune and her grandfather's work. In the 1920s, there was a strong need to find a treatment for diabetes. Today, our crisis is climate change. Neptune promises to deliver information on climate change and its effects on marine life. Environmental ripple effects include better models for climate prediction and potential energy sources.

Best is devastated when she dives and sees "conditions underwater that are heart-rending." Reefs she has explored over the last 20 years have been reduced to "a pile of rubble." Still, she remains encouraged, despite the harm that's already been done to our oceans. "We have a chance to both stop what we're doing and possibly give things a chance to improve," she hopes.

Otherwise, we may be looking at an ocean of nothing but jellyfish, sponges, and bacteria: "I don't think we'd find that ocean appealing."

Laura E. Young is a Sudbury-based journalist who has her MA in Humanities, Interpretation and Values, and her BJH from the University of King's College in Halifax.



MONGOLIATREKKER

We check in with an adventurous grad on the cusp of his latest trek into Mongolia.

BY SHIRLEY MOORE

ébastien Nault (ADVL 1998) first fell under the spell of Mongolia in the summer of 1999. He had heard tales about the country through a friend, and had always wanted to visit, so he just bought a plane ticket and went.

His first trip was memorable, to say the least.

He hired a guide in the capital of Ulaanbaatar who brought him to visit a nomadic family. They travelled 150 kilometres in a van packed with a host of other people. The guide "wasn't a bad man, he just drank a lot," says Nault.

Nault gave the guide some money for the family, but "the only thing he bought was vodka and cigarettes, and texture and taste were my most horrible experience of food. It took all my might to swallow. I decided that the next items I would find for myself. I looked hard to find recognizable parts like liver, heart, or kidneys."

When vodka was produced, it sealed his long-term friendship with the nomadic family. Nault ended up spending much of his vacation there, even though he didn't speak a word of Mongolian at the time.

There also began Nault's love affair with Mongolia, a former communist country nestled between Russia and China. He has since returned several times.

"There's just something really special

through Mongolia for a small group of his Japanese students. This will be the third time he has led such an adventure.

The "trekkers" learn about Mongolian food and the life of the nomadic people, including their traditional food, lifestyle, animals, and their relationship to the land.

"I want them to understand [that] people's relationship with the land and the environment is really important. For us here, we don't pay too much attention. We have comfortable housing and modern facilities, so we don't think of changes and how that affects us."

The 10-day trip also includes living with a nomadic family, horseback

"I WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND THE ENVIRONMENT IS IMPORTANT."

when we got there, the family said 'what are you doing here?"

Though the welcome lacked warmth, Nault made a connection. He set up his tent and the next morning, he woke up to find a man outside killing sheep to eat. Nault grew up hunting, so he didn't shy away from helping out. He took out his knife and went to work.

"He was so happy. He ended up getting another sheep and we had a big party that afternoon."

Nault was taken inside one of the gers (a round tent), with huge men sitting around a large bowl. He was shown to a stool and given a knife. Through some gestures and signs, the men told him to dig around in the bowl to find a morsel to eat. The nomads boiled the innards and didn't waste any part of the sheep.

Later, Nault explained in a report that he "fidgeted too long and was handed a piece of unknown meat. The about it. The people at first are not so friendly, but once you break that initial barrier, they're really, really friendly...

The place just vibes with me I guess."

Nault, who grew up in Orleans outside Ottawa, took the adventure leadership program at Laurentian University from 1994 to 1998. He always loved the outdoors and enrolled in the program after it was recommended by a friend's older brother. After Laurentian, Nault received his Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa.

He's a long way from home now, though he hasn't strayed from the university setting. Now living in Japan, Nault teaches in the outdoor living program at the Hokkaido University of Education, Iwamizawa city campus.

His involvement with Mongolia remains strong. He runs his own trekking company called Redmoon Adventures, and this summer, he is leading a trek

riding, trekking in the mountains, and camping out. For an authentic "outdoor experience" the group is "roughing it," says Nault. They won't be staying in any hotels.

One of Nault's former teachers at Laurentian, Dr. Roger Couture, is not surprised that Nault is now leading treks. "It's something that's very much within his nature, to lead trips, to be in remote areas ... he genuinely cares for people, so I'm sure the people he's with will have a great experience."

Couture, director of the school of human kinetics, describes Nault as a good student, excellent person, great adventurer, good leader, and "very humble."

It seems that these qualities made an impression. Nault is one of the few people who have been honoured on the program's "trophy," a wooden plaque made from a tree stump and branches, says Couture. Students who





Top: Sébastien Nault (ADVL 1998) guides a rafting trip in Japan. Above: Nault remains fascinated by Mongolia, with close ties to the land and the people.

do "extremely well" and "emulate the program" have their names etched on it.

Nault's name is etched in the centre, surrounded by about 10 other names. He was bestowed that honour because "his volunteerism was very much selfless," says Couture. "[He's] a very humble person, speaks a number of languages and quite skilled for the program ... is canoeing, hiking, camping, and winter camping."

As Nault wraps up his teaching year in Japan, where he has a partner and a four-year-old daughter, he looks forward to passing along some of his skills to his students. He is teaching courses such as canoe building.

"I want to continue this program, this job here, and see how far it's going to take me. After that, I really don't know."

Spoken like a true adventurer.

Shirley Moore works as a journalist and writer in Toronto.



MAUMADE



Sudbury-raised Bruce Mau is widely considered a design and cultural theory guru. He's even featured in Leonardo DiCaprio's new environmental film, *The 11th Hour*.

This past spring, the founder and head of the highly acclaimed Bruce Mau Design received an honorary doctorate from Laurentian University.

Journalist **Shirley Moore** met up with Mau in his Toronto studio to learn more about his influences and work.

Bruce Mau (left) consults with his design team on the Massive Change exhibition.

ruce Mau sits in his Toronto office on Spadina in the midst of the fashion district waiting for a phone call. A new employee is about to be hired to help out with the many large projects on the firm's roster.

The studio's large, loft-like expanse has hardwood floors, exposed air ducts, and a whitewashed brick wall. Clusters of workers discuss their projects. A large wall hanging in the reception area screams the words "BEGIN/ANY/WHERE," spelled out sideways in multi-coloured letters.

In many ways, that's exactly what Bruce Mau did.

The design guru lived in various neighbourhoods in Sudbury, but considers the farm in Wahnipitae on the outskirts of Sudbury – where he lived for about five years – the place where he "grew up."

He didn't see the connection between his art and that place for a long time. In fact, he thought it was "irrelevant," but not any longer. "More and more, I saw the beauty of the place is the degree to which it is unregulated," he says. "It's a very free place."

Mau laughs as he recounts a joke he shares with his wife, Aiyemobisi Williams, who grew up in Winnipeg and attended the ballet and concerts in her youth. "We only had one program when I was a kid, and it was 'you kids get outside."

The area's "unregulation" meant Mau drove every type of vehicle, including a truck, snowmobiles, motorcycles, tractors, bailers, and a car.

"There was very little organized for us, so we learned how to organize things ourselves, because we had to. We just did whatever we wanted. In my memory, I don't remember anyone ever getting a permit to do anything. Why would you? Who would you ask? You just did what you had to do."

Mau is passionate about design and has an intensity and light in his eyes when he talks about his work, but he laughs a lot and likes to kid around. He even jokes around when he talks about how to this day, he doesn't have his driver's licence, because he has never felt the need for one.

"But I think I'm going to get it soon. I think I'm sort of saving it. I'm going to turn 50 in a few years. It would be really fun to go to Young Drivers of Canada."

Mau figured out that he wanted to try his hand at design late in high school. He had focused on math and science courses; guidance councillors told him it was "too late" and he had no "evidence" to get into art school.

"I said, you know, I'm 15 years old, it can't be too late," he jokes.

Not surprisingly, it wasn't. He enrolled in a special intensive art program run by Jack Smith at another Sudbury high school. Mau speaks of reverently of Smith to this day.

"He was a really brilliant teacher, because the whole time I was there, he sort of pushed against me. In my forward movement, I was always having to push."

Over that year, Mau completely immersed himself in the program, learning about printmaking, colour photography and processing, life drawing, painting, lithography, typography, and ceramics.

His first inkling of what his future might hold came at the end of his art program, while he was feverishly working to finish producing the graduation booklet. Mau told his teacher, "It's getting to the end of the year, and it's been an incredible experience for me, but I'm anxious because I can't imagine ever having a studio like this again. I just have the facility to do whatever I think of."

Mau had been trying to recreate that feeling ever since. It came together, "without really thinking about it, I never set out to do that. I've sort of built it for myself [with Bruce Mau Design]. All that's missing is the ceramics."

After high school, Mau enrolled in Toronto's prestigious art school, the Ontario College of Art & Design, but ended up leaving before graduation to join the Fifty Fingers design group in 1980. He stayed for two years, worked in the United Kingdom for a year, and then helped establish Public Good Design and Communications. He founded Bruce Mau Design in 1985.



Laugh. People visiting the studio often comment on how much we laugh. Since I've become aware of this, I use it as a barometer of how comfortably we are expressing ourselves.

Among other design initiatives, the firm has created the identity and packaging for Indigo Books and reinvented the identity for the popular clothing chain Roots.

"The feeling of openness and possibility is what drives my work."

To call Bruce Mau Design simply a "design studio," doesn't capture its essence. It's not your traditional type-and-graphics model of a studio, but more a think tank for design, and design for Mau is all-encompassing, not just words and photos on a page.

His firm collaborates with architects, writers, other designers, curators, academics, and businesses to create new spaces, books, and exhibitions.

Bruce Mau Design has worked with a host of talented people and intellectual leaders to create cultural phenomena, including the Massive Change exhibition commissioned by the Vancouver Art Gallery.

"That feeling of openness and possibility is what drives my work; the ability to know that you have responsibility and you can make things happen. That's the definition of my client work," says Mau.

"Basically what we do is strategic design, looking at, in the bigger sense, what you are trying to achieve and what's going on, and how should you do that. So it's really solving problems on a broad scale."

He has collaborated with some of the biggest movers and shakers on the architecture scene, including Rem Koolhaas from the Netherlands and Toronto-born Frank Gehry, who is now based in Los Angeles.

A 43-point "Incomplete Manifesto" describes the ideals his firm lives and designs by. "Go Deep" exclaims one of the tenets.

Mau says when his career was starting out, he had been working with his old firm and they were asked to participate in an intellectual project called Zone Books. Only Mau was interested, and he founded his own studio to work on it.

"Because [our team] worked super-intensively for nine months or so and we produced this new thing that was an outcome of a very deep engagement ... I met some of the smartest people of the era, and it blew my mind and changed my outlook. I came out of that process as a different person than the guy going into it, and we built the studio on that model."

His firm is currently working on more major projects: rethinking MTV, the New York Sports and Convention Center (commissioned by the New York Jets), and a massive park in the north end of Toronto.

Though fluent with all things high concept, Mau proudly shows off a simple plaque he received from a client that declares Mau and his co-workers to be "friends of Guatamala." It's in honour of a project to help citizens rejuvenate their country and change the way they see the future after 36 years of civil war.

Mau is even revisioning his own company. He's thinking of renaming Bruce Mau Design because, he says, "it's no longer about me so much. In other words, it's never been about me. Everything we do is collaborative. It's really team-based."

Bruce Mau now employs about 40 people and has offices in Toronto, with a new one opening in Chicago. The Chicago Sun-Times is reporting that Mau and his family are relocating to Chicago this summer.

Bruce Mau seems humbled by this latest award from his hometown. Laurentian University gave an honorary doctorate – a Doctorate of Letters – to Mau in late May, and he's at a loss for words. "It's great, you know. [It's] an honour and it's great to get home in that way."

An incomplete list from Bruce Mau's

INCOMPLETE MANIFESTO

Bruce Mau and his design studio have an "Incomplete Manifesto" that describes their beliefs and how they work. Here is a short selection from those 43 points.

- Allow events to change you. You have to be willing to grow. Growth is different from something that happens to you. You produce it. You live it. The prerequisites for growth: The openness to experience events and the willingness to be changed by them.
- 4. Love your experiments (as you would an ugly child). Joy is the engine of growth. Exploit the liberty in casting your work as beautiful experiments, iterations, attempts, trials, and errors. Take the long view and allow yourself the fun of failure every day.
- 5. Go deep. The deeper you go, the more likely you will discover something of value.
- 9. Begin anywhere. John Cage tells us that not knowing where to begin is a common form of paralysis. His advice: Begin anywhere.
- 27. Read only left-hand pages. Marshall McLuhan did this. By decreasing the amount of information, we leave room for what he called our "noodle."
- **29. Think with your mind.** Forget technology. Creativity is not device-dependent.
- 41. Laugh. People visiting the studio often comment on how much we laugh. Since I've become aware of this, I use it as a barometer of how comfortably we are expressing ourselves.

Source: Bruce Mau Design, www.brucemaudesign.com

EARTHLY REFLECTIONS

Space – the final frontier? Not necessarily, says astronaut Roberta Bondar. In a candid interview at Laurentian University on March 22, Bondar reflected on her reverence for life on Earth.

BY LAURA E. YOUNG

With so few chosen – and even fewer actually flying into space – astronauts have a sacred trust to share their experiences, says Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut.

"This is a unique experience. It's something we bought into with our lives. We didn't go as tourists. We went as individuals who had done things in our lives, but we were given an opportunity."

She feels people live vicariously through astronauts' experiences, so that significant moment in her own life became part of the cultural memory. "The sacred trust, my interpretation of it, I believe it's an important responsibility to communicate ... and allow other people to share the dream."

Although she returned from her space mission in 1992 with answers to some of her deeper scientific questions, Bondar remains a seeker of knowledge. This has been the case since she was a little girl growing up in Sault Ste. Marie. She remembers staring up at the night skies over Lake Superior and wondering what was up there.

On March 22, Roberta Bondar had a chance to revisit northern Ontario's night skies when she came to Laurentian as the first guest of the newly endowed Xstrata Memorial Nickel Lecture Series. The series, formerly known as the Falconbridge Lecture Series, received \$100,000 from Xstrata this year.

Before the lecture, Bondar spent some time in the afternoon visiting the campus and talking with other members of the Laurentian community. Her ties to the university go deep. Beyond the northern Ontario connection, Bondar received an honorary degree from Laurentian in 1991. Her mother Mildred graduated with her bachelor of arts from Laurentian's affiliate campus, Algoma University, in 1972. She passed away December 4, 2006.

Bondar's life has mirrored the waves of feminism that have rippled across North America since the 1960s. When the time came for post-secondary education, she focused on becoming a physical education and science teacher, she says, because "I felt there was nothing else I could be; in those days women weren't encouraged to be engineers."

Curiosity and imagination remain central to her work, as does a commitment to lifelong learning, a value she learned from her mother. "If learning stops being fun, then you'll stop learning," Bondar says.

Bondar's interest in space exploration seems infinite, though she can certainly trace it back to her childhood. Her parents had a love of nature, and the family spent many summer nights camping on the shores of Lake Superior. The night

Continued on page 30





BATTLING WEST NILE

the eggs were the infamous Culex pipiens breed – the ones that carry West Nile virus.

In suburban settings, mosquitoes lay eggs in tin cans, buckets, discarded tires, or any other container that holds stagnant water. According to Ulibarri, 1,000 mosquitoes may produce up to a staggering 182 million eggs in less than a month.

He developed a method to control the population. The ABP uses simple technology and it doesn't involve pesticides.

"I'm a chemist. I know the danger of chemicals," said Ulibarri. "With ABP, we can reduce the number of mosquitoes and still keep the food chain balanced without killing everything." Breeding Pool may be just the trick. According to Ulibarri, a permanent means of reducing the number of mosquitoes within the region can be achieved by combining ABP and the methods PAHO has been using.

While the focus of mosquito population control has gone global, Ulibarri started his research with the help of Sudbury & District Health Unit (SDHU).

"I think the collaboration between SDHU and Laurentian University is essential," said Ed Gardner, manager of the environmental health division of SDHU, who is working with Ulibarri.

"It's good to have two arms connected; it allows us to broaden the horizon in West Nile virus control."

It's just the thing for summer. With his new invention, Laurentian chemistry professor Gerardo Ulibarri lures mosquitoes into his trap.

BY HARRIS DANIEL

BEATING OUT THE UBIQUITOUS

garden gnome, a Laurentian University professor has created *the* outdoor accessory for the summer patio season.

Dr. Gerardo Ulibarri, a professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry at Laurentian University, is currently working on a mosquito trap called the Artificial Breeding Pool (ABP), a quick and easy tool for controlling mosquitoes. If trials prove successful, the device may help suppress mosquito populations around the world.

In one of his experiments, Ulibarri discovered that by using three ABPs, he was able to collect 25,000 mosquito eggs in a single day; more importantly, all

"I'm a chemist. I know the danger of chemicals."

ABP is a 30- to 45-litre receptacle containing a non-toxic solution of bacterial culture that releases carbon dioxide – a compound that draws mosquitoes like a magnet – with a filter inside to collect the eggs and larvae.

To maintain the trap, all an owner needs to do is take the filter out and wash it with hot water every four or five days.

Ulibarri's research for West Nile virus control in northern Ontario has led him to bigger projects, targeting mosquito-born diseases on a global scale.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) – a division of World Health Organization – invited Ulibarri to deliver a presentation in Guatemala in February. He showcased the potential uses of ABP as part of the country's program controlling the mosquito population.

In 2004, PAHO launched a \$140-million project to fight malaria and dengue fever outbreak in 21 Latin American countries by cleaning the area and through education.

To support their efforts, the Artificial

The research received two grants in two consecutive years – each worth \$5,000 – through the Louise Picard Public Health Research Grant. This funding body recognizes research projects that encourage partnerships between the SDHU staff and Laurentian University faculty.

"While most collaboration between SDHU and Laurentian University focuses on social problems, this project is a preventive measure toward a health issue – which is West Nile virus," says Ulibarri.

In May, Ulibarri placed 160 ABPs around Sudbury at different sites to do further statistical analysis over the summer.

His invention may be available by summer 2008. He is working on its visual design for public use. He wants to protect people from West Nile virus, while creating something that is useful and attractive in the backyard. The container may take many forms, Ulibarri says. It may be designed either as a chair, or some other outdoor object.

Harris Daniel is a Sudbury-based freelance writer.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:

departmental and professor updates

RESEARCH INITIATIVES "GRANTED"

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) awarded \$200,640 to three Laurentian professors to lay the foundations of their research. "It helps a new facility start its own research projects and put its mark on Canada and the world," said Dr. Liette Vasseur, associate vice-president of research.

Dr. Redhouane Henda, an associate professor in the school of engineering, received a CFI Leaders Opportunity Fund grant of \$77,595 to develop a pulsed electron facility. The CFI funding matches the amount Henda received from the Ontario government's Research Infrastructure program in January. This research facility will assist in his research of advanced materials processing, essentially making protective coatings for tools and other equipment used in industries such as mining and oil. The facility will be the first of its type in Canada.

Dr. Sabine Montaut, an assistant professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry, received a \$73,633 grant from the CFI Leaders Opportunity Fund that matches her Ontario Research Infrastructure program grant. She has purchased a mass spectrometer to help her research into the potential use of wild Canadian plant life in the fight against cancer.

Dr. Randy Dirszowsky, assistant professor in the department of geography, has been awarded \$49,412 through the CFI fund. His grant supports the construction of a sediment analysis and paleolimnological research facility, the necessary infrastructure for environmental change research at Laurentian University. The facility will be designed for the efficient collection, preparation, analysis, and archiving of watershed and lake sediment materials.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is an independent corporation created by the Canadian government fund research infrastructure. The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development.

NEW DOCTORATE

Dr. John T. Mathew recently received his ThD (Doctor of Theology). He is currently part-time faculty in the department of religious studies at Huntington University.

NEW AWARD FOR DR. MICHAEL LESHER

On May 25, 2007, **Dr. Michael Lesher**, chairman of the department of Earth Sciences and Research Chair in Mineral Exploration, received the Duncan R. Derry Medal, granted annually by the Mineral Deposits Division of the Geological Association of Canada. The highest award given to a professional economic geologist, the medal recognizes skill and stature among professional economic geologists, as well as public contributions to the science of geology.

A teacher at Laurentian University since 1997, Lesher played a key role in the development of Laurentian's first PhD program in Mineral Deposits and Precambrian Geology. Under his leadership, the Mineral Exploration Research Centre (MERC) and the Department of Earth Sciences (DES) have gained global recognition for their contributions to mineral deposits research. Lesher served as the founding director of MERC between 1997 and 2003, and was named chairman of DES in 2004.

Over his career, he has authored or co-authored more than 290 publications, including 65 reviewed papers and seven edited books. Lesher has also made valuable volunteer contributions to the Canadian and international economic geology community, and has mentored many students, from the bachelor to the PhD level, many of whom have progressed today to successful careers in industry and academia.

BIG AWARD FOR BIGELOW

Laurentian professor Dr. Brian Bigelow was recently made an academy member of the American Board of Professional Psychology, Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology Board. He is currently the only diplomated child and adolescent psychologist in Canada.

LAURENTIAN RECEIVES \$1 MILLION DOLLARS TO LEAD PROJECT IN MADAGASCAR

Having received funding from CIDA, **Dr. Annyck Ratiarson**, Laurentian University biology professor, will lead a five-year project with Dr. Paul Razafimandimby, vice-president, Fianarantsoa University.

On May 17, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) announced a \$1 million dollar contribution to Laurentian University from the University Partnerships in Cooperation and Development Program. Administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), this program will finance a project that will reinforce teaching and research capacities at Fianarantsoa University in Madagascar to support the country in its fight against AIDS and cervical cancer.

"The battle against AIDS and cervical cancer in Madagascar is a priority," explained Dr. Ratiarson. "These diseases have a direct incidence on the sustainable development of the country. Cervical cancer, for example, is the leading cause of cancer-related death in Madagascar, and is a serious barrier to the emancipation of women. A project like this one will have an important impact on access to health care, as well as on the growth of the country."

MEDAL FOR MCDONALD

Art McDonald, director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, was presented with the 2007 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Physics for discoveries that show neutrinos have mass and can change from one type to another. Congratulating SNO director McDonald, Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth also praised the work of Laurentian's SNO collaborators "who have made key contributions to the establishment of the laboratory and its research from the very beginning." This is the second award in the past year for SNO, which also claimed the inaugural John C. Polyani medals last November.



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

BY DAVID WHITE, BPHE 1983 PRESIDENT OF THE LUAA

WITH HALF OF 2007 BEHIND US, it has already been a stellar year for Laurentian University! More than 2,000 students graduated from their respective programs (either on campus or through the many collaborative programs available); and our newest alumni will surely extend the great reputation that Laurentian University has earned over nearly half a century of quality education. I'm honoured to welcome the 2007 graduates to our family.

During May and June, Laurentian University and the Alumni Relations office were busy with the annual spring convocation ceremonies. These events are gratifying for all who attend, and for the new graduates, most of all. I was honoured to speak at the convocation ceremony in Orillia this year, where approximately 35 beaming students graduated from a variety of Laurentian programs. Families and friends in attendance were clearly proud of their

loved ones. The pride extends to Laurentian as well.

For instance, Laurentian is a major player in health care. Close to 35 per cent of all new nursing graduates in Ontario will receive a degree from Laurentian University. Whether it is through collaboration with other post-secondary institutions, instruction on campus, or working in the field, our nurses are creating a positive legacy.

On a long list, this is just one more reason to be proud to be counted among the 36,000 Laurentian University alumni – enough grads to fill a small city.

I would like to congratulate Laurentian president Dr. Judith Woodsworth for a job well done. I also want to extend a special thanks to the staff in the Alumni Relations office and the rest of the Laurentian staff who have made this year's convocation ceremonies such a success.

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Working on your behalf

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Your alumni association continues to work on your behalf and we appreciate any feedback you can offer on our programs and services. Please send us an e-mail at alumni@laurentian.ca with your suggestions.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Please continue to visit our website www.lualumni.laurentian.ca for updates on upcoming events:

Vancouver Alumni Chapter Soccer Game August 18, 2007 (Vancouver)

BCOM/SPAD 1982 Reunion

August 24-25, 2007 (Sudbury)

LUAA Annual General Meeting

September 8, 2007

SPAD 35th Anniversary Gala

September 12, 2007 (Toronto)

2007 Send-Off Parties

Ottawa, Barrie, Toronto, New Liskeard, Sudbury

Alumni Recognition Awards

October 4, 2007

Alumni Voyageur Hall of Fame

October 12, 2007

Alumni Basketball Weekend

October 12-14, 2007

Native Human Services 20th Anniversary July 18-20, 2008

Nursing 1983 Reunion

Date to be confirmed

CHAPTER **NEWS**



TORONTO CHAPTER WINE AND CHEESE

By Tee Jay Rosene

On the evening of Tuesday, May 1, 2007, the Toronto Alumni Chapter held a wine and cheese event to recognize and showcase the hard work and dedication of Laurentian University science researchers. The wine and cheese event was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, which gave attendees a chance to double their pleasure by dropping in on a large science and technology convention, called Discovery 2007: TO NEXT, that was held just one floor away.

SPAD ALUMNI MAKE HISTORY

By Tee Jay Rosene

History was made with the launch of the inaugural Laurentian University SPAD Chapter in Toronto on April 12. With more than 80 people in attendance, this launch will be remembered for many years to come.

The success of this event can be credited to a string of key variables, particularly the camaraderie felt by all SPAD alumni and the fact that attending SPAD grads could watch the Toronto Blue Jays from a spectacular view: The Executive Billiards Lounge.

Laurentian SPAD grads experienced the full panorama of the game from up high and in exquisite comfort. From this special vantage point, Laurentian SPAD alumni reflected on their unique status as SPAD grads, "a unique partnership that has yet to be duplicated."

Norm O'Reilly, the current SPAD director, also attended, giving SPAD grads the opportunity to discuss his vision for this niche program.

Although this event marked the inauguration of the SPAD Chapter, it definitely will not be the last. Stay tuned for more SPAD events in the coming months, including the 3rd Annual SPAD Golf Tournament and the 35th Anniversary Gala.





REACHING ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Sudbury Alumni Chapter Ottawa Alumni Chapter

Toronto Alumni Chapter

Huronia Alumni Chapter

Laurentian@Georgian Alumni Chapter

On-Campus Alumni Chapter

Timmins Alumni Chapter Vancouver Alumni Chapter President, Renée Leduc, B.Com. 1996
President, Joseph Bowman, BSL 1991
President, Kyle Clarke, BPHE 2000
President to be announced
President, Daniel Robidoux, BA 1997
President, Louis Clausi, BA 1985
President, Daveen Morrison, BPHE 1976

President, Dean Jacklin, BPHE 1992

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FINE DINING FOR EVERYONE

By Tee Jay Rosene

Which fork to use? How to handle sneezing at the table? Napkin nightmares?

Questions like these prompted the Laurentian Student Alumni Association to present the first-ever Dining Etiquette Dinner at Laurentian University on March 3. After all, knowing proper table etiquette is important for everyone, particularly future alumni.

Fatima Di Valentin, a former college professor, gave a presentation on domestic and international dining etiquette to a soldout show of more than 100 students. At this event — held in the new West Residence Conference Room — students, along with staff and faculty, discovered that learning proper dining etiquette can be informative, interactive, and entertaining.

Talk about minding your manners. Of course, the evening was all in good fun. Those caught making etiquette gaffes were given stickers to wear as punishment. As you can see from the photographic evidence, some fared better than others!

Look for information on Laurentian University's next etiquette session in the fall at: www.lualumni.laurentian.ca.





CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPAD ALUMNI SUCCESS

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Hockey Hall of Fame BCE Place, 30 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario

7 p.m. \$99 per ticket Keynote speaker: Richard Pound, DBA (Sports Administration)

Proceeds from this event will go toward the SPAD Alumni 35th Anniversary Bursary

Please RSVP Alumni Relations at (705) 675-4818 or alumni@laurentian.ca

LOST ALUMNI

Help us find these graduates who don't receive the magazine or any other mailings.

Murat Adabag Jinghua Li

Sandy Boucher Alicia McLeod

Josee Ethie Laurie-Ann Roy

Matthew Fong Lorena Sackaney

Gerald Heaton Mario Taillefer

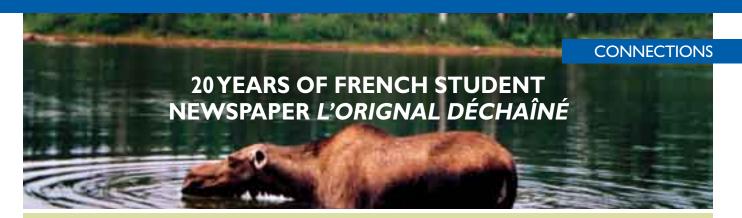
Sharon Johnson Claudie Tellier
Paul Joly Vincent Wafo

Gregory Judge Laura Wignall

Kelly-Ann Julien Jesse Wren

Guy Levesque Marilou Yanguay

Please check with them first, and then call or e-mail us (alumni@laurentian.ca) with their current information. Thanks for your help.



And in our own nervous yet brave voices, we would reestablish a political, apolitical, laid back, demanding, enthusiastic, apathetic, militant, blasé, encouraging, despairing, delirious, serious, francophone student newspaper. It would strive to be the true reflection of who we are and wish to be. It would dare us to give it the best we've got, and then some ...

Excerpt from the first editorial, read by Bruno Gaudette, founder and team member 1987-1989

To me, l'Orignal is not a reflection of Laurentian University's failure, despite its obvious problems, especially in its service to its Franco-Ontarian students, but rather of this university's success in producing free-thinking and free-speaking individuals. We get involved because we feel we can make a difference. We get involved to be with others who are like us, people who are activists for a better future on our side and all sides. We get involved to gain experience and learn about life. And some of us get involved just to have a place to go do things.

Serge Dupuis, team member, 2004-2007

Serge gave me a few instructions for my speech tonight ... what I'm about to say falls into the category of things he suggested I avoid. But since I want to exercise my right to free speech, I'm going to discuss this anyway. Laurentian University is a place of unrest, in the most positive sense of the word. One can even say that it has been a crucible of Franco-Ontarian culture, where we have witnessed the birth of many francophone institutions (a publishing house, a theatre, a music festival, etc.) and a French student newspaper where francophone students have worked and had fun together, while learning a few things about the craft of journalism.

Judith Woodsworth, president of Laurentian University, 2002-present

This newspaper had as its goal the creation of a French university in Ontario, just like college students had sparked the creation of the first French colleges. Mais non. I'll tell you why the French University hasn't come to be: it's because faculty saw no interest in it. In the colleges, professors shook themselves awake and did something, because they understood that a French college meant justice and equality for Franco-Ontarians. But they don't think that way in our universities. I'm still astounded by that...

Normand Renaud, founder and team member, 1987-1990

oughly translated the name l'Orignal déchaîné means "The Unchained Moose," or perhaps "The Moose on the Loose." And a popular French word for antlers is ... panache! There has been no lack of that over the years at Laurentian University's French student newspaper. On May 5, 65 former team members and guests gathered to celebrate the paper's 20th anniversary.

Spirited speeches kicked off the celebrations. A special presentation by le Carrefour international de la presse universitaire francophone (the International Crossroads of Francophone University Journalism) linked the underground journalism l'Orignal was born into with contemporary student journalism and its much wider network.

Supper was soon followed by a photo montage of scenes from the past, then draws for prizes. After that, all the talking was done by l'Orignal members, past and present, who mingled to share memories, while tapping their feet to the repertoire of a band called les Cokrels. Former l'Orignal team members Normand Renaud and Alain Harvey were part of the band.

Artifacts from l'Orignal's past were on display. Among them was the illustrious layout table built by Normand Renaud's father, witness to the age before computer-based page layout.

Mounted front pages from past editions drew knowing glances, as well as the crown worn by all: the famed moose antlers donated by Robert Dickson.

All this might seem a bit much for the 20th anniversary of a student newspaper. Then again, consider this: the lifespan of the average student newspaper is just five years. Founded in 1987, l'Orignal déchaîné is the only French student newspaper to have held its ground for 20 years. That's worth a pat on the back, or on the rack! Successive teams recognized the strength of this vehicle of student opinion and rose to the endless challenges faced by an independent French student newspaper.

Nonetheless, founding members on hand that evening admitted to some surprise in seeing that their original moose call still resonates in 2007, while younger members assured them that they recognize themselves in the old-timer's anecdotes. The beast lives on for generations.

Orignal un jour, Orignal toujours!

Here's to 20 more.

Amélie Dugas, editor, 2005-2006, BA (2006) Serge Dupuis, editor, 2006-2007, BA (2007)

IN THE NEWS

NEW AWARD FOR SARA PELTIER

Sara Peltier (BA 1974) praised and challenged Laurentian University as she accepted the inaugural Native Education Person of Distinction Award on National Aboriginal Day on June 21.



Sara Peltier

Laurentian should make a native studies course compulsory for all Laurentian students, she said. "Now there's a large task, but I'm sure it can be done. I know the people at the university have the strength," she added.

Peltier received the Mnaaj'in Geechi-wiidookang Nishnaabe-Gchi-Kinoomaagziwin as part of National Aboriginal Day celebrations on the Laurentian campus. A mother and

grandmother, Peltier has spent her life working in the education field. She hails from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. Since 1995, she has been a member of the Laurentian board of governors.

Peltier took advantage of opportunities at they came, she said, adding that people need to do this. "Go into the wide world and challenge it as it challenges you." She praised Laurentian for welcoming native students and for helping in their maturing process. "We see the results [back at home]. It's through the nurturing, the assistance."

Peltier has worked at virtually every level she could in education: from serving as a school principal to the provincial and federal levels. In the 1970s, she started an Ojibwe language program at Wikwemikong. She later became dean of Anishnabae studies at Cambrian.

She has her BA from Laurentian, a B.Ed. from Nipissing University in North Bay, and her MA from Central Michigan University.

Top right: Power Quintet (from left) Carolyn Sinclair, new chair Board of Governors; Sheila Hardy, director, native academic affairs; Sara Peltier; Susan Silverton, vice-president academic (anglophone affairs); and Angela Recollet, native education manager. Right: Debbie Robertson sings and drums in honour of Sara Peltier.





IN THE NEWS

RYAN BAKER

Ryan Baker, B.Com. (Hons) SPAD 2006, an award-winning soccer player, recently accepted a position that takes him overseas to London, England, to work with the Little Kickers Group. Baker has been hired as the director of coaching and quality management for the Little Kickers, a leader in the pre-school children's activity business. Baker will be responsible for coaching the Little Kickers program, as well as monitoring the quality of coaching and operations at Little Kickers franchise venues. He will also be involved in other facets of the program, including program development and training, marketing, and public relations work. Baker feels that his academic and athletic experience at Laurentian prepared him for this new challenge overseas. More information about the Little Kickers group can be found at www.littlekickers.co.uk.

DAVID BEILHARTZ

On May 9, 2007, David Beilhartz, B.Sc. Geology (Hons) 1985, was welcomed by Lake Shore Gold Corp as Vice President Exploration. Dave Beilhartz has been working with Lake Shore and its predecessor company, Holmer Gold Mines Ltd., in a consulting capacity since 1997. He is credited with the discovery of the Ultramafic and Footwall zones at the company's Timmins West deposit. Prior to 1997, Mr. Beilhartz worked as a geologist for Watts Griffis McOuat Consulting and Inco Limited on a wide variety of projects in Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba. He is a member of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario, Lake Shore is a mineral exploration company engaged in the acquisition and exploration of mineral properties with prospects for hosting gold and base metal deposits.

MARG BARRY, SHANNON HENGEN, AND GINETTE MICHEL

Laurentian University celebrated the achievements of three outstanding women during International Women's Day on March 8. The Laurentian University's Presidential Advisory Committee on the Status of Women honoured Marg Barry, Shannon Hengen, and Ginette Michel for promoting women in the arts and music, sports, and women's literature. Barry, a Laurentian alumna, and the executive director of the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, is a lifelong proponent of women in the arts - especially in the field of music. Hengen, an assistant professor in the department of English and a competitive rower, was acknowledged as a champion of women's literature. Michel, an assistant professor in the school of human kinetics, was honoured for her work in health promotion at Laurentian and in the Sudbury community.

CHRIS DICKSON

Chris Dickson, BA Music (Hons) 2000, teaches music in New York City. In March 2007, he entered a music performance competition for a solo recital at Carnegie Hall. He was chosen as one of the winners, and his recital date is scheduled for October 13, 2007, at Carnegie Hall.

GHISLAINE GOUDREAU, BETH MAIRS, AND SUSAN JAMES

Ghislaine Goudreau, BPHE 1997, who works in environmental health at the Sudbury & District Health Unit; Beth Mairs, a part-time teacher in the Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program and founder of Wild Women Expeditions; and Susan James, director of Laurentian's Midwifery Education Program, were named Women of Distinction in the Sudbury YWCA Women of Distinction Gala Night in April 2007.

Spring Convocation 2007

At Spring Convocation, the LUAA welcomed more than 2,000 new graduates to its growing family. This spring's honorary degree recipients were:



BRUCE MAU Honorary Doctor of Letters



MINNIJEAN BROWN TRICKEY Honorary Doctor of Laws



PIERRE BÉLANGER Honorary Doctor of Laws



JOHN
CUNNINGHAM
Honorary
Doctor of
Science



ROBERT SAWYER Honorary Doctor of Letters

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Thomas Peters made Sudbury a greener place to live.

Dr. Thomas "Tom" Peters passed away at the Sudbury Regional Hospital on April 5 at age 84. A well-respected and gifted leader for environmental causes, Peters was internationally recognized in the field of land reclamation. He taught agricultural courses at both Laurentian University and Cambrian College, and received an honorary doctorate from Laurentian for his outstanding leadership in regreening Sudbury.

Peters had a long career in reclamation. In 1948, he joined the agricultural department of Inco Limited, and was later appointed Inco's agriculturist in 1973. From the beginning, Peters was heavily involved with Inco's tailings revegetation and land reclamation projects. He piloted research into revegetating techniques, focusing on the tailings (materials left over from processed ore) surrounding Sudbury's smelters. Parts of Sudbury, which had been surrounded by large areas of waste material, have been successfully reclaimed due to his research. Many of these once-barren areas are now supporting animal and plant life.

According to friend and colleague Gerard Courtin, a Laurentian biologist involved in the reclamation work, Dr. Thomas Peters "was a pioneer. He began it all in spring 1969 - vegetation in Sudbury. Quietly championing regreening efforts, he acted as a liaison between government and industry and showed many that vegetation could, in fact, grow around the tailings." The method Dr. Peters developed involved planting fall rye. Courtin says the rye "had a jump start on the spring season, allowing it to germinate and flourish."

In 1987, Peters became the first non-American to be named "Reclamationist of the Year" by the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation.

Laurentian University and the 2007 Mining and the Environment International Conference committee announced the creation of a bursary in memory of Dr. Thomas Peters on June 14. The Dr. Thomas Peters Memorial Bursary, valued at \$80,000, was established with funds raised at the third Mining and the Environment International Conference, held at Laurentian in 2003. The \$40,000 raised funds were matched by the provincial government through the Ontario Trust for Student Support program (OTSS).

Aitken, Patricia

MA 1978, English instructor, on October 8, 2005 in Parry Sound

Tincombe-Shaw, Marie BSW 1973 on May 4, 2007 in Sudbury

LET US KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING AND YOU COULD WIN

Send us an update on yourself and you could win some cool Laurentian stuff. Just fax us at 705-675-4840 (and address it to Editor, Laurentian University Magazine) or write us at magazine@laurentian.ca. Keep it to about 100 words. We'll enter your name into a draw.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF OUR LAST DRAW:

John Andrew McLarty, BA 1974



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ALUMNI **UPDATES**

1970s

Patricia Belanger, PHED 1975, is the 2006-07 recipient of the Pete Beach Award through the Ontario Federation of School Athletics Associations. The award goes to an educator who uses school sport to positively influence students for the rest of their lives. Patricia, who has been teaching high school gym in Sudbury for nearly 30 years, retired in June. She was the program leader of athletics at Lo Ellen Park Secondary before her retirement.

John Andrew McLarty, BA 1974, is currently employed at Lanesboro Correctional Institution in Polkton, NC. USA as a Correctional Administrative Services Manager. Lanesboro is reputed to be the toughest state prison in North Carolina. He is also working on a second master's degree, this one completely online, in Entrepreneurship from Western Carolina University. The first master's degree was his MBA from Wake Forest University.

Richard Woodley, BA 1973, has retired from the House of Commons after working for 33 years indexing the debates of the House of Commons and its committees. Richard is now devoting his time to mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and digital photography. He is also working on his blog, "The Fifth Column."

David Chirko, BA 1976, of Sudbury, has written reviews of 25 different psychology books published on the Internet at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Chapters. For a complete listing, go online at: www.canartscene.com/members/dchirko.

1**980**s

Harold Haynes, BSW 1986, and his wife Gloria, have become Associates with Prepaid Legal Services of Canada. Harold wants to improve people's access to the legal system to protect their rights.

2000s

Andrew Greenlaw, SPAD 2001, has accepted the position of Torch Relay Marketing Manager with the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee.

Sylvie Daigle, BA 2004, received her Baccalauréat ès arts Concentration: Droit et iustice.

Do you enjoy reading about old classmates and friends?

They want to know about you, too.

Send us your news and a photo as well, if you'd like. Fill out the online form at www.lualumni. laurentian.ca and attach a IPG or TIF file. Or grab a pen and do it the old-fashioned way by completing the form on the inside back cover of the magazine (photos will be returned).

Check the Alumni News section to find out who's living where and what they're up to!



JOY FROM THE BIG (LIFEGUARDING) **CHAIR – ANOTHER MILESTONE** FOR ONE OF CANADA'S OLDEST LIFEGUARDS.

Bev Boyce, BA 1999, of Belleville (Cover Story, Spring 2007) successfully completed the recertification exam for her National Lifeguard Service (NLS) in late March 2007. Boyce, 70, has been guarding and teaching swimming for two years at the Belleville YMCA. She is currently one of Canada's oldest lifeguards and can continue until she is 72, when she will have to recertify.

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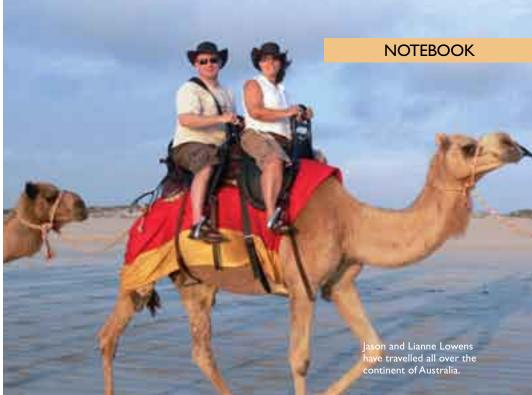
- Journalism
- Law and Security Administration
- · Police Foundations
- Community and Justice Services (Correctional Services Worker)
- Social Service Worker
- Social Service Worker Gerontology
- · Developmental Services Worker
- Child and Youth Worker
- Automation Engineering Technology (Instrumentation)



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LIVING THE LIFE DOWN UNDER



By Carrie Ivardi

or Jason Lowens, a graduate of Laurentian's mining engineering program (1999), working abroad has been a goal since high school. He is currently the senior production engineer at Pajingo gold mine in tropical North Queensland, Australia. Working outside of North America in an exotic location is an experience that has been great for his life as well as his career, he says.

"From a career point of view, working overseas is good experience no matter what profession you are in," says Lowens. "By working in another country you learn new methods, new techniques, and new skills that you will always have with you. Skills that make you stand out in a crowd."

For the last four years, he and his wife Lianne have "lived and played" in the land down under. After graduating in 1999, Lowens says he took a job with Newmont Mining's Holloway Mine in Kirkland Lake. After two years, he applied for his first international job posting. He did not get that job, but 18 months later, he applied for a position with Newmont in Australia.

"Having the chance to move here, initially on a no-strings, two-year expatriate contract, was a dream come true,"

says Lowens. "Australia offers a lifestyle that is just different enough to make you stop once in a while and go 'wow.' Going on a morning walk and seeing kangaroos bounding across the fields, or taking a short drive to the coast to snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef with tropical fish of every colour are things that still amaze me and make me realize how lucky I am."

"Australia offers a lifestyle that is just different enough to make you stop once in a while and go 'wow."

Lowens and his wife have travelled all over the continent. They have fallen in love with Australia, and are currently having a hard time trying to decide when they should return to Canada.

"We know that we will always be Canadians and that we will one day move back home, however, the big question is, when?" he says. Six months remain on his second contract. He has asked Newmont to start the process of sponsoring the couple for full Australian residency.

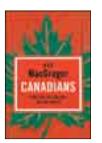
Lowens now has the opportunity to gain new experience in mine closure, as the Pajingo mine is scheduled to close in July 2008. That closure is an important part of the life cycle of any mining operation, so staying on would be great for his career, he says. "I am not sure where we will be once the mine closes and we are forced to leave our little town [of Charters Towers] to find work," but, he confides, he has already been approached by his company's mine in New Zealand, and there are many other mining jobs all over Australia.

No matter what he does in the future, Lowens is proud to be living the life his parents wanted for him.

"While I was a student at Laurentian, they both passed away, one year apart. I know that they [would be] very happy with the life I am living: I have been happily married for nine years to my lovely wife Lianne, and we are living in a tropical land in a foreign country experiencing all that it has to offer. I am proud of the fact that we are using every opportunity we have to make the most of our time here and I know that when we do decide to move back to Canada, we will not take it for granted."

Carrie Ivardi is a freelance writer living in Sudbury.

Books and Publications by Laurentian faculty and alumni



CANADIANS – A PORTRAIT OF A COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE,

Roy MacGregor

In his latest book, the Huntsville native, who once played against Bobby Orr in Parry Sound, tackles that ever-elusive question: Who and what are Canadians? The book draws on his varied experiences over his 30-plus years travelling around Canada, zeroing in on some of the major events of

modern Canadian history that have shaped our collective national character.

THE REGIONS OF GERMANY: A REFERENCE GUIDE TO HISTORY AND CULTURE. **Dieter K. Buse**

Dr. Buse's latest work is a reference guide to the history and culture of the regions of Germany, and bridges the gap between general reference works and those dealing with specialized academic topics.



RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCY:
ADDRESSING HISTORICAL TRAUMA
OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE (Native Social
Work Journal, volume 6, number 1),

edited by Sheila Hardy

Five peer-reviewed articles and one community-based paper are published in this issue which aims to expand the discussion on the ways that aboriginal peoples have – and continue to retain – their respective identities and cultural

practices in an effort to heal from ongoing colonial trauma. Sheila Hardy, editor, is director of academic native affairs and native human services at Laurentian University. For further information, or to order a copy of the journal, please contact Laurentian University's native human services program, at (705) 675-1151, ext. 5049 or 5082.

Roberta Bondar continued from page 17

skies over the Soo spoke to the young girl. "On calm nights you get the double reflection of the stars."

Those were the early days of satellites. She saw *Echo II*, the American satellite, flying overheard. "There was something always mysterious about it, something mysterious about the night sky."

In her youth, Bondar designed a space station and constructed plastic model rockets, though nothing she ever built resembled what she eventually did ride in, "not even close," she laughs. "I had one little flying saucer with an alien that was kind of cool."

After her space mission, Bondar returned with a stronger commitment to her own planet. Like many other astronauts, she ponders Earth's magnitude. "There's nothing else out there. Let's face it. I think some people are affected in different ways. We all have a common view of seeing there isn't anything around it. There's no strings attached; there's no Star Trek ship."

Sitting in a university room overlooking the landscape of the Laurentian campus, Bondar can still recall how it felt to look at Earth from space. But the reality of the moment can be hard to explain, she admits. "People who have witnessed a birth or a death right in front of them understand it is a life-changing event." To be able to see Earth, "knowing that we exist on it and everything we love and everything we know is there and everything we don't know is beyond – it's beyond any comprehension. Obviously, it makes where we are from extremely valuable."

For Bondar, this feeling of awe came from "looking away from Earth and seeing it [surrounded by] a black that I would not be able to describe to anybody. I called it 'light-sucking black."

In contrast, Earth was alive, a humming, vibrant sphere covered in turquoise. "It is hard to describe this three-dimensional colour – but that's what it was."

Such moments remain present for Bondar because she refreshes them for audiences to this day. "I vividly recall seeing the Pacific Ocean, the whole world filled with light reflection from the ocean. It can be extremely life changing to walk away with that kind of vision," she says.

Still, Bondar knows how difficult it can be to return to Earth and normal life after a space-shuttle ride. While the return was jarring, it was nothing she couldn't handle. For her, coping is a bad word. "It's not a matter of coping at all. It's quite the reverse. It was exhilarating for me to come back and share the stories, to come back and see people I love. To hear birds, water gurgling, touch the earth, and enter an 'earth observation' phase of my life. What more beauty could I have circling a planet then [actually] landing on it to explore it?"

Today, Roberta Bondar sees herself as an interpreter, moving between art and science through corporate speaking engagements, working in education, and writing. She has published four best-selling photo-essay books, which feature her photos of Earth.

In March 2007, the Ontario government asked her to lead a working group to analyze how the environment is taught in Ontario schools, and to make recommendations.

All these aspects of her life are like tentacles that return to the same "body of knowledge and the desire to share that knowledge, the desire to rejuvenate society." For Bondar, it's important "to take that experience and continue to reformulate it with my new experiences."

DIGGING TOWARD A GOAL

As a paleopathologist, Mindy Pitre conducts research into diseases of the past.

BY CARRIE IVARDI



indy Pitre (B.Sc. 2002) likes to play in the dirt – and not just on Canadian soil. Her studies began at Laurentian University and have taken her all over the world, most recently to Egypt. It was during her undergraduate degree that she set her goals of teaching physical anthropology at the university level and carrying out research. Now, after years of hard work, she is closer than ever to achieving her goals.

Pitre always wanted to be an archeologist. "When I was young, my sister Lacey and I would dig in our garage for archeological finds including old screws, bolts, etc. I guess I just liked getting dirty."

Pitre enrolled at Laurentian in a B.Sc. degree in anthropology; a great opportunity, says Pitre, since this is offered at very few universities (it's usually taken as a BA). "Because of this, today I have a background in science, which is a big part of physical anthropology."

Pitre worked as a teacher's assistant for both Dr. Scott Fairgrieve and Dr. Kathryn Molohon at Laurentian. After working with these two professors, Pitre chose physical anthropology as her major. "I also participated in an archeological field school in North Bay," she says. "We lived in tents for a month, canoeing every day to Bothwell's Island where we were digging. While working for Dr. Fairgrieve, I decided to focus my undergraduate thesis on physical anthropology. [This] was the best way to combine my love for the arts

and my interest in the sciences and getting dirty. For my thesis, I buried 10 dead rats and dug them up every so often, in order to outline decomposition stages in northern Ontario."

Pitre continued her studies in a master's program at Memorial University

paleopathology," says Pitre.

She is currently in her third year of her PhD program, studying a skeletal collection from a site in modern-day Syria referred to as Tell Leilan, dated around 2600 BCE. "This project was particularly exciting to me because few paleopatholo-

"When I was young, my sister and I would dig in our garage for archeological finds ... I guess I just liked getting dirty."

in Newfoundland, followed by a PhD program at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She has received numerous scholarships, fellowships, and prizes, including the Margaret Brine Scholarship of \$6,500 given by the Canadian Federation of University Women in Edmonton (2007), several professional development grants, recruitment scholarships, and travel awards.

It was the F.A. Aldrich Scholarship that paid for both her tuition and living expenses at Memorial. Her supervisor offered her the opportunity to travel to Bournemouth University in England to study more than 100 human skeletons for evidence of disease to more fully understand the lives of people living in England during the 17th century. "After I carried out this research, it was clear to me that I wanted to pursue a career in

gists have studied disease at a microscopic level; this is a new avenue of research," she says.

Each level of Pitre's education has found her digging a little bit deeper. In Aswan, Egypt, from January to March of this year, she was part of an international team of specialists excavating two ancient cemeteries. They uncovered an entire, intact skeleton.

In Pitre's field of work, it's very important to have access to skeletons because, as she says, "I would be a pretty bad paleopathologist if I had never excavated human remains! Egypt gave me my first opportunity to do so. This dig was instrumental for my future career as a physical anthropologist, as skeletal collections available for study by academics and graduate students are rare."

He's back! Shawn Swords wore #21 when he was an all-star player for Laurentian Voyageurs men's basketball team. Now he's wearing a coach's suit but still hopes to put the Voyageurs back into the OUA playoffs.

To learn more about this recent shuffle in men's basketball, go to page 5.



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