

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

LAURENTIAN

SUMMER 2008

**STÉPHANE
GAUTHIER
SPREADS
THE WORD**

**Laurentian
and the immigrant
experience**

**NURSE PRACTITIONER
MARY MCGUIRE IS FIRMLY
ROOTED AT THE RIVERSIDE**

**HOME
AT LAST**

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Your gift will make a difference

The Next 50 Campaign Chair Scott McDonald with graduate students Justin Boyer, Sophie Gervais, and Melanie Mehes in Founders' Square.

THE NEXT 50 CAMPAIGN

Laurentian University alumni maintain strong ties to their alma mater. Scott McDonald (H.B. Com., 1977) exemplifies this ideal, and is currently volunteering as chair of Laurentian's the Next 50 Campaign cabinet. The former executive vice-president of human resources and sustainability at Vale Inco is leading a diverse and motivated group of alumni and friends of the university, and has been instrumental in steering the campaign's success. "When you become a part of the Next 50 Campaign, you're not just investing in an educational institution. You're joining a community of trailblazers," says McDonald.

McDonald's first duty as chair? Taking part in the January 28, 2008 announcement of Vale Inco's \$4.5 million gift to the campaign and helping to secure these funds for the Vale Inco Living with Lakes Centre. Laurentian's global centre of

excellence for applied research in environmental restoration and sustainability is one of the flagship projects to be largely funded by the Next 50 Campaign.

McDonald has maintained close ties to northern Ontario; he is a member of the Ontario Mining Association and executive member of the Council of Industrial Relations Executives. He served on Laurentian University's Board of Governors from 2002 to 2004. He has also served as treasurer of the Industrial Trades Centre for Women; was director of the Sudbury United Way and the Mining Association of Canada; and was a member of the Northeastern Ontario Smart Growth Panel in 2003.

This leading gift from Vale Inco has been added to the \$10 million in support for the Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation from Vale Inco and Xstrata, and the \$6.5 million student

investment in the new Student Recreational Facility, bringing the total of new investments raised for the Next 50 Campaign to \$23.5 million – a monumental achievement at this stage of the campaign. "We're generating Canadian creativity and innovation close to home, and positioning this region for continued prosperity," beams McDonald.

If you have any questions about ways to support Laurentian University, please call 1-800-461-4030, ext. 4872, or (705) 675-4872.

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on the cover:

Mary McGuire,
Sudbury, Ontario

Photo by
Mary-Catherine Taylor

inside

HOME AT LAST

Mary McGuire (BScN 2005) returns to Sudbury from the United States to work at Canada's first nurse practitioner's clinic.



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MORE THAN WORDS

Stéphane Gauthier (BA 1992) takes his French-language advocacy all the way to the – bookstore!

NORTHERN MOSAIC

An in-depth look at how Laurentian University – and Sudbury – welcomes new immigrants who choose to come North.



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Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne

Homing in

FROM THE EDITOR, JENNIFER NAULT



IN THIS ISSUE, we “home in” on Laurentian alumni who are doing great things in northern Ontario, including an alumna who recently moved back to Sudbury to work as a nurse practitioner (in Canada’s first clinic of its kind). We also connect with alumni, faculty, and staff who have headed North (and to Canada) for the first time, and, on the opposite end of the spectrum, we profile an alumnus who

never really left – nor would ever want to. He’s too active in Sudbury’s francophone community.

Many alumni spread their wings and head for new and exciting destinations, astounding us with news of their worldly adventures, but there are also so many who live out their dreams just steps away from their *alma mater*. Whether near or far, the incredible accomplishments and goings-on of the Laurentian family doesn’t cease to intrigue – or to inspire.

Working on the magazine is always interesting and rewarding. The publications team – and countless contributors – have certain objectives in mind: to make the magazine accessible, entertaining, and readable. We’ve learned a few things based on recent results from our submission for “Best Magazine” in a national awards program (CCAIE Prix D’Excellence). Our stories are compelling and feature strong writing, our designers’ keen use of photography is artful and inspired, and we are doing one thing well that most university alumni magazines never even have to plan around: With every issue, we publish two editions, one in English and one in French.

We also learned that we have, at times, crammed too much information into each edition, but I offer a fair response: There is simply so much to report on! Laurentian University’s alumni and friends keep us busy reporting on their exciting happenings. (But we *will* try to allow for more white space.)

Thanks again to everyone involved with the magazine, including the Laurentian University Alumni Association (LUAA), alumni relations, university advancement, the president’s office, the development office, and public affairs. Special thanks go out to the magazine editorial board members, many of whom meet with the editor (that’s me) to offer thoughtful advice and feedback. Some great ideas emerge as a result of this brainstorming, and I value the contributions of each and every member.

LETTERS

I am writing to express how impressed I am with the Alumni Magazine that LU publishes! The articles are interesting and well written, the photo layout and design are appealing, and it’s nice to know what other graduates are up to and where life has taken them ... after school is done.

Thank you for continuing to inspire and inform alumni. To all of your colleagues – keep up the great work!

All the best, Paulette Dahl, BA 2000

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.

LET US KNOW HOW YOU’RE DOING AND YOU COULD WIN!

Send us an update on yourself and you could win some cool Laurentian prizes.

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: Michael Martin



Kerry Salmoni (SPAD 2003) outside the Sudbury offices of the Canadian Cancer Society.

A measure of charity

By *Laura E. Young*

LET SUDBURY SERVE as the template for other Canadian cities when measuring a community's charitable spirit. Laurentian's Institute of Sport Marketing (ISM) has teamed up with the Canadian Cancer Society to streamline the society's fundraising methods, and they've chosen to focus on Sudbury.

Kerry Salmoni, a Laurentian graduate (SPAD 2003) and a community partnership specialist with the Sudbury unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, has received funding to work on an extensive survey of how fundraising is conducted in a community.

Sudbury is leading Ontario in this kind of research. Sudbury's demographics are such that they provide a snapshot of a medium-sized city, which can be applied to other cities, says Salmoni.

"The research will allow us to understand how we give to charities in Sudbury (who gives, why, and how much), in order to help the cancer society with their work. The majority of the resources for the survey support student work experience – a benefit to the ISM and Laurentian," says Norm O'Reilly, director of SPAD and an ISM researcher himself.

The results of the research will make fundraising more effective and help fundraisers determine how best to direct donor dollars, Salmoni says.

In general, donor savvy in Sudbury is huge, she says. "People are really educated. The competition is insane." Donor fatigue is a concern, but, for Salmoni, the key to fundraising lies in showing urgency. "As long as the cause is right, people will do what is right."

The Institute of Sport Marketing is currently working on a variety of applied research projects that support sport management practice and further knowledge in the field. Originally founded to work with government, professional sport, and amateur/Olympic/grassroots sport, the ISM is leading more than 20 different collaborative projects across North America. The projects range from marketing cottage country in Elliot Lake to issues of anti-doping in sport.

Italian club rings in 25 years

By *Laura E. Young*

MANY SCHOOL CLUBS have come and gone, but like ancient Roman architecture, Laurentian's Italian Club remains.

This year, Incontri, the student Italian club, marked its 25th anniversary with a grand celebration at the Caruso Club in Sudbury. Festivities included a live performance by Sandra Battaglini, a Laurentian alumna, former Incontri member, and now a renowned Canadian-Italian comedian.

She performed a cabaret show called *Hard Italian Cheese*.

Incontri is the largest, most active student club on campus, growing to 360 members this year from 58 people two years ago.

It's important to keep Italian pride strong, says Daniele Muscolino, an Italian studies student and the outgoing president who oversaw the club's massive growth. "It really came out when Italy won the World Cup [2006 soccer]. That really jump-started our success. Now, people have an avenue to express their pride for Italian heritage."

About 60 per cent of the membership is Italian, but the club also attracts students of other heritages. "It's very diverse," says Muscolino.

Paul Colilli, dean of graduate studies, inspired students to start the club, which was founded in 1983 by alumni Vince Cundari and Gabe Floreano.

This year, Muscolino and the vice-president, Silvano Costantini, initiated a formal relationship with the Caruso Club, the hub of Sudbury's Italian culture. A membership deal is now offered, and students may belong to Incontri and the Caruso for a mere \$15.

That move alone more than doubled student membership at the Caruso. "Our student members got excited when they found out that this was bigger than Laurentian. We're going into the city now," says Muscolino.

Reaching out

PRESIDENT JUDITH WOODSWORTH



On the threshold of a new chapter in my career, and in this, my last message in the *Laurentian University Magazine for Alumni & Friends*, I take the opportunity to reflect on my experience at Laurentian.

My personal background as an immigrant, my studies in the field of French language and literature, and a number of coincidences led me to the practice of translation, to the teaching of translation, and then to translation studies. Laurentian University – a bilingual and tri-cultural university, located in a multicultural community, a microcosm of the country itself – was a good fit for me as it wove together the personal, professional, and academic threads of my life.

From the outset, however, I faced a number of challenges – declining enrolment and, linked with that, financial difficulties. Compounding those problems was the fact that the university was not well known or, worse still, not well regarded. In the past few years, the university has experienced unprecedented growth, much of it visible in the form of new construction on campus. We also have a larger student

population, new programs, stronger ties with the community and other educational institutions, and a growing reputation. We are celebrating important milestones: at spring 2008 convocation, the graduation of our first PhD student; next spring, the graduation of the first class of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine; and in 2010, Laurentian celebrates its 50th anniversary, supported by an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise \$50 million for teaching, learning, research, and community.

You have all played a role in Laurentian's success: students, staff, and faculty; a hard-working leadership team; a dedicated Board of Governors; loyal alumni; and committed partners in government, industry, and the community at large. All of you have my deep appreciation for everything you have done to make Laurentian University a driver of creativity, prosperity, and innovation in northern Ontario, and beyond. I will always be proud of what we have accomplished – together.

The job of a university president can be a daunting one, but it is a great privilege. It's a chance to craft a vision and stimulate change; it's an opportunity to meet the needs of our community and shape the future of our country.

As I look back, though, my fondest memories are of meeting students and their families: this includes the Ontario Universities Fair in Toronto and send-off parties, on-campus activities of various kinds and, always, the numerous graduation ceremonies. I have heard the voices of the Laurentian family: as students enter, as they leave, and when we meet again – in such places as grocery stores and on airplanes, and at alumni events across Canada and in the U.S.

What I hear consistently is how well you are doing and how much a Laurentian education has meant to you. I wish you all continued success in your chosen fields and much happiness in your life's journey.

Robert Bourgeois, who joined Laurentian University as our vice-president, administration, in March 2007, takes over as acting president. I am grateful to him for taking on this role and I am sure you will join me in wishing him much success and gratification as he assumes the duties of president.

Dr. Judith Woodsworth accepted the position of president and vice-chancellor of Concordia University in Montreal beginning August 1, 2008.



Robert Bourgeois

Robert Bourgeois provides smooth transition

WITH THE RESIGNATION of Laurentian University president Dr. Judith Woodsworth, Robert Bourgeois has been appointed as acting president effective August 1, 2008, and until the new president begins his or her term of office.

Woodsworth remains at Laurentian until that date, fully engaged in her duties, and committed to advancing the Next 50 Campaign.

Bourgeois is currently vice-president, administration, of Laurentian University. Prior to joining Laurentian in March 2007, he held government executive positions in policy, operations, and corporate services, in Ottawa and the regions. From 2002 to 2006, he served as deputy secretary, Intergovernmental Operations at

the Privy Council Office. In this capacity, he was a senior advisor to the prime minister, the minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the clerk of the Privy Council. Bourgeois has one of the most diversified careers within the senior ranks of government.

“The board is confident that Mr. Bourgeois in his capacity as acting president will provide leadership and continue to move the university and its vision forward during the presidential search process,” says Carolyn Sinclair, chair of the Board of Governors. “Mr. Bourgeois will ensure a smooth transition for our university.”

A presidential search is underway, and the committee is composed of members of the board, faculty, staff, the student body, and alumni.

Laurentian awards first PhD – and alumni number 38,000

IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE these days to *not* run into a Laurentian grad. Only now, that grad may have a PhD framed and hanging on the wall.

This spring, during 2008 convocation ceremonies, Laurentian University celebrated about 2,300 new graduates. Due to the high number of graduates, nine ceremonies were held in the Fraser Auditorium, from June 3 to June 7, 2008.

On a high note, Laurentian University awarded its first PhD to Ryan Mailloux on Saturday, June 7. Enrolled in the biomolecular sciences PhD program, Mailloux successfully defended his thesis this past December.

Laurentian also awarded its first degrees to four students enrolled in the French Bachelor of Social Work program (BSW) at Université Sainte-Anne in Nova Scotia.

Natasha Comeau, Francine d’Entremont, Mirelle d’Entremont, and



Ryan Mailloux

Nicole d’Entremont received their BSW during spring convocation. Since 2006, students from Université Sainte-Anne have been able to obtain a Laurentian BSW through courses on campus and

online. As a result of this collaborative agreement between the two institutions, the French BSW is available in Nova Scotia for the first time.

This round of graduates joined the 36,211 students who have received a degree since the university was founded nearly 50 years ago, and who are now part of the extensive network of Laurentian alumni.

Among the graduates, about 500 were recognized at convocation ceremonies in two affiliated institutions, Algoma University College in Sault-Ste. Marie and Collège universitaire de Hearst, as well as in articulation programs with Cambrian (Sudbury), Georgian (Barrie), Northern (Timmins) and Sault (Sault-Ste. Marie) Colleges.

All nine spring convocation ceremonies held on the Laurentian University campus were webcast, allowing relatives and friends to view the ceremonies from any location.

LU student organizes rally to remember missing Native women

By Laura E. Young



Marjorie Beaudry

THE MEMORY OF a murdered toddler inspired Laurentian student Marjorie Beaudry to organize a public rally to honour Canada's missing aboriginal women on February 14, 2008.

Beaudry's research before the rally led her to 19-month-old Samantha Johnings, who was murdered in Hamilton, Ontario. Beaudry thinks about this "little baby. Who's going to stand up for her? Who's going to cry for her?"

Beaudry organized the third-annual rally to honour Canada's missing aboriginal women. About 75 people attended, and there was strong media coverage across the region. With prevention and intervention as goals, the rally also marked the more than 500 missing and murdered aboriginal women across Canada.

A third-year Native studies student at Laurentian, Beaudry wanted to honour the women in memory and spirit – and to warn other young ab-

original women. "It's a dangerous world. Over 500 aboriginal women missing in Canada is too many," she said.

The issue of violence against Native women is critical. Statistics indicate that eight out of 10 aboriginal women in Ontario report having personally experienced violence.

Last July 2007, the CBC, in its coverage of the conference of the Indigenous Women of the Americas, reported that breaking the cycle of violence against aboriginal women will require a "giant mental shift" that includes new approaches to issues such as the environment, language, and human rights.

The statistics can be overwhelming. During her research leading up to the rally, Beaudry's findings were often too much to take.

She was also guided by the memory of Georgina Papin, a family friend, whose remains were found at the Robert Pickton farm near Vancouver; Pickton was found guilty of Papin's murder in December 2007.

Elder Barb Reilly told Beaudry to take the lead, and that mothers have to hold onto their daughters, says Beaudry.

For Beaudry, this entails building a foundation based on love – one of the seven teachings of the Grandfathers. "I think that [promotes] prevention right there, by creating knowledge awareness, by staying tighter, by not taking each other for granted."

To set the stage, Beaudry chose to hold the rally in downtown Sudbury at Memorial Park, across the street from police headquarters.

Beaudry is a mature student with three children, ranging in ages from 21 to 24. She has already obtained her diploma in the Native child and family program from Cambrian College. Shawna Boyer, another Laurentian student, helped Beaudry organize the event.



Dinner with Margaret

On November 13, 2008, Margaret Atwood plans to attend a dinner in her honour at Laurentian University. Tickets for the dinner will be available at various locations in Greater Sudbury, and on campus.

QUICK STATS

- The Margaret Atwood Birthday Dinner was initiated in 2005 by professors Susan Glover and Shannon Hengen in the department of English. Professor Hengen is a past president of the Margaret Atwood Society, and she and Laurentian librarian Ashley Thomson published a bibliography of her work, *Margaret Atwood: A Reference Guide, 1988-2005*.
- Menu items are chosen from Atwood's novels.
- In 2007, the dinner featured a reading from Margaret Atwood's musical play *The Penelopiad*. Funds were directed to the Geneva House for women.
- This year, Sheila Cote-Meek, director of academic Native affairs, has joined the organizing committee, and funds will be directed to the planned Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre.

Another \$5 million for Vale Inco Living with Lakes Centre

By *Laura E. Young*

SITE PREPARATION WORK could begin soon on the Vale Inco Living with Lakes Centre after an infusion of \$5 million on February 29, 2008.

The funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities should give the Board of Governors confidence to release tenders, hopes John Gunn, Laurentian's Canada Research Chair in stressed aquatic systems.

The Vale Inco Living with Lakes Centre has raised half of its projected \$23-million cost. The project sits at \$12.5 million after the \$5-million Ontario government funding boost. In

total, the province has invested \$7 million in the Centre.

The Ontario government's contribution will "kick start the opportunity to build the structure," said Rick Bartolucci, Sudbury MPP and the Ontario Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

The centre was on hold as FedNor and Vale Inco completed detailed design work, which would help determine whether it came close to projected costs.

Gunn, who has been emphasizing the research capacity of the centre, was surprised where the funding had come from (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities). "I was surprised with such

a big amount, but I'm not going to give it back," he joked.

The centre has promoted its research capacity, while this funding will help with classrooms and instruction. Already, about eight Ontario universities have registered for courses through the Cooperative Freshwater Lakes Ecology Unit, which will be housed in the centre.

More courses will be available when the centre is built; they will be accessible to the rest of the world over the Internet, Gunn said.

The project should take about 18 months to complete.

Track changes

By *Laura E. Young*

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR upgrades to the Laurentian University Community Track raced ahead on May 21 when Laurentian announced an investment of \$500,000 and the Ontario government gave \$865,000.

Dick Moss, head coach of Laurentian's women's running team, as well as the Track North Athletic Club, feared that if the track ever closed, it would "devastate the sport."

But now, with the upgrades to the Olympic Gold Pool, the indoor track at the Student Recreation Centre, plus upgraded hiking trails on campus, Laurentian is "going to be a real fitness and running centre for all of northern Ontario. It's exciting all the things going on," says Moss.

The Laurentian University Community Track had been on its last legs. Withered, cracked, and heaving, the outdoor track hardly looked like the world-class facility that once was the proud site of the 1988 World Junior Athletics championship.

By next year, however, the all-season track will look even better than it did during those glory days.

The other partners in the renova-



tions include the City of Greater Sudbury, which has invested \$600,000, and all four school boards, investing a total of \$230,000.

Hailing the partnerships and community effort, Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth said Laurentian is a gathering point in the community. "Sudbury residents of all ages come to our campus and benefit from all we have to offer," she said.

Every spring, thousands of school-children come to Laurentian for track meets.

Communities need gathering places, said Jean Hanson, director of the Rainbow District School Board.

"But most importantly, we come here for our children to build their health, to build their fitness levels, and to compete on a world-class track. It really is about the kids that are out there today having

a safe, rejuvenated track."

The price tag for phase one of the two-phase project is \$2.2 million, which has been contributed by Laurentian University, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the City of Greater Sudbury, and the four local school boards. The first phase involves repairing the track, and improving the inner field, says Chris Gore, manager of community partnerships in Sudbury. Phase two, which is expected to cost \$2 million, will include a variety of other improvements to the site, Gore says. The City of Greater Sudbury will coordinate a fundraising campaign for the second phase.

Soon, the track may serve the community in a big way. The city submitted a bid to hold the 2010 Ontario Summer Games and is bidding to hold the Canadian Francophone Games in 2011.

COVER

HOME *at last*

BY COLLEEN KLEVEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARY-CATHERINE TAYLOR



Last year, *Laurentian Magazine* reported on two dedicated Laurentian alumnae who had just opened the first nurse practitioner clinic in Canada – right in the centre of Sudbury. Today, as many as 25 more clinics of this kind are planned, with Premier Dalton McGuinty earmarking \$38 million in funding in the last Ontario budget. Herein, we trace the career path of Laurentian alumna and nurse practitioner Mary McGuire, who works at this first clinic and who, once again, proudly calls northern Ontario home.

Ten years ago, Marilyn Butcher (BScN 1996) and Roberta Heale (BScN 1999) began a letter writing campaign to lobby the government to fund innovative health-care initiatives. They had no idea how grateful another Laurentian alumna would eventually be, or, how their efforts would change her career path.

Mary McGuire (BScN 2005) earned her RN diploma from Sault College in 1998. After working part-time for two years, she moved to Berkeley, California, for full-time employment. She returned to Canada in 2002 to work at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Sudbury Regional Hospital – but again, she found only part-time employment. From 2002–2005, she completed her BScN degree and earned her certification as a primary health-care nurse practitioner at Laurentian University.

Armed with credentials, experience, and education, she sought full-time work in her field, but the situation in Canada remained bleak. Nurse practitioners could not find employment; there were seven unemployed nurse practitioners in Greater Sudbury alone. McGuire went back to the United States a second time for a full-time contract position in Washington, D.C.

“It was a bit of a hassle getting the visa the first time, and it was tough for me to leave my parents. I didn’t want to. I love Canada.”

Considering the lucrative signing deal, switching ‘teams’ was the obvious choice. “I got a \$5,000 sign-on bonus for a three-month contract. When you finish school, you’ve got lots of debt and that kind of incentive looks pretty inviting. I was making \$20 an hour here [in Canada]. The job I applied for in the United States paid \$30 an hour. Plus, I worked a 24-hour week and qualified for benefits. Even more than the money, it was the full benefits.”

Although she truly wanted to live and work in Canada, and in particular, in northern Ontario, McGuire couldn’t see a way to make that happen. It wasn’t until she received an email from Marilyn Butcher that her prospects began to brighten.

By then, a decade of lobbying had finally paid off. Ontario Health Minister George Smitherman had announced funding for a nurse practitioner clinic, and Butcher was in charge of setting it up. Recognizing the time was right to reach out to nurse practitioners who had moved away, she began emailing McGuire to tell her “it was time to come home.”

“I kept Mary informed of our plans,” Butcher recalls. “Mary had never been given an opportunity to work here as a nurse practitioner. I was doing a locum (providing temporary replacement services) at the Chapleau Medical Centre. I knew that Mary wanted to work here in the clinic, so I was able to convince her to come up to Chapleau with me and see patients.”

McGuire was thrilled at the invitation. Her contract in Washington had just ended, so instead of taking a short-term position in Florida, McGuire accepted the locum offer. “Marilyn offered to be a mentor, to go with me to Chapleau for the first time, [with the plan that] I would step in to fill the gap. Not too many nurse practitioners get to start out with a mentor to show them the ropes. I couldn’t pass it up.”

When the Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinics began taking patients at the Riverside Medical Centre location in August 2007, McGuire was there.

“If it wasn’t for Marilyn’s persistence, I wouldn’t be here. I’ve been a nurse since 1998 and it’s the first time I’ve been employed in Canada and had benefits.”

Repatriation of experienced health-care providers to northern Ontario is not limited to nurse practitioners. The Sudbury Regional Hospital is actively searching for nurses in all disciplines who have left the area.

Recruiting staff have attended association career fairs, including the May 2008 symposium for the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. As well, advertisements have run in *The Standard*, a College of Nurses of Ontario publication. The Sudbury Regional Hospital has also begun placing ads in local post-secondary alumni magazines (including *Laurentian Magazine*). [CONTINUED ON PAGE 21]

“I feel like I am exactly where I have always wanted to be – in my career and life.”



Mary McGuire and fiancé, Dave Geroux

MORE THAN *words*

Alumnus Stéphane Gauthier (BA Hons. 1992) has long been a leading advocate of francophone culture in northern Ontario. In March 2008, he became the new executive and cultural manager of Sudbury's French community centre, *Carrefour francophone*. And this summer, he will realize another dream – a French bookstore in Sudbury, the physical embodiment of French literature and music in the North.

By Suzanne Charron-Violette

Music sparked Stéphane Gauthier's devotion to the French language and culture. It all began when he was a child and his mother brought some records home. The sounds of the 1970s Montreal rock band Beau Dommage, and Joe Dassin, a singer of French classics, enchanted him. Later, he enjoyed listening to René Lecavalier's commentary on French CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada*. Growing up in Elliot Lake, Ontario – a predominantly English-speaking town – Gauthier was delighted to hear French spoken outside his immediate circle.

Since these formative years, Gauthier has lived and breathed all things francophone; his belief in the culture as a living entity,

coupled with his activism in northern Ontario, has grown from an interest to a healthy obsession. He gives his French heritage much thought and consideration, and is always looking for new ways to incorporate his language and culture.

In Sudbury, Gauthier has long been a strong advocate of francophone culture. Now, he is the new executive and cultural manager of Sudbury's French community centre, *Carrefour francophone*. Earlier, he revived *La Slague*, a concert production house originally created in the 1960s by a local French youth centre. Over the past two years, more than 9,000 people have attended 30 concerts presented through *La Slague*.



Stéphane Gauthier, head of *Carrefour francophone de Sudbury* in conversation with François Paré, one of his favourite authors, at the *Salon du livre du Grand Sudbury 2008*.



WHILE AT LAURENTIAN in the late 1980s, Gauthier's involvement with the student newspaper, *L'Original déchaîné*, fed his growing awareness of francophone issues. He was also deeply influenced by such people as French literature professor Fernand Dorais, who asked his students to take concrete action to improve their community. Gauthier took his words to heart. He campaigned for a francophone college and university in Sudbury.

During this time, a dream began to form. Gauthier envisioned a French bookstore that would embody the culture and serve francophones in Greater Sudbury, and northern Ontario at large – an idea that came to him while representing Sudbury's *Prise de parole* publishing house at book seminars in Montreal.

After completing his MA in French literature at Sherbrooke in 1995, Gauthier pursued his dream with fervour. He conducted a market research study to determine whether there was a need for a francophone bookstore in Sudbury. The results looked positive. Through strategic research and networking, he gained expertise about the book industry. In all things, Gauthier believes “you have to continually strive to meet the complexity of your environment.”

But the French bookstore would have to wait a little while longer. In pursuing the one dream, many other dreams were realized along the way.

In 2000, while working for CBON-FM, French CBC's station in northern Ontario, Gauthier saw an opportunity to promote Franco-Ontarian authors and to ignite discourse about their work. He pitched an idea to CBON management: Why not create a province-wide reader's choice competition?

A few months later, with the support of CBON general manager Alain Dorion, Gauthier, along with Marie-Noël Shank and Guylaine Tousignant, established the very first *Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada*. Somewhat modelled after France's *Prix du Livre Inter*, a jury comprised of radio listeners would select the year's best book by a Franco-Ontarian author. Today, the competition has burst beyond Ontario and is held nationwide, with listeners selecting the best French-Canadian book of the year.

Promoting authors filled one gap, but there was still the issue of making French books more accessible, and promoting the work itself. In 2001, CBON assigned Gauthier and Tousignant to cover a French book fair in Hearst. Seeing the grand display of franco-

phone literature in one place struck a chord. They were sure an event of this kind would do well in Sudbury.

A start-up committee was struck for the *Salon du livre du Grand Sudbury*; the event was conceived as a bi-yearly fair that would alternate with the Hearst fair. Gauthier chaired the most recent *Salon du livre*, which was held this past May. The event was a great success, attracting more than 28,000 people.

Gauthier attributes his success to his strong social network. He says he surrounds himself with people who are full of drive. “I don't act alone and I'm constantly inspired by people who are crazier than I am; hardcore marathoner types ... and women who are strong in their fields.” (*Le Voyageur*, April 16, 2008)

“I DON'T ACT ALONE AND I'M CONSTANTLY INSPIRED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE CRAZIER THAN I AM...”

The community recognizes Gauthier's contributions and his commitment to francophone culture. He was recently appointed to the Greater Sudbury Development Corporations board of directors. In April 2008, Greater Sudbury's *Clubs Richelieu* gave him the *Horace-Viau* award in recognition of his steadfast commitment.

Though he keeps busy, whenever he has downtime, Stéphane Gauthier enjoys soccer, hockey, and reading, but his main priority is his family. He spends quality time with his wife, Chantal Le Coz (BA 1992), and says he loves hanging out with his sons, Loïc (8 years) and Mathias (18 months), even if they're just tinkering around the garage or heading out to the woods to pick mushrooms.

More than four years in the making, the French bookstore, structured as a cooperative, opened this summer. Located in downtown Sudbury, the *Librairie du Nouvel-Ontario/Grand ciel bleu* will feature French books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, and host cultural and literary activities. Laurentian professors Gratien Allaire (board president) and André Émond are regarded as the catalysts. Gauthier's dream will finally come to pass, likely leaving room for him to pursue many new ambitions. ■

NORTHERN MOSAIC

Laurentian University figures prominently in the efforts to attract, welcome, and retain immigrants to Sudbury, and northern Ontario at large. On campus, the university leads the way in cultural diversity, with international faculty, staff, students, and a growing number of alumni. But Laurentian is only one piece of the immigration puzzle, which prompts the question: How harmonized are efforts to recruit immigrants to northern Ontario?

By *Laura E. Young*

Aurelie Lacassange was moving into her new Sudbury home when a neighbour approached with a bouquet of flowers, welcoming Lacassange and her husband. The man at the door was none other than (the late) Robert Dickson, poet, translator, icon of French-Canadian literature, and Laurentian professor.

Lacassange was born in France and her husband, Francois Depélteau, is from Quebec. They had moved to Sudbury in 2004 for teaching jobs at Laurentian.

Her warm welcome – first from Dickson, and then many others as she began to settle in – foreshadowed her pleasant experience living in Sudbury: “Who would believe that coming from France I would consume more culture here? I go to theatre, and attend more cultural activities that I ever did in France. In Tours [France], everything is very class dependent. You don’t go to the theatre unless you’re part of the elite. But here, there are no class issues in terms of access to culture. You feel so welcome.”

Contrast that scene to the experience of an Australian family recruited to Sudbury around the same time: Brought over by a Sudbury mining company, their plane touched down in the midst of a blizzard in late December. With their children in tow, including a newborn, the family was stranded. No one from the company was there to greet them at the airport, or had even reserved a rental car. Worse, no one had thought to mention the cold Canadian weather to the comically underdressed Aussies.

As they exited the plane, the kindness of strangers prevailed: Blankets and milk were brought for the baby; a coat was draped over the shivering father; and they were given directions into the city.

THE ONTARIO CHAMBER of Commerce reports that over half the skilled labour force is expected to retire in the next 15 years. Ontario could be short one-million skilled workers by 2020. There is no time to waste in attracting – and retaining – immigrants to the North.

Still, how welcoming is northern Ontario to newcomers? Prevailing opinions paint an inconsistent picture at best.

Much like other Canadian regions, the issue of immigration has moved to the forefront in the North. Sudbury is currently holding forums and forming settlement strategies to recruit highly skilled, foreign-trained professionals. Local agencies and individu-

als working on the issue of immigration are in agreement: Northern Ontario’s approach should be targeted, focused, and highly responsive to the distinct needs of newcomers.

Is immigration the only solution to the workforce shortage? In the North, immigration measures need to be viewed against the backdrop of the large Native population, and the growing numbers of Native youth. Groups working to attract foreign workers are aware of an untapped potential workforce, with today’s Native population in Sudbury sitting at 10,000. It remains to be seen how aboriginal leaders, universities, colleges, and industry will work together to ensure access to resources and education. (For the purpose of this article, immigration shall be seen as part of a larger strategy to meet Ontario’s future labour needs.)

WITH THEIR CHILDREN IN TOW, INCLUDING A NEWBORN, THE FAMILY WAS STRANDED.

AS A COUNTRY largely made up of immigrants, Canada should have already laid the groundwork. The nation is looking abroad, and broadcasting its need for skilled immigrants in fields ranging from health care to geology to skilled trades to computer technology.

In Sudbury, and northern Ontario at large, Laurentian University figures prominently in the efforts to attract, welcome, and retain immigrants. The university reflects a bounty of cultural diversity, with international faculty, staff, students, and a growing number of alumni. But the community needs to work together on this issue – and fast.

“If we want to be a welcoming community, we need to take a step toward professionalization,” says Lacassange. “Sooner or later we’re going to have problems. We may miss out on opportunities because right now, there is a lot of money available. The government is putting so much money [into immigration] because they’re frantic. If northern Ontario doesn’t know what to do with this money, we may miss out.”

Lacassange is currently working with faculty at Laurentian to secure some of that funding. The university is one of four research hubs in a consortium of 12 Ontario universities (through the



Audace Samuel credits her parents' influence for her drive to get a university education.

Samuel is the latest student refugee Laurentian University has welcomed through its commitment to the World University Service of Canada (WUSC). Once every two years, Laurentian sponsors a student refugee, an initiative involving three main partners on campus, the students (and their committee), the residences, and Aramark food services. The university covers the tuition.

Education for refugees in Africa is difficult, she says. Her father is a teacher and her mother is a nurse, but there wasn't enough money for post-secondary education. So, they found another way. "I can't imagine myself just sitting around. I just think life wouldn't be the same. We thank God we went through WUSC," says Samuel.

Samuel was born in Rwanda, but was living as a refugee in Malawi when she was accepted through WUSC. She arrived at Laurentian in 2007. Her parents remain in Malawi with her younger siblings, and her older sister attends Nipissing University in North Bay.

Coming to Canada "was a big achievement in my life," she beams, joyously laughing. "I was happier than

I can say. We weren't allowed to do anything. Even if we stayed in Malawi, it's a peaceful country, but you're told: 'You're a refugee, you're a refugee.'"

She has adjusted to life at Laurentian by focusing on the new adventure and her dream of becoming a teacher. International students shouldn't compare home with their new experience, because there is a big difference, she says. "When you try to do what you did back home, you'll just confuse yourself."

WUSC works like a buddy system, says Bora Ugregel (MBA 2004), manager of international mobility programs. He has been with the student refugee program for four years. Laurentian pays close attention the welfare of the refugee students, including how they adjust to Laurentian and Sudbury.

It's a critical time in the student's life. "A personal relationship can really help. It has to be on a personal level ... that's what we try to do here," he says.

Samuel believes the atmosphere at Laurentian has helped her adjust. "I miss my family a lot, but everyone here has been part of my family."

THE ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORTS THAT OVER HALF THE SKILLED LABOUR FORCE IS EXPECTED TO RETIRE IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS. ONTARIO COULD BE SHORT ONE-MILLION SKILLED WORKERS BY 2020.

Community-University Research Alliance) studying immigration issues specific to the second-tier cities and rural areas – areas where fewer immigrants move. Lacassange is collaborating with Roger Pitbaldo of Laurentian's Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research.

Michael Atkins, a leader in business development in the North and president of Laurentian Media Group, believes Sudbury must remember that its history was built on immigration, although today's wave of newcomers bring different skills, he says. In the past, Sudbury needed workers with a "strong back to work in mining and forestry." Now, new qualifications are sought, such as skilled trades and academic talent.

"Our future is directly tied to the quality of the talent we can attract," he predicts.

Sudbury's labour force has diversified significantly over the last 30 years. Service activities now employ 80 per cent of the labour force. Health care, education, and public administration all play an important role, reflecting the city's position as a regional service centre for northern Ontario (based on the 2001 national census, referenced on the City of Greater Sudbury's website).

Back in 1971, Inco and Falconbridge dominated the local economy, employing over 25,000 people. Though these numbers have changed, mining remains the leading industry, yet different skill sets are now required.

The situation in mining alone is "extreme," admits Jane Djivre, business development officer for Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation (MIRARCO), a Laurentian University research hub. The global mining industry requires an estimated 81,000 workers. MIRARCO is targeting the mineral industry's workforce needs, and collaborating with the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce on this issue. Itself international in makeup, MIRARCO employs and recruits students and staff from Kenya, Switzerland, New Zealand, Bangladesh, among other countries.

MANY AGENCIES, SIMILAR AGENDAS

In the meantime, Sudbury is applying for funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Ontario counterpart, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. There are many local agencies and groups working on the issue, however, "Sudbury needs to better coordinate existing services," says Jean-Mathieu Chenier (BA 2002), a business development officer with the city of Greater Sudbury.

To attract skilled francophone workers, Chenier recently travelled to Belgium and France as part of an initiative called Destination Canada. This is just one of many initiatives.

"I don't think there's any intent to not cooperate. It's just

that these agencies have been used to doing things a certain way for such a long time that they may not know there's another agency providing a complimentary service," says Chenier.

To welcome newcomers, Sudbury has several settlement agencies, including the Sudbury Multicultural and Folk Arts Association, *Contact Interculturel francophone de Sudbury*, and English as a Second Language – Linc (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada); Laurentian University, Cambrian College, and College Boreal, with their growing numbers of international students, are also providing similar services. As well, the city of Sudbury's recently launched immigration portal exclusively targets newcomers.

BEYOND LIP SERVICE

Sharon Murdock, former NDP MPP, is the executive director of the Workforce Partnerships Board. As one of numerous partners trying to access Local Implementation Plans (LIP) funding, they await approval of their LIP application which, if successful, means the collective agencies will secure funding to coordinate all these settlement services – and address any gaps or duplications.

In the past, volunteers did a lot of the work welcoming newcomers; as a consequence, services in smaller cities, such as Sudbury, "developed piecemeal," says Murdock.

LIP council partners include the multicultural association, the City of Greater Sudbury, and the Workforce Partnership Board. The city's new immigration website will be enhanced once the LIP structure is in place, says Chantal Bruneau, of Professional Edge, representing the Global Experience@Work program.

"Part of the purpose for forming a Local Immigration Partnerships council is to develop a cohesive settlement strategy for our community," says Chenier.

Whatever the approach, it must promote Sudbury abroad, because "it's too late by the time newcomers arrive in Canada," says Murdock. Invariably, people from African nations, Bangladesh, and China tend to settle in Toronto, where their cultures are already thriving. Statistics show that Toronto receives about 100,000 immigrants per year. Statistics Canada figures from 2001-2006 show that Sudbury welcomed, on average, 132 immigrants per year.

START WITH STUDENTS

Sudbury needs to target students, landed immigrants in the GTA, potential immigrants abroad, and the high number of temporary foreign workers who are already living in Canada. "We say we're trying to attract 'newcomers.' The reality is there are already a lot here," says Chenier.

"Between Laurentian, Cambrian College, and Collège Boréal, we're already attracting hundreds of international students to

our community,” he says. In 2007-2008, Laurentian University’s international student population numbered about 400. Melissa Keeping, director of Laurentian International, says those numbers do not include about 40 students enrolled in the English for Academic Preparation program, which some are required to pass before entering their degree program. At Cambrian College, there were 52 foreign students in 2007-2008, originating from such countries as Brazil, Bermuda, Jamaica, Vietnam, and Yemen.

Attracting skilled workers is important, but we mustn’t forget the international students who are already here. Keeping believes there are employers out there “who are trying to attract labour forces, but don’t know how to do it.”

Attracting international students to Laurentian can sometimes be a hard sell. In conversations with international students, Keeping finds that Sudbury’s smaller size comes up as an issue, which may initially deter those who feel more comfortable in bigger cities. In many cases, changing that impression comes down to providing the right information. When people learn that Sudbury offers all of the same services and amenities of a big city, Keeping finds this becomes “a useful tool for attracting students.”

Lately, Laurentian International has been particularly successful in recruiting students from China and Morocco. Malaysia has become an interesting market, too, Keeping says. In the 1980s, a Malaysian scholarship program sent students to Canada to study. Many came to Laurentian and made enduring ties. This year, Laurentian International visited Malaysia and returned with 70 applications to study at Laurentian. Other promising recruiting markets include Trinidad and Kazakhstan.

Laurentian’s foreign applications are already up 50 per cent over the same period last year.

And yet, for Keeping, Canada’s system is contradictory. On the one hand, our policies stress that students must prove they will return to their respective homelands after they graduate. She has seen many applications rejected on this basis. And yet, when students do arrive in Canada, other policies encourage international students to stay, work in Canada, and even become Canadian citizens. “It’s very confusing for these students,” she says.

PLAYING CATCH UP

While northern Ontario plans and prepares, changes to Canada’s immigration policy have been coming hard and fast. On the federal level, the new Canadian Experience Class (CEC) will allow, for the first time, certain skilled temporary foreign workers and international students to apply for permanent resident status without having to leave Canada.

The Ontario government recently introduced the Pilot Provincial Nominee Program, which is designed to match skilled immigrants with industry shortages. The program targets 20 occupations to recruit skilled immigrants, including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, lab and radiation technologists, millwrights, heavy duty equipment mechanics, bricklayers and drywallers – and university and college professors.

Perhaps good news, but according to Michael Atkins, the North is still way behind, and has not tapped into this new



Fidelis Suorinen learned that Canada doesn’t easily recognize foreign degrees and credentials. But he stood his ground.

After earning his M.Sc. at the British University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Suorinen returned to his homeland of Ghana. When he applied to take a PhD at Waterloo, he was told he would first have to enrol in another master’s program and, based on his progress, he might transfer into the PhD program.

“And I said, ‘No, I don’t accept that because I have a master’s from a recognized university,’” he confides from his office at MIRARCO, where he is a senior research engineer.

Suorinen sent his credentials and, “I got a personal apology. I was told, ‘I didn’t know you had such a distinguished record.’” For Suorinen, each case should be assessed on an individual basis, “instead of just blankly saying ‘no’ because you are from here or you studied there.”

On the way to Waterloo, he saw a warmer side of Canada. By coincidence, his seatmates on his flight were from Waterloo. They drove him to the university and took him straight to the welcome desk.

“It was great. I felt I was in a country where I was in good hands.”

Now at MIRARCO, where he was placed to complete his PhD, Suorinen laughs and confides that he had always planned to return to Ghana. Peter Kaiser, the head of MIRARCO, asked him to stay and found him work.

“Peter Kaiser was like the head of the family to everybody. I started to enjoy the place, the people are nice; professionally, it’s an excellent place to be if you’re involved in mining. Put the things together, good working environment, good people within the community – nothing could be better.”

The Bridge of Nations leads toward the heart of downtown Sudbury.



ANYONE WORKING ON IMMIGRATION IN SUDBURY SEEMS TO BE ON HYPERDRIVE. HERE'S A SLICE OF THE WORK:

- On September 18, Sudbury is scheduled to hold a workplace immigration forum involving Laurentian and the city's two other post-secondary institutions, as well as Greater Sudbury, *Contact interculturel*, and many other players. They intend to draft an immigration action plan.
- Sudbury now has an immigration partnership council with 12 representative groups and is working on a broad strategic plan to welcome immigrants.
- Diversity Thrives Here has a broad multicultural mandate that includes immigration. This summer, the committee will publish the late Laurentian instructor Patricia Aitken's book on diversity.
- Sudbury Regional Police force has struck a committee to deal with racial and multicultural issues.
- In March, *Contact interculturel* hosted an immigration workshop designed to foster networks in the city.
- Amelie Hien of Laurentian's *Consortium national de formation en santé* has received funding to research how language barriers affect immigrant francophones when they need to access health care services in Sudbury. The consortium is also recruiting French healthcare workers.
- *Contact interculturel* is creating an African Soccer Club.
- Sudbury created an immigration portal at the website: www.mysudbury.ca

immigration, much like the rest of semi-rural Canada. "Immigrants gravitate to big cities, which are more tolerant, and have more diversity."

Most immigrants who come to this region are "likely beyond the language systems we have in place," according to Chantal Bru-neau, representing the Global Experience@Work program. There is a need for job-specific, technical language training that isn't being met at this time, she says, adding that "MIRARCO is taking the lead on identifying and implementing technical language training for the mining industry."

MIRARCO's Jane Djivre envisions a framework whereby skilled workers would be fast-tracked in the mineral industry. By September, the goal of the Global Experience@Work program is to draft a framework and begin making connections with foreign workers.

COME AND STAY AWHILE

Attracting newcomers is one thing. But retaining people is quite another. In some industries, the process to secure work permits

Last year, when MIRARCO interviewed Benoît Valley, a structural geologist in Switzerland, the company also actively recruited his wife, Myriam, an accomplished flutist.

Benoît is now an engineering geologist with the Geomechanics Research Center of MIRARCO.

Early on, it was important to MIRARCO to welcome Myriam; she was given a full tour of Sudbury. For Jane Djivre, the business development officer at MIRARCO, welcoming new employees has to do with human connection and making sure people don't feel isolated.

They arranged for Myriam to meet with the Sudbury Symphony's concert master. After learning the couple loved hiking, a trip to Killarney Provincial Park was organized for the pair (the Swiss couple saw several bears during the trip, including a mother and cub – from a safe distance).

But more thrilling was the fact Myriam Valley knew that Sudbury would provide an opportunity to play in an orchestra. In Switzerland, there weren't as many opportunities available.

"It was exciting for me to see what could happen here," she said, between rehearsals for a recital that helped raise funds for a new piano at Laurentian.

She also has private students and plays with a flute ensemble.

"We both wish to spend some years in another country for the experience. For me, it's the language. I love languages and I would like to progress in English."



puts off businesses from hiring foreign workers. "That's what we're hearing from a lot of communities; we're trying to work with the federal government to make the rules easier," says Chenier.

Youssou Gningue, a Laurentian mathematics professor who came from Senegal (via Quebec), has presented on whether the North is sufficiently "welcoming" to immigrants. The majority of international students are forced to leave the North in search of a job after earning their degree, he says.

It saddens Gningue to see a city laying the foundation, and then letting its youth move away. It's easier for them to live in larger centres such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, he says, where there are more diverse jobs and their respective communities are stronger.

Welcoming newcomers is about creating a sense of community. For Gningue, Laurentian can pride itself in its feeling of cultural openness. Aurelie Lacassange concurs: "I always tend to think that universities are places of progress ... at Laurentian, you can see this diversity."

Scott Fisher (BA 1996), chair of Sudbury's Diversity Thrives Here committee, believes the City of Greater Sudbury has made a good start in showing its commitment to cultural diversity. Just last year, 72 flags were raised on the Paris Street Bridge (renamed the Bridge of Nations), broadcasting the mix of cultures present in the city. The flags represent the city's cultural diversity to date, including Poland, Ireland, Croatia, and many, many more.

Lacassange is among many newcomers who can look up and see the flag of her country of origin. At one time, she had little interest in North American culture. While some aspects of the culture continue to baffle her, Lacassange enjoys living in Sudbury. The city has changed so much since her arrival, she says. "All these cafés and restaurants. The cheese shop, the alternative video store. It's amazing to have that. Things are really moving."

She now calls Sudbury home. It's "a family, kid-friendly city – and it's bilingual. For me, it's the best chance I can offer to my girls. They are completely, fully bilingual, and I'm very proud of that." ■



Greg Baiden's prototype of a transceiver for a telerobotic submarine measures 60 centimetres in diameter.

We check in with LU engineering professor Greg Baiden, who is co-founder of Penguin Automated Systems Inc. The company recently won the Innovation Award 2008 for its prototype of a telerobotic submarine.

RoboProf



Greg Baiden grew up around Legos and remote-controlled toys. Those early years in training have served him well. Today, the professor

at Laurentian's school of engineering and Canada Research Chair in Robotics and Mine Automation is building a wireless underwater communications system for use in construction, exploration, maintenance, military activities, mining, security, and voice/video/data transmission.

Baiden's interest in robotics has won him numerous awards and distinctions, and he has been hailed as one of the best engineers in Canada. He started his career as a research engineer at Inco Limited, where he invented a surface-level communications system to control heavy machinery operating underground – this undertaking was part of his PhD

research project through Queen's University. "So, as a result, I ended up getting quite a substantial job [as manager of mines research worldwide] at Inco," says the Montreal-born and Toronto-raised engineer. But when the project ended, he left the company and joined Laurentian.

In April 2008, Baiden travelled to Chile to present a paper on telerobotics for block caving operations at a congress on automining. He was joined by Yassiah Bissiri, a research specialist at Penguin Automated Systems Inc., a company specializing in research, development, and prototyping of advanced technologies (and, of which Baden is one of the founders as well as chief technology officer and chairman).

The idea behind Baiden's wireless underwater communication system came from the National Science Foundation and NASA, with both investigating special technology: orbiting solar panels that could operate in space and controlled by robots. Baiden was approached to lead the project because of his expertise in telerobotic surface-to-

underground operations. His challenge is to achieve the same results in a weightless environment, and for now, simulations are conducted underwater.

Sudbury's Long Lake was chosen as the site for conducting simulations. Why Long Lake? Chuckling, Baiden says, "I have a house there and it was easy to get access to a dock."

He is designing non-tethered robots that are controlled from the surface and are mobile under water. "The only way you're going to be able to do that is with light, because radio waves don't work under water," Baiden explains. "And if you're going to run the robot, you've got to have eyes." So, Baiden's group (working out of a boat) tests video transmission from a surface system by controlling a 300-pound telerobotic submarine with joysticks and pedals. The telesub carries an omni-directional spherical system, which is an optical transceiver that transmits and receives light signals from the boat's computer up to 130 feet below. The next phase will be to test robots moving around buoys.

And what does the future hold for such advanced technology? Baiden is dreaming of a NASA field centre in Sudbury.

By Suzanne Charron-Violette

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSOR UPDATES

LAURENTIAN PROFESSOR RECEIVES THE *TRILLE DE PLATINE* AWARD

Gratien Allaire, professor in Laurentian University's department of history, has received the *Trille de Platine* from the *Fédération des aînés et retraités francophones de l'Ontario (FAFO)*. This prize is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated social, political, and economic support toward the well-being of senior citizens and retirees, and society in general.

FELLOWSHIP FOR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Laurentian University outgoing president Dr. Judith Woodsworth, was invested into the Fellowship of Georgian College during the Laurentian convocation ceremony held in Barrie on May 30. Woodsworth demonstrated an ongoing commitment to making university education accessible to a greater number of citizens in northern Ontario, and beyond. The university's partnership with Georgian College expands on this commitment by offering advanced studies in a region that doesn't have a university of its own.

The Fellowship of Georgian College, established 30 years ago, has been awarded to 12 exceptional individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to education in Ontario.

VET NAMED TO BOARD OF AMERICAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Rod Jouppi, veterinarian and director of animal care at Laurentian, and assistant professor in human sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, was elected to the board of directors of the American Animal Hospital Association for a two-year term.

The American Animal Hospital Association is an international organization of 6,000 veterinary care teams, comprised of more

than 40,000 veterinary professionals, who are committed to excellence in companion animal care.

Jouppi is the owner and operator of the Walden Animal Hospital. He is also the founder and president of the Wild at Heart Wildlife Centre, dedicated to the treatment and rehabilitation of thousands of wild animals indigenous to northern Ontario.

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARDED

Ozhand Ganjavi, director of the school of commerce and administration of Laurentian University, has received a Civic Award for Volunteerism from the City of Greater Sudbury. The award was presented on April 24, 2008.

Ganjavi came to Sudbury in 1979, from London, Ontario, to join the Laurentian University faculty. He has since contributed to the community of Greater Sudbury as an educator at the university, a management consultant for several local organizations, and a volunteer for social and humanitarian causes.

Among Ganjavi's most significant contributions to the city is his involvement with the Muslim community. For nearly 30 years, he has made efforts to bring this community together and build relationships with other agencies and community groups. Ganjavi is very active on the charitable front and often lends a hand to fundraising initiatives for humanitarian causes. He is the president and spokesperson of the Islamic Association of Sudbury, and a member of the Multicultural and Folk Arts Association, the India-Canada Association, and the Sudbury Interfaith Dialogue. He also does interpretation for the Sudbury court when English-Persian interpreters are required.

The Civic Awards for Volunteerism of the City of Greater Sudbury were created in 2001 to recognize local citizens who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

NORM O'REILLY NAMED TO BEIJING 2008 OLYMPIC MISSION TEAM



Norm O'Reilly, director of the school of sports administration and director of the Institute for Sport Marketing, has been named to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Mission Team. He

will work with the Canadian Olympic Committee as administrative officer at Canada Olympic House.

O'Reilly is an accomplished researcher and teacher, and an involved sport industry contributor. He has published two books, more than 25 refereed articles in management journals, and presented his work at over 50 conferences around the world. His areas of interest include sport management, sponsorship, technology management, management education, and social marketing. He was also named to a similar position for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

The 125 members of the mission team are comprised of non-accredited and accredited personnel. Members of the mission team will provide support in areas including healthcare and sport science, village operations, transportation, communications, performance centre, outfitting, and Canada Olympic House.

DOROTHY WRIGHT LEAVES NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

On June 1, 2008, chief administrative officer Dorothy Wright left the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), after five years of service. She was a pillar of NOSM and contributed significantly in founding the first medical school in Canada to open in over 30 years.

FOUR REMARKABLE WOMEN

In March, Laurentian's Presidential Advisory Committee on the Status of Women celebrated the achievements of four outstanding women working at the university or in the Greater Sudbury community.

Sylvia Carscadden, an alumna of Laurentian University, is the founder and director of the Kampana Handbells choir. She was recognized as a champion of women's rights for her work with the YWCA and Geneva House. Kristin Hall, a graduate student in history, was recognized for her work in women's history and popular culture.

Freda Recollet, administrative secretary in Native human services, was honoured for her work with First Nations students and faculty, both at the university and in the community. Deborah Robertson, singer, performer of the honour song at many Laurentian University events, and cultural facilitator, was honoured for her community work embracing Native traditions and healing ways.

NEW DEAN FOR FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT

As of July 1, 2008, Peter Luk is the new dean of the faculty of management, succeeding Huguette Blanco, who had filled the deanship since the faculty was created in 2005. Previously, Luk was the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Business Management at Ryerson University, the largest undergraduate business school in Ontario.

FIRST ISSUE OF CULTURE AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE/CULTURE ET GOUVERNANCE LOCALE

Laurentian University's Centre for Local Government published its first issue of *Culture and Local Governance/Culture et gouvernance locale* (CLG), a bilingual peer-reviewed online academic journal.

The new journal facilitates exchanges among both new and experienced academics, as well as researchers and practitioners, and publishes original work on the relationship between culture and local governance. You can read the journal at:

www.clg-cgl.politics-and-society.ca



Deborah Robertson, (far left) Freda Recollet, Kristin Hall, and Sylvia Carscadden were honoured for their work at Laurentian and in Sudbury on International Women's Day.

GINETTE MICHEL RECEIVES TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



Professor of human kinetics, Ginette Michel, is the recipient of the 2007-2008 Teaching Excellence Award. She teaches in both English and French, primarily in the areas of health promotion, exercise science, health and well-being, and adaptive physical and health education.

RECIPIENTS OF LOUISE PICARD PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH GRANTS

The \$5,000 Louise Picard Public Health Research Grants are awarded to encourage research partnerships between the Sudbury and District Health Unit staff and Laurentian faculty.

Recognized in April during Research Week at Laurentian University, the 2008 recipients were: Susan James, LU, and Renée St-Onge, SDHU (*Exploring employer attitudes, knowledge and practices related to breastfeeding in the workplace in SDHU area*); Carol Kauppi, LU, and Vera Etches, SDHU (*Neighbourhood parents together*);

Mazen Saleh, LU, and Ed Gardner, SDHU (*Enzyme-based detection of E. coli and total coliforms in drinking and recreational water using fibre optics and fluorescence*); Derek Wilkinson, LU, Stephanie Lefebvre and Claire Warren, SDHU (*Understanding community perceptions of poverty and health inequity in the City of Greater Sudbury*).

TWO NEW GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

William Shaver and MASHA (Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association of Ontario) made a \$60,000 donation to Laurentian, which will be used to establish two scholarships to support research on occupational health and safety, in the mining industry.

The William Shaver Doctoral Scholarship in Occupational Health and Safety is valued at \$5,000 per year and is renewable for four years. Starting in fall 2008, it will be given annually to a full-time student in the PhD in rural and northern health program. The William Shaver Master's Scholarship in Occupational Health and Safety is also valued at \$5,000 per year and is renewable for two years. It will be given annually to a full-time student in the human kinetics or nursing program. For information or an application form, contact the school of graduate studies at: (705) 675-1151, ext. 3204.



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"WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN THINK OF TO RECRUIT NEW GRADS AND EXPERIENCED NURSES."

HOME [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9]

"We're trying to reach anyone who has left, so that we can get the word out", says Ann-Marie Mills, human resources advisor, nursing recruitment at Sudbury Regional Hospital. "If they've been gone for 10 years, they probably aren't aware that we are moving to one-site, and that the community now has teaching hospitals and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine."

"We have increased our full-time staffing arrangements. There is definitely more of an opportunity for people, especially in our critical care area. We're doing everything we can think of to recruit new grads and experienced nurses."

There is the ripple effect to consider, too. Recruitment campaigns undertaken in other fields have provided unexpected benefits, according to Mills. "We're finding a lot are coming back because of Vale Inco and Xstrata." When a whole family makes the move back, the spouse may get scooped up by local employers, including the health-care profession.

Another draw is government funding, which is the backbone for the repatriation of health-care professionals. In the last Ontario budget, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced a funding envelope of \$38 million to open 25 nurse practitioner clinics. During a recent visit to the Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinics, the premier announced a timeline to open the next three clinics.

This additional funding comes on the heels of the \$87 million the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has allocated for Ontario's Nursing Graduate Guarantee. The program, which gives new nurses on-the-job training opportunities upon graduation, was launched in 2007 and has been extended for another year.

Prior to the guarantee, 40 per cent of the registered nurses in Ontario found full-time work after graduating. Since February 2007, 89 per cent of new nursing graduates are working full-time.

While those statistics are remarkable, the work placement guarantee only lasts for a period of about seven months, and is meant to provide a stop-gap measure. (It is important to note that after searching job postings on the HealthForceOntario website in the northeast region of Ontario on April 16, 2008, there were 46 available positions for registered nurses. Of those postings, there were two full-time permanent positions available.)

Although the situation still doesn't seem ideal, McGuire feels it is improving.

"The funding in our health-care system is starting to make positions available. Compared to 10 years ago, things are definitely looking up. If nurses are interested in coming home, they should check on a regular basis, because the changes are happening."

Moving back to Canada has been a far easier transition for McGuire than her move to the United States. She is now living near her family and friends, and her fiancé, Dave Geroux. He was in northern Ontario while she was in the U.S.

"I feel like I am exactly where I have always wanted to be – in my career and life. If I had not come back to Canada, I would probably still be travelling around; not having my feet firmly planted in one spot and constantly searching for a place where I could feel that grounding. I wouldn't feel the peace that I feel now."



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FINDING THE GOOD IN "GOODBYE"

BY DAVID WHITE, BPHE 1983, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

CONGRATULATIONS to the new graduates from the class of 2008, and although Laurentian University is losing you as students, the Laurentian alumni family is proud to welcome more than 2,000 new members. I wish all of you many happy returns to our association through the Alumni@Laurentian Online community and

through your attendance at our many events.

As per our motto, "Students First - Alumni Forever," our association has raised a respectable amount of funds over the years and is pleased to distribute the funds to current Laurentian students, who are the future members of our alumni family.

Twenty-two bursaries and scholarships totaling nearly \$16,000 are awarded to deserving students each year. They were made possible through your generosity and participation in our many activities and programs. The newly established scholarship, the Alumni Graduate Scholarship, is valued at \$1,000, and will be awarded to a Laurentian

University student who is enrolled in a graduate studies program, and is a Laurentian University graduate or a dependant of a Laurentian graduate. Our association also provides funds to many on-campus clubs and student initiatives.

Furthermore, I thank everyone who took the time to fill out the Alumni Engagement Survey earlier this summer. The results of the survey are displayed on the alumni website at: www.lualumni.laurentian.ca.

On behalf of the LUAA and the Laurentian alumni chapters, I would like to bid farewell to Dr. Judith Woodsworth who is leaving the Laurentian family after six years at the helm. I wish Judith and her husband, Lindsay Chrysler, all the best in their future endeavours.

This is my last message as president of the LUAA, and I will be handing the reins to fellow board member Jacques Tremblay (B.Com. 1982). While I will miss presiding over such an excellent board, I am confident that Jacques will take to his new title wonderfully. It has been a pleasure to work with such a great group of volunteers.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and hope to see many of you at our numerous upcoming events.

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Working on your behalf

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Phone: (705) 675-4818

Fax: (705) 671-3825

alumni@laurentian.ca

www.lualumni.laurentian.ca

LUAA SECTION WRITER

Kimberly Nadon, B.Sc. 2007

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.



A NEW LOOK FOR THE ALUMNI REWARDS CARD

The Laurentian University alumni rewards card has a new look, and more perks! You can now use your alumni rewards card to save and earn money with Futura Rewards. Visit: www.FuturaRewards.ca to learn how you can start earning points, and contact the alumni relations office at (705) 675-4818 or alumni@laurentian.ca to obtain your free alumni rewards card.

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WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

If you would like to know more about the Laurentian University Alumni Association, any of the various Laurentian alumni chapters, or if you would like to get involved, please visit our website: www.lualumni.laurentian.ca or give us a call at (705) 675-4818. We're always looking for participants with fresh ideas.

CHAPTER NEWS

HOCKEY GAMES GALORE!

Alumni and friends gathered in large numbers to participate in hockey games hosted by alumni chapters across Ontario.

The Sudbury chapter invited Laurentian alumni and their families to come out for pizza, prizes, and a Wolves game on February 8.

1a/1b The LU pipe band wows the fans with their drum solo and Howler helps out with the prizes.

2a/2b Alumni and their families enjoyed free pizza in the VIP room before the game.

3 Laurentian alumni filled the stands of Ottawa's Scotiabank Place, home of the Sens.

4 The president of our Sudbury chapter enjoys a dinner with his family before the game.



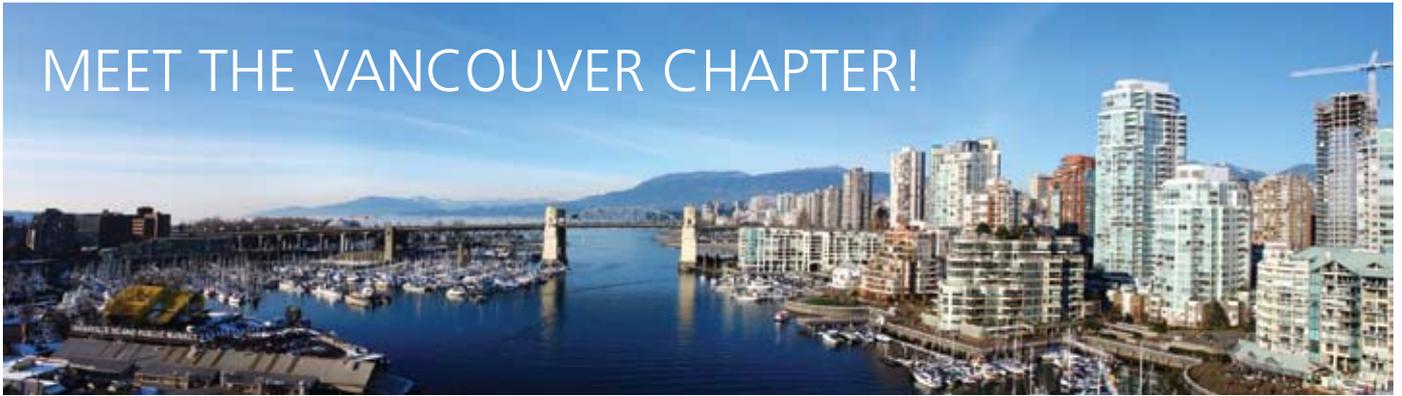
alumni around the world



On April 13, Jin Liang and Tamara McLoughlin represented Laurentian International and the Alumni Relations Office by hosting the first International Alumni Reception in Beijing. The event included dinner, karaoke, and prize draws, and with nearly 20 alumni and a new student in attendance, the event was a big success. The reception also established a foundation for the Beijing Alumni Chapter that we look forward to launching this fall.



MEET THE VANCOUVER CHAPTER!



Daveen Morrison

Our alumni chapters span not only across Ontario, but also all across Canada and into the United States. One of our most dedicated chapters is the Vancouver

chapter, presided by Daveen Morrison (BPHE 1976). The chapter recently celebrated its first anniversary, and Daveen Morrison tells us more about the chapter's successes.

Q: You recently celebrated your one-year anniversary as a Laurentian alumni chapter. Would you say that 2007 was a successful year for the Vancouver chapter?

DM: Absolutely, it is always exciting to develop a chapter and watch it grow. This

past year, we got to meet alumni from all decades and faculties. We planned a summer picnic BBQ and also attended a Vancouver Whitecaps game in October. Unfortunately, our December golf tournament had to be cancelled, but we hope to reschedule this event later in 2008.

Q: What events are being planned for this upcoming year?

DM: We held a one-year celebration at the Vancouver Club in March and our next planned event is a picnic at Jericho Beach on June 22. This event is held with other southern Ontario university alumni associations, and it attracts about 400 people. We want to have another gathering in the fall and will host an event to welcome the new LU president.

Q: How can alumni from the area get involved?

DM: We encourage any West Coast alumni to email the Sudbury alumni

office and the office will forward their contact information to me. Plus, our upcoming events are always listed on the alumni website.

Q: Has the physical distance between Vancouver and the alumni office in Sudbury been a problem for your chapter when it comes to organizing activities for alumni?

DM: No, the distance has not been a problem, but the one challenge we have is getting the word out that there is an alumni chapter on the West Coast. The office in Sudbury has been excellent in advertising our events, forwarding new alumni contact information, and supporting our chapter with administrative assistance.

If you wish to become involved in the Vancouver alumni chapter, contact us at: (705) 675-4818, or at VancouverChapter@Laurentian.ca.



Grad Fest: The LUAA hosted its first Grad Fest, which introduced students from the graduating class of 2008 to representatives from our affinity partners and Laurentian's own graduate studies department. With free pizza and more than \$1,500 in prizes, this event was a great way to introduce our future alumni to all the benefits and opportunities that come to them as graduates of Laurentian University.

Etiquette Dinner: Earlier in the year, the LSA's second-annual etiquette dinner introduced students to proper dining etiquette, in preparation for business dining opportunities.

Presidents' Ball 2008

On March 1, 2008, at Sudbury's Bryston's on the Park, alumni and friends came together for a formal evening of dining, music, and dancing. Proceeds were directed to the Sudbury Alumni Chapter Bursary.

The Presidents' Ball was hosted by Laurentian University president Dr. Judith Woodsworth, Laurentian University Alumni Association president David White, and Sudbury Alumni Chapter president Dean Jacklin.



The Presidents' Ball 2008 was well attended.



Dean Jacklin, Judith Woodsworth, and David White

IN MEMORIAM

A. LES MCDONALD, LUAA'S FIRST PRESIDENT, LEAVES CANADIAN AIR CLEANER

A. Les McDonald (BA 1968) was working with stone when he heard about the exciting opportunities for people with a university degree. So in his late 30s, McDonald enrolled at Laurentian as a mature student and finished his arts degree in 1968 before going to the University of Toronto for a certificate in public health in 1969.

A. Les McDonald passed away this last December at 79 years of age. He was a

renowned health educator, establishing Canada's national influenza vaccination campaign and a national anti-smoking educational campaign. In 1990, he was honoured by the World Health Organization for his non-smoking campaign.

"He never really forgot the opportunities Laurentian gave him," recalls Robert Wilson, a Laurentian librarian who met McDonald in the 1960s when they were both undergraduates. "He had an incredible loyalty to this university. He realized it gave him a boost in life."

McDonald was Laurentian's first alumni president in 1975. He served a four-year term. He was instrumental in purchasing the magnificent chair the university president sits on during convocation ceremonies. A regular chair for the university president wasn't suitable for McDonald, according to Wilson. "I always

think of Les when I go to convocation and see that chair."

He also served on the Board of Governors from 1978 to 1987 and was a Sudbury city councillor in 1956 and again in 1964 to 1965.

McDonald leaves a legacy of helping other mature students pursue a degree at Laurentian. He also bequeathed to Laurentian his prized collection of signed prints and photographs of every Canadian prime minister since Confederation.

Wilson thinks McDonald is a perfect example of the positive things that can happen when people enrol in continuing education.

"I think the university should take a moment and remember Les," he adds.

IN THE NEWS

**LEILA ANGRAND**

At the 40th annual House of Kin Sports Celebrity Dinner in June, former Laurentian University cross-country runner Leila Angrand (BA 2007) was named the Amateur Female Athlete of the Year.

She won the award in 2007 and says she was caught completely by surprise this year. Angrand has won numerous awards in her university career, but the House of Kin award means a lot to her because it comes from the people in her hometown, she says.

RICHARD DEMEULLES

Richard DeMeulles lives in Sudbury, but was raised in a large, Franco-Celtic household in Timmins. He has been publishing stories in Canadian literary magazines such as *Descant*, *On Spec*, and *Cross Canada Writers' Magazine* for the past 25 years. In 1988, he was awarded second place in the *Cross Canada Writers' Magazine's* writing contest.

DeMeulles has published a new title with Your Scrivener Press (YSP), which is adding "something significant to the Canadian literary scene – namely a new region," says Laurence Steven, Laurentian's long-time English professor and founder of YSP. *Ramasseur* is described as a "magically realistic novel in the form of a story-sequence, with highly readable tales that draw readers into a larger puzzle through gripping tales of beasts, prophets, and saints."

MIKE GRANDMAISON

Canadian photographer Mike Grandmaison (B.Sc. 1977) was awarded second prize in the Northern Lights 2007 Awards Canada competition for Excellence in Travel Journalism. His photography was showcased in the May 2007 Travel issue of *Canadian Geographic Magazine*. The award is sponsored by the Canadian Tourism Commission. (His work was also featured on the cover of the winter 2008 issue of the Laurentian University Magazine.)

TAMMY JUTILA

Tammy Jutila (nee Loiselle) (B.Sc. 1994) won the Leadership in Sport Award from the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations in March 2008. Jutila, who gave birth to her second child in April, is a volleyball coach and English teacher at Marymount Academy in Sudbury.

TRICIA LAROSE

Tricia Larose is one of nine Canadians selected to travel to "space" this summer. A Laurentian University graduate, Larose is wrapping up a postgraduate diploma in infectious diseases through distance education at the University of London, England. She is attending the International Space University's summer session program in Barcelona, Spain. "It will be a pretty intense environment among intelligent, young scientists who are trying to distinguish themselves from the pack," she said.

Larose also conducts research at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, which involves improving the delivery of health care to rural and aboriginal communities in northern Ontario. For the last two years, she has also taught life sciences to midwifery students at Laurentian.

She is the recipient of a \$17,000 scholarship from the International Space University. "Right now, I'm on the path to focus on space technology as it applies to medicine," said Larose.

The International Space University provides graduate-level training to the future leaders of the global space community within an international and intercultural environment. Graduates have gone on to work for the Canadian Space Agency, NASA, and the European Space Agency.

DAVID S. PANKRATZ

On February 20, 2008, the Honourable Monte Solberg, minister of human resources and social development, announced the appointment of David S. Pankratz (MBA 2007) to the National Council of Welfare. Pankratz is an accountant from Winnipeg with a significant interest in global issues affecting quality of life. He is currently the

campus quiz

Congratulations to Lynda Rubletz who won our last campus quiz contest. She will receive some Laurentian swag for replying that David Pearson is co-chair of an expert panel on climate change adaptation.

Campus quiz will return in the fall 2008 issue. Have a great summer!

SUSAN STEWART

Canadian Olympian (1996) and Laurentian Lady Vees basketball alumna Susan Stewart (BA 1995) is among the latest inductees announced by the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame. Stewart led the Lady Vees to four straight Ontario titles from 1989 to 1993, and back-to-back national championships in 1989-1990 and 1990-1991. She was named an OUAA all-star three times and CIS all-Canadian in 1991-1992. The 34th annual induction took place on June 5, 2008.



director of the Institute for Community Peacebuilding at the Canadian Mennonite University.

Pankratz started his career in 1981 as an accountant with Janzen, Knowles, and Warkentin, and with Providence College and Seminary in Manitoba. In 1990, he became financial controller for the Mennonite Central Committee Canada in Winnipeg, where he developed tax-related policies for overseas workers. He has also worked as a business manager for the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia, and for the Westgate Mennonite Collegiate in Winnipeg.

VAGN PETERSEN

Vagn Petersen, (BScN 1992), a chief trauma nurse practitioner at the San Francisco General Hospital and an assistant clinical professor for UCSF Graduate School of Physiological Nursing, played a role in the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay. He pushed the wheelchair for one of his patients, Andrew Michael, a fervent Tibet peace negotiator who works with the Dali Lama.

"We had to go to great lengths to get him to the march to be a torch bearer. He was asked to carry the torch by the Chinese government because of his negotiations and work toward a peaceful outcome to that crisis," Petersen said. "And when his ability to be at the march was in question, his wife fielded calls

from the Dali Lama. Once these pictures made the news, he received a personal thank you from the DL."

RICHARD SPADAFORA

Sudbury accountant and Laurentian graduate Richard Spadafora (B.Com. 2003) was one of only 17 Ontario students to make the honour roll for top marks with this year's Canada-wide Uniform Evaluation (UFE), one of the world's most challenging professional entry examinations. Only 52 students across Canada made the honour roll. The national, three-day evaluation assesses whether candidates have acquired the appropriate degree of professional competency to earn the title of accountant. Spadafora has a commerce degree from Laurentian and has been articling at KPMG LLP in Sudbury.

GUYLAINE TOUSIGNANT

Guyline Tousignant (BA 1998 and B.Ed. 2000) was awarded the *prix PÉPIN de Pomme*, at the francophone book fair held in Sudbury in May 2008. The \$1,500 bursary is awarded to an emerging Franco-Ontarian author on the publication of a first work. Tousignant's «*Carnets de déraison*» (*Prise de Parole*, 2006) is prose poetry relating a young woman's hopelessness in the face of daily routine. Tousignant, a native of Kapuskasing, is a communications officer at Laurentian University.

JAMES D. WALLACE

On March 18, 2008, the FNX Mining Company Inc. announced the appointment of James D. Wallace (B.Sc. 1968 and MBA 2001) to its board of directors, effective March 12, 2008. Wallace is a chartered accountant, and in 1988 was elected to the Fellowship of Chartered Accountants. He is a prominent businessman in northern Ontario with close connections to the heavy construction, mining, and finance sectors. He is president and owner of several private companies including, Pioneer Construction Inc. (heavy construction), Fisher Wavy Inc. (ready mix and cement supply), Ethier Sand and Gravel Limited (aggregates), Northern Ski Company Limited (investment company) and Marslen Investments Limited (real estate). In addition to his private holdings, Wallace is on the board of Xstrata Canada Limited, Brookfield Infrastructure Partners, and Northstar Aerospace Inc.

James D. Wallace received a B.Sc. from Laurentian University and a MBA from the University of Windsor. He also completed management programs at Harvard, Stanford, Northwestern, University of Toronto, and University of Western Ontario. In 2001, Laurentian University awarded him an Honorary MBA.

ALUMNI UPDATES



In early 2008, Michelle Belanger (BPHE 2001), manager of Laurentian's international student recruitment, and her fiancé, Jamie Brunette (BA 2002) were pleased to meet with two Laurentian alumni in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at the Canadian Education Fair.

Abdul Aziz Bin Kechik (B.Eng. 1985) and Marcian Anselmus (B.Eng. 1994) gave Belanger and Brunette a tour of the Malaysian government and administrative areas just outside Kuala Lumpur.

Kechik and Anselmus have found much success since their days as international students at Laurentian. Kechik is the forensic laboratory director for the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia. He resides in Kuala Lumpur with wife, Jamilah Saad, their two daughters, Amalina and Amaliya, and sons, Ashraf and Ashman.

Since completing his B.Eng. at Laurentian, Anselmus has held two positions. He is chief executive officer, S.E. Asia, Mineral Resources and director of personal and organizational development, Excell Training and Management Consultancy. Anselmus plans to visit the Laurentian campus in the near future.

Belanger looks forward to a return trip to Kuala Lumpur in 2009 to meet with more of Laurentian's over 30 alumni in Malaysia, and to meet with prospective students. Over 70 Malaysian applicants expressed interest in pursuing their education at Laurentian.

1960s

Peter Goring (B.Com. 1967) recently retired after 40 years in the real estate and finance sectors. He is enjoying life with his wife, Erica Pratt, at their country property in Caledon, Ontario.

1970s

Michael Martin (BA political science 1974) is a self-employed writer in Gatineau, Quebec. He has produced two books on working-class history, which can be accessed free of charge at the following website: <http://web.ncf.ca/fn871>

Suzanne and Georges Moreau (B.Sc. 1970) recently embarked on a new adventure, travelling to Nanjing, China, to teach English overseas. The couple has been married for more than 30 years. They have been teaching at the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, and have enjoyed visits from their three daughters.

Lynn and Peter West (BA 1977) send greetings to Laurentian alumni and friends. Lynn tells us that Peter, after receiving his history/political science degree, went to Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the bar in 1982. He became a criminal lawyer and was a partner in the law firm of Cooper, Sandler, and West, practising law for over 26 years. He was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket, Ontario, on March 17, 2008. His title is the Honourable Mr. Justice Peter West. His family is very proud of his accomplishments, and he is honoured and enthused about his new role as a judge. Lynn and Peter have three children, Courtney (who is married and about to be called to the bar as a lawyer in June 2008), Matthew, and Rebecca – who are students. Lynn praises Laurentian University, and says that it provided a solid footing for their future.

Al Will (SPAD 1978) is a consultant to non-profit organizations in strategic planning, board governance, volunteer recruitment and training, fundraising, and grant writing. After Al retired from Ontario Sailing in 2007, he started Al Will & Associates Inc., a consulting firm for

non-profit organizations. His sport clients include the Ontario Taekwondo Association, Ontario Football Alliance, Judo Ontario, and the Ontario Australian Football League (O AFL). Fraser Parrott, SPAD 2008, joined Al Will & Associates Inc. to work on the O AFL project. Al Will & Associates also serves environmental groups including Save the Oak Ridges Moraine, Community AIR, GBA Foundation, and the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve. Al can be reached at: al@alwill.ca

1990s

Christina Bardes (B.Sc. 1995) spent nearly 20 years in banking, then returned to school and graduated with a science degree from Laurentian in 1995. She graduated from Nipissing University in 1996 with her education degree. She now works for the Toronto District School Board as a specialist teacher, where she educates students who are blind or visually impaired. On a more personal note, Christina married Todd Bardes in May 1996. Together, they enjoy cultural travel and are avid hikers. They recently completed the Bruce Trail (800 kilometres), and regularly trek the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Jody Bullen (BA 1996) is director, business development and public relations, with Dalbar Inc., a financial consulting and research firm based in Boston with offices in Toronto and the UK. After graduating from Laurentian, Jody did post-graduate work at Seneca College/Ryerson University in corporate communications which allowed her to work with several publicly traded companies on their investor relations and shareholder communications critical paths. As well, she married Dale Alexander Padmore on January 12, 2008, in Kleinberg, Ontario. Dale is a senior mechanical contractor for Modern Niagara. They love to travel (Panama, St. Lucia, England), and they love dogs; their black lab, Duke, is their pride and joy. Anyone wishing to say hello can email Jody at: bullenjody@rogers.com.

Dee Sweeney (née Turnbull) (BA 1997) and Jason "Maddog" Sweeney (BA 1997) were married in 1999 and have a

three-year-old son, Connor, and infant twins, Kailey and Colin. Dee is currently on maternity leave from her job as a social worker, and Jason is the head of social sciences at a high school in Caledon East, where he is also the head football and baseball coach. They live in Bolton, Ontario.

2000s

Mélanie Bilodeau (BScN 2003) is a full-time registered nurse for the Psychiatric Emergency Services, at the Civic Campus of Ottawa Hospital. She moved to Ottawa from Timmins, Ontario, in 2007 and now resides in her newly built dream home. After graduation, she worked at the Timmins District Hospital, in the continuing care/rehabilitation and long-term care units.

Frank Castillo (B.Sc. midwifery 2007) sends greetings to Laurentian alumni and friends.

Sylvia Dobrzeniecka (B.Sc. 2006 and M.Sc. 2007) sends greetings to Laurentian alumni and friends.

Taylor Paxton (BA 2002) recently left her position as communications officer, special events, at Laurentian University, to become communications advisor for the Canada Research Chairs Program, at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) in Ottawa. Her colleagues and friends from Laurentian wish her well.

Christie Smith (B.Sc. 2003) OUA champion in the 50- and 100-metre breaststroke, and a CIS finalist, teaches science at LoEllen Park Secondary School in Sudbury. She also coaches LoEllen's cross-country running, swimming, and track and field teams. Christie remains a competitive athlete, and continues to promote sport to the high school students she teaches.

Tiffany Whiting (BA Italian 2000) completed the certified spa supervisor course from the International Spa Association. She was promoted from client services manager to spa supervisor at Skin Medispa and is currently expecting her second child in November 2008.



Sarah Mailloux
at Laurentian's
Olympic Gold Pool

BRINGING FITNESS TO

Alumna Sarah Mailloux energizes the School Fit Program

By *Laura E. Young*

Sarah Mailloux (PHED 2007) believes something should be done to keep kids in shape, and instead of just talking about it, she is doing something about it.

As the coordinator of the School Fit Program for all four school boards in Greater Sudbury, she brought fitness to the 85 schools and 2,200 Grade 2 students she visited.

There are a lot of media reports about children being obese, Mailloux says, but she found this was not the case among the Grade 2 students she has worked with. "Obviously, there are some kids who are struggling. I was happy to see they're all doing their best," she says.

Currently, schools from Markstay, west to Manitoulin Island and Espanola, and north to Onaping Falls, have also participated. Each class spent two full workshops with Mailloux, as well as two field trips, where they exercised and played at the Kids Fit gym in Sudbury.

All students undergo fitness testing and parents receive a report for their child. Mailloux plotted the fitness results for all the students from each board. This information will be used by parents and educators, and the findings may help bolster fitness programs in schools.

When Mailloux first visited a class, teachers and students received log books and journals to record their fitness activities.

Mailloux, a former competitive swimmer, graduated with her physical education degree in 2007; she is also a coach at the Sudbury Laurentian Swim Club.

But it is her involvement with kids that really keeps her afloat. "I absolutely love working with kids. It's so great, especially when I go into the schools." The students remember who she is and why she is there. "They are so excited to come to the gym," she says, plus, "It's such a good feeling knowing they're trying, and how much they're actually learning."

Children relate to her, says Karen Hastie owner of AKFit, one of the Kids Fit Program sponsors. Hastie hopes there is funding in place for another year of the program.

Next year, Mailloux will attend teachers' college, but she hopes the program continues and tests the next crop of Grade 2 students (and retests the Grade 3 group), "because we have to do more than figure out why our kids are obese. Really, we just need to do something about it." ■

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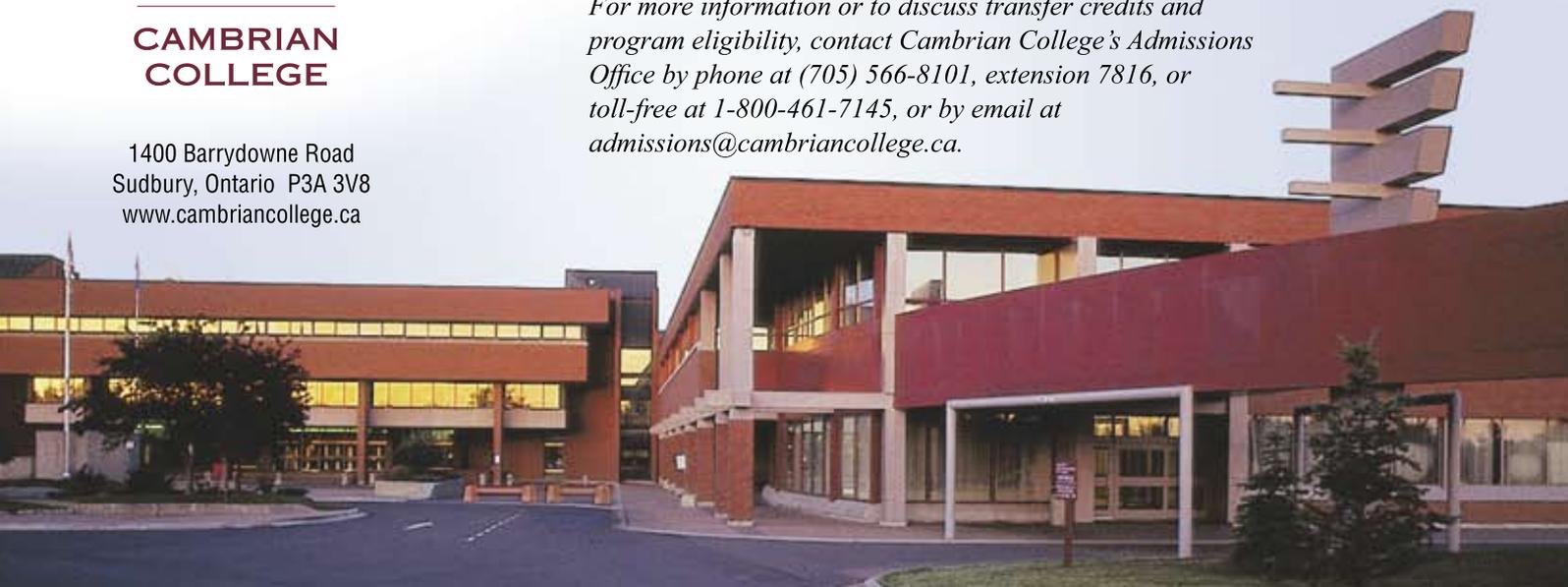
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"POSITIVELY" LU'S COUREUR DE BOIS OF THE YEAR

By Laura E. Young

The day before Emily Pearson (BPHE 2008) attended her convocation ceremony at Laurentian University, she visited a ditch in North Bay, the site of a horrific accident that nearly left her for dead this past February. By revisiting the site, she was hoping to jog her memory, but nothing came back.

"Sometimes, I just want to know what happened," she said after the ceremony on June 5. "But, then, I think, it's probably for the best that I don't remember, because who wants to remember bad memories? It's probably the body's way of protecting itself."

Instead of dwelling on the past, Pearson can fill her mind with many happy scenes from spring convocation 2008: How she strode across the stage to receive her diploma in Outdoor Adventure Leadership; the rousing cheers from the packed Fraser Auditorium; the standing ovation as she received the *Coureur de Bois* Leadership Award from ADVL, which is the program's highest honour.

An accomplished athlete, camp counsellor, and coach, Pearson received the *Coureur de Bois* Award for her determination, perseverance, attitude, and also for her drive to get well, said Beth Mairs, a professor in ADVL.

It's been a hard but steady recovery for the member of Laurentian's cross-country running team. In February, Emily Pearson was in North Bay for her study break visiting her boyfriend, Matt Brady, a Laurentian kinesiology grad. Pearson went out for a run, and was

struck down by a SUV. She was found unconscious in the ditch.

Her only identification – her Laurentian running jacket.

She was later airlifted to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto with a sobering list of injuries. There was head trauma, a fractured pelvis, and a punctured lung. There was slight bleeding in her brain. She underwent major knee surgery to fix the shredded ligaments in her knee (dislocated knee cap, medial collateral ligament, and the meniscus).

There was good news, too: no major head or spinal injuries.

"It's always really important to have a positive attitude and to be open to new experiences, new people."

While Pearson recalls little of the time leading up to the accident and the two weeks afterward, she focuses instead on how well her knees are recovering, and the gains in her short-term memory. With a new degree in hand, she has deferred her acceptance to teachers' college for a year, to give herself more time in physiotherapy. She hopes to start running again in a few months.

She has never spoken to the man who hit her. He has been updated on her progress through police. She has no hard feelings, she says. "I heard he was pretty distraught. I want to let him know I'm okay."

This summer, Pearson will return to her job as a recreation instructor at Roger Neilson's Hockey Camp near her Peterborough home. She teaches team building and this summer she will be managing the rock climbing wall.

Building a good team starts with the same outlook that had helped Pearson through her recovery. "It's always really important to have a positive attitude and to be open to new experiences, new people." She credits her parents, Larry and Sharon, with her mindset. "They were fantastic while I was in the hospital. They never once talked negatively about what I might not be able to do again."

She remains grateful to her "unbelievable" family and friends, friends who spent weeks by her side in the hospital. "If you do know someone who experiences something traumatic, it's just really important to stay positive and be a really good support for them."

Ideally, Pearson will return sooner than later to the wide world of sports. She'd like to run a marathon at some point. She had planned to row, play soccer, and join a wrestling team this summer. "That's on hold until next summer. But I really want to get back into the sports world." ■

Mercrèdi 28 mars 1973

UNE NUIT SUR L'ÉTANG À SUDBURY



Des membres de la troupe universitaire dans une scène de "Le rêve de mon oncle Ephrem", pièce présentée lors du spectacle "Une nuit sur l'étang" qui avait lieu vendredi le 16 mars dernier, à l'Université Laurentienne, pour couronner le Congrès Franco-Parole. La pièce est une création de la troupe universitaire et elle était dirigée par Pierre Germain [2e de gauche sur la photo].
(Photo: Conrad Morin, Le Voyageur)



Robert Paquette et sa troupe ont fait sensation dans un spectacle qui a tenu l'auditoire en haleine pendant près d'une heure à l'auditorium de l'édifice Fraser de l'Université Laurentienne pendant "Une nuit sur l'étang". Le jeune auteur-compositeur-interprète de Sudbury était invité récemment par Radio-Canada à l'émission "Feux Verts" qui passe à la radio tous les matins de 9:00 à 11:00. Robert Paquette et sa troupe doivent enregistrer leur premier long-jeu bientôt.
(Photo: Conrad Morin, Le Voyageur)

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LA NUIT SUR L'ÉTANG



Laurentian University has been a proud partner of *La nuit sur l'étang* featuring Franco-Ontarian culture and music, since its inception 35 years ago. The annual festival was spearheaded by a group of francophone university students, and alumni remain involved.

Clockwise, from the top left: Newspaper clippings of the first Franco-Ontarian all-night music festival held in 1973, in Sudbury; Yves Doyon, from the Sudbury band Speed Bois, 1991; Michel Bénac, from the Ottawa band Swing, 2008; fans at the 2008 event; Robert Paquette, from Sudbury, 1990; centre photo: Paul Demers, from Ottawa, 1990; from left: Josée Gauvreau, Josée Lajoie and Nathalie Dicaire, from the Ottawa band Dicaire-Gauvreau-Lajoie, 1992.

(Photos courtesy of *Le Voyageur*)

Alumni Updates

Take a few minutes to update us on what is going on in your life. We'll print it in the Alumni News section of the next *Laurentian University Magazine*. You can send us a photo as well.

Fax to: (705) 675-4840; mail to Laurentian University, University Advancement, 935 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury ON, P3E 2C6; or email magazine@laurentian.ca.

Your update (up to 100 words):

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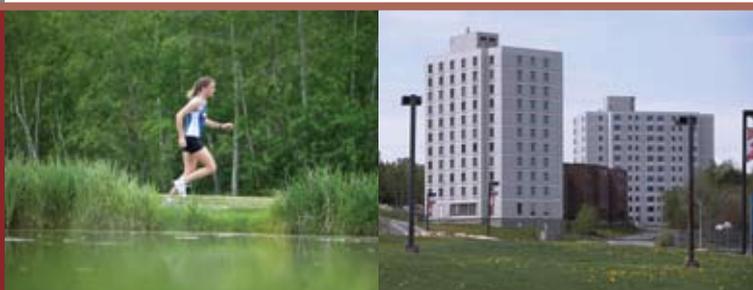
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