

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

# LAURENTIAN

WINTER 2008

Advocating for the  
visually impaired

**A SURPRISE VISIT FROM  
BOB MCDONALD**

Phil Legault on life with  
the Ottawa Senators

## NATURAL WORLDS

LU GRAD AND  
NATIONALLY  
ACCLAIMED  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
MIKE GRANDMAISON  
SHARES HIS VISION



# YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A *difference*

**YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A**

Photo: Roberta Bondar, 2007 Xstrata Nickel Memorial Lecture Series speaker



## XSTRATA NICKEL MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Many will remember the tragedy in 1977 when Falconbridge Ltd. lost five employees in a plane crash. With donations from Falconbridge Ltd., employees, families, and friends, these community members were honoured through the creation of the Falconbridge Lecture Series in 1978.

In July 2007, Xstrata Nickel reaffirmed its commitment to our community, as it continues to honour its fallen employees with a contribution of \$100,000 to Laurentian University, in order to permanently endow the Xstrata Nickel Memorial Lecture Series. These new funds will be added to the existing Falconbridge Lecture endowment, currently held by Laurentian University.

The lectures bring eminent figures from academic circles, the business community, public life, the professions, and the arts to Sudbury. More than 60 speakers, including notables such as John Kenneth Galbraith, Margaret Atwood, Benjamin Spock, Jessie Jackson, Jane Goodall, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and more recently, Roméo Dallaire and Roberta Bondar, have lectured over the years. Admission to the lecture is free, ensuring that members of both the Laurentian and the Greater Sudbury communities have the opportunity to attend.

"This lecture series brings to Sudbury remarkable speakers who have excelled in their fields, and allows residents of Sudbury and Laurentian students to listen, learn, and benefit from the knowledge and experiences shared by these noteworthy speakers," said Mike Romaniuk, vice-president of operations in Sudbury for Xstrata Nickel.

"We are very grateful to Xstrata Nickel for this generous contribution," said Dr. Judith Woodsworth, president of Laurentian University. "By formally creating an endowment, we are also ensuring that not only Laurentian, but more importantly, the Greater Sudbury community, will continue to benefit from these free lectures in perpetuity."

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# LAURENTIAN

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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McGregor Bay, Whitefish  
Falls, Ontario  
**BY MIKE GRANDMAISON**

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# Picture this...

FROM THE EDITOR, JENNIFER NAULT



I'VE NEVER TRIED to force a theme for any publication I've been part of, but over time, I've found that if you allow for it, a theme often presents itself. Sometimes it bangs at your door; other times it scratches to come inside.

In this issue, ideas about ways of perceiving "entered the room" at the very beginning and stayed with us through to completion. In celebration of spring, I asked Laurentian alumni and

highly celebrated photographer Mike Grandmaison whether he would consider sharing some of his marvellous images of Canada with us (fingers crossed, I also hoped he would forgo his normal fees). Mike agreed, and also volunteered his time to fill us in on his intriguing career path, and some of the strange things that can beset a photographer who will stop at nothing to get that perfect photograph. It's been a while since a landscape photograph has graced the cover of this magazine, and I hope it inspires our readers to get "clicking" to capture some of their best summer moments (please feel free to share them with us, too).

We also meet Penny Hartin in these pages; she is a Laurentian grad and honorary doctorate recipient who is making strides in changing society's perception of the visually impaired. As CEO of the World Blind Union, an organization that advocates on behalf of millions of blind and visually impaired people across the globe, she has dedicated her life to bringing about change. Through one succinct anecdote, she describes the gap between what sighted people perceive to be the needs of the visually impaired, and what they really are. An illuminating story.

And, just in case our readers perceived a low quotient of sports stories in the last issue, we make good by offering an interview by Laura E. Young with SPAD grad Phil Legault. He gives us an exclusive view of life with the Ottawa Senators – a year after their valiant battle for the Stanley Cup.

In this issue, we welcome Suzanne Charron-Violette, our new French-language writer, to our publications team. She is a knowledgeable writer, and is helping us advance our bilingual mandate. She has contributed some of the articles herein, and it is always great to have another reviewer on the team.

## LETTERS

### ALUMNUS ABROAD

Thank you for writing and publishing such a great article about my new life here in Australia. I just received it this week and it was a real thrill to open it up and see pictures of us inside.

Right now, Lianne and I are trying to decide what is next for us. I just had a job interview and I am flying to Perth to see about a new mine our company is opening.

Cheers,  
Jason Lowens (B.Eng. 1999)

### CORRECTION

In our fall 2007 issue, we included a donor report, which featured a story on a significant fundraising event that took place at Laurentian University. We told readers about Lata Pada, a professional dancer and dance instructor, who lost her family in Air India Flight 182, and established a scholarship and bursary in their honour. In spring 2007, Lata Pada brought the Toronto Dance Troupe to the Fraser Auditorium for a dance fundraiser for the Pada Memorial Bursary.

Due to a printing error, a paragraph in the story was missing when the publication was delivered. We have corrected the error by sending out new donor reports, and by also reprinting the missing text here:

*In a performance held in spring 2007 at Laurentian called "Dancing the Divine," the audience discovered India's epic history and mythology through the eternal legacy of its honoured deities and their celebrated temples.*

*Featuring seven dance works, "Dancing the Divine" marked the first time Lata performed since her 2002 performance in Soraab. She danced in two solos and a duet in the program. A highlight of the show was the role of the sutradhar, a narrator who invites the audience into the pilgrim's journey, as he traverses India travelling to each of the temples. The eight bharatanatyam dancers of the ensemble performed the central dance work in the production.*

*Proceeds from this event, and the matched funds through the Ontario Trust for Student Support, were used to create the Pada Memorial Scholarship. This bursary will be available to qualified applicants chosen from Marymount Academy Secondary School.*

## 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](mailto: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.

## Study harnesses safety for youth workers

TEN YOUTH WORKERS in Canada lost their lives on the job in 2006, according to Ministry of Labour statistics. To improve safety for youth in the workplace, Laurentian University is taking a close look at this critical issue.

Youth workers, workers aged 15-24, account for 17 per cent of all loss-time injuries in the workplace. “Young people are very vulnerable in the Ontario – and the North American – workplace,” says John Lewko, director of Laurentian’s Centre for Research in Human Development.

Lewko is leading investigation into this issue, along with Carol Runyan, director of the Injury Prevention Research Centre at the University of North Carolina. They have received over \$450,000 to conduct a three-year study.

In December 2007, the two universities held the first of four scheduled youth employment symposiums. The symposiums bring together safety experts from across North America to address key issues in workplace safety.

According to figures from the Ontario Safety Standards Association, about 70 per cent of youth will find employment in the service sector at some point during their high school careers, Lewko says.

A more complex issue is the nature of supervision in the workplace; in many cases, teenagers are supervising teenagers, and sometimes even older adults, Lewko says. “What we have been able to decipher is that these individuals have very little supervisory training. Who is ensuring that sound supervisory practices have been



used? In Ontario, this is really important because a supervisor is a supervisor, regardless of age.”

The study will identify some of the major gaps and discrepancies in workplace safety.

Laurentian also has funding for a provincial survey of 500 teenage workers and 500 parents concerning a range of workplace safety issues. The survey is being led by Cindy-Lynne Tremblay, a research associate who is finishing her MA in human development at Laurentian.

“Laurentian is recognized as a leader in North America in the area of safety and injury prevention for youth workers,” says Lewko.

– Laura E. Young

## THREE LU STUDENTS TRAVEL TO AFRICA



OVER THE PAST YEAR, three women from Laurentian – two students and one alumna – have travelled to Africa to lend a helping hand to needy communities.

Sarah Argent had dreamed almost obsessively about

travelling to Zimbabwe until her goal was finally realized last May. This fourth-year student, enrolled in health promotion in the school of human kinetics, organized a multidisciplinary trip to a hospital and secondary school in the tropics of Glendale through the Health Without Borders program. She was joined by professor Michel Larivière, health student Reed Morrison, and nursing student Lilla Roy.

The lack of prevention education and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which affects a quarter of the population, means that the life expectancy in this country is about 35 years. The trip was meaningful for Argent, and it was an opportunity to learn and meet some wonderful people, she recounts.

Burkina Faso is in a similar state: extreme poverty, lack of education, and a high incidence of HIV/AIDS. In spite of these hardships, “the African people are very positive,” says midwifery student Christine Bénard, who travelled to Gourcy last July for a Uniterra seminar. What she found most surprising was an overall sense that women are devalued.

Sophie Gauthier (BPHE 2002) knows all about humanitarian projects; she has been taking part in international outreach programs since high school. She first went to Haiti in 1997, then again in 2001, before heading to Peru in 2002. She worked for more than three years in Costa Rica, where she managed groups of volunteers carrying out community projects. When her contract ended last spring, Gauthier signed another, this time with Youth Challenge International for a placement in Kigali, Rwanda. She has been there since August 2007, mainly to establish a support network for employers and potential young workers.

Argent, Bénard, and Gauthier, through their zest for life and humanitarian spirit, are truly making a difference.

– Suzanne Charron-Violette

# Reaching out

PRESIDENT JUDITH WOODSWORTH



**JOINING MORE THAN** 36,000 Laurentian alumni this spring 2008 will be an expected 2,000+ new graduates, with nine convocation ceremonies planned on the Sudbury campus alone. I would like to recognize the hundreds of new graduates at our two affiliates, Algoma University College and Collège universitaire de Hearst, and those from our partnership programs at Cambrian College (Sudbury), Georgian

College (Barrie and Orillia), Northern College (Timmins), and Sault College (Sault Ste. Marie).

Once you have walked across the stage, remember to stay in touch with Laurentian. The Alumni Relations Office provides a range of activities allowing our grads to stay connected through social events, golf tournaments, and “send-off parties” for new Laurentian students. New alumni chapters are being formed across the country, with special events scheduled throughout the year.

Your individual success coincides with the success of Laurentian, which is experiencing unprecedented growth and development. As we approach the half-century mark in our history, we have embarked on a fundraising initiative, “The Next 50 Campaign.” We continue to celebrate and invest in teaching and learning, research, and community. Our expertise and research in such fields as business, mining, health, and the environment meet the needs of our citizens, and also have a significant economic impact on the community we serve.

Planning is now underway for a series of exciting events to mark our 50th anniversary in 2010. I urge all of you – students, alumni, staff, and faculty – to stay tuned, get involved, and, above all, stay connected to this wonderful institution.

## ROOM FOR HUMANITIES

**HOI CHEU FOUND HIS INSPIRATION** for the new centre in the words of English author Virginia Woolf, and her classic, *A Room of One's Own*.

Cheu, the first director of Laurentian University's Centre for Humanities Research and Creativity (Centre for Humanities) celebrated its opening in November 2007. He draws comparisons to Woolf's literary criticism, which helped revolutionize the world. Now, there is “a room of our own for humanities,” he explains.

The centre's influence will carry far beyond its one-room location on the seventh floor of the Parker Building – into virtual space. Plans are underway to build a website for the centre. It will emphasize connections, so collaborative projects and networking can run smoothly. “We cannot work in isolation,” says Cheu.

Already, the centre has made alliances with some local community groups – Cinéfest, Music and Film in Motion, Myths and Mirrors – and it has also received a donation from CTV.

Plans are in motion to work internationally, with projects underway in China and South America. “We will emphasize the idea of cultural interaction in a global sense. I can see our future projects going that way,” says Cheu.

The centre's involvement in varying fields, such as translation, education, and health, are just the beginning. Though projects may differ in scope, they all serve higher goals in the humanities. “But you see, the humanities have no natural boundaries, no historical boundaries, so it's actually easier to join all international movements compared to other research projects that have to be local,” says Cheu.

– Laura E. Young

## STANDING CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREES

The Committee on Honorary Degrees for Laurentian University is now soliciting recommendations for candidates for an honorary degree on an ongoing basis. Honorary degrees are not usually awarded in absentia, posthumously, to current university personnel, or to active politicians. Each year, priorities are determined by the committee, and final selections are made by Senate by secret ballot. Also, consideration of the bilingual and tri-cultural nature of the university is an important aspect in the choice of candidates. Nominations should be submitted on a special form; a copy is available from the Office of the President by email, mail, fax or at: [http://www.laurentian.ca/Laurentian/Home/President+Office/Honorary+Degrees.htm?Laurentian\\_Lang=en-CA](http://www.laurentian.ca/Laurentian/Home/President+Office/Honorary+Degrees.htm?Laurentian_Lang=en-CA)

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (705) 673-6567.**



Back row (from left):  
Tamás Zsolnay, Michael  
Atkins, Scott McDonald  
(chair), Louis Pagnutti,  
Claude Lacroix.  
Front row (from left):  
Judith Woodsworth, Carolyn  
Sinclair, Kristin Morrison.

## ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CHAMPION

# The Next 50 Campaign

By Suzanne Charron-Violette

**SCOTT J. MCDONALD** (Hon. B.Com. 1977), executive vice-president of Vale Inco Limited, will chair Laurentian University's "The Next 50 Campaign," one of the largest fundraising campaigns in the history of northern Ontario. At the campaign launch on January 28, McDonald shared his excitement about the future of Laurentian and its importance to northern Ontario. "I am a very proud supporter of Laurentian, Sudbury, and the incredible work that comes out of this region. We're investing in the future of northern Ontario – generating innovation close to home, and positioning this region for continued competitiveness and prosperity in a rapidly globalizing world. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure continued growth and development for generations to come," said McDonald. James Wallace (B.Sc. 1968; D.BA 2001), president of Pioneer Construction Inc., is supporting campaign initiatives as honorary campaign chair.

The campaign cabinet is also comprised of successful Laurentian alumni who have chosen to give back to Laurentian and the community through their involvement. They understand, explains cabinet member Michael Atkins (D.Letters, 2005), "the important role the university plays in the life of Sudbury and northern Ontario as a whole." Atkins, president of the Laurentian Media Group and publisher of *Northern Life*, added, "We live in a knowledge economy. Northern Ontario is a resource economy. It is always either on the verge of collapse or overheated by commodity prices. If we are to preserve the sustainability of our communities in northern Ontario, we must [cull] the intellectual capacity of the university. There are no alternatives. We live or die by our ability to innovate. The university must be at the centre of that engine."

Carolyn Sinclair (BA 1966, Hon. BA 2001, MA HUME 2004), retired head of the Sudbury Secondary English department and chair of Laurentian's Board of Governors, holds a similar opinion: "I understand the cultural and economic impact that research at Laurentian University has, both in northern Ontario and worldwide. I want to assist our university in its transition from a mainly undergraduate teaching institution to a comprehensive research entity."

The following alumni are also volunteering on the campaign cabinet:

- Steven Douglas (Hon. B.Com. 1991), managing partner of Brookfield Properties;
- Leo Gerard (D.Letters 1994), international president of the United Steelworkers of America;
- Claude Lacroix (Hon. BA 1991), lawyer with Lacroix Forest LLP;
- Louis Pagnutti (Hon. B.Com. 1981), chairman and CEO of Ernst & Young LLP;
- Mike Romaniuk (Hon. B.Sc. 1985), vice-president of Xstrata Nickel.

The campaign is calling on friends and supporters to endorse a progressive vision for Laurentian's future – to champion the cause. "The Next 50 Campaign" is seeking \$50 million in investment to sustain growth and drive creative knowledge and achievement. Building on its successes in northern Ontario, Laurentian will sustain research in the fields of environmental sustainability, regional economic development, mining, health and safety, and specialized health care. The campaign tagline is: "Laurentian University: Driving Creativity, Innovation, and Prosperity."

# MORE THAN A PIPE DREAM

*One year after the official launch of Laurentian's pipe band at convocation, David Young – a music student and soon-to-be Laurentian grad (BA 2008) – gives a personal and behind-the-scenes account of his role in its formation.*



Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth with David Young (left) and his brother, Derek.

By David Young

**IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM** of mine to start a project from scratch and watch it grow. Having played marching snare drum and tenor drum for more than a decade, I grew up in the pipe band scene. Over the years, I have travelled extensively, and worked with bagpipers and drummers who share my passion. Two years ago, my dream of creating a pipe band became a reality at Laurentian.

As a musician in the percussion section in the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, I played alongside Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth. I approached her with the idea that Laurentian start its own pipe band, and in September 2006, we sat down and discussed what this would entail. The purpose was clear enough: Laurentian's pipe band would serve as musical ambassadors, bringing a feeling of pageantry to university convocation ceremonies, among other key events.

Within months, recruitment of band members was complete and plans were underway to create uniforms. The highlight of the uniform was the creation of a new Laurentian tartan for our kilts – with threads of the university's signature colours, blue and green, along with yellow and white. The blend incorporates the Ramsay (Scottish spelling) family tartan. Band members helped design the uniform and chose the style of belt, **sporrán**, and headdress.

Burnett's and Struth from Barrie, Ontario, made the uniforms.

Laurentian is the first university in northern Ontario to have its own tartan and pipe band. It is also the third post-secondary institution in Ontario to have its own pipe band, following Queen's University and Royal Military College.

The Laurentian University Pipe Band and the official tartan premiered on the first day of spring convocation on May 29, 2007. For the first time, the university's very own pipe band led the procession of graduates and dignitaries. That performance was an overwhelming experience for me, and will remain one of the most significant highlights of my music career.

The pipe band has now grown to include six pipers, two bass drummers, and three snare drummers. As we prepare for spring convocation 2008, I look forward to sending off Laurentian grads in high style – and this year, I plan to look out at my fellow musicians as I cross the podium.

**sporrán** (spo-ran): the leather pouch worn in front of the kilt as part of Highland costume.

## Climate centre given new life



David Pearson

**THERE'S NO DISPUTING THE FACT:** Sudbury has seen a one degree temperature increase since 1970. To deal with the reality of climate change and help shape future provincial policy in climate adaptation strategies, Laurentian University is home to the new Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR).

The Ontario ministry of the environment committed \$220,000 toward the centre in December 2007.

Concurrently, Laurentian's renowned earth sciences professor David Pearson will co-chair a world-class panel of scientists to advise the McGuinty government. Pearson will lead this initiative with Ian Burton, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto.

OCCIAR will advise the expert panel to help municipalities adapt to climate change. It will consider factors including, and beyond, greenhouse gas emissions, and support many other groups working on these issues, says Pearson.

Finding adaptation strategies is important, according to Pearson, who cautions, we must buy time. We need to adapt to what has gone on in the past and already gone into the atmosphere ... This is about finding a way to make it to the middle of the century prepared to use new technologies.

Finding and developing such strategies requires a progressive approach. "It's a long-term business and we're a tiny little part, but Ontario is an important part of Canada. We can't underestimate the role of the university in this work."

If the new climate centre sounds familiar, there's a reason. As recently as early 2007, Laurentian was the site of the Ontario chapter of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CAIRN). When its mandate ended, the federal government discontinued funding. But the knowledge base remained. Through C-CAIRN, Laurentian developed vital links to researchers and stakeholders, says Al Douglas, OCCIAR coordinator.

Like C-CAIRN before it, OCCIAR remains focused on the municipalities. The centre is striving to create a toolkit, which will provide detailed and practical information for municipalities to address adaptations for climate change. It is expected that the municipal toolkit will be available across Ontario by April 2008.

— Laura E. Young

## SOUNDS TO LIVE BY

**NEW RESEARCH SHOWS THAT** adults who sing in choirs have better overall health and live longer. Which is a good thing for Ariadne, Sudbury's new women's choir, which carries on the tradition of 800-plus years of women's chamber music.

New research conducted by Victoria Meredith, a University of Western Ontario professor, found that choir participants had improved breathing, immune systems, and brain functioning, and that performing in a choir keeps people younger and healthier for a longer period of time.

Ariadne, founded last year, is the inspiration of David Buley, a teacher in Laurentian's school of education and a composer. The choir is comprised of Laurentian students, staff, alumni, and women from the Sudbury community.

The choir entered Choral 2008, the national radio competition for amateur choirs, which is sponsored by CBC Radio 2 and the Canada Council for the Arts. The contest has been running since 1974.

Chamber music has a vast repertoire, as it covers the centuries of music written for and by women. It's not necessarily that Ariadne looks backward into the tradition of women's chamber music. Instead, in the sway and shimmer of black dress, Ariadne brings the music ahead to a time where it can be valued and, above all, performed.

Alumna Shannon Coyle wanted a fit she could not find anywhere else. Coyle, a former clarinet player, who has her BA and MA in humanities from Laurentian, currently teaches music at St. Charles College in Sudbury.



Ariadne

Coyle is looking forward to entering the CBC competition because it would put Ariadne out into the community. "I can't emphasize that aspect enough, because we're a unique group and I think people need to hear us. We have something good to say ... or sing, shall I say?"

There are currently 14 members in Ariadne; most of the women have links to Laurentian University.

Ariadne's next performance is scheduled on Saturday, May 10, at exactly 5:57 a.m. The choir will perform a sunrise concert at the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area.

As for improved health, Buley recalls how one of his former singers claimed "that her ability to live with multiple forms of cancer (going on 20 years) is directly related to singing in my choir."

— Laura E. Young

BY JENNIFER NAULT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE GRANDMAISON

With summer just around the corner, we amateur photographers are beginning to dust off our cameras to capture some of our leisurely moments. But for nationally acclaimed outdoor photographer Mike Grandmaison (B.Sc. Hons. 1976), taking photographs is far more than a leisurely endeavour.

**A**t times, being a career photographer can be downright dangerous.

Driving up around Wawa, in Lake Superior Park, Mike Grandmaison had skirted along Fenton Lake on many occasions. The sight of the lush, boreal forest fringing the islands and shoreline captured his imagination; he had always wanted to photograph the location, but it seemed quite inaccessible.

But on this of all days, Grandmaison seizes the opportunity. Confronted with pouring rain, screeching wind gusts, and no place to pull his car over on a busy northern Ontario highway, he concocts a MacGyver-inspired plan. He carefully shimmies his car up close to a guardrail, pulls on his raingear, grabs his camera and tripod, opens the door, and hops over the vehicle toward the back end. In just those few seconds, he is soaked to the skin. Without missing a beat, he pops open the back hatch, and positions his camera and tripod snugly underneath. Vehicles speed by, hydroplaning over the wet pavement.

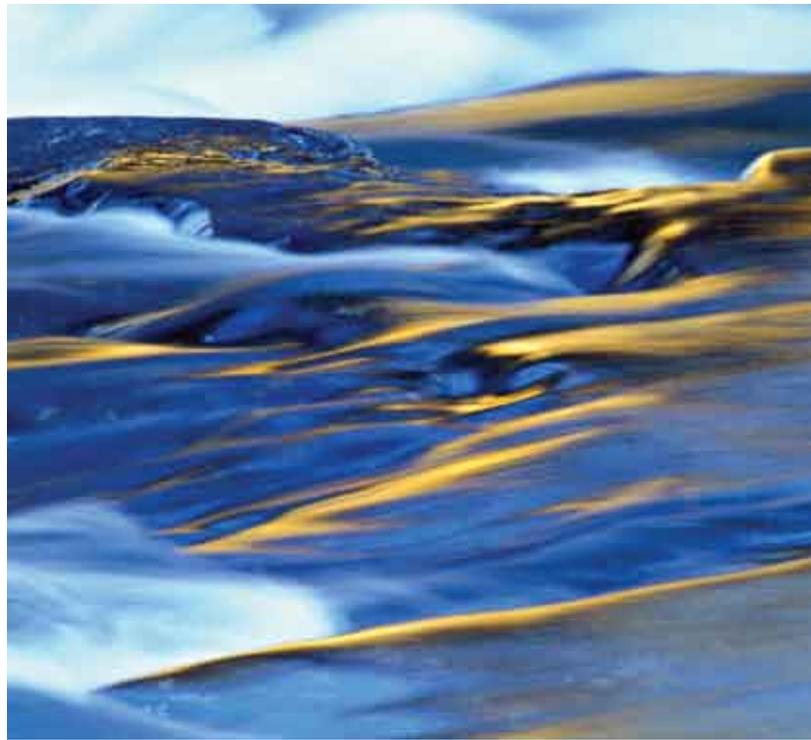
"I photographed the lake that day – with a long lens, and all the while, I barely had room to manoeuvre," Grandmaison recounts.

But the stormy weather proved a necessary artistic constraint. "The rain created this slowed down, misty kind of feeling," he recalls. "It was a special moment. It turned out nicely, but not as I expected. I've always wanted to do this kind of a shot. The opportunity was there, though the conditions were really awful."

Clockwise from top left:  
Northern lights in Sudbury;  
Mount Rundle in Banff, Alberta;  
Killarney, Ontario; and Burnt  
Point, Tobermory, Ontario.







A master of braving whatever weather throws his way, Grandmaison had to gather his strength – and his wits – to photograph Fenton Lake that day. The result would delight any Tolkien enthusiast; the photograph is mystical, dreamy, and inviting (see page 12).

He used the local high school darkroom after hours to hone his craft.

Grandmaison has a way of showing Canada at its most elemental, revealing a side of our country that we know to exist, but have never quite been able to capture. That moment at Fenton Lake, like many photographic moments over his career, is preserved and offered up for all to see in numerous postcards, calendars, books of photography, and even postage stamps.

“The quality of the images, their colour, subject, composition and photographic technique all speak to a talent that is careful and persistent in evincing the best from nature. His work is anything but photographic clichés,” says W. Jan A. Volney, a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, for whom Grandmaison has worked on assignment. “He is a person of unquestioned integrity. It is a real pleasure to work with him.”

Born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario, Mike Grandmaison says his interest in photography developed over time, and as a “natural progression” from a childhood spent in the woods in

northern Ontario. His affinity for the outdoors grew from fishing and hiking excursions with his father, and from his time as a boy scout. At an early age, Grandmaison learned the lay of the land, and was particularly interested in the vegetation – the grasses, plants, and trees – surrounding him.

In high school, Grandmaison did particularly well in science. When it came time to pursue post-secondary education, his interest in biology was a guiding force. Still, he laughs, “Though I decided to try out biology, I didn’t really know what I wanted to do. Most kids don’t.” He considered studying forestry at Lakehead; however, the proximity of Laurentian University, and financial considerations, made Laurentian the obvious choice.

Grandmaison pursued his interest in biology, and he zeroed in on botany “right off the bat.” The small class sizes were a benefit, too, he says. He felt the advantage of small, specialized courses, such as one in Arctic ecology, where “there were only five of us!” he says. “You just can’t get that in big universities.”

Grandmaison made strong connections with biology students and professors that continue to influence his career to this day. Back in the mid-1970s, the professors in the biology department, were, Grandmaison recalls with palpable affection, “like buddies, very approachable. You could go at any time of the day and talk to them.” There was a warm camaraderie in the department.

Professors organized field trips, excursions that enhanced classroom instruction in a hands-on, tangible way. “We got to look at the systems that we were learning about in school. We had a real, live view.”

Grandmaison is quick to point out the strong connection

Morning glory (page 10, far left),  
Rushing River, Ontario (page 10, right),  
cottonwood near Bird's Hill Park,  
Manitoba (this page).

between his Laurentian education and his career as a photographer. “I started taking photographs as a result of those great field trips we did with the biology department, especially with some of the profs, such as Gerard Courtin and Keith Winterhalder.”

Gerard Courtin, for example, had an immeasurable influence on the young Grandmaison. “He was such an enthusiastic teacher and made the material so interesting – even for someone who just wanted to learn about plants.” Today, after almost 30 years, their connection has come full circle: Grandmaison has collaborated with Courtin on his latest book of photography. Courtin has written the introduction to the soon-to-be-released *Georgian Bay: A Photographer's Wonderland* (Key Porter Books, April 2008). In doing so, Courtin joins the ranks of CBC radio host Shelagh Rogers, a past contributor to another of Grandmaison's many books of photography.

A late bloomer to the field of photography, Grandmaison decided to “splurge” on himself, and purchased a camera, his “own little graduation gift,” in 1976. His interest in photography had been piqued from those university biology field trips. He adds, “A lot of my friends had cameras and would record things on our trips. Then, they would put on slide shows – at that time, slide shows were a big thing – so, I was actually one of the few who *didn't* have a camera,” he says.

His interest in photography progressed rapidly. Not finding a job in his field right away, Grandmaison took a job managing a small camera store in Sturgeon Falls for a year. He used the local high school darkroom after hours to hone his craft. He still saw it as a hobby, though. And all the while, he kept looking for work in his field, but “there wasn't much going on in Sudbury.”

In late November 1978, Grandmaison made a big move out to Edmonton, where he'd heard the Canadian Forest Service was hiring. He stayed with them for 20 years. Following a long career with the Canadian Forest Service, which took him first in Edmonton and then to Winnipeg, Grandmaison eventually established a home-based photography studio in Winnipeg in 1996.

Over his career as a photographer, Grandmaison's work has been widely published in popular magazines and glossy, coffee-table books, and his stunning images have been

HIS AFFINITY FOR THE  
OUTDOORS GREW  
FROM FISHING AND  
HIKING EXCURSIONS  
WITH HIS FATHER.



adopted by government and leading corporations. He shoots for a broad range of clients, in fields ranging from agriculture to architecture. His experience in the natural sciences and passion for photography has made him a highly sought-after outdoor photographer.

Grandmaison's assignment photography takes him on location across Canada. Just a peek at his itinerary provides a sense of just how dedicated he is to his craft. In communication with Laurentian Alumni Magazine in early fall 2007, he wrote, offhandedly:

I'm off in a day or two, travelling across the Prairies photographing on assignment and for stock, delivering a workshop at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge with some colleagues, and doing a couple of *Rockies* book launches along the way. I should be back in Winnipeg around mid-September for about a week before I head out to Georgian Bay and Muskoka to capture fall colours until mid-October. Upon my return, I will be working feverishly on the *Georgian Bay* book and my new website.

Whew! His book of Georgian Bay photography is now available and his new website has just gone live at [www.grandmaison.mb.ca](http://www.grandmaison.mb.ca). 

Fenton Lake, Ontario.



## MIKE GRANDMAISON CELEBRATES LAND RECLAMATION IN SUDBURY

The Sudbury environmental community might remember Mike Grandmaison as an important contributor of photography (along with Don Johnston) to *Healing the Landscape: Celebrating Sudbury's Reclamation Story*, a bilingual artistic photographic book published as a Millennium Project. The book celebrates land reclamation achievements in the Sudbury area, and illustrates the marriage of science and art in a compelling story of revegetation and restoration of the devastated Sudbury area and the community that achieved it.



# BRINGING SCIENCE TO THE MASSES

“Science is another set of senses; we look through time, we look through space, we look at the very large, we look at the very small, and the universe is elegant, the universe is beautiful, and if we can just convey that to the public, we don’t have to worry about teaching them facts, just the basics. We have an obligation as science communicators to inspire the public.” – Bob McDonald

BY SAMANTHA KUULA

For once, it was he who was wonderstruck. Choking back tears as he stood before the convocation crowd, Bob McDonald, one of the most recognizable voices and faces of science today, graciously accepted an honorary doctorate from Laurentian University in fall 2007. Taking a breath to still his emotions, McDonald told an eager audience of new Laurentian grads that his science career began “many moons ago,” when he talked his way into a job at the Ontario Science Centre. Before that moment, he had been unsure about his path in life – even flailing a little – but when an opportunity came his way, he seized it.

Approaching life’s challenges with passion and perseverance, McDonald attributes his success to never turning down an opportunity – and it shows. He has been communicating science internationally through television, radio, print, and live presentations for more than 30 years, most notably as host of CBC radio’s “Quirks and Quarks,” the world’s longest-running science program. He also contributes stories to several news programs on CBC television, along with hosting and writing the children’s television series, “Head’s Up.” For seven years, he hosted and co-produced the award-winning children’s science program, “Wonderstruck.”

Bob McDonald dropped by Science North after the convocation ceremony. Though his visit was unannounced, the



buzz quickly spread as fans gathered for autographs and photos. McDonald was happy to comply. He playfully moved through the exhibits before addressing his fans. He spoke of future projects, and, of course, of his love of science. He focused on the importance of taking chances and seizing opportunities.

When asked how he conveys complex scientific topics, McDonald talked about using analogies and visual representations to get people excited about science. He’s been doing it for a long time, too. In 1972, the Ontario Science Centre was on the look out for people to give live science performances. “The scientists there took me under their wing and helped me learn about things like static electricity and lasers. I guess you could say I’m an opportunist,” he said.

The gathering at Science North hung on his every word. Bob McDonald is a natural – he uses stories and personal anecdotes to build connections and bring science to the masses. His message is simple: “Have fun in your work, never turn down an opportunity, and say ‘yes’ to every opportunity, even if it scares the pants off you.”

*Samantha Kuula is a science communications graduate student at Laurentian University and Science North.*



## *determined advocate*

LU grad and honorary doctorate recipient Penny Hartin heads up an organization that represents the blind and visually impaired. Her rise to the top, however, wasn't without its bumps.

BY SHIRLEY MOORE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JO-ANNE MCARTHUR

**S**he has every device imaginable to help her with her daily routines, including talking timers, talking thermometers, and strong magnifiers to help her read. For work, her computer has speech and large print. But it is her determination, more than anything, which has enabled Penny Hartin (B.S.L., Hon, 1978) to become the CEO of the World Blind Union, an organization representing millions of blind and visually impaired people across the world.

In Toronto, where Hartin has just established the WBU's head office, she lives in an upscale neighbourhood with her cat, Shyla, and her guide dog, Oliana, a friendly golden retriever known to jump on guests when not working. Hartin laughs and calls Oliana "sociable."

The main living space is comfortably furnished, with red curtains and hardwood floors. Her home is well lit, because Hartin's eyesight is only 20/400, and hasn't changed much since she was born.

Hartin represents a number of world organizations for the blind as CEO of the WBU – which has been around since 1984 and was previously run by volunteers. WBU doesn't provide services directly, but instead, it provides guidance to organizations for blind and visually impaired people in 177 countries. The WBU also advocates on behalf of the visually impaired and represents their interests at the United Nations.

Hartin has been CEO of the WBU for over a year. Jim Sanders, a former colleague and president and CEO of the CNIB, calls the member-supported WBU the "only unified democratic, collective voice of blind people in the world."

In a WBU 2006 newsletter, Hartin said her new role allows her to "utilize [her] management experience, understanding of the blindness service sector; extensive involvement in WBU committees, and knowledge of international development." She is enthusiastic about her work with the United Nations, and has promoted the adoption of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. It gives legal right to basic services, programs, and supports to persons with disabilities.



Penny Hartin has been CEO of the World Blind Union since 2006. She has been involved in the blindness sector for more than 25 years as a professional through various roles with the CNIB.

Hartin believes the opportunity exists to influence the development of services and programs for persons with disabilities and she will ensure that the WBU and its members lead the way. For instance, the WBU promotes the sharing of resources amongst countries. As Hartin explains, many of the members produce audio books and it is important to have copyright exemptions for those titles to avoid paying copyright fees, thereby encouraging the sharing of materials across borders.

“If Australia produces a book and someone needs it in Canada, they should be able to get it, rather than having charitable dollars produce it in Canada as well. And if someone in Uganda needs it, they should be able to get, because they just can’t afford to produce it.”

Even though Hartin is running a huge organization, her career outlook wasn’t always so rosy.

After earning a degree in translation in 1978 from Laurentian, she decided to take a teaching degree at a (now-defunct) teacher’s college in Toronto. Soon after she started, she told the school she was visually impaired and wondered how she should handle her first practice teaching assignment. “They said I’d have to leave the program because they couldn’t have a vision-impaired student in the program.”

“I said, ‘I’m not planning to leave.’ They were very difficult. They said, ‘By Christmas you’ll find out you won’t be able to handle it, so you’ll leave on your own then.’ By Christmas, my lowest mark was an A, so I never heard from them again.”

Even after she graduated, however, she wasn’t able to find a job. She says she applied for many teaching jobs, but was often told she wouldn’t be considered because she is visually impaired.

That was before 1982, when Canada adopted *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. It is now a violation of the Charter to discriminate against people who have disabilities.

“Because I experienced it, I certainly understand what other people have experienced,” says Hartin. “You can feel very powerless. You feel as though you’re pretty vulnerable and you really don’t have much choice. You’re [prevented from doing] what you’re trying to do – and for no good reason. Just – and only – because you don’t see as well as other students.”

Hartin ended up with the CNIB and worked with them for 27 years in cities all over Canada. Jim Sanders, who has known and worked with Hartin more than 20 years, calls her fearless, determined, and focused, yet gentle.

“She will quietly leave or walk away from people who don’t share a sense of purpose and passion for what they do. She would never raise her voice at anybody – you just don’t see her again. She doesn’t get ruffled and she doesn’t get angry. She just goes about her job.”

Hartin also keeps a sense of humour about some of her day-to-day encounters.

“I’m bad sometimes,” she laughs. “There will be times when we’re walking along and someone will say ‘Oh, you’re so gorgeous,’ meaning the dog, of course. I’ll say, ‘Thank you, you mean me?’ What are they going to say, knowing it’s the dog? I just can’t resist it.”

Her stubborn approach is a family trait, says Hartin. She grew up in Haliburton, which she describes as “very nice, but pretty remote,” especially for someone who can’t drive. She was educated in the regular school system.

Hartin’s determination has served her well in her career and her life. She has advocated on behalf of blind women around the world, many, she says, who have not had access to essential services.

In her own life, she takes any opportunity that comes her way to educate and raise awareness around vision loss. In restaurants, she occasionally has to explain to staff that she is legally allowed to bring in her guide dog. When she travels – which she does extensively – the airport staff often show up with a wheelchair as a form of assistance.

“And I say, ‘Well, you sit in it,’” she laughs. “I’d be happy to put my bag in it, but I’m not sitting in it. Would you ever offer someone who needs a wheelchair a white cane? Of course not. And I say, ‘That’s basically what you’re doing.’ I know it makes them think.”



## *Oliana*

- golden retriever
- female
- 4.5 years old

Oliana goes to work with Penny Hartin, and is allowed to travel pretty much everywhere by law, including taxis, restaurants, and airplanes. However, she is not allowed inside a hospital operating room or a zoo.

Most guide dogs work with their handlers for about eight years, after which they retire. In many cases, the handler keeps the guide dog or the training school finds a good home for it.

## *Guide dog etiquette*

If a guide dog is in a harness, it is working and should not be distracted. Don’t look the dog in the eye, talk to it, or even touch it. This could be dangerous for both the dog and the person with vision loss. You should only pat a guide dog when it is not in a harness, after receiving permission from the handler to do so.

Source: Penny Hartin and the CNIB website ([www.cnib.ca](http://www.cnib.ca))



# AN EXCLUSIVE VIEW

A YEAR AFTER A CLOSE MATCH FOR THE STANLEY CUP, SPAD GRAD PHIL LEGAULT REFLECTS ON WORK AND LIFE WITH THE OTTAWA SENATORS.

BY LAURA E. YOUNG

**P**hil Legault summed it up 21 years ago: Get a SPAD degree, see the world.

Legault coined this phrase for Kit Lefroy, his varsity volleyball coach and SPAD professor at Laurentian. Now, two decades later, these words remain true for Legault, who is vice-president of communications for Capital Sports, which owns the Ottawa Senators.

Legault says he would not be where he is today without his degree from SPAD, Laurentian's flagship sports administration program, a unique program that recently celebrated its 35th anniversary.

Today, Legault is seeing the world; and in some cases, he's getting an exclusive view of his chosen world of hockey. Among many perks in his job is the special box seating, such as last year's perch inside the Anaheim Ducks' arena, where he watched the 2006-07 Stanley Cup finals.

He had extra time to enjoy the view, too. The NHL season came down to the Ducks and the Sens. Legault says it felt like the two teams consisted of "an exclusive club" of players, coaches, and reps. But it was bizarre to watch hockey in early June in Anaheim, California, he recalls. The location was strange, too. It just couldn't compete with Ottawa enthusiastically rallying behind the Sena-

tors, igniting a Stanley Cup fever that spread across the region.

Inside the Ducks' building, "Anaheim fans were second only to Sens fans," says Legault. But a few blocks away from the arena, and "you might as well have been on Mars in terms of people knowing there was a Stanley Cup final."

Legault would do it all over again, even if it meant the same outcome – the Senators losing the Cup. "It was certainly a great disappointment to lose, but the experience of seeing the team build in strength from each round was inspiring," he says. "I loved how Ottawa, the fans, and the media rallied around the team ... and the excitement of how far the Senators went. It was such an experience."

Long hauls are a way of life for Legault. He has run three marathons and one half-marathon, and even on the day of this telephone interview, he is on the move, though car-bound, and practically sprinting between appointments. He is dropping a car off to the dealer, and preparing to meet up with the team, due back home for the weekend.

Legault has had a long career in sport. In 1986, the year he married Dianna Manstan (they have a 13-year-old son, Curtis), he also joined the Ottawa Rough Riders of the CFL. He has participated in three winter Olympics, including a role as Team Canada's

Home ice advantage: Phil Legault outside Scotiabank Place in Ottawa, home to the NHL's Ottawa Senators (opposite page).

Go Sens Go: Legault loved how Ottawa supported the Senators in the 2006-07 Stanley Cup finals.



communications manager (in 1994, when Canada won silver in hockey at the Lillehammer Olympics). He also represented Team Canada for Canada's gold medal wins at the 1993 to 1996 world juniors.

Though he remains active in a variety of sports, Legault's love of hockey goes way back; he laced up his first pair of skates at the age of four. He played junior A and B in Ottawa, and today, he still plays in an over-40 league. He plays tennis in the summer and squash in the winter. "My son drags me out snowboarding in the winter, too."

"Working with elite and professional athletes for over 20 years has taught me that your work, your life, and what you put into it, is only as good as your effort."

After high school, Legault registered at the University of Ottawa in the general administration program. Before long, he found himself looking for a course on sports administration. After sharing his experience with Mike Hill, a player on his local junior B team (who was taking commerce), they discovered the SPAD program at Laurentian. It was an easy move. Growing up, Legault often visited his extended family in Copper Cliff. "Sudbury wasn't alien to me," he laughs.

Legault really connected to the program. The memory of "it feeling like a team is one thing that defined it most for me." During university, his goals for his future shifted; at one point he was leaning toward finance. But he was drawn to human relations and marketing. "I wasn't too fond of accounting management, but I was stubborn at the time and thought I should stick with it."

In his third year, he heard that the (now defunct) Riders were looking for a communications assistant. He jumped at the opportunity. Legault was little more than a glorified gopher, sometimes just serving food in the press box. In 1996, after his stint with Hockey Canada, he was hired on with Capital Sports when the group re-structured.

The Senators anchor Capital Sports, but on any given day, there are all kinds of communications requirements: Scotiabank Place plays host to a variety of concerts and events, including a recent tour by country music superstar Keith Urban.

On occasion, Legault may take a call from security informing him that Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a huge hockey fan, is attending a game. "If it's the prime minister, it's usually pretty

quiet for us," Legault says, adding that the prime minister doesn't request a special box. "He prefers to buy his own tickets and sit in the stands like the regular fans." Harper doesn't seek attention at the game, Legault says. Instead, he's "very low maintenance for us. It's obviously a treat to have him here, but we also know there's not a lot of work [involved]."

"In all positions that Phil has held," says Bob Wanzel, SPAD's first director, "I hear that he can be relied upon to get the job done – well and within timelines."

Wanzel attributes much of Legault's success to his dependabil-

ity. "He has garnered a reputation as a team player, a nice person, and a strong leader – a great combination. He has worked in difficult situations, but has always persevered to bring the project to a successful conclusion."

For Legault, the lessons from a lifetime in sport are a source of inspiration. "Working with elite and professional athletes for over 20 years has taught me that your work, your life, and what you put into it, is only as good as your effort. Seeing our 'idols' on the playing field or in Olympic competition gives me a great appreciation for work ethic."

Being in sports management requires a similar personal and professional sacrifice for Legault. He cautions new SPAD grads: "So many people think that simply by getting into the program that you're going to graduate and get a job in professional sports." Grads must be prepared to spend time in the proverbial trenches of sport management, he believes. They should also build up their credentials. "You're not going to win a marathon if you haven't trained for it," he adds.

Legault is training (once again) for the ING Ottawa Marathon, which is scheduled for the weekend of May 23-25. This year, he intends to run the half marathon.

Around the same time last year, the Sens just kept on winning and the extended NHL season meant that Legault had to withdraw from the marathon.

This year, the same possibility holds true: "I'd be more than happy not to run," he says. ■



FROM THE  
INFINITESIMAL  
TO THE INFINITE,  
TRACING THE  
ORIGIN OF  
MATTER  
IS ALL IN A  
DAY'S WORK.

Balz Kamber, Laurentian's Tier I Canada Research Chair in Precambrian geology, in the ultra trace element facility.

# TRACING DUST

Here's a trick. Place two drops of red wine in the huge, Olympic-sized pool on campus, and see if anyone notices.

Balz Kamber and his team from Laurentian's ultra trace element facility would notice. In fact, they could trace the contaminant in the water, declare it to be red wine, and even say where the grapes originated.

The process is known informally as chemical fingerprinting, a sophisticated way of tracing the origin of virtually anything – perhaps even the origins of life. The applications are limitless.

Kamber, Laurentian's Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Precambrian geology, doesn't think in terms of animate or inanimate objects. Everything has some sort of chemical fingerprint. You just have

to know how to read it. "It's impossible to avoid geology in your day-to-day life – there's geology in your washing powders, your toothpaste, and in your cosmetics," Kamber says.

The entire periodic table is represented in any given object, even if we're only talking about parts per trillion level of measurement, he adds.

Across campus from the pool, and deep inside the Willet Green Centre, Kamber is reading chemicals by use of a mass spectrometer machine. The mass spectrometer fires a laser and separates the parts. The parts are then analyzed. Clients from around the world use the facility.

Kamber is originally from Switzerland, and has studied at Oxford and Cambridge. An Australian citizen, he spent

seven years working there. Kamber joined Laurentian's earth sciences department in 2005. His research chair position is valued at \$200,000 per year for an initial period of seven years. "I'm happy here, so that's good," he says.

The process of chemical fingerprinting or geo-chemical fingerprinting began in the 1970s. Scientists were able to investigate rocks that had been found on Earth that were unlike any other rocks on our planet.

After the Apollo missions to the moon brought back moon rocks, these unique rocks were analyzed and compared to the moon rocks.

It was finally decided that the rocks must originate from Mars, due to their chemical fingerprint.

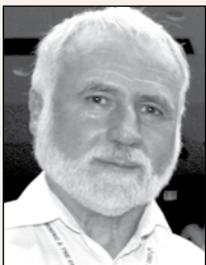
*(continued on page 20)*

# AWARDS AND ACCOLADES: departmental and professor updates

## \$2.5 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING FOR LU

In late January, Laurentian received \$2.5 million from the Ontario government to help complete priority projects related to campus safety, energy efficiency, and improvements to existing facilities. These will include upgrades to emergency back-up generators, on-campus communications systems, enhancements to the new emergency operations centre, upgrades to fume hoods in labs, multimedia equipment in classrooms, retrofits in older buildings to improve access, and roof repairs. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is spending \$200 million in new funding to support three primary initiatives at Ontario's colleges and universities: energy efficiency, campus safety and security, and the renewal of existing infrastructure.

## AWARD FOR FRESHWATER RESEARCH



**Bill Keller**, a Ministry of the Environment scientist and adjunct professor with Laurentian's Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit, won

the Frank Rigler Memorial Award for his contributions to freshwater science in Canada. This lifetime achievement award was presented to Keller in Halifax in January 2008 from the Canadian Society of Limnology.

## NEW FUNDING FOR SNOLAB

In January 2008, SNOLAB, Canada's premier astroparticle physics underground research facility, received \$17.9 million in provincial

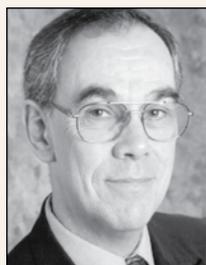
funding from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation. The funding is essential as SNOLAB reaches its completion milestone later this year and commences operations, said Tony Noble, SNOLAB director.

Fraser Duncan, associate director of SNOLAB, commented on the progress made by the excavation and construction teams to complete this 3,000-square-metre addition to the SNO laboratory. "We will shortly establish cleanroom environments in many laboratory rooms and should have experiment installations beginning later this year," said Duncan.

## FUNDING FOR LU ENGINEERING RESEARCHER

Laurentian professor **Markus Timusk**, coordinator of the university's four-year mechanical engineering program, has received \$500,000 in funding to help design two prototypes for the Canadian automotive industry. He has also designed a fault detection system for running equipment, which is now being used in the Alberta oilsands. It is hoped that his prototype will eventually replace the conventional engine stands that are used to test new automotive parts.

## DOUGAL MCCREATH NAMED TO NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (NWMO)



**Dougal McCreath**, professor in Laurentian's school of engineering was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Nuclear

Waste Management Organization for a four-year term. The NWMO was established in 2002 to recommend a long-term approach for managing used nuclear fuel produced by Canada's electricity generators. McCreath is a professor of civil and mining engineering. His teaching, research, and international consulting interests range from the design of deep underground excavations to the recovery and sustainability of damaged ecosystems.

## \$17,000 DONATION TO NOSM BURSARY FUND ESTABLISHES BRING-A-DOCTOR-HOME BURSARY

Participants in the Algoma Steel Hockey Tournament in Sault Ste. Marie made a \$17,000 donation to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) Bursary Fund to establish a Bring-a-Doctor-Home bursary in January. "We believe this investment will strategically assist Sault Ste. Marie with long-term recruitment of family physicians to northern Ontario," said Hal Mogg, Algoma Steel Hockey Tournament director.

The Ontario government will match the bursary contribution, and the bursary itself will continue to grow with each successive year that the tournament raises donations. In 2006, the tournament participants collected \$10,500 in donations for students of the medical school, which, with a contribution from Algoma Steel and matching government funding, created the Algoma Steel Bursary in the amount of \$100,000.

*(continued on page 21)*

## TRACING DUST *(continued from page 18)*

After considering the different geographical processes on Mars, it was the most plausible explanation – chemically speaking, Kamber says, even though it takes a stretch of the imagination to understand how they ended up on Earth.

“You should understand, of the thousands of meteorites that have been found, only a handful or two are from Mars.” Usually, meteorites come from the asteroid belt, some from the moon, and some from the proto planet Vesta, he adds.

Jumping from space dust to earth dust, Kamber continues on this topic, explaining that he spent much time studying dust in Australia. In fact, the origin of air pollution can be traced because pollution attaches itself to dust, he says.

“That is a problem Canada is facing because a significant portion of the air pollution created in Korea and China travels across the Pacific Ocean and rains on the West Coast,” he explains.

Kamber has seen this problem before. Red dust containing contaminants was found in the world heritage lands of New Zealand. Kamber’s research crew used chemical fingerprinting to identify its origins: It turned out that the polluted dust hailed from Australia’s industrial region.

There are different ways to trace and measure pollutants; Kamber recently launched an earth sciences student project, conducting research into the history of Sudbury’s air quality by studying tree rings. Tree rings capture air pollutants, too, he says.

With many projects underway at the ultra trace element facility, Kamber still devotes time to his main interest: investigating the origin of life – well beyond the fossil record, long before organisms left shells – by identifying the tiniest signs of life in rocks. “There is chemical evidence of life in the rock,” he says.

He seeks to answer when, where, and how life actually originated and why it took so long for complex life forms to emerge. “I am not asking *why* there is life on Earth. I don’t want to know if we’re alone. That to me is a philosophical question, which I don’t want to answer. But I am interested in understanding the evolution of life on the planet.”

The subject of evolution of life connects to, and feeds, his interest in climate change. “I am not concerning myself with whether it’s going to be two degrees warmer in 50 years or four degrees warmer. I leave that to other people. I want to know whether the evolution of *Homo sapiens*, you and I, was essentially driven by climate change.”

The tool of chemical fingerprinting may help answer these questions, he believes.

“It’s only a little piece of the mosaic, but sometimes, chemical fingerprinting can be the last piece of the puzzle, and just by adding that piece, you can have a breakthrough.”

By *Laura E. Young*



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

Send us an update on yourself and you could win some cool Laurentian stuff. Just fax us at 705-675-4840 (and address it to Editor, Laurentian University Magazine) or write us at [magazine@laurentian.ca](mailto: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:

**David Munch, B.Com. 1995**

## Awards and Accolades

(continued from page 19)

### RECOLLET WINS ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AWARD



**Debra Recollet**, a fourth-year, mature student in Native Human Services, won the Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award

late last fall. Her award celebrates motivation and determination among students who have conquered personal, economic, or social adversity as they pursue higher learning, said a Canada Post press release. Recollet moved to Sudbury from the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford to study in the dental assistant program at Cambrian College and graduated in 1977. She was out of school for nearly 30 years before enrolling at Laurentian. As she accepted her award, Recollet acknowledged the support of her Native professors and fellow students: "They made me feel like part of a community here," she said.

### ALUMNA WINS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD



**Tracy MacLeod** (BA 1995), director of development at Laurentian, won the 2007 Outstanding Volunteer Award from the

Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education - Ontario (CCAEO). The award recognizes exceptional contributions and achievements by individual volunteers who have advanced the cause and mission of the CCAEO. MacLeod was honoured for her leadership, energy, and commitment to the council over the past five years. She has been a committee member,

chair of the fall workshop and member services, treasurer and vice-president. CCAEO is the leading volunteer organization operating in support of the mission of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAEO), with particular focus on the needs of Ontario members. The CCAEO is the primary source of information, connection, and support for advancement professionals working at universities, colleges, institutes, and independent schools across Canada.

### SYLVIE LANDRY NAMED NEW RESOURCE PERSON FOR FRANCOPHONE PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

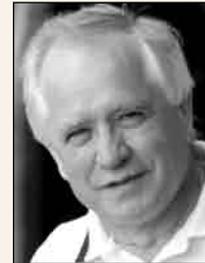
In January 2008, **Sylvie Landry** assumed the position of resource person for francophone partnerships and agreements at the university. A graduate of psychology at Laurentian, she has helped develop policies for French-language college education at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. With Canadian Heritage, she was part of a team that coordinated and managed an agreement to develop a five-year strategic plan for the Franco-Ontarian community. She was also director of communications at the Ministry of Labour and Housing.

### LAURENTIAN PROFESSOR TO HELP CREATE A VIRTUAL HUB FOR FRANCOPHONE MUNICIPALITIES IN CANADA

**Luc Lagrandeur**, marketing specialist and professor in the faculty of management, is part of a Canada-wide team of researchers working to help francophone and bilingual municipalities integrate information technology. Coordinated by the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, this joint project, entitled *Carrefour virtuel des municipalités francophones et bilingues du Canada* (Virtual hub for francophone and bilingual municipalities in Canada), will draw on the resources

from municipalities and universities in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba. The research group will work with francophone communities to identify factors that encourage or inhibit the move toward the Internet and develop action plans to promote the distribution of Internet services in municipalities that are part of municipal associations.

### TWO PROFESSORS WIN AWARDS IN NOVEMBER



**Dr. Gratiien Allaire**, historian and director of the Institut franco-ontarien, received the Agathe Award of Excellence from Artquimédia, in Amqui,

Quebec. This annual award is given to individuals from the region, whose professional, intellectual, cultural and social endeavours have inspired artists. Allaire has been studying Canada's francophonie since 1976 and has greatly contributed to the renewal and evolution of knowledge and understanding that pertains to French-speaking Canada. He is active in the community and currently working on a project to establish a French-language bookstore in Sudbury.

**Benoît Grenier**, assistant professor in the department of history, received the prestigious Michel-Brunet Award from the Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française (IHAF), that grants this award each year to recognize the best book on a history subject published by a young historian (younger than 35). In 2007, Grenier published *Seigneurs campagnards de la nouvelle France. Présence seigneuriale et sociabilité rurale dans la vallée du Saint-Laurent à l'époque préindustrielle*, at the Presses universitaires de Rennes. The book explores seigneurial diversity and its evolution from the 17th to the 19th centuries.



# A VISION FOR THE NEW YEAR

BY DAVID WHITE, BPHE 1983  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

WITH THE START OF 2008, the LUAA took another look at how we will move forward as Laurentian University's 50th anniversary approaches. But first, there are a few updates from 2007 that require mentioning.

To begin, I would like to thank all of the LUAA board members for their contribution to the association, and in particular, a special thank you goes out to the four members who retired from the board in 2007 – Madeleine Dennis, Gisèle Roberts, Bradley Stewart, and David Throssell – who devoted their time, energy, and talents. I am also pleased to welcome new members to the board: Sean Bradley, Sandra Fortier, Diane Mihalek, Daveen Morrison, Blaine Smith, Sarah Viau, and our faculty representative, Bob Wilson.

Congratulations are in order to the 2007 Alumni Recognition Award recipients and the Alumni Voyageur Hall of Fame inductees. You can learn more about the recipients in the following pages.

I also offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. A. Les McDonald, the first LUAA president, who passed away on December 11, 2007. His time spent with the board was fundamental to our success and growth.

Finally, the LUAA is gearing up to celebrate 50 years of Laurentian alumni success. We would like to celebrate with all of our alumni, near and far, so I invite you to share your ideas regarding how best we can take part in the celebrations. Your local alumni chapters are eager to work with you to make your vision a reality. Or, you can also contact me at: [luaapresident@laurentian.ca](mailto:luaapresident@laurentian.ca).

## LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Working on your behalf*

President: David White, BPHE 1983  
Vice-President: Jacques Tremblay, B.Com. 1982  
Treasurer: Rick Bellrose, B.Com. 1988  
Secretary: Linda Morel, BSW 1993  
Past President and Representative to Board of Governors: Claude Lacroix, BA 1991

### DIRECTORS

Andrew Battistoni, BA 1985 (Sudbury alumni chapter representative)  
Sean Bradley, BA 1995  
Albert Corradini, B.Com. 1984  
Tracey Duguay, BA 1996  
Sandra Fortier, B.Sc. 1997, BA 1998  
Todd Frawley, B.Sc. 1992  
Ryan Lafraniere, (Student alumni representative)  
Diane Mihalek, SPAD 1989 (SPAD chapter representative)  
Daveen Morrison, BPHE 1976 (Vancouver chapter representative)  
Daniel Robidoux, BA 1997 (on-campus alumni chapter representative)  
Michael Romaniuk, B.Sc. 1985 (Board of Governors representative)  
Blaine Smith, SPAD 1980  
Sarah Viau, BA 2001  
Bob Wilson, BA 1970 (faculty representative)

### ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

Director: Lisa Demers-Brooks, BA 1990, B.Ed. 1994  
Alumni Officers: Julie Ceming, B.Com. 2000, B.Ed. 2002 (on leave) and Brent LaBrosse  
Alumni Communications Officer: Kimberly Nadon, B.Sc. 2007  
Data Entry Clerk: Annette Laprise  
Secretary: Michelle Brunette  
Phone: (705) 675-4818 Fax: (705) 671-3825  
[alumni@laurentian.ca](mailto:alumni@laurentian.ca) [www.lualumni.laurentian.ca](http://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](mailto:alumni@laurentian.ca) with your suggestions.

### 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](http://www.lualumni.laurentian.ca) or give us a call at (705) 675-4818. We're always looking for participants with fresh ideas.



ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES  
OF THE NATIVE HUMAN  
SERVICES PROGRAM:  
**YOUR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
IS COMING UP!**

**Come to Laurentian and celebrate this  
platinum anniversary on July 18 and 19, 2008.**

Highlights of the weekend will include:

- a welcome reception
- a keynote address
- alumni seminars
- a traditional feast, and more!

All Native Human Services alumni are welcome to join us, so hurry up and contact [alumni@laurentian.ca](mailto:alumni@laurentian.ca) or (705) 675-4818.

WE SUPPORT THE "MYSUDBURY CAMPAIGN"



The LUAA is proud to announce that it has joined several businesses in the Sudbury community by becoming an official partner of the "mysudbury campaign." To show our support, the logos and taglines will be incorporated into alumni publications.

The campaign is being used for marketing purposes, and to attract business investment, recruit and retain professionals, promote tourism, and encourage internal investment.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## FALL CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Laurentian alumni chapters across Ontario were busy this past fall hosting numerous events.

### Ottawa Theatre Night: October 4, 2007

Laurentian alumni from the Ottawa region came together to see a play by one of our very own honorary doctorate recipients, Jean-Marc Dalpé. The play, *Août – un repas à la campagne*, was staged at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and was preceded by a dinner at the National Arts Centre Café.

### Timmins Pub Night: October 19, 2007

Alumni from the Timmins area came together at Mickey J's Big House Bar and Grill to mingle to the sound of Big Deal.

### Ottawa Senators vs. Atlanta Thrashers: December 15, 2007

Alumni in Ottawa enjoyed an NHL match between the Ottawa Senators and the Atlanta Thrashers, cheering on their favorite team with Laurentian alumni cheer sticks; the encouragement no doubt helped the Sens defeat the Thrashers with a final score of 7-3.

All of our upcoming events, as well as some event recaps, are available through our monthly e-newsletter. If you're not receiving the alumni e-newsletter and would like to, please call (705) 675-4818 or e-mail us at [alumni@laurentian.ca](mailto:alumni@laurentian.ca).

From left: Alumni theatre buffs in Ottawa.

Enjoying the night in Timmins in the company of old friends.

Ready to cheer on the Sens in Ottawa.



## REACHING ALUMNI CHAPTERS

*Thank you to the dedicated alumni who devote their time to Laurentian University in their respective communities.*

Sudbury Alumni Chapter

Ottawa Alumni Chapter

Toronto Alumni Chapter

Huronian Alumni Chapter

Laurentian@Georgian Alumni Chapter

On-Campus Alumni Chapter

Timmins Alumni Chapter

Vancouver Alumni Chapter

SPAD Alumni Chapter

New York Alumni Chapter

President, Dean Jacklin, BPHE 1992

President, Martin Soulière, BA 2005

President, Joseph Bowman, BSL 1991

President, Kyle Clarke, BPHE 2000

President to be announced

President, Daniel Robidoux, BA 1997

President, Louis Clausi, BA 1985

President, Daveen Morrison, BPHE 1976

President, Darryl Boynton, B.Com. SPAD 2003

President to be announced

[sudburychapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:sudburychapter@laurentian.ca)

[ottawachapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:ottawachapter@laurentian.ca)

[torontochapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:torontochapter@laurentian.ca)

[huronianchapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:huronianchapter@laurentian.ca)

[georgianchapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:georgianchapter@laurentian.ca)

[oncampuschapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:oncampuschapter@laurentian.ca)

[timminschapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:timminschapter@laurentian.ca)

[vancouverchapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:vancouverchapter@laurentian.ca)

[spadchapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:spadchapter@laurentian.ca)

[newyorkcitychapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:newyorkcitychapter@laurentian.ca)

## MEET THE OTTAWA CHAPTER!

Alumni chapters are a great way for Laurentian alumni to stay connected with fellow graduates. We now have eight active alumni chapters, including Huronia, the Laurentian campus, Ottawa, SPAD, Sudbury, Timmins, Toronto, and Vancouver.

There are currently more than 1,700 Laurentian alumni living in the Ottawa area, making this region the third-most populated area with Laurentian alumni. The president of our Ottawa chapter, Martin Soulière (BA 2005) has answered some questions about what's going on for alumni living in the Ottawa region.

**Q: How did you get involved with this chapter?**

MS: I was a liaison officer at Laurentian, so I've always been involved with the Laurentian community. When I moved to Ottawa to pursue my career in orientation, I wanted to keep connected with Laurentian, so I joined the Ottawa chapter. I sat on the executive for about two years, helped out with the golf tournament this summer, and was then appointed president of the chapter.

**Q: Tell us about some activities organized for Ottawa alumni.**

MS: The latest activities have included a golf tournament, which was held as a fundraiser, with all the funds directed toward the Ottawa Alumni Chapter Bursary. This bursary will be awarded to a Laurentian student.

Another event, held annually in August in Ottawa, is the send-off party, which welcomes new students from Ottawa to Laurentian.

**Q: What's on the agenda for 2008?**

MS: This summer, we will hold the second-annual golf tournament, which raises funds for the Ottawa chapter bursary. This year, the tournament will be held at the Meadows Golf & Country Club on June 16, 2008. Everyone is welcome to join!

We are also conducting a few chapter executive meetings, including one at the end of March that will be open to all Ottawa alumni interested in joining our chapter. The date for this event is posted on the



New students are welcomed through chapter send-off parties.

alumni website. Currently, some positions on the executive are open to those interested in joining.

**Q: How can other LU grads in the Ottawa region get involved?**

MS: The best way to get involved is by participating in the above-mentioned activities and meetings. For those looking to join the Ottawa chapter executive, I can be reached anytime at [ottawachapter@laurentian.ca](mailto:ottawachapter@laurentian.ca). It would be great to have more fresh faces on board!

## COCKTAIL ETIQUETTE AND COOKING WORKSHOP

Ideal for students – cooking lessons and cocktail etiquette!

November 2007 was a busy month for the Laurentian Student Alumni Association (LSA). The student association hosted a cooking session with Sudbury's Respect is Burning chefs, including Laurentian alumni Rob Gregorini, (BA 1990), owner, and Chris Cleary, executive chef (shown at right).

Shortly after hosting this sold-out event, students and alumni had another entertaining – and educational – evening. The LSA hosted its first cocktail etiquette session on November 6, 2007 for alumni and students alike. Facilitator Fatima Di Valentin taught the essentials for business cocktail party etiquette (shown below).



# ALUMNI VOYAGEUR HALL OF FAME AWARDS



Another round of outstanding Voyageurs was inducted into the Alumni Voyageur Hall of Fame in October 2007 by a joint committee of alumni, athletics, and community members.

Wendy Davis (B.Sc. 1993), who was undefeated as a nordic skier during her university days; basketball all-star Brad Hann (B.Sc. 1995) and the 1997-98 men's basketball team, OUA champions and CIAU final four qualifiers, were inducted.

Davis also represented Canada on the senior nordic ski team, competing at the 1993 world championships. She now works as an environmental consultant in Anchorage, Alaska, where she lives with her husband, Crane Johnson, and their two-year-old daughter, Sadie.

"There are a lot of people here who I didn't think would come that I'm excited to see. It's a fun process – trying to remember all the things that went on while I was racing," Davis said.

It was her first trip back to Sudbury in five years. "It seems booming, especially the south [end]. It's really nice to be back. Things are changing and it's getting better."

During his playing days, Brad Hann won a TSN award for combining excellence in the classroom, on the court, and in the community. He was a three-time CIAU academic all-Canadian. He joins his older brother Norm in the Hall of Fame.

Hann is now teaching in the nursing program and coaching men's basketball at Cambrian College. "Right now, we are rebuilding. It's going to take a little bit of time to build the program I perceive for us." He hopes his players enjoy the experience of playing collegiate ball as much as he did, "it is a wonderful experience in combination with the academics."

The 1997-98 men's basketball team won the Ontario championship and finished in the final four at the Canadians, before losing in the CIAU semi-final in Halifax that season. The 1997-98 team inductees include Cory Bailey (BA 1998), Roan Biggs (B.Sc. 2000), Patrick Brandt (BA 2002), Dwayne Burton (BA 2002), Colin Crockham (BA 2001), Ted Dongelmans, Adam Dusome (BA 1998, B.Comm. 1998), Cliff Edwards (BA 2003), Kevin "Flash" Gordon (BA 2000), B.J. Henderson (BA 2000), Anthony Malcolm, Leon Sutton (BA 2002), Joey Turco (BPHE 1999), head coach Peter Campbell, assistant coach Shawn Swords (BA 1997), manager Jill Evershed, and trainer Shawna McNabb (BPHE 1998).



Award-recipient Brad Hann (right).



Wendy Davis (right) receives award.



1997-98 men's basketball inductees.



The Sudbury Alumni Chapter and Laurentian Athletics under the Title Sponsorship from TD Meloche Monnex present:

## THE PRESIDENT'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT 2008

In support of Laurentian University student scholarships and bursaries.

**Thursday, July 10, 2008**  
**Idylwyld Golf & Country Club**  
**\$200 registration fee per person**

Registration includes: One round of golf, shared golf cart, BBQ lunch, buffet dinner, chance at team prizes, and a tournament corporate gift.

Special guest: Chris Mason, 2006 international long ball champion

For more information or to register, please contact the Alumni Relations office at (705) 675-4818 or [alumni@laurentian.ca](mailto:alumni@laurentian.ca)



# THE 2007 LAURENTIAN ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS HONOUR THREE EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY LEADERS

**Introducing the new recipients of the Alumni Recognition Awards, Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth, said, "These alumni awards give us the opportunity to celebrate the important contributions to society of our ever-growing Laurentian alumni family."**

The LUAA is proud to announce the recipients of the second-annual Laurentian Alumni Recognition Awards. Three recipients were honoured during a dinner on November 22, 2007, at Bryston's on the Park. They are:

**Pierre Bélanger** (BA 1969, D.Laws 2007) winner of the Alumni Award of Distinction, is a well-known and highly respected entrepreneur in northern Ontario and northwestern Quebec. He has devoted much of his life to the regions' economic development, education, and environment. In recognition of Pierre Bélanger's outstanding achievements and the pride he brings to Laurentian University, the LUAA made a donation of \$750 in his name to Joël Lauzon, a student in the Arts d'expression program at Laurentian University.

**Sandra McMillan** (BA 2001) is the founder and director of the No Strings Attached Community Band, which is comprised of 40 amateur musicians from the Sudbury region. She received the Alumni Young Leader Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of a Laurentian graduate under the age of 40.

**William Lemieux** (BA 2007) is currently studying to become a teacher at Laurentian University's *École des sciences de l'éducation*. He is the recipient of the 2007 Student Recognition Award, which is given to a current student for academic achievement and involvement in the university community.



Lisa Demers-Brooks and Pierre Bélanger



Award-recipient Sandra McMillan



Award-recipient William Lemieux



Recipients with Laurentian president Judith Woodsworth

**Do you know someone who would be a good candidate for an Alumni Recognition award?**

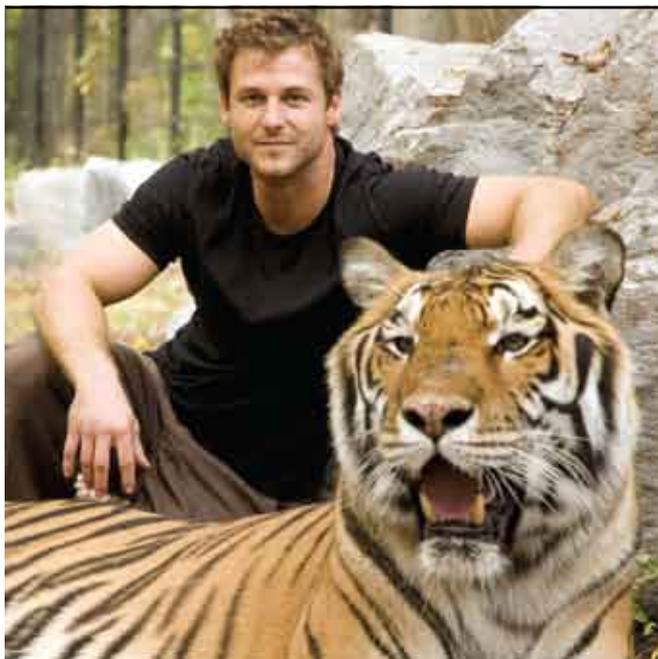
Nominate a candidate online for our 2008 awards!  
Visit [www.lualumni.laurentian.ca](http://www.lualumni.laurentian.ca).



**Laurentian** Alumni  
Anciens **Laurentienne**

**Celebrating our alumni and students**

## IN THE NEWS

**DAVE SALMONI**

Dave Salmoni (B.Sc. 1998), rode the American media machine last fall and stayed aboard into 2008. He has been named one of *Cosmopolitan* magazine's "fun, fearless males" of 2008 (February 2008 issue), and was a guest on the Jay Leno and David Letterman talk shows last fall. Salmoni, 32, is working for Discovery Communications (which owns Animal Planet and the Discovery Network where Salmoni's programs air), and remains Animal Planet's expert on predatory animals. He is returning to southern Africa to live with a pride of lions and film a documentary chronicling the experience.

Being a celebrity has been an adjustment, but he understands it is part of his job. Gaining fame has helped his cause for animal conservation, he says. "It was a weird transition, but it really opened the door. More people listen to you when you say this animal is [facing extinction]."

**KATHY SHIELDS**

In October 2007, Kathy Shields, former Lady Vees basketball star from the glorious five national titles in the 1970s, was one of four new honourees for "In Her Footsteps – Celebrating BC Women In Sport," a recognition program and exhibit, housed at the BC Sports Hall of Fame, which recounts the stories of BC's sports heroines for future generations to enjoy. Shields was a member of the Canadian National Basketball team from 1970 to 1975. In 1978, she began coaching the University of Victoria Vikes, and she led the Vikes to eight Canadian University Sport National Championships and 14 Canada West titles. She placed 21 student-athletes on CIS first or second all-star teams in 21 years of coaching.

**RICHARD SCHRYER**

Richard (Rick) Schryer (M.Sc. 1986) has been appointed manager of Regulatory Affairs for Fortune Minerals Ltd. After earning his master's at Laurentian, and his undergraduate at the University of Ottawa, Schryer earned his PhD at the University of Saskatchewan in fish biology. He worked for Golder Associates Ltd. for

over 14 years and was instrumental in the development of their Yellowknife office and encouraged their refocused interest in the North.

**MARY MCGUIRE**

Mary McGuire, a Laurentian nursing grad, and a native of Sault Ste. Marie, returned to Sudbury to work in the nurse practitioner clinic on Riverside Drive as part of a wider campaign to bring Canadian nurses home. She had been in the United States.

"I thought: "Yeah, this is my opportunity to return to Canada and finally be recognized and appreciated,"" said McGuire in a newspaper article. She started work at the Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinic in July 2007.

Across Canada, employers are recruiting to bring Canadian talent home, and, in some cases, back to their home provinces or the province where they graduated from university.

The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario has sent bulletins to nurses in the U.S., to invite them home. According to Doris Grinspun, the association's executive

director, dozens of nurses have returned in the past few years. "And we have a lot of optimism that we can convince many more to come home."

**CAMPUS QUIZ**

*How much do you really know about your university?*

**Which Laurentian professor is co-chair of the expert panel on climate change adaptation along with Ian Burton, emeritus professor at the University of Toronto?**

Send the correct answer to [magazine@laurentian.ca](mailto:magazine@laurentian.ca) with the subject line "Spring 08 Trivia" before June 30, 2008 and we'll enter your name in a draw for a Laurentian gift pack. Good luck!

Congratulations to Deborah Jongsma (BSL 1986) who won our last Campus Quiz contest. She will receive some Laurentian swag for replying that Rick McKie donated his luscious locks of hair to help a Bosnian family buy beds.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

## 1970s

**David Chirko, BA 1976**, is the northern Ontario coordinator for the now registered Reform Party of Ontario. He invites readers to visit the website: [NewCanada.ca](http://NewCanada.ca).

**Mark E. F. Cornish, BA 1975**, and his wife, Ursula Bartlett-Cornish, are living in Georgia. Mark worked for 14 years for the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. He retired after 10 years of service with the Tennessee State Public Service. For the past three years, he has been a probation/parole officer and "is enjoying life in the clouds."

**Sean Kearney, BA Laurentian, B.Ed. Nipissing**, is a teacher with the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. He is celebrating his 25th year in the profession. He is currently teaching Grades 6/7 at the Good Shepherd Catholic School in Barrie. Sean has also taught in Elliot Lake, Woodbridge, and Sharon. In September, Sean and his wife, Debbie, flew to Beijing, China, to adopt their baby daughter, Cadence. He sends a special hello to all former residents of University College from 1976-80, particularly former players from the Barn Owls.

**Cynthia Gnech (Wagner), BA 1975**, and her husband, Tino, returned to her home in Pennsylvania after she graduated from Laurentian. She obtained her M.Admin. degree from Pennsylvania State University and has worked for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for more than 31 years. She was recently named director of the Bureau of Finance and Operations in the PA Department of State. Cynthia and Tino have two children: Christopher, who has a degree in actuarial science and is working as an actuarial analyst, and Melissa, who is a junior at Westminster College, majoring in neuroscience. Former classmates can contact Cynthia at [cindy.gnech@verizon.net](mailto:cindy.gnech@verizon.net).

## 1990s

**Marcian Anselmus, B.Eng. 1993**, graduated from Greenwich University (Australia) with an MBA in 2001. He also has his PhD

in leadership and customer relationship management from Golden State University (USA). In 2006, he graduated from Malaysia's Technology University (UTM) with an executive diploma in project management in integrated facility management. Since 2005, Marcian has operated in a variety of consulting businesses, including as CEO of LLOYD Engineering and S.E. Asia Mineral Resources, and as director of LBH Technologies.

**Jo-Anne Bouchard, BA 1994**, is currently teaching in Val-d'Or, Quebec.

**Ted Corbould, BA 1995**, has spent the last four years working as an elementary school teacher in Bangkok, Thailand. He has also completed his B.Ed. and in 2008, he will graduate with his M.Ed. Since leaving Canada in 2003, Ted has visited 15 countries. Any classmates wishing to contact Ted can reach him through email at [tcorbould@yahoo.ca](mailto:tcorbould@yahoo.ca).

**Lauren Fleury (Leeder), HBSWN Native Human Services 1997**, and her husband, Kevin, celebrated the birth of their first child, Mirac Vaughn, on March 31, 2007. Lauren has been on maternity leave, and is a supervisor with Family & Children's Services in Brockville. Kevin has been a police officer for 13 years. For the past five years, he has been working with the Investigations and Organized Crime Bureau; a special branch of the O.P.P. They love rural life as new parents to Mirac. Lauren also obtained her motorcycle licence last year and looks forward to finally riding in the front for a change.

**David Munch, B.Com. 1995**, has been appointed executive director of Finlandia Village. David has been employed with Finlandia Village since 2005, serving in various senior administrative positions.

**Gil, SPAD 1997, and Jessica, BA 2000, (Chubay) Pharand** are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Brody Benjamin Pharand. Brody was born on October 8, 2007 and weighed 7 lbs. and 11 oz. Brody was also welcomed by his brother, Owen. Gil is the annual fund officer at Nipissing University and Jessica is a teacher at W.J. Fricker Senior Public School.

## 2000s

After an internship with Saskatchewan Property Management **Tanyann Belaney, BA 2002**, has begun her career with the Government of Saskatchewan as manager of legislation and contract services with the Corporate and Financial Services Division of Industry and Resources.

**Philippe Robert Chain, B.Sc. 2000**, and **Gursharon Dhaliwal, B.Sc. 2000** were married on June 20, 2005, after both graduating, in August 2004, as doctors of medicine from St. Matthew's University School of Medicine. They are currently finishing their residency in family medicine at St. Francis Hospital, in Hartford, Connecticut, and will graduate on June 27, 2008. Afterwards, Philippe will continue to specialize in sports medicine at this hospital. They can be reached at: Drs. Philippe and Sharon Chain, 31 Woodland Park, Hartford, Connecticut USA 06105

**Paulette Dahl, BA 2000**, has been an employment counsellor and providing various types of service at the City of Greater Sudbury for the past six years. In 2006, she became a certified life coach through Coach Training Alliance. She is also a grief recovery certified specialist, endorsed by the Grief Recovery (TM) Institute. She administers the institute's grief recovery program, which is 10 to 12 weeks long, and can be delivered to groups or individuals. The program helps grievers achieve a series of small action steps to recover from loss. In 2007, she created TLC (Transforming Life's Challenges) Centre for Change. Paulette can be contacted at (705) 670-0983 or emailed at [pdahl2006@yahoo.ca](mailto:pdahl2006@yahoo.ca).

**Crystal Walker, BScN 2003**, has been appointed assistant director of care for Hoivakoti Nursing Home. She has been employed with Finlandia Village since 2004 as a registered nurse.

# ALWAYS A NURSE AT HEART

By Suzanne Charron-Violette



David McNeil

As vice-president of clinical programs and chief nursing officer at the Sudbury Regional Hospital since 2001, David McNeil (R.N., BScN 1988, Laurentian; MHA 1991, Ottawa) remains close to, and passionate about, his first profession – nursing.

David McNeil started his career in 1988 as a nurse practitioner in Attawapiskat, on James Bay, where he moved with wife, Louise (née Melanson). McNeil has also worked as front-line nurse at Network North, known today as the Northeast Mental Health Centre in Sudbury.

Over the years, McNeil has taken on many roles in his profession, namely that of nursing educator, quality coordinator, professional practice consultant, and medical program director. As chief nursing officer, he works with staff members to standardize nursing practices. Added to his duties as vice-president of clinical programs, he shoulders a lot of responsibilities, but he takes pleasure in saying that he is, first and foremost, “still a nurse.” He adds, “Nursing provides an opportunity to contribute to, and make a difference in, people’s lives, and to help people through life’s more challenging health experiences.”

Working with a healthcare team representing almost 1,500 health professionals is quite exciting, says McNeil. “Working together as a team in the hospital environment is critical for success. You need to be a critical thinker and to be able to use both your clinical and administrative knowledge to develop

solutions. No one day is the same,” he adds.

McNeil has been overseeing the second phase of the hospital restructuring, a major project that involves transferring clinical care from several sites to a single location, a transition scheduled for completion by 2010. But one of the thorniest challenges McNeil faced at the hospital was working on the recovery plan of its operations review, which meant reducing budgets and cutting jobs. That, he admits, “was very challenging.”

His career in nursing is thanks in part to the encouragement of one of his physical education professors

“I do not like to preach; people do need to take health into their own hands,” he says. “Basically, all people have to do to maintain physical and mental well-being, is to eat properly, sleep well, and exercise.” It can be that simple.

McNeil has been swimming regularly since he was eight years old. As a youth, he participated in swimming competitions and travelled across Canada and the United States. “I had the privilege of being in the same age category as Alex Baumann; he was an extraordinary athlete; I was just an average swimmer,” he comments. Today, McNeil trains with the Laurentian Masters Swim Club,

“Nursing provides an opportunity to contribute to, and make a difference in, people’s lives, and to help people through life’s more challenging health experiences.”

at Laurentian University. Noting his aptitude and the fact that he was seeking direction for his life, Al Salmoni advised him to enrol in the nursing program. McNeil’s career in Sudbury, where he was born and raised, took off in 1991.

In his youth, McNeil would have liked to play hockey. Swimming, however, turned out to be a more prudent option, as it was discovered that he was a moderate haemophiliac, and needed to avoid injury. He altered his lifestyle accordingly. He is well aware of the consequences of an unhealthy lifestyle.

the club “for the old and slow,” he says jokingly. His three sons – ages 17, 15, and 11 – would probably agree with him.

Reflecting on his years at Laurentian, David McNeil considers his whole learning experience remarkable. He speaks highly of the Laurentian campus, its natural environment, and its top-notch professors. “I have nothing but positive things to say about Laurentian University,” says McNeil. ■



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## LEARNING FROM

*experience*

By Suzanne Charron-Violette

## NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR LISE COUTURE

A 10-year-old girl has been biting her tongue since birth. She has lost 50 per cent of her tongue motor skills, and has speech problems. Her concerned parents turn to Lise Couture (BA 1982, B.Ed. 1983), an acupuncturist and naturopath who practices auriculomedicine in Ottawa. In a single consultation, the child is almost completely cured of her symptoms.

Auriculomedicine has enabled Lise Couture to satisfy a deep desire, which is to help children with learning disabilities and psycho-motility problems. Practitioners of auriculomedicine trace a person's energies – and blockages – through the reflex points in the ear, its parts associated with different parts of the body and internal organs. The practice is much the same as reflexology, whereby different parts of the human body are linked to specific areas of the foot.

Couture has devoted her entire life – more than 40 years – to this calling. Why is she so dedicated? Mainly because she can relate to these challenges, as the acupuncturist is herself dyslexic, and also has laterality problems (impaired psychomotor and fine motor skills).

In boarding school, Couture repeated Grade 9 because she was unable to read a book from beginning to end. She could not concentrate long enough to grasp the concepts – unless the book was fully illustrated. Unlike most people, she interprets her environment largely using the right side of her brain. From her first day at school, she has relied on illustrations, graphics, and colours to make sense of written text. Through much effort, she was able to read an entire book for the first time by the end of Grade 9.

Couture completed high school at the top of her class, thanks to the support

of people who understood and helped her. She gained the attention of a female teacher who boosted her self-confidence and encouraged her to forge ahead. Still, there are constant challenges in living with a hidden disability: "I am always wide awake, never at ease," she admits.

She was drawn to teaching and, more specifically, to special education. She taught for almost 25 years while studying for her BA in arts and education at Laurentian. In 1985, she pursued advanced studies in ear acupuncture and its practical applications for dyslexia. The following year, she opened a private clinic in Sudbury, treating children with dyslexia and laterality problems, and also adults struggling with obesity or tobacco addiction. Although



In her work and life, Lise Couture shows how the seemingly impossible can be achieved by focusing on goals, not limitations.

auriculomedicine – also called auriculo-therapy – was still considered a non-traditional therapy, she was invited to lead workshops for doctors in Canada, the United States, Argentina, Uruguay, and France.

In 1994, after several years in private practice, she founded the École d'acupuncture Lise Couture in Ottawa. The school offers a two-year program to train acupuncturists to practise auriculomedicine.

In addition to her training program and clinical practice, in 2005, Couture published a book titled *La Latéralité et l'Auriculomédecine*, in which she explores the real-life experiences of children with

learning disabilities. The following year, she translated her own book into English, quite a feat for someone who is dyslexic! The book provides tips, testimonials, and discusses the role of auriculomedicine. Sales of her book rose sharply last May – as did her client base – following a televised interview in Ottawa.

Couture listens to her patients, believing that the answer lies within each client. She stresses the importance of listening with the heart as much as the ears to gain true understanding. In her work and life, Lise Couture shows how the seemingly impossible can be achieved by focusing on goals, not limitations. ■



Forty years ago, spring convocation was held outdoors, at the stadium in front of the B.F. Avery Physical Education Centre. Some 90 graduates donned their mortarboards under the cloudy skies. President S.G. Mullins congratulated the degree recipients.

**1968**

# 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.

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Your update (up to 100 words):

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Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

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