

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

LAURENTIAN

WINTER 2009

Saving Goldie

**BROADCASTING
ALUMNI**

**Birding with
Blomme**

RAYMOND ESPANIEL HATFIELD

SECURES STATUS



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LAURENTIAN

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne



on the cover:

Raymond Espaniel Hatfield,
Laurentian University

Photo by
Mary-Catherine Taylor



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Raymond Espaniel Hatfield provides
new status card



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Turning a new page

FROM THE EDITOR, JENNIFER NAULT



IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE that this issue of the magazine should feature a story on bird conservation: This is the first green issue of the *Laurentian University Magazine for Alumni and Friends*, namely, the first to be printed on FSC-certified paper stock. FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)-certified products contain wood fibre from well-managed forests, post-consumer recycled content,

or a combination of the two, along with other forest-friendly sources.

Birds, and all creatures, are at the heart of the switch to FSC-certified products, which protect wildlife habitat, endangered species, and waterways. Waterways, in fact, such as Sudbury's Junction Creek, where different water fowl have begun to make a comeback, due to the improvement of the water quality (read story on page 14).

Why it took so long? The FSC option is cost prohibitive for some smaller publishers. Often, it comes down to walking the talk. There is still much work to be done, but it's a step in the right direction. We hope you agree.

Alumni have contacted us in the past, inquiring about Laurentian's environmental commitment; there is plenty going on "behind the scenes," but officially, in 2006, Laurentian University took leadership for the care and protection of the environment. To ensure a healthy setting and outlook for current and future generations, the board of governors approved the Laurentian University Environmental Policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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and include your name, the city where you live, and your daytime telephone number (phone numbers will not be published).

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

LETTERS

One is never enough

Thanks so very much (and to your team of photographers) for the superb job with the article. I loved it! I only received one copy however, so would it be possible for you to send me four or five more?

Much gratitude, yours in best health,

Kate Reid

In the last issue, writer Laura E. Young contributed a profile on alumna Kate Reid (B.Sc. 1989), a naturopathic doctor who has recently opened a wellness retreat on Manitoulin Island.



Standing call for nominations for honorary degrees

The Committee on Honorary Degrees for Laurentian University is soliciting recommendations from the university community for candidates for an honorary degree.

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 approval is made by senate and the board of governors. The committee is particularly interested in candidates who have not been similarly honoured by other universities in the past. Also, consideration of the bilingual and multicultural nature of the university is an important aspect in the choice of candidates.

In the past, the following honorary degrees have been awarded: Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Music, and Doctor of Business Administration. The university, however, is not necessarily restricted to these.

Nominations should be submitted on a special form, a copy which is available from the office of the president, by mail, email, fax, or at: www.honorarydegrees.laurentian.ca



Canadian literary icon Margaret Atwood attended the fourth annual birthday dinner in her honour at Laurentian in December.

The dinner raised \$6,000 toward the proposed Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre. Native affairs director Sheila Cote-Meek presented Atwood with a ceremonial paddle in honour of her birthday.

The Next 50 Campaign gets friendly boost

By Monica Dorion

AS LAURENTIAN NEARS its 50th anniversary, the university is undertaking a large fundraising campaign, calling on friends and supporters to champion the cause. Integral to the Next 50 Campaign are internal fundraising efforts, which focus on rallying and forging connections with past and present students, faculty, and staff.

At the launch of the internal campaign on January 30, student scholarships at Laurentian University received a \$250,000 boost from the Laurentian University Alumni Association (LUAA). Past and present members of the association joined current and retired faculty and staff members in the university's J. N. Desmarais Library rotunda for the gift announcement.

"This is a momentous event for Laurentian students and the LUAA," said Jacques Tremblay, president of the LUAA. "We very much want to let Laurentian students know we strongly believe in put-



From left to right: Robert Bourgeois (acting president), Scott McDonald (The Next 50 Campaign chair), Doug Los (inaugural LUAA president), Jacques Tremblay (current LUAA president), and Keith Brewster (master's student).

ting them first. As a result, the decision to make this gift was passed unanimously by the LUAA board."

"This gift makes me extremely proud," said Scott McDonald, Chair of the Next 50 Campaign and Laurentian alumnus

(BA 1976). "I'm proud of the leadership being shown by my fellow alumni, proud of the growth of Laurentian, proud of the impact this gift and the campaign itself will have on the students and the university."

Laurentian welcomes new president



Dominic Giroux

By Nathalie Depatie

ON APRIL 1, 2009, Dominic Giroux will begin his first term of office as Laurentian University's new president. Giroux was appointed by Laurentian University's Board of Governors after a unanimous recommendation of the presidential search committee on December 9, 2008. Giroux and his wife, Barbara Breault, are deeply involved in education, with

vast experience in the Ontario education system.

Recently, the whole family – Dominic, Barbara, and their two young children, Simon and Amélie – visited the Laurentian campus. Dominic Giroux addressed the Laurentian community, telling them: "I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you to further build on Laurentian's reputation of excellence – both in academic programming and research, and to reinforce our presence and impact in northern Ontario, and on the national and international stages."

He joked that he'd been overwhelmed with calls over his new post – many of them focused on his wife, Barbara. "The questions were: 'Apparently, Dominic's wife comes from New Liskeard and she is a Laurentian alumna.

What's her name? In what program did she study?'" So, to set the record straight, he confirmed that Barbara Breault is, indeed, a Laurentian alumna (BA 1990 and B.Ed. 1991), who became an elementary school principal at 29 years of age.

High achievement runs in the household. Dominic Giroux last served as assistant deputy minister with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Train-

ing, Colleges and Universities of Ontario, leading a team of 1,200 employees from the two ministries in 10 cities including Sudbury, North Bay, and Thunder Bay.

He championed Ontario's Native education strategy. In three years, he led the creation of an Aboriginal Education Office, developing a policy framework, securing new funding, and convincing school boards to adopt voluntary and confidential student self-identification policies.

Prior to his government position, Giroux served on a French-language school board in southern Ontario, and was later appointed CFO of a school board in eastern Ontario, where he led an ambitious capital expansion.

Dominic Giroux has a bachelor's degree in social sciences and a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Ottawa. He also holds a MBA from the École des Hautes Études Commerciales in Montreal.

His diverse experience and leadership in education, as well as francophone and Aboriginal affairs, will bolster Laurentian University. "For me to be an effective spokesperson, leader, advocate – and yes, fundraiser – for Laurentian, I need to hear what Laurentian means to you, what makes you proud of the university."

Nathalie Depatie is completing her degree in communication studies.

CALL TO ALL ALUMNI!

Please write in with your thoughts and ideas about the future of Laurentian University (your letters will be shared with Laurentian's new president, Dominic Giroux, and may be published in a future issue of the magazine).

Laurentian is on the cusp of its 50th anniversary (in 2010), and we're calling on you to share your vision!

Write in to magazine@laurentian.ca

campus quiz

U.S. President Barack Obama is mentioned twice in this issue – on which two pages?

Send your answer to magazine@laurentian.ca with the subject line "Winter 2009 Trivia" before June 15, 2009, and we'll enter your name in a draw for a Laurentian gift pack. Good luck!



Doctors in the house

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine graduates its first cohort of medical students in June

By Marek Krasuski and Jennifer Nault

IS THERE A doctor in the house? This question will be met with a resounding “yes” on Friday, June 5, in Laurentian’s Fraser Auditorium. During spring convocation, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) graduates its first cohort of medical students. NOSM, Canada’s first new medical school in more than 30 years, was launched in collaboration with Laurentian and Lakehead University in 2005. Now, 55 newly trained doctors – 32 are enrolled through Laurentian each year – will be moving on to complete residency training in the region and beyond.

Medical students have spent nearly 40 per cent of their placements living and learning in small, rural, remote, and urban communities across the North, including such places as Ear Falls, Moose Factory, and Temiskaming Shores.

During the initial planning stages of NOSM, physicians and community members from across northern Ontario gathered to address the historical shortage of medical professionals in under-served northern communities.

Roger Strasser, founding dean of the medical school, is the architect of the

community-based learning model. Much of the school’s success, says Strasser, hinges on the participation of communities. “The development of this school came about because of the groundswell of support from the communities. Right from the start, we developed a relationship that would help us understand and meet their needs.”

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine reflects a “made-in-the-North” curriculum, designed to meet the demand for health practitioners as well as focus on research directly relevant to northern populations.

Medical students examine complex cases of real-life scenarios in northern communities. Students divide their time between classroom learning and hands-on clinical training in the many hospitals, clinics, and health centres across the North.

The charter class just completed fourth-year hospital placements in Thunder Bay and Sudbury. Widespread research suggests the majority of students will stay in the North, returning to their places of learning where relationships have formed.

Canadian Space Agency seeks Laurentian expertise

By Suzanne Charron-Violette

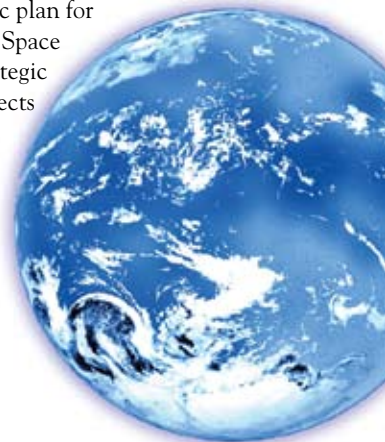
A LAURENTIAN PROFESSOR is over the moon, his expertise having been sought out by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). In November 2008, the CSA awarded a contract to Penguin Automated Systems Inc. for two studies into moon mining and transportation.

Laurentian professor Greg Baiden, director of Penguin Research Centre, Canadian Research Chair in Robotics and Automation, and professor of mining engineering at Laurentian, believes this contract is an important step for Laurentian. “As it’s moving into the research side, the university is just now beginning to have businesses that are spin-offs of professors’ research,” says Baiden. Other Laurentian faculty members involved in the project include Yassiah Bissiri, adjunct professor at the school of engineering; Syed Ahmed, sessional professor of physics; and PhD candidates Antti Saari and Quoc Mach.

In light of phenomena such as cosmic radiation and solar flares, the first study investigates the feasibility of mining on the moon, and what would be required for people to work there.

The second study looks at the technology currently being developed and how industry of this kind could boost the Canadian economy.

The two studies will be available in spring 2009. Following in-depth consultations with experts, Baiden will produce a mining and transportation strategic plan for the Canadian Space Agency, a strategic plan that projects beyond 30 years. Baiden admits: “It’s in some ways a daunting task, in other ways, it’s a dream come true.”



Michelle DeWolfe mapped mineral deposits in Flin Flon, Manitoba.



Volcanic PhD

By Laura E. Young

THERE IS COPPER, zinc, and gold in the rocks of Flin Flon and now, thanks to those metals, there's a PhD in mineral deposits and Precambrian geology in the hands of Michelle DeWolfe. Through DeWolfe's research, there are also six new maps published through the Manitoba Geological Survey.

Michelle DeWolfe is the first female PhD graduate of Laurentian University. She began her research in 2004.

Over the four years it took to complete her PhD, DeWolfe mapped the ancient volcanic rock around Flin Flon, Manitoba, and showed – in fascinating and minute

detail – that what is exposed on the surface corresponds to the ore deposits below. Her research has led to new understandings on how and where these types of deposits form. The research has practical applications for exploration in Flin Flon and similar areas worldwide.

DeWolfe spent three summers mapping the rocks around the HudBay Minerals Inc. site. She finished her PhD officially on December 9, 2008. With six new maps published through the Manitoba Geological Survey, the contribution of her research is immense.

DeWolfe's research has added informa-

tion that isn't available when looking at modern volcanoes, because all that is visible is the surface, says Harold Gibson, her supervisor since she was a master's student.

"From an economic perspective, it provides an understanding of when and where during the construction of ancient volcanoes one can find concentrations of copper, gold, and silver. These are substantial contributions."

Tony Fowler, an associate professor at the University of Ottawa, was DeWolfe's external examiner. His research interests lie in the study of patterns in minerals and rocks. Her thesis is "first class," he says.

According to Fowler, many geologists have worked in the Flin Flon area, but have not matched her level of reconstruction. Her interpretations will help the mining industry search for more deposits in the important Flin Flon district, he added.

DeWolfe graduated from Laurentian with a master's of science in 2004. She remained to continue working with her supervisor, Harold Gibson, whose projects have real-life applications in a community, she says. "I'm all for science just for the sake of science. But if you can have a practical application to that science, so much the better. When you see your supervisor interact with researchers, with mining companies, with students, you realize the type of leader you should be."

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An Obama moment

U.S. President Barack Obama enjoyed brief contact with northern Ontario and Laurentian University when he met Senator Marie-P. (Charette) Poulin, BA 1966, Doctorate of Laws 1995, during his Canadian visit on February 19.

Poulin, who was raised in Sudbury and Haileybury, became a senator in 1995, and is a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration. She was the first woman to chair the Senate Liberal Caucus.

In her life before Parliament Hill, she led CBC's French language services in northern Ontario and was the founding director of CBON, based in Sudbury. She was also a program producer, winning *Le Prix Marcel Blouin* for the best radio morning program in Canada in 1983. Senator Poulin is married to international portrait artist Bernard A. Poulin, and they have two daughters.

To the boathouse

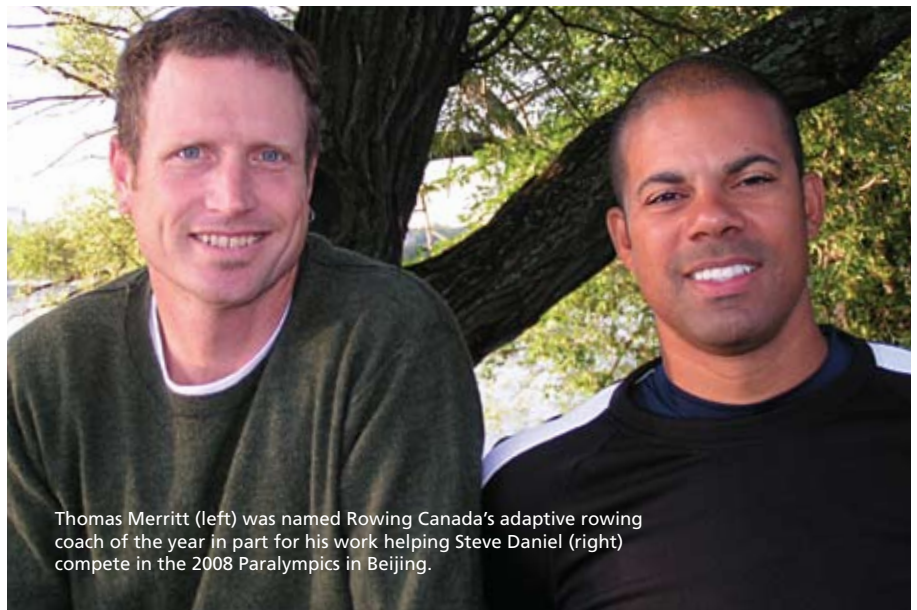
By Laura E. Young

THOMAS MERRITT, a professor of molecular genetics and molecular evolution in Laurentian's chemistry and biochemistry department, is Rowing Canada's 2008 adaptive rowing coach of the year. He coached Steve Daniel (expected to study at Laurentian in fall 2009) to a spot on the 2008 Paralympic rowing team. Daniel, who was 11th in Beijing, was named male adaptive rower of the year.

Merritt understands how it feels to be excluded. He was the epitome of a non-athlete, a geeky kid, he says. But while pursuing his master's and PhD, rowing became all consuming. "The only reason I had that opportunity was I had this fantastic coach." He has since returned to rowing, competing for the Sudbury Rowing Club.

Merritt and the Sudbury Rowing Club now have what he describes as the "most accessible boathouse in Ontario."

He praises Michael Nicholls for his complete dedication to his role as their volunteer coach. Nicholls was a full-time graduate student who was there for every 5 a.m. practice, coaching rowers and raising money for the boathouse, Merritt recalls. "He put the time in. His dedication to the team was fantastic."



Thomas Merritt (left) was named Rowing Canada's adaptive rowing coach of the year in part for his work helping Steve Daniel (right) compete in the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

Merritt has advanced the rowing program, helping to collect \$50,000 in government funding.

Within days of moving to Sudbury in 2005, he discovered the Sudbury Rowing Club. Eventually, he met Minna Mettinen-Kekalainen, a paraplegic paddler, who wanted to start an adaptive rowing program. Merritt got involved. Since then, the rowing club's adaptive program has gone on the road, including workshops with

the Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC). Merritt continues to train graduate student Sarah Bogart and Steve Daniel, and hopes to see them all the way to the National Adaptive Rowing Team.

For Merritt, anyone interested in rowing should be able to access the sport and compete. "You start questioning whether other things that seem closed have to be closed; there so many other doors you can open as well."



A SECURE IDENTITY

Raymond Espaniel Hatfield delivers on a new Certificate of Indian Status identity card.

BY SUZANNE CHARRON-VIOLETTE

Every morning, Raymond Espaniel Hatfield (Hon. BCom. 1974) recites a blessing: “*Merci, mon-sieur Soleil, pour une autre journée merveilleuse,*” or, “Thank you, Gitchi Manitou, for another wonderful day.” An Ojibwe of the Sagamok Anishnabek First Nation, Espaniel Hatfield could have retired two years ago. But he can’t seem to slow down, even after 35 years of federal civil service. Since 2001, he’s been particularly busy, as director general of Individual Affairs in the Resolution and Individual Affairs sector of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

Raymond Espaniel Hatfield is steering the national implementation of the new – and more secure – Certificate of Indian Status card. The original card has been in circulation for decades, but fraudulent use by non-Aboriginals has been costing taxpayers millions of dollars in lost revenues. He sees what he’s doing as business – the business of protecting identity, which has become an escalating area of crime, “whether thieves are stealing your credit card or your identity,” he explains.

Working in the federal government to address inequality and support the rights of Aboriginals in Canada, his devotion to a more secure identification card may be viewed as the natural culmination of a life spent in civil service.

It’s not just the card that is secure – so, too, is Espaniel Hatfield’s sense of identity. His grandfather, James Espaniel, was a proud Anishinaabe who instilled a great sense of pride in his heritage. He was an important role model to his grandchildren.

James was motivated to succeed – a trait shared by the other family members. Just do a quick tally of the number of years Espaniel Hatfield’s family (on his mother’s side) has worked in civil service: Since 1915, his grandfather, James, his uncle, René, his aunt, Yvette, his mother, Shirley, Espaniel Hatfield himself, and now his son, Hanwakan, have all worked in civil service. That’s more than a century of years of service combined.

“I LOOK AT WHAT WE’RE DOING AS BUSINESS – THE BUSINESS OF PROTECTING IDENTITY.”

In his youth, Espaniel Hatfield drew strength from the stories of his ancestors, including a connection – a family friendship – to Grey Owl.

He wanted to make a difference to future generations, so he vowed to focus on his education. Toward the end of high school, a time when many students are choosing post-secondary education, he saw many of his Native peers struggling, or simply leaving the education system altogether.

Business would help him establish an influential career, he decided. He realized, “Bay Street has a lot of power and impact.”

In 1974, armed with a commerce degree from Laurentian, he quickly landed a job with Manpower and Immigration in Ottawa, where he worked to enhance employment services and opportunities for Aboriginals. Next, as director of Native communications with Native Citizens Directorate, Heritage Canada, he was a strong supporter of Aboriginal media, which eventually led to the launch of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

At Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in the early 1980s, Espaniel Hatfield saw the promising constitutional work being done for Aboriginal rights. “I started to understand there was something even more powerful than money – it was law.” Never one to procrastinate, he obtained his law degree from Queen’s University in 1984.

Back at INAC, he received a complicated file related to mercury pollution on the Grassy Narrows and Whitedog Reserves. The inhabitants living on the Wabigoon-English River system sought reparation for years of mercury contamination. Espaniel Hatfield led the first successful compensation package of this kind.

His involvement in landmark negotiations and projects spans more than three decades. The status card, a major accomplishment for Espaniel Hatfield, is but one of many. The card’s testing phase has been “overwhelmingly successful – we’ve now reached the stage of implementing it nationally.”

Saving GOLDIE

BY LAURA E. YOUNG

*Cathy Heffernan (BScN 1997)
saves animals and people in crisis.*

Goldie is a centrefold, posing on the deck in all her natural splendour for ... the Pet Save calendar!

Goldie, a golden retriever mixed breed, and recently the July 2008 Pet Save centrefold, has come a long way from the abandoned puppy that Cathy Heffernan (BScN 1997) fostered through her volunteer work with Pet Save, a Sudbury pet rescue outfit.

In 2007, Goldie came to Pet Save after the abused 12-week-old puppy had been left blind, deaf, and unable to walk. The animal was in such bad shape that Heffernan, as passionate about animals as she is, questioned whether they were doing the dog any favours.

Jill Pessot, the executive director of Pet Save, was first to take Goldie in, but the dog was in such need that there was no way Pessot could have managed on her own; there were so many injuries to deal with, as well as the regular puppy training issues.

Cathy Heffernan played a key role in accelerating Goldie's recovery, says Pessot. Every day, Heffernan took the dog, along with her own puppy, Molly, to a nearby lake. Goldie was put in the water for therapy.



"After that first month, she was amazing. Her mobility was great," Heffernan recalls. "A family adopted the dog. I saw her not too long ago, and she's doing great. Goldie was a real success story for Pet Save," Heffernan says. The dog is now two-years old and remains blind; her hearing is improving daily.

"Cathy steps up to the plate, no matter what it is," Pessot says. "Goldie was one of those great examples. Cathy would do anything for anybody. She is truly one of those people who would give the shirt off her back. It's just who she is. She's really compassionate."

Heffernan was born and raised in Guelph, and graduated from Conestoga College with her nursing diploma. Work took her to Sudbury in 1985. Gradually, she began taking courses at Laurentian to upgrade her nursing diploma to a degree. In 1994, she decided to finish it. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 30]

PET SAVE STATS

- > Founded in 2000; became a registered charity in 2003
- > Strict "NO KILL" policy; volunteer-run organization
- > Mission: To rescue abandoned, abused, and neglected dogs and cats throughout northern Ontario and ensure that every pet receives "a new leash on life."

- > Has saved more than 2,500 cats, dogs, bunnies, and even a few pot-belly pigs.
- > To learn more, visit: www.petsave.ca



Denis St-Jules has earned the reputation of radio king of the North.

A L U M N I ON THE AIR

Celebrating Laurentian's contribution to 30 years of CBC radio in northern Ontario.

BY SUZANNE CHARRON-VIOLETTE

On par with freshly brewed coffee, CBC Radio has given Canadians a morning boost for several decades. In northern Ontario, English-language CBC (99.9 FM) first aired in May 1978. Its sister station, French CBON (98.1 FM) followed suit two months later. Together, these stations have connected listeners in the North. Among the many radio personalities and people working behind the scenes are numerous Laurentian university alumni.

Denis St-Jules (BA 1974), long-time morning-show host at CBON, was a friendly voice greeting listeners for close to 30 years. He was hired on at the station in March 1979. This past November – November 28, 2008, at 8:57 a.m. to be precise – St-Jules uttered his last words on air. An audible lump in his throat, he bid listeners a final farewell: “*Pour une dernière fois, bye, bye, tout le monde!*” or, “For the last time, bye, bye, everybody!” Many listeners, some on their morning commute, others padding around the kitchen, reflected on this poignant moment.

For the next few seconds, St-Jules sat speechless at the microphone. It was intense.

But over the years, most of his time on air was far less somber. Many of the gaffes were laugh-out-loud hilarious. Some devotees may recall an important interview with Raymond Tremblay (currently president of Hearst University) that was interrupted by a silly song, which was played by the technician and intended only for the host. However, there was a mix-up and the entire song was broadcast on air.

Another time, St-Jules gave out his mother's recipe for pulled taffy during a phone-in show. A silly play on the words in the recipe degenerated into uncontrollable laughter – no



Archives Radio-Canada

Radio show hosts Denis St-Jules and Isabelle Hodgson ham it up at the annual francophone celebration *la Saint-Jean* 1990, in Sudbury.

doubt sparking the same response among listeners. Dead air followed bursts of laughter, and for a time, he completely lost control of the show.

As much as St-Jules loves a good laugh, he warns of the dangers of too much joking on air: There are listeners out there, and they need to be clued into the humour of the situation.

In the mid-1990s, St-Jules teamed up with Normand Renaud (BA 1978). At the time, snowmobile thefts were making the headlines. St-Jules and Renaud decided to write a song about the crime outbreak to the tune of Beatles song, "Love Me Do" as "*Mon beau ski-doo*" (My beautiful ski-doo). Normand penned the lyrics and harmonized, while St-Jules crooned. The duo soon became known as "*Les Coxinelles*" (The Beatles) and their songs filled airwaves for almost seven years. Normand Renaud recalls: "That was our greatest treat, making up things that amused people."

Denis St-Jules is one of those lucky few true morning people, a prerequisite for anyone hosting an a.m. show. "Good spirits must absolutely shine through everything you do," he says. To celebrate the onset of the weekend, which was the only time he could sleep in past 3:30 a.m., St-Jules was famous for starting the ritual of the Friday call: "*C'est vendredi!*" or, "Thank God, it's Friday!"

"I'm a guy who lives in the present," he says. So much in the present that he didn't mind leaving things to the last minute, either. He wrote his own radio scripts the morning of every show.

Denis St-Jules is spending his retirement in Ottawa, where he and his wife, Carmen Vincent (BA 1980), have moved to be closer to their son, Marc André, their daughter, Manon, as well as their three grandsons.

Let's assume he is sleeping in a little more often these days. ■

BROADCASTING ALUMNI!

Alain Daoust
Conway Fraser
Daniel Bouchard
Denis St-Jules
Donald Dennie
France Jodoin
François Lacombe
Jean Lalonde
Jean-Maxime Bourgoin
Josée Perreault
Laura E. Young
Luc Comeau
Marcel Vaillancourt
Marco Dubé
Marco Roy
Marie-Noël Shank
Marie-P. (Charette) Poulin
Michel Boch
Michel Morin
Mireille Groleau
Normand Renaud
Paul de la Riva
Rachel Desaulniers
Roger Gervais
Sara Grenier
Stéphane Gauthier
Stéphane Grenier
Stéphanie St-Pierre
Sylvie Lavoie
Thérèse Boutin

This is a list of Laurentian students and graduates who worked at either CBON or CBC, or in some cases, at both stations. The writer has done her best to create a comprehensive list of Laurentian alumni. If your name is not on the list, or if you are aware of others who have been missed, please contact us and provide us with an update at magazine@laurentian.ca. We will be sure to publish your update in the next issue.

“Many people feel regeneration in the air, feel invigorated for another season, and it’s reflected in the arrival of birds,” says Blomme.



BIRD MAN

on campus

Laurentian's very own expert ornithologist
provides spring bird-watching tips.

BY LAURA E. YOUNG

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARY-CATHERINE TAYLOR AND CHRIS BLOMME

The bald eagle spots the ducks and begins circling over Kelly Lake in Sudbury's rapidly urbanizing south end. Its wingspan casts an ominous shadow over the icy water below. It's what Chris Blomme, biology technologist in Laurentian's animal care facility, has been hoping we'd see – this mature, magnificent eagle, its head and talons a solid white contrast against the afternoon sky.

Notice how the ducks are trying to protect themselves, he says while peering through binoculars. They're gathering together to look like one big duck so the eagle won't snatch them for dinner. The ploy works and the eagle flies away – for now.

If Sudbury had an official bird man, Chris Blomme (B.Sc. 1980, M.Sc. 1986) would be the one. A Laurentian grad and staff member since 1972 (working as a technologist in the animal care facility and as a biologist in the biology department), he's on the executive of the Sudbury Ornithological Society, was part of CBC Radio's *Quirks & Quarks* posse of science experts, and last fall, returned to talk birds on CBC.

In the 1990s, Blomme was one of the coordinators of Project Peregrine. The team oversaw the release of 91 juvenile peregrines in Sudbury. Although the eastern peregrine falcon was nearly extinct 50 years ago, the project has meant a tentative, fragile return of the peregrine in Ontario. "Currently, there are at least five nesting pairs within a 60-mile radius of Sudbury," he says.

Birds have fascinated Blomme since he was a child. With birds, no matter where you are, there is always something unusual to see, he says.

And he gravitates toward the unusual. His first date with his wife, Gloria Tenhunen Blomme (BA 1977), was a trek over a mine shaft near Sudbury looking for bats. "I thought, this date is different and interesting," Tenhunen Blomme recalls. They were engaged three weeks after meeting and have been together for 30 years.

I'M A BIRD WATCHER ...

It's all in the eye

Developing an eye for bird watching is a matter of training the peripheral vision, of learning to focus on certain areas.



Blomme advises: "You basically

look ahead, but your eye is always picking up any kind of peripheral movement. So, if you're looking at a group of trees and there's no breeze going through, and a leaf moves, quickly dart your eyes toward that movement."

Gear for hitting the trails



You'll need a bird field guide for your region and a sturdy pair of binoculars (there's a big difference between a \$30 pair and a \$300 pair).

If you're just starting out, try joining a birding trip or tour. In Sudbury, you can join the Sudbury Ornithological Society or the Sudbury Naturalists Club. Manitoulin Island has the Mindemoya Naturalists, and there are other clubs in most cities and towns.

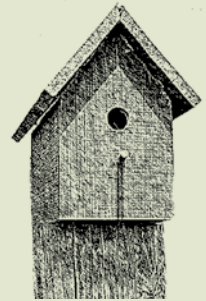
What's a manicured lawn, but a whole lot of work?



Instead, plant leafy shrubs, lots of vegetation, and tall conifers for chipping sparrows and cedar waxwings. Dead trees attract woodpeckers, creepers, and nuthatches. "Rather than having dead trees cut to the ground level, leave a twenty-foot trunk standing for these birds," says Blomme.

Bring the birds to you

Attract nesting birds to your yard by building a bird box, Blomme suggests. Backyard nesting boxes can attract tree swallows, black-capped chickadees, house wrens, nuthatches, and eastern bluebirds. The earlier the box goes up in the spring, the better, he says. That way, the box will be nicely weathered for any early arrivals. It's best to use white pine or cedar. Hang the box on a fence line or a tall tree. Blomme recalls one spring when a tree swallow flew into his bird box while he was actually hanging it up. At the end of August, it's important to take the box down and clean out the nesting material, removing the dung that may have accumulated. Building plans can be downloaded from the web at: www.shawcreekbirdsupply.com/nest_box_plans.htm



What to eat?

Wild bird seed comes in a variety of types and mixtures. There is some debate over the best seed. In the end, it will depend on what you wish to attract. Niger seed in tube feeders



will attract finches, such as the American goldfinch, pine siskin, common and hoary redpolls, and purple finch.

A seed mix of crushed corn and millet will attract mourning doves, snow buntings, and any overwintering sparrows. Black oil sunflower seeds or regular sunflower seeds are eaten by many birds, especially the black-capped chickadee. A suet ball hanging from an onion mesh bag or wire feeder draws woodpeckers.

The early bird

Spring migration depends on the species and its breeding requirements. Many of the larger birds require longer incubation and rearing times. Early spring brings ducks, gulls, and the great blue heron. Also look for predators such as bald eagles, osprey, sharp-shinned hawks, American kestrel, peregrine falcons, and merlins. Symbolically, the American robin may be the first bird of spring. But for bird watchers in northern Ontario, the common merganser and goldeneye are the earliest birds.



Great grey owl



Grey jay



Black-capped chickadee



Peregrine falcon

According to Canadian Travel Adventures, Canada's outdoor life guide, bird watching is one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in Canada. "To me, it means increased awareness, which will help protect and safeguard the habitats of many species," says Blomme.

In those same 30 years, the landscape has come into its own. As Sudbury has re-greened, bird diversity has increased in the region. "With the water quality change at Junction Creek, for example, there's been more vegetation in the streams, which is attracting different types of water fowl," Chris Blomme says. Over the last decade, he has seen an increase in American widgeons, gadwall, teals, and other diving ducks at Junction Creek and Kelly Lake.

"Sudbury is unique in that the habitat has improved considerably from its former self. As a result, some species of birds may have moved into the area because there are now food and cover resources. Milder winters, and more bird feeder operators also increase the chances for survival for some species, such as the mourning dove." Some of these changes are reflected in the annual Christmas bird count data collected by the bird club.

But a number of species are declining, usually through loss of habitat, breeding sites, migration corridors, or over-wintering locations, he says. There are fewer evening grosbeaks in winter. Loggerhead shrikes, once seen on Manitoulin Island in the summer, are all but gone from the island; they're not even seen in Sudbury or North Bay anymore. The Eastern meadowlark once frequented grasslands around Burwash, south of Sudbury. It's scarce now.

Getting the environmental message out about sustainability of birds – and indeed, all creatures – is important for healthy living, says Blomme.

"I think that our environment is worth saving and that message has to be constantly sent out there so that people become aware. Living in the city, it's very easy to be unaware." 🇺🇳

Birding hot spots in northern Ontario

Provincial parks such as Killarney, Grundy, and Killbear provide a wealth of opportunities to see birds along their developed nature trails. Trails allow you to visit different bird habitats. Birds commonly found in northern Ontario include the great grey owl, grey jay, black-capped chickadee, and the peregrine falcon.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

BY LAURENTIAN FACULTY AND ALUMNI

Here are some of the latest books from Laurentian faculty and staff, as released during research week, February 9–12, 2009.

Gratien Allaire, et Michel Giroux, *Fernand Dorais et le Nouvel-Ontario, Réflexions sur l'œuvre et sur l'influence d'un provocateur franco-ontarien*, Institut franco-ontarien.

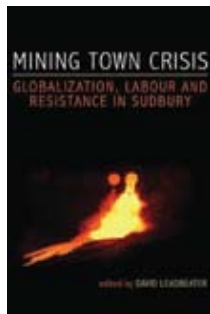


Diana Luele-Colilli and Christine Sansalone, *Ma che brava gente*, Soleil Publishing Inc.

Brett Buchanan, *Onto-Ethologies, The Animal Environments of Uexküll, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, and Deleuze*, State University of New York Press.

Patrick Anthony Cavaliere, *Il diritto penale politico in Italia dallo Stato liberale allo Stato totalitario, Storia delle ideologie penalistiche tra istituzioni e interpretazioni*, ARACNE.

Yvon Gauthier (Ed.), Gaétan Gervais, Luc Rousseau, and Micheline Tremblay, *Revue du Nouvel-Ontario, Numéro 33*, Institut franco-ontarien.



David Leadbeater, *Mining Town Crisis, Globalization, Labour and Resistance in Sudbury*, Fernwood Publishing.

Nayeg Ghasem and Redhouane Henda, *Principles of Chemical Engineering Processes*, CRC Press.

Mrinalini Greedharry, *Postcolonial Theory and Psychoanalysis, From Uneasy Engagements to Effective Critique*, Palgrave Macmillan Ltd.

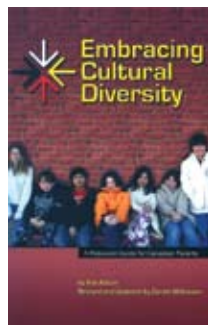
Sylvie Albert, Don Flournoy, and Rolland Lebrasseur, *Networked Communities, Strategies for Digital Collaboration*, Information Science Reference.

John-Jairo Marin-Tamayo, *La construcción de una nueva identidad en los indígenas del Nuevo Reino de Granada, La producción del catecismo de fray Luis Zapata de Cárdenas (1576)*, Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia.

Robert H. Frank, Ben S. Bernanke, Lars Osberg, Melvin L. Cross, Brian K. MacLean, *Principles of Macroeconomics*, Third Canadian Edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Luis Radford, Gert Schubring, and Falk Seeger (Eds.), *Semiotics in Mathematics Education, Epistemology, History, Classroom and Culture*, Sense Publishers.

Adam Sol, *Jeremiah, Ohio*, House of Anansi Press.



Derek Wilkinson (revised and updated), by Pat Aitken, *Embracing Cultural Diversity, A Resource Guide for Canadian Parents*, Your Scrivener Press.



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***The editor reserves the right to limit advertising depending on editorial space required per issue.**

Economics professor K.V. Nagarajan sees **BEYOND THE GLOOM**

By Laura E. Young

Laurentian economics professor K. V. Nagarajan believes that students graduating in the next four years will enjoy a decent standard of living, and he'll be there to help them understand the economic crisis as it unfolds.

Addressing an economics class last semester, Nagarajan was one of four Laurentian professors who analyzed the economic crash of 2008. Joining him were David Robinson, who teaches the course, and colleagues Brian MacLean and Homayoon Shalchian.

Countries around the world have been quick and coordinated in their response to the economic downturn, Nagarajan says. This time, countries are collaborating. During the Great Depression, nations were out to hurt each other with protectionist legislation, he says.

Teaching in Laurentian's economic department since 1988, he is married to Elaine Porter, who is also a teacher at Laurentian. Nagarajan obviously believes in the benefits of education. He obtained his undergraduate and master's degrees in economics from the University of Madras in southern India, another master's degree from Dalhousie University, and his PhD from State University of New York.

He is also a faculty investigator at CRaNRH, Laurentian's health sciences education resource centre. In 2004, he was listed as one of Laurentian's popular professors in *Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities*. His latest publication is "The Crash in Canada: The TSE-300 Index during October 1987," in the *International Economics and Finance Journal*.

Now, as people look for a bright light on the financial horizon, Nagarajan believes there will be a turnaround. Some signs include new spending on infrastructure. "Infrastructure creates the capital

that will sustain economic growth over the next 25 or 30 years," Nagarajan says. "The infrastructure put in place in the 1950s is deteriorating. It needs to be replaced."

In general, for Canada, our long-term growth potential remains in the resource sector, he adds. For northern Ontario, this means mining.

Building our knowledge infrastructure at the university level will also benefit society down the road, he believes. "People say it's a good time to go back to school. This is another positive development.

"People say it's a good time to go back to school. This is another positive development. Universities are likely to have higher enrolments. More education, more training in this period will also provide a good opportunity for when we get out of the recession."

Universities are likely to have higher enrolments. More education, coupled with more training in this period will also provide new opportunities when we get out of the recession."

In January 2009, the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) was reporting a record number of applications had been received: 84,300, meaning a 1.1 per cent increase over the 2008 record. The COU was crediting the economic downturn with the increase in applications.

Nagarajan sees coordinated efforts on fiscal policy, and applauds countries prepared to run deficits. He believes American president Barack Obama is a transformative figure that will give a psychological boost.

"When all of these things come together, money comes into the economy. They will do their magic ... people will get



"Managing the economy is not simply a matter of dealing with material things. We're talking about human lives."

—K.V. Nagarajan

the confidence to spend," he says. "In my opinion, for the rest of 2009, we will be bottoming out. At the end of 2009, things will start to turn. In 2010, 2011, we'll start to see growth."

He does, however, believe the social safety net, such as employment insurance, needs to be maintained, not cut. He lists a dozen problems that come with unemployment, including depression, suicide, as well as family and medical disruption.

"It's all bad. You create more problems. As you can see, managing the economy is not simply a matter of dealing with material things. We're talking about human lives. That's why I feel economic management is extremely important for the health of the nation."



In the name of Sean Egan: SPAD director Norm O'Reilly summited South America's highest peak in honour of his former teacher.

TO THE SUMMIT

Norm O'Reilly ascends Mount Aconcagua

BY LAURA E. YOUNG

IN PURSUIT OF his research into role models for health, Norm O'Reilly, director of Laurentian's sports administration program, went to new heights. He teamed up with Ottawa filmmaker Elia Saikaly and headed to the Argentine province of Mendoza. Together, they reached the summit of Mount Aconcagua on January 16. Mount Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Americas, is one of the famed "Seven Summits" of world mountain climbing.

The summit "is a fantastic place to be," says O'Reilly from his Laurentian office after his return. But "it's tempered by the fact that you've got to get down."

They celebrated for about half an hour before the descent. It doesn't end at base camp, either, as climbers face a 34-kilometre trek out of the Aconcagua Provincial Park. "So, it wasn't until I walked out three days later that I felt fabulous. It's like finishing your first marathon except you've got to walk 25 kilometres back to your car to go home."

O'Reilly called his trip "Ethnography on Aconcagua." Ethnography is an intimate form of research requiring researcher and subject to spend many days – sometimes even years – together. The

ethnographer suggests that the true picture is revealed only by living and staying with a study group for an extended period of time, he says.

Which is why O'Reilly had to climb the mountain.

He was inspired by the late Sean Egan, an esteemed university professor and health and wellness proponent. In 2005, Egan died attempting to climb Mount Everest. He would have been the oldest Canadian to make the ascent.

Not long before Egan's Everest attempt,

"I live a busy, engaged, interactive, workaholic life. It was nice for me to step out of that. You realize what's important."

he had reached the summit of Aconcagua.

O'Reilly met Egan in 1997 and became his teaching assistant; later he was Egan's graduate student researcher. Egan helped O'Reilly secure a teaching job at the University of Ottawa. Simply put, Egan was O'Reilly's mentor.

Egan believed in health, says O'Reilly. "He didn't have a business bone in his body."

Filmmaker Elia Saikaly was also influenced by Egan, though he met him just prior to that fateful 2005 trip, when he made a snap decision to follow him to Everest. Egan's death turned Saikaly's life around. He sold his lucrative business – "in a blind, illogical way, out of love and passion," Saikaly reflects. Next, he directed his energy toward chronicling the fateful journey, crafting the award-winning film: *Finding Life*.

Saikaly wanted to carry on Egan's message, so connecting with O'Reilly was a natural fit. O'Reilly wanted to understand the influence of role models, and what drove Saikaly to change his life path after Egan's death.

O'Reilly recorded over 300 hours of interviews with Saikaly. He is researching how and why Egan's viewpoint transferred to Saikaly with such force.

"So whether it's leadership, whether it's role modelling, it's the [theoretical] stuff for me to figure out. Sean Egan is definitely

at the core of it and an analysis of him is a big part of where this research – whether it's a book, or articles – will go."

A book on leadership and several academic papers will likely follow. Beyond that, the research fits into the bigger picture of finding ways to engage people in positive ways, O'Reilly adds.

As for O'Reilly, ascending Aconcagua also brought him some perspective, he says. On the mountain, he worried only about drinking, eating, and finding a warm place to sleep. "I live a busy, engaged, interactive, workaholic life. It was nice for me to step out of that. Hopefully there will be some long-term changes. You realize what's important."

More information, including their daily blogs, can be found at: www.findinglife.ca

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSOR UPDATES

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. Henri Pallard, director of CIRID and full professor in the Department of Law and Justice, received Laurentian University's Research Excellence Award for 2007-2008. Every year, the award is given to a faculty member whose research makes remarkable contributions to improving the reputation and status of the university. His research focuses on the universality of fundamental rights and cultural diversity, the history of common law and the philosophy of law. Since 1994, he has examined the challenges faced by the Arab world as it attempts to reconcile politics and religion.

FRANCOPHONE AWARD

Starting in September 2009, all students admitted to a French-language program at Laurentian University will receive a \$1,000 Francophone Award. According to Patrice Sawyer, acting vice-president, Academic (Francophone Affairs), the award was created to encourage young people to carry out their university studies in French and to discover the richness of a culture that is firmly anchored in its environment. Laurentian offers nearly 40 French-language undergraduate and graduate programs. The new Francophone Award is managed by the financial aid and student fees offices.

FERNAND DORAIS COLLOQUIUM PROCEEDINGS

On December 1, 2008, the Franco-Ontarian Institute (IFO) released the proceedings of the Fernand Dorais Colloquium entitled "Fernand Dorais et le Nouvel-Ontario: Réflexions sur l'œuvre et sur l'influence d'un provocateur franco-ontarien," produced under the direction of Gratien Allaire and Michel Giroux.

From 1969 to 1993, Fernand Dorais was a professor in the department of French studies at Laurentian University. He has been a figurehead of the Franco-Ontarian intellectual and cultural movements. At a colloquium held by the IFO

in 2004, academics, alumni, and former colleagues of Dorais highlighted the many facets of this provocative and controversial icon. The colloquium proceedings take a critical and emotional look at this Jesuit who was exiled to northern Ontario, was a demanding and rigorous professor, a mentor and a creator, as well as his work and his views.

PIONEER AWARD FOR GUNN

John Gunn, Canada research chair in stressed aquatic systems and head of the cooperative freshwater ecology unit, was one of five winners of the Latonnell Conservation Pioneer Award for 2008. The Ontario-based award honours people who have made a long-term contribution over their career, or through volunteerism, to the conservation movement.

NEW DIRECTOR OF SNO

In June 2009, Nigel Smith of the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire, England, will join the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory team as its new director. SNO began operating nearly a decade ago at Vale Inco's Creighton Mine. It detects solar neutrinos and conducts advanced physics research into some of the tiniest particles and biggest questions in the universe. Canadian scientific participants are from Laurentian University, Carleton University, Queen's University, University of Montreal, University of Guelph, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, and TRIUMF laboratory.

COLILLI REPLACES VASSEUR

Paul Colilli has been appointed acting associate vice-president of research, in addition to his duties as dean of the school of graduate studies. He replaces Liette Vasseur, who assumed the position of vice-president of research at Brock University in late 2008. Colilli joined Laurentian in July 1983; he is currently a full professor in the department of modern languages and literature and the associate director of the Italian summer school at Middlebury College in Vermont.

NEW DIRECTOR OF STAFF RELATIONS

In December 2008, Sara Kunto (BA 2002) was named director of academic staff relations at Laurentian. Kunto is also a graduate of the University of Ottawa with a baccalaureate of laws, French common law. She has worked as a bilingual staff lawyer with the Sudbury Community Legal Clinic, and with a number of law firms in the Ottawa area.

TWO PLAYWRIGHTS, SIX VIGNETTES

Diana Luele-Colilli and Christine Sansalone, professors of modern languages, have written the play *Ma che brava gente*, their second collaboration in the last two years. The play is a series of six vignettes telling the story of two Italian-Canadian families who live in Sudbury's West End. The play spans a 50-year timeframe and takes a look at defining moments for these two families. The play premiered in February.

RUNNING ON ARITHMETIC

Returning to his Scottish roots, Les Davison, a marathon runner and professor of 39 years in Laurentian's mathematics and computer science department, is now teaching mathematics part-time at the University of Edinburgh and finishing his research projects. He is excited about joining an informal running group at the university. "I'm teaching, so it's helpful for my running. It provides an office and the legitimacy to being there," he says. Davison started running in 1984. In 1990, he ran a personal best marathon time of two hours and 38 minutes.

DEFINING IGNATIEFF

Laurentian history professor Stephen Azzi wrote a biography on new federal Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff for the Canadian Encyclopedia. The article can be found at: www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0010530



WELCOME, THANK YOU, AND STAY TUNED!

JACQUES TREMBLAY, B.COMM. 1982, LUAA PRESIDENT

WOW! WHAT EXCITING TIMES FOR LU AND THE LUAA!

First of all, on behalf of the LUAA, I would like to welcome a returning alumna to LU – Barbara Breault, BA 1990, B.Ed 1991. Coincidentally, she is also bringing her husband, Dominic Giroux, to

Sudbury. Giroux is the new LU president beginning April 1, 2009. Welcome back, Barbara and bienvenu, Dominic!

I would also like to thank Robert Bourgeois, interim LU president, for his dedication. Robert showed a sincere interest in LUAA efforts and always ensured that our concerns and perspectives were being heard. He attended our board meeting, attended the send-off parties, and also reciprocated by inviting LUAA representatives to events and meetings. He joined us in Asia to attend

the launch of our all-new Beijing alumni chapter.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Catherine Bourgeois for the invitation to lunch during fall 2008 convocation ceremonies. Other than a faulty fire alarm which required my intervention (LOL), the lunch was superb, and I appreciated the opportunity to sit with honorary doctorate recipients David Suzuki and Silken Laumann and Laurentian board members.

Now for the exciting part! I am happy to announce, on behalf of the LUAA board, that your alumni association has contributed its most significant gift yet to your alma mater – a \$250,000 donation that will be directed toward students as a part of the Next 50 Campaign. This initiative will have a positive impact on the community and supports our motto, “Students First Alumni Forever.” It will increase LUAA visibility and it shows the impact the 38,000 (and growing) Laurentian alumni have!



MEET THE SUDBURY CHAPTER



Sudbury chapter president Joey Hayes, BPHE 1995.

The City of Greater Sudbury is home to nearly 65 per cent of all Laurentian University graduates. Members of the Sudbury alumni chapter executive are devoted volunteers who plan many events for alumni. Some events that occurred under the direction of past president Dean Jacklin include the annual Presidents’ Ball and President’s Golf Tournament, as well as many Sudbury Wolves outings. The Sudbury Alumni Chapter has been very successful in fundraising, with close to \$90,000 raised over the past few years. All funds raised are directed toward student bursaries; four have been established to date.

The Sudbury Chapter recently welcomed a new executive team. We extend our warmest welcome to the newly appointed president, Joey Hayes, BPHE 1995, as well as the new vice-president, Ene Querney, B.Com. 1985. Joey gives us a sneak peak at what can be expected for the Sudbury alumni chapter.

Q: How were you first introduced to the chapter?

JH: David White, the past alumni president, gave me the friendly nudge I needed to get involved.

Q: Were you involved with Laurentian University prior to accepting the role of president of the chapter?

JH: I was not actively involved within the Sudbury chapter until this year. Like many alumni, I was an interested spectator looking on from the sidelines.

Q: What can Sudbury alumni look forward to in 2009?

JH: We are organizing a number of fun events for 2009. In February, the chapter hosted a Sudbury Wolves game again. We will also be back to lend our support to the 2009 graduation in June and the send-off parties for first-year students in August. Stay tuned for an autumn wine and beer tasting evening that will be the highlight of everyone’s social calendar. Currently, we are planning our annual golf tournament. The tournament is returning to the Lively Golf Course in June and we’ll have a whole lot of fun swinging for student scholarships.

Q: What would you say is the most rewarding part of your new role?

JH: Being a part of the LU community and participating in fundraising events to help university students afford a better future.

CHAPTER NEWS

BEIJING CHAPTER LAUNCH

The Laurentian University Alumni Association was proud to welcome a new alumni chapter, the very first overseas chapter. The Beijing alumni chapter was launched on Sunday, October 19, 2008, at the Cashbox Party World in Beijing, China. We would like to extend a special welcome to the president of the new chapter, Fan, Zhen Ming, (Martin), B.Com. 2005.

Last fall, Daveen Morrison, BPHE 1976, president of the Vancouver alumni chapter, visited Beijing and met Martin Fan.

Chapter president meets paralympic committee member



Daveen Morrison and Fan, Zhen Ming (Martin)



Beijing chapter president Martin Fan, left, Canadian Paralympic Committee member Tom Blake, and LU alumnus Eric Ye, B.Cosc. 2006.

Not everyone has the chance to visit a country halfway around the world. When Tom Blake, SPAD 1976, visited Beijing as part of his role as a member of the Canadian Paralympic Committee Board for the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, he took the opportunity to meet with Martin Fan, the president of the new Beijing alumni chapter. We love to hear stories of alumni who meet around the world. If you do connect with LU alumni, share your story (and photos!) with us at: alumni@laurentian.ca



VANCOUVER ALUMNI HOLIDAY DINNER

Laurentian alumni in Vancouver welcomed the holiday season on December 7, 2008, with a dinner at the Northlands Golf and Country Club.



ALUMNI VOYAGEUR HALL OF FAME INDUCTION DINNER

Each year, the Alumni Voyageur Hall of Fame inducts select individuals who have distinguished themselves as Laurentian Voyageurs during their time at Laurentian. This year, we were delighted to hang their new plaques on the wall in the Ben Avery.

It was clear why this year's inductees were selected; their list of achievements is long. Just to name a few: Alan Salmoni earned the title of "builder" for his work in creating the Laurentian Voyageur cross-country running program. The male and female athlete titles were respectively conferred to Shawn Swords, BA 1997, for his accomplishments as a member of the Voyageur basketball team, and his sister, Carolyn (née Swords) Sturgess, B.Eng. 1994, for her all-star role on the Lady Vees national championship teams.

The 1970-1971 men's hockey team was also inducted this year. Individual awards recognized outstanding players from the team: The OIAA All-Star award was presented to Tom Deacon, Mike Fox, and Matt Thorpe, and the CIAU Championship All-Star Team award went to Ed Taylor.

The inductees were celebrated during an awards ceremony and dinner on Friday, October 17, 2008, at Bryston's on the Park in Copper Cliff.



Alan Salmoni, joins Carolyn (Swords) Sturgess, female athlete, and Shawn Swords, male athlete, at the alumni wall of fame.



Members of the 1970-1971 men's hockey team



The winners of last year's tournament. Left to right: Bruce Frick, Paul Maynard, David Petryna, Frank Lebreton

SAVE THIS DATE!

STROKES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS GOLF TOURNAMENT

In support of Laurentian University student scholarships and bursaries.

Friday, June 26, 2009

Lively Golf & Country Club

\$200 registration fee per person

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

For more information or to register, please contact the alumni relations office at 705-675-4818 or alumni@laurentian.ca



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ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS

What can we do for you and, more importantly, how do you feel about us?

This question inspired us to conduct an alumni engagement survey to allow us to learn more about life after Laurentian. We invited you to voice your thoughts and concerns via e-mail, and more than 2,200 of you generously shared your time and opinions with us (for an impressive response rate of 15 per cent!). A number of other Canadian universities also participated in this new and innovative engagement analysis project, which allowed us to benchmark ourselves against our peers across the country.

The goal of our online survey was to learn more about the levels of engagement of Laurentian University alumni. In other words, we wanted a deeper understanding of your perception of life as a student at Laurentian, your current attitudes towards the university, and your involvement in activities, programs, and services, as well as your financial support.

SURVEY SAYS ...

The survey questions were categorized into 12 areas including: academic experience, extracurricular, reputation awareness, reputation pride, communications, activities, involvement opportunity, involvement action, awareness of need,

A great number of you indicated that you were highly satisfied with your academic experience, and that Laurentian offered you academically challenging programs that prepared you well for your career. You also revealed that you feel attached to Laurentian and are proud to associate yourselves with your alma mater, and that you would share that pride with others.

Your highest levels of involvement interest remain with mentoring students as well as getting involved in chapter activities and class reunions. We've learned from your responses that our highest areas of opportunity are to increase support levels and levels of involvement.

awareness of impact, case participation, and support level.

Your alumni association has formed a committee to analyze this data and determine what actions we need to take to better respond to your needs and to continue engaging you. We want to effectively communicate how you can stay involved with your alma mater and what areas of the university are in most need of your support. We will keep you posted as we continue to analyze the data. We encourage your continued feedback on the initiatives we put forward.



AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Everyone who participated in this engagement survey had the opportunity to win a prize, and three individuals walked away with prizes, courtesy of your Laurentian University Alumni Association. Congratulations to:

Jacqueline Tkachyk, BA 2005, winner of the Sirius Satellite Radio package, Richelle Moore, B.Com. 2007, winner of the iPod Touch, and Christian Lapalme, BA 2000, B.Ed. 2001, winner of the Garmin GPS system.

Not receiving our monthly e-newsletter? Keep up-to-date on all the news and activities happening in your area. Just send your e-mail address to alumni@laurentian.ca

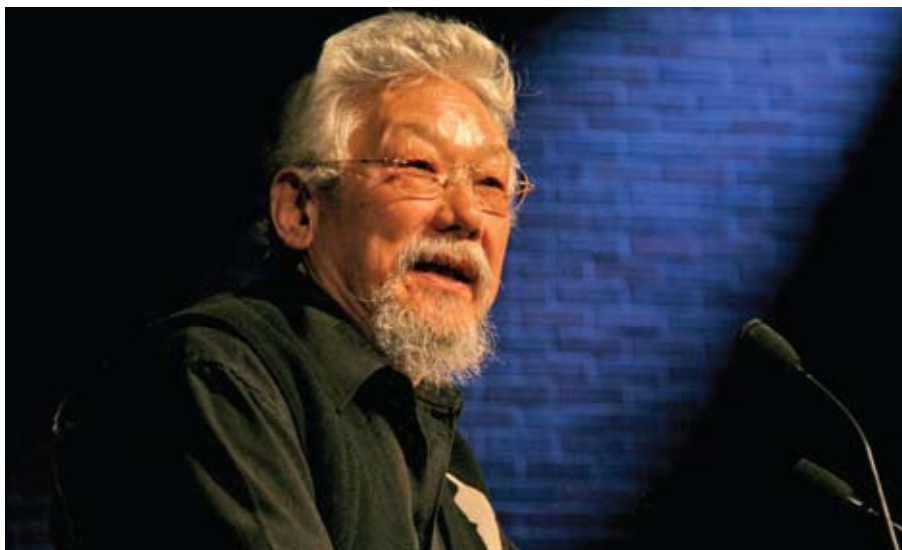
CELEBRATE THE 2008-2009 ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Join us at Bryston's on the Park on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. for a dinner honoring the 2008-2009 recipients

Dr. Laurent Lavoie, BA - Alumni Award of Distinction
Darryl Boynton, SPAD - Alumni Young Leader Award
Allison King - Student Recognition Award

Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased online at www.lualumni.laurentian.ca. For more details, please contact the alumni relations office at alumni@laurentian.ca or at 705-675-4818.

IN THE NEWS

**DAVID SUZUKI**

David Suzuki received an honorary doctorate of science during Laurentian's fall convocation ceremony on November 1, 2008. In an interview with *Laurentian University Magazine* staff writer Suzanne Charron-Violette, he shared some of his views on the health of the planet. Our society, "loves to shop and has an incredible appetite for stuff," he said. Later, during his evening lecture Suzuki warned that unchecked consumerism will catch up to us sooner than later.

Suzuki urges individuals to follow the principles of "Sustainability within a Generation," a visionary philosophy put forward by the David Suzuki Foundation in 2004. It defines sustainability as "living within the Earth's limits." By living smarter, we can continue to enjoy nature's bounty and still leave a rich legacy to our children and grandchildren.

JANNA-MARIE DONI AND RAY MENSOUR

Last Fall, Ray Mensour (SPAD 2000) and Janna-Marie Doni (B.Sc. 2002) were celebrated at the Greater Sudbury's Young Professional Association for making an impact in their community. Doni is a chiropractor in Capreol and Sudbury. Mensour has worked at the Sudbury Arena since 2002, and has contributed to the concerts and shows, including the Elton John and Backstreet Boys concerts in 2008.

SCOTT FAIRGRIEVE

Scott Fairgrieve, Chair of the department of forensic science at Laurentian University, and the consulting forensic anthropologist for the Northeastern Regional Forensic Pathology Unit in

Sudbury, Ontario, is participating as an expert consultant to lead defense attorney, José A. Baez of the Baez Law Firm based in Orlando, Florida. Fairgrieve is consulting in the matter of the State of Florida vs. Casey Marie Anthony. Anthony is currently awaiting trial on the charge of first-degree murder relating to the death of her daughter, Caylee Marie Anthony.

Fairgrieve was originally contacted in early October, and is bringing his experience as a forensic anthropologist with expertise in the search, recovery, and analysis of human skeletal remains. He will serve the Baez Law Firm as an essential part of the team of forensic scientists and medical experts who have been assembled to review and examine all of the forensic evidence pertaining to the case.

ROB FRIDAY

A poet and he knows it: Rob Friday (BA 1997, English) won the 2008 John Newlove Poetry Award through Bywords, an Ottawa-based group that promotes emerging and established poets. Friday, who hails from Temagami First Nation, is a poet and painter. He participated in open-mike poetry sessions at the Applegrove Café in Sudbury and his poetry has aired on CBC northern Ontario radio. The annual Newlove award was launched in the fall of 2004.

DENISE GARRIDO

Canadian beauty makes a splash: Denise Garrido, a recent Laurentian University graduate (B.Sc. Hons. 2007) was awarded \$1,000 for winning the "Miss Earth Puerto Princesa" title during the Swimsuit Competition held at the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park last November. The Philippines has found an ambassador in the Bradford, Ontario beauty, the reigning Miss Earth Canada. Garrido plans to attend medical school upon her return to Canada, and is particularly interested in continuing the work she began researching cancer as an assistant at the Sudbury Cancer Centre.

TREVOR HARRIS

A "WOW" for cardiac rehab: Trevor Harris (BPHE 2000) and his colleague Kate Blanchette of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at the Sudbury Regional Hospital claimed the WOW National Award from

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**Congratulations to the
winners of our last draw:**

**JANNA-MARIE DONI AND
RAY MENSOUR**

the Canadian Society for Training and Development for their unique resistance training manual and program for lower-functioning cardiac clients. Harris says strength increased in their patients by 50 to 100 per cent over six weeks in this program. The training manual is designed as a tabletop calendar, making it easy to read while exercising. The 17 different exercises are designed to help patients make the transition from inactivity to physical activity.

MARISSA IZMA

Marissa Izma (BPHE 2007) is implementing the Same World Same Chance project in Zambia. The project builds a sustainable high school and health clinic for orphaned and vulnerable youth in rural Zambia. "We developed this project directly for the people of this region," Izma told *Laurentian University Magazine*. "We have met their chief, talked to the village elders, and most importantly, we have lived, loved, and learned from the people in the community. Our school will provide education to those who would otherwise do without." More information can be found at: www.sameworldsamechance.org

PAUL MCNEIL

Return of the marathon man: Paul McNeil (BScN 2001) completed the half marathon event of the GoodLife Fitness

Toronto Marathon one year after a liver transplant saved his life. In August 2007, he underwent the transplant. Prior to his illness, McNeil had completed eight marathons. Running the half was his real return to running: "I set a goal in my head that if I can do it around two hours, anything under that would be a bonus," he says. He finished in one hour and 42 minutes. "Part of it for me was being part of something that is bigger than you, where everybody is set for one common purpose."

DAVID SALMONI

Talking tigers and wolves: Large predator expert and conservationist Dave Salmoni (B.Sc. 1998) appeared on CBC television's *The Hour* with host George Stroumboulopoulos on January 14. Besides bringing a young tiger and two wolves on the set, Salmoni also discussed his projects with Discovery Channel: *Rogue Nature* and *After the Attack*.

ROBERT-GUY WILLIAMS

Robert-Guy "Bud" Williams (B.Sc. 2008) practised as a surgeon at the old Calgary General Hospital for 33 years, but learning kept him coming back to class. Instead of hitting the golf course upon retirement in 1984, he went back to university and picked up a pair of degrees. Receiving his bachelor of science in

geology at Laurentian University in June 2008 at 89, Williams is currently pursuing a MA in geology. "It's just a question of hard work and that's about the only tip I can give. Once I got started again, I was studying all day long, practically." His wife, Marian, doesn't see age as a reason for the both of them to stop learning. "Just because somebody is retired, you don't stop living. There are still too many things to do."

TO ALL ALUMNI OF MACDONALD-CARTIER

The *École secondaire Macdonald-Cartier* in Sudbury invites all alumni to its 40th anniversary celebrations, on May 15 to 17, 2009. To register, visit www.macdonald-cartier.ca and click on « Nos anciens ». If you have any questions, please call 705-566-7660.



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ALUMNI UPDATES

1960s

John Dolan, BA 1968, published his fourth collection of poetry, *Spirit Engine*, last spring through Brick Books. He is still a reference librarian at the Vancouver Public Library from November through April. He spends the rest of the year writing at his 200-acre forest property on the Canadian Shield, north of Kingston. He can be found online at: www.onlink.net/johndolan

Erik Lovin, B.Sc. 1969, recently retired from Inco, and is now a passionate photographic artist. He was recently awarded the master of photographic arts degree (MPA) in recognition of his photographic achievements and dedication to the Professional Photographers of Canada. Having honed his photography skills with his three daughters, he continues to practise his art, specializing in portraiture, weddings, and commercial photography. He takes every opportunity to photograph his four lovely grandchildren. Erik is a philanthropist, donating his time and talent to a number of local charities and boards. He also operates Erik Lovin Photography with his partner, Vally LaFlamme, BSL 1975.



Pierre Harrison, M.Sc. 1995, B.Sc. 1990, and his partner, Susanne Leffler, have more than a roof over their heads. They have a place to call home. Back in fall 2006, *Laurentian University Magazine* featured Harrison and Leffler's effort to reduce their environmental footprint by building a strawbale house. During construction, they lived in an old school bus on their property, southeast of Sudbury. Finally, this winter, they moved in! They still have more stucco, window framing, and plumbing work to complete. But, at last, they can curl up by the woodstove and enjoy living "off the grid."

1970s

Michael Hodgson, BSW 1978: After working 30 years in the Canadian North, Michael recently retired from social work. He is now toying with venture capitalism (which, he says, is interesting for a dyed-in-the-wool socialist) and assists the Barzini organization of New York with special projects. He always sets time aside for canoeing, writing, and photography.

Peter Gothe, B.Sc. 1975, was recently appointed general manager of TIENS North America, a company distributing healthcare, nutritional, and personal-care products throughout North America. Peter is the vice-chairman of the Direct Seller's Association of Canada, an industry association of corporations involved in distributing products through a network of independent sales contractors. Peter and his wife, Donna, have three children and two grandchildren. They live in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Vally (Borsato) LaFlamme, BSL 1975, has enjoyed an eclectic career working for: CMHC, Cambrian College, College Boreal, the Rainbow Board of Education, the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, and the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra. She remains an active community proponent, a director on a number of boards, volunteer, and proud mother of two. Vally and her partner, Erik Lovin, B.Sc. 1969, operate Erik Lovin Photography, a successful photography studio, from their Sudbury home. They enjoy travelling nationally and internationally for business and pleasure.

1980s

Karl H. Danner, BA 1981, a former professor of education in Romania, is now retired and living in Germany. He earned three master's degrees before receiving a PhD in philosophy from the University of London. His former Laurentian colleagues can contact him at: Casa Carola, Burg-107, Pirmasens, Rhénanie-Palatinat, Germany 66953

James Coyle, BA 1985, is teaching in Lindsay, Ontario, and can be reached at: jcoyle1@cogeco.ca

1990s

Joseph Gladu, BA 1995, has returned to Sudbury after 12 years working in Toronto. He heads the Canadian subsidiary of Mine Site Technologies, an Australian provider of communications to the mining industry. He can be reached at: jgladu@gmail.com

Sam Guillemette, BA 1993, is currently a consultant with Investors Group in Sudbury. He can be reached by email at: sam.guillemette@investorsgroup.com

Jonathan Ginou, B.Com. 1996, is currently working at Art Printing Company, specializing in printing for restaurants and food service. He married Athena on June 10, 2006. They are currently living in Toronto. Jonathan still keeps in touch with a few of the Laurentian guys.



Science educator Jennifer Dick conducts fossil hunts in Drumheller, Alberta.

DIGGING UP BONES

Jennifer Dick calls the Alberta badlands home

By Suzanne Charron-Violette

On the hunt for a dinosaur skeleton, Jennifer Dick (B.Sc. Hon. 2005) leads a group of tourists through the parched Alberta badlands. They make their way toward a dig site, where they begin the delicate task of exposing the earth using paleontologists' tools. The bones they're searching for are not real, but plastic reproductions. Alberta has "some of the strictest fossil protection laws in the world," says Dick, a science educator at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, a museum of paleontology near Drumheller.

She educates the museum's visitors, teaching them to find and identify fossils in the area. She also visits school children across the province through the museum's outreach program, which runs during the winter.

A few years ago, while immersed in her wildlife and habitat ecology studies at Laurentian University, the biologist never dreamed of working in the badlands. "Doing paleontology was not top of my list," she says, but, "I love learning and anything new is exciting to me. Probably one of the reasons I love it here so much is that I didn't really know much about this field of science before. So, I'm learning new things every day."

Jennifer Dick explains paleontology to thousands of visitors of all ages

and from all over the world. For her, it was Laurentian's science communication specialization after her biology degree that provided a solid foundation in teaching and outreach. "I already had the scientific background," she says. "But learning how to interact with the public and how to read an audience was really valuable."

She dislikes the expression "dummy-

"I love learning and anything new is exciting to me."

ing it down," which refers to simplifying scientific knowledge for the general public. As science is cumulative, "you just have to understand what knowledge they already have and build on that foundation." More than anything, she adds, being excited about the subject can be infectious.

Dick decided to take the one-year science communication program – which is unique in North America – because she missed working in an interpretive setting. Just out of high school, she had worked one summer as a natural heritage education interpreter at Bonnechere Provincial Park, near her birthplace of Pembroke,

Ontario, and she wanted to recapture that feeling.

At 28, she still has a laid-back approach to life, seizing opportunities as they come. She wants to remain open to new experiences, and doesn't believe in planning her life down to the minute detail. Already, she has accumulated many life experiences, including backpacking with friends in Southeast Asia and working in Wisconsin as a production assistant in the making of the IMAX film, *Mysteries of the Great Lakes* (during her science communication internship).

She also studied conservation in Costa Rica with Ann Gallie, coordinator of Laurentian's environmental Earth science program. Gallie, who has taken several groups of students to tropical rainforests, recalls their trip: "People such as Jennifer, with training in science communication, are especially important in conservation today."

"I just love this job. It keeps me on my toes. I'm constantly learning," Jennifer says. She also cherishes the close team environment at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, where she's been employed since September 2007. In her little spare time, she hikes through the badlands with her Chesapeake Bay retriever and volunteers for the humane society. [L](#)



Cathy Heffernan and adopted cats Simba and Frankie.

GOLDIE

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11]

She chose to come on campus instead of completing her degree by correspondence. She liked how the instructors knew her by name.

"It's a small campus which, for me, was perfect."

As a nurse who was already working in hospitals, the courses piqued her interest and taught her more than she had been exposed to at the college level, she says. She has been working at the emergency department at the Sudbury Regional Hospital since 1997.

But at the end of her hospital shift, she doesn't just come home and flop down on the couch. There's more work to be done. As one of Pet Save's dedicated volunteers, she does a bit of everything from selling calendars, working the annual gala, fostering pets, and making trips to the vet and the pet food stores.

Her empathy for animals extends to all living beings. Heffernan mobilizes her colleagues in the hospital emergency department to "adopt" families at Christmas. They bought Christmas presents for eight families in 2008. She has either sponsored, or prompted others to sponsor, 43 children through World Vision.


The World Vision cause started simply enough in 2002.

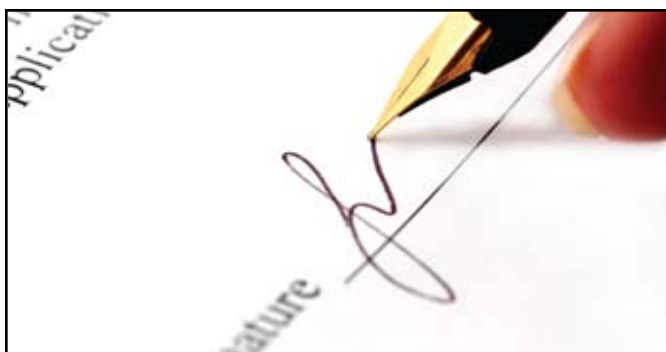
Watching TV one day, she saw a story about a young boy who was trying to provide food for his starving siblings. She just had to support this child in Nepal. Then, true to pattern, she moved her support to the next level, involving more people. With World Vision, Heffernan travelled to Rwanda in 2007, El Salvador in 2008, and Uganda last August 2008.

Still, with everything she has witnessed – from the emergency department, the abused cats and dogs, and poverty overseas – the lack of desks in a school in Kenya really bothered her. On an adventure tour in 2007, she visited a school in Kenya where there weren't enough desks, forcing some students to sit on stones during their lessons. As if school isn't hard enough for these kids, she thought. They had to sit on stones?

She returned to Sudbury determined to raise \$2,500, which would fund 100 desks. Enroute to Uganda in 2008, she made a detour to Kenya and bought the desks, ensuring they were delivered to the school last September. She plans to return to the school to help with other improvements.

Pessot says, "She literally walks into a room and people open their wallets. They know whatever Cathy is involved in is a good cause."

As to why she goes the extra mile, Heffernan pauses. It's a tough question to answer. But her response is simple: It needs to be done, so she is doing it. It's not like she woke up one morning and decided the world needed to be saving, she says. It started like a ripple across the lake. "Once you get a little tiny insight it's hard to not do anything about it." 



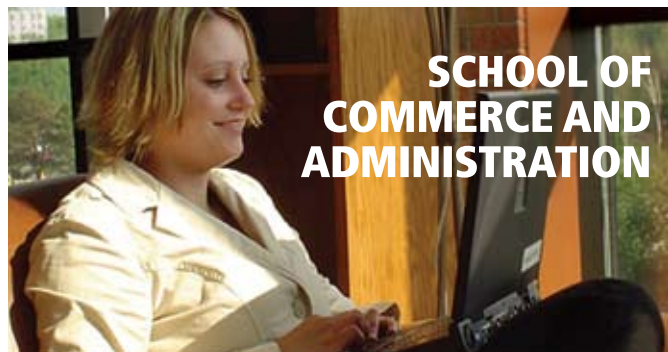
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Emotion flows

For Pandora Topp, performing with Michael Bublé was yet another sweet surprise in her artistic career.

By Suzanne Charron-Violette

*"N*aked, naked, naked ... and accessible" is how Sudbury local Pandora Topp (BA 2001) feels when she's onstage in front of a crowd. The singer and multidisciplinary artist draws on the "art of emotion" to communicate with her audience.

Topp says she has felt the need to connect with others since she was a young child in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Quebec. Her mother, visual artist Heather Topp, had a profound influence on her development as an artist, instilling a desire to share and perform. In her live performances, Pandora Topp manifests authentic experience. "I'm a live artist. I want to stir people in the here and now," she says. Her quest for direct connection is why she could never be a film actor, she admits.

Music and theatre allows her soul to reach out, she says, and it is this feeling she tries to share with students taking her creativity training. She delivers the bilingual program, and is now the national coordinator of francophone affairs for "Learning through the Arts." She also offers "Students on Stage" locally through the Sudbury Theatre Centre.

Her signature show, Café Piaf, continues to attract dedicated fans – and she is in high demand. The show

originated while she was a student at Laurentian. It all started routinely enough: She had to speak in front of the class, and her mother suggested she present something on French singer Edith Piaf. She became immersed in the research. Feeling gutsy, she belted out one of Piaf's songs as the finale to her presentation. It must have gone over very well. Soon after, she was asked to perform at an intimate university gathering, essentially kick-starting her career in 1997.

*"I'm a live artist.
I want to stir people in
the here and now."*

Her intention is clear: She isn't presenting a perfect imitation of Edith Piaf, but rather, "painting a picture of the artist through emotions," allowing her audience to "live Piaf." Through the music and lyrics, the crowd connects directly to Topp – and she is quick to connect with, and adapt to, her audience. For example, when she sings the song *Milord* to a group of women, she


tries to whisk them along on the song's journey: "We all become ladies of the night together," she laughs.

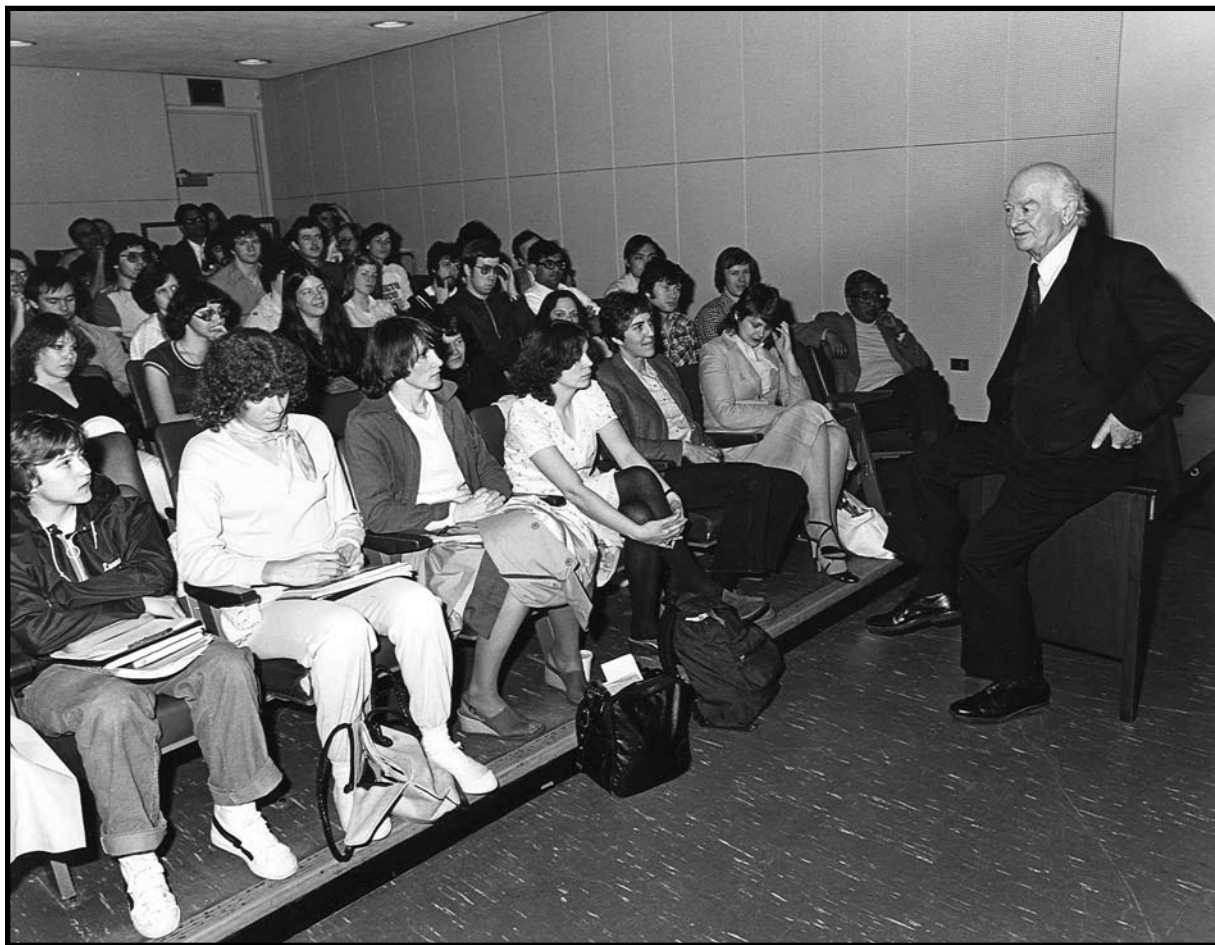
Her live show is ever-changing. In contrast, Topp is currently getting one version of her songs down on CD – her first recorded album.

Once in a while, Topp sings with Rex Holmes and the Cheetahs, but most often, she performs with Les Giselles, a bilingual group covering popular music from the 1960s onward. In all her performances, including those with Les Giselles, she engages her audience, making them sing, dance ... and sweat.

Her ebullient performance style has earned widespread recognition. Back in January 2008, she received a call from Michael Bublé's manager, who asked her to join the popular crooner onstage for his last song during the Sudbury concert. Topp jumped for joy at the rare opportunity.

Topp gives so much emotionally, but also draws on emotional nourishment from the life she shares with her husband, Yves Doyon, her son, Dunstan, 15, and daughter, Loire, 8.

Her website – as dynamic as her personality – can be found at: www.pandoratopp.com 



1981

Linus Pauling, at the age of 80, is seen here talking to Laurentian chemistry students. Pauling came to Laurentian in 1981 as a guest lecturer to speak on his theory of vitamin C as a cure for the common cold and as an anti-aging supplement. He must have followed his own prescription: He went on to live another 13 years.

Renowned as a humanitarian and one of the leading chemists of the twentieth century, Pauling is the only person to have won two unshared Nobel Prizes: The 1954 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and the 1962 Nobel Peace Prize. And now this year, Pauling's humanitarian spirit was echoed when Stephen Lewis lectured at Laurentian on March 19, 2009.

Alumni Updates

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

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

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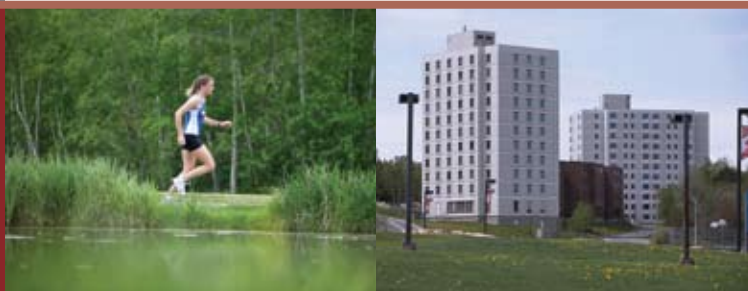
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