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Executive Editor: Bruce Parécy
Associate Editor: Andy Lee

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Photography: Dave Roberts, Dave Glymph

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Contact:
Alumni magazine
Office of University Advancement
Ryerson University
310 Victoria St., Toronto, ON CANADA M5B 2K3
Phone: 416-979-5000 ext. 7000
Fax: 416-979-5366
E-mail: rmag@ryerson.ca
Web: ryers.ca/Alumni

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A wonderful thing happened at the welcome reception for graduate students this fall – we ran out of food. We knew the quality of our applicants was high, and our enrolments were very strong. Demand for places in graduate programs at Ryerson has been very competitive, and there has been intense interest in the advanced learning opportunities being offered. But as I walked around the reception, meeting and talking to students, it was not about the numbers at all. There were students from so many different academic backgrounds, and many different countries. What they had in common was the delight and enthusiasm of being at Ryerson University for their master’s and PhD study.

In the pages of this issue, our goal is to bring you up to date on the growth of Graduate Studies at Ryerson. This year, we are proud to welcome 1,600 graduate students to our University, up from 1,000 in fall 2006. Graduate students now represent about 6.5 per cent of our total student body. At most Ontario universities – except the University of Toronto, where the ratio is higher – the graduate population is about 7 to 11 per cent of the total. So Ryerson is joining the ranks of major graduate schools in the province.

With nine new graduate programs coming on stream in fall 2007, Ryerson offers a total of 27 graduate programs, including seven at the PhD level. The pace of this development is nothing short of spectacular. The leadership of Dr. Maurice Yeates, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, and the tremendous dedication of department Chairs, faculty, staff and students, combine to create a milestone in Ryerson history.

The best part is that the value of a Ryerson education continues to rise. The effect of graduate expansion at Ryerson extends far beyond Graduate Studies itself. All proposals for new graduate programs must be reviewed by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS), and Ryerson is consistently receiving outstanding responses to its submissions. Our faculty members are attracting increasing attention for teaching excellence, compelling scholarship and professional leadership. Our graduate students are winning prizes, and making names for themselves – and for Ryerson.

Undergraduates also derive the benefit. Graduate students are teaching assistants and mentors, and some will be the professors of tomorrow. The option of graduate study attracts undergraduates interested in the possibilities beyond their first degree. Opportunities for career choices are expanded, as employers are increasingly considering educational attainment in making hiring decisions.

This is a landmark development for Ryerson, but one thing remains constant. As you read these impressive stories, you will see that these changes are still inspired by the vision that has guided Ryerson since the beginning. Graduate Studies programs are a reflection of the Ryerson mission and strengths. We continue to be responsive to the realities of our environment: to current issues, the needs of people, and bringing creativity and progress to the world.

I am looking forward to meeting with our graduate students again, and have promised to host a mid-year event to get an update on how things are going. And to make sure they all get enough to eat.
Diane Francis and Gerard Kennedy have been appointed to one-year terms as Distinguished Visiting Professors at Ryerson. Francis is the editor-at-large for the National Post, the author of eight best-selling books and a regular radio commentator. Kennedy is the former Ontario Minister of Education, a past federal Liberal leadership candidate and former executive director of the Daily Bread Food Bank. During her year at Ryerson, Francis will present a lecture each term, deliver a writing seminar to business students and lecture on “Blogging and Business.” She will publish a research paper under the banner of the Ted Rogers School of Management and will lecture on “Social Responsibility and Entrepreneurship.”

“I don’t consider myself a journalist who covers business, but rather a businessperson who delivers insight through journalism,” said Francis. “I’m looking forward to sharing my experience and views in the classroom and engaging students.”

Kennedy will deliver a series of lectures to graduate and undergraduate management students on topics such as entrepreneurship, enterprise culture and corporate social responsibility. He will also undertake research activities related to the potential role of an enterprise culture in bringing business and political solutions to Canada’s new economy.

“Ryerson is the problem-solving university, renowned worldwide for bringing real-world experience and first-class innovation to the classroom,” said Kennedy. “I am very excited to work with the Ted Rogers School of Management faculty and students who already know a lot about how to combine learning with accomplishment.”

Ted and Loretta Rogers, great Toronto philanthropists and long-time supporters of Ryerson, have made a transformational gift of $15 million to the University that will make a dramatic difference in the lives of students. The gift is directed towards the Faculty of Business, which in recognition has been renamed the Ted Rogers School of Management. Ted and Loretta Rogers’ personal endorsement and support mark a milestone for management education at Ryerson.

The Rogers’ generosity and leadership will greatly enhance accessibility and the quality of the student experience. The majority of the gift is being used to establish 52 new undergraduate and graduate student awards and scholarships, including 18 MBA entrance awards valued at $20,000 each. The scholarships will be matched by Ryerson to provide greater accessibility and to support as many students as possible. Here’s how the funding will be distributed:

• 13 undergraduate entrance scholarships
• 10 MBA entrance awards
• 1 undergraduate business leadership award
• 4 undergraduate entrance awards
• 8 MBA entrance scholarships
• 16 undergraduate continuing awards

In addition to $8 million to endow the 52 awards, the donation also includes:

• $2 million to endow the new Loretta Rogers Research Chair. The Chair will seed academic initiatives that will attract outstanding faculty and create centres of excellence in management research.
• $5 million towards the capital cost of the new Ted Rogers School of Management building.

“We are thrilled to support Ryerson’s management school,” said Ted Rogers, President and CEO, Rogers Communications, when he announced the gift. “It is our pleasure to support the Ryerson management school and its students to help ensure even greater accessibility for many of Canada’s business leaders of tomorrow.”
Nine outstanding alumni were inducted into the Ryerson Wall of Achievement during Alumni Weekend festivities in September. Established in 1998, the Alumni Achievement Awards honour graduates who have not only excelled in their respective careers, but have made a significant contribution to their profession, their community and their country. The 2007 recipients were award-winning architect and interior designer Bryan Cantley, Journalism ’69; Tony Gagliano, Business Management ’80; Andrew Lai, ITM ’05; Lee Liu, ITM ’06; Andy Lai, ITM ’05; Sundeep Mokha, ITM ’05; and Adam B. Kahan, Vice-President, University Advancement.

The 2007 Alumni Achievement Award recipients: From top left: Tony Gagliano, Business Management ’80; Tyler Forkes, Executive Director, Alumni Relations; Sheri Cohen, Social Work ’96; Sundee Mokha, Information Technology Management ’05; Lee Liu, ITM ’06; Andy Lai, ITM ’05; Chis Nguyen, ITM ’05; front row: President Sheldon Levy; Tania Bortolotto, Architectural Science ’90; Jenny Gumbs, Public Administration ’02; Bryan Cantley, Journalism ’69; and Adam B. Kahan, Vice-President, University Advancement.

One of Ryerson’s best-known characters, Ernie the hot dog man, passed away in November at the age of 80. A fixture at the corner of Victoria and Gould Streets since 1981, Ernie was known to thousands of alumni and leaves a legacy of support for needy students. A bursary fund of $27,000 was built from Ernie’s annual donations of a full day of hot dog sales and matching assistance from the provincial government.

Ernie retired from the hot dog business in 2006, and was always an intriguing and somewhat mysterious figure on the University’s campus. Generations of campus media reporters tried to uncover his life story, but Ernie was tight-lipped and it wasn’t until relatively recently that Ernie’s past – a career in fibre optics and a degree in electrical engineering – became widely known. His real name was Ronald Alexander, and he was a father of four and grandfather of two who fled the corporate world to run a hot dog stand. Recently, a group of Ryerson professors performed a musical based on his life.

ERNIE, A CAMPUS ICON

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to Ernie’s Bursary Fund at Ryerson, www.ryerson.ca/supporting/annualfund.

Twenty-four outstanding new researchers and distinguished practitioners have been appointed as Ryerson’s first post-doctoral fellows and research associates. The five-year appointments represent a major step forward in Ryerson achieving its research goals and are funded by a four-year, $3-million program to strengthen the University’s research capacity.

“This is a big boost for Research and Innovation at Ryerson,” says Vice-President, Research and Innovation Antonitas (Tam) Venetatsopoulos. “Within key areas of existing and emerging expertise, we’ve attracted some of the world’s most promising young scholars.”

Over the past 10 years, Ryerson’s research program has grown an unprecedented 326 per cent, from $3.8 million in external funding in 1997 to $16.2 million in 2007. The University gained a 32 per cent increase in funding last year alone.

“Let the ones to watch,” says Dr. Venetatsopoulos. “Research and Innovation are on the fast-track here. We’re continuing to build on the momentum we’ve established that Ryerson is the place to come for practical answers to difficult problems.”

Selected from among 118 applicants from across Canada, the United States and as far away as France and China, the 24 new recruits include both distinguished practitioners and post-doctoral fellows embarking upon the first, important phase of independent research following a PhD. In fields ranging from psychology and human resource management, to metallurgical engineering and photography, each has been awarded a one-year appointment worth $50,000, with eligibility for renewal for up to two additional years. Another 16 post-doctoral fellows and research associates are expected to join the University in 2008 and 2009. Innovative funding programs are now underway to strengthen interdisciplinary research and create opportunities for collaborative projects with researchers around the world.

Twenty-four post-doctoral fellows and research associates will join Ryerson for a year-long appointment.

“Beginning in 2008, another 16 researchers will join the first cohort of Fellows. The $3 million program is in addition to the University’s $16.2 million annual research budget,” says Vice-President, Research and Innovation Antonitas (Tam) Venetatsopoulos.

“Within key areas of existing and emerging expertise, we’ve attracted some of the world’s most promising young scholars.”

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ENGINEERING PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY NATIONAL BODY

Ryerson’s seven Engineering programs have once again been accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board, the national body that evaluates undergraduate programs in the profession.

“This is quite an achievement and reflects the top quality engineering education that Ryerson has to offer,” said Stalin Doctor, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Science. “It’s not an easy process and required countless hours of preparation, planning and management but it was well worth it.”

The Aerospace, Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering programs earned accreditation for six years, the highest level possible. The Industrial and Computer Engineering programs earned a three-year accreditation (with a report), rounding out the accomplishment.

The accreditation renewal means that Engineering graduates have the academic requirements necessary for registration as professional engineers in Canada - a status held since 1991.

APPLICATIONS UP 20 PER CENT, FOCUS REMAINS ON QUALITY

As demand for undergraduate education increases in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ryerson continues to be a popular choice among prospective students. Last year, Ryerson led the university system in first-choice undergraduate applications from secondary school students, with a 20 per cent increase compared to 10 per cent overall for the province.

The number of graduate students also rose 42 per cent to about 1,600 from 1,000 in fall 2006. Nine new graduate programs bring the total now offered to 27, including seven at the PhD level.

As the media has reported, Ryerson and other GTA universities have expressed concern about the impending rise in demand, and the discussion of possible strategic solutions is ongoing. Nonetheless, Ryerson is committed to providing quality education.

“At a time when university budgets are shrinking and athletics budgets are getting pinched, the Ryerson athletic program is thriving,” said Peter Heidenreich, senior associate director of Athletics. “It’s a testament to the hard work and dedication of our student-athletes and coaches. It’s an exciting time to be a Bronco.”

FOCUS REMAINS ON QUALITY

Not your typical Board.

Typical is a word that describes Ryerson University’s Board of Governors. Diverse in knowledge, occupation, gender, age and culture, the Board guides Ryerson with a unique perspective. It is a vision that prepares students with the knowledge and skills to contribute to the community, in Canada and the world.

Not your typical University.

Extraordinary board, extraordinary students. We think that’s a great combination. Interested in finding out more? Visit www.ryerson.ca/about/governors.

ENDOWMENT REACHES $61M

The Ryerson University endowment, which provides support largely for student scholarships, awards and bursaries, has reached a record $61 million.

Endowments are permanent sources of income, typically provided by private donors and sometimes matched by government. Annual interest from the endowment fund generates $2.7 million to support designated university activities.

From $10 million in 2000, the endowment doubled to $20 million in 2003. In the past four years, the endowment has tripled in size due to the success of fundraising initiatives, investment and $8 million in matching funding from the provincial government’s Ontario Trust for Student Support. Twice, Ryerson fundraising efforts surpassed the trust’s $1.2 million matching ceiling, garnering additional funding in secondary distribution rounds.

“This tremendous accomplishment would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors, who believe strongly in our faculty and students,” says Adam B. Kahan, Vice-President, University Advancement. “The endowment promotes academic excellence by attracting the best and brightest minds to Ryerson.”

The endowment breakdown is as follows:

- $47 million for student scholarships, awards and bursaries
- $31.5 million for research chairs
- $2.5 million for other academic programs
- $11.5 million for six research chairs
- $47 million for student scholarships, awards and bursaries

“Our endowment has been growing dramatically in the past few years, faster than most established universities,” says Janice Winton, Executive Director of Financial Services.

As part of the University’s strategy to enhance Ryerson’s growing reputation and profile, this distinctive ad introducing members of the University’s Board of Governors appeared in the Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail and National Post. Designed by Ryerson’s Marketing and Communications department, the ad was created by professional photography members of the Board in small groups and assembling the final product by computer. For more about the Board, visit ryerson.ca/about/governors.
Last summer, Julian Reid, Arts and Contemporary Studies ’07, attended a university in Berlin and toured Europe thanks to the Department of History’s inaugural History Travel Award. The scholarship was established by History Professor Arne Kislenko with seed funding from a $10,000 TD Meloche Monnex scholarship, awarded to Ryerson when he won TVOntario’s first Best Lecturer Competition in November 2005.

“This award is not only about recognizing student academic achievement; it was created to encourage Ryerson students to explore the world and further their curiosity in it,” says Professor Kislenko. “The challenges of travel give students an appreciation of global diversity, and, at the same time, serve to increase their self-confidence and independence.”

Julian, who specialized in global studies, spent a month in Berlin studying history through the Freie Universität Berlin International Summer University program. The $6,500 award covered his tuition, accommodation and part of his travel expenses. Julian received an independent study credit.

“Traveling is a wonderful experience but you often have the sense you’re simply passing through places without time to get to know them at a deeper level,” says Julian. “With this award I got the best of both worlds: being able to study in an international program with students from all over the world and travel through several countries in Europe.”

Tanya King-Maracle, Public Administration and Governance ’07, with daughter B’Elanna and son Blake, received a Ryerson Gold Medal at spring convocation for academic excellence and extracurricular achievement. The recipient of a Dennis Mock Student Leadership Award, King-Maracle maintained a 3.96 grade point average and served as a tutor-mentor to students across Ontario. She also volunteers with the Quinte Mohawk School, the Napanee Minor Hockey Initiation Program and the Tyendinaga Museum Committee.

Over 250 Photography, Film and New Media students displayed their exceptional talents at the 12th annual Maximum Exposure, a four-day exhibition hosted by the School of Image Arts. Works included portraiture, photojournalism, collage, mechanical construction, digital installation, film and video.

Talia Shipman, Image Arts ’07, won Best in Show for her series, “Exodus: The Ten Plagues” (above).

The Ryerson community broke the Guinness world record for the largest dance class during Orientation Week. A total of 663 students, faculty and staff jazz-danced their way into history at Yonge-Dundas Square, led by 40 Theatre School students. The previous record of 580 was set by a U.K. comedy troupe in March 2007.

Ode to the Porcelain Gods, an outdoor art installation on Lake Devo from Ryerson’s Light Up the Night exhibition, part of Nuit Blanche festivities in September.
Ryerson offers graduate degrees with a difference

By Dana Yates

It’s a classic coming-of-age story. But the central character isn’t a person – it’s a university. Ryerson underwent a transformation when it received full university status in 1993. Seven years later, the first graduate programs were launched and several milestones have since been achieved:

- The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) now has more than 1,000 alumni.
- Ryerson currently offers 27 graduate programs, excluding seven leading to a doctorate.
- On average, each program receives four applications for every space available.
- This fall will bring the launch of master’s programs in six diverse areas: Modernity, Building Science and Applied Mathematics.

The basic framework for graduate programming is in place,” says Maurice Yates, Dean of the SGS. “Each Faculty is represented and we’re ready to develop new doctoral programs, in niche areas such as Policy Studies and interdisciplinary areas, drawing on the strength of our master’s programs.”

Today, more than 1,000 graduate students attend Ryerson and almost 80 per cent live in the Greater Toronto area (GTA). What attracts them to the University? “Ryerson’s graduate curriculum, like the undergraduate one, is career-oriented,” says Dean Yates. “We offer internships and links with industry, the public sector and community agencies. These hands-on opportunities are not available elsewhere in the province.”

Prospective students are also enticed by full- and part-time study options, increased financial aid, new or renovated research facilities, and relevant programs that meet societal needs. To that end, the programs have been built upon a critical mass at the University and are aligned with Ryerson’s academic strengths. Dean Yates describes graduate programs at Ryerson as fitting within six broad themes: diversity, creativity, health, engineering, public and private sector administration, and the application of science to problems.

That emphasis on strategic programming provides numerous benefits. Access to graduate student talent increases the expertise and scholarly, research and creative activity of faculty members. In turn, this enrichment not only enhances the graduate student experience, but also attracts more students and high-quality faculty members. These professors then go on to expand learning opportunities for undergraduates.

As a result, Ryerson strengthens its reputation for professionally related education across the board. Over time, the value of a Ryerson degree appreciates, leading many alumni to recommend Ryerson’s graduate programs to their own children. That next generation of students, along with today’s learners, will drive research, innovation and creativity in the province.

It’s a story with a happy ending – one that will play out again and again as the University expands its graduate programs to their own children. That next generation of students, leading many alumni to recommend Ryerson’s graduate programs to their own children. That next generation of students, leading many alumni to recommend Ryerson’s graduate programs to their own children.

Leading the way

Pioneer one of Ryerson’s first graduate students

By Dana Yates

Mass mailings may soon be a thing of the past, thanks to Andy Charles, Applied Geography (BA) ’90 and Spatial Analysis (MSA) ’95. As Manager of Retail Print Distribution for Sears Canada, Andy uses geographic information systems to help his company get the most bang for its marketing buck. “My spatial background helps me determine exactly where we should distribute flyers,” he says. “The whole point of it is targeted distribution, not carpet-bombing.”

Strategic planning is familiar ground for Andy. During the mid-1990s, he left his native Grenada to attend Ryerson. He was attracted to the University’s small class sizes and focus on hands-on learning – the same characteristics that convinced him to enrol in Spatial Analysis, one of Ryerson’s first master’s programs, when it launched in 2000.

Initially, Andy had reservations about charting the new territory. “But the expertise and resources I had access to in the program convinced me that I had made the right decision,” he says. His thesis advisor was Maurice Yates, Ryerson’s Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. As one of the first Spatial Analysis graduates, Andy went on to work at Geomedia and later the Bank of Nova Scotia. He now holds a master of business administration (MBA) from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Earning an MBA, Andy says, demonstrated the value of transferrable skills. “It was a shock to see the concepts I learned in the Spatial Analysis program were highly applicable to an MBA program. I’ve gotten a lot of mileage out of the MBA program.”

Where marketing meets real estate

A Ryerson MBA has put this recent graduate exactly where she wants to be

By Dana Yates

When Kari Davis was looking for a master of business administration (MBA) program, she says the choice was obvious. “I had already gone to Ryerson and I liked how it ran its undergraduate Business program.”

So I applied to the University for my graduate work because I knew I would get a similar experience.”

For Kari, Business Management (BComm) ’02 and MBA ’07, that experience included small class sizes and supportive faculty members. “The MBA was a rigorous program and you definitely felt that the faculty were behind you 100 per cent,” she says.

With a combined interest in marketing and real estate, Kari did her internship at Oxford Properties Group, a Toronto-based commercial real estate investment and property management firm. As part of her placement, she developed a marketing plan for a shopping mall in Winnipeg and sought advice from her former professor Maurice Yates, Dean of Ryerson’s School of Graduate Studies.

Alumni & friends

Alumni & friends:

- Alumna Kari Davis: one of Ryerson’s first MBA grads.
- Alumnus Andy Charles: A very Spatial graduate.
- Andy Charles, Applied Geography (BA) ’90 and Spatial Analysis (MSA) ’95.
- Alumnus Andy Charles: A very Spatial graduate.
- Ryerson MBA.
- Ryerson MBA.

We look for individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of nursing through their work or involvement in other activities, such as professional organizations and associations.

Karen Spalding, program director

Master of Nursing (MN)

Our students come with good grades and GMAT scores, but we also look for solid work experience, and diversity in backgrounds and experience.

We want students who are highly motivated, hard-working and creative, with the qualities that will enable them the leaders of tomorrow.

Wendy Cutler, program director

Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Management Science (MMS) in the Management of Technology and Innovation

We select students who are not only highly motivated, but also well versed in theoretical debates surrounding the recent surge of interest in documentary forms. In addition, we require a high level of technical skills from our candidates.

Wiwanda Michiately, program director

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Documentary Media

We attract creative thinkers, students who are hungry to do something beyond the ordinary.

Jeffrey Yeates, program director

Master of Applied Science (MAS), Master of Engineering (MEng) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Aerospace Engineering

Taking it to the next level

Graduate Studies

13
For this alumna, the perfect career blends engineering with medicine

By Dana Yates

Thanks to biomedical engineering, devices such as artificial hearts and insulin pumps are enabling people to live longer, healthier lives. What’s more, as the population ages, there’s increased need for new medical technologies and alumna April Khademi aims to meet the demand.

When April, Electrical and Computer Engineering (BEng) ’04 and (MEng) ’06, completed her undergraduate studies, she found work as an engineer and soon felt the pull of academic life. For advice, she turned to Dr. Krishnan, Chair of Ryerson’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Krishnan had supervised April’s undergraduate thesis, which developed a system of transferring digital information. April’s work, though, may provide radiologists with a new tool to help them interpret medical images.

For her PhD dissertation, in conjunction with the Imaging Research Department at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, April aims to create another computer-aided diagnostic tool for the analysis of cerebral MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging. This one will automatically analyze various diseases of the brain, including multiple sclerosis and other degenerative disorders which occur in the cerebral white matter (the region of the brain which contains nerve fibres). Currently, diagnosing disease in this area is highly subjective; radiologists may differ in their interpretation of medical images and a computer-aided diagnostic tool can enhance the analysis in a qualitative manner. April’s work, hence, will provide a tool to make diagnosis easier.

April’s thesis was supervised by April’s former supervisor and a professor from Sunnybrook, which was established to develop, test and evaluate new medical technologies. What’s more, this customizable Bluetooth-enabled technology provides users with context in different social settings. For instance, a keyboard speaker can be alerted if an audience consists mostly of engineers, and tailor the presentation accordingly.

Cellphone software facilitates virtual introductions anywhere, anytime

By Dana Yates

Mobile phones are a must in the modern world. But what if you could connect to others without placing a call or sending a text message?

Sound far-fetched? Not according to Hossein Rahnama, Computer Science (BSc) ’03 and Electrical and Computer Engineering (MEng) ’06. Currently pursuing a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Hossein has developed software that enables like-minded people to find each other via cellphone. The invention uses the same principle of social networking popularized by websites such as Facebook and MySpace. Hossein, however, has added mobility to the mix. Searches can be conducted in real-time even in locations where cellular service isn’t available, all without incurring extra charges or requiring a central server.

What’s more, this customizable Bluetooth-enabled technology provides users with context in different social settings. For instance, a keyboard speaker can be alerted if an audience consists mostly of engineers, and tailor the presentation accordingly. Made-to-order templates can be designed for events, such as professional conferences, enabling searches to be adapted while the user is in attendance. Other functions of the technology: associates can exchange virtual business cards, students can seek lab partners, singles can find prospective love interests and lunch crowds can receive restaurant specials. Finally, on a more serious note, the software can enhance the function of landmine-detection robots, allowing them to communicate directly with each other, rather than through a global positioning system.

Here’s how the system works: users set up a profile on their cellphone, indicate their search preferences and then go about their lives. As a potential match moves into range – at the coffee shop, on the bus or in the grocery store – each person is notified. These electronic introductions may include a photo, profile or videos and can even reveal if the two users share mutual contacts or friends. From there, further contact can be made by text message.

“Technically, the biggest challenge is trying to build software for use on multiple platforms,” Hossein says. If past experiences prove anything, he’s up to the task. During his undergraduate studies, Hossein helped create the first computer-aided diagnostic technology that determined the function of landmine-detection robots, allowing them to communicate directly with each other, rather than through a global positioning system.

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Making a difference in a variety of areas has kept Hossein at Ryerson since 1999, and this winter he is planning to pursue an internship in Sweden. “The university environment,” he says, “allows you to work with other researchers and provides the perfect setting to build something new.”

Although the biotechnology industry is relatively new to the University – the first launched just five years ago – they demonstrate that Ryerson’s graduate programming is evolving. To be sure, once a master’s program is well established, the University explores the possibility of a PhD counterpart.

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“ OGCS consultants are extremely supportive of graduate program proposals from Ryerson,” says Maurice Yates, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. “Several proposals for master’s programs have so exceeded the ‘disciplinary bar’ that Ryerson has been encouraged to move to doctoral work in the area as soon as financially feasible.”

As more PhD programs start up, perhaps the greatest contributors to their success are high-quality faculty members – those who hold PhDs and are pursuing their own research agendas. Hossein can attest to this critical need. He has had the same supervisor throughout his Ryerson career: Aref Sadeghian, Chair of the Department of Computer Science. It’s all about finding the right match, says Hossein. “Dr. Sadeghian’s research expertise has extremely helped me with the core design of my research. My work has been successful because of his focused attention and guidance.”

Our faculty members appreciate students with diverse professional and personal backgrounds who can bring new ideas to the lab and contribute to an enriched learning environment to their fellow students and supervisors.

Marian Martyn, program director

Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology

By Dana Yates

Thanks to biomedical engineering, devices such as artificial hearts and insulin pumps are enabling people to live longer, healthier lives. What’s more, as the population ages, there’s increased need for new medical technologies and alumna April Khademi aims to meet the demand.

When April, Electrical and Computer Engineering (BEng) ’04 and (MEng) ’06, completed her undergraduate studies, she found work as an engineer and soon felt the pull of academic life. For advice, she turned to Dr. Krishnan, Chair of Ryerson’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Krishnan had supervised April’s undergraduate thesis, which developed a system of transferring digital information. April’s work, though, may provide radiologists with a new tool to help them interpret medical images.

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Graduate Studies
A glossary of graduate-school terms:

Master’s degree – an academic title conferred upon someone who completes a graduate program of one to two years in length. Types of degrees offered at Ryerson include: master of arts, master of science, master of business administration, master of management science, master of health science, master of architecture, master of journalism, master of fine arts, master of social work, master of spatial analysis, master of nursing, master of applied science and master of engineering.

PhD – also known as a doctor of philosophy, this academic degree represents the highest level of graduate study and can be earned in a variety of disciplines. Those who achieve a doctoral degree can add the prefix “Dr.” to their name. Not all doctoral degrees are PhDs, however.

Thesis – a formal, written work on a specific subject in which a student has conducted original research. Defending one’s thesis and having the perspective and findings with program advisors, is usually required.

Major research paper – at the master’s level, similar to a thesis, but without the requirement of primary research, and often without the requirement of an oral defense.

Dissertation – a thesis, generally written by pursuing a PhD. Generally the doctoral dissertation is much more substantive than a master’s thesis and requires an oral examination by internal supervisors and external reviewers.

Post-doctoral fellowship – a position awarded to PhD graduates who plan to conduct further academic research in their field at another university. Typically includes a stipend.

Supervisor – a faculty member who advises graduate students on the development of their thesis or dissertation. Often, a supervisor and student share similar research interests.

Supervisory committee – a group of academics that offers advice to graduate students on the development of their thesis or dissertation.

Master of Fine Arts in Documentary Media.

Molecular Science (PhD)

Media Production (MA)

Management of Technology and Innovation (MA)

MBA, MMMSc

Ministry of Business Administration (MBA)

Mechanical Engineering (PhD, MAsc, MEng)

Media Production (MA)

Molecular Science (MSc)

Nutrition Communication (MSc/PhD)

Photography Preservation and Collections Management (MA)

Psychology (MA, PhD)**

Public Policy and Administration (MA)

Social Work (MScW)

Spatial Analysis (MScA)

**Approved April 2006; pending final approval of the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies and the Ryerson University Board of Governors.

‘PhD programs expanded to commence September 2009.

On the horizon

Biomedical Physics (PhD)

Business (PhD)

Environmental Applied Science and Management (PhD)

Environmental Analysis – joint program with Carleton University, Ottawa (BSc, CFA)

Molecular Science (PhD)

Nursing (PhD)

Philosophy (PhD)

Policy Studies (PhD)

Teaching/Study Abroad (PhD)

Urban Development (MPl)

These programs are in various stages of development and need final approval from the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies and the Ryerson University Board of Governors.

For more information about Ryerson’s graduate programs, visit www.ryerson.ca/graduate.

By Dana Yates

When Kamau Ngugi, Immigration and Settlement Studies ‘07, was writing a research paper on the Canadian refugee system, much of the source material came from his own experience.

In 2002, Kamau fled his native Kenya, where, as a human rights advocate, he fought against police torture and government corruption. The work was dangerous; other human rights defenders had suffered persecution and had been threatened with death. Eventually, Kamau gained refugee status in Canada, however, his wife and young daughter weren’t permitted to join him. For three years, Kamau struggled to reunite with his family while building a new life some 12,000 km away.

Today, the family lives together in Toronto and has welcomed a Canadian-born daughter. Kamau has also continued his advocacy work. As Refugee Co-ordinator for Amnesty International, he helps refugees navigate the claims system and lobby the government to be more responsive to refugees’ needs. It’s a role that Kamau feels strongly about and one that convinced him to enrol in Ryerson’s Master of Arts program in Immigration and Settlement Studies.

The first of its kind in the country, the program explores immigration trends, policies and programs in Canada (see sidebar on opposite page). It also requires students to complete an internship and write a major research paper (MPlP). In Kamau’s case, his paper had a dual purpose: “I wanted to raise awareness about who refugees are and the challenges they face. There are misconceptions that refugees have come here to receive social assistance or to take advantage of Canada’s immigration policies. Also, I think the government should explain why it has policies that discourage refugee claims when wars and persecutions are increasingly displacing people throughout the world.”

‘The policies, he says, include making it difficult for refugees and their families to be reunified, and sending immigration officers abroad to intercept refugees at airports.

Other barriers to refuge in Canada also need to be addressed, says Shawn Dicks, ISS ‘07, who hails from Newfoundland. His MPlP looked at Canada’s policy of providing refugee status to people who fear persecution because of their sexual orientation. This type of asylum is available in only a few Western nations and, while Shawn says the concept is commendable, the decision-making process needs an overhaul. He arrived at that conclusion during an internship at a Toronto law office that specializes in refugee claims based on sexual orientation.

“The decisions of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) are based on stereotypical assumptions of homosexuality,” Shawn says. The IRB, he argues, is also mistaken in its belief of which nations are tolerant of homosexuality. He argues these biases affect a decision-maker’s neutrality and result in negative rulings for claimants. As proof, he points to cases in which IRB members have rejected claimants because they were, as Shawn says, “too masculine to be gay.”

“The onus is on the claimant to prove their sexuality, but there isn’t a cookie-cutter model of a gay person,” he explains. Shawn recommends decisions should be made by a committee, rather than a single IRB member; an appeals process must be implemented; and IRB members need more training on how to handle identity-based refugee claims.

Identity and its implications were the focus of research conducted by Winnie Wong, ISS ’07. Originally from British Columbia, Winnie says a year of travelling and doing community work in Swaziland sparked her interest in immigration issues, particularly in diversity and the way multiculturalism programs are implemented.

“In my coursework and MPPlP, I explored the concept of Canadian citizenship based on multiculturalism and I found it to be quite nationalistic,” she says. “We tend to think of groups as being distinct entities, but I don’t think it’s as simple as that. There’s a lot of overlap of identities.”

Winnie argues that citizenship and cultural integration should be synonymous with interdependence; our identities are formed through interactions with others, and to achieve this, major challenges is translating this abstract concept into the everyday lives of Canadians. “We need more emphasis on integration, on how diverse cultures but there’s no blanket solution for all communities. I feel we need to take a grassroots or bottom-up approach to policy change in this area.”
It’s under investigation
Graduate students explore diverse fields
By Dana Yates

Who:
Rachel Brophy, Theatre (BFA) ’05 and Early Childhood Studies (MA) ‘07
The essential question: Why are aboriginal early childhood services delivered inconsistently across Canada? May I make a suggestion? By analyzing existing literature on indigenous knowledge, language, and literacy programs, Rachel came up with these recommendations for educators, policy-makers and researchers: develop programs that consider diversity within the aboriginal population, gather information on the unique needs of aboriginal children and communities by conducting empirical research based in indigenous research methods, and allow families to provide input on their children’s education.
Quotable quote: “When I started my research, I was looking at choices. For example, which is better: English language or aboriginal language programs? But as my research continued, I realized that isn’t the issue. It’s not about language or aboriginal language programs! It’s about families about what is the ‘right’ choice. It’s about families being in a position to make that choice.”

Who:
Peter Ryan – PhD candidate in Communication and Culture
Inquiring minds want to know: How does science fiction influence technological innovation?
Tell me a story: Peter has interviewed several information technology professionals and set 6 writers, including award-winning author Robert J. Sawyer, Radio and Television Arts ’82. As it turns out, writers often serve as the genesis for inventions, and may even help encourage mainstream acceptance of new technologies.
Quotable quote: “Some R&D organizations ask themselves ‘How can we harness the public’s imagination in this area?’ And they sometimes turn to writers to create a narrative that will plant a seed within the public.”

Who:
Alana West, Image Arts ’01 – pursuing a Master of Arts in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management
Theory meets practice: As part of her program, Alana has completed a 13-week internship, working with the photography curator at the Art Gallery of Ontario. In addition, last fall she took on the massive extra-curricular task of curating Collected, a photography exhibition at the Ryerson Gallery. Featuring images from the Mira Godard Study Centre, Ryerson University, the exhibition examined different types of collections.
Quotable quote: “When I was accepted into the program, I made a list of things I wanted to accomplish during the first year. ‘To get as much experience as possible, I definitely wanted to go through each stage of curating and put on an exhibition.’

Above all, we look for a passion for, and commitment to, the medium of photography and its preservation. We accept students with undergraduate degrees in a number of disciplines, including anthropology, visual arts, film production, English, history, journalism, art history and photography.

Marta Braun, program director
Master of Arts (MA) in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management

Expert commentary on a smorgasbord of subjects
By Andy Lee

A HOME BY ANY OTHER NAME
What’s in a street name? Real estate experts say it can affect a home’s property value for better or worse.
Business Professor Martaza Hadler, Director of Ryerson’s Institute of Housing and Mobility, analyzed the property values of 300 homes on or near Toronto’s Bloor Street. He found that homes with “Bloor” in the address fetched significantly higher market values than similarly sized properties.
“A street name, I think, carries a certain snob value,” he says in a National Post article. Prof. Hadler says people are willing to pay a premium to have addresses in elite neighbourhoods such as Forest Hill in Toronto or Westmount in Montreal. “It’s how people define themselves. It’s no different than wearing brand name clothing,” he says.

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE
Office gossip can be good. The workplace grapevine can provide positive and useful information, according to Professional Communication Professor Carolyn Meyer.
“The grapevine is interpersonal networking in which people share information that helps in their professional development or career advancement. They’re learning from each other,” said Prof. Meyer in a Globe and Mail article.

Ultimately, Prof. Meyer believes it is up to each employee to take responsibility for their actions. “When you hear something, evaluate the content of the message and ask yourself if it’s worthy of transmission. If you’re in an environment that’s rife with gossip, it’s important to filter information and make conscious decisions about what you’ll pass on,” she said.

Graduate Studies

Graduate studies in Communication and Culture
Who: Prof. Carolyn Meyer
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Graduate Studies
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Ryerson people in the news

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By Gary Rusak, Journalism ’03

When 23-year-old Naila Ramdewar, Arts and Contemporary Studies ’07, walks into the Toronto offices of Amazing Canadian magazine, she knows her day will be filled with diverse tasks — arranging cover shoots, handling major advertisers or even providing editorial input. And that suits her just fine. In fact, Naila thrives on her ability to constantly adjust to the demands of the workplace. It’s a skill she credits to her involvement in the inaugural class of the Arts and Contemporary Studies (ACS) program at Ryerson University. Drawing from a range of departments within the Faculty of Arts, this interdisciplinary degree program, which began in 2003, is flexible and emphasizes the importance of skills furnished by a liberal arts education — a fitting strategy in a changing economy and culture that increasingly call for innovative solutions. The ACS Program Director, Klaas Kraay, says the program’s advantage over others is its emphasis on foundational skills, which allow students considerable flexibility in tailoring their studies.

Naila agrees: “Being introduced to such a broad spectrum of material fit my personality.” She took media-related courses such as film theory and popular culture, which prepared her for work in Canada’s magazine industry. As communications director for Amazing Canadian she is able to use skills from all aspects of her studies.

The program’s first two years of common courses offer a skills-based foundation that underpin the final two-year specializations. Students can focus on a particular subject – philosophy, history, English or French – or one of four contemporary themes: culture and entertainment, science and technology, diversity and equity, or global studies. While Naila scored her job just days after graduation, she is not the successful exception among her hundred fellow graduates. “We have a few who started their own companies, some are going to law school, some are teaching English in Japan and some are in graduate school,” says Dr. Kraay. “These students are bold, creative thinkers who want to break down the boundaries between disciplines.”

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Houses of the holy

Kiever Synagogue, corner of Bellvue Avenue and Denison Square, 2004. The congregation of Rodfei Sholem Anshei Kiev was established in 1912. The building was designed by architect Benjamin Schwartz and built in 1923.

Knesseth Israel Synagogue, corner of Maria and Shipman Streets, 2004. Congregation Knesseth Israel was established in 1909 in the west Toronto neighbourhood known as the Junction. The building was designed by James A. Ellis of the architectural firm Ellis and Connery and dedicated in 1912.

To help them better cope with their lives, participants in Professor Donald McKay’s research project act out feelings of sadness in a technique known as “forum theatre.”

Real-life drama
Social theatre empowers people through acting, music

By Suelan Toye

Donald McKay is empowering people through theatre. With a cast of artists and educators, and funding from the Dean of the Faculty of Community Services, the Early Childhood Education professor is helping ordinary people overcome problems in their lives using a social theatre technique called “forum theatre.” Participants work with composers, lyricists, educators and producers to create a play loosely based on problems they are grappling with in their own lives. In the process, they discover solutions by watching other people act out their dilemmas.

Prof. McKay came up with the idea for his research from two areas. First, he saw how effective music and dance could be applied as teaching tools while working on a project in Brazil in the late 90s to train local teachers. A few years later, he became involved with Toronto First Duty, a community pilot project that provided support programs for parents and their children in schools and community centres.

Currently, Prof. McKay is working with two groups, one made up largely of Canadian women, the other, mostly immigrant women. He plans to publish his findings in a journal and create a manual so that other community groups can use forum theatre as well.

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Alumna Naila Ramdewar: among the first crop of ACS grads.
By Sharon Aschaiek
In the heart of war-torn Kabul, a small orphanage for girls has been "adopted" by local Canadian troops. The two dozen girls live there and receive books, vitamins, medicine and clothes sent by the soldiers' families and friends. But what sustains them more than these basic supplies is the hope the soldiers provide, particularly servicewomen like Jadzia Karas, Graphic Communications Management (GCM) '05. This very visible working woman is a rare sight in a culture where women typically take a backseat.

"Girls get overlooked in Afghanistan — in the streets and the marketplace. It's a man's world and women live in the shadows of society," says Jadzia. "It's like being existent rules of the road, language barriers and different social customs," she says. "It's like being thrown into deep water and told to swim really fast and really far. You try to do your best and eventually you can do it."

Most difficult, she says, was dealing with the ever-present possibility of danger in this volatile, conflict-ridden region. Some of it hit too close to home. "Unfortunately, it's just life, and life is different in different parts of the world. The only thing you can do is try to fix things, make it better and do your job the best you can."

This proactive, positive attitude that served Jadzia so well as a soldier — she received the General Campaign Star of Afghanistan medal for her role in the mission — has been equally useful since her return to Canada in February 2007. It was then that she decided to apply the extensive education and practical technical training she received from the GCM program.

The only one of its kind in the country, the four-year degree program provides comprehensive theoretical instruction in printing technologies and valuable business skills that prepare graduates for the multi-faceted field of graphic communications.

In April 2007, Jadzia began work at the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario as a purchaser, buying services and materials for the wide range of initiatives carried out by the health charity. She's enjoying using her extensive GCM education, which she says has greatly decreased the job's learning curve. She also likes the fact that she's continuing to give back to society.

"The GCM program prepared me well for this job. There are constantly things that come up at work that we covered in class," says Jadzia. "If you do the job well, you save the Foundation money, which means more goes toward research and education. And for this servicewoman, that's a very rewarding feeling.

By Lindsay Borthwick, Journalism '02
In a given year, there are an estimated 10,000 homeless youth on the streets of Toronto. Yet to many of the city's residents, they are invisible. Not so for Naomi Mudachi, Nursing '05, who for more than two years was engaged as a research coordinator in an extensive study of the mental health needs of street youth funded by the Wellesley Institute and Ryerson University's Faculty of Community Services.

Using surveys and interviews, she and a team of research assistants gathered information about the background and mental health status of 70 young adults. Preliminary results suggest that in spite of the tremendous hardships they've faced, Toronto's homeless youth are energetic, resilient and hopeful about the future. By building on these strengths, the researchers hope to improve the mental health and quality of life for these young adults.

"There are quite a few stereotypes about homeless youth, but those stereotypes were broken for me once I worked with them," says Naomi. "I always came away feeling very grateful by them. They have a unique perspective on things and are quite insightful."

Naomi was attracted to the project by one of her professors and faculty advisors, Dr. Elizabeth McCay, who leads the study with Dr. John Langley of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. But she was also eager to build on her previous experience working with homeless adults and individuals with schizophrenia.

Indeed, Naomi is steadily forging a career in mental health nursing. She recently completed a master's degree in Nursing and began working as a forensic mental health nurse, caring for people who have been deemed by the criminal justice system to be not criminally responsible or unfit to stand trial due to mental illness. It's a job where she continues to confront stereotypes and to care for vulnerable individuals. She may return to research, she says, but in the meantime she hopes the Ryerson study will inform policy and give street youth the bright future they envision for themselves.

Alumna Naomi Mudachi: reaching out to orphan girls in Afghanistan.
By Sharon Aschaiek

Years ago, when Jason Chu’s parents fled Vietnam to escape the war, a door slammed shut on their plans for post-secondary education. When they immigrated to Canada and moved into Toronto’s Regent Park, the country’s largest public housing complex, the Chu struggled to raise their five children and give them the opportunities they were denied.

Recently, Jason, the youngest of the five, had that door opened to him thanks to an innovative new community outreach program led by Ryerson University Now (RUN) and the Pathways to Education program.

RUN is a Ryerson initiative that helps high school students from marginalized communities access an education pathway. Pathways is a project of the Regent Park Community Health Centre that encourages academic achievement among young people in the community by providing them with tutoring, mentoring, transit fare to attend school, and bursaries for post-secondary education. Together, they form the ideal partnership.

Last January, RUN and Pathways offered 29 Regent Park students the opportunity to take a fall-semester marketing course at Ryerson, for credit, at no cost. Attendance began, Jason recalls, “I was really excited and nervous,” he recalls. Jason, who’s gone to university to study commerce at the University of Toronto, adds, “I had no idea what to expect from university.”

“Most of the students who took part in the program were first-time post-secondary students,” says Thomas Cleary, a coordinator with Pathways. “They came from an economically challenging part of society and have more dysfunctional surroundings. Many of them come from an economically challenging part of society and have more dysfunctional surroundings. Many of them have faced personal situations and challenges. This program helps them develop the self-confidence to succeed.”

The long-term plan is to continue to expand the RUN program into schools across the Greater Toronto Area – good news for young scholars like Jason. After scoring an A in the RUN course, Jason was accepted into Ryerson’s Bachelor of Commerce program.

By Morgan Holmes

Venture into the forests of British Columbia’s Kootenay region and you’ll likely encounter a proliferation of pink ribbons hanging from the trees. To a city dweller, the ribbons might seem like part of a giant art installation. But for Olindo Chiocca, Civil Engineering ‘81, they are all part of a day’s work. “Those are surveyors’ ribbons,” he explains. “We hang them along the path that a new road will travel.”

As an independent geotechnical engineer in Nelson, B.C., Olindo “walks the ribbon.” Working for clients such as the provincial government and private tenure holders who are building roads into the forest, Olindo’s job is to hike surveyed routes, assessing the potential risks new roads might pose for downstream resources, such as streams, wildlife habitat and community water sources. Currently a good deal of Olindo’s work involves assessing roads that will provide access to pine beetle-infested trees so the timber can be harvested before the beetles undo the work of a decade.

Though it’s been 25 years since he graduated from Ryerson, this engineer – who in his spare time writes books, most recently publishing Dinorid vit da Dons – still draws on the practical ideas he learned at Ryerson when investigating road stability and creating drainage plans. Professor Roly Salvas, for example, introduced him to soils in an engineering context, which is vital knowledge for environmental assessment.

Logging is often a highly politicized practice. Yet Olindo believes a middle ground is possible if environmentalists “accept that some harvesting will occur and developers follow strict guidelines that protect micro-environments.” Even measures like using vegetable oil in chainsaws when working near a creek can make a difference.

The pine beetles that have devastated so much of B.C.’s forests are moving eastward, and Olindo’s work holds important lessons for the rest of Canada and beyond. “If other countries followed the policies and practices of harvesting and replanting that we have in B.C., deforestation wouldn’t be such an issue on this planet,” he says.

To contact Olindo, write to mail@olindo.com.

By Stephen Knight, Journalism ’94

A key message of the environmental movement is to think globally and act locally. When we think globally, we consider the impact of our actions on the whole planet and the fate of future generations. When we act locally, we look at how we can make a difference in our immediate environment.

Going off the grid

Ryerson team designing homes that will generate all their own heat and light

Dr. Mark Gorgolewski, Associate Professor in Ryerson’s Department of Architectural Science and an expert on sustainable design and construction, says, “We have to make a fundamental shift in the way we build things. Projects [like this one] are the first steps in how we begin to make that change.”

Dr. Gorgolewski is co-ordinating the Ryerson part of the project. With builders more conscious of consumer demand for green buildings – and saving money – there is already an increase in the use of recycled materials in construction. The Annex project’s innovation, says Gorgolewski, lies in the integration of many existing energy-saving technologies in one home – geothermal heating, solar panels, advanced thermal control systems, low-energy lighting, high levels of insulation, high-quality window glazing and thermal mass (the ability of materials like concrete or masonry to store heat).

While the net zero energy homes cost more initially to build, says Gorgolewski, they will cost less than lower-rated homes over their lifetime because of thousands of dollars in savings generated by their energy- and water-efficient, environmentally friendly features. Furthermore, by signing up for the Ontario Power Authority’s standard offer program, the house will be able to sell renewable energy to the electrical grid at a high rate and thus make money for the owners, offsetting the additional capital costs of the equipment.

Artist’s rendering of net zero energy row houses designed by Ryerson students and faculty

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Alumni diary

Compiled by Ryerson Alumni Relations Officer Anjela Wilson, Journalism ’06

It goes without saying that our alumni form a unique category of university graduates. A degree from Ryerson represents a high-quality, career-oriented education – one that enables you to hit the ground running after graduation. Equally important, your credentials are recognized and respected by employers, and community and industry leaders alike.

Clearly, people have a high opinion of Ryerson’s brand of higher education. But we’re not ones to sit back and collect the compliments; we’re doing all that we can to add even more value to your degree.

To wit: our reputation has been further enhanced in recent years with the addition of master’s and PhD programs. As a result, Ryerson is the leading institution for a hands-on undergraduate education, and we’re working to fill that role at the graduate level, too. Simply put, our stock continues to rise, and the dividends are shared by everyone who has a Ryerson degree.

Today, more than 3,000 alumni have completed their graduate studies at Ryerson. What’s more, our graduate alumni – like those with baccalaureates – have achieved much with their Ryerson degree. Consider, for example, Andy Charles, Applied Spatial Analysis ‘01 and Spatial Analysis (MSA) ’04. A member of the first graduating class, Andy uses his Spatial Analysis degree to help his employer, Scars Canada, determine the best distribution points for its marketing materials (read Andy’s story on page 13).

The accomplishments of Andy, and other alumni like him, send a clear message: Ryerson is the path to career success whether you hold a diploma, certificate, undergraduate or graduate degree from our University. In fact, with such potential for achievement linked to a Ryerson education, you might want to return to your alma mater for graduate studies. Without a doubt, we would welcome your real-world experience linked to a Ryerson education, you might want to return to your alma mater for graduate studies. Without a doubt, we would welcome your real-world knowledge and abilities.

Interested in graduate studies? Check out Ryerson’s master’s and PhD programs: ryerson.ca/graduate.

BP viewpoint

By Adam S. Rahan, Vice-President, University Advancement

The Ryerson University Business Alumni Association (RUBAA) and the Certified General Accountant (CGA) of Ontario hosted an alumni information session last August. More pub nights are planned for 2008 and RUBAA is eager to see both new and old alumni. RUBAA is also excited that a Business alumni golf tournament is in the works for 2008. For more information, please visit www.ryerson.ca/rubaa.

Daniel Gross, Business Management ’02, mingled with fellow alumni at the CGA Ontario alumni information session last August.

RUBAA members who have attended the Alumni Relations Dinner include Frank Sheffield, Commodore, and Linda Lewis, Chair of the School of Fashion, visited alumni in Hong Kong in October.

Congratulations to Brent Spang and Steve Bojusz, winners of the eighth annual Building Champions Golf Tournament! Over $5,000 was raised for the Ryerson Rams General Bursary Fund. To register for the next tournament, contact Frank Sheffield at admin@ryersonrams.ieaternhofockey.com or visit ryersonrams.ieaternhofockey.com.

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Andy Charles, Applied Spatial Analysis (MSA) ’01 and Spatial Analysis (MSA) ’04. A member of the first graduating class, Andy uses his Spatial Analysis degree to help his employer, Scars Canada, determine the best distribution points for its marketing materials (read Andy’s story on page 13).

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Interest in graduate studies? Check out Ryerson’s master’s and PhD programs: ryerson.ca/graduate.
Alumni Weekend 07

Alumni came from far and wide to Alumni Weekend 2007 in September. This year, all alumni were welcomed back to campus with a number of new and exciting events including fun for the whole family. The morning began with Deans, faculty and staff greeting alumni, followed by a barbecue lunch in the quad and a variety of educational opportunities in the afternoon. The day was topped off with an alumni mixer. A total of 13 reunions took place over the weekend, including a special 50th reunion for the class of 1957. This year saw a 40 per cent increase in participants over previous years. Plans are already underway for Alumni Weekend 2008, and we hope you’ll join us!
REGIONAL EVENTS

TORONTO
Sixty alumni living in and around Toronto joined us last summer at the Mill Street Brewery in the city’s unique Distillery District for a brewery tour and beer tasting. Another group of alumni came together in early August to cheer on the Toronto Blue Jays against the New York Yankees. If you live in the GTA and would like to know more about events happening near you, e-mail us at alumni@ryerson.ca.

CALGARY
Alumni gathered at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary last April. From left: Bill Watson, Radio and Television Arts ’63, Karl Gibbie, Chemical and Biological Science ’56, and Jim Milliken, Business Management ’54.

WORLD
Alumni have been coming together all over the world! Last year, receptions were held in Florida, New York City, Calgary and Hong Kong. Come out and meet alumni living in your city. To keep up to date with upcoming events happening near you, visit www.ryerson.ca/alumni.

DO YOU HAVE A SECOND RESIDENCE?
An alumni event may be in the works where you vacation. Don’t miss out! Keep us updated about your home-away-from-home by e-mailing alumni@ryerson.ca.

FLORIDA
Alumni met in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida at the home of Lorne Karlson, Chemical and Biological Science ’63, and his wife Deborah.

Say “cheese”
We welcome photos of alumni events. Please follow these guidelines:
- E-mail high-resolution photos (300 dots-per-inch or more) to ryemag@ryerson.ca. Please write ALUMNI DIARY in the subject line.
- Mail prints to the address on the submission form on page 43. Include your mailing address if you wish to have prints returned. All photos must include:
  - names, programs and graduation years of those photographed
  - event details (name, date, location, etc.)
- Submissions may be edited for space and/or clarity.

REGIONAL EVENTs

FLORIDA
Alumni on a private tour of Mill Street Brewery last July.

There’s A Message In These Bottles
Introduce Your Palate To A Glass Of Ryerson Wine

The Office of Alumni Relations is proud to introduce Ryerson wines. After much blind tasting, Ryerson has selected the Strewn Winery of Niagara-on-the-Lake to produce two unique vintages for Ryersonians. They include a 2005 Cabernet Merlot and a 2006 Riesling Gewurztraminer. Strewn is an award-winning winery from the Niagara Peninsula which coincidentally has a Ryerson alumna, Jane Langdon, as its co-owner. Now is the time to conduct your own tasting. Call toll-free at 1-866-415-9463 to order your wine today.

Here’s how to order:
1-866-415-9463
www.ryerson.ca/alumni
By Morgan Holmes

Have you ever thought at an a la fresco luncheon would be the perfect setting to finalize the budget with your new business partner in Naples, only to see a look of dismay cross her face each time you broach your new business partner in Naples, only to see a look of dismay cross her face each time you broach how to gather information from multicultural clients could be the perfect setting to finalize the budget with your new business partner in Naples, only to see a look of dismay cross her face each time you broach your new business partner in Naples, only to see a look of dismay cross her face each time you broach your new business partner in Naples, only to see a look of dismay cross her face each time you broach. Schalm, Program Director for Gateway, believes that, “unless we can leverage newcomers’ potential ‘brain gain,’ Canada risks a significant economic and cultural crisis.”

When Schalm and his colleagues were deciding which elements to include in Gateway, employers told them a lack of appropriate communication skills was the main obstacle to hiring internationally educated professionals. “Our flexible curriculum targets soft-skills training, emphasizing team-building, negotiation, critical thinking and pronunciation,” says PCE Program Manager Nava Israeli. “Currently, the program focuses on health and human services, business and information technology.”

The program’s experiential approach makes learning easier for its students. They engage in simulated interactions, reflect on experiences, and practice new behaviours in a safe environment. Dieticians, for example, might engage in exercises that model how to gather information from multicultural clients. While simulations may help them refine specific skills, such as listening strategies.

Mentoring is another of the program’s tools. Established professionals, especially other newcomers who have successfully transitioned into the Canadian workplace, can help Canadians acclimate to their new culture, says Schalm. “By sharing their networks, advice and support, mentors help internationally educated professionals link into the Canadian economy.”

As well as empowering learners, the PCE program also benefits Canadian employers. Recognising the bottom-line value of having internationally educated professionals become comfortable in the Canadian workplace, a fleet of major organizations – including many banks and insurance firms, the Information and Communications Technology Council, and the Investment Counsel Association of Canada – are involved in the PCE program’s design and delivery. As Schalm puts it, “Access to a large, diversified and employment-ready pool of competent professionals with international experience is critical to employers who want to survive and grow in a globalized marketplace.

For the good of Ryerson

Ryerson’s Board of Governors is the governing body of the University. Its 24 members consist of the Chancellor, the President, three students, three faculty members, two administrative staff members, three alumni representatives, two Board appointees and nine Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointees. Together, they make major administrative policy, staff and financial decisions that serve Ryerson’s best interests. Here, we profile Phyllis Yaffe, the Board’s new Vice-Chair.

A career without borders

By Andy Lee

Never underestimate a librarian. Phyllis Yaffe, the new Vice-Chair of Ryerson’s Board of Governors, began her career as a Winnipeg librarian in 1972 and went on to become Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Atlantis Communications in 2005. In between, she enjoyed successful stints as Vice-President of Marketing at Outlet Communications, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Publishers and Chief Operating Officer at Alliance Atlantis.

Along the way, Ms. Yaffe was named the Canadian Women in Communications 1999 Woman of the Year and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Women in Film and Television in 2000. In 2006, she was included on the Women’s Executive Network’s list of Canada’s 100 Most Powerful Women, along with fellow Board member Janis Pupkus. “Life is a path,” says Ms. Yaffe. “Mine just seems a little more unusual than others.”

In 2005, her path led her to Ryerson. “I chose Ryerson in particular because Alliance Atlantis has been a big employer of Radio and Television Arts graduates and I knew that it had an extremely good reputation.”

It’s a rewarding opportunity to serve as an alumni representative on the Ryerson Board of Governors. As one of 34 Board members, you’ll have an important role in the governance and future of Ryerson University. This summer, graduates will elect one of three alumni representatives to the Board. It could be you. To learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Governors, visit www.ryerson.ca/governors. Thinking of running? Ryerson will help you get your campaign message to alumni through the University’s website and Alumni magazine.

RUN FOR RYERSON!
PLAY A ROLE IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY.
RUN FOR AN ALUMNI SEAT ON THE RYERSON BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Catherine Redmond
Assistant Secretary of the Board
Board Secretariat Office
Tel: 416-979-5000, ext. 6608
Fax: 416-598-5951
E-mail: credmond@ryerson.ca

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John Daniel Dooley, Journalism ’76 – is a founding partner at the Barrie, Ont., law firm Purser Dooley Cockburn Smith. He also served as President of the Simcoe County Law Association and Vice-President of the Barrie Country Club. Dan and his wife Elizabeth have two teenage children. They enjoy bicycling and skiing in the Barrie-Collingwood area.

Anthony Jim, Civil Engineering ’77 – is an engineer at the Toronto Transit Commission. In 2003, he began sketching the houses he would walk past during his lunch-hour strolls in Wychwood Park, a tiny, historic garden endowment. By 2006, he had drawn 18 of the 60 heritage homes. (The other two were under renovation). Anthony sold all the drawings, most of them to the homeowners, and raised more than $10,000, which he donated to the United Way. “It’s fun,” he

Carolyn (Armstrong) Walton, Journalism ’55 – writes: “My husband Ross and I have moved to Vancouver Island. I am still writing for Good Times magazine and have received my fourth international first prize award for travel writing from the North American Travel Journalists Association.”

Art Gaudier, Radio and Television Arts ’54 – is retired and living in the mountains of Georgia in the winter and Nova Scotia in the summer. He writes: “Enjoying a great life with a new and wonderful partner, June. Still golfing, walking, sailing and having fun.”

Ron Parks Guariento, Radio and Television Arts ’52 – is retired and living in the ancient kingdom of Northumbria, England, which he describes as “a tranquil country scene in Hadrian’s Wall.” Editor’s note: Hadrian’s Wall is a stone and turf fortification built by the Romans across the width of modern-day England.

Alvar Randa, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering ’77 and Margaret (McPhail) Randa, Early Childhood Education ’35 – celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 15, 2007 in Milland, Ont. Alvar worked as an industrial engineer in several North Bay and Milland firms before retiring in 1998. Margaret worked in nursery school in Toronto and later taught in elementary schools in North Bay and Milland after completing teachers college. They have three children and seven grandchildren, enjoy seeing exotic places and keep in touch with a few fellow grads.

Tonya Lee Williams, Theatre ’79 – received the African-Canadian Achievement Award in May 2007 in recognition of her contributions to the North American arts community. Perhaps best known for her 15 years as Dr. Olivia Winters on the daytime drama The Young and the Restless, Tonya is also the founder, President and Executive Director of RedWorld Film Festival and the RedWorld Foundation, dedicated to promoting the excellence and achievement of emerging diversity in film, video and new media.

Ken Clark, Civil Engineering’67 - writes: “I retired from teaching math in 2001 after 32 years. My wife, also a retired teacher, and I now live in Almonte, Ont. where we have a small raising service. We spend four months of the year at our cottage in Prince Edward Island. In addition, I make homemade wine, and travel throughout Canada and the U.S. We ski in winter and play golf in summer. Our two children, Adams, 27, and Dana, 23, are close to us in the Ottawa area. Adam works in landscaping and Dana is continuing her education at Carleton University. Life is good – I enjoy good health and happiness.”

David Butler, Business Administration ’72 – retired at the end of 2006 after 34 years in fundraising and related positions. David, the former Director of Alumni Affiliates and Assistant Director of Alumni at Ryerson, is renovating an 80-year-old home in Hamilton, Ont. and enjoying retirement with his wife Ann and their five grandchildren.

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Stay in Touch... Get Involved... Enjoy the Benefits!

- RU Online, Ryerson’s alumni online community.
- Opportunities to advance Ryerson through volunteerism, leadership, patronage and philanthropic support.

The Alumni University Alumni Association

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These initiatives include:
- Free subscription to Ryerson Alumni magazine.
- Personalized Alumni Card and Alumni Discount Program.
- Exclusive group rates for home and auto insurance, life insurance and associated products, wealth management, and the Ryerson MasterCard.
- Support for program-based Alumni Associations, regional branches and shared-interest Chapters.
- Annual Alumni Weekend events and festivities.
- Recognizing excellence through the Alumni Achievement Awards.

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Robert Cockerill, Graphic Communications Management ’73
ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER

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Catherine Redmond
Assistant Secretary of the Board
Board Secretariat Office
Tel: 416-979-5000, ext. 6608
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Alumnews36

national figures who have made a positive contribution as a government in a community of Fleming College, on the local Grant Review Team of the Ontario Tourism Foundation, as a member of the Kawartha Lakes Association of Volunteer Administrators and a Board member of Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition.”

Alumnews36

She adds: “I divorced and happily remarried to Paul Communications Management program at Ryerson. – writes that her Diane Semple-Patille, Nursing ‘75

days are filled with gardening, travel and family.”

Alumnews36

– writes: “I've been married five years, we bought a house at josie_erent@yahoo.com.

Alumnews36

– is Manager of Volunteer Services for the United Way in the Bar Harbour, Maine and plans to pursue a Masters

Alumnews36

– is married

Alumnews36

– was appointed to the executive group of the CRA in IMIT Management.

Alumnews36

– is Manager, and Maureen is a GMAC International

Alumnews36

– wrote: “I have been working as a Business Teacher in Cambridge and Waterloo). Introduced by Wilfrid

Alumnews36

– married

Alumnews36

– played the

Alumnews36

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Matthew Hornburg, Radio and Television Arts ’98 – received the Producer of the Year honours at the 2007 Canadian New Media Awards in May last year for his work on Shorts in Motion: The Art of Seduction and www.thatsdynamite.com. Matt is Partner and Executive Producer of marblemedia, an independent production company best known for its hit pre-school series This is Daniel Cook and This is Emily Tramp. Matt and fellow Partner/Executive Producer Mark Bishop, RTA ’98, received the Banff World Television Festival’s 2007 Lions Gate/Maple Pictures Innovative Producer of the Year award in June 2007.

Syliva Hudson, Social Work ’95 – is Vice-Chair of the Ontario Civilian Commission for Police Services. She writes: “The foundation of my education at Ryerson is playing an important role in my job as an adjudicator. For example, hearing appeals of police disciplinary decisions, disputes, reduction, abolition, amalgamation of police services, reviews of decisions relating to public complaints, and the general enforcement relating to the adequacy and effectiveness of policing services.”


Heather (Thom) Stukalo, Nutrition ’93 and Bohdan Stukalo, Journalism ’90 – were married in 2003. They have a daughter, Oksana Elizabeth, born Oct. 31, 2006.

Marva Walsh-Smart, Administration and information Management ’95 – married David Smart in Jamaica in April 2006 in the company of 85 friends and family members. They moved into their first house in spring 2007.

Piper McKinnon, Image Arts ’97 – writes: “After graduating, I freelanced for a number of years, and still do. In 1999, I returned to my hometown of St. Thomas to run the family business, and in 2005, decided to go back to school. I completed a diploma in GIS and am now working as a cartographer and web programmer.”

Jan Rustholz-Bell, Theatre ’96 – is happily married and living in Europe. She even owns a dance school in Zurich, Switzerland. Visit tauchanuchschausdtch.de

Edgar Sanchez, Business Management ’95 – married Laila on March 24, 2007. They live in Toronto with their Labrador retriever puppy, Fufon. Edgar would like to hear from his classmates at www.edyla.com or sanchez@edyla.com.

Jeff Stokes, Business Management ’93 – won top honours in Hum@rogers.com.


Daisy Wright, Public Administration ’99 – launched her business, Career Management, in 2003 after graduating from Conestoga College’s Career Development Practitioner Program. She won the first graduate of that program to write and publish a book, a career survival guide for new immigrants called No Canadian Experience, Eh?

Chantel (Guertin) Simmons, Journalism ’90 – published her first book, Stuck in Downwind Dog, in May 2007. The novel follows twenty-something Mara Brennan’s quest for perfection – finding the perfect job, creating the perfect home, cooking the perfect meal and being the perfect friend. Chantel, who lives in Toronto with her husband, is the Publisher and Editor-in-chief of Elevate magazine and a columnist at Streeptop.ca. Previously, she was Assistant Beauty Editor at Elle Canada and Assistant Editor at TV Guide. She has written for Reader’s Digest, MoneySense, Elle Canada, the Toronto Sun, as well as HBO, Sky, W Network and the Food Network. She was named one of the National Post’s “Ones to Watch” in 2007. Visit chantelsimmons.com.

Lishia Christing, Image Arts ’05 – writes “I live in Toronto where I work for the Durham Regional Police in the Forensic Identification Unit as the Digital Image Analyst. As well, I own a photography company called Scopophilia Productions with my business partner Kelly Wray. I am currently working as a TV production co-ordinator. Last year, we completed the photography and design for the latest album by the country music group The Willkims.” Visit scopophilia.ca.
Wayne Kupferschmidt, Mechanical Engineering ’01 – married Charlotte Dawe in her hometown of Clarke’s Beach, Nfld. on April 23, 2005.

Julian Luo, Computer Science ’06 – is currently living near L.A. working as a video game developer for Infinity Ward Inc., the makers of the Call of Duty game series.

Anne Malo, Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Management Certificate ’05 – is the proud first-time grandmother of Katilyn Mary Malo, daughter of Gordon and Becky Malo.

Mark Peros, Fashion ’01 – is training for the 2008 Summer Olympics in the sport of fencing. Following a bronze medal win in men’s saber at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in 2006, he decided to commit the next 18 months to his fencing training, putting his fashion design business on hold.

Natalia Peraud, Business Management ’01 – received her Master of Education degree at U of T/OISE last June.

Mark Preve, Retail Management ’03 – and Roger Ranger.

Tara (McLean) Ranger, Retail Management ’03 – married Roger Ranger June 2, 2007 in Orillia, Ont.

Rory Meesters, Public Administration and Governance ’05 – completed a Master of Arts in Political Science at McMaster University in 2006 and is working as a Sales Representative/Account Manager for American Greetings’ head office.

Roseline Ochola, Hospitality and Tourism Management ’03 – relocated to the U.K. in 2006 to be closer to her family and explore working in a different country. She writes: “Moving was one of the best decisions I have made. I am busy pursuing qualifications in the U.K. financial services industry and planning my wedding scheduled for January 2008.”

Natacha Lavigne-Ramsubick, Mechanical Engineering ’11 – married Natasha Persaud, Business Management ’01 – received her Master of Education degree at U of T/OISE last June.

Jason Wu, Information Technology Management ’04 – writes: “Throughout my years at Ryerson, I worked part-time at Apotex Pharmaceuticals. Shortly after graduation, I worked for one year as a Supply Scheduler before joining Apotex’s IT department and I am now an IS Consultant for Canada’s largest pharmaceutical company. I am engaged and have bought a house, where I moved last fall. At the age of 25, I have been able to start a life with my fiancée, buy a house and, most importantly, find a steady job in one of the most stable and competitive industries.”

Natasha Persaud, Business Management ’01 – married Roger Ranger June 2, 2007 in Orillia, Ont.

Anastasia (Kozelko) Rioux, Radio and Television Arts ’00 – writes: “My husband and I celebrated our fifth wedding anniversary in 2006 with our first child, Noah, born in Feb. 2006. I returned from maternity leave to take on the role of Special Education Teacher at my school.”

Wayne Kupferschmidt, Mechanical Engineering ’01 – married Charlotte Dawe in her hometown of Clarke’s Beach, Nfld. on April 23, 2005.

Chryslin (Ramsubick) and John Tziortzis, both Information Technology Management ’04 – are both pursuing their MBA in the Management of Technology and Innovation at Ryerson. The couple married July 7, 2007. The wedding featured a luck theme, to complement the date of the ceremony (7/7/07) and was filmed for the Rich Bride, Poor Bride television show, to air this year on the Slice network.

John-Paul Trutnau, Radio and Television Arts ’02 – launched Filmbay.com, a global independent film community and shop, in 2007. He is the firm’s CEO.

Grant McLean, Retail Management ’01 – married Tara McLean June 2, 2007 in Orillia, Ont.

Rory Meesters, Public Administration and Governance ’05 – completed a Master of Arts in Political Science at McMaster University in 2006 and is working as a Sales Representative/Account Manager for American Greetings’ head office.

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Donald Reekie, Electrical Technology '67 – passed away in his 75th year while vacationing in Arizona in March 2007. Don had taken an early retirement from Ontario Hydro, and ran his own computer support business until 2005. He is survived by his wife Susan (Vetal), Secretarial Science '73 and daughter Nora, Image Arts '99.

Gary B. MacLean, Electrical Technology '58 – died at his home in Etobicoke Sept. 9, 2006, after a nine-month battle with cancer. He attended Ryerson after qualifying for his electrician's licence and working for several electrical construction companies. He earned his Technical Teacher's Certificate from the University of Toronto and from 1963 to 1989 taught at Bramalea Secondary School in Peel. Rick Orchard, Journalism '83 – died suddenly July 22, 2007, two days short of his 49th birthday. Following summer jobs at the Saskatoon Star-Phon and Vancouver Sun, he joined the Toronto Star in 1983. He worked for the Life, National and Foreign sections, and served as an editor of the GTA section. In 2002, he created Your Home before taking over as Real Estate Editor. Most recently, he had been an editor for the online, downloadable newspaper Star PM. Rick was married to Toronto Star Business Editor Dan Flavelle, with whom he had two children.

Rosemary Reid, Radio and Television Arts '88 – died Aug. 11, 2006 at age 40 of breast cancer. Following graduation, she worked at television production, book publishing and magazine promotion. She married James Young and gave birth to their daughter Ava in 2009. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003, she found the strength to complete the 60-km Wounded to End Breast Cancer walk in 2005. Lars Robinson, Admission/Liaison – passed away May 3, 2007. In recognition of Lars' contribution to Ryerson, the Office of the Registrar has established a trust fund for his family. Donations by cheque should be payable to “The Lars Robinson Family Trust Fund” and sent to Barbara Cuscoletto or Elizabeth Upham, Office of Admission/Liaison, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria St., Toronto, ON, M5B 2K3.

Enzo Sivilotti, Electronic Technology '55 – passed away suddenly on Dec. 4, 2006 at age 72. After graduation, Enzo worked for Northern Electric in Belleville, Ont. for a year prior to entering Medical School at the University of Western Ontario. Graduating in 1962, he practiced in London, Ont. from 1962 until his retirement in 1998. An avid woodworker in his spare time, Enzo built a home and workshop just outside of London, where he lived many happy years with his wife Kathy. He is also survived by his three daughters and five grandchildren.

Richard Stringer, Image Arts '67 – died July 27, 2007 in British Columbia following a long battle with cancer. He got his hands on an 8mm film camera and made his first film at age 13 – marking the start of an award-winning career that spanned more than 30 years as a documentary cinematographer and director of photography. Richard had been a member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers for 20 years, and served most recently as its Vice-President, from 1998 to 2007. He is survived by his wife Carolle and son Matt.

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May we publish your remarks/comments? q yes q no

Let us know what you are up to by sharing a note about your life – updates about where you live and work, and news about marriages, additions to the family, career changes and achievements. If you need more space, please attach a separate piece of paper.

We’d love to hear from you!
Ryerson Institute of Technology Principal Howard Kerr greets students outside Ryerson Hall in 1952. Only the building’s façade remains today.

Ryerson University President Sheldon Levy meets students in the Aerospace Engineering Structures Lab, located in the George Vari Engineering and Computing Centre.

Ryerson Polytechnical Institute President Walter Pitman officially opens Ryerson Community Park in 1978. Photo credit: Jerry Davey.

Opened in 2006, Heaslip House is one of the many recent additions to the Ryerson campus.

Model Linda Bernard exhibits a bridal dress in the Ryerson auditorium during a 1962 open house.

“Then” photos courtesy of Ryerson Archives

Sixty years ago, Howard Hillen Kerr had a dream. Ryerson’s founder aspired to create a post-secondary institution that would serve the needs of society. In 1948, the Ryerson Institute of Technology was established and welcomed its first enrolment of 250. According to legend, Principal Kerr knew every student by name.

In the 1950s, enrolment soared to over 1,000. The construction of Kerr Hall began in 1956 to accommodate 4,000 students and seven years later, the signature building was completed and Ryerson Polytechnic Institute became the institution’s new name. The first bachelor degrees were awarded in 1972.

In 1978, Ryerson Community Park was officially opened as part of a municipal urban development program. Lake Devo, Ryerson’s crown jewel, was named after Calgary’s Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations, which donated half the funding for the $3 million project.

In 1993, the provincial government granted Ryerson university status, which included a funded research mandate and the ability to establish graduate programs. Ryerson Polytechnic University was born. In 2002, the name was shortened to Ryerson University.

Recent campus additions include the Ted Rogers School of Management on Bay Street, the George Vari Engineering and Computing Centre, and Headip House, home of The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education.

Today, Ryerson has 24,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offers more than 95 PhD, master’s and undergraduate programs. Sheldon Levy – Ryerson’s eighth president – has launched Ryerson’s Master Plan, a 20-year blueprint to revitalize the campus and act as a catalyst for change and renewal in the unique community surrounding the University.

Ryerson Institute of Technology President Walter Pitman officially opens Ryerson Community Park in 1978. Photo credit: Jerry Davey.

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