Mohamed Lachemi
New president explains why Ryerson is the future
Dr. Amira Abdelrasoul is making a big splash with her award-winning research on sustainable water use and reusability, thanks to the support she received at Ryerson from her thesis supervisors Dr. Ali Lohi and Dr. Huu Doan.

“Ryerson is home to some of the most amazing and talented faculty members I have met, and it has been my privilege to work with them,” says Amira.

How will graduate education transform you?

dr. amira abdelrasoul
chemical engineering PhD

Inspirational faculty meets innovative research
MY CITY, MY CLASSROOM

It was a fall morning and my journalism class was scrambling to find a decent court case to cover for our reporting class. There was a rush of adrenaline as we hit the streets, excited about uncovering a real story at Queen Street and University Avenue (once we located the courthouse). Finding the case was only the beginning of the assignment, of course. We also needed to report on it according to journalistic standards while not breaking any laws.

At Ryerson we learned how to navigate city council, the courts (including bankruptcy court, a fine place for juicy stories) and cultural touchstones such as the long-playing Rocky Horror Picture Show (the subject of my group video report). Yes, there were other journalism schools, but they didn’t compare to practising journalism in downtown Toronto. The city was our classroom, and we learned to knock on doors and write to deadline.

Nowadays, the journalism curriculum includes an internship with a news organization, one of many incredible opportunities for students in programs across the university. They learn through placements and extra-curricular projects, many in partnership with local and international organizations.

The city as living lab is part of President Mohamed Lachemi’s vision for education at Ryerson—a symbiotic relationship between students, faculty and the city that allows students the opportunity to contribute to the real world while learning skills that will enrich their careers.

In this issue, you can read more about Lachemi’s plans in his column on page 3 and the cover story on page 12. Then read the stories of students and alumni who have experienced the city as classroom in “Living Lab” on page 14. We’d love to hear how you learned in the city and how it made a difference to your education. Contact us at ryemag@ryerson.ca.

COLLEEN MELLOR, JOURNALISM ’86

FROM THE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I recently received an issue of Ryerson University Magazine with the theme of diversity and inclusion. I wanted to say that I was happy to see this content, as this is a great time to be discussing creating more diverse and inclusive environments in all workplaces and schools. I am looking forward to seeing the next issue!

Michelle Joelin, Nutrition and Food, ’23

THE POWER OF INCLUSION

GO GREEN!
HELP US REDUCE OUR PAPER USE BY SUBSCRIBING TO RYERSON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE’S DIGITAL EDITION

If you prefer to receive a digital edition instead of a printed copy of the magazine, just visit ryerson.ca/alumni/news/ryerson-university-magazine and complete the form to select delivery via email. When each edition is ready, we’ll email you the link instead of sending a print copy by mail. You will be able to read the stories online, on your iPad or mobile phone.

View the current edition online at www.nxtbook.com/dawson/ryerson/alumni_2017Winter/ THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GO GREEN!

MOHAMED LACHMEN

AN EXPERIMENT GONE RIGHT

A brief history written by archivist Claude Doucet in 2007 begins with the observation that Ryerson was founded in 1948 “as an experiment in post-secondary education.” Set in downtown Toronto, it was “a novel alternative” to the traditional system of learning, responding to the needs of the growing workforce in a postwar economy. It was an institution for its times.

As a mission for the present, and a vision for the future, this foundation still holds true. Our programs and research, partnerships and community engagement, continue to serve and anticipate the needs of society. Ryerson is a renowned pioneer in new models of education, entrepreneurial development and creative innovation. As our “living lab,” Toronto offers a world-class environment for diversity, opportunity and accomplishment.

Recent studies highlight the global impact of accelerating technology on our lives and livelihoods in ways that we could not imagine even a short time ago. The way forward includes harnessing the power of connection, and utilizing 21st century tools to build economic, social and cultural well-being in innovative and inclusive ways.

Post-secondary education is acknowledged as a key driver of positive economic and social change. There is increasing emphasis on experiential and integrated learning where students gain work experience related to their academic disciplines, employers benefit from great ideas, and “what if” thinkers are encouraged to challenge the status quo. At Ryerson, we know the value and importance of collaboration, co-operation and teamwork. One of the many benefits that comes from this approach is knowing that we can achieve so much more together.

The Ryerson team is all of you, our campus community, our neighbourhood, our partners at all levels, and the amazing city we call our own. Thank you for sharing the fearless qualities of your Ryerson education – and making a difference wherever you are.

BY MOHAMED LACHMEN

Students collaborate and test new technology in the basic O lineman Jr. Digital Media Experience Lab in the Student Learning Centre.

FROM THE EDITOR

PRESENTER’S MESSAGE

WINTER 2017 • Ryerson University Magazine
SHOWCASE

Co-op, undergrad and graduate students Vika Bardol, Farah Choudhary and Biprajit Sanyal at work in the university’s new 20,000-square-foot science research facility at Toronto’s MaRS Discovery District.
New community, student space

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF HOW THE CAMPUS IS CHANGING: RENOVATED STUDIOS, NEW PERFORMANCE SPACE AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

A welcoming campus

Ryerson University has unveiled an ambitious new plan to guide future development of the campus, which will help foster campus life, improve accessibility and further define the school’s identity.

The Public Realm report, which was approved by the Ryerson board of governors and released last fall, aims to improve the public spaces (streets, sidewalks and pedestrian areas) within Ryerson’s precinct. It establishes a vision for better safety and accessibility, while also helping Ryerson better define the campus environment.

“We’d like it to be clear that you’re ‘on campus’ and not at an intersection. We also want people to be proud of the campus,” said Janice Winton, vice-president, administration and finance. “We want people to say, ‘Wow, look at Ryerson, look how welcoming it is. You always know when you’re on the Ryerson campus.’”

The report is founded on the principles and objectives outlined in Ryerson’s 2008 Master Plan, including enhanced accessibility and walkability, and creating a signature Ryerson University landscape.

The first proposed project is an enhancement of Gould Plaza which became a vibrant pedestrian-friendly area after it was closed to car traffic in 2011. The plan proposes to raise the former roadway to the level of the sidewalk (creating a single shared surface), and incorporate new lighting.

At the unveiling of the Public Realm report, Toronto city councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam said the city has allocated $2 million to the Ryerson plan.

State-of-the-art studios for the architects of tomorrow

After extensive renovations to a space in the architecture building, the David E. Handley Studios opened last fall — state-of-the-art design studios that promise to have a powerful impact on the next generation of Canadian architecture professionals.

Led by Cadillac Fairview, industry partners, and friends and alumni, who raised $750,000 for it, the project honours alumnus David E. Handley, senior vice-president, special projects at Cadillac Fairview, who graduated from architectural technology in 1967.

“These are bright and well-appointed spaces, designed for both individual work and collaboration. They’ll nurture and sustain a studio culture that is so vital to the educational and social experiences of our students,” said Jurij Leshchyshyn, chair of the Department of Architectural Science.
Lisa Barnoff was appointed dean of the Faculty of Community Services last spring. The five-year appointment began Sept. 1, 2016. Barnoff joined the School of Social Work as an assistant professor in 2003, was granted early tenure in 2006 and became director in 2011. She served as an executive member of the Canadian Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work from 2012-2014. Barnoff’s areas of scholarly interest include anti-oppressive practices; equity, diversity and inclusion in relation to health and social service delivery models; organizational change; and social work education.

Pam Sugiman was appointed dean of the Faculty of Arts last spring. Sugiman has taught at Ryerson for 10 years, and most recently was chair of the Department of Sociology. In her professional life, Sugiman has served as president of the Canadian Sociological Association and director of the national executive board for the National Association of Japanese Canadians. Sugiman leads the Oral History Research Cluster for the Landscapes of Injustice Project, a multi-institutional, $5.5-million initiative that will capture the experiences of 22,000 Canadians of Japanese ancestry who were systematically uprooted from their homes and had their property seized and sold without consent.

Ryerson’s new Daphne Cockwell Health Sciences Complex is a multi-functional building that will house academic space, administrative offices, student accommodations and more. It is scheduled to open in fall 2018. The 18-storey building will accommodate 332 students in 100 residential units and the academic and administrative podium will house Ryerson’s Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Midwifery Education; the Schools of Nutrition, and Occupational and Public Health; University Relations; University Advancement; Food Services and a Fabrication Zone.

As a Ryerson graduate, you are entitled to countless perks and benefits ranging from discounts with more than 40 vendors; exclusive group rates on home and auto, medical and life insurance; professional development opportunities through events; and membership in our network of alumni groups. Learn more about alumni benefits and services at ryerson.ca/alumni.

Being #Ramily has its rewards
University unveils plans for Congress 2017

Ryerson University and the Faculty of Arts will host Congress 2017, Canada's largest academic gathering, from May 27 to June 2. The 86th annual event brings together more than 8,000 academics, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences to exchange ideas for the future of Canada. Ryerson will organize the weeklong event with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The congress theme is "From Far and Wide. The Next 150," selected to reflect the 150th anniversary of Canada's federation.

"We want to highlight things we think define Ryerson University," said Pamela Sugiman, dean of the Faculty of Arts and executive lead of Congress 2017. "We want to highlight equity, diversity and inclusion; we want to highlight interdisciplinary learning, and we want to highlight the indigenicity of the entire program.”

More than 70 associations are expected to be part of the event (with delegations of up to 1,000 members) on topics ranging from theatre research and literary studies to education, sociology, communications and history. Programming will be a mix of events for registered attendees only and for the public community.

"How and where else would students have the ability to attend an important national conference, build networks, interact with leaders in the field, and present a paper to begin developing a strong professional presence?" said Patrizia Albanese, congress interdisciplinary program chair.

"With the new generation of students, we are seeing a different approach to the world these days, we can always count on good food and to a new land. “Within small Chinese communities in India, the Chinese people took their native cooking methods and flavours — holding on to their past and what they knew — and adapted them to a new environment and new culture.”

— PATRIZIA ALBANESE, CONGRESS INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM CHAIR

Help Govern Ryerson!

Call for Ryerson University Board of Governors Alumni Member Election Candidates

Serving as a member of the Ryerson University Board of Governors is an exciting and rewarding opportunity. In the summer of 2017, Ryerson alumni will elect a representative to fill one of the three alumni member seats on the 24-member board that governs the University.

To learn more about the role and the responsibilities of the Board of Governors and the skills and expertise necessary to serve on the Board, visit www.ryerson.ca/governors.

Nomination forms must be received by Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 12 noon. (Nomination forms will not be accepted after this time.) Nomination forms are available for download at the Ryerson University Board of Governors Elections and Referenda website at www.ryerson.ca/about/governors/elections.

The Ryerson University Alumni Association will review the nominations to produce a final roster of candidates based on the Board-approved matrix of skills.

For more information and for assistance in the process, contact the Office of the General Counsel and Board Secretariat at boardsecretariat@ryerson.ca.

Ryerson Senate Needs You!

A call for nominations for alumni representatives to Ryerson University's Senate

Ryerson University’s Senate is the body that regulates the institution’s academic policies. Senators are elected to represent administrators, faculty, students and alumni. Senate meets at 5 p.m.—normally on the first Tuesday of the month from October to June—to discuss and vote on matters pertinent to the academic governance of Ryerson, including the establishment of all academic policies, significant changes in curriculum and the establishment, and change or termination of programs, schools and departments.

Senate has a variety of standing committees, and ad hoc committees are sometimes established to investigate matters related to academic activity. There are opportunities for alumni to serve on some Senate committees.

Two alumni Senator seats are up for election for 2017–2018. You may nominate another alumni or express interest in running yourself.

For more information or to register a nomination, contact:

John Turtle, PhD, Secretary of Senate
E: jturtle@ryerson.ca
T: 416-979-5011
tyler@ryerson.ca/senate

Nominations must be received by Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 12 noon.
The last 20 years have been a transformational time for Ryerson and its new president, Mohamed Lachemi. When Lachemi moved into the president’s office last April, he brought with him nearly 20 years of experience at Ryerson. Most recently he was the second-in-command – provost and vice-president, academic. Before that he held increasingly more responsible academic leadership roles starting as a professor of civil engineering and progressing to dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science. Now, he even has experience as the parent of a student as one of his daughters attends the university.

During that same time, the university’s physical presence in the city has grown, from the Ted Rogers School of Management on Bay Street to a new lab and biomedical business incubation space at St. Michael’s Hospital. More recently, Ryerson has expanded with modern, spacious labs for science researchers and more than 80 students and postdoctoral fellows at the MaRS building near Queen’s Park.

Ryerson’s curriculum has also expanded to meet the needs of students and society. Graduate education was introduced in 2000 and there are now nearly 50 programs and 2,600 graduate students. A hands-on learning model continues to develop in all faculties. Thanks in part to the success of the DMZ, Ryerson now has 10 innovation zones to help students create initiatives and ventures with social and economic impact.

Ryerson has also moved into the community – and onto the world stage – looking at global challenges and delivering smart, scalable solutions. “Toronto is a successful world-class city in the heart of a progressive country, and has earned an international reputation for many things – including diversity, talent and quality of life,” says Lachemi. “Toronto is Ryerson’s field lab for learning, discovery and engagement. We are known as a city-builder and we must continue to expand our influence.”

Students are changing lives – building greenhouses in the Arctic to provide reasonably priced, healthy foods for local use – other students are doing volunteer work in Asia, Africa and South America. Alumni are blazing a path to the future – Digital Media graduate Maayan Ziv created an app to crowdsource accessibility information in cities around the world. “Ryerson is widely recognized as a city-building university with a learning model for the 21st century,” says Lachemi. “We can be very proud of our accomplishments. But our work together is not done. In fact, it is just beginning.”

“We must engage with the people we value most highly – our students and alumni, our faculty and staff, and our strategic partners. Ryerson’s academic plan – Our Time to Lead – will guide us.”

In his installation address, Lachemi challenged the community to “respond to a changing world that asks us not just to keep up – but to constantly aim higher. “Where we are going is clear,” says Lachemi. “Ryerson will become the destination of choice for creative and original thinkers known for having re-defined partnerships based on equality, trust, recognition and knowledge sharing,” he says.

The future
For Lachemi, Ryerson’s successful shift to a global innovator will be signalled by:
• An exponential increase in reputation;
• An increase in the value of a Ryerson degree;
• The best in the world coming here to study, teach and work;
• Ryerson becoming the leader in experiential and work-integrated learning, and the most sought-after community and industry partner.

In order to reach these goals, Ryerson will continue to put the focus on students, take into consideration the needs of society and potential employers, and unleash the power of strategic partnerships.

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Psychology students learn to treat patients next door at the Family Health Team Clinic

BY DAN FALK, JOURNALISM ‘92

The low-rise building at 80 Bond Street, nestled in the heart of downtown Toronto just two blocks from the Eaton Centre, blends in with its neighbours; most passers-by hardly give it a second glance. But within this unassuming structure, patients in need of psychological care receive first-rate treatment – and a select group of Ryerson graduate students get a unique opportunity for hands-on training in clinical psychology in a diverse and challenging urban setting.

It’s called the Psychology Training Clinic. Open since 2010, the facility is a collaboration between St. Michael’s Hospital and Ryerson University’s Department of Psychology – something that makes perfect sense given that the clinic’s Bond Street location is exactly halfway between St. Mike’s and the Ryerson campus.

“It’s really a perfect location,” says Kelly Horner, the clinic’s director and student supervisor, as we stand just outside the clinic on a warm, early autumn afternoon. “The students can do their courses, and be involved in their research – but then they can also walk down the street and be involved in community mental health.”

Graduate students in Ryerson’s psychology department do the first of their three required practicums at the clinic, which is part of the St. Michael’s Hospital Family Health Team Clinic. Here, they get hands-on experience with patients with an array of psychological needs, under close supervision by Ryerson faculty members. At the same time, the students get to interact with health-care professionals from St. Mike’s – everyone from physicians and nurses to physiotherapists, chiropractors, dentists, dieticians, pharmacists, social workers and even lawyers. It’s a “wealth of services,” as Horner puts it, giving the

New President Mohamed Lachemi’s vision for Ryerson is grounded in the idea that post-secondary education is an integral part of society. There’s a synergy between the university and the city through partnerships and joint initiatives. Here are some stories about students engaged in the city through co-op work, co-curricular and extra-curricular projects who find it enriches not only their learning experience, but also benefits society. The city is their classroom.
Tara Farahani, Social Work ’16, has always wanted to help her community, something that attracted her to Ryerson’s social work program. But social workers can better improve people’s lives by getting to know their real experiences at the “front lines.” As a student, Farahani successfully completed her placement at Social Planning Toronto (SPT), a non-profit community organization that works to promote, as their website puts it, “equity, social justice, and quality of life in Toronto,” through policy research, analysis and other community-based efforts.

While placed with SPT, Farahani helped to address a common gap between social policy and the actual people those policies are created for. “We need to ask, ‘What is a policy designed to achieve? And what is it actually achieving? How can we make it better?’ And that means acquiring data, and ensuring policies reflect that data.”

“The value of a practicum in the field is ‘you learn that it’s not just about ‘transferring’ the knowledge you received in school to other people, but also how to put that knowledge to use, how to apply it,’” says Farahani.

In her current role at St. Stephen’s Community House, Farahani is part of a team of women developing a website and virtual tools to directly help girls and young women experiencing online sexual violence. “It’s about taking voices that are often silenced, and bringing them forward,” Farahani says. “I’m always asking myself, how can I utilize my voice, my privilege, to help make those other voices heard?”

From campus to community

“The students can do their courses, and be involved in their research – but then they can also walk down the street and be involved in community mental health.”

— KELLY HORNER

students “the opportunity to train in an inter-professional setting.”

What’s also striking about the clinic is the diversity of its clientele and their needs. A typical client, in fact, often has more than one reason for seeking treatment. “We can get patients who may be seeing a physician for a medical condition, but also have some mental health concerns that may be exacerbating or impacting the medical condition,” Horner explains.

“We’re really fortunate to see such a diversity of patients,” says Stephanie Cassin, who serves as director of clinical training, and, like Horner, also teaches in the psychology department. Even within the one-year duration of the practicum, students “see a broad range of diversity that many people might not see in their entire life, especially if they work in a more remote community,” Cassin says. “[We see] diversity in terms of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation… Sometimes several of these at once.”

All of this can be a little overwhelming at first, Horner and Cassin admit – but soon, they say, the students come to realize what a unique learning opportunity they have. “As they get toward the tail end [of the practicum], I think that they feel extremely well prepared for the subsequent training that they do in the program,” Cassin says.

Every year, nine students do their practicum at the clinic, spending one day a week with patients at 80 Bond St., doing assessments and delivering treatments. Sky Fitzpatrick, a PhD student who specializes in borderline personality disorders, did her first practicum at the clinic in 2012-13, while working on her master’s. As we chat in a busy campus café on Gould Street, Fitzpatrick recounts her first experience sitting down with a patient face to face, so early in her psychological training, and, like Horner, also teaches in the psychology department. Even within the one-year duration of the practicum, students “see a broad range of diversity that many people might not see in their entire life, especially if they work in a more remote community,” Cassin says. “[We see] diversity in terms of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation… Sometimes several of these at once.”

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training. “I was excited, but also terrified,” she recalls, “because you’ve studied these ideas for so long, and thought about them in such depth – and then you’re sitting in front of somebody and actually interact with them in a genuine way.”

Like Cassin, she quickly became aware of the sheer variety of clients that pass through the clinic – often with multiple problems and concerns. “You’re working with people who are, for example, not only depressed, but also homeless; a client who is very anxious, but is also HIV-positive, and maybe English isn’t their first language. There are a lot of different factors at play that you’re learning to navigate.”

One distinguishing feature of the practicum is that it takes place physically within a hospital setting, Cassin says. “I think our program is one-of-a-kind. They [the students] are seeing real clients and they get supervised by faculty members within the program, which is unique for a lot of clinical psychology programs.”

As well, students have the option of videotaping sessions with clients – if the client consents – allowing their clinical supervisor at Ryerson to offer detailed feedback. “The environment really fosters collaboration,” Cassin says.

Of course, other universities train psychologists – but many graduate programs either don’t have an in-house practicum program (so that students must do their practicum training at another institution, with external supervisors); or, if they take place within the university, the students provide treatment to people recruited from the university or community or they may not see real patients (that is, they see “faux patients” recruited for the program to take part in mock interviews).

Ryerson students also benefit from having St. Mike’s staff members by their side – or, at most, a call, email, or instant message away. “At first the students might be a bit cautious – not wanting to bother the doctors, for example,” says Horner. “But they come out of this amazed at how approachable they are, and how interactive and intertwined the care is.”

As Horner explains, the patients’ records are completely electronic, and the students can share and collaborate on patient information with doctors and other professionals at the clinic instantly.

That instant access to expertise was something that also stood out for Andrew Brankley, a third-year PhD student who did his practicum at the clinic in 2013-14. Specializing in forensic psychology, which includes working with the criminal justice system (the clients he sees have often been in contact with the police or the courts), Brankley is now working part-time at the clinic, passing some of that knowledge on to a fresh cohort of students. At St. Mike’s,

Kyle Stewart, Commerce ’16, knows all about balance – after all, he’s working on his master of science in management degree at Ryerson while he’s a star soccer player with the Ryerson Rams (last year he won the D.H. Craighead award, given to a male athlete at Ryerson for outstanding contribution to interuniversity sport and to campus and community life). But for Stewart, who moved to Toronto with his family from Kingston, Jamaica, when he was 18, a key part of that balance is giving back to the community – especially children.

“I like to be busy, and I want to do something useful with my time,” he says. Last year Stewart put in more than 100 hours of community service.

Rising Rams is one of the Ryerson community programs he’s deeply involved in; a program that brings Ryerson athletes into downtown schools to lead workshops with students from Grades 4 to 10. “We do basketball and soccer workouts, we do other sports with them – but we also talk to the kids about time management, leadership, community service, conflict resolution,” says Stewart. “We try to give them life skills.”

Ultimately, he says, it’s about creating connections. For example, the Rams in Training program brings some of those students to campus to see the university’s athletes in action, and to meet with the players. “It’s great to go to the schools – but it’s nice to bring them here so they can see the facilities that we use,” says Stewart. “It can be inspiring for them.”
A practical garden project

Allan Gardens, with its iconic greenhouse, is a familiar site to Ryerson students — a small green oasis in the heart of downtown Toronto’s concrete jungle (and just a few blocks from campus). What passersby might easily miss, however, is a unique community garden located just behind the greenhouse itself. Known as the Edible Allan Gardens Project, it was designed and built by Ryerson graduate students in collaboration with 10 community partner groups; it opened in June 2016.

Ashley Adams, a 2016 graduate of Ryerson’s architectural science program, was asked to oversee and design the project — and she leaped at the challenge. While the greenhouse itself is a beautiful structure, she says, “the fenced-in space didn’t mirror that beauty.” Their goal, she says, was to create something both beautiful and beneficial to the community, a “demonstration garden” that community groups could use to learn and practice urban agriculture.

The final design employed raised bed containers that could be easily moved if needed, as well as “gabion baskets” — rectangular containers that can serve either as soil-beds or, if filled with heavier material, as benches or tables. “We used a lot of recycled materials,” Adams explains. “Everything from wine bottles, concrete blocks, hay, random bricks that we found” — anything that would give the baskets structural support.

Along with the design issues were the challenges of trying to please a wide array of potential users. “People wanted different things,” Adams says. “There was a lot of compromise with the various groups, to try to make everyone happy. But that was the fun part, trying to figure that out.”

While working on the project, Adams got to know some of the staff at ERA architects, a firm specializing in heritage conservation and restoration and one of the partners in the project. Later, she landed a job with the firm. ERA is drawn to grads who have more than just schoolwork on their resumé, Adams says, “so I think that they also appreciated this unique experience.”

“The clinic feels like half-classroom, half-hospital… It very much is a hospital, but it’s also very much a learning environment.” — ANDREW BRANKLEY

he says, he’s completely comfortable approaching a professional, whether it’s a social worker or a chiropractor or some other specialist, and asking for advice. “They’re very open, they walk you through things,” he says. The clinic “feels like half-classroom, half-hospital… It very much is a hospital, but it’s also very much a learning environment.”

As well as being a unique opportunity for the students, the clinic provides much-needed care for its clientele. Some 135 patients are treated at the clinic every year, with some 110 assessments annually. And unlike the vast majority of psychology treatments available, there is no out-of-pocket cost to the clients. “We provide assessments and treatments to people who typically wouldn’t receive them,” says Cassin. Similar treatment at a private clinic might cost around $200 per hour, she says; plus, often hospital-based psychology services have long waiting lists. Because the clinic is part of the St. Mike’s family health unit, anyone receiving treatment there is eligible for treatment at the Psychology Training Clinic. “I think it’s mutually beneficial,” says Cassin, “because these clients are receiving services, and our students are receiving outstanding training and opportunity to work with real clients very early on, as part of their education.”

DAN FALK (@DANFALK) IS A SCIENCE JOURNALIST BASED IN TORONTO. HIS BOOKS INCLUDE THE SCIENCE OF SHAKESPEARE AND IN SEARCH OF TIME.

With help from annual gifts to the Ryerson Fund, Ryerson became the first Canadian university to take part in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program. Right now, an experiment designed by Ryerson students and selected by the Smithsonian Space Museum is underway on the International Space Station.

How much does gravity play a role in food growth? Might mushrooms one day be an important food source for astronauts? Ryerson students are asking (and answering) these questions… and many more.

Just one of the many exciting ways your donation creates incredible opportunities for students to take their learning out into the world… And beyond!
Joanna Kader, a graduate of The G. Raymond Chang School’s Certificate in Data Analytics, Big Data and Predictive Analytics ’16, has set two goals for herself: Her first goal: to excel as a woman in technology and be an example to other women to do the same. “Technology is still a boy’s club but women have a lot to offer. I know that I approach analysis differently than men and I think that’s a strength,” she says. “Plus, we are consumers. It’s important that new technologies take women into consideration. We should be part of those decisions.”

Kader credits Ryerson for her promotion from business development manager to data scientist, earning almost twice her previous salary and giving her a say in what happens next in technology. She is now director of services delivery for cloud-based solutions provider iTMethods and is a consultant with Rover Parking, a DMZ startup Kader describes as “the Airbnb of shared parking.”

Her second goal: To be an inspiration to the Syrian refugees who’ve just moved to Canada. She chose Canada to restart her life because of her Canadian patriotism and a system of cronyism. “I started with one French course, then never stopped.”

Kader emigrated from Syria in 2000 because as a 25-year-old she was preparing for the GMAT when she realized she had a passion and affinity for math. That led her to the Data Analytics program and her new career.

“It’s not easy to change your life and start from zero. I want to show Syrian refugees that you can go back to school and you will succeed.”

As the therapeutic benefits of cannabis continue to gain mainstream acceptance, Steve Naraine, Medical Physics’14, is among those leading the way to study this little-understood plant.

Naraine is investigating the evolution of seed morphology between hemp and marijuana as a graduate researcher in Prof. Lesley Campbell’s Plant Evolutionary & Ecology Lab. Cannabis is a plant he’s been exploring since he was a government-regulated grower, medical marijuana industry consultant and, for the last two years, through co-operative research projects at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He is now studying the government’s seed collection for his master’s thesis.

“There’s so much we don’t understand about cannabis, because it has been a controlled substance, so a lot of the basic science hasn’t been done,” Naraine says. “Once we understand it better, we can make it into a better medicine.”

Naraine’s own interest in medicinal cannabis began in 2008, when he was an undergraduate. A friend asked if he could help grow more effective medical marijuana for his mother, a cancer patient and prescription holder suffering from extreme nausea and pain caused by chemotherapy. Using scientific experimentation skills he’d learned in science lab for his graduate studies, he cultivate seeds that alleviates pain and boosts appetite.

The experience sparked Naraine’s interest, leading him to review literature on the plant and talk to growers, patients and doctors. In 2013, he shared his research interests with Campbell, who was encouraging, and together they began to collaborate with Tweed, a licensed medical marijuana company in Smiths Falls, Ont. Naraine also conducted research for Tweed on cannabis genetics and strain varieties.

Naraine says the plant could be very valuable not only as a pharmaceutical, but also for industrial, food production and other purposes.

“The graduate school at Ryerson understands the value of this research and the incredible impact it can have,” Naraine says. “It’s providing me with a platform to further explore this plant and its potential.”
The BEAR NECESSITIES

BY BENJAMIN GLEISSER

HOW A NUTRITION GRADUATE TACKLES FEEDING AN NFL TEAM

How do you feed 90 hungry Bears? Very carefully, says Jennifer Gibson, Food and Nutrition ’03, sports science co-ordinator/sport dietitian for the Chicago Bears since 2015.

“In training camp our roster has 90 players in three different position groups, and you have to feed each line position a little differently,” Gibson says of her NFL team.

For example, players who run the ball or run after those who run the ball – like wide receivers and safeties – need more carbohydrates and liquids than those who run or pass the ball – like quarterbacks or defensive linemen – as Gibson says. “They’re like an Indy race car – a high-level machine that needs the best fuel and constant maintenance.”

In two seasons with the Bears, Gibson has had only one special-needs diet. “Last year, I had to organize nutrition for a 300-pound vegan,” she said. You would think this would be a challenge but Gibson was prepared. “When I worked with the Olympic teams, I had to organize nutrition during Ramadan for a Muslim fencer.”

After graduating from Food and Nutrition at Ryerson, Gibson earned a master’s in exercise science from the University of Victoria in 2010. She is also a board certified specialist in sport dietetics with the American Academy of Diabetics and Nutrition, and has worked for the Women’s Tennis Association Pro Tour, and the Canadian and U.S. Olympic teams. She travelled to more than 20 countries to work with athletes at two Pan American Games, two Summer Olympic Games and one Winter Games.

Her goal: Making athletes more conscious of what they eat. “I preach all the time that your body is your job, and you need to be totally conscious of what you put into your machine,” she says. “You’re like an Indy race car – a high-level machine that needs the best fuel and constant maintenance.”

In this reality, I am indeed a novelist and scriptwriter, but in 1996, I got a peek into that other universe. I took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Alberta conducted by Phil Currie, Canada’s leading dinosaur expert.

Phil and I hit it off at once not just because I was a dinosaur fan but because he was a science-fiction fan. More than that, when he was a kid growing up in the same Toronto area as I had, Phil had wanted to become a science-fiction writer.

There we were in the Badlands, surrounded by fossils, looking not just at each other but at our own alternative realities: in another universe, I’m Phil – and he’s me.

Phil’s where he should be, and I’m where I should be — and all is right with the world. Phil’s where he should be, and I’m where I should be — and all is right with the world.

Science-fiction writer Robert Sawyer finds all is well in alternate realities

BY ROBERT J. SAWYER, RADIO AND TELEVISION ARTS ’82


Tuesday, September 4, 1979 was my first day of classes in Radio and Television Arts at Ryerson. Only one problem: my dorm room was at the University of Toronto.

Ever since I was a kid, I’d dreamed of being a dinosaur hunter, and so I’d signed up to study paleontology at U of T. Oh, sure, I’d always wanted to be a science-fiction writer, too, but no one in Canada made a living doing that back then.

I’d gotten my acceptance into U of T early on, but, at the eleventh hour, decided maybe I should give writing for a living a shot — and scriptwriting sounded like a fine way to make ends meet while I wrote novels on the side. And so I ended up simultaneously enrolled in two very different programs — and had to choose which future to pursue.

In this reality, I am indeed a novelist and scriptwriter, but in 1996, I got a peek into that other universe. I took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Alberta conducted by Phil Currie, Canada’s leading dinosaur expert.

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There we were in the Badlands, surrounded by fossils, looking not just at each other but at our own alternative realities: in another universe, I’m Phil – and he’s me.

Here, 37 years after I started at Ryerson, I’m convinced that the currents in that time that drew me away from holding a geologist’s pick and toward writing about futuristic worlds were the correct ones, at least for this me.

Phil’s where he should be, and I’m where I should be — and all is right with the world.

Robert J. Sawyer is a member of the Order of Canada and the only Canadian ever to win all three of the world’s top awards for best science-fiction novel of the year. His latest novel is Quantum Night. Rob’s office in Mississauga is filled with plastic dinosaurs.
Josephine Pui-Hing Wong wants to work with marginalized people to build strong communities. Her aim is to reduce health disparities that are not only unfair but also avoidable. For this nursing professor, that means setting her sights on studies that lead to transformative programming.

“I want to dispel the myth that marginalized people have no strength,” says Wong. “When I worked with them, time and time again I was inspired by their collective strengths, and their resilience despite the forces that work against them.”

Community-based action research is key to achieving her goal. For example, Strength In Unity is a national project, funded by the Movember Foundation, to mobilize men in Asian communities to reduce mental illness stigma. Wong and her team in Toronto have partnered with more than 20 different community agencies and trained over 500 Asian men, half of whom are living with or affected by mental illness, to become mental health ambassadors. They have engaged men aged 17 to 85, including gay and bisexual men to open up dialogues about homophobia and mental health.

Born in Hong Kong, Wong moved to Canada in 1973. A Ryerson nursing graduate, she was a public health planning and policy consultant before joining the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing.

“I chose to become a nurse because I wanted to work in a field where I could interact with people, and interact in meaningful ways,” she recalls. Wong emphasizes capacity building as a path to resilience. “I’ve spoken to youth in low-income neighbourhoods, and they’ve told me, ‘We don’t want people to hand us things; we want to be mentored so that we can make our community stronger ourselves.’”

Wong’s earlier projects showed that psychological and empowerment interventions worked in tandem to change people’s attitudes and actions individually and collectively. In the Community Champions HIV/AIDS Advocates Mobilization Project (CHAMP), people living with HIV reported less self-stigma after they took part in the interventions. Community leaders had reduced stigma against and felt more empathy toward people living with HIV. “Some people who had never disclosed their HIV status to their families told their families. Community leaders who didn’t know much about HIV started volunteering and speaking out against HIV-related stigma and discrimination,” says Wong.

Her emphasis on health promotion is also evident in another project, We Speak, a five-year research program to reduce HIV vulnerabilities and promote resilience among self-identified heterosexual black men in Ontario.

“In my experience as a public health practitioner, research and practice are one and the same. We don’t stop until we have translated the results into effective programs and services.”
Greetings Ryersonians! One of the themes of this issue is that we have a new president, and a new vision for Ryerson’s future. We are so pleased that Mohamed Lachemi includes growing alumni engagement and support among his priorities. In that spirit, I encourage you, at the start of this new year, to join me in renewing your commitment to Ryerson by making a point of: visiting campus; attending an alumni event; getting involved as a volunteer, mentor or in a governance capacity; taking in a Rams game; and by pledging your support to the Ryerson Fund. Together we can make great things happen!

Paul Cheevers
President, Ryerson University Alumni Association
ruaa@ryerson.ca

BY SHARON ASCHAIEK

An abundance of talent, drive and curiosity have helped Amanda Cupido, Journalism ’12, achieve her journalism degree, score interesting jobs in her field and, currently, work towards her master in organizational leadership from Pennsylvania State University. Those characteristics also play a role for another priority: empowering other Ryerson journalism graduates.

Cupido has been volunteering for the Ryerson Journalism Alumni Association (RJAA) for seven years – three as a student representative and four as president. Cupido wrapped up her second term as RJAA president this October, and she’s now serving as past-president.

Under her leadership, the group introduced Headliners, an awards program to recognize former journalism students who’ve made their mark in the media. The program has celebrated such media heavyweights as National Post newspaper columnist Christie Blatchford, CBC foreign reporter Brian Stewart and The Walrus magazine co-founder Shelley Ambrose.

“Volunteering at Ryerson is a wonderful way to stay connected with past classmates, network for career opportunities and help alumni succeed,” says Cupido, a social media co-ordinator and digital content officer for World Vision Canada. “I also love being part of a school that is booming and has such a positive energy.”

ALUMNI WHO ROCK
Radio and Television Arts alumni group The Egertones, from left: Graham Seguine, ‘81, Ron Pardo, ‘80, Jim Bird, ‘78 and Berg Cummins, ‘78, performed at The Block Saun in Toronto on Sept. 40 for the RTA’s ’80-’81 15th reunion.

ALUMNI Diary
NEWS AND EVENTS FROM ALUMNI

Reconnecting with old friends


ALUMNI WHO ROCK
Radio and Television Arts alumni group The Egertones, from left: Graham Seguine, ‘81, Ron Pardo, ‘80, Jim Bird, ‘78 and Berg Cummins, ‘78, performed at The Block Saun in Toronto on Sept. 40 for the RTA’s ’80-’81 15th reunion.

EMPOWERING FELLOW GRADS
BY SHARON ASCHAIEK

Amanda Cupido, Journalism ’12, stays connected.
Ryersonians returned to campus on October 1 for Alumni Weekend, including a sold-out Ryerson Dinner. There were nine alumni group/school events, three different tours and 24 class reunions (a new record!).

To see more photos and video highlights visit ryerson.ca/alumni/alumniweekend.

Steve Washkurak, Electrical Technology ’71, and his wife Lois took a special tour of the archives in honour of his 65th anniversary!

Thanks to the Ryerson Engineering Student Society (RESS), alumni saw the RyEng Bug up close. Since 2003, engineering students have pushed the car around the quad once a year in support of a local charity.

The RTA Alumni Association (RTAAA) hosted the annual Wall of Fame. From left: Donna Morrison, president, RTAAA; 2016 Wall of Fame inductees: Jessica Holmes ’98, Matt Bishop ’02, Blair Peaers ’02, Jennifer Lynn ’81, J.J. Johnson ’02, Mark Milliere ’88, Sheila during accepting for Ted Darling ’78, who passed away, and Michael Coutanche, chair, RTA School of Media.

The School of Occupational and Public Health celebrated its 20th anniversary with a panel and reception.

Student volunteers with photo cutouts on Gould Street.

Giant Jenga on Gould Street!

Ryersonians tested out the furniture in the Student Learning Centre and shared special Ryerson memories on white boards. From left, below: Juliana Li and Lily Li, Marketing Management Certificate ’16.

Natalie Acobas, Journalism ’03, managing editor, VICE News Canada, spoke about “The Evolving Newsroom: Storytelling to Reach New Audiences” at the Ryerson Journalism Alumni Association’s annual general meeting.
If you graduated in a year ending in a 2 or a 7, this is a big anniversary year for you! Celebrate with a class reunion—we’ll help with the planning.

To get started, contact Adrianne at akenmir@ryerson.ca or 416-979-5000, ext. 7863, or visit ryerson.ca/alumni.

Happy Anniversary 2s and 7s!

To meet with one leader in tech every month to share knowledge and experiences so that I can continue to be as impactful as I can in my role.

Amanda Lei, Professional Communications (Master’s) ’12, Marketing Manager, Wattpad, Marketing Magazine’s Top 30 under 30 in 2015

“Cut out extra sugar and keep sweets to a minimum. Not easy when you’re on the road, but it’s the first step to eating and living healthier!”

Steven O’Seara, Journalism ’00, New York Video Journalist for CBC News

“To reflect on the relationships that have had a positive mutual impact and further improve those in the coming year. (And try to understand Snapchat!)”

Robert Schauer, Business Management ’07, CPA, CA, Chief Financial Officer BMO Mutual Funds

“To celebrate my successes and strive to always do what makes me happy. Step back, take a breath and concentrate on better balancing work and life.”

Debbie Higgins, Applied Geography ’89, Deputy Fire Chief, Toronto Fire Services

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Amanda Lei, Professional Communications (Master’s) ’12, Marketing Manager, Wattpad, Marketing Magazine’s Top 30 under 30 in 2015
A chancellor of Ryerson University, the late business leader and philanthropist G. Raymond Chang participated in 95 convocations and awarded nearly 30,000 degrees and diplomas. For the main known as “the students’ chancellor,” celebrating their accomplishments was one of his favourite things. Before he was chancellor, Chang was an entrepreneur, helping transform a small Toronto mutual fund company into an international investment titan that today manages more than $140 billion. Chang shared in the excitement as Ryerson took the entrepreneurship agenda to new heights, giving it early expression in the DMZ startup incubation space. Chang’s daughter, Brigette Chang-Addorisio, once asked her father why he was so involved with Ryerson. “He said he looked for a way to continue his work,” says Laurence. “True generosity of spirit.”

To pay tribute to that, Laurence and his wife Judy are donating $90,000 over the next five years to create the David and Anna Bulmash Innovation Awards, which will support six students annually in graphic communications, image arts, and the Transmedia and Fashion Zones. Over his more than 50 years in business, Bulmash was known as a hands-on, honest entrepreneur and self-made man. He taught himself the printing business, learning and staying current with technological advances. He also taught himself sign language and, from early days, employed people with disabilities. He launched other businesses as well, such as his Baltimore Sign Company which still thrives today. His wife Anna found her passion in sewing and learning. Combining her innate sense of style with a genuine talent for design, she made for her children and a select few, “says Laurence. “She passed on to her daughter, Judy, a deep interest in colour and fashion.”

The Siegels chose Ryerson for this tribute to David and Anna because of its focus on experiential learning. “I appreciated the entrepreneurship,” says Laurence. “Ryerson nurtures student ideas, and connects them with people and expertise in order to develop them. When we toured the Transmedia Zone, it seemed visionary. You get the sense that this is what the future is—it’s so exciting.”

“University is a place where these artistic seeds get to blossom,” adds Laurence. “We want to encourage that, and be part of the conversation around what the possibilities for young people are. We’re excited about what Ryerson is doing, and we’re looking forward to what we can do with Ryerson.”

I

Bill Strykowski, an early Ryerson student, was the inaugural recipient of the award. His design project is a system of “Think magnetic Lego, except the geometry lends itself to infinite tiling options in every direction,” says Lee. “I don’t have a defined application at this time—it’s one of the things I am working on at the DMZ— but the nature of the blocks allows for a range of uses.”

With the award, Lee is able to purchase the materials she needs—epoxy, resin and “lots of magnets”—to complete a small-scale prototype that will demonstrate how the system works. She used 3D printers in the DMZ to produce test modules.

“Before the award, this was a thesis project,” says Lee. “The funding from Yabu Pushelberg brings it out of the classroom and into the real world.”

Retired Professor Bill Strykowski taught physics to engineering students at Ryerson for 37 years. “The years flew by; I really enjoyed the students, and loved the camaraderie and community of the faculty.”

That fondness has inspired Bill to make a remarkably generous gift to Ryerson in his will. “I like Ryerson students. I’d like to help them out.”

Making a gift in your will is an exceptional act of generosity that looks to the future. Bill and other faculty, staff, friends and alumni are leaving their legacies through planned gifts. You can too. Call now to find out how.

Janet Nankivel 416-979-5000, ext. 2152 | jsnkiev@ryerson.ca

ryerson.ca/plannedgiving
IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to our donors for making Ryerson University a place of innovation, creativity, and excellence. Your generosity touches the lives of students and creates educational opportunities. Thank you to the following supporters – members of the BLUE & GOLD SOCIETY – who made gifts of $1,000 or more between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016. Your generous annual support plays a key role in the successes of Ryerson and our students.

To our EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCES donors, who made gifts of $100,000 or more, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your gifts have enabled exceptional experiences for our students, from research and cultural programs to entrepreneurship and international opportunities. Our gratitude is immense.

Finally, to all our donor partners who have supported Ryerson University, we offer our sincere appreciation for your support of our students, our programs, and our future. Together, we have accomplished so much.

John T. Liu, 2015
President and Principal Executive Officer

BLUE & GOLD SOCIETY
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John T. Liu, 2015
President and Principal Executive Officer
**CLASS Notes**

**UPDATES FROM ALUMNI ON PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES**

**COMPILED BY CHRISTINE JULIEN-SULLIVAN, JOURNALISM ’97**

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**50s**

Mike Du Boulay, Radio and Television Arts (RTA) ’59, writes: “I remain active, having survived metastatic melanoma. I’m 80 years young and still playing the bagpipes in the Stratford Police Pipes and Drums. I’m blessed with a beautiful wife, Nancy, of 44 years, our three lovely children and five precious grandchildren. I’ve worked for CFTB Toronto, CKWS Fort William, CKCO-TV Kitchener, Thompson Television International Scotland, BBC-TV London England, CBC Toronto, CBC Montreal, CTV Ottawa and CFTO (CTV Toronto). I’d love to hear stories from classmates; my email is mduboulay@sympatico.ca.”

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**60s**

[1] Jeremy Ferguson, Journalism ’65, writes: “It unsettles me, but not from life. My professional life began in corporate public relations, then I worked in freelance writing for 43 years. I wrote about everything from business to food and drink for dozens of magazines until finding my place as a travel journalist and photographer, most prominently as a lead writer for The Globe and Mail’s travel section. After 32 years of marriage and many adventures, a real passion for the outdoors: canoeing, camping and kayaking with their children Brad and Celine. They share their adventures on explorethebackcountry.com. When not in the woods, Wayne continues his 35-year career as a videographer/editor with CTV London, and Diane is with the RCMP as the director of communications and media relations for Ontario.”

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**70s**

Carol Franks, Journalism ’71, has created two Spanish board games, Verb It, and most recently SummitRUN, which features 800 intriguing fact questions about 19 countries in Latin America as players face obstacles and natural disasters in their quest to reach the summit of a towering Mayan temple.

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**80s**


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MJ Henderson, Nursing ’82, was recognized with the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties’ Lifetime Achievement Award. A long-time nurse practitioner (NP) educator and gerontological nurse practitioner, she was recognized for advancing the NP profession through her many contributions to quality NP education and advocacy of gerontological issues.

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[3] Wayne and Diane (DesRoches) Jennings, RTA ’81, maintain, after 32 years of marriage and many adventures, a real passion for the outdoors: canoeing, camping and kayaking with their children Brad and Celine. They share their adventures on explorethebackcountry.com. When not in the woods, Wayne continues his 35-year career as a videographer/editor with CTV London, and Diane is with the RCMP as the director of communications and media relations for Ontario.

Cezar Khursigara, Chemistry and Biology ’99, is an associate professor of molecular and cellular biology at the University of Guelph. He received the Fisher Scientific Award at the Canadian Society of Microbiologists’ conference last June, and also delivered the conference’s opening lecture, titled “Uncovering biofilm-specific virulence and antimicrobial resistance mechanisms in Pseudomonas aeruginosa using quantitative proteomics.”
[1] Beverly Lavender, Fashion ‘80, paints still life and flowers. Her art was recently displayed at the Tea and Art Show put on by Ruth Krampitz. Bev’s artwork can be found at beverlylavender.wixsite.com/floral-art.

Eric McCormack, Theatre Performance ‘85, stars in Travelers, a science-fiction series created by Netflix and Showcase. Shot in Vancouver with a mainly Canadian cast, the show is set 100 years in the future, when the last surviving humans discover they can send their consciousness back through time to perform missions to save humanity from a bleak future.


[3] Ron Pardo, Radio & Television ‘80, provides the voices of Cap’n Turbot, Mayor Humdinger and Farmer Al in the animated children’s television series Paw Patrol. His voice has appeared in more than 70 animated series since 1999, including PJ Masks, Fangbone, Inspector Gadget and Shutterbugs. He is also known for his celebrity impersonations on History Bits and on the standup comedy stage. Before taking the leap into showbiz full-time, Ron was an elementary school teacher in Cambridge from 1983 to 1993. Married for 35 years, Ron and his wife have two children and two grandchildren.

Robert J. Sawyer, RTA ‘82, was named a Member of the Order of Canada on July 1, in recognition of “his accomplishments as a science-fiction writer and mentor and for his contributions as a futurist.” His 23rd novel, Quantum Night, was published last March by Penguin.

[4] Marsha T. Brown, Social Work ‘99, was honoured at the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women Gala 2016, which celebrated the achievements and influence of Black Canadian women. Marsha is best known as a social justice advocate, working with mainstream media outlets such as The Globe and Mail, CBC and Global News to raise issues related to affordable childcare, poverty and gender-based violence. Visit 100abcwomen.ca.

[5] Brad Dworkin, Image Arts ‘08, has produced and directed an original short documentary called WhyF? that has been picked up by the CBC. The film will be distributed as part of a brand new short doc program created by CBC Docs.

Jenny Gumbs, Public Administration ‘02, was honoured at the 2016 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women Gala. Jenny has combined an active career with a commitment to volunteering. Involved with various community organizations, she is currently a trustee of the National Scholarship Fund of the Black Business and Professional Association, and president of Trinidadian Community Services. She received a Ryerson Alumni Achievement Award in 2007.

Seref Isler, Performance Production ‘96, writes: “After Ryerson, I moved to Australia to do my master’s in production and journalism. I now live in London and work as a producer and journalist for BBC World News, a television channel with more than 400 million viewers worldwide.”

J.L. Johnson, Blair Powers and Matt Bishop, RTA ‘02, are partners in Sinking Ship Entertainment, who received, with executive producer Christin Simms, RTA ‘02, 20 Daytime Emmy Award nominations for their programs Ambroshod, Odd Squad and Dino Dan: Telv’s Adventures last spring. Visit sinkingship.ca.


Karen Moore, RTA ‘07, is a writer and associate producer for the CBC comedy Working Moms, which premieres in January 2017.

[7] Steve Socha, Architectural Science ‘06, works with the Punch Project: Public Art through Construction Hoarding. He has contributed major artwork displays at street level in downtown Toronto as part of PATCH’s mission to beautify the city’s construction sites. One is located a block north of the Ryerson architecture building where he was a student. Another is located at the Selby Hotel near Shearbourne subway station. He writes: “My technique developed over my time in architecture school, and art is my second career, although architecture is still my day job.” Visit stevesocha.com/about/ and thepatchproject.com/projects.
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[1] D.W. Waterson, Image Arts ’10, also known as hey! dw, is the creator behind the popular web series That’s My DJ. The series was officially selected for the 2016 New York Television Festival and dubbed by NBC News as the top series to watch at last year’s festival. The show is an unapologetic look inside the new order of rave. The series features original music, including live performances from hey! dw, and her debut single is featured at the show’s opening track.

[2] Maayan Ziv, Master of Digital Media ’15, received the David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility for her outstanding commitment to improving accessibility for people with disabilities. She was honoured with the Youth Leadership Award for her activism and social innovation that uses crowdsourcing to pinpoint the accessibility status of locations on an interactive online map. The David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility was created in 2014 to honour the province’s first Lieutenant Governor with a physical disability.

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IN MEMORIAM

Mary Lee Berdit (Scrimger), Secretarial Science ’55, passed away on Aug. 31, 2016. She was 81. Mary Lee rarely spoke of her career, although she was a distinguished teacher of Secretarial Science at Centennial College in Toronto and she wrote a textbook on the subject.

Rody Hayne Blancher, RTA ’52, died Dec. 20, 2015. Rody began working in radio in Saskatchewan in 1937, first at CFQC in Saskatoon and then at CFRN in Regina. He quickly moved from announcer-operator to music and variety producer to executive producer and then senior music producer. He took early retirement in 1985, but assumed a new role immediately as performing arts consultant for the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Rody played tuba in the Governor General’s Foot Guard Band and later with the Saskatoon and Regina Symphony orchestras.

Don Desjardine, Business Management ’62, died May 26, 2016, in Owen Sound after a courageous battle with cancer. Don was a member of the 1962-63 Ryerson Rams hockey team that won the Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship and he was inducted into the Ryerson Sports Hall Of Fame with his teammates. He was a key member of the RTA Executive, was the brain child behind the “820-A-Year Club” and contributed significantly to the RAMFIND Project. In 2015, Don made a record donation to Ryerson Rams hockey in the form of an annual bursary. He leaves his longtime companion, Marion Kelly, and his sons Jeff and Martin.

Fred Jorgenson, president of Ryerson from 1966 to 1969, died June 8, 2016 at age 93. Formerly principal of Calgary’s Southern Institute of Technology, he served at Ryerson during a time of transition and social upheaval. One of his greatest legacies was authoring “The Ryerson Philosophy” in 1968, a document that made major proposals for the school’s future: dropping obsolete courses, adding post-graduate courses, increasing credit courses at night, and integrating day and night courses into a total education package. The document also hinted at the idea of offering degrees. After three years at Ryerson, he returned to his former job in Calgary. Today, Jorgenson Hall bears his name. He is survived by his five children, 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Peter Keigh (Kuffuk) Rosen died Aug. 28, 2016, at age 72. He hosted “Morningmusik” on CJRT for 29 years before it became an all-jazz radio station. He leaves his wife Marion, son Michael and daughter Rebecca.

Professor Emerita Rheta Rosen died Aug. 22, 2016. A former professor of Nutrition and director of the Learning and Teaching Office, she was also part of the 1993 committee that established the Interpersonal Skills Teaching Centre. She served as its director for 10 years, and established the centre as a leader in experiential learning. She was also a longtime member of the Life Institute. Alumni Achievement Award 2014 recipient John Saunders died Aug. 10, 2016, at age 61. John, who studied Psychology at Ryerson and played hockey with the Rams from 1976-78, was a sports anchor for Citytv in the early 1980s before joining ESPN in the U.S. in 1986. He also covered hockey, football and baseball for ABC. He was the television play-by-play announcer for the Toronto Raptors from 1995 to 2001, and became host of ESPN’s SportsCenter in 2008. An advocate for juvenile diabetes research, he was also a founding member of the Jimmy V Foundation for cancer research, which has raised almost $90 million.

Alan Slobodonsky, Urban and Regional Planning ’87, died July 18, 2016, at age 54 from cancer. Hired as an aide by then-mayor of North York Mel Lastman, he eventually worked as his chief of staff when Lastman became mayor of the amalgamated Toronto. When the mayor retired, Alan established a successful practice as a development consultant and lobbyist. He is survived by his wife and three children.
BEATLEMANIA!

IN ITS HEYDAY, MAPLE LEAF GARDENS WAS THE SITE OF THREE HISTORIC CONCERTS BY POP’S MOST ICONIC BAND

BY ANTOINETTE MERCURIO

Long before the Mattamy Athletic Centre became home to the Ryerson Rams, it hosted one of the most popular rock bands during its heyday as Toronto’s premier concert and sports venue, Maple Leaf Gardens. Just over 50 years ago, on August 17, 1966, the Beatles made their third and final appearance in Toronto. Scores of young girls passed out at the concert, and police built a barricade holding back fans who had lined up around the block both at Maple Leaf Gardens and the King Edward Hotel in hopes of seeing the band.

Kevin Courrier, an instructor at The Chang School’s Life Institute, attended all three Beatles concerts at the Gardens and wrote a piece for Critics At Large, an online arts publication, about his up close and personal brush with the Fab Four at that final event.

After the show Courrier and a friend got swept up in a stampede of fans. While the crowd cleared, Courrier sat on the stairs. He heard footsteps behind him and was surprised to see the Beatles stepping around him, over him – Lennon turning to smirk at Courrier as he headed towards the band’s final Toronto press conference.

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