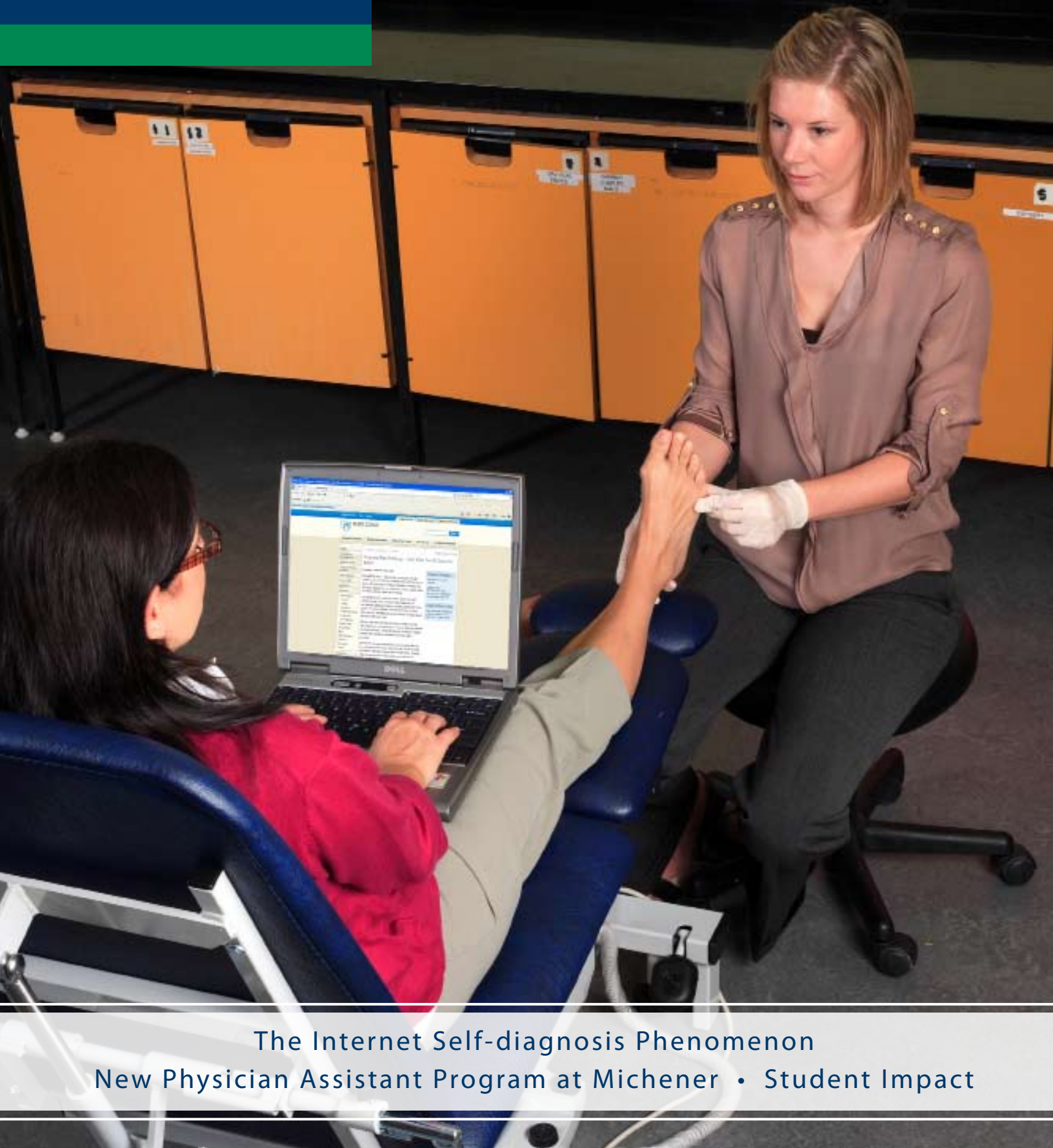


# Michener

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A publication for Alumni & Friends • Summer 2010

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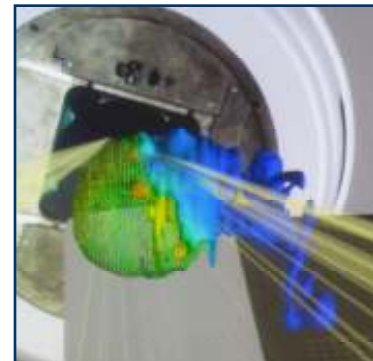
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**On the Cover:** Chiropractor Megan Grantham (Chiroprody, 2008) examines a patient while her patient finds another diagnosis online.

**Clarification:** The two photographs used in the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) article in the Winter 2010 edition of Michener Magazine were of actors. In the interests of confidentiality, actual candidates are not photographed at any point during the MMI process.



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## Michener's Impact on HEALTH CARE

The Internet has created a new generation of patients who go online to diagnose themselves before seeking medical attention. What is the impact of self-diagnosis on the health care system? How does it affect patients when they go to their health care provider thinking they have a rare skin disease and are diagnosed with a simple allergic reaction? How does it affect their health care provider? And most of all, what does that do to their relationship?

That is just one of the topics covered in this issue of *Michener Magazine*. We are looking at who and what impacts the health care industry.

More specifically, we'll examine the role our inaugural class of physician assistants will have in filling gaps in our current health care system. Upon graduating, the physician assistants will provide Ontarians with better access to health care, particularly in rural areas.

Next, we focus on our students, particularly the V-Day group.

The V-Day group at Michener supports women affected by violence with the message that violence against women has to stop. They support local charities, as well as those in need internationally. Our students' stories have global reach.

By donating to the Scholarships and Bursaries fund, Michener's alumni and friends give many students the opportunity to focus on their education without financial worry. Other partners like GE Healthcare and Vertual Ltd. donate equipment and software that play a part in the advanced learning of our students.

Finally, we introduce the members of our Capital Campaign Cabinet. The Campaign for Michener will do much more than transform our campus, it will fundamentally transform health education in Canada.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Michener Magazine* on Impact. Comments and Letters to the Editors are welcome via [alumni@michener.ca](mailto:alumni@michener.ca).

The Editorial Team



## Michener on the front line

Guest Editor – Dr. Peter Lin

As I lay on the emergency room stretcher, I never thought that I would be writing this editorial from the patient's perspective, but as luck would have it, I suffered a fracture dislocation of my ankle. This unfortunate incident enabled me to witness some of the impact Michener and its graduates are having on our health care system.

I watched as the emergency room was bustling. I saw respiratory therapists, lab technologists, and radiological technologists moving around in organized chaos and all for the sole purpose of bringing the best care for us, the patients. My radiological technologist single handedly moved me into position so that he could get the pictures that the surgeons needed to decide if the reduction was proper. It was at that moment that I was reminded of The Michener Institute tour that I had been on. How they talked about educating their students, who would soon be technologists, therapists and practitioners in our health

care system, using simulations where multiple disciplines interact and learn together. At my moment of need, I realized why that was unique. The students of The Michener Institute graduate with front line experience and would be able to meld into this seemingly chaotic health care system we so cherish in Canada. Due to their educational experience at Michener, they were truly prepared to work as an integrated member of the health care team.

In this edition, there are features on new technologies, new programs, and updates on the new initiatives going on at Michener this year. One piece in this issue that has personal interest for me is the piece on Dr. C. Joseph Kurian, whom I have known for many years. Dr. Kurian is Michener's Honorary Diploma recipient for 2009 and he is much deserving of the honour. I also had the pleasure of being interviewed for the feature article on self-diagnosis and found it a great experience.

This is an exciting issue and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

### Email sent on Feb. 18, 2010 Source name withheld by request

In response to the 3D Ultrasound article in the *Michener Magazine* Winter 2010 edition, my answer is short and to the point. Yes, 3D ultrasounds are exciting, but in the proper setting. That is, it should be used in the hospital, directed by professional health care providers to help assess in a diagnosis to aid a patient. They are unnecessary as an entertainment source. The sonographers purchasing medical

equipment are using the vulnerability of people in all their excitement of conceiving a child to fatten their own pocket books. The sole fact that the ultrasound profession is not legislated in Canada does not give individuals the right to abuse this. Why are they not entertaining people with 3D images of their liver, kidneys, or pelvises? There should be no difference. The government should control this.







# 2009 Alumni of Distinction Cathy Babiak

By Katie Schrank

Cathy Babiak receives her Alumni of Distinction award from 2008 recipient Michele Henry

Michener's Alumni of Distinction for 2009 is multiple graduate, Cathy Babiak. In 1976, Babiak graduated from the Radiography program and in 1980, she completed the Ultrasound program.

Babiak spent the first part of her career at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto. After 15 years at SickKids, Babiak decided it was time for a change and she came back to Michener as a faculty member. Babiak enjoyed her teaching opportunities while at SickKids and saw a natural progression into becoming a full-time educator.

During her time as an educator, Babiak has continued to add to her impressive academic credentials. She has obtained her Bachelor of Health Administration from Ryerson and her Masters of Education from the University of British Columbia. Most recently, Babiak completed the Stepping Stones Certificate through the Centre for Faculty Development at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine.

Throughout her career, Babiak has been extremely active within the ultrasound professional community. She has been President of the Ontario Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and a board member for both the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine.

In 1999, Babiak was the first Canadian Sonographer to hold the position of Chair of the American Registry

of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, the international certification for ultrasonographers and vascular technologists. Last year, she received Fellowship status with the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). This fellow membership is a way to recognize individuals who have contributed in a most distinguished fashion to the field of ultrasound.

Babiak looks back on her time at Michener fondly because of her great classmates, the pub nights, and her wonderful instructors. "One of my favourite instructors was Denis Poulin because of his obvious passion for teaching and his students," remembers Babiak.

Babiak was nominated for the Alumni of Distinction Award by her favourite professor, Denis Poulin. In his nominating letter, Poulin said, "Cathy has a well-deserved reputation as a person that is always ready to assist organizations to improve the profile of sonography around the world. She is well-known internationally as a sonographer and as an educator. She is always prepared to give her own time to better her profession."

Her quest to constantly educate herself and use her skills to the benefit of the health care community and her profession are just some of the qualities that made her the perfect recipient for the 2009 Alumni of Distinction Award.

## Student Alumni profile

# Abby Sirisegaram

By Katie Schrank



Abby Sirisegaram, a second year Radiation Therapy student, first learned about Michener at an Open House she attended while in high school. Years later, when she weighed her options around what to do after finishing her Biology and Psychology degree from McMaster, Sirisegaram knew Michener and Radiation Therapy were right for her.

Sirisegaram was drawn to Radiation Therapy because she saw the opportunity to positively impact her patient's therapy by applying her positive attitude to support them in troubling times. That attitude goes beyond just being involved with her patients, but carries through her involvement in supporting the Michener community as well.

It is obvious that Sirisegaram is a "people person" within five minutes of meeting her. You can't get more involved than she is, and that's how she likes it. "I'm involved in so many things because I really enjoy it," she says. "I was engaged in different aspects of student life during my undergrad, and I knew I wanted to continue that when I came to Michener."

Sirisegaram is well-known around the campus, and it's not hard to understand why. She is on the Alumni Association Board and the Michener Magazine Advisory Board, has participated in Student Council and the Medical Radiation Science Society, is a member of the Diversity Steering Team, works part-time at the reception desk in the front lobby, and the list goes on.

**It is obvious that Sirisegaram is a "people person" within five minutes of meeting her.**

While at Michener, Sirisegaram has played a part in planning many student events. Her most significant undertaking at Michener was the organization of the Orientation 2009 Boat Cruise on behalf of Student Council, which was on the biggest boat to date and was sold out in record time. "I had an amazing time planning

the cruise, and the great turnout made it even better," she shared.

Sirisegaram also spearheaded the planning for Michener's first annual Talent Show, which received an overwhelming response from Michener's talented student body. Thanks to her planning efforts, the student lounge was packed and she entertained the crowd by showcasing her talent as a great MC.

Another Student Council event lead by Sirisegaram was the 'What's Your Type?' blood typing event. "Student Council partnered with the Toronto branch of Canadian Blood Services to blood type people at Michener and to encourage them to donate blood on a regular basis," she says. "Over 100 people participated, which is great for a first time event."

All three events will continue in 2010.

With all that she has going on, Sirisegaram still manages to excel in her studies, and will be starting her clinical placement at The Ottawa Hospital this September. Best of luck to Abby as she moves on to the next phase in her career!



# Informed

## OR

# *obsessed?*

## The Internet self-diagnosis phenomenon

By Dana Yates

**I**t's a scenario that no health professional wants for a patient.

A 50-something man visits the doctor, complaining of problems with urination. Online research has led the patient to suspect that he has benign prostatic hyperplasia (an enlarged prostate) – a common and relatively harmless condition – and he expects his hunch will be confirmed by the doctor. After conducting a physical examination, however, the doctor discovers a large,

cancerous tumour in the patient's prostate gland.

"In this case, the Internet turned out to be good thing because it brought the patient into my office for a formal diagnosis," says Toronto-based family physician Dr. David Greenberg. "On the other hand, if the patient had gone online to diagnose himself and then ignored his condition, the cancer might have killed him."

Greenberg (or "Dr. Dave," as he is known to his patients) is on staff

at St. Joseph's Health Centre. There, he plays a leadership role in the areas of family medicine, obstetrics and continuing medical education. The co-host of *Doctor in the House* on the Slice Network, Greenberg also served as the chief medical practitioner for *The Mom Show*, where he discussed health issues affecting mothers and children. In his private practice, Greenberg has come to see patients' use of the Internet as a reality of modern medicine.





And that isn't necessarily a bad thing, says Dr. Peter Lin, a general practitioner who, for seven years, served as the medical director for the Health and Wellness Centre of the University of Toronto at Scarborough. Today, Lin has two family practices and is a health columnist on CBC Radio's Metro Morning. The latter role enables him to translate medical journal information for a lay audience.

"Once a patient has received a diagnosis, the Internet is great because it helps patients get up to speed, learn terminology and stay informed about their conditions. They can also find blogs and support groups run by people who have the same illness," says Lin, who is also director of primary care initiatives at the Canadian Heart Research Centre.

To be sure, though, doctors aren't the only health professionals who are witnessing the persuasive power of the Web among patients. Chiropractor Megan Grantham, a 2008 Michener graduate, works out of the Omni Foot Clinic and Orthotic Center in Burlington, Ontario. Grantham's patients regularly come

armed with possible diagnoses that have been gleaned from Google.

"Sometimes they are right, sometimes they are wrong," Grantham says. "What [patient use of the Internet] shows is that people are on board with their health and self-care. It also demonstrates that patients expect more information. They aren't content to just get a diagnosis and go on their way. They want to know all about causes and treatments, too."

In fact, Grantham continues, patients' thirst for knowledge helped prompt an overhaul of her clinic's website. Whereas before the site only offered contact information, it now provides details about proper foot care and various foot-related conditions.

Where things can go awry, she says, is when patients read less-than-accurate information online and then try to assume the role of the health professional.

"Some patients want quick-fixes and it leads them to jump the gun. They will come in and say, 'Here's my diagnosis. Now I want this treatment.' They see themselves as experts and will get frustrated when you say

something that differs from what they have found online."

Another problem that arises from Web-surfing patients: they may have a negative impact on clinical research trials. Lin points to the example of a study involving patients with ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Through online support networks, study participants were able to determine who had received a new drug treatment and who had been prescribed a placebo. Upset with their assigned category, many participants who had been given a sugar pill quit the study. As a result of insufficient sample size, the trial had to be abandoned.

The bottom line? Lin, Greenberg and Grantham all say patients must keep an open mind and should remember that their caregivers are highly trained medical professionals. That is, they know what they are doing and are on the same side as patients.

"All successful relationships are based on mutual respect and trust. The relationships between patients and health professionals are no different," Greenberg says. "A patient may bring an illness to a doctor's attention, but it's not

necessary to bring in reams of research to explain or justify the position. At the end of the day, the doctor is going to know more about the condition from every perspective."

On that note, he says, the information on credible health websites provides a good starting point for a medical appointment. Patients, however, should not expect that their newfound knowledge offers them admission into a bona fide peer-to-peer discussion with a health professional.

In light of this reality, what can be done to preserve the patient-doctor working relationship and still help patients satisfy their need for information? The answer comes in the form of education.

"In medical school, doctors learn how to discern useful information from details that are less-than-useful," Lin explains. "So when it comes to searching for health information online, we need to teach patients how to separate the wheat from the chaff."

On the Internet, he continues, every website can seem authoritative. But looks are deceiving; uninformed opinions can masquerade as proven facts. Patients should be cautious when surfing the Web and must carefully rank health-related websites, from those impartially reporting on clinical research to sites that are based on speculation and personal bias.

With regards to reputable websites, Lin suggests the Mayo Clinic ([mayoclinic.com](http://mayoclinic.com)), Harvard Medical School ([health.harvard.edu](http://health.harvard.edu)), and sites affiliated with hospitals (e.g. [sunnybrook.ca](http://sunnybrook.ca)) and

the Canadian government (e.g. [Health Canada](http://HealthCanada.gc.ca) can be found at [hc-sc.gc.ca](http://hc-sc.gc.ca)).

Greenberg goes one step further, advising patients to stick to Canadian websites whenever possible.

"The British and Canadian health care systems tend to be more judicious in the medical tests they recommend. And their websites reflect that perspective. In contrast, American websites will often list worst-case scenario illnesses first and urge patients to get tested for them. That's because the health care system in the United States is quite litigious. Websites don't want to be sued for not informing someone if he or she turns out to have a serious illness."

That said, [BabyCentre.ca](http://BabyCentre.ca) is Greenberg's go-to website north of the border. The site, which is supported by Johnson & Johnson, is overseen by a Canadian medical advisory board that includes doctors, midwives, breastfeeding specialists and dietitians. In fact, one of those advisory members is Greenberg's colleague Suzanne Wong, medical director of obstetrics at St. Joseph's Health Centre. Knowing the online specialist provides peace of mind, Greenberg says.

"When I recommend BabyCentre.ca or a similar expert-driven website to my patients, I know that I won't have to undo any of the information they read."

Ultimately, Grantham says patients and health professionals are equally responsible for sourcing credible health information and solving the problem of self-diagnoses.

"Medical professionals shouldn't be

offended by a patient's desire to know more about their health. At the same time, patients need to be more objective about the information they read online and see a professional whenever needed," Grantham says. Lin agrees.

"In the end, we are all working on the same team to provide the best care and advice to the patient."



Do you have an opinion on the self-diagnosis phenomenon? As a health care professional have you encountered this type of situation? Let us know at [alumni@michener.ca](mailto:alumni@michener.ca)



“The PA students will make good use of Michener’s new simulation centre during their residential blocks”



Physician Assistant students learn how to properly put on surgical gloves

As talk of Physician Assistants (PAs) becomes more frequent in the media, many people are left wondering what PAs are and what kind of role they will play in the Ontario health care system.

Working under the direct supervision of a licensed physician, PAs will play a critical role in alleviating some the pressure on the current health care system as they will support doctors in a range of health care settings to provide patient care. Most notably, PAs will enable more people to obtain medical care, especially those in rural areas where it is harder to get time with a doctor.

While the introduction of PAs may be new in Ontario, it is not a new profession in Canada. PAs have been practicing in Manitoba since 2002 and the Canadian military has supported and utilized PAs for many years very successfully. South of the border, the U.S. has had PAs working in their system since the 1960s.

In 2006, HealthForceOntario introduced the PA as part of a new interprofessional approach to medicine – one that ensures that the right care is provided to patients who otherwise

might not have access to a physician on a regular basis and reduces their wait times to get to those physicians.

In order to integrate PAs into the Ontario health care system, the provincial government went to the deans of the Ontario medical schools to discuss their interest in creating undergraduate PA programs. Dr. Catharine Whiteside, the Dean of the University of Toronto Medical School, saw the creation of a PA program as an opportunity to partner with Michener.

After talks began between Michener and the University of Toronto (U of T), both parties realized that another component was needed to create a really robust PA program. The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) was approached, and the Consortium for PA Education was born.

“The collaborative nature of a PAs work, and the need to focus on under-serviced care settings, made a partnership among The Michener Institute, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto an ideal alignment of strengths,” says Dr. Whiteside.

# Physician Assistant program helps improve Ontario’s access to health care

By Katie Schrank

NOSM, U of T and Michener worked together to create a distinctive curriculum that would prepare students for their new career and set them apart from students of other PA programs. One of the major differences between this program and other PA programs is that students are specifically educated in the challenges they will face when working in Northern Ontario, a largely under-serviced community where PAs are needed.

“This is a unique collaboration between three partners who all bring a different perspective and a range of expertise that will ensure the program is multi-dimensional, consistent with social accountability, and has a focus on being responsive to the rural, remote and under-serviced communities in Ontario,” says Roger Strasser, Dean, NOSM.

The PA program is structured so that students will focus on academics in their first year and on clinical education in their second year. The first year is a mix of residential blocks at Michener and distance education courses that give students an academic foundation upon which to build. The second year of the

program is a mix of residential blocks at Michener, distance education and clinical experience, with the majority of their time spent in clinical settings. Students will spend time in Northern and Southern Ontario during their clinical blocks.

“The PA students will make good use of Michener’s new simulation centre during their residential blocks,” says Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO, Michener. “We believe the facilities as they are designed, the curriculum as it has been built, and the faculty and the contributions they’re making will make this a truly 21st century learning experience for our students.”

At Michener, there is a lot of excitement around this new program, but in the Ontario health care community there is some disagreement around the implementation of PAs.

The opposition comes from the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) who believe that Nurse Practitioners (NPs) would be better utilized in the same type of position. NPs can work independently, whereas PAs work as an extension of the services







On Wednesday, January 6, 2010, Michener, the University of Toronto (UofT), and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) came together to welcome the inaugural class of Physician Assistants (PAs) to our joint program.

In attendance was the inaugural class of PAs, journalists, senior leaders and supporters from all three schools

offered by a physician and can only work under the guide of a physician. The RNAO also takes issue with the amount of education and work experience (two years of university and 1680 hours of patient contact) required to be admitted to a PA program, saying that it is not enough, and far less than an NP.

Even with the resistance from the RNAO, there are numerous other organizations, like the Ontario Hospital Association and the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants, who fully support the introduction of this new profession into Ontario and the program under the PA Consortium.

The prospect of working in a myriad of settings, including acute care facilities and primary care organizations,

makes becoming a PA a diverse career path. The application deadline for the second class of PAs passed in May 2010, and if demand is anything like that of the inaugural class, there may again be four people applying for each available spot. The opportunity to learn in a curriculum collaboratively created by three well-respected institutions is more than enough to attract the best and brightest students.

The inaugural class of the PA Consortium program began their studies in January 2010 and will graduate in December 2011.

Additional information on the PAs can be found at [PAConsortium.ca](http://PAConsortium.ca) and at [healthforceontario.ca](http://healthforceontario.ca) by searching Physician Assistants.

including Sarita Verma (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine, UofT), Roger Strasser (Dean, NOSM), and Dr. Paul Gamble (President & CEO, Michener).

During the ceremony the students heard from all three academic leaders who recalled how the PA Consortium came to be and congratulated the class for being adventurous enough to jump

into the PA profession. As a symbol of the beginning of their journey, the students received their name tags and recited the Physician Assistant Code of Ethics for the crowd.

The event was covered by CTV News in Toronto and Sudbury.

# Celebrating student achievement at Michener, inside and outside the classroom

By Kathleen Sandusky

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, organizations and foundations who fund our scholarships and bursaries, each year Michener offers over \$50,000 in student awards. Available to full- and part-time students, the awards recognize student achievement, both inside and outside the classroom. Below are profiles of some recent award recipients whose bright futures in health care began at Michener. These students were recognized, along with over 40 of their peers, at the 2009 Student Awards Ceremony on November 18, 2009.

## Laura Wahab, Ultrasound Dr. Norah Michener Scholarship



The daughter of a nurse, Laura Wahab always planned a future in health care. “I love working with people in a meaningful way, helping them through a difficult time in their lives,” says Wahab. After completing an undergraduate degree, she decided to take a break from academics, saving money while working as a surgical assistant in a private clinic, later travelling to Bolivia as a volunteer with a pregnancy crisis centre. During these years Wahab debated a number of future career choices including physiotherapy and nursing. She chose ultrasound.

“Ultrasound is a really rewarding, hands-on field,” explains Wahab, now completing her placement at Credit Valley Hospital, and about to begin vascular training at St. Michael’s Hospital. She treasures the direct

contact sonographers have with patients at important milestones in their lives. “With pregnancies, I enjoy showing the parents the baby, sharing their excitement at seeing that little jumping bean moving around inside. And then with diagnosis, you’re focused on getting a good history of the patient, putting it all together and looking as hard as you can to find anything that’s out of place. Either way, you’re right there with the patients, helping them.”

Wahab was thrilled to get the news about the Dr. Norah Michener Scholarship. “It’s very nice to have that extra support for tuition, but what is probably even more important is the encouragement you get. It’s a way of saying, ‘We’re there with you, keep going.’ I’m very thankful to the family of Dr. Norah Michener for providing this support.”



Crystal Ho, Radiation Therapy  
Dorothy A. Hubbs & Family Scholarship



“My parents taught me that it’s important to give back to the community, and to the school at which you’re studying,” says Radiation Therapy graduate Crystal Ho, who in addition to achieving strong academic results at Michener, also sat on Student Council for her full three years of study, as well as participating on the Health and Wellness Committee and as a student representative on the newly-formed Medical Radiation Sciences Society. “I gained a lot out of the experiences, such as learning how to balance responsibilities, and it broadened my perspective on everything that’s going on around me.”

Today, practicing radiation therapy at Hamilton’s Juravinski Cancer Centre, Ho enjoys getting to know her

patients over a course of treatment. She acknowledges that the work can be stressful, particularly when she’s treating children who are ill, or someone facing a difficult prognosis. She’s thankful to her instructors at Michener for helping to prepare her for this aspect of her work.

“I’ve learned that it helps to talk with colleagues, because they’re often going through the same thing,” she says. “It’s also important to take time for myself, to de-stress by going for runs and staying in shape with lots of physical activities. My instructors at Michener taught me to keep my focus diversified, to look at the big picture and not get overwhelmed. It’s just one of many ways that they prepared me well for my work.”

Danielle Nelson, Medical Laboratory Science  
Life Labs Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship & President’s Scholarship



Danielle Nelson discovered her passion for governance while at Michener, with roles on Student Council and the Board of Governors. “It was all new to me, and I had a lot of questions at first,” says Nelson. “The staff and faculty, including Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO, were really generous with their time. They encouraged me to ask questions and be actively engaged in decision-making.” Nelson worked with the Student Council to launch a food drive at Michener, generating approximately 1,100 food items for the Daily Bread Food Bank. “It was an amazingly empowering experience, knowing that we could achieve that,” she says.

In her final year, Nelson secured a research opportunity as lab assistant

to Dr. Karim Bandali, Associate VP Business Development, with a focus on the use of digital slide technology as a simulation tool in medical laboratory science education. “It was exciting to be part of Dr. Bandali’s new research,” says Nelson, who was recently hired at Mount Sinai Hospital, where she completed her clinical placement.

Nelson is appreciative of the scholarships available at Michener. “I think they add value to the education. Scholarships are not the reason we work so hard, and even though the money really helps, that’s not the point either,” she says. “It’s really nice to have the recognition and the added opportunities that scholarships make possible. I’m very grateful.”

Matthew Chang, Podiatric Medicine  
Entrance Scholarship



Matthew Chang credits many individuals as his inspiration in choosing Podiatric Medicine as his career, including his late grandmother.

Growing up in a multigenerational household, Chang witnessed his grandmother’s struggle with mobility every day. “My grandma had a bad fall and although she had a hip replacement, she was mostly chair bound afterwards,” explains Chang. “I tried my best to assist her while she was on her feet.” Sadly, his grandmother passed away a few years ago. “It’s too late to help my grandmother now, but I know that there are a lot of people out there who I can help in the future.”

Also inspiring to Chang are the children of Bloorview Kids Rehab, where he completed a volunteer placement while pursuing his Master’s degree in

Biomedical Engineering at the University of Toronto. “There was this one boy, who progressed from crawling to walking which was really fun to see,” he recalls. “Watching someone grow up and take his first steps—I realized that must be how parents feel. It was really exciting.”

Chang’s first glimpse of podiatry came as a patient, receiving treatment for flat feet. Although he has many complications associated with his condition, he stays active, participating in Michener intramural sports including basketball and volleyball. He hopes to open his own podiatric clinic one day, helping people of all ages. “We tend to take walking for granted,” says Chang. “We do it every day and we don’t think about it, until something hurts. It’s when something goes wrong that you realize how important your feet actually are.”

Michener is committed to increasing the financial aid and awards available to its students. We are pleased to announce that the following new scholarships and endowments were recently established and thank the donors for their generosity. Anyone interested in making a gift to our general scholarship fund or creating an award may contact us at (416) 596-3101, ext. 3406 or [donate@michener.ca](mailto:donate@michener.ca).

**The Alpha Charitable Foundation Scholarship**

This endowed award was established in 2009 by the foundation of Dr. C. Joseph Kurian, the 2009 recipient of Michener’s Honorary Diploma. Beginning in 2010, the Alpha Charitable Foundation Scholarship will grant two awards of \$1000 annually. The recipients will have demonstrated community volunteerism, a commitment to continuing that involvement, and financial need, among other criteria.

**The Elekta Radiation Therapy Scholarship**

This award was established in late 2009 by Elekta, a major strategic partner of Michener. Elekta is a human care company pioneering significant innovations and clinical solutions for treating cancer and brain disorders. The company develops sophisticated, state-of-the-art tools and treatment planning systems for radiation therapy

and radiosurgery, as well as workflow enhancing software systems. A new strategic alliance between Michener and Elekta will result in an investment of \$15 million worth of technology towards Michener’s academic teaching environment. Beginning in 2010, this \$2000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a Radiation Therapy student who is proficient in French, among other criteria.

**Dr. Clarence Redekop Memorial Scholarship**

The Dr. Clarence Redekop Memorial Scholarship was established by friends of Dr. Redekop, to recognize his commitment to Michener and to academic excellence. In December 2009, Mrs. Redekop made a significant gift to Michener to endow the scholarship and ensure it could be awarded in perpetuity.



# Stronger, Smarter, Better:

## Campus Transformation at 222 St. Patrick Street

Compiled by Ann Gorwill

**T**he Campaign For Michener: Stronger, Smarter, Better has launched with the goal of raising \$20 million in support of Michener's Campus Transformation project. To achieve this organizational fundraising milestone, we have assembled an impressive collection of volunteers to form our Campaign Cabinet. These individuals come from a range of industries and professions, with extensive experience and a shared interest in health care, education and technology. Together we will raise the funds to build Canada's most innovative health education campus.

We proudly acknowledge the following members of Michener's Campaign Cabinet and thank them for their commitment to help us build the campus of the future.



**Dr. Diana Schatz (Honorary Chair)**

Dr. Diana Schatz was the founder of The Michener Institute and its first CEO from 1958 until 1994. She has played a leadership role in many health care initiatives throughout her impressive career. These positions include serving on numerous Ontario

Medical Association committees, participating in the Canadian Medical Association Conjoint Accreditation process, and chairing the Provincial Advisory Laboratory Committee. In 2003, Dr. Schatz was awarded Michener's Honorary Diploma.



**Paul Duffy (Acting Chair)**

The Acting Chair of Michener's Campaign Cabinet, Paul Duffy is also a member of Michener's Board of Governors. He was the co-founder, President and Chief Software Architect of Corporate Communications Interactive Inc., which provides internet and wireless-based, custom product knowledge and learning solutions for organizations. Established in 1992 and successfully sold in 2007, CCI's clients include many Fortune 500 companies

and numerous mid-size corporations, governments and not-for-profit organizations.

A recognized expert in the field of commercializing knowledge, Duffy frequently speaks at corporate events and conferences in addition to sitting on a number of public and private boards. He has a Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Science from Ryerson University.



**Blair Baxter**

Vice-Chair of Michener's Board of Governors, Blair Baxter is an experienced financial executive. Over his twenty year career, Baxter has held senior executive positions in a number of companies in the information technology, media and biotech sectors including President of Choreo Systems Inc, a software reseller, Vice President of Finance at Iogen Corporation, a biotech company, and as

Chief Financial Officer at Burntsand Inc., JumpTV Inc. and Versa Systems Inc.

He has been active in a number of volunteer organizations, including the Carleton University High School Business Competition, the Centretown Emergency Food Centre, and the Royal York Baseball League. Baxter holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Carleton University.



**Paul Bertin**

Paul Bertin is the President and CEO of No Limit Technologies and the Chair of Michener's Board of Governors. In a thirty year career, he has developed and implemented corporate visions to facilitate rapid and profitable growth as CEO of Genticity Inc., as President and CEO of Burntsand Inc., as President of Sprint Canada's Business Services Group, and as President and CEO of Integrated Network Services Inc. He has also been responsible for marketing,

operations and field management of companies such as ComputerLand and General DataComm Ltd.

He volunteers with several organizations and currently holds advisory and/or director positions with the Sunnybrook Foundation Board of Governors, York University - Research and Innovation, and Plexxus Inc. Bertin holds a Bachelor of Arts from York University and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto.



**Guillaume Hervé**

Guillaume Hervé is President of CAE Healthcare, which provides simulation-based solutions to health care professionals worldwide. CAE is a Michener strategic partner and the newly opened CAE/ Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation and Education is named in recognition of its leading support of The Campaign for Michener.

Hervé served as an officer in the Canadian Air Force from 1983-1995 prior to joining CAE. He has held many key leadership roles within CAE including

Senior Director Engineering, Vice President Aviation Training, Vice President Technical Services, and Vice President, New Products and Services Solutions. In 2007, he launched CAE's health care initiative and was promoted to President, CAE Healthcare.

Hervé holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the Royal Military College of Canada, has a post-graduate degree in Equipment Acquisition and Aerospace Systems from the Air Force, and a Master of Science in Business from the State University of New York.



**George N. Hood**

George Hood is President of ECTA Ltd., which provides organizational transition services to the private and public sectors. Currently, he is the Senior Advisor to the President, Department of Advancement of Carleton University. He is also active in the management of INI Power Systems Inc., Scholars First Ltd., and assists two venture capital funds.

Hood was Vice-Principal Advancement at Queen's University from 1998 to 2006, raising a total of \$400 million during his tenure. He also served as

Associate Vice-Principal Research from 1995-1998 and Director of the Centre for Resource Studies from 1994-1995. Before joining Queen's, Hood spent more than a decade with the Government of Saskatchewan.

He is an active volunteer in Kingston and Gananoque, serving on the Kingston FebFest Organizing Committee and on a number of private company boards. Hood is a graduate of Queen's University, BA (Hon.), MPA and the University of Western Ontario, MA.





**Neena Kanwar**

Neena Kanwar is founder, President and CEO of KMH Cardiology and Diagnostic Centres. Established in 1989, KMH is North America's largest provider of nuclear cardiology services. In 1990, she formed the Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association and served as President of the Independent Health Facility owners until 2008.

Kanwar and her husband Vijay have received numerous awards for health care innovation, including the 2006 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award In Health Services for Ontario and

the 2009 New Pioneer Award In Entrepreneurship. Currently, she is a board member of ECHO and the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation, and chairs the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario's Leadership Council.

In 2006, she established The Vijay Jeet and Neena Kanwar Ambulatory Care Centre at the Credit Valley Hospital and recently the KMH Family Assistance Services Foundation. A graduate of the Nuclear Medicine program at The Michener Institute, Kanwar was named the 2004 Alumni of Distinction.



**Dr. C. Joseph Kurian**

Dr. Kurian is the President of Alpha Laboratories Inc. (1971) and Alpha Global IT (2000). Both companies were founded with his wife Kuttimol. Alpha provides leading edge clinical solutions and is a leader in the provision of medical technology.

Dr. Kurian is the founding patron of the Canadian Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage, the first President of the Toronto Chapter of The Indian Entrepreneurs, founder of the Toronto Eclectic Society and the Policy Initiative and Election Readiness

Group, and an advocate for Responsible Healthcare for Ontarians.

In 1993, he established the Alpha Charitable Foundation with the dual goals of building a hospital for the marginalized in India and a centre for "street kids" in Toronto. Dr. Kurian received his PhD in Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology and postdoctoral fellowships from the University of Toronto and University of Pennsylvania. In 2009, he was awarded Michener's Honorary Diploma.



**Susan A. O'Dowd**

Susan O'Dowd is Senior Vice-President, Human Resources of LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services, which has been providing laboratory testing services in Canada for nearly 50 years.

O'Dowd possesses over twenty years of experience in the human resources field, acquired during her tenure at a broad range of businesses in the transportation, retail, consumer package goods, financial services, pharmaceutical and medical diagnostic industries. Prior to joining LifeLabs, she

was Vice President, Human Resources at Hoffmann-La Roche from 2000-2008. Here she led successful employee engagement strategies, resulting in their achieving "Top 50 Employer to Work for in Canada" designation for five years out of seven, plus the top pharmaceutical company ranking within that group.

O'Dowd holds an Honors Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto, her C.H.R.P. designation, and a certificate in Advanced Organization Design from the University of Southern California.



**William M. Tatham**

William Tatham is founder, chairman and CEO of NexJ Systems Inc., a leading provider of customer-centered enterprise solutions for the financial services, insurance and health care industries. Prior to establishing NexJ in 2003, he was the founder, chairman and CEO of Janna Systems.

Tatham is the recipient of the 2001 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Software and Information Systems, the 2006 NAO Distinguished Angel Award by the National Angel Organization for Angel Investors, and was inducted into the National Commission for Co-operative Education Co-op Hall of Fame in 2005-06.

He serves on the Board of Governors at the University of Waterloo, the Entrepreneurial

Advisory Board of the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, the Board of the Canadian Association for People-Centred Health, and, the Board of Stewards for Open Health Tools. He is the Chair of the Technology, Innovation & Equipment Project, Embracing Health Campaign at North York General Hospital and is also the Honorary Co-Chair, Building the Vision Campaign with the Woodstock General Hospital. The William M. Tatham Centre for Co-operative Education & Career Services at UW is named in recognition of his support.

Tatham is a graduate from the University of Waterloo, with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Systems Design Engineering and options in Socio-economic Systems and Management Science.



**Dr. Amitai Ziv, MD, MHA**

Dr. Amitai Ziv is the Deputy Director of the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, Israel responsible for risk management, quality assurance and medical education. He is also founder and director of MSR - the Israel Center for Medical Simulation.

Dr. Ziv is a clinical senior lecturer at the Department of Medical Education of the Tel Aviv University Medical School. He also holds an Adjunct Associate Professor position at Mayo Clinic school of Medicine (Medical Education) and at Case Western Reserve University (Pediatrics).

Dr. Ziv was a veteran combat pilot and instructor in the Israeli Air-Force. He graduated medical school and trained as a pediatrician in Israel (Hebrew University- Hadassah Medical Center) with subspecialties in adolescent medicine (University of Pennsylvania, USA) and in medical management (Sheba Medical Center). He also holds a Masters degree (Tel-Aviv University) in Health Administration.

Dr. Ziv is the recipient of the 2007 Charles Bronfman Prize and the 2007 Michener Honorary Diploma.





# Program in profile:

## Radiological Technology

### Preparing our students for clinical education

**R**adiological technology is an imaging modality using X-radiation to provide medical images to help radiologists and other physician specialists with patient diagnoses and treatment. Radiological technologists work with sophisticated and expensive medical imaging equipment to provide their patients with optimum care by producing diagnostic quality images using the minimum amount of radiation.

The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences/University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine Joint Diploma/Degree in Medical Radiation Sciences program is comprised of academic, laboratory (skills-based), clinical simulation and clinical education courses. The academic courses provide the basis for practice, while the laboratory and clinical simulation courses prepare the students for the clinical education courses. Only after successful completion of the clinical simulation course, can students begin clinical education in a hospital. The progressive evaluations in this course ensure that students are ready to practice competently and safely

in their clinical internship. In the 38 weeks of clinical education, the students are under direct supervision when working with patients. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in a wide variety of clinical competencies in order to successfully complete the program.

A new addition to the curriculum is the Clinical Simulation Experience course, which requires students to integrate their radiographic knowledge, and imaging, communication and patient care skills to demonstrate readiness for clinical education. This course includes a series of comprehensive imaging and patient care scenarios. After practicing the required procedures on each other, students are required to apply their knowledge and skills on Standardized Patients (actors) in a setting that simulates the clinical environment. For instance, students will pick up a requisition, call for their "patient" in the waiting room, explain the procedure that will be conducted, and gain their consent. The student will then obtain pertinent patient history and perform a mock imaging

procedure according to the requisition. Some of these simulated procedures will also come with challenging patient scenarios that a student may encounter in real life such as a patient that is upset or has special needs.

Sue Crowley, Radiological Technology Professor at Michener, believes working through real-world scenarios enables students to improve their communication and problem solving skills, which should ease their transition to real clinical settings. "We are hoping that students will be better prepared to hit the ground running, by minimizing their transition into the clinical setting," says Professor Crowley. "Students will be expected to participate and contribute right from the start rather than taking weeks to get oriented to workflow and process."

Students are required to show a minimum level of competency prior to progressing into clinical education. Students' skills are assessed using wide variety of methods, including self-reflection, video review of practice, and evaluations by faculty. Radiological Technology Professor Alex Gontar sees the clinical simulation semester as a

natural step for the students in their journey to practicing in the clinical environment. "Many students have said that they can't imagine going into clinical education without having the experience of a clinical simulation course," he says.

The practice of Radiological Technology requires operation of a wide variety of image acquisition X-Ray equipment. One of the biggest challenges facing this program is keeping laboratory resources current so that students can acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in preparation for placements at clinical sites.

The resources currently in place in the labs at Michener include Computed Radiography, Digital Radiography, a Radiology Information System and a Picture Archiving and Communication System. These resources enable students to learn how digital images are acquired and shared using a medical imaging network. Knowledge of these modalities also provides students with the basis for CT imaging, and prepares them for learning to operate the CT scanner. Manipulation of the CT data acquired during a scan

enables technologists to provide high-resolution 2 and 3-Dimensional images of the human body.

The GE Healthcare-Michener Advanced CT Imaging Centre of Excellence on the 11th floor contains a four-slice CT scanner and a computer lab featuring the latest in 3-D image reconstruction technology and an electronic image library (see related story on page 22). The GE Healthcare-Michener Advanced CT Imaging Centre is used by all Medical Radiation Sciences students (those in Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy and Radiological Technology). The Centre provides students with an excellent foundation in CT scanning, imaging and diagnostic capabilities, prior to the start of their clinical education. Feedback from our clinical partners on this new competency for the Medical Radiation Sciences (MRS) has been positive. "Our final year students are currently working at various clinical sites and these students are well-prepared to integrate their simulated CT experience to the real-life CT environments in hospital

placements," says Professor Crowley.

The Radiological Technology program is awaiting delivery of two full-size articulated anthropomorphic radiography phantoms. These phantoms are manufactured to simulate the tissue densities of the anatomical structures in the human body. These phantoms, like the Computerized Axial Tomography (CT) phantom already in use, will serve as stand-in patients. That is, phantoms can be positioned and scanned / X-rayed by the students. As students review and critique the resultant images they learn to improve their positioning and imaging technique. This simulated environment allows students to practice safely and to make mistakes with no risk of harm to a real patient.

The Radiological Technology program does much more than educate students on medical imaging modalities, it teaches students how to be flexible and responsive in real-life scenarios. The program recognizes the changing nature of the field and is constantly evolving to ensure students are always getting the best experience and best education.





# Building alliances for a bright future

By Dana Yates

What students will encounter when they are in the Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training System (VERT) labs at Michener

Throughout its 52 year history, Michener has played a critical role in the health care system through the education of highly-skilled applied health professionals. Currently, we are poised to further strengthen our position as a leading health education institution through the launch of new strategic alliances with three progressive organizations.

The most recent alliance involves GE HealthCare Canada. Earlier this year, the company celebrated the opening of a new centre of excellence at Michener. This state-of-the-art learning and training environment will be used by current and future generations of health care specialists in computed tomography (CT). Located on the newly modernized 11th floor at Michener, the GE Healthcare-Michener Advanced CT Imaging Centre of Excellence combines the best contributions from each partner – the latest CT imaging technology from GE Healthcare, and Michener’s interprofessional, collaborative curriculum and simulated clinical workflow.

“GE Healthcare is extremely proud to collaborate with The Michener Institute,” says Peter Robertson, General

Manager of GE Healthcare Canada. “The centre of excellence is integral to our overall strategy to provide our Canadian customers with a world-class learning experience and continually improve the quality of health care provided to Canadians.”

“Establishing a strategic alliance with a global innovator such as GE Healthcare Canada provides an extraordinary opportunity to advance medical imaging,” says Brad Niblett, Michener’s Chief Information Officer. “Advanced imaging represents a significant component of the intercollaborative electronic health record and this new relationship further enables Michener to provide students with a leading-edge curriculum and simulated training experience.”

That learning process will be facilitated by the donation of a CT system, the purchase of modern workstations, and the use of additional advanced software and an electronic image library. This library contains a contemporary database with more than 450 anatomical scans, depicting everything from normal scans to a wide range of pathologies.

Gaining access to these leading-edge resources will further enhance the learning process. That is to say, the

centre of excellence will provide radiologists, radiological technologists, and Michener Medical Radiation Sciences (MRS) students with exceptional hands-on training. As a result, MRS students will gain better working knowledge of, and practical experience in, CT scanning, imaging and diagnostic capabilities – skills that are now a vital part of the core competencies needed by all MRS disciplines writing national exams. In addition, Michener graduates, and particularly those in Radiological Technology (X-ray), will be well prepared to work with patients in the midst of treatments for various conditions or diseases.

A commitment to enriched student learning is a hallmark of Michener. On that note, the Institute has also partnered with Virtual Ltd., a United Kingdom-based company that develops training and education systems for radiation therapy professionals. The groundbreaking partnership, which was announced in 2009, will mark a first for North America – the introduction of immersive (or virtual reality) simulation-based education in radiation therapy.

Simply put, the Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training System (VERT) simulates a real-world radiation

therapy treatment room. Through 3-D computer graphics and life-size visualizations, VERT provides radiation therapists and interprofessional teams with unprecedented opportunities for experiential learning. Specifically, VERT illustrates how theoretical concepts can be translated into clinical practice, enabling students in the Medical Radiation Sciences program to acquire and refine their skills in a safe, risk-free environment.

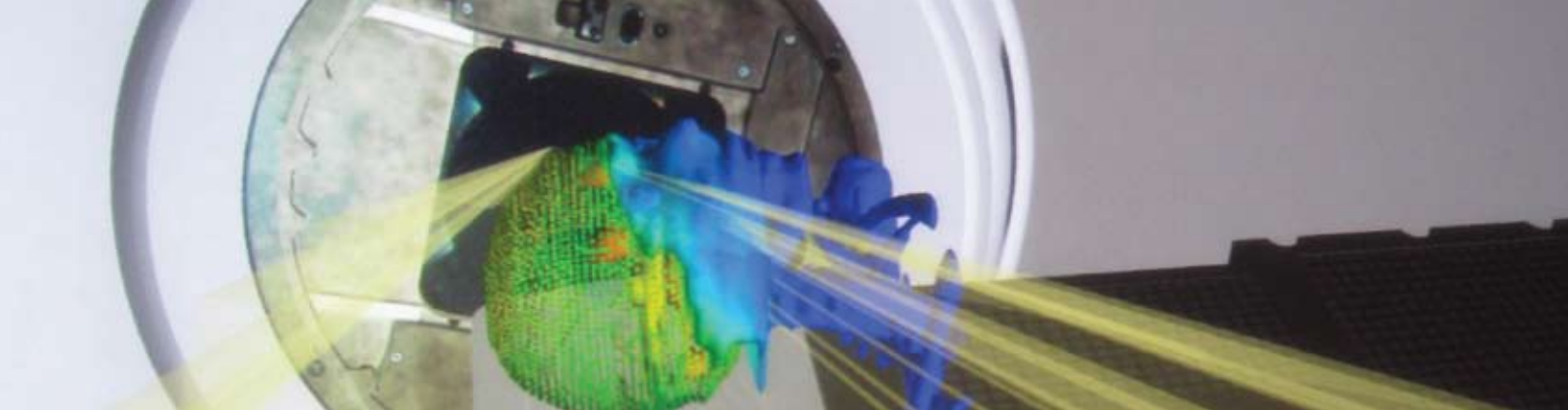
“This is a proud moment for Michener as we introduce new state-of-the art technology to support student learning within our innovative interprofessional and simulation-based curriculum,” says Niblett.

In working with Michener, Virtual will gain new insights that will assist the company with future product innovation, according to Virtual’s co-founders Andy Beavis and Roger Phillips.

“We are fortunate to partner with such an innovative and forward-thinking educational institution as The Michener Institute,” says Beavis, Virtual’s Chief Science Officer.

To be sure though, corporations like Virtual and GE Healthcare aren’t the only types of organizations that have





A virtual scenario that will give students hands on experience before heading to clinical practice

been keen to partner with Michener; government agencies have also signed up. Health Canada is now working with the Institute on a National Biological Dosimetry Response Plan (NBDRP). Without overstating its importance, the collaboration is vital to the safety of Canadians. That is, in the event of a large-scale radiological or nuclear emergency, Michener's Genetics Technology (GT) department will help screen those affected by the disaster.

"This co-operation will be of great benefit to both organizations, while providing invaluable support to the response to radiological emergencies in Canada," says Robert Bradley, Director, Health Canada Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau.

In particular, now that Michener is a centre for emergency response within the NBDRP, the Institute's physical resources, including equipment and space, will be used during a crisis situation to help process large numbers of blood samples to assess radiation exposure levels. Transferring samples to Michener during an incident will help alleviate strain on other NBDRP laboratories that may be overwhelmed, or unavailable due to the scale of the emergency.

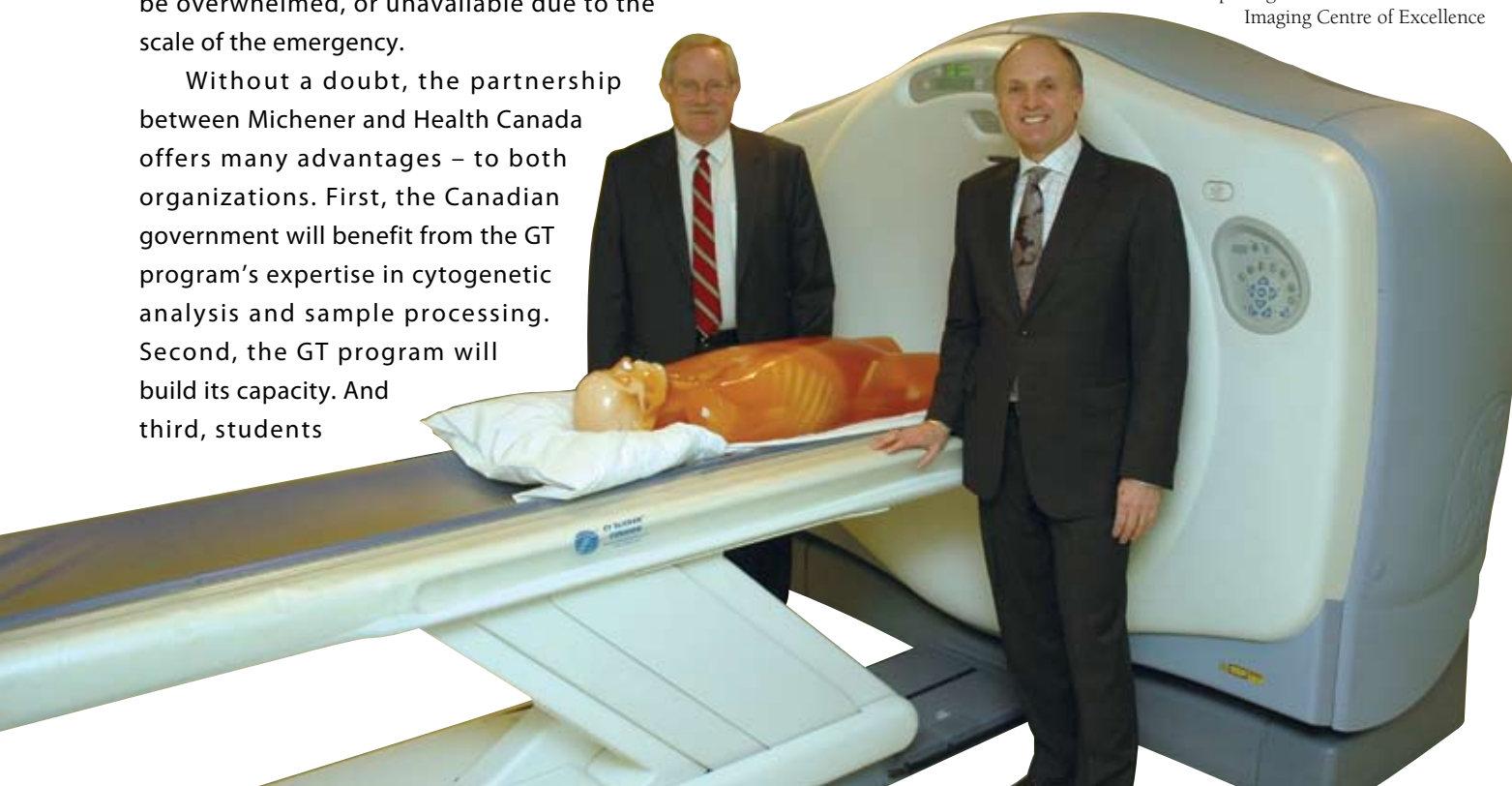
Without a doubt, the partnership between Michener and Health Canada offers many advantages – to both organizations. First, the Canadian government will benefit from the GT program's expertise in cytogenetic analysis and sample processing. Second, the GT program will build its capacity. And third, students

will gain access to further training opportunities, learning to apply the principles, processes and analysis strategies used in biological dosimetry testing.

"This unique alliance is an innovative example of how collective resources can be leveraged to benefit the larger community in the event of a large-scale disaster," explains Dr. Karim Bandali, Michener's Associate Vice President of Business Development. "Michener students have the knowledge, skills and competencies to be effective, efficient and accurate in a crisis."

This critical partnership was made possible through funding from the Chemical, Biological, Radiological-Nuclear and Explosive Research and Technology Initiative, part of Defence and Research Development Canada's Centre for Security Science. Future activities undertaken through this alliance will include continued student training, a table-top exercise to assess the logistics of the arrival and processing of specimens at Michener, and upgrading equipment to meet testing requirements.

Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO Michener, and Peter Robertson, GM GE Healthcare Canada, celebrate the opening of the new Advanced CT Imaging Centre of Excellence



# Michener celebrates Deloitte/IPAC Award win

By Lissa Manganaro



Sylvia Schipke, VP Academic, and Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO, accept the Leadership Award a ceremony in January 2010

In the fall of 2009, Michener's academic efforts were recognized and awarded with the silver IPAC/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Award in the Education Category for its project titled – *Innovation Strategy: Transforming Education in the Applied Health Sciences*.

From examining the needs and challenges facing health care facilities, it was apparent that the traditional education model was no longer preparing students to meet the challenges faced in a clinical setting. Michener took on the role of transformational leader and challenged existing boundaries in developing a vision for a new future.

When Michener embarked on a Transformational Journey in 2004, a journey that would lead to a complete redesign of its curriculum, it was responding to a need in the health care sector to improve patient care.

In 2005, a new model of education that embedded interprofessional collaboration, simulation-based education, and assessment of readiness for clinical into Michener's curriculum was implemented. The objectives of the academic innovation were to strive to better educate students, and to extend this learning opportunity to Michener's clinical partners and, eventually, beyond.

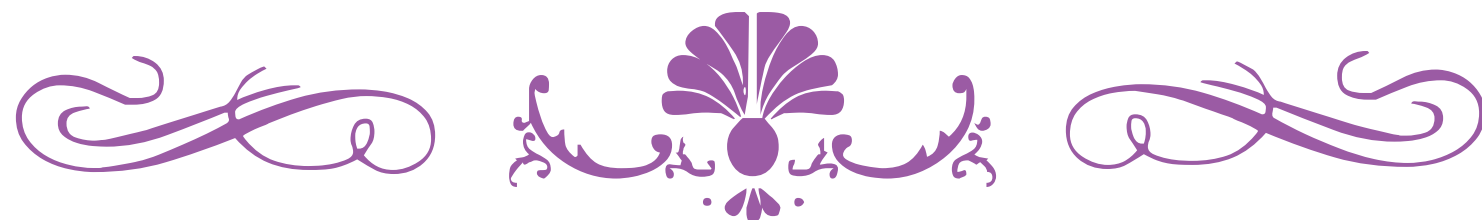
"Michener is proud of its success and as we continue to strive for *Best Experience, Best Education*, we realize that this journey continues," says Sylvia Schippke, Vice-President, Academic. "Evaluation of the academic innovation strategy and early indicators are validating that students are entering the clinical sites better prepared."

Michener believes a solid foundation has been laid that will continue to transform health care delivery towards interprofessionalism for years to come.



Interested in purchasing the very latest in Michener wear?  
Go to the online store at [www.michener.ca/michenerwear](http://www.michener.ca/michenerwear) and get into Michener wear.





# alumni happenings



## Honorary Diploma recipient Dr. C. Joseph Kurian

Compiled by Katie Schrank



Dr. C. Joseph Kurian is a dedicated supporter of innovation and research in the applied health sciences, and was the recipient of The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences Honorary Diploma of Health Science for 2009.

"Dr. Kurian received his honorary diploma in recognition of his leadership in the medical community, and his selfless approach to sharing his knowledge and time with those in the applied health sciences, and beyond," says Cathy Fooks, former Chair, Michener Board of Governors.

The contributions Dr. Kurian has made to the applied health sciences align with two of Michener's core values - transforming lives and embodying excellence - and made him an outstanding candidate for this honour.

Dr. Kurian is the President of

Alpha Laboratories, a company that he founded with his wife, Kuttimol, in 1971. He received his PhD in Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology and came to the University of Toronto in 1961. He completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Toronto and the University of Pennsylvania.

His commitment to research and innovation prompted Dr. Kurian to venture into e-health with the founding of Alpha Global IT in 2000. Alpha attracts faculty and students from Canadian universities to undertake graduate work. Social justice, fairness and compassion for the underprivileged motivate his activities. His dream is to build a hospital for the marginalized in India and a centre for street kids in Toronto. He established the Alpha Charitable Foundation in 1993 to help achieve this dream.

In addition to his foundation work, Dr. Kurian has published in international scientific journals and holds several patents. He is the founding patron of the Canadian Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage, the first President of the Toronto Chapter of The Indian Entrepreneurs, founder of the Toronto Eclectic Society and the Policy Initiative and Election Readiness Group, and an advocate for Responsible Healthcare for Ontarians.

Michener Honorary Diplomas of Health Science are awarded to individuals who demonstrate leadership and commitment to the applied health sciences, as well as dedication to health care innovation and the advancement of applied health sciences education. The Michener Institute is proud to have recognized Dr. Kurian with this Honorary Diploma.

### Weddings



Jana Charyk (Chiropody 2003)

Congratulations to Jana Charyk who was married on November 1, 2009 to David Dworetzky.

### Achievements



Christine Nielsen

(Medical Laboratory Sciences 1997)

On January 11, 2010, Christine Nielsen returned to the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science to become Executive Director. She is looking forward to this challenging and rewarding opportunity.

### Achievements



Jane Hilton (Medical Laboratory Technology 1979)

Jane Hilton became the 2010 President of the Ontario Library Board Association (OLBA). The association represents public library board members who govern over 360 library systems in Ontario. Jane was recently re-elected as the Chair of the Whitby Public Library Board and also serves as the Chair of Southern Ontario Library's Trustee Council #5 with representation from the Central East Region.

### Announcement

#### Calling all Graduates of 2009

The Michener Institute's Applied Educational Research Department is conducting its annual Graduate Satisfaction Study. The Graduate Satisfaction Survey measures the satisfaction level of recent graduates' experiences at Michener. We are looking for the class of 2009 to share their thoughts about their programs.

Please go to [my.michener.ca/gradsat](http://my.michener.ca/gradsat) and complete the online survey. In appreciation for your time, your name will be entered into a \$100 cash prize draw.

For more information please contact [research@michener.ca](mailto:research@michener.ca).

The Alumni Association is looking for new members to join its Board of Directors.

Email us at [alumni@michener.ca](mailto:alumni@michener.ca).

If you've gotten married, had a baby or achieved a career milestone, we want to hear from you. Email us at [alumni@michener.ca](mailto:alumni@michener.ca).

### In Memory

Bronwen Roberts

(Respiratory Therapy, 1981)

Bronwen Roberts passed away on December 12, 2009. Bronwen worked as a respiratory therapist at the Henderson site of Hamilton Health Sciences for 25 years. Her colleagues remember her love of animals, travel, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats football team and her quiet support of many charitable causes. She will be remembered by all for her courage, strength and dedication to patient care. Bronwen was loved by her family and friends and will be missed dearly.

## Key dates 2010

Orientation Week  
September 1 - September 3  
Annual Student Awards Ceremony  
October 20  
Convocation  
November 13





## Students making a difference a world away

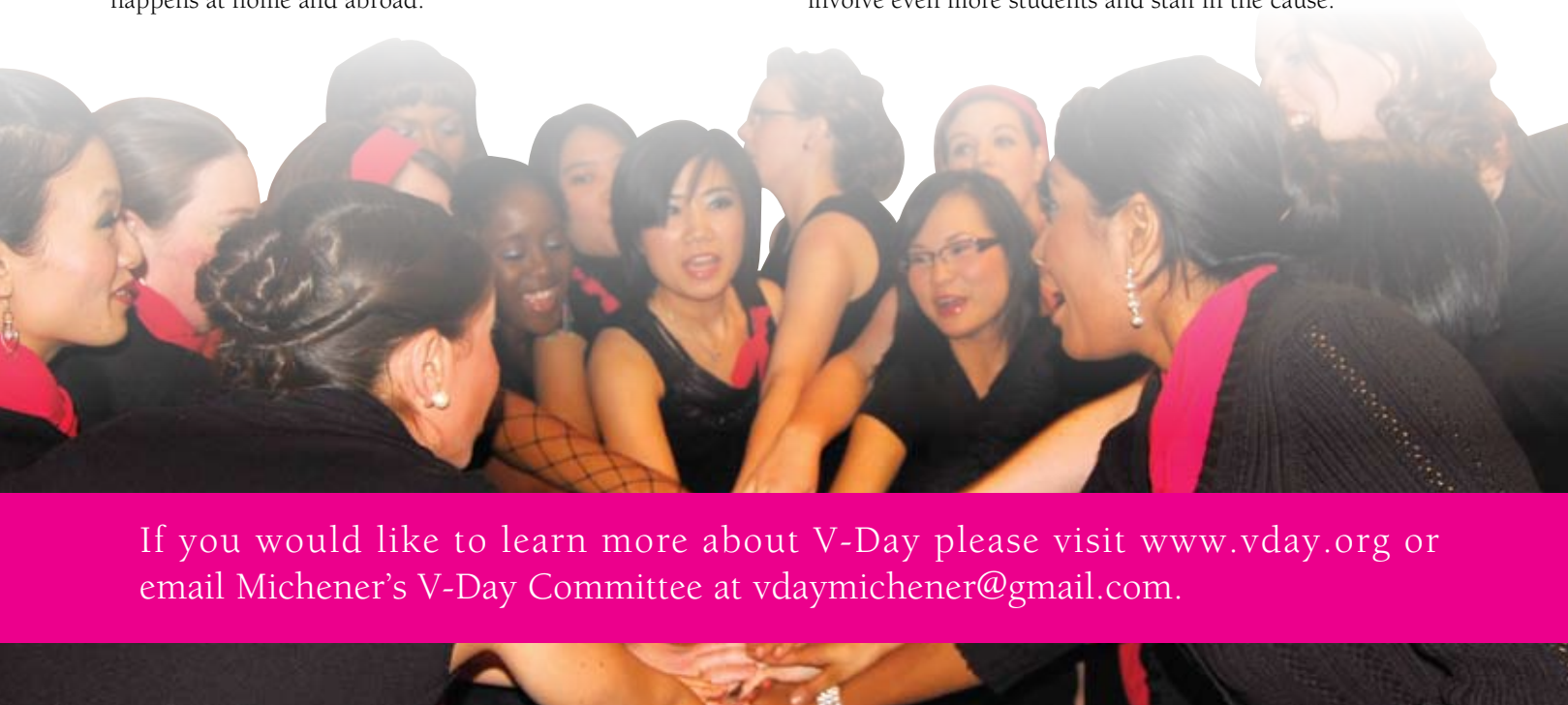
By Katie Schrank

In 2009, Michener was taken by storm by a group of students with passion for a cause: V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls. This enthusiastic group of students brought a wave of awareness to the student body, as well as the faculty and staff of Michener.

Every year, the V-Day Organization focuses on a particular group in need of support. In 2009, it was the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and, due to the civil unrest in that country, the women of the DRC continue to be the focus of V-Day events in 2010. All events also support a local cause that provides assistance to women and girls who have experienced violence in their lives. The ultimate goal of supporting both local and international groups is to raise awareness that violence against women happens at home and abroad.

With events such as bake sales and “lunch and learns,” as well as a presence at almost all student council events, the V-Day committee has raised awareness and money since they were established at Michener in 2008. The signature event of many V-Day campaigns is the presentation of Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*. Michener’s V-Day Committee put on the Institute’s first-ever rendition in 2009, and followed it with an even more engaging performance in 2010. Both shows were performed in front of packed houses to rave reviews by the Michener community.

Thanks to the support of student council and the Michener community, the V-Day Committee raised \$4,000 in 2009 for women in the DRC and the Fred Victor Centre Women’s Hostel in Toronto. They hope to improve on their monetary total by the end of 2010, and to educate and involve even more students and staff in the cause.



If you would like to learn more about V-Day please visit [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org) or email Michener’s V-Day Committee at [vdaymichener@gmail.com](mailto:vdaymichener@gmail.com).

## Simulation possibilities take flight for students

By Andy Berthiaume

On Wednesday, September 16th, 2009, eight students from various programs, including Ultrasound, Genetics Technology and the Medical Radiation Sciences, visited the CAE flight simulation centre to experience the world of aviation training. The lucky participants won this unique opportunity at the 2009 Michener student orientation assembly.

The students, accompanied by Respiratory Therapy faculty member Susan Dunnington, were welcomed to the CAE flight simulation centre by Erica Walker, Instructor Pilot, and Mark Gaudet, Lead Ground School Instructor. During their five hour visit, the students were organized into small collaborative groups to participate in realistic flight scenarios in CAE’s state-of-the-art simulator. The crisis scenarios they experienced included assisting a sick passenger on board, dealing with close flying aircrafts, and guiding the aircraft through extreme weather conditions.

After the flight sessions, Walker lead a debrief discussion with the participants. The students were amazed by the realistic nature of the flight simulator, and discussed how the experience had increased their understanding of the important role the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement

of Simulation and Education will play in their education. The students saw the parallels between aviation and health care, including the importance of communication and teamwork.

“The simulation allowed us to practice teamwork in a high-stress crisis situation, without the real-life consequences of making a mistake,” said Tony Ho-Tong, a first year Ultrasound student. “I can now see that the potential for simulation in educating health care professionals is huge.”

Many in the group also saw numerous other benefits to simulation.

“Health care simulation will be very effective in developing competencies for Michener students,” stated Sharlene Koroscil, a first year Genetics Technology student. “The realism and variety of these scenarios will prepare students to handle anything that comes their way in the health care setting. Judging from our experience with the flight simulator, I think that the CAE-Michener alliance will greatly contribute to how students learn.”

This once-in-a-lifetime experience has contributed to the excitement surrounding the opening of the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation and Education and has left the participants with indelible memories.





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