

Michener

M A G A Z I N E

A publication for Alumni & Friends • Winter 2013

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ALUMNI MAKE THEIR MARK AROUND THE WORLD



Alumni Working Abroad • A Passage to Nepal
Taking Advantage of Forks in the Road • Midwifery

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**Greater Toronto's
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Lissa Manganaro, Editor

COPY EDITOR
Dana Hopkins

LAYOUT & DESIGN
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ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Martin Chai
Tim Chipman
Alex DeOliveira

CONTRIBUTORS
Sharon Aschaiek
Debbie Fein-Goldbach
Lissa Manganaro
Christine Nielsen
Emma Sabo
John Seawright
Dana Yates

Published by
The Office of Advancement
222 St. Patrick Street, 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1V4

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"The road of life twists and turns and no two directions are ever the same. Yet our lessons come from the journey, not the destination." - Don Williams Jr.

They say it's the journey and not the destination that teaches us valuable lessons in life. Michener graduates are living proof of this as their passion for health care continues to be nurtured through the unique learning opportunities and relationships they encounter on campus and beyond. The possibilities of where they land prove endless as evidenced by the career paths of alumni featured in this issue.

We take you around the globe to Northern Canada, Australia and Hong Kong in our article about Michener graduates working abroad. These alumni share what led them to their destinations and how these health care environments differ from Ontario and Canada overall.

Another feature with an international twist follows Respiratory Therapy graduate Eric Cheng, who leveraged his educational experience and professional knowledge to help enhance the health care of those living in Nepal. His efforts have not only affected doctors and nurses working in Nepal, but have inspired Michener students, who followed his lead and

embarked on their own journey to Nepal in the summer of 2012.

Whether working internationally or locally, graduates are dedicated to professional leadership and their careers may lead to a path of varying opportunities. The profile of alumnus John Seawright describes how he moved from hospital and clinic environments to sales and marketing at Covidien.

Like our alumni, *Michener Magazine* is on a journey, one of continuous improvement and progression. This will be the last printed issue of the magazine you receive. Starting with the Spring/Summer 2013 issue, *Michener Magazine* is going digital. After a review of alumni feedback and trends in communications, including the alumni survey conducted in 2010, it was recognized that there is a need for more electronic communications with you, our alumni and friends. By moving to digital, we are demonstrating a commitment to reducing our carbon footprint by reducing paper and saving on the cost to print and mail the magazine. We hope you will update your email on our mailing list to continue to receive *Michener Magazine* and share with us your story ideas. Email us at alumni@michener.ca

- Lissa



Connectivity Creates a Stronger Community

By Lissa Manganaro, Chair, 15th Anniversary Steering Committee and Christine Nielsen, Chair, Alumni Association Board of Directors

Michener alumni are truly a diverse and dedicated group of individuals. However, even with the varied cultures and backgrounds, Michener graduates have one very important characteristic in common, a commitment to improving the health of others by being a part of the health care system. The other common trait is that you are all a part of the Michener community; a community that thrives and relies on the connectivity of its members.

As the Alumni Association wraps up its year of 15th Anniversary celebrations, we reflect upon how this past year has impacted our community.

Events held in 2012 gave us the chance to meet with our alumni in relaxed and casual settings and provided us with a rare opportunity to truly get to know you, to find out what you value, what motivates you and how that translates into your commitment to your profession and to your alma mater. Michener graduates

are doing great things, whether it is on the front lines, behind the scenes, in management, research or within their own communities. Sharing stories about one another only serves to motivate and inspire others.

The alumni association has already leveraged several of the new relationships made throughout 2012 and you will see the benefits of these connections in *Michener Magazine* articles either with profiles, interviews and/or alumni updates. We want to continue to have our alumni contribute in this way and others. The more we profile, promote and celebrate our alumni and Michener, the more our community and the public will learn about the applied health professions and the impacts they have on the health care system.

For those who made it out to the planned events, thank you for joining us, for letting us celebrate and recognize you. Your positivity, gratitude and your

willingness to engage further with Michener was more than we could have ever expected and a true pleasure to witness.

To all our sponsors – TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, Grenville Management and Printing, Philips Healthcare and AdVenture Marketing – and volunteers, thank you for your generous support. We could not have succeeded with our 15th Anniversary initiative without you.

Evaluations for each event provided the Alumni Association with the realization that graduates want opportunities to connect and as a result we truly hope to maintain momentum in the years to come by hosting more alumni events and meeting more of our alumni as a result. However, don't wait for us, if you want to host your own event, contact alumni@michener.ca and let us help you get your own reunion together.



You Answered the Call and We Appreciate It!

The Alumni Association wishes to thank all of our alumni, students and friends for volunteering and helping to make the 15th Anniversary Celebrations a success. We are grateful for your gift of time and talent. Your involvement is invaluable to our ongoing efforts to building lifelong relationships with Michener graduates and creating a lasting legacy for Michener.

Check often at www.michener.ca/alumni to see how you can get involved!

Michener
Alumni
ASSOCIATION

Nominate a Recent Graduate for the Young Alumni Award!



Christine Nielsen and Caitlin Gillan,
Radiation Therapy, 2007, Young Alumni
Award, 2012

Michener's Alumni Association recognizes that recent graduates are leading important initiatives, in and out of their clinical environments, to give back to their professions and their communities. The Young Alumni Award recognizes and honours young alumni who demonstrate significant professional accomplishments and commitment to others. Candidates must be Michener alumni who have graduated within the last seven years from the year of nomination. To submit a

nomination, visit our website,
www.michener.ca/alumni.

Thanks to our 15th Anniversary Sponsors!



Alumni PROFILE

Taking Advantage of Forks in the Road

John Seawright, Nuclear Medicine Technology, 2001

By Debbie Fein-Goldbach



John Seawright's outgoing personality has always propelled him forward and helped him reach his goals. His colleagues and teachers at Michener called it one of his strongest traits when he studied Nuclear Medicine Technology. In 2001, he completed the program as one of the youngest graduates. "I think I was one of the only people they accepted directly from high school," recalls Seawright.

Growing up in Pembroke, ON, Seawright's mom worked as a nurse in hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices, and by the time he reached high school, Seawright realized he wanted to pursue a career in health care. His mother knew a little about the nuclear medicine program at Michener, and they both agreed it sounded like an interesting field of study.

After receiving his acceptance, however, he felt hesitant. Luckily, a friend with connections to St. Joseph's in London, ON, helped arrange a visit to the Department of Nuclear Medicine. Reassured after spending an afternoon shadowing technologists and physicians, Seawright went on to three happy years of study. "The thing I liked most about Michener was the intimacy. It was really nice to walk into someone's office or go to the front desk and be greeted with open arms," he recalls.

For his clinical rotation, Seawright returned to St. Joseph's. After

graduation, he stayed in London to gain further work experience. With an eye on expanding his qualifications, he moved around Ontario, working in clinics and hospitals and learning about the regulatory environment, patient flow, and financial operations. "I really wanted to make my opportunities count," says Seawright. "My experience at the time allowed me to start labs from the ground up, or change operational aspects of existing labs."

After about eight years, Seawright began a transition into sales and marketing. Handling cold calls and introducing himself to new people came naturally, making it easy for him to open new doors. Thinking back to that time, Seawright says, "One of the great things [about moving into sales] is taking the clinical experience and bringing it into what I do now. I can't highlight enough how important relationship building is."

In 2009 he started working for Covidien—a health care products company that sponsors three scholarships at Michener—and he's now the Senior Account Manager for the medical imaging product line.

When he's not travelling for work, Seawright spends time with his family, taking his three young kids to activities. The boys, ages five and six, already play hockey. As their dad proved back at Michener, you're never too young to start.

BY DANA YATES

ALUMNI WORKING ABROAD

By the time Lisa Iveson became a student at The Michener Institute, she already had a love of travel. In fact, not long after graduation, she backpacked around 20 different countries and in 1996, she decided to make Australia her permanent home.

After completing Michener's Radiological Technology program in 1992, Iveson spent a few years working in general radiography and breast clinics throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Her desire to explore the world, however, was not yet quenched. And she jokes that the wind blew her to Australia. "One evening, a breeze blew my Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists journal open; the page was about working holidays in Australia. Six weeks later I was there," says Iveson, who hails from Lindsay, ON.

Today, as a specialist radiographer, Iveson conducts mammography screenings and assessments in Tasmania, an island state of Australia. The job certainly has its share of travel. For four months out of every year, Iveson takes a mobile digital

mammography bus to the outlying areas of the state. The journey also includes shipping the mobile unit by boat in order to screen women on King and Flinders Islands, which are located off Tasmania's northern coast.

So what does Iveson love about the region? For starters, its beautiful weather, diverse geography, and friendly people. And it doesn't hurt that after 10 years of full-time employment with Tasmania's Department of Health and Human Services, she now receives long-service leave – a bonus 10 weeks of vacation on top of the annual four weeks of holidays. Most of all, though, Iveson appreciates the area's health care environment.

"It's proactive and unique" she says. "We have access to great equipment and facilities. Our state screening and assessment service was the first to go fully digital with a GE, and picture archiving and communication system. Also, Tasmania is very welcoming of foreign workers. It's all about sharing knowledge."



LISA IVESON

"It's all about sharing knowledge."

Of course, Iveson is one of many Canadian expatriates (and Michener alumni living abroad). For Miranda Poon, a combination of factors convinced her to move overseas. A 2005 graduate of Michener's Radiation Therapy program, Poon was born in Hong Kong and moved to Canada with her family when she was in Grade 9. After completing her studies at Michener, Poon worked as a radiation therapist at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. But her love of adventure—and knowledge of Cantonese—soon swayed her to move back to Hong Kong, where radiation therapy jobs were in ready supply.

Making the transition wasn't easy, she admits. Like anyone, she found that it took time to adjust to the new environment. Having now lived in Hong Kong for six years, she sees similarities between the health care systems in Hong Kong and in cities in Canada: they offer the same quality of care and technology. Specifically within the field of radiation therapy, Hong Kong and Canada both place a high value on continuing education. Last year, for example, Poon completed an exam to become a certified dosimetrist—an allied health professional who plans and administers radiation treatments to cancer patients.

"You will never know what you could be until you take the first step. Over the years working abroad, I've developed new characteristics such as being more flexible, independent and self-disciplined," Poon says. She advises anyone considering a move overseas to do some self-reflection and advance planning. "Ask yourself questions," she says. "What are my expectations? And what type of experience am I looking for?"

Poon also recommends going online to find jobs, and looking up details about work visas, citizen requirements, and professional certification. "When you first move, it can be quite difficult and stressful, but try to stay calm," she says. "You will quickly settle in, and realize that the experience is fulfilling and totally worth it."

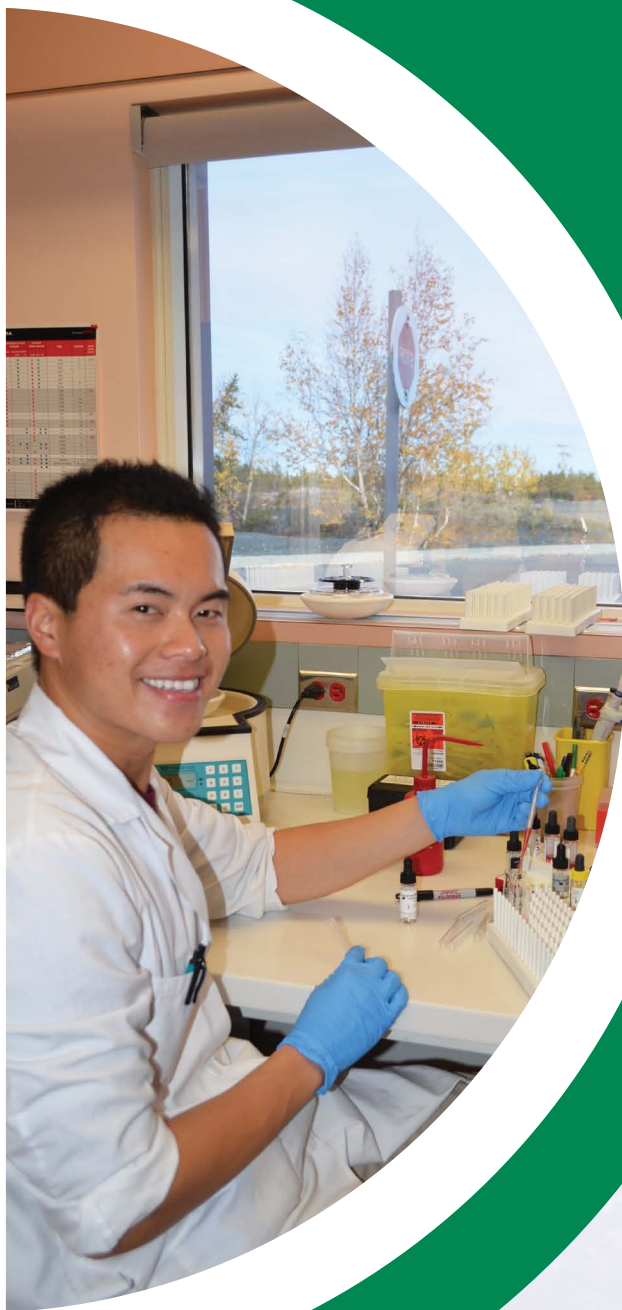


MIRANDA POON

"You will never know what you could be until you take the first step."

ELWOOD CHAN

"Let life show you what the world has to offer."



Relocating to a faraway city, however, doesn't have to mean leaving Canada. As Elwood Chan has discovered, moving to the other side of the country also offers exciting opportunities.

Originally from Guelph, ON, Elwood had long been interested in travelling and immersing himself in more remote regions of Canada. So in spring 2011, shortly after completing Michener's Medical Laboratory Science program, he moved to Yellowknife, NT, a community of nearly 20,000 people. Now one of only seven medical laboratory technologists in the core laboratory at Stanton Territorial Hospital, Elwood enjoys considerable variety in his work.

"Coming here was one of my best career choices," he says.

"In a small hospital, I jump to wherever I'm needed. I have a lot of interaction with doctors and patients. And when you can link a specimen to an actual person, you are reminded exactly who you are working for."

When Chan isn't on the job, he takes full advantage of the area's rugged natural setting. With forests and lakes just a short drive out of town, he goes camping and canoeing as much as possible, especially in June when the region experiences near constant daylight. "It's like having cottage country in my own backyard," he says.

And of the legendary cold weather of the Great Canadian North, Chan believes it's entirely possible to acclimatize to Yellowknife's weather— and any new situation in life. "You just need to step out of your comfort zone and let life show you what the world has to offer," he says. "Moving here has helped me further evolve into the person that I always knew that I'd end up being."

A Passage to Nepal

Volunteering with Respiratory Therapists Without Borders

By Debbie Fein-Goldbach



Michener students tend to have far-reaching career aspirations, but some go far—geographically—even before they graduate. Last summer, prior to entering their clinical year, an inaugural group of nine Respiratory Therapy students travelled to Nepal as volunteers for Respiratory Therapists Without Borders (RTWB). The mission of this fledgling program is to improve respiratory care through empowerment of local health care providers worldwide. It is the brainchild of Eric Cheng, a respiratory therapist and 2008 Michener graduate.

Felita Kwan, Faculty of Respiratory Therapy and Clinical Liaison Officer for the program, remembers Cheng's early interest in working abroad. "He really had this vision at the beginning about what he wanted to do and how he was going to get there," recalls Kwan.

Since graduating, Cheng has travelled to Nepal numerous times to lecture and

to connect with doctors and nurses about respiratory therapy. Through his contacts, he was able to send the students to Bir, which Cheng says is "one of the oldest hospitals in Kathmandu. Two things they want to implement there are ventilator flow sheets and daily spontaneous breathing trials. My goal was to have the students help with this, and they took on the challenge. To even get a start in the five weeks they were there is pretty bold!"

Tiffany Tram is a participant who has spent years volunteering at home and abroad, in hospitals, orphanages, and for programs like Out of the Cold. Tram decided to go to Nepal when she overheard classmate Clement Hui talking about the trip.

Before leaving Toronto, Hui, an RTWB board member in charge of communications, set up a blog for trip participants (including himself) to upload stories and photos. "I wanted to spread awareness of what we were

doing," Hui explains. "We came up with the blog to keep everyone at home posted, and to share our work in Nepal with the RT community."

That work included helping out in many areas of the hospital, such as the ICU and anesthesia departments, as well as working with residents, giving lectures and teaching nurses about basic pulmonary ventilation. Felita Kwan, their instructor at Michener, sees great value in their teaching experience, saying that it "will help them have a better foundation for communicating in a professional environment. We focus on those skills in our interprofessional courses."

Student Nigel Siu, in particular, had a lot of interprofessional exposure in Nepal. Siu, who has an interest in surgery, spent nearly 10 hours shadowing an anesthetist who worked at Bir Hospital and at Annapurna Neurological Institute, a private hospital in Kathmandu. "I watched him do an



Eric Cheng and Dr. Shakya in the operating theatre at a government run hospital before a surgery



From one student to another. Prospective critical care nurses getting a lesson on pulmonary ventilation from RTWB volunteers

induction, and go through the process of preparing all the equipment. After the OR, he brought me to the ICU,” recalls Siu.

The patient wasn’t doing well following surgery, and the anesthetist asked for Siu’s opinion. Siu recommended changing the ventilator setting; the doctor agreed and made the change, and the patient improved. “Knowing that one little thing on his ventilator setting could make such a big difference was amazing,” Siu marvels.

Not every experience, however, was quite so uplifting. The students saw some of the harsh realities of the region. For example, Tram saw how common pesticide poisoning is. In just five weeks at Bir Hospital, she observed three patient cases of women who had overdosed on pesticides. “The husbands would go away to work to make money for long periods of time and the wives would get really lonely and try to kill themselves,” Tram recalls, wistfully.

But Tram also has many joyful memories, particularly from her day volunteering for an organization called Curry Without Worry. “Every Tuesday they cook up massive amounts of food in humungous pots and bring it to Durbar Square which is a popular tourist location and UNESCO World Heritage site,” says Tram. “They hand it out to the homeless. I went at 11 am, spent the whole day cooking, learned how to roll roti, fine-tuned my Nepali language skills, and got to know a lot of the locals.”

Now back in Toronto, with their clinical placements underway, the students stay in touch with friends and colleagues they met in Nepal. Many participants hope to return, and also to take their skills to other developing countries.

“I want to do respiratory therapy everywhere, and I think Nepal was just the first of many locations,” says Hui. “There are so many places around the world where respiratory therapy just doesn’t exist.”



Last day at Bir Hospital was celebrated with a 'hand off' ceremony for all the donations made to the hospital.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2013 MMI

The MMI admissions process runs from April 30 - May 3, 2013 and we need the help of our alumni to fill 300 volunteer spots this year.

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alumni of distinction

Q & A
By Emma Sabo

The Alumni of Distinction Award, established in 2003, is The Alumni Association's highest honour, recognizing graduates who have made outstanding contributions to the community and the applied health sciences professions. The group of winners below represents the remaining half of our honourees. The first half was featured in the Summer 2012 issue.



Cathy Babiak

2009 Recipient (Radiological Technology 1976, Ultrasound, 1982)

What did receiving the Alumni of Distinction award mean to you?

I was honoured to be nominated by my peers for this recognition.

Where do you work now?

I have been with Michener for 21 years and currently work as faculty in the Ultrasound Program.

What are some of your career highlights?

A couple that come to mind are participating in the World Health Organization (WHO) meeting to develop international standards for training in diagnostic ultrasound for physicians and allied health professionals; and chairing and planning the World Federation of Sonography meeting in Montreal when SARS travelled to Canada.

What are your favourite Michener memories?

I remember good friends that I have made as a student and faculty member, and traveling to meet our international students in Trinidad, Jamaica, and South Africa.

What does Michener mean to you?

It means ensuring high quality education for health care; it means friends.

What/who is your greatest inspiration?

Neuroradiologist Dr. Mike Tenner taught me to always challenge myself. He encouraged me to stand for election as the Chair of ARDMS [American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography], a large American certification organization, even though I felt that I did not have the confidence, knowledge, and skills to fill this roll. His faith and support led me to some memorable experiences as the ARDMS Chair.

What are your words to live by?

"Life has no limitations except the ones you make."—Les Brown

Michele Henry

2008 Recipient (Medical Laboratory Technology, 1985)

What did receiving the Alumni of Distinction award mean to you?

It is truly an honour to be recognized for your achievements in the health care community in your role as a medical laboratory technologist, but it is especially rewarding when it is granted by your peers at Michener.

Where do you work now?

I am the Director of the Laboratory Medicine Program at University Health Network (UHN), Toronto.



What is your favourite Michener memory?

I remember the relationships with the clinical instructors and the opportunity to get to know my classmates.

What does Michener mean to you?

When I finished my BSc I had no idea what I wanted to do. Michener (TIMT at the time) taught me skills that directly related to a career and prepared me for the working world. Michener also gave me the opportunity to come back as a lecturer and teach others; it set the stage for lifelong learning.

What/who is your greatest inspiration?

My mom. She is one of the strongest people I know and my biggest supporter. She taught me that I could be whatever I wanted to be.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

It is completing my MBA from the Rotman School of Business at U of T in 2005.

Winston Isaac

2006 Recipient (Respiratory Therapy, 1973)

What did receiving the Alumni of Distinction mean to you?

I consider this to be quite an honour seeing that I was nominated by peers rather than in a faceless and impersonal “lottery” situation. In any case, I still feel that I won the lottery with a very large payout.

Where do you work now?

I am an associate professor and director for the Ted Rogers School of Health Services Management at Ryerson University.

What are some of your career highlights?

My first management role was at the Kingston General Hospital and this was a real opportunity for me to put my clinical and managerial knowledge and skills into play. I highly value my five years as a health policy analyst at the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my academic appointments at Ryerson as I have been allowed the opportunity to bring together a diversity of skills and knowledge to shape the development of future health care managers and academics.

What is your favourite Michener memory?

My favourite Michener memory was the opening of the 222 St Patrick Street building and the opportunity to be in the first class that had its graduation ceremony in the new building. I can remember standing on the steps of Michener for the 1973 graduating class group photograph.

What does Michener mean to you?

As an immigrant to Canada with no family supports, I needed to fulfill my ambition of higher education while supporting myself. Not only did Michener get me started on post-secondary education, it also provided the avenue leading to a very rewarding career as a Respiratory Therapist and academic. I still marvel at the academic accomplishments that have been made possible by building on Michener's education and training, taking me from a Diploma in Respiratory Therapy to a PhD.

What/who is your greatest inspiration?

My great inspiration was my aunt, Mary Charles-George, OBE. Aunt Mary was able to start her career in education from the lowest entry point as Pupil Teacher and was able to move through the ranks up to being Inspector of Schools, Teacher Education. She dedicated most of her life to education, community development and mentoring.

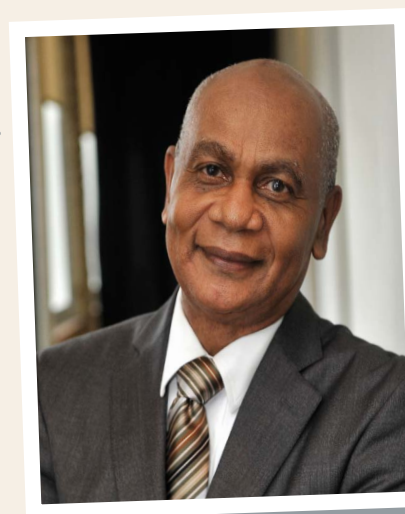
What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment has been my academic growth culminating with a PhD. On reflection, I see myself as a knowledge seeker. The acquiring of academic credentials was a by-product that served me well in my service to others.

On the career side, succeeding Dr. Paul Gamble (former President & CEO, Michener) as director of the School of Health Services Management at Ryerson University has given me a feeling of great accomplishment.

What are your words to live by?

Test your abilities and always challenge yourself in every aspect, including service to others.





Denis Poulin 2006 Recipient (Ultrasound, 1993)

What did receiving the Alumni of Distinction mean to you?

I was very honoured to have been nominated for this award by a former student, instructor, co-worker, and personal friend, Gail Rodrigues.

Where do you work now?

In 2001 I retired as full-time faculty member from Michener and continued to teach on a contract basis until 2004. From 2001 to 2009 I held the position of executive director of the Ontario Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

What are some of your career highlights?

I served as president of both the Canadian and Ontario Associations of Medical Radiation Technologists (OAMRT and CAMRT). I was also the Canadian Council member on the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT).

I presented the Welch Memorial lecture in 1989, a privilege that is extended by the CAMRT to a person who most closely emulates the same selfless qualities as displayed by the late Herbert M. Welch to his profession.

What is your favourite Michener memory?

I remember my former students and the successes they have achieved in their careers, and the many excellent friends that I have made over the years and keep in contact with to this day.

What does Michener mean to you?

My 31 years at Michener allowed me to grow professionally in various leadership positions. I enjoyed teaching and making numerous friends. I must also mention that this is the place where I met my wife, Caroline Souter, former faculty in Michener's Nuclear Medicine Technology program.

What/who is your greatest inspiration?

My grandparents Levesque who were always there to support and encourage me. They always demonstrated the true meaning of love and taught me to be honest, hard working, and to recognize the importance of lifelong friends.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

I was a member of the Ministry of Health Committee on Radiation Safety when the Holmes Report was prepared making a recommendation to improve the safe use of radiation in Ontario. The Report also recommended the formation of various professional colleges in Ontario. Both of these recommendations were accepted, helping to protect the public.

Fundraising at Michener for the student bursary where I raised over \$500,000 in two months.

What are your words to live by?

"If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse."—Jim Rohn

Recognize deserving alum in 2013



Michele Henry and Janet Fraser, alum of distinction 2012

The Alumni of Distinction Award, the highest honour awarded by Michener's Alumni Association.

The award recognizes graduates who have made outstanding contributions to the community and the applied health sciences professions. Nominees must have graduated from Michener/TIMT at least 15 years before the year of nomination. Candidates should demonstrate career achievement and a real commitment to others.

For more information or to submit a future nomination, visit www.michener.ca/alumni

Program *in* profile:

CONTINUING EDUCATION



Global Recognition for Michener's Diabetes Educator Certificate Program

By Dana Yates

According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, an estimated 285 million people worldwide are affected by diabetes, and a further seven million develop it each year. In Canada alone, nine million people are living with diabetes or prediabetes, and Type 2 diabetes—which accounts for 90 per cent of all cases—has increased dramatically.



The first program worldwide to be endorsed by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), Michener's Diabetes Educator Graduate Certificate program prepares health professionals to support patients and families in managing and controlling this chronic condition. And today, the expertise of program graduates has never been more important or in more demand.

In the past, when chiropodist Nadley Persad spoke with her patients, the conversation centred mostly on one subject: the health of their feet. But after Persad, a 2006 graduate of Michener's Chiropody program, went on to complete the institute's Diabetes Educator Graduate Certificate program, her area of expertise expanded greatly. "Everything is interconnected in diabetic foot care. I now feel more confident discussing various aspects of diabetes with my patients, such

as nutrition, exercise and blood sugar control," says Persad.

"Diabetes requires so much of patients and they have to make so many modifications. They need support and education to help make those lifestyle changes," says Debbie Warner, manager of the Diabetes Educator Graduate Certificate program. The nine-month initiative is open to people with a degree or diploma in a regulated health profession and at least two years of current patient care experience in their profession.

As Chief Chiropodist at A Step Ahead Family Foot Care in Brampton, ON, Persad works primarily with diabetic patients. Focusing on preventive care, her goal is to help patients avoid foot ulcers, thereby reducing both the need for emergency treatment and the risk of amputation. If, however, Persad cannot

resolve these health issues, the patient will be referred to a local diabetes education and management program for additional support and services. Through the Graduate Certificate, says, Persad, “I also learned how to give diabetes-related advice to my patients and teach them how to self-screen for potential problems.”

What’s more, Persad says, the program gave her a solid grounding in the terminology associated with diabetes care. This knowledge, in turn, has enabled her to “speak the same language” as other health care providers.

Learning how to communicate effectively with health professionals and patients alike is a key feature of the Diabetes Educator Graduate Certificate program. With its comprehensive content and flexible format, the program is designed to suit the busy schedules and information needs of health professionals. Students take six online modules that focus on subjects such as prevention and health promotion, self-management, perioperative care, acute complications, insulin, and sexual health.

In a final, three-day on-campus workshop led by course coordinator and IDF Vice President Anne Belton and her team of experienced Certified Diabetes Educators, students problem-solve diabetes patient cases through small group discussions, case presentations, role playing, and teaching practice. To help improve their skills, participants also receive written, oral, and videotaped feedback from their classmates and faculty members.

While completing the program will help students to prepare for the Canadian Diabetes Educator Certification Board



exam, being certified is not required to practice as a diabetes educator. And typically, those health professionals find employment in community health centres, hospitals, pharmacies, family health teams, and even children’s summer camps.

As for Persad, she has noticed a clear difference in her chiropody practice since completing the Diabetes Educator Graduate Certificate program. “I can

now make the links for my patients. For example, proper nutrition will affect your ability to heal from a cut,” she says. “Ultimately, complications are preventable if patients know what to do.”

Hundreds of midwives in Ontario assist with thousands of births each year. Those numbers tell the story of a long-practiced but historically unrecognized health care occupation in Ontario, one that The Michener Institute helped establish as a regulated profession.

Twenty years ago, midwives had no access to formal training, no government standards to follow, and no real opportunities to collaborate with other health care providers. Canada was also one of the few countries worldwide that had not yet regulated midwifery. The Michener Pre-Registration Program to approve existing midwives for practice emerged as part of Provincial efforts to integrate midwifery into the health care system. And it ultimately came about through years of advocacy by midwives who sought formal legitimacy.



Judy Rogers

Johnson, a midwife since 1982, collaborated with organizations including the Midwifery Task Force of Ontario, the Ontario Nurse Midwives Association, and the Ontario Association of Midwives to fight for regulation. She also worked with the few



BRINGING NEW LIFE

BY SHARON ASCHAIK

“To have a program where those of us who had worked hard could put our skills, experience, and knowledge to the test—it was huge,” says Elana Johnson, a graduate of the program, a founding partner of Womancare Midwives in London, ON, and former AOM president who served as head midwife at London Health Sciences Centre.



Elana Johnson

dozen other midwives in the province at the time to establish voluntary clinical standards for practitioners to follow.

In 1993, after years of lobbying for regulation, the Michener program launched, with 73 midwives enrolled. It included an intensive four-week theory review that involved lectures, workshops, and a research project. The program content was delivered by established midwives from all over the world who, in addition to teaching in the classroom, observed students at work in hospital and community settings, and conducted clinical assessments of their prenatal and post-partum care.

“The insights of these faculty were invaluable in terms of identifying our strengths and weaknesses and providing extensive feedback to work with,” says graduate Rogers, also an associate professor and former program director of the Midwifery Education Program at Ryerson University.

“We learned about aspects we weren’t allowed to be involved in pre-legislation, such as putting in IVs, ordering lab tests, and prescribing medication. That education was essential to helping us fully integrate into the health care system,” says Rogers, a

practitioner since the late 1970s who works at Midwifery Care ~ North Don River Valley and North York General Hospital.

For graduate Jay MacGillivray, a main highlight of the Michener program was awareness of the protocols and processes of midwifery in other jurisdictions. “It opened our eyes to how things are done in midwifery elsewhere. It was exhilarating to have that kind of exposure to the worldwide perspective,” says MacGillivray, who has been practicing since the mid 1980s.

Marginalized women have always been a focus for MacGillivray, a long-time social justice advocate. In 2005, she joined with Dr. Mark Yudin, an obstetrician specializing in infectious diseases at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto, to start the Positive Pregnancy Program, which is geared towards pregnant woman with HIV.

MacGillivray recently started another program with a maternal fetal medicine specialist Dr. Tatiana Freire-Lizama, to serve expecting

A total of 62 students graduated from the Michener program in the fall of 1993, shortly before Bill 56, the Midwifery Act took effect on January 1, 1994. Since then, the profession has blossomed in Ontario. There are now 580 registered midwives who attend about 15,000 births a year—more than 10 percent of all births. Midwives serve communities in 90 clinics and satellite offices provincially, and have privileges at most hospitals; many of the births they attend are at women’s homes. Baccalaureate programs in midwifery introduced in 1992 at Laurentian, McMaster, and Ryerson universities provide formal training. Today, Ryerson typically receives more than 300 applications for its 32 spots per intake. And more good news: the provincial government has announced two new birthing centres to be built by 2013 to enhance women’s access to midwives.

“Michener was an incredibly enriching and exciting experience for me. It was wonderful to be provided the opportunity to demonstrate

IFERY TO THE PROFESSION

women affected by homelessness, drug abuse and/or the sex trade.

MacGillivray says the Michener program provided her with a greater level of comfort in her abilities. “I graduated with a very high level of confidence and with skills that had been proven,” she says.

my knowledge and skill base and make up for any gaps,” says Johnson, who recently retired from clinical practice. “Looking at how midwifery has grown, it’s astounding. Now we need to look at how to sustain that growth and meet demand for our services even



Jay MacGillivray

What's Up @Michener

By Lissa Manganaro

Roland Michener Portrait Unveiling

November 6, 2012 marked the official unveiling of a portrait of the Right Honourable Roland Michener, 20th Governor General of Canada and namesake of The Michener Institute. Michener recognized the generous support of Ron Kilius, President, Superior Medical Foundation, and Maurice Amar, Proprietor, The Laurier Gallery Toronto, for the donation of this historically significant painting, an original oil by Dan Logan (1918–2011). Also present at the unveiling was Dr. Diana Michener Schatz, founder and first President and CEO of The Michener Institute, and daughter of Roland Michener.



The unveiling of the portrait of the Right Honourable Roland Michener

Ultrasound Unit for Michener!



Ultrasound students joined by True North Imaging Executives around the new Ultrasound Unit

Michener is the recipient of a new Ultrasound Unit generously donated to the program by True North Imaging. Thanks to the wonderful team at True North: Gerald Hartman, President and CEO, Dr. Alex Hartman, Director of Imaging and Head of the Research Division, and Colleen Taylor, VP Operations and Michener alum.

Over \$73,000 Awarded at 2012 Student Awards Ceremony

On November 14, 2012 Michener held the 15th Annual Student Awards Ceremony. Over \$73,000 (the largest amount presented in one year) in scholarships, bursaries, and awards were presented to students and alumni. A total of six awards were presented for the first time, including the FMC Law Humanitarian Field Experience Award, which is unique to the Scholarships & Bursaries program. The ceremony was a proud moment for Michener and continues to be a favourite event for many of our friends and donors. Congratulations to all of the award recipients. Photos from the event are posted at <http://www.michener.ca/scholarships>. If you would like to support the Scholarships & Bursaries program, go to www.michener.ca/donate.



L to R: FMC Law Humanitarian Field Experience Award winners Caroline Jankowski and Clement Hui with Chris Turney

BMD Machine Arrives at Michener!



L to R: Susan Weltz & Bruce Shaw

Thanks to Xtron Imaging, Michener has a new Bone Mineral Densitometry machine. The community extends its thanks to Bruce Shaw, CEO of Xtron, for this generous donation.

Fall Campus Day

On Saturday, November 10, 2012 Michener welcomed over 250 prospective students and their guests, who visited Michener to learn more about our programs before applying. Geared toward full-time candidates, the event featured information sessions on programs and an information fair put on by Student Success Network, Alumni, CE, Financial Aid and Admissions. Current students led guests on general campus and residence tours. Campus Day replaces the Fall Meet Me @ Michener series of information sessions. Thanks to all alumni who volunteered at this event. Your support and dedication to Michener and our future health care heroes is truly appreciated.

Visit www.michener.ca/alumni/events to view pictures from all alumni events.

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alumni happenings

Achievements

Dr. Anna Maria Infante, Chiropody 1998

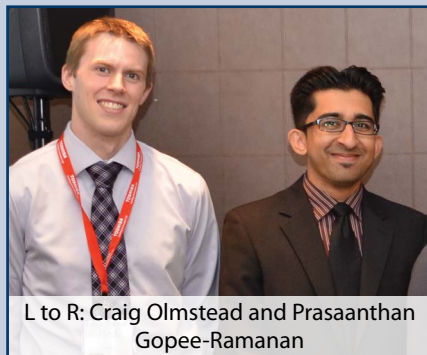
Dr. Anna Maria Infante, Chiropody 1998, was featured in an article in Panoram Italia Aug/Sept 2012, Vol. 4 No. 4. Since 1998, Dr. Infante has owned and operated her own practice in Bolton and Orangeville, and works in conjunction with Medcan in Toronto. Her team of professionals includes Michener Chiropody graduates Natalie Grant, 2007; Hasinah Shaiqi, 2009; and Ujala Khanderia, 2009. For more information visit www.familyfootcare.net or call 905-857-FEET (3338).

Craig Campbell, Respiratory Therapy 1999; Leanne Brown, Respiratory Therapy 2002; Lisa Wenger, Respiratory Therapy 1996

Respiratory Therapy graduates Craig Campbell (1999), Leanne Brown (2002), and Lisa Wenger (1996) co-authored a research article titled "Infant flow biphasic nasal continuous positive airway pressure (BP-NCPAP) vs. infant flow NCPAP for the facilitation of extubation in infants' $\leq 1,250$ grams: a randomized controlled trial," which was recently published in BMC Pediatrics 2012, 12:43 doi:10.1186/1471-2431-12-43. The full article can be found at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2431/12/43>.

Albert Gheorghita, Radiological Technology 2012; Prasaanthan Gopee-Ramanan, Radiological Technology 2012; Sheena Bhimji-Hewitt, Ultrasound 1992; Craig Olmstead, Nuclear Medicine 2013

On August 1, 2012, The Michener Institute was represented at the Radiation Therapy Summer Rounds, at Princess Margaret Hospital, through research and educational oral presentations. Albert Gheorghita, Radiological Technology 2012, presented "Multi-modality interprofessional imaging workshop for geriatric patient populations," a collaborative effort with Prasaanthan Gopee-Ramanan, Radiological Technology 2012, and Sheena Bhimji-Hewitt, Michener Ultrasound Faculty and 1992 graduate. Craig Olmstead, Nuclear Medicine 2013, presented "Lifetime attributable risk of radiation-induced solid cancer formation and mortality from myocardial perfusion imaging." All involved enjoyed presenting their topics and were delighted to meet significant audience participation. They would like to extend their thanks to Michener staff and administration for their significant support.



L to R: Craig Olmstead and Prasaanthan Gopee-Ramanan



Albert Gheorghita

Albert Gheorghita, Radiological Technology 2012

Albert Gheorghita, Radiological Technology 2012, was accepted into the MSc Health Services Research Program at University of Toronto, which is offered by the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation (IHPE), Faculty of Medicine. IHPE offers the largest graduate program in Health Services Research in English Canada. Health Services Research is offered at both the Masters and Doctoral level, preparing health services researchers for academic, research, and planning positions in the public and private sectors. Both programs are highly interdisciplinary, designed to expose students to the full breadth and depth of health services research. For more information visit <http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/rp/mscphd-hsr.htm>.



Enrico Mandarino (L) with a representative from the Ministry of Health

Enrico Mandarino, Medical Laboratory Science 1989

The Canadian AIDS Society recently announced The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal recipients who have been honoured with this distinction for their exemplary work and service in the field of HIV/AIDS in Canada. Congratulations to Enrico Mandarino, Medical Laboratory Science 1989, was one of the individuals honoured at a ceremony in Ottawa on November 27, 2012.

Sheena Bhimji-Hewitt, Ultrasound 1992; Christine Nielsen, Medical Laboratory Science 1997; Peter Bridge, Chair, Medical Laboratory Services

Michener staff, faculty, and alumni were interviewed and featured in the July 2012 National Post Careers in Healthcare Supplement, "Learning About the Canadian Healthcare Professions"—Sheena Bhimji-Hewitt, Ultrasound 1992; Peter Bridge, Chair, Medical Laboratory Sciences; and Christine Nielsen, Medical Laboratory Science 1997. You can read the entire supplement by following this link: http://doc.mediaplanet.com/all_projects/10665.pdf.

Elwood Chan, Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) 2011

Elwood was invited by faculty Kelly Ann McPherson to participate in a Lunch & Learn with the second-year MLS students. On June 7, 2012, Elwood spoke about unique employment opportunities in rural settings, sharing with the students his own personal experience. After completing his clinical training in Saint John, NB, Elwood moved to Yellowknife, NT, where he currently works as an MLT.

upcoming events

Winter Break, February 18 - 22, 2013

Alumni Association Board Spring meeting dates, March 19 and April 30

Career Fair, April 3, 2013

MMI Week, April 30 - May 3, 2013

Convocation, June 15, 2013

Visit www.michener.ca/alumni often for updates and opportunities to get involved.

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Circulation:	10,000 across Canada (mainly Ontario) to influential alumni, government, Michener stakeholders and community members, as well as key decision makers in the applied health care sector.
Format:	8.5" x 11" letter digital format

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