Michener Celebrates Alumni of Distinction 2004

Respiratory Therapy 2004 and beyond

Michener Alumnus Makes A World of Difference

Alumni of Distinction Recipient 2004 Neena Kanwar, (Nuclear Medicine ’81), President, KMH Cardiology and Diagnostic Centre.
Photo courtesy of Dodge Baena
Welcome to the new Michener 222 Magazine for Alumni & Friends. We have been working diligently over the summer months to redesign and revamp your magazine to re-focus it more towards the needs, issues and interests of Michener graduates, students and supporters of this great institution.

Over the past few months we have also been getting to know the many alumni associated with Michener and their diverse accomplishments from both the public and private sectors. We are extremely proud to hear about what our graduates have been up to and so it seemed most appropriate to profile their achievements as a way of re-launching our Michener 222 magazine.

Our main feature on the "Alumni of Achievement" award winners offers an interesting perspective on how Michener graduates are making a difference. Three spectacular and diverse graduates are profiled that have all contributed in many ways to our communities through their impressive professional and volunteer efforts.

Alumni achievement is not the only issue highlighted in this magazine. We are also pleased to bring you relevant information about applied health sciences professions via our Research Department as well as other new sections such as "Alumni Happenings" where you can find out about what your former classmates are doing.

It's not only your magazine that is experiencing changes. We are also working with the Michener Alumni Association to find new ways to communicate with graduates and provide them with services, help them to stay in touch with their fellow graduates, and keep abreast of changes in health care and in their professions.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on the new Michener 222 as it unfolds over the coming years. Please stay in touch by sending us an email at alumni@michener.ca. We would love to hear from you!

Ken Aucoin
Editor, Michener 222
Director, Development & Alumni Affairs

A New Beginning
Welcome to the revised and updated Michener 222. As you will undoubtedly notice in addition to a new look, there are a number of innovations and changes in emphasis. In many respects this transformation of our Alumni publication reflects a number of transformations occurring here at Michener.

An awful lot has been going on around Michener during the past number of months. As you are aware, last January a decision was made not to proceed with the corporate merger talks with the University of Waterloo. What you may not be aware of is what the corporation has been doing since – and in a few words I would say we have been focusing on who we are, what we are and what we intend to contribute. A new mission statement was approved in late spring and five words have emerged to characterize the new re-vitalized Michener.

Those words are:
- Autonomy
- Education
- Confidence
- Leadership
- Influence

These are now our "guiding principles" in what we do and how we do it.

Perhaps the best example of the actualization of these characteristics is the efforts we are now undertaking in the areas of Inter Professional Education (IPE) and Simulation. IPE is characterized by the collaboration of learners from two or more professions working together and integrating their professional perspectives to focus on patient care. The impetus is the identification of the need for health care professionals to cope with problems that exceed the capacity of any one profession. Simulation on the other hand refers to a space specifically designed for students to hone communication, critical thinking, crisis management, collaboration and technical skills to enhance patient care in an environment mirroring that of clinical practice. Simulations place learners in life-like situations that provide immediate feedback about decisions and actions in an environment tolerant of errors.

An increased utilization and integration of these two concepts on an organization wide basis, we believe, will not only incorporate our new corporate characteristics, but will also provide our students with a leading edge, state of the art educational environment that will result in industry ready, competent allied health professionals.

I look forward to our Alumni’s participation in the Michener transformation process and I welcome your feedback and comments.

Paul A.W. Gamble
President and CEO
Alumni Helping Internationally Trained Professionals

Joyce Clitheroe  Kathleen Olden-Powell

They were destined to cross paths, though it took them decades to get there.

By Kathleen Sandusky

Despite their different fields, Joyce Clitheroe (Medical Laboratory Technology ’70), now Program Manager, Medical Laboratory Sciences for Michener’s Access and Options Program and Kathleen Olden-Powell (Respiratory Technology ’80), now Program Manager, Respiratory Therapy (also for Access and Options) share parallel education and work experiences. Both graduated from Michener, back when it was called the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology (TIMT). Soon after graduation, each worked at Saint Michael’s Hospital, Joyce for 11 years, and Kathleen for 10 years. Still, the two did not meet until decades later.

Joyce’s years at St. Michael’s Hospital in the Chemistry Laboratory, first as a technologist and then as senior technologist, ran from 1970 until 1981, when she returned to TIMT to teach in the full-time Medical Laboratory Technology program. Of her return to academics after an 11-year stint in active practice, Joyce says, “I had practiced in chemistry for so long, I’d had as much variety and as many interesting patients as any hospital could offer. I decided I’d maxed out there, in terms of my experiences, so the opportunity to teach was appealing.”

Through her two decade-plus years spent in the full-time Medical Laboratory Science program, in addition to teaching, Joyce participated in its redesign, adapting it from a two-year to three-year diploma, and was also involved in the development of continuing education courses. Years later, when the Access and Options Program launched in 2002, she was ready to take on a new challenge, making the switch to program manager.

Kathleen also stayed at St. Michael’s Hospital for a decade, first as a general respiratory therapist in adult critical care, and later as critical care senior respiratory therapist. She left in 1991 to work at a private company as a home care consultant. Her natural affinity for teaching soon became evident and she fell into the role of unofficial trainer, taking new recruits out for their first home care visits and creating training videos for client institutions. She soon took on the official mantle of clinical coordinator for Michener students at the company. “I was always teaching someone at the bedside, whether a student respiratory therapist or a medical resident or new nurse. I discovered that I had a reasonable knack for teaching, and I liked it.” Then one day, “the Michener program director was meeting with us about the student program, and he asked me if I’d ever be interested in teaching here,” Kathleen remembers. She accepted a part-time faculty position in the Respiratory Therapy program, moving to full-time in 1997, and eventually to the Access and Options Program in 2002.

It was at Ryerson University that Joyce and Kathleen finally met in 1993, while attending the Health Services Management Program, to which they were each able to apply their Michener credentials for advanced standing. They became instant friends. The two earned their Bachelor of Health Administration degrees, Joyce in 2000 and Kathleen in 2001, and they both joined the team that launched the Access and Options Program in 2002. They haven’t looked back.

Joyce and Kathleen now work together very closely, “within hollering distance,” laughs Kathleen. One of 11 bridging programs funded through the Access to Professions and Trades Branch of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Michener’s Access and Options Program is designed to help internationally-educated health care professionals transition into their professions in Canada. It is designed to be flexible enough to recognize the value of clients’ prior experiences while identifying the gaps in their knowledge and practice and finding appropriate ways to fill those gaps. Clients can take whatever course load works best for them, accommodating their individual needs. Although the road to a licence to practice can be very long and daunting, Joyce says, “Our clients are extraordinarily motivated.”

Citing the disconnect between the federal immigration system and the provincial health care regulators, Kathleen says that many of her clients came to Canada with the false understanding that they’d be able to practice their professions upon arrival. “By the time we see them, they’re frequently frustrated. And we’re often the first people they encounter who actually spend time with them and who actively try to find options for them within the Canadian health care system. We help them to find a path, either back into their professions, or into a related career.” Many of their clients have fled their home countries in great peril, bringing with them families and accompanying responsibilities. Kathleen recounts the story of one respiratory therapy client from Columbia, who had experienced a kidnapping in her home country. “We can only imagine what so many of our clients have left to come to Canada. They’re not yet able to work in their professions, so they work earning minimum wage or not much more, and somehow find time to study. But still, they don’t want to go back. They believe they’ll have a better life here, that their children will have more hope.”

Inspired by the diverse international experiences of her clients, when Kathleen decided to pursue a Masters in Education from the University of British Columbia, she selected a specialty in Adult Learning and Global Change. Now, in addition to her work at Michener, she studies in a virtual classroom environment with students from around the world. Says Kathleen, “Canada is a land of immigrants, perhaps more so now than ever before. We’ve got this wealth of knowledge coming into our country. We need a way to tap into this, while continuing to give back to the global community.”
Help Us Honour our Graduates!

ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION 2005

Call for Nominations

This is your opportunity to honour the graduates of Michener (and its precursor the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology) who have excelled in their careers and have demonstrated commitment to their communities. We invite you to nominate individuals that you feel are deserving of this special award.

Criteria:

- A graduate of Michener or the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology.
- A graduate who has brought honour to Michener through significant achievement in his/her career and/or through outstanding service to Michener and/or his/her discipline and/or the healthcare community.
- Is respected by his/her peers and/or is an ambassador for Michener and the community.

Awarded annually in November, the Alumni of Distinction Awards offer an exciting opportunity, not only to honour some deserving people, but also to call the public’s attention to the vital role Michener/Toronto Institute of Medical Technology graduates play in Canadian health care.

Deadline for 2005 submission: July 29, 2005

For more information email us at alumni@michener.ca or visit our web site at www.michener.ca/alumni

Michener graduates are having a big impact in the health care sector and in their communities in Ontario, across Canada and around the world. They are making a real difference. In 2004, the Michener Alumni Association is pleased once again to recognize their achievements by awarding them with the Alumni of Distinction.

Our 2004 recipients are (clockwise from top left) Betty Ann Clark (Medical Laboratory Technology ’70), Rossana Magnotta (Medical Laboratory Science ’73) and Neena Kanwar (Nuclear Medicine ’81).
Betty Anne Clark

Right where she wants to be

A career in laboratory technology was not Betty Anne Clark’s first choice. But now, as head of the lab and infection control centre at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Clark can’t imagine doing anything else.

BY MARJO JOHNNE

She wanted to be a schoolteacher but the money just wasn’t there to send her to university. So Betty Anne Clark refashioned her dreams and, in 1996, enrolled into the General Medical Laboratory Technologist program at Michener (known then as the Toronto Institute of Laboratory Technology).

“At the time I thought I would just work in a lab,” says Clark, who obtained her diploma in 1968. “I had a wonderful, wonderful aunt – Auntie Gwen – whom I was always very proud of, and that was what she did, she worked in a lab.”

Today, Clark works in a lab too. Just like Auntie Gwen but with a slight difference: Clark is in charge of the lab where she works. As a Technology Director of Lab/Infection Control at Toronto’s Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, an internationally renowned health sciences centre with particular strengths in older adults’ brain functions and mental health, Clark is responsible for every facet of operations – from financial, human resources and technical management to quality control and risk management.

“Now that I am where I am, I can’t imagine wanting to do anything else,” says Clark. “The education I received at (Michener) really gave me the grounding to be where I am today.”

In 1983, Clark found herself eyeing a posting for the top job at Baycrest’s lab. “I wasn’t sure why I applied for the job,” says Clark. “But I applied and they hired me.”

She accepted the position at Baycrest with the intention of staying for only six months. “And then I woke up one day and it was 20 years later,” she says.

What an action-packed 20 years it has been. Over the last two decades, Clark has taken Baycrest’s lab and infection control service from low-tech to hi-tech, introducing computerized service delivery, order entry and test request systems.

Along the way, Clark’s department has been “right-sized, wrong-sized, upsized and every size you can think of.” Laboratory reform, introduced by the province in the 1990s to improve the delivery of lab services, has also had a major impact on the department.

“The impact is more of a morale issue because we’re always wondering what tomorrow will bring and how it will affect us,” says Clark. “It’s difficult to plan for the future.”

And then there was SARS.

Clark says the respiratory-illness epidemic, which hit Toronto hard last year, was one of the most daunting challenges she had ever faced in her career. At the time, she had eased into part-time hours, working just 25 hours a week. The first week SARS struck, she logged in more than 70 hours of work.

“It was a time when I learned it wasn’t always about money,” she says. “I saw people working here who didn’t care whether the paycheque was going to compensate them. They worked as real professionals, doing what they did to make people safe.”

With SARS behind her, Clark is back to a three-day work week, giving her time to jump on one of her four motorcycles – she used to own seven – and go for long rides.

Clark sits on the board at the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario, is an active member of the Canadian Laboratory Managers Association Trillium chapter and is an Ontario Laboratory Accreditation assessor. She also teaches management courses at Sheridan College’s Continuing Education Department.

“I got my wish after all – I wanted to be a teacher and now I am a teacher,” says Clark. “Funny how things work out.”
Neena Kanwar, one of this country’s top female entrepreneurs, built her diagnostic testing company on a philosophy of quality, service and caring. Her mantra? ‘It’s important to always remember that patients come first.’

There are certain, everyday words that Neena Kanwar, president of KMH Cardiology & Diagnostic Centres, just doesn’t understand. Like challenge. Failure. Big mistake.

Seventeen years ago, Kanwar, who graduated in 1981 from the Nuclear Medicine program at Michener (known then as the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology), began thinking about opening her own cardiology diagnostic clinic. With no start-up capital or investors in line, Kanwar and her husband sold their house to raise seed money, bought a nuclear medicine scanner, and opened the first independent cardiology diagnostic clinic in Mississauga, a suburb located just west of Toronto.

“At the time, neither one of us thought we were taking a risk,” says Kanwar, whose family immigrated to Canada from India when she was 16 years old.

“Now when people point out what a big risk we took, I can see what they mean,” she says. “But I guess I don’t think about failure or challenges all that much. When I want to do something, I only think about how I can go about achieving it.”

From that first clinic in Mississauga, KMH has grown into a network of eight clinics, with additional locations in Burlington, Hamilton, Kitchener, Markham, North York, Toronto and Scarborough. KMH clinics have administered more than 600,000 cardiology, nuclear cardiology and nuclear medicine diagnostic tests, and more than 4,000 magnetic resonance imaging scans.

Kanwar’s thriving enterprise has caught the eye of the business community. She has received a number of business awards, including Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, given to her in 1992 by the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management in Toronto. In 2000, Kanwar was named one of Chatelaine magazine’s Top 100 Women Entrepreneurs. She is also listed in ProfitGuide’s Top 100 Women Business Owners in Canada.

What’s the secret to Kanwar’s success?

“Quality, service and caring,” she says. “I really care about what I’m doing and I surround myself with people who care about what they’re doing. As health care professionals, we’re providing patients with care, so it’s important to always remember that patients come first.”

KMH technologists are carefully selected and trained, says Kanwar. And because of the company’s emphasis on patient care, a deft and gentle touch with needles is a must for all technologists.

Although the label of entrepreneur is firmly affixed to her today, Kanwar says it wasn’t the spirit of enterprise that got her thinking about opening her own diagnostic clinic.

“I had babies, I had to cook and clean and I didn’t want to cook and clean,” she says. “I was working in research at the time, but it was becoming more and more difficult to accommodate the (working) hours. So I guess wanting to open my own clinic was about wanting more flexibility and independence.”

There was another reason behind Kanwar’s brave venture. She had seen how her father, who had suffered a heart attack, waited months to get the tests he needed. Kanwar knew there was a dire need for the kind of diagnostic clinic she wanted to build.

“The waiting period has definitely been reduced in the areas where KMH practises,” she says. “That’s a contribution I’m quite proud of.”

Patients who come to KMH normally get an appointment within a week, says Kanwar, and test results are turned around within five to 10 days. Urgent tests are done even sooner.

Kanwar is also proud of her accomplishments as president of the Independent Diagnostics Clinics Association (IDCA). After the Independent Health Facilities Act became law in 1990, Ontario’s health ministry mandated standards for all private clinics to follow. Under Kanwar’s leadership, IDCA converted these standards to policies and procedures and produced an operating manual for clinics.

Today, Kanwar remains president of IDCA. Despite being at the helm of two organizations, she has found time to speak at numerous seminars and lectures, undertake four research projects, and publish eight abstracts in medical journals.

And on occasion, she still cooks and cleans for her two children, now 17 and 15 years of age.

“It never ends,” she says of her responsibilities as a parent. “I guess my kids still like to rely on me for some things.”
What happens when you combine a passion for winemaking with an in-depth knowledge of laboratory sciences? If you’re Rossana Magnotta, you end up building an award-winning winery and a thriving enterprise that supplies grape juice and equipment to home winemakers. The president of Magnotta Winery and Festa Juice happens to be a certified and experienced laboratory technologist. So where most people might look at a glass of wine and observe its colour, clarity, taste and smell, Magnotta goes deeper – right into the micro-functions of chemistry.

“The function of a yeast cell in your wine is identical to that of a yeast cell found elsewhere,” says Magnotta, who graduated from Michener’s Medical Laboratory Sciences program in 1973. “Whether you’re testing for blood sugar or wine sugar, the chemistry involved is identical. What’s different is just the interpretation of results.”

How Magnotta made the leap from lab technologist to winemaker is a story that was years in the making. After graduating from Michener, Magnotta accepted a job offer from Humber Memorial Hospital (now Humber River Regional Hospital). She loved the work and stayed for eight years, moving from microbiology to hematology, to immunohematology and pathology. And then she had a baby.

“I thought ‘there’s no way I’m going to leave this kid with anybody else,’” Magnotta recalls. “So I stayed at home but took courses at Michener to keep my skills up-to-date.”

Magnotta had two more children – another son, followed by a daughter – and she stayed home with them for seven years. When her youngest child was almost four years old, her husband, a business school graduate, decided to start a business that would supply the grape juice and other materials required to make wine at home. He needed someone with biochemical expertise to set up a lab where the juice would be “balanced” for such factors as pH levels and acidity.

Lucky for him, that expert was not too far away.

“I had never set up a lab before and I had nothing to model it after,” says Magnotta. “So I took the lab as I knew it in the medical field and used that as the basis for our winemaking lab.”

Magnotta had been planning to return to lab work in the medical field. But as Festa Juice grew, so did Magnotta’s reputation as an expert whose well-balanced juices could be turned into great-tasting wines. She wrote and published a book, Making Wine the Festa Way, further cementing her standing as an authority in home winemaking.

Customers began asking Magnotta and her husband for ready-made wine. They looked at each other and knew they had to take the next logical step: open a winery.

“We bought a winery in Blenheim, Ontario and set up an operation in Toronto,” says Magnotta. “We risked everything to do what we did, but we’ve come a long way in 14 years.”

Today, Magnotta Winery is the third largest winery in Ontario, with seven locations across the province and more than 180 products. The company also makes True North beer – which was named recently as the best lager in Canada – grappa, vodka and gin. Since 1999, Magnotta Winery has been on the roster of Canada’s 50 Best Managed Companies, a list compiled annually by Deloitte, CIBC Commercial Banking, National Post and Queen’s School of Business.

Magnotta has also had her share of awards over the years, including the 1999 Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year for Innovation, from the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management in Toronto. This year, Michener is recognizing Magnotta as one of its Alumni of Distinction.

“It was a nice surprise,” Magnotta says of the award from Michener. “Michener gave me the skills to open up my own lab in the wine business. Without those skills, my life today would probably be very different.”
Congratulations! It has taken hard work and dedication, but you now have your Michener diploma. Choose a beautiful quality frame to display your achievement with pride.

Michener Alumni Association is offering you a special framing service. Your diploma will be professionally framed and ready to hang.

The official crest and shield of The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences is inscribed on all mats. All mats are acid free. Payment may be made by cheque or credit card. Proceeds help support the ongoing activities of the Michener Alumni Association.

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** While quantities last.
The SARS crisis in Ontario highlighted that our health care system was in serious trouble and, if it were not for the dedication and expertise of a whole range of health care professionals, we certainly may have ended up a lot worse off then we did.

Respiratory Therapists were certainly up there with the best of them and achieved well-deserved kudos for their collective efforts in combating this threat to our public health. Recognition also came to the forefront that everything was accomplished within an environment where staff shortages and heavy workloads were the rule rather than the exception. So just how acute were these shortages, what difficulties did this pose for the practitioners and how did this impact upon patient care?

In the Spring of 2004 the Research Department at The Michener Institute completed a report which shed some light on these circumstances. The data, gathered from approximately 200 facilities where Respiratory Therapists practiced, showed that of the 1448 positions identified in these facilities, a total 112 positions went unfilled — a vacancy rate of 7.5%. This shortfall in personnel, brought about in part by health care cutbacks in the 1990’s, continues today primarily because the demand for the services provided by Respiratory Therapists far exceeds the supply available in the market place. This situation is somewhat compounded on the supply side by the lack of funding to Ontario schools that graduate these professionals — a Catch 22 situation which has yet to be resolved. The lack of personnel in this field, however, does not tell the complete story since we also need to recognize the increased demands on the system made by our ageing population, overall population growth, the increasing levels of specialization and role expansion of the practitioners, the expansion and restructuring of facilities, the evolution of new treatments and the impact of new maternity/parental leaves, to mention just a few.

The study showed that a total of 37 (2.5%) practitioners within the respondent group were performing tasks at an “advanced level” this being either an expansion of the scope of practice or working in more specialised environments or both. The number of practitioners identified (i.e. 37) may be somewhat understated because either the definition of “advanced practice” was not clear and hence all instances may not be officially recorded, or individuals are working at a more advanced level and not being formally recognized for their efforts.

Attrition from the work force also adds to the vacancy level even if some of it is on a temporary basis, e.g., education or maternity leave. This latter scenario, where a number of mothers are taking up the option of the new one-year maternity/parental provisions, shows an increase of close to 60% during 2003. Many facilities cited this situation as a further difficulty in recruiting staff for these temporary leaves.

An interesting note on gender representation shows that, prior to thirty years of age, females are four (4) times as frequent as males in the profession. This drops off rapidly after the age of thirty to the point that, by the age of fifty years, the number of men in the profession exceeds the number of women by a margin of two to one.

What of the impact of shortages upon staff and patient care? The respondents spoke highly of the dedication of Respiratory Therapists and stated that the quality of patient care had not been compromised. What is under fire, however, is the lower number of hours available for patient care, especially for those who have chronic conditions, plus less time for staff educational leave, more overtime and weekends and less flexibility in the scheduling of time on task. Whether such characteristics of the workplace will slowly accumulate and produce other than optimal patient care, remains to be seen.

What of the future? Our projections show that, with the current vacancy levels continuing, plus net attrition rates per annum and projected growth by the respondents, the health care system in Ontario will need an increasing supply of Respiratory Therapists in the future with approximately 125 full-time and 125 part-time/ contractual staff being required in each of the next three years. Such numbers show that the demand for Respiratory Therapists is more than just a temporary anomaly in our health care system; it is also a poignant reminder that unless the needed solutions are put into practice in the near future, the above scenarios will continue to exist for the foreseeable future.

Respiratory Therapy in Ontario: Provincial Labour Market Analysis and Human Resource Study. The Michener Institute, Toronto, 2004. (Copies of the report are available through research@michener.ca)
Did you know?

The Michener Research team conducts regular labour market studies on the health professions taught at Michener. Factors such as the number of current funded positions in various categories, vacancies, past growth trends, future growth projections, attrition, age/gender demographic patterns, retirements, maternity leaves, and employee migration are all assessed.

Michener academic programs use the information to make decisions about enrollment quotas and future directions for the programs. All study participants receive a complimentary copy of the reports, but the Michener Research Department also receives numerous requests for the reports by other interested parties such as regulatory colleges, professional associations, and the media. The reports are also in demand by decision makers in hospitals and at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Here is what we’ve done lately:

- **Medical Laboratory Technologists:** Spring of 2003.
- **Cardiovascular Perfusion:** Spring of 2003.
- **Magnetic Resonance Imaging:** June 2003.
- **Echocardiography:** September 2003.
- **Diagnostic Cytology:** March 2004.
- **Respiratory Therapy:** April 2004. This study was conducted with the cooperation of the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO).
- **Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) Administrators:** July 2004.
- **Radiation Therapy:** September 2004.
- **Coming up:** Research staff will be working on Genetics Technology and Nuclear Medicine labour market surveys in the 2004/2005 academic year.

Meeting Your Needs

A leader in education for health professionals, Michener’s Centre for Continuing Professional Education keeps you a step ahead.

One of the most mobile departments within Michener, the Centre for Continuing Professional Education (CCPE) is active provincially, nationally and internationally, providing lifelong learning opportunities for health professionals. This dynamic team has more than 70 years of collective experience at Michener, and their dedication to the allied health fields, students, and Michener’s Alumni brings health professionals back to Michener time and time again.

Michener offers more than 250 continuing education courses, workshops and seminars that enhance your professional qualifications in an increasingly competitive market. Many courses are led by internationally-renowned health professionals and include hands-on experience with the latest in medical technologies. Flexible offerings, including distance education, evening courses, and weekend programming help you upgrade your skills on a part-time basis.

Offering both cutting-edge courses and essential skills seminars, CCPE combines theory with practical skills so you can use what you learn the very next day. Michener Alumni present and facilitate many courses, and provide valuable feedback on CCPE offerings, ensuring high quality education for you and your colleagues. We value your feedback, and use it to develop new courses; so please don’t hesitate to contact us.

CCPE also offers customized solutions for organizational staff development needs. Working directly with your staff, CCPE provides cost-efficient and flexible options that are tailored to each organization’s unique requirements.

The leader in meeting your professional development needs, Michener’s Centre for Continuing Professional Education is here for you! Visit us on the web at www.michener.ca/ce or send us an e-mail at ce@michener.ca.

Help your profession! Michener’s Research department conducts alumni surveys which are shared with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Your participation helps to identify your profession’s needs and in turn communicate this to government and other important decision makers. So please keep your address and contact information with Michener up to date by sending an email to research@michener.ca or by calling us at (416) 596-3101, ext. 3438.
Recognizing that your time is valuable, Michener makes continuing education easier and more convenient. In addition to flexible educational offerings, Michener now features a new online registration service for courses offered through Michener’s Centre for Continuing Professional Education. Selecting and registering for a course is as simple as a few clicks of the mouse.

1. Visit www.michener.ca/ce and browse our wide range of courses, refine your search to your subject specialty, or search for a specific course or topic

2. Click the course title, select a section/date and click the online registration icon

3. Enter your contact information and credit card number, and receive confirmation of your registration via e-mail

Online registration is completely integrated. Simply click the ‘register online’ icon on the course description page, and the system automatically records the course information. All you need to add is your personal information and credit card number.

Michener’s online registration system uses Entrust.net Secure Server Certification Authority with 256 bit AES High Grade Encryption to ensure that your personal and credit card information remains confidential.

So don’t delay, sign up now for your Centre for Continuing Professional Education course at www.michener.ca/ce.

Upcoming Continuing Education courses

**IMAGING**

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<td>February 19, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computerized Radiography/Digital Imaging PACS and the Digital Age - Now!</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Interdisciplinary Series (RA7060, IG733, IG732)</td>
<td>March 12, 2005 (First course, RA7060)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Skull and Spine Interpretation Basics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Health through Ultrasound (US7117)</td>
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<td>Breast Ultrasound (RA7116)</td>
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**LABORATORY SCIENCES**

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<td>Quality Culture and Motivation for Quality</td>
<td>November 20, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Fluids – Cellular Morphology on Wrights-Giemsa Stained Preparations</td>
<td>November 20, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Optimizing Immunohistochemistry</td>
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<td>Fine Needle Aspiration of the Breast</td>
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<td>Current Good Practice Guidelines for the Laboratory Investigation of Hemoglobinopathies</td>
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**PRIMARY AND CRITICAL CARE**

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<td>Advanced Cardiac Life Support (RS810-1;RS812-1)</td>
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<td>CPR Instructors Course (CR801)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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For more information go to www.michener.ca/ce
What’s in a hospital gown? When you’re a Canadian radiation sciences student in an exchange program in Holland, this otherwise overlooked piece of clothing can spell a rather jarring difference between Dutch and Canadian health care and culture.

“In Holland, patients who come in for routine examinations are not gowned,” explains Joan Laurie, Director of International Education and Special Projects at Michener and a 1972 graduate of the school’s Medical Laboratory Technology program. “That’s the Number One observation our students brought home, and how difficult it was for them to adapt, initially, to that. But they had to adapt – they were there to work.”

Teaching students the ability to appreciate and adapt to a foreign culture – an aptitude Laurie calls “global competence” – is the raison d’etre behind Laurie’s work at Michener. In a country as ethnically diverse as Canada, says Laurie, health care professionals need to have the global competence to make culturally sensitive decisions.

Michener has recognized the importance of a global outlook. This year, the school is boosting its international profile by designating International Education as a distinct department within Michener. For students, this means a curriculum with greater emphasis on research that draws from international sources and collaborators, and continued encouragement and support to participate in exchange programs with hospitals and clinics in other countries.

Michener faculty and staff, a number of whom have already taken part in exchanges and off-shore work, have begun to see the benefits of the international programs. And as she has done in the past, Laurie will continue to pursue projects that will allow Michener faculty, staff and students to participate in exchanges and take their expertise to developing countries.

Michener could not have picked a better person to lead its international programs. Raised by parents who believed strongly in the educational merits of travel, Laurie brings to the department a deeply entrenched global perspective – and a social consciousness that grew naturally from observing the people and dynamics of other societies.

Her awakening to other cultures took place early in life; as a child and young adult she traveled throughout Eastern Europe, either with her family or alone. Visiting the communist countries of Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, she became keenly aware of the many advantages she enjoyed as a Canadian.

“Even at a fairly young age, I understood the privilege of being a North American living in a democracy, and the incredible affluence that we have,” says Laurie, who has also traveled extensively with her two grown children. “My parents truly felt that cultural competence is one of the most important skills anyone can have and they always made available to us every opportunity to travel.”

Today, through her work at Michener, Laurie is, in a way, passing on the education her parents gave her. But she continues to learn, too. As the leader in projects to develop training programs for technologists in such places as the Indian state of Goa, or in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Laurie often has to find ways to adapt Canadian technologies and methods to suit the medical infrastructures – or lack of – in developing countries.

She must also continually face the challenges of working in starkly different cultures.

“For instance, the status of women in most of the developing world is not the same as in North America, so I usually find myself at a disadvantage,” she says. “I have to work very hard to gain the confidence of male partners.”

Still, Laurie is not complaining. When she looks back at all the exchange sessions and development projects in which she has participated, the difficulties always appear inconsequential against the many rewarding moments. Like when their hosts in developing countries tell Laurie and her team what a big difference they’ve made in their work and lives. Or when students who have just returned from an off-shore activity share their stories, and their sense of wonder and appreciation at experiencing something so exceptional.

“This feedback is my personal and professional reward,” says Laurie. “It confirms that Michener is making a difference in the world.”

Fall 2004 13
I thrive on being busy,” the Sudbury native admits. “I love it.”

Since graduating from The Michener Institute in 1987, DeSimone has been anything but idle. After nine years at the Laurentian Hospital in Sudbury, she opened her own private practice, the DeSimone Foot and Ankle Clinic and has been there since 1994. The Centre offers services ranging from 3-D computer imaging for diagnostics and orthotics casting to on-site nail surgery.

If running the busy clinic isn’t enough, however, DeSimone also keeps her feet planted firmly in the community. She’s a volunteer board director and vice chair for the local Meals on Wheels organization. She’s also a member – and director of council – of the Ontario College of Chiropodists and was the director of the Ontario Society of Chiropodists from 1992 to 1994.

Then there are her current stints as a chair for a company called Happiness is Dancing and her position on the board of directors of Laurentian University. Squeeze all this between raising two school-age children and it’s easy to see why finding time to sit down to talk doesn’t come easily.

But all the networking pays off, especially when it comes to educating the public – and the local physicians – about the chiropody field. Her work in Sudbury’s community means she can take opportunities to plug the work she and other chiropodists do.

“It’s a huge job. That’s probably the hardest part because many of the physicians don’t have enough time to pick up an envelope and read it,” she says.

While recruitment tours are in full swing each year to lure health care professionals to remote communities, DeSimone says no one had to convince her to return to her hometown to practice. It was her plan all along. Strong family ties and a love for Northern Ontario ensured she would end up in the city she loves. That’s not to say fellow students didn’t call her crazy, telling her there would only be “Julie and one tree in Sudbury.”

“They’re vastly wrong,” she says now. To prove it, DeSimone is also hard at work trying to recruit physicians to Sudbury, and has been part of the recruitment tour with Laurentian Hospital for three years in a row. She points out the world-class cardiac centre and a hospital system she’s proud of. “A lot of things still need development, but we need the professionals here to be able to develop it.”

Her passion for Sudbury runs deep. So deep in fact that her next goal is to run for city council so she can continue to make the community a livable city perched in the vast beauty of the Canadian Shield. In the meantime, she’ll continue to fly through the days at her clinic and practice the work she loves.

“I like treating people and making people feel good. There’s such a high when a patient tells me, ‘It’s a hundred percent better,’” she says.
John Bell

It’s been a journey

by Kira Vermond

Not long ago John Bell decided to tag along with one of his sales reps on a call to an Edmonton hospital department head. Bell is the president of Smiths Medical Canada Ltd., a medical device supplier located in Markham Ont. Although his duties as president kept him busy, he liked to attend some meetings to stay connected with the day-to-day workings of the company.

Besides, he already knew the prospective client. Bell was once the client’s respiratory therapy instructor at The Michener Institute.

“I’m actually here because you failed physics and we’re revoking your diploma,” Bell joked as he approached his former student. “He was quite surprised to see me,” says Bell, who graduated from The Michener Institute himself in 1983 in respiratory technology, as it was called at the time.

Surprised is also one way to describe how Bell feels about where he’s landed after a long journey from clinical work in hospitals to a top position in business. “My goal was to go into the hospital and work as a therapist. In a million years I wouldn’t have dreamed I’d be doing this,” he says.

The journey started at Henderson Hospital in Hamilton after graduation. Soon he moved on to Toronto’s General Hospital before landing at The Michener Institute to teach. Within a couple of years he shifted back to the hospital setting to work as a clinical instructor then made a few more jumps to become a senior therapist and eventually the manager of the cardio respiratory department at Scarborough Grace.

Then industry came calling.

Bell makes no excuses for his full dance card. “It was a good ride – and I took it while I could,” he says with a laugh. Meanwhile he’s been at Smiths Medical for 12 years and can’t imagine going anywhere else. Not only does he get a chance to sell products – from insulin pumps to infant monitoring equipment – that are successful from a business point of view, but he knows, from his years in the hospital setting, how these devices change people’s lives. In fact, the company scouted him because of his clinical background.

“I was a therapist and I could relate to the people in the positions I had come from,” he says.

He freely admits his time at Michener has a reverberating effect on his work even today. For starters, he still sells some of the products he studied in school. Even his time as an instructor helped him develop his presentation techniques – important when he’s approaching a prospective client.

Looking at his own life as an example, Bell says although there are ample opportunities for today’s respiratory students, it’s important to think beyond the ventilator.

“I wouldn’t have given up any of my clinical background for anything. But I do think there are so many opportunities outside the traditional environment, which they probably don’t think about. I know I didn’t,” he says, mentioning industry and teaching.

Life is looking pretty good these days for Bell. He’s back from a trip to Alaska and the Yukon where he and his wife took in the midnight sun and traversed the barren beauty of the north with golf club in hand. So what’s next? While Bell says he’s happy to stay where he is for now, he wouldn’t say no to advancing with Smiths Medical into a global position.

“I’ve had a lot of jobs and I’ve had good opportunities – so I just keep going with the tide,” he says.

And he expects to visit more former students along the way.
Sitting around the holiday dinner table at the Kerk household must be an interesting affair.

Jeff Kerk is in his second year at The Michener Institute studying radiation therapy. So is his cousin. His mother, Peggy Kerk (pictured above with Jeff), graduated from The Michener Institute in 1974, majoring in lab technology. She now works at Huronia District Hospital in Midland, Ont. as a medical lab technologist. Her two sisters also went to Michener.

While their Alma matter is the same, attitudes about each other’s careers couldn’t be more different. “I ask my sister, ‘How can you handle people hacking and coughing all the time?’ She answers, ‘Oh, I love it,’” says Peggy. “So how can I deal with blood all the time? Not a problem.”

Is there something in the water?

“That’s definitely a big influence,” he says. Peggy says she’s happy to see how Michener’s training has changed over the years since she graduated. Thirty years ago, students – some of them straight out of high school – took all the theoretical courses in the first year before ever stepping into a hospital. Today, students visit the hospital setting often to view how the theory is put into practice.

“Someone can talk about a super-duper machine, but you don’t really know what it does until you’ve seen it at work,” Peggy says. Jeff agrees the hands-on training is important for the future. “When we’re studying anatomy, we’re not just studying anatomy. We talk about anatomy and why we use this part of anatomy and how it relates to cancer treatment,” he says. It’s a very focused program and I know I’ll be prepared for the workforce.”

Having already been to a larger school where some students can get lost in the crowd, she sees why Michener grads succeed. During his first year, Jeff was having trouble with a concept in his physics class. Unlike his previous school where some classes included hundreds of students, grabbing the professor for some extra tutoring was as simple as dropping by the office. The professor literally spent hours with Jeff explaining the concept until he understood.

“They want everyone to graduate. They want everyone to succeed,” he says. That education will come in handy. Although Jeff wants to put in some time as a radiation therapist, perhaps in Hamilton when he graduates, his main goal is to teach. He knows he has a knack for teaching complicated ideas so anyone can understand.

Peggy says she’s sure Jeff’s years at The Michener Institute will put him ahead to reach his goals.

“When he chose radiation therapy I thought, ‘what are you doing?’” She admits. “But it really is up his alley. Jeff loves anything that is computerized and technical. This is definitely his scene.”

Jeff was already into his third year of post secondary education at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont., studying applied health sciences, when he decided to make the jump into radiation therapy at Michener.

“I wanted to have a decent life. I didn’t want to work for the Ministry doing health inspections at restaurants,” he says.

There are other reasons why he chose radiation therapy. He loves his science, but he’s also a people person.

“I looked at radiation therapy and really liked the human aspect. You’re always interacting with patients,” he says. It also doesn’t hurt that radiation therapists enjoy a 100 percent employment rate.

His people personality was fostered long before he started his current line of training. He has a background in stress management, suicide and crisis prevention training and volunteered at the Distress Centre Niagara as a call centre support person. He thinks his talent for helping people came from his parents. While Peggy works at the hospital, his father is a police officer.

“I know I dragged him to one when he was still in grade 13,” she says.

As it turns out Jeff and Peggy were simply looking for the same thing: A satisfying career in health care that didn’t require eight years of medical school.

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To date Michener has received over $30,000 in donations for student scholarships and other initiatives with another $10,000 in pledges yet to come in. We are extremely proud of our Alumni and friends for being so generous and urge those of you who have not yet fulfilled your pledge to please send in your gift today. Help us to reach our goal of $40,000 before December 31, 2004!

To make your gift to our 2004 Annual Fund Campaign, please call or email us at (416) 596-3101, ext. 3220 or alumni@michener.ca.
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Cheryl Roe Laboratory Technicians 1980
Gurjit Kaur Laboratory Technicians 1992
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Amy Carr Genetics Technology 2003
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Halina Paliga Echocardiography 1999
Catherine Anne Sametz-Arthur Diagnostic Cytology 1981
Deborah Anne Proctor Diagnostic Cytology 1991
Sandra Moorman Diagnostic Cytology 1995
Yury Borisovich Brandt Diagnostic Cytology 1991
Cynthia Smith Cytogenetics 1988
Julie Perreault Cytogenetics 1995
Vicki Clutterbuck Cytogenetics 1990
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Mary Ellen Kennedy-Mitchell Chiropody 1989
Kyle Gauld Chiropody 1994
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Doris Gahey Radiography 1989
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Andrew Boppik Respiratory Therapy 1989
Kendra Sainstow Respiratory Therapy 2002
Carla Sainstow Respiratory Therapy 2002
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John Starr Ultrasonography 1983
Nuzin Kasamal Vajj Ultrasonography 1977

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If you have updated address information please send to alumni@michener.ca
Stay in Touch with Your Alumni Association!

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Surname at Graduation (if applicable): __________________ Year(s) of Graduation: __________________
Michener Program(s) you graduated from: __________________
Home Address: ____________________________ City: __________________
Province/State: __________ Postal/Zip: __________ Phone (home): __________________ Phone (work): __________
e-mail address(es): _______________________

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Province/State: __________ Postal/Zip: __________ Phone (work): __________ ext: __________
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GradVine – Alumni Happenings! in the magazine:

Please tell us what you are up to and we will publish it in the next issue of Michener 222 Alumni Magazine:

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______________________________________________________________________________________________
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Give us your photograph and we will print that too! Email to: alumni@michener.ca

Please call me….I’d like to know more about:

☐ Being on the volunteer Alumni Association Board
☐ Nominating a Michener graduate for an Alumni of Achievement Award.
☐ Helping out with alumni social events
☐ Suggest or submit an article/item for the Michener 222 Alumni Magazine
☐ Other (please specify)

Do you know a graduate we should profile in our Alumni Magazine?

Name: ____________________________ Contact Tel. #: __________________
Program and Year: ____________________________
Important Dates to Remember:

- Student Awards and Alumni of Distinction Ceremony
  Schatz Hall,
The Michener Institute
  November 24, 2004 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

- Michener Open House
  November 18 & 19, 2004

- Alumni Association Annual General Meeting & Reception
  Michener graduates and students are welcome to attend.
  RSVP to alumni@michener.ca
  Tuesday, January 10, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

- Michener Career Fair
  April 6, 2004

For more information call 416-596-3101 or Toll free 1-800-387-9066

Alumni and Student Alumni Scholarships at Michener

As the only Canadian academic institution devoted to the advancement of applied health sciences and associated professionals, The Michener Institute is committed to fostering the education of its alumni and students.

Every year we support deserving students with scholarships and bursaries to attract top-notch students and encourage alumni or children of alumni to continue their professional studies.

The Alumni Association Scholarship is honoured to award two scholarships of $500.00 each to a Michener graduate, or child of a graduate to pursue their post-secondary education. The successful candidate, through their accomplishments, will have demonstrated leadership and is a positive role model. For more details on how to apply for The Alumni Association Scholarship please consult our website at: www.michener.ca or call our Student Services department at 416-596-3177 for more information.

Another alumni scholarship offered at The Michener Institute is the NEW Meloche Monnex Student Alumni Award. This is a generous scholarship of $750 awarded to a Michener student in their graduating year of a full-time program and/or after a minimum of two years of full-time study. The Meloche Monnex Student Alumni Award is given to a student who has demonstrated their contribution to student life and/or alumni association while a student at Michener, has maintained an overall “B” average and has demonstrated a financial need for assistance. Please consult our website at: www.michener.ca for further details on how and when to apply for this scholarship or call our Student Services department at 416-596-3177 for more information.

Michener Wear and Mementos are now on sale!

Many items are selling for HALF PRICE OR LESS. Show your support for the Michener Alumni Association by buying any of the following items:

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Polar Fleece Vests</td>
<td>$59.95</td>
<td>$29.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polar Fleece Sweatshirts</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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<td>Student Crewneck Sweatshirt</td>
<td>$49.95</td>
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<td>Student Long Sleeve T-shirt</td>
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<td>Sweatshirt Zip</td>
<td>$54.50</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lambs wool scarves</td>
<td>$19.85</td>
<td>$12.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polar Fleece Car Blankets</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denim Shirts</td>
<td>$62.50</td>
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<td>T-shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Mugs</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
<td>$10.98</td>
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<td>Key Chains</td>
<td>$6.95</td>
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<td>Coffee Mugs</td>
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Embarks on a New Tradition

P
residential Installation: an affair to remember

BY JAMES ROBERTSON, VP CORPORATE SERVICES & STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT, AND MARY PREECE, VP ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

September 14, 2004 marked a very important milestone for The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences (Michener). For the first time in a history that spans over 45 years, Michener formally installed its third President and CEO, Dr. Paul Gamble (pictured above). Following his first Annual General Meeting as President and CEO and Secretary of the Corporation, Dr. Gamble formally introduced himself to the Michener community.

Dr. Gamble took office officially on October 14, 2003. He came to Michener from Ryerson University where he was an Associate Professor and Director of the School of Health Services Management. Prior to that, Dr. Gamble served as President of the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto. A native of Peterborough, Ontario, Dr. Gamble first attended McMaster University where he received an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He received his Master of Health Administration from the University of Toronto, and holds a Doctor of Public Health with a specialty in Health Policy, which he received from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1993.

Michener was honoured to have at the September 14th ceremony Dr. Renate Krakauer, Michener’s second President and CEO, and Dr. Diana Michener Schatz, founder and first leader of Michener, initially known as the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology.

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A new feature! Send us your announcements and we’ll print them to let the Michener community know what’s happening with our graduates. Email to alumni@michener.ca

**Alumni Happenings**

**Jennifer O’Leary, Cytogenetics ’01**

Hello everyone! I am excited to announce that I am now on faculty here at TMI. I was a graduate of the Cytogenetics Program in 1991.

**In Memorium**

Tracy Frances (nee Cracknell) Davis

Asthma Educator Program, ’00

Tracy passed away peacefully with her loving family near, on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003 after a brave and hopeful fight against the sudden onset of cancer. Tracy was a dedicated medical professional. In addition to being a Registered Respiratory Therapist, she later also qualified as a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer and Certified Asthma Educator. Born April 2, 1959, in Ottawa, Tracy will always be remembered for the happiness and verve with which she lived. She brought joy to so many, especially as the loving wife to her devoted husband Eric, and mother of daughters Daly, 15, Molly, 13, and son Nicholas, 19 and companion to Sheltie dog Scout.

**Tim Lepage, Respiratory Therapy ’01**

How’s everything in T.O.? Things are going well here in Calgary. My wife, Krista Baier and I are settling into married life well. We were married on June 28th of this year in Banff. We had a wonderful day and even the weather cooperated with us. It was a small wedding with about 70 guests. Krista is a pediatric dentist at the Alberta Children’s Hospital here in Calgary.

**Tania Toffner, Medical Laboratory Sciences ’01**

Tania Toffner was recently appointed to the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) general examination panel. Tania is currently at Sunnybrook-Women’s College Hospital in Transfusion Medicine.

**Nicole Racz, Molecular Genetics ’97**

Nicole Racz (nee Fabricius) and her husband James, are proud to announce the birth of their healthy baby boy, Isaac Jameson. Isaac arrived Tuesday July 27th at 7:09 pm and weighed 7lb.9oz. According to mom, he has a full head of light brown hair, a button nose and blue eyes. Nicole is a Michener faculty member in Genetics Technology.

Are you in this picture? Reunion for Nuclear Medicine, Class of 1977

Michener’s Nuclear Medicine Class of ’77 is planning a reunion to coincide with the Society of Nuclear Medicine 52nd Annual Meeting in Toronto next year (www.snm.org). The reunion is planned for June 17 to 19, 2005. Details to be confirmed. If you know anyone in the above picture, please send them an email and encourage them to join their former classmates in Toronto in 2005. Or send an email to Heather Wharram at hgwnucmed@hotmail.com, Jim Ross at jim149@sympatico.ca or Lyle Goodin at lgoodin@michener.ca. You can also get in touch with Alumni Affairs at Michener at alumni@michener.ca.
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