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On the Cover: The Honourable Minister of Health and Long Term Care, David Caplan, and Dr. Paul Gamble, President and CEO, The Michener Institute, shake hands after celebrating the simulated groundbreaking of the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare.
When selecting the theme of this issue of Michener Magazine, we discussed many of the proud moments in Michener’s 50 year history. We realized it was these proud moments that we should base this issue around. It allowed us to celebrate the achievements in our first 50 years, as well as Michener’s continuing transformation and triumphs.

The past year was filled with proud moments and reminders of what Michener has achieved in the past. At our 50th Anniversary Gala last November, the overwhelming response we received from guests after a wonderful evening of toasts, remembrances, and a stellar 50th Anniversary video, was how proud they were to be associated with Michener, and their amazement at how much the organization has accomplished.

Every month seems to bring another milestone in Michener’s ongoing evolution – new strategic partnerships, the launch of the simulation semester, the integration of Multiple Mini Interviews into the student admissions process, the “wall breaking” for the Capital Development Project, and the launch of Michener’s largest fundraising campaign ever, The Campaign for Michener: Stronger. Smarter. Better. are just a few of the exciting things happening at the Institute.

Ultimately, what we are most proud of are our graduates and the contributions they make to health care. The skills and knowledge Michener graduates bring to the health care system are second to none, and it is that skill set and knowledge base that will give them the ability to support and care for Canadians for many years to come.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of these moments in the subsequent pages, and we look forward to sharing and celebrating many more of them with you in future issues.

Proudly,

The Michener Magazine Editorial Team
funding the Phase I construction, adding to the lead Campaign gift we received from CAE, Canada’s leading aviation simulation company. When the Phase I renovations are finished, Michener will possess a truly state-of-the-art simulation/assessment centre.

Our strategic alliance will have CAE drawing from their extensive background in aviation simulation to collaborate on health sciences curriculum for Michener programs. The curriculum will have a strong base in interprofessional collaboration (IPC) and the students will gain a great deal of practical experience working with other soon-to-be health care professionals in a simulated environment.

In addition to CAE, new alliances for Michener also include Health Canada, GE Healthcare and Vertual Ltd. Those alliances add to the many others Michener has made in the recent past, including IMPAC, Cryos Technologies, Sorin Group and CMS. Michener has also made new academic partners recently. In the past year Michener has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Toronto (UofT), the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), and Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Jaipur, India. These MOUs will see Michener further expanding its curriculum to educate more allied health professionals in Canada, and around the world.

Michener’s recent string of MOUs is in part because we are at the forefront of education in IPC. Michener laid the path with the introduction of the IPC classes in the summer simulation semester in 2008. The IPC classes consist of students from different disciplines working together to achieve the common goal of better patient care and safety. The IPC education our students are receiving will prepare them for the future of health care and make them well-rounded professionals.

In 2009, Michener was honoured for the second time as a Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Top Employer. The recognition has changed from a Top 50 in 2008, to a Top 75 in 2009 to make way for all the great employers in the GTA. Michener is very proud to be part of this list of excellent employers in the GTA.

Michener’s most recent new endeavour was participating in Doors Open Toronto for the first time. In May 2009, Michener opened its doors to the public to educate them on what we do, who we are, and what we teach. The event was a great success; almost 800 people left the building with a better understanding of the connection between “that big building on St. Patrick” and the community they live in.

This is only a snapshot of the many amazing things that have been achieved at Michener in the last year. I know there is much to come, and I look forward to our further collective accomplishments in the years to come.

With our 50th Anniversary year behind us, I recognize upon reflection that there is a lot to be proud of. And not only about the 50th Anniversary celebrations, but for many of the other milestones Michener has accomplished in the past few years.

Last year’s 50th Anniversary celebrations were truly exceptional. The Michener community pulled together to organize a year of amazing events. The signature event of the year was the Gala, which raised just over $25,000 for Michener’s Scholarships and Bursaries Fund, and brought out the Honourable David Caplan from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), along with over 400 other guests who helped us to celebrate.

Minister Caplan was also on hand in April 2009 for the simulated groundbreaking of Phase I of our Capital Development Project, featuring the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare, and the official launch of ‘The Campaign for Michener: Stronger Smarter Better’. The MOHLTC has shown support for Michener by partially

PROUD MOMENTS AT MICHENER

From the Guest Editor, Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO, The Michener Institute

Guillaume Hervé, President, CAE Healthcare, the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO, The Michener Institute, together at Michener’s 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner, November 2008
Recollections of a Med Lab Pioneer

Gertrude Pokoly (née Gross) was one of the first graduates of Michener’s Medical Laboratory Sciences program in 1961. She worked at Toronto General Hospital, and later at clinics in the Boston area. We spoke with her by phone from her home in Rhode Island.

What was it like to be a woman practicing Med Lab in the 1960’s? Do you consider yourself a pioneer?

I suppose you could call me a pioneer. I did witness advances that make life easier for patients. Tests once required far more blood. I remember using a 50cc syringe to take blood from a patient who was getting gold treatment for his rheumatoid arthritis. I felt terrible for him. I was there when the first auto-analyzer was brought in to do electrolytes. And I remember doing CO2 tests with mercury, which would spill every now and then. When I started out there were no vacutainers, you had to feel what you were doing, when taking blood. I got very good at pipetting blood by mouth. At the time we didn’t know to take the precautions they do now, and I caught something that caused me to be jaundiced, possibly hepatitis. I was able to bring a microscope home and studied my haematology there for six months.

After graduation, I was hired by the Biochemistry department. My very first shift was an overnight on July 1. There were many accident victims being brought in, and the lab was all the way up on the thirteenth floor. The emergency room was calling for results before we’d even received the samples. I thought, “Holy Toledo! Is this what this job’s going to be like?” And sometimes it was. But I never regretted any day that I worked and I never dreaded going into work, because I never knew what was in store for me. It was always so interesting.

I worked seven years before I stopped to raise my children. I met my husband in the biochem lab at Toronto General. He was in medical school, and the lab was his part time job. When he went to Boston for his residency, I went along and worked at the Deaconess Hospital. It was always so interesting. I felt terrible for him. I was there when they do now, and I caught something associated with the Joslin Diabetes Center, which was well known for diabetic care. After the children were older, I’d help my husband out at his office, doing quality control on their lab tests. I kept my accreditation up for 30 years.

What do you remember from your time at Michener?

Twelve of us started out in a lab in the basement of the Toronto General Hospital. It was then called the Toronto General Hospital School of Medical Technology (TGHSMT). We were there for three months and then we moved up to the labs on the thirteenth floor where we rotated through the departments of Biochemistry, Haematology, Pathology and Bacteriology, for hands on training. The whole program was done in 18 months, and we even received a small stipend!

Dr. Diana Schatz was the assistant head of Biochemistry. She was instrumental in the planning at the TGHSMT. She was a wonderful teacher, instrumental in the planning at the head of Biochemistry. She was very patient and dynamic. She always made our experiments interesting. She was a woman far ahead of her time. We made our experiments interesting. She was a woman far ahead of her time. She was a wonderful teacher, instrumental in the planning.

Do you consider yourself a pioneer?

I suppose you could call me a pioneer. I did witness advances that make life easier for patients. Tests once required far more blood. I remember using a 50cc syringe to take blood from a patient who was getting gold treatment for his rheumatoid arthritis. I felt terrible for him. I was there when the first auto-analyzer was brought in to do electrolytes. And I remember doing CO2 tests with mercury, which would spill every now and then. When I started out there were no vacutainers, you had to feel what you were doing, when taking blood. I got very good at pipetting blood by mouth. At the time we didn’t know to take the precautions they do now, and I caught something that caused me to be jaundiced, possibly hepatitis. I was able to bring a microscope home and studied my haematology there for six months.

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Thank you very much for a copy of The Michener Institute’s fall 2008 magazine. I’ve enjoyed reading all the articles and looking at the pictures from the year I was a student. Not having lived in Canada now for almost 45 years, it is great to read about how much medical science and the Institute has developed. I just loved my time at the Toronto General Hospital (TGH) and everything that I was learning. I graduated from high school with chemistry, physics and mathematics and thought about becoming a science teacher. Instead I went into nursing at the Royal Victoria Hospital. After a year I found a summer job back in Toronto at the specimen reception of TGH and was informed about the new course starting in September. I was very keen to join for I had found the area that I was looking for. Dr. Diana Schatz was a great inspiration, along with Anne Rimmer, who led the primary classes. I have fond memories of Dr. Murray Young, as head of the laboratory - also Betty Croucher in the blood bank. We even designed a lovely little graduation pin and I often glance at it sitting in my jewelry box.

After I graduated I wanted to be more educated in an area of medical technology that I now found fascinating. So, I enrolled in a science degree at the Ontario Agriculture College in Guelph. I planned to use this to advance my interest in Bacteriology. I lived in the nurses’ residence of the Guelph General Hospital and in return took their night calls in the laboratory; however, by the new year, I left Guelph to become a technician in the Toxicology department of the Ontario Veterinary College. In September 1963, I married an Australian vet who was doing a master’s degree, and the following year moved down under.

After raising a family I decided to pursue a Fine Arts degree in painting. I continued working part time for 10 years at Melbourne pathology in the specimen reception to support my painting activities. My previous training made this job very easy and enjoyable. I found it interesting to read Dr. Schatz’s comments on how few of the early graduates continued beyond 15 years in health care compared to now. Again many thanks.
It is said the only constant in life is change. For proof, one need only visit 222 St. Patrick Street.

During an on-campus media event in April 2009, The Michener Institute officially launched three exciting initiatives: Phase I of Michener’s Capital Development Project, the CAE/ Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare (that is a focal point of Phase I), and a Capital Fundraising Campaign entitled “The Campaign for Michener: Smarter, Better” (see related stories on pages 14, 15 and 17, respectively).

The Capital Development Project is an unprecedented undertaking that will modernize Michener’s 37-year-old facility. The goal of the transformation is simple, says Dr. Paul Gamble, Michener’s President and CEO. “Michener’s revitalized space is designed to enhance the student-team experience. It will also better prepare our graduates, the health care system and the broader community more aware of who we are - that is to say, without our graduates, the health care system just wouldn’t work.”

In the end, optimizing existing and re-captured space will enable Michener to increase its full- and part-time student capacity by roughly 20 per cent. The campus renewal will enable the optimal delivery of Michener’s innovative health education curriculum so that all its students receive the best education and experience possible. "Those learners, in turn, will go on to lead innovation in the health care system of tomorrow." — Dana Yates

Massive construction project will further prepare students for health care front-line

The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of the MOHLTC, was on hand for the announcement ceremony in April. “This project will further solidify Michener’s reputation as a leader in health care education,” he said. As an Institute, you are already at the top of your game. Your programs are innovative and forward-thinking. You are pushing boundaries and breaking down silos. You are truly on the front-line of collaboration and simulation. And now you are pushing boundaries even further.”

Another key supporter of the Capital Development Project is CAE. A world leading provider of simulation and modelling technologies and integrated training solutions for the aviation industry, CAE has contributed $3 million to The Campaign for Michener to help construct the CAE/ Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare (see related story on page 14).

The Simulation Centre is just one pioneering element in a master plan designed by Toronto-based and world-renowned architects Diamond + Schmitt. With additional funding from The Campaign for Michener, the multi-phased master plan is expected to be completed in a few years.

At that time, Michener’s vertical campus will house state-of-the-art classrooms and learning environments. Together, these high-tech spaces will accommodate vital interprofessional activities and support a variety of health care simulation scenarios, such as a pandemic, operating rooms and emergency-room situations.

In addition, Michener’s applied health students – along with nursing, medical and pharmacy students – will have the opportunity to work together in simulated, flexible and student-focused environments. This unique arrangement will enable each learner to develop the communication, negotiation, collaboration, interpersonal, and conflict-resolution skills that are required to work effectively in integrated health care teams within a clinical environment.

To that end, Phase I of the renovation process will bring about several important changes. They include the creation of a 25,000 square foot simulation and assessment centre (The CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare), seven new multi-purpose classrooms, dedicated student-support service and gathering areas, and improvements to existing learning spaces.

Later phases will involve extensive upgrades to electrical, mechanical, plumbing, emergency, data and automation systems; the enhancement of energy-efficient activities; the renovation and relocation of office spaces, classrooms, laboratories and the library; and the procurement of high-tech medical equipment, including a move to digital technology in the Radiological Technology program, high-fidelity mannequins for all programs and mechanical ventilators for the Department of Respiratory Therapy.

Without a doubt, tremendous change is in the air. And James Robertson, Michener’s Vice President, Corporate Services and Strategic Advancement, is making sure everything goes according to plan. “Up until now, Michener has really been a hidden gem,” he says. “This revitalization will help make the
Michener puts a new spin on groundbreaking events

Consider this scenario: an education institution is highly respected for its ability to replicate real-world medical situations. So when the time comes to announce two campus construction projects, a traditional groundbreaking ceremony just won’t do.

In this case, a simulated event is in order. And that is exactly what happened at The Michener Institute on April 7, 2009. The first of its kind at Michener, the occasion marked three significant and interconnected milestones: the start of Phase I of Michener’s Capital Development Project; the establishment of the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare (that is a focal point of Phase 1 of the Project); and the launch of a Capital Fundraising Campaign entitled “The Campaign for Michener: Stronger Smarter Better” (see related stories on pages 12, 15 and 17, respectively). Each project will have a tremendously positive impact on the function and continued quality of Michener’s campus, programs and simulation capabilities.

On hand for the media event were several dignitaries. They included The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Dr. Paul Gamble prepare to knock down a virtual wall to celebrate the launch of Phase 1 of Michener’s Capital Development Project.

With students and staff looking on, The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Dr. Paul Gamble prepare to knock down a virtual wall to celebrate the launch of Phase 1 of Michener’s Capital Development Project.

Together, these special guests helped Michener kick off its latest transformation. But official greetings and congratulatory speeches weren’t the only things they contributed to the celebration.

With real shovels and sledgehammers in hand — and a computer-simulation screen between them — the guests helped break virtual ground and walls. Computer-generated dirt and crumbling drywall added dramatic effect and authenticity to the unique event. — Dana Yates

See for yourself! To view the entire simulated groundbreaking ceremony, please visit www.michener.ca.

creating a virtual reality

Michener’s “extreme makeover” is happening on many fronts. And one remarkable example of the revitalization is located on the third and fourth floors of 222 St. Patrick Street.

The CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare will enable more than 1,500 students and health care practitioners to participate in team-based simulation training each year. This state-of-the-art environment will be made possible through an innovative partnership between two seemingly unrelated organizations.

CAE is a global leader in aviation simulation and modeling technologies, and integrated training solutions, with more than 25 aviation simulation training centres around the world. When the company wanted to extend its vast aviation simulation expertise into health care settings, the perfect partner was found in Michener.

“We are proud to partner with The Michener Institute to develop cost-effective and cutting edge simulation-based solutions, which will bring increased safety and efficiency to the professional development of health care practitioners,” says Marc Parent, CAE’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “By building on our respective strengths, we will play an important role in transforming the health care training environment.”

With its breadth of applied health science programs and its interprofessional, simulation-based curriculum, Michener offers many opportunities to create best practices in team-based health care simulation. Just ask Kathryn Parker, Director of Research for the Hospital of Sick Children. Located in downtown Toronto, Sick Kids is one of Michener’s many impressive clinical partners.

practice makes perfect

State-of-the-art simulation centre represents the best in private-public partnerships

“Simulation has been used for decades in medical education in such areas as anesthesiology and surgical skills training,” says Dr. Parker. “But in the allied health sciences, where the use of simulation in education has received less attention, Michener is undoubtedly a pioneer.”

On that note, Michener was the first to offer a curriculum using interprofessional simulation scenarios and an entire semester dedicated exclusively to interprofessional health science courses. Some of the key players in the Michener/CAE alliance gather for a celebratory photo at the end of the groundbreaking event to mark the beginning of construction on the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare.

continued on page 16
collaboration-based simulation. This type of education enables students to build their confidence and hone their skills in communication, critical thinking, crisis management and collaboration.

That track record of success shows no signs of stopping. The virtual groundbreaking ceremony for the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare was held in spring 2009 (see related story on page 14). Among the event’s attendees was The Honourable David Caplan, Ontario’s Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. “The new Simulation Centre will ensure that Michener graduates can hit the ground running; it will literally shape health care leaders,” he said. “I’m proud of what this institution has accomplished and the new Simulation Centre will help Michener take medical education to the next level.”

The new space, which is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2009, will benefit both of its major supporters. From CAE’s perspective, the chance to work with Michener provides a unique opportunity to advance the use, standardization and regulation of medical simulations. “Nobody is developing a full-fledged centre of this magnitude. Michener will be CAE’s flagship alliance,” says Dr. Karim Bandali, Chair of the Cardiovascular Perfusion (CP) department. CP is just one of the programs that will make use of the new Simulation Centre.

Both CAE and Michener are focused on working collaboratively to establish excellence in health care, simulation-based education, training and evaluation.

With regards to logistics, CAE will run and manage the new Simulation Centre. Both CAE and Michener, meanwhile, will work to commercialize the spare time and spare capacity of the Simulation Centre and the rest of Michener’s facilities when they are not needed for the Institute’s academic purposes.

Currently, many health care educators rent space from hospitals or universities. Space in the Simulation Centre and throughout Michener’s campus will be available to medical and health care clients who wish to rent the space for clinical examinations, evaluations and training. Having designated space at Michener will enable these organizations to access proper testing facilities with sufficient space and simulation capabilities.

Marc Parent, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, CAE speaks about the positive synergy resulting from the CAE/Michener alliance at the groundbreaking ceremony for the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare on April 7, 2009.
For that reason, we must enhance and expand the learning experiences of students. Soon, they will play a vital role in making the Canadian health care system ever stronger, even smarter, and even better than ever.

In partnership with doctors and nurses, applied health professionals handle most of the diagnostic and therapeutic treatments of an individual patient. Members of this all-important behind-the-scenes team work in operating rooms, laboratories and outpatient services as technologists, practitioners and therapists. Simply put, without applied health professionals, the health care system would cease to function.

In light of this fact, Michener is committed to educating the highly qualified professionals who serve on the front-line of health care. The health care system is in a constant state of change, and it requires applied health professionals who can easily adapt and respond to shifting demands and expectations.

Michener shapes those nimble minds. Through partnerships with more than 110 local and international hospitals and clinics, the Institute works closely and collaboratively with leading health institutions, organizations and government agencies. Doing so gives Michener a unique view of the real-world requirements of health care providers.

But it’s not enough to simply collect data; Michener goes several steps further, incorporating the latest developments from the field into existing program curricula. Consequently, students are fully prepared for their clinical placements and careers before they even leave the classroom.

The province needs Michener graduates, says The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. “Ontarians deserve the highest-quality and versatile applied health care professionals. Michener recognizes the value of simulation education and equips students to handle real-world, life-and-death situations.”

To give learners the best possible education and experience, the best spaces for learning are needed. To that end, Michener will be transformed into a model health care environment, capable of simulating the departaments, units, labs and clinics found in Canada’s leading health care facilities. The Institute will also be reconfigured to enable optimal delivery of Michener’s innovative health-education curriculum.

The result: a unique and exceptional learning environment closely located to some of the best health facilities in Canada. This one-of-a-kind space will be created by a multi-million dollar redesign and infrastructure upgrade of Michener’s campus.

From that facility, Michener graduates will learn to have a lasting impact on the health of Canada, improving patient safety, enhancing care, and reducing wait times. Michener students, however, won’t be alone in their learning experience; University of Toronto medical, pharmacy and nursing students will also work collaboratively in the new simulation environment. The partnership is vital, says Dr. Catharine Whiteside, U of T’s Dean of Medicine.

“This new and innovative facility will create opportunities for interprofessional collaboration among the various health professions. The potential impact on the delivery of care is significant.” — Dana Yates, President of CAE Healthcare; Ida Goodreau, President of LifeLabs; George Hood, business consultant and former Vice Principal for Advancement at Queen’s University; Neena Kanwar, President & CEO of KMH Cardiology and Diagnostic Centres; Bill Tatham, Founder, Chairman and CEO of NexJ Systems; and Dr. Amitai Ziv, Director of the Israel Center for Medical Simulation (MSR) at The Chaim Sheba Medical Center. Michener will continue to build the Campaign Cabinet and add new volunteers throughout the summer and fall.

The Michener community is being approached early in the Campaign to give them the opportunity to show their leadership and to demonstrate to external donors that they are all solidly behind this project. All members of the Board of Governors have made contributions to the Campaign, and the faculty and staff campaign will be launched in late summer 2009. It also has a goal of 100 per cent participation. The alumni campaign will begin in the winter 2009/2010.
The Michener Institute has been privileged with illustrious honorary diploma recipients. They are leaders of industry, society and philanthropy who support health and wellness initiatives, education, innovation and whose community spirit has contributed to future generations.

The Right Honourable Roland Michener, Honorary Diploma Recipient, 1987

Roland Michener, twentieth Governor General since Confederation and fifty-eighth from Samuel de Champlain, was born April 19, 1900, in Lacombe, Alberta, and was the son of the late Senator Edward Michener and Mary Edith Roland, both natives of Lincoln County, Ontario.

After serving briefly with the R.A.F. in 1918, he graduated from the University of Alberta (B.A.) with the Rhodes Scholarship for Alberta. He attended Oxford University (M.A. and B.C.L.) and was called to the bar at the Middle Temple.

From 1923 until his installation as Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada on April 17, 1967, he was successively a practicing lawyer in Toronto, Member of the Legislative Assembly for St. David's Riding, and Provincial Secretary for Ontario. Member of Parliament for St. Paul’s, Toronto; Speaker of the House of Commons in the 22nd and 23rd Parliaments (1957 to 1962); General Secretary for the Rhodes Scholarships in Canada (1936 to 1946); Chairman of the Manitoba Royal Commission on Local Government (1962 to 1964); and High Commissioner for Canada in India (1964 to 1967) and first Canadian Ambassador to Nepal. He and his wife, Norah Evangeline Willis, had three daughters, one of which is Diana Michener Schatz, founder and first Executive Director of The Michener Institute.

As Governor General he was Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor of the Order of Military Merit, and Chief Scout of Canada. He also served as Prior of the Canadian Priory of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in Canada, and as Patron of many Canadian organizations.

From his retirement in January 1974 until his death on August 6, 1991, he was actively involved in promoting fitness among all Canadians from school children to senior citizens. His own physical fitness was a model to them all. He also continued his work with international organizations, served on Boards of Directors and promoted Canadian charities and cultural institutions. For seven years he served as chancellor of Queen’s University.

In 1990 he agreed to give his name to what was then known as the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology, to become The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences. At meetings of the Board of Governors, which he attended until his death, there was enthusiastic support for The Michener Institute to carry on his tradition of excellence, service, respect for the individual, promotion of health and “freedom with order” - his personal motto.

Sonja Bata, Honorary Diploma Recipient, 2008

Mrs. Sonja Bata was born in Switzerland, where she studied architecture. In 1946 she married Thomas J. Bata, the son of a well-known Czechoslovakian shoe manufacturer who had immigrated to Canada at the beginning of World War II. His family enterprise in Czechoslovakia had been nationalized under the Communist occupation. From the beginning, Mrs. Bata shared her husband’s determination to rebuild the organization and took an active interest in what was to become a global footwear business.

Over the years, she grew increasingly fascinated by shoes, their history and the reasons why specific shapes and decorative treatments had developed in different cultures. During her travels, she realized that some traditional forms were being replaced with western shoes, reflecting changing lifestyles to some extent influenced by the production of the spreading Bata factories serving local markets.

Since the 1940s, Mrs. Bata has worked with footwear of every description, from the most ordinary, to the most extraordinary, on a number of business boards including Alcan Aluminum, Canada Trust, and the Canadian Commercial Corporation.

Honours awarded to Mrs. Bata include: Officer of the Order of Canada, Honorary Doctor of Laws, and Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and Honorary Captain (N). An edited list of her awards includes: Woman of the Year, North York Chamber of Commerce, 1992; McClure International Service Award, 1991; Canadian Business Hall of Fame, 1991; CESCO Award for International Development, 1990; Shoe Person of the Year, 1985; B’Nai Brith Humanitarian Award, 1984; and Silver Medal of the United Nations Environmental Programme, 1982.

In 2007, The Bata Shoe Museum partnered with The Michener Institute to launch the “Healthy Feet Exhibit,” an interactive and interprofessional exhibition dedicated to foot health. Over 12,000 visitors gained insight into what makes healthy feet at the temporary exhibit.
Honorary Diploma

NOMINATE THE 2010 RECIPIENT TODAY!

The Michener Institute invites you to submit nominations for the 2010 Honorary Diploma recipient. Nominations will be accepted until November 15, 2009.

The Michener Institute’s Honorary Diploma recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in health care or post secondary education.

All nominations will be held in confidence. The final decision will be made by the Board of Governors based on recommendations by the Honorary Diploma Committee.

Guidelines and nomination forms can be downloaded from www.michener.ca or obtained from Lissa Manganaro at lmanganaro@michener.ca or 416-596-3132.

Pictured left: 2008 Honorary Diploma recipients Mrs. Sonja Bata, Founder and Chair of the Bata Shoe Museum and (inset) Dr. Donald T. Stuss, Vice-President Research and Academic Education at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

Making an Impact - one student at a time

In keeping with the spirit of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations, the International Department at The Michener Institute hosted the first international alumni and friends dinner at the Kapok Hotel in Trinidad and Tobago on February 2, 2009. The event was well attended by Michener alumni and educators from various hospitals and clinics, especially those who support the distance ultrasound program in Trinidad.

Since its inception in 1998, the distance ultrasound program in Trinidad and Tobago has graduated over 60 sonographers. This success is due to the tireless efforts of our clinical coordinators and educators, some of whom are graduates of our first cohort of 2000. In addition to Ultrasound, over the years Michener has graduated students from all over the Caribbean, especially in the disciplines of Radiation Therapy, MRI, Echocardiography, Imaging Informatics and Diagnostic Cytology.

Two clinical educators in particular have been with the Ultrasound distance education program since 1998. They are Shirley Bland Mohan, Senior Radiographer/Sonographer at Mt. Hope Women’s Hospital, and Jasmin Chadee, Deputy Chief Radiographer/Senior Sonographer at Port of Spain General Hospital. Shirley and Jasmin are more than just educators. They provide input for improvements to the program and, whenever new assessments are introduced, they participate in conference calls on their personal time. In addition to managing the daily operations of their departments, they monitor the students’ progress closely, spending endless amounts of time providing help and guidance to them. Over the years, students have continued with their studies under challenging circumstances, including losing the roofs of their homes during hurricane season, flooding in their hospitals, and equipment malfunction. The main driving force behind the students’ success is Wilma Collins, Head of the Radiation Sciences program at the College of Science, Technology & Applied Arts of Trinidad & Tobago (COSTAATT).

At the recognition dinner Jasmin and Shirley were honoured with Certificates of Appreciation, and Wilma was honoured with a Certificate of Distinction, for ongoing leadership, mentoring and support to students over the past 10 years. During the February visit to Trinidad, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Michener and COSTAATT with intent to broaden an already existing relationship by developing further collaborative endeavours in the area of applied health sciences.

We congratulate and continue to salute our clinical educators all over the world. Without their guidance, knowledge and leadership, we would not be able to produce talented and well rounded graduates, who in turn play key roles in improving the health care of people in many underdeveloped countries around the world. — Carolyn Menezes, Manager, International Department, The Michener Institute

Contact the International Department if you wish to find out more information on our customized diploma and certificate programs in:

- Ultrasound
- Diabetes Educator
- Imaging Informatics
- MRI
- Echocardiography

We also offer workshops in Contrast Injection, Mammography and other Continuing Education programs in both Imaging and Medical Laboratory Technology.

Contact cmenezes@michener.ca or 416.596.3147
Keeping patients comfortably on their feet is the life’s work of a chiropodist. And given recent developments in the profession, it seems even foot care specialists are taking major leaps forward.

In fall 2008, an amendment was made to the Chiropody Act of 1991, giving chiropodists and podiatrists the legislative right to prescribe certain medications. This was made to the Chiropody Act of 1991, the latter completed their education in the United States (which followed a podiatric model). By the late 1970s, though, demand for regulated foot care professionals was on the rise in the province. In response, the Ontario government officially adopted the U.K.’s model of chiropody. Podiatrists who, at that point, were already working in the field were permitted to register as a special class of primary care practitioners with the College of Chiropodists of Ontario. After 1993, a cap was placed on new podiatrists as a means of promoting the development of the chiropody profession in Ontario. Traditionally, podiatrists, have long offered foot care services in Ontario. Traditionally, the former group received training in the United Kingdom (which followed a chiropody model of education and care), while the latter completed their education in the United States (which followed a podiatric model).

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Fast-forward to the present day, the term “podiatry” has gained widespread acceptance among the general public. At the same time, Ontario has become the only jurisdiction in the world that represents chiropodists and podiatrists across the country.

The location of the foot clinic enables students to reach out to, and work with, a diverse population of patients, including homeless people,” says Chiropody faculty member Christine Burton. “Patients receive care they may not otherwise be able to access, and students obtain experience that they may not be able to obtain in a traditional setting.”

It’s about enhancing student learning, says Beeho. “We’re showing that podiatrists and chiropodists can work together toward a unified goal.”

Over the past couple of years, the Chiropody Department has expanded and includes a diversity of qualified individuals. They include American-educated foot specialists Adrian Dobrowski, Cesar Mendez and Tony Merendino, and chiropodist Sarah Robinson. Each one has added immeasurably to the existing strong complement of Michener Chiropody faculty members, consisting of Jean Beeho, Christine Burton, Deborah Loundes, Meera Nareenhiran and Diane Tyczynski.

“We’re showing that podiatrists and chiropodists can work together toward a unified goal – keeping the professional designation. It’s within this context that Michener’s Board of Governors approved the new diploma title last winter. The decision, which followed considerable consultation with faculty, students, alumni and profession associations, was made to accurately reflect the current range of chiropody practice and curriculum. The bottom line: even though graduates will hold a diploma in podiatric medicine, they will still be able to register and work as chiropodists in the province.

“This is a significant milestone in the evolution of the profession of chiropody and podiatry in Canada,” says Stephen Hartman, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Federation of Podiatric Medicine (CFPM), which represents chiropodists and podiatrists across the country.

“Every day, we are faced with questions from the public about the terms chiropody and podiatry in Canada. This confusion takes away from the importance of foot care,” says Hartman. “The name change will reduce this confusion and help the public recognize qualified foot specialists in Canada.”

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looking back at the

50TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING WEEKEND

HOME COMING PUB NIGHT
Friday, November 21, 2008
As Kool and the Gang would say, “There’s a party goin’ on right here!” Fun and frolic at pub night were just the things to kick off Homecoming 2008. The event was modeled after the Open House pub nights from the 90’s, where students and faculty mingled and shared a few laughs over a pint or two. The Michener cafeteria was converted into a funky lounge for the occasion. Over 90 alumni, students, current and former faculty and staff were treated to a delicious range of pub fare, great music by Michener’s favourite DJ, Shawn Dunbar, and a complimentary “light-up” glass. A mini silent auction raised $1,200 to benefit student scholarships and bursaries. Old class photos brought back memories and alumni shared stories from the past.

HOME COMING BRUNCH
Saturday, November 22, 2008
Michener alumni held a reunion brunch on Saturday morning in Schatz Hall lounge. They were greeted by students and staff, welcomed by Alumni Board Chair, Christine Nielsen and President and CEO, Dr. Paul Gamble, and enjoyed brunch while listening to live music provided by the Nawlins Jazz Band. Guests were treated to a tour of the eleventh floor of Michener, the newest teaching and learning spaces such as the MRI/CT/Ultrasound Diagnostic Suite, the Learning Resource Centre and its current resources/service offerings, and the Transformational Gallery containing detailed plans of Michener’s $69 million renovation project to transform our facilities into a 21st century team-based learning campus.

HOME COMING GALA
Saturday, November 22, 2008
It was a night to remember. The sold-out event had 450 Michener alumni, clinical educators, corporate partners, staff and students celebrate Michener’s 50th in a grand style at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre hotel. Over $25,000 was raised for the Scholarship and Bursaries Fund through the glittering silent auction featuring 58 amazing items/experiences to bid on, and through raffle ticket sales. Also available for sale was The First 50 Years: A History of Michener from 1958 to 2008, written by Dr. Colin J. Stone (retired Michener employee) and Martha Tuff (archivist).

The evening featured Comedian James Cunningham as Master of Ceremonies, who kept the evening lively with his humour. Guests enjoyed a three-course dinner and dined to a performance by the Juno-nominated Elizabeth Shepherd Trio. Later, guests danced the night away with Michener’s favorite DJ, Shawn Dunbar. The evening held many wonderful moments featuring special guests including the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Diana Michener Schatz, founder and the first Executive Director of the Michener Institute, who received two standing ovations. Completing the evening was the 50th Anniversary Gala video, a fun photo booth experience and gift bag filled with a variety of items for guests. For more photos from Michener’s 50th Anniversary visit www.michener.ca/50th/gala.php.

— By Iliana Arapis & Wudasie Efrem, 50th Anniversary Co-chairs
Neena Kanwar (Nuclear Medicine ’81) is President & CEO of KMH Cardiology and Diagnostic Centres, North America’s largest provider of nuclear cardiology services. Serving for 15 years as President of the Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association, Kanwar has also been on the boards of St. Michael’s Hospital and Sherbourne Health Centre. For several years Kanwar has been honoured as one Canada’s Top 100 Women Entrepreneurs by PROFIT and Chatelaine magazines. In 1992, she was named Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year (Start-up Category) by the Rotman School of Management, and was recognized in 2004 as Businesswoman of the Year by the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, with her husband and business partner Vijay, was named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year. This year, the couple was honored by Skills for Change as New Pioneers awards recipients in Entrepreneurship category.

Your business now employs 165 people and serves 85,000 patients annually. Did you envision this success when you were starting out?

No, as far as I was concerned back then I was just going to have the one centre in Mississauga and live happily ever after. But there was a need and so we opened a second centre, and then a third…. we never looked back.

My primary goal has been to have a positive impact on diagnostic wait times. I was seeing people wait six months or a year for tests that should be done right away. So, although it wasn’t my goal at first to open so many centres, once I realized we could really have a positive impact on people’s care, I went for it.

You were educated at Michener as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, followed by six years at St. Michael’s Hospital. Do you still get the chance to do hands-on diagnostic work?

I do, every once in a while when we’re short staffed, or if I want to implement a new procedure or protocol and need to demonstrate it to our staff. My background has been helpful.

You must have seen many advances in diagnostic health services over the years. What particularly excites you about the way the field is headed?

I’m excited by some of the new technologies. I see them as a way to improve people’s health and their lives. KMH is an early adopter of new technologies and so we’ve recently acquired a 3D echocardiogram machine. The technology is fairly new, but we’re very excited by the improvement we’re going to see in our diagnostic capabilities.

Advances such as this will shorten wait times and will ultimately be less expensive for the health care system. I think there’s a natural tendency to be hesitant about adopting new technologies because they can be expensive to begin with, but by directing dollars we’re currently spending on old technologies to faster and more refined diagnostic methods, we’ll see improvement in patient health and reduce the cost to the system overall.

Do you have any advice for Michener grads with entrepreneurial ambitions?

Entrepreneurship is nothing but hard work. I consider my kids to be my best accomplishment, and they’re starting out in their own careers, so I tell them what I tell everyone: find your passion and make it your job. And work hard.

— Kathleen Sandusky

Neena Kanwar, centre, holding award, celebrates at the 2009 New Pioneer Awards gala on March 5, 2009 with her husband Vijay, to her left, her family and the KMH Team.
Michener recognizes student achievement in academics, leadership and volunteerism

In 2008, Michener recognized student achievement with over $55,000 in student awards. Available to full and part-time students, scholarships are awarded based on criteria that reflect values inherent to Michener, including academic excellence, community involvement and leadership.

“There are so many generous donors who truly believe in the future of health care, and in particular Michener grads,” says 2008 President’s Award recipient, Katherine Barron, who will MC the 2009 awards at Michener’s graduation ceremony on November 18. “It was a really memorable moment for my parents and I last fall, and it will be nice to experience that with this year’s grads.”

Following are profiles of some of the recipients.

Christopher (Chris) Cruz, Nuclear Medicine ’09
Dr. J.E. Prince Nuclear Medicine Scholarship

2007 graduates will recognize Chris Cruz as the golden-throated tenor who sang the national anthem at their graduation ceremony. Chris will graduate this year from Michener’s Nuclear Medicine program, and has already been hired as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist at the Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital in Windsor, where he received his clinical training. Originally from Toronto, Chris quickly adapted to life in Windsor, singing with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus in his spare time. It is for this community engagement, combined with his solid academic performance, that Chris is being honoured.

Chris found his way to Michener thanks to the prodding of his aunt, a Radiological Technologist. Originally intending to follow in her footsteps, he soon switched his field to Nuclear Medicine. “At Michener, you get exposure to other disciplines, and you’re trained by technologists actively practicing in the field,” says Chris, who in first year received the GE Healthcare Radiopharmacy Award for the highest course grade in Radiopharmacy. “That one-on-one connection gives you useful insight into real life practice.”

Wei Hong (Amy) Ruan, Diagnostic Cytology ’09
Entrance Scholarship

As a pediatrician in China, Amy Ruan set up the first children’s asthma clinic in her province, followed by five satellite clinics. She continues to consult by e-mail with clinic staff. Arriving in Canada in 2002 with her engineer husband and their daughter (the couple now has two children), Amy studied for medical equivalency exams while volunteering at Mississauga’s ErinoakKids Centre. She eventually needed more immediate employment and enrolled in Michener’s Diagnostic Cytology program.

“Michener not only provides the medical skills required for the profession, but also helps us to attain soft skills like interprofessional collaboration and leadership,” says Amy. “This will help us to be better health care practitioners.”

Amy has come to love her new profession. “I like studying cells under the microscope,” she explains. “As a doctor, my focus was on healing people. By practicing Cytology now, I’m giving the patient an early chance to prevent cancer from spreading. So I’m still accomplishing the same goal of serving the health of the patient.”

Katherine Barron, Respiratory Therapy ’08
The President’s Scholarship
The Dorothy A. Hubbs & Family Scholarship
The ProResp Respiratory Therapy Graduating Student Scholarship of Excellence

As a teen, Katherine Barron first encountered Respiratory Therapy while volunteering in the emergency department at Barrie’s Royal Victoria Hospital. “Whenever an acute case came in I saw that the RT was always a key part of the health care team,” she says. “It was a role that really appealed to me, always at the head of the bed, always where the action was.”

After completing a B.Sc. at Queen’s University, Katherine enrolled in Michener’s Respiratory Therapy program, where her passion was confirmed: “All the faculty members at Michener are enthusiastic about their specialization, which makes the material easier to apply in a clinical setting,” says Katherine. “Martha Williams inspired me to pursue a career in neonatology, and entertained my many questions on the subject. Babies can’t tell you what’s wrong; there are many unknowns.”

Katherine is now a full-time Registered Respiratory Therapist at The Hospital for Sick Children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). “I experience a challenge every day at work. The NICU at Sick Kids is a fabulous place to learn and grow as a therapist.”

Dmitry Obidnyy, Respiratory Therapy ’09
Ron Bentley Memorial Scholarship

Dmitry Obidnyy worked as an emergency physician in his native Moscow. After immigrating to Canada with his physician wife and their children, Dmitry enrolled in Michener’s Respiratory Therapy (RT) program in 2006. As a doctor, Dmitry expected RT to come easily, but quickly discovered otherwise. “RT is quite a technical profession. You need to understand the equipment as well as possess the medical skills,” says Dmitry. He was also hampered by his struggles with the English language. For the first semester, he sat largely silent in class, barely comprehending technical terms and in-class banter. He threw himself into his English studies, working around the clock to catch up.

Kathleen Olden-Powell was Dmitry’s first year instructor. “When we spoke about her nominating me for the Ron Bentley Memorial Scholarship, Kathleen said that she remembered me on the first day of class, sitting in the front row with my mouth shut,” says Dmitry, who expects to complete his clinical rotation and write the National RT exam this summer. “Three years later, you could say I have come a long way.”

— Kathleen Sandusky
Son Nguyen & Dawn Webley  
Medical Laboratory Science ’05  
Son Nguyen and Dawn Webley were married on January 10, 2009 in Elora, Ontario. Son is also a member of The Michener Institute’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Christine Nielsen  
Medical Laboratory Science ’97  
Christine Nielsen (Chair, Alumni Association) married Craig Trowhill on March 21, 2009 at the Old Mill, Toronto. Anyone wishing to contact Christine can do so at crazylabchick@hotmail.com.

Meet and Greet  
September 2, 2009, 4-4:45 p.m.  
We are looking for alumni from all programs to Meet and Greet our new students during Orientation, answer any questions they may have, and provide advice. If you are interested, contact alumni@michener.ca.

Tell us what you’re doing.  
Send your updates to alumni@michener.ca

Weddings

upcoming events

Orientation Week – September 2-4, 2009
Opening of the CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare – Tuesday, September 8, 2009
Clinical Educators Day - Monday, September 21, 2009
Open House – Thursday, October 8, 2009
Honorary Diploma Reception (By Invitation Only) – Thursday, October 22, 2009
Convocation – Saturday, October 24, 2009
Student Awards Ceremony – Wednesday, November 18, 2009
Michener’s Charitable Winter Drive – Wednesday, December 16, 2009
Holiday Break – Thursday, December 24, 2009 – Monday, January 4, 2010

Help Us Honour Our Graduates

Presented at the annual Scholarships and Bursaries Awards (November 18, 2009), the Alumni of Distinction Award offers an exciting opportunity to honour deserving Michener graduates.

To nominate Michener alumni, send a letter that describes how the nominee fits the criteria listed below, with a copy of the nominee’s curriculum vitae, and any other relevant information to alumni@michener.ca or fax 416.596.3159 by August 31, 2009.

Criteria

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

2008 Alumni of Distinction Award recipient, Michele Henry (right), with 2005 recipient, Lynn Yawney, at Michener’s Annual Awards and Bursaries Ceremony on October 7, 2008
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