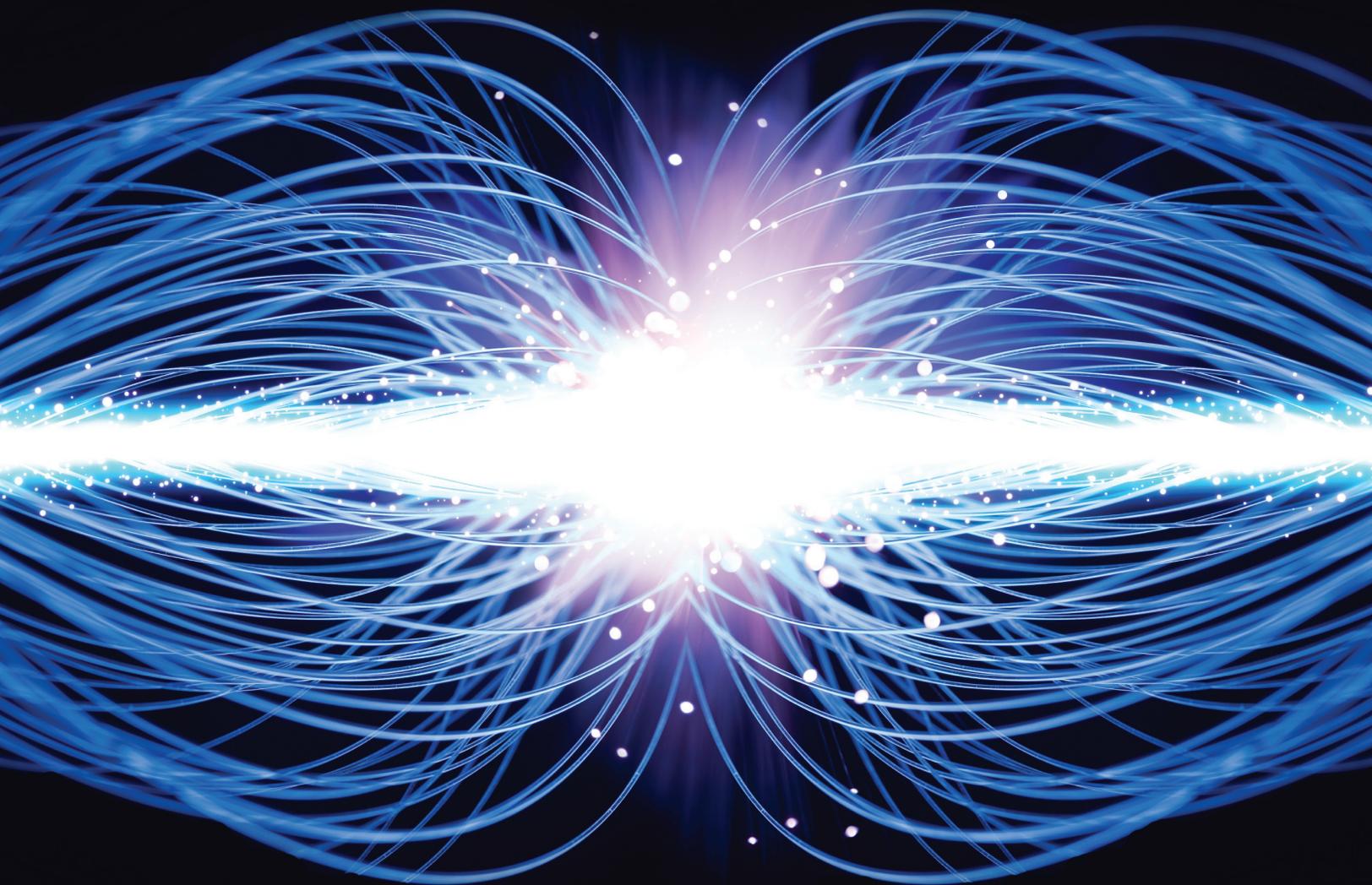


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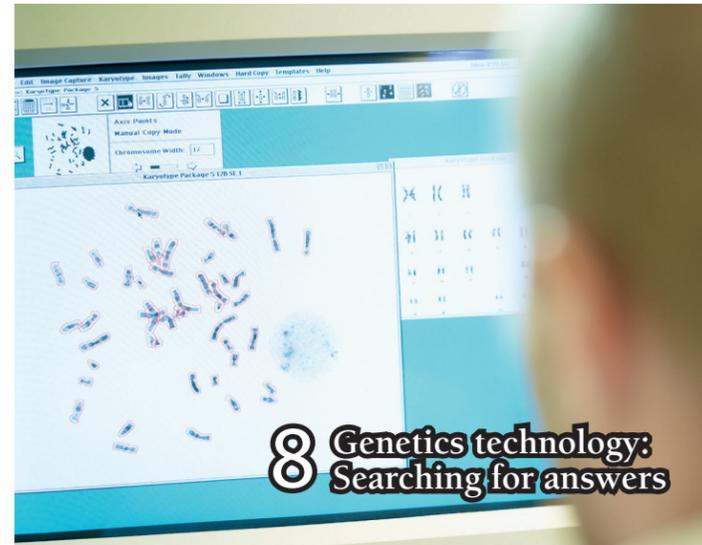
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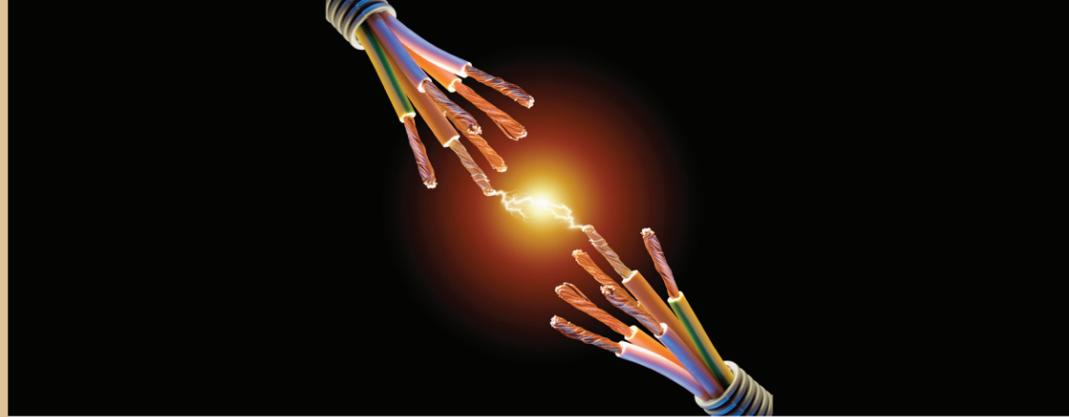
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Connections made at Michener last a lifetime

They say it's who you know, not what you know. At Michener, it's both.

After our students graduate, they enter the work force equipped with a sound foundation in their chosen profession. They leave with an extensive network of contacts throughout Ontario, and beyond, that they may tap into many times throughout their career.

They tell us the connections they made as students last a lifetime, as evidenced by Danny Wong, a Michener alumnus profiled in this issue. Their decision to study at Michener brought them into a network of people who share similar passions, whether they are studying foot mechanics or examining blood cells. They learned the tricks of their trade as a group, and after years of study, they graduated together. They learned why their profession is important to Canadian health care. They learned about other applied health professionals, enabling them to work together easily to provide the best possible patient care. They are our heroes of health care.

Creating connections with external organizations is also an important part of Michener's foundation. Over the past couple of years, for example, Michener has worked with Elekta and Health

Canada, both of which are featured in this issue. Collaborating with like minded organizations helps Michener solidify those same connections our students make. One of the many benefits of these relationships is that we can work with those who create the most current technologies in health care, giving our students access to the best facilities and the most current tools. These relationships haven't developed over night and we still have a way to go, but every year we make headway.

We produce this magazine to share what's going on at Michener and to stay connected with all of our alumni and friends. The Michener Alumni Association is instrumental in maintaining that connection with our graduates and the leadership works hard to reflect the alumni population. To that end, the Alumni Association Board is looking for new members, ideally graduates from the 60s, 70s and 80s to join them. It gives Michener graduates the opportunity to create ideas around alumni engagement. If you have some ideas, we'd love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. Please send your comments, story ideas and letters to the editor to alumni@michener.ca.

-Katie & Wudasie

Presidential YEAR IN REVIEW

These last twelve months have seen their share of amazing achievements. No year is without its challenges, but I'd like to take this time to draw your attention to Michener's many accomplishments.

We have continued to focus on our strategic intent: *Best Experience, Best Education*. And we continue to excel in delivering our core academic programming. Our list of accomplishments and successes continues to grow.

The year kicked off with the launch of the new Physician Assistant program, a collaborative effort between the University of Toronto and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. In May, the grand opening of the *CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation and Education (CASE)* took place with a large celebration, which included provincial government and senior representatives from CAE, Montreal. Also in May, Michener participated in Doors Open Toronto for the second year in a row and has been asked to participate again in 2011. We opened the Michener Chiropody Clinic on-site in September to provide more clinical spots and give our chiropody students a chance to interact with the Michener community and the community at large.

Thanks to our many amazing clinical placement partners, some hard work and some creative solutions, we were able to secure clinical placements for 100% of our students in 2010.

Radiation Therapy saw the introduction of two brand new technologies in 2010: the VERT platform (highlighted in the fall 2010 issue) and two brand new Elekta Linac machines were acquired and installed (read more in this issue).

The Respiratory Therapy Diploma Program was redesigned and re-launched as a standalone program in less than eight months, a remarkable feat. And thanks to the hard work of our faculty, the Ultrasound and CVP programs both received full six-year accreditations from the Canadian Medical Association.



Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMIs) were completed for the third year here, and we interviewed more than 540 candidates for the admissions process. In 2011, the Medical Radiation Sciences programs (Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy and Radiological Technology) will utilize the MMI process, increasing the number of candidates to over 900. If you'd like to volunteer or learn more about the process, see page 16.

And last, but certainly not least, Michener was named a Greater Toronto Top Employer for the fourth year in a row. We hope to keep the tradition going for years to come!

This remarkable list goes on and on. All members of the Michener community are instrumental to these achievements and successes. The efforts and hard work of our community members, including clinical partners, alumni, Board members, staff, faculty and students, are recognized and are truly appreciated!

All the best,

Perfusionist extraordinaire: Danny Wong

By Debbie Fein-Goldbach



For Danny Wong, Michener will always be the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology (TIMT). He spent a lot of time here in the 70s, first taking Respiratory Therapy and then graduating as a member of the inaugural Cardiovascular Perfusion class in 1979.

Danny's 31-year career as a perfusionist has taken him to hospitals across North America. But not everyone thought he could persevere through such a rigorous program. The class was extremely competitive and he was not a straight-A student.

"Even my mom said she had never seen me so committed before," laughs Danny. "I surprised her."

Since Danny's time, the CVP program has continued to develop and flourish.

"Everything in those early days was pretty crude," remembers Danny. "We were kind of guinea pigs. We started with eight people. Two never showed up, and two dropped out after a month. That left two guys and two girls."

That small number made finding work after graduation easy. "You could almost pick anywhere you wanted because there was somewhat of a shortage," says Danny.

He remained in Canada at first, working in

Montreal and then at St. Michael's in Toronto, but eventually followed classmate Harvey Ellis to the USA.

"Harvey went to Connecticut with a surgeon. After a while, he invited me to work with him."

A few years later, Danny moved to Miami, Florida, and eventually to a new open-heart program in Palm Beach, where he stayed for 12 years. Then his passion for learning the latest developments in his field led him to join a university in Norfolk, Virginia, where he gained pediatric experience.

"You go back to a university setting and learn more. Until then, I didn't have transplant experience," he explains.

Today, Danny continues to build his expertise. He now works for two small community hospitals in Hollywood, Florida. And he aspires to teach. "Hopefully I can share some of my experience with colleagues new to the field," he says. He met some at the Perfusion Safety and Best Practices Conference in 2010 at Michener, where he believes some of the best instructors have taught.

Looking back, he says, "I would do it all over again. It has really given me a great life and journey."

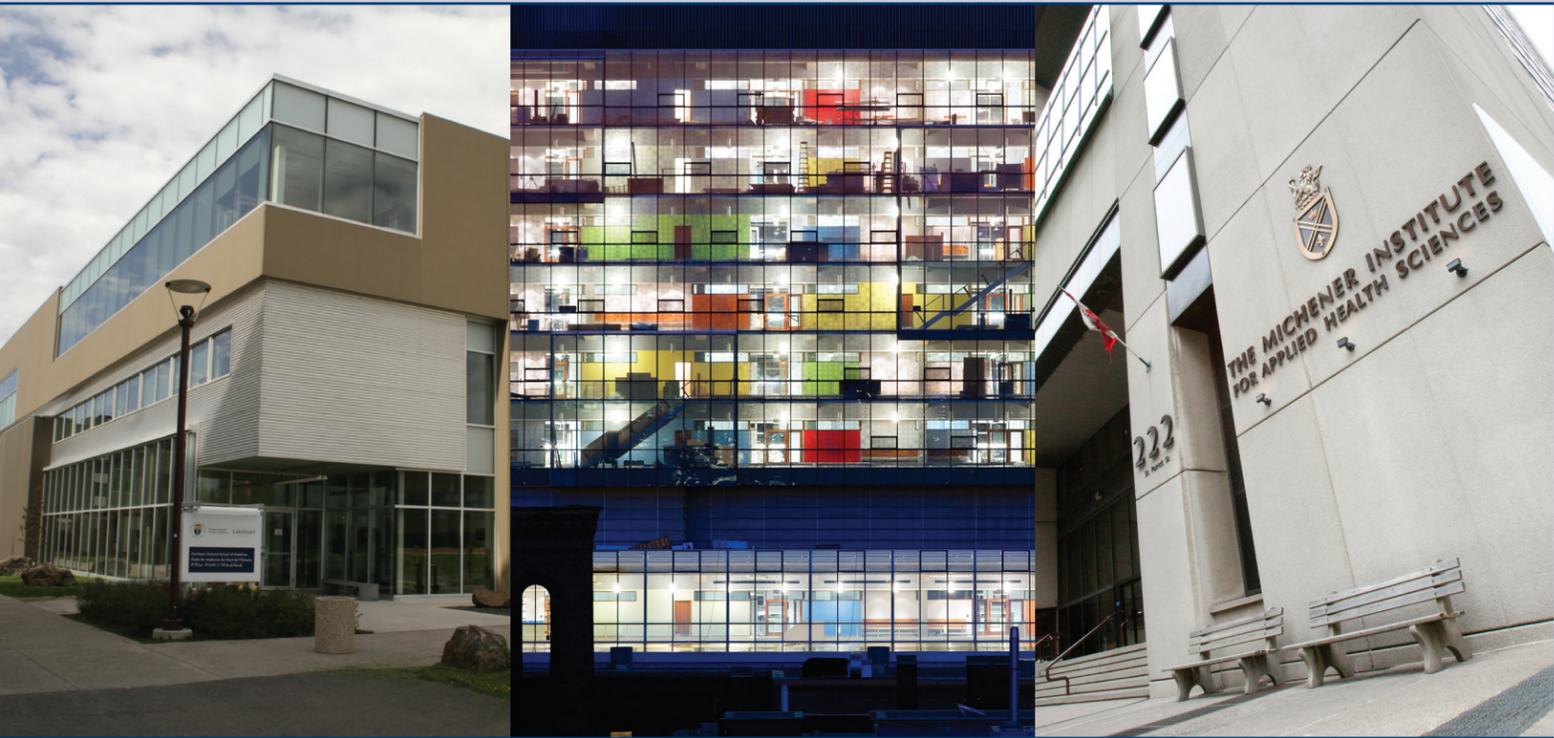
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Bringing the best in education together

Collaborative programs across northern and southern Ontario

By Dana Yates

“If we are together nothing is impossible” — Winston Churchill made this declaration, and Michener has put this famous sentiment into practice.

Over the last decade, Michener has established a number of collaborative programs with the University of Toronto (U of T), the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and Laurentian University. And while the academic programs differ slightly, the results are the same: high-quality learning opportunities for students.

“They have access to a larger basket of resources, financial awards and expertise than each institution could offer independently,” says Michener president & CEO Paul Gamble. “Students can also graduate from collaborative programs with two full credentials – a diploma from Michener and a degree from one of the affiliated institutions.”

Michener’s most recent collaborative venture is the Consortium of PA Education, a Physician Assistant (PA) professional program. Offered by Michener, U of T and

NOSM, this full-time, two-year initiative was launched in early 2010 to meet the need for PAs in Ontario.

“The program is a testament to the commitment that all three institutions have made to delivering highly competent and sorely needed health professionals for the people of Ontario and Canada,” says Sarita Verma, deputy dean of U of T’s Faculty of Medicine.

During each of the PA Consortium program’s six semesters, students spend some time on-site, integrating their interprofessional education and participating in simulation-based, skill development exercises. In the second year of the program, students complete clinical placements in both Northern and Southern Ontario. The geographic locations were chosen for a reason, says Roger Strasser, founding dean of NOSM. The school, a joint initiative of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and Laurentian University in Sudbury, has multiple teaching and research sites across Northern Ontario.

“In the collaborative program, students get the best of all worlds – state-of-the-art learning experiences, access to expertise in health care and medicine, and exposure to the medical needs of sparsely populated Northern and rural communities, and densely populated Southern communities,” says Strasser. Additionally, he notes the consortium model fits well with NOSM’s mandate of social accountability: increasing access to health care in under-served and rural communities.

“The program’s online and on-site learning, and clinical placements, all lead to a robust learning experience,” says Sharona Kanofsky, U of T’s academic coordinator for the PA Consortium program. Her colleague, program manager Elizabeth Whitmell, agrees. “The collaborative program enables each school to bring their individual strengths to the table. In Michener’s case, they have their simulation centre, flexibility in their programming, and they really understand allied health programming.”

That in-depth knowledge has also proven useful in

Michener’s other partnerships — with Laurentian University in the Radiation Therapy program (the first professional initiative of its kind in Northern Ontario), and with U of T in the Medical Radiation Sciences program (encompassing the Radiation Therapy, Radiological Technology and Nuclear Medicine disciplines).

Nuclear Medicine and Radiological Technology are primarily concerned with medical diagnostic imaging while Radiation Therapy is focused on the treatment of disease through the use of radiation. A commonality that the programs share, however, is a curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, evidence-based practice and problem-solving abilities, all of which play a crucial role in the modern health care environment.

Students cultivate these skills by participating in simulated health care scenarios, and completing a series of tutorial and laboratory assignments. Students then move on to clinical placements. In the case of Laurentian University, those placements include cancer centres throughout Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Ottawa – closer to Northern students’ homes.

“This means that students don’t have to travel to Toronto to get an advanced diploma and university degree,” says Vasu Appanna, dean of Laurentian’s Faculty of Science and Engineering.

“Laurentian also offers students the opportunity to see the full Northern perspective. And we are finding that students are staying in the region after graduation to serve these Northern communities,” says Mohamed Azzouz, chair of the university’s Department of Physics.

But it’s not just students who learn in, and benefit from, collaborative academic partnerships, says Pamela Catton, vice-chair of U of T’s Department of Radiation Oncology, which oversees the joint Medical Radiation Sciences program. “U of T has a strong research and innovation approach, meanwhile curriculum design is one of Michener’s strengths. Put them together, and the partnership also provides opportunities for faculty development and facilitates scholarly relationships.”

“The collaborative program enables each school to bring their individual strengths to the table. In Michener’s case, they have their simulation centre, flexibility in their programming, and they really understand allied health programming.”



Genetics Technology

Searching for answers

Genetics technology students are gaining an edge in their education, thanks to a forward-thinking partnership between Michener and Health Canada that is designed to keep Canadians safe during a nuclear or radiological disaster.

Michener is an emergency response centre in Health Canada's National Biological Dosimetry Response Plan, a national network of laboratories that address nuclear catastrophes. This means that should such an event occur, Michener will help to assess the amount of radiation to which Canadians have been exposed. With its expansive, up-to-date facilities, and students with specialized knowledge and skills, the Genetics Technology program is an ideal resource for such an initiative, and is providing a unique learning opportunity for its participants while simultaneously serving society at large.

"I'm very pleased with the partnership that Health Canada has developed with The Michener

Institute. The Institute has been open to forming collaborations like this one," says Christian Lavoie of Health Canada, which officially partnered with Michener in June 2009.

Genetic technologists are medical laboratory technologists (MLTs), health professionals who study genetic material to diagnose and treat patients, and to monitor and prevent disease. Using advanced laboratory techniques and instrumentation, MLTs analyze human specimens such as blood, amniotic fluid, bone marrow and tumours to investigate prenatal, congenital, familial chromosomal and hematological (blood-related) disorders. As integral members of the health care team, MLTs contribute to findings that have a direct impact on patients' immediate and long-term medical care.

Michener's 16-month Genetics Technology Graduate Diploma program is accredited by the Canadian Medical Association, and is accessible to certified MLTs or those who hold a

bachelor of science degree. During their studies, genetics technology students learn about the field's two main areas of study: cytogenetics, which focuses on chromosomes, and molecular genetics, which is concerned with DNA and RNA. Through two semesters of lectures and labs, and 10 weeks of clinical simulation in Michener's laboratory, students receive hands-on instruction in the theories and techniques of genetic testing. They also develop core skills such as tissue culture and cell manipulation, examination, microscopy, chromosome analysis, computer imaging, nucleic acid extractions, PCR sequencing and many other molecular techniques. A final 20 weeks of hospital-based clinical education provides an opportunity to apply these lessons and perform increasingly complex procedures under the supervision of a genetics technologist.

The partnership between Health Canada and Michener means that, in

the event of a radiological emergency, the agency could rely on the Genetics Technology program to help process large numbers of affected people's blood samples to allow triage screening. Simply put, the samples would be screened to determine the extent of chromosomal damage, and thereby estimate one's level of radiation exposure.

In addition to its human resources and physical capacity, Michener also has the flexibility to handle an abundance of screening work on the spot, unlike most clinical labs that handle multiple responsibilities. Plus, Michener's central location and close proximity to three clinical labs in the downtown core would allow technologists to be brought on-site if required, leading to more rapid sample screening.

"Where better to do this kind of specialized education than at Michener?" says Karim Bandali, Michener's associate vice-president of business development.

Through the partnership with

Health Canada, Michener students and faculty are receiving education in dicentric triage screening – a method for detecting and quantifying radiation exposure in chromosomes in order to determine the priority of patients' treatments based on the severity of their condition ("dicentric" refers to an aberrant chromosome that contains two centromeres, regions of DNA involved in mitosis). So far, 47 students and two faculty members have completed this specialized education, and more sessions are planned for the future. As well, one Genetics Technology faculty member has received instruction in setting up equipment and processing samples for the dicentric assay.

Genetics Technology faculty have participated in tours of various areas of Health Canada's Radiation Protection building to gain a better understanding of the department's radiobiology functions. And, Health Canada has loaned Michener a range of cutting-edge equipment to facilitate

more effective and efficient student education in specimen processing.

Michener isn't the only party directly benefiting from this partnership: faculty members have had opportunities to provide instruction on a variety of genetics technology techniques to staff from Health Canada, as well as from Atomic Energy Canada and the Department of National Defense. Going forward, Michener and Health Canada will work together to slightly modify Health Canada's procedures in order to optimize them to Michener's lab facilities. Annual table-top exercises began at Michener in January for the purpose of streamlining logistics to prepare for an emergency.

"This partnership is a win-win for both Michener and Health Canada," says Jennifer O'Leary, a faculty member in the Genetics Technology program. "Both organizations have opportunities to enrich their existing knowledge. Also, it will enable Michener and its students to help the nation in a time of crisis."



Corporate Connections

Bringing new technology to Michener

By Dana Yates

When Radiation Therapy students returned to class this January, they came back to a transformed learning facility, thanks to the addition of two state-of-the-art linear accelerators (Linacs).

Linacs are multi-purpose, radiation-treatment delivery systems typically used to treat cancer patients over multiple sessions. The machines produce high-energy x-rays and can rotate to target precise locations on the human body. While a single, extremely high dose of radiation could damage the healthy tissue surrounding the targeted tumour, the Linac machines harness and control radiation to heal patients.

Located on the ninth floor, these high-tech Linacs came to Michener through its long-standing partnership with Elekta, a leading designer and manufacturer of radiation therapy equipment.

“The collaboration with Elekta is an important one,” says Brad Niblett, Michener’s assistant vice-president of operations. “Working with Elekta enables us to have a world-class partner in oncology treatment-planning. What’s more, the addition of two new Elekta Linac machines makes Michener a global centre for excellence in radiation-therapy education.”

Michener’s new Linacs replaced two older units no longer used in standard clinical practice in Ontario. The new much heavier machines required approximately 800 hours of assembly, and extensive structural reinforcement had to be done on the ninth floor of the building before they could be installed. The installation and faculty training sessions were completed in December and the treatment units have been in use since the start of the winter semester.

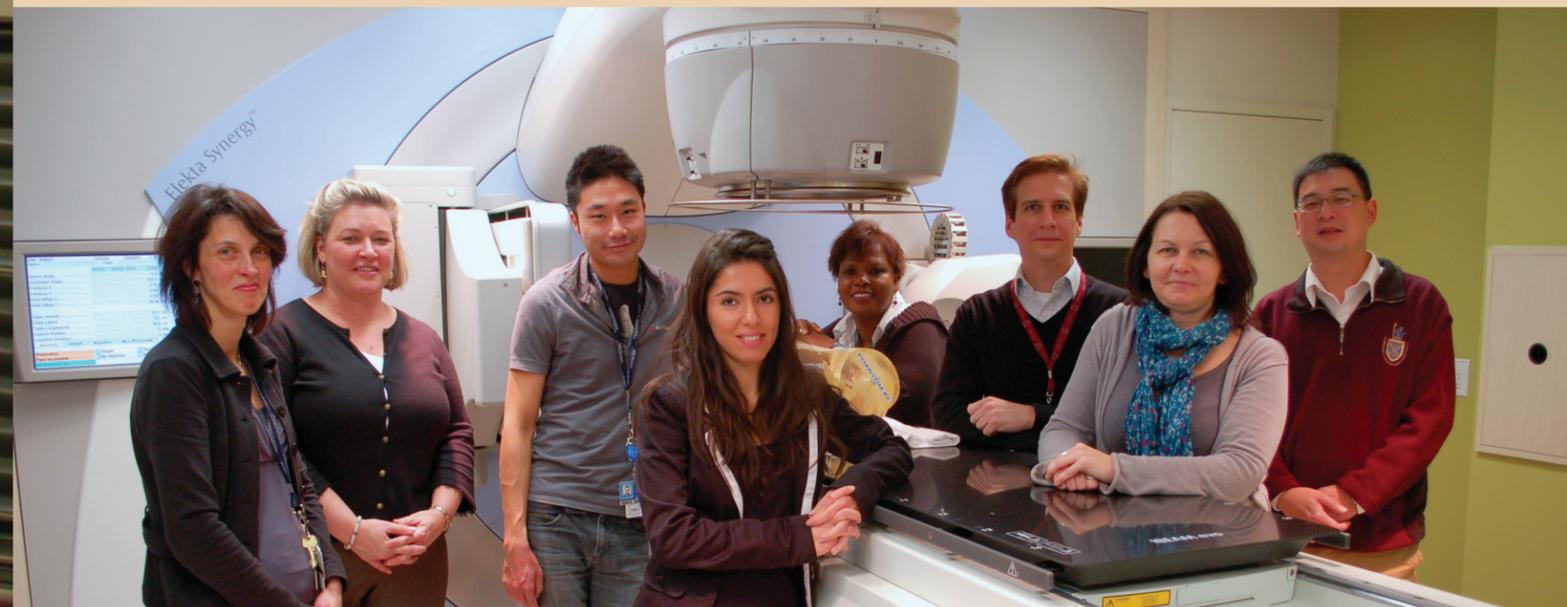
Customized for a simulated-learning environment, the Linacs are fully functional, but – unlike traditional units – do not produce a treatment or mega voltage (MV) beam. This modification is significant, says Fiona Cherryman, chair of Michener’s Radiation Therapy program.

“The simulation experiences are enhanced, but without the need for MV and its associated radiation-protection measures,” she says. “In fact, users are perceptually unaware of any differences, and Elekta and Michener worked together to achieve this unique level of simulation.”

The introduction of the new Linacs will enhance student learning, says Marc Potvin, a Radiation Therapy faculty member. “We can now simulate the entire radiation workflow for students. For example, we can start with a computed tomography (CT) scan on the 11th floor, send the CT data to the treatment-planning computers on the ninth floor, prepare the plan, export it to the record and verification system (MOSAIQ), and then load it up to the Linac machine itself. Not only can we simulate what is currently being done in the clinic, but we now also have the technology to adapt to future changes in clinical practice.”

That forward-thinking approach, according to Niblett, has been an enduring characteristic of the alliance between Michener and Elekta – one that has also led to the installation of an IMPAC radiation-therapy information system and CMS treatment-planning lab.

“The end result,” he says, “is an innovative educational environment that helps to enrich students’ overall learning experience.”



Radiation Therapy faculty and administration gathered around Michener’s brand new Elekta Linac machine in November 2010

Student achievement: 2010 scholarship winners

By Debbie Fein-Goldbach

Crystal Matzos - The Dr. Diana Michener Schatz Scholarship, Ontario Home Respiratory Services Association Respiratory Therapy Graduating Student Scholarship of Excellence, ProResp Respiratory Therapy Graduating Student Scholarship of Excellence



Crystal Matzos arrived at Michener with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto and leapt right into the Respiratory Therapy program. She participated

in the multiple mini-interviews, volunteered as a peer tutor and undertook the role of student liaison for The Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists.

In recognition of her volunteer work, balanced with her heavy course requirements, Crystal received three scholarships: The Dr. Diana Michener Schatz Scholarship, the Ontario Home Respiratory Services Association Respiratory Therapy Graduating Student Scholarship of Excellence, and the ProResp Respiratory Therapy Graduating Student Scholarship of Excellence.

Her life has become even busier since graduation. Currently, she has four jobs in her field, plus teaches

labs at Michener. "I'm really good at prioritizing my time," she says.

These activities alone would fill up most people's days, but Crystal manages to find time to compete nationally with a synchronized figure skating team called Mississauga Ice Precise, training at least twice a week.

Eventually, she would like to pursue a master's degree, as well as teach. Anatomy and physiology have always been her favourite subjects, and she hopes one day to join Michener's faculty.

"I love respiratory therapy and I love teaching," says Crystal. "It would be great to combine the two. I just want to gain some more work experience first."



Jennifer Macgillivray - Entrance Scholarship

Jennifer Macgillivray came to the Genetics Technology program from Halifax, Nova Scotia. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Saint Mary's University, and her studies included a year abroad at the University of Sheffield in South Yorkshire, England. Recently, The Michener Institute awarded her an Entrance Scholarship.

In 2007, Jennifer joined the Cadets as an officer, where she developed a keen interest in aviation. She earned her glider pilot licence, then spent last summer teaching aviation-related topics like Aerology and Principles of

Flight to her fellow Cadets.

Jennifer is happy to be living in Toronto while she completes her Genetics Technology courses. The city is not entirely new to her, she lived in Oakville as a child.

While Toronto itself sometimes feels big, with only 15 people in her program, Jennifer truly feels like she's found a home at Michener. "We've all become good friends in a short period of time and I'm really enjoying what I'm studying," says Jennifer. "I'm learning a lot and meeting great people."

Thanks to our generous donors, Michener is able to offer over \$50,000 in student scholarship and bursaries every year. The various awards recognize student achievement, both inside and outside the classroom. The four students below are an example of the 2010 award recipients whose bright futures in health care began at Michener. These students were recognized, along with their award winning peers, at the October 20, 2010 Student Award Ceremony.

Saira Qadir - Alpha Charitable Foundation Bursary

Saira Qadir is currently in her second year of the Radiation Therapy program and knows she has found her calling. "I think the program is amazing," she says. "It's everything I expected."

Before she came to Michener, Saira volunteered in numerous health care jobs, including one in the emergency centre of a busy downtown hospital. But it was the five years she spent at Toronto Rehab that made her realize how much she enjoyed getting to know her patients over time. This led her to a career in radiation therapy.

"Radiation therapy is about building a relationship with patients and their families," she explains. "Each one of them is amazing and unique."

Peter Rizk - Excellence in Clinical Preparation Scholarship

When Peter Rizk studied for his Honours Degree in Biology at the University of Windsor, he discovered a predilection for anatomy. "I really liked the microscope," says Peter. "I found it very fascinating. I could sit there for long hours learning histology."

This led him to the Diagnostic Cytology program at Michener, where he recently received the Excellence in Clinical Preparation Scholarship.

Diagnostic Cytology is a full-time distance online program, and Peter is completing his clinical rotation in Windsor at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital. He knows the hospital well, as he once volunteered in the cardiac ICU. He also



After completing her eight weeks of practical, Saira volunteered at a

Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services Centre. Fluent in both Urdu and English, she was able to use her language skills to help families new to Canada complete forms. She also

worked at the Centre's summer youth camp, which was an eye-opening experience.

"Some of the kids didn't even know the game Simon Says," marvels Saira. Listening to Saira talk about her volunteer work, it's clear she gains as much from the experience as she gives.

"At the end of the day, you ask yourself if you feel fulfilled. Did you do a job that made a difference in someone's life? Every day I go in and have that experience. Every time I come home, I want to go back."

No doubt, Saira Qadir is a deserving recipient of this year's Alpha Charitable Foundation Bursary.



spent time at Windsor Regional Hospital, helping kinesiologists teach patients optimal ways to eat and exercise.

What most interests Peter, however, is diagnosing cells in the lab and learning how organs are affected by cancer.

When he is not working at the hospital, Peter enjoys outdoor activities like hunting, rock climbing, fishing and kayaking. Out on the water, he sometimes considers his future. Eventually, he hopes to work in a large lab as a supervisor, as the head of a cytology department or perhaps manage all laboratory studies in a hospital. He wants to assist patients with cancer in order to make a real

difference in their lives.

"It's intriguing to help somebody that has cancer," says Peter. "And to find answers to some of their questions."

Creativity & intuition key for Michener graduates

By Alexander Dunaevsky



As a recent graduate from Michener, I understand that my way of performing X-rays may not always be the same as a colleague's preferred method. And that is absolutely fine. Being innovative is an integral part of what we do.

After listening to Dr. Marlene Scardamalia's Honorary Diploma recipient speech at the 2010 convocation, I found myself inspired to be more creative in my practice. She also encouraged us to give a little more credence to our intuition. We live in a society where the development and dissemination of knowledge is up to all of us. As students, we are well prepared to pay attention to details and problems. We are taught that if we are aware of a problem, we shouldn't ignore it, or assume that everyone knows about

it. We should take the next step and do something about it. In the health care industry, there is a lot that is known, but there is far more that is not known.

“Keep your sights on going deeper on your capacity to continually improve ideas.”

This allows for all of us to contribute to problem-solving, and to be creative in our chosen professions. It makes our

work more exciting, more interesting and more challenging. By working creatively as a team, we can accomplish more, and provide better service.

Dr. Scardamalia also encouraged graduates to “keep your sights on going deeper on your capacity to continually improve ideas.” In cases where patients may be waiting in pain for their treatment, it may seem counter-intuitive to start doing things differently. Yet, we've also heard that today's best practices won't be tomorrow's best practices. How is it possible to improve health care, if we are not willing to change our practice? If you are willing to take risks, then you can do it. Dr. Scardamalia's speech has inspired me to take those risks and be more creative in my craft. I know I will be a better health care professional because of it.

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Thank you!



VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2011 MMIs

The MMIs are April 26-30, 2011 and we need the help of our alumni to make this year's MMI admissions process a success. With the addition of the MRS programs, we have to fill 360 volunteer spots in 2011.

Join the 100% of past volunteers who said they would volunteer again!

Volunteer for the MMIs and help us select the next generation of health care heroes. Visit my.michener.ca/mmi to sign up or email mmi@michener.ca for more details.

put your best foot forward

You're on your feet all day, so they deserve special attention. The Michener Chiropody Clinic is committed to providing high quality foot care for an affordable fee. Students of The Michener Institute's Chiropody program treat patients under the guidance of licensed Chiropodists. Treatment can include biomechanical assessment, orthotic customization and soft tissue surgery, and may be eligible for insurance coverage.

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www.michener.ca/chiropodyclinic

BRIDGING THE GAP

Improving and expanding on an innovative program

By Andrew Bethiaume

Olumuyiwa Falodun can attest to the extensive support he received while preparing for the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) exam through Michener's Bridging Program. After working as a radiological technologist in his native country of Nigeria, Falodun arrived in Canada seeking a program that would successfully prepare him to pass the intensive accreditation exam and ultimately to practice here.

"The program allowed me to connect with other newcomers to Canada who were in the same circumstance," says Falodun. "It prepared me to take the accreditation exam and achieve my goal of practicing radiological technology in Canada. The support I received from the program was essential to my success."

Internationally educated health professionals who are new to Canada face several obstacles to practice here including language barriers, lack of Canadian work experience or certification requirements. The Michener Bridging Program for Internationally Educated

Health Care Professionals (formerly known as Access and Options) was created in 2002 to provide services for internationally educated professionals in the fields of medical laboratory science and radiological technology.

The program's main purpose is to prepare students to take the relevant

"The support I received from the program was essential to my success."

certification exams. The Bridging Program is now being revamped to meet the unique needs of our students. Not only will it prepare students to write their certification exams, the added student benefits will also include many of the services available to Michener's full-time students.

These include counseling services and access to the Learning Resource Centre.

The program was redesigned under the direction of Cathy Pearl, Michener's Dean of Students, with curriculum development spearheaded by Medical Laboratory Science faculty member Dr. Aruna Kolhatkar. The start dates for both the new Medical Laboratory Science and Radiological Technology disciplines will be determined in 2011.

The bridging program will consist of 15 intensive weeks of core competency theory and simulated lab work. With classes taking place on weekends and evenings, the schedule is designed to accommodate working students. At the end of the 15 weeks, students will be prepared to take the relevant certification examination.

We are looking forward to a very successful Bridging Program and are committed to helping students bridge their passion for health care to their new home in Canada.

What's Up @ Michener

By Katie Schrank

Orientation 2010



New students enjoyed a BBQ on the back patio

Orientation at Michener, September 1–3, 2010, was smashing! The Steam Whistle Brewery tour, the boat cruise and the comedy show at Yuk Yuk's all sold out. Students also attended the CNE, a welcome BBQ, a Blue Jays game and a performance by a mentalist. Orientation coordinator Heather Biernaski commanded an army of student volunteers, and together they made this one of the best-attended student orientation weeks Michener has ever had!



Orientation volunteers in Future Health Care Heroes t-shirts

Student Awards Ceremony

Michener's 13th annual Student Awards Ceremony took place on Wednesday, October 20, 2010. 56 scholarships and bursaries were awarded thanks to the support of 40 of our donors. The establishment of the first Michener Staff & Faculty Endowed Scholarship fund in our history was announced at the ceremony.



Students celebrate with mocktails at the Student Awards Ceremony

Convocation 2010

Congratulations Class of 2010! On November 13, 2010, hundreds of graduates and guests gathered at the Toronto Centre for the Arts to celebrate the graduating class. The Alumni Association hosted a breakfast reception that gave graduates the opportunity to catch up with old friends before the ceremony. Honorary Diploma Recipient Dr. Marlene Scardamalia spoke to the grads, as did Valedictorian Dorothy Tran, Respiratory Therapy '10. Both speeches left the graduates excited about the next chapter in their lives.



Graduates from the class of 2010

Honorary Diploma Reception

On November 11, 2010, Michener celebrated the latest Honorary Diploma recipient, Dr. Marlene Scardamalia. The evening brought students, staff, faculty and Dr. Scardamalia's friends and colleagues together at Michener. In her speech, Dr. Scardamalia spoke about her experience in research and education and how she sees many opportunities for collaboration with Michener on the horizon.



Paul Bertin, Board Chair, Dr. Marlene Scardamalia, and Dr. Paul Gamble

Holiday Toy Drive



The Holiday Tree in Michener's Lobby

For the fifth year in a row, Michener supported the Toronto Firefighters' Charity Operation Christmas Tree, a non-denominational charity aimed at providing support during the holiday season to Torontonians who have lost their homes, or have been displaced due to fire. In 2010, the Michener community donated almost 300 items and Toronto firefighters were on hand to help us package up the gifts for those in need.



Paul Gamble and representatives from the Toronto Firefighters' Toy Drive

alumni happenings

Births



Toni Grant (nee Cotter), (Respiratory Therapy, '05)

Toni and husband Mike Grant celebrated the birth of their first child, Joshua William Grant, on October 6, 2010, in Toronto, Ontario. Baby Grant weighed 6lbs.

Alumni Photos Needed!

Do you have a great photo from your time at Michener? We would love to include it in Michener's photography exhibition for Doors Open Toronto on May 28, 2011 in the Bistro 222 Gallery. Send your photos to alumni@michener.ca or Katie Schrank, 222 St Patrick Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1V4.

Sign up for alumni updates - www.michener.ca/alumni

upcoming events

- Career Fair – April 6, 2011
- Winter semester ends – April 8, 2011
- Multiple Mini-Interview week – April 26 – 30, 2011
- Summer semester begins – May 2, 2011
- Alumni Association Annual General Meeting - May 10, 2011
- Open House & Doors Open – May 28, 2011
- Convocation – June 25, 2011

Call for Alumni of Distinction

If you know a Michener grad who has brought honour to Michener through significant achievement in their career or through outstanding service to the health care community, nominate them for the 2011 Alumni of Distinction Award and help us honour our graduates. For more information go to www.michener.ca/alumni or contact alumni@michener.ca.

Submit your nomination by August 31, 2011.



2008 Alumni of Distinction Michele Henry presents 2009 recipient Cathy Babiak with her award



New Bachelor of Science Physician Assistant



THE CONSORTIUM OF PA EDUCATION
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAM



The Bachelor of Science Physician Assistant degree (BScPA) is a full-time professional, second-entry undergraduate degree program. The BScPA is a University of Toronto (UofT) degree delivered in collaboration with Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences (Michener).



Physician Assistants (PAs) work as physician extenders in a variety of health care settings, providing patient/client care under supervision of a licensed physician. The specific scope of practice of the PA is directly related to the scope of practice of the supervising physician and the individual competencies of the PA. Examples include

- Conduct patient interviews and take medical histories
- Perform physical examinations
- Perform procedures delegated to them by a physician
- Provide counselling on preventive health care

Program starts January 2012

Application deadline: April 1, 2011

Please visit www.PAconsortium.ca for more information.





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