Despite undergoing a double-lung transplant in March 2018 to treat her cystic fibrosis, Elspeth Arbow still managed to graduate from the Cinema Studies Program with very little interruption in her studies. The recipient of a Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award, she volunteered for the Innis College Council and Student Society. For more about Elspeth’s accomplishments, please see page 36. (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2018)
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“millennial social”
Cover illustration by Mirae Lee (HBA ’18 Innis)
A message from the principal
By Charlie Keil

The Innis community takes on the shifting media landscape in this third edition of our magazine.

Our College’s namesake, Harold Innis, is primarily known as a political economist, but his later work in particular focused on the history of communication, leading him to investigate the role of media in the formation of societies. Taking our cue from Innis’s thoughtful consideration of media’s power and influence, media is our theme in this year’s edition of Innis Alumni & Friends Magazine.

For a College that is the home of a Writing & Rhetoric Program and houses the Cinema Studies Institute, highlighting media matters might seem a foregone conclusion. But I think that you will be intrigued and even surprised by the variety of ways media figure in the lives and activities of our College community.

In our main feature for example, three prominent alumni whose careers epitomize the ever-changing demands of the media landscape tackle questions about their role in the brave new world of digitally-driven publishing and broadcasting. To borrow a term offered by Jane Francisco, editorial director of the Hearst Lifestyle Group, the media environment is “evolving,” and you can see responses to that environment throughout the pages of this magazine.

On pages 18-19, you can get a sense of Andrew Coyne’s trenchant assessment of the current “Crisis in the Media,” as his 2017 Harold Innis Foundation Lecture was aptly named.

Pages 30-31 feature Innis alumni siblings Stephanie and Erika Savage, speaking about the possibilities for women in an entertainment industry that is witnessing technological transformation even as it remains dominated by outdated gender politics.

Page 44 highlights the inspiring work of one of our student body’s media maestros, Chiao Sun, who has combined his photographic gifts and interviewing skills to produce a Facebook page (with 220,000 views and counting) offering profiles of undergraduate resilience.

We also decided to showcase student academic achievement by devoting space to an essay on media written by a Writing & Rhetoric student, Georgina de Roché. Submitted to a course on Digital Rhetoric offered by W&R professor Dan Adleman, Georgina’s essay takes on the ethical dilemmas that arise in the wake of online dating apps such as Tinder; you can find her provocative “Swipe Left” on pages 38-41, fancifully illustrated by cover artist and recent Innis alumna Mirae Lee.

The potential pitfalls of our changing media age might well have caused Harold Innis pause, and as Georgina reminds us, we need to remain mindful and vigilant about the social costs of our constantly expanding media environment. But I hope that the achievements of the Innis alumni and students profiled throughout this magazine provide a tonic of hope for the future.

Our students are the most compelling proof we have for remaining optimistic about what is to come. And the College is committed to supplying them with the best learning and living environment possible. That means preparing Innis for the future, including an improved College building, which you can get a glimpse of by turning to the inside back cover. Together, we can all “build a better Innis,” incorporating environmental stewardship, accessibility, and a student-focused vision into a community and a space of which we can all be proud.

Opposite: Recent Innis graduate and social justice activist Pitasanna Shanmugathas with Principal Charlie Keil (Photo by Narrative Drive Inc., 2018) ▶ Learn more about Pitasanna on p. 35.
It happened one night
Audiences showed their love for a full roster of 2017/2018 events

Aug 27
Vladimir House Reunion
Former residents of the Vladimir House, Innis’s first student residence, reconnect and reminisce.

Sept 14
Arbor Awards Ceremony
U of T recognizes its dedicated volunteers. ★ Read about the Innis-nominated recipients on p. 21

Sept 21
“No Justice, No Peace!”
A pair of panel discussions, with academics and community leaders, highlights efforts toward justice and peace in Toronto, hosted by the Urban Studies Program.

Sept 22
An Afternoon with Stephanie & Erika Savage
Sisters Stephanie Savage (BA ‘90 Innis, Cinema Studies) and Erika Savage (BA ‘95 Innis) share their insights into the worlds of film and TV production and music management. ★ Read more about the Savages on p. 30

Sept 4
Frosh-to-Alumni Panel
Innis alumni share their advice with the future Class of 2021 during Orientation Week.

Sept 7
“Indignation”
Director and screenwriter James Schamus presents his film with actor and Cinema Studies alumna Sarah Gadon and broadcaster Eleanor Wachtel.

Oct 2
“In the Heat of the Night”
Director Norman Jewison (BA ‘49, Hon LLD ’85, Hon DLitt ’01) screens his film in celebration of its 50th anniversary. ★ Read more about the event on p. 8

Oct 12
“Canada’s Odyssey”
Past Innis principal and professor emeritus Peter Russell OC FRSC (BA ‘55, Hon LLD ’01) discusses his new book.

Oct 23
Alumni Mentorship Program Launch
The annual mentorship program kicks off with a meet-and-greet.

Left to right, top to bottom: Sidney Joseph (BSc ‘82 Innis, BAS ‘85) (Photo by Jennifer Su) ★ Gabriel Oh (HBSc ‘06 Innis, PhD ’14) and Anna Yamashita (HBSc ‘16 Innis) (Photo by Cherry Woo) ★ Erika Savage, Cinema Studies Institute director Corinn Columpar, Stephanie Savage (Photo by Jennifer Su) ★ Norman Jewison (Photo by Alice Xue) ★ Peter Russell (photo by Jennifer Su)
Nov 26

“Alias Grace”
Director Mary Harron and producer-screenwriter Sarah Polley present the final episode of the TV miniseries with columnist Johanna Schneller.

Nov 2

“Understanding Smarter Cities”
A panel of experts from eight U of T departments discuss their perspectives on smart cities, hosted by the Urban Studies Program.

Nov 6

Class of 2017 Fall Convocation
Another cohort of Innis grads crosses the stage in Convocation Hall.

Nov 7

Harold Innis Lecture
Political commentator and journalist Andrew Coyne (BA ‘83) delivers his lecture “Crisis in the Media,” joined by Jaren Kerr (HBA ‘17 Innis).
► Read more about the lecture on p. 16

Nov 22

Student Awards Ceremony
Innis students receive recognition for their outstanding leadership and academic merit.

Nov 28

“What It Takes to Make A Hit TV Series”
TV creators Linda Schuyler (BA ‘74 Innis, Hon LLD ‘16) and Tassie Cameron (BA ‘91) present a dynamic discussion of their work.

Jan 24 & 25

Innis Goes Global: London, UK
This international alumni outreach event series is launched in London, UK, hosted by Rob Hain (BA ‘76 Innis). ► Read more about Rob on pg. 27

Jan 29

CFF: “Sleeping Giant”
Filmmaker Andrew Cividino presents his film to open the 2017/18 Canadian Film Forum (CFF), with Barry Hertz of The Globe and Mail.

Left to right, top to bottom: Sarah Polley and Mary Harron (Photo by Chiao Sun) ◆ Enid Slack and Judy Farvolden (Photo by Shayla Anderson) ◆ Andrew Coyne (photo by Alice Xue) ◆ Principal Charlie Keil and student Judith Fernando (Photo by Chiao Sun) ◆ Tassie Cameron and Linda Schuyler (Photo by Jennifer Su)
More highlights from 2017/18

Feb 7
“Governance and Representation”
Urban Studies program director Shauna Brail hosts a discussion panel as part of the McLuhan Salons event series.

Feb 28
CFF: “Unarmed Verses”
Charles Officer screens his documentary feature, joined by film critic Radheyan Simonpillai (MA ’08 Cinema Studies) and several film subjects.

Mar 22
CFF: “How Heavy This Hammer”
Kazik Radwanski presents his film with TIFF’s Steve Gravestock.

Mar 28
“The Toronto Museum”
The Urban Studies Program invites experts to give their takes on the proposed Toronto Museum, moderated by journalist John Lorinc (BSc ’87).

Apr 2
CFF: “Porcupine Lake” & “The Other Side of Porcupine Lake”
Universal Studios Screenwriter-in-Residence Ingrid Veninger, of the Cinema Studies Institute, presents her fiction film and the making-of documentary with Agata Del Sorbo.

Apr 17
Cressy Leadership Awards
Graduating student leaders are recognized by U of T for their outstanding community contributions. Read about Innis’s seven recipients on p. 36

Mar 6 & 28 • Apr 18 & 26
Alumni Dinner Series
Innis alumni Dr. Alan Bernstein (BSc ’68 Innis, PhD ’72) and Dr. Derek Archer (MD ’86) share career advice during an intimate dinner with Innis students. Subsequent dinner guests in this series include entrepreneurs Ian McGrenaghan (HBA ‘07 Innis) and Zain Manji (HBSc ‘16 Innis), Sarah Weaver (HBA ’05 Innis) and Asha Daniere (BA ‘90 Innis), and Tom Timmins (BA ‘91 Innis) and Jeff Rubin (BA ’77 Innis).
June 1
Class of 1968 Reunion
Classmates celebrate the 50th anniversary of their convocation with a performance by folk singer Bob Bossin (BA ‘68 Innis).
► See photos of the festivities on p. 44

June 15
Class of 2018 Convocation
Innis’s newest graduates are welcomed into the Alumni & Friends Network. Congratulations!

July 7
“Reunion in the Green”
Alumni and friends enjoy a sunny afternoon on the Innis Green.
► Read more about this first-of-its-kind reunion on p. 45

June 28
Innis Goes Global: New York City
Media mogul Eddy Moretti (HBA ‘95 Cinema Studies) hosts alumni living in the Manhattan area.

July 19
Innis Goes Global: San Francisco
Nick Shah (HBSc ‘01 Innis, PhD ‘08) throws a mixer for Bay Area alumni.

Jul 24
Innis Goes Global: Los Angeles
Alumni living in LA attend a cocktail reception, hosted by Stephanie Savage (BA ‘90) and Erika Savage (BA ‘95).
► Read more about Stephanie and Erika on p. 30

Upcoming Events 2019

Jan 24 ► “The Woman Who Loves Giraffes” Screening with Anne Innis Dagg (BA ‘55, MA ‘56) and Ali Reid

Jan 31 ► “Octavio Is Dead!” Screening with Sook-Yin Lee

Feb 14 ► “Brown Girl Begins” Screening with Sharon Lewis (BA ‘89 Innis)

Mar 28 ► “The Digital Revolution & Democracy” Lecture with Phil Howard (BA ‘93 Innis)

► For more information on upcoming events at Innis College visit alumni.innis.utoronto.ca

Left to right, top to bottom: Bob Bossin (Photo by Chiao Sun) ◄ Hando Kang (BA ’04 Innis), Rita Chen (HBA ’04 Innis), Cara Saunders (HBA ’04 Innis) (Photo by Chiao Sun) ◄ Erika and Stephanie Savage (Photo by Ennis Blentic)
Celebrating a 50-year classic

Norman Jewison and *In the Heat of the Night* honoured at 50th-anniversary screening

By Solla Park

A Norman Jewison Fellowship award-winner—and the Innis community—celebrate an iconic film and filmmaker

An alumnus of the University of Toronto, **Norman Jewison** is an Academy Award-winning film director and producer. On October 2, 2017, Innis College and the Cinema Studies Institute hosted a 50th-anniversary screening of *In the Heat of the Night* (1967) with Norman Jewison as special guest. This critically acclaimed and historically significant film tells of a murder investigation led by an African-American detective and a Caucasian police officer, exploring the complex racial relations and tensions in a 1960s Southern town. Jewison’s legacy and his focus on challenging topics and important social issues have substantially impacted my academic career in pursuing the study of counter-cinema and stories of inequality.

I have always been inspired by the sensitive and complex subject matter commonly found in Jewison’s films, and that has encouraged me to start a career in the film industry. The event was an opportunity for his longstanding audiences and the community to recognize the esteemed filmmaker’s indelible contributions to cinema and his boundless dedication to the Canadian film industry.
Dear Mr. Jewison,

It's hard to thank you enough for the fellowship that changed my life. Maybe one day we could meet in person and I can explain the whole story. I live in NYC now—ever since you granted me the fellowship some 21 years ago. I am the Chief Creative Officer at VICE, and pretty much all of my dreams have come true. I'm producing films and TV shows and one day I'll direct something myself.

I think of you often. I've framed your note to me and it hangs on the wall in my office. You are a giant of an artist, and a wonderful person for helping people like me get ahead in this world. And you inspired me to do the same. I am funding a Fellowship at NYU in Cinema Studies and have donated to Innis, and I will continue to do more for those two magical places where I learned to watch, think, create, and become an empathetic human being.

Yours truly,

Eddy Moretti
(HBA ’95 Cinema Studies)
Every picture tells a story

Richard Lautens reflects on an award-winning career, smartphone photojournalism, and Innis memories
Richard Lautens (BA '88 Innis) has been a photojournalist at the Toronto Star since 1987, and also produces numerous videos, blogs, and web stories. He has covered politics, civil strife, sports, fashion, and features in Canada and all over the world, winning local and international awards for his work. Curating and judging fine-art photography exhibits and competitions, teaching photojournalism, and speaking to groups about his profession keep him inspired by and engaged with the field he loves.

You've been a photographer—and photojournalist—for over three decades. What's the biggest change you've seen in your field?

The biggest change I have seen is the range in the quality of imagery has widened considerably. Thirty years ago, just to properly work in this world and work the equipment required a certain amount of expertise. Although the best photographs are much better than at any time in history they are much more rare. The percentage of bad and mediocre photographs has gone through the roof and yet they are still being published.

Of course technically, I started with primarily black and white film, manual cameras, and couriers delivering film. Now I teach a smartphone photojournalism class at the Munk School and the results are amazing. The speed we can now work at allows for much greater productivity.

You graduated from Innis with a degree in history and political science. You were also involved in student government and you were a photographer for the campus newspaper. How did your time at Innis shape your career?

Of course, the most important thing for my career was that I dated a fellow Innis student who had a camera. I totally fell in love ... with the camera. She and I broke up eventually, but my love affair with photography has remained steadfast and true.

In all seriousness, the history and political science courses that I took were great journalism training, I always say that history is just news that happened a long time ago, and by studying those facts and patterns, I have learned to recognize them in a modern context as they are unfolding.

Further, I was the photo editor of both The Innis Herald and the newspaper. The discipline to cover and interpret people and events around campus was a great training ground.

There used to be a very clear division of labour between news photographers and reporters. Now—and perhaps partly because anyone with a camera phone and a platform can tell a story—that line has blurred. Is this an accurate statement? And where is this all leading?

I would argue that anyone with a camera phone and a platform can take a picture but not necessarily tell a story. I can use Microsoft Office but I am not about to write The Old Man and the Sea.

I believe that you use different parts of your brain to make images and write stories. The person who can do both well with regularity is rare and I have only come across fewer than a dozen my whole career. This is the great myth that a picture is worth a thousand words. A good picture certainly, but a picture without the thought and technical skills is only for breaking up the type in a layout. Lighting, angle, lens selection, shutter speed, and aperture are the verbiage of the image and each is carefully selected to tell the correct story. I never shoot a photo without weighing all of those attributes and knowing exactly what story and emotion I am trying to capture.

That being said, I don’t think anyone can enter the profession without at least some facility in writing, editing, photography, videography, and the technical programs (like Photoshop) that go along with them.

What advice would you give aspiring photographers?

Media and internet platforms are increasingly sophisticated visual realms. It is well worth your time and effort to really know the craft. Automatic settings (including on your phone) give average photos. To really stand out, your photos need more. You have to be the brains of the outfit.

Most importantly, you should never shoot a photograph until you know exactly what the message is you are trying to convey. You need to study the story, study the scene, and then determine how you feel about it and what information to send to your viewers. Only then will you know what technique you need to get the results you want.
A voice for diversity

Madeline Ziniak champions new models of ethnic media as the landscape shifts

Madeline Ziniak in Kensington Market
(Photo by Chiao Sun, 2018)
Madeline Ziniak (BA ’78 Innis) has been involved in ethnic media for over 30 years and is the current chair of the Canadian Ethnic Media Association (CEMA). She is also the chair of Ontario’s Canadian Broadcast Standards Council and former vice-chair of Women in Film and Television—Toronto. Among the many honours she has received for her service include the Order of Canada, and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals.

You have a long and distinguished career working in multicultural broadcasting. As current chair of the Canadian Ethnic Media Association, what is the biggest change you’ve seen in the industry over the past decade?

Ethnic media has existed in Canada from the early 1800s, and has evolved to where it is today. This is a rich expression of democracy that envelops so many intrinsic Canadian values and experiences. The role of ethnic media in Canadian nation-building has been significant, both in the past and present, in an increasingly multicultural, multilingual, and diverse society. Throughout the generations, immigrant communities as well as second and third generations have derived considerable and necessary knowledge about this country from publications, broadcasting programs, internet streaming, and blogs.

Canada—and particularly large urban areas such as Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto—is a diverse country. Given the increasing fragmentation and the tough economic reality of broadcast media, how do you make sure that these many voices are represented?

The multilingual media industry continues to morph as ethnic populations shift and grow. Challenges continue to include: lack of accurate ratings for multilingual broadcasting, which impacts advertising agencies; interest and confidence in ethnic media; audience fragmentation; and lack of more research indicating the effectiveness and need for multilingual media. Despite this, the need for information in one’s language of comfort continues to be important in a growing, diverse nation.

Ethnic media was and is a key contributor to the feeling of belonging within a linguistic and/or ethnocultural community. It also contributes to the contextualization of oneself in the larger Canadian society, and encourages self-esteem. As traditional media diminishes access to marginal voices, ethnic media continues to play an important role in the expression and reflection of diverse communities.

For such reasons, it is imperative for organizations such as the Canadian Ethnic Media Association to ensure that many voices are represented in Canada. As a non-profit organization, we have lobbied both federal and provincial governments for more industry accessibility to funding triggers and envelopes.

Most recently, we successfully lobbied the previous provincial government to initiate an unprecedented Multicultural Journalism Fund, which would “assist independent journalists as well as news organizations that produce journalism to serve multicultural communities, build audiences, and attract advertising revenue.” However, it is yet to be determined if the newly elected government will continue this fund. Since the private broadcasting industry has proven to be capricious towards ethnic media interest and support, we have suggested: Is it time for a TVO and/or CBC model for multilingual Canadian broadcasting?

When you graduated from Innis in 1978, did you envision your career focus on multiculturalism in broadcasting? What inspired you to follow this path?

When I graduated from Innis, I was inspired by the need for and endless possibilities of advancing opportunities and platforms of expression for marginalized groups.

As a daughter of an ethnic editor, publisher, and writer, I was always acutely aware of the importance of this medium and through my involvement with my father’s paper, Byelorussian Voice, I nurtured my passion for communication and expression—through media—for better civil engagement at an early age.

To attain tools of the trade, I was afforded opportunities: to kick-start my craft at Rogers Community 10 Programming; and then onward to resuscitate CFMT-TV from bankruptcy, develop the brand, and build the OMNI television network.

What advice would you give to someone just starting out in the field?

Be flexible in attitude, mindful of industry trends, and passionate and adamant about freedom of expression and communication in one’s language of comfort.
Multimedia maven

Jane Francisco navigates dramatic change in the magazine field with an entrepreneurial spirit.
Jane Francisco (BA ‘92 Innis), is known for her ability to build traditional magazines into multi-media brand powerhouses on both sides of the border. Since 2013 she has been with Hearst Publishing, first as editor-in-chief of Good Housekeeping, and then in 2016 she was also named editorial director of the Hearst Lifestyle Group, which includes Good Housekeeping, Redbook, Woman’s Day, and Dr. Oz The Good Life. Previously, she was editor-in-chief at Chatelaine. Jane lives in New Jersey with her husband and son.

You’ve transformed and revitalized many magazines, from Chatelaine to Good Housekeeping. Do you see yourself as a transformer? And what does that role demand?

Several years ago, as part of the Milles Femmes art installation at the Luminato Arts Festival, I was one of 1,000 women who were asked to choose one single word to represent themselves. I settled on “evolving,” which reflects my curiosity and boundless desire to explore, grow and ... well, evolve. But my husband, who may know me better, suggested another word to describe me, “possible.”

Ultimately, I see myself as an entrepreneur more than a transformer—and have developed the skill of understanding the scope, assets, limitations, strengths, and potential of the entire business. It is this entrepreneurial rigour, combined with my curiosity and the perpetual belief that anything is “possible,” that has allowed me to successfully nurture, revitalize, and, in some cases, navigate dramatic change in these legacy brands.

Given the shift from print to digital, it feels like the magazine world has been under siege lately. In your job at Hearst’s Lifestyle Group, how do you straddle both worlds?

As the business has evolved, I no longer straddle merely two or three worlds (print, online, social), but am continually experimenting with new ways of creating and distributing content. We are also actively exploring new revenue models, moving our content into client and retail channels, expanding our reach through partnerships and cross-industry ventures.

You’ve said before that many of today’s women still look forward to receiving a printed copy of their favourite magazine. Is this still true, even for millennials used to getting their content online?

Our research shows that women start to look toward lifestyle media brands once they enter a new life stage, such as moving in with a significant other, and/or having a baby. This is when home and family become the true centre of life—and time becomes one of the most valued commodities. The Hearst Lifestyle Group currently addresses nearly five million millennials every month in print, and a similar-sized group online. There has also been a movement towards slower living and more tactile forms of entertainment. Female readers continue to see magazines as an opportunity to slow down, relax and escape, not only from hectic lives, but also the relentless presence of their devices, screens, and technology.

When you graduated Innis, did you imagine your career as it is today?

When I graduated, the economy was in poor shape, so I ran my own business while working waiting tables and tending bar. Similar to millennials today, I thought I might never see a real pay cheque, that I’d never own a car or a home, and would always need to work nights to pay for my day job. I never could have imagined I would end up running a group of five brands at an international media company.

What one piece of advice would you offer to a student graduating in journalism or publishing?

My advice is two-fold:

a) If you get the chance to intern someplace you think you’d like to work, go for it. It allows you to determine first-hand whether the dedication and hard work required are worth it for you.

b) If you do decide you’re on the right track, work like your life depends on it. Be proactive, do everything you’re asked, and put your hand up for more! This is your toe in the door, your chance to learn the ropes, make connections, and hopefully impress the powers that be.

Regardless, go to work every day with the intention of being the hardest worker, the best collaborator, the easiest to work with, and the most enthusiastic. You literally never know where your dream job may come from.
Established in 1969, the Harold Innis Foundation is dedicated to advancing academic inquiry through annual lectures delivered by acclaimed thinkers on a diverse range of topical issues. The Foundation also awards scholarships to Innis students who demonstrate academic merit, financial need, and leadership. Harold Innis, who was appointed chair of the Department of Political Economy at U of T in 1937, was a political economist and pioneer in communication studies, offering a distinctly Canadian approach to these subjects.

Crisis in the Media?
Journalist Andrew Coyne delivers the 2017 Harold Innis Lecture
Speaking to a packed Innis Town Hall on November 7, 2017, award-winning journalist Andrew Coyne delivered the 2017 Harold Innis Foundation Lecture on “Crisis in the Media: Causes, Consequences and Cures.” Offering a thought-provoking look at the seismic shift in the newspaper business and journalism as a whole, Coyne took questions afterwards in a discussion moderated by journalist—and Innis grad—Jaren Kerr. What follows are a few excerpts from the lecture.

“There was a crisis of trust in the media that was part of a much broader crisis: a crisis of trust in knowledge, in fact, in experts and expertise; a hostility amongst a certain section of the population, to anyone who knows anything about anything. It is, as some have called it, an “epistemic crisis”: a significant section of the population has simply decided it knows what it knows, unreachable by any amount of evidence.”

“Absolutely nothing is preventing readers from paying for what we produce, if they so choose. They are simply choosing not to do so.”

“What’s really going on is not the collapse of the industry so much as its transformation: from print to digital, yes, but more importantly from advertising finance to reader finance. We aren’t going there willingly. But the advertisers having deserted us, some in the business have realized they haven’t much choice.”

“That is the great migration the industry is on. Not all or even most of the established players will survive the trek. Probably fewer of us will be employed in the business. But the ones who make it into that subscriber-based future may find themselves in a much healthier industry than today. Advertisers are fickle. Readers are (comparatively) loyal. Advertisers don’t care much about quality or content. Readers do.”

“For all the turmoil the industry is in, for consumers of news this, too, is a golden age. It’s not just the quantity. The quality is in many cases better. Not only are the new titles and new media bringing fresher, sharper perspectives, but the established media are raising their game.”

“... we gave away all of our content for free, for years. We bet the farm on pleasing advertisers with huge numbers of online readers, just at the very moment both were leaving us. We’re still doing it, even today, with “clickbait”—nonsense stories online that make us look like asses for posting them—at the price of damaging our reputation with more discerning readers. And because we were still chasing the loose fish of unpaying readers, we made ourselves vulnerable to the online aggregators and their algorithms.”

“So I think better technology is one key to getting people to pay. But the key—I wish it were more complicated than this—is writing better stuff. People—some people at least—will pay for the good stuff: the writing that keeps them hooked, the writing they can’t live without. They may not pay for stuff they can take or leave.”

Two-time National Newspaper Award-winner Andrew Coyne (BA ’83) is one of Canada’s most thoughtful commentators on political and economic issues. He is a national affairs columnist with Postmedia News and a Fellow at U of T’s School of Public Policy and Governance.
Later Life Learning
Turns out the wildly popular program delivers more than just lectures

7 courses per year
37 years running
1600 members
29500 total dollars raised for the new Innis College Refugee Student Fund by LLL in 2017/18

Tony Davis, professor emeritus in the Dept. of Geography delivers his Friday morning lecture “Climate Change, Catastrophe, and the Tides of History” to LLL members, 2018
I consider myself exceptionally fortunate to have spent the last two years working with the Later Life Learning (LLL) community at Innis College. A not-for-profit educational organization supported primarily by the generosity of its members, LLL offers weekly lectures and Q&A sessions to retirees on a wide range of thoughtful topics. From the Beatles to Galileo’s legacies, the lectures are all delivered by leading experts in their fields.

Founded in 1981, LLL is now approaching its 40th year, having grown to become a key part of our uniquely vibrant Innis community. Nowhere is the spirit of lifelong discovery and inspiration better epitomized than in the lectures of LLL. Its members not only share in learning, but in friendships, new and old, and in the collective wisdom of lives well lived.

Consider, for example, member Karen Rine (pictured right), an educator and anthropologist, trained in Jerusalem and the U.S. before establishing a career with the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

In the middle of her first year as an LLL student, Karen was inspired to make the most of her time beyond the classroom. She quickly became an active volunteer, offering her considerable life experience, not only as a participant at lectures, but in lecture set-up and delivery.

Gifted with an innate desire to pursue meaningful work and build something of lasting value, she is now looking for outlets in which to expend this considerable talent.

LLL, she explains, allows her to continue challenging herself—ever pushing to learn new things, consider different perspectives on current events, and engage with people from as many different walks of life as possible.

In fact, and to my surprise, the appeal of community membership—and its potential for positive impact—resonated throughout my conversations with LLL members, regardless of age, profession, or background.

Brought together by shared interests and concerns, members told me heartening stories of being inspired to perform meaningful acts of self-improvement, and leveraging their community for the benefit of those around them.

Speaking with long-time members Kathy and Lorne Freeman (pictured above), I addressed the question directly, hoping to learn what had inspired them to actively contribute to the LLL community for more than 10 years.

Despite the longevity of their membership, the Freemans are quick to pinpoint those aspects of the program they consider most important. Both retired social workers, possessed with empathy and a tremendous love of learning, Kathy and Lorne understand the invaluable role community plays in ongoing personal growth.➤
LLL’s generous fundraising and scholarship program, awarded to some of the College’s most academically gifted students, is the Freemans’ favourite part of the program. They love that they can support and connect with younger students at the beginning of their lives and career paths.

Recent member Colin Green (pictured below) agrees. A keen mind, honed over twenty years as an accountant and working professional, Colin eagerly sought LLL courses that would challenge him with fresh and thought-provoking points of view.

“Life is the only prerequisite needed for taking an LLL course, the rest is just about making you think about things you may not have otherwise,” says Colin.

Like the Freemans, Colin is inspired as much by LLL’s generosity toward Innis students as his own time in the classroom. In particular, he stressed the Innis College Refugee Student Fund. Largely through the generosity of LLL members, in the 2017/18 academic year, Innis College provided direct financial support for upper-year Innis students who are refugees from countries such as Rwanda and South Sudan, throwing open the doors to our community, offering asylum and opportunity in equal measure.

Frank Jones (pictured above-right) is another dynamic LLL member, happy to share his experiences. Now retired, Frank was a long-time columnist and foreign correspondent for the Toronto Star. He has spent his life in motion, travelling the world in pursuit of a good story, insight, and truth. The passion he brought to his work remains evident and undiminished, as he enthusiastically describes his weekly commute to and from Innis College.

Before lectures have even begun, Frank becomes “one of the crowd,” alongside every other student on the subway, sharing—if even only briefly—in the broader student community. Uniquely, and perhaps unsurprisingly, Frank brings this same energy back home with him, where he curates and hosts themed movie nights for the residents of his retirement home.

“Interacting with other LLL members has taught me about what aging can look like,” Frank says.

Frank shares his passion for community and learning in a way I cannot help but think of as distinctly “Innis.”

Growth is inevitable. We can’t avoid encountering new ideas and learning new things every day, inside or outside of the classroom.

Yet, it has been my great delight to discover, with the help of LLL, that it makes little difference whether you are a columnist, accountant, social worker, or any one of the hundreds of professions represented in the group—we are all dedicated not just to learning, but to sharing and celebrating our own life experiences. That’s the true spirit of LLL.

For more information on the Innis College Refugee Student Fund, please see p. 34 or visit https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/336.
Exceptional volunteers
2017 Arbor Award winners are standout Innis supporters

Robert Patrick (BA ’67 Innis, BEd ’72, MEd ’79) is a proud member of Innis College’s first graduating class. He has played an integral role in creating community among alumni from the early years, including organizing his class reunion. Robert has also served as the Innis representative on the College of Electors of U of T’s Governing Council.

Rita Chen (HBA ’04 Innis) has been dedicated to improving the student experience, serving as a mentor since 2015 and acting as the principal’s advisor on international student experience. She has also been an alumni representative on Innis College Council.

Lorne Freeman (BA ’68, MSW ’72) has been co-chair of the Later Life Learning Donations Committee, spearheading key projects, including the renovation of Innis Town Hall and the College lobby.

Nina Haikara (HBA ’03 Innis, MEd ’15) has helped to foster an active alumni community at the College by planning reunions and supporting fundraising initiatives. Nina has also given back as a mentor.

Fraser Kelly (BA ’56) was president of Later Life Learning (LLL). In this role he nurtured the relationship between Innis and LLL, leading to record levels of support and the championing of refugee students at the College.
Registrars redux

A current and past registrar pay tribute to the late David King, the College’s second registrar and one of its first innovators.
By Thomas MacKay

What follows are excerpts from a conversation between Linda Nye (formerly Poulos), who was assistant registrar, associate registrar, and then registrar (1987–97) of Innis College, and Donald Boere, current registrar and assistant principal (students). Moderated by Thomas MacKay, a former associate registrar of Innis, theirs was a wide-ranging chat about the legacy of David King. King, who helped re-define the role of registrar, was director of Innis’s first writing lab from 1964-67, then became registrar from 1967-87, and vice-principal from 1984-94.

Do you remember when you first met David—and your impressions?

Donald Boere: As it happened, I knew of David King before I even came to the University of Toronto as a student, thanks to this book I keep here on my shelf. Then, when I started at U of T in ’89 and was working my first U of T Day recruitment event in Great Hall at Hart House with thousands of students coming through, I stepped out a side entrance for a break. And who was outside also having a cigarette?

Linda Nye: David King … David Boyd King.

DB: Yes! We had this great conversation, but I had no idea who I was talking to. As we wrapped up, he extended his hand and said, “Oh, my name is David King, vice-principal of Innis.” A little thrown, I said, “The only David King I know is a guy who wrote a book on diction that my high school English teacher introduced to us called A Choice of Words.” And he said, “One and the same.”

LN: And that’s how he said it, because David had a marvelous theatrical voice. And a great leonine head, you know. He could take a good photo.

And that’s one of the things I wanted to bring up. David revelled in theatre. He loved English. He loved words, and he was careful about his choice of them. He was a fantastic writer. David had a fantastic voice and he did a lot of theatricals when he was outside of the office. He did a lot of classical stuff, and I remember one hilarious Molière play he had a large part in. He was a wonderful actor. Funny that he liked to perform so much, because he was essentially a modest man, wouldn’t you say?

DB: Oh, definitely.

LN: He kind of terrified me early on. The first job I had here was as a part-time assistant to the Co-op Residence Office, which was in this building, right down the hallway. At first David was kind of a scary presence to me. He had a large presence. He didn’t smile and just went about his business.

The first conversation I actually remember having with David was when he interviewed me for the position of assistant registrar. Working with him, I realized he was this dear, hilarious, wonderful man. I considered him a really good friend.

DB: You’re right. His composure was intimidating, but you got past that quickly when he started talking to you. And listening to you. And drawing you out. I don’t know how he did it. [David’s] huge contribution was the writing lab, the math lab, and other support services. Those were new ideas.
LN: He was much calmer than I was. I also liked him because he let me do my own thing!

Remember the days where students were lined up around the block for course registration? “Screw that,” I said. This was before telephone registration. Everything was done by hand. I said, “We’re going to fill that Town Hall full of students, and I’m going to review all the course selection essentials on a projector. Check this. Check this. You sign it. You pass it down to the aisle and we collect them all.” And David said, “I’m not sure we can do this.” That was the only time I recall David ever saying: “I’m not sure.” And I said, “Yes David. I am sure we can do it. We’re going to be the only college without lineups.” And he said, “Okay, go ahead.”

**Supporting students and the limits of making a difference**

LN: The word support comes in because everybody had David’s full support. I knew I had it. I felt so confident and comfortable working with him. How many people feel that?

DB: After he retired, I remember reviewing a few difficult cases with David. He completely understood that just because you make a suggestion to a student doesn’t mean the student’s life has changed. Things take time.

LN: We aren’t doctors.

DB: Right. You see a student for small fractions of time over the course of their degree, and you might run into them years later and they tell you, “This is what I ended up doing.” I have a really clear memory of David talking about some of the more difficult cases. And when he told a story it was never about how he solved someone’s problem. It was about how he helped students solve their own cases.

LN: David was brilliant with individual cases. He could also take a lot of students and see a pattern. This is part of what made him believe so adamantly in student services. David started the first registrarial advisors group in Arts & Science. And his huge contribution, I think, was the writing lab, the math lab, and other support services. Those were new ideas.

Remember, we were the fourth- and fifth-choice college in those days. And the huge challenge for this college was how we were going to make these students’ experiences at Innis—a place they didn’t choose to be at—as fantastic as they could possibly be. What was David going to do? He was going to offer bespoke service. Working with David, it felt as if we were starting a tradition.

DB: I think we’ve already sort of hinted that David sensed what student service was. David and Linda both realized that there are these determinants of success that are not just the grades you came into university with and whether you could write a paper or not. A writing centre could help students succeed. And individual advising could help students succeed. And sometimes just listening could help students out.

Let’s say this turns into an article and people who were born after 1990 are reading it. I wouldn’t want them to think, “Oh, I’m reading another article on what it was like before telephones. I get it. People used to line up and now I pick my courses online. Whatever.” I do think David was not just pioneering in introducing so many things that we now take for granted, but David also pioneered things that the University does not do anymore. Apparently, end-of-year parties were held at David’s house.

LN: And we had all the award ceremonies at my house!

DB: I don’t mean to speak for Linda, but when David and Linda were registrars, all this transactional work was done in addition to carving out the time to be advisors to students.
One-on-one advising most important focus

LN: As far as I was concerned, I was totally unqualified for the job of registrar. I had been a teacher. As a teacher you trained to listen and to be nurturing, and to be kind, and to be up, and to be cheery, and to try to make people feel good. But that came naturally to me. It’s natural to you. It was natural to David. I didn’t think I was a university “professional.” Teachers had “professional development days.” We didn’t have those things here. So, you learned how to do the minutiae. And the advising was a logical extension of knowing this transactional detail.

DB: This I learned from both Linda and David: I knew that if I was going to be registrar here, one-to-one advising for students was going to be the most important focus of the office.

LN: I just wish David were here to contribute to our conversation. I think he would be delighted. The university is going in the direction that he was so adamant was the right direction. It’s weird to think David’s was radical thinking. But the attitude of very many people in this university was: “This isn’t a place to take care of people; this is a place where you learn. We’re not coddling students. Get your chin up and do it!”

DB: Laughing and just being able to recount—sometimes you just need to tell somebody something, and that person is sometimes David. And I think, damn, he’s gone.

Working with David, it felt as if we were starting a tradition.

Where in the world?
Three alumni chart globe-trotting careers

“...My Innis and U of T Law education confirmed to me both that many of the challenges we face in seeking to ensure a better world for future generations are global in nature, and that Canada has a unique vocation in contributing to global solutions. I have been fortunate, and remain proud, to have had the privilege of carrying this perspective in representing our country abroad, and in major international organizations and negotiations.”

Jonathan Fried (BA '74 Innis, LLB '77) is the personal representative of the prime minister for the G20 and coordinator for international economic relations, Global Affairs Canada.

Mr. Fried is the G20 “Sherpa” for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and also leads government-wide strategic planning regarding Canada-Asia and other trade/economic issues. As Canada’s ambassador and permanent representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), 2012-17, he played a key role in multilateral trade negotiations, including as chair of the WTO’s General Council in 2014 and chair of the Dispute Settlement Body in 2013. He co-chaired the G20’s Trade and Investment Working Group with China in 2015, and was “Friend of the Chair” for Germany in 2016. In the course of his distinguished career, he served as Canada’s ambassador to Japan; executive director for Canada, Ireland, and the Caribbean at the International Monetary Fund; senior foreign policy advisor to the prime minister; senior assistant deputy minister for the Department of Finance; and Canada’s G7 and G20 finance deputy. Mr. Fried was Canada’s chief negotiator on China’s WTO accession and chief counsel for NAFTA. He is a member of the World Economic Forum’s Global Futures Council on Trade and Investment; the steering committee of the e15 Initiative on Strengthening the Global Trading System; the advisory board of the Columbia Center for Sustainable Investment; the International Advisory Board of the Central and East European Law Institute, and is on the board of directors of the Health Standards Organization. In 2015 he became the inaugural recipient of the Public Sector Lawyer Award by the Canadian Council on International Law to honour his service and contribution to public international law.

“I am immensely grateful for my time at the University of Toronto. It was at U of T that I discovered myself, and the world. Because of that, I will always be at home here, and at home everywhere.”

Chloe Walker (HBA ‘12 Innis) is passionate about education, the arts, and cultural exchange.

She has led an eclectic academic career, spanning several countries and disciplines. Chloe completed her undergraduate degree in literary studies and African studies at the University of Toronto. There, she received the Innis College Exceptional Achievement Award. She then read for an MPhil in linguistics at the University of the West Indies in her home country, Barbados. In 2014, Chloe won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford, and completed an MSc in African studies, before reading for a...
Rob Hain (BA ’76 Innis) is chairman of City Financial Investment Company, based in the United Kingdom and providing mutual funds and other investment services to pensions, endowments, family offices, and individuals through its offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, New York, and London.

In addition, Rob is an independent director of Armour Residential REIT, a mortgage investment business in the United States; HomeChoice, a leading digital retailer and financial services provider serving South Africa and neighbouring countries; Sound Diplomacy, a global consultancy helping cities unlock the economic benefits of music; and Minois, the owner of the Chika’s brand of West African-inspired snack foods.

Before moving to the UK in 2002 as chief executive of Invesco Perpetual, a prominent British investment manager, Rob was chief executive of Invesco Trimark, a Canadian mutual fund company. He has also been a senior executive of Royal Trustco (now the Royal Bank of Canada) in Toronto, Halifax, London, and Zurich, and of Investors Group Inc. in Winnipeg.

Rob has served as the chairman of the Canadian Mental Health Association’s Toronto branch and co-chairman of the Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation, as well as on the campaign cabinets of United Way in Toronto and Halifax. He has also been chairman of the Canadian Studies Foundation in the UK; a director of Canada Day in Trafalgar Square; and a governor of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University.

Rob holds degrees from the University of Toronto—where he sits on the International Leadership Council for Europe and the Innis College campaign cabinet—and Oxford University (Merton College). Rob and his wife Tracy, chief executive of the Beaux Ideal design firm, have two daughters.
By Sarah Burley Hollows

After 20 years at the University of Toronto, the last 10 as dean of students at Innis College, Tim Worgan retires.

We are so thrilled for Tim to reach this milestone, and so sad to see him leave our Innis family.

As Innis’s first dean of students, Tim implemented the Office of Student Life at the College and developed the multi-faceted community development programming model, which continues to foster growth, inclusivity, and opportunity for our students.

An experienced educator, Tim encouraged greater student involvement within and beyond Innis. He enthusiastically collaborated with numerous other colleges and departments to provide a more holistic learning experience for Innis students. Tim represented the College on many U of T initiatives—including the Co-Curricular Record and Next Steps Conference—and boldly integrated these initiatives at the local level.

Tim has also been an engaged and clever administrator. With keen business acumen, Tim has secured the future of the Innis Residence. He ensured the Residence’s mortgage was paid in full by the time he retired, and he instituted sustainable practices moving forward.

Tim’s professional outreach and kindness has touched many of us at the University. He has seen professional and student staff members through many life moments and career changes. Alumni never hesitated to pop into Tim’s office when on campus, assured that they would be welcomed with kindness and memories, and likely some sort of sweet treat.

With that, Tim, when you visit—which we hope is often—we’ll be ready to reciprocate with kindness, a sweet treat, and a hug. Thank you for your many years of service, dedication, and passion for Innis College and the University of Toronto.

“I’ve had the good fortune of calling Tim a boss, a colleague, and a friend. His warm nature, sense of humour, and support made working at the Residence truly memorable.”

—Nina Haikara
(HBA ‘03 Innis, MEd ‘15)
Innis Residence front desk staff, 2000-03; summer coordinator and front desk supervisor, 2004-08
Professor **Robert Vipond** (BA ‘75 Innis, MA ‘77) received the Award of Excellence: Vivek Goel Faculty Citizenship Award for his leadership as a faculty member at the University. He has influenced the growth of academic units, including the Department of Political Science, the Centre for the Study of the United States, and the Vic ONE Program.

Dean **David Kim**, Chestnut Residence, (HBSc ‘02 Innis, BEd ‘04, MEd ‘10) was recognized with an Award of Excellence: Chancellor’s Award (Emerging) for his outstanding contributions to the student experience at the University. He was praised for his team management and student advocacy.

**Brian Price**, author
Professor, Cinema Studies Institute (CSI)

**A Theory of Regret**

This book contends that regret is an important political emotion and mode of thoughtfulness rather than a form of weakness. Regret, as an unconditionally transformative emotion, reveals that our convictions are more often the products of habits than signs of moral courage. Regret thus helps us recognize contingency, and the steps we can take to alter the institutions and forms of existence that shape our lives. (Duke University Press, 2017)

**Charlie Keil**, editor
Principal, Innis College & Professor, CSI

**A Companion to D.W. Griffith**

An authoritative account of the first acknowledged auteur of the cinema, examining the director’s roots in theatre, his shorts and features, and his lasting filmic legacy. This volume traces Griffith’s style while also studying the moral dimension of his work, issues of race and gender, and the influence of Progressivism. (Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2018)

**Opposite (Left to right): Sonja Smiljanic, Tim Worgan and Sarah Burley Hollows (Photo by Alice Xue, 2017)**

○ Above and left: Robert Vipond and David Kim (Photos by Gustavo Toledo, 2017)
From would-be film professor to running her own Hollywood production company, big sister Stephanie Savage (BA ‘90 Innis, Cinema Studies) is one-half of an alumni girl-power duo

You started your academic career with ambitions to become a professor in film studies. Now you’re a successful Hollywood showrunner. What made you switch directions?

Life! I moved to Los Angeles to do research for my PhD dissertation. I needed a job and ended up working for Drew Barrymore and her partner Nancy Juvonen at Flower Films. I was re-writing the first Charlie’s Angels movie when I got a letter saying I had six months to finish my dissertation or retake my comprehensive exams ...

You and your sister Erika both work in the entertainment business in Los Angeles. Is this the beginning of a family dynasty, and was there any hint of this when you were both growing up in Calgary?

We both hope Erika’s kids go to Innis and move to Canada! They are very proud of their dual citizenship and think the U of T campus looks like Hogwarts. Growing up, we both loved movies and music, but knew that education was going to be the foundation of our career paths.

As a woman in the film and television industry, do you feel you’ve had to work harder to get where you are today because of your gender?

I’ve been very blessed in my journey, working at Flower Films, an all-women company, and having a very supportive and egalitarian creative partner in Josh Schwartz. But there’s no doubt that gender creates extra hurdles, whether it’s people not seeming to hear your voice in a meeting, or being paid less for no discernible reason. Being mostly on the other side of all that, I do my best to reach back. Right now we are shooting an episode of Marvel’s Runaways written by a former assistant (Kendall Rogers) and directed by another (Anna Mastro)—both super-talented women who are going to have amazing careers.

What advice would you give young Canadian grads interested in breaking into the film industry?

Follow your passion! You will have to work so hard to be successful, and if you don’t love what you do, you’ll never make it.
Little sister **Erika Savage** (BA ‘95 Innis) followed her sibling to Innis and eventually to LA, where she now works for a major music label—supporting female acts along the way.

Before you went to law school, you graduated from Innis in women's studies and sociology, and you've always been a strong proponent of supporting women in the entertainment business. Given that you've been working in the music business for a number of years now, do you think things have changed for women in the industry?

In 1996, I went to Lee's Palace for an event called “Honey Jam.” What I saw blew me away—a packed, live-music showcase entirely produced by women. Over 20 years later, “Honey Jam” is still going strong, and the “no girls allowed” attitude has improved. Women in the music business are really galvanized right now and initiating for change. There is an industry-wide focus on gender equality and one of the positive steps has been the creation of the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative. Working on initiatives that bring about change for our future generation of women in music is one of the most rewarding parts of my career. It helps me feel like my U of T women's studies scholarship didn't go to waste!

Growing up in Calgary and now living in Los Angeles for many years, do you bring a different perspective to your work or your life than your American colleagues do?

Yes, I say “sorry” way too much! When I left Canada to work in Los Angeles, there were people that openly questioned if I was “too nice” to make it at a U.S. label. I feel like my Canadian kindness has served me well in an industry where relationships are so important. I have developed a reputation for being good at handling difficult personalities. I think that's a function of learning to be a strong negotiator without feeling like you have to always get in the last word.

As the “little sister” to Stephanie, were you influenced by her to also attend U of T? Did you visit her there and are there stories?

Yes, choosing U of T was one of many ways Stephanie has inspired me. Stephanie had just left for graduate school in the U.S. when I arrived at Innis, but the path she laid made my arrival less daunting. Registrar **Linda Nye Poulos** called me Stephanie for four years, which I found really comforting! Stephanie had been providing me a glimpse into much better parties than I knew about for all our teen years, but I remember thinking those Innis people were the coolest, most worldly, brilliant kids ever!
“Steve and I have always been attracted to bizarre and strange films, and the film program at Innis College definitely let us explore that. Although Steve and I didn’t have any courses together, I do remember accompanying him to the abstract film lecture in Charlie Keil’s Introduction to Film Study course ... to watch Paul Sharits’ experimental short, “T,O,U,C,H,I,N,G,” again, because I thought it was so different from anything I’d ever seen, and I wanted to see my brother Steve’s reaction to it.”

“I loved Innis; everyone was supportive, helpful and there was always a feeling of community. It became a second home. So, it was only natural that Sam ended up there too; he was going to be home, both literally and figuratively!”

“I am very proud to be an alum of Innis College, and my son is as well.

—Sylvia Rabkin
“Innis College is a family tradition for the Elias family. This amazing institution will always be a part of us.”
—Leo Elias

“Having the opportunity to go to the same college and residence as my brothers was incredible—sharing that experience has definitely brought us even closer as family.”
—Nathan Elias

(Left to right) Brothers Gabe (HBA ’01 Innis, Cinema Studies), Leo (HBA ’08 Innis, JD ’13), and Nathan Elias (HBA ’09 Innis) (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2018)

“... [my father’s] time at Innis College provided the scaffolding with which he built his artistic identity as a filmmaker. He never encouraged me to do so, but I was drawn to where he got his resolve to understand the history and theory of cinema.”

“My daughter] might have followed in my footsteps at Innis College but I’m sure Romina was inspired by the same teachers to make her own mark in her life and her career.”

(Left to right) Daughter Romina (HBA ’14 Cinema Studies) and father Babak Payami, who was enrolled in the Cinema Studies Program in the 90s (Photo by Jennifer Su, 2017)

“Charlie Keil’s course on classical Hollywood film was the one class in which Josh and I overlapped, as we were in different years of university. I always liked old movies, but I think the course gave Josh a better appreciation of the era and now we actually get together to watch classical film noir on TCM.”

(Left to right) Siblings Lauren (HBA ’05 Cinema Studies) and Josh Rosenblum (HBA ’06 Cinema Studies) (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2018)
I am writing this article not because of anything I achieved, but because I wanted to do more. About 10 years after I graduated, I met the principal of Innis, Charlie Keil, and learned about the Innis College Refugee Student Fund. I immediately donated.

The Fund, which came into being after my time on the local committee, provides even greater support to new generations of students like Sheila and Anne. When it comes to such worthy initiatives as the Student Refugee Program, we can always do more. Support for refugees ranks high among the reasons Canadians feel proud of their country. Let’s make support for the Refugee Student Fund one of the reasons we feel proud of our College.
By Shaanzéh Ataullahjan

An Innis student activist petitions the government to help Rohingya refugees

Most undergraduate students do not spend their time debating how to increase pressure on the prime minister to honour human rights commitments. But then, Pitasanna Shanmugathas is not like most students. When ethnic cleansing of the minority Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar worsened in the fall of 2017, resulting in estimates of over 720,000 fleeing the country, the then fourth-year Innis political science and criminology student sprang to action. He spearheaded a nationwide social media campaign and petition to the House of Commons calling on the prime minister to: make a commitment to accept Rohingya refugees; put forward a UN General Assembly resolution calling on countries to stop providing arms to Myanmar; and revoke Aung San Suu Kyi's honorary Canadian citizenship. The petition, which was sponsored by MP Niki Ashton, reached its required goal of 700 signatures in January. It has now been certified and is due to be presented in the House of Commons.

Pita’s interest in international human rights began at an early age. In high school he volunteered with the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, an organization helping individuals fleeing persecution to establish a life in Canada. As a member of the Sri Lankan Tamil community, Pita says he feels a strong connection with other persecuted minorities. Working as an interpreter for Sri Lankan refugees at government and doctors’ offices, Pita soon realized that the main concern of most of these individuals was, “not for their [own] welfare, but for their children’s welfare and education. That was what really first inspired me, that I wanted to be in a job that helps individuals who are less fortunate and most vulnerable.”

So how does he plan on increasing pressure on the prime minister if the petition is ignored? Pita says he will continue to spread awareness, noting the limitations that come when a government is seemingly unwilling to listen. “I wish I could give some sort of profound answer,” he adds. But for now what matters most is that he is asking the question at all.

Sheila Htoo (HBA ‘09 Innis, MSc ‘11) came to Canada, and to Innis College, through the WUSC Student Refugee Program. Fourteen years later, Sheila is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, studying the Salween Peace Park in Karen State, northeastern Burma, the very place she came from.

“I am forever grateful for this life-changing opportunity to study in Canada, and it was made possible by small acts of kindness and generosity of my host community and student donors at Innis College. With gratitude, I feel compelled to make changes in the lives of other refugees around the world, especially ethnic people in Burma right now.”

Refugees inspired him to act

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Pitasanna Shanmugathas (Photo by Narrative Drive Inc., 2018)
Making Gordon Cressy proud

Innis student volunteers recognized with Cressy Leadership Awards

Graham Coulter provided outstanding leadership with the History Students’ Association, as well as a commitment to building community within Innis as a residence don and through the Innis Jamz music club. Graham graduates with a degree in history, creative expression and society, and drama.

“Innis College taught me how to lead even in situations where I felt uncomfortable—to go outside of my comfort zone.”

Teodora Pasca nurtured undergraduate interest in law by establishing a mooting (practising oral advocacy skills) program through the Pre-Law Society. She has also acted as a comment editor and columnist for The Varsity newspaper and given back to Innis through numerous volunteer roles. Teodora graduates with an HBA in criminology and ethics, society and law, and now continues at the University to pursue her JD.

“I want to put what I learn in law school to good use by becoming a tenacious advocate for those who might benefit from my help.”

Elspeth Arbow is a cinema studies specialist, honoured for her passionate College involvement, made even more extraordinary given that she lives with cystic fibrosis and recently underwent a double-lung transplant. She was a three-time speaker of Innis College Council, and an advocate for student needs and accessibility. For more about Elspeth, please see the inside front cover.

“It takes a village to raise a child (or get them through undergrad, apparently) and my village is Innis.”
Andy Yang promoted and bolstered the Innis College spirit among students, particularly with first-year students during Orientation Week. While specializing in pharmaceutical chemistry, he acted as a peer mentor for new students and held positions on the Innis Residence Council.

“Leadership is a lifelong journey. I will continue to enrich my knowledge and use my experiences to inspire people around me to be the best versions of themselves.”

Miranda Lees was honoured for fostering community within the Innis College Residence. While specializing in health and disease studies and majoring in music, she held positions on the Innis Residence Council, including president, and played a vital role in welcoming new students to the College during Orientation Week. Miranda is now pursuing an MD at Dalhousie University.

“As a physician, my leadership will continue through collaboration and advocacy for my future patients and fellow doctors.”

Jacob Lorinc received the Cressy Award for emboldening the student voice through The Varsity. While majoring in political science and minoring in both cinema studies and American studies, he climbed the ranks of the paper’s editorial board to act as editor-in-chief in his final year of study. Jacob is proud to have fostered a platform for youth to demonstrate their capabilities.

“To lead a student newspaper is to provide ambitious young people with an opportunity to define themselves in the public eye.”

Jennifer Su was honoured for her commitment to helping refugees. While specializing in anthropology, she led the Student Refugee Program at Innis and raised funds in support of Syrian refugees. Jen has also served as a residence don and trained students at the College in practices to promote inclusivity.

“The strong sense of community and mentorship I found at Innis continues to shape how I approach leadership as I continue to work with youth in the arts, beyond graduation.”
Swipe Left
A student’s essay on “The Mental and Social Implications of Tinder”
As a new University of Toronto assistant professor of Writing and Rhetoric, I was asked to design some innovative rhetoric courses for Innis College. One of these courses is INI303: Digital Rhetoric. The premise of this experimental course is that contemporary approaches to rhetoric and new media studies need to be nudged much further into alignment.

Much of our course focuses on the rhetorical dimensions of new media phenomena such as social networking platforms, MP3 technology, smart cities, and online dating. Throughout the term, we probe questions like “How does influence circulate through Facebook and Twitter?” and “What precisely do we mean when we call a city ‘smart’?”

Georgina de Roché, an exceptional student from the class, wrote her final research paper on Tinder—the world’s most popular online dating app. I am delighted with the result, of which the edited version appears here.

The Mental and Social Implications of Tinder

In 2012, the “social search mobile app” Tinder was launched by IAC. Today, the app has “9.6 million daily active users,”¹ “boasts 1.4 billion swipes a day,”² and has an estimated value of one billion dollars.³ What makes Tinder so successful is its affordances regarding “portability, availability, locatability, and multimediality.”⁴ The easy accessibility of Tinder has revolutionized the way people view online dating. However, preliminary scholarship and journalistic analyses suggest that use of the app has a range of potential mental and social consequences. This is, in large part, because Tinder privileges the mind’s ability to multitask and facilitates the satisfaction of repetitious and compulsive behavioural tendencies. Perhaps it should not be surprising that Tinder use may have negative effects on self-esteem, partner choice, and privacy. Still, the app is so new that speculation regarding its positive and negative effects remains inconclusive.

Tinder and Hyper-Attention

A recent study revealed that engagement with Tinder encouraged people to multitask more than they otherwise would. In 2015, Leor Cohen conducted a field study in which he analyzed “the conversational interactions of four Ethiopian-Israeli teens,”⁵ with the hypothesis that their use of mobile devices with the Tinder app would create “a continued state of incipient multi-tasking.”⁶ Cohen asserts that their interaction was “a window for attending to an online space anchored in the offline.”⁷ He found that the teens were using Tinder to determine what other social opportunities were nearby—a concept he calls “world attending.”⁸ His transcript also showed that the boys often described themselves as feeling “[in]sufficiently entertained”⁹ before turning to the app.

The boys’ cycles of boredom and multi-tasking gesture towards what media philosopher Katherine Hayles refers to as hyper-attention—a form of attention that “requires constant gratification, yet enables one quickly to scan significant amounts of data.”¹⁰ Hayles avers that “ubiquitously networked digital devices … have created a socio-technical environment that systematically privileges [this kind of behaviour].”¹¹ Apropos of Hayles’ observations, Tinder presents a new way for people to multi-task by “anchoring” themselves “in the physical location of the mobile device, and in the online space that is Tinder.”¹² The danger here is that the online and offline realms become inextricably entangled in such a way that the app becomes “a distraction from real life.”¹³ As the study illustrated, the “real world” quickly became inadequately stimulating for the boys.

Tinder and “Drive”

Tinder facilitates what media philosopher Jodi Dean describes as “the logic of drive.”¹⁴ According to Dean, who draws heavily on Lacanian psychoanalysis, the compulsive activity of “drive” is one of the dominant ways that an individual “relates to enjoyment.”¹⁵
Drive is a “repetitive movement” whereby the subject “gets stuck doing the same thing over and over again because this doing produces enjoyment,” although the action ultimately results in “failure.” For Tinder users, the satisfying repetitive action is swiping, not only because rating people is entertaining in itself but also because each swipe comes with the possibility of a match. As Purvis attests, Tinder is unlike OKCupid or Match.com because, rather than person-to-person similarities, it relies on algorithms determined by geographical distance. The app, therefore, “uses a variable ratio reward schedule;” every swipe could potentially result in a new social encounter, although most do not. This is why, as UCLA psychology researcher Hannah Schacter observes, the app should be compared to an addictive slot machine. As Dean says of social media addiction in general, participation, more often than not, results in the acute experience of failure. And yet, as with drug addiction, “the expectation of the drug” causes “more release of the feel-good neurotransmitter dopamine than the actual drug itself.”

Self-Esteem

While most people do not think of the app this way, Tinder has a studied ability to affect and define users’ sense of self-worth. A recent survey investigating and analyzing people’s motives for using Tinder found that “self-esteem” was a main “driver of motives” across the board. It concluded that “loneliness affects self-validation and entertainment positively,” with lonely users tending “to use Tinder especially for these two purposes.” Yet the “quick judgements” that inhere to Tinder use problematize the use of the app for validation. Scholars assert that the app can foster “a feeling of competition due to the large number of users.” The boys in Cohen’s field study, for example, persistently used the app to “one up” each other’s interest-garnering prowess.

Such behavioural patterns do not seem accidental. Journalist Austin Carr managed to get his internal “Elo score” from Tinder. The “Elo score” is “Tinder’s rating system” that measures “desirability” based on matches, photos, and other elements the founder Sean Rad has not specifically disclosed. The system is supposedly in place to simply “facilitate better matches”; however, as Carr writes, it is difficult to regard this system as anything more than a “Hot or Not-Style Algorithm.” Every swipe essentially “casts a vote” on users’ hotness, which the “Elo” system meticulously records and takes into account.

The Paradox of Choice

Tinder’s effect on self-esteem is mainly due to what clinical psychologist Dr. Wendy Walsh calls a “paradox of choice.” Like a dinner menu with endless options, Tinder presents itself as a “fantasy of abundance” when it comes to potential mates and matches. According to Walsh, the paradox breeds “indecisiveness” because we are “over-exposed to sexual opportunity.” Indeed, while Tinder can facilitate genuine interactions, the app more frequently seems to encourage connectivity over true connectedness by creating a “reality deprived of substance.” According to Nancy Jo Sales, the “abundance of options” makes people “less inclined to treat any particular [person] as a priority” or less inclined to choose anyone at all.

Privacy

Perhaps the greatest and most untapped danger of Tinder is its potential privacy invasion.

Writing for The Guardian, Judith Duportail detailed her harrowing encounter with Tinder’s information-capturing mechanisms. Through the “EU data protection law,” she was able to gain access to Tinder’s file on her. She discovered that Tinder had compiled an “800 page” dossier detailing her likes, education, conversations, sexual and racial preferences, and more. While this divulgence has been shocking to many of its users, Tinder’s terms of use clearly state that user information may be used for “targeted advertising” and “to personalise the experience for each of [their] users around the world.” The perennial danger then becomes that such information is “ripe for the plucking,” whether by corporations or hackers, as was seen with the 2015 Ashley Madison data breach.

However, for cultural commentators like Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek, the real danger is not “that all our intimate secrets are released to Big Brother”; to the contrary, it’s that we no longer have any secrets left to lose. ➤
The price of engaging with these data-mining apps is that the most intimate details of a person’s life become the property of a faceless digital-corporate entity.

Conclusion

Tinder has revolutionized and normalized online dating, yet it often comes with a spectrum of mental and social costs.

The perpetual search for novelty fosters addiction, low self-esteem, and indecisiveness; all of these things can have a deleterious effect on our ability to participate in “the real world.” Above and beyond these concerns, almost all of us need to develop better strategies for protecting our data. Clearly, more research is needed. In the meantime, founder Sean Rad has “grander” plans for Tinder beyond “merely facilitating romantic connections.” In an interview with Austin Carr, Rad said he plans “to build [Tinder] into a robust advertising vehicle and subscription service” to compete with apps like Snapchat and Instagram. Perhaps, over time, the app’s more vulgar and pernicious qualities may become more pronounced. As Rad frames the issue, “the matches made on Tinder can change lives. The Snapchat photo from two hours ago—who gives a fuck?”

Endnotes

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16 Jodi Dean. The Death of Blogging, 41.
20 Giulia Ranzini and Christoph Lutz. “Love at First Swipe?” 90.
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By Rebecca Gao

Inspired by the Innis community during a tough first year, Chiao Sun pays it forward through his passion for photography—and people

Chiao Sun is the student behind the popular Facebook page Innis Inspirations. Chiao began his undergraduate career as a computer science student before switching programs three times, finally landing on cognitive science and psychology. During his first year at U of T, Chiao found himself distracted and overwhelmed by the difficulty and number of opportunities—he didn’t know how he could balance academics, work, social life, extracurricular activities, and still pursue the things he found interesting. Increasingly, Chiao began to feel caught between his academic responsibilities and exploring other opportunities.

In the midst of his personal struggles, Chiao became inspired by his fellow Innis students. He realized that those around him were tackling the same problems he was. He had a new motivation and inspiration: understanding how his peers solved an issue that he saw as prevalent among university students—maintaining some kind of balance in the chaos that is student life. As Chiao talked with his fellow students, he realized: if they could inspire him, they could inspire others too.

In May of 2015, Chiao launched Innis Inspirations, a Facebook page featuring photo interviews of students at Innis College, with the intention of inspiring other students at the University. Currently, there are a total of 220,000 page views, and each photo garners an average of 3,000 views.

As he continued working on Innis Inspirations, Chiao found that the overarching theme of how students overcame their difficulties was twofold: community involvement and following their passions. Chiao hopes that Innis Inspirations can show other students that they are not alone in their struggles. He hopes that through showcasing his fellow students, others will also learn to be involved in the community and follow their passions—leading to a happier and more balanced student life.

For more inspiring student stories, visit https://www.facebook.com/innisinspirations/.

A focus on inspiration
Reconnect with Innis
There are many ways to stay involved with the Innis College community

Guide future generations of Innis alumni through our mentorship program.
Share your student-to-career story on fastforward.
Check out our diverse event series in Town Hall, like the Canadian Film Forum, the Harold Innis Lecture, book launches, and reunions.
Update your contact info to ensure you receive our newsletters and magazines.
Follow the Innis College Alumni Network on social media.
Share feedback about your alumni experience.

Visit
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/mentorship
/ffwd
/subscribe
/update
/social
/feedback

Top-left: Innisian Chiao Sun, founder of Innis Inspirations Facebook page (Photo by Rebecca Gao, 2018)
Bottom-left (Left to right): Troy Peschke (BCom ’18 Innis), current student Sarah Chocano, Jannie Chien (HBA ’17 Innis) (Photos by Chiao Sun) Above (Left to right): Ennis Blentic, Innis’s associate director—advancement, Nina Haikara (HBA ’03 Innis, MEd ’15), Danielle Weddepoel (HBA ’04 Innis), Hando Kang (BA ’04 Innis), Rita Chen (HBA ’04 Innis) at the Innis “Reunion in the Green” (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2018)
50 years later, members of Innis’s second graduating class reunited at the College on June 1, 2018. A highlight, amidst the reconnecting and reminiscing, was a performance by celebrated folksinger-storyteller Bob Bossin (BA ’68 Innis).
“Reunion in the Green”

All generations of College alumni gathered on the Innis Green for a first-of-its-kind reunion on July 7, 2018. The culinary talents of several generous, entrepreneurial Innis alumni were on the menu—including Grand Electric tacos by Ian McGrenaghan (HBA ’07), beer tasting à la The Bar Towel by Cass Enright (HBA ’98), AllJuice by Maria-Luise Sebald (BA ’68), Coast to Coast Coffee by Matt Tanner (HBSc ’02), and Dufflet Pastries by alumna Dufflet Rosenberg.

Top (Left to right): Aaron Tsang (HBSc ’16 Innis), Andrew Novoselac (HBA ’14 Innis), Tyler Schilz (HBA ’15 Innis), Ryan Lamers (HBA ’15 Innis, Cinema Studies, Urban Studies), Emily Hotton (HBA ’15 Innis, MA ’16) ○ Middle-left (Left to right): Alison Hsieh, Nick Stodola (BA ’98 Innis), Sandra Marcok (BA ’88 Innis), Fu-Rong Hsieh (BSc ’93 Innis) ○ Middle-right: Sylvia Rabkin (BA ’68 Innis, MSW ’70) and Jack Newman (BA ’68 Innis) ○ Bottom-left: Current student Brianne Katz-Griffin and Anna Yamashita (HBSc ’16 Innis) ○ Bottom-right (Left to right): Janine Koutsaris (BKin ’13), Cheryl Chan (BSc ’14), Shaanzeh Ataullahjan (HBA ’13 Innis, JD ’16), Mary Stefanidis (HBSc ’14 Innis, MEd ’17), Kaitlyn Vleming (HBA ’14 Innis, MSc ’17)
Contributors
We shine a spotlight on some of our talented and generous writers, photographers, and illustrators

Shayla Anderson is a fourth-year student of Innis College, studying urban studies and human geography with a focus in planning. She has worked for the Innis Advancement Office as a work-study student for two years, and is currently an intern at the non-profit 8 80 Cities. Shayla's interest in community engagement and bottom-up planning started when she volunteered with the Jane's Walk movement in 2017. She loves photography, both as a hobby and as part of her work with Innis College. ►Photography (pp. 5-6, 18-20, 35)

Shaanzéh Ataullahjan is a lawyer who graduated from Innis College with a degree in peace, conflict, and justice studies (2013) before pursuing her Juris Doctor, also at U of T (2016). After law school Shaanzéh worked for the United Nations in South Africa before returning to work at Legal Aid Ontario. As a proud Innisian she served on the executive of the Innis College Student Society, and all Innis College Council boards during her time at the College. ►“Refugees inspired him to act” (p. 35)

Georgina de Roché is an Innis College alumna and a proud graduate of the Writing and Rhetoric Program (2018). She is currently pursuing her MI with the Faculty of Information, and has returned to Innis as a library assistant. Her ambitions are to work in the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) sector and to steadily build a writing practice. In the meantime, she enjoys exploring topics of gender studies and writer's craft and moonlighting as a children's literacy tutor for the TDSB. ►“Swipe left: The mental and social implications of Tinder” (p. 38)

Sarah Burley Hollows is the assistant dean, student life, at Innis College. Together with colleagues and engaged students in the Office of Student Life, along with other partners and stakeholders on campus, Sarah supports Innis students as they transition through university life from orientation and first-year jitters to graduation and facing a world outside of (or within the next stage of) academia. ►“Big moments” (p. 28)
Thomas MacKay is the director, Faculty Governance & Curriculum Services for the Faculty of Arts & Science at U of T. Prior to this, he worked at the Innis College Registrar’s Office as associate registrar (administrative), and has held all associate registrar roles at one time or another. He comes by his nerdy interest in the registrar’s role quite naturally as a result.

Sarah Dobbie is a recent Innis College graduate (2018). Her love of art and passion for social justice influenced her pursuit of a degree in cinema and women and gender studies. During her senior year, Sarah worked closely with the Innis College Advancement team and the Cinema Studies Institute, giving her an opportunity to become involved with Later Life Learning. ► “Later Life Learning” (p. 18)

Rebecca Gao is a third-year student at U of T studying literature and critical theory, history, and English. She is also the features editor at The Strand, focusing on underrepresented stories and equity reporting. For the last two years, she has been the voice behind the student advice blog askastudent, out of the Innis Registrar’s Office. She is looking forward to finishing up her undergraduate degree next year and all that lies before her. ► “A focus on inspiration” (p. 42)

Mirae Lee (miraelxx.com) is a community arts organizer, emerging anthropologist, and a freelance illustrator. She has an HBA from Innis College (2018), with majors in art history and sociocultural anthropology, and a minor in writing and rhetoric. She is currently involved in various not-for-profit organizations, including Project 40 Collective—a pan-Asian artists’ community, which provides opportunities for creators to have their voices heard in the arts scene. ► Illustrations (front cover, inside front cover, pp. 1, 18, 26-27, 38-41, back cover)

Solla Park was an MA student at the Cinema Studies Institute, where she was the recipient of the 2017 Norman Jewison Fellowship in Film Studies. She completed her HBA in cinema studies and sociology (2017). Her research is focused on race representation’s interdependent relationship with technological milestones and national cinema. She currently works at a film and television literary agency. ► “Celebrating a 50-year classic” (p. 8)

The Innis Alumni & Friends Magazine relies upon the generosity and talents of you—the alumni and friends community. Whether you are a writer, photographer, illustrator, or storyteller, contact magazine editor Ben Weststrate, ben.weststrate@utoronto.ca, to learn how you can get involved.
Building a better Innis

With your support, we’re about to transform the student experience at Innis College

Innis College is poised to embark on an exciting capital project to expand and revitalize its home at 2 Sussex Avenue. This unprecedented initiative will transform our entire College community.

The new expansion will boast accessible student spaces and services, vibrant resource and learning hubs, as well as modern classrooms and state-of-the-art meeting and reception spaces. The result? A much improved student experience designed to foster dynamic learning, teaching, and community interaction—and a reaffirmation of our College’s unique identity within the U of T community.

We’re ready for the most exciting chapter ever in our 54-year history and hope you’ll join us in supporting our soon-to-be-launched capital campaign.

► To learn more, please contact Ennis Blentic, associate director, advancement at ennis.blentic@utoronto.ca or (416) 978-3424.
Over the course of my undergraduate years, instructors, staff, students, and friends at Innis have helped shape me into a critical thinker and a more outgoing individual. Pursuing urban studies at Innis, I became passionate about my program of study; socializing and doing a work-study placement at the College, I came to see it as my second home. As the College continues to grow, I want other students to have the chance to feel the same way in a building that will respond to their needs.”

—Shayla Anderson, Innis College Class of 2019