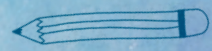


INNIS

ALUMNI & FRIENDS
MAGAZINE 2018/19



“ I want to lead as a global change-maker by creating a future where women and marginalized communities are empowered and their voices are heard.”

TAYLOR IRVINE (HBA '19 INNIS), MARY ANN DUFFY
GRADUATING STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENT



Taylor Irvine (right) with Dr. Alan Bernstein, OC, FRSC (BSc '68 Innis, PhD '72, Hon. LLD '19). Dr. Bernstein was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate from U of T and delivered the keynote address to Innis's Class of 2019—Taylor Irvine among them. For more about Dr. Bernstein's accomplishments, please see page 37 (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2019).

Innis Alumni & Friends Magazine

2018/19 Edition
No. 004

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
INNIS COLLEGE

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Cover illustrations by Rosemary Webb
(HBA '19 Innis)

A message from the principal



Innis College has always embraced change, which is the theme of this edition of our magazine. In its 55 years, the College has seen its home change twice.

Since its inception in 1964, Innis has grown, moving westward to its current and third location at St. George and Sussex, with each move providing more space. When the College received its own custom-made building in 1974, the permanency of its address seemed assured. But what no one counted on was a growth in student population that would see the College's numbers swell from 800 to over 2000.

Erecting a new residence building in 1994 helped address the demand for accommodation, but the main college building has stayed the same size for 45 years. We are now on the cusp of another dramatic change to the College's physical plant, with a planned expansion of the west wing that will provide much-needed student space through a reimagined library, augmented café, enlarged commuter lounge, and enhanced student club offices.

An account of Innis's previous incarnations and additions is provided in an oral history of how space—and changes to spaces—have defined the College over the years. “If these walls could talk” (pages 22-25) serves as an anchor and inspiration for our other features devoted to change and changemakers throughout the magazine.

For as much as Innis has found itself transformed several times over with new buildings and addresses, it is the spirit of the College's community—resilient, innovative, and compassionate—that epitomizes the dynamism of lasting and positive change. As honorary doctorate recipient **Alan Bernstein** noted in his convocation address, “The challenge is not change per se but rather ensuring that change will build the world that we want.”

Three of our alumni who are profiled as changemakers—**Ishita Aggarwal**, **Hussain Amarshi**, and **Stanley Zlotkin**—have confronted

problems and worked for positive change. Whether advocating in support of social services for women, bringing world cinema to Canadian screens, or supplying proper nutrition for the infant populations of developing nations, all have been engines for transformation. As Ishita advises, “Real change ... will only happen when we, as a people, demand more from our society.”

Our global roundup of Innis alumni provides more examples of graduates making change across

“It is the spirit of the College's community—resilient, innovative, and compassionate—that epitomizes the dynamism of lasting and positive change.”

the world, from the realm of journalism to the arena of professional sport. And both of our annual lecture series this past year highlighted the theme of change as well: **Charlotte Gray** pointed out how Harold Innis's emphasis on Canada's resource economy shifted our sense of national identity; **Phil Howard**, meanwhile, identified the important role artificial intelligence will play in redirecting our political future.

The College's future rests with its students, as our alumni profiles bear out. The strong tradition of invested leadership, celebrated this past year with a gathering of 20 years of Wasser Scholarship recipients, reminds us that the current student body will soon produce inspirational figures like **Nadia Belokopitov** and **Morgan and Jackson Wyatt**. As the head of the College administration, it is my duty and great pleasure to provide our students with the support—and the space—they deserve so that they can become the next generation's changemakers. ■

Principal Charlie Keil (second from left) with Innis recipients of the 2019 Student Engagement in the Arts Award (left to right) Jess Stewart-Lee (HBA '19 Innis, Cinema Studies), Ethan Kim (HBS '19 Innis) and student Chiao Sun (Photo by Lucy Lu, 2019).

Were you there?

From screenings to concerts to reunions, Innis's doors were wide open in 2018/19



Oct. 23
**Alumni Mentorship
Launch Reception**
Another great year of alumni-student mentoring kicks off.

Nov. 5
**Class of 2018 Fall
Convocation**

2018 grads cross the stage of Convocation Hall.

Nov. 8
2018 Harold Innis Lecture

Acclaimed biographer/historian **Charlotte Gray** (shown below) lectures on "Telling Stories in the Age of Historical Amnesia," followed by a Q&A with TIFA director **Geoffrey Taylor**. [Read more on p. 8.](#)

Sept. 4
Frosh-to-Alumni Breakfast

Alumni share their wisdom with the future Class of 2022 over breakfast in the Green.

Sept. 24
Our City, Our Future

An Urban Studies student-led discussion with then mayoral candidate **Jennifer Keesmaat** (shown left) on Toronto's most pressing issues.

Oct. 3
**Sexism and Violence
in Cyberspace**

A panel discussion on sexual and misogynistic violence in digital spaces, hosted by the Writing & Rhetoric Program and Journalists for Human Rights.

Nov. 13
**Diplomacy and
International Development
Alumni Dinner**

Students speak with alumni working internationally: **Sheila Htoo** (HBA '09 Innis, Urban Studies; MSc '11) and **Mark McDowell** (BA '88 Innis, MA '90) are shown upper left.



Top to bottom: *Diplomacy and International Development Alumni Dinner with Sheila Htoo (far left) and Mark McDowell (fourth from right) with Innis students and staff (Photo by Shayla Anderson). Our City, Our Future with Jennifer Keesmaat (Photo by Shayla Anderson). 2018 Harold Innis Lecture with Charlotte Gray (Photo by Chiao Sun).*



Nov. 22
Student Awards Ceremony
 Annual recognition of students' leadership and academic excellence, with keynote speeches by **Larry Wasser** (HBA '77 Innis) and **Dr. Savtaj Brar** (BSc '01 Innis; shown above right).

Dec. 7
2018 Refugee Student Benefit Concert
 Music and dance from students, staff, and faculty supporting the Innis College Refugee Student Fund.

Nov. 27
City-Building Alumni Dinner
 Students sit down with **Cherise Burda** (BSc '90 Innis, BEd '92) and **Ceta Ramkhalawansingh** (BA '77, MA '80), alumni working in urban development.

Jan. 16
Alumni Reception in London, UK
 Alumnus **Rob Hain** (BA '76 Innis) hosts a reprise of the Innis/CSI reunion for alumni in London.

Nov. 27
Lecture from Lawrence Grossberg
 Author **Lawrence Grossberg** delivers a lecture, "I've seen the future baby / it is murder: Intellectuals and the 'American' Nightmare," hosted by the Writing & Rhetoric Program.

Jan. 24
"The Woman Who Loves Giraffes"
 A special CFF screening of "The Woman Who Loves Giraffes" with **Dr. Anne Innis Dagg** (BA '55, MA '56; shown below right) and director **Alison Reid**.

Nov. 28
An Encounter with Eddy Moretti
 The VICE Media honcho (and Cinema Studies grad; shown above left) returns for a Q&A with students and alumni, hosted by CSI's **Bart Testa**.

Jan. 30
Biomedical Research and Medicine Alumni Dinner
 Students sit down with **Drs. Farshad Nassiri** (HBSc '10 Innis, MD '14) and **Nick Shah** (HBSc '01 Innis, PhD '08), alumni in medical research fields.

Nov. 28
"Clara"
 The Canadian Film Forum (CFF) series returns with an advance screening with director **Akash Sherman** and producer **Ari Lantos** (both shown middle right).



Left to right, top to bottom: An Encounter with Eddy Moretti (left to right) with Innis principal Charlie Keil, Eddy Moretti, and Bart Testa (Photo by Peter McLennan). Student awards ceremony with Dr. Savtaj Brar and student Georgina de Roché (Photo by Chiao Sun). "Clara" advance screening with Akash Sherman (left) and Ari Lantos. Dr. Innis Dagg receives a beaded giraffe made by a women's art collective in South Africa (Photo by Chiao Sun).



Mar. 25
“Through Black Spruce”

The CFF presents an advance screening with director **Don McKellar**, novelist **Joseph Boyden**, moderator **Lee Maracle** (all shown left), and cast and crew.

Mar. 26
**“Right to Walk T.O.”
 Panel Discussion**

Exploring the practice of walking as seen through a justice and equity lens, hosted by the Urban Studies Program.



Jan. 31
“Octavio is Dead!”

In this CFF instalment, filmmaker **Sook-Yin Lee** (shown left) presents her feature film (which stars CSI alumna **Sarah Gadon**) in conversation with **Chandler Levack** (HBA '11 Innis, Cinema Studies).

Feb. 12
“Brown Girl Begins”

A CFF screening with filmmaker-alumna **Sharon Lewis** (BA '89 Innis), presenting her Afrofuturist feature debut with cast and crew.

Mar. 28
**“Tomorrow’s Leviathan:
 Intelligent Machines in a
 Political World” Lecture**

Phil Howard (BA '93 Innis) of the Oxford Internet Institute launches an alumni lecture series.
Read more on p. 10.

Mar. 29
**Mentorship End-of-Year
 Celebration**

Alumni mentors and student mentees wrap up another successful year.

Apr. 2
**“Future-Proofing Toronto’s
 Employment Lands” Panel**

A conversation about the future of employment lands in Toronto, including alumnus **Gregg Lintern** (BA '84 Innis, Urban Studies) and Urban Studies program director **Shauna Brail**.

Mar. 12
**Urban Planning
 and Development
 Alumni Dinner**

Students sit down with alumni **Greg Kalil** (BA '83 Innis) and **Gregg Lintern** (BA '84 Innis, Urban Studies).

Mar. 19
“Giant Little Ones”

A CFF advance screening with producer **Allison Black** (HBA '98 Cinema Studies), director **Keith Behrman**, and editor **Sandy Pereira** (BA '00 Cinema Studies), joined by **Atom Egoyan** (BA '82, Hon. LLD '03 (all shown left).

May 22
**20 Years of Wasser
 Leaders Celebration**

A 20th anniversary celebration of the Wasser Leadership Awards with past recipients and benefactor **Larry Wasser** (HBA '77 Innis). **Read more on p. 34.**

May 31
**Class of 1969
 50th Reunion**

Grads reconnect at Innis a half-century later. **Read more on p. 35.**



Top to bottom: Advance screening of “Through Black Spruce” with (left to right) Don McKellar, Joseph Boyden, and Lee Maracle (Photo by Alexandra Hu). “Octavio is Dead!” screening with filmmaker Sook-Yin Lee (Photo by Shayla Anderson). Advance screening of “Giant Little Ones” with (left to right) Sandy Pereira, Atom Egoyan, Keith Behrman, and Allison Black (Photo by Shayla Anderson).

June 6
Alumni Reception in Vancouver

Alumni get together at Innis's first-ever Vancouver reunion, hosted by alumna **Nadia Belokopitov** (HBA '97 Innis, Cinema Studies).



June 11
Class of 2019 Convocation

Alumnus **Dr. Alan Bernstein** (BSc '68 Innis, PhD '72, Hon. LLD '19) addresses Innis's newest alumni cohort. **Read more on p. 37.**

July 13
Reunion in the Green: Talent Edition

A family-friendly afternoon with performances by talented alumni and students. **Read more on p. 35.**



July 24
Alumni Reception in New York City

A second-annual reception for alumni in the NYC area, hosted by alumnus **Mark Weisdorf** (BCom '79 Innis; shown right) and **Lorraine Bell**. ■

2019-20 UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 14
Harold Innis Lecture
 with poet-novelist **Dionne Brand**
 (BA '75, MA '88, Hon. LLD '18)

Nov. 19
Lecture
 with economic and social
 theorist **Jeremy Rifkin**

Feb. 13
**"Anthropocene:
 The Human Epoch"**
 screening with filmmaker
Jennifer Baichwal

Mar. 30
Innis Alumni Lecture
 with Professor **Jeremy Adelman**
 (BA '84 Innis)



Top to bottom: Newly minted alumni in the College Green, following Innis's graduating student awards ceremony (Photo by Chiao Sun). John Ota (BA '77 Innis) (left) and Mark Weisdorf (BCom '79 Innis) at the Reunion in the Green (Photo by Chiao Sun). Class of 1969 50th reunion (left to right) early Innis alumni Joe Uyede (BSc '69), Joanne Uyede (BA '69), Ennis Blentic, Robert Patrick (BA '67, BEd '72, MEd '79), and Elaine Beilin (BA '69) (Photo by Chiao Sun).

For more information
 on upcoming events visit
alumni.innis.utoronto.ca

Continuing the annual Harold Innis Lecture tradition of renowned speakers offering informed and provocative discourse, the 2018 edition featured acclaimed biographer and historian Charlotte Gray. Based on her bestselling book, *The Promise of Canada: People and Ideas That Have Shaped Our Country*—which includes a chapter on the indelible mark Harold Innis left on our country—Gray’s lecture was followed by a Q&A with Geoffrey Taylor, director, Toronto International Festival of Authors.

AGE OF
WITH CHARLOTTE GRAY,
MODERATED BY GEOFFREY
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FEST



Charlotte Gray (left) speaks with Geoffrey Taylor (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2018).



(Left to right) Prof. Peter H. Russell, Innis student Joel Colby, Harold Innis Foundation president Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Charlotte Gray, Geoffrey Taylor, and Alice Liu (HBA '19 Innis) (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2018).

Telling stories in the age of historical amnesia

Pre-eminent historian Charlotte Gray delivers the 2018 Harold Innis Lecture

FROM THE LECTURE

THERE IS NO SINGLE, CORRECT HISTORY “We can’t rewrite history though we can and should apologize and pay compensation where appropriate. But we can recognize that our predecessors lived in a world that’s radically different than ours—different in ideologies, challenges, constraints, and goals. We can also acknowledge that the stories that we tell ourselves—stories about how this country began, what holds it together, whose voices should be heard—have shifted over time. There is no single, correct history, but historical knowledge does allow us to see patterns. It also reminds us not to be too arrogant”

THE IMPACT OF HAROLD INNIS’S *THE FUR TRADE IN CANADA*

“In the 1930s, English Canadians were ready to hear a new version of their history. The remaining political links with Britain were being quietly severed and a new national consciousness was flowering ...

[Harold] Innis had refashioned the national story, making the country’s powerful rivers and Boreal forests the central theme, rather than the journey from colony to nation. And Canadians embraced this new way of looking at their national identity.”

RESPECT THE NARRATIVES OF PREVIOUS GENERATIONS “If we want the future to respect the stories we tell ourselves about this country today, we must respect the narratives of previous generations, even as we debate their legacies ... That way, we not only dispel our historical amnesia, we also get better stories.” ■

Charlotte Gray is one of Canada’s best-known biographers and writers of popular histories, having authored ten acclaimed books of literary non-fiction. She is an adjunct research professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, a member of the Order of Canada, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

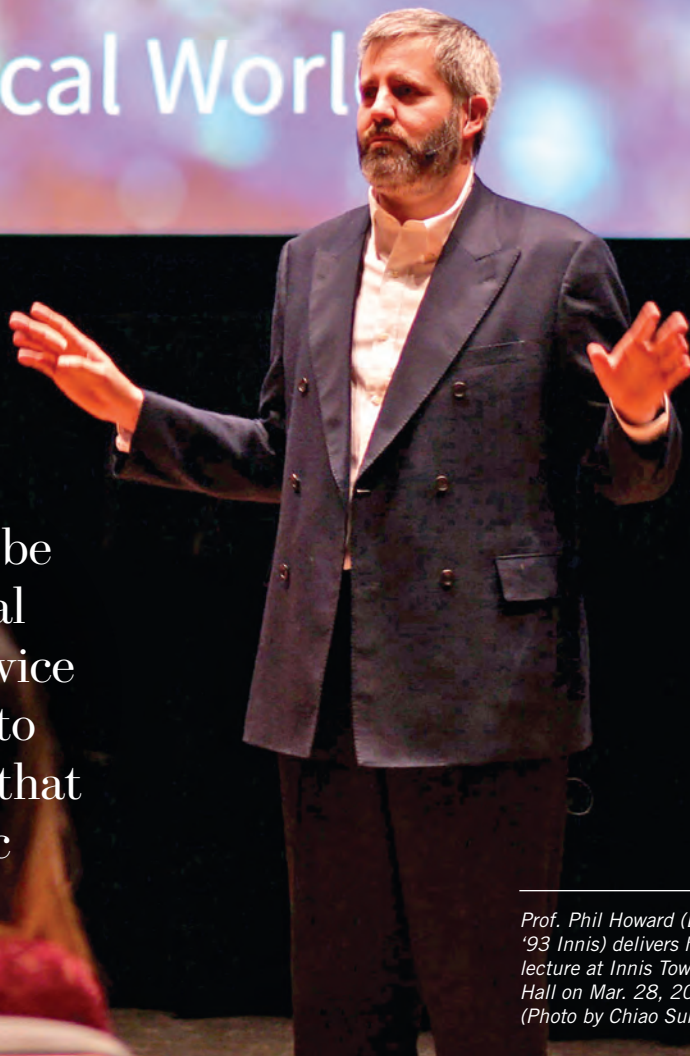
SAVE THE DATE

On November 14, 2019, Canadian poet, novelist, and essayist **Dionne Brand**, CM, will deliver the 2019 Harold Innis Lecture, marking the Foundation’s 50th anniversary. **Marieme Lo**, African Studies Program director and Women & Gender Studies Institute associate professor, will moderate the discussion that follows. Visit <https://alumni.innis.utoronto.ca/event/dionne-brand> for more information.

Tomorrow's Lev

AI in a Political World

“AIs are going to be political by design. They will be used to validate some political ideas and be pressed into service for political actors. We need to be sure to design AI systems that can participate in democratic institutions and reinforce democratic values.”



Prof. Phil Howard (BA '93 Innis) delivers his lecture at Innis Town Hall on Mar. 28, 2019 (Photo by Chiao Sun).

Tomorrow's Leviathan

Thought-leader Phil Howard delivers the Annual Innis Alumni Lecture

Alumnus **Phil Howard** (BA '93 Innis) gave a thought-provoking talk (followed by a Q&A) this past March at Innis Town Hall. “Tomorrow's Leviathan: Intelligent Machines in a Political World” was the first in a new public lecture series to be delivered by Innis alumni who are leaders in their fields.

When will an Artificial Intelligence run for elected office? This may seem like a strange provocation—just an invitation to futurism and speculation. Yet Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems are rolling out over many domains of economic, cultural, and political life. They handle public policy and legal issues that humans find complex, mundane, time-consuming, and/or easily corrupted.

They are purposefully designed to make the best possible decisions from vast quantities of information—we might hope a prime minister or president would adjudicate the same way. At this juncture, we need to move past abstract ethical problems and become aware that we are choosing to apply AI systems to tangible social problems and politically sensitive issues.

In his talk, Howard argued that AIs are political by design, through the political values of their designers and the political nature of training data. He claimed that AIs will validate some political ideas and be pressed into service for particular political ideologies. Ultimately, he showed how AI is changing our experience of politics and rewriting democracy's "terms of service." ■

FROM THE LECTURE

"I believe there may be three stages to the development of political AI. ... I believe we're already at the first stage where automation is used to push public opinion. It's very difficult for [social scientists] to model the impact of one tweet on one vote. ... We know there are lasting effects, we just can't link them to—we can't model them in relation to—a particular tweet or Facebook post."

"It may be a while before we see genuine artificial intelligence actually taking our credit card records, composing a message, preparing the face that should deliver the message, and presenting that to the customer. But, in countries where there's very little regulation over data mining, we can already see these complex threads between credit card records and message delivery forming."

"I believe that it must be possible to build AIs that would serve us well in public policy questions. But I would say, at the moment, we have an environment that's still very much the wild west. ... Being constructive and systematic about how AI gets used in public life will be key in making sure that we have a structure we like and a structure that preserves democratic values."



Philip N. Howard is director of and statutory professor of Internet Studies at the Oxford Internet Institute and Balliol College at the University of Oxford. He investigates the impact of digital media on political life around the world, and his research demonstrates how new information technologies are used in both civic engagement and social control. The author of eight books, including his latest, *Pax Technica: How the Internet of Things May Set Us Free or Lock Us Up*, he was named a 2018 "Global Thinker" by *Foreign Policy* magazine. During his undergraduate tenure at Innis College, Phil was president of the Innis College Student Society and a member of the Harold Innis Foundation Board of Directors.

Prof. Phil Howard (middle) with Innis student Louisa You and alumnus James Chapman (HBA '19 Innis, Urban Studies) (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2019).

Ishita Aggarwal

She combines science and social justice
to change women's health for the better



A scientist and social justice activist, **Ishita Aggarwal** completed an HBSc ('15 Innis) in cell and molecular biology, neuroscience, and psychology. She wears several hats, as a clinical research analyst at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the founder of two organizations dedicated to women's health, and a research associate at the International Women's Rights Project. And she is studying for a master's in public health. Ishita has won widespread recognition for her work, including a 2018 Queen's Young Leader award.

Just after graduation in 2015 you launched Mom's The Word, a Canadian not-for-profit that hosts free prenatal workshops for expectant and new moms who have a low income or who are homeless. In the same year, you founded Pro-Bono Healers that connects sexual abuse and assault victims with obstetrician-gynaecologists and therapists. You obviously have a huge capacity to envision and act for change. What inspired you to do this?

I have always had an interest in women's health and human rights. Having been born in India, where overt gender inequities continue to exist, my parents stressed the importance of professional and personal growth and development for both my brother and me. Hence, I grew up starkly aware of a variety of social injustices and developed a natural urge to help tackle them. When I entered my undergrad at U of T, I had multiple leadership opportunities, several of which were through Innis College. These positions allowed me to hone my communication, teamwork, and leadership skills and gave me the confidence to oversee increasingly complex projects.

Have you had any mentors along the way, and what's the most important lesson you've learned from them?

I have been incredibly fortunate to have had two mentors, learning three major lessons from them. First, I learned that, when embarking on any task, it is important to do things the "right" way, not the "easy" way. In the long run, the easy road often has many more potholes.

Second, they have taught me that all of our limits are self-imposed. If there is something you really want to do, there is no reason why it can't be done; all it may require is a reshuffling of priorities.

Finally, I have learned not to wait around for the "perfect" opportunity to come along. Say "yes" to all that interests you and figure it out later.

This was a particularly important lesson for me to learn because I'm not overly comfortable with uncertainty and it's helped reduce my fear of the unknown.

Given what you've learned from the women you've encountered through your helping organizations, what's the most important thing communities can do to change women's lives for the better?

Organizations and institutions need to create more opportunities for women's voices to be heard. We need more space for women (and people of all genders) in boardrooms and on public stages. Also, women in a community need to be consulted whenever a project impacting them is underway. Unfortunately, we continue to work *on* our communities when we should be working *alongside* them.

Real change, however, will only happen when we, as a people, demand more from our society. We need to change our rhetoric surrounding gender. Language is powerful. When we change how we speak, we change how our ideas are understood and acted upon.

What is the biggest challenge you've faced in your life so far and how did you meet it?

Transitioning out of university and into the working world was incredibly challenging for me. In school, I was accustomed to having guidelines and deadlines for everything I did. When I graduated, I quickly learned that this was no longer the case. There were so many more opportunities and paths I could take, yet far less direction. The sense of urgency was largely gone too. Although I am still figuring things out, I have learned to create structure in my life. For example, I set daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly professional and personal goals and review my progress on a quarterly basis. It helps me hold myself accountable. ■

*Ishita Aggarwal
(Photo by Shayla
Anderson, 2019)*

Hussain Amarshi

He couldn't find world films here, so he
changed the face of Canadian cinema



After graduating from U of T (BA '87 Innis) and then Queen's University in 1989, **Hussain Amarshi** founded the Kingston International Film Festival; ran the Euclid Theatre in Toronto; and worked on Atom Egoyan's and Jeremy Podeswa's earlier films, before setting up Mongrel Media from his bedroom in 1994. He has served on many arts-organization boards, including the Art Gallery of Ontario.

You came to Canada in 1984 from Pakistan, where you left a management position with Exxon Chemicals to study at Innis College, receiving your first degree, a BA in political science. Did you have any interest in the film world at that point?

I have always been fascinated by the moving image and was drawn to advertising in my teens. One of my first jobs was at one of the most creative ad agencies in Pakistan and that experience was instrumental in my interest in film. But my formal entry into the film world was in 1989 while I was finishing my master's in political studies at Queen's University. I was working part-time at the International Centre there, when I started the Kingston International Film Festival to showcase films from around the world.

You've been called a "visionary" for founding Mongrel Media, renowned as a Canadian success story in a highly competitive industry. Why did you start the company—reputedly from your apartment on Toronto's Manning Avenue?

I started Mongrel in 1994 because I was having a hard time finding world cinema on screens in English Canada. None of the distributors at that time were interested in non-American and non-European films. The only option for audiences was to see these films at TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival) and other smaller festivals. It was perhaps my naiveté that made me believe that there must be an audience for the films I liked, and that I could find a way to attract them. The first film I released was an Arabic-language, Tunisian film by a first-time filmmaker, Moufida Tlatli, called *The Silences of the Palace*. I had seen this film at TIFF and felt that more people should see it, and it was with this belief that I launched Mongrel without any prior experience in distribution!

How has your background as an immigrant influenced the direction you have taken your company in?

I started with the mission of "bringing the best of world cinema to Canada"—believing that there was a whole world of cinema out there that Canadians were not seeing. I also knew that, just like me, there were many hundreds of thousands of other immigrants in the country who felt the same way and missed not seeing their own cinema here.

In bringing films from Iran, Israel, Korea, Argentina, and many other countries, I discovered the various communities living in Toronto and the rest of the country. I established connections with many grass-roots organizations in these communities, and they have been pivotal to our success. In the days before internet and social media, it was critical to have direct contact to help spread the word about the films.

What do you think the biggest change is in the film distribution business since you founded Mongrel? And what do you think will be the biggest challenge ahead for the industry?

Independent film distribution is in the midst of a seismic change. With the advent of SVOD (Subscription Video on Demand) services like Netflix, there is now an over-abundance of films available to audiences everywhere. We are also in the peak TV-era, with a flood of new serials coming from all over the world, encouraging bingeing on these programs with less time for going out to the cinemas.

Filmgoing, historically, has been a ritual for people who have fond memories of being in cinemas—with the steady decline in cinema-going, it will be a challenge to sustain the business model for independent films. However, I also believe that there will be opportunities to reimagine the business and create new experiences for audiences to see films in a communal setting that they cannot experience at home. ■

*Hussain Amarshi
(Photo by Luis
Mora, 2018)*

Dr. Stanley Zlotkin

He wouldn't give up the fight to change vulnerable children's lives



Dr. Stanley Zlotkin (BSc '71 Innis, PhD '81) has worked as a clinician-nutritionist and research scientist at Toronto's SickKids Hospital since 1980. A professor in the Department of Paediatrics, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and the Department of Nutritional Sciences at U of T, he is recognized internationally for his pioneering development of Sprinkles micronutrient powder. His many academic and advocacy awards include a 2007 Order of Canada.

Over 20 years ago you were approached by UNICEF to find out why repeated global efforts to reduce iron deficiency anemia in children—a condition suffered by an estimated 500 million of the world's children—weren't working. Your research led you to develop Sprinkles micronutrient powder, which has been a game-changer in infant global health. Looking back, what do you think made the difference in your approach to the problem?

Well, I happened to be in the right place at the right time—I was trained as a nutritionist, having obtained my PhD at U of T after completing my training in paediatrics, so my education allowed me to focus on this important nutrition issue.

I worked at SickKids as a clinician-scientist, which meant that around 75 per cent of my time was devoted to research—which I used to develop Sprinkles. Finally, from the very beginning, I was not satisfied with simply showing that Sprinkles worked to prevent and treat iron deficiency and anemia, but I was determined to ensure that it was also distributed to the infants and young children who needed it.

Back when you graduated from Innis with a BSc in ecology, did you imagine your career path as a physician, a leading researcher, and a clinical professor of nutritional science at U of T?

Absolutely not! In my fourth year at Innis, I had heard about the new medical curriculum at McMaster University Medical School—problem-based learning, small-group tutorials, and no formal exams. I thought that this approach to medical education really suited me, so I applied, while at the same time I was accepted into a PhD program in ecology with the late Dr. Donald Chant, in limnology (the study of freshwater systems). To my surprise and delight I was accepted into the McMaster program, and while there, I developed a real passion for academic medicine and research.

How is the scientific research climate different in Canada now compared to when you were first beginning your micronutrient research?

It was particularly challenging 20 years ago to obtain research funding targeted at the health and nutrition of children in developing countries. There were few traditional funding agencies that supported this kind of research. Today funding is still very competitive, but the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) supports global child health research and the hugely generous Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is a major funder of child-focused research in resource-poor environments.

Many people aspire to “change the world.” You have actually done that. If you had to pick one action or trait that you think is necessary to make change, what would that be?

It has actually been a team of very smart and dedicated staff and students working with me over the years who have contributed to improving the nutritional health of children globally.

Perhaps the most important trait necessary to make change is a passionate drive to stick with an idea to the end. Sticking with an idea through many roadblocks and failures is difficult. For work on Sprinkles, it was challenging to find research funding; initially I had to make the product in the hospital kitchen (since there was no commercial source of the product); and finding the right research partners, often in dangerous and distant countries, was never easy.

My friend, Martin Connell, while leading the Calmeadow Foundation, wrote: “The passion of belief that comes from knowing you have stumbled across a great idea and are in a position to pursue that idea without compromise is as good as it gets in a lifetime.” How true that was for me! ■

*Dr. Stanley Zlotkin
(Photo by Chiao
Sun, 2019)*



If these walls could talk

On the eve of the College's Renewal and Expansion Campaign, Innisians look back at the buildings that define our history

HART HOUSE CIRCLE ▲

Known as the “biscuit box” and tucked into Hart House Circle, Innis’s first home (1964-69) defined the College’s warm and unpretentious vibe

“During the summer before my freshman year, I wandered across this vast campus searching diligently for Innis, my college. After stumbling upon a little structure bearing a sign, ‘Innis College, Temporary Quarters,’ I continued my search for the permanent edifice, which I was sure must have been in the finishing stages.

“... At last, I phoned Innis College with an urgent plea of ‘Where are you?’ Dr. Harris told me the terrible truth, but added that a college is not just a building but a group of people and a spirit which no building can give. He was right”

—Unknown author, in an excerpt from “Why Innis?” in *The Innis Herald*, vol. 2, no. 1, Sept. 1966, p. 4

“This was our first home—a 465 m² pre-fabricated one-story building constructed in the late 1940s as a temporary bookstore. Inside there were two administration offices, the Writing Lab, the common room, two washrooms, and a cleaning supplies storage closet. From the outside it was referred to as the ‘biscuit box,’ but from inside, as

we looked out to passersby through floor-to-ceiling windows, we called it the ‘fishbowl.’ The common room quickly became our ‘base’ because all of our lectures were located in other buildings throughout the campus. But, because of our location and openness, we also became home to many non-Innis students, who frequently dropped in to relax or to chat with us. Our warm and welcoming reputation grew and in the second and third years of our existence, numerous students transferred into Innis College. The small but bright common room was instrumental in forming an energetic nucleus of students who, in short order, formed sports teams, created a newspaper, established the college colours, wrote a constitution, and pressed for student-staff parity on the College Council.”

—Robert Patrick (BA ‘67 Innis, BEd ‘72, MEd ‘79)

“I remain a big fan of the Bauhaus style, so maybe the design got to me!”

—Cathie Percival (BA ‘68 Innis, MSW ‘71)

63 ST. GEORGE STREET ►

Home of the first campus pub and the first unisex bathroom, McDonald-Mowat House (1968-76) became Innis’s new pad—complete with “lots of wood and warm feelings”

“The MacDonald-Mowat House—a very old house with lots of wood and warm feelings. The minuscule kitchen area served some food and had pinball machines for 10 cents. Office rooms were upstairs. Occasionally we students would drink and have some fun in the common area (I think the living room of the house at the time). One night I arrived and there was a plastic garbage can sitting in the room and lots of people having fun. I wondered why it was there and asked the reason. Someone responded that was where the Purple Jesus drink was going to be made. Naively (I was naive at the time) I asked, ‘What’s in a Purple Jesus?’ Answer: Alcohol and grape juice.”

—Allan Wax (BSc '75 Innis)

“How could you not love the building? It was home more than a college administrative edifice: three common rooms (one ‘couch-free,’ named for an early graduate—musical phenom Bob Bossin); small intimate classrooms; the first ‘people’s’ unisex washroom; a basement ‘smoking room’ (for things that are now legal); and a place we set up a silk-screening enterprise. The small ‘snack bar’ would eventually add a pinball machine. And thanks to Bill Norrie at Labatt, it was the first campus pub, courtesy of Friday night special permit licenses.

“Somehow, those of us extremely involved with Innis obtained a set of keys. And if we stayed late to meet, socialize, or perhaps study, it was our

crash pad. Night watchman, Oswald, would wake us at the end of his shift, to direct us to Hart House for a 6 a.m. shower.

“For the eighth game of the first Canada-USSR hockey series, we rented a large television and the common room was packed with cheering students and staff. Just another epic memory shared at the house on St. George.”

—Briane Nasimok (BA '73 Innis)

“When I joined Innis College, its philosophy seemed to be manifested by the building at 63 St. George. There were no classrooms nor rooms built as offices. I met my students in what I presume had once been a large living room. Most of us sat on the floor and we showed films by bringing in a projector and a portable screen. The soundtrack of the films had to compete with the sound of the projector”

—Joseph Medjuck (MA '66, PhD '75; Cinema Studies founding faculty member, 1969-80; 2 Sussex Building Committee chairperson)

“With final university approval for a new building, Innis College ends eight years of being a boarder at U of T. [The MacDonald-Mowat House] is owned by Knox College. And Knox has let it be known that Innis College will not be welcome there after August 1974.”

—Peter H. Russell, (second principal of Innis College), in an excerpt from “New Building Approved for Innis” in *The Varsity*, Sept. 1972



2 SUSSEX AVENUE ▼

Innis's current home (1976-present) began with the "kitchen sink fund" that now lives on as a student scholarship

"... Innis is now at something of a cross-roads as we look down the road (or up the street) at our new building, 2 blocks and 2 years (?) away By Innis standards the new building will be vast, although scarcely a fifth the size of the smallest of our sister Colleges. I know that some old Innis hands are frightened that the homey qualities of our present quarters will be lost at Sussex and St. George. But it should be some comfort to them that there will be two old houses incorporated in that structure, a 'pub' rather than a dining hall, a backyard instead of a quad and no long corridors lined with neatly labelled (and closed) office doors"

—Peter H. Russell, in an excerpt from "After 10 years" in *The Innis Herald*, vol. 10 no. 1, Sept. 1974, p. 1

"Staff and students were very involved in the plans, and members of the House Committee met regularly with Jack Diamond, the architect"

"We felt the pub/café was a very important part of the building where students could meet and feel a sense of belonging. BUT, before the completion of the building, we were informed there were no funds to provide equipment for the kitchen. Peter Russell convinced President John Evans to loan us funds

with the promise we would pay back the University—this is when the Kitchen Sink Fund was launched. We did various fundraising events and paid back the money, and the Kitchen Sink Fund continued fundraising to provide additional furnishings for the College, and eventually has become a scholarship.

"The impact of the move was life-changing! We had always been the 'poor relation' college and now we had a building where staff and students were in one place and could meet and work together, and with the student/staff parity, the College became an even closer community."

—Audrey Perry (secretary to the principal, 1974-84; business officer, 1984-97)

"... After hiring the architects and approving their plans, the biggest discussions I remember were about whether the bathrooms would be co-ed (it was decided they would be) and whether or not we could afford an elevator given our budget (we couldn't).

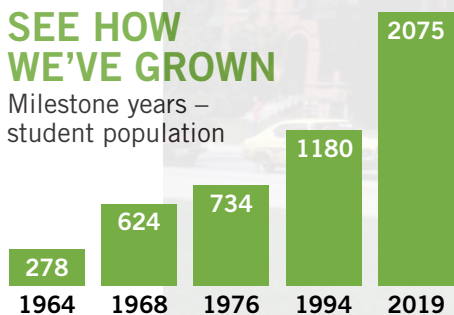
"Having a café, a library, and various nooks with chairs and sofas in the building meant that Innis students now had a place other than classrooms to meet and hang out. I think the students and student council became more engaged. I remember acting as projectionist for a student-sponsored evening screening of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, where many students, whom I had considered rather unadventurous, showed up in outrageous costumes."

—Joseph Medjuck



SEE HOW WE'VE GROWN

Milestone years – student population





INNIS RESIDENCE ▲

When it first opened, the Innis Residence (1994-present) was the most popular dorm on campus

“To kick things off, Innis Res threw a party on October 23rd for all of its newly-moved-in residents. Music, bridge and chess tournaments, and lots of food and beer (paid for by the one dollar locked-my-key-in-my-room-and-I-want-a-don-to-open-my-door fee) were the order of the afternoon

“So far, Innis is by far the most successful residence on campus, with all of its rooms filled ... and a waiting list of more than 500 students ... Why is Innis Res so popular? Well, first of all, it is new.

No drafty windows or roaches or rodents to room with. Second of all, it offers apartment-styled living, where four or five single-bedrooms share a living room, kitchen, and two bathrooms. And third, there is not a mandatory meal plan at Innis, although the food at the Innis Café is not at all bad”

—**Alan Wong (BArch '99; original Innis resident), in an excerpt from “Innis Bits” in *The Innis Herald*, vol. 29, no. 2, Nov/Dec 1994, p. 11**

“A student at nearby University of Toronto Schools, I had an excellent seat to watch the Innis Residence being built. Once I heard about the floor plans, I decided *that’s where I’m going to study philosophy*. Word on the street was U of T had the biggest philosophy department in the English-speaking world, not to mention a ‘Cognitive Science/ AI’ program at University College.”

“On my application, under music genres that I liked, I wrote “LOUD” in all caps. That choice led to connections I’ve maintained throughout my life. But the residence wasn’t ready. My recollection is that at least 2 or 3 weeks of class had slipped by before we moved in. That’s an eternity for a young person living on their own for the first time. So, to all other Innis students, be glad you didn’t have to wait!”

—**Darren Abramson (HBA '98 Innis; original Innis resident)**



Were you there for the construction site tour at 2 Sussex on Valentine’s Day, 1974? Help us identify these proud Innisians

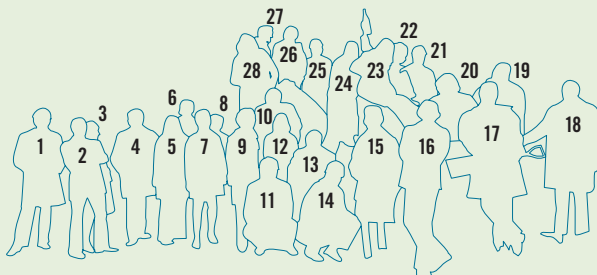
“The excitement was immense on the day we went to the site. The College had waited 10 years to build a home where staff and students could work together.”

—**Audrey Perry**

On February 14, 1974, Innis College Building Committee members toured (and toasted) the construction site at 2 Sussex Ave.

1. unknown, 2. unknown, 3. Evelyn Cotter, 4. David King, 5. unknown, 6. Jane McArthur (née Gibson), 7. Audrey Perry, 8. Sian Evans, 9. Lynn Day, 10. unknown, 11. unknown, 12. unknown, 13. unknown, 14. Peter H. Russell, 15. Pat Cole, 16. unknown, 17. Robin S. Harris, 18. unknown, 19. Michael “Fuzz” Friend (BA '73 Innis), 20. unknown, 21. unknown, 22. unknown, 23. Joe Medjuck, 24. unknown, 25. Susan Vickberg-Friend (HBA '99 Innis), 26. unknown, 27. Art Wood

Do you recognize any familiar faces in this photo? Let us know by using the form on this webpage: <https://alumni.innis.utoronto.ca/dig-this>.





Going global

Alumni change things up by pursuing life beyond our borders

JAY BAHADUR (HBA '07 Innis)

I am the author of *The New York Times* bestselling book *The Pirates of Somalia*, published in seven countries and in four languages. In 2017, the book was made into a movie of the same name starring Evan Peters, Barkhad Abdi, and Al Pacino.

When the Somali pirates exploded onto the pages of international news in late 2008, I quit my market research job and packed my bags, hopping on a series of five flights into Somalia on a lone quest to meet some present-day buccaneers. I spent three months in Puntland—an autonomous region of Somalia and the pirates' tribal homeland—chasing down pirates with the journalist son of its newly-elected president.

I've published articles in *The Times*, *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, and *Foreign Policy*, and advised the US government on Somali piracy. I've worked as a freelance correspondent for CBS News, and appeared on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, CNN, Bloomberg, the BBC, and NPR, amongst others.

In 2012, I moved to Nairobi, Kenya, to become the editor of Somalia Report, an independent news service employing over 100 Somali journalists in Somalia and Kenya. I still live in Nairobi, where I currently lead a team of investigators for the United Nations Security Council.

“You’ll spend most of your life working. So choose something you love doing, because it will be your everyday. Work is life.”



Photo by Adriane Ohanesian, 2014



DAVID BENNETT

(HBA '03 Innis, MA '04)

I am the vice president of Lenovo Group, managing director of Lenovo Japan, and CEO of NEC Personal Computers. I have spent the last 14 years in the technology industry in various sales and executive roles around the world.

Early in my career, I adopted the maxim of my first company's founder: "People first, products and profit will follow." That became my personal mission statement and was a huge benefit for me as I have led a variety of teams around the globe from all walks of life. It's also afforded me opportunities to live in Tokyo, Vancouver, Austin, Texas, and Singapore. I'm now passing on my insights and personal experiences through mentoring people in my company, as a consultant and investor in various startups, a member of the board of directors for companies in Japan and the US, and I recently began a term as a visiting lecturer at Yamagata University.

I am passionate about creating content in multiple formats (book, podcast, and online). I believe my strengths include high bandwidth and a very positive outlook. My hobbies include running and tennis. I'm currently living in Tokyo with my wife, three children, and a dog.

"Growing up with Canada's multiculturalism and studying at U of T gave me an appreciation for diversity. I learned French as a second language at an early age, was immersed in U of T's multicultural community, and continued my language studies in Japanese, graduating with an MA in East Asian Studies."

"What I've learned along the way is that people everywhere seek to understand and to be understood. Also, people everywhere like to eat. And laugh. Be open to experiences of all kinds. You never know how they will turn out."



Photo by Keith Aw/CNBC, 2017

MICHAEL KEARNS

(HBA '95 Innis, MA '97)

I've been really fortunate to follow my passion for storytelling as a journalist over the past 25 years. I spent the first part of my career with CBC, including a stint in Beijing, and have been in Singapore the past eight years with CNBC. I've had the privilege of meeting fascinating people in places I never would have imagined in my U of T days—from Canada's Arctic to much of Asia, including North Korea (by far the strangest place I've ever been), to Iran and Afghanistan.

It can be a high-pressure job, so to blow off steam I do Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, a grappling martial art. I received my black belt last year after many years of training, scrapes, and bruises. It has taught me a lot about discipline and humility—and pain management.

I'm grateful to have shared this journey with my wife, Deanna, and to have been able to expose my three teenagers to different cultures and experiences, which I consider one of the best educations you can have. I know they appreciate it, whether they show it or not (because, you know, teenagers) and that they will have lifetime memories and their own stories to tell.



KATE RAYNES-GOLDIE

(HBA '04 Innis)

I'm an award-winning game designer, human-focused technologist, and explainer of the future. Based in Fremantle, Australia, I decode technology, culture, and the future in a way that challenges common perceptions and provides critical—and unexpected—insights. I travel around the globe giving keynotes, running workshops, and making games with people. Some highlights include speaking at TEDxPerth (I'd love to speak at TEDxToronto one day), SXSW, and NXSW.

I am a huge advocate for the power of play. For the clients I work with, I find games and playfulness help them step away from limiting mindsets and into more creative, innovative spaces where new things—and even a new future—are possible. My clients tell me it's incredibly empowering to be able to create something new in a short period of time, when they didn't think it was possible. It means they get to experience themselves as bold creators. They can take this back to work and feel more confident about trying new approaches or creating something new.

I completed a double major of philosophy and semiotics at U of T—a background that has served me immensely in my work with the human side of technology. I moved to Australia in 2007 to do a PhD at Curtin University's Department of Internet Studies (the only place in the world that offers an internet studies PhD!) and stayed because of the beautiful weather and ocean-side living.

“Games matter! It’s an industry worth \$140 billion (USD), bigger than film and music combined.”

“I always look for a challenge, what’s next, how can I make something better, how can I personally grow and learn more? Culture of my workplace is essential to me; our values have to align. Recently I’ve been focusing more on driving growth opportunities for women in the sports industry.”



Photo by Brandon Magnus, 2019

NEDA TABATABAIE (BA '02 Innis)

I discovered my love of data shortly after graduating with an economics major. This love has taken me on a path that I couldn't have dreamed of.

I've gone from a part-time job on the sales floor of Holt Renfrew, to its marketing department, to MLSE (Maple Leafs Sports & Entertainment) for nine years, where I started their CRM and data department, to New York, to Silicon Valley and now the San Jose Sharks.

Along the way, I've made many mistakes, learned invaluable lessons, failed, triumphed, made many lifelong friends, talked about my work and my organization internationally, cheered for my teams till I lost my voice, gone to work late at night after a great win—while all the fans were going home or still celebrating—and gotten back to work the day after getting eliminated from the Stanley Cup Finals. The lows are painful, but there's nothing like the highs of the sports industry!

There have been so many “pinch me” moments in the past 14 years, but the highlight so far has to be participating in a STEM panel with the hockey legend Willie O'Ree during the 2019 NHL All-Star Future Goals Kids Day in San Jose.



JEN MOON (HBA '05 Innis)

I'm a news anchor and chief editor for a global TV network. I've also appeared on VOA (Voice of America), DW (Deutsche Welle), and BBC World Services.

For the last two years, I've covered South Korea's presidential Blue House as resident correspondent, travelling with the president on his overseas tours, and doing live hits on-air from all parts of the world.

Although my primary job is anchoring and breaking news stories, my curiosity moves me across the spectrum of broadcast journalism—ranging from hosting sessions on artificial intelligence at the World Economic Forum and interviewing high-profile defectors from North Korea, to creating long-form documentaries on victims of sexual slavery. I have also reported from conflict zones.

I especially enjoy talking to people, listening to them, and telling their stories. I grew up all across the globe. Perhaps it's this background that's helped me select a career in which I must be ready to pick up and fly half-way around the world to cover a breaking event. I currently live alone in Seoul, but I'm constantly video chatting with my three- and one-year-old nieces who live in New York.

“Even though I am South Korean, English is my first language. From Lagos to California, Bangkok and Vienna, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Toronto, and Seoul, I'm what you call a 'dip(lomat's) kid.' Some say I must feel like I lack a sense of belonging. 'No, not really,' I tell them. Being rootless doesn't mean I don't belong anywhere; it means I can choose to belong anywhere and everywhere.”

JOHN GRUETZNER (BA '85 Innis)

The hardest assignment Innis College and the University of Toronto ever presented me is this one: in 200 words, describe the 39 years since I entered university. The Canada that I left to work in China in 1985 has remained relatively static. This is obvious when compared to China, a nation that has moved from agrarian feudalism to a brave new world that is forming before my eyes and on my smartphone.

As a student at the University of Nankai in 1982 it took me over four hours to travel from Tianjin to Beijing by train, and now it takes 22 minutes. In 1984 it took three-and-a-half hours to travel by train from Toronto to Montreal, and currently it takes over four.

Canada now is a country of 50 shades of “no”. Canada, for the last 37 years, has been like Rip van Winkle, while China has been wide awake. To convey how my experience in China has altered my perspective in just one sentence is difficult. Perhaps “portaging and loving it” is apt (and pays respect to Harold Innis's *The Fur Trade in Canada*).

My largest personal regret is giving up on an idea that I advocated as an undergraduate: to protect rhinos and elephants. When it was presented to Canada's diplomats and elements of the United Nations, the idea was crushed by an indifferent and diffident bureaucracy. At the time, the technology to positively shape the system did not exist as it does now. Use technology effectively; please do not waste it on Instagram pictures of lunch. ■



Photo by Chiao Sun, 2019

“Everyone must use technology tools taking into account these dated but important words: democracy, the environment, equality, community, and justice. They all represent a perpetual struggle. As Leonard Cohen once said, ‘There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in’.”

Solving a composting conundrum

Brothers Jackson and Morgan Wyatt's successful start-up began in their kitchen



JACKSON WYATT

(HBSc '12 Innis)

What motivated you to follow in your brother's footsteps in going to Innis and also graduating with an HBSc? And how did you decide to study industrial design after graduating?

I came to Innis because of the complete freedom I saw after visiting Morgan in the residence and how welcoming the entire community was. I think the less rigid and more “lifestyle” structure of Innis also led me to pursue industrial design. My advisement through Donald Boere, in particular, really had me exploring what I truly was passionate about. I loved designing and building and, although I was excited about the sciences and love the systematic structure in how living things work, it freed me to realize my true passion through creativity and design.

What has inspired your environmentalism and love of the outdoors?

My passion for the outdoors seems to have always been there, but I suppose the large amount of time spent living on the water in boats was the initial inspiration. The calm isolation of being in the wilderness mixed with the addiction of trying to experience new areas of the world really spurred me into ocean sailing, climbing mountains, and doing just about everything outdoors. Environmentalism is both a cause and effect of my love for these things and the products we make.

What's the best thing about working with your brother? And—we had to ask—the worst?

The best thing is the understanding and flexibility. Working together we get to create and develop awesome products as a team that help the world in the absolute best way we can. The worst might be, naturally, as brothers we have overlaps in knowledge through our shared experiences, so there are redundancies or, sometimes, a lack of outside perspective. Fortunately, we work with people not related to us—like our business partner Adil Qawi, who sets us straight!

MORGAN WYATT

(HBSc '07 Innis)

You and your brother Jackson founded Greenlid, an innovative start-up that produces the world's first compostable green bin. How did the two of you develop this idea?

Jackson and I were living together and were sick of the mess and smell of our kitchen compost bags—and you know how they leak. Constantly cleaning out the pail really defeats the purpose of the bags in the first place. We thought: What if the entire compost pail was compostable?

With my background in chemistry and Jackson's in product design, we came up with a compost bin made from 100 per cent recycled cardboard that was completely leak-proof, yet still compostable, using a proprietary bio-based formulation.

You obtained your HBSc degree (the first of three degrees) from Innis in 2007. Why did you decide to come to Innis, and how did it shape your subsequent entrepreneurial direction?

To be honest, the reason I first decided to come to Innis was for the apartment-style residence. I thought it would be so much nicer to have a kitchen and living room shared with roommates rather than a private or a shared room. It turned out to be the best decision, and the friendships I found at Innis continue to this day.

My pursuit of chemistry was strongly influenced by Innis registrar Donald Boere, who advised me to pursue environmental chemistry, based on my interests and skills. I deviated slightly from that to pursue pharmaceutical chemistry, to only end up back in environmental chemistry, when we started our company in 2014. Today, the Innis Residence has Greenlids in every suite—talk about full circle!

How do you and Jackson define your roles in the company?

Within our small company, we all wear many different hats, while sharing most workloads and decision-making. This blurs our individual roles, but I would say I primarily handle logistics, R&D, and oversight to keep the team on track. Jackson handles a lot of marketing, product development, and design. But this often changes, depending on the particular product and its phase of development. ■

Brothers Jackson (left) and Morgan Wyatt (Photo by Adil Qawi, 2019)

We are family

What happens when family follows you to school



SIBLINGS MARY AND DAN MARKOU

“As a commuter student, I wanted to have an inviting space on campus that I could call home. The fact that my brother had also gone to Innis made it that much more special. And, the café made the best lunch!”

—Mary Markou (BA '00 Innis, MEd '13)

“Being the first in our family to attend university was a big deal. Commuting from Brampton and working part time, Innis was perfect, as it was cozy and had a small community feeling—and the couches were very comfortable for my afternoon naps.”

—Dan Markou (BA '95 Innis)

Siblings Mary and Dan Markou

FATHER AND DAUGHTER SIDNEY AND REBECCA JOSEPH

“As we each embarked on our post-secondary education journey (albeit many years apart), we found a home away from home living at Vladimir House, on Spadina Avenue, or at Innis Residence, on St. George Street. As we tackled our respective degrees (chemical engineering for Sidney and linguistics for Rebecca), we appreciated the support that this special community provided. Each of us in our own way became involved in the close-knit Innis community and take much pride in that chapter of our lives. Sharing these experiences as father and daughter enabled us to form a unique bond and memories that we will always cherish.”

—Sidney (BSc '82 Innis, BAS '85) and Rebecca (HBSoc '13 Innis) Joseph

Father and daughter Sidney and Rebecca Joseph



BROTHERS MARTIN AND DANIEL SCHLAEPFER

“Attending a large school like U of T, I wanted to choose a college with a close-knit community. So, I chose Innis because, from my brother’s experience there, I knew it would give me that.”

—**Martin Schlaepfer (HBA ‘09 Innis, Cinema Studies; MPP ‘11)**

“After having such a positive experience during my time at Innis College, it was an easy decision to recommend Innis to my brother.”

—**Daniel Schlaepfer (BCom ‘03 Innis)**

Brothers Martin (left) and Daniel Schlaepfer



TWINS HOLMAN AND JACK WANG

“Last year, Jack and I visited Toronto and we had a reunion with some of our housemates at Vladimir House (Innis’s old dorm). I hadn’t seen some people in over two decades, but those friendships will last a lifetime.”

—**Holman Wang (BSc ‘94 Innis)**

“U of T is a big place, so it was great to be part of a small, supportive college like Innis—and to be there with my twin brother!”

—**Jack Wang (BSc ‘94 Innis)**

Twin brothers Holman (left) and Jack Wang

BROTHERS JAMES AND JASON AN

“Jason’s excitement about the opportunities for involvement and personal growth in a tight-knit, vibrant community inspired me to choose Innis. I’m proud to say we both grew as young men because of it.”

—**James An (HBS ‘18 Innis)**

“It was a great pleasure and privilege for me to be part of and learn from the Innis community. Setting up the InSIGHT mentorship group was the largest project I had contributed to while at Innis, and I was certainly reassured when my brother James took on the responsibility as the leader of the club after I graduated.”

—**Jason An (HBS ‘12 Innis)** ■

Brothers James (left) and Jason An



To me, reconciliation means education

A reflection on the Innis Indigenous Admission Scholarship

BY NADIA BELOKOPITOV
(HBA '97 Innis, Cinema Studies)



*Nadia Belokopitov
with inaugural
recipients of the
Innis College
Admission
Scholarship for
Indigenous Peoples,
Walter Simpson
(left) and Robert
Nadjiwon (Photo by
Chiao Sun, 2019).*

Meeting the first recipients of the Innis College Admission Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples gave me hope. For Indigenous peoples, the path to post-secondary education is fraught with hurdles, stemming from the negative effects of colonization. For me, the cultural assault left me with nothing other than the thought that without education there is no hope in life.

Hope finds its way to people in various forms. It came to me in one simple but historically complicated question asked by [Innis] principal Charlie Keil.

In October of 2017, I met with Ennis Blentic, Innis's associate director of Advancement, and Principal Keil to discuss the calls to action from Canada's 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report.

Principal Keil asked me, "What does reconciliation look like to you, Nadia?" I urge and challenge all Canadians to ask an Indigenous person this significant question. After careful thought, I realized that reconciliation to me means providing U of T Indigenous students with hope by removing the barriers to education through financial, social, and cultural support.

Principal Keil leapt into action and started researching funding sources for the Indigenous scholarship. In a short time, and thanks to the generous financial contributions of Later Life Learning, Innis College faculty and staff, and the alumni community, the Admission Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples has gained endowment status. I am very honoured and grateful for Principal Keil's dedication to the Indigenous scholarship and proud of my College's hopeful legacy. ■

Since graduating from Innis College and receiving her law degree from the University of British Columbia, **Nadia Belokopitov** (HBA '97 Cinema Studies) has pursued a wide-ranging career. She has been a federal negotiator with Indian & Northern Affairs Canada, a television producer (*The Creative Native*), and, most recently, an entrepreneur (Cedar Root Gallery). Nadia is a member of the Haida Nation, Haida Gwaii, BC.

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF NEW AWARDS

Innis College and the Cinema Studies Institute presented a notable six new student awards in 2018/19, thanks to the widespread generosity of our alumni and friends. This slate of inaugural awards includes the Innis College Admission Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples; Robert Patrick Student Initiative Award; Roger Riendeau Award in Writing & Rhetoric (for more about Roger Riendeau, please see page 38); University Women's Club of Toronto Award; Weisdorf Bell Family PhD Fellowship in Cinema Studies; and the Wendy Rolph Memorial Scholarship.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP

The Innis College Admission Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples supports Indigenous Peoples in Canada (i.e., First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) admitted to the first year of study at Innis College. To donate, please visit <https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/401>.

Cressy leadership recipients

No “sitting on the sidelines” for these student volunteers



Ashlee Redmond and James Chapman



ASHLEE REDMOND

Major: English; **Minors:** Women and Gender Studies, Political Science

“Throughout my undergrad, I was often asked ‘What can you do with an English degree?’ I hate this question because it simplifies what I’ve done at U of T to only what I’ve accomplished in a classroom. I choose to define my undergrad differently because what I’ll remember most is my experiences at Innis that allowed me to find and use my voice.”

JAMES CHAPMAN

Majors: Political Science, Urban Studies; **Minor:** Human Geography

“Innis College is unique within U of T. What the College lacks in size, it makes up in its collegial spirit, quirky history, and tight-knit community. Essential to continuing that is the dedication friends of the College have to its community organizations. Stepping up means leading these organizations, so our world can be a bit more like Innis.”

LUCY LU

Majors: Physiology, Neuroscience

“Beyond finding your passion, be it student government or mentorship, not sitting on the sidelines means you are *investing* yourself in these projects. It means I will be active and deliberate in my voice and actions, not settling for the conventional path. Get off the bleachers—join the game, improve the game, and love the game.”

JESS STEWART-LEE

Majors: Cinema Studies, Diaspora and Transnational Studies

“Not sitting on the sidelines means not only making the most of what the university has to offer, but giving back to my peers. I wanted to be a student leader because every opportunity that I had to grow and improve was one I could use to make student involvement more fun, engaging, and accessible.”

At this year’s Cressy awards ceremony, Gordon Cressy asked winners to speak to their families about what the award really means. “Tell them it’s a commitment to actually stop sitting on the sidelines. It’s about getting involved and making a difference,” he explained. We asked our eight Innis recipients what “not sitting on the sidelines” means to them.



*(Left to right)
Lucy Lu, Jess
Stewart-Lee,
Stephanie Kroone,
Victoria Wilson,
Ethan Kim, Akil
Abrar Chowdhury
(Photo by Chiao
Sun, 2019)*

STEPHANIE KROONE

Majors: French Language and Literature, English

“Silence, inaction, disengagement: that’s what sitting on the sidelines is. The Cressy is a commitment to standing up. I will stand to affect positive change. I will stand on the sidelines to cheer for the victories of others. When that is not enough, I will simply stand, even if I stand alone, for standing is the first step towards progress.”

VICTORIA WILSON

Majors: Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, Environmental Ethics;
Minor: Environmental Studies

“Actively participating. Getting off the sidelines doesn’t mean you need to become team captain; there are so many important roles on a team. What matters more than a position is actively encouraging, supporting, motivating, and empowering your peers to help everyone succeed together! A leader is only as strong as their team.”

ETHAN KIM

Majors: Cell and Molecular Biology, Neuroscience

“Not sitting on the sidelines means being selfless and willing to go out and help, regardless of the time and energy needed. Whether that is with your friends, family, or community, any bit of help is always appreciated.”

AKIL ABRAR CHOWDHURY

Majors: Environmental Studies, Economics

“As president of the Economics Students’ Association (ESA), I wanted the ESA to display its full potential and cater to the needs of students. Hence, I challenged myself and organized new flagship events such as Business Case Competition to give economics students an experience of how it works.” ■



Reunion roundup

Innisians love keeping in touch!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHIAO SUN

20 YEARS OF WASSER LEADERS

First awarded in 1999, thanks to the generosity of alumnus **Larry Wasser** (HBA '77 Innis) and wife **Marla**, the Wasser Leadership and Achievement Awards have annually recognized Innis's most dedicated student leaders. Commemorating 20 years and 131 recipients, Larry returned to Innis College on May 22, 2019, for a special reception with past award winners.

1. (Left to right) Brett Hendrie (BA '01 Cinema Studies), Savtaj Brar (BSc '01), Michael Mangat (BCom '05), Angelo Vaccaro (HBA '12, MEd '14), Jaclyn Hodsdon (HBA '13 Cinema Studies, Writing & Rhetoric), Aman Chohan (HBA '13, MEd '16), Lucy Lu (HBSc '19), Ryan Lamers (HBA '15 Cinema Studies, Urban Studies), Richard Kil (HBSc '05, MSc '07, PhD '18), Kofi Hope (HBA '06), Innis principal Charlie Keil, Trevor Wang (HBA '14 Cinema Studies), Jannie Chien (HBA '17), Jerico Espinas (HBSc '15 Writing & Rhetoric), Larry Wasser (HBA '77), Marta Switzer (HBA '16), Mary Stefanidis (HBSc '14, MEd '17), Troy Peschke (BCom '18), Ishita Aggarwal (HBSc '15), Alice Kim (HBSc '06, MA '09, PhD '13), Ashlee Redmond (HBA '19), guest Gorav Chaudhry, Elspeth Arbow (HBA '19 Cinema Studies), Lesli Ransom (HBA '18), Rini Rashid (HBA '10), Lanxin Li (HBA '18), Alice Liu (HBA '19), Shirley Gillett (HBA '00), Curt Jaimungal (BSc '13), past Innis principal John Browne.

2. (Left to right) Lanxin Li (HBA '18) and Elspeth Arbow (HBA '19 Cinema Studies). **3.** (Left to right) Kofi Hope (HBA '06), Innis principal Charlie Keil, Jaclyn Hodsdon (HBA '13 Cinema Studies, Writing & Rhetoric). **4.** (Left to right) Richard Kil (HBSc '05, MSc '07, PhD '18) and Ya'el Santopinto (HBA '06, MArch '11).





CLASS OF 1969 50-YEAR REUNION

On May 31, 2019, Innis welcomed back its 1969 graduates to celebrate the golden anniversary of their graduation. Joined by college staff and classmates from surrounding graduating years, alumni reconnected and reminisced about the past 50 years.

1. (Left to right) Joe Uyede (BSc '69 Innis), Ennis Blentic, Elaine Beilin (BA '69 Innis), Innis principal Charlie Keil, Joanne Uyede (BA '69 Innis), Robert Patrick (BA '67 Innis, BEd '72, MEd '79), Peter Browning (BA '67 Innis), Noel Simpson (BA '67 Innis). **2.** Joe (BSc '69 Innis) and Joanne Uyede (BA '69 Innis). **3.** (Left to right) Jane Stretton (BA '69 Innis, MSW '71), Robert Patrick (BA '67 Innis, BEd '72, MEd '79), Cathie Percival (BA '68 Innis, MSW '71), Olivera Bone (BA '67 Innis).



SECOND-ANNUAL REUNION IN THE GREEN

On July 13, 2019, Innis College opened its doors to all alumni and friends for the second-annual Reunion in the Green, a family-friendly afternoon of old friends and good food. This year's instalment, dubbed the "Talent Edition," featured a line-up of comedic and musical performances by Innis alumni in the Town Hall. Hosted by alumnus-comedian **Briane Nasimok** (BA '73 Innis), the line-up included **Jack Newman** (BA '68 Innis), **Simon Cotter** (BA '86 Innis), **Stephen Stanley** (BA '87 Innis, Cinema Studies), **Anna Gutmanis** (BA '05 Innis), **Azim Apurbo** (BCom '19 Innis), and Innis student **Meghan Lees**. ■

1. (Left to right) Longtime Later Life Learning members and friends of the College, Merle and Don McMurray. **2.** Singer-songwriter Anna Gutmanis (BA '05 Innis) performs. **3.** Comedian-storyteller Briane Nasimok (BA '73 Innis) emcees in Town Hall. **4.** Musician Stephen Stanley (BA '87 Innis, Cinema Studies), former founding member of legendary Toronto band, The Lowest of the Low. **5.** Kathleen Crook (BA '83 Innis) and Jim Penturn (BA '81 Innis) are awarded the prize for farthest distance travelled to the reunion—from Westminster, London, UK. **6.** Comedian Simon Cotter (BA '86 Innis).



Dedication. Energy. Generosity.

Congrats to Innis volunteers on their 2018 Arbor Awards



ROB HAIN

(BA '76 Innis)

An Innis College alumni ambassador in London, UK, Rob enthusiastically supports alumni outreach and engagement, initiating an Innis Alumni Network in the UK, and serving on U of T's UK/Europe International Leadership Council.



DAVID KIM

(HBSc '02 Innis,
BEd '04, MEd '10,
PhD '18)

Innis students point to David's exceptional mentorship abilities. An active supporter of the Innis Mentorship Program since its inception, David volunteers as a speaker and panellist at events and advises on alumni outreach and engagement.



HUGH McDONALD

A dedicated advocate for Later Life Learning (LLL) at Innis for eight years, Hugh recently served as president of the LLL Board of Directors. Under his leadership, the organization strengthened its student support, including initiatives for refugee and Indigenous students.



ROLLA TAHIR

(HBA '09 Innis)

As a passionate filmmaker, cinematographer, and Innis mentor, Rolla launched the Filmmaking Mentorship Program in 2017, allowing one student annually to explore filmmaking through the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto workshops.



MORGAN WYATT

(HBSc '07 Innis)

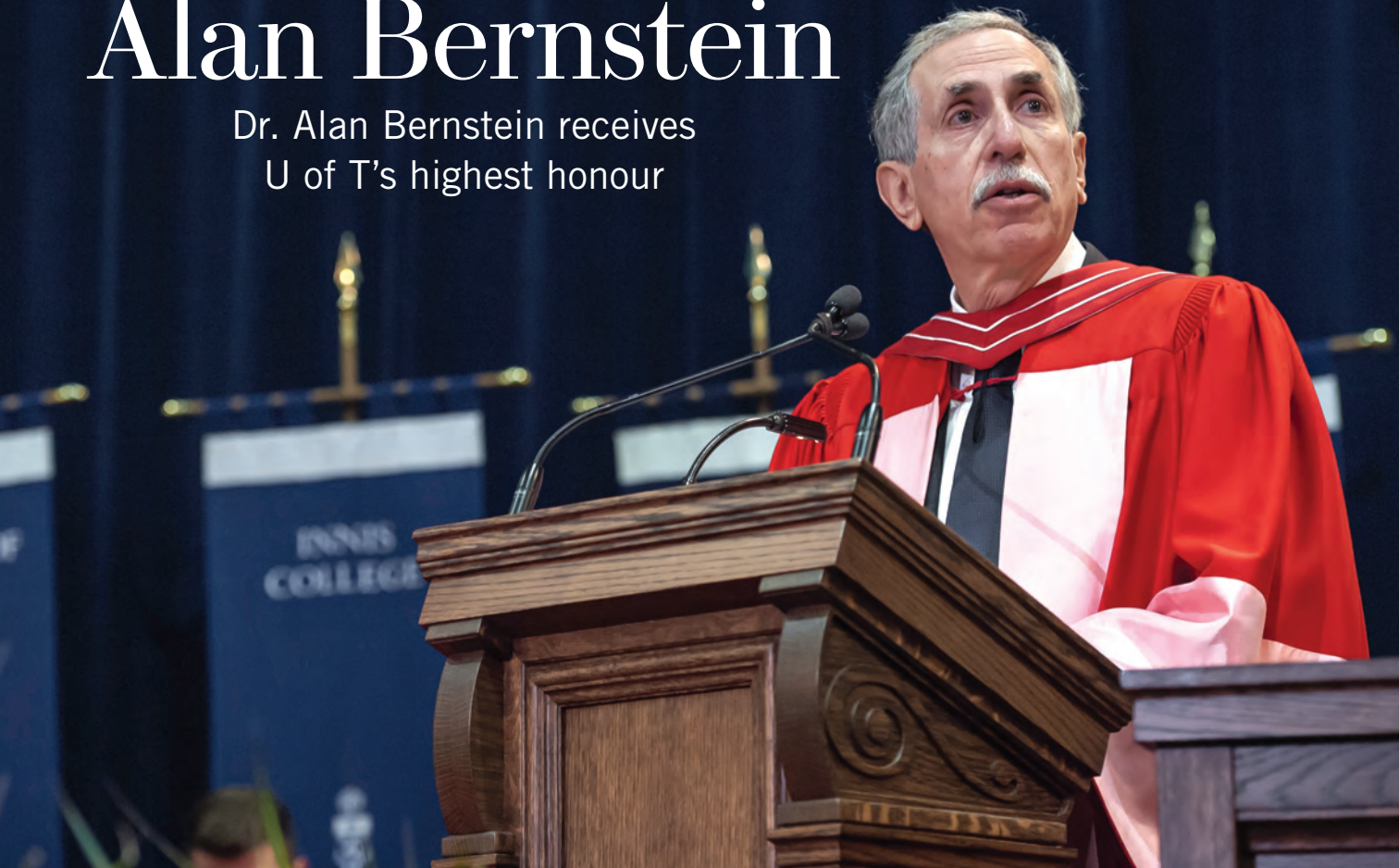
As a co-founder (along with his brother, Jackson (HBSc '12 Innis)) of Greenlid, a successful start-up, Morgan has been a valued mentor, as well as a speaker at U of T's Next Steps Conference and various College events. For more on the Wyatt brothers, please see page 26. ■

Innis's Arbor Awards recipients at the 2018 recognition ceremony (Photography by Gustavo Toledo)

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT:

Alan Bernstein

Dr. Alan Bernstein receives
U of T's highest honour



Dr. Alan Bernstein (BSc '68 Innis, PhD '72, Hon. LLD '19), a global leader in medical research and education, received U of T's highest honour, the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, at Innis's and Trinity College's joint Convocation ceremony on June 11, 2019. Dr. Bernstein has made important discoveries in stem cell and cancer research, and has received numerous awards for his contributions, including an Order of Canada and induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. ■

“You may be thinking it's impossible to change the world, or climate change is not your thing, or how can you do this alone. My response is: first, the world is always changing. Change is part of the air we breathe. The challenge is not change per se, but rather ensuring that change will build the world that we want.”

DR. ALAN BERNSTEIN, EXCERPT FROM HIS
2019 U OF T CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Dr. Alan Bernstein addresses the Innis College Class of 2019 in Convocation Hall upon receiving his honorary degree from U of T on June 11, 2019 (Photo by Lisa Sakulensky).



Congratulations!

Celebrating Roger Riendeau's four-decade career

REFLECTION BY JANET PATERSON, SEVENTH PRINCIPAL OF INNIS COLLEGE

Five past principals—and one current—as well as faculty, staff, and family gathered on June 12, 2019 to celebrate Roger Riendeau's retirement. For many, the occasion seemed surreal because Roger has been a stabilizing and enlightening presence at Innis College for more than 40 years.

Trained as an historian, highly proficient as an editor of a scholarly journal, Roger helped shape the academic life of the College by launching, with Roger Greenwald, the first college-based writing courses for credit in 1979. These courses eventually led to the formation of the Writing & Rhetoric Program at Innis. A stellar teacher, Roger was best known for his groundbreaking course, "Who Shot JFK? The Illusion and Reality of Evidence."

Roger's spirit of innovation, together with a talent for administration, made his services indispensable for several principals. He served over 21 years in various administrative capacities, including 12 years as vice-principal of the College. Known for his hockey prowess, as an administrator Roger was a

consummate team player, always mindful of "goals" and objectives, and always attentive to other players. Under his leadership, the College flourished with a collective sense of purpose.

In his retirement, Roger plans to continue contributing to the Innis success story while enjoying his family and games of hockey. A voice of the past, present, and future, may Roger never leave his beloved college! ■

ROGER RIENDEAU'S GENEROUS LEGACY

Established in 2018 through the generosity of its namesake, the Roger Riendeau Award in Writing & Rhetoric annually recognizes an academically outstanding student enrolled in Innis College's Writing & Rhetoric Program. To contribute, please contact Ennis Blentic, Innis's associate director, Advancement, at (416) 978-3424 or ennis.blentic@utoronto.ca.

At his June 12, 2019 retirement party, (fourth from far left) Roger Riendeau and (fifth from far left) former Innis staffer Audrey Perry are surrounded by six past and present Innis College principals, (left to right) Bill Saywell, Janet Paterson, Peter Russell, John Browne, Dennis Duffy, and Charlie Keil.

Accolades and authors

The latest accomplishments of Innis faculty



FOUR AWARD WINNERS

Innis principal and Cinema Studies Institute professor **Charlie Keil** received the 2019 Distinguished Pedagogy Award from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Urban Studies Program instructor **Emily Paradis** won a 2019 Superior Sessional Instructor Teaching Award from U of T's Faculty of Arts & Science. Writing & Rhetoric Program and Innis Writing Centre instructor **Becky Vogan** is the inaugural recipient (2018/19) of the Margaret Procter Award for Excellence in Writing Instruction at U of T. Professor Emeritus **Roger Greenwald**, also of Writing & Rhetoric/Writing Centre, was awarded the Gwendolyn MacEwen Poetry Award: Best Suite at Any Career Point, by Exile/ELQ, for his work "Song of Songs." ■

Emily Paradis (left) and Becky Vogan (Photo by Shayla Anderson, 2019)

REQUIRED READING



James Cahill, author and director and associate professor, Cinema Studies Institute (CSI)

Zoological Surrealism: The Nonhuman Cinema of Jean Painlevé

(University of Minnesota Press, 2019)



Adam Nayman, author and instructor, CSI and Innis One Program

The Coen Brothers: This Book Really Ties the Films Together

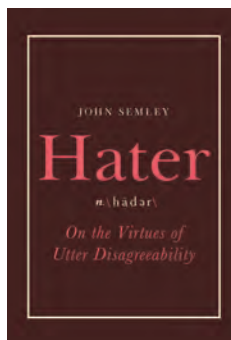
(Abrams Books, 2018)



Sara Saljoughi, editor and assistant professor, CSI

1968 and Global Cinema

(Wayne State Univ. Press, 2018)



John Semley, author and instructor, CSI

Hater: On the Virtues of Utter Disagreeability

(Viking, 2018)

Contributor highlights

Innis's talent shines brightly behind the lens, the keyboard, the pencil



SHAYLA ANDERSON is a recent Innis College graduate (2019). During her HBA degree, Shayla studied urban studies and human geography, with a focus on planning. She was also a work-study member of the Innis College Advancement Office in her third and fourth years. Passionate about photography, Shayla has snapped many College events, faculty, and students over the years. She is currently freelancing and looking to pursue a career in her field.

Photography: pp. 1, 4-6, 12, 39



JANNIE CHIEN is the Innis College program coordinator and an alumna of the College (HBA '17). She is involved with the Innis College Council as a principal's appointee, having previously been on the council as a student representative. When she is not advising Innis students, she spends most of her time eating McDonald's and watching baseball on TV.

Editorial support: inside front cover, "Cressy leadership recipients" (pp. 32-33)



Past principal of Innis College (2005-2015) and chair of the Department of French (1998-2004), **JANET PATERSON** has published extensively on Quebec literature and the immigrant novel. She is the author of several books and more than 50 articles, and has given lectures in many countries. She shares her love of teaching by giving a course on Otherness for first-year students at Innis College.

Writing: "Congratulations!" (p. 38)

Shayla Anderson and Jannie Chien (Photo by Chiao Sun, 2019). Janet Paterson (Photo by Alice Xue, 2015). Chiao Sun (Photo by Lanxin Li, 2018)



ASHLEE REDMOND is a recent graduate from Innis College (HBA '19) who's ready to answer the question: "What can you do with an English major?" Ashlee is currently working as the advancement assistant at Innis College. She is interested in community-building, food security, the Canadian Gallery at the AGO, and, recently, biking, which she pursues whenever she's not answering your emails. She also loves a good park.
Editorial support: "Were you there?" (pp. 4-7), "If these walls could talk" (pp. 18-21), "Contributor highlights" (pp. 40-41)



CHIAO SUN is a fifth-year Innis student who has worked extensively for the College over his undergraduate years. He covers a wide range of media, including photography, interviewing, website design, and video production. He sees his work as "getting to know people, while creating art and having a little bit of fun." Outside of school, Chiao enjoys his life serving in the Canadian Army Reserve.
Photography: inside front cover, 1, 4-5, 7-11, 16, 25, 30, 32-35, 40



ROSEMARY WEBB is a recent Innis College graduate (2019) with an HBA in linguistics, East Asian studies, and French studies. During her time at U of T, she was an elected member of the linguistics student union, SLUGS, and a fierce goalie for Innis's intramural innertube water polo team. Her passion for linguistics is seen both in her original research as well as her habit of explaining why that thing you just said was so interesting.
Illustration: magazine cover ■

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



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