

A Time for **Renewal**

Our Campaign to Renovate Town Hall

Town Hall, Innis College's 200-person screening facility, lies at the heart of the College.

Every year, thousands of Innis and University of Toronto students use the facility for classes, special events, student film festivals, and workshops. In addition, Town Hall welcomes more than 50,000 community visitors each year for film festivals, receptions, symposia, and public lectures.

As the Cinema Studies program continues to grow, Town Hall has evolved into the College's most important screening facility and one of Toronto's most active medium-sized theatres. Few public spaces on campus rival Town Hall's energy.

The Cinema Studies Institute (CSI) has grown up alongside Toronto's screen-based industries and contributed to the city's ascendance as a global centre for film appreciation. With a new Masters program and plans for a PhD program in progress, CSI has become the largest and most comprehensive film studies program in Canada and is positioned to be among the very best cinema programs in the world.

While Town Hall has served Innis students and the public capably for thirty-five years, a major transformation is needed. A renewed Town Hall will help us to meet the needs of our students and the CSI, as well as to continue to support the demands of film festivals and community organizations.

To bring Town Hall up to modern standards, we are planning a \$3.2 million revitalization of the facility. The renovations will completely transform Town Hall.

The following alumni and friends will serve as advisors on the Town Hall Campaign Advisory Board:

- Barry Avrich, President, Endeavour Marketing;
- Marc Boyman, President, Boyman Productions;
- Brett Hendrie, Managing Director, Hot Docs;
- Ira Levy, Executive Producer and Partner, Breakthrough Films;
- Charlotte Mickie, Executive Vice President, Entertainment One;
- Linda Schuyler, CEO, Epitome Pictures; Co-Creator, Degraasi Series;
- Larry Wasser, President, Genuity Fund Management.

For more information regarding the Town Hall capital campaign, and other campaign priorities, please visit the new Innis College Giving website at <http://www.utoronto.ca/innis/alumni/giving.html>.

For more detailed information, please contact Karen Papazian, Associate Director, Advancement at 416-978-3424 or at alumni.innis@utoronto.ca.



Artist's rendering: A revitalized Town Hall



Artist's rendering: A revitalized Town Hall lobby

The Town Hall renovation will:

- Enhance the comfort and versatility of Town Hall by adding new seats, foldaway tablet arms for student lectures, new flooring and carpeting, and better lighting;
- Improve the sound quality through extensive wall insulation and the installation of high-fidelity sound system;
- Elevate the viewing experience by upgrading Town Hall's film projectors and expanding the projection booth;
- Improve the lobby and reception area – encouraging more interaction among students, faculty, visiting filmmakers, and community members.



Message from the Principal

Janet M. Paterson

This has been a year of celebration and success at Innis College. Over 150 people came to celebrate Professor Kay Armatage's amazing contribution to Cinema Studies, Women & Gender Studies, and Innis College. There was much merriment which included a silent film, a wonderful oboist, a quartet, and a magician.

The entire College was thrilled that one of its most active and top students, Zannah Matson, received the prestigious Moss Scholarship while several graduating students were awarded the Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award. It was also a year for improvements to our space: the courtyard was transformed into a beautiful garden with the help of Wayne McMillan, an Innis student, and the student study space outside of the library is undergoing a radical transformation thanks to the generosity of a donor and our students.

As we head into another academic year, we are undertaking a major renovation of Town Hall. Known across campus to students of Cinema Studies and throughout the city for its numerous film festivals and public events, Town Hall is in dire need of renovation. With the help of our donors, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, we are confident that we will succeed in transforming Town Hall into an inspiring space for cinematic culture and civic debates.

As our readers will see in this Newsletter, in the past year, Innis College has been a hub for social, cultural and intellectual activities. I warmly thank the many people who have contributed to the dynamism of our College.

Making a Difference: Supporting Students

A generous gift of \$20,000 from long-time friend and supporter of Innis College, Mrs. Terry G. Harris, will provide support for two key projects at the College.

A portion of Mrs. Harris' donation will be used to fund the development of the Writing and Rhetoric program's *Fine Writing Website* which will not only assist university students who already write well but will also serve as a resource to help students explore the rhetorical features of fine writing.

"Writing, rhetoric, and critical thinking are increasingly popular areas of study for today's university students," says Professor Cynthia Messenger, Director of the Writing and Rhetoric Program. "The Writing and Rhetoric Program at Innis College offers students a powerful educational tool designed to complement specialist and major programs as well as to help students excel in their careers. Mrs. Harris recognizes the importance of the skills and knowledge that our students are acquiring in the program, and we are deeply grateful for her generous support."

Mrs. Harris' gift has also been directed to the *Innis College Excellence Fund* which will support enhancements and upgrades to the student study space in and around the Innis Library. The purchase of new furniture and equipment will allow the College to respond to the increased needs and demands of Innis students. Commuter students, in particular, are in need of more space to study, reflect, and connect with their peers.

"Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends like Mrs. Harris, we can continue to offer our students excellent resources and facilities, and strong support for our programs. Mrs. Harris' most recent gift will impact students for years to come," says Principal Janet Paterson.

Mrs. Terry Harris is a published writer and poet originally from Brazil. She studied at the University of Sao Paulo, York University, and the University of Toronto (M.Ed 1981). Her late husband Professor Robin Harris was appointed the first Principal of Innis College in 1964, serving until 1971.

Students Donate Over \$18,000 to Innis College

Innis College students are some of the most socially aware and active students on campus, and they often go above and beyond the daily routine of a university student. While some are starting up new student organizations, others are working on environmental awareness programs or running for student politics or mentoring underprivileged high school students. They spend Reading Week on study tours, building schools in developing countries, and representing the University at international competitions and conferences. These are the types of community-minded students that make up Innis College, so it is no surprise to see these same students turning a helping hand inward to the College.

When the Innis College Student Society

(ICSS) found out that long-time friend and donor Mrs. Terry G Harris had made a donation to Innis to help renovate the tired student study space on the 3rd floor of the Innis College building, the organization was quick to match the donation with a gift of \$10,000. The College, in turn, contributed an additional \$10,000 to ensure that the renovations met the needs of the student body and the growing commuter population. The space will receive a much needed makeover including new study carrels, lighting, painting, and carpeting. An additional gift from the ICSS provided funds to the Innis library for the purchase of two new computers for student use.

The ICSS also donated an additional \$8,000 in support of the revitalization project of the Innis courtyard. The re-

talization project included a landscaping plan designed by Innis College student Wayne McMillan who graduated from U of T's Architecture, Landscape, and Design program this past June. His courtyard design includes a new patio, an interlocking pathway, trees, a fence, flowers, and benches. The space is one of the few quiet places on campus where students can come to study, meet friends, reflect, and enjoy a quiet space away from their hectic university life.

"Innis students have a great sense of commitment to their College and to their peers," says Principal Janet Paterson. "Innis is truly fortunate to have a student body that wants to be a part of the changes and improvements of the space around them, and we are grateful for their continued generosity."

Profile:

ZANNAH MATSON



This past June, Innis student Zannah Matson graduated with an Honours BA in Peace and Conflict Studies (Specialist), Environment and Society (Major), and Urban Studies (Minor). In addition to her extensive program of study, she has been the recipient of numerous merit and leadership scholarships at Innis College, alongside many others at the Faculty of Arts and Science, and U of T.

What is most impressive about Ms. Matson is that she started her undergrad as one of thirteen recipients of the National Scholarship Program, the University's most prestigious entrance scholarship. Indeed, she translated her early success into every step of her time at U of T. She has seamlessly weaved academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular projects into her schedule for the past four years. She was the Founder and Coordinator of the Sustainability Leadership Program, a joint venture by the Office of Student Life, and the student-run Environmental Resource Network. In addition, she has been a delegate at the Global Humanitarian Forum Youth Conference, and the Copenhagen

Climate Summit, as well as a Director of the Peace and Conflicts Studies Conference.

While it seems like Ms. Matson has juggled with an impossible schedule, she tells us: "There's really no secret to it. I do think that the more you have on the go, the better you get at managing your time and you're able to accomplish more and more. I'm also a strong proponent of taking breaks... It's important to go out and make time for friends and do completely unrelated things you like."

This year Ms. Matson received the highest leadership honour offered to an undergraduate student by U of T – the John H. Moss Scholarship. In addition, she was recognized as the Governor General's Silver Medal Nominee in the Arts, and received several Innis College awards, including the Mary Ann Duffy Graduating Student Award, the Innis College Recognition Award, and the Innis GRADitude Award.

Although she has been a constant recipient of praise, Ms. Matson is humble

and generous with commendation for those that have helped her throughout her undergraduate degree.

"My time at U of T was really phenomenal, in part because Innis was able to provide such a supportive community within the larger opportunities that the University has to offer. I met lots of great people living in residence in first year and have kept up some of those connections throughout my time here. It would also be impossible to talk about how great Innis is without saying that Innis Registrar Donald Boere is really just the best, and the whole administrative and registrar staff really make Innis an approachable and friendly place, which is perfect for a home college."

Ms. Matson most recently completed a summer institute in Landscape Architecture at the University of California Berkeley. She plans to work for a year before starting her Master's degree in Urban Planning or Landscape Architecture. Either way, we know that she will be successful at whatever she pursues.

We DID It!



Graduating student Mike Maher shares his thoughts from Convocation day. Mr. Maher (HBA 2011, Specialist in Political Science) graduated with 250 of his Innis College peers on June 12, 2011. At the Graduating Student Awards Ceremony (following Convocation), he was honoured with an Innis College Recognition Award, and a Wasser Achievement Award. Mr. Maher is now in his first year of law school at the University of Windsor.

As I approached University College, U of T, for one of the last times, heading to one of the few rooms I've never been to, the thought of this being the last time I'd walk these halls as a student was overwhelming—but quickly eclipsed by the realization that I had no idea where I was headed.

So there I stood, looking back and forth until my eyes fixed on someone the same way they used to in the foyer of Convocation Hall when I was just a small-town frosh: standing awkwardly, looking around, and doing the "where do I go, who do I sit with" dance. Naturally, in both cases, I had the benefit of recognizing a fellow Innisian.

In walking across King's College Circle, and especially in the fray to get just the right photos in our hoods and gowns, I really felt that Innis connection. The knowing glances and sidewalk waves of the last four years had turned into high-fives and rousing calls of "Dude, we did it." The Innis community I've grown into, grown around, and that has helped me grow, was alive with pride in ourselves, in our College, and in each other.

Having best-selling author Malcom Gladwell as the honorary degree recipient at our ceremony was an incredible addition to the already perfect day. His writing has shaped the way I think the same way that Innis has, offering narratives that challenged my preconceptions and opened my eyes to alternative avenues of inquiry and discovery.

Having made the walk to Convocation Hall and finally being able to call myself an alumnus, I join the ranks of thousands of Innisians and tens of thousands of U of T alumni who are changing, building, and creating all over the world. Hopefully, as I enter into my legal education, and later into real life, I can recognize one of them, or learn that we share an alma mater and exchange a knowing glance—understanding that they've been through the rigor of U of T and were able to say "Dude, we did it!"

Profile:

KAY ARMATAGE

Professor Kay Armatage has made tremendous contributions to Innis College and the University of Toronto, and now, after 40 years of service, she retires leaving behind a great legacy.

Known internationally for her achievements as an author of works of feminist film scholarship, an influential international film programmer, and a filmmaker, Professor Armatage has also been a driving force behind the steady growth of the Cinema Studies Institute (CSI).

As a teacher, she helped to propel Cinema Studies into a new and respected status at U of T by introducing many new courses that became central to the intellectual mission of the program, including Contemporary Film Theory and Women and Representation. She has also been a particularly devoted advocate for the teaching of Canadian Cinema, ensuring that it has a regular place in the CSI curriculum.

Both inside and outside the academy, Professor Armatage has helped to transform the socio-cultural landscape,

especially for women filmmakers and women academics, through her institutional and cultural activism.

As one of CSI's longstanding members, Professor Armatage has played vital roles at the administrative level, functioning as both Graduate Coordinator and Acting Director on different occasions. This past year, she served in the two demanding portfolios of CSI Acting Director and Innis College Acting Principal.

Professor Armatage has always been an ardent supporter of student success. In 2005, along with her colleagues Joe Medjuck and Bart Testa, she established the Cinema Studies 30th Anniversary Award in support of Cinema Studies students advancing from undergraduate to graduate study.

Now, to recognize the scope of her contributions to CSI and Innis College, the College has set up a new scholarship in



Professor Kay Armatage with CSI Director Professor Charlie Keil.

her honour, the Kay Armatage Scholarship in Cinema Studies. Friends, family, and colleagues have generously contributed to the scholarship – a fitting way to honour her commitment to the Institute and the College.

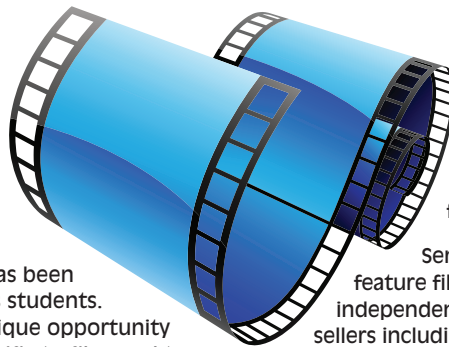
Interested in making a donation in honour of Professor Kay Armatage? Please contact the Advancement Office at [416-978-3424](tel:416-978-3424) or alumni.innis@utoronto.ca.

Top Canadian Screenwriters in the Classroom

Since its very first offering in 2005, the **Universal Studios Canada Screenwriter-in-Residence Program** has been a popular class among Cinema Studies students. The program offers our students a unique opportunity to develop excellent writing skills specific to film, and to learn from some of the country's greatest screenwriters. Originally introduced as a non-credit course, Cinema Studies students interested in developing and enhancing their writing skills for film can now earn a half-year credit towards their Cinema Studies degree. The course is limited to 15 students and as such offers an intimate learning environment.

The 2010/2011 program was co-taught by Semi Chellas and Patricia Rozema – two distinguished Canadian screenwriters with extensive experience writing, directing, and producing films and television shows.

Patricia Rozema is one of Canada's most accomplished and internationally recognized filmmakers. Her first feature, *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, won the Prix de la Jeunesse at the Cannes Film Festival in 1987. Her film credits also include *Mansfield Park*, *Happy Days*, *White Room*, *When Night is Falling*, and *Kit Kittredge: An American Girl* – which earned her a Director's Guild of Canada Award nomination for Best



Director. She has also written, directed, edited, and produced a number of short films and television shows.

Semi Chellas is well-known as a writer of both feature films and television and as a director of short independent films. She has adapted a number of best-sellers including *The Stone Diaries*, *The Year Of Fog*, and *American Woman*. She was the Creator, Executive Producer, and Head Writer of prime-time Canadian network drama *The Eleventh Hour* and has worked on a number of other projects for television, including *Of Murder And Memory* and *Dead Aviators*. Her latest short, *One Tomato*, won the Gold Kahuna at the Hawaii Film Festival last year. She is currently working on best-seller *A Reliable Wife* for Sony Pictures and co-adapting *The Flying Troutmans* with its author, Miriam Toewes.

Cinema Studies graduate John Marcucci (BA 2011) found the course to be incredibly valuable. "A dynamically creative and intimate environment, the 2010 Screenwriter-in-Residence program was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had at U of T," says Marcucci. "Semi and Patricia were very congenial and fostered an enlightening, conversational atmosphere for the class. Bringing in various established writers and actors, especially for read-throughs and subsequent feedback, was very valuable, encouraging us to think of our work from a different perspective."

Making Room on the Bookshelf



This past June, Innis College and U of T's English Department hosted a book launch event for **Finding the Words: Writers on Inspiration, Desire, War, Celebrity, Exile, and Breaking the Rules**, edited by Innis alumnus Jared Bland (BA 2003). Bland is the former Managing Editor of

The Walrus magazine and is currently the Managing Editor of House of Anansi Press. He is also a member of the PEN Canada Board of Directors.

Finding the Words, a collection of thirty-one stories, is the newest addition to PEN Canada's collection of anthologies. Profits from the sale of books are donated to PEN Canada, which battles censorship and advocates for the freedom of opinion on behalf of writers.

When asked to comment on working with Mr. Bland, Charles Foran, President of Pen Canada, kindly said: "Jared's energy, vision, and editorial acumen were essential to the success of **Finding the Words**. Along with Ellen Seligman, Jared conceived of the anthology, did all the hard work of encouraging and editing contributors, and guided the book into print. PEN Canada is fortunate to have such a capable young literary mind on its board."

In attendance at the event was Mr. Bland himself, as well as contributing authors Stacey May Fowles, Guy Gavriel Kay, and Michael Winter, all of whom graciously read excerpts from the book.

Finding the Words (McClelland & Stewart, 2011) can be purchased online at www.pencanada.ca.



In her book, **Race under Reconstruction in German Cinema: Robert Stemmle's Toxi**, Cinema Studies Professor Angelica Fenner investigates postwar racial formations via a pivotal film by one of the era's most popular directors. *Toxi*'s release in 1952 coincided with the enrolment in West German schools of roughly 500 Afro-German children fathered by American occupation soldiers. The film addresses integration at a time when the American civil rights movement was encountering violent resistance. Through a Cultural

Studies approach, Professor Fenner traces continuities in perceptions of "blackness" to Nazi and Wilhelmine Germany, as well as to postwar American social science discourse and cultural icons Uncle Tom's Cabin, Birth of a Nation, and Shirley Temple films.

Race under Reconstruction (University of Toronto Press, 2011) can be purchased online at www.utpress.utoronto.ca.



Professor Charlie Keil, Director of the Cinema Studies Institute, recently published **Funny Pictures: Animation and Comedy in Studio-Era Hollywood**. This collection of essays explores the link between comedy and animation in studio-era cartoons, from film's earliest days through the twentieth century. Written by a who's who of animation authorities, **Funny Pictures** offers a stimulating range of views on why animation became associated with comedy so early and so indelibly, and illustrates how animation and humor

came together at a pivotal stage in the development of the motion picture industry. The book analyzes many of the key filmic texts from the studio years that exemplify animated comedy and also looks ahead to show how this vital American entertainment tradition still thrives today in works ranging from *The Simpsons* to the output of Pixar.

Funny Pictures (University of California Press, 2011) can be purchased online at www.ucpress.edu/

Past Events

Toronto Votes 2010: Toronto Mayoral Debate

In anticipation of the city's 2010 mayoral election, the Urban Studies Program and U of T's Cities Centre co-hosted a debate with mayoral candidates Rob Ford, Joe Pantalone, George Smitherman, Rocco Rossi, and Sarah Thomson. *Toronto Star* Publisher John Cruickshank moderated the standing-room only event held in Town Hall at Innis College. Just days away from the October 2011 election, mayoral candidates faced off on several issues, including the growing divide between urban and suburban Toronto.



Canada Votes 2011: Who Cares About 15 Million Voters?

The Urban Studies Program co-hosted a panel discussion on Thursday, April 14, 2011, with the Martin Prosperity Institute, the Cities Centre, and the School of Public Policy and Governance. The panel was moderated by CBC Radio's Metro Morning host Matt Galloway and included panelists: Julia Deans, CEO, Greater Toronto Action Alliance; Fred Eisenberger, President and CEO, Canadian Urban Institute; and Richard M. Sommer, Dean, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, U of T.

The panel discussed the importance of Canadian cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas to the economy, recovery, and well-being of the entire country. Much of the discussion centred around the recent report, "Who Cares About 15 Million Voters?" released by the Martin Prosperity Institute.

To view a live video from the event, please visit: www.citiescentre.utoronto.ca/about/events/14apr2011.

ON THE BIG SCREEN: Barney's Version

A pre-theatre release screening of **Barney's Version** was held in Town Hall at Innis College on November 22, 2011. The film based on Mordecai Richler's prize-winning comic novel of the same title premiered last September at the Venice Film Festival where it won the *Leoncino d'Oro Audience Award*. Following the screening at Innis, the audience enjoyed a Q&A period with Producer Robert Lantos, past Chair of the Cinema Studies Institute Campaign Advisory Board, and a close friend of the College. Mr. Lantos sat down with Professor Charlie Keil, Director, Cinema Studies Institute, to discuss the making of the film, his passion for Richler and the novel **Barney's Version**, and his views on Canadian cinema.

Barney's Version is now available on DVD.

Alumnus Salmaan Alvi (BCom 2000), C.A., is Partner at BDO Canada LLP.

Q: Please tell us about your job as Partner at BDO Canada LLP.

A: My role as a Partner at BDO Canada LLP involves a number of activities. First and foremost, my role is that of a mentor to my staff, which involves engaging our people in a mutually beneficial and long term way, to ensure that everyone is focused and working towards the central goals of the firm. Secondly, my overall mandate as a client service Partner is to strengthen relationships with existing clients, and develop new business relationships and new clients for the firm. Finally, as a role model in the business community, I believe it is my duty to support and give back to the communities where we work, live and play.

Q: What do you find personally rewarding in your job/career?

A: The most personally rewarding part of my job is when I am able to take on the role of a trusted advisor for a client. Over time, through continued high quality service and results, you can develop such a strong level of trust with a client, that they will involve you in every business and financial decision. For me, to be able to achieve such a meaningful relationship with another person, and to use my knowledge and expertise to help them be successful, is definitely the most rewarding aspect of my career.

Q: What advice would you offer Innis College students today?

A: The best advice I can give to students today is to explore any opportunities that you may come across, and ensure that you are making the right career choice when the time comes to make that decision. It took four job changes within the Public Accounting industry before I found the firm that was the right fit for me. We spend anywhere from 30-50% of our day in the office; if you don't enjoy what you are doing, you shouldn't be doing it.

Madeline Ziniak (BA 1978), C.M., O.Ont. works at OMNI Television as the National Vice President.

Q: Please tell us about your job as National Vice President of OMNI Television.

A: OMNI Television is an over-the-air licensed multilingual, multicultural broadcasting system which has grown from one local ethnic channel to become a regional system of 5 with stations in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Toronto based OMNI 1 and OMNI 2 currently air programming in over 40 languages on a monthly basis with daily newscasts for Cantonese, Italian, Mandarin, Portuguese and South Asian audiences. As National Vice President of OMNI Television, I am responsible for editorial and strategic direction, production of on-air programming as well as community and industry relations.

Q: What do you find personally rewarding in your job/career?

A: Being able to develop and grow multilingual expression through media in Canada which has increased the true reflection of Canadians and brought to the forefront issues that in the past would have been marginalized by traditional media. This, in effect, has also contributed to the positive identity and self-esteem of ethnocultural communities.

Q: What kind of experience is needed to obtain an entry-level position in the field?

A: Journalism and/or television production is key with interest or experience in social media. The importance of a good attitude cannot be underestimated which would include a willingness to take on all disciplines of television production.

Q: How did your education or experience at the University of Toronto influence who you are today?

A: It was an emancipating experience in that it taught me how to learn and challenge traditional thought. I had fabulous discourse and debate with colleagues and professors alike. It contributed to the confidence in proving a point and having the resolve to stand by your opinion.

Q: What advice would you offer Innis College students today?

A: To match experience in the industry with practical learning. Form relationships with organizations; leadership in the industry; get your name out there; volunteer.

Alumnus Greg Schofield (BA 1981) is a Crime Scene Drafting Technician with the Toronto Police Forensic Identification Unit.

Q: Tell us about your job as a Crime Scene Drafting Technician. What do you do in a typical day?

A: As a Crime Scene Drafting Technician with the Toronto Police Forensic Identification unit, my job is to prepare maps and diagrams for homicides or other major investigations. I have been with the Service since shortly after graduating from Innis in 1981, and since then have been involved in over 1,100 homicide investigations.

Given the nature of police work, I don't have a typical day. Rather I usually learn about how my day will unfold by watching the news the night before. If things are quiet, I'll spend the day on the computer preparing casework or testifying in court. Otherwise, the morning will find me at the latest crime scene using various technologies to take notes and measurements of the pertinent physical features. Unlike CSI, the primary tasks (photography, DNA, fingerprints and evidence collection) are performed by Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCO) who are uniformed members while the specialized tasks of mapping, 3-D laser scanning and video height determination are handled by

my section. While FIS has 50 SOCO investigators there are only two, myself and one other technician in the Plan Drawing Section. Subsequently, using the scene data I will prepare diagrams, maps, digital models and/or suspect height reports depending on the circumstances of the case for investigative and/or court purposes.

Q: What do you find personally rewarding as a Crime Scene Drafting Technician?

A: I take a great deal of satisfaction knowing I have made a meaningful contribution to the administration of justice. During the initial stages of an investigation, I take satisfaction knowing my work assists the investigators in spatially organizing a myriad of often conflicting data while of greater importance is knowing that whether convicting or acquitting, my diagrams have objectively assisted the court and jury in reaching a just verdict.

Q: What advice would you offer Innis College students today?

A: If you have a career/life goal, stay focused on it - if you don't; don't worry, just make sure to keep your options and your eyes open. Either way, get involved, stay involved, and have fun.



Innis College student Samya Kullab recounts her findings from the 2011 G8 Summit in Deauville, France

Twenty analysts from U of T's G8 Research Group attended the G8 Summit on May 26- 27, 2011, to conduct various research projects. We were eager to conduct field work on an issue we felt has been overlooked during the Summit's enduring history. While there have been several investigations into the role of the media in political agenda-setting and public opinion-making, the impact of the international press on the G8 is a subject that has received little direct attention from scholars and policy analysts. This lack of attention has left a considerable gap in G8 analysis. Our unit sought to remedy the gap with a study about the relationship between the mass media and the G8. During the Summit, we conducted a series of interviews with journalists to isolate trends in news gathering practices. Interviews with Non Governmental Organizations helped to expose issues of media access and the challenges that invariably arise when attempting to raise awareness about concerns that are excluded from the G8 agenda.

We took note of the variety of questions that journalists were asking at press conferences, in particular the manner in which questions were phrased. We observed the habit by which critical questions posed by NGO's were eschewed and the official line was often towed by the mainstream. We became familiar with the newsworthiness of certain issues over others.

For an aspiring reporter like me, this experience was a true eye-opener. The inner workings of international journalistic practice are wrought with political interest often to the detriment of the issues that need desperately to be told, but lack in readership. It was, nevertheless, an honour to be able to work in the same room as top global media outlets and to witness firsthand all the intricacies involved in making news.

Samya Kullab is a fourth-year student studying Political Science. She is an aspiring journalist and has worked for The Varsity, The Toronto Star, Metro, and Journalists for Human Rights. She has also worked as a reporter in Bangladesh and the West Bank.

Saying Goodbye to Later Life Learning President D'Arcy McGee

For D'Arcy McGee, Later Life Learning (LLL) was more than just a chance to expand his mental horizons in a pleasant social setting: it had given him a new focus and purpose. Tragically, D'Arcy died in his sleep on May 8, 2011, a few days after undergoing heart surgery, and just one short month after being re-elected as president for a second term.

Being president was more than just a duty for D'Arcy. He involved himself actively in all aspects of LLL including the \$1 million scholarship fundraising campaign, the programme committee, and several new LLL initiatives. Innis College had, in a sense, become a second home.

D'Arcy was a good friend of Innis College and will always be remembered for his enthusiasm for learning, his impact on our students, and his eagerness to be involved in all things Innis. He leaves behind his dear wife Patti, their two sons, and six grandchildren.

From the MTV studios to the Maasai Mara, Jessi Cruickshank is giving back through

"Fashion with Love"

Television personality Jessi Cruickshank (HBA 2004) recently launched her latest design with Me to We Style – the Africa Tee.

"In 2009, I left the comfort of my big MTV studio to live in a mud hut with a Maasai family in rural Kenya. A tall, foreign redhead, I expected to feel completely and utterly out of place. Instead my new family took me in as if I was one of their own," says Jessi Cruickshank. "Their income was generated largely from hand crafted Maasai beadwork and at the end of my visit, one by one, they each presented me with a traditional piece of beaded jewellery to remember them by. This was a family who had nothing, but had given me everything. At the time I was speechless, I couldn't begin to fathom a way to thank them, until now."

Paying tribute to their traditional geometric beadwork and designs, Ms. Cruickshank's new Maasai-inspired shirt is her way of giving back to her Kenyan family. Like all Me to We products, half of the net profits are donated to its charity partner, Free The Children, with part of the proceeds helping families in Kenya. For every Africa Tee purchased, Free The Children will also plant a tree in the Maasai Mara region of Kenya. For more information about Me to We or to purchase the Africa Tee, please visit: www.metowestyle.com.



Jessi Cruickshank models the Africa Tee

Service-Learning: Learning Beyond the Classroom

Allison Chan, a 2009 graduate of the Urban Studies Program at Innis College, is currently working at the Centre for Community Learning & Development (CCL&D), a literacy organization that serves Regent Park. She was recently promoted from Manager of Operations and Development to Coordinator of CCL&D's Regent Park Centre of Learning.

During her last year at U of T, Ms. Chan enrolled in the *Urban Studies Experiential Learning Program* - a course designed to provide students with both an academic learning experience, as well as a practical learning experience, whereby the students do a placement related to urban planning and community development. Her placement was at the CCL&D where she assisted the Executive Director with the launch of the Regent Park Centre of Learning.

"After completing my placement, I realized that a lot of help was needed with the new centre, and I asked the Executive Director if

I would be able to continue working," says Ms. Chan. Recognizing her valuable contributions to the project, the CCL&D immediately hired her.

When asked about her impressions of Urban Studies and the Experiential Learning Program, Ms. Chan is quick to respond: "Urban Studies is a multi-disciplinary program requiring students to study an array of subjects. Much of what I studied, from urban theories to current social issues, gave me the background information I needed to serve the Regent Park community." She continues: "The Experiential Learning Program was one of the best things that happened to me during my time at U of T. It gave me a chance to learn things that I could not have learned by reading a textbook, allowed me to meet and work with community planners and residents, and gave me an extremely rewarding job upon graduation, where I am learning something new every day."



2011 Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award Recipients

Just a few ways that this year's recipients have been involved in the community:

Amy Bei Chen: Innis College Council; Innis Residence Council; Commerce Program Peer Mentor; Editor-in-Chief, Rotman Commerce student magazine.

Michelle Lam: Hart House Camera Club; Orientation Leader; Environmental Student Union; Note Taker, Accessibility Services; Toronto Western Hospital, Yorkville Animal Hospital.

Michael Maher: ICSS President, Vice-President, and Grad Rep; Speaker, Innis College Council, Co-Director, IN2U: Transition to Leadership workshop.

Zannah Matson: U of T Environmental Resource Network; Founder and Coordinator, Sustainability Leadership Program; Co-Director, Peace and Conflict Studies Conference; Co-Founder and President, Innis Environment Society.

Jack Phelan: ICSS President and Vice-President; Innis College Council; Innis Residence Council; Chair, Innis Frosh Advisory Committee; Innis One Planning Committee; Provost's Student Advisory Committee.



Dinusha Senaratne: Co-Director, Books With Wings; Co-Chair, U of T's Got Talent Fundraiser; Molecular Genetics and Microbiology Students' Union; Tutor, Pathways to Education; Orientation Leader.

Puneet Kaur Singh: Orientation Coordinator, ICSS; Non-Resident Student Life Director; Vice-President and Social Director, Sikh Students' Association.

Past Gordon Cressy winners: where are they now?

To read about what other past Gordon Cressy recipients are doing now, please visit: www.utoronto.ca/innis/alumni/Cressypastrecipients.

2011 Arbor Award Recipients Recognized for *Making a Difference at Innis College*

The Innis College community is made up of ambitious and bright students, enthusiastic and dedicated faculty and staff, tireless volunteers, and generous and supportive alumni and friends.

Every year, we recognize a handful of dynamic and committed alumni and friends whose contributions are making a significant difference at the College.

Congratulations to this year's Arbor Award recipients, **Julia Deans**, **Terry Harris**, **Pat Mackay**, and **D'Arcy McGee**, who have all demonstrated outstanding commitment to Innis College and our students.

With the sudden passing of D'Arcy McGee this past Spring, his nomination was submitted posthumously and will be presented to his family in his memory.

To learn more about the contributions of our 2011 recipients, please visit: www.utoronto.ca/innis/alumni/2011ArborAwards.html.

Interested in volunteering?

There are many different volunteer opportunities at Innis College. For more information, please email alumni.innis@utoronto.ca.

INNIS COLLEGE NEWS

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9 to 5

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