

# FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT AWARDS & HONOURS

Governing Council Meeting April 10, 2008

## FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

**Professor Valentin Blomer** of mathematics is among the 118 winners of a prestigious U.S.-based Sloan Research Fellowship. Awarded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation of New York to the very best young faculty members at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, the two-year fellowships come with a \$50,000 US award that can be used for equipment, technical assistance, professional travel, trainee support or any other research-related activity. Blomer received the fellowship for his work in analytic number theory.

**Professor Emeritus David Boocock** is the winner of the Society of Chemical Industry's LeSeur Memorial Award, given for the development of technical excellence. Boocock was selected to receive the award in recognition of the research that led to the successful commercialization of the Biox process for producing synthetic diesel fuel from waste oils. The award was presented at the awards banquet March 4 in Toronto.

**Professor Allan Borodin** of computer science, cited as a world leader in the mathematical foundations of computer science, is the winner of the 2008 CRM-Fields-PIMS Prize, recognizing exceptional achievement in the mathematical sciences. Given by the Centre de recherches mathématiques, the Fields Institute and the Pacific Institute for Mathematical Sciences, the prize is intended to be the premier mathematics prize in Canada. The announcement was made Dec. 7 in Toronto. As winner of the prize Borodin will receive a monetary award and an invitation to present a lecture at each institute during the semester the award is announced.

**Professor Ray Carlberg** of astronomy and astrophysics is the recipient of the 2008 Carlyle S. Beals Award, given every second year by the Canadian Astronomical Society to recognize a Canadian astronomer or an astronomer working in Canada for outstanding achievement in research (either as a specific achievement or as a lifetime of research). In addition to the cash award, Carlberg will be invited to address the society at its annual meeting May 20 to 23 at the University of Victoria.

**Professors Elizabeth Edwards and Molly Stoichet** of chemical engineering and applied chemistry are among the 10 researchers nationwide to be selected to receive a Killam Research Fellowship, one of Canada's most distinguished research awards. Awarded in recognition of a distinguished career and exceptional contributions to their fields, the fellowship offers researchers an opportunity to devote up to two years focusing on full-time research and writing.

**Atom Egoyan**, Dean's Distinguished Visitor in Theatre, Film, Music and Visual Studies, is the winner of one of three Dan David Prizes, given annually by the University of Tel Aviv for achievements having an outstanding scientific, cultural or social impact in our world. Each year fields are chosen within the three Time Dimensions – Past, Present and Future. Egoyan's prize was given for the past, referring to fields that expand knowledge of former times, noting his 2002 film *Ararat*, documenting the trauma of the Armenian genocide of 1915.

**Professor Peter Ludlow's** book *The Second Life Herald: The Virtual Tabloid That Witnessed the Birth of the Metaverse*, co-written by Mark Wallace, is the winner of the 2007 PSP Award of Excellence in media and cultural studies in the humanities category of the PSP Awards of Excellence program. Ludlow, who teaches philosophy at U of T Mississauga, received the award Feb. 7 from the professional and scholarly publishing division of the Association of American Publishers. The PSP awards are given in 30 categories for outstanding books, journals and digital products.

**Professor Barth Netterfield** of astronomy and astrophysics has been selected to receive one of six Steacie Memorial Fellowships, given by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to outstanding Canadian university scientists or engineers. The highly competitive fellowships allow recipients' teaching and administrative duties to be suspended so they can devote themselves full time to research. Netterfield is an observational cosmologist, focusing on the history of the universe.

**University Professor John Polanyi** of chemistry is the winner of the 2007 Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's highest honour. The medal, named for Canadian Nobel laureate Gerhard Herzberg, is awarded annually by NSERC to an individual who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to Canadian research in the natural sciences and engineering. The prize provides the researcher with \$1 million over five years to further his or her research.

**Professor Bruce Pollock** of psychiatry became the president of the 2,000-member American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry at the conclusion of the annual meeting March 17. As president of the association, Pollock, an internationally recognized scientist and physician in geriatric psychopharmacology, will draw on his extensive research and clinical expertise to guide priorities in the safety and efficacy of psychiatric medications for the elderly and access to quality mental health care for older adults.

**Professors Slavek Rucinski** of astronomy and astrophysics and **Robert Zee** of the Institute for Aerospace Studies are winners of the Alouette Award of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute as members of the Microvariability and Oscillations of Stars (MOST) satellite project team. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution to advancement in Canadian space technology, application, science or engineering and may be awarded to an individual, a group, an organization or group of organizations as appropriate to the nature of the contribution. The team will receive the award during the institute's annual conference, being held in Montreal April 29.

**Professor Ted Sargent** of electrical and computer engineering has been awarded a \$10-million grant from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia – an international graduate-level research university set to open in September 2009. Sargent is one of 12 scholars to be part of the founding group of KAUST Investigators and the only individual at a Canadian university to receive a grant. Sargent's research will build on the work for which he has already won wide acclaim – developing nanotechnology that uses the infrared rays of the sun to provide power for virtually everything that now uses electricity.

**Professor Shouyong Shi** of economics had his Bank of Canada Research Fellowship renewed. He first received the five-year fellowship in 2003. The bank's fellowship program is designed to encourage leading-edge research and to develop expertise in Canada in macroeconomics, monetary economics, international finance as well as the economics of financial markets and institutions .

**University Professor Janice Gross Stein** of political science is the winner, with co-author Eugene Lang, of the 2008 Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing for *The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar*. The prize, awarded the Writer's Trust, is given annually to a non-fiction book that captures a political subject of interest to Canadian readers and enhances understanding of the issue. The \$15,000 prize was presented at the Politics and the Pen gala dinner event Feb. 27 in Ottawa.

### **School of Continuing Studies**

The School of Continuing Studies is the winner of three awards from the U.S.-based University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). The school won awards in two separate categories in the Marketing and Publications Award competition, gold for the Learn More course calendar and silver for the Learn More direct mail flyer. SCS also brought home gold Strategic Marketing Awards competition. The annual Marketing and Publications Awards and Strategic Marketing Awards recognize the best marketing practices and promotional pieces in the field of continuing education. The award winners were recognized at the association's annual conference March 26 to 29 in New Orleans.

### **STUDENT AWARDS**

**Sagar Dugani**, a student in the MD/PhD program, has been selected by the Canadian Medical Association to receive the 2008 CMA Award for Young Leaders (student). This award is intended to celebrate the efforts of young physician leaders of tomorrow for their efforts today. The association recognized Dugani's active involvement and contributions to the operation of our community outreach program that benefits members of society as well as his scientific productivity and activities within the medical school. Dugani will receive the award at the association's annual meeting in August.

**Jeffrey Buttle**, a chemical engineering and applied chemistry student, won the men's world figure skating championship March 22 in Goteborg, Sweden. Buttle, 25, is the first Canadian figure skater to win the championship since Elvis Stojko in 1997. Buttle is on leave from the university to train full time.

### **VARSIY BLUES**

**Mike Katz**, coach of the Varsity Blues men's basketball team has been named Canadian Interuniversity Sport coach of the year. Katz is only the second U of T coach to receive the Stuart W. Aberdeen Trophy since it was first awarded in 1972-73. Ken Olynyk was the recipient in 1994-95. The announcement was made during the All-Canadian dinner March 13 at the Congress Centre in Ottawa.

Pole vaulter **Jason Wurster** completed his break-out season winning a gold medal at the 2008 Canadian Interuniversity Sport track and field championships March 8 to 9 at the McGill Fieldhouse. The second-year arts and science student claimed his gold with a vault of 5.35 metres, five centimeters shy of the Fieldhouse record of 5.40 metres – a mark Wurster set at the McGill Open Jan. 25.