

Faculty, Staff and Student Awards & Honours Governing Council Meeting – December 6, 2007

Faculty and Staff Awards

Michael Belanger and **Carin Wittnich** of surgery have been invited to become members of IUCN (World Conservation Union) Species Survival Commission -- Otter Specialist Group in recognition of their enthusiastic and innovative contributions towards the promotion of biodiversity and environmentalism. Currently they are the only two Canadians; a third is to be invited in the near future. The Otter Specialist Group provides leadership for the conservation of all otter species in determining the needs of otters and promotes the management of these species.

William Callahan of history and former principal of Victoria College and **Jill Webster** of Spanish and Portuguese and St. Michael's College received the Encomienda de la Orden del Mérito Civil, awarded by the king of Spain, Juan Carlos I, Nov. 9 at the Spanish embassy in Ottawa. Callahan was honoured for his academic work featuring Spain; his last book *The Catholic Church in Spain, 1875-2000* has received international acclaim. Webster was recognized for her important contribution to Spain throughout her professional career.

Anne DuVall, Philip Ellison, Sidney Feldman, Robert Henderson, Mark Nowaczynski, Iva Oandasan and **Peter Selby** of family and community medicine are recipients of 2007 Awards of Excellence, recognizing members of the College of Family Physicians of Canada who in the past 12 to 24 months have made an outstanding contribution in a specific area pertaining to one or more of the following areas: community service; hospital or healthcare in institutions; CFPC activities; teaching, research or other elements of the academic discipline of family medicine.

Brian Hodges of psychiatry is the winner of the 2007 Dr. Joseph Mikhail CAIR Award for Medical Education. The award, given by the Canadian Association of Interns and Residents, honours those who have contributed to improving undergraduate and post-graduate medical education in Canada with enthusiasm, passion and proficiency. Hodges received the award Oct. 13 during the CAIR annual meeting in Ottawa. Hodges has also been named by the minister of health in France to membership on a council to establish a new national school of public health in France. He is the only international member on the council. The appointment arises from Hodges' ongoing collaboration with the University of Paris.

John Hsu, director of risk management and operations at U of T Asset Management Corporation, is one of 20 new fellows of the Society of Management Accountants of Ontario, announced by Certified Management Accountants of Ontario Oct. 29. The designation of fellow (FCMA) is a prestigious honour awarded to certified management accountants who, through their outstanding achievements, bring distinction to the management accounting profession and serve as a role model for others. Hsu was awarded the designation in recognition of his contributions to employers, the community and CMA Ontario.

Brian Jones of chemistry received an honorary fellowship from Cardiff University in Wales at convocation ceremonies July 18. Jones received the honorary fellowship, Cardiff's equivalent to an honorary degree, in recognition of his outstanding work and achievements in the field of organic chemistry. The citation noted that he was a pioneer in an important field of scientific research that has had a far-reaching impact on the environmentally benign production of useful medicinal agents, namely the application of enzymes as practical catalysts for organic synthesis.

Séamus Kealy, curator of the Blackwood Gallery at U of T Mississauga, is the recipient of the 2007 Ontario Association of Art Galleries Curatorial Writing Award (long essay) for his *Ten Texts for 18:Beckett* that accompanied the Blackwood Gallery exhibition *18:Beckett*. Established in 1978, the OAAG Awards are the only juried annual awards to recognize excellence and significant achievement in programming and partnerships in the public art galleries in Ontario. Kealy received the award Oct. 23 at a ceremony held at the Art Gallery of York University.

Helen Lenskyj of sociology and equity studies in education at OISE/UT is one of the winners of *NOW*'s first annual Toronto's Outstanding People Awards. *NOW* asked readers to nominate people who have made a difference in their neighbourhoods. Marie Vander Kloet wrote, "Helen has been a tireless critic of Olympic propaganda, homophobia and the tyranny of professional/high-ranking sport. For insisting on community-level sport, for demanding social justice and for always climbing 12 flights of stairs to work, Helen deserves this."

Wendy Levinson of medicine has been elected chair of the American Board of Internal Medicine by its board of directors. Levinson will serve as chair-elect for one year and then as chair for a further year. She is the first Canadian to hold the post. The American Board of Internal Medicine is the U.S. board that sets the standards and certifies the knowledge, skills and attitudes of physicians who practice in internal medicine and its subspecialties.

Lynn Marshall of family and community medicine is the winner of the College of Family Physicians of Canada 2007 Environment Health Award, presented to a CFPC member who has demonstrated leadership in the area of environmental health. The recipient is also awarded the Nicole Bruinsma Award for Environmental Leadership, given by the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and the Cheer Foundation in memory of Bruinsma. The awards were presented during the Family Medicine Forum Oct. 11 to 13 in Winnipeg.

Louise Nasmith of family and community medicine is this year's recipient of the Canadian Family Physicians of Canada Ian McWhinney Family Medicine Education Award, named in honour of McWhinney, the first professor and chair of a Canadian university family medicine department. The award is given to an outstanding family medicine teacher considered by his or her peers to have made a significant contribution to family medicine education. Nasmith received the award during the Family Medicine Forum, held in Winnipeg Oct. 11 to 13.

Richard Peltier of physics is the winner of this year's Muilutin Milankovic Medal of the European Geosciences Union. Established by the Division of Climate: Past Present and Future in recognition of the scientific and editorial achievements of Milankovic, the medal honours scientists for their outstanding research in long-term climatic changes and modelling. Peltier will receive the medal April 16 during the general assembly to be held April 13 to 18 in Vienna, Austria .

Kathy Pichora-Fuller of psychology at U of T Mississauga is this year's winner of the Canadian Academy of Audiology's President's Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the development of the academy. Pichora-Fuller was chosen by the president of the academy not only for her internationally renowned original research but for her participation on international research committees and consortia and her enthusiastic involvement in the academy as a member and ambassador. Pichora-Fuller received the award Oct. 19 during the academy's annual conference in Niagara Falls.

Val Rachlis of family and community medicine is the winner of the Canadian Family Physicians of Canada 2007 Jean-Pierre Despins Award, presented annually to honour a CFJPC member who has been identified as an outstanding advocate and public spokesperson for family medicine and/or family physicians and their patients. Rachlis received the award, named in memory of Despins, CFPC president (1995-1006) and chair of the board of the Research and Education Foundation (1999-2000), during the Family Medicine Forum Oct. 11 to 13 in Winnipeg.

Louis Seco of mathematical and computational sciences at U of T Mississauga is among those honoured by the Natural Science and Engineering Council of Canada Oct. 29, receiving a Synergy Award for his collaboration with Algorithmics, a risk management company. Their partnership has yielded financial software that identifies and manages the risks involved in complex financial instruments. They were the first to apply financial engineering -- the confluence of math and computer science -- to practical challenges within the financial industry.

Michael Sefton of the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering is the recipient of the 2008 Founders Award of the Society for Biomaterials, given for long-term, landmark contributions to the discipline of biomaterials. Sefton will receive the award during the World Biomaterials Congress May 28 to June 1 in Amsterdam.

Peter Singer of medicine is this year's winner of the prestigious Canadian Institutes for Health Research Michael Smith Prize, an award that comes with the title Canada's Health Researcher of the Year. Singer's current research is focused on the nexus of life sciences, entrepreneurship and the developing world. His previous contributions have included improvements in quality of end-of-life care, fair priority setting in healthcare organizations and pandemic influenza planning. He served as director of the Joint Centre for Bioethics from 1995-2006. Singer received the prize Nov. 20 at a ceremony in Ottawa.

School of Continuing Studies

The School of Continuing Studies is the winner of three MarCom Awards, an international competition for marketing and communication professionals, administered and judged by the Association of Marketing & Communication Professionals. The school won gold in the direct mail (catalogue) category for the 2007-2008 course calendar; gold in the marketing/promotion campaign/corporate branding for the fall awareness and promotional marketing campaign; and platinum in the writing category for creative copy writing for the 2007-2008 course calendar.

University of Toronto Mississauga

The Italian course ITA312Y/313Y (Italian Theatre: Text and Performance), currently taught by Professor Salvatori Banceri, has been chosen as one of the 25 best World Language courses at U.S. colleges and universities. Banceri participated in the College Board AP® World Languages Best Practices Study, conducted by the Educational Policy Improvement Center on behalf of the College Board. Nominated by his peers, the course was chosen from a national pool of the best in college-level teaching.

American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows

Three University of Toronto professors have been named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an honour bestowed upon them by peer members of AAAS.

Professors **Jamie Donaldson**, chair of physical and environmental sciences at the University of Toronto Scarborough; **Jean Zu** of mechanical and industrial engineering; and **Peter Zandstra**, Canada Research Chair in Stem Cell Bioengineering, were among the 471 new fellows named Oct. 25. Fellows are recognized for meritorious efforts to advance science or its applications.

Donaldson is cited for his pioneering fundamental contributions through teaching and research to understanding sunlight-initiated environmental chemical processes with concepts and tools of physical chemistry. Zandstra's work integrates engineering and biological approaches. He is cited for distinguished contributions to the field of bioengineering, particularly for fundamental studies into the development of bioprocesses for the production of stem cells and their derivatives.

Zu, whose expertise is in vibrations and dynamics, is cited by AAAS for outstanding contributions to mechanical vibrations in automotive applications and for distinguished contributions to CSME as its president.

The 2007 AAAS fellows will be honoured at the Fellows Forum on Feb. 16 during the AAAS annual meeting in Boston.

Student Awards

Joshua Engel-Yen, a master's student in applied science and engineering, is the winner of a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Housing Studies Achievement Award, presented for the first time this year. The award recipients represent the future of housing research and policy development in Canada. Engel-Yan won for his thesis entitled *The Integration of Natural Infrastructure Into Urban Design: Evaluating the Contribution of the Urban Forest to Neighbourhood Sustainability*. Five prizes of \$10,000 -- three at the master's level and two at the doctoral level -- were presented at an awards event held in Ottawa Nov. 6.

Pamela Kolopack, a PhD candidate in public health sciences, is the recipient of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research Douglas Kinsella Doctoral Award for Research in Bioethics for her development of a novel study of the ethics of public health programs and, more recently, the need to consider the ethics of research conducted in public health contexts. She received the award Nov. 20 at a ceremony in Ottawa.

Erin Mackinnon, a PhD student at the Institute of Medical Science, has been selected to receive an American Society of Bone Mineral Research Young Investigator Award, recognizing young investigators for their excellence in bone and mineral research. To select the winners, the society identifies the eligible investigators whose abstracts attained the highest ranked positions within their respective categories. Mackinnon will receive the award during the society's annual meeting Dec. 6 and 7 in Washington D.C.

Andrea Narducci, a fourth-year pharmacy student, is the winner of the Commitment to Care and Service Student Leadership Award, presented in recognition of strong academic qualities as well as leadership in pharmacy organizations and other professional activities. Narducci received the award Nov. 19 at a gala evening at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Bechara Saab, a PhD candidate in molecular genetics, is the recipient of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research Synapse Youth Mentorship Award for his leadership and engagement in SciHigh, a youth outreach program in high schools. Saab received the award, recognizing his mentorship, motivating young people to consider the value of health research, Nov. 20 at a ceremony in Ottawa.

Varsity Blues

The McCrae Cup returns to Ontario for the first time since 1996 after the **Varsity Blues** captured their 10th **national field hockey title** with a 1-0 overtime victory over the Ontario University Athletics-champion Guelph Gryphons Nov. 4.

The gold-medal game of the 2007 Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship was the first national championship to take place at the U of T's new Varsity Centre.

Fifth-year forward **Amanda Treacy** of Burlington, Ont., playing her final game in the blue and white, drove a ball into the net on a penalty corner four minutes into the first period of sudden-death overtime. She was named U of T player of the game for her efforts.

The Varsity Blues badminton team came back and won six straight matches to defeat the Ryerson Rams 9-4 and claim the **bronze medal at the OUA championships** Nov. 17 at Ryerson's Kerr Hall.

Toronto got off to a slow start, losing the first three matches of the set. However, Blues rookie **Jesse Assing** stepped up and stopped the slide, playing his best match of the season and dominated the entire court in cruising to a 21-7, 21-9 victory over Jason Wan. Assing's performance was followed by **Mike Lawler** and **Anne Katrin Roesler** wins to pull Toronto even with Ryerson after singles play.

The Blues simply dominated the doubles games, winning the next six matches of the competition and putting themselves in a great position for a medal. In mixed doubles, **Andy Lam** and **Shilin Cheung** upset Ryerson's highly touted duo Andy Yip and Cara Cheung 21-15, 21-18, while **Assing** and **Shirley Lin** won the final mixed doubles match 21-18, 21-12 to secure a 9-4 victory and the OUA bronze medal.