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ALUMNI & FRIENDS
MAGAZINE
2019-20



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Yazmeen Kanji, a 2020 Innis College grad with a double major in equity studies and peace, conflict, and justice, and a minor in cinema studies, quickly discovered her passion at U of T. In her second year she founded Films With A Cause, which produces and promotes socially conscious films. A year later Yazmeen premiered her first documentary, *From Syria To Hope*, which won Best Short Documentary at the Toronto Short Film Festival.

“By peering into a life unlike your own, real or fictitious, you can sympathize with others in an intimate way. Film can then be a catalyst for social change, especially if historically marginalized communities are creating.”

YAZMEEN KANJI
(HBA '20 INNIS,
CINEMA STUDIES)

Yazmeen Kanji
(photo by Shayla
Anderson, 2020)



Innis Alumni & Friends

2019/20 Edition

No. 005

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
INNIS COLLEGE

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A message from the principal

about a year ago, when we were first planning this edition of the *Innis Alumni & Friends* magazine, we decided on “creativity” as our theme. We knew that our alumni were involved in numerous intriguing academic, artistic, and entrepreneurial pursuits, all decidedly creative. And our students, of course, constantly impress us with their ability to meld creativity with the pursuit of knowledge. Convinced that we had an ideal formula for showcasing the accomplishments of both, we embarked on finding our magazine stories.

A few months later, a virus with the ungainly name of COVID-19 changed everything. And not long after, repeated instances of police brutality against BIPOC citizens sparked a series of protests decrying anti-Black racism.

These conjoined events altered how we began assembling the magazine, but did not deter us from sticking with our original theme. For what is creativity if not the capacity of the human spirit to find inspiration in even the most dire of circumstances—to put forward



bold visions, to argue for the need for progressive and generative ways of reimagining the world, and to argue for new solutions to challenges, no matter how ingrained or insidious?

We hope that this issue of *Innis Alumni & Friends* underlines the necessity for creativity and makes a forceful case for the ways it contributes to the betterment of us all.

Take recent graduate **Al-Amin Ahamed**'s cover of transgender-rights activist Marsha P. Johnson: by crafting a collage of a photo of Johnson and background clippings from archival news coverage of milestone events in queer BIPOC history, Al honours both Johnson's fun-loving side and devotion to political action.

Similarly, **Alyssa Rosenzweig**, a first-year student who is already a young leader in the open-source software movement, translates her passion for computer graphics into a series of self-portraits accompanying her profile.



Our three featured “Innis Alumni Creatives,” award-winning film and television director **Dawn Wilkinson**, pioneering researcher, writer, and musician **Ajay Heble**, and best-selling author and architect **John Ota**, have excelled in their fields; we also include many other talented Innis alumni, from social activist-filmmaker **Yazmeen Kanji** to literary twin titans, **Holman** and **Jack Wang**.

All of them have pursued artistic pathways, but creativity can also mean redefining conventional approaches. That might mean developing a web-based series to train traders, as **Daniel Schlaepfer** has done, or travelling to Africa as a young, single woman to study giraffe in the wild, as recent honorary doctorate—and

“What is creativity if not the capacity of the human spirit to find inspiration in even the most dire of circumstances?”

Order of Canada recipient—**Anne Innis Dagg** did over six decades ago.

The College named after Anne's father has a history of devising creative approaches: faced with a student body eager to participate in the process of governance, Innis College pioneered parity governance at the University of Toronto over 50 years ago; this past June, recognizing the disappointment of graduating students missing a traditional celebration of their achievements, we created an online graduation ceremony. It featured over 40 alumni who recorded memorable messages of congratulations.

And to recognize the achievements of Black students, this past summer we worked with **Lesra Martin**, a legal trailblazer and alumnus, to create the Lesra Martin Student Changemaker Award.

Recently I had the pleasure of watching Innis's virtual back-to-school talent show—a digital display of skilled student musicians, poets, and chefs. Their inventiveness and joy of self-expression was boundless; I have complete confidence that it will take more than a pandemic to quell the creativity that has been a hallmark of Innis since its founding. 📺

Principal Charlie Keil (third from right) with graduating student leaders at the 2019 Innis Student Awards Ceremony (left to right): Andrew Zhao (HBA '20), Sarah Chocano Barboza (HBA '20), Daria Mancino (HBA '20 Urban Studies), Daniel Li (HBSc '20), and Louisa You (HBA '20) (photo by Shayla Anderson).



An eventful year

The essential list of 2019/20 Innis happenings



Mentors and mentees met for the first time on Oct. 29, 2019, at the fifth annual **Alumni Mentorship Program Launch**, prepared to talk studies, careers, and life.

Innis students, staff, and faculty danced and sang their hearts out at the third annual **Innis College Refugee Student Fund Benefit Concert** on Dec. 6, 2019.



Ready to launch, the **Innis Class of 2019** celebrated their **Fall Convocation** on Nov. 4, 2019.

History was made at the **Class of 2020 Spring Convocation** on June 2, 2020, as degrees were conferred virtually for the first time.



The annual **Innis Student Awards Ceremony** saluted our best and brightest on Nov. 18, 2019, with keynote speakers **Eric Tung** (BASC '03) and **Jasmine Wong Tung** (HBSc '04 Innis, BEd '06).

Not even a pandemic stopped the **Innis College Graduation Celebration**, held virtually on June 9, 2020.

Learn more about this first-of-its-kind event on pp. 32-33.

Jeremy Rifkin, economic and social theorist and author of *The Green New Deal*, presented a book launch and lecture, **"Insights from the Third Industrial Revolution"** on Nov. 19, 2019, hosted by **Eddy Moretti** (HBA '95 Cinema Studies).

John Ota (BA '77 Innis), architectural historian and author of *The Kitchen: A Journey Through History in Search of the Perfect Design*, gave a virtual book talk, **"The Most Loved Room in the House: The Evolution of the North American Kitchen"** on June 26, 2020. **Read more about John on pp. 14-15.**

On Dec. 5, 2019, **Jodi Dean** delivered the annual Franklin Lecture, **"Communism or Neofeudalism?"** in a collaboration between the Writing & Rhetoric Program, the McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology, and other partners.

Phil Howard (BA '93 Innis), director of the Oxford Internet Institute, virtually presented his new book, **Lie Machines: How to Save Democracy from Troll Armies, Deceitful Robots, Junk News Operations, and Political Operatives** on July 15, 2020. **Darren Abramson** (HBA '98 Innis) moderated.



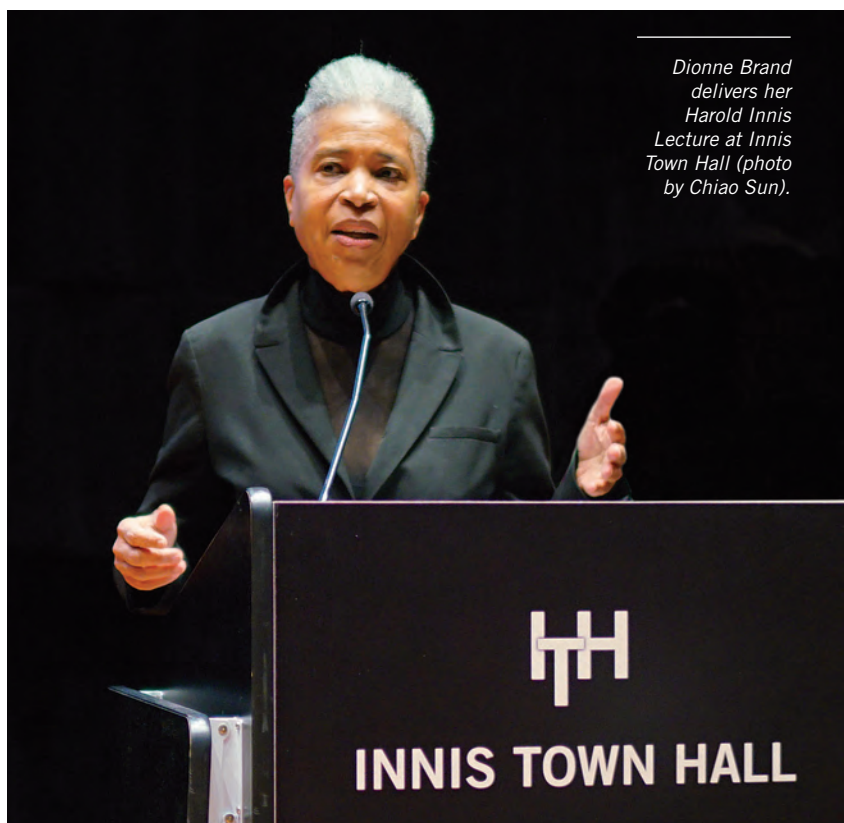
1. (Left to right) Students Dianna McAllister and Jehan Vakaria chat with Dr. Savtaj Brar (BSc '01 Innis) (photo by Joyce Fan). 2. Eric Tung and Jasmine Wong Tung (photo by Shayla Anderson). 3. Jeremy Rifkin (photo by Shayla Anderson). 4. Registrar Donald Boere addresses Innis's Class of 2020. 5. Benefit concert performers (photo by Ennis Blentic).

Looking again can transform the act of living

Dionne Brand delivers thought-provoking
2019 Harold Innis Lecture

dionne Brand (BA '75, MA '88, Hon DLitt '18), renowned poet, writer, filmmaker, educator, and activist, delivered the 2019 Harold Innis Lecture, *"To Look Again: Fragments, History, Fiction"* to a packed Innis Town Hall on November 14. Known for asking hard questions surrounding issues of social justice, including the marginalization of women, Brand was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2017. Her newest novel, *Theory*, won the 2019 Toronto Book Award. The lecture was moderated by **Marieme Lo**, African Studies program director.

"I call this talk 'To Look Again: Fragments, History, Fiction' in order to examine a photograph and to see how it generated, in the end, a novel. To look again, to afford, to allow interpretation of the materials of life, a life, a common life, life in the historical, life in the act of living, life in the act of narrative-making, and life at the level of narrative. ... To look again, then, is to reassess the act of living in a process of critical understanding and transformation. In other words, to upend certain ways of thinking, certain ways of knowing, and certain ways of being in the world. To negate certain scripts in the end." —DIONNE BRAND



Dionne Brand delivers her Harold Innis Lecture at Innis Town Hall (photo by Chiao Sun).



(Left to right) Dionne Brand, Sarah Chocano Barboza (HBA '20 Innis), event moderator and African Studies program director Marieme Lo, Innis student Megan Pham-Quan, and Innis principal Charlie Keil (photo by Chiao Sun).

Screening gems

Another great year of free, public Canadian films and of filmmakers in conversation




In collaboration with the Cinema Studies Institute, writer/director **Richie Mehta** (HBA '01 Cinema Studies), showcased his Netflix original TV series, *Delhi Crime*, on Oct. 15, 2019, during an evening moderated by **Radheyen Simonpillai** (MA '08 Cinema Studies).


 **Firecrackers**, the explosive debut feature from writer-director **Jasmin Mozaffari**, was shown on Jan. 30, 2020, with Jasmin fielding audience questions afterwards, moderated by **Chandler Levack** (HBA '11 Innis, Cinema Studies).



 In collaboration with the Urban Studies Program, filmmakers **Nehal El-Hadi**, **Tim Maughan**, and **Madeline Ashby** brought us "*Screening Surveillance*" on Oct. 24, 2019—a three-part presentation of *Frames*, *A Model Employee*, and *Blaxites* (documentary shorts) with **Sava Saheli Singh** moderating the evening.


 In what was a prescient presentation before the pandemic sent us home, **Jennifer Baichwal**, co-director, brought her acclaimed documentary, *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* to Innis Town Hall on Feb. 13, 2020. The evening was moderated by **Brian Jacobson**, associate professor, Cinema Studies Institute.



 Guitar-heads and documentary lovers were in full force for **Ron Mann** (BA '80 Innis) and his *Carmine Street Guitars* feature presentation on Dec. 12, 2019. **Brian D. Johnson** moderated the lively Q&A.

Raluca Bejan and **Ioan Cocan**, directors of timely documentary, *Trace*, presented their film on the global refugee crisis on Mar. 10, 2020, in partnership with U of T's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.



 Filmmakers **Lev Lewis**, **Yonah Lewis**, and **Calvin Thomas** were on hand Jan. 9, 2020, for the presentation of their feature, *Spice It Up*, with moderator **Erin Nunoda**, PhD candidate, Cinema Studies Institute, handling the Q&A.

In a special advance screening of *Meeting the Beatles in India* on Mar. 11, 2020, director-producer **Paul Saltzman** told a rapt Innis Town Hall audience how he became friends with the Fab Four and learned Transcendental Meditation too. The event was a collaboration with Later Life Learning.

1. Richie Mehta (left) and Rad Simonpillai (photo by Shayla Anderson). 2. Ron Mann (left) and Brian D. Johnson (photo by Ennis Blentic). 3. Chandler Levack (left) and Jasmin Mozaffari (photo by Shayla Anderson). 4. Jennifer Baichwal and Brian Jacobson (photo by Ashlee Redmond).



Right: Mr. Jane and Finch screens virtually, a Canadian Film Forum first (photo by Chiao Sun).

Acclaimed documentary marks CFF's first virtual presentation

Mr. Jane and Finch captures home audience in online screening and live Q&A

Popular Canadian Film Forum screenings went virtual on Aug. 13, 2020, with the presentation of *Mr. Jane and Finch*, an award-winning documentary about 80-year-old Toronto community activist **Winston LaRose**. After the credits rolled, filmmakers **Ngardy Conteh George** and **Alison Duke** were joined by Winston himself for a live Q&A moderated by **Kofi Hope** (HBA '06 Innis), an instructor in Innis's Urban Studies Program.

“What I’ve observed in the action that just spontaneously came out of the Black Lives Matter movement in the middle of a major pandemic is the fact that the potential of young people is always there, but it has to be in some way instigated. ... I think [the role of] people like myself, who have lived many decades and seen many generations born ... is to be aware constantly, to be encouraging and motivating, and to be a good role model for them to take over from me and from people like Charlie Roach and Dudley Laws—dynamic figures that inspired this kind of political momentum.” —WINSTON LAROSE

Grads and students talk careers in popular *Alumni dinner series*

In an annual curated dinner series, Principal Keil invites alumni and students to break bread and share career advice

October 2019

Finance and Trading:

Daniel Schlaepfer (BCom '03 Innis), president and CEO of SVI

Learn more about Daniel on p. 9.

Casper Wong (HBA '06 Innis), COO, general manager, and co-founder of Financeit, a point-of-sale financing provider servicing the home improvement, recreational vehicle, and retail industries

November 2019

Entrepreneurship and Technology:

Bahi Kandavel (BASC '01, MMF '03), founder and trading director at Northstar Trading, a trading company focused on energy markets that uses a technology-based approach

Max Trokhimtchouk (HBSB '04 Innis), CEO and founder of Recurrent Dynamics, a start-up that advances machine learning and artificial intelligence

February 2020

Diversity and Media:

Madeline Ziniak (BA '78 Innis), CM, O.Ont, diversity advocate and chair of Canadian Ethnic Media Association

November 2019

***Weisdorf-Bell Family Award
Winners Reunion***

Past scholarship recipients pay thanks to benefactors **Lorraine Bell** and **Mark Weisdorf** (BCom '79 Innis) over dinner.




(Left to right) Cinema Studies PhD student David Davidson, Eddy Wang (HBSB '20 Innis, Cinema Studies), Adara Reid (HBA '19 Innis, Cinema Studies), Elyse Leonard (HBSB '10 Innis, Cinema Studies; MA '11 Cinema Studies), Jimmy Weaver (HBA '11 Cinema Studies), Lorraine Bell, Megan Brown (HBA '14 Innis, Urban Studies), Hania Butter (HBA '19 Innis, Urban Studies), Mark Weisdorf, Innis student Lucas Granger, Innis principal Charlie Keil, Sequoia Richards (HBA '20 Innis, Urban Studies), and James Chapman (HBA '19 Innis, Urban Studies) (photo by Shayla Anderson).

Daniel Schlaepfer

daniel Schlaepfer (BCom '03 Innis) is president and CEO of Select Vantage Inc (SVI), one of the world's largest stock-trading firms that operates globally. Named in the *National Post's* "Top 40 Under 40" and in Concordia University's prestigious "50 Under 50 Shaping Business," Daniel is an influential thought-leader on capital markets, finance, and international regulation. At an alumni dinner held on October 22, 2019, Daniel offered his expertise and insight for students interested in a career in business.

What's your best piece of advice for graduating Innis students?

"Look for opportunity amid uncertainty. Traders that understand volatility provide liquidity to smaller stocks that keep the economy moving while reaping the reward. That's why I'm excited to be part of the teams that deliver Day Trade the World and TraderTV.Live. I want to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs to set up their own trading offices around the world." 

Daniel Schlaepfer behind the scenes on the set of TraderTV.Live (photo by Chiao Sun, 2020).



Dawn Wilkinson

She has found her “too rare” voice
as a successful director



Dawn Wilkinson (BA '96 Innis) is an in-demand Canadian film and television director, a screenwriter and teacher, an alumna of the Norman Jewison Canadian Film Centre, and a graduate of Innis College at U of T. She has long challenged perceptions of what a director looks like and whose stories they tell. Earlier award-winning films include *Devotion* (2005) and *Wilderness* (2012). She currently focuses on television, with directorial credits including *Kim's Convenience*, *The Good Doctor*, and *Riverdale*.

You said in a recent interview that, “the whole essence of what you’re doing [as a director] is being able to access a level of creativity, so you can’t be putting on an act while you’re doing it.”

Can you give us a little insight into the connection between creativity and who you are as a woman of colour working in the film and television industry?

I use my voice as a storyteller and director to visualize and interpret the script, taking the audience on a journey that engages them emotionally, entertains them, and offers a perspective on the lives of those characters and the world they inhabit.

I don't really believe in objectivity in the purest form—I know my worldview and life experience contribute to my understanding and perspectives on the stories that I tell and how I tell them. But on a thematic level I'm more interested in what we have in common than what separates us. That said, I'm a Black woman and a director and that's still too rare in film and TV everywhere in the world. Often I find my way in through outsider characters since I relate to that.

You have an incredible list of television directorial credits, including episodes of *Kim's Convenience*, *Riverdale*, *Locke & Key*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, and *Republic of Doyle*. You are also an award-winning writer/director/producer of films, including *Devotion* and *Wilderness*. Do you prefer working in one medium over the other, and if so, why?

What I love about directing TV is that in a very short time, typically three to four weeks for one TV episode, I get to go from script to director's cut, and I get to collaborate with very talented writers, actors, producers, editors ... the list goes on through all the departments. I find my way into the material, asking questions like: what is the purpose of this scene? Whose perspective is most important? What images instantly came to mind when I read it? How can I convey how the story makes me feel to the audience?

The films I've made have been very personal in nature as either real or fictional expressions of situations I've been in or questions that I have about the world. I look forward to making films and developing series that are personal in some way and that draw storytelling techniques from my TV experience. I'm working on that now!

You graduated from Innis in 1996 with a degree in women and gender and African studies. What inspired you to become a filmmaker?

I loved TV and as an only child I spent my childhood sitting in front of it, to my parent's dismay. As a teenager, I rented a VHS videotape recorder to make a documentary about the vintage clothing store I ran on Queen Street West in Toronto called Afterlife Vintage Clothing.

But it was when I took a Women and Representation film class with Professor Kay Armatage that I came to understand that a film was something that was made by someone, like a piece of art, and that person might have personal, aesthetic, or even political concerns. That class made me want to make a film of my own.

So, I took a film workshop with Phil Hoffman who introduced me to filmmaking, and it was in his workshop that I made my film *Dandelions*. It was shot on 16 mm and completed with a grant from Hart House Film Board. My degree gave me the theory and a context in which to understand the importance of me finding my voice and using it. 📺



Left: Dawn Wilkinson at the *Locke & Key* series premiere (photo by Emma McIntyre, courtesy of Netflix). Inset: Dawn Wilkinson on the *How to Get Away with Murder* set (photo by Frazer Harrison/Getty Images, courtesy of Dawn Wilkinson, 2020).



Ajay Heble

He's the creative and academic
force proving that improvised
music transforms



Ajay Heble (BA '84 Innis, PhD '90) is the founding director of the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI), and an English professor at the University of Guelph. He was the project director for Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice, a ground-breaking research initiative, and is the author or editor of several books. A musician who is part of an improvising quartet, the Vertical Squirrels, Ajay was also the founding artistic director of the award-winning Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium.

You are a global pioneer in a field of study that, on the surface, would seem to defy scholarly research. You're also a professor, author, and musician. What fuels your creative energy?

I draw tremendous inspiration from the amazing people with whom I've had the opportunity to work: the fantastic artists I've been able to program at the Guelph Jazz Festival; the colleagues with whom I've been able to collaborate; my students from whom I continue to learn a great deal; and, of course, my family, without whom my lifework would have been unthinkable. I'm also fuelled by hope: hope that a better world is possible, and that the arts can play a vital role in building sustainable communities, promoting social cooperation, and adapting to unprecedented change.

Through the IICSI you are studying ways that musical improvisation can be a tool for cultural, political, and social change. Can you tell us more?

There is a long and illustrious history, especially in the context of African-American creative practice, that links improvised music with broader struggles for human rights, social justice, and community formation. I believe that this history speaks very powerfully to how musicians from within aggrieved communities have sought to cultivate resources for hope, sometimes out of seemingly hopeless situations.

In *The Fierce Urgency of Now: Improvisation, Rights, and the Ethics of Cocreation*, a book I've co-authored with Daniel Fischlin and George Lipsitz, we suggest that improvisation, in its most fully realized forms, involves the creation and development of new, unexpected, and productive co-creative relations among people. It teaches us to make "a way" out of "no way" by cultivating the capacity to discern hidden elements of possibility, potential, hope, and promise, sometimes in even the most discouraging circumstances.

Working without a written score or script, improvisers can work together to envision and enact something new, to enrich their experience in the world by acting upon it and changing it, in


the process creating things that would not have otherwise come into existence. More than ever, it seems to me, the participatory and civic virtues of engagement, dialogue, respect, and community-building inculcated through improvisatory practices have taken on a particular urgency in the troubled times in which we currently live.

Can you give a real-world example of how your research is building and changing communities?

For over a decade, our research team has partnered with KidsAbility Centre for Child Development to bring world-class improvising musicians into creative collaboration with children and youth with special needs. The musician-facilitators lead workshops that help to develop the youths' musical skills, confidence, and repertoires, and the group works together to stage a public performance during the Guelph Jazz Festival.

Our ongoing research has explored the short- and long-term impacts of improvised arts participation; pedagogical approaches to teaching improvised music in community settings; the therapeutic role of improvised creative practices; and the impact of improvisation programming on community cohesion.

See, for example, this "Stories of Impact" video: <https://vimeo.com/232725201>. We've partnered with organizations across Canada to offer similar workshops with patients at mental health/addiction treatment facilities and with residents of some of Canada's poorest neighbourhoods. We

continue to see first-hand how improvisation enables new models of cooperation, adaptation, and listening within at-risk populations, and how it fosters vibrant, cohesive, resilient communities, while increasing self-esteem, self-confidence, leadership, and social skills. 



Left: Ajay Heble
(photo by Trina Koster).

Below: Ajay Heble
(photo by Herb Greenslade).



John Ota

An architect, a writer, and an avid cook, John Ota has the recipe for creative success



John Ota is an architect, curator, historical preservationist, member of the Culinary Historians of Canada, and the bestselling author of *The Kitchen: A Journey Through History in Search of the Perfect Design*. After receiving his BA from Innis in 1977, he went on to earn his BArch from the University of British Columbia and his MSc in architecture and historic preservation from Columbia University. He has been the lead on several major preservation and revitalization projects, including the AGO Transformation Project.

Where does your creative spark come from and how do you maintain it throughout your multi-faceted career?

I probably ask too many questions. But somehow, I've been fortunate to channel this weakness into some happy experiences. At Innis, I learned to analyze and sometimes question convention—turn things on their head and ask why. I think curiosity and a desire to make things better for people applies not only to the arts, but to business, science, and all fields.

Out of those questions, I try to get ideas. I'm always coming up with ideas. It drives my wife crazy having to listen to them. Many of them are not achievable. But sometimes the ideas, people, and projects connect. That's when the fun starts.

With my book, I always wondered why in architecture nobody wrote about the kitchen. At first, I had trouble. Was it a cookbook? An architecture book? A travel book? It was all three. Some people backed away. But I was lucky that one agent did like it and pitched it to a publisher that was willing to take a chance. And I think that's why it has been successful—it's different.

You were an architectural consultant on cultural and historic preservation projects for many years. What's your favourite pre-21st-Century Canadian building and why?

My favourite building in Canada is Massey College, U of T, designed by architect Ron Thom in 1963. Instead of landing a spaceship from Mars on the small site, Thom was able to reinterpret the surrounding neo-Gothic architecture to transform the college into a modern building.

Enter the steel gates into a world of calm, comfort, and human scale. Stroll across the reflecting pool of koi and listen to the breeze


swishing branches of the surrounding trees. Pull open the massive wood doors and sit by the elegant fireplace. Gaze out into the courtyard and admire the subtle use of brick, wood, and stone that blends with the landscape.

If you haven't been to Massey College, a friendly suggestion is to quietly ask the steward at the front door if you can look around. Tell the steward, "an architect told me this is the most beautiful building in Canada. And I would love to see it."

What do you think is the largest creative challenge facing architects today?

Trying to be creative within a context of shrinking budgets. For major buildings, it used to be the architect was the maestro of the orchestra. Today, that is less of the case. The lead on most public projects is a developer or a project management firm. The developer puts more emphasis on price control, scheduling, and operating the building after it's built. Design is valued less than cost—and the most cost-efficient form is a box. The challenge for architects is to be creative within that box.

And, we have to ask, how is your kitchen?

Ahhh yes. Our kitchen is a work in progress. It is not a complete tear-down. Rather, we're using the existing bones and adding and subtracting to improve it. I was truly influenced by seeing Julia Child's kitchen, which is not beautiful—but the place of a person who loves to cook. Everything is out, within reach. She uses every inch of space. Being house-bound during the pandemic, I have done a lot of cooking. It has made me realize that in the debate between fashion or function, I am way more for function. I want my kitchen to be a great place to cook. 



Left: John Ota (photo courtesy of John Ota). Above: The Kitchen book cover (Appetite by Random House, 2020).

Dispatches from afar

Alumni reflect on life and work around the globe

Photo courtesy of Junaid Islam



JUNAID ISLAM (BSc '90 Innis)

For the past 30 years I've been focused on designing and building secure networks. Right after graduation, I was hired to travel the world and build networks for Foreign Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). I worked on disaster relief programs, diplomatic networks, and was even deployed to the first Gulf War. After the war, I moved to California where I've been ever since, inventing new network technologies as well as starting new companies (and luckily selling them).

Right now, I'm helping to define how 5G wireless networks will be used by the US Department of Defense as the appointed security lead for the National Spectrum Consortium (NSC). And as you might guess, I'm also starting another company.

“When I used to sit in the Innis Library doing homework, students, whom I didn't know, would come over to talk to me. No goal. No agenda. Nothing to sell or promote. Just to see how I was doing. As the decades go by, I appreciate my time at Innis even more as I realize how I benefited by having a sense of community instilled in me. People I didn't know cared for me, which in turn gave me the strength to care for others.”

TERESA PURZNER (BSc '05 Innis)

After saying goodbye to 111 St. George, I went off to med school, fell (more) in love with the brain, graduated, and married my classmate. Then my husband (Jamie) and I both came back to Toronto for our neurosurgical residency. During residency, we both became fascinated by the interplay between early brain development and pediatric brain tumours—so interested, in fact, that we paused our clinical training and headed off to Stanford to pursue PhDs in developmental neurobiology.

The focus of my thesis was combining novel approaches in mass spectrometry with developmental neurobiology to discover new drug targets for pediatric brain tumours. I was lucky enough to find a promising target and went on to re-purpose a drug for the treatment of medulloblastoma, the most common pediatric brain tumour. This drug is now in phase one of two clinical trials.

While I was at Stanford, I also founded Cerebelly, a baby food company designed to provide the most important nutrients during critical windows of early brain development. We launched in September 2019, and are now in over 4,500 stores including Target, Kroger's, Wegmans, and Whole Foods. While at Stanford, Jamie and I also had our three wonderful children. They are, by far, the best part of these last 10 years!

“Being a Canadian physician has been an important part of my overall identity as I've wandered abroad. Working in a universal healthcare system in a city as culturally diverse as Toronto has allowed me to meet and work closely with patients and healthcare workers from every walk of life. Those daily, first-hand interactions have given me a wonderful perspective that is otherwise hard to find.”



Photo by Nikki Omerod, 2020

ELI MARCUS (BSc '80 Innis)

Like many Innisians in the 1970s, I cultivated a few different disciplines. Michael “Fuzz” Friend took me under his wing and taught me the building renovation trade. I was also a semi-professional musician in the Toronto folk and blues communities. Upon graduation, I decided to visit Israel, where I had spent seven years as a child. I moved there in June 1981, joined an agricultural collective “kibbutz,” and farmed cotton and bananas for seven years. I also served mandatory army service (18 months) in that time.

In 1988, I moved to Tel Aviv, playing music in small clubs, and working in renovations. I met and married a South African woman and raised a family (two daughters). In 1998, to end the back-breaking, hand-cutting renovations work and to support my family with brain instead of brawn, I trained as a technical writer in high-tech, where I work full-time to this day. All along, I never gave up my first love—music. I created the Israel Blues Society, produced festivals, published a book on blues people, and currently broadcast a weekly blues radio show.

“I once thought that I wasted precious years getting a degree that never supported me, or the time I spent working in construction. I now realize that all the things we learn or do contribute somehow to our skillset in life—we just need to recognize and use them.”

RAMESH DEOSARAN (BSc '72 Innis, MA '74)

I am a professor emeritus at the University of West Indies (UWI), and former independent senator and holder of public office in Trinidad and Tobago. In addition to holding several senior university administrative posts, I have taught and researched around the globe using a multi-disciplinary approach in the fields of education, sociology, psychology, criminology, and criminal justice.

Along with other concerned Caribbeans, I helped found and was executive director of the Caribbean Institute for Human Rights (Caribcare).

I am founder of the *Caribbean Journal of Criminology and Social Psychology* and was founding director of the UWI Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice, among other appointments and positions.

As an independent senator, I moved Parliament to pass several public service motions, including election-financing reforms, and an examination of socio-economic inequality in the educational system.

I have addressed numerous civic organizations and conferences and published almost 100 research papers in academic journals. *Inequality, Crime and Education in Trinidad and Tobago: Removing the Masks* was published in 2016. For over 40 years I have been a Sunday columnist for Trinidad and Tobago's national newspapers, writing on crime, education, politics, culture, and other current issues.

In 2014, I received the Order of Trinidad and Tobago (ORTT), the nation's highest honour, for outstanding public and parliamentary service and educational contributions to the nation.

“Like so many poor young people from all over the world, I had a dream of attending university. Which one was not quite clear until I heard about Canadian universities. ... At Innis I was quickly impressed by the friendly reception I got and by the energizing presence of so many international students. Sidney Smith, across St. George Street, was my main academic home. Innis College provided a cultural environment that helped bring some relief from the pressures of my academic program. I especially enjoyed the regular ‘happy time’ gatherings at Innis of students from Asia, Latin America, Europe, etc.” 📦

Photo courtesy of Eli Marcus



Photo courtesy of TTT Limited



Jack Wang (Photo by Mike Grippi, 2020).
Opposite: Holman Wang (Photo by Holman Wang, 2020).

Words and pictures

Together, talented twins create astonishing children's books

JACK WANG (BSc '94 Innis)

You are an award-winning novelist, short fiction writer, and children's book co-author, as well as an associate professor and chair in the Department of Writing at Ithaca College in New York. Did you always want to be a writer?

Some people know they want to write from a young age, but I didn't. I came to U of T interested in science, but in first year I took a course on the short story. That sparked my interest in literature and eventually led to a fiction writing workshop in third year. There were only 15 seats in the class ... and somehow I got in. If I hadn't, I probably wouldn't be here today.

You and Holman are successful co-creators of the *Cozy Classics* and *Star Wars Epic Yarns* children's books that abridge literary and cinematic classics into 12 words and 12 needle-felt images. Can you give us an idea of the creative process that goes into them?

I came up with the idea of abridging classics in 12

words and Holman came up with the idea of needle-felted illustrations, and those beginnings shaped the way we worked: I was mostly responsible for choosing the words while Holman was the driving force behind the images. On those occasions when I did make needle-felted figures and models, I would ship them to my brother in Vancouver, and he would work his magic.

What's one piece of advice you would give to an aspiring writer?

That there's no secret. You have to read constantly and write constantly, usually for thousands upon thousands of failed and doubt-ridden hours. As writer Lorrie Moore says, there's no formula except the sick devotion to the work. Then, if you're lucky, after years—or in my case, decades—of devotion, you get to hold all your best days of writing in your hands.

Jack's debut story collection, *We Two Alone*, is featured on p. 41.

HOLMAN WANG (BSc '94 Innis)

You and Jack both graduated with BSc degrees from Innis. As twins, have you always had similar interests, and what motivated you both to choose the same university—and college?

As identical twins, there are probably similarities baked right into our DNA. We've always been creative. We like challenges. So we were close growing up, and when it came time to fly the coop, we wanted to head into the next adventure together. It's no easy thing to start a new life in a big, bustling city like Toronto, so we thought going to Innis together would make the transition easier. Plus, Innis had a great off-the-beaten-track reputation and an amazing dorm that no longer exists—Vladimir House. We loved it there!

You have four degrees, enjoyed a teaching career, and are now a regulatory lawyer. On the side you are one of the world's foremost needle-felt artists, who creates and photographs incredible tableaux that can take years to complete. Your day job as a lawyer seems far from your artistic accomplishments—or is it?

As a creative person, it's important to have fallow periods. For me, if there was a daily demand to create,

there might be too much pressure. That might stop the creative juices from flowing. So I actually like that I have a non-artistic day job, because it provides space for my creative energies to build up again. When I get back to my book projects, I find that I'm hungrier and more focused artistically. The opposite is probably true, too—my creative projects give me respite from being a lawyer 24/7, which hopefully makes me a better lawyer!

You obviously lead a jam-packed life. How do you balance the demands of your career, your artistic passion, and your family life?

The idea of “balance” suggests that some people know how to “have it all.” But when my life gets crazy, it's less about “balance” and more about “sacrifice.” Things like sleeping in, watching TV, and nights out go by the wayside first. For me, getting everything done usually means “imbalance”—working twice as hard! But if I pick the right priorities for me and my family, it's worth it. 📦



When family knows best

Continuing the Innis tradition,
one family member at a time

MOM AND SON, THERESA WRIGHT AND JAKE COPITHORNE

"I was the first in my family to attend university and I was thrilled. Innis and Vlad House welcomed me from the Niagara region to the bright lights and big city of Toronto. Each fall, I still cherish the memories and the feeling of embarking on an amazing journey. At the time, Innis was my small town in the big city, but it was such a sophisticated and fun town."

—Theresa Wright (BA '88 Innis)

"My parents definitely influenced my decision to choose Innis, and I am so grateful for that. My grandparents were thrilled too! I am proud of my mom's pride in me being a "Toronto kid." She enrolled me in U of T day camps every summer; I loved the campus. When the time came for university, I knew Innis was a special place. Now, being an Innis alum is something I am proud of."

—Jake Copithorne (HBA '17 Innis)



Theresa Wright and
Jake Copithorne
(photo courtesy of
Theresa Wright)



Rob (left)
and Stephen
Stanley
(photo
courtesy of
Stephen
Stanley)

BROTHERS STEPHEN AND ROB STANLEY

"Professor Cam Tolton stormed into our cinema studies class one evening. It was about 1985, and he was clearly angry. The evening before, he had set up a film, and left us with his teaching assistant. During that screening a substantial number of my classmates decided that the film wasn't very good and left at the halfway point; word of this got back to Prof. Tolton. He launched into a speech, stating that we were here to study film, so when I show you a film, it's not an option as to whether you want to watch it or not. ... There is

something in this film that I want you to see, that is important for you to see. ... (I'm paraphrasing here, again, the 80s!) This gave way to a wider discussion about art and the value of seeing any given piece or subject through to completion, and that you might be amazed at what you find if you allow it to happen.

"This became a wonderful life lesson that I have carried with me, and applied to every book I read, every album I listen to, and every film I watch. So, thanks, Professor Tolton and the entire cinema studies faculty at Innis/U of T—those were some of the best years!"

—Stephen Stanley (BA '87 Innis, Cinema Studies)

"I remember playing 'running bases' in the Innis Green one day with Greg Sutton and Mitch Chang. I can't remember who threw the ball, but I was on the receiving end, and the ball soared over my head, and everyone heard a loud crash. One of the glass panes had shattered. Principal John Browne calmly strolled out and asked how we were going to pay for the damage. We ended up holding a BBQ to pay for the window, which turned out to be a great social event.

"The following year, I was president of the Innis College Student Society, so I worked with Principal Browne a lot and got to know him very well ... really great guy, and he helped to make my last year at Innis very memorable!"

—Rob Stanley (BA '90 Innis)

DAD AND SON, TED AND YANNI KALABOUKIS

“It was quite moving when Yanni told me he had decided to apply to Innis. I have fond memories of the College—I used to be the ‘OSAP guy,’ distributing loan/grant cheques to students during registration. It made me popular ... for a week! I’m happy he is part of such a warm and supportive environment for his university years.”

—Ted Kalaboukis (BA '87 Innis)

“Ever since my younger days I had been told of the great experiences my father had at U of T and Innis College. So, when the time came to make the important decision for my future university, joining the community at Innis was the natural choice.”

—Yanni Kalaboukis (second-year Innis student)



Yanni (left) and Ted Kalaboukis (photo courtesy of Ted Kalaboukis)



(Left to right) Curtis McDowell, Yasmin McDowell, Mark McDowell, Eric McDowell, Linda Chang, and Sana McDowell (photo courtesy of Linda Chang)

MOM, DAD, AND CHILDREN: LINDA CHANG, AND MARK, YASMIN, CURTIS, AND SANA MCDOWELL

“I have to admit, I didn’t know much about colleges when I started at U of T and picked Innis because it was close to the subway.”

—Linda Chang (BSc '88 Innis)

“I was drawn to Innis because it seemed to attract more quirky and fun people than the other colleges. Also, it was intellectually adventurous—fields like environmental and cinema studies

were pretty edgy at the time—without being at all pretentious.”

—Mark McDowell (BA '88 Innis, MA '90)


“Although I attended University College, I completed a cinema studies minor. So, I spent lots of time discussing film at Innis Town Hall and taking advantage of the special screenings there.”

—Yasmin McDowell (HBA '17 Cinema Studies)

“Best café on campus!”

—Curtis McDowell (third-year Innis student)

“I knew this school year would be online, but I couldn’t miss the opportunity to go live with other U of T freshmen outside of the city I was used to. So far it’s been my best decision yet and thanks to Innis I’ve been able to meet new people despite not having classes in person. It’s also a huge plus living in an apartment-style residence now that we shouldn’t go out as much.”

—Sana McDowell (first-year Innis student) 

A lifelong connection to Innis

Kathleen Crook and James Penturn were deeply involved in Innis College in the 1970s and continued to support Innis long after graduation as volunteers. Recently, they made a generous gift to the Innis College Renewal and Expansion Campaign. The campaign's theme, We're Innis Together, reflects Innis's legacy as a place where people embrace leadership, get involved, and support one other. We're delighted to profile Kathleen and James, who exemplify those qualities so perfectly.



Kathleen and Jim at Innis's 2019 Reunion in the Green (photo by Chiao Sun).



During their Innis days

When Kathleen and Jim entered U of T, Innis was still fairly new and 2 Sussex Avenue had just opened three years before. "Innis didn't jump off the page in terms of your college choice," says Kathleen. "Today it has far more applicants than it can possibly accept. That transformation, however, began many years ago and with philanthropic support. Now it's our turn."

“We have benefited from the philanthropic outlook, the generosity of those who have gone before us. It behooves us to continue that tradition—to expand opportunities for students and improve their experience.”

—Kathleen Crook

As the world went into lockdown this spring, **Kathleen Crook** (BA '83 Innis) and **Jim Penturn** (BA '81 Innis) were already on tenterhooks awaiting the birth of their first grandchild—a boy, Noah, who arrived April 16. Becoming grandparents marked the beginning of another significant stage in their lives—lives that have been closely connected to Innis College.

Kathleen and Jim first met in elementary school and began dating a few months before entering University of Toronto in 1977. Kathleen was accepted into Victoria College, while Jim, following in his sister's footsteps, opted for Innis. By the end of first year, however, Kathleen transferred to Innis College to be with Jim and because she was increasingly drawn to Innis's fun and friendly vibe. “Back in the day, the Innis College Student Society (ICSS) threw great parties at which food and beverages were provided for a nominal admission fee,” Kathleen recalls. “*The Rocky Horror Picture Show* became a recurring favourite.”

As students, Kathleen and Jim were heavily involved as volunteers. They both served as ICSS president and represented Innis College at U of T's Students' Administrative Council (now the Students' Union). They were also members of Innis Academic Council, which Jim also chaired. “You were given a lot of responsibility and you realized you couldn't just sort of goof off,” says Kathleen.

“Volunteering was more valuable to me in life and in business than the actual content of the courses I took. And that's not a criticism of the courses,” says Jim. “It's more an indication of just how valuable the skills and the experience you derive in those kinds of roles.”

Looking at photos of a young and dazzling Kathleen and Jim from that time, and knowing their many volunteer activities, one might think they would emerge as leaders anywhere they happened to go. Jim, however, also gives much of the credit to Innis, explaining that because the College was so small and close-knit, it was easy to get involved.

“I felt connected to people in the student society immediately. Our registrars at the time, **David King** and **Linda Poulos**, were exceptional people and so approachable,” says Jim. “To this day, we're very close to **Audrey Perry**, the former assistant to the Principal.”

Their involvement at Innis continued long after graduation, with Kathleen participating in a selection committee for a new principal, serving as president of the Innis College Alumni Association, representing Innis College on the College of Electors, and chairing the Innis College Advancement Campaign from 1997 to 2003. More broadly, their connections to U of T also deepened after one of their three daughters graduated from University of Toronto Mississauga in 2010.

Now, the new grandparents have taken their support of Innis College a step further with a generous leadership gift to the Innis College Renewal and Expansion. “We're fortunate to be in a position to consider now, at this stage in our lives, this kind of commitment,” says Jim. “We highly value education and always have. We think it's hugely important in society. So we're very happy to help a college where we had such a positive experience.”

They hope other members of the Innis community will join them and contribute to the Innis College Renewal and Expansion Campaign. “We have benefited from the philanthropic outlook, the generosity of those who have gone before us,” says Kathleen. “It behooves us to continue that tradition—to expand opportunities for students and improve their experience.”

For more information about the Innis College Renewal and Expansion, or to give, please contact:

Ennis Blentic,
Associate Director, Advancement
at ennis.blentic@utoronto.ca
or 416-978-3424.

**Open for details about the exciting
Renewal and Expansion of Innis College**

We're Innis together

The \$10-million Campaign for the Innis College Renewal and Expansion is an opportunity to help write the next chapter for Innis College. Please join us in transforming 2 Sussex Avenue into an outstanding facility that can realize the enormous potential of Innis and our exceptional students.

Revitalized common spaces will strengthen the bonds that define Innis as a warm and supportive community. New academic areas will extend our excellence as an institution committed to learning, teaching, and research. Dedicated spaces for student activities and services will enhance student engagement. Uplifting architectural design will inspire while offering sustainable features that respect Innis's longstanding commitment to the environment.





Stronger Connections

The project will dramatically enhance the quality of student life. A new café-lounge will provide a warm, comfortable space for students to study and dine together. Additional informal spaces include an enclosed rooftop lounge with outdoor terrace, a renovated commuter lounge, expanded crush space in front of Town Hall, and enhanced connectivity with the outdoor courtyard.



Enhanced Learning

Innis College is an intimate academic community devoted to excellence in teaching and learning. New spaces will support the success of our students and the three academic programs that call Innis home. Amenities include classrooms, an integrated student resource centre, meeting rooms for group work, and plenty of inviting spots for quiet study.

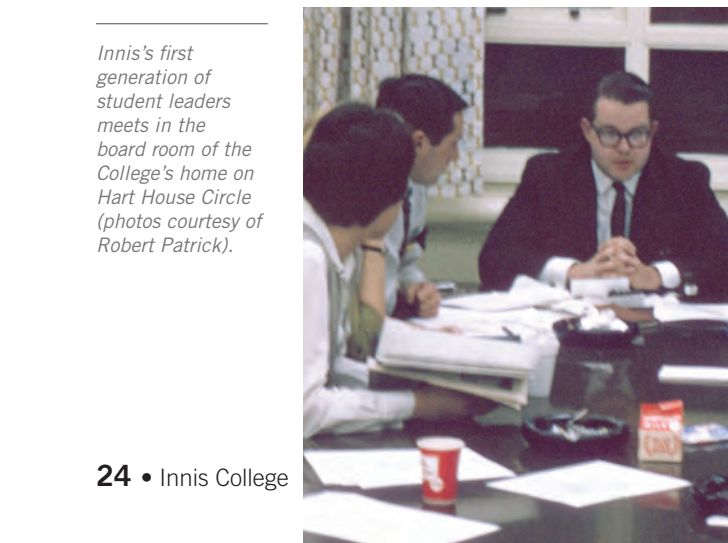


Greater Involvement

Student engagement is a defining characteristic of Innis. Beginning with parity governance, in which students have an equal say in running the College, students are involved in committees, clubs, publications, and other co-curricular activities. The Renewal and Expansion will bolster student engagement with revamped executive and club spaces as well as bookable meeting rooms.

Your gift to Innis College, combined with contributions from other generous donors like Kathleen and Jim, is critical to the success of our campaign.

Find out more at uoft.me/innisrenewal or contact Ennis Bentic, Associate Director, Advancement at ennis.bentic@utoronto.ca or 416-978-3424.



Innis's first generation of student leaders meets in the board room of the College's home on Hart House Circle (photos courtesy of Robert Patrick).



All things being equal

Marking 50 years of student parity in Innis College governance, a singular U of T achievement

BY ASHLEE REDMOND (HBA '19 INNIS)

my first experience on Innis College Council was as a last-minute delegate on the Student Services Committee (SSC). I was a second-year student and the equity and outreach director for the Innis College Student Society (ICSS).

As the name implies, SSC reviews and advises the principal on student-related policy and allocates funds collected from a small, ancillary student fee. When I arrived at conference room 310, I knew little else about the committee, and did not understand the gravity of the decisions that would be made.

On the table was a sizeable sum, amassed from the student fee. Around the table were equal numbers of faculty/staff and student representatives, carrying on an almost 50-year tradition of student parity. Two floors below us was a lobby in a state of disrepair.

The committee debated how much money should be earmarked for renovation. An administrator proposed a number; the students countered with a sum \$20,000 lower. I sat in stunned silence.

I was asked my opinion: How do we spend \$60,000 of student money? How can this money best benefit our 2,000 fellow Innis students and the thousands more to come?

I'm reminded here of Geoffrey Payzant, Innis's first registrar and vice principal, who delivered the following message to the president in 1966 arguing for student participation in the planning and working of Innis College or—in other words—Innis College Council's first flirt with student-staff parity governance.

"I must begin by saying what the Student-Staff Committee ... is not. It is not an instrument for sounding out the temper of the student body for purposes of the Council or of the administration. And it is not a device for putting over the views of the administration or the Council upon the Student. In a square confrontation (and there have been several),

there has always been a frank exchange in debate and an honest vote that was binding. This has at times produced results that ran against the inclination of the staff and Council. But we have accepted this as part of the deal.”

In every meeting since, the opinions and ideas of students and staff have come to a head around the council table; what ensues is not argument so much as debate, and reasoning, and compromise.

I sat on Innis College Council formally for three years. During that time I witnessed students advance the conversation on how the College would approach provincial ancillary fee restructuring (aka, the Student Choice Initiative); advise on how to implement a First-Year Foundations pilot program; and advocate for their peers on eliminating barriers to accessibility and mental health services on campus.

We now find ourselves at the intersection of a terrifying pandemic and a global conversation about the legacy of racial injustice. Both will significantly impact students and campus life in the years to come. But I want to resist the notion that “now more than ever student voice is important,” because student voice always has been, and always will be, essential. Don’t just take my word for it.

“Back in the 90s (the golden days!) when I was at Innis, it was quite the campus controversy to have student participation on matters of collegiate governance. A lot of other university administrators thought it was heresy and almost as bad as that music from the Barenaked Ladies.

“But for many of us on Council, it was just par for the course for a college that was well ahead of its time. We take it for granted today that Innis is/was at the forefront of many unique programs, including Cinema Studies, Urban Studies, and co-operative student living. It didn’t get that way by accident. It took the concerted effort of open-minded administrators, inquisitive student leaders, and an awful lot of dark ale, to form a governing partnership that gave momentum to these ideas.

“Fifty-plus years have proven that there is no better way to improve the evolving university experience than by giving students the chance to participate in governance.”

—Sandy Oh (BA '93 Innis)

“‘Student power!’ was a huge 1960s rallying cry. At a time of opposing war (Vietnam) and confronting traditional authority, in two ICSS election campaigns I challenged Innis College Council and the administration, who were trying to restrict students’ role to the traditional ‘empty vessel to be filled with



Ken Stone (BA '68 Innis; front row, middle), then president, stands with fellow Innis College Student Society members (photo by Robert Patrick, 1966).

knowledge’ and to organizing sporting events and proms. The rallying cry of our 1967 winning campaign was ‘Equal student membership on the Innis College Council or strike!’

“I confess a little disappointment that there was no strike, because the ICC actually did admit some students as members following our election, and, in 1970, created full student parity. At the graduation ceremony for the Class of ‘68, I spoke out about the shallowness and rote nature of the education I had received and tore up my degree. Apparently, others felt the same way, because in October of that year, the ICC established the first interdisciplinary courses at U of T, which are the basis of Innis College’s highly successful academic programs of today.”

—Ken Stone (BA '68 Innis)

“I had the pleasure of serving in a variety of student government roles as an undergraduate commuter student, including as ICSS president and on Innis College Council. In my view, the formal parity system of governance contributes to an informal culture of non-hierarchical collaboration between students and members of administration at Innis. I recall being consulted by then-principal Janet Paterson (a tireless advocate for students and for the College) about a number of initiatives affecting students, including programs to support commuter students and renovations to the lobby, commuter lounge, and student offices. I even remember providing input on furniture upholstery!

“As a student, it astonished me that we were entrusted with the level of responsibility we felt we had. ... In retrospect, my experiences at Innis College were critical to the development of skills that I now use as a construction lawyer in private practice. Hopefully, current students also feel that they reap the benefits of being in an environment shaped for students, by students, present and past.”

—Webnesh Haile (HBSc '09 Innis, JD '15) 📦



Putting students first since 1964

First-Year Foundations pilot another pioneering program for Innis

From opening the first writing laboratory at a Canadian university to initiating the University of Toronto's first college-based interdisciplinary program, Innis College has piloted academic initiatives that have raised the standard for excellence at U of T, and have been adopted across campus. Innis College has also been a strong advocate for student involvement, from governing councils to online forums.

BY DARIA MANCINO
(HBA '20 INNIS, URBAN STUDIES)

*Katherine Williams
(photo by Chiao Sun, 2020).*



Walking into my first lecture in Convocation Hall on my first day at U of T, I felt awed and intimidated at the same time. As I took my seat, I realized there were more students there than the entire population of my high school.

Nour Abdelaziz, an Innis College student who just finished her first year at U of T, can certainly relate. “For the first two weeks of school,” Nour told me, “my smallest class was 600 people and my biggest was 1,500.” In classes that big, “I’d make a friend and then never see them again!”

That was before she enrolled in **Professor Katherine Williams’** seminar course, Representing Disability (ENG197), which examines how disability is seen in literature, and as a cultural concept. It was offered at Innis College as part of the First-Year Foundations Seminars pilot program, which debuted in the 2019/20 academic year.

Through the program, Innis College hosted 13 seminar classes from a wide variety of departments, with priority enrolment for first-year Innisians. Each class was capped at 30 students or fewer. The pilot marked the first time seminars were embedded within a specific college, allowing them to be located at or very close to Innis, and integrated them with other college-based supports, including the Innis Library, learning strategist, and Registrar’s Office.

These supports are invaluable for first-year students. For example, each

student had a personal appointment to talk through their first essay with the professor after it had been graded. “That is how writing gets better,” Williams emphasized. “We could do that in a way that I can’t with the big courses.”

She was particularly thankful for the support of Kate Johnson, Innis College librarian. “[There] is a wealth of resources that is virtually impossible to see when you’re a freshman,” Professor Williams said.

“I felt like it was really important for students to come out of the course not only with purchase on a topic, but also a basic understanding of what the research resources are at U of T,” Professor Williams continued.

The seminars also help students form connections with their professors and peers. Nour described the class as a “comfort zone” that allowed her to connect with her fellow students and participate in discussions with ease. Nour felt that the small size of the class facilitated this kind of experience. “If this course was taught as a lecture in Con Hall, I would have never gotten the same value of education and I never would have become this passionate about this issue.”


In Professor Williams’ eyes, the greatest asset of these first-year seminars is their ability to encourage discussion and create connections. “It was just so wonderful to be in this smaller group and have the chance to feel really connected to students,” she said.

She added that the benefits of seminar-style classes also extend to professors. “That impersonality that students feel in the big classes, we faculty feel it too.”

The connections formed in First-Year Foundations Seminars extend far beyond the classroom. Nour, a life sciences student who hopes to attend medical school, said, “At first, I didn’t see the importance of [the course], I just saw it as my breadth requirement.” Her perspective now? “That course changed me as a human being.”

Now, months after her seminar course ended, Nour is continuing to work on projects related to disability rights. She is currently compiling resources to write an article about disability in Egypt, where she was born and raised, that aims to challenge the stigma and lack of legal protections that exist there for people with disabilities. “Without that course, that fire wouldn’t have started,” Nour said.

Professor Williams continues to support Nour’s projects. “[Professor Williams] gave me so many tips on how to approach this project, even after the semester was over,” she said. “She’s always there for me, even though I’m no longer enrolled in her course ... it really shows how great of a professor she is.”

Not only has the seminar sparked a new passion for Nour, it made her feel deeply connected to her peers and her college community. “It was designed to bring first-years together and make them feel more welcome, and it worked.” 



1964

first writing laboratory in any Canadian university (now the Writing Centre)



1969

first charitable foundation associated with a college at the University, the Harold Innis Foundation



1969

first cooperative and co-ed residence for students at U of T, Vladimir House



1970

U of T’s first parity governance structure, Innis College Council, featuring equal representation of students and staff



1970

first intensive program for pre-university preparation for students ineligible for U of T admission for social or economic reasons, the Transitional Year Program (TYP)



1974

U of T’s first college-based interdisciplinary program (Urban Studies), including the first experiential learning course in the Faculty of Arts & Science



1994

first suite-style undergraduate residence at U of T, Innis Residence



1999

first university-sponsored student-to-student online help forum, **askastudent.utoronto.ca**



*Hayley Vlcek at
Philosopher's
Walk—a campus
green space formed
in the bed of the
buried Taddle Creek
(photo by Shayla
Anderson, 2020).*

Generations green

Mentor and mentee share
a passion for the environment

BY JULIE MOLLINS (HBA '02 INNIS, CINEMA STUDIES)

growing up in Ottawa in the 1960s and 70s, I witnessed an environmental emphasis on saving the world from litter, industrial chemicals, nuclear waste, acid rain, logging companies, rampant attacks on biodiversity, and threats to wildlife.

Despite untold efforts over the ensuing years, experts say the planet is now on the verge of a mass extinction and that we have little time left.

Not only that, the current COVID-19 pandemic is believed to be zoonotic, and the scientists where I work as the editor of *Forests News* at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), suggest the disease may have emerged due to ecosystem imbalances created by deforestation and forest degradation.

Last year, as an Innis College alumna, I accepted an invitation to mentor **Hayley Vicek**, an Innis student working on a double major in biodiversity and conservation biology and environmental science, and a minor in environmental studies.

As a student and environmentalist interested in social justice, she is doing all the right things. In addition to her studies, she is gaining extra-curricular experience, the foundation for a promising future.

In 2019-20, Hayley served as sustainability associate at Innis and was then elected sustainability director for the current year.

In 2019, she and a group of students spent part of the summer in Algonquin Park, conducting research into amphibians and reptiles.

At U of T, she learned about the social and economic disparities that can lead to environmental degradation. Now, she is thinking about how she can act on what she has learned. One idea is to pursue policy development, and another is to study environmental law.


She resists the notion that her generation should bear responsibility for cleaning up the environment.

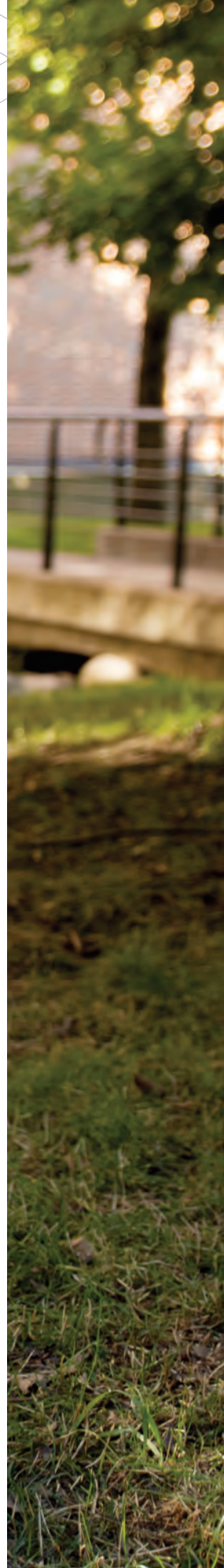
"It's unfair—your generation should do something—you still hold positions of power—roles as politicians and heads of corporations," she says.

When I returned to Innis College in 1998 as a mature student after a 12-year hiatus, I reported for *The Varsity* student newspaper, an experience which contributed to the launch of my career as a journalist.

I covered a story about a land grab engineered by the Faculty of Pharmacy to supplant the Department of Botany greenhouses that for 70 years had stood in the prestigious shadow of Queen's Park at the College Street entrance to the campus.

Sadly, Botany lost most of its plants; a new glass structure was built, but it was hidden from public view on a rooftop. The heritage greenhouses were saved, removed to Allan Gardens, where they, somewhat ironically, serve as an educational playhouse for children.

"It's like we suffer from inertia," Hayley says. "We have a huge body of knowledge about the natural world and yet we fail to put it into practice." 



Alyssa Rosenzweig

Innis student works towards
a better world through free,
open-source software

BY JADINE NGAN, THIRD-YEAR STUDENT

Innis student and Lester B. Pearson Scholar **Alyssa Rosenzweig** has been programming all her life. Today, when she's not focusing on her studies in applied mathematics, she helps Panfrost, a project that is part of the free and open-source software movement.

Rosenzweig explains that in order to function, every physical device, or piece of hardware, requires a corresponding set of code known as software.


"In the free and open-source software movement, we believe that all of that software, for whatever hardware you have, should be free and open source.

"The fun story is that I got this computer a couple years ago," she recalls, and "everything was working" except for 3D graphics. Existing free software couldn't be used to make the graphics processor—part of a series known as Mali—function with the computer's operating system, so Rosenzweig began reverse-engineering the code to create her own software, and Panfrost was born.

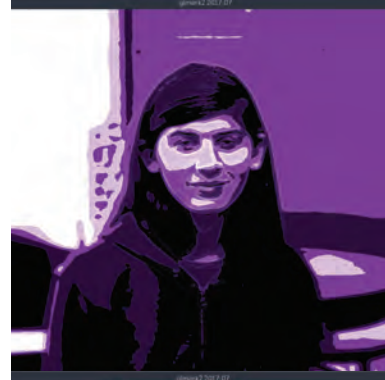
Later, Collabora, another open-source company, offered its support. Rosenzweig now leads the project on their payroll, merging employee progress on Panfrost with contributions from the open-source community.

Rosenzweig notes that Mali devices are ubiquitous, so Panfrost's short-term goal is to ensure that they're "well supported with open source." She explains that this will open a new graphics piece, and thus a class of devices, to those who prefer or require 100 per cent free software.

"In the more over-the-rainbow sense," Rosenzweig says, "I see Panfrost as one very small piece of a very large puzzle in trying to build a freer world. ... Inasmuch as we're going to have technology, I do believe that we need to have free software. I don't think that Panfrost is this magical key to save everything. But I do think that we are solving a very real problem and we are getting one step closer to that dream world."

"I feel tremendously grateful that I get to have a role leading it." 

Portraits of Alyssa Rosenzweig were automatically posterized and recolored in real-time via a custom fragment shader running on a GPU with Panfrost. Blur and edge effects are included in the shader to enhance the visual quality. (images courtesy of Alyssa Rosenzweig).



Anne Innis Dagg

Pioneering zoologist and feminist receives Order of Canada and honorary degree from U of T

dr. Anne Innis Dagg (BA '55, MA '56), a trailblazing scientist in the biology and behaviour of giraffes, as well as a passionate advocate for equity in academia, recently became both a 2019 Member of the Order of Canada and the recipient of a 2020 University of Toronto honorary degree.

Dr. Dagg pioneered field studies of giraffes in 1950s Africa, with her books and articles becoming touchstones for zoologists and giraffe lovers. Her life story became the subject of an acclaimed 2019 documentary, *The Woman Who Loves Giraffes*. She recently co-founded the Anne Innis Dagg (AID) Foundation, which safeguards giraffe habitat in Africa through engagement with local communities.

Dr. Dagg has a unique connection to Innis College: her father was Harold Innis, renowned international economist and the College's namesake; Dr. Dagg also sits on the Harold Innis Foundation board of directors. 📦

“My philosophy is that when one road is blocked, one must find another road and follow it, hoping that this new path will lead to the same or a better place. Being denied tenure was one of the lowest points in my life and I wasn't sure how or whether I would ever recover. But deep down, I knew that I had to keep going and do what was right. Since I couldn't follow the traditional university path, I chose another route to explore and understand animal behaviour by researching and writing books and articles. This led me to a much broader focus that now includes feminism and marginalized individuals.”

Dr. Anne Innis Dagg at Giraffe Manor in Nairobi, Kenya (photo courtesy of Alison Reid, 2020).



A virtual first

Congratulations to the Innis Class of 2020!



Innis staff set the stage—and the seats!—of Innis Town Hall for the ceremony recording (photography by Jimmy Vuong).

On June 9, 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, the Innis community came together to present the Class of 2020 a first-of-its-kind virtual graduation celebration. Graduates, friends, and families tuned in from around the world for a 90-minute compilation of congratulatory remarks from alumni, staff, and students, and a reading of graduate names, accompanied by photos and memories.

Well-wishes came in from such alumni as TV personality **Jessi Cruickshank** (HBA '04 Innis) and *Kim's Convenience* actress **Jean Yoon** (BA '89 Innis). Lowest of the Low musician **Stephen Stanley** (BA '87 Innis, Cinema Studies) performed from his backyard. Diplomat **Mark McDowell** (BA '88 Innis, MA '90), Canada's first resident ambassador to Myanmar, delivered a keynote address from the streets of Rangoon.

In the days following the ceremony, new grads and their supporters joined Innis staff in small-group, virtual receptions hosted by **Principal Charlie Keil**.



(Left to right) Town Hall Manager Eyan Logan, Dean of Students Steve Masse, Principal Charlie Keil, and Registrar Donald Boere.



“We need people like you in the world now more than ever. So, go out and change it for the better.”

“I didn’t go to my graduation ... so this is kind of like my first graduation too! What a way to launch your new lives, in the middle of a pandemic, but I know you can do it.”



Assistant Dean, Student Life, Madi Frost adorns Town Hall seats with faces of Innis grads.


“What a wonderfully poignant and unique celebration of your students’ accomplishments as they graduate during this incredibly difficult time. I am completely honoured that you ... asked me to participate. Watching the messages from alumni across the globe was extremely powerful and inspirational, and it brings me great pride to count myself as part of this group.”

—STEPHEN STANLEY (BA '87 INNIS, CINEMA STUDIES)

“Thank you so much for giving me an opportunity to congratulate the graduating class. ... While the graduates didn’t get to walk the Con Hall stage or celebrate with family and friends in person, this ceremony definitely made up for that. In some ways, it was more personal. ... That’s why Innis is the best college, and I feel so proud to call myself an Innis alum!”

—CAROL YE (HBSC '16 INNIS)

“... I am the first in my very large family to go to university, let alone graduate, and was rather upset that I would be unable to share my celebrations with them, as they have all worked so hard to ensure I got to this point. That ceremony, though ... not only made me feel way better about this whole situation, but made me extra appreciative of the hard work and community that went into the send-off. ... You gave me a graduation I won’t ever forget.”

—GRACE FARIA (HBA '20 INNIS) 

BY THE NUMBERS

1st ever conferral of all U of T degrees in absentia, by the chancellor via telecast on June 2, 2020

383 graduates in the Innis College Class of 2020

63 alumni and staff video submissions from **15** different countries (including Australia, South Africa, Myanmar, South Korea, UK, and Guatemala)

248 ceremony viewers tuning in from **17** countries

Top 10

Ten Innisians receive 2020 U of T Student Leadership Awards

BY LOUISA YOU (HBA '20 INNIS)



AL-AMIN AHAMED

Innis has inevitably become the centre of my personal development and achievement as a student leader by promoting an inclusive space for self-discovery. This allowed me to reach my potential as a leader to contribute meaningfully to the community at large. The people, the kind spirits, and welcoming atmosphere have unconditionally created lasting memories for me.



SARAH CHOCANO BARBOZA

My most cherished memory is the *Gilmore Girls* suite event that I hosted with my friend Daria (fellow UTSLA winner) during our first year. I remember feeling a sense of belonging, and it not only allowed me to feel more at home, but also motivated me to be more involved and maintain Innis's welcoming spirit.



MIRA CHOW

Connecting with others empowered me to be involved in the community and helped dissipate the alienation I initially felt at U of T. I remember the heartfelt conversations I've had with other Innisians—brunches at Aunties and Uncles or midnight talks in the quad, for example. Innis taught me that there are many ways of being a student leader.



JULIE HUYNH

The posters I designed for various Innis events had the biggest impact for me. Most of my leadership is in graphic design for the IRC and OSL, where it amazes me that a Facebook event page is able to bring people together to create a sense of community that really shapes an individual's university experience.



AMAL SHIRIN ISMAIL-LADAK

I chose to be a student leader at Innis because of the warm welcome I received during orientation week. I knew then I wanted to give back to the community. Although I served in various roles, I am most proud of the positive impact I had on student life as an UTSU Innis College director and orientation leader.

The University of Toronto Student Leadership Award (UTSLA), formerly the Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award, honours graduating student leaders who have shown exemplary service and commitment to their communities within the University. Taking our cue from this classic quote from A.A. Milne’s *Winnie the Pooh*—“How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard”—we asked each Innis recipient, “What is your most cherished memory of Innis and why?”



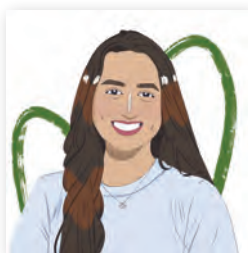
DANIEL LI

If I had to choose a single memory, it would be the homemade dinner during which my friends and I decided to move in together. I met all of them when we were on the Innis Residence Council in our first year. I’m so glad to have met such a warm and supportive group.



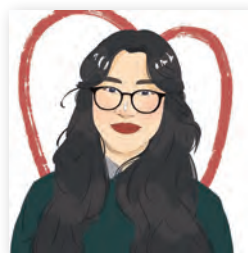
DARIA MANCINO

I loved the Friday nights I spent cooking with my best friends in residence. It’s a tradition we started in our third year, affectionately dubbed “fam dinner,” where we would pick an elaborate new recipe to try and cook together. They’re what made Innis feel like home.



TARA SURI

When I took over as president of the Cinema Studies Student Union (2019-20), one of our main goals was to improve CINSSU’s outreach to Innis through more diverse, inclusive, and equitable programming. To start the year off, we played *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. The event filled the space for the first time in almost five years and was such an exciting moment!



LOUISA YOU

A stand-out moment would be our last Innis formal dance. Almost all my best friends and roommates were there and it was so much fun, especially seeing the younger students that we had watched grow into student leaders. That, or the time we dropped an entire baguette in the residence lobby and then quietly fed it to our friends anyway.



ANDREW ZHAO

My most cherished Innis memory goes back to first year, organizing House Olympics in residence with my fellow junior house reps. I have to say, we didn’t get much done that day. Daria had started some sort of antic and derailed the group (as usual). I love thinking about that day and the start of the lifelong friendships I made. 📦

(Illustration by Maddie Garces, 2020)

Announcing the
Lesra Martin
Student Changemaker Award



*Lesra Martin (photo
by Richelle Marie
Photography, 2019)*

“To me, the importance of the Lesra Martin Student Changemaker Award is embedded in both the purpose of the award and in my motivation for lending my name to this award. Addressing the latter point first, I can share with you unequivocally that my life and the opportunities made available to me changed dramatically when a few strangers invested in me, took me out of a New York inner-city ghetto, and provided me with access to an education. Had it not been for this act of kindness, I have no doubt that my lot in life would have been no better than the generation of family members before me. I would never have seen the lights of a university. Worse yet, I probably would not have graduated from high school, for none of my seven siblings have. I am motivated by a need to pay forward the opportunity

that was given to me. I believe that the best way to do that is to invest in a student’s education. This brings me to what I see as the fundamental purpose of this award. At this point in history, across Canada, in America, and around the world, people are demanding equal human rights and treatment for Black citizens. While a strong preference in the granting of this award will be given to a qualifying Black student who has made it to university, the reality is that far too many young Black boys and girls don’t see education as an option. The reason for this is systemic and multilayered. But one thing my experience has shown me is that education is the greatest equalizer. The dividends of investing in access to education can change trajectories, yielding success for generations to come.”

—LESRA MARTIN (BA '88 INNIS)

Lesra Martin's extraordinary transformation from a child ensnared by illiteracy and poverty to a young Innis alum going on to graduate from law school, to becoming an inspirational community leader and changemaker, is a story like no other. In fact, Lesra's story—and his friendship with Rubin “Hurricane” Carter—became a bestselling book, *Lazarus and the Hurricane*, then a movie; Lesra's life (so far) has also been chronicled in an NFB documentary. This award is founded on Lesra's belief in education as a tool to address, solve, and overcome issues of systemic discrimination and racial prejudice. 📦

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. DONATE TODAY!

Donations to the Lesra Martin Student Changemaker Award will directly support a returning or graduating Innis College student who uses creative and innovative scholarship and/or co-curricular activities to effect change for Black lives.

Access to education is key to legal, legislative, and social change. This award recognizes that need by supporting an outstanding student whose actions improve Black lives by:

- shifting the public dialogue about productive ways to further inclusion
- enhancing understanding of the dynamic dimensions of lived Black experience
- expanding knowledge of how to address systemic barriers
- recommending legislative or legal changes to guard against systemic barriers to Black lives

To donate please visit <https://donate.utoronto.ca/changemaker>



Innis's Arbor Award recipients at the 2019 recognition ceremony: (left to right) Karen Papazian, Kofi Hope, Erika Savage, Stephanie Savage, Nadia Belokopitov, Nick Shah (photo by Gustavo Toledo).

2019 Arbor Award recipients

Exceptional Innisians honoured for volunteering

KAREN PAPAZIAN

(BA '02 Innis)

As a long-standing and enthusiastic Innis alumni representative in New York City, Karen plans and hosts educational and social events that support both outreach and recruitment, contributing to a strong and vibrant local U of T community.

KOFI HOPE

(HBA '06 Innis)

Kofi is a veteran mentor and volunteer with Innis College. He has participated as a panelist, presenter, keynote speaker, and moderator at numerous student-focused social justice and other events, including the Innis Student Awards Ceremony.

ERIKA SAVAGE

(BA '95 Innis)

Erika volunteers as a guest speaker and student mentor, sharing her expertise in the music, entertainment, and lifestyle fields. As alumni ambassadors in Los Angeles, she and her sister, Stephanie, helped to inaugurate Innis's regional outreach and networking programs.

STEPHANIE SAVAGE

(BA '90 Innis, Cinema Studies)

As a showrunner and television producer, Stephanie volunteers as an event panelist on careers in the media, and along with her sister, Erika, is an alumni ambassador, organizing outreach and networking events in the Los Angeles area.

NADIA BELOKOPITOV

(HBA '97 Innis, Cinema Studies)

Nadia is an Innis alumni ambassador for the Vancouver region and advocates for new academic opportunities for Indigenous communities. She helped establish an Innis admission scholarship for Indigenous students and works to raise awareness of Indigenous issues at Innis.

NICK SHAH

(HBA '01, PhD '08)

As an Innis alumni ambassador, Nick helped establish the College's first networking event for graduates in San Francisco. He also serves as a mentor and has offered guidance to students through Innis's alumni dinner series. 🏠

Andrew James Paterson

Boundless interdisciplinary artist awarded 2019 Governor General's Award

Andrew James Paterson (BA '74 Innis), whose artistic work, according to his nominator, "defies singular categorization," received a 2019 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. His interdisciplinary work engages in a playful and critical questioning of issues, including those of language, philosophy, community, technology, politics, and capitalism through video, performance, writing, film, and music.

In a diverse portfolio spanning almost four decades, the Toronto-based artist has curated media-arts programs for Trinity Square Video, Toronto's Images Festival, and YYZ Artists' Outlet, among other organizations, as well as serving as editor/co-editor and contributor to several books.

Andrew's works have shown locally, nationally, and internationally in Seoul, Bangalore, Montreal, Toronto, Buenos Aires, Amsterdam, Paris, New York City, and many other locales. Reflecting on his career in *U of T News*, he described his time at U of T in the 1970s as "stimulating." 📦



Top: Governor General Julie Payette and Andrew James Paterson at the 2019 Governor General's Awards ceremony (photo by LS Anne-Marie Brisson, copyright OSGG).

Bottom: Screen capture from "Ghosts of Home Entertainment," performed for Trinity Square Video's Cult Classics Screening Series, 2015.

We are writers, producers, creators, and award winners

A year's worth of creativity from faculty, staff, and alumni

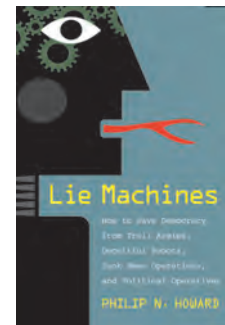


Jing Jing Chang

(HBA '00 Cinema Studies, MIS '02), author of *Screening Communities: Negotiating Narratives of Empire, Nation, and the Cold War in Hong Kong Cinema*

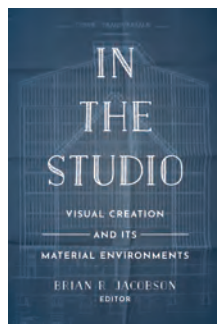


Roger Greenwald, professor emeritus, Writing & Rhetoric Program/Writing Centre, author of *The Half-Life*



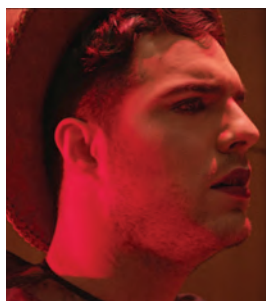
Phil Howard

(BA '93 Innis), author of *Lie Machines: How to Save Democracy from Troll Armies, Deceitful Robots, Junk News Operations, and Political Operatives*



Brian Jacobson,

assistant professor, Cinema Studies Institute, editor of *In the Studio: Visual Creation and Its Material Environments*



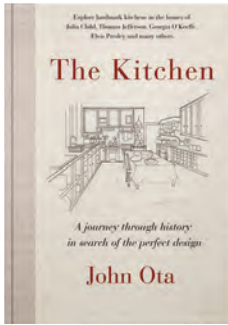
Chandler Levack

(HBA '11 Innis, Cinema Studies), co-director of "Mehcinut" music video, which was nominated for a 2020 Prism Prize

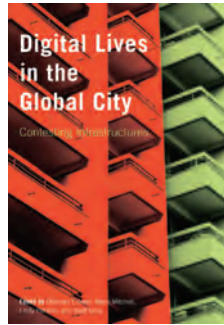


Kenneth Oppel

(BA '89 Cinema Studies), author of *Bloom*



John Ota
(BA '77 Innis), author of *The Kitchen*



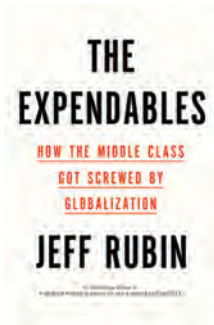
Emily Paradis,
instructor, Urban Studies Program, co-editor of *Digital Lives in the Global City: Contesting Infrastructures*



David Pelech
(HBA '09 Innis, Writing & Rhetoric), creator of *Decoys* TV series



Zalika Reid-Benta
(HBA '12 Cinema Studies), longlisted for a 2019 Giller Prize for *Frying Plantain*



Jeff Rubin
(BA '77 Innis), author of *The Expendables*



Nic Sammond,
professor, Cinema Studies Institute, co-editor of *Abjection Incorporated: Mediating the Politics of Pleasure and Violence*



Stephanie Savage
(BA '90 Innis, Cinema Studies), co-creator of *Nancy Drew* TV series



Jack Wang
(BSc '94 Innis), author of *We Two Alone*



Photo Red Wizard Media, 2020

Roswell Spafford,
instructor, Writing & Rhetoric Program, recipient of a 2020 Margaret Procter Award for Excellence in Writing Instruction



Photo by Jacklyn Atlas, 2019

Jesse Wente
(HBA '96 Innis, Cinema Studies), appointed chairperson of Canada Council for the Arts



Photo by Chiao Sun, 2020

Andrea Williams,
newly appointed associate professor—teaching stream to the Writing & Rhetoric Program, recipient of a 2020 Faculty of Arts & Science Outstanding Teaching Award



Remembrances and reflections



[JACK] SANDY TSE

(BA '82 Innis), 1959-2020

Husband, father, friend, crown prosecutor, Raptors fan, cherished and active volunteer, and mentor in the Innis alumni community, Sandy Tse died on April 27, 2020, after a month-long battle with COVID-19. He leaves his wife, Sheila Bruce, and daughters Riane, Maura, and Emma.

“Sandy Tse was the president of the Innis College Student Society (ICSS) in 1980. On a tour of Innis that summer, his laid-back attitude and passion for the College convinced me to forgo my acceptance to Victoria College and attend Innis—a life-changing move.

“There are some people we know for just a short period of time, but who leave an indelible impression on our lives. For me, Sandy was one of those people.”

—**Chris Glover (BA '86 Innis, Writing & Rhetoric; BEd '89; MA '95; PhD '18), MPP**

“I knew him during my term (1979-84) as principal at Innis College. Active in student government, he was someone I dealt with frequently, and pleurably. He was no grandstander and unfailingly helpful and giving when any task was being shared out.”

—**Dennis Duffy, fourth principal of Innis College**



“When I first moved to Toronto from Halifax (Sandy and I met in the law library at Dal Law School), it was Sandy’s Innis family who became our closest friends. They remain friends to this day. Sandy always spoke so passionately of his time at the College. Those years formed part of the man who was the most wonderful husband and father imaginable. We will miss him dearly but are grateful for his time with us.”

—**Sheila Bruce (Sandy’s wife)**

Above: Volunteer mentor Sandy Tse speaks with his student-mentee Juliane Fung (HBA '16 Innis) at the inaugural Innis College Alumni Mentorship Program launch event in 2015 (photo by Randy Hanbyul Lee). Inset: Sandy Tse, circa 1981.

MARY INNIS CATES

(BA '47), 1927-2020

Mary Innis Cates, eldest daughter of renowned Canadian scholar Harold Innis (and namesake of Innis College) and Mary Quayle Innis, noted writer and academic, passed away on February 14, 2020, in San Diego, California.

After graduating from U of T in 1947, Mary received a scholarship to study at the prestigious Institut des Sciences Politiques in Paris, later earning two master's degrees, all while raising four young children.

Described as a Renaissance woman with a passion for learning, and a dazzling range of knowledge, skills, and experience, during her five decades in San Diego she worked as a community volunteer and as an active supporter of literature, education, and the arts.

She is survived by her sister, noted zoologist Anne Innis Dagg, her brother, Hugh Innis, her four children, three step-children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She is predeceased by her first husband, Dr.



Bruce Cates, and her second husband, George Rutledge.

“Mary was a dutiful daughter, a devoted mother, a loving wife, and a loyal friend to legions of admirers. She was a fierce guardian of her father’s famous legacy and a proud supporter of his namesake, Innis College at the University of Toronto.”

—Kip Cates, son of Mary Innis Cates

In her honour, Mary’s family established the Mary Innis Cates Tribute fund, generating support for Innis College. Visit <https://donate.utoronto.ca/mary-cates> to make a gift.

Mary Innis Cates (wearing hat) visits Innis College in June 2013 to celebrate the convocation of her grandson, Ken Cates (HBA '13 Innis) (photo by Ennis Blectic).



BARRIE HAYNE,

English professor and Cinema Studies contributor (1934-2020)

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Barrie Hayne, professor of English, who was a key contributor to Cinema Studies for many years, and who was involved in the culture of no fewer than three University of Toronto colleges: Innis, New, and St. Mike’s.

Though his disciplinary research was rooted in 19th and 20th-century American literature, Barrie’s deep knowledge of cinema propelled him to offer a diverse array of courses for Cinema Studies: Silent American Cinema, Melodrama, Novel Into Film, Film Comedy, and Australian Film, among them.

He also served as the vice-president of the Popular Culture Association in the US and as president of the Toronto Film Society.

Barrie leaves behind his widow, Laurie McNeice, who is herself an alumna of the Cinema Studies Program. Barrie retired in 1999, and he and Laurie had been living in Australia, the place of Barrie’s birth, for the last few decades.

Barrie’s important contributions to Cinema Studies helped create the foundation upon which the current Institute was built. We honour him for

his founding contributions and devotion to the program.

—Charlie Keil, Innis College principal and cinema studies and history professor

“At the University, as well as being one of the few international experts in American silent cinema who could lip-read the actors, Barrie was one of the zealous founders of the Cinema Studies Program. In the city, under his presidency of the Toronto Film Society, five different film series each year attracted the largest audiences in the society’s lengthy history. Both the city and the University are deeply indebted to him.”

—Cam Tolton, former Cinema Studies Program director

Laurie McNeice and Barrie Hayne (photo courtesy of Laurie McNeice).

Contributor highlights

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



AL-AMIN AHAMED is a recent Innis grad (HBC '20), who studied human biology and nutritional sciences. Al served as an orientation coordinator, a don, and was on the work-study team in the Innis Advancement Office. He is a 2020 U of T Student Leadership Award recipient, and will continue in the doctor of pharmacy program at U of T. He enjoys drinking tea and occasionally spilling it too.

Collage: magazine cover



SHAYLA ANDERSON is an alumna of Innis College ('19) with an HBA in urban studies and human geography. During her third and fourth years, she was a work-study member in the Advancement Office. Shayla is passionate about people, photography, and—most of all—photographing people.

Photography: inside front cover, 3-4, 6, 8, 28-29



MADDIE GARCES (she/they) is a fifth-year Innis student finishing their degree in English and sexual diversity studies. She channels her love of story and people into her illustrations, always attempting to create something that speaks from the heart. When they're not reading or drawing, you can find Maddie watching cartoons or napping with her kittens.

Illustration: "Top 10" (pp. 34-35)

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.



DARIA MANCINO is a recent Innis grad (2020) with an HBA in urban studies and peace, conflict, and justice. Daria was the editor-in-chief of the *Innis Herald*, a student representative on the ICSS and ICC, and the proud captain of the Innis dodgeball team. She is currently working as a constituency assistant for Councillor Shelley Carroll.

Writing: "Putting students first since 1964" (pp. 26-27)



JULIE MOLLINS (BA '02 Innis, Cinema Studies), a British-Canadian journalist, has had an international career with postings in Britain, Mexico, and Indonesia. Now editor of *Forests News*, Center for International Forestry Research, she worked for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, Reuters, Canadian magazines, and the Hart House art collection. She earned a Bachelor of Journalism at Ryerson University.

Writing: "Generations green" (pp. 28-29)



JADINE NGAN is a third-year Innisian pursuing an HBA in sociology, diaspora and transnational studies, and writing and rhetoric. On campus, she runs the Innis registrar's askstudent advice blog and contributes to the *Innis Herald* and *The Varsity*. Off-campus, you can find her work in *Maisonneuve*, *The Walrus*, and *Toronto Life*. She loves telling human stories, and is interested in how individual lives connect to broader trends.

Writing: "Alyssa Rosenzweig" (p. 30)



ASHLEE REDMOND is a recent Innis grad (HBA '19), who's figuring things out as she goes. She's interested in weirdly specific aspects of agricultural policy, creating a just and equitable food system, and optimizing the rise of her sourdough bread. She currently lives and works in Montreal.

Writing: "All things being equal" (p. 24-25); Editorial support: "An eventful year" (pp. 4-9), "2019 Arbor Award recipients" (p. 38)



CHIAO SUN is a sixth-year Innis student who studies cognitive science, psychology, and computer science, and has worked extensively for Innis. 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 bit of fun."

Photography: pp. 5, 7, 9, 22, 26, 41



LOUISA YOU is a recent Innis grad (HBA '20). Now heading into her master's degree in psychology at U of T, she fondly remembers her time at the *Innis Herald* and as a work-study student for Innis's Advancement Office. Louisa is currently into aquascaping and trying desperately to learn JavaScript.

Editing: "Top 10" (pp. 34-35) 📦



Stonewall Riots

the most arrested

Quebec Crisis

□ "The fellow who was standing near me was asked a question by the police and was told to answer the cop by using the name, Sir. He would not do it at first and all I could see was what looked like the cop put his fingers down his throat and then the cop said, 'You will breathe in a few minutes and then you will die.' The fellow cop went away."

were politically motivated and needed to harass the homosexual community. They have been

property and verbally and physically abused many of the 309 men charged during raids of four bathhouses, two Toronto aldermen say.

The two delivered a report to Toronto City Council yesterday afternoon that says that police carried crowbars, sledge hammers and chain cutters. They photographed many of the men naked; referred to them as faggots and listed where the men lived. They also listed the names of the men's employers.

TWENTY YEARS

Toronto police department with the people of Toronto is a police commissioner responsible to the Toronto Police Board. The board includes minor league sports support organizations. Toronto Police Board Downtown Toronto

PAY

IT NO

MIND



routine raid on the Stonewall

Support

Gay queens at the New York City police. By the day that Judy

300

After receiving Insp. Banks' report, Mr. Eggleton and many of the councillors said they would not request an inquiry. In their report, the aldermen urge the mayor and councillors to consider in light of their information

OUT

gay rights

of the station. Supt. Sproule called demonstrators called him to avoid the possibility of any police and demonstrators, marshals and other organized a human chain as a

abuse men

the raids, 20 men were charged with obstructing police, two with assaulting police, two with drug offences and 289 were charged with obstructing police.

The aldermen understand the chief of police and/or officers have been involved and that another one is pending.

Supporters of Toronto's gay community will be served liquor in a bar to a cruising area as soon as he or she was ready to protest on anniversary of

Innis College, University of Toronto
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Trailblazer, activist, drag queen, and icon Marsha P. ("Pay it no mind") Johnson played a prominent role in the Stonewall Riots of 1969. Representing sacrifice, love, poignancy, and empowerment, Marsha was a vanguard for the gay civil rights movement. Cover artwork by Al-Amin Ahamed (HBSc '20 Innis).

protest

conducted themselves in a "professional manner" and that the operation was "properly carried out."

The aldermen's report calls for an inquiry into the Feb. 17 council resolution. Attorney-General established an interview board to deal with the