

Retirees 2022/2023

Dawn Buzza

It is a pleasure and honour to write this narrative about Dr. Dawn Buzza. Dawn commenced her time at Laurier on July 1, 2007 as an Associate Professor. She was promoted to Professor in 2016. She served as Associate Dean in the Faculty of Education for five years and as Acting Dean for one year. During 2018-2022, she served in the Faculty of Social Work as Interim Dean (two years) and Dean (three years).

During her time at Laurier, Dawn provided significant leadership to the Faculty of Education as she was part of the Faculty from its inception. She supported the required accreditation of the professional teacher education programs, establishment of field education programs and processes, and development of relationships with partner school boards. As the only tenured member of the new Faculty aside from the Dean, she took a leadership role in the development and implementation of these processes and the associated policies and documents to ensure that the Faculty met all necessary approval steps. When she served as the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Education, the Ministry of Education announced that all consecutive teacher education programs were to be extended from one to two years in duration, requiring her leadership in redeveloping the program curricula to begin in 2015.

While serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Work, Dawn led the development of the new Online Master of Social Work program and a Type 2 Graduate Diploma in International Social Work, along with providing support for Indigenous programming, further development of field education, and facilities/space enhancements. Dawn was a leader in multi-campus programs with her oversight of both the Kitchener and Brantford campus locations of the Faculty of Social Work. In addition, Dawn has served her communities by participating in various local and international initiatives.

Beyond her accomplishments in teaching, research, and leadership, Dawn has been known as a humble, genuine, kind, and caring person. Her laugh was often heard in the hallways of the Faculty of Education.

These are but a few of the extraordinary accomplishments that Dr. Dawn Buzza has contributed to Laurier and beyond.

Submitted by Steve Sider

Simon Dalby

Simon Dalby has been a Balsilie Research Chair. His research deals with climate change, environmental security and geopolitics. He is author of *Rethinking Environmental Security* (2022), *Anthropocene Geopolitics: Globalization, Security, Sustainability*, (2020) and *Security and Environmental Change* (2009), and co-editor of *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals* (2019), and *Reframing Climate*.

Submitted by Mary-Louise Byrne

Peter Farrugia

Dr. Peter Farrugia is one of the first two pioneering faculty member at Laurier's Brantford campus and he has been a key figure in Laurier Brantford. Since joining Laurier Brantford in 1999, Dr. Farrugia has made real and long-lasting contribution to the university community. Dr. Farrugia has been an example to many Brantford faculty who have followed his lead to integrate teaching, service, and research.

During his time at Laurier, he played a formative role in the development of two undergraduate programs—Contemporary Studies and Humanities with Leadership Foundations—and served as founding coordinators for both.

He has been a leader in the research into, and preservation of, local history in Brantford. His achievements include his leadership role in the Brantford Heritage Inventory Project (2002-2004). The project resulted in the creation of a database of downtown properties, which has become an invaluable digital archive used by local heritage institutions and experts.

Dr. Farrugia's involvement in the Great War Centenary Association (GWCA) (2013-2018) is also noteworthy. He contributed to the development of the GWCA's award-winning digital archive and created the GWCA's annual lecture series at Laurier Brantford. In his duties with the GWCA, he has worked closely with Six Nations to include Indigenous history and perspectives in the public memory of the Great War.

Dr. Farrugia's service also included high impact international projects. Project Empathy Africa (2003-2008), an NGO he and his students developed to raise local awareness of the HIV-AIDS pandemic in Africa, generated valuable experiential learning opportunities for Laurier Brantford students to assist and learn from frontline workers in Botswana.

Dr. Farrugia's strong and sustained record of service to the university and local and international community was acknowledged by his recent WLU Award for Excellence in Community Service. The award recognizes the foundational role he played in the building and growth of Laurier Brantford.

Submitted by Christina Han

Thomas Fleming

In 2003, Dr. Thomas Fleming brought his expertise to Laurier Brantford, where he became the founding member of the Criminology program. His dedication and vision allowed the program and campus to flourish. Building on his vast knowledge and experience, he mentored new faculty – providing them with much-needed advice on course development and navigating the challenges of building a strong and vibrant program on a satellite campus. He understood the importance of work-life balance and supported faculty in both their careers and personal lives. When in need, Tom would always provide a helping hand or moral support.

Throughout his long career, he has mentored and inspired countless students. He is an award-winning teacher who has taught and developed numerous criminology courses including Multiple Murder – which is the most popular course at Laurier Brantford. To say the least, his lectures are captivating – he would hold the attention of hundreds of students with his engaging personality and storytelling. He took the time to get to know students on a first-name basis and encouraged their academic and personal development. Prior to joining Laurier, he was named Best Professor at the University of Windsor by Maclean’s Magazine and he was nominated for TVO Best Lecturer. At Laurier Brantford, Dr. Fleming was nominated for the OCUFA Teaching Award and won the inaugural Leadership in Faculty and Teaching Award (LIFT) in 2007. He is also in the Wilfrid Laurier Teaching Hall of Fame. In 2021, he was honoured with an Award of Excellence as a distinguished University of Toronto alumni.

Dr. Fleming is one of the leading critical criminologists in Canada, helping to establish the area with his groundbreaking books, *Deviant Designations: Crime, Law and Deviance in Canada* (1983) and *The New Criminologies in Canada: Crime, State and Control* (1985). He is a prolific author that has published 11 books and dozens of academic articles. Moreover, Dr. Fleming is recognized for his pioneering work in the areas of serial and mass murder. In 1993, he organized the world’s first conference on mass murder and provided expert academic information to several high-profile investigations – such as the Paul Bernardo case.

Although Dr. Fleming is a brilliant academic and outstanding teacher, his greatest strength was his kindness toward colleagues, staff, and students. His wisdom, humility, intellectual spirit, humour, and generosity will be sorely missed at Laurier Brantford. We wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for his personal and professional legacy. A truly remarkable career and human being!

Submitted by Kenneth Dowler

Jessica Kun

Dr. Jessica Kun will retire July 1, 2023, after fourteen years of service at Laurier. Dr. Kun completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting at Arizona State University, where she conducted the Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Winds and the Lyric Opera Theatre. She also received a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Calgary, a Master’s Certificate in Conducting from the University of Calgary Wind Conducting Program, and a Master of Music degree in Musicology from the University of Manchester (England) where she conducted the Symphony Orchestra, chamber ensembles and the New Music Ensemble. While in England, she conducted civic, professional and youth orchestras and new music ensembles. Dr. Kun has received numerous awards and recognitions including the Ontario Volunteer Service Award, Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra (2014), the Mayor’s Endowment Fund for the Arts, Richmond Hill, Ontario (2012, 2011, 2010), and the Ontario Band Association Award of Excellence (2008). A native of Toronto, Dr. Kun currently serves as the conductor and artistic director of the Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra. She is active internationally as a conductor, adjudicator and clinician.

On top of Dr. Kun's role as the conductor of the Laurier Wind Orchestra and Associate Professor of music at Wilfrid Laurier University, she taught courses in conducting and orchestration. Dr. Kun was strongly committed to her students, mentoring several young conducting students, to whom she gave frequent opportunities to guest conduct the Wind Orchestra. Dr. Kun premiered numerous student compositions, featured student concerto winners on wind orchestra concerts, and was instrumental in assisting the Faculty in the remote-delivery of classes during the pandemic in 2020-21. Dr. Kun was incredibly supportive of student, James Wu, who became the lead wizard with digital technology during the pandemic and she provided her time and expertise to faculty, staff, and students in helping facilitate the online music technology platform, Jamulus. This allowed the Faculty to have music rehearsals in real time during the Pandemic.

Dr. Kun was instrumental in a large-scale collaborative project in 2014, the "Stravinsky then and now" festival. Professor Kimberly Barber recalls the event:

It was a collaborative effort across all ensembles and through many courses in the faculty. It became Jessica's brainchild, and she and I worked together to coordinate between the orchestras, choirs, chamber music and opera to pull together a week of collaborative concerts related to Stravinsky, his inspirations and his followers. It was a mammoth undertaking, and Jessica demonstrated outstanding ability to coordinate between some really difficult conversations and competing agendas. It was this experience that cemented for me Jessica's willingness to work together toward a common goal and manage many conflicting schedules and viewpoints. An incredibly stressful endeavour in lots of ways, but working together with Jessica on this was one of the highlights of my time at Laurier, because it was ultimately an enormous success which benefited our students (and the Laurier and KW community) in untold ways.

Dr. Kun's anecdotal thoughts on teaching at Laurier:

My desire to continually grow as an artist and an understanding of the human spirit helps me to engage people to strive for excellence in their own work. Vision, resonant leadership, enthusiasm, creativity, rigor and professionalism are principles that make up who I am as an educator and artistic leader. I believe that students must inevitably become empowered, informed, responsible individuals who value the quality of engagement through experiential encounters and connected knowledge, with the ultimate objective of the educator to become obsolete.

Submitted by Kira Omelchenko and music colleagues.

Cathy Miyata

Dr. Cathy Miyata received her Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Windsor, with a specialization in Drama in Education, and her Bachelor of Education from Toronto Teacher Education College. Dr. Miyata received her master's degree from Mount St. Vincent University (Halifax, NS) in critical literacy and her doctorate from the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, University of Toronto, (Toronto, ON) in multiliteracies and teacher education.

She began her teaching career with the Halton Board of Education for several years gaining valuable experience that she would later bring into the Bachelor of Education program here at Laurier. What has gained her international recognition began with her own business, Creative Expressions, as an educational consultant and professional storyteller. She also served as Program Manager in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and as an international Consultant for the Royal Conservatory of Music's Learning Through the Arts Program.

Her storytelling work has been performed in Japan, Mexico, Malaysia, the United States, Serbia, Germany, Sweden, Portugal, across Canada, and in several Indigenous Communities. She has done numerous professional development and key note presentations about her storytelling. For anyone who has listened to Dr. Cathy tell a story, you can attest to how captivating she is. This ability to story tell is one of the many reasons she was beloved by her students in both the Masters program and Bachelor of Education Primary/Junior literacy courses here at Laurier. She was also invited to perform as the Laurier storytelling at the Celebrating Laurier Achievements Event in 2022.

In her tenure at Laurier, she designed the fully online Qualitative Research methods course for the Masters of Education program, after years of teaching it. She traditionally taught the first course in Laurier's Masters of Education program, and most of the students reference the transformational experience of this course in their final work in the program. The Primary/Junior students always spoke highly of how she transformed their perspectives on literacy and how to teach their future students how to read. You would often see Cathy coming to class in costume and knew that she was going to captivate the group with another incredible story. Her gift of teaching through story is one that leaves a mark on everyone.

Cathy is a born educator and teacher, and she has transformed her understanding of the craft of teaching into her research interests including literacy, multimodalities, arts integration, and children's literature. She has published in several academic journals, written three books for educators and two novels for children. Recently she started a blog creating storytelling units for teachers at the primary and junior levels during COVID to provide resources for teachers during a time when teachers were struggling. Her service to the community of education in literacy has left a legacy that will continue past her tenure here at Laurier.

Cathy has been an incredible colleague here at Laurier and helped lead the transformation of the literacy program in the Bachelor of Education to where it is today. She was always willing to volunteer for committees and show her dedication to the program and her students. Anyone who has worked with Cathy knows the positive mark she leaves on her students and colleagues and will forever remember her.

Submitted by Jennifer Holm

Lynn Shakinovsy

Lynn Shakinovsky has had a successful career as a teacher and scholar at Laurier for over 30 years. Prof Shakinovsky taught for one year in 1989, and then began a tenure-track job in 1991. Specializing in American and Victorian literature, Professor Shakinovsky has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Victorian novel, in early and late 20th century American literature, British historical survey, and first-year introductory English courses. As with many of us, she has navigated through large 300 sized classes in the early 2000s, and also has taught small upper level seminars with professionalism, humour, and grace. She has successfully supervised PhD students in Victorian and in contemporary literature, and has served on committees for students in a number of other areas.

Students enjoy Lynn Shakinovsky's classes and appreciate her care and mentorship. In 2011, she won the Faculty of Arts Scholar Teacher Award which celebrated excellence in teaching, mentorship, and research. In the Department of English and Film Studies, she regularly served as the graduate schools Advisor, selection committees for SSHRC and OGS awards, and has served as the Undergrad advisor. Earlier, when we used to hire faculty, she served on many hiring committees and chaired departmental promotion committees. We all value Professor Shakinovsky's sensible and intelligent presence on committees. She is not afraid to speak her mind, and, also, to speak up for those who deserve support. Her discernment and judgement are unparalleled and excellent.

It is with gladness and sadness that we take leave of Lynn Shakinovsky. We wish her the best in her retirement, but we will sorely miss her not only as a teacher, but more importantly as a colleague and friend.

Best wishes, Lynn. We will all miss you.

Submitted by Eleanor Ty

Carl Simpson

Carl has been part of the Department of Philosophy since fall of 1999 and the Department of Communication Studies since 2002. Since that time, he has taught numerous courses and some of them many times. Among the courses he taught in Philosophy are Aesthetics, Moral Issues, Reasoning and Argumentation, Philosophy of Sex, Love, and Friendship, Philosophy of Science, History and Philosophy of Science, Ethical Theories, and 4th year seminars such as Philosophy of Photography and Philosophy and/of Literature. Back in the day when travel was easy, his Aesthetics course was famous for its popular trips to the Albright Knox Gallery and the AGO.

He also co-supervised a student in the Philosophy MA program. In Communication Studies Carl taught Technology and Society, Media History, and Nonverbal Communication.

Now and then, Carl would go away for a bit with a teaching stint in Ghana (two and a half years), a term in Cambodia, and a trip through New Zealand and Australia. The Australia part of that trip ended early due to the COVID-19 shut down. Carl returned from his various travels

with new experiences and insights to share with our students. While in Ghana he taught at the University of Ghana, Legon and supervised one PhD student and one MPhil student.

His contributions to the Departments of Philosophy and Communication Studies at Laurier have been immense over the years and he will be missed. We wish Carl health, happiness, and adventure in his retirement.

Submitted by Gary Foster

Shaowen Song

Dr. Shaowen Song began his tenure at Laurier in 1998, following three years as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Prince Edward Island.

During his time at Laurier, Dr. Song initiated the Honours Computer Science program and the Honours double degree of BBA and Computer Science program. He worked closely with then Departmental Chair Dr. John Lit to develop the curricula. He implemented a number of new courses, including Operating Systems and Computer Graphics.

Dr. Song published over 80 research papers and holds four US patents on topics such as N-valued digital logics, optical transistors, photonic logic gates, and optical memories. His research areas also include computer networks, video compression, and system-on-chip systems.

In 2007, Dr. Song founded System-On-Chip (SOC) Technologies Incorporated, a Laurier startup based on his research in video compression and system-on-chip design. SOC has since become a leader in the world video compression market, with its chip speed 70 times faster than the product of the second runner-up company. Today, SOC boasts headquarters and R&D facilities in Waterloo, as well as a production arm in China. The company employs approximately 50 people and exports to over 30 countries worldwide.

Dr. Song retired from Laurier in August 2022 to focus on his role at SOC Technologies.

Submitted by Dr. Song's department

Heather Taves

Heather Taves is one of Canada's most acclaimed and beloved pianists, a career she melds with those of composer, improviser, and writer. Her performances are described as "radiantly beautiful...commanding and authoritative" (*The Guardian*), and her compositions "brilliant in her conjuring of diverse worlds of sounds and texture...superlative music for our time and beyond" (Stephen Preece, *The Record*). Her openness, warmth and humor connect with people as she communicates her expertise in an enormous range of diverse music.

Heather Taves has toured internationally in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, in such venues as the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, Place Des Arts in Montreal, Merkin Hall in New

York City, Radio Zurich, and the Madras Philharmonic Society. She has performed collaboratively with the Penderecki String Quartet, pianist Jamie Parker, The Elora Festival Players, NUMUS, Jaap Schröder, and many others. She has premiered works including the Triple Concerto by Glenn Buhr performed with the CBC Vancouver Orchestra, and performed a myriad of piano music by diverse living composers, including Israeli composer Oded Zehavi, Palestinian-Canadian composer John Kameel Farah, Turkish composer Can Kazaz, British jazz pianist Julian Joseph, and many more. For CBC Halifax, she presented a four-part series performing and discussing 20th century piano music. Internationally known as an innovative educator, she is an Associate Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University where her research is centered on creative improvisation.

Submitted by Anya Alexeyev

Glenda Wall

Dr. Glenda Wall received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Calgary in 1998. She held a postdoc at the University of Alberta, and she joined the Department of Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University in 2000. She not only took on the position of Chair very early in her career (from 2004-2008) but also served as Undergraduate Advisor for 7 academic terms during which she mentored new chairs. Under her leadership as Chair, the Department developed an MA program for Sociology.

She has taught courses in the areas of Sociology of the family, Statistics, Quantitative Sociology, Qualitative Sociology, and introductory Sociology courses, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels

Her research areas of expertise are in the Sociology of the Family with an expertise on the cultural constructions of motherhood, fatherhood and childhood, Intensive mothering, and risk culture. She has numerous articles and chapters in Canadian and international journals and publications. Dr. Wall has also given numerous academic presentations in international and Canadian conferences and has supported students by publishing articles with them.

Dr. Wall has made substantial contributions to her profession. She has refereed many journal articles, grants and promotion applications. She was an active member of the Canadian Sociology Association (CSA). Not only did she annually organize and chair academic sessions at the CSA meetings, she also served as the department representative for the Association for several years and took on the role of Local Arrangements Coordinator for the association when the Congress was held at Laurier. She also served as a consulting editor for the Canadian Review of Sociology and co-coordinator of the CSA Families, Work and Care research cluster which she helped form.

Dr. Wall has been an active participant on many Faculty and University level committees such as FOA Petitions Committee, Senate, and the Senate Promotion and Tenure Committee. Taking a leadership role in mentoring students, Dr. Wall served her Faculty as a Laurier Arts Scholars Mentor in 2013. She also served as Women's Faculty Colleague in 2009-10 and contributed greatly to the university through her involvement on the executive of WLUF. She also served

as WLUFA Vice-president, Chair of the Joint-Liaison Committee (JLC) and member of the WLUFA bargaining team.

Dr. Glenda Wall has been a long-respected active citizen in the Faculty of Arts and the University and a leader in the Department of Sociology. In recognition of her university wide service, she was awarded the 2017 University Faculty Service Award. Her consistently generous contributions of time and expertise have positively influenced the intellectual lives of students, department members, and colleagues inside and outside of Laurier. We will miss her vision, sharp insights, organizational skills and, most of all, her care for Laurier students, staff, and faculty. We wish her well in her retirement.

Submitted by Lucy Luccisano