Retirees 2024

**Chris Alksnis**

Dr. Christine Alksnis joined Laurier in 2003, in the early days of the Brantford campus. In 2010, Chris became the inaugural Program Coordinator of the Psychology program in Brantford and has graciously served in that role almost continuously since then. In leading this growing program, Chris developed strong cross-campus partnerships, mentored and supported new faculty, helped shepherd the Forensic Psychology Specialization through the approval process, and has been a guiding light in strengthening and diversifying the Psychology program in Brantford.

Her contributions to the Psychology program, the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, and the campus as a whole cannot be understated. Most of the programs in Brantford have benefited from her involvement in some way, whether through curriculum development, governance, faculty hiring, promotion and tenure, or her willingness to take on leadership roles. Notably, she served as the Acting Associate Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and served a double role as the Coordinator of Psychology and Youth and Children’s Studies for two years and Foundations for one year. She also served as Chair of the Psychology department in Waterloo for a year.

Chris has been a compassionate and generous mentor and advisor to countless students. Our graduates have benefitted from her creative approaches to teaching applied psychology and research methods, drawing from her expertise in the areas of gender stereotyping and wage gaps. She has supported and/or supervised many graduate and undergraduate research projects in these and other diverse areas.

We are truly indebted to Chris for her leadership, mentorship, support, and friendship, and wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement full of travel, gardening, and enjoyable moments in this next chapter.

Submitted by Judy Eaton

**John Banks**

As John Banks, our esteemed colleague, gears up to bid adieu and embark on a well-deserved retirement adventure, a mix of awe and fond reminiscence fills the air. His unwavering commitment to excellence and devotion to duty have etched a lasting impression on his colleagues, leaving us with profound gratitude and admiration.

John, fondly known as our school's "father of merger and acquisition," has been a beacon of professionalism and integrity. He has a knack for making complex subjects like strategic management engaging and understandable for students at all levels. Students rate him as an excellent teacher and many have stated that his courses were among the best courses they have taken in their MBA program.

John started his academic career at the School of Business & Economics in 1978. He has been involved in administration in various capacities for almost his entire career at Laurier. He currently serves as the Area Coordinator of the Strategic Management Area and has done so for well over 25 years. He has been a role model for Area coordinators with his attention to detail, his observance of process and his strategic thinking.

His analytical prowess and sage advice have been invaluable, making him the go-to person for academic and professional queries. His thorough preparation for meetings, his thoughtful questions and his sense of humour will be missed by all the people he has worked with. John provides the administrators with a strategic perspective and regularly probes the longer term consequences of the school’s decisions.

Although John's departure marks the end of an era, his legacy of leading a life of leadership and purpose will continue to guide and inspire us for years to come. Wishing you a vibrant and fulfilling retirement, John! You'll be sorely missed in the Strategic Management Area, at the Lazaridis School and throughout Laurier.

Contributed by his colleagues at the Department of Business

**Carmel Branston**

Carmel Branston has touched the lives of undergraduate and graduate students at Lazaridis School of Business & Economics since she first started teaching at Laurier in 1985. Students deeply value Carmel’s dedication to their learning and development. They comment on her ability to create innovative and engaging classroom experiences and her infectious enthusiasm for learning. They remember Carmel always being available to share a wealth of business and life experiences when they need guidance.

Carmel has worked with many business Professors as a colleague and mentor. They have been inspired by Carmel’s unparalleled level of commitment and dedication to the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics, championing new curriculum and programs.

Carmel has also had a lasting impact on the business community, having helped numerous firms grow and prosper. They remember a business leader who is always available when they need to strategize, plan for the future, face what appears to be an unsurmountable problem or just need a supportive friend who understands the difficulty of growing a business.

Carmel’s exceptional contributions to student life, mentoring of colleagues and business leadership serve as outstanding examples of dedication to the success of the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics.

From her colleagues at the Department of Business

**Peter Carayannopoulos, Professor, Finance Area, Department of Business, Lazaridis School of Business and Economics**

Well-known for his pride in the culture of his birth country Greece, Peter immigrated to Canada in the early 1980s to attend graduate school. After graduating from York University with his PhD in 1992, Peter spent five years at the University of Michigan campus in Flint Michigan. In 1997, he joined the Finance Area in the Department of Business at Laurier.

Peter published research in the areas of financial derivatives and insurance. His most cited work is in the study of catastrophe bonds, convertible bonds, and bond yields. Consistent with his research expertise, Peter’s taught courses in financial derivatives at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

From 1999 to 2009, Peter served as the first Chair of Insurance. In this role, he led the development of an Insurance and Risk Management concentration with the Laurier Bachelor of Business Administration program.

From 2003 to 2007, Peter served as the MBA Director. Most notably, he introduced a Co-op Stream to the MBA program that allowed students to gain valuable work experience while studying towards an MBA degree. He also led the development of specialized MBA programs in Finance, Insurance and Entrepreneurship.

From 2010 to 2019, Peter served as Associate Dean Business: Faculty Development & Research, Lazaridis School of Business & Economics. Peter was instrumental in building the school through judicious hiring and in supporting research. Under Peter’s leadership, the school successfully passed through several quality reviews including AACSB accreditation.

As Peter approaches his well-deserved retirement, he leaves behind a legacy marked by his remarkable ability to navigate challenging circumstances with grace and a smile. His colleagues will fondly remember him not only for his professional judgment but also for his infectious sense of humor. Peter's talent for storytelling and his readiness to embrace the lighter side of life, including the occasional prank, have made the workplace not just a place of work but also one of joy and laughter.

Submitted by Fabricio Perez

**Nicole Coviello**

Nicole Coviello joined Laurier in 2008, moving from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. While Professor of Marketing, Nicole has also been the Betty and Peter Sims Professor of Entrepreneurship, the Lazaridis Research Professor, and Laurier’s University Research Professor. She is currently the Lazaridis Chair of International Entrepreneurship & Innovation. In addition, Nicole was the first Research Director of the Lazaridis Institute.

While at Laurier, Nicole taught in the undergraduate, MBA, and PhD programmes. She led the launch of the Marketing Area’s PhD stream as their first PhD Coordinator and has supervised dozens of graduate students over her career, including many at Laurier.

Nicole’s research integrates marketing strategy, entrepreneurship, and international business. Since joining Laurier, she has received an honorary doctorate from the Turku School of Economics in Finland (2010). In 2014, she was ranked as the #2 scholar worldwide for International Marketing. She was also ranked 18th in the world for International Business, the only female in the ‘top 20’ list for that discipline. In 2018, an international study showed that Nicole had four of the most influential publications in International Marketing- more than any other scholar in the world. In 2020, she was appointed a Fellow of the Academy of International Business. She has also received major research awards from the American Marketing Association: two for her research at the marketing/entrepreneurship interface, and one for significant contributions to international marketing. Since 2020, Nicole has been ranked in the top 1% of business and management scholars in the world according to annual Stanford Listing. She sits on multiple editorial boards, was Associate Editor at *Journal of Business Venturing*; the premiere journal in entrepreneurship, and Consulting Editor at *Journal of International Business Studies* the #1 journal in international business.

Submitted by Chatura Ranaweera

**Brad Davis**

Dr. Brad Davis joined Laurier in July 1986 as an instructor in the Marketing Area. Over the years he has served as the Area Coordinator, Associate Director of the MBA program and the first Laurier Chair in Brand Communications; having spearheaded the fund raising efforts that raised $1.7 million to its establishment. He has won case writing awards with the ASAC and NACRA; and, has written a number of cases used in the MBA’s annual Integrated Case Exercise. He was responsible for the development and introduction of several new courses and was also a key driver of a major curriculum revision of the MBA program. Brad will now have more time to commit to case writing and running the pet rescue he co-founded and directs.

Submitted by Chatura Ranaweera

**Lauren Eisler**

Dr. Lauren Eisler joined the Wilfrid Laurier Community as an assistant professor and program coordinator in the brand-new criminology program at the Brantford campus in 2004, having just completed her PhD in sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. From her earliest time at Laurier, Dr. Eisler’s career has been characterized by service to the university and a deep commitment to the success of the Brantford campus and its programs. She was program coordinator for criminology for eight years from 2004 until 2012 – the longest serving program coordinator for criminology, the largest program at the Brantford campus. She also concurrently served as program coordinator for the nascent law and society program from 2009 to 2012. During that time, Lauren spearheaded and oversaw the transformation of the criminology program into full Department, including the addition of a very successful Masters of Criminology program. She also secured funding and supported the development of an innovative “public criminology” course that brought members of the public to campus to participate in 12 weeks of public lectures alongside criminology students. The research presented in this course became a special issue of the *Radical Criminology* journal.

In 2012, Dr. Eisler was appointed Assistant Dean of Program Development for the Brantford Campus and in 2013 became the Interfaculty Associate Dean: Academic Development. In this role, she supported the development of programming at the Brantford campus, including the development of the Brantford Foundations core curriculum, the Indigenous Studies program, and the online Policing BA and the online public safety programs. In 2015, Dr. Eisler became the Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, remaining in the role until 2021, when she returned to her faculty role in the Department of Criminology. During her time as Dean she supported the development of the Centre for Public Safety and Well-Being and the Centre for Research on Security Practices (CRSP). Her participation in university service on many faculty and university-wide committees over her twenty years at Laurier is a list too long to enumerate.

Despite her heavy administrative workload, and service on many university committees, Dr. Eisler remained a staunch supporter and active mentor to graduate students, supervising MA Criminology thesis students and sitting on many PhD and MA committees. She is known for her supportive and encouraging approach to students and to junior colleagues. Many of the faculty members at the Brantford campus have benefitted from her wise counsel and encouragement. As Dean, Dr. Eisler’s deep commitment to service and doing the work of program and scholarly and campus development contributed to creating an environment at the Brantford campus where faculty were able to pursue diverse research and scholarly pursuits, knowing that they would be supported to succeed in these endeavors. Dr. Eisler will be remembered for her significant contributions to the development and success of the Brantford campus, and her support of her colleagues. We wish her a long and happy retirement with her husband, John, and lots of time with her beloved children and grandchildren.

Submitted by Stacey Hannem

**Bonnie Glencross**

**Associate Professor, Archaeology & Heritage Studies**

Dr. Bonnie Glencross joined Laurier in 2010, first under a Limited Term Appointment, and then as a tenure-stream appointment in 2012. She completed her PhD at the University of Toronto and undertook post-doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley and UofT. Her research focuses on bioarchaeaology, the analysis of human skeletal remains from archaeological sites. During her time at Laurier, Bonnie has made a lasting impression on students and colleagues. She served as the department’s undergraduate advisor several times and as Chair from 2020 to 2023. The recipient of several merit awards, Bonnie also received the National Academy of Sciences Cozzarelli Prize, Class V, Behavioral and Social Sciences in 2020. As a Laurier professor, Bonnie’s focus has always been on her students and their education. She inspired numerous students to pursue graduate work in bioarcheology and always made her lab available for study and research. From 2014 through 2018, she co-directed the Tay Point Archaeological Project in Ontario, training dozens of students in archaeological techniques as part of summer field schools. Her focus on undergraduate student education even led to a journal article published in *Ontario Archaeology* in 2015 that featured several students a co-authors. Her research output over the past 14 years has been significant and most recently she has made substantial contributions to methodological discussions around minimally invasive techniques for conducting archaeological fieldwork. Bonnie is irreplaceable in the Archaeology & Heritage Studies department and will be dearly missed as she takes the next steps of a well-deserved retirement.

Submitted by Scott Gallimore

**Dawn Guthrie**

Dr. Dawn Guthrie has been a dedicated and esteemed faculty member at Laurier for almost 20 years. During her tenure, she has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the advancement of both her field of expertise and the university's academic mission. Her teaching, research, and service have left an indelible mark on our department and the broader academic community.

Dr. Guthrie's research contributions have significantly enriched the understanding of the needs and abilities of older adults with disabilities, and their caregivers, including individuals receiving home care services, palliative care, and adults with sensory impairments. Her research involves analysis of large datasets to explore how individuals are functioning in their daily lives, where they are experiencing impairments and difficulties, their use of the health care system, and methods to evaluate the care received. Her research has had a substantial impact on the field, informing healthcare professionals and decision makers, in terms of the quality of healthcare provided to older adults.

Dr. Guthrie has consistently contributed to the undergraduate and graduate programs in Kinesiology across her career by developing rigorous course material that deepens students' understanding of the content areas. She has consistently taught statistics at both the undergraduate and graduate level within the department. Her exacting and careful teaching of this topic inspires her students, fostering a deep understanding of the complexity of statistical methods. In addition, Dr. Guthrie has supervised and mentored both undergraduate thesis students and Master’s students (in both Kinesiology and Health Science). She has continually supported the graduate program in Kinesiology by being a committed member of many thesis advisory/examination committees.

Furthermore, Dr. Guthrie has continually provided her astute and thoughtful services to a variety of committees across the university and the broader academic community. Her involvement in departmental and university-level committees, thesis advisory and examination committees, and the development and growth of the Health Sciences department has been marked by a strong sense of leadership and dedication.

The impact of Dr. Guthrie's career is evident not only in her impressive body of work but also in the students and colleagues she has influenced and inspired throughout the years. Her dedication to the department, her students, and her field is unwavering.

Submitted by Pamela Bryden

**Dr. Maxwell (Max) Gwynn**

Dr. Max Gwynn will retire Aug 31, 2024, after 31 years of service to Laurier. Max received his PhD in Psychology from Carleton University in 1991 followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at California State University. His scholarly interests are in the areas of eyewitness memory and experimental hypnosis. Max joined Laurier in 1993 as an Assistant Professor in a one-year limited-term position and following this initial appointment, he was offered and accepted a series of 6-month, one-year, and two-year limited term positions. In 2003, his position was converted to a Full-Time Continuing position. Max’s focus in these positions has always been teaching, and he typically carried higher teaching loads relative to other members of the department. Although teaching was a priority, Max also wished to remain involved in research and student mentoring, and thus he continued to supervise many students – typically two or three each year – throughout his career, and many of these students have gone on to further education in Psychology or pursued Psychology-related careers in areas such as Law school, Counselling, Psychotherapy, Education, or Social Work. Notably, Max also served as the Psychology academic advisor for over 15 years and in that role provided thoughtful support and guidance and to thousands of students. It is also worth noting that, throughout his long career the Psychology department has entrusted Max with courses that are central to our programs and to student success. One such course is Introduction to Statistics, where Max has showcased his unique talents in allaying math-phobia among his students through a lighthearted approach. Max has earned a widespread reputation as an outstanding teacher and mentor who cares deeply about the success of his students. In 2000, he was cited in McLeans magazine as one of three “Popular Professors” at Laurier. More recently, in May 2024, Max was selected for the 2024 Donald F. Morgenson Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in the category of Sustained Excellence. The department views this recent award as a timely and fitting recognition for Max as he approaches retirement, and we are grateful for his immense contributions to teaching excellence and the student experience at Laurier for over three decades.

Submitted by Roger Buehler

**Ian Hamilton**

Professor Ian Hamilton joined Wilfrid Laurier University as an assistant professor in 1992, was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1997, became a full professor in 2002, and will officially retire from Laurier on July 1, 2024.

During his time at Laurier, Ian established a productive research program in theoretical and computational chemistry, using density functional theory and other quantum mechanical methods to examine the properties of gold and semiconductor structures in the small “nano” regime. He trained numerous undergraduate and graduate students in these areas and published >70 peer-reviewed articles in leading journals. His research was well respected and recognized with numerous discovery grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and through visiting scientist stints with the Fields Institute in Toronto, the Agency for Industrial Science and Technology in Japan, the Centre of Theoretical Chemistry and Physics in New Zealand, and the Sargent Group at the University of Toronto. In 2012, he received the Computational and Mathematical Methods in Science and Engineering Award.

As an instructor at Laurier, Ian taught math-intensive courses in general chemistry, introductory quantum chemistry and spectroscopy, and advanced quantum chemistry. These physical chemistry courses are very challenging and students often struggle with them because of the math content. That Ian taught them well is reflected in the number of students he turned on to physical chemistry who then proceeded to research experiences in his lab and, eventually, careers in physical chemistry.

Ian served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry from 2012 to 2018. He was a quiet leader whose influence was deeply felt throughout the department. Despite his unassuming nature, his commitment to the students, faculty, and staff inspired those around him. He was always willing to lend an ear or offer guidance, and for this he earned the respect and admiration of those who had the privilege of working with him.

Submitted by Steve MacNeil

**Masoud Jelokhani-Niaraki**

Professor Masoud Jelokhani-Niaraki joined Wilfrid Laurier University as an assistant professor in 2001, was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2006, became a full professor in 2014, and officially retired from Laurier on January 1, 2024. During his tenure, Masoud made significant contributions to teaching, research and service.

**Research**: Masoud established a productive research program in biophysical chemistry, focusing on protein and peptide chemistry and biomolecular structure and interaction. He trained numerous undergraduate and graduate students in these areas and, with them, published >40 peer-reviewed articles and delivered >100 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences.

**Service**: Masoud took on numerous service roles over the years. He was the Undergraduate Advisor for Chemistry & Biochemistry, a Member of the Senate Executive Committee, Member of the Faculty of Science Curriculum Committee, Graduate Officer for Chemistry & Biochemistry, Member of the WLU Senate, and Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. Without a doubt his biggest contribution is reflected in the current name of his home Department – Chemistry *& Biochemistry*, the change from Department of Chemistry warranted in 2014 based on the success of the Biochemistry & Biotechnology program that Masoud single handedly developed and launched only 3 short years after his arrival at Laurier. The excellent students who have completed this program and moved onto productive careers in Biochemistry & Biotechnology, and the current Biochemistry & Biotechnology students who outnumber our current Chemistry students, are a testament to Masoud’s legacy.

**Teaching**: Throughout his time at Laurier, Masoud exhibited an unwavering passion for teaching, always excited to walk into the classroom to share his ideas and engage and inspire students. He taught at least 6 different undergraduate courses across all senior years of the Biochemistry & Biotechnology program, most of those being developed from scratch and delivered for the first time by Masoud. He also taught and supervised numerous CH490, directed studies and graduate courses.

Through these contributions, Masoud shaped the minds and catalyzed the careers of countless students, and these students have benefited significantly from his wisdom, guidance, and genuine care. The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry is filled with gratitude for the immense impact he had on the lives of his students, his colleagues, and the entire academic community.

Submitted by Steve MacNeil

**Jurek Konieczny**

Jurek (Jerzy) Konieczny has been part of Laurier’s Economics Department since 1987 – just under 40 years! He started here right after completing his PhD at the University of Western Ontario, where he went to study following his MA at Warsaw University in 1979.

Jurek’s work has been in an area that for quite a few years wasn’t the hottest topic, but has resurfaced with a vengeance in the last few years – the process by which businesses adjust prices, which aggregated together helps us understand how inflation occurs and what its economic costs are. This line of research is critical to monetary policy goal setting and practice, and Jurek’s work is of the highest quality, having been published in many of the top economics journals including the American Economic Review and Journal of Monetary Economics, as well as in central bank working papers. He was also the Founding Editor of the Review of Economic Analysis, as part of his role as the Director of the Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis.

Throughout his career He has been particularly active in research networks in his home country of Poland, with regular contributions to the Poland Summer School of Economics. But his networks extend much further than that geographically, with stint as the Ukraine Program Director of the Economic Education and Research Consortium, visiting positions at the University of Bologna Rimini, University of Trento, European Centre for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics in Brussels, and Tel Aviv University among many others. Outside academia, he has been an advisor at the Bank of Finland and the National Bank of Poland.

Most recently, Jurek has focused on what is now called knowledge dissemination, organizing a number of conferences that were held at Laurier and in Rimini, helping bring some of the best economic minds to Waterloo. In late 2021, he pivoted to organize a series of outstanding online workshops that helped to think through how we might see recovery from the pandemic, that brought in brilliant economists like Wojciech Kopczuk, Judith Chevalier, David Blanchflower and Stefania Albanesi to stimulate debate and discussion. His work has truly showcased Laurier and Waterloo to the world.

On a personal note, it was always great to see Jurek getting in to work on his moped or bike. An avid mountain biker, he could often be found out at the Hydrocut. But with one of his children living in London (UK) and another in Montreal, and with a total of 3 grandchildren, the calls on his time to travel are even stronger than those of the Central Banks he has been advising. We wish him all the very best for a wonderful retirement!

Submitted by Christine Neill

**Susan Lade**

Susan Lade is a dedicated instructor in the Accounting Area. She has been shaping the academic journey of students at Laurier for over a decade. Susan’s teaching approach has made a lasting impact on her students.

Her classes are characterized by clarity and conciseness, emphasizing deep understanding. She ensures students are well-prepared not only for university-level exams but also for the Common Final Exams required to obtain the CPA designation. As a colleague, Susan is well-liked and always willing to extend a helping hand.

Submitted by Ling Chu

**Laura Mastronardi,**

**Faculty of Social Work and Indigenous Field of Study FSW Team Member.**

The Indigenous Field of Study team was honoured to have Laura gift us with her steady and grounded presence since 2006. She worked within the IFS since it was developed and began in a blended role within the mainstream program and eventually moved into being solely in the IFS. As a non-Indigenous faculty member within an Indigenous MSW program, Laura took her place in our circles with respect. She provided leadership and role modelling to other non-Indigenous graduate students who were searching for ways to critically engage and understand their roles and responsibilities in social work. IFS students respected the way Laura approached her teaching. She had a quiet, stable, and knowledgeable presence that was grounded in knowing her role as a non-Indigenous person within an Indigenous program. All students appreciated Laura’s attention to detail and feedback. Her contemplations were generally thoughtful and wise.

Within the FSW, Laura has been a stabilizing influence for years, and we will deeply miss the way she consistently modeled settler relational accountability for students, faculty, staff and social work generally. Quiet reflexivity and a grounded sounding board characterized Laura’s presence in the FSW and IFS. One would often find faculty or students having conversations about current events, readings, community engagement, or family and friends. Laura was always open for office or hallway musings and sharing about all kinds of topics. Her presence will be missed. We became a stronger team with you and will continue to carry you with us in spirit. Miigwech Laura for sharing your whole presence with us over the years. We wish Laura the very best in her pathway forward and send her off with much gratitude and love.

By Kathy Absolon

**Bruce McConomy**

Professor Bruce McConomy obtained his PhD from Queen’s University and is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA). Bruce joined Wilfred Laurier University in 1999. Bruce was an accomplished researcher and published in prestigious academic journals including Contemporary Accounting Research, the Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance, the Journal of Business, Finance and Accounting, Critical Perspectives on Accounting and the Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal.  Bruce served as the associate editor of *Accounting Perspectives* and on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Accounting & Information Management*. Bruce served as a supervisor and committee member for many PhD students. Bruce taught intermediate financial accounting at Laurier and was the author of the widely used “Kieso, Weygandt, Warfield, Wiecek and McConomy” Intermediate textbook. Bruce served as the Director of the CPA/Laurier Centre  for the Advancement of Accounting Research and Education from 2005-2017 and as Director of CPA Ontario Centre for Capital Markets and Behavioural Decision Making from 2017-2018. He also served as the Director of Laurier’s Graduate Diploma in Accounting from 2017-2023. Bruce was highly respected by his colleagues and students. He plans to travel and work on his guitar skills during retirement.

Submitted by James Moore

**Kim Morouney**

In her 31 years at Laurier Kim has served as Coordinator for the Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources Management Area; as Director of the Bachelors in Business Administration; and as Associate Dean of Business Programs. She worked as a visiting professor in Dijon, France, in Marseille, and in the joint program between Marseille and Jiao Tung University in Shanghai.

Kim played a major role in writing the funding application that resulted in a $30 million grant to the School of Business and Economics from Mike Lazaridis and the Government of Ontario. She was a member of the launch team for the Lazaridis Institute, a member of the design team for the Lazaridis ScaleUp Program and acted as Managing Director for 5 years. The ScaleUp Program helped 83 promising Canadian tech companies raise more than $2.6 billion dollars in new capital. 825 founders, CEOs and executives participated in the ScaleUp Program, and went on to create nearly 4300 new jobs. 46% of the companies in the program had founders from under-represented groups.

Kim says she will never forget the brilliant men and women she met through the ScaleUp Program, or the Laurier students, staff and faculty members who touched her heart over the years, or the way the Faculty Union stepped up when university politics got personal, and she needed support. She won’t miss the politics AT ALL.

Submitted by Jessie Zhan

**Garry Potter,** Department of Sociology, 2000-2024

Hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology in 2000, Dr. Potter was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2003 and Professor in 2015. He came to Laurier after seven years as a Lecturer at the University of Essex and one year at Memorial following his PhD at Essex in 1992. Worthy of note is that his doctorate in Sociology and Literature was granted a mere five years after he graduated with a BA in Sociology and Philosophy from the University of Victoria in 1987. Belying his courtly demeanour Garry has been a man in a hurry.

If authoring four books, editing one and publishing nine chapters and twelve journal articles in a 24-year career at WLU were not enough, Dr. Potter made twenty four films (and eleven audio books) since 2010. Like his physical books they cover seminal theorists in sociology and the philosophy of the social sciences. But they also address such major contemporary global emergencies as environmental and climate breakdown and disease pandemics. They follow from his remarkable 380-page, 2010 book *Dystopia: What Is To Be Done?*

With Ken Morrison and Richard Christy, Garry was an anchor of the core sociological theory courses in the Department at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

He was for many years on the editorial boards of a number of leftist journals, notably *Journal of* *Critical Realism*, *Socialist Studies* and *Alternate Routes* (where he remains). A faithful union man he served WLUFA in several capacities and, notably, the CAUT Defense Fund for which body he has been both a Trustee and a Flying Picket for the last seventeen years and, as a member of its Planning and Policy Committee, helped to re-write the organization’s constitution. Dr. Potter was also a member of WLU’s Senate for six years (2010-12, 2014-18).

As a former fellow department member it has been, and continues to be, my great pleasure to know Professor Dr. Garry Potter as an outstanding scholar, teacher and fellow activist in the demanding arts of sociological theory and practice.

Submitted by Peter Eglin

**Vivienne Vance**

Dr. Vivienne Vance is a nutritional scientist with a PhD (and postdoctoral training) from the University of Waterloo.  She started at Laurier in 1999 as a lab instructor in the department of Kinesiology and Physical Education and worked with them as a CTF instructor for many years.  In 2012, Vivienne joined the new and growing Department of Health Sciences as an LTA and then joined us in a tenure stream position (Professional Teaching Position) in 2013.

Vivienne was nothing short of a powerhouse as an instructor.  She taught Health Issues I and was the very first faculty member our students were exposed to.  She also taught students Human Nutrition in year 3 and Advanced Human Nutrition and Disease in year 4.  Her classroom environments were lively, engaging, richly provocative, and enjoyed immensely by our students.  In her early career, Vivienne was a registered nurse, and she enriched her teaching with clinical examples embedded into her pedagogy.

Vivienne also served as the Health Sciences undergraduate officer for many years – she made it a point to meet every incoming student and to ensure that all had support when they needed it – she provided advice, guidance, and strategy for career development, with patience, sincere concern, and a genuine desire to help our students thrive.

Students adored her, often commenting on how she kept them grounded during a very demanding degree program.

Dr. Vivienne Vance was with Laurier for 25 full and productive years, when she retired in 2023.  As Department Chair, I considered her one of the pillars of the department, and today when I am faced with problems, I often find myself pondering ‘what would Vivienne advise’?

She is already deeply missed by staff, students, and her faculty colleagues.  We all wish her the best as she enjoys the next chapters in life.

Submitted by Robb Travers

**Robin Waugh**

For over two decades, Robin Waugh has been a vital member of the Department of English and Film Studies. Since joining us in 2000, he has been a popular teacher of Medieval and Old English literature for graduate and undergraduate students, an important scholar and researcher who has published on Patience literature, Icelandic sagas, women in Medieval romances, etc. He has also served on various departmental committees, including our Curriculum Committee, our Liaison and Promotion committee, our Graduate Studies committee, Appointments committees, and others. In addition, he has taken on leadership roles and served as Chair of English and Film Studies, as well as Medieval Studies Program Coordinator. He has organized successful Medieval Day colloquia and Visiting Speaker events for the Medieval Studies Program which attracted a large number of students, staff and faculty.

One of Robin’s best qualities is his ability to stay calm and rational always maintaining a sense of humour even when there are moments of agitation amongst us. We always appreciate his willingness to help us out where needed, to remain flexible to the changing needs of the department and students. He is one of the few professors who can make a subject sound sexy and attractive, inventing, for examples titles like “Dangerous Medieval Sexualities” and “Medieval Poetry of the Fantastic” for his courses on Middle English literature.

As a scholar, Robin Waugh has a highly respectable record, with a monograph, two edited volumes, four chapters in books, 18 refereed articles and numerous conference papers. He has represented our university nobly at international congresses of Medieval Studies, at the Modern language Association, at conferences on Rhetoric, and Saga conferences.

We will miss his friendly presence in the hallways, his equanimity, and his generosity to students and faculty alike. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Colleagues in Department of English and Film Studies

Medieval Studies Program

**Colleen Willard-Holt**

Dr. Colleen Willard-Holt served for 12 years as the Dean of the Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University. During her time as dean, she oversaw the expansion of the Bachelor of Education program and the development of new programs including a Master of Education and an Education Minor. She was instrumental in the development of the BA in International Education Studies at Laurier. Colleen had a long and successful teaching career including teaching courses within the Faculty of Education; most recently, after finishing two terms as dean, she taught first year undergraduate students in an introductory course (INED101, General Teaching Methods) in the International Education Studies program. The students in this program were highly appreciative of Colleen and the innovative and applied approach she took to this course. Her research always informed her teaching. Colleen is a well-recognized expert in special education and she has provided more than 170 conferences presentations and workshops, many of them with pre-service and in-service teachers.

One of the most significant curriculum development activities which Colleen undertook was to work with a group of educators from Pakistan and Canada to develop a peace curriculum which could be used in Pakistan. Colleen worked with a diverse group of educators in partnership and with the support of Ziauddin Yousafzai, the father of Malala. Colleen supported many other novel teaching and learning projects including professional learning for teachers in Egypt from 2017-2019 through a partnership that the Laurier Faculty of Education nurtured in Egypt. In her teaching, research, and leadership Colleen represents what we aspire to foster in new teachers: innovation, creativity, and being grounded in evidence-based practices.

Submitted by Steve Sider