

## **Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association Biographies of Retirees of 2025-2026**

### **Abby Goodrum**

Abby Goodrum is Professor and founding leader of the User Experience Design (UX) degree program at Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus, where she taught courses in User-Centered Design, Information Architecture, and Research Methods. Prior to establishing the UX program, she was a highly valued faculty member in the Digital Media and Journalism Program. In her interactions with students and colleagues, she is known for her joyful and gracious disposition and for her steadfast commitment to supporting those around her. In all her work, she cultivated an environment marked by encouragement, collaboration, and genuine collegial care.

She began her career at Laurier as Vice President for Research. Before joining Laurier, she held the Rogers Research Chair in News, Media, and Technology at Ryerson University, where she also served as Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Communication and Design. Earlier in her career, she held faculty appointments at Syracuse and Drexel Universities within their Information Schools, and she spent time working as a researcher at CNN and in educational technology at IBM.

Her research spans multiple disciplines and has been published across the scholarly literatures of computer science, the humanities, communication studies, information management, and media studies. For more than 20 years, her work focused on understanding how people seek, use, share, manipulate, store, retrieve, and organize digital multimedia. She served as founding Director for Social Science Research within a \$23 million Canadian Centre of Excellence (NCE GRAND), which functioned as both a national research network and commercialization engine addressing complex digital media challenges.

She served on numerous research committees, management boards, and boards of directors, including those of the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. National Science Foundation, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. She also contributed to governance and advisory boards for Canada's Technology Triangle, the Canadian Digital Media Network, the Accelerator Centre, SHARCNET, the Southern Ontario Water Consortium, and the Ontario Council on University Research.

Born and raised in Texas, Abby grew up singing gospel music in church and listening to Cajun, Dixieland, blues, and country music on the radio. In high school she was a member of the school's Jazz Singers ensemble and began performing locally. While attending the University of Texas in Austin, she fronted a popular blues band. From that time to the present, she has performed blues and jazz music on and off with various bands, most recently The Dirty Choir, Barrelhouse, Dr. Dr., and the Sonic Uke Ensemble.

### Dr. Lisa Wood

Dr. Lisa Wood joined the Brantford campus in 2004 as only the second hire to teach English literature; her blend of knowledge on the eighteenth century, and children's literature, with a subspeciality in Pokeman cards made her an ideal fit for a campus that needed interdisciplinary thinkers. She already had one book under her belt, *Modes of Discipline: Women, Conservatism, and the Novel after the French Revolution*, and she now has a variety of publications on anti-revolutionary women writers in the eighteenth century, on philosophies of the Romantic period, and on British fiction for youth. Her contributions continue, as she is currently preparing a prestigious encyclopedia article on conservative British women writers.

At the Brantford campus, she is highly regarded as a warm, responsible, and creative colleague. She did the hard work of championing the Youth and Children's Studies programme, an interdisciplinary offering that blends psychology, media studies, literature, health studies, and history. It has been a remarkably popular programme for over a decade that now has ten instructors and a wide array of course offerings. In her recent role as the program co-ordinator for the English program at Brantford, she took on the onerous but joyful task of overseeing the Laurier Stedman Prize, Brantford's highly prestigious writing competition for high school students. Another part of the Laurier Stedman bequest included funding for writer in residence positions, and Dr. Wood looked after the metastasizing administrative details for that position with great care and attention. Another way in which she contributed to campus life was through her advocacy of Brantford's architectural heritage, and this resulted in an award from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in 2010. In summary, she has contributed an overwhelming number of service hours to ensure that the Brantford campus is a thriving academic setting, and in the same vein, she contributes a great deal to her local community, with special attention to ongoing literary programs like the Riverside Reading Series.

Dr. Wood is a beloved teacher, as evidenced by the fact that she won the 2024 OCUFA award for exceptional teaching, an award that would have been driven forward by enthusiastic students. Those same students remark on her as "The best human I have ever met in my life," "life changing, brilliant, gifted, wonderfully lovely," and one student writes, "I hope that Laurier as an institution recognizes what an amazing prof she is." It is hard to summarize the significant contributions she made through teaching over the last 22 years in addition to her research and service contributions, which in total speak to her truly outstanding career at Laurier.

### **Dr. Scott M. Ramsay, Department of Biology**

Dr. Scott Ramsay has had a distinguished career at Laurier as a scholar, teacher, academic leader, and through exceptional service to the university and broader community. An Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, Dr. Ramsay's work has been marked by intellectual curiosity, generosity toward students and colleagues, and a strong commitment to institutional governance.

Scott completed a BSc in Zoology at the University of Toronto and a PhD in Biology at Queen's University, followed by postdoctoral work at St. Mary's College (Maryland) and Indiana State University, before joining Laurier as an LTA in 2001 and a tenure-track Assistant Professor in 2003. He is a recognized researcher in animal behaviour, behavioural ecology, and animal communication, with a particular focus on the cultural evolution of birdsong in white-throated sparrows. His research combined extensive field studies and other approaches to illuminate how song structure changes within and among populations. This work has appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *Behaviour* and *Current Biology*, and has attracted broad public interest. His research has been featured by CBC Radio, *Discover* magazine, and other outlets, reflecting both its scientific significance and broad public appeal.

Dr. Ramsay also made lasting contributions across the undergraduate and graduate curriculum in Biology. He has taught a wide range of courses—including Behavioural Ecology, Animal Communication, Evolution, and others—while supervising numerous honours theses and serving extensively on graduate advisory and examination committees. Known for thoughtful course design and innovative pedagogy, he often used discussion-based, reading-intensive learning and outcomes-focused assessment. His mentorship has supported students not only in their academic development but also in presenting research at Ontario Biology Day and other conferences. He was also the driving force behind the launch of Biology's first graduate program, the MSc in Integrative Biology.

Scott's service record is also exceptional in both breadth and depth. At the department level, he served as Department Chair, Graduate Coordinator, Undergraduate Officer (twice), and made significant contributions to many other key departmental committees and initiatives. At the university level, he made major contributions through Senate, including serving as Secretary of Senate and Chair of the Senate Governance Committee, and played central roles in program review, quality assurance, and academic planning. His institutional knowledge and careful judgment made him a valued contributor to complex governance work.

Beyond Laurier, Dr. Ramsay has contributed extensively to the academic profession and broader community, including through service on the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station Board, outreach lectures for the Laurier Association for Lifelong Learning, involvement in Indigenous youth science programming, and engagement with environmental and ecological advisory bodies. Through these roles, he has been a model scholar-citizen, bridging university, professional, and public interests.

Dr. Ramsay's career is defined not only by his scholarly and teaching accomplishments, but by his deep commitment to service, mentorship, and the collective life of the university. His impact on students, colleagues, and the wider community will be felt for many years to come.

### **Dr. James C. (Jim) McGeer, Department of Biology**

Dr. Jim McGeer has had a distinguished career at Laurier as a teacher, scholar, research leader, and through service to the university, the scientific community, and contributions to policy development. A Professor in the Department of Biology, Dr. McGeer is widely respected for his expertise, mentorship, and sustained contributions to environmental science and water research.

Dr. McGeer earned his BSc and MSc in Animal Science at the University of British Columbia and his PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Dundee in the United Kingdom. Prior to joining Laurier, he held postdoctoral and research positions at McMaster University, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and Natural Resources Canada, where he served as Senior Environmental Toxicologist and Program Manager in the Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories. He joined Laurier as an Associate Professor in 2006 and was later promoted to Professor.

An internationally recognized environmental and aquatic toxicologist, Dr. McGeer's research has focused on the fate, bioavailability, and toxicity of metals and technology-critical elements in freshwater and marine systems. His work has improved risk assessment frameworks for metals, helping inform environmental quality guidelines and evidence-based regulation. Over his career, he has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, contributed book chapters in aquatic ecotoxicology, authored numerous technical reports for government agencies, and secured substantial funding from NSERC, federal and territorial governments, and industry partners. His research has directly informed environmental management practices across Canada, particularly in northern and resource-developing regions.

Dr. McGeer was a pivotal figure in water science leadership at Laurier, serving as Director of the Laurier Institute for Water Science for 8 years (and later as Associate and Co-Director). In these roles, he helped shape the Institute into a nationally recognized hub for interdisciplinary water research, training, and outreach, fostering collaborations among

academics, governments, industry, and communities. He also played a key role in planning and securing funding for the Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science, which supports research activities across the university.

Jim taught a range of undergraduate and graduate courses, including Environmental Toxicology, Animals: Form and Function, and Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, and supervised numerous research trainees at all levels of training. His mentorship was characterized by high standards, practical relevance, and strong support for student development, with many of his trainees going on to successful careers in various areas of science.

His service record is equally strong. He served as Undergraduate Academic Advisor for many years and was always a willing participant who made valuable contributions to various departmental committees. Externally, he provided extensive service to the scientific community through roles with the Canadian Society of Zoologists, Environment and Climate Change Canada, an NSERC Discovery Grant Evaluation Group, and as organizer of major scientific conferences and workshops, including the 50th Canadian Ecotoxicity Workshop, which he hosted locally.

Dr. McGeer's legacy is one of sustained scholarly achievement, meaningful engagement with environmental challenges, and a deep commitment to students, colleagues, and society. His impact will continue through the researchers he mentored, the knowledge he generated, and the environmental policies his work helped to shape.

### **Dr. Mary-Louise Byrne**

Mary-Louise Byrne is a Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University whose influential career spans more than three decades and reflects outstanding achievement in **teaching, research, service, and academic leadership**.

An award-winning educator, Dr. Byrne has made an enduring contribution to geography education in Canada. She is a long-standing co-author of the Canadian editions of *GEOSYSTEMS: An Introduction to Physical Geography*, one of the most widely used undergraduate physical geography textbooks in the country. Her passion for education and excellence in teaching was recognized with the **Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in 2008**. She is widely respected for her mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students and for her commitment to experiential, field-based and research-informed learning. Over her career, she has generously supported and guided countless undergraduate and graduate students, fostering their intellectual growth, confidence, and professional development. Many of her mentees have gone on to successful careers in academia and public service, a testament to the lasting impact of her mentorship and personal commitment to student and colleague success.

Dr. Byrne is also internationally recognized for her research in **coastal geomorphology**, with particular focus on Great Lakes shorelines and coastal dune systems. Her long-term field research has informed conservation and restoration efforts in protected areas, including Point Pelee National Park and Sable Island, linking scholarship directly to environmental stewardship. Her research has been instrumental in supporting the sustainability of the coastal systems we all love and enjoy.

Her service to Wilfrid Laurier University has been exceptional. Dr. Byrne served as **Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies from 2003 to 2009, and again from 2019 to 2025**. Most notably, she provided steady and effective leadership in guiding the Department through its successful transition to the **Faculty of Science in 2020**. She has also served on Senate Executive, chaired the Senate Finance Committee, and co-chaired the University's Integrated Planning and Resource Management Exercise. In recognition of her leadership and service, she received the **Faculty Award for Service Excellence and Community Engagement in 2020**.

Dr. Byrne's contributions extend well beyond the University. She served the **Canadian Association of Geographers** as **Secretary-Treasurer from 2005 to 2011**, and her national service was recognized with the **President's Award for Outstanding Service in 2011**. She has demonstrated sustained commitment to **professional geoscience**, serving on the **Geomorphology Committee and Discipline Committee Panel of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario**, acting as a proctor for national professional practice examinations, and providing national scientific leadership as **Financial Director of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences from 2011 to 2016**.

Through her extensive and impactful achievements as a teacher, researcher, leader, and servant of the academic and professional communities, Dr. Mary-Louise Byrne exemplifies the highest ideals of **academic citizenship** and has made a lasting impact on Wilfrid Laurier University and on geography and geoscience in Canada.

Many students, colleagues, the Geography and Environmental Studies department, and her many friends across campus wish to extend Mary-Lou a huge "thank you" for her extensive guidance and support.

### **Matt Tales**

Originally starting at Laurier in 1999 as a contract cataloguer, Matt went on to have instrumental roles in many of the Library's major systems and organizational changes.

Matt's work often involved working alongside colleagues from Guelph and Waterloo as part of the Tri-University Group (TUG) of Libraries. He was the TRELIS Manager from 2009 to 2012 and was part of the TUG Libraries team that launched the Primo search and discovery interface in 2009. When the Ontario Council of University Libraries collaborated to launch Omni in 2019, Matt was the Laurier implementation lead. As Metadata and Cataloguing

Librarian, he was the Library's trusted expert on metadata and bibliographic description standards. Matt worked as part of the Library Management Group, supervised staff, and helped to reorganize Technical Services while serving as Department Head for Cataloguing.

Matt's colleagues will miss his knowledge, his calm approach to problem-solving, and his good humour. He looks forward to spending more time with grandchildren - and of course, curling.

### **Dr. Barbara Jenkins**

Winter 2026 marks the last semester that Dr. Barbara Jenkins is employed in the Department of Communication Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her contributions to the growth of this department from its very earliest years have been immense and their effects will be felt long past her date of retirement.

As it stands in 2026, Barbara Jenkins is one of our longest-serving members in the Communication Studies Department, joining in its nascent years and providing leadership and pushing the department forward throughout her many years at Laurier. Indeed, when she joined Laurier in 2003, she was joining a department in its very first years. We mark our department's birthday as 2001. Barbara joined Laurier in 2003, and served as chair from 2005 – 2008, the guiding force in our department in some of its most foundational years.

When she arrived, a Yale PhD in Political Science with expertise in political economy, looking for a job geographically closer to "home", she joined a department comprised of a program coordinator with roots in Sociology (Iwona Irwin-Zierecka, who joined us in 1995) an interim chair loaned to us from Sociology (James Wong, who joined us in 1998), our inimitable departmental administrative coordinator, Sylvia Hoang (who joined us in 1999 and has never left us since) and a foundational chair hired directly to the chairship (Paul Heyer, 2000, who stayed with us through his retirement and emeritus status), as well as one colleague already hired (Hillary Pimlott, hired in 2001). Two others colleagues arrived around the same time as Barbara (Penelope Ironstone and Jonathan Finn, both also arriving in 2003). In 2026, after mourning the passing of Dr. Heyer during his emeritus status a few years back, Jenkins, along with Pimlott, Ironstone, and Finn (and Ms. Hoang!) form the core faculty that have guided us for the past quarter century.

It can be hard to see our thriving 18 member department with hundreds of majors today – the second largest major in Arts right now – and remember that it was, just 25 years ago, a brand new program, managing the growing pains and stresses of becoming one of Canada's first Departments of Communication Studies, with Dr. Jenkins an integral part of the process. Not only was Barbara almost the longest standing member of our department at her retirement (with only Dr. Hillary Pimlott and our admin, Sylvia Hoang, at Laurier longer), but Barbara was also nearly our first chair: she assumed the position of Acting Chair in 2005, succeeding just our first departmental hire, Paul Heyer, who was hired

to be chair in 2000, and our interim chair James Wong, loaned to us from Sociology as we first grew the program.

Barbara transitioned from acting chair to a full 3 year chairship in 2005, overseeing the department until 2008. This meant that she oversaw at least 9 FTF and LTA hires, including three of our current full-time faculty contingent. During this time, she served as the chair of every single committee of this growing department, from Curriculum to DAPC, to PTAC. Of those she hired, are two of our three most recent chairs, and our current chair-elect. I, the current chair, who arrived quite late in the game in 2013, am the odd one out in an a department whose leadership has otherwise continuously been drawn from either faculty she hired (Urquhart and Nicholson), or faculty who began their professorships around the same time as her (Herman, Finn, and Ironstone).

When she arrived, Barbara brought to the department rich experience in political economy, one of the foundational lenses through which our department studies Communication Studies, and an area of research and teaching strength for us, including a 300 level course (CS350) entitled “Political Economy of Communication and Culture”. Indeed, as a political economist of media industries myself, I considered myself incredibly lucky to encounter a department where such research interests are woven deeply into the core of our now quite large curriculum, enhanced by offerings such as CS250 “Intro to Creative Industries”, a course I helped formulate in my early years at Laurier with the help of Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Greig DePeuter, already well-respected scholars in the area. She has become a go-to expert on areas of study that she founded and forged, with monographs like *Eros And Economy* (2016) and other books like her famous 2016 *This Is Not An Art Book* project, currently found on scholarly bookshelves and syllabi the world over. Her journal publications and scholarly book chapters, cover areas like cultural policy, critical perspectives on the so-called “cultural renaissances” of cities from Chicago to Toronto, and the political economy of design, art, and aesthetics. Her time at Laurier marked a time where she could grow as a researcher, as she joined an interdisciplinary department readily supportive of some of her more experimental projects, some of which she embarked upon with her MA advisees as co-authors. Indeed, as Barbara moves on to greater adventures with her retirement we will all miss her, but perhaps none as much as the MA students she advised year after year on projects surrounding art and cultural policy in Southeastern Ontario. Before reaching Laurier, Barbara had developed expertise in analyzing the implications of regional and hemispherical free trade agreements. But her time at Laurier saw her take on collaborative PI-ships on SSHRCs on wearable media and embark on a specialization on theorizations about blockchain and other new communication technologies. From her work with Laurier’s Anthropology Department, to her always-popular fourth year seminar in the Political Economy of Art and Architecture, Barbara’s years at Laurier saw her pushing the boundaries of her own place in academia and how her role at Laurier fit into it, pushing the general outlines of Laurier’s Comm Studies Department as well.

From a departmental perspective, it was important to us all that Barbara was the first department member to achieve Full Professorship. When she went up for Full in 2017, our department only had Associate Professors – about 16 of them – and two Assistant Professors. Since she broke that ceiling for Comm Studies, she has since been joined by Drs. Finn (2020), Hennebry (2022), and Pimlott (2026), all hires from around the same time she joined Laurier. As a relatively junior colleague to Barbara, I found her mentorship and friendship to be invaluable in my own growth as a scholar. I know I am not alone in seeing Barbara as a role model, one who could have rested on her laurels at a certain point but instead pushed the field and the department forward to where we are today, with almost 700 majors, approximately 18 full time faculty (2 still junior, with a search on the books for next year). We have been incredibly lucky to have Barbara shape our program, and the department we all appreciate is touched on every level by the guidance Barbara lent it in its formational years.

Assembled by Dr. Jade Miller (current chair)

### **Pauline Dewan**

Pauline started at Laurier in 2010, in a liaison role supporting the joint Nipissing-Laurier education program. She served as Subject Librarian at Laurier Brantford, providing guidance to faculty and students of Arabic, Digital Media and Journalism, English, French, German, Health Management, Health Studies, Italian, Spanish, and Youth and Children's Studies, among other subjects.

Pauline supported the Brantford campus through significant developments, including the introduction of the Digital Library and Learning Commons in Grand River Hall and expanded access to Laurier Library collections through the Brantford Public Library. Pauline also contributed through committee work such as the Library Web Advisory Committee and librarian hiring committees. Pauline holds a PhD in English, and is the author of many academic articles and three books on children's literature.

Faculty and library colleagues valued her knowledge, dedication and kindness and wish her all the best in retirement. She looks forward to spending more time on creative pursuits, and enjoying the company of her family, including her new granddaughter.

### **Dr. Morgan Holmes, Sociology and Anthropology**

Dr. Morgan Holmes joined the Department of Sociology as a full-time faculty member in 2001, obtained tenure in 2007, and was promoted to full Professor in 2014. In the later years of her career, she was cross appointed to the Department of Anthropology, a fitting reflection of her long career of interdisciplinary scholarship.

Over her time at Laurier, Morgan built an impressive research portfolio in the fields of sexuality, sex, and gender; health and disability; bioethics; and the sociology/anthropology of medicine, subjects for which her expertise was internationally recognized. She published two groundbreaking books: the monograph *Intersex: A Perilous Difference* (2008; Honourable Mention for the Canadian Women's Studies 2009-10 Annual Book Prize) and the edited collection, *Critical Intersex* (2010). These and other research works firmly established her as a world-leading figure in the subfield and, in conjunction with her long-time activism on behalf of the intersex community, led to many invitations for keynote presentations, talks, and external examiner roles around the globe, as well as a visiting professorship at University College Dublin. Always committed to the community beyond academia, Morgan has given many public lectures and interviews, served as an expert witness and consultant in several capacities, and authored a variety of technical reports, resource guides, and media pieces. In 2025, she was deservedly awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for advancing 2SLGBTQI rights and her "tireless determination in ending the medical abuse of intersex infants in Canada."

As a teacher, Morgan was instrumental in shaping the department's introductory offerings, particularly in the early years of the "double cohort." She designed and taught courses in sexualities, sociology of culture, disability studies, and the sociology and anthropology of medicine (among others) and was known for both her passion in the classroom and for bringing out the best in students with her rigorous standards. She was a generous mentor particularly to advanced undergraduate students and graduate students in the Cultural Analysis and Social Theory (CAST) MA program. It is no surprise that several of Morgan's former mentees have gone on to academic careers themselves, undoubtedly in no small part thanks to the top-notch theoretical and analytical training they received under her tutelage.

Outside of research and teaching, Morgan was an active contributor to the life of the department (serving for several years as undergraduate advisor, for example) and the university as a whole (taking on a variety of roles including Orator at convocations and member of the Senate Student Petitions Committee). She will be remembered for her articulate nature, for her unwavering defence of the principles of equity and social justice, and for always having the courage of her convictions.

Morgan, we wish you all the best as you embark on this new phase of life and settle into your new home in Spain. May there be many more happy steps on your *camino* ahead!

Submitted by: Dana Sawchuk

### **Jeff Grischow, Department of History and Ancient Studies**

Over more than two decades at Laurier, Jeff Grischow developed an excellent record of teaching and research over multiple disciplines. He earned his PhD in African history at Queen's University in 1999 and went on to teach History at Simon Fraser University and

International Development Studies at Trent University before joining WLU in 2001 to teach Global Studies and History.

During his career at Laurier, Professor Grischow developed and taught more than 20 undergraduate and graduate courses spanning African history, global history, international relations, and the history of the Global South. Professor Grischow's teaching innovations include a popular first-year course on global piracy, which integrated world history across regions and time periods, and an experiential travel course to Puerto Rico that connected classroom learning with field-based study.

Dr. Grischow's scholarship is distinguished by its interdisciplinary and collaborative focus on disability, climate change, and social justice in Ghana. Since 2008, he has produced a substantial body of work, including three books (with a fourth currently under contract), twenty peer-reviewed articles and five book chapters, alongside numerous conference presentations. His research is notable for integrating historical analysis with contemporary issues such as disability rights, stigma, and environmental change. A defining feature of Professor Grischow's most recent work is the use of documentary film as a tool for knowledge mobilization. He has produced and edited over 30 films on climate change and disability in Ghana, many of which have been featured at international festivals, received awards, and reached global audiences, including presentations linked to United Nations initiatives.

Professor Grischow's research has attracted significant external funding, particularly from SSHRC, with total support exceeding \$800,000 across multiple grants. Most recently, Dr. Grischow received an Insight Grant for a film-based project on the history of deafness in Ghana (with Dr. Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy), as well as a Partnership Engage Grant and Connection Grant focused on climate change and disability in Ghana (with Dr. Mfoafo-M'Carthy and Dr. Mark Terry). He has valued working with these colleagues on film projects in Ghana, supporting and training Ghanaian youth videographers.

In addition to his accomplishments in teaching and research, Dr. Grischow contributed extensive service at departmental, faculty, and university levels. His leadership roles included Undergraduate Officer in the Department of History and Associate Director of the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa. In addition, his committee work spans ethics, admissions, scholarship adjudication, and institutional initiatives related to global engagement. Dr. Grischow also played a key role in student engagement initiatives, such as serving as Faculty Advisor for the History Residence Learning Community.

Looking back, Dr. Grischow will be forever grateful for the opportunities provided by the History Department and Global Studies Program to give a young scholar a chance to begin his career at Laurier in the early 2000s. When Dr. Grischow graduated from Laurier with an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration in 1988, little did he know that he would return in 2001 as a professional historian and become a full professor more than twenty years later. He could not have ended up in a better place, and he is retiring with many, many fond memories.

### **Associate Professor Lillian DeBruin**

Professor Lillian DeBruin joined Wilfrid Laurier as an assistant professor in 2006 as an expert in membrane biochemistry. She has made significant contributions to the department, most notably through her teaching in the Biochemistry and Biotechnology program, and through her commitment to curriculum development.

Lillian has taught extensively at the undergraduate and graduate levels, developing many upper-year biochemistry courses from the ground up and continuously refining them using evidence-based, student-centred pedagogies. She was an early adopter of Laurier's Active Learning Classrooms and has implemented innovative instructional approaches such as collaborative testing, scaffolded assessment, and the CREATE methodology for engaging students with primary research literature. Notably, she transformed an advanced biochemistry laboratory into a capstone, inquiry-based course that integrates experimental design, scientific writing, and independent research. In recognition of her commitment to teaching and student mentoring, Lillian was awarded a Donald F. Morgenson Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching in 2021.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. DeBruin has made substantial contributions to curriculum and program development within the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She played a central role in the creation and revision of the Biochemistry & Biotechnology program and led the development of a joint Biotechnology diploma-degree program with Conestoga College. She also served as Graduate coordinator and the coordinator for our Honours Thesis, where she strengthened research training, assessment consistency, and student support.

Lillian's thoughtful approach to teaching, program development, and mentoring students has made her a valued member of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She has made a lasting positive impact on the department, her colleagues, and her students.