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# Woodsworth



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*The Newsletter for  
alumni and friends of  
Woodsworth College -  
University of Toronto*

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## PhD candidate got his start in bridging program

**Tim Harrison** said he felt that he owed it to himself to go back to school. The 28-year-old took six years off after high school to travel the world working as a model and a waiter before he found the bridging program at Woodsworth College.

The Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program is for people who have been away from formal education and do not meet the requirements for direct entry admission. Students who successfully complete the program are then admitted to degree studies with one full credit towards their degree.

Harrison decided to take a course in English literature. "It is kind of silly," he said. "But when I was travelling I would always be writing and had dreams of being a famous novelist. Part of coming back to school was this idea that if I'm going to be a novelist, I'm going to have to learn the tradition. With a degree in English literature I thought if I don't become that famous novelist then I can become a teacher, or at least get a job."

The former model is a terrific prospective employee, graduating with an honours BA in English and a cumulative GPA of 4.0. But he won't be entering the job market for a while. He has been accepted into Uof T's collaborative program in book history and print culture and will be starting his PhD this fall with five years' worth of funding guaranteed.

Harrison's resumé already boasts numerous awards. Most recently, he won the Governor General's Silver Award, given to graduates with the highest standing in their

institutions, and the John Black Aird Scholarship, awarded by the university to the most outstanding student graduating from an undergraduate program. Among others, he also received the Peter F. Bronfman Leadership Award this past year from Woodsworth College, which is part of the Peter F. Bronfman Scholarship Fund.

He credits the tremendous support he received from faculty and staff at Woodsworth for his continuing success.

"Especially at the writing centre," he said, "J. Barbara Rose took an interest in me in the first year and stayed with me through it all. "They were just so supportive of my work."

Rose, a senior lecturer and mentor to students, said what struck her most about Harrison was that he never, ever made excuses. He handed in everything on time and if he got an A, he wanted to know how he could get an A+. His work ethic bodes well for his aspirations.

"I'd like to become a professor," Harrison said. "That is the ultimate goal. The famous novelist thing seems kind of like a pipe dream in retrospect. I would love to teach here at U of T—if they wanted me."

By Tammy Thorne

*Tim Harrison credits  
Woodsworth College's  
bridging program for  
his success at U of T.*





# Joe Desloges

I was very pleased to officially become principal of Woodsworth College on July 1st.

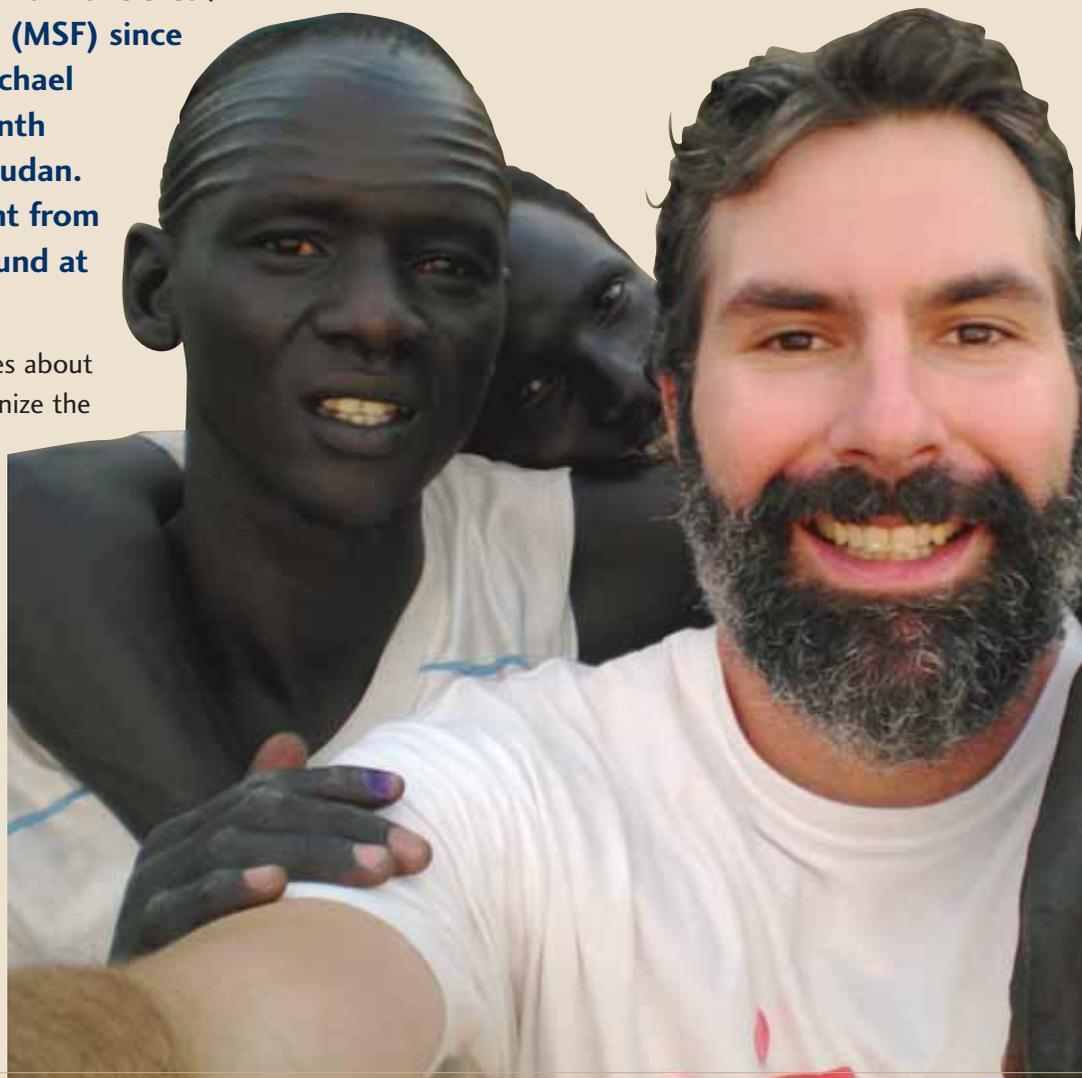
It was with significant excitement and anticipation that I looked forward to joining the great group of staff at Woodsworth College and to contributing to the many important activities and events that will help further shape the future of Woodsworth College. Fortunately, during my research and study-leave year my predecessor, John Browne (Acting Principal), and I have had the opportunity to meet many times regarding College business and activities. John and his predecessor, Mariel O'Neill-Karch, have made for a very easy transition and I felt like I was already part of the Woodsworth family. I want to express my sincere thanks to John Browne for his dedication and leadership during the 07-08 academic year and wish him the very best. Over the past few months, I have been meeting with the staff of the College as well as some alumni and current students to discuss our short- and long-term goals so that we can plan wisely. One recent event where I had the chance to chat with many individuals, was this year's convocation for Woodsworth College students. It was a terrific occasion and a great opportunity to congratulate students on their hard work. I look forward to many more of these and the opportunity to meet more students and alumni. It would be my pleasure to hear from you. In future Windows, I will bring you up-to-date on what we are planning and how we are proceeding.



## Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders

**Michael White is a Woodsworth College student, majoring in history, who has been working with Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) since January 2004. In June Michael returned from a nine-month assignment in southern Sudan. The following is a segment from his blog, which can be found at [www.msf.ca/blogs](http://www.msf.ca/blogs).**

“ When you land in Pieri it takes about twenty-two seconds to recognize the amazing impact that MSF has on the community. Our clinic is located in the centre of the village and is directly across the road (or path if road refers to something that cars drive on) from our compound and logistical office. The MSF medical clinic is the residence for roughly 60 inpatients at any given time and another 70 fulltime TB patients,





## Report of the Registrar

Cheryl Shook

# They're here!

Woodsworth welcomes its 2008 incoming class! Unofficial numbers indicate that almost 500 students are entering directly from Ontario high schools. An additional 300 are coming from outside the province and around the world. We are delighted that a significant number of international students have chosen to join Woodsworth this year!

Given the strong international flavour of this year's new students, the Dean of Students launched a successful mentorship program where upper year international students were connected with those just arriving at the College. Communicating initially by email, the mentors offered advice and guidance to the newcomers on how to navigate university life.

350 recent graduates of the Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program will be entering in the Faculty of Arts and Science this September. This cohort, one of the College's greatest assets, is a very welcome addition to our community.

As always, I extend an enthusiastic and grateful "thank-you" to all of our donors and friends who, through their generosity, have significantly increased the number of admission awards now available to offer our new students. This financial support and academic recognition ensures that we will continue to recruit great students to Woodsworth College.

# Calendar of Events

## October

### Installation Ceremony of Principal Joseph Desloges

When: Wednesday, October 15, 2008  
4:30 p.m.

Where: The Great Hall  
Hart House  
University of Toronto  
7 Hart House Circle

All are Welcome. To RSVP for this event or for further information please call 416-978-5301 or check our web site [www.wdw.utoronto.ca](http://www.wdw.utoronto.ca)

## November

### The Inaugural Saul Goldstein Memorial Lecture

When: Thursday, November 13, 2008,  
4:30 p.m.

Where: William and Phyllis Waters Lounge,  
Woodsworth College Residence  
321 Bloor Street West

Cost: FREE/All are Welcome

Lecturer: **The Honourable Frank Iacobucci, C.C., Q.C.**

Topic: "The Story Leading to Prime Minister Harper's Apology on Indian Residential Schools"

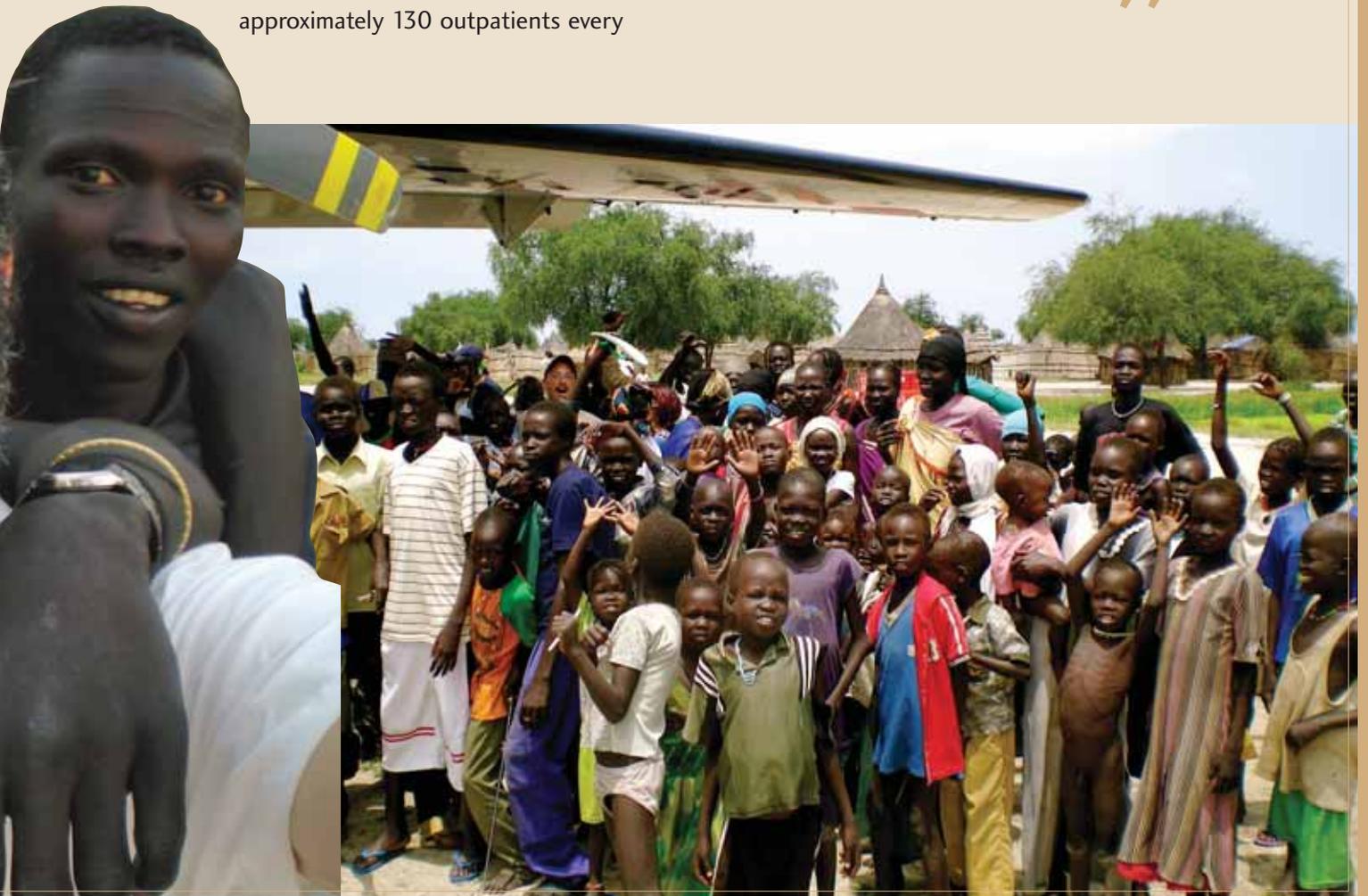
To register call 416-978-5301 or email [events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca](mailto:events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca)

> For additional event information please call the alumni office at 416-978-5301, or email: [events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca](mailto:events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca) Event information is also posted on the Woodsworth College web site: [www.wdw.utoronto.ca](http://www.wdw.utoronto.ca)

# Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

who spend six months in treatment. MSF also runs antenatal care, STI (sexually transmitted infection) and EPI (expanded program for immunization) clinics, a TFC (therapeutic feeding centre) and a very busy medical lab. Moreover our doctor sees approximately 130 outpatients every

day. Among our patient list are people suffering from meningitis, leprosy, pneumonia, brucellosis, gunshot wounds and snakebites. A single doctor and two nurses supervise the enormity of all of this, and I work and live in constant awe of their miraculous efforts. ””





# Mentoring – It’s never too late to give back!

Woodsworth College alumnus Nick Lisi, Staff Sergeant, Durham Regional Police Service, has been involved in the college’s Mentorship Program for the past few years. Below are his thoughts on what his participation means to him:

Your relationship with Woodsworth doesn’t have to end once you have your diploma. The Mentorship Program allows alumni to reach out to students and be a part of College life. I considered myself a life long learner and before I knew it I found myself returning to campus again, this time as a speaker. I have spoken about the benefits of a criminology degree and policing a few times and never get tired of it. Some of the students have engaged in discussions long after the presentation is over. Topics such as ethics, stigma, procedure, job placement, recruitment and “I got a ticket, what should I do?” follow, mostly via emails. It’s within these discussions that I gain current insight from today’s young adults. These are the fresh minds that are on the verge of joining the ranks of the working world.

The mentorship program has given me an opportunity to hopefully encourage, motivate, inspire, or simply “fill in the blanks” for Woodsworth students. As much as I may be achieving this, I am also leaving these events both motivated and inspired. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this program.

## Briefly

### Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program 40th Anniversary Celebration & Graduation Reception

On Tuesday, July 15th, the Academic Bridging Program graduating class of 2008 gathered in the Peter F. Bronfman Courtyard to celebrate the program and their academic achievements. Over 350 students successfully completed the program this year and many will now enter the University of Toronto to study in the Faculty of Arts and Science. About 150 of the students were on hand to celebrate with their families and friends. Now in its 40th year, the program is designed as a bridge to post-secondary education for those who do not meet the University’s requirements for admission and who have been away from formal education for some time. This event was sponsored by the University of Toronto Alumni Association.

### Legacy Lunch

In the Waters Lounge at the Woodsworth College Residence, the 7th Annual Legacy Lunch took place in June. Welcomed by Acting Principal John Browne and Alex Waugh, Chair of the Legacy

Society, the guests celebrated another great year at the College. Both John and Alex thanked the



attendees for their ongoing support to the College and our students. New donors were acknowledged and thanked by this ever increasing number of friends to Woodsworth.

### Alumni Events

The College and the Alumni Association of Woodsworth College jointly hosted two very successful events for our younger alumni: You Are Where You Meet and Dress for Success. Both events were well attended and lively. Generous sponsorship was provided by TD Meloche Monnex’s Pillar Sponsorship Program to host these events.



### John Browne Farewell and Thank You

John Browne completed his term as Acting Principal on June 30th. A reception was held to celebrate his time at Woodsworth and the University of Toronto. Many people spoke affectionately and with great respect about John and his over four decades at the University. A terrific portrait of him will hang in the Principals’ Seminar Room at the College.



### Big Book Sale

The College will no longer be hosting a book sale. Kruger Hall is becoming a student gathering space and hence the space will not be available for the sale. The College would like to thank Wiebke Smythe for her many years of

commitment to making this event a special one in the College’s calendar. Thank you also to the many volunteers who over the years helped out as well, our students are the ones who have ultimately benefited.

### Convocation

This year Woodsworth College had a record number of over 700 students eligible to graduate. Approximately 400 of them attended their convocation on Wednesday, June 18th. Acting Principal John Browne was presiding officer, and along with Chancellor David Peterson, he presented the graduands with their degrees. Past Principal Mariel O’Neill-Karch and Principal Joe Desloges were the esquires and Alex Waugh, vice-principal and registrar emeritus, was the beadle. A reception followed in the Peter F. Bronfman Courtyard for the students, families and friends. It was a great day.

### Alumni Association of Woodsworth College

On May 28th, the AAWC held its Annual General meeting. A new Board of Directors was acclaimed, with Diane Luty as president (full list below). The formal portion of the evening also included the presentation of awards to alumni who have been volunteering their time in a variety of capacities. The individuals recognized were: Nick Lisi, Glenn Christie, Michele Ferguson, for their involvement in the Career Mentorship Program; and James Naudi, Bill Wrigley and Ren Rejente, for their work with the AAWC Board. A wine tasting, led by sommelier Anne Martin, concluded the evening. It was a wonderful way to learn about wine and celebrate the AAWC. An excellent group of alumni are looking forward to presenting a series of events and activities to encourage all alumni to come to the College.



The 2008/09 Board of Directors:

#### Executive

Diane Luty, president  
Wanda Prochazka, treasurer  
Bernice Frieday, past president

Chris Murumets, vice-president  
Bobbie France, secretary

#### Directors

Khalid Ahmed  
Kelly Foote  
Joan London  
Eniko Pittner  
Mary Vohryzek

Celeste Francis Esteves  
Heather Graham  
Priscilla McAuliffe  
Wiebke Smythe  
Bill Wrigley



Great futures begin with great decisions

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Make learning your legacy. Ask us how.  
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E-mail: [giftplanning@utoronto.ca](mailto:giftplanning@utoronto.ca)  
Website: [giving.utoronto.ca/planning](http://giving.utoronto.ca/planning)



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