



Window on Woodsworth



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Spring 2009

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

Highlights

*Message from
the Principal
Pg. 2*

*Woodsworth
Welcomes New
Faculty Members
& Staff
Pg.2-3*

*Calendar of Events
Pg.3*

*Friend of
Woodsworth to
Receive Honorary
Degree
Pg.3*

*New Pilot Program
at Woodsworth
Pg.4*

*Briefly
Pg. 4*

Annual Awards Dinner

On February 5th, Principal Joe Desloges hosted Woodsworth's yearly celebration of student achievement at Hart House. Award recipients sat at dinner next to the donors whose generosity had provided their awards. This is always a great night for students, donors and friends of the College. Recipients of the Bronfman Awards were Renatta Austin (Gold Winner) as well as Emma Ardal, Jayne Grigorovich, Vanessa Panes, Rashah Salib and David Zhai (Leadership winners). Former principals Angela Hildyard and Mariel O' Neill-Karch, as well as registrar Cheryl Shook, participated in the evening's proceedings, as did former vice-principal and registrar Alex Waugh.

*Following is the speech that
Renatta Austin gave on behalf
of all the students.*

“As part of my community service work, I often visit high schools in priority communities to talk to students about the importance of staying in school and getting a good education. After telling them about my own personal experiences, I usually give them the standard line that all they need to do is figure out what they are passionate about, work hard at it and the rest will follow. As well-intentioned as my advice to these students is, a part of me always feels as if I am lying to them. The reality is that

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passion, talent and hard work are only a fraction of what makes someone a successful student and a responsible citizen. Equally important to an individual's success is having love, support and encouragement. So as much as David, Jayne, Emma, Rasha, Vanessa and I are here because of our own academic talents and dedication to our communities, none of us would be here today if it were not for all of you.

So first of all, we would like to thank all of the family and friends—those who are here and those who could not join us tonight—for all that you have done to help us become the people that we are today. Some of the recipients have expressed gratitude to their parents in particular, who in some cases have sacrificed their own dreams so that their children will have a better life. Personally, I did not have a very traditional upbringing. Not having a two-parent family, a big house and white picket fence often made me feel like I was somehow inferior to my peers. People like me don't grow up to become lawyers, they become statistics: single mothers on welfare, living in social housing. What kept me from becoming that statistic





This year we are celebrating the 35th anniversary of Woodsworth College. It's been an exciting journey. In 1974, the Victorian house at 119 St. George Street, once belonging to Alexander MacArthur, became the College's home into which the first registering students were welcomed. Look at us now! Today we are able to offer students a full university experience, including - since 2004 - a residence that is second to none.

Providing financial aid to our students has always been paramount among our efforts and we have seen this grow over the years. In 1974, financial aid to students was about \$5,000. In 2008, Woodsworth was giving out over \$1.5 million for both meritorious and needs based awards.

Academically, the Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program and Summer Abroad Program have grown and matured as have our relationships with the Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources and the Centre of Criminology and the undergraduate programs that we coordinate with these centres.

The success of Woodsworth is a testament to its strong and dynamic leadership, something we have always been fortunate to have. My predecessors are still involved with the College, for which we are all grateful.

I am very honoured to be the principal of Woodsworth and can assure you that even in these challenging times, the best interests of our students are at the forefront of everything we do.

Woodsworth welcomes faculty memb

Sandra Bucerius has joined the Centre of Criminology as an Assistant Professor and is cross-appointed to Woodsworth College. For a total of five years, Professor Bucerius has conducted ethnographic and qualitative research with a gang of 55 young male 2nd generation Muslim migrants who specialized in drug trafficking in Frankfurt, Germany. Professor Bucerius teaches an undergraduate course on the topic of immigration and crime.

Dr. Rafael Gomez joined the University of Toronto's Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources on January 1, 2009 and is cross-appointed to Woodsworth College. Rafael is no stranger to CIRHR and the College, having completed a PhD and masters degree at CIRHR and having been a teaching assistant in the undergraduate Employment Relations program. Rafael joins us as the past Chair of the Department of Economics at Glendon College, York University. His research is in the areas of labour market analysis, employment relations theory and HR management. Dr. Gomez will be teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.



A n n u a l A w a r d s

...cont from pg 1

were the people around me. I have unconditional love and support from the family that I do have, and I have friends who understand me and encourage me to strive for the best. So to all of our family and friends, we say thank you. This award is not only ours, but yours as well.

We would also like to thank all of the staff at Woodsworth College for all of the wonderful work that you do. What drew many of us to Woodsworth is its diversity and commitment to providing access to post-secondary education. Like us, many of the students at Woodsworth have had to work a little bit harder than most to make it through university. The staff work diligently to make students feel comfortable and to assist us in any way that they can. Woodsworth has given us all a sense of community and belonging, which is often hard to find in a large university.

We would like to say a special thank you to the Awards Officer, Kerri Huffman. It can be a very humiliating experience to tell someone that you're broke, or that you messed up and don't have any money to buy food or pay your rent. No matter what the situation, Kerri is always warm and inviting, she does not pass judgment, and you always leave her office feeling better than when you walked in. As

students, we are very fortunate to have Kerri working on our behalf. Thank you Kerri, and thank you to all of the staff at Woodsworth College.

And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the donors, Ms Lynda Hamilton and the donors from the Brookfield Asset Management Group of Companies. We cannot begin to express our gratitude for your generosity. After meeting you last week, we could tell that the Bronfman awards mean more to you than just another charity. We would like you to know that it means more to us than just money; you have truly made a difference in our lives.



To Jayne, the Leadership award is "an important buffer in the dreaded transition to the "next step", which is completing a Masters in Humanitarian Action. For Vanessa and Emma, it has made graduate school financially possible. Rasha said that the award has made her more confident in her abilities, while it

encourages David to continue to strive for academic excellence in education and leadership in his community. For me, the Bronfman award was the difference between going to law school or not. When an admissions officer from U of T Law called me in November to give me the good news that I had been admitted,



New cross-appointed faculty & staff

Dr. Matthew Light has been appointed as Assistant Professor in Criminology and is cross-appointed to Woodsworth College. Professor Light's doctoral and post-doctoral research has focused on issues of migration control, individual rights, and policing in post-Soviet Russia. Professor Light has also studied and written on the legal and political regulation of Muslim religious institutions in Russia. He has teaching responsibilities in the College's undergraduate Criminology Program. Professor Light came to U of T from the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Sandra Moffat joined Woodsworth in November as its new Learning Strategist. Sandra has had extensive experience as a Learning Strategist in Accessibility Services at UofT and at Seneca College. Sandra will be working with staff in the Registrar's Office on developing and delivering programs/strategies to assist students in obtaining the tools they need to take charge of their own learning.

For more information about these faculty members, you can visit www.wdw.utoronto.ca and click on "faculty" in the main navigational menu.



I honestly did not know what to think. I knew that I had the ability and the motivation to pursue a law degree, but I did not have the money. The Bronfman Gold award will cover a substantial portion of my tuition, and I am happy to say that since then I have accepted the offer of admission.

Your donation says to us that you believe in us and are rooting for our continued success; we will not let you down. Again, we thank you for your generosity and hope that

you will continue to support Woodsworth College.

To my fellow award recipients I say this: do not view this or any award as payment for your accomplishments thus far, but rather as a small deposit on even greater future achievements. Continue to work hard and

challenge yourselves, even when you face adversity. But, like Peter Bronfman did, always find the time to thank your loved ones, to give back to your communities and to help those in need. Because real success is not about the material things that we collect in life, but rather it is about who we are and what we have done to make the world a better place.

Congratulations and thank you. ”



Calendar of Events

April



International Etiquette Seminar

With Adeodata Czink, Founder of The Business of Manners
Sponsored by the Alumni Association of Woodsworth College

When: Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

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

Cost: Free (Registration Required)

A seminar on etiquette practices from around the world. Learn how to relate to people and to show respect for their traditions and culture.

To register, call 416-978-5301 or email events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca

May

Alumni Association of Woodsworth College Annual General Meeting – Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the College

When: Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

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

The business portion of the evening will be followed by volunteer recognition and celebration of the College Anniversary. A wine & cheese reception will follow.

Welcome Back to Woodsworth College 35th Anniversary Spring Reunion Celebration

Come and mingle with fellow alumni as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Woodsworth College. Meet old friends, make new friends and bring your family for a fun-filled afternoon:

- BBQ in the Peter F. Bronfman Courtyard
- Fun Activities for children
- Tours of the Residence
- Music
- Chocolate Tasting

Join our Facebook Group!

Search: Woodsworth/35th Spring Reunion

When: Sunday, May 31, 2009, 12-4p.m.

Where: Peter F. Bronfman Courtyard, Woodsworth College, 119 St. George Street

Cost: \$8 for honoured years (those who graduated from U of T in a year ending in 4 or 9)
\$10 for all others, children under 12 free

To register, call 416-978-5301 or email events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca

Generously sponsored by the University of Toronto Alumni Association



June

Convocation

Spring convocation will take place on Monday, June 15th at 10 a.m. at Convocation Hall

Reception to follow in Peter F. Bronfman Courtyard for graduands and their families and friends.



Paddles Up!

Under the guidance of Kelly Foote, AAWC Director, the College is looking for alums interested in taking to the waters of Lake Ontario and becoming members of a Dragon Boat Team.

There are two potential races for which the College might field teams, late June, early September. Please contact Kelly at 416 946-5391 at your earliest convenience if you are interested in what promises to be a great deal of fun, or send an e-mail to events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca to find out more.

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

Friend of Woodsworth to receive Honorary Degree:

Rose Patten, Senior Executive Vice-President, Head of Human Resources and Senior Leadership Advisor for BMO, will receive an Honorary Degree from the University of Toronto. A former chair of the Governing Council, Rose has a strong commitment to supporting students at Woodsworth. She will receive the honour during this year's Spring Convocation. We are very proud to have her as a member of the Woodsworth family.



New Pilot Program at Woodsworth

An innovative new program between the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto and Seneca College will enable students who begin their studies at Seneca to transfer after their diploma to complete a university degree at U of T. The initiative reflects U of T's commitment to improving flexibility and mobility for students in Ontario's postsecondary system through a transparent, seamless transfer arrangement.

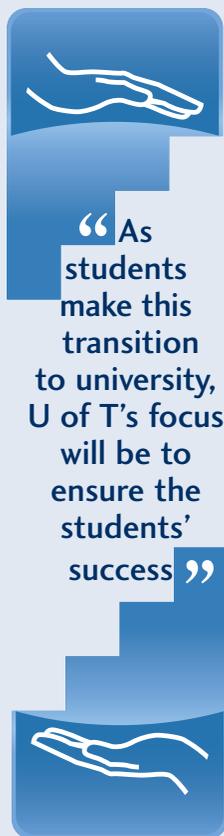
"Community colleges and universities have co-existed with very separate mandates and it has been difficult for students to move from one to the other," says Glenn Loney, Assistant Dean and Registrar for the Faculty of Arts and Science at U of T. "We have done a careful assessment and believe that Seneca students who have completed a diploma in liberal arts have already done university-level work and should be given credit for it. This program will allow them to transfer into some of U of T's related humanities and social science programs and get credit for their college work."

Under the terms of the agreement, specific transfer credits will be granted based on curricular similarity between U of T courses and those in the Seneca liberal arts diploma program.

"As students make this transition to university, U of T's focus will be to ensure the students' success," says Cheryl Shook, Registrar of Woodsworth College. Students in the program will be affiliated with Woodsworth, which has excellent advising and academic support in place and is well known for its interest in and expertise with non-traditional students. The project will provide advising and orientation to U of T's academic expectations for those students who show an interest in attending U of T early in the Seneca program. Students showing academic promise will also have the opportunity to enroll as non-degree visiting students and take one or two courses in the Faculty of Arts and Science while they are still doing their Seneca program, giving them a head start in meeting U of T program requirements so that they are better prepared to move directly into the more advanced work once they arrive at the university.

25 students will be admitted for the summer session, with the official pilot phase of the program starting in September 2010. The University of Toronto Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough have existing specialized joint programs with Sheridan College and Centennial College respectively, but the Seneca-Arts & Science agreement is a first for U of T's downtown campus.

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Briefly

In sympathy:

Pearl Blackman, a friend to Woodsworth College, passed away on January 2nd. Her husband, Gabe, WDW '85, was a founding member of the Alumni Association of Woodsworth College and in 1989 they established the Gabe & Pearl Blackman award. Our sincerest sympathy to her family.

AAWC Strategic Plan:

The Alumni Association has created a very detailed and well thought out plan to guide them in planning desirable and interesting programming for all the alumni of the college, as well as third and fourth year students. If you would like to view the document, please visit www.wdw.utoronto.ca/alumni

Speed Networking Event for Young Alumni:

On March 11th, Colleen Clarke, career specialist, corporate trainer and author, returned to the College and once again worked her magic and had all the event participants enjoying themselves, while learning everything they need to know about networking. Everyone went away feeling more confident about their ability to network and interact. The reception following was a great opportunity to practise what they had learned. This event was generously sponsored by Meloche-Monnex.



Woodsworth Student featured in U of T Magazine

Read about the research of Woodsworth grad, Krish Chakraborty (BSc 2007 Woodsworth, MSc 2008) in a recent piece in the U of T Magazine. Krish is a graduate student of our Principal, Joe Desloges.




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