The background features a photograph of a multi-story stone building with classical architectural details like columns and decorative window surrounds. The scene is partially obscured by the branches and leaves of trees in autumn, with some leaves showing vibrant orange and yellow. A semi-transparent blue-green geometric overlay is present, creating a modern, layered effect.

Millie Rotman Shime
Academic Bridging Program
Reunion Yearbook
September 27, 2024



PROGRAM BENEFACTORS

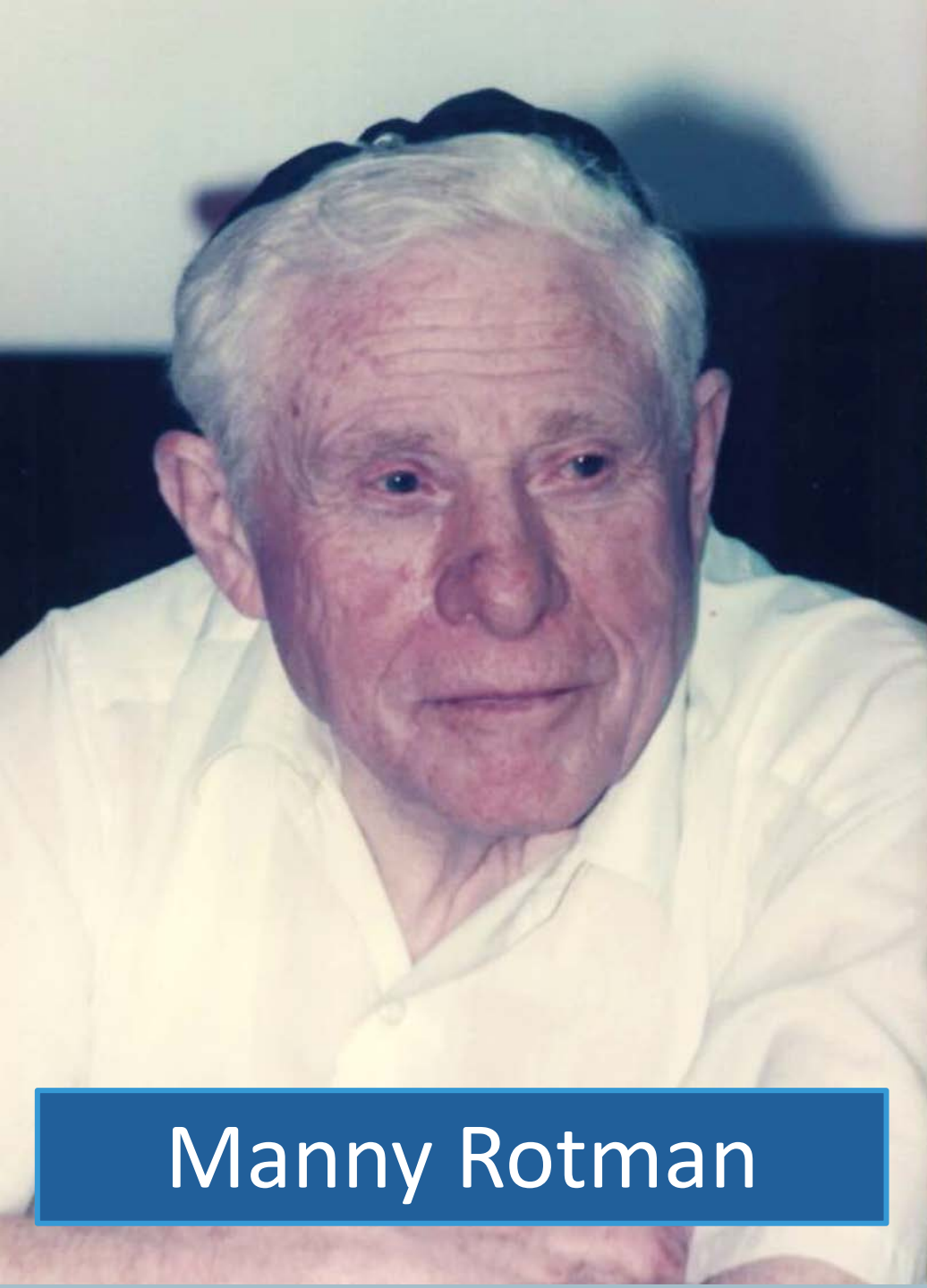
Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program

Beginning as the Pre-University Program for mature students in 1967, the program was renamed in memory of Millie Rotman Shime in 1986 with the generous support of the Rotman family.

Millie Rotman Shime's father, the late **Manny Rotman**, wished to commemorate Millie's memory by helping others who shared her passion for learning.

Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program

In partnership with the University Provost and the Faculty of Arts & Science, the Pre-University program was relaunched as the **Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program** in 2000 as a for credit program.



Manny Rotman

Manny Rotman received his bachelor's degree from Woodsworth College in 1985 at age 76.

Excerpt from *Memoirs* by Manny Rotman:

"I thank Woodsworth and the University of Toronto for providing a second chance to those who for many reasons, did not attend university at the usual age."



Millie Rotman Shime

Millie Rotman Shime was a graduate of the University of Toronto and the Ontario College of Education.

She taught English and History in Toronto high schools and loved learning and teaching. In her short life she exemplified the best that any great University may expect of its alumni.

In the News

A Legacy of Generosity

Millie Rotman Shime Bursary

Through the generosity of Owen Shime, Jennie Cass and friends of the Pre-University Program a number of bursaries will be awarded each year to promising Pre-University students who demonstrate financial need.

Yetta and Philip Wolfish Bursary

Through the generosity of Ruth Wolfish Rotman, one or more bursaries will be awarded each year to promising Pre-University students (or members of Woodsworth College Senior Citizens' Program) who demonstrate financial need.

Lives Lived

MANNY ROTMAN

*Entrepreneur, philanthropist,
community activist. Born March 11,
1909, in Ivansk, Poland; died of a
heart attack in Toronto, on Dec. 27,
1997, aged 88.*

Millie Shime is gone
but her gifts remain.



ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



Graduation day, 2005

Dr. Cindy Sinclair

Pre-U 1999, HBA 2005, MEd 2009, PhD 2017

"I started working at the U of T before Woodsworth College was founded. I passed by it for years hoping that one day I could attend and finally gained courage in 1998. Barry Walker was my Instructor (History). He was amazing. He gave each one of us hope and confidence to move forward into academic studies."

“I was ecstatic to have been accepted into the Academic Bridging Program in 2017. The support I received from the team at Woodsworth and in the program was exceptional. I built up the confidence to learn again and pursue new educational pathways, which has since opened doors and created opportunities I would not have known existed otherwise.

Thanks to all who support this program!”

Meagan White

ABP 2018





**Last day of Dr.
Jon Johnson's
Indigenous
Studies class,
Winter 2019**

**Kathryn
Hawkins**
ABP 2019,
HBA 2024

Candice Ann Juttlah

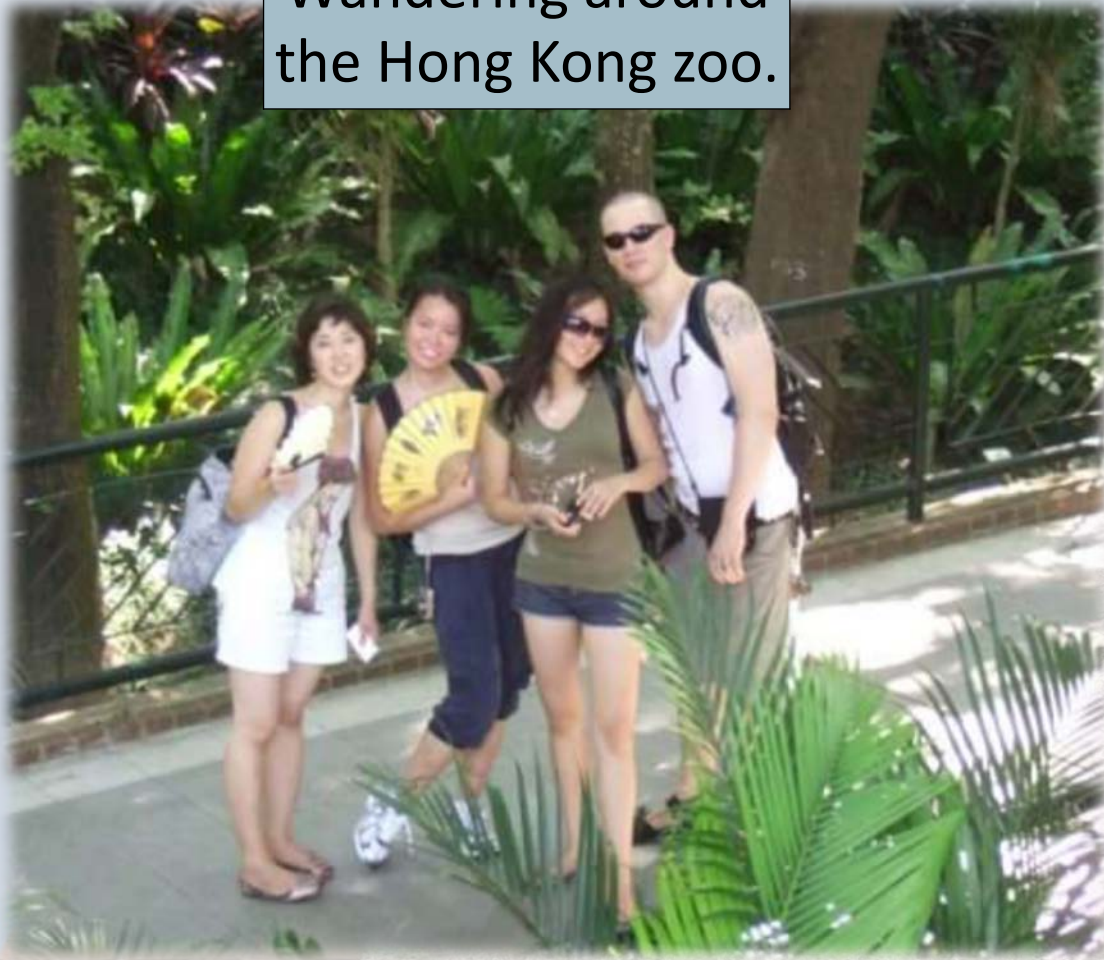
ABP 2021, HBA in progress

"I will always be grateful to this program and University of Toronto as a whole for believing in me to live up to my potential. I always knew I had the qualities to be successful but having access to resources and faculty that could see the best in me helped to show me that I can do anything I set my mind to.

A setback is a set up for a comeback."



Wandering around
the Hong Kong zoo.

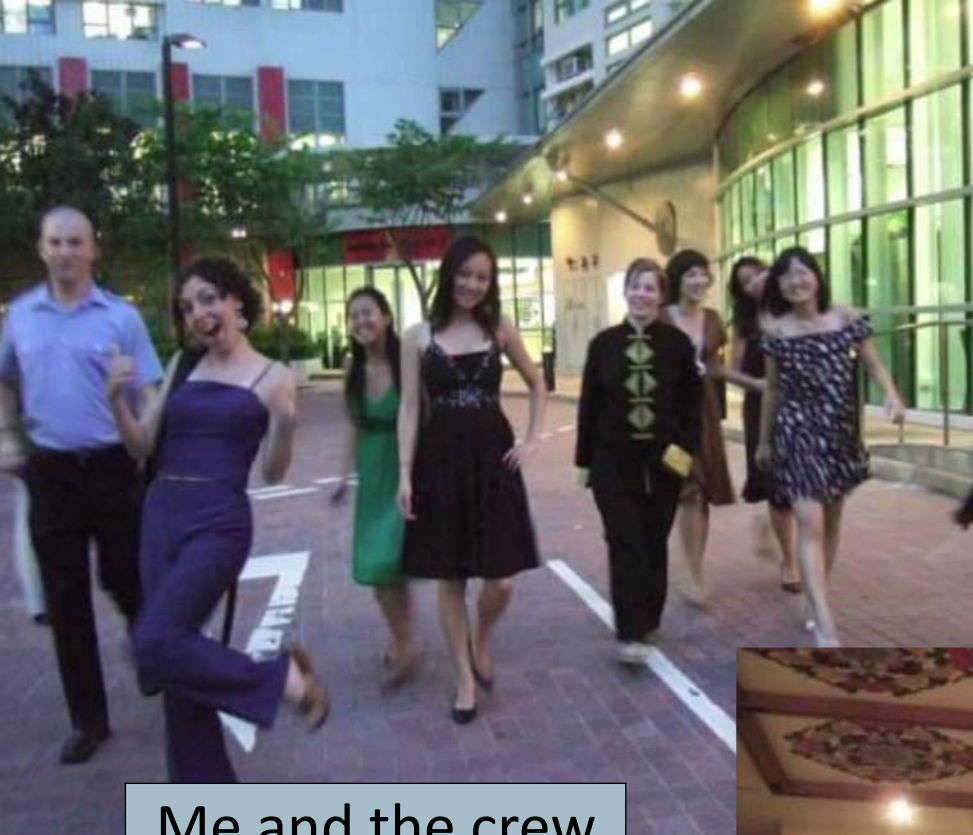


"When I was in Hong Kong [with Woodsworth's Summer Abroad Program in 2007] I wanted to make the most of my time there and see as much as I could. Thanks to the guidance of a few U of T alumni, I spent a weekend on a solo hike and camping trip to the North Hong Kong coast to see the bioluminescent seas. It was one of the most exciting and rewarding journeys of my life."

Mathiaus

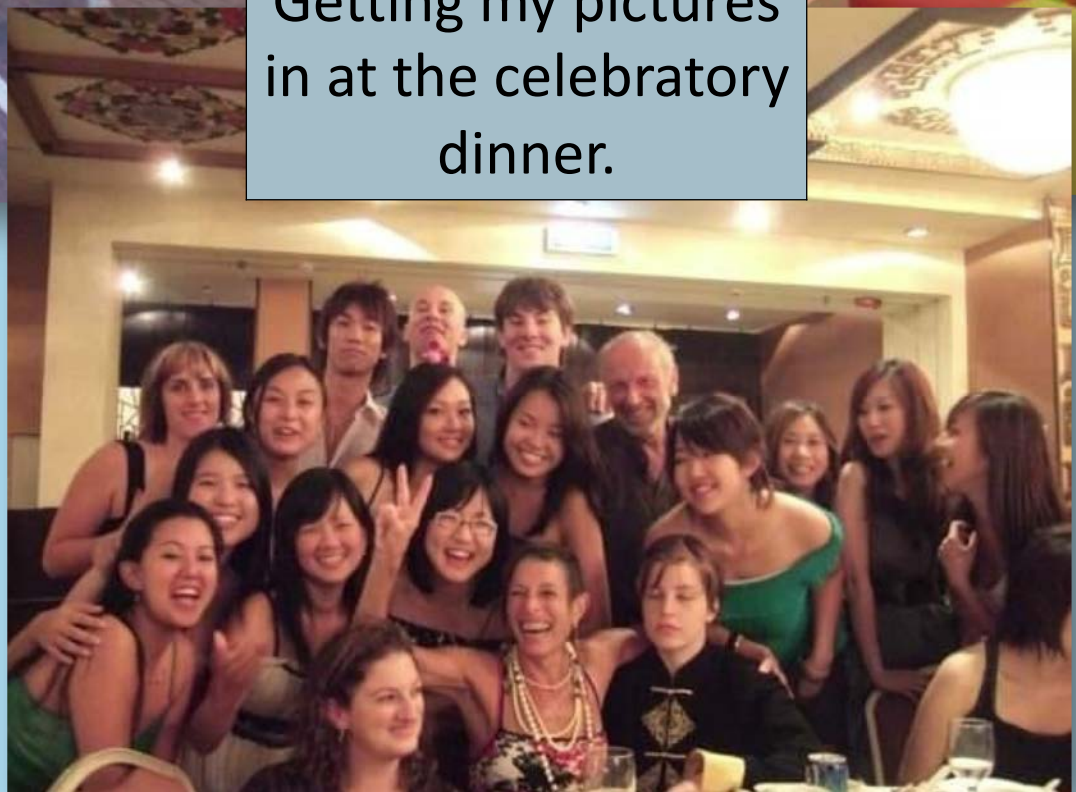
ABP 2005

Mathiaus ABP 2005, Summer Abroad 2007



Me and the crew on our way to the final celebratory dinner.

Getting my pictures in at the celebratory dinner.



Visiting a privileged Hong Kong pre-primary school.

Munira Muzaffer Tayabali

ABP 2002, HBA 2011, MA 2020

"I remember attending a very inspirational orientation session with Prof. J. Barbara Rose who encouraged us to ask questions in class no matter how foolish they sounded, guided us on the ethics of being a good university student, and reinvigorated that passion for learning in us."



A photograph with my closest
classmates



Suguna Sangaranpillai

ABP 2008, HBA 2018

"I took the Contemporary Canada program which was of great impact to my life, especially my profession.

After graduating from the Academic Bridging Program, I completed my degree majoring in Religion and two minors in History and Canadian studies. After that [degree] I received a job offer from the Government of Canada where I always wanted to work."




My graduation photo in 2017



Suguna Sangaranpillai
ABP 2008,
HBA 2018

Photos with ABP
Classmates



A portrait of Jesse Gault, a man with light brown hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, a patterned shirt, and a yellow tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

"It has been some time now since I was in university. Woodsworth College and the rest of the University of Toronto were a refuge for me, as one who wanted little more than to face reality, learn and develop knowledge."

Jesse Gault

ABP 2012, HBA 2019



Kavery Bedar

ABP 2020, HBA 2024



"I can confidently say that the Academic Bridging Program has been the most rewarding experience of my life so far and an invaluable investment towards my academic and professional aspirations. The program has connected me with various supports, fostered confidence in my abilities, and offered a pragmatic path to an exceptional institution like the University of Toronto."

"The Academic Bridging Program was my ticket into the University and to a new life. I cannot emphasize enough how fantastic the community at the College really is.

Not only are the staff and faculty members amazing and driven to provide every opportunity for success but there is tremendous peer support and community at Woodsworth. To someone considering U of T, and especially the Academic Bridging Program, there is a life-changing opportunity available here."

Beau Hayward

ABP 2020, HBA 2024



"My best memory of my time at Woodsworth College is my first one. My peers and I waited in the beautiful brick-lined halls of Woodsworth for our professor, J. Barbara Rose, to come in and unlock the door.

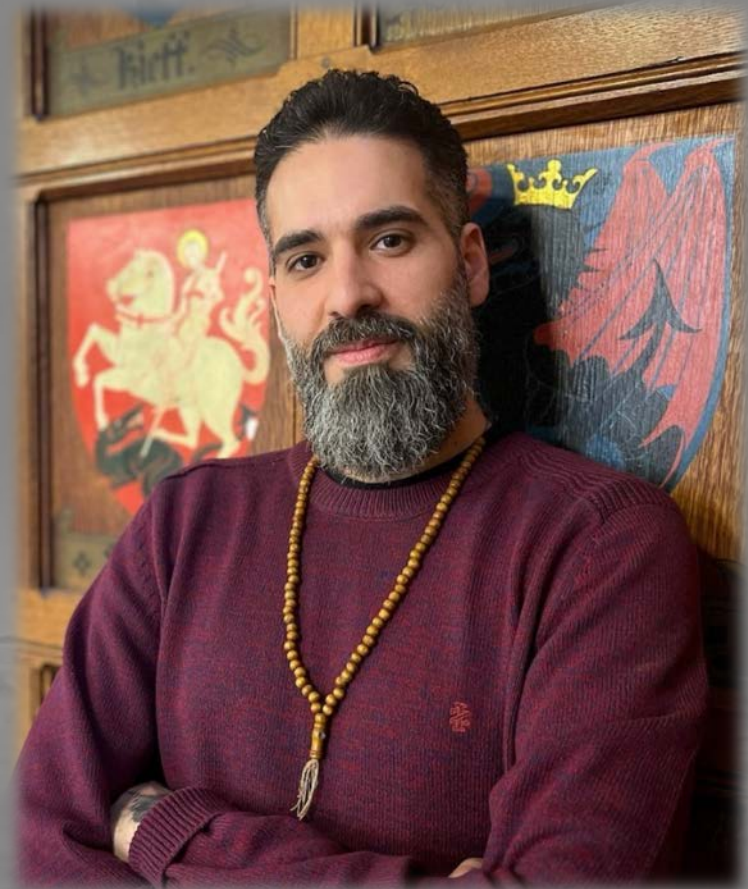
Professor Rose taught us how to read and write like serious students, sure, but she also taught us how to embrace the future and to want better of and for our world. Through that threshold at Woodsworth, I walked into the most serious fever dream imaginable, a life of knowledge and openness, and I cannot go back. I do not want to."



Zak Jones
ABP 2014, HBA 2017,
PhD in progress

Masoud Riyazati

ABP 2017, HBA 2023



"I distinctly recall feeling at ease in the classroom alongside my fellow Academic Bridging classmates. It appeared to me that everyone was understanding and accepting.

Being a student gave me a boost of confidence, making me realize my own capabilities when it comes to studying. I always received support, both financially and with academic advice. The program offers a valuable opportunity for personal transformation."



**Masoud Riyazati:
Hart House
Artist-in-Residence,
2023-2024**



"Entering U of T as an Academic Bridging student, Woodsworth provided an incredibly supportive environment that allowed me to grow and thrive.

The staff and faculty were unfailingly encouraging and generous from my first days as a Bridging student to the moment I received my degree. I felt seen and valued, and I was confident that everyone at Woodsworth was genuinely committed to my success."

Aaron Rath

ABP 2022, HBA 2006, JD 2009



"All the people who managed Woodsworth's Academic Bridging Program were very pleasant to work with and very caring about everyone who went through the program. They support you through the whole process and they know there's a number of reasons why people need this type of program. They just want you to succeed."

Eugene Choi

ABP 2006, HBA 2012, MBA 2019

Dennis Donohoe

Pre-University Program, BA 1975, BEd 1979



"Donohoe enrolled and began his higher education journey [in the Pre-University program]. He went on to earn two bachelor's degrees at U of T, a master's degree in educational administration at Brock University, and several Ministry of Education specialty certificates. Education became tantamount to Donohoe's personal identity."

- Coby Zucker (Arts & Science News)

"I always wanted to go to university, but a high school counsellor told me I wasn't cut out for it, which was devastating.

But much later, the right time came up...I did the Academic Bridging Program, and it was an amazing experience. I think it set me up with the skills I needed to succeed: it's the gold standard in teaching. So much of what I learned in that year got me through my degree further on."



Bethany Mally

ABP 2016, HBA 2022,
MFA in progress



Andrea Johns

ABP 2016, HBA 2021

"I grew up in poverty and witnessed first hand the transformative power of education. After years in the service industry, I took the leap and enrolled in the Academic Bridging Program. As the first in my family to graduate with a post-secondary degree, I now work at the University of Toronto!

I was initially hesitant about applying for Academic Bridging, but I discovered abundant support systems and avenues for success."



Faraz Khoshbakhtian

ABP 2015, HBSc 2020,
PhD in progress

"I will always remember my Bridging professor Tom Socknat because he helped me get on my feet academically. Plus, he encouraged me to work hard on my English to make sure it was university-level.

The Academic Bridging Program was a lifesaver. I had no other way of getting into university, and it made it possible for me to attend and find a future for myself. It was a really good program, and I couldn't have done it without its financial assistance."

Brad Dalglish

ABP 2015, HBSc 2021

"Quickly in my class, we formed a community and I was blown away by the diversity of Academic Bridging students. Many had worked for numerous years and brought that experience into their academic studies which I believe is a big strength.

The program changed the trajectory of my life. In one course, I moved from a high school dropout to attending one of the greatest universities in Canada."





David Lee Chung

ABP 2018

"After a 30 year break from school, the first essay was the most challenging...It was like going swimming after a long, long time.

I don't think there's an age limit for learning. The Academic Bridging Program has opened up my horizons and it's been the best decision I've made in my life."

Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Scholarship 2019 Recipients

Ifrah Farah
ABP 2015, HBA 2019,
JD 2022



Faraz Khoshbakhtian,
ABP 2015, HBSc 2020,
PhD in progress

Amy Kirk-Jemmett
ABP 2013, HBA 2019,
PhD in progress



Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Scholarship 2020 Recipients



Andrea Johns
ABP 2016, HBA 2021



Melissa McDonald
ABP 2016, HBA 2020



Jennifer Simpson
ABP 2010, HBA 2020

Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Scholarship 2022 Recipients



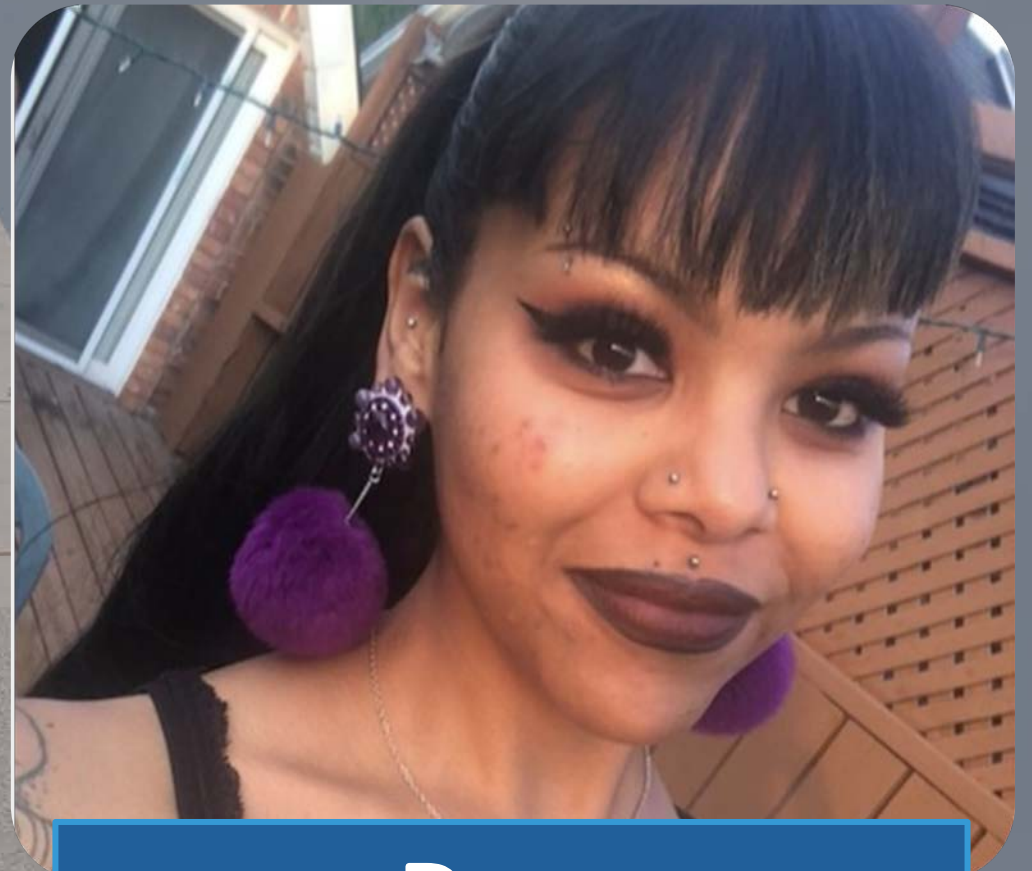
Mike Allison
Leadership Scholarship
ABP 2017, HBSc 2022



Nicole Wesley
Leadership Scholarship
ABP 2018, HBA 2022

"The Academic Bridging program was awesome and made me feel like a legitimate university student. The program makes you feel like you're not 'behind' in life/school.

Due to the strong sense of community and the self-confidence I gained from my time in the program, I have been able to continue some of those friendships, which have even led to the revitalization of the Indigenous Students' Association with one of my fellow Academic Bridging Program peers."



Devo

Moosewaypayo

**ABP 2021, HBA in progress
Fish Clan leader, Indigenous
Students' Association**



Stephanie

ABP 2016, HBA in progress

"The Academic Bridging Program support systems are incredible, the enthusiasm and passion of the faculty and admin team is electric and contagious, and the words and stories of Bridging alumni are so inspiring and motivating.

Since completing the program, I have more confidence in myself as a thinker and a doer, and I now know I am capable of so much more than I ever thought. I have the program to thank for this life-changing experience."

"I worked in construction Monday to Friday while maintaining a part-time job on the side, grinding it out seven days a week. I had a lightbulb moment and the Academic Bridging Program seemed to be a viable pathway in turning my life around.

I would definitely recommend the program to anyone who is contemplating the idea of one day acquiring a university degree, who may not have the prerequisites to get accepted through traditional methods. "



**Michael
Figueiredo**

**ABP 2004, HBA 2009,
MEd 2024**



MaryJo O'Connor

ABP 2023, HBA in progress

"Prior to coming to U of T, I had spent my teenage years in professional ballet training. I hadn't done high school in a conventional way and my hopes of pursuing a university degree were slim.

When the world tells you there's only one valid way of doing things, the Academic Bridging Program showed me that there are many others."

"I got to meet a lot of different people with different experiences. I think there was a mutual understanding and appreciation of what Bridging meant to us. It was an environment where my questions were taken seriously and I wasn't worried about making a fool out of myself.

Bridging gave me the basis for everything that came after. I would not have been in university without Bridging, let alone completed my HBA and MA at U of T."

Alexander Kritikopoulos

ABP 2011, HBA 2015, MA 2018





Stacy Nakamura

ABP 2019, HBA 2024

"I can hardly believe how far I've come. The Academic Bridging Program has been a pivotal stepping stone on this challenging path. It has proved to be a vital resource, providing me with the necessary tools and qualifications to succeed in a university-level environment.

I am immensely grateful for the opportunities it has provided me and the doors it has opened along the way."

"I always wondered what a University experience would feel like. Never in a million years did I think that I would get myself here, but here I am!

Halina Jakowenko

ABP 2023, HBA in progress

There are so many moments when I am in a lecture and think about how fortunate I feel. To think, it all started with that first curious email I sent to Academic Bridging."





Heather Woo

ABP 2022, HBA in progress

"I was a recently single mother who was working full-time and needed a change; my job was stagnant with no ability to grow without a significant education bump.

Bridging prepared me for university academics. It was vital in the program to be taught how to deal with different professorial teaching styles, grading schemes, and class sizes. I would 100% recommend the Academic Bridging Program."

Amy

ABP 2013, HBA 2019, PhD in progress

"I'm not exaggerating when I say that the Academic Bridging Program changed the course of my life. The program gave me a sense of what to expect moving forward with post-secondary and the confidence to try. It opened up a world that I didn't think I could access because of my previous struggles in school and financial instability."





Julia Baskin

ABP 2022, HBA in progress

"Without the Academic Bridging Program, I might have never returned to Academia. For those standing at life's intersections, contemplating a shift into the academic world from diverse backgrounds, I cannot recommend this program enough. It reaffirms that the pursuit of knowledge and personal development knows no age boundaries or prior experiences, and there's always a pathway available to connect you to your academic aspirations."

"If not for the Bridging program at Woodsworth, I would still be wondering what my potential could be. The infrastructure of support through encouragement, funding and academic excellence was something I never believed possible.

All the professors are amazing but Cheryl Shook renewed my faith in education. My whole life changed for the better and my kids learned it's never too late to invest in yourself."



Rebecca Russo

ABP 2021, HBA in progress



Kieran Rice

ABP 2021, HBA in progress


"My experience with the Academic Bridging Program was an overwhelmingly positive one. I found that the program gently eased me into my bachelor's degree and gave me an impression of what I could expect in Academia. My teacher was excellent, patient and went out of his way to help me get acclimatized to the University of Toronto. I write this on the off chance there is even one potential student reading this who is considering returning to school through the Academic Bridging Program...You can do it!"

"My experiences in the Academic Bridging Program were nothing but positive! It is a safe space in which one is able to expand on both academic and personal levels. The support I received from the program, Woodsworth College, and – most importantly – my peers, will have an everlasting impact.

The Academic Bridging Program is built on a strong community foundation. Everyone around you is rooting for your success and the resources available to you are bountiful."



Janelle
ABP 2022



Pre-University Program (1990s)

In the News



Miracles happen at Woodsworth College

■ HAVE YOUR SAY

THE TORONTO STAR Sunday, February 14, 1999 C11

Former shy guy blossoms, thanks to course



**Stephanie
Woodside**

Single Parent Group



June Straker, Academic Counsellor, back row third from left.

Celebration of Single Parent Group's 5th Anniversary

The Woodsworth Environment

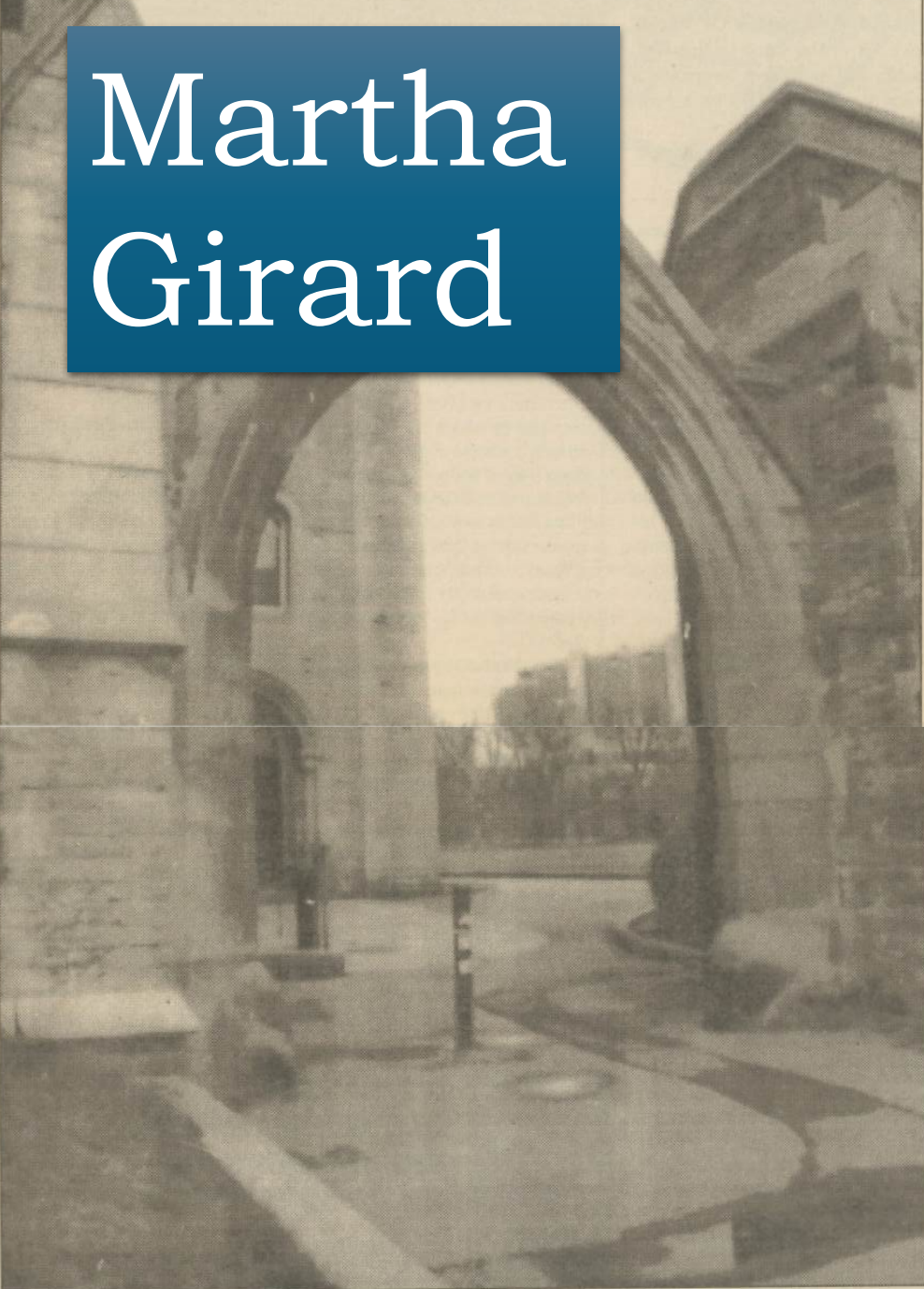
by Stephanie Woodside, Class of 9T8



College. In particular that space has, for me, included participation in the Woodsworth College Single Parent Group. This group was started by academic counsellor June Straker who, in 1993, began to question how the many single parents she saw coming through her office could be better

served by the College. This questioning led to the establishment of the Single Parent Group early in 1994. I am sure I speak for my colleagues in that group in acknowledging our gratitude to June, as well as to the College and the Woodsworth College Students' Association, for providing us with this useful forum. As

Martha Girard



A Stone Archway leads students through their years at U of T.

Part timers beware There is a light at end of tunnel!

By Martha Girard

Take it from me. I'm a fourth year Arts and Science student with two children, and I have been traveling through that long dark tunnel for six years and today, I can happily say the end is in sight. When I began my pre-university programme at Woodsworth College in September 1990, I did not have a direction in mind. I only knew that I had the intelligence and desire to obtain a professional designation.

Although the scholastic goal is the most important thing of all, you don't have to give up other interests while trying to obtain it.

For one 23-year-old, the road from violence to peace advocate



SARAH HAMPSON
THE INTERVIEW
shampson@globeandmail.com

» Great Idea!

U of T Bridging the Gap

for Adult Students With Insufficient
Entrance Requirements

by Winnie Wong-Nicholson

In the
News

CAREER CONNECTION JOBS
CAREERS • CAREER TRAINING • EMPLOYMENT FEATURE

10 Questions For The Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program

Window *on* Woodsworth

Volume 14 • Number 2 | Spring 2001

CHECK OUR WEB SITE @
<http://www.utoronto.ca/woods>

ACADEMIC BRIDGING SUCCESS STORY: *"Unfocused" teen went on to earn FIVE university degrees*

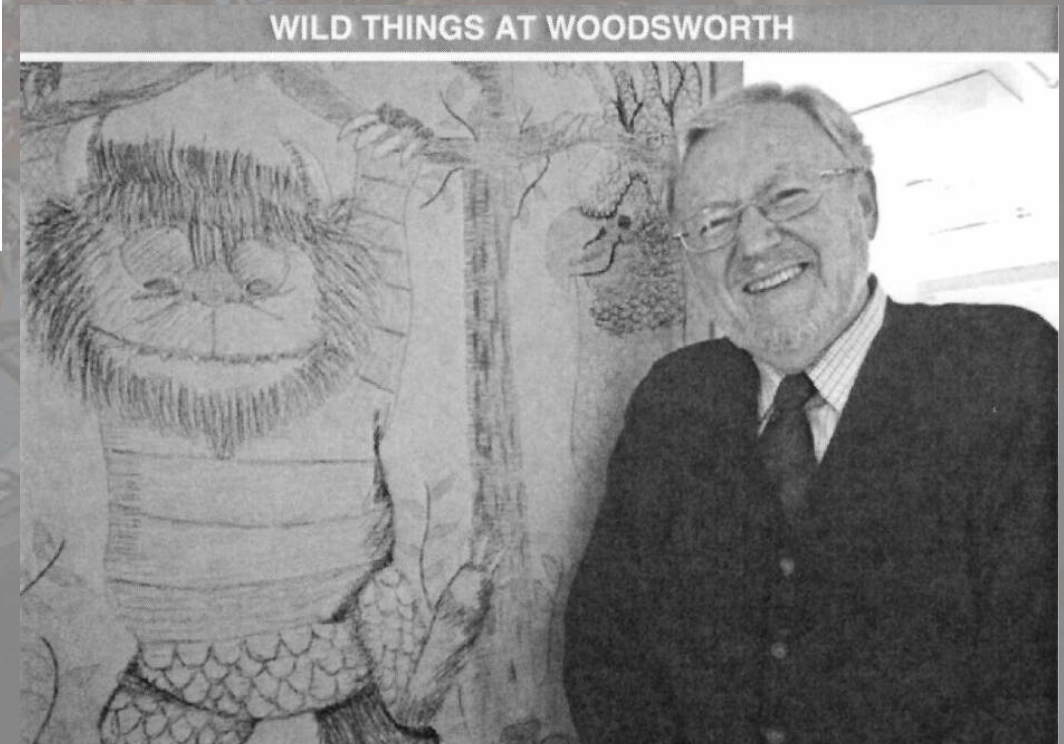
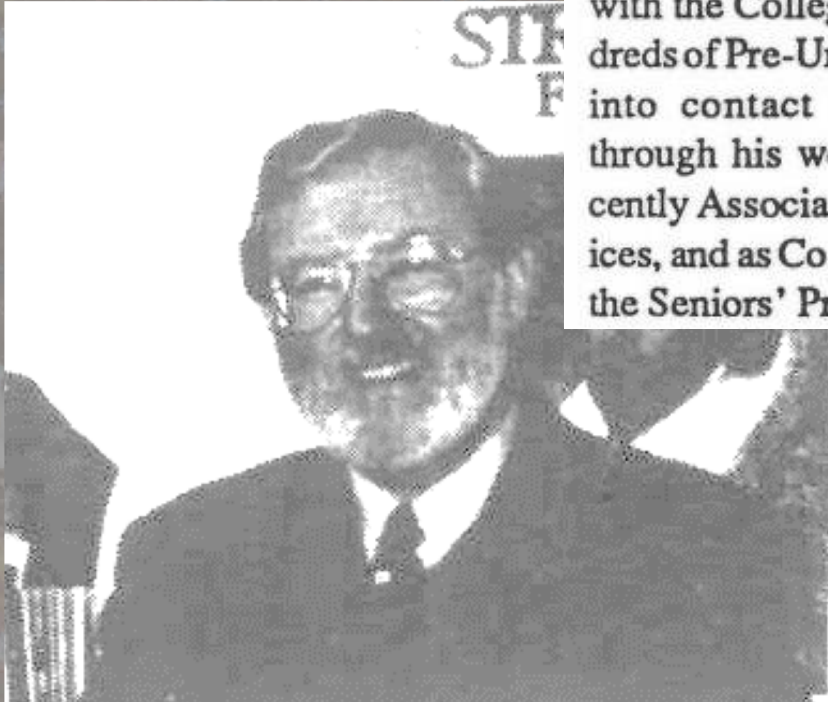
With the encouragement of his sister, Michael enrolled in the Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program (then known as the Pre-University Program), taking the four-month Canadian Studies course, taught by **Dr. Eleanor Morgan** (now retired). The Program is designed to enable mature students who are at least 20 years of age to qualify for admission to Degree programs at the University of Toronto. "I was so thrilled to be there. I actually couldn't believe it. My high-school grades were nothing to write home about and here I was attending one of the most prestigious universities in the world. I guess that all I needed was the opportunity.



Michael Cross

Dr. David Nimmo

In David Nimmo's fourteen-year association with the College, he has not only taught hundreds of Pre-University students, but has come into contact with many hundreds more through his work as Director (and more recently Associate Registrar) of Students' Services, and as Co-ordinator (from 1978-1988) of the Seniors' Programme. In the last couple of



Professor Emeritus David Nimmo of Woodsworth College's academic bridging program has one of the liveliest office doors on campus. As gateway to the former home of the Margaret Fletcher Daycare, it features creatures from Maurice Sendak's children's classic, *Where the Wild Things Are*, now a popular movie.

■ HAVE YOUR SAY

Former shy guy blossoms, thanks to course



SURPRISE MEETING: Mark McCue, left, had a fan in the audience at his graduation ceremony — John Gefucia, who urged him to take the speaking course in the first place.

Oct. 28, 1998, Night Six: In six weeks I, and the other members of the Christopher course, have grown in faith, courage and enthusiasm — faith in ourselves and our capabilities, courage to stand in front of a small group of new friends and talk about our lives, and enthusiasm, as seen from our smiles and heard from our clear, and increasingly confident, tones.

Mark McCue

Miracles happen at Woodsworth College

“Woodsworth offered exceptional support to mature students,” Woodside says.

“The scholarship and bursary funds and the single parent support group enabled me to do four years of study without losing my mind.”

Another example of a successful Woodsworth graduate is Victoria Higgins. She quit high school after Grade 12 and returned five years later to take the pre-university course at Woodsworth. Then, despite clinical depression and the diagnosis and treatment for a complex medical condition, Higgins continued towards her degree and maintained a solid ‘A’ average. In fact, she recently received the Peter F. Bronfman Woodsworth Gold Scholarship.

Sunday Sun,
April 1999

The Woody

The Student Newspaper at Woodsworth College, University of Toronto

Pre-U grads honoured at Hart House

By: Heather Chan



Pre-University graduates celebrate at the Garden Party at Hart House


Photos: Heather Chan

meaning to my life” she says when asked why she decided to enrol in the Pre-U Program. “The three hours every week were an escape from family and business life” Woodiwiss fondly remembers listening to lectures by Dr. Nimmo, whom she found to be an inspiring instructor. Woodiwiss will be enrolling in the Humanities stream in the fall, working towards a degree in Lit-

A recipient of one of the 10 “Book Box” Scholarships, Margaret Woodiwiss, is grateful for the Pre-U experience. “I was looking for something to give

wanted to go to University al-

Margaret Woodiwiss

The background of the slide features a photograph of a multi-story brick building with ornate architectural details, including columns and decorative carvings. The building is partially obscured by the branches and leaves of trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text is centered over the image.

Academic Bridging Program (2000s)

"Without the scholarship, I wouldn't have had such a life-changing experience," she says. "I came back a new person." It also gave her a new career direction. Born in Africa, Rahma plans one day to return to her home continent to teach. She's also organizing an AIDS fundraiser with the African Students Association.

"I'm thankful for the scholarship and hope it continues," she says. "Because of this experience, I have learned how needed I am on my continent."



**Rabea
Mohammad**

Quote
discussing
Peter F.
Bronfman
Bursary



David Coker

During the past three years, I have had the immense privilege of being a part of the University's Peace and Conflict Studies Program. During this period, I have carried out a critical reflection on the causes of the civil war in Sierra Leone. One observation I have made is that, contrary to popular belief, the civil war in Sierra Leone was not an imported carnage from neighbouring countries. Rather it is a consequence of the socio-economic barriers imposed upon members of marginalized ethnic groups.

Brookfield
Bronfman
Scholarship Award
Winner 2007

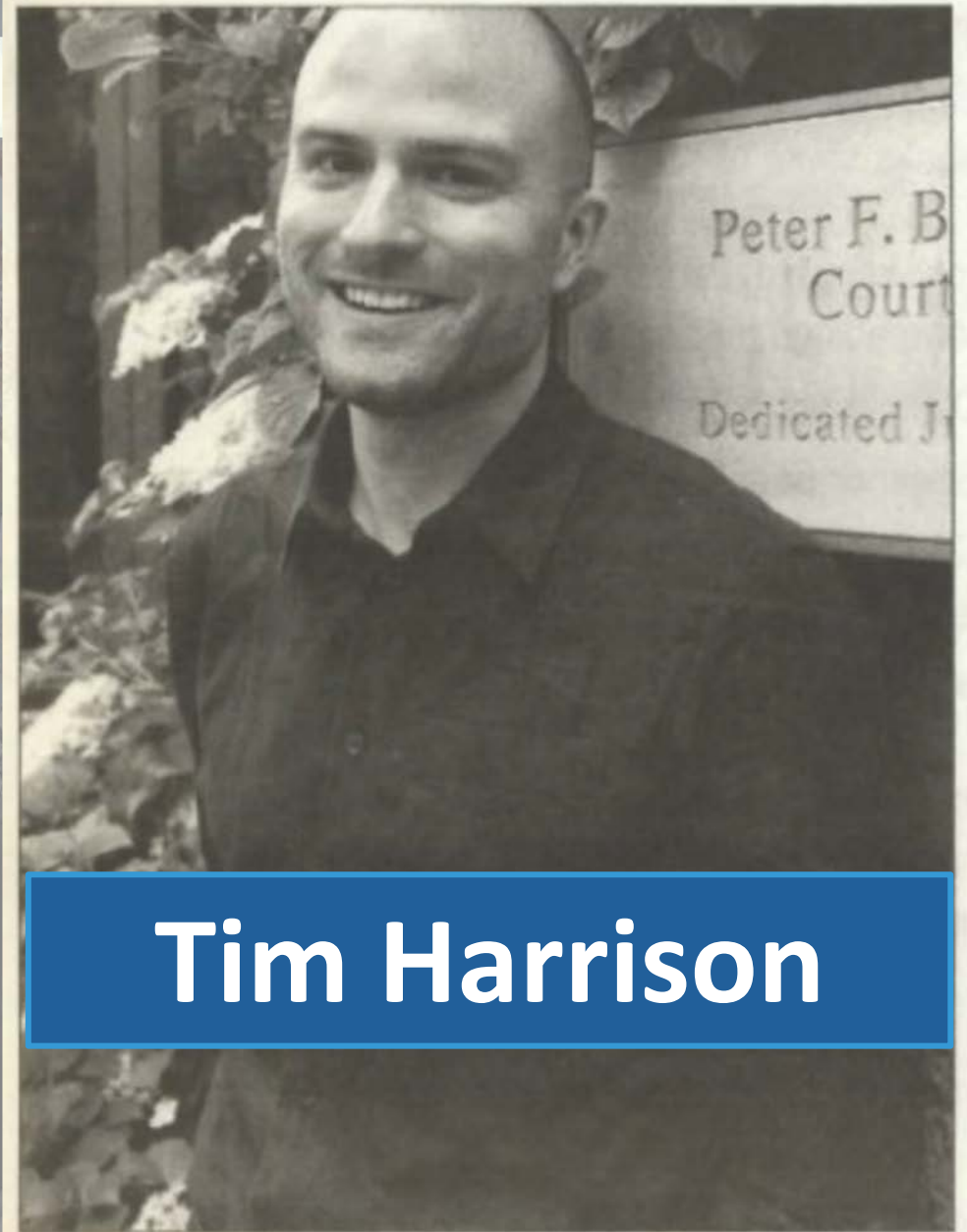
***Window on Woodsworth,
Spring 2007***

PhD candidate got his start in bridging program

The Bulletin
June 24, 2008

He credits the tremendous support he received from faculty and staff at Woodsworth for his continuing success. “Especially at the writing centre,” he said, “**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.”



Tim Harrison

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

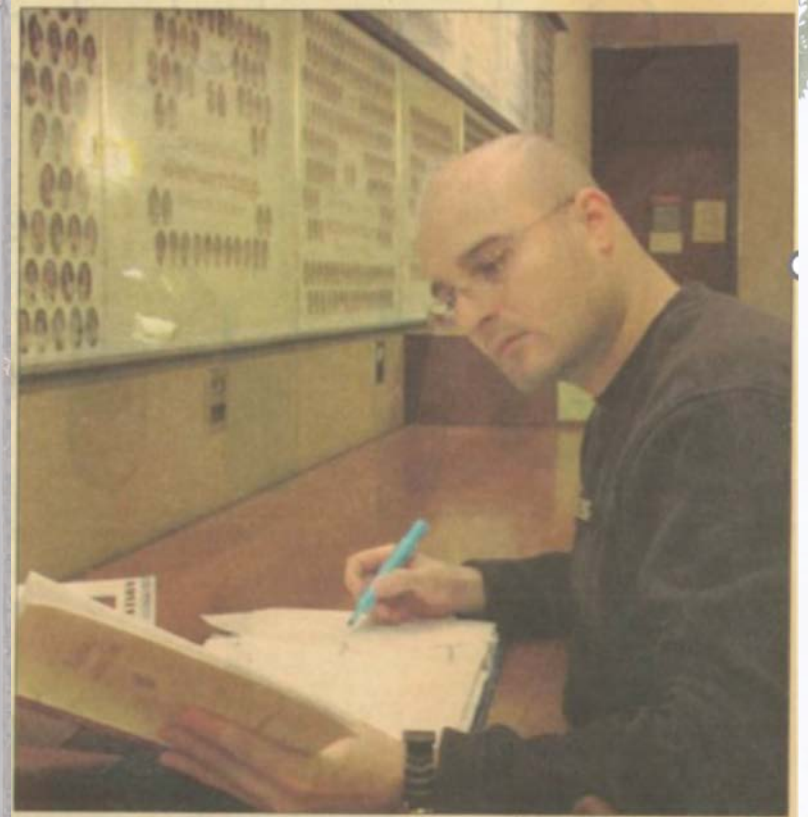
Woodsworth graduate proud of rising to challenge

Kelly-Anne Downs



DIANA MCNALLY

Kelly Ann Downs came to U of T as part of Woodsworth College's academic bridging program and graduates as a member of the dean's list.



COURTESY OF THE ACADEMIC BRIDGING PROGRAM

Zoltan Fekete

Program bridges gap

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

News@UofT -- Student Life

Find this story on the web at: <http://www.news.utoronto.ca/bin6/061107-2709.asp>

Rodeo rider feels at home at Woodsworth College Woodsworth: A multi-generational community

Nov 7/06

by Michah Rynor



Tyler Hough



U ofT student Kris Newman is off to the NFL Pro Bowl after winning a Canadian tournament.

Kris Newman

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO NEWS@UofT

News@UofT -- Student Life

Find this story on the web at: <http://www.news.utoronto.ca/bin6/070125-2903.asp>

Woodsworth College student a master of the 'Madden challenge' Football video game champion wins first Canadian Madden tournament

Jan 25/07

by W.D. Lighthall