

# Michener

M A G A Z I N E

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## Proud Moments in Michener's History

Breaking New Ground • Creating a Virtual Reality Practice Makes Perfect • Staying a Step Ahead

# PROUD MOMENTS AT MICHENER

From the Guest Editor, Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO, The Michener Institute



Guillaume Hervé, President, CAE Healthcare, the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Dr. Paul Gamble, President & CEO, The Michener Institute, together at Michener's 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner, November 2008

With our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year behind us, I recognize upon reflection that there is a lot to be proud of. And not only about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, but for many of the other milestones Michener has accomplished in the past few years.

Last year's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations were truly exceptional. The Michener community pulled

together to organize a year of amazing events. The signature event of the year was the Gala, which raised just over \$25,000 for Michener's Scholarships and Bursaries Fund, and brought out the Honourable David Caplan from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), along with over 400 other guests who helped us to celebrate.

Minister Caplan was also on hand in April 2009 for the simulated groundbreaking of Phase I of our Capital Development Project, featuring the *CAE/Michener Centre for the Advancement of Simulation in Healthcare*, and the official launch of 'The Campaign for Michener: *Stronger. Smarter. Better.*' The MOHLTC has shown support for Michener by partially

funding the Phase I construction, adding to the lead Campaign gift we received from CAE, Canada's leading aviation simulation company. When the Phase I renovations are finished, Michener will possess a truly state-of-the-art simulation/assessment centre.

Our strategic alliance will have CAE drawing from their extensive background in aviation simulation to collaborate on health sciences curriculum for Michener programs. The curriculum will have a strong base in interprofessional collaboration (IPC) and the students will gain a great deal of practical experience working with other soon-to-be health care professionals in a simulated environment.

In addition to CAE, new alliances for Michener also include Health Canada, GE Healthcare and Vertual Ltd. Those alliances add to the many others Michener has made in the recent past, including IMPAC, Cryos Technologies, Sorin Group and CMS.

Michener has also made new academic partners recently. In the past year Michener has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Toronto (UofT), the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of

Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), and Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Jaipur, India. These MOUs will see Michener further expanding its curriculum to educate more allied health professionals in Canada, and around the world.

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Michener's recent string of MOUs is in part because we are at the forefront of education in IPC. Michener laid the path with the introduction of the IPC classes in the summer simulation semester in 2008. The IPC classes consist of students from different disciplines working together to achieve the common

goal of better patient care and safety. The IPC education our students are receiving will prepare them for the future of health care and make them well-rounded professionals.

In 2009, Michener was honoured for the second time as a Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Top Employer. The recognition has changed from a Top 50 in 2008, to a Top 75 in 2009 to make way for all the great employers in the GTA. Michener is very proud to be part of this list of excellent employers in the GTA.

Michener's most recent new endeavour was participating in Doors Open Toronto for the first time. In May 2009, Michener opened its doors to the public to educate them on what we do, who we are, and what we teach. The event was a great success; almost 800 people left the building with a better understanding of the connection between "that big building on St. Patrick" and the community they live in.

This is only a snapshot of the many amazing things that have been achieved at Michener in the last year. I know there is much to come, and I look forward to our further collective accomplishments in the years to come.

# THE PROFESSION OF CHIROPODY

## gets a prescription for change



Keeping patients comfortably on their feet is the life's work of a chiropractor. And given recent developments in the profession, it seems even foot care specialists are taking major leaps forward.

In fall 2008, an amendment was made to the Chiropractic Act of 1991, giving chiropractors and podiatrists the legislative right to prescribe certain groups of oral medication. The new law is a step in the right direction, says Meera Narenthiran, a faculty member in Michener's Chiropractic Department.

"In our practice, we see people with different issues, such as diabetic

ulcers and ankle sprains," she explains. "Before, we were able to provide foot care through palliative, orthotic and therapeutic, including physical therapy modalities, but we couldn't prescribe oral medication.

"So, if a patient needed an antibiotic, we had to send them back to their primary physician to get the prescription. It was very frustrating for the patient, as it meant having to wait for an appointment. If the patient did not have a family doctor, they visited the emergency departments, and contributed to the overcrowding and long wait times."

To ensure all chiropractors

in Ontario possess the necessary training to write prescriptions for oral medication, Michener will offer a bridging program for continuing education students this fall. The Institute is also looking to expand its pharmacology course for full-time chiropractic students.

On that note, Michener's Chiropractic program is the only English-speaking initiative of its kind in Canada. Enrolment in the three-year, full-time program is restricted to those who hold a bachelor's degree from a recognized university. In the past, alumni earned a Graduate Advanced Diploma in Chiropractic

at the completion of their studies. Starting with the class of 2009, however, graduates will receive a new credential: a Graduate Advanced Diploma in Podiatric Medicine. In order to understand the rationale for the switch, a brief history lesson is needed.

Chiropractors, along with podiatrists, have long offered foot care services in Ontario. Traditionally, the former group received training in the United Kingdom (which followed a chiropractic model of education and care), while the latter completed their education in the United States (which followed a podiatric model).

By the late 1970s, though, demand for regulated foot care professionals was on the rise in the province. In response, the Ontario government officially adopted the U.K.'s model of chiropractic. Podiatrists who, at that point, were already working in the field were permitted to register as a special class of primary care practitioners with the College of Chiropractors of Ontario. After 1993, a cap was placed on new podiatrists as a means of promoting the development of the chiropractic profession in the province.

Fast-forward to the present day: the term "podiatry" has gained widespread acceptance among the general public. At the same time, Ontario has become the only jurisdiction in the world that continues to use "chiropractic" as a professional designation.

It's within this context that Michener's Board of Governors approved the new diploma title last winter. The decision, which followed considerable consultation with faculty, students, alumni and profession

associations, was made to accurately reflect the current range of chiropractic practice and curriculum. The bottom line: even though graduates will hold a diploma in podiatric medicine, they will still be able to register and work as chiropractors in the province.

"This is a significant milestone in the evolution of the profession of chiropractic and podiatry in Canada," says Stephen Hartman, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Federation of Podiatric Medicine (CFPM), which represents chiropractors and podiatrists across the country.

**"We're showing that podiatrists and chiropractors can work together toward a unified goal"**

"Every day, we are faced with questions from the public about the terms chiropractic and podiatry in Canada. This confusion takes away from the importance of foot care," says Hartman. "The name change will reduce this confusion and help the public recognize qualified foot specialists in Canada."

Over the past couple of years, the Chiropractic Department has expanded and includes a diversity of qualified individuals. They include American-educated foot specialists Adrian Dobrowski, Cesar Mendez and Tony Merendino, and chiropractor

Sarah Robinson. Each one has added immeasurably to the existing strong complement of Michener Chiropractic faculty members, consisting of Jean Beeho, Christine Burton, Deborah Loundes, Meera Narenthiran and Diane Tyczynski.

"We're showing that podiatrists and chiropractors can work together toward a unified goal – keeping the profession current," says Beeho. "Our students are seeing this collaboration and the value it provides, not just in our program, but also in real-world practice."

That type of experiential learning is emphasized throughout the Chiropractic program. For example, in addition to their clinical placements, students now have the unique opportunity to practice their skills – with faculty supervision – at a busy urban health centre. Opened in 2007, the Michener Chiropractic Clinic is situated within the Sherbourne Health Centre in downtown Toronto.

"The location of the foot clinic enables students to reach out to, and work with, a diverse population of patients, including homeless people," says Chiropractic faculty member Christine Burton. "Patients receive care they may not otherwise be able to access, and students obtain experience that they may not be able to obtain in a traditional setting."

It's about enhancing student learning, says Beeho. "We will teach a topic in class one day, and the next day in clinic, reinforce the practical application."

— Dana Yates

# looking back at the

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING WEEKEND

## HOMECOMING PUB NIGHT

Friday, November 21, 2008

As Kool and the Gang would say, "There's a party goin' on right here!" Fun and frolic at pub night were just the things to kick off Homecoming 2008. The event was modeled after the Open House pub nights from the 90s, where students and faculty mingled and shared a few laughs over a pint or two. The Michener cafeteria was converted into a funky lounge for the occasion.

Over 90 alumni, students, current and former faculty and staff were treated to delicious range of pub fare, great music by Michener's favourite DJ, Shawn Dunbar, and a complimentary "light-up" glass. A mini silent auction raised \$1,200 to benefit student scholarships and bursaries. Old class photos brought back memories and alumni shared stories from the past.



## HOMECOMING BRUNCH

Saturday, November 22, 2008

Michener alumni held a reunion brunch on Saturday morning in Schatz Hall lounge. They were greeted by students and staff, welcomed by Alumni Board Chair, Christine Nielsen and President and CEO, Dr. Paul Gamble, and enjoyed brunch while listening to live music provided by the Nawlins Jazz Band. Guests were treated to a tour of the eleventh floor of Michener, the newest teaching and learning spaces such as the MRI/CT/Ultrasound Diagnostic Suite, the Learning Resource Centre and its current resources/service offerings, and the Transformational Gallery containing detailed plans of Michener's \$69 million renovation project to transform our facilities into a 21<sup>st</sup> century team-based learning campus.



## HOMECOMING GALA

Saturday, November 22, 2008

It was a night to remember. The sold-out event had 450 Michener alumni, clinical educators, corporate partners, staff and students celebrate Michener's 50<sup>th</sup> in a grand style at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre hotel. Over \$25,000 was raised for the Scholarship and Bursaries Fund through the glittering silent auction featuring 58 amazing items/experiences to bid on, and through raffle ticket sales. Also available for sale was *The First 50 Years: A History of Michener from 1958 to 2008*, written by Dr. Colin J. Stone (retired Michener employee) and Martha Tuff (archivist).

The evening featured Comedian James Cunningham as Master of Ceremonies, who kept the evening lively with his humour. Guests enjoyed

a three-course dinner and dined to a performance by the Juno-nominated Elizabeth Shepherd Trio. Later, guests danced the night away with Michener's favorite DJ, Shawn Dunbar. The evening held many wonderful moments featuring special guests including the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Diana Michener Schatz, founder and the first Executive Director of the Michener Institute, who received two standing ovations. Completing the evening was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala video, a fun photo booth experience and gift bag filled with variety of items for guests. For more photos from Michener's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary visit [www.michener.ca/50th/gala.php](http://www.michener.ca/50th/gala.php).

— By Iliana Arapis & Wudasia Efreem, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Co-chairs

