

McMaster Review

McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S MONTHLY NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4



As one of many health and safety activities taking place at the University, director of Risk Management Services Ron Angus tests the sound quality of the McMaster University Student Centre.

inside

- New MSU president ready to take the reigns
- Mac on track for health and safety
- Solving the mysteries of blood transfusion allergies
- MSU Teaching Award winners
- Treasures of the McMaster archives

Health and Safety - on track at Mac

What do nutrition workshops, air quality, massage therapy, chemical storage, and speed bumps all have in common? They are all key elements to health and safety initiatives taking place across campus.

McMaster residence manager and certified fitness specialist Rose Bilicic can't wait to begin leading this year's noontime walking club, a free outdoor exercise regimen for the University community organized by Employee Health Services. Dave Stevens, a longtime carpenter in Physical Plant, knows plenty about using a five-point harness for overhead work but as "safety man" for his 250-strong department, he plans to attend a seminar on fall arrest systems even if only to set a good example for co-workers. In her downtown office, human resources administrator Wanda McKenna is interviewing candidates for a "return to work" specialist to round out McMaster's team of practitioners in Employee Work-life

Support Services. Over in the Faculty of Health Sciences, Nancy Clark juggles her job of testing industrial hygiene samples with her duties on both the Faculty joint health and safety committee and a central committee formed some 18 months ago as an umbrella for a dozen such joint committees around campus. Whew. Talk to Clark about these and other occupational health and safety initiatives at McMaster and she says: "What gets me excited is that there are people working toward getting health and safety on track and that we're moving toward a healthier workplace rather than just trying to prevent injuries."

For the full story, see pages 4-5.

McMaster
University



7 April 2003

NEWEST RESEARCH CHAIRS

McMaster's newest Canada Research Chairs will study advances in biotechnology to improve papermaking chemicals and mathematical logic.

Chemical engineering professor Robert Pelton has been named a Canada Research Chair in Interfacial Technologies. His appointment is worth \$200,000 a year for seven years and is renewable. The second new chairholder is mathematics professor Patrick Speissegger, who comes to McMaster June 1 from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. His award is worth \$100,000 a year for five years and can be renewed once.

McMaster now has 37 Canada Research Chairs.

STUDENTS REWARD TEACHERS

The McMaster Students Union teaching awards were presented recently in the categories of faculty, merit and lifetime achievement.

The faculty winners were Gary Warner, Marshall Beier, John S. Preston, John Lavis, Anna Moro, Lynn Martin, James Rice, Nick Bontis, Tracy Vaillancourt and Digby Sale. Merit awards are given to support teachers in their first or second year at McMaster who have already made a significant contribution to the community. This year's recipients are Alexandre Sevigny and Tracy Vaillancourt. Lifetime Teaching Achievement Awards were presented to Graeme MacQueen and Alan Harrison.

BUILDING INCLUSIVENESS

Issues of diversity, inclusion and equity will gain a higher profile at McMaster with the recent establishment of a presidential advisory committee.

University President Peter George created the President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community as part of his and McMaster's commitment to a community that celebrates, fosters and respects diversity.

The committee will act as an advisory body to the President on a variety of issues.

GRANTING OPPORTUNITIES

Three more up-and-coming McMaster researchers are the latest recipients of the Canada Foundation for Innovation's New Opportunities Funding program.

A total of \$434,448 will provide world-class labs and facilities for the newly recruited faculty members to undertake leading-edge research in their first full-time academic appointment.

McMaster's recipients are Paulin Coulibaly, assistant professor jointly in geography & geology and civil engineering, was awarded \$207,490; Geoff Werstuck, assistant professor of medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences, was awarded \$132,719; and Yiping Guo, assistant professor of civil engineering, received \$94,239.

FOR THE BIRDS

New research by McMaster University PhD student Alex Ophir shows that female quails that initially weren't interested in a particular male quail have their interest piqued by watching a short video of that quail frolic with another female. Ophir used 30 male and 30 female 52-day-old Japanese quail in the study. His research was published in the journal *Animal Behaviour*.

He said possible next steps in using computers for bird research could be to make the sequences interactive, modify video images to see what is important in a complex visual stimulus, or to investigate the cognitive processes in avian species.

These stories are excerpted from the McMaster Daily News Web site.

For additional details or to read other McMaster news, visit <http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca>

MSU TEACHING AWARD WINNERS

Some of McMaster's most respected faculty members were honoured on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 at the annual MSU Teaching Awards at the McMaster University Student Centre.

Each semester, McMaster undergraduate students have the opportunity to nominate two professors in each faculty. Nominations are narrowed to the top two nominees for each department. Evaluation forms completed by classes of students determine the final selection. The winner is the teacher with the highest ranking on these forms.

The 2002-2003 winners were named in three categories: Faculty Awards, Merit Awards and Lifetime Teaching Awards.

The Faculty Winners are:

Dr. Gary A. Warner, arts & science; **Dr. Marshall Beier**, social sciences; **Dr. John S. Preston**, engineering; **Dr. John Lavis**, health science; **Dr. Anna L. Moro**, humanities; **Dr. Lynn Martin**, nursing; **Dr. James J. Rice**, social work; **Dr. Nick Bontis**, business; **Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt**, psychology; **Dr. Digby Sale**, kinesiology.

Merit Awards are given to professors who have been teaching at McMaster for two years or less, and have already made a significant contribution to the University community. They must demonstrate outstanding teaching ability, dedication and innovation.

The 2002-2003 Merit Award recipients are: Dr. Alexandre Sevigny, communication studies programme; **Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt**, psychology.

Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented to instructors who have taught at McMaster University for at least ten years,

have been nominated for an MSU Teaching Award in the past and are soon leaving the school, or planning to retire. This award recognizes the significant contribution by an instructor to the McMaster community due to their proven years of outstanding teaching as well as their overall contribution to academia. There is usually only one Lifetime Achievement Award recipient each year, but this year there were two outstanding nominees so both were presented with the award. They are acknowledged for their exceptional teaching ability, ability to inspire interest and generate enthusiasm among their students, and contribute to effective course and curriculum development.

The 2002-2003 Lifetime Teaching Achievement Awards were presented to:

Dr. Graeme MacQueen, religious studies; **Dr. Alan Harrison**, dean, social sciences.

"Teaching is an art and McMaster and our students are fortunate to have some of the very best teachers from whom they can learn," said President Peter George at the MSU Teaching Awards ceremony. "Each faculty member brings a special expertise, dedication and inspiration to their profession and to each of their students. Their gift is how they inspire others to learn and challenge, and become better people as a result. For students, this means a chance to learn the essential elements of their chosen field while developing a passion for discovery. This sets them on a track of lifelong learning and helping build stronger partnerships, professions and communities."

Campus Eye

McMaster Review

Volume 2, Number 3 • March 10, 2003

Published by:
Office of Public Relations
Room 111, Chester New Hall
McMaster University
1280 Main St., W.
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4L9

Fax: 905-521-1504
E-mail: review@mcmaster.ca

The *Review* is published monthly (except July) for faculty, staff and students at McMaster University.

The editor reserves the right to limit, select, edit and position submitted copy and advertisements. Views expressed in the *Review* do not necessarily reflect University policy.

Comments and letters should be sent to:
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Deadlines: All art and ads are due on the first Friday of every month in the month preceding publication. **Publication dates:** May 5, June 2, Aug. 5, Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 8

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Student Profile

He lives and breathes student life

Student president Neville Boney takes the reigns May 1

BY: CHANTALL VAN RAAY

It was exceptionally quiet in his room. Hours had passed since the last student shoved a ballot into a voting box or checked off one the seven candidates' names online.

After months of campaigning, Neville Boney could do nothing but wait. It wouldn't be long until he would find out if he would assume the very big responsibility of McMaster Students Union (MSU) president at one of the most monumental times in university history - the year of the double cohort.

At 2 a.m. rolled around, Boney had the same sinking feeling he did two years earlier when he lost the 2001/02 MSU presidential election to Sam Minniti. Then the phone rang. "Neville, we have a bit of an issue with tabulating the votes." The feeling sunk deeper. "Maybe you should come in." Silence. "We're just kidding Neville. You won! You won!"

Since that unforgettable night, Boney has had barely a second to let it sink in. But he knows he is becoming president at a crucial time in university history, when twice as many high school students are seeking entrance into university.

"The double cohort is sort of a big blink in a trend of more students going to university," he says. "We have some huge changes in terms of space and location and we really need to ensure that we don't go off track."

Neville, 25, was born in Grenada, and at age 10 moved to Oakville with his parents and six younger brothers. Since coming to McMaster in 1997, he has developed a passion for the University. Now, with a kinesiology degree behind him, working on a second degree in French and with experience as MSU vice-president administration, he has a lot of ideas as to how to make McMaster a better place.

Making the new student centre more student focused is one. "I want to address seating in the student centre. At lunchtime you walk around and there are people just sitting in the hallways and on the ground because all of the seats are taken up," he says. "Having some practical furniture, I think, is the first step to making sure that the student centre is a student centre."

Engaging more women in student politics is another. "Why hasn't there been a female MSU president in 15 years," he asks. "That is quite disgusting and shocking and I made that an election

issue because I wanted to raise it to the students and make sure they are aware."

The absence of a female president is not just a coincidence, he says. "It has to be something that we're doing within the University that prevents women from seeking this position. There were seven candidates last year and not one of them was a female."

Improving the Hamilton community is also on his list. "We need to make Hamilton more like Hamilton instead of trying to make Hamilton like Toronto," he says. "We have a number of students graduating every year. Why not try to keep them here?"



STAYING IN TOUCH WITH STUDENTS IS ESSENTIAL, HE FEELS.

"YOU NEED TO REMAIN IN TUNE WITH WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A STUDENT, BECAUSE IF YOU LOSE TOUCH WITH THAT THEN YOU CAN'T NECESSARILY ADVOCATE ON THEIR BEHALF."

To do that, students' needs should be addressed, he says. "If you want students to stick around, you need to treat them well while they're here. You need to make sure they don't watch full street buses drive

past them and you need to make sure they're not taken advantage of when they are out looking for a house," he says. "I had the displeasure of having to look for a house a couple of years ago and some of the places that people wanted to rent to me for \$300 were terrible."

Yes, Boney has a lot on his plate. He knows that. But how does he feel about it? So far, so good, he says, with a grin that fills the room. "Being the president-elect is quite cool."

Boney will take the reigns from Evan Mackintosh May 1, and for now is learning the ropes, meeting

with people, doing lunch.

"I have been waiting for this for such a long time," he says. While he hadn't intended to run for the position until the beginning of this year, he's glad he did.

But who is Neville, aside from the politics? "I'd love to tell you that Neville loves to read and Neville loves to watch the news," he laughs. But when it comes down to it, Neville is a typical student.

And like many students, he knows how to have fun. "It's not something that changes because of where I am now. When I do go out Thursday nights it's to have a fun time, not to think about when my paper is due. I know how to focus on things at appropriate times."

Staying in touch with students is essential, he feels. "You need to remain in tune with what it's like to be a student, because if you lose touch with that then you can't necessarily advocate on their behalf."

That's why student leaders are not paid a lot of money, he says. "If you're getting paid a lot of money and working full time it takes you out of the student environment."

Boney lives and breathes student life. "I understand what it's like to be tight on cash; I understand what it's like to have to wait for the bus or live on campus," he says.

And to make that experience even more real, he plans to take a couple of classes next year. "It will allow me to keep in touch with other students; understand what it's like to have a paper due that you haven't started working on for whatever reason. If you maintain that mentality, then it's a lot easier to see in the end where you need to go. Even if you don't have a chance to talk to students, you are like them, so you understand their perspective on things. Being a student is essential to the job."



Second-year honours arts student Brianne Forrest is fitted and surrounded by safety gear while working on a project in a Togo Salmon Hall art lab.

Karen Belaire, vice-president administration, who oversees the administrative structure for a wide range of occupational health and safety issues around campus is very pleased to see the interest and enthusiasm for such initiatives. "We're seeing a heightened awareness and greater attention being placed on occupational health and safety," says Belaire. "The responsibility rests with everyone to help implement these initiatives and make sure the workplace is safe." How? A key initiative is the recently formed Central Joint Health and Safety Committee - an information clearinghouse for health and safety issues and initiatives on campus.

The Central Joint Health and Safety Committee includes 20 members who are chairs and co-chairs from joint health and safety committees within McMaster's Faculties and main administrative units across campus (see list below). Within their respective areas, these groups address many of the traditional occupational health and safety issues from training and loss prevention, to environmental issues like air quality, to government regulations and compliance issues.

But with more than 125 employees on the joint committees, health and safety now encompasses lots of new faces from across campus. "The Central Committee represents unions, faculty and management from all areas. It's the only group on campus that draws from all areas of the University," says Nancy Clark. And it's not only the faces around the committee tables that have changed. The entire face

of health and safety itself looks different today from recent years. Fire drills and chem-lab safety are only part of the story on a busy, modern-day university campus. Says Simon Ouellet, director of human resources operations, "There are many industries within the campus. We're affected by many regulations, more than many other employers. We have a nuclear reactor on site." Comparing the campus to the hospital environment in which she worked as an administrator before arriving at McMaster, Belaire adds: "The diversity of activity makes it challenging. It means you have to have appropriate processes and policies for each area and activity throughout the University."

Writing those processes and policies lies with Ron Angus, manager of risk management services. For the past two years, he has been developing and updating some 75 health and safety policies around campus - a process that he figures will take another two to three years to complete. He began with high-risk initiatives such as asbestos removal and transportation issues around campus. In late March, the Central Joint Health and Safety Committee submitted to senior management new policies on environmental health and safety, and head and foot protection. Whatever the policy topic, says Angus, "our major focus is to ensure worker safety. Secondary is to demonstrate due diligence." As a measure of McMaster's success, the University has received annual premium rebates for the past few years, based on improved claims experience, from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

Health and Safety

BY ANDREW VOWLES

Besides writing policy, Angus's department also responds to day-to-day concerns, including calls about insurance or indemnification, claims involving the WSIB and queries from employees, and students about anything from transient odours in workspaces to air quality throughout entire buildings. Addressing those latter issues involves many of the 250 employees in Physical Plant in maintaining roofs, floors, windows, and electrical and mechanical systems. One major project has seen the department improving mechanical systems in one building after another, particularly the air handling systems that pump fresh air into workspaces. Another ongoing task is asbestos removal, carried out as other projects yield access to pertinent areas of buildings.

Even a seemingly innocuous project like installing speed bumps reflects heightened attention to the larger issue of transportation. Accommodating more people on a growing, busy campus and integrating pedestrians, cyclists and motorists safely is the point of a current review of signage and "way-finding" tools. Not to mention the increased traffic brought by construction vehicles at several campus locations. Those construction projects bring increased traffic, but they also bring a whole new contingent of construction trades whose welfare also falls under Physical Plant.

For employees of Physical Plant, training officer Sheila Rieth and Dave Stevens co-chair the Physical Plant joint health and safety committee. Among numerous other responsibilities, they arrange visits from health and safety instructors to talk about everything from fall prevention and arrest, to transportation of hazardous goods, to safe practices for working with electrical and steam systems around campus.

Besides risk management, Ouellet's office also oversees another function that reflects heightened attention to the health side of the health and safety equation. "The best way to minimize exposure to work-related accidents and absences is obviously to have a safer, healthier workforce," he says. "An employer of choice will have prevention strategies to ensure that employees are healthy and have a safe and healthy work environment, and to encourage safe and healthy lifestyles."

— on track at Mac

Last fall, his department introduced Employee Work-life Support Services (EWSS), a suite of services that he describes as four pillars: prevention, absence management, attendance management, and return to work. This new area is part of the Working at McMaster initiative, which grew out of the Directions strategic planning process and is being further revised during the Refining Directions exercise. A key pillar is prevention, which includes accident prevention strategies, new employee wellness programs, and a popular “lunch-and-learn” series on health and wellness topics. Occupational Health and Safety Week coming up in mid-May will be marked at McMaster with a series of presentations and information sessions.

Besides looking after the University’s benefit plans, Wanda McKenna with the Human Resources, Benefits office, helps employees with attendance and absence problems and looks for ways to accommodate people returning to work more quickly after injury or illness. Research shows that if an employee is absent for six or more months, the likelihood of their returning to work is only about 20 per cent. To gauge the effectiveness of return to work programs, McKenna’s area tracks pertinent indicators such as frequency of return to work, lost-time accidents, absenteeism or participation in preventive activities.

Many of those activities focus on Employee Health Services (EHS), part of the campus health services office (along with Student Health Services) in the McMaster University Student Centre. Debra Earl, employee health education nurse, says her department just completed a series of lunch-hour workshops to introduce practitioners – reflexology, massage therapy, deep muscle relaxation, meditation and chiropractic – who will offer their services one or two days a week in conjunction with the sports injury clinic in the Ivor Wynne Centre. “Part-time they will provide those services in our space as a more central location than the Ivor Wynne Centre,” says Earl. She has also organized noon-hour nutrition talks on campus and downtown, and is bringing back the lunchtime walking club that was introduced last year. That group will be headed again by Rose Bilicic, who happened to learn of the new initiative last spring, during her routine checkup with the EHS physician. In typical energetic fashion, Bilicic jumped. “I said, ‘I’m all over that.’”

Whether it’s a group of employees turning their lunch hour into a fitness break, or a lab technician working with certified equipment, or a carpenter double-checking his safety harness before a job, Belaire says health and safety runs across all areas of campus and involves all staff, faculty and students. In one sense, it’s a never-ending process. In another



Mary Jo Smith, left, and Mary Bruni, research technologists in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, participated in a recent lunchtime nutrition workshop, one of a variety of healthy living sessions co-ordinated by Employee Health Services.

McMaster’s Central Joint Health and Safety Committee was established about 18 months ago as a liaison between senior administration and many long-standing joint health and safety committees at the University. The latter groups bring together approximately 150 employees from Faculties, departments and areas around campus, as follows:

- Faculty of Science
- Information Technology Services
- Commons Administration
- Faculty of Engineering
- Arts Quad
- Physical Plant
- Hospitality Services
- Athletics and Recreation
- Downtown Centre
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Libraries
- School of Business
- Affiliated committees also exist at the McMaster Nuclear Reactor and the Henderson Research Centre.

sense, she says, “I’ll know we’re there when anybody I go to on campus can explain what the safety elements are in their area, and when employees applaud the University for its workplace environment. One thing is for sure: We’ve just scratched the surface of where we want to go with health and safety initiatives at McMaster. There’s a lot more to come.” ■

For the full listing of McMaster’s health and safety committees checkout the risk management website at:
www.mcmaster.ca/riskmanagement/jhsclist.pdf

Refining Directions



Three more public consultation sessions for McMaster's new strategic plan were held in March. President Peter George and provost Ken Norrie updated those who attended on the latest developments in the Refining Directions process. The Steering Committee has now presented a draft report for review. The report can be found online at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/pres/refining.html>. Comments are welcomed and can be sent by email to refining@mcmaster.ca.

How Are We Doing? The Review Wants to Hear From You!

The *McMaster Review* is approaching the first anniversary of its publication. We would like to hear from you. We invite you to send your comments, suggestions and ideas about the stories and photographs that have appeared to date. Please e-mail us at: review@mcmaster.ca

We will also be conducting a survey shortly to gauge reader feedback on this new publication. Feedback will be incorporated into future publication developments. A focus of this new publication has been on providing more information on emerging issues at McMaster. Over the past year we have featured stories on the following topics: faculty renewal, double cohort, parking, student volunteerism and commitment to community, campus construction and expansion, improving the workplace, research and innovation, the new student centre, and our campus plan.

Your views are important to us. We look forward to hearing from you!

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PIANO SALE!

The School of the Arts at McMaster University is replacing some of its stock pianos. Through an agreement with Kawai Canada Music Ltd. the School of the Arts is hosting a sale of pianos on campus.

More than 50 pianos will be available including grands, uprights and digitals in many sizes and finishes. Brand names include: KAWAI, YAMAHA and WEBER as well as many others. Some are new, some less than one year old and others have been professionally refurbished.



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GRANDS • DIGITALS • UPRIGHTS

Solving the mysteries of blood transfusion allergies

Nancy Heddle's award winning research

BY ANDREW VOWLES

Improving patient care by solving a decades-old blood transfusion allergy mystery was one career highlight for Prof. Nancy Heddle. That work, along with her other research projects in blood transfusions and blood products, led to another career high early this year when the professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the Transfusion Research Program at McMaster received the 2002 Premier's Award of Excellence.

Heddle was one of six recipients of this year's award presented by Ontario Premier Ernie Eves at a Toronto reception held Feb. 24. The annual awards recognize career success and community contributions of college graduates. Her award was in the Health Sciences category.

"It was absolutely wonderful," says Heddle, a 1969 graduate of the Medical Laboratory Technology Program at Mohawk College. She received a medal and certificate as well as a \$5,000 bursary to be presented to the college. "I was excited, and honoured that I had been chosen."

Her earlier work helped to solve a 30-year-old puzzle about why almost four out of 10 patients suffered allergic reactions when receiving blood transfusions. She published a paper in 1994 in the New England Journal of Medicine that showed how to prevent allergic reactions by separating plasma from blood platelets before transfusing them or by removing white cells before storing blood products.

Routine use of special filters to remove white cells before storage means that now only about 1-2 per cent of patients suffers an allergic reaction. "That was a major impact," says Heddle. "People like Nancy don't come along every day. She's somebody who's really made a difference. The fact that what she does saves lives makes her stand out above the crowd," says Rose Charmee, manager, alumni relations, for Mohawk College.

The college nominated graduates in four categories this year among a total of 83 nominations from all colleges across the province. This was the fifth award for Mohawk and the first in the health sciences category.

Looking ahead, Heddle now hopes to land another award – this time in the form of funding for a proposed database that would track blood products collected and used throughout the province. No such central information bank exists right now, although individual hospitals keep track of their use of blood products.

"The province has no idea where blood prod-

ucts are or what they're used for," says Heddle. She says the Krever report on HIV/AIDS infection found that it had been a nightmarish task to track down blood donors and recipients through individual hospitals during the 1980s.

Having been turned down for funding this year from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, she hopes to obtain money from the Ontario Ministry of Health to begin the project through a handful of



Nancy Heddle, Associate Professor with Pathology and Molecular Medicine is one of six Ontario recipients of the 2002 Premiers Award of Excellence.

hospitals, beginning with Hamilton and London. Ideally, the proposed utilization database – called TRUST, or Transfusion Registry for Utilization, Surveillance and Tracking – would be the beginning of a provincial or even national bank of comprehensive information about every transfusion.

Knowing more about where and how blood is being used would help the ministry better control costs, she says, not to mention allowing health authorities to act more quickly in the event of another viral or blood-borne disease outbreak.

"Canadian Blood Services is very interested in working with us," she says, explaining that the agency needs to refine its forecasts for demand for blood products.

Individual hospitals might use such a database to better compare use of blood products for such surgeries as hip replacements and identify inefficiencies.

Having large databases tied to health outcomes also benefits transfusion medicine researchers such as Heddle, whose work links clinical issues with public policy. She studies transfusion practices in hematology and oncology patients, including allergic reactions; lab practices, including the use of standards in transfusions; and how to improve the workings of hospital transfusion committees.

Although every hospital is supposed to have a transfusion committee – another Krever recommendation – a recent survey she undertook found that only about half of Ontario's hospitals follow that practice. "We're hoping through the research group to make it much easier to form these committees," particularly for small hospitals that typically lack transfusion expertise.

Heddle has been working in Hamilton since 1975, beginning in the transfusion medicine service initially for Chedoke McMaster Hospitals, then for Hamilton Health Sciences. In 1999, she became manager of transfusion medicine for the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program.

Two years later, she joined McMaster as director of the new Transfusion Research Program, a joint initiative involving McMaster and Canadian Blood Services. "For 20 to 25 years, McMaster has probably had the key people in Canada who have been leaders in transfusion medicine," she says, referring to work by Prof. John Kelton, now vice-president of the Faculty of Health Science.

In 1992, Heddle completed a master's in health research methodology through the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

She belongs to a group of researchers called BEST (Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusions), which is part of the International Society of Blood Transfusion.

Although she studied in Hamilton more than three decades ago, she says it was mostly by accident that she landed work here.

Among her early stints after graduating from Mohawk, she volunteered at the New York Blood Centre, where she worked with one of the most prominent transfusion specialists then in the United States (she had followed her husband, Dr. Stewart Heddle, a plastic surgeon then training in New York).

It was during their subsequent stint in Iran, where her husband worked at a hospital in Tehran, that she received a life-changing telegram. "I got a job at McMaster while I was a lady of leisure in Iran."

Impressive finds in McMaster Archives

BY JULIA THOMSON

Where can you find the biggest names in literature all under one roof? The William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections, at McMaster University.

That's right. The basement of Mills library, home to 120,000-125,000 books and more than 3 kilometres of archival material, is one of the premier resources of primary literature for the Humanities and the Social Sciences in Canada.

Carl Spadoni, Research Collections Librarian, feels that the true value of the collection lies in how it allows scholars to work directly with primary materials. "You can get these books in the stacks, but to get the whole story of a text [or an author], you have to come to the archives."

Pierre Berton

Pierre Berton, over his more than 60-year career, has been an author, broadcaster and journalist. He served as managing editor at Maclean's and as a columnist and associate editor at the Toronto Star. He has also enjoyed careers in radio and television. Berton's many books have helped to popularize Canadian history for mass audiences.

Since 1974, Berton has made twelve donations to the Archives and Research Collections at Mills Library. The archives include manuscripts, research materials, artwork, photographs, newspapers, news columns, news clippings, maps, speeches, and correspondence. In 1992, the library acquired some early family correspondence, juvenilia, and journals that give valuable insight into the writer behind the words.

Austin Clarke

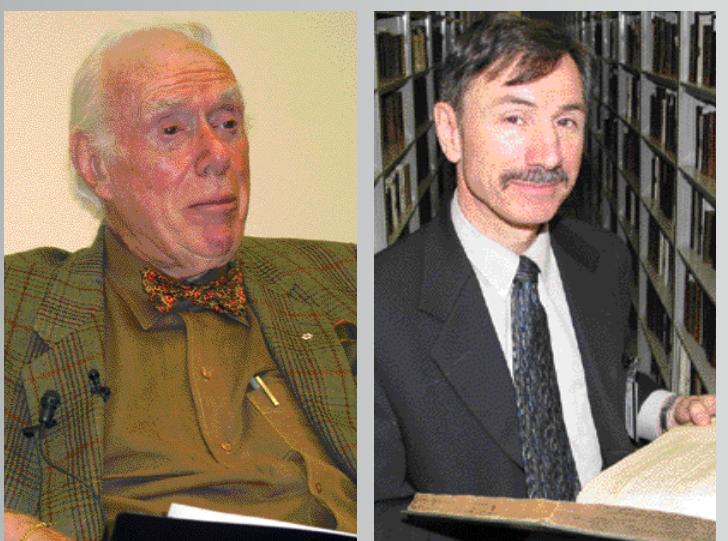
Austin Clarke, author of *The Polished Hoe* and winner of this year's Giller Prize, was born in Barbados and immigrated to Canada in 1956. His interest in writing began early in life, and in the 1960s his short stories began to be published. Clarke's stories and novels primarily centre around the plight of the immigrant West Indian in Canada. Clarke was the inaugural recipient of The Rogers Communications Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for his semi-autobiographical novel *The Origin of Waves*, published in 1997.

Archival material provided to McMaster by Clarke includes eight donations totalling 22.5 m of textual records, 46 black and white photographs, approximately 820 colour photographs, manu-

scripts and an assortment of audio tapes.

Margaret Laurence

Margaret Laurence is the renowned author of several novels, many of who's manuscripts, including *The Stone Angel* (1964), *A Jest of God* (1966), *Long Drums and Cannons* (1966), *The Fire Dwellers* (1969), *A Bird in the House* (1970), *The Diviners* (1974) and *Heart of a Stranger* (1976), are



Left: Pierre Berton provided a reading of his newest book *The Joy of Writing* at McMaster on March 10, 2003. Right: Carl Spadoni, Research Collections Librarian at Mills Memorial Library.

catalogued at Mills Library. An audio cassette, record, and reel-to-reel tape included in the archive are of songs from *The Diviners*. The final donation, obtained in May 2002, consists primarily of a letter to Lois Wilson, including Laurence's instructions concerning her own funeral service and burial.

Certain parts of the Laurence collection are governed by restrictions regarding their publication and use.

Farley Mowat

Farley Mowat is a man of strong opinions who has described himself as a "rampant nationalist" and a "story-teller who is more concerned with reaching his audience than with garnering kudos from the arbiters of literary greatness." Mowat's passion for the north, the sea, Newfoundland, and the protection of the environment and all living creatures is evident in the correspondence, personal research material, manuscripts, and published material that compose the Mowat collection in the William Ready archives.

Vera Brittain

Vera Brittain, writer, lecturer, pacifist, and feminist, is most well-known for her book about her experiences in World War I, *Testament of Youth* (1933). During World War II she was a leading member of the Peace Pledge Union. Archives of Brittain's work include major published and unpublished manuscripts, scrapbooks and albums, published and unpublished articles, correspondence, photographs, and news clippings.

For Brittain scholars, her journals and diaries provide the most stunning and emotional portrayal of the woman. Dr. Alan Bishop, a professor of English at McMaster, edited and published Brittain's diaries under the title *Chronicle of Youth*. "It's amazing to be able to access the actual writings, the actual material, the actual evidence of this amazing woman. There's immediate contact through the text with the history. It's a very exciting feeling."

McClelland & Stewart Ltd.

In 1906 John McClelland and Frederick D. Goodchild began a book supply company in Toronto, which they registered one year later as McClelland and Goodchild. George Stewart joined the firm

in 1913, and the name of the company eventually changed to McClelland and Stewart. McMaster has an impressive collection of papers of Canadian publishers, including McClelland and Stewart. The collections are arranged into two major record groups: company records and manuscripts (editorial bundles). Jack McClelland, John McClelland's son, who headed the company from 1952 to 1985, also has made several donations to McMaster University.

Jack McClelland's collection includes 26 m of textual, graphic, and other material. The material in the collection relates to both McClelland and Stewart and McClelland's literary agency, Jack McClelland and Associates. Personal material, such as day books, correspondence, and materials related to school, war service, and family, also makes up a significant part of the collection.

Explains Spadoni, "The fundamental importance of the archives is for research purposes. You can't have research without the materials, and we [at McMaster] have a treasure house of material that is basic to research. The archives are also important to preserve culture, and that's what university's are all about."