

Campion's BRag

An Alumni Journal
Volume Nine
Spring/Summer 2003 



**Larry Matthies:
Eyes on Mars**

**Professor explores the mathematic equation
Campion welcomes its new chaplaincy team • Raising awareness from abroad**

In 1580, a group of Jesuit priests arrived in England and began the English Mission in order to give encouragement to other Catholics in the country. St. Edmund Campion, namesake of today's Campion College, was noted for his courage and integrity while working at the English Mission, and was celebrated in earlier days for his outstanding intellectual capacities.

Soon after Campion and his fellow Jesuits started the English Mission, he wrote a letter to Her Majesty's Privy Council explaining his motives and innocence of wrongdoings pertaining to the Catholic Church. This document was widely known as *Campion's Brag*.

St. Edmund Campion died in 1581 at Tyburn, England, condemned under the terms of the Act of Persuasion, which was passed by Elizabeth I that same year. It was under this Act that it became treasonous to profess the Catholic Faith.

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On the Cover:

Larry Matthies (BSc Hons '79) supervises the machine vision group at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. His group is

responsible for developing the vision systems for the next Mars Exploration Rover mission. Read the entire story on page six. (Cover picture: Artist rendering courtesy of NASA.)

E D I T O R ' S C O L U M N



It's hard to believe a year has gone by and it is time once again for another edition of the *Campion's Brag*.

We always talk about the 'Campion community', but it is when I am working on this alumni journal that I really get a sense of how strong that community is. From the stories we write

to the letters we receive, the context is always the same: Campion is not just an institution, it's a family.

In this year's *Brag* we meet a Campion alumna whose work is truly out of this world. Larry Matthies (BSc Hons '79) works for the Jet Propulsion Lab in California where he supervises the development of vision systems for the Mars Exploration Rover. Despite the exciting work Matthies is involved in, when I spoke to him this spring he seemed more eager to tell me about a chance meeting with fellow alumnus Eric Grimson at a recent conference. Once again, the ties back home seem to be the strongest.

In this issue we also get a taste of what is currently happening around campus. On page 10, Sheri Block introduces us to Dr. Katherine Robinson, a professor in the Psychology department at Campion College. Robinson was recently been awarded \$60,000 in grant funding to continue her research on children's understanding of multiplication/division inversion problems.

We also meet Campion College student Atem Kunjok. An international student from Sudan, Kunjok's story is quite different from his Canadian counter parts. Block tells us about Kunjok's experiences growing up in a war-torn country and his hopes of returning to help his people.

Correction notice: The *Campion's Brag* Spring/Summer 2002 edition had incorrectly identified a Campion College award. The article on scholarships should have read *The Elizabeth and George Watson Memorial Scholarship*. We apologize for this error.

Marc Gervais presents the first of the 'last' lectures

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers danced across the screen in the Campion College auditorium on November 6 as Dr. Marc Gervais, SJ, presented *It's the dance of death or it's the dance of life and I've gotta dance*.

The first lecture in the college's *Last Lecture* series, Gervais explored the journey of life and the challenges faced by today's youth in living out their dreams and aspirations.

"It is an important fact that what we are doing everyday is helping shape ourselves and others into making choices, setting priorities, adopting a way to live, developing a consciousness, but are we aware of it? If you can become conscious of this fact, you become energized," said Gervais.

The *Last Lecture* series invites senior professors to lecture on a topic of their choosing: to present what they would see as their ideal final lecture. It is an opportunity to share their years of experience, acquired knowledge and observations.

When first approached to give a lecture as part of this series Gervais was excited, but he soon discovered the daunting task that was ahead of him.

"[At first I thought] 'what a wonderful opportunity', but then I thought 'good grief how impossible is this going to be.' It's a nice privilege, but one realizes that it's quite ambitious," admitted Gervais.

Gervais has been a professor of Film in the department of communication studies at Concordia University since 1969. He is founder and director of the Loyola Peace Institute and a founding fellow of Lonergan University College. A former commissioner with the CRTC, Gervais has long been involved in Canadian film and television. He is a writer and critic, appearing on numerous occasions in Canada and abroad, not only in the capacity of film specialist but also on broader cultural, religious, or world peace topics.

Gervais will return to Campion for the Fall 2003 semester as a sessional lecturer.

Campion College President Resigns

In December 2002, the Campion College Board of Regents announced the resignation of the college's fourth president, Dr. David Eley, SJ.

"It is with deep regret that we announce the resignation of Dr. Eley, who has served the college well during his eighteen month tenure. We thank him for his contributions to the college and wish him well in his future

endeavours," said Penny Malone, chair, Board of Regents.

"I know this was not an easy decision for Dr. Eley to make. He expressed sincere gratitude for having the opportunity to serve the college, and indicated that his reasons for leaving are of a purely personal nature," Malone added.

In January, Dr. Kenneth L. McGovern was appointed president for an eighteen month term. The Board of Regents will begin a formal presidential search in the fall.



Dr. Kenneth L. McGovern was installed as the fifth president of Campion College at a special ceremony held on February 9, 2003.

"Although my term of office may be a relatively short one, I look forward to it with hope and confidence. I shall honestly endeavour to bring my experience at this college and this university, and whatever modest understanding I have gained from my days in the trenches, to the service of Campion College," McGovern told the congregation.

McGovern's eighteen month appointment came in light of the resignation of Dr. David Eley, SJ, and marks the first time the position has been held by a lay person. The search process for a new president will begin this fall.

"We are very pleased to have someone with Dr. McGovern's knowledge and expertise leading the college," said Penny Malone, chair, Campion College Board of Regents.

"Having been a member of the Campion faculty for over 35 years and most recently serving as its dean, Dr. McGovern's appointment ensures a smooth transition and will allow the college to continue moving ahead with its plans for growth," said Malone.

McGovern first joined the faculty at Campion College in 1966 as assistant professor in Philosophy. In 1995, he was appointed dean of Campion College and served in this position until retiring in June 2002. McGovern also served as the head of the University of Regina Philosophy & Classics department from 1989 to 1994.

"This is an exciting time to be at Campion and I am honoured to have the opportunity to serve as its president. Our enrollment continues to reach record levels, we have just hired three new full-time faculty members and will be undertaking renovations to the fifth floor in the spring which will mean an expansion of our research facilities," said McGovern.

Musica Sacra 2003/2004 Series

The Musica Sacra series returns with a full schedule for the 2003-2004 season. The series begins with a concert of remembrance on Saturday, November 2 in the Campion College chapel, featuring soprano Lynn Channing, accompanied by David McIntyre on the piano with narration by Kelly Handerek.

The season will continue with the traditional Good Friday concert on April 9, 2004 in the Campion College chapel. This concert will feature the University Chamber Choir, under the direction of Kathryn Laurin.

Graduate student takes part in final Leonid observation mission

Ian Murray, a graduate student in Physics, took part in the final Leonid MAC (Multi-Instrumental Aircraft Campaign) to observe the Leonid meteor showers this past November.

Murray, together with 30 other scientists from around the world, flew at altitudes of up to 38,000 feet (11,600 metres) over Europe and the Atlantic Ocean in a USAF aircraft customized to accommodate a wide variety of cameras and scientific instruments.

Murray is the only Canadian of the team of scientists to take part in the Leonid MAC project, a research effort sponsored by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space



Dr. Martin Beech

Administration) and the United States Airforce. Information gained from the missions will help scientists determine the composition and structure of meteors.

"The observations collected by Ian since 1998 have clearly shown the structure of the Leonid meteoroids to follow the dustball model. From the data collected on this final mission we hope to learn more about the chemical composition of the meteors," said



On February 27, 2003, Campion College presented prominent theologian, Dr. Monika Hellwig, as the guest lecturer at the 25th annual Nash Memorial Lecture.

Entitled, *Catholic Universities of the 21st century: What are we trying to do?*, the lecture explored the challenges faced by Catholic post-secondary institutions in a world governed by technological advances and the global market place.

"The discussions leading to the development and implementation of Pope John Paul II's apostolic constitution on Catholic Universities, *Ex corde ecclesiae*, have raised important questions about the role of Catholic education in our current society. This year we hoped to examine these questions," said Dr. Peter Bisson, SJ, assistant professor of Religious Studies and co-chair of the Nash Memorial Lecture committee.

Hellwig earned her LL.B. (honours) and CSSc at the University of Liverpool in England, and her MA and PhD from the Catholic University of America. In 1967, Dr. Hellwig became a professor of Theology at Georgetown University. After almost thirty years in this position, she retired in 1996 and took on the role of Executive Director of the Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities. A prominent theologian, Dr. Hellwig has written extensively in her field. Her publications include: *Traditions: The Catholic Story Today* (Pflaum, 1972), *Christian Women in a Troubled World* (Paulist Press, 1985), *A Case for Peace in Reason and Faith* (Liturgical Press, 1992), and *Guests of God: Stewards of Divine Creation* (Paulist Press, 2000).

Dr. Martin Beech, associate professor of Astronomy, Campion College, who is supervising Murray's thesis on comet composition and variations in meteor brightness.

Although cloudy skies over Saskatchewan did not allow for a good view of the meteor storm from earth, Murray was able to collect video images from his position above the clouds. These storms are expected to be the last visible Leonid display for almost a century.

Academic notes

- Campion College welcomes three new members to its faculty complement. Dr. David Meban,

assistant professor of Classics, and Dr. Robert Piercey, assistant professor of Philosophy, start July 1, 2003 and Dr. Katherine Arbuthnott, associate professor of Psychology, will join the faculty July 1, 2004.

Meban is currently a lecturer and Loukidelis fellow at Laurentian University. He received his MA (Classics) from Ohio State University and his PhD (Classics) from the University of Toronto. Meban has delivered and published a number of papers on Latin literature.

Piercey joins Campion from Memorial University in Newfoundland, where he currently holds the position of visiting assistant professor of Philosophy.



Dr. Katherine Robinson

CAMPION FACULTY RECEIVE OVER \$140,000 IN RESEARCH GRANTS

Four Campion College professors have been awarded \$141,000 in research grants for studies that will be conducted over the next four years.

Both Dr. Katherine Robinson, assistant professor of Psychology, and Dr. Martin Beech, associate professor of Astronomy, were awarded grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for research in their areas of study. Dr. Allison Fizzard,

assistant professor in History, and Dr. Christian Riegel, assistant professor in English, were awarded grants from the Humanities Research Institute, President's Fund and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) General Research Grant Fund.

Robinson received the NSERC grant to study why children find division problems difficult to solve. The \$60,000 grant will be awarded over four years with an option of being extended to five years. Robinson also received funding from the President's Fund and the SSHRC General Research Grant Fund for a project entitled *Children's understanding of inversion concepts in mathematics*.

Building on his past work, Beech continues to pursue research in the area of cometary structure. He was recently granted a four year renewal in funding from NSERC totalling \$72,000, along with a \$500 NSERC Promotion of Science award and a 2111 Foundation for Exploration award.

Fizzard received a \$4,000 travel grant from the President's Fund and the SSHRC General Research Grant Fund to do research in England this summer on medieval religious houses and monasteries.

Riegel was awarded funding from the Humanities Research Institute for his research project entitled *Family History, National History: The Work of Mourning in Canadian Literature*. His travel grant from the President's Fund allowed him to present a paper at a conference in the Netherlands.

He received his master's degree from the University of Warwick in England and his PhD from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Specializing in the area of 19th and 20th century continental Philosophy, Piercey has presented numerous papers and published articles on various philosophical issues.

Having been a member of the University of Regina Psychology department since 1997, Arbuthnott will join the Campion College faculty complement in July 2004. She obtained her MEd and PhD in Psychology from the University of Saskatchewan. Arbuthnott has been awarded NSERC and SSHRC research grants to conduct studies in cognitive development.

- Dr. Alex MacDonald, associate professor of English, recently edited the Broadview Literary Texts edition of *Looking Backwards; 2000-1887*, by Edward Bellamy.

MacDonald also presented the

paper entitled "Love is the Answer: Social Change and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh* (With a Postscript on Robert Browning's *The Ring and the Book*)", at the Society for Utopian Studies' 27th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

- Dr. Christian Riegel, assistant professor of English, recently published two poems, *Buckle* and *Regina Beach, June 17, 2001*, in the *White Wall Review* 26 (2002). His poem, *Scent I*, was published in the February 2003 issue of *Grain*.

As well, Riegel presented "Location, Relocation, Region and Nation: Technology and Travel in Aritha van Herk's No Fixed Address and Birk Sproxtton's The Red-Headed Woman with the Black Black Heart", at *Crossing Cultures: Travel and the Frontiers of North-American Identity* conference at the University of Groningen (Netherlands).

Riegel also presented, "The

Time to Mourn: Joy Kogawa's Obasan and the Work of Mourning", at the Christianity and Literature Study Group Annual Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

- Dr. Jackie Kuikman, associate professor of Religious Studies, presented papers at *The Basics of Fundamentalism* symposium and *The Roots of Resistance* symposium, both hosted by the University of Regina in February and March 2003, respectively. The papers are entitled, "Jewish Fundamentalism and the Politics of Identity", and "Semites at Odds: Virulent Rhetoric in a Volatile Land".

- Dr. Greg Maillett, assistant professor of English, presented the paper entitled "A Positive Compatibility with the Order of Grace: Christianity and the Liturgy Art of J.R.R. Tolkien" at the Christianity & Literature Study Group Annual Conference at Dalhousie University in May 2003.

- Dr. Stephen Kenny, professor of History, published an article entitled, "A Prejudice that Rarely Utters Its Name: A historical and historical reflection upon North American Anti-Catholicism", in the *American Review of Canadian Studies*, vol.32, no. 4, Winter 2002.

Kenny will also be presenting a paper at the université de Rouen (France) on June 20, 2003. The paper is entitled, "Déclin électoral, remontée d'amertume: la perception nationaliste de 'l'autre' et l'intensification d'un langage extrême."

- Dr. Keith Langstaff, SJ, joins Campion College on a part-time basis as the director of the Continuing Education program in Pastoral Studies.

- Having served for two consecutive three year terms, the last term as Chair, Penny Malone bid farewell to the Campion College Board of Regents in May of this year. Malone served the college well during her tenure and was honoured for her commitment to Campion at the Annual General Meeting in May. At this time, the Board also elected John Hartney to serve as its chair.

- Dr. Philippe Mather, assistant professor of Media Studies presented "Stanley Kubrick: Photography and Film" on October 11 at the Faculty of Fine Arts Lecture Series.

Campion College welcomes a new chaplaincy team

When Theresa Cullen and Sami Helewa, SJ, arrived at Campion College last summer they really didn't know what to expect.

"I am a completely different person from when I first arrived," said Cullen.

"At first I had no real sense of Campion. It was both very exciting to embark on something new, but intimidating as well."

Once they settled in to their new role as Campion's chaplaincy team, both were happy to find a very healthy chaplaincy already in place and a strong tradition of liturgy, making it easy to continue nurturing this important aspect of Campion life.

Cullen made the decision to take on the chaplain position at Campion in part due to her desire to return to Canada.

"I'd been away from Canada for a long time and was ready to return. Upon reading the job description, the position seemed tailored for me," recalled Cullen.

Born and raised in Montreal, Cullen received her Bachelor of Education from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Cullen then traveled abroad, working and studying in Asia for ten years before returning to North America. While in Asia, Cullen received her diploma in Pastoral Studies from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.

Cullen returned to Quebec in 1986 and worked as a co-pastor until moving to New York to further her studies. In 1990, she received a Master's in Theological Studies from the Maryknoll School of Theology.

As a Jesuit novice, Helewa's decision to join the chaplaincy team was rooted in his vocation.

"I feel that my time here at Campion is very important. It is a living prophecy. Regina was an unlikely place to think of at the beginning. It started with an idea that Fr. Joseph Schner recommended to me when I met him in Quebec City. That [idea] grew on me slowly...but I think it came clear to me when I was praying once from scripture, [the passage where] Jesus tells [the disciples] to 'go to the other villages to proclaim the good news.' I realized that Regina was the other village for me," recalled Helewa.

Helewa was 20 years old when he left his birthplace, Lebanon, to live in Canada.

"Coming to a new country was



Chaplains Theresa Cullen (far right) and Sami Helewa, SJ, (right) receive a blessing from Fr. David Eley, SJ (left) at the Patron's Day Mass on December 1, 2002.

exciting. Encountering the many cultures in the city of Toronto was very exciting."

After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Quantitative Methods from the University of Toronto, Helewa worked for a number of years in the business sector before answering the call to a life of prayer.

"No one knows the exact date of his spiritual birth. I would say the events in my life have helped me discover this vocation. Primarily it started with my passion for the church and how I am drawn into a prayerful life. I find the Ignatian spirituality enriched me. I am a pilgrim who seeks God and friendships. My discernment...to be a Jesuit has to do with my love for people. It is through them that I am closer to God. It is a privilege to listen to other people's stories, their struggles, decisions, living out their decisions, passions, what gets them out of bed in the morning, what tires them, etc."

Although coming from very different backgrounds and experiences, both Cullen and Helewa share the same goal, to build and foster the chaplaincy in the student community.

"Our focus is ministry to youth. The student body is very important to us," said Helewa.

Their focus on student needs is very evident in the programs and services they have provided over the past year. One of the highlights has been the student bible study group.

"The bible study group was good for

youth looking for opportunities for spiritual growth. It was also a means for us to see how youth struggled with issues and what their needs are," said Helewa.

"We were very impressed with the students' commitment to the group. Those who participated were there every week," added Cullen.

Other chaplaincy events included a thanksgiving lunch, Mardi Gras pancake breakfast, hospitality gatherings and participation in Campion College Students' Association social events.

The chaplaincy also enjoys strong partnerships with the community-at-large. This is evident in the many events organized together with the Luther College chaplain, and a peace lecture series that featuring Dr. David Barnard, president of the University of Regina, as a guest lecturer. The chaplains also provided lay ministry programs for the Archdiocese of Regina and have been a Catholic presence in the Regina Correctional Centre.

The chaplaincy team has a strong vision for the future and many ideas to enhance campus ministry. Among other things, they hope to bring the Development & Peace program to the campus, which would include dialogue on human justice issues. They also hope to develop a prison ministry program and create opportunities for students to become involved in community outreach.

A view that is out of this world

By: Bonny Braden How would you like to grip the joystick of the most riveting video game in the world—or "out" of this world.

Helping rover robotic vehicles navigate the rubble on Mars is no game for Champion alum Larry Matthies—it's his job. He graduated from computer science in Regina with distinction in 1979, took his masters at Waterloo and his doctorate at the robotics Mecca of Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

On the earthly front, he's learning about the mystifying world of parenting from his year-old daughter Michelle and on the work front Matthies has landed in Pasadena, California at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab. He's been there since 1989.

He builds computerized vision systems to help the rover space exploration vehicles see where they're going as they crawl along the surface of Mars. That way, these dune buggies that look like they're out of a sci-fi movie can land safely and gather reams of scientific data about ancient water systems.

"I always liked solving puzzles. Doing research is like solving puzzles. There's that eureka experience when you figure something out for the first time. And you get a sense, I don't want to exaggerate this, but you get a sense of having some impact on the world when you do new technologies that you believe someday will have some effect somewhere in the marketplace, on national defense or on space exploration. There's some personal reward for doing things that you think will advance the state-of-the-art."

Two Mars exploration rovers that use Matthies' vision systems will be launched on June 6 and June 25. They will travel for seven months through space to Mars where they will land in January. Their missions last about 92

Earth days—that's when the dust starts to inhibit their solar panels limiting their power.

"The holy grail is to see if there was ever any kind of life on Mars. One of the most important ingredients of life is water so the mantra for Mars exploration is follow the water because that will lead you to the life, it will explain the climate, it has a major role in the geological history and it's a resource in case we ever send humans there.

We know there's water frozen in the ice caps at the poles and there probably is water frozen in the crust the same way there's ground water on earth. What we don't know is how deep it is."

The rovers are heading for two sites on Mars to examine land forms that may be a link to water – the first is Gusev Crater which contains a dry riverbed and the second site is the Meridiani Planum where there are deposits of iron oxide mineral which is usually formed when there is liquid water present.

The vision systems Matthies created will help the mobile laboratory vehicles judge whether they can navigate the hazardous terrain through 3D mapping and the use of 'stereo vision' to detect obstacles. These vision systems cost \$600,000 each and another \$1 million in software development and testing over several years.

Matthies gives an example of the kind of assistance he can give the 'brain' of the rover. After spinning all that way through the dark to get to Mars, landing in one piece is paramount.

A vision system he developed helps the rover judge the wind speed by looking down at how fast the Mars surface is going by while the rover is still orbiting.

Landing on Mars is tricky because of the strong wind gusts—so the rover needs to be able to gauge the speed of the wind so it can kick in its retro rocket system to slow down so it doesn't hit the surface too hard sideways. This could puncture the airbags that cushion its tetrahedron-

Larry Matthies' work on the vision systems for the Mars 2003 Land Rover (shown here at a test site) allow the robot to navigate and collect data on the red planet.



photo courtesy of NASA

shaped body. (It's all folded up inside the airbags and it snaps into shape before beginning its exploration work.)

The key is that these rovers need to be able to do all this computing 'autonomously', on their own, because the distance to Mars is so great that no one is actually holding the joystick—people like Matthies must give the robot the tools to make an educated guess itself.

Vision is crucial to safe and precise landings, so that could be one of the ways scientists put "bread on the table" in the next decade, Matthies says.

The missions change drastically over time, so the scientists must constantly tweak their systems to perform at higher levels. Back in 1997, when the Mars Pathfinder landed, there was a landing 'patch' about 200 kilometers long by 100 kilometers wide.

The two new rovers going up in June will land in an area that's half that size and the goal is to shrink that landing patch to less than 10 kilometers.

So the vision systems Matthies works on ensure the rovers can recognize craters as landmarks so they can find the right spot to parachute down onto the face of the red planet.

"The closer you can land to places that we know are scientifically interesting, the quicker the rover can get there once it lands."

Matthies agrees that space exploration is captivating because you are seeking absolute reliability after spending millions of dollars just to get the equipment to Mars. The 2003 rover mission will cost about \$650 million for the two rovers and their landers. And that's not including the launch rockets.

But he says the robotics research he does on Earth makes him tingle with the same thrill.

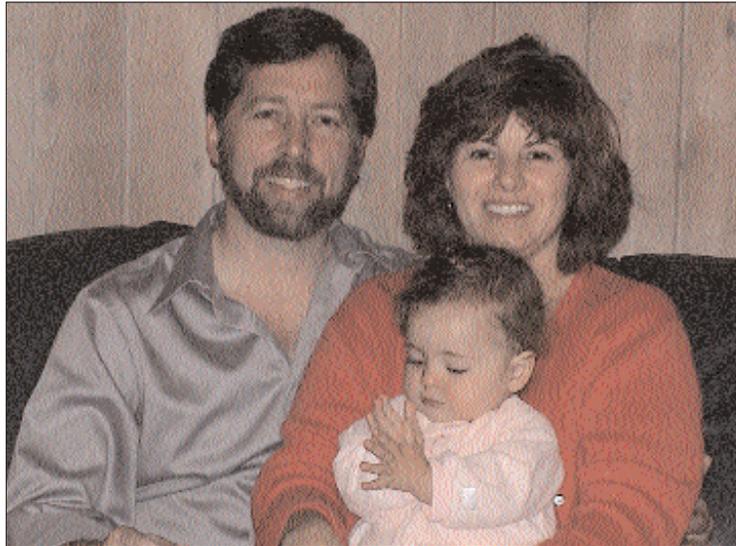
"Space exploration is exciting. And that's probably one of the main objectives of most people who work at JPL (Jet Propulsion Lab.) For myself, it's very rewarding but my interests aren't so much space per se, as robotics as a discipline. So I enjoy other aspects of it that are rooted on earth as much as I enjoy the stuff that's going into space."

Research for the defense department is the place Matthies and

his peers have their eye on this minute.

Matthies figures it will be a growth area for the robotics field for the rest of his career—he's 44 now.

The military wants researchers to break through with vision systems that allow vehicles to follow roads automatically. "So that way you could have military supply convoys moving large supply loads without needing a lot of drivers."



Larry Matthies with his wife Karen and daughter Michelle.

Fewer soldiers would die if researchers like Matthies can figure out how to make combat robots more nimble and able to "think" more on their own.

"In Afghanistan, some people brought little tracked robot vehicles that weighed about 40 pounds. They weren't able to do much themselves, but they could be remotely controlled by a soldier by essentially transmitting video from the robot back to the soldier and the soldier had a joystick to drive the robot. So they could... search for bad guys, weapons caches or booby traps and not go in [the cave] themselves. That's very dangerous because you can imagine just how vulnerable to an ambush you are if you walk into a cave."

But catch this. It's even harder for robotic vehicles to move around on earth than it is for them to creep through the swirling dust and steep gullies on Mars—where they move like a Galapagos Tortoise at 72 meters an hour.

"It's actually a harder problem in many ways on earth than on Mars because the environment is much more complex. Mars is just a desert. Now for Mars you have to have the ultimate in

reliability because it costs you so much to get there and you can't communicate very well because it's so far away but the terrain itself is not as challenging as the terrain on earth and the weather is more variable on earth, you've got plants, water hazards and barbed wire that makes it hard to navigate on earth. And you also have limited communication—sometimes your radio doesn't propagate into the building."

To make robotic vehicles that can take the place of soldiers or dig out Martian rocks, you have to think outside the box—you can't think like a human.

Because it's not really that difficult for humans to climb stairs, explore a culvert, jump off a ledge or race through grass. But robots can be stopped dead up by these relatively simple tasks.

"You do have to put yourself in the position of the robot cameras to understand what the imagery will look like and what kind of data you can get out of that imagery—

or from the sonar. You do have to guess in advance what the problems will be and design your software to anticipate those problems. But it kind of becomes second nature once you've been doing this long enough."

Matthies says his first attraction wasn't robotics. Artificial intelligence was the lure when he was an undergrad.

"In the first year at Carnegie Mellon I got disillusioned with artificial intelligence. Computer vision had some of the same appeal but it was more grounded in mathematics than artificial intelligence. With artificial intelligence, there wasn't a lot of good theoretical basis for what people were trying to do—it was pretty ad hoc."

Then he studied computer graphics at Waterloo where he graduated in 1981.

"Computer graphics gives you a lot of gratification because of all the visual feedback—while computer vision has that similar kind of gratification that you get so see the pictures that result from the work you do, but it's a rigorous field so you can sink your teeth into it." ■

Bonny Braden is a freelance journalist.

M i s s i n g P e r s o n s
Bulletin



Campion College would like to ensure that all graduates, former students, and friends continue to receive special mailings, including Campion's Brag and invitations to special events.

If you would like to join our mailing list, notify us of an upcoming change of address, or if you know the whereabouts of any of the people listed below, please write:

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Researching the math equation

By Sheri Block

While working on her Masters thesis, Katherine Robinson discovered something quite intriguing.

She was conducting research into how children develop their conceptual understanding of the relationship between addition and subtraction. But, since no similar research had been done with the relationship between multiplication and division, she decided to give the children a few of these problems to work on near the end of her study.

"I asked a couple of Grade 5 kids to just try out some multiplication, division and inversion problems and they just completely blanked on them, so that told me there's something going on here to be studied when I have time."

Not surprisingly, the children had no difficulty finding the answer for problems like $2 + 9 - 9$, without having to do the addition and subtraction but if they were given $2 \times 9 / 9$ immediately afterwards then they wouldn't realize that the problem would also be easily solved without any calculation. Instead they would use a thought process similar to 2 times 9 is 18, 18 divided by 9 is..., and then think about the answer.

"These multiplication/division inversion problems are much more difficult for them so they make more mistakes, it takes them longer and they're not able to use the concept that multiplication and division are just the inverse operations of each other," says Robinson.

To investigate the question as to why children have trouble with multiplication/division inversion problems, Robinson began with an adult study while working at St. Francis Xavier University in 2000. Through this research she found that adults were not comfortable processing these problems,

which they had to solve without using a piece of paper.

"If you gave them something like $4 \times 39 / 13$, which is really quite easy if you think about it, adults were immediately uncomfortable but if I'd give them $4 + 39 - 13$, no problem. But as soon as you add that division component in, boy, people get really slow, they start making mistakes and they really start wishing that the study will be over soon," recalls Robinson with a laugh.

After learning of the trouble adults had with the multiplication/division inversion problems, Robinson designed problems for children that were easier, in order to see how knowledge and comfort with inversion develops.

The current inversion study has more than 80 Regina participants in Grades 6 and Grade 8.

"A lot of them were able to do the task but they found it very difficult when they had to do the multiplication and division problems and it wasn't the multiplication part of the problem that was giving them problems.

"Essentially, it does tell us that even in Grade 8, kids just don't have that comfort level with division and it's not well understood, and adults aren't comfortable with it either."

Robinson, who has been teaching courses in development psychology at Campion College for the past three years, has just received an Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) grant, to begin studying why children find division so much more difficult to do and continue her research on multiplication/division inversion problems. Robinson was also awarded two President's Fund Internal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants through the University of Regina last May and November. She is the first researcher to

conduct such studies.

She first became interested in studying comprehension of arithmetic while working on her Bachelor of Arts degree at Bishop's University, which continued with her Masters of Science and Doctorate, both from the University of Alberta.

While working on her doctorate, Robinson looked at the strategies children use when solving subtraction problems to understand their cognitive development. Even though some researchers believe children can't accurately report how they're thinking, she found that children could be quite accurate, partly because there are only limited strategies to use.

A similar study with division also looked at the strategies children use to solve problems and found that only 29 out of 55 Grade 4 students were able to solve the division problems. The remaining Grade 4 students could not even solve 6 divided by 2 even though the math curriculum states that this knowledge should be available to the students in Grade 3.

"What was really interesting is that when we ran the study, the first time we did it with Grade 4 kids, a lot of the Grade 4 kids just said 'I don't do division'."

For the last two years, she has been looking at how students in Grade 4, 5, 6 and 7 perform on division problems and says it's much weaker than on addition, subtraction or multiplication.

"People use addition, subtraction and multiplication to solve division problems but you would never say that

anyone solves a subtraction problem by using division. Division is the most complicated operation so you use all the other three operations to help you out."

She says some Grade 4 children didn't even want to try an easy problem

possible reasons could be because it's the last operation learned, it's less practiced or maybe it is, in fact, the most complicated conceptually.

Robinson says curriculum may also play a role.



Dr. Katherine Robinson (above) with elementary school student Alexis Chisholm. (Below) Robinson and research assistant Jerilyn Ninowski (BA Hons '03).

There are huge cross-cultural and cross-national differences in math, Robinson says, and children in North America generally don't do as well as those in the Asian countries.

She is currently developing a questionnaire for teachers on their strategies for teaching math and attitudes towards teaching math, and hopes to include parents and principals as well. One of the highest groups in university to have math anxiety is early elementary education teachers, which may translate into teaching, says Robinson.

She says there are people who say 'I don't like math', or 'I don't do math', but no one ever says 'I don't do reading'. There's a very different attitude towards math literacy than towards reading literacy so where do we get that attitude from?"

Robinson credits her current environment for helping to foster her research.

"The nice thing about Campion is they're supportive of you doing research and yet it's not a pressure cooker atmosphere, that kind of publish or perish atmosphere. It's a nice medium." ■

to start because they said they didn't know how.

"It was a little surprising. We thought kids at this age would at least know how to solve 6 divided by 2 and they didn't in more cases than we would think."

She wants to look further into why children and adults are less comfortable with division but says

Sheri Block, (BA '00, BJ '02), is a Regina journalist.

Education for a better tomorrow

By Sheri Block

Atem Kunjok is, in many ways, just like any other Champion student.

The 28-year-old spends his time studying and

going to class, hanging out with his friends, and working with several organizations, including Amnesty International Regina and the Champion College Students' Association.

But before he came to Canada to attend university in 2001, his life was very different.

Kunjok grew up in a small village in southern Sudan called Wau and at the tender age of 10, was captured by the Arab militia while tending to his family's cattle.

A civil war had been raging in his country since 1983 between the southerners, who felt like they were being treated like second class citizens since the independence in 1956, and the government.

Kunjok was forced to work for the militia for two months before he devised a plan to escape. Even though he knew if he was caught they might cut his legs off or kill him, Kunjok, along with a friend, successfully fled. He believed it was better to risk dying than continue to live that way.

After working at a nearby town, he gathered enough money to move to northern Sudan and attended school for the first time.

During his time at school, he was encouraged to join the seminary by one of the sisters he had met.

He was only 16-years-old and in Grade 3 but did so well on a Grade 6 placement test that he was accepted in 1991.

Kunjok had become Catholic in 1987 but his family was not Christian, let alone Catholic, and did not agree with his vocational choice.

"From seminary I had a lot of problems from my own family because

they really didn't appreciate that," says Kunjok.

Since his dad had been killed in the war, his uncle came to see him and thought something must be wrong with him for not wanting to get married.

"I come from a background where we still practice polygamy," says Kunjok, adding that his grandfather had seven wives.

But his family were not the only ones who gave Kunjok grief over his religion.

On July 19, 1997, a day he still vividly remembers, Kunjok and a priest discovered that the government had destroyed a church in the capital city of Khartoum. When they asked for an explanation, the police captain told Kunjok they would eliminate all Christians in the city by 2006.

"I laughed and I told him 'you are under an illusion', so instead of taking me to the police, I got 50 lashes. It's kind of hard to believe unless you witness this sort of thing because here if something happens you have to go to the court and all the proceedings. "

His bishop wrote a letter the following day to the head of the department and demanded an explanation for why Kunjok was beaten, but nothing was done.

Kunjok first became interested in becoming a priest because he wanted to help the displaced people in his country, but after leaving the seminary later that year due to family pressure, decided there were other ways he could do that.

Armed with a diploma in philosophy, he entered the Faculty of Education at the university in Wau. He attended the university for three months when the war broke out in the town and many of his friends were killed.

He left to work for an organization called Doctors Without Borders in the

town of Marial Lou but was soon sent to Kenya with his sister after he refused to give a commander more grain for his troops, when others were starving. His life was in danger and he had to leave with only two hours notice.

In Kenya, he taught religious studies at a refugee camp high school for two years before applying to a distance education program at the University of South Africa through the Jesuits Refugee Service. Instead of accepting him as a student, they asked him to help as a tutor.

He was accepted at one of the universities in Nairobi, but had no money to attend. After applying to a student refugee organization for financial help, his application was referred to World University Services Canada (WUSC).

"I was kind of hesitating. I didn't want to come to Canada because I never dreamed of (leaving). There was no way I will help my people if I leave them," recalls Kunjok.

But a friend working for the organization convinced him he'd be better able to help his people if he came.

"There are a lot of differences. I remember when I came here and in two weeks we had to go to Saskatoon for an FTA conference so I had to get all my documents, expecting the police on the way," says Kunjok, explaining that in countries like Kenya foreigners can be stopped on the street by police and must provide proper identification.

Kunjok, who is studying philosophy and religious studies at the University of

Regina through Campion College, likes Canada because it is more secure and there is no fear of bombings or running from the government.

He has been working with the Sudanese Canadian Association in

countries to recognize the problems in Sudan and follow suit.

"There's a lot of things we can learn from Canadians," says Kunjok.

"Having a different culture, having a different religion, having whatever differences wouldn't prevent people to live under one government. (Canadians) are enjoying life, in despite of all differences, there are First Nations, people from Europe, Asia, Africa, all over the world and still people live together."

He plans to eventually return home once he gets his Canadian citizenship next year but wouldn't rule out returning to Canada one day.

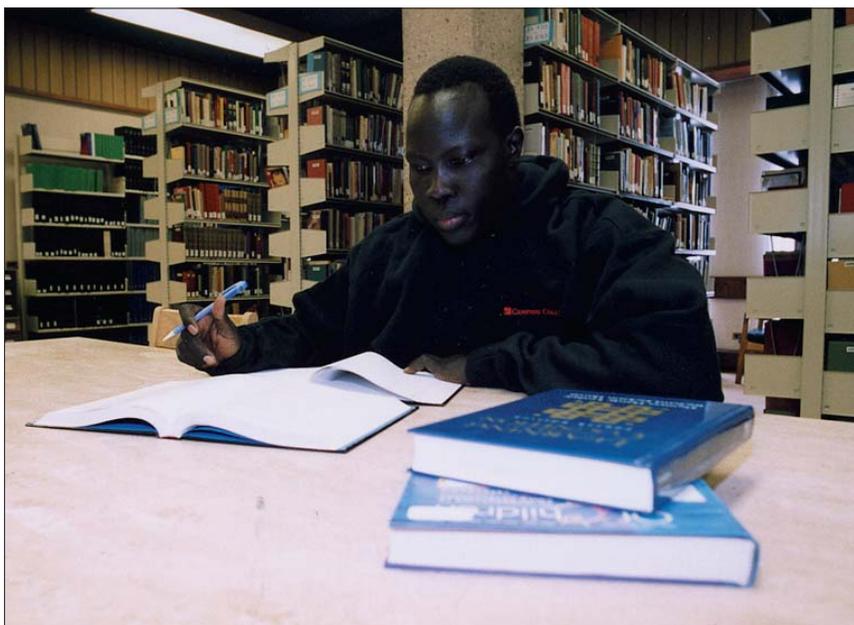
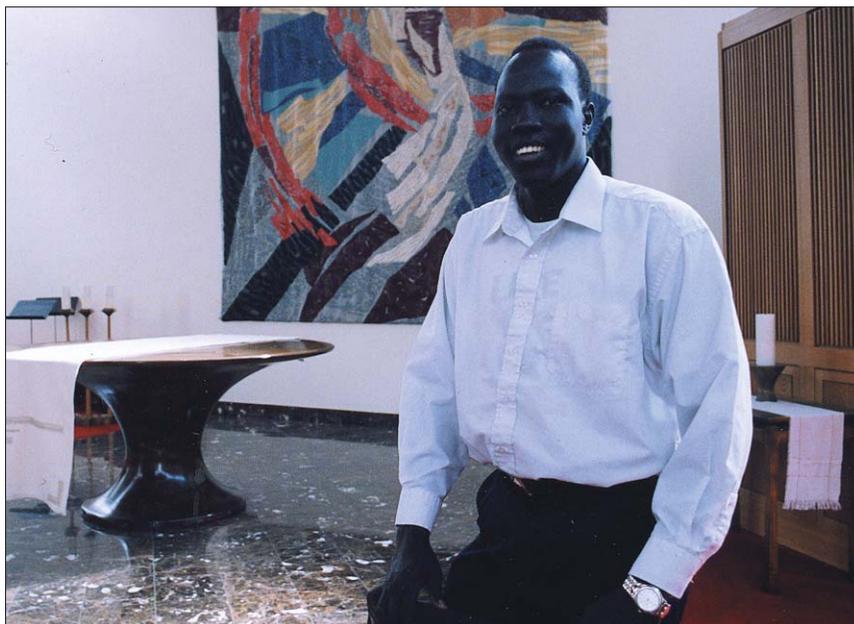
"If I'm doing something that is helpful to my people back home, I will stay. If I don't do anything that is helpful to them, I could [come] back," says Kunjok.

When Kunjok returns to Sudan he would like to teach in the seminary or work with a non-governmental organization.

Kunjok is confident the war could stop one day.

"Things are changing, you never know, and I'm always optimistic that where there's a beginning, there's an end. The war will come to an end and my people can enjoy

freedom, whether it's during my lifetime or not, that's my hope and I'm sure it will happen." ■



Atem Kunjok's goal is to further his education so he can return to Sudan and help the people of his nation.

Saskatchewan and founded a magazine called *The Voice of Sudanese in Diaspora*.

He believes this newsletter is one way that he can help by making others aware of what is happening. He says the Canadian government could also play a role by not investing in Sudan and talking to the Sudanese government. He hopes it would lead the way for other

Recent Campion College graduate, Sheri Block (BA '00, BJ '02), is a Regina journalist.

Research facilities made possible by annual campaign

The 2003-2004 annual campaign marks the second year for the *Building on a Strong Foundation* initiative. Preparing for expansion and growth, this campaign focuses on raising funds for the renovation of the College's fifth floor.

"We are very excited about this renovation project. For the first time in Campion's long history, we will have space dedicated to research and advanced study," said Fred Marcia, executive director of administrative services.

Over the past number of years, modern research has increasingly become a focus for Canadian universities. The University of Regina is no exception and endeavours to enhance its research program with a goal of establishing centers of research excellence in a variety of areas.

Recognizing the importance of research in the advancement of industry and community infrastructure, the Government of Canada has made support for university-based research a priority. This mandate is clearly stated in the millions of dollars dedicated to enhance research funding in recent federal budgets.

Campion College faculty have been recognized for the important role they play in meeting these objectives. Professors Martin Beech, Katherine Robinson, Christian Riegel, Allison Fizzard and Robert Moore have been awarded funding from various sources, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) General Research Grant Fund,

and the University of Regina President's Fund, to help facilitate their studies.

"Campion faculty are already recognized for excellence in teaching.

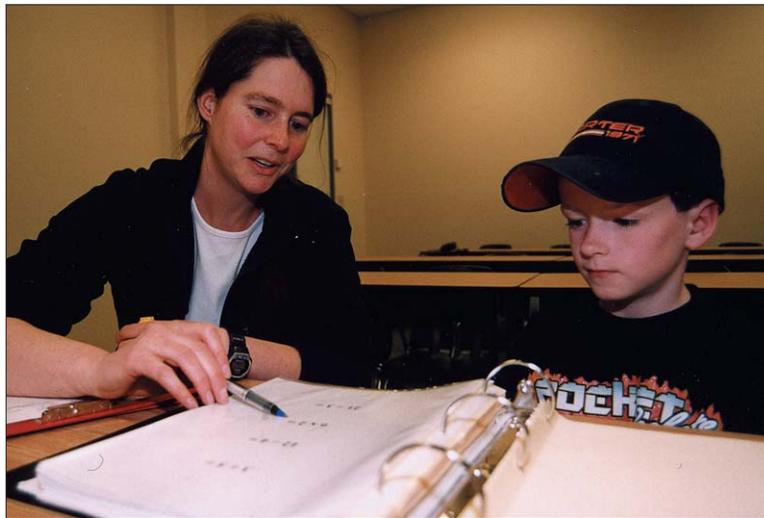
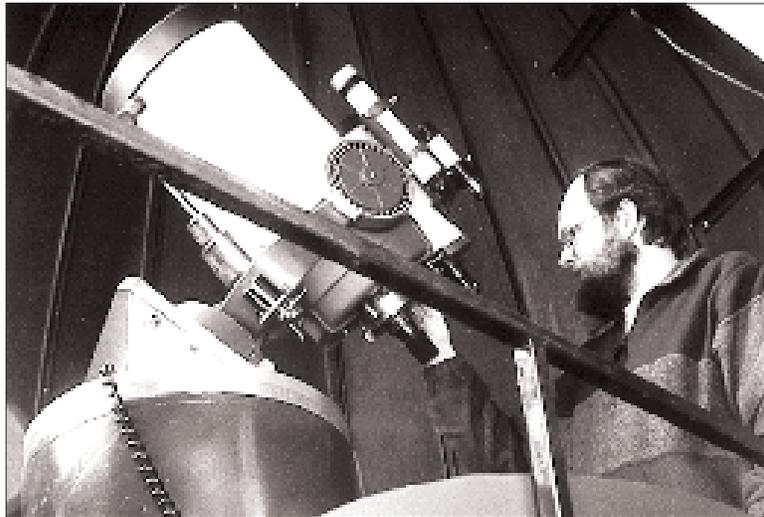
will be joining the Campion faculty in July 2004, recently received two grants for her research in cognitive development. It is important to have the research facilities available to accommodate professors who are engaging in modern research."

Last year's annual campaign exceeded expectations, raising over \$67,000 towards the renovation project, and allowing for construction on the fifth floor to begin in May. Renovations are expected to be completed by mid-August.

Campion also received a commitment, for the first time, from the provincial government for ongoing capital funding.

"We are delighted to be receiving capital funding. It will allow us to make the necessary building upgrades and enhancements without having to sacrifice our academic programs," said Marcia.

Previous annual campaigns have allowed for the creation of the two new classrooms, the Tutor Mentor program, the Writing Clinic, a revitalized main floor, an improved and expanded third floor to better facilitate student administration services



Dr. Martin Beech (top) is a leading Canadian researcher in the study of cometary structure. Dr. Katherine Robinson (below) is the first to study children's comprehension of inverse concepts in mathematics.

We can not overlook the importance of research in the dissemination of knowledge. Through this project, the College is recognizing the importance of research as an opportunity to enhance education," said Marcia adding that the establishment of in-house research facilities plays an important role in attracting prominent, full-time professors.

"Dr. Katherine Arbuthnott, who

and additional scholarship revenue.

To recognize those who have contributed to the college, a granite donor wall was incorporated into the remodeled main entrance. The wall serves as a fitting tribute to our benefactors who have contributed over \$500 in the past decade and will continue to honour donors in the years to come. ■

Campion College Annual Campaign 2002-2003

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Brag-a-bit

Rev. G. William Robins, SJ, a former teacher at Champion High School ('66- '68), sent greetings from Kathmandu, Nepal where he is running St. Xavier's Social Service Centre. He writes: "We care for about a hundred homeless boys and men. We get the boys through high school and then trained to survive in life. Some of the handicapped are with us for life. We also run a live-in treatment program for young men who wish to free themselves from drug addiction."

A large wood pencil and stone eraser sculpture, entitled *Diagram*, by artist *Ryan Arnott (BFA '75)*, was purchased by the MacKenzie Art Gallery for its permanent collection and exhibited in the show *Handmade-Readymade* from January 24 - March 2, 2003. Ryan also had a solo show called *Back and Forth*, which featured a selection of work from 1977



to the present. Ryan is now busy preparing for a major solo show at the Rosemont Art Gallery in Regina opening on May 15, 2003. *Jump* will be an installation incorporating objects, paintings, drawings and photographs—all in black and white. The show runs until June 21, 2003.

Alan Regel (BA Hons Cert. '82), received his law degree from the university of Saskatchewan after graduating from Champion College. Regel worked in private practice in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories until 1992, at which time he joined the Crown's office. Alan practiced civil litigation and conducted dangerous offender applications and regulatory/environmental prosecutions for the Northwest Territory Regional Office of Justice Canada.

In January 2001, Alan took a two year leave, bought a semi-truck and, together with his wife Maureen and their children, moved to Florida to manage a

woodworking/milling business. Alan writes, "our oldest daughter Holly, returned to the Northwest Territories and currently attends McEwan College in Edmonton. She had our first grandchild last May. Robin and Taryn are still at home in Florida enjoying the sunshine."

Natasha Leitao (BA Hons '01), is currently participating in a youth-oriented project titled *Solidarity Works*, in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour. *Solidarity Works*, is all about the history of the labour movement in Canada, globalization, capitalism, organizing unions, and social justice. She has been placed within SGEU, where she is doing communications and research directed towards creating initiatives for youth to be more involved in their workplaces and unions.

This autumn, Natasha will return to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, where she will be

studying towards a MSc in Occupational and Organizational Psychology at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

Scott Carson (BSc '03), together with Allison Stelter, designed a 'pig' for the Regina *Pigs in the City* campaign. Their pig is on display in the Cornwall Centre, where it will remain until September. The pigs will be auctioned off with all proceeds benefiting the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. Scott and Allison put nearly 500 hours of work into their project.



PASSAGES

Brother Daniel J. Brady, SJ, a former maintenance manager at the Champion High School, passed away on May 3, 2003 at the Jesuit Infirmary in Pickering, Ontario.

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For more information on how you can leave your legacy contact Fred Marcia at 359-1231 or 1-800-667-7282

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