



AUTUMN GREETINGS TO OUR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

I hope you have had a pleasant summer and are enjoying this beautiful time of year. Autumn has arrived and here in Atlantic Canada the colors are spectacular. It is harvest time and we are preparing for Thanksgiving.

I thought you might be interested in some of the new developments in the O'Brien Foundation and highlights of the past year.

I really am inspired by the human interest stories emanating from our alumni.

Just a few weeks ago there was a terrible shooting in the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. As soon as I heard this report on the news I sent an e-mail to Dr. Tracy Clarke (1998), who is a Research Astronomer in the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, to inquire of her safety.

Her reply was "We are all fine here but are under lock down until they find the shooter." As I followed up a few days later, Tracy wrote "We were on lock down for 7 hours but personally I tried to focus on working since there were rumors of coordinated attacks next door to my base.

Fortunately my husband (who also works the same place as I do) got locked out so we were able to feel more comfortable that we could juggle our two little kids who were at school."

Tracy also expressed hope "that the American people can really come together to work on this growing problem." It was wonderful to have met Tracy along with her husband, Dr. Henrique Schmitt and their two children, Abbygael and Alexander at our Annual Reception in 2012. We are so relieved that Tracy and her family are safe.

There is a sense of community that is being developed within our alumni. Through their personal correspondence there is an expressed feeling that the alumni can, by providing financial assistance to the foundation, contribute to other young men and women who could benefit from this work.

We now have 88 alumni members here at home, in New Brunswick. There are another 85 located in other provinces of Canada and 25 members reside and work in International locations.

Executive Changes

- **J. Gordon Thomson named Chair Emeritus**
Gordon Thomson is the patriarch of the foundation having been a charter member from its inception and continues to provide wise counsel and direction.
- **Deborah Robichaud appointed Vice Chair**
Deborah is an O'Brien Fellow (1978).

New Selection Committee Appointments



Dr. Lynne Gouliquer (1999)

Dr. Lynne Gouliquer, an O'Brien Fellow, is in the Sociology Faculty of St. Thomas University. Lynne has recently earned a Social Science and Humanities Research Council Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship. This is a first for St. Thomas University and for New Brunswick. The fellowship, one of 23 in Canada, is a professional triumph for Lynne and recognition of the work taking place on aging. The Banting Fellowship was created in honour of Dr. Frederick Banting who discovered insulin. The discovery won him worldwide acclaim and the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1923 and a knighthood from the British crown in 1934. The fellowship is administered through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and is valued at \$70,000 per year.

Dr. Herménégilde Chiasson



Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson is the former Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick (2003-2009) and during that time period was Honorary President of the O'Brien Foundation. He has earned degrees from the Université de Moncton, Mount Allison University, the Université de Paris (Sorbonne) and the State University of New York. Herménégilde is currently Artist in Residence for both the Université de Moncton and Mount Allison University. He received an Honorary Doctorate from St. Thomas University on October 19, 2013 and gave the Convocation Address. His visual arts production has been exhibited more than 100 times, 14 books of his poetry have been published, he has directed 17 films and has authored 26 plays. In addition to his many awards and citations he has the rank of Officer of the Order of Canada and has been named Grand Officer of France's Order of Merit. He received the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry and the Canada Council of the Arts Molson Prize for outstanding lifetime achievement. He will be a wonderful asset to the O'Brien Foundation Selection Committee.

40th Anniversary of the O'Brien Foundation ***40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015***

We are currently establishing a Planning Committee to identify ways in which this event could be celebrated. Would you like to be involved? Do you have any suggestions?

Financial Appeal

As I write this letter, applications for Fellowships for 2014 are being received. The deadline is November 1 so this is an exciting time within the foundation.

The O'Brien Foundation is one of the few sources of funding available to post graduates in New Brunswick. We are excited about what we have been able to do to assist post graduates but we want to be able to do more, and post graduates need even more support and financial assistance. The number of applicants has been steadily increasing each year and the quality and level of the proposed research is outstanding. In the past year, 2013, the Selection Committee reviewed 52 deserving applications. Yet, we only had funds to award four fellowships. Our trust agreement limits us to granting the net earnings of the O'Brien Humanitarian Trust.

We know the financial assistance received by our Fellows is critically important to them and comes at a stage in their studies and career when they can obviously use and need the money the most.

We have heard from many of you about how important the O'Brien Fellowship was and how it allowed you to continue your post graduate studies and establish your careers.

We have established the 'O'Brien Fellows Appeal' within the O'Brien Foundation. We take 100% of the funds received in each calendar year and award them as one or more special O'Brien Fellowships, in addition to our normal awards, the following year. We are a registered charitable organization with Canada Revenue Agency and are able to issue charitable donation receipts.

We ask you to consider making a donation to the O'Brien Foundation.

It would be wonderful to hear from you. Best always,

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Addendum

Did you know?

Donations made to registered charities, such as the O'Brien Foundation are eligible for federal and provincial income tax credits. The federal rate is 15% on the first \$200 of donations claimed and 29% on the amount in excess of \$200. After factoring in the provincial tax credits, total donations in excess of \$200 will save you anywhere from 40% to 50%, depending upon your province of residence. If you have not already finalized your giving for 2013, you might want to consider making a donation to the O'Brien Foundation. Donations received or dated by December 31, 2013 are eligible for a 2013 receipt. For additional tax information please consult with your financial advisor or consult the Canada Revenue Agency website: www.cra-arc.gc.ca

It would be so good if we could once again offer an Alumni Fellowship Award to a deserving candidate. Would you please consider providing a cheque in any amount to assist in this particular initiative? Thank you for this consideration.