



## RYERSON MAGAZINE

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### First graduate program approved

Ryerson has reached another milestone with the approval of its first graduate program by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies. The Communication and Culture program, a joint venture with York University, will lead to a masters and a doctorate.

The first students in the program will be admitted for the fall, 2000 term. The first director of the program will be from York; the associate director will be from Ryerson.

The Communication and Culture program will focus on communication as the process for making culture. It will examine the processes by which cultures are created and disseminated, with an emphasis on communication by technological means and its cultural implications.

Two other Ryerson graduate programs received internal approval and currently are under evaluation by the OCGS: Spatial Analysis and Environmental Applied Science and Management.

The masters in Spatial Analysis, a joint proposal from the School of Applied Geography and the Centre for the Study of Commercial Activity at Ryerson, and the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto, will focus on the study of geographic information and its relationship to other data.

The Environmental Applied Science and Management program will provide advanced study in applied environmental science, technology, and decision making, and will allow students to develop the expertise needed to address complex environmental issues for both the public and private sector. It would be Ryerson's first independent graduate program.

### New degree in Disability Studies

Ryerson will soon offer a new undergraduate program — a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Disability Studies, set to begin in fall 1999.

It will be a part-time degree completion program for college graduates with Developmental Services Worker diplomas or other closely related post-secondary education.

Currently, graduates of college diploma programs in fields such as developmental services and social services have no access to degree education in the disability field.

Focal points of the new program include community development, politics, and policy. Reflected throughout the curriculum is the need to reconstruct cultural conceptions of disability.

"The whole area of disabilities has changed significantly. People with disabilities are more aware of their rightful place in society, they are more visible, and their expectations are rising," said Dean of Community Services Judith Sandys, a member of the program committee.

The program will prepare graduates for leadership roles in a variety of areas including direct care, management, community development, policy, planning, and advocacy. Societal need for the program was established through surveys of college students, current workers in the field, the program advisory committee, and an array of employers and agencies.



### Fairchild donation to provide RTA awards

Radio and Television Arts students will benefit from a new award program initiated by the Fairchild Radio Group.

An endowment of \$160,000 has been established for the Fairchild Scholarships, to be awarded to Radio and Television Arts students demonstrating an awareness and understanding of multiculturalism.

The endowment consists of a donation of \$80,000 from Fairchild Radio that will be matched dollar for dollar through the Ontario Special Opportunity Trust Fund, creating a total fund of \$160,000. The Ontario Special Opportunity Trust Fund is an initiative whereby the provincial government matches the contributions of companies and individuals to Ontario universities and colleges.

Thomas Fung, owner of the Fairchild Media Group, launched the fund December 3, 1998 by presenting a certificate to President Claude Lajeunesse. Fairchild Radio is part of the Fairchild Media Group, whose Canadian television, radio, and print operations serve over 60 communities in 35 languages nationwide.

### JOURNALISM STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM JOAN DONALDSON INTERNSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP

A former Ryerson Journalism instructor and head of Newsworld, seriously injured when she was hit by a cyclist almost 10 years ago, is being honored with an internship program and scholarship fund to help journalism students at eight Canadian universities, including Ryerson.

Joan Donaldson was a popular broadcast instructor at Ryerson in the early 1980s, and went on to be the driving force behind the founding of the Newsworld channel, serving as its first president. (The current Journalism chair, Vince Carlin, was also president of the CBC all-news channel.) In 1990 she was hit by a cyclist in Montreal and suffered severe brain damage. After several years in a coma, Ms Donaldson, 52, has regained consciousness and is able to speak for short periods. The scholarship will provide \$2,000 cash and four paid months of summer work in one of Newsworld's production centres. The first scholarships were awarded March 1, 1999.