

Communication, Leadership and Social Innovation and the Faculty of Arts  
proudly presents:

# *Adopted to Adopting:*

*Reflections on*

*International/Transracial Adoption and its Future*

*Robert Ballard, Ph.D.*, University of Waterloo, adult adoptee/adoptive parent

*Sarah Ballard*, University of Waterloo, adoptive parent and counsellor

*Carrie Kitze*, EMK Press (Adoption Publisher) and adoptive parent

with *Carin Holroyd, Ph.D.*, University of Waterloo, adoptive parent, Founder -The Vietnam Education Society

Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Presentation 10:00 am to 12:00 pm ~ Book signing 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Arts Lecture Hall 116 ~ University of Waterloo campus

*This event is free and open to the public! Refreshments will be provided.*

“Adopted to Adopting” will present the personal perspectives and experiences of adoptees and adoptive parents as they reflect on their journeys in international and transracial adoption. Humorous, insightful, funny, and powerful, the three presenters will talk candidly and honestly about being adopted, adopting, and what it means for families today. They will offer important insights about the current and future state of international and transracial adoption.

Following the presentation will be the international launch of *Pieces of Me: Who do I Want to be?*, a book by and for adopted teenagers with universal themes for all. It is edited by Robert Ballard, published by Carrie Kitze, and features Sarah Ballard and nearly 70 other authors from around the world. Book signing and sales will occur (cash or cheque).

The event will also support the Vietnam Education Society, a non-profit organization focused on providing funds for new primary schools in rural areas of Vietnam.

## Information about the presenters:



*Robert Ballard:* In addition to serving as assistant professor in Communication, Leadership and Social Innovation at the University of Waterloo, Dr. Ballard is a Vietnamese adoptee. He is also an adoption writer, researcher (specializing in adoptee identity and adoptive families communication with three publications), international speaker and workshop presenter, and consultant. He has co-founded two adoptee-led organizations, is the advisor of a forthcoming documentary film on Operation Babylift, a prospective adoptive parent to a son from Vietnam, and co-writes a comic on international adoption (<http://www.adoptedthecomix.com>).



*Sarah Ballard:* Prior to re-locating to Waterloo, Ms. Ballard had a successful counseling practice specializing in international and transracial adoption. She is the author of *Xpress Yourself!*, a play therapy based curriculum for international and transracial adoptee groups. She has led a variety of adoption workshops and is a sought after adoption speaker and trainer. She has four adopted siblings from Korea and is a prospective adoptive parent to a son from Vietnam. She currently teaches public speaking, interpersonal communication, conflict management and family communication for Communication, Leadership and Social Innovation at the University of Waterloo.



*Carrie Kitze:* As well as being the founder and Publisher of EMK Press, a publication outlet specializing in adoption materials and resources ([www.emkpress.com](http://www.emkpress.com)), Ms. Kitze, is also an adoptive mother of two children from China. She is active in adoption affairs and has spoken at a variety of adoption events worldwide on a myriad of adoption related topics. Her articles often appear in adoption magazines and she is the author of *We See the Moon* and *I Don't Have Your Eyes* as well as the creator of *Adoption Parenting: Creating a Toolbox, Building Connections*.



**VIETNAM EDUCATION SOCIETY**

The Vietnamese Education Society (<http://www.vietnameducation.ca/>) raises funds to cover the cost of construction of new elementary schools, and early childhood education centres in rural areas of Vietnam. Carin Holroyd, assistant professor of political science at the University of Waterloo and adoptive mother, started VES after seeing the need for educational resources during her travels in Vietnam. VES has completed a ten-room primary school, a multipurpose room and a kindergarten for the community of Cat Ne in Thai Nguyen province and is currently raising funds for another school in Quang Binh province.