VANDANA SHIVA TAKES ON THE WORLD

HOMECOMING 2011 ISSUE
FAVOURITE TV DAD
ALAN THICKE
REMEMBERING 9/11

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I was working as managing editor for one of the American Heart Association (AHA) medical journals, Stroke, when I first heard the news of the 9/11 attacks. We were in daily contact with the AHA head office in Dallas and Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (LWW), our publishers in Baltimore, from our basement office in the Siebens-Drake Building on Western’s campus.

Our basic science satellite office was located at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, the city where two of the planes took off from that fateful day 10 years ago. We heard shortly after 9 a.m. from our colleagues in the United States that “America is under attack.” We weren’t sure what that meant. Then we turned on CBC radio and looked on news sites and watched as the world did in disbelief. When the first tower collapsed close to 10 a.m., it seemed impossible.

The McKellar lecture hall at UCC, that doubles as the location of Western Film, was transformed into an open-door news-watch/watching theatre with CNN tuned in on the big screen. When we made our way over at lunch, the live scenes of devastation in New York were surreal. The replaying of the buildings collapsing was both overwhelming and nauseating.

The world changed that day. There was an eerie silence across North America in the days that followed. The silence was of no air traffic. No jet streams that we take for granted crisscrossing the sky with their white lines of destination.

When travel did resume, it was cautious and careful. New rules were imposed and many pairs of scissors, including a pair of my dull-ended moustache trimming variety that would do less personal harm than a plastic knife, were confiscated and held at the London International Airport in formerly unfriendly southern Ontario.

Returning from a trip shortly after from Boston, when security measures were in high effect and yellow and orange levels became part of the vernacular, another pair of scissors would cause my blood pressure levels to rise. Putting my carry-on bag through the x-ray machine, one of the security officers asked if I had a pair of scissors in my bag. I had learned my lesson and answered no. However, she was insistent that I did and called over a manager. I kept denial I did, while casting nervous glances left to the U.S. Army guard in fatigues with an automatic rifle about 15 feet away watching with a steel gaze.

The security officer rejoiced when she pulled out a sealed sewing kit that included a two-inch pair of scissors that would have unscopically snuck into my luggage with the other hotel freebies like shampoo and soap. I told her she could keep it when she offered to return it to me. No need to repeat that experience.

Inside these pages and online at www.alumnigazette.ca you’ll find first-person reflections of 9/11 from our alumni in New York at the time of the terrorist attacks. Lives were changed that day, not just in New York but also across North America and around the world.

*** I will be moving one floor away from Communications and Public Affairs to take a position in the Advancement Services Department doing prospect research for the next year. In my absence, please send your correspondence to: wag.editor@uwo.ca

All the best in the year ahead - David Scott
**QUEEN’S GRAD ENJOYS ARTICLES**

(Re: One Love, Winter 2011)

I recently read your story ‘One Love’ on Stephanie Markey having attended Western.

I couldn’t resist seeing the full version on the website and have linked to it from my site. The graduation photo is fantastic.

Thanks very much for a fascinating recounting of a woman who sounds like an unstoppable force. Western is lucky to have her.

The Douglas Keddy article on Prof. Joanna Quinn’s work around the Ugandan Truth Commission was great as well. As a Queen’s grad, reading about these kinds of people at Western is heartening repre.

I’ve linked to it from my site. The website and have linked to it from my site. The

My real education began at Western, a very foreign place for a rural girl without much knowledge of the world. Western took me in however, and I learned and worked and started on a journey that has led me around the world, through a doctorate, into the power of education and steeped in me the quest to know. Recently, I retired from being a college president and returned to my first love, writing. I am working on a book on education leadership; a subject very removed from what I thought I would write when I sat with Margaret Laurence. I think if my mother were alive she would be proud that I still wear the ring that represents her simple belief that I could do anything. I am not sure the ring will last another 35 years but for now I slip it on every day and simply wonder what I might possibly learn today.

**RICHARD WARMAN, OTTAWA**

**RING REPRESENTS MORE THAN DAILY RITUAL**

Every morning since 1976 I have slipped a Western ring onto my baby finger. Recently I left it behind in a hotel and was highly distressed because my mother gave me that ring when I graduated from Western. The hotel found my ring and returned it to me and as I thanked them and drove away, I began to reflect on all the years of wearing the ring and what it has meant to me.

I have graduate degrees from other universities but I don’t wear their rings; I wear my undergraduate ring and have for 30 plus years. I wear it because my mother gave it to me and because Western was the door to my life. I was the youngest of four and the first to graduate from university. I was not a great Western student. I worked most nights at the information desk in the UCC just to afford to stay and, of course, I spent an appropriate amount of time in the Elbow Room after work.

That said, Western began for me a journey of discovering the world, discovering myself and realizing that life is always there in the next moment to be grasped and experienced for all it is worth.

I studied English because I loved words and still do. At Western I met powerful women who were creating new roles for women in the world and they opened my eyes to what was possible. Women like Margaret Laurence who I met when she was there, I assume, as a writer in residence. I remember sitting in her office and listening to her talk about writing and having the honour of her reading my young and untrained words. At Western, I became someone and that becoming led me through 25 plus years in the Canadian Community College system championing learners’ dreams of a better life. I came to understand that education is all that matters: to know, to imagine, and to understand is the foundation of everything positive we long for in our society.

My real education began at Western, a very foreign place for a rural girl without much knowledge of the world. Western took me in however, and I learned and worked and started on a journey that has led me around the world, through a doctorate, into the power of education and steeped in me the quest to know. Recently, I retired from being a college president and returned to my first love, writing. I am working on a book on education leadership; a subject very removed from what I thought I would write when I sat with Margaret Laurence. I think if my mother were alive she would be proud that I still wear the ring that represents her simple belief that I could do anything. I am not sure the ring will last another 35 years but for now I slip it on every day and simply wonder what I might possibly learn today.

**JOAN MCARTHUR-BLAIR, BA’77 (ENGLISH)**

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LABATT’S HISTORY HOME AT WESTERN ARCHIVES

With what will certainly become the cornerstone of its archive collection, The University of Western Ontario recently welcomed the documented history of the Labatt Brewing Company, bringing together more than 160 years of one of Canada’s most significant collections of historic corporate materials. The Labatt Brewing Company Archival Collection, valued at more than $3.6 million, is now the largest single gift housed in the Archives and Research Collection Centre at the D.B. Weldon Library, joining similar such documents from Canadian Tire in the ever-growing business-related archival records already stored at Western.

“I think it’s safe to say this has put Western in the forefront of Canadian business archives, there is no question,” says Robin Kerstein, Western archivist. “Just with the sheer amount of information, its richness and the fact that now, in some areas, people will be able to compare (with Canadian Tire) when it comes to media and print advertising, for example, and the different areas of commercial activities.”

Until four years ago, the material Labatt’s gathered since its founding – along with materials collected via acquisitions of smaller Canadian breweries over the years – resided in thousands upon thousands of boxes, drawers and filing cabinets across the country. Project Dusty, as affectionately branded by Labatt’s, brought those disparate pieces together. The company, along with professional archivists, gathered, catalogued, itemized and organized virtually all its replaceable corporate documents.

“It’s partly just the sheer volume,” says Kerstein, adding the collection’s 2,600 boxes set side by side would stretch more than five TD Waterhouse football fields. Add to that another 50,000 photos and illustrations, along with thousands of audio and visual materials, and the enormity of the collection emerges. Amongst some of the collection, the artifacts include John Labatt’s personal letter book (1883-1906) containing company correspondence; a brewery book (1884-1895) providing details of daily production and year-end summaries; a stereoscopic slide viewer (1950s) used to train staff to identify aluminium can defects; draft minutes of the first Board of Directors meeting (1911); and the certificate of registration of the ‘Blue’ trademark.

The collection provides interesting details on key phases in Labatt’s corporate history, including the origins of John labatt’s brewery in London, its growth into a national brewer and acquisition by Belgian-based Interbrew. Labatt’s also donated $520,000 to assist Western in digitising portions of the collection, which will help preserve and make key content of the collection more accessible.

WESTERN WELCOMES LARGEST FIRST-YEAR CLASS

The University of Western Ontario welcomes its biggest first-year class ever, as approximately 5,100 students arrive on campus this month. The number of confirmed acceptances came as a bit of a surprise, as the university projected its first-year enrolment to be 4,800 in 2011-12, an increase from the past target of 4,350 students. This also exceeds Western’s plan of increasing its first-year intake to 4,900 by 2013-14.

“Clearly, the acceptance rate exceeded our projections, even despite having made 600 fewer offers than we did last year,” says Janice Deakin, provost and vice-president (academic).

“In fact, we also raised our entering grade cut-off from 81 per cent to 83 per cent. “This is a good news story because it demonstrates there’s high demand for a Western degree from high-calibre students, all of which speaks to our university’s strong reputation.”

The programs that have seen increased enrolment growth include: management and organizational studies, health sciences, biological and medical science, and social science.

As part of its undergraduate enrolment expansion plans, Western aims to increase its first-year international student enrolment to 250 in 2011-12 from 146 students in 2010-11. “We do indeed anticipate we will meet the international enrolment target for 2011,” says Lori Griibion, director, undergraduate recruitment and admissions.

BLIND HAVE ABILITY TO ‘ECHOCOLOCATE’

It is common knowledge that bats and dolphins echolocate, emitting bursts of sound and then listening to the echoes that bounce back to detect objects. What is less well known is that people can echolocate, too. In fact, there are blind people who have learned to make clicks with their mouths and to use the returning echoes from those clicks to sense their surroundings. Some of these individuals are so adept at echolocation that they can use this skill to navigate unknown environments, and partaking in activities such as mountain biking and basketball.

Researchers at Western’s Centre for Brain and Mind have recently shown that blind echolocation experts use what is normally the ‘visual’ part of their brain to process the clicks and echoes. The study, appearing recently in the scientific journal PLoS ONE, is the first to investigate the neural basis of natural human echolocation.

Senior author Mel Goodale, Canada Research Chair in Visual Neuroscience, and Director of the Centre for Brain and Mind, says, “It is clear echolocation enables blind people to do things otherwise thought to be impossible with the remaining visual and visually-impaired people with a high degree of independence.”

Goodale and his team of researchers first made recordings of the clicks and their very faint echoes using tiny microphones in the ears of the blind echolocators as they stood outside and tried to identify different objects such as a car, a flag pole, and a tree. The researchers then played the recorded sounds back to the echolocators while their brain activity was being measured in Western’s state-of-the-art 3T functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scanner.

Remarkably, when the echolocation recordings were played back to the blind experts, not only did they perceive the objects based on the echoes, but they also showed activity in those areas of their brain that normally process visual information in sighted people.

According to Goodale, this research will provide a deeper understanding of brain function, particularly how the senses are processed and what happens neurologically when one sense is lost.

NEW DEAN OF LAW NAMED

While not from the world of academia, W. Ian Scott knows leadership is about appointing good people around you. Preparing for a five-year term as dean of the Faculty of Law as the school year begins, he is confident such guidance is already a part of the university structure.

Scott, who recently retired from an eight-year term as the first-ever chair and chief executive officer of one of Canada’s largest law firms, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, succeeds Ian Holloway, who completed his second five-year term as dean this summer.

A graduate of Yale and Queen’s University, Scott specialized in commercial law from 1979 to 2002, developing an expertise in a financial restructuring and reorganization practice, acting for debtors, creditors and strategic investors involved in forest products, manufacturing, financial services, and telecom sectors. During his tenure as chair and CEO, Scott appointed and led a senior leadership team to oversee development of the firm’s strategic plan which focused on building the strengths of McCarthy Tétrault’s 600 plus lawyers and implementing a team-oriented approach to delivering exceptional legal services to the firm’s national client base.

TELLING THE WESTERN STORY

For the last year, Western has been engaged in a bit of self-reflection, a rebranding process for the entire institution. This process has helped the university to understand how it can do a much better job of telling the ‘Western story’ – highlighting the teaching and research occurring on campus and the impact that work has across the globe.

Following a competitive process, Hahn Smith was selected in May as the lead agency on the visual rebranding process. The Toronto-based firm has worked previously with the CBC, Whitney Museum of American Art and Art Gallery of Ontario, as well as higher education entities like the University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management and Harvard University Graduate School of Design.
Throughout the summer, Hahn Smith representatives conducted workshops and interviews with faculty, staff, alumni and donors discussing the rebranding process. The input from deans and students will be sought in September, culminating with a consultation with Board of Governors later that month.

In addition, September will also feature an online survey to faculty, staff, students and alumni as well as face-to-face ‘streeters’ with random individuals around the main campus.

A website will launch in mid-September for members of the Western community to stay informed. Social media also will be utilized to provide another opportunity to share ideas.

To connect with the process, visit www.uwo.ca

DIGITIZING LIBRARY HOLDINGS

In Spring 2011, Amazon announced that sales of e-books through its Kindle service had surpassed sales of print books on Amazon.com. While e-books may seem like a recent technological development (the Kindle was introduced in November 2007), they have actually been available for many years in the academic environment. Early English Books Online (EBO), which provides the full-text of over 100,000 titles published in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from 1475-1700, was introduced at Western Libraries in 2001. Through EBO Western scholars can study the earliest editions of works shaping the beginnings of modern science and philosophy, as well as classic literary, religious and political texts using their desktop, laptop or portable mobile device.

Acquiring and making available e-books is one example of how academic library collections are changing in the digital age. The future of academic library collections also includes the digitization of local holdings to enable broader access and use of unique materials. Through digitization projects at Western Libraries which holds many unique treasures. The C.B. ‘Bud’ Johnston Library (Business) has begun to digitize their historical Canadian Annual Report Collection using a grant from the technology company EMC. It is anticipated that the grant will cover part of the costs associated with digitization, which is an expensive undertaking. In addition to converting materials (while ensuring the integrity of the original item), digitization increase when a collection poses unique challenges, either because of its nature (e.g., images rather than text) or its size. Perhaps the best example is The London Free Press Photo Negative Collection, which numbers in excess of 1.6 million images. While not all of these images can or will be digitized, preserving even a fraction of the Collection is a major undertaking.

And yet without investment in digitization projects, Western is at risk of losing and/or severely compromising access to these images can or will be digitized, preserving even a fraction of the Collection is a major undertaking.

To learn more visit www.westernmakesadifference.ca/priorities/libraries.html. Your gift will help Western educate the next generation of global leaders.

COULD ALAN THICKE BE THE WORLD’S FAVOURITE TV DAD?

BY JASON WINDEERS

Alan Thicke, BA67, had no idea what he was doing. Having skipped Grades 4 and 6, he arrived at The University of Western Ontario at age 16. Fresh from his small-town life, the 1965 Eliot Lake Secondary School homecoming king admits to boxes up dirty clothes and mailing them home for his mom to wash and return to his dorm. ‘I had no skills’ he laughs.

Today, the veteran television star reflects fondly on those initial awkward days. ‘My time at Western, in retrospect, was a great time, and instrumental in everything I have managed to do in my life,’ says Thicke, a Delta Upsilon fraternity member. ‘But by today’s standards, I would consider it to be simple, protected, naive, simple old Canadian values.’

Thicke’s inherent personable nature can be a remarkable career. ‘I got lucky in ways that were purely Canadian,’ says the man who hosted Wayne Gretzky’s wedding in 1988.

After Western, he joined the CBC working for Lorne Michaels, who later created Saturday Night Live. ‘They paid so badly in Canada at the CBC that it turned out to be a great advantage,’ he says. ‘You had to do a bunch of things to make a living.’

In the 1970s, Thicke was part of the leading edge of Canadian entertainers into The States. ‘Now the place is lousy with Canadians; they are everywhere. It used to be a very small, somewhat exclusive club. Happily now, it is not so much,’ he says.

He spent his first decade in show business as a writer for icons Richard Pryor and Flip Wilson. After coming to Canada, he penned infectious TV theme songs to show like Diff’rent Strokes, The Facts of Life and Wheel of Fortune. He has hosted numerous radio and television programs, none more than the success of Thicke’s Alan Thicke Show (1980-83) and none to more failure than Thicke of the Night (1983-84).

Thicke contends the latter show, which aired against late-night goliath The Tonight Show, was ‘an horrendous show, a terrible show, a terrible format in Canada into evening in The States. It died in less than one season.’

Months afterward, however, he would be tapped to play Jason Seaver on Growing Pains. That role put him alongside Bill Cosby (The Cosby Show) and Michael Gross (Family Ties) as the iconic television father figures of the 1980s. He is identified by the ‘wholesome dad’ persona, to this day.

‘It sort of saved my life,’ Thicke says of the Seaver role. ‘I was on a dramatically, universally hated talk show when I first went public in The States. I was so happy to recover from that career suicide with a sitcom. ‘I will always be happy for that’

Today, he can pick and choose his work. He makes recurring appearances on CTV’s How I Met Your Mother, and is currently working on film and Internet projects with comedians Adam Sandler and Will Ferrell. And he continues to write and ene across North America.

Thicke also remains connected to Ontario and Western. His stepfather, Dr. Brian Thicke, MD 56, still practices medicine in Brampton. In 2000, Thicke established the Thicke-Jeffery Scholarship in the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry in honour of his birth father, William Jeffery.

‘My Canadianess has always been somewhat unique and special,’ he says. ‘I like that. And Western is part of that.’

Visit alumni.uwo.ca for Alan Thicke’s advice he plans to offer his 13 year-old son when he eventually heads to university.
The seeds of alumna Vandana Shiva’s future were planted four decades ago in the thriving forests of the Garhwali Himalayas in Uttarakhand, India.

On March 24, 1974, generations of frustration over resource pillaging in that region culminated in a grassroots effort to save both trees and a way of life from disappearing. On that day, the women simply linked arms and refused to let go.

“This movement, called Chipko, which basically means ‘to embrace’ and ‘to hug,’ was started by village women, totally spontaneously against the massive logging and deforestation that was taking place,” Shiva says. “They said, ‘We’re going to hug the tree, and you’ll have to kill it before you kill the tree. We’re going to put Gandhi into action.’

The women were successful, sparking change in government policy as well as inspiring generations of environmental activists across the globe. “I was born in that region of the Himalayas, I had seen the forests go, “ says Vandana, who was among those first ‘tree-huggers,’ as they were branded. “When this happened, I started to volunteer with this movement.”

Today, Shiva, PhD ’79, LL.D.’92, remains a revolutionary of the highest order. Although not as well known in the Western hemisphere, her exploits are iconic in India garnering her praise as a leader of both the modern global environmental and women’s movements.

But if not for The University of Western Ontario, Shiva – and the planet – might have a different future.

Already the daughter of a forest conservator, her mother, who became a refugee upon the creation of Pakistan, shed her former government bureaucratic role and became a farmer. “We spent time between her farm and my dad’s job in the forest,” she says. “And both shaped us in a very important, very complementary way.”

She admits still coping with those early lessons from home. “They never told us, ‘Do this, don’t do that.’ But they did tell us to follow our conscience and be fearless,” Shiva remembers.

“The highest power is your own conscience. No power outside. Of course, I have been brought up in an Indian philosophy which tells you ultimately what matters is that you did the right thing, not that you were successful.

“How can you live a life doing the wrong thing because you might not be successful?”

Her initial training was in nuclear science, but she abandoned the pursuit after a conversation with her sister, a medical doctor. “She would ask me basic questions on the health issues and I would have no answer,” she says. “They don’t teach me that. I felt I was being half educated, half trained.”

Shiva says, “Every time I would ask a deeper question, I would be told by my guides, ‘No, you just compute, just collate. Don’t ask questions.’ Shiva laughs, ‘I got into physics to understand the world and how it works, and if I can’t ask questions then I am not doing what I want to do.”

So she turned to theoretical physics, where she found answers in questions. Shiva started to read on the foundations of physics and quantum theory, and then wrote to numerous young scientists from around the world. “Every one of them said we are going to Western, because The University of Western Ontario, at that period had created what they called a Colloquium of Quantum Theory, and brought people from around the world, the best minds – the best logicians, the best mathematicians, the best physicists, the best philosophers – and basically the foundations of the quantum theory community was all at Western in the philosophy department,” Shiva says.

She completed a master’s in philosophy at Guelph, and then joined Western for her PhD work. She completed her thesis, Hidden Variable and Locality in Quantum Theory, in 1979.

Today, she credits her quantum theory training – and Western – with her positive outlook on the world. “When people say, ‘When you know so much about the destruction, when you live it every day, how can you be hopeful?’ I say you don’t have to give deterministic outcomes to the destructive forces because it could be different.”

The 58-year-old remains part inspired, part haunted by the Punjab riots and India Bhagal disaster, both in 1984. “Most people think of 9/11 as when terrorism began, but Punjab, India, the land of the Green Revolution, had such extremism in the early 1980s that 33,000 people had been killed. That’s as if 9/11,” she says.

“And even though my training was physics, my passion was ecology.”


In 1987, she was invited to a conference on new biotechnologies where corporations were first outlining a desire to patent crops and seeds. “I thought this sounded like a terrible dictatorship. We need the some kind of freedom.”

From there grew Navdanya International, Shiva’s organisation focused on saving and distributing native seeds to local farmers as well as advocating for the use of traditional farming practices and against the use of biotechnology, such as genetically modified seeds. Through this organization, and its work, Shiva fuels actions around the globe.

Despite the uphill climb, she remains resolved to the mission and the possibility of saving the world from itself. “We behave according to the context. Unfortunately, globalization has created the rule of greed – as the film says, greed is good. But even in today’s context there are enough people working to create abundance, share abundance and give dignity to all life on Earth. I think as a species not only are we capable of it, it is the only way we have a future.”

Shiva remains a powerful voice in the media, publishing and speaking with great frequency as well as appearing in dozens of award-winning documentaries. She has been honoured with the Global 500 Roll of Honour from the United Nations Environment Program (1993), Earth Day International Award (1993), Right to Livelihood Award/Alternative Nobel Prize (1993), Sydney Peace Prize from Sydney University (2010) and Calgary Peace Prize from the Consortium of Peace Studies at the University of Calgary (2011).

Accolades are fine, Shiva says, but she realizes her fight goes on. And like those early days, linked around a tree in the Garhwali Himalayas, she knows small local change can make a massive, global impact.

Visit alumngazette.ca for Vandana Shiva’s advice to young women at university, who she counts on to save the world from itself.
MEMORIES FROM 9/11

REMEMBERING 9/11

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF 9/11

BY JOHN MOORE, BAY'92, DIP'93 (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

From the moment I woke on Tuesday Sept. 11, 2001, I knew it wasn’t going to be a typical day.

At the time, I was living in Hoboken, NJ, directly across the river from lower Manhattan. My daily commute involved taking a train into the World Trade Center (WTC) station and then walking a few blocks to my office. The WTC was a part of my life – I shopped, ate and even watched movies there.

As a lawyer, my day started much later than the traders on Wall Street and I would normally pass through the WTC at about 9 a.m. That morning, after sleeping in, I heard a woman outside my window yelling about a building being on fire. I didn’t think too much of it but I did turn on my TV. Strangely, the only station working was one in Spanish which had a direct shot of the WTC and what appeared to be a small fire.

I immediately called my parents in Toronto. After turning on CNN, my mother confirmed that there was a plane crash. I told her that rather than taking the train today, I would take a commuter ferry to NYC and simply walk around the fire. After some back and forth, my mother pleaded for me to not go to work. I agreed with her, changed into shorts and a t-shirt, grabbed my camera and started to walk to a park across the Hudson River for a better view.

As I got closer, there were a lot of emergency vehicles on the street. I began to realize that this wasn’t a ‘small’ fire. At the exact moment that I walked into the park, the first tower of the World Trade Center started to collapse. As it crumbled, I stared in utter shock as a massive plume of smoke and debris rapidly spread into the city and river. I immediately sat on the ground and tried to process what had happened, shaking my head in disbelief.

Instantly, random people held hands and formed circles of prayer. Others screamed explosives. As I looked across the river and at the debris subsided, I could see was one lone WTC tower – but not for long.

A short time later, U.S Air Force jets buzzed the sky. It was comforting to see them and a few people cheered. But we were still very much in shock and had no clue what was really happening, nor did we understand the gravity of the situation, and the fact that these events would eventually result in such heavy losses of life and anguish for so many NYC would be changed forever.

Less than a week later, New Yorkers were allowed back into Lower Manhattan. It was an entirely different landscape. We took a ferry across the river as the train station was gone. As the boat passed the WTC, fires were still burning and toxic smells were ever present; no one said a word. We docked at the foot of Wall Street and immediately saw dozens of emergency personnel including army vehicles. It looked like a war zone. It just looked incredibly foreign.

The memories from that day will last a lifetime and still bring me chills. But a new era has begun. The new Freedom Tower is being built and the 9/11 Memorial Museum is near completion. Those lost will not be forgotten but life will continue as New Yorkers are known for their resolve and strength. Full account online at: www.alumnigazette.ca
NEW YORK PICKED ITSELF UP

BY PAUL THOMAS, MBA’85

I was working in the World Financial Center that was actually connected to the World Trade Center by a concourse over the highway. At the time, I was running Merrill Lynch’s government business down in New York. We had just concluded our morning meeting and I heard a low-flying plane, then a really loud noise. I took a look out the window from my office which faced on to where the Statue of Liberty was and saw the guys running away looking up and some debris falling down. When I looked up, the World Trade Center was engulfed in a ball of flames. I would have just seen the impact of the first plane as it hit the building.

“I didn’t make the connection of plane-building. It was more surreal, like a movie set. When I looked up, I thought ‘bomb.’”

So, I went out onto Merrill Lynch’s trading floor. I said, “A bomb has just gone off in the World Trade Center.” People initially thought I wasn’t serious.

Cantor Fitzgerald was in the World Trade Center (WTC). They were probably the organization that was affected the most. I think of the 900 people they had working there, 658 died. All the people working for me who either had family members or really good friends working for Cantor Fitzgerald immediately got on phones and called people.

One of my right-hand guys spoke to his brother, who ended up not making it. They found his body the next day, which would suggest he got to the roof and jumped off. His brother had been there for the 1993 bomb attack (at the WTC).

When we saw plane number two hit, that’s when we realized we had to evacuate. We had to walk down seven floors. That was tough. I don’t know how people walked down 79.

I think the scariest thing was we saw the fire trucks that continued to head down to that area, particularly after the first building went down. They knew some of their guys were in that building, and they’ll be going into the other building and there was a chance that one will go down, too. There was a stream of fire trucks heading to the site. You would have one station, then another station getting the alarm and having to go down. Later when we were walking with hundreds of thousands of other people up through the streets of Manhattan, there was a huge lineup of people, probably for three blocks. I’m thinking, “What are they waiting for?” This would have been like four people deep, two or three hours long, in Manhattan. I’m thinking there is a bus to get them off, what are they doing? Then I realized they’re in line to give blood. But I don’t know who they’re going to be giving it too. In my mind, when those two buildings went down, there wasn’t going to be a lot of people left.

In that kind of crisis, you really see an amazing character of people, it’s hard to explain but the whole place kind of picked each other up. It was pretty amazing for a city like New York.

A longer account of Paul’s story can be found online at: www.alumnigazette.ca

FALL 2011 EDITION 17

MEMORIES FROM 9/11

BY MICHELLE FRENCH, BA’93 (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

I started my day under a clear blue sky on a crisp sunny Tuesday morning. This was an unusually busy morning for me that started at 6:30 a.m. with back-to-back meetings. The fact that today was Sept. 11 held no significance and the building across the street from where I got my coffee was not yet referred to as Ground Zero. Just like all the other bustling people around me that day, I was focused on my job and all the important tasks directly ahead of me. I was three weeks into my new position as branch manager and people were counting on me – nothing I could imagine at that point could possibly distract or deter me from the busy day ahead. It was Manhattan’s financial district: we were all there to make money.

I was back at my desk on the 18th floor of the old AT&T building on the corner of Broadway and Cortland when the first plane hit the north tower. I heard a loud explosion followed by tremors that shook the floor for about 45 seconds. Although I was only 300 feet from the World Trade Center, I was sitting in a windowless room concentrating on an unpleasant classroom scheduling conflict. I finished responding to a client’s email and had just opened another when the news started to pour in over the radio, and the yells from outside my door to “come look!” started to grab my attention. “We had clients in our offices that day from all over the country who were desperately looking to me for answers. Nervous and shaking, two colleagues and I went down to street level to investigate. We were immediately met with chaos and disbelief.

For every person that was running frantically past us there were two more standing in the middle of the street staring up at the north tower, struggling to sort out what they were seeing. The tower seemed to be engulfed in smoke and it appeared that huge chunks of debris were breaking off from the top and crashing to the ground. “A small plane crashed into the tower,” someone said. “We moved across Church Street and got closer to the towers to discover that what we were looking at was not debris at all, but people. We were watching people fall from 90 to 100 stories up. Everyone around us was horrified and asking the same question out loud: ‘Are those PEOPLE?!” Nobody needed to answer.

My shaking intensified as I tried repeatedly to call our office on the 78th floor of the north tower, but there was no cell signal. My cousin worked there and I was panic stricken for him and his family of four kids. Within 45 minutes I learned that he was in the lobby of the WTC at the time of the attack and had made it out safely. I was relieved, but nothing I was seeing or hearing was registering with me properly that morning. I was disoriented and scared and while nearly 10 years have gone by since that fateful day, I still believe there had been a horrible mistake; a mechanical malfunction or perhaps human error. When I watched the second plane fly into the south tower all I could ask myself was, “How is this happening?” The answer to this question has changed my perspective on humanity forever. I kept my copy of the Wall Street Journal from the morning of 9/11 and no word similar to “terrorism” can be found in that edition. The word was simply not a daily part of our American vocabulary.

For Michelle French’s complete account from 9/11, please visit: www.alumnigazette.ca

In Michelle’s words: On our office ledge a few days after the attack with the WTC remains in the background. This picture was taken with my camera by one of the police officers that escorted me up to our office to gather wallets that were left behind by our clients and employees. The officers at that point had not had the opportunity to see inside the gates of the devastation either and were mesmerized.
REMEMBERING RALPH GERHARDT (BA’92)

The following is reprinted with permission from the website in honour of Western alumnus Ralph Gerhardt, BA’92 (Economics), who lost his life at Tower 1 of the World Trade Center 10 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001. This excerpt is from the eulogy that his father, Hans J. Gerhardt, delivered at a memorial service held at St. Paul’s Basilica, Toronto, on Oct. 15, 2001.

Ralph called me on the 11th. At 8:52 a.m. He was calm, but very serious. “Dad, something happened at the World Trade Center. A bomb or plane hit the building. I am okay. We are okay. I love you, but I have to go now. We are evacuating the building. Talk to you later.”

That call never came.

Ralph was on the 105th Floor of Tower 1.

He was working there for Cantor Fitzgerald as Vice President of Derivatives for the past year and a half.

Prior to that, he was working for them in the Toronto office.

Meeting with company officials and other grieving family members, and understanding the structure of the building and where the plane impacted.

We have come to the difficult conclusion that not one person from the company’s 733 employees nor anyone above the 91st.

This includes our son, Ralph, and his lady friend, Linda Luzzione, who also worked on the same floor.***

We met Linda and we know that they had a wonderful relationship.

Linda’s Dad had told me that Linda never looked happier than when they were together.

We can only hope that they were together in their final moments.***

We saw a lot of Ralph and Linda these past months.***

As a matter of fact, they visited us in Toronto over the Labour Day weekend. And I visited them in New York the weekend prior.***

Helga talked daily with Ralph in New York and with Stephan in Washington, DC. And many times did I call complain about that, seeing the monthly phone bill.

Today, I am glad she did not listen to me!***

One never knows if or when you will see or talk to each other again. Ralph had that special quality in all of his relationships, to make every moment special. And to make it count.

In our daily phone calls or visits, there was always a hug and an “I love you, Mom” And “I love you, Dad”***

New York City has been so special to us in these difficult days.

New Yorkers have great reasons to be proud.

And we as Canadians should be proud to have such compassionate neighbours. Brothers and sisters.

In any family one tries to build a foundation of love and trust.***

One can’t see if one did achieve that goal until a crisis arises.***

Today this foundation is visible to us and to the world.***

Strangers have hugged us, gave us flowers, flags, Teddy Bears prayed, and cried with us.***

And if one says today, “I love New York”, it takes on a whole different meaning.

On behalf of the Gerhardt family, I can proudly say to you, “We love New York.”

The full tribute to Ralph Gerhardt can be found at: ralphgerhardt.com

LEGACY OF WIND TUNNEL RESEARCH CONTINUES

BY HEATHER TRAVIS, BA’95

Western houses the first boundary-layer wind tunnel in the world to test human-made structures, such as buildings and bridges. Built in 1965, the first wind tunnel (BLWT 1) can test wind speeds up to 55 miles per hour. The second wind tunnel (BLWT 2), erected in 1984, can test wind speeds up to 100 miles per hour.

“We defined the field of wind engineering,” says Professor Peter King, BESC’73, MESC’78, PhD’84, Research Director of the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory.

As a Grade 12 student in 1968, King was given behind-the-scenes access to Alan Davenport, DSc’01, BLWT founding director. Davenport later became King’s mentor and advisor as he completed his master’s and PhD at Western.

“I was able to work on the CN Tower and the Sears Building in Chicago. The first bridge I was able to work on was the A. Murray Mackay Bridge in Halifax and that was when I was a summer student,” says King, who specializes in bridges. “That was really important because up until that time all bridges had been tested in aerostatic tunnels by people who had aeronautical background. (Davenport) was the one who said, ‘Don’t test bridges in smooth flow because the wind is turbulent.’”

The A. Murray Mackay Bridge was the first bridge in the world to be tested in a turbulent boundary layer wind flow. An outstanding lecturer and researcher, Davenport, who died in 2009, was able to bridge research and industry in the classroom by bringing real-world engineering problems to students and faculty to solve.

In the early 1960s, Davenport was asked to participate in a study to define the wind loads for the tallest buildings in the world — the World Trade Center terminal in New York. Because Western didn’t have a wind tunnel, Davenport travelled to Colorado State University in 1964 to test models of the buildings in its newly constructed boundary layer wind tunnel (built in 1963). He also travelled to the National Physical Laboratory in England to conduct tests on the towers.

After jet-setting around the world to access boundary layer wind tunnels to complete his research, Davenport decided Western should have its own wind tunnel on site. He received a National Research Council of Canada grant to build the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel. The wind tunnel was formally unveiled on Nov. 25, 1965. And it has been history-making ever since.

Researchers were restricted in the size of models they could test in BLWT 1 because of the dimensions of the wind tunnel. Now, with BLWT 2, the group is able to test bigger and taller models under nearly two times the wind speeds and surface area. As well, BLWT 2 is a closed return tunnel, allowing the wind to loop through two parallel tunnel sections and can test smaller models at about a scale of 1/5000 and larger scale models, 1/250 in size. Both wind tunnels are currently in use.

In October 2010, the group put a model of the World Trade Centre PATH Terminal in New York to the test. Designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the four-level transit hub resembling the shape of a dove’s wings will be built at Ground Zero as the access to the subway system.

“Averageing about 40-50 projects a year, “there are quite a few structures in the world that have Western’s stamp on it,” King says.
When you think of the War of 1812, what images come to mind? The White House burning? Native leaders like Tecumseh helping British troops defeat Americans? The only war Canada won against the USA? When double alumna and best-selling business author Beverly Behan, HBA ’75, LLB ’82, thinks “War of 1812,” she thinks “sexy.”

Behan has what many would call a dream career – she consults with boards of directors ranging from Fortune 500s to recent startups. When double alumna and best-selling business author Beverly Behan, HBA ’75, LLB ’82, decided to try her hand at writing mysteries as a hobby.

The White House was initially a small wooden house completed in 1792 for President John Adams. It was later expanded in 1800 by First Lady Abigail Adams, who, according to legend, insisted on a white exterior to blend with her draperies. However, the White House has burned down several times in its history, including a major fire in 1814. During the War of 1812, British troops burned the White House as a reprisal for American raids on Canadian towns. The fire started when British troops tried to blow up a Federal gunpowder magazine located below one of the White House's staircases. The blaze was contained to the first floor, but the resulting smoke caused black stains that have since disappeared.

This is just a historical tidbit, but it does illustrate the importance of fire prevention and the need for proper insurance coverage in the event of a fire. Insurance policies can vary widely, and choosing the right one is crucial for protecting your valuable assets.

But back to the story... When Behan finished reading, her classmates told her, “I don’t care who killed him, but I really want to buy that cookbook.” That killed all my aspirations to write after I had that reaction from people,” admits Behan. But the creative writing bug didn’t let go and in 2009, she took a screenwriting course in New York just for fun – “brain candy,” as she calls it.

“Most class members were young film students who wanted to write contemporary movies about Manhattan – drug deals in SoHo, superheroes in Times Square.” Behan, on the other hand, only wanted to write “period pieces” with strong female characters. Mary Magdalene and the Empress Josephine. To her surprise, her young classmates loved her screenwriting – and her ‘hot’ female characters – and she found that the structured approach to screenwriting somewhat paralleled business writing, and was far more compatible with her style. So, she was prepared when the right idea hit.

But what about the War of 1812 is sexy?

“Tecumseh is the sexiest man alive in 1812. He is this Native warrior who can kind of kill anything at how many paces. In one sense, there’s something very sexy about that. But on the flipside, if you read some of the sayings of Tecumseh, this guy was intellectually absolutely superb. He was a true leader. So, that’s very sexy, too.”

Another key character central to Behan’s screenplay is a familiar name north and south of the 49th Parallel. Laura Secord. “Most little Canadian girls do projects on Laura Secord. All we really know about her is there’s chocolates involved, which there really never was. I just thought I’d like to take Laura Secord and make her into the Canadian Scarlett O’Hara.”

And who would her “Canadian Scarlett O’Hara” be if she had the big screen budget of Gone With The Wind? “My dream would be an all-Canadian but Hollywood-calibre cast. Rachel McAdams for Laura Secord. If you put the picture of Laura Secord from the chocolates next to Rachel, she’s a dead-ringer. I thought I’d like to take Laura Secord and make her into the Canadian Scarlett O’Hara.”

Proverbs are wise sayings that are often short, pithy, and universally applicable. They serve to provide moral guidance and teach valuable lessons. For example, the proverb “A stitch in time saves nine” emphasizes the importance of acting promptly and decisively to prevent larger problems from arising.

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Great Companies Deserve Great Boards is available in hardcover and on Amazon Kindle. 1812 in Niagara is available in paperback through Britnell Books www.britnellbooks.com/books/business/1812-niagara-screenplay and an ebook version is available on Amazon, Kobo and other ebook sites.
With Western connections stretching back 70 years, Bocking family members have been energetic students, faculty, administrators, volunteers and philanthropists at their alma mater.

Douglas Bocking, MD’43, was part of the first Bocking inundation of Western. Twin brother Jack earned a BSc (Botany) in 1942. Sister Margaret studied nursing – (BSc’n’44). She married Malcolm Edworthy, MD’44. Two of her grandchildren attended – Benjamin Nelson, BSc’98, HBA’03, and David Nelson, BSc’02 (Software Engineering).

Douglas went afield for training and employment, meeting Vivian Dixon, BA’82, in Quebec and marrying. The couple put down roots in London in 1952 and in short order the second Bocking wave at Western began.

Daughter Barbara (BSc’69) married John Thompson (BSc’67, Math). His sisters, Linda Bovas (nee Thompson) BA’70 & Teaching Diploma 1971 and Donna Napaym (nee Thompson) BA’72 & Teaching Diploma 1974, were also alumni.

Bruce, MD’71, married Carolyn Abercromby, BSc’71 (Pharmacology & Physiology). Carolyn’s sister Susan, BSc’73, married Bruce Cruckshank, MD’76.

Kenneth, MD’75, married Dianne Whitmore, BSc’73 (Home Economics-Bacteria). Son Steven, BSc’92 (Astronaut Science) graduated, as did Dianne’s sister Lynne, BSc’74 (Physiotherapy) and her husband Robert Gaddis, BSc’74 (Geology), MSc’80 (Geology). Dianne’s dad, BA’55 Carmen also graduated. Alan, MD’75, married Barbara Miller, BSc’76 (Physiotherapy). Barbara’s mother Paula Dinney, BSc’48 (Chemistry) married Geoffrey Miller, MD’50.

Donald, BSc’80 (King’s), married Ann Marawaetz. Ann’s father Bruno, BA’48 (Philosophy) married Gwen Jones, BA’49.

The youngest child, Bob, attended Western for biology then transferred to UBC, to focus on marine biology. Douglas, who remains an active presence on campus, was a faculty member and medicine dean (1965-78). Vivian, BA’82 (Political Science), who died this year, earned a Western degree after the children graduated.
For this engaged professional family, developing a better understanding of the world has provided a gateway to careers in law (Michael) and business (Richard), and fostered participation in grassroots groups – particularly for Maria, who is active in the local Liberal party. 

Nigeria-born Atiana was in England when bitten by a Canada bug that came buzzing in a speech by former prime minister Lester Pearson – winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace. She decided that if Canada was like Pearson, she wanted more of it. She came to Canada in 1977 pregnant with Richard (Joe had arrived a month earlier) and soon founded a retail business supplying the needs of mothers and babies.

While raising a family and running a business she enrolled at Western, driving daily, sometimes researching in the stacks with her children in tow. Eventually, she enrolled in the law school, for which she had plenty of experience. She learned about understanding your world, your community. "You need to get engaged. You have a duty to get involved."

Four children earned one or more Western degrees:

- Anna (Richard), and fostered participation in grassroots groups – particularly for Maria, who is active in the local Liberal party.
- Michael, BA’95 (Political Science) would likely agree because her husband Joe and son Edward are Woodstock, Ont. pharmacists. But equally true is a less-travelled axiom: like mother, like sons. The mother of three, and one of her sons – Richard, BA’95, and Michael, BA’89 – have accumulated four Western political science degrees.

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What if the Bucke-Seaborn-Moss clan had not been a factor in some of Western’s early defining moments? What might Western be today? Richard Maurice Bucke was born in England in 1837 and grew up near London, Ont. He struck out at an early age for the U.S. West, faced death several times, and lost a foot to frostbite. Against huge odds, he returned to London, Ont., became president of then-Western University, Bucke played a central role in founding Western. Bucke married a woman named Bucke’s daughter Ada married Richard Seaborn. Seaborn’s daughter Ina Seaborn attended Western for two years. She did not complete her degree but she fostered a Western connection in her own children. She died in May 2011 at the age of 102.

Ina’s son John Seaborn Moss, of Ottawa, earned a BSc (Physics & Math) in 1962. His spouse is Shirley Ann Moss (MSC ‘63, Physics). Ina’s daughter Mary Ann Alexander earned a Western BA in 1944.

And, claiming the family’s fifth generation connection to Western, Mary’s daughter Heather graduated in 1995 with a BSc (Geography, Environment Research).

What if the Bucke-Seaborn-Moss clan had not been a factor in some of Western’s early defining moments? What might Western be today?

Recognized as a world leader in cognitive neuroscience research, the Centre for Brain and Mind at The University of Western Ontario will begin training postdoctoral fellows from three of the top institutions in the United Kingdom next year.

Each summer, the New Visiting Postdoctoral Fellows Program will attract to London, Ontario up to three trainees from each of University of Cambridge, King’s College London and University College London.

Similarly, the initiative enables Western to send three postdoctoral fellows to each of these institutions for four-month training periods. Each institution will publish results of this work jointly.

The program was announced July 25 at the grand opening of a newly created, state-of-the-art space that allows all of the centre’s researchers to work side-by-side in a common area for the first time. Previously, researchers were scattered across campus.

“Western’s already strong ties to the United Kingdom were bolstered by our having recruited Adrian Owen from the University of Cambridge as a Canada Excellence Research Chair last year,” says Ted Hewitt, Vice-President (Research & International Relations).

“This program not only enhances our international leadership role in the field, it helps us train the next generation of neuroscientists to answer questions related to high-level cognitive function and disease.”

Known around the world for pioneering research, the Centre has attracted more than $25 million in funding since 2005 and is home to 20 principal investigators – including 10 Canada Research Chairs and the Canada Excellence Research Chair held by Owen – their graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

In all, more than 50 Western researchers affiliated with the Centre are approaching studies of the human brain from backgrounds in a variety of disciplines.

“Continued making advances in this field, we need to provide trainees with access to the best minds and facilities in the world, and this is a great opportunity to leverage expertise at these four institutions,” says Centre Director, Melvyn Goodale.

Join Craig Kelburger, co-founder of two of the world’s most influential international non-profit organizations, Free The Children and Me to We, and award-winning Master Innovators: The Best Business Forward to future sessions.”

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HELPING CANADIAN BUSINESS SUCCEED AROUND THE WORLD

BY S. E. GORDON

On November 10, 2010, Stephen Poloz, MBA’82, PhD’82 (Economics), was visiting the Pueblito Viejo, a gold mine in the jungles of the Dominican Republic co-owned by Canadian mining firm Barrick Gold and Goldcorp. Poloz was Senior Vice-President, Financing, at Export Development Canada (EDC), the federal agency, which provides export credits and insurance to help Canadian exporters, and investors do business abroad. EDC has underwritten $400 million (U.S.) of project financing for the venture.

While discussing the mining companies’ environmental cleanup, he received a phone call from Ottawa. International Trade Minister Peter Van Loan was calling to say Poloz was being named President and CEO of the Crown Corporation. “I couldn’t tell anyone that day,” he recalls. But Poloz kept an empty local beer can on his desk as a memento of the occasion. (“Cheers.”)

While discussing the mining companies’ mission, he says, was to give EDC’s economic analysis and forecasting a visible presence in the marketplace, to contribute to its brand EDC Economics had a space of its own, devoted to international economic. “We saw ourselves working as Canadian consultants to Canadian companies.” In 2004, he was promoted to Senior Vice-President, Corporate Affairs and Chief Economist, which added to his job description oversight of corporate planning, communications, government and international relations, engineering, corporate social responsibility and corporate research. But it was in 2008, with his rise to Senior Vice-President, Financing, that Poloz finally moved into the deal-making mainstream of EDC. The pace was frenetic. The agency was making $12 billion a year in new loans, doing 1,000 deals annually. “It was like drinking from a fire hose in the summer of 2008,” he recalls.

That autumn, however, the global financial markets suffered an historic meltdown, and Canadian companies and lenders pulled back. To try to prop up Canadian industry, the Harper Government gave EDC a temporary, two-year mandate to lend domestically. Working closely with Canadian banks and credit insurers, EDC provided $2.5 billion in domestic support for 208 Canadian companies in 2009.

In the past, Canada’s major private banks had shied at having EDC as a competitor in trade finance. They claimed that the Crown Corporation cherry-picked the most inviting deals and left the banks the riskiest ones. Poloz insists, however, that relations now are very harmonious. Last year, he notes, EDC supplied $13 billion in export credits, and 75 per cent of those loans “were partnered with a bank, often in remote places.”

Increasingly, EDC is putting boots on the ground in those places. Since 2008, it has added offices in Istanbul, Panama City, Lima, Santiago and Singapore, giving it dealmakers in 14 foreign outposts. As his 2010 trek to the Dominican jungle showed, Poloz is quite willing to travel to remote places to promote Canadian business. He does six or seven international trips a year. In colonial times, “trade followed the flag.” At EDC, though, Steve Poloz is making sure the two go in tandem.

WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM AN eREADER?

BY MATTHEW HOY, WESTERN’S SENIOR WEB DESIGNER

MAYBE YOU’RE AN AVID READER WITH A PENDANT FOR GADGETS OR A CHEF WITH OVER 50 COOKBOOKS. WITH eREADERS YOU CAN DITCH THE WEIGHT OF CARRYING AROUND ALL THOSE BOOKS WHILE GAINING THE ABILITY TO SEARCH THEM FOR THE LATEST RECIPE BY “CHEF AT HOME.” MICHAEL SMITH. TO HELP YOU MAKE A DECISION, WE’VE BROUGHT TOGETHER A BIT OF INFORMATION ON SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR eREADERS ON THE MARKET.

IPAD

While being an e-reader is not its first function, the iPad is one of the most versatile devices available. In addition to having other benefits - like the entire suite of 80,000 iPad apps - the iPad also has a built-in books store that lets you buy and organize books and PDFs on the device. Books on iPad can be annotated and marked up with built-in highlighter tools for future reference.

KINDLE 3 AND KINDLE DX

The Amazon-brand e-reader allows you to directly purchase books from Amazon’s massive online store and take them with you directly. They also read PDFs and MOBI files in case you have publications or files in those formats. Unlike the other readers we discuss here, the Kindle devices have physical keyboards of that’s something you prefer. The Kindle’s screen uses e-ink to display content meaning that your book pages will display in black and white like you’re reading an analog novel. The battery life on the Kindle 3 can last you about 15 days before needing a charge.

BARNES AND NOBLE NOOK

The Nook supports ePub, PDF and graphic files like JPEG, GIF, PNG, and BMP file formats and has upgradable memory up to 32GB. Barnes and Noble has also created an app that brings all books available on the Nook to the iPad and iPhone. The Nook screen is a hybrid colour and black and white device with the content being rendered in e-ink and the navigation is in full colour. ‘What might throw you off at first is that the ‘page’ itself is not a touchscreen while the navigation below is but you should get used to it quickly.

KOBOR READER

The Kobo reader is a black and white device that supports a diverse array of file formats including: ePub, PDF, and MOBI as well as images and even web pages. For comic fans it also supports CBZ and CBR file formats. The most recent Kobo device comes without a headphone jack meaning you can’t listen to audio versions of your books. The Kobo can hold about 1,000 books and comes with 100 classics pre-loaded so you can get out and start reading right away. The Kobo features functions like being able to look up words in the on-board dictionary and provides a clutter-free reading experience.
There’s so much to do when you come home!

Thursday, September 29
HOMECOMING KICKOFF & ALUMNI WESTERN AGM
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
TD Waterhouse Stadium
Join us as we bestow our 4th Annual Spirit of Western Award. Appetizers, entertainment and mingling. Everyone is invited.

Friday, September 30
37TH ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER
5:30 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Dinner
The Great Hall, Somerville House
Price: $75
Western honours remarkable alumni during a fabulous three-course meal with greetings from Western’s President, Amit Chakma.

2010 Alumni Award of Merit Recipients
Ted Hessel, BA(Hon)’67 - Dr. Ivan Smith Award
Jack Cowin, BA’64, LLD’00 - Professional Achievement Award
John Eberhard, BA’66, LLB’69 - Community Service Award
Sarah Richardson, BA’93 - Young Alumni Award
Elfrida Berzins Award Recipients
Angela Schneider, BA’82, MA’85, MA’87, PhD’93
Heather Simpson, BA’69
Jennifer Plaskett, BA’00
Jill Purola, BA’86
‘W’ Club Hall of Fame Inductees
Marnix Heerink, BA’69, MD’73
Michael Potts, BA’00
Vaughn Peckham, BA’69
Larry Haylor

Saturday, October 1
HOMECOMING PARADE
10:00 a.m.
Along Richmond Street
HOMECOMING HOSPITALITY
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Alumni Hall Lobby
A great spot to enjoy refreshments, lively music, face painting, children’s activities, a commemorative photo opportunity and free gifts while they last. An ideal meeting place for classmates.

MANULIFE SOUTH END ZONE LUNCH
11:30 a.m.
TD Waterhouse Stadium
Price: $45 for football ticket, VIP lunch, access to tented reception with private cash bar and a free Homecoming gift, compliments of Manulife Financial.

Enjoy the game in style at field level in the End Zone. This is truly the best package deal available, space is limited. Group table seating for the meal available upon request.

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME
1:00 p.m.
TD Waterhouse Stadium
Western Mustangs vs. York Lions
For tickets, please contact the Mustang Ticket Office at 519.661.4077 or online: westernmustangstickets.universitytickets.com

Sunday, October 2
PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Gibbons Lodge, 1836 Richmond Street
President and Vice-Chancellor, Amit Chakma and Meena Chakma invite graduates celebrating reunion years and anniversaries to a garden reception at their home.

HOMECOMING GOLF AT FIREROCK
10345 Oxbow Drive, Komoka
Price: $60 per player
Wrap up your Homecoming weekend at a dazzling 18 hole championship course. Please contact FireRock to book your tee time at 519.471.3473 or 866.241.4440 and mention you are one of Western’s alumni. Price is $60 plus HST and includes 18 holes, a GPS golf cart, BBQ lunch and a free Homecoming gift.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY DINNER
6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner
The Great Hall, Somerville House
Price: $50
Join your classmates from 1961 and earlier for an elegant evening featuring a three-course meal, musical entertainment and a visit from Western’s President, Amit Chakma. Seating will be arranged by reunion year.

There are many more events taking place on Homecoming Weekend! For more information, and a listing of faculty, branch and chapter, and Affiliated College events, please visit: www.alumni.uwo.ca

Homecoming is sponsored by:

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Bourgeois closed her talk asking the<br>graduates, "Who's going to make that change?"
"I hope it's someone who's sitting here<br>today."
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Western's Engineering Students have acknowledged responsibility<br>for many major pranks across campus and in some cases have paid for<br>damages resulting from these practices. A long-standing target has been<br>the Cronyn Memorial Observatory Dome. Following an incident in the<br>1960's when permanent pant was used to create a giant Halloween<br>pumpkin and later removed at great expense, the engineers have since<br>unveiled.
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NEW RELEASES

THE WHITE-LUCK WARRIOR
The White-Luck Warrior, the fifth Asia fantasy novel by R. Scott Bakker, BA’95, MA’97, and the middle volume of his The Aspect-Emperor trilogy, perhaps can best be described as a continuation of what has come before and the harbinger of things to come. Widely praised by reviewers and a growing body of fans, Bakker has already established his reputation as one of the few unique new talents in the fantasy genre. As Anaïs Nin wrote, “He is a master of the labyrinthine, his characters are as real as they seem, then you have to read the newest book by Roger Bell, BA’73, BEd’75 (English) — Candy Cigarettes, published by Black Moss Press. The North Simcoe author’s memoirs open a precious time capsule that will have you laughing, crying and cherishing long forgotten memories and events that you or someone close to you has experienced. Bell has the ability to involve readers in colourful scenarios depicting his most personal childhood situations. www.amazon.ca

CANDY CIGARETTES
If you were one of those people lucky enough to grow up in the 1950s and 60’s when life was as real as it seemed, then you have to read the newest book by Roger Bell, BA’73, BEd’75 (English) — Candy Cigarettes, published by Black Moss Press. The North Simcoe author’s memoirs open a precious time capsule that will have you laughing, crying and cherishing long forgotten memories and events that you or someone close to you has experienced. Bell has the ability to involve readers in colourful scenarios depicting his most personal childhood situations. www.amazon.ca

NARC!: A JOHN DOYLE MYSTERY
Western grad, Mark Elley, BA’70, Cert’71, has written a new novel: NARC!. A John Doyle Mystery. John Doyle, a university student from the small Southern Ontario town of Kindler, one day receives a letter from the government asking him to attend an exclusive meeting that would change his life forever. It leads him and his best friend, Frank, to become involved in the local drug scene as they are asked to work undercover by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This takes John into a world before unknown to him, the world of drugs, violence and murder. Available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites as well as the publisher, Xlibris. www.amazon.ca

UNQUENCHABLE
From the author of the bestselling Red, White and Drunk All Over, comes a new book, Unquenchable: A Tipsy Quest for the World’s Best Bargain Wines (on sale October 25, 2011) that will amuse and enthral with its character sketches of obsessive personalities, travel to gorgeous vineyards, mouth-watering descriptions of food and wine, hidden wine education and neurotic humour. Packed with colourful stories about the obsessive, passionate personalities who inhabit the world of wine, award-winning wine writer Natalie MacLean, MBA’92, whisked you to the mountainside vineyards of Germany, the baked red earth of Australia, and the shady verandahs of the Mediterranean, Argentina, Chile and South Africa—all in search of the best value bottles the world has to offer. www.amazon.ca

AFFLICTIONS & DEPARTURES
Afflictions & Departures, by Madeline Sonik, BA’85, MA’85 (journalism), is a collection of first-person experiential essays. Sonik seeks out connections between the microcosm of the daily events of her childhood and adolescence, and the social, historical, and scientific trends of the time. Afflictions & Departures begins by considering the turbulent and changing nature of the world in the late 1950s and early 1960s—the world in which the author was conceived and born. Like many couples of that era, Madeline Sonik’s parents focused on shared social and economic ambitions at the expense of authentic personal feeling. www.unitypress.com or at Chapters, Amazon

MAPLE LEAF IN SPACE
Marc Carreau, Roberta Bonard, Julie Payette, MSc’71, DSc’95, Robert Thirsk, Chris Hadfield, and more recently, Guy Laliberté, the founder of Cirque de Soleil, all have one thing in common: they’re some of the very few Canadians who have been in space. The launch of a spaceship is terribly exciting. That’s why thousands of people come to watch. It’s their chance to see the sky, steam, and white-hot fire as millions of litres of fuel burn in seconds. They feel the chest-thumping impact of the sound. Then they stand upward for a long time until they can no longer see even a tiny speck in the distant sky. By that time, the craft is in space. Canada’s astronauts come from across the nation: from farms, cities, and little towns. They went to large schools and to small ones. Maple Leaf in Space by John Melady, BA’62 (King’s), showcases these amazing Canadians who have ventured off our planet and delivers some of the thrill of what that’s like. www.amazon.ca

KUHN’S EVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY
Follow Alberto Cimada, code-cracker and bibliophile, as he unravels the mystery of an infinite library and discovers the treasurey of the librarian Castlemell in The Infinite Library by Kane X. Faucher, PhD’99, Assistant Professor, MIT, Western. What is the hidden plot of the library, and how will this impossible place set into motion a catastrophic narrative by the artful textual manipulation of unwitting agents in the real world? What is the buried and secret connection between all text and all life? A novel of dark mystery, infinity, and a compelling story for all those who love books and book-related enigmas. copingmechanisms.net

THE INFINITE LIBRARY
In this book, Brad Wray, MA’92, PhD’97 (Philosophy), argues that Kuhn provides a useful framework for developing an epistemology of science that takes account of the constructive role that social factors play in scientific inquiry. The discussion includes analyses of the Copernican revolution in astronomy and the plate tectonics revolution in geology. The book will be useful for scholars working in science studies, sociologists and historians of science as well as philosophers of science. www.cambridge.org/us/knowledge/sbn/item6515021?site=locale-en, US

TEACHING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM
R.M. Reynolds, BA’87, MA’89 (Psychology), has recently published ABA: A Brief Introduction to Teaching Children with Autism (Lulu Enterprises www.lulu.com). Defined as the science in which procedures derived from the past hundred years of behavioural research are systematically applied to improve socially significant behavior and to demonstrate experimentally that the procedures employed were responsible for the improvement observed, ABA has universal application. One of the most fruitful is in the treatment of autism where, of the many treatment approaches available, it has the most research support.
2011 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

ALUMNI WESTERN IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR’S DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 ALUMNI AWARDS OF MERIT. WHILE EACH OF THEM HAD THEIR START HERE AT WESTERN, THEIR FOUR UNIQUE JOURNEYS HAVE TAKEN THEM AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN.

These four ambitious, dedicated alumni serve as tremendous ambassadors of Western. Each will return home to Western to receive their awards on Friday, September 30. In addition, another eight individuals will be honoured at the 37th Annual Alumni Award of Merit Dinner, for their contributions to athletics.

TED HESSEL, BA’67
Ted Hessel has earned a place in the Alumni Association’s records as the recipient of the 2011 Dr. Ivan Smith Award. This fitting tribute is bestowed to the man who has painstakingly culled endless sources for Mustang artifacts to add to the collection at the J.P. Metras Museum. Ted’s tireless service to Western has been realized through his active volunteer career with the Alumni Association, the ‘W’ Club, and as a member of Senate.

Ted has served his country through his posting with NATO as a fighter pilot in Europe, his community as a Vice-Principal, teacher and coach and his alma mater through decades of commitments both large and small. Ted is passionate about the Mustangs and can often be seen clutching a new find for the museum, polishing the display cases or cheering for the current roster of athletes in Alumni Hall or TD Waterhouse Stadium. His advocacy for sport history at Western is unsurpassed. Ted has worked closely with university archivists to ensure that these legends will inspire future generations of Western students and student-athletes. The museum serves as a learning environment for current students and a place of remembrance for alumni. The Dr. Ivan Smith Award is Alumni Western’s highest honour.

JOHN EBERHARD, BA’66, LLB’69
John Eberhard has been defined as a social entrepreneur and a visionary change agent. For his lifelong dedication to a number of causes, he has been fittingly named as the recipient of this year’s Community Service Award. John currently holds a seat on the Alumni Association’s board of directors serving as a leader in the areas of alumni outreach and internationalization. He was honoured by the University of Windsor with an Honorary Degree in 2007.

John’s most notable volunteer efforts have been realized through his decades-long relationship with Rotary International where he has served in various capacities including Club President, District Governor and International Director. John was the driving force behind a variety of new initiatives for Rotary – he created Cyber Clubs to increase accessibility for members, and he founded Rotarian Action Groups which undertake humanitarian programs such as water management, AIDS and malaria programs, micro-banks and blood banks around the world. John has dedicated himself to each community he serves – Western, London and international populations through his service and passion for a better world for us all.

JACK COWIN, BA’64, LLD’00
Jack Cowin gives new meaning to the term entrepreneur. In the mid-60s with his Psychology Degree in hand he left Western to tackle the business world. Jack moved to Australia more than 40 years ago where he took the fast food industry by storm, initially with Kentucky Fried Chicken, then his own burger chain named “Hungry Jack’s” and next with Domino’s Pizza. He expanded his reach into food manufacturing and now exports to 27 countries employing 17,000 people.

Through the years, Jack has remained extremely loyal to Western. He has served as both a donor and a mentor through the “Jack Cowin Award.” Students in receipt of this award demonstrate athletic and academic excellence. The award allows the student to conduct a three-month internship with Jack and his colleagues in Australia. Jack has contributed his efforts to numerous leadership projects and has provided unparalleled support with multiple global initiatives. He will return to campus this year as the recipient of the Professional Achievement Award.
**Alianza Award Winners**

**SARAH RICHARDSON, BA’93**

This year’s Young Alumni Award recipient is Sarah Richardson. Sarah’s keen eye for design was shaped during her studies in Visual Arts. Her immense design talents, coupled with her infectious enthusiasm and drive, have come together in the creation of a television empire. Sarah’s hard work and passion for design can be seen daily in homes around the world through the five hit television series. She also authors a column in The Globe & Mail, maintains a robust client base through her design firm and is growing a collection of signature product lines including indoor and outdoor furniture and a line of Para pants.

Sarah has received the prestigious Top 40 Under 40 Award from Caldwell Partners and has earned Gemini Awards for her television work. She gives back to her community by lending her design talents to styling dream homes and hotel suites for a variety of charities.

**Women’s Athletic Alumnae Elfrida Berzins Award Recipients**

The Elfrida Berzins Award is presented to a woman who has participated in Western Athletics as an athlete, coach or administrator; made further contributions in athletics, academics or public service; contributed to the development of women in sports-related areas; and acted as a role model.

This award is named for Elfrida Berzins, coach and Director of Women’s Athletics from 1956 through 1970.

- Angela Schneider, BA’82, MA’85
- Markel, PhD’93
- Heather Simpson, BA’60
- Jennifer Plackett, BA’00
- Jill Purola, BA’86

**‘W’ Club Hall of Fame Inductees**

The ‘W’ Club honours people who have made outstanding contributions to Western’s athletic program as players, coaches or administrators.

- Marnie Heerenski, BA’69, MA’73
- Michael Potts, BA’80
- Vaughn Peckham, BA’69
- Larry Haylor (Retired Mustangs Football coach)

**Preserving Sports Treasures from Past**

By David Scott

If you didn’t know there was method to his madness, you might think Jordan Goldstein, BA’08, MA’10 (History), was starring in his own episode of A & E’s ‘Hoarders’.

Huddled in a nondescript room in Thames Hall, surrounded by photos, footballs, and other sports treasures from the past, the public history grad, with some help from undergrad student Shangdi Li and others, is moving forward in the careful cataloguing and digitization of literally hundreds of photographs and memorabilia that had previous homes in the basements and closets of alumni.

Goldstein has funding from the ‘W’ Club, a room courtesy of the Faculty of Health Sciences and a bit of elbow room to unveil old-fashioned panoramic team photos that have to be “professionally flattened” before being digitized.

This paid position is an extension of work Goldstein was doing as part of his master’s work for Michelle Hamilton, Director of the AA Public History program in the Department of History.

A year-long project for his museology class was to set up a museum in a professional setting. In his next semester, as part of his public history class, his assignment was to catalogue different artifacts. The donated sports artifacts and the J.P. Metras Sports Museum in the foyer of Alumni Hall were a perfect fit for his class assignments.

A collections management policy was set up and with additional help from Western Libraries archivist Anne Daniel, Goldstein and others have learned how to properly take care of photographs, films and other one-of-a-kind collectibles from the past.

Goldstein sees time as his biggest challenge in getting through the stacks of vintage sport history that he’d like to share with an audience of today’s students. There are many potential projects he and “W” Club member and Metras Museum curator, Ted Hessel, BA’67, would like to get started, now that decades of photos and other Western sports memorabilia has been unearthed.

“What I’d like to have is a lot of roving (sports) exhibits around campus,” says Goldstein. “There’s a lot of space that doesn’t get used and I feel as seasons change and different sports come in, we could do a better job with the Athletics Department in promoting not only current athletics but the history of athletics. And it could almost be symbiotic. You use the history to promote the present and get people involved.”

Also on the wishlist would be a professional website “with all the trimmings” and an online database of Western’s photos and collections that would enable alumni or sports enthusiasts to “go on the net and find almost anything they needed without having to come here … and have it accessible. That would be the ultimate. That would be many, many years down the road.”

Please visit metromuseum.omega.net

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Book your Laser Vision Correction procedure by 12.31.11 to receive our exclusive alumni savings.

Call today to schedule your FREE LASIK Consultation.

877.TLC.2020

**TLC.com**

*Save $400* on Laser Vision Correction is available at participating TLC locations only. Patient must complete first procedure by December 31, 2011. TLC Laser Eye Centers, Inc. and its affiliates are the sole supporters of this offer. TLC Laser Eye Centers, Inc. reserves the right to modify this offer with or without notice. Other reductions or special offers ,previous treatment, insurance or vision care plans available. Call your eye doctor to schedule your FREE LASIK Consultation.

**Correction from TLC Laser Eye Centers.**

*In vivo* LASIK is an eye surgery that uses a laser to reshape the curved surface of the cornea to correct nearsightedness, farsightedness or astigmatism. LASIK is a surgical procedure used to correct eye problems that are not corrected by glasses or contact lenses. This procedure has been enhanced with the use of laser technology. This enhancement has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. TLC Laser Eye Centers, Inc. does not guarantee any results. For more information, call TLC Laser Eye Centers, Inc. at 877.TLC.2020 or visit their website at TLC.com.
LEADERS INSPIRE IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Some have visions and plans to employ that are shouted from the hilltops, serving others who have ideas and plans to employ that. But there are quiet, finding needs and filling them while not experiencing anything in return.

Through my time as a volunteer with the Alumni Association board of directors, I have encountered both kinds of leaders. I have seen firsthand how both approaches achieve our goal of inspiring alumni to share a lifelong commitment, pride and passion for Western.

One such leader is Eric Savula, BA’93. Eric is one of those ‘quiet leaders’, an extraordinary volunteer who rolls up his sleeves at branch events, gives solid advice at board meetings and inspires his peers with his passion for Western. He doesn’t need to shout about his dedication; he lives it.

Recently, Eric recognized the Toronto Branch Bursary was struggling. The fund, created by the alumni branch and supported through revenue raised at branch events, was established to help a Western student living in the Greater Toronto Area who demonstrates financial need. Unfortunately, the fund was running low and about to close.

Recognizing that the bursary, which had been built up over time by the commitment of Toronto and area alumni, was fading, Eric made a personal donation to bring the bursary back to life – not only for this year, but also for many years to come.

During his time as Toronto branch president, Eric continued to inspire his fellow alumni volunteers to raise the bar in offering amazing events that deliver exceptional experiences. This past June, $3,500 was raised when 575 alumni and friends gathered for an event at the Steam Whistle Brewery featuring a performance by our own Rick Hiebert. These funds will be directed to the Toronto Branch Bursary fund in recognition of Eric as well as Collin Makedon, current branch president, and his event-planning team.

Like Eric, all alumni have the ability to be leaders in their own way.

I encourage you to seek these opportunities - support a Western student as they explore their own educational journey, volunteer at branch and chapter events in your area, invite a fellow alumnus to attend an event or spread the word about our programs and services.

There are many opportunities to connect with Alumni Western in our growing network.

Social media provides an amazing (and immediate) opportunity for us to connect: like us on Facebook, facebook.com/universityofwesternontario; follow us on Twitter, @westernuwo; subscribe to our YouTube channel, youtube.com/user/westernuniversity.

Starting this fall, you will also be able to take us with you wherever you go through the Western app for mobile devices. Alumni will be able to check out event listings, learn about notable alumni and so much more.

And with our biggest alumni event just around the corner, Western Homecoming 2011 provides plenty of opportunity to reconnect, network and simply visit with your fellow alumni. Visit us online at westernhomecoming.uwo.ca to learn about the celebrations taking place Sept. 29-Oct. 2. You won’t want to miss it.

Wherever you go, whatever we do, whoever we become, Western is within us.
ALUMNI NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Gazette notices, like all of the print magazine, appear in an online version of Alumni Gazette and the contents may turn up during a web search. Publicly available personal information may be collected for the purpose of updating alumni records as well as for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievement or distinguished service by alumni in University publications. Western respects your privacy. At any time you have the right to request that your personal/identification information cease to be used to recognize outstanding achievement or distinguished service in University publications. For more information or to make a request about the kinds of contact you would like to receive, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations, Administration Services, 519-661-4716 or 1-800-420-3199 Fax 519-661-4182 email alumni@uwo.ca

J. David Adams, MSc’54, was elected in May to the Board of Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO). He is only the fourth engineer to be twice elected President since the inception of PEO in 1922, having served as President in 2005-2006.

Graeme Coobellis, BA’79, (Hons), has been appointed as the new Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (MHLIN). Coobellis, recognized for professional achievement is also one of the inaugural inductees to the Halton Business Hall of Fame and has an extensive governance and leadership background that has worked to improve our community.

Robert Wese, BA’77 (Political Science), has been appointed as a Trustee for Stikine Foundation.

Western Law professor Richard McLaure, BBA’68, LLT’77, has been appointed president of the Ballistad Arbital Tribunal. The tribunal provides services for the resolution of disputes between players, agents and clubs through arbitration.

In honour of the 60th birthday of Jonathan Burrows, BA’71 (Honors Mathematics), a workshop on Combinatorics and Analytical Mathematics was held May 16-20 at the IRMACS Centre, Simon Fraser University. Having authored more than a dozen books and more than 300 publications, Borwein is one of the most productive Canadian mathematicians ever.

Terrence Downey, MA’72, PhD’77 (Political Science), has been appointed President of Sir Thomas More College by Fr. George Smith C.S.B., Superior-General of the Basilians Fathers. The appointment comes following an intensive eight-month search process that attracted candidates from across Canada and other countries. Professor Downey becomes the 11th president since the College’s founding in 1936. Downey is an accomplished Canadian teacher, scholar and academic leader. Throughout his 35-year career, he has proven an unflinching commitment to teaching, collaboration, research, and community engagement.

AERIS Technologies Corporation has appointed Judson Whitehead, LLT’77, to its board of directors, judson is a senior partner in the Business Law Group of Miller Thomson LLP. He served as Chairuman and CEO of Miller Thomson from 1992 to 2007.

Reid Celler, HK’81, MA’87, has been appointed an interim Chief Financial Officer of Resigon Technologies Inc., a provider of biosimilar systems.

Hans Kyle, BA’81 (Economics), has been named EVP & COO of Canadian Precious Metals Inc. and resumed his role in the Toronto office effective June 6.

Patricia Heath, MA’73, has been appointed as a Trustee for the Art Gallery of Windsor (1983 to 1990). Heath is currently president of the Windsor Art Gallery Research Foundation.

A light and dark gray box is located on the right side of the page. It contains the text: "THREE GENERATIONS OF HBA: Grandpa Tom Brett, HBA’59; grandson Andrew Brett Miller, HBA’77; and father Stephen Miller, HBA’65, celebrate at June Convocation. (Submitted photo)"

Carolyn Davies, BA’77, recently won a provincial award for her volunteer efforts, which range from being part of the establishment of one of the first shelters for women in Canada in the 1970s, to volunteering as a health advisor for the Women’s Working with Immigrant Women Advocacy Group in 1997, to helping establish a family health team in her own community of Lambton in 2008, to volunteering with the Canadian Medical Assistance Team for international relief efforts including flood disaster relief in Bangladesh in 2007 and the Haiti earthquake in 2010, among many others.

Troy Wright, BA’87, has been appointed as Executive VP, Retail Distribution, Canadian Bankers Association effective July 15. Troy was previously CEO of Fistafakt der Puerto Rico.

Dr. Jeffrey Talal, MD’87 (Medicine), was recently named vice president of Skanda, a leading international project development and construction company.

John W. Cooper, BA’84 (Maths/Chem), has been named to the senior executive team of Rockwater Energy Solutions, which provides fluids management and environmental solutions to the energy industry. He was previously CEO of Encana Services which merged with Rockwater.

Gregory Auer, BSc’94 (Geology), has been named Co-President, Gas at Mitec Ltd.

Marc Littiman, MSc’87, has been named Senior Client Partner at KPMG International’s Toronto office. He will be a member of the Global Financial Services practice, and lead the firm’s efforts in the Investment Banking and Capital Markets sector.

Robert Fey, BSc’85 (Geology), has been appointed as Consulting Geologist for Gold Royalties Co. a privately-held, resource-oriented royalty company that acquires and manages precious metals royalties.

John Francis, HK’87, has been appointed as the Chair of the Board for SikKids Foundation.

Judith Robertson, HK’87, has been appointed for two years as Commissioner to Ontario Securities Commission.

Dr. David Martin, BSc’66 (Genetics), PhD’98 (Biochemistry), MA’10, has joined by the Capital Markets at their Senior Research Analyst responsible for research coverage on the Banktech & Healthcare sector.

Keith Leesage, BSc’70, MA’71 (Geology), has been appointed a principal at Goldar Advisors, he’s based in London, Ont.

Robert Skinner, BA’86 (History, King’s) was recently named vice president of Skanda, a leading international project development and construction company.

Trevor Shortt, MSc’88 (Geophysics), has been appointed Manager of Environmental Consulting at Paterson, an ASX-listed junior exploration and production company.

Carolee Eustis, BPharm’61 (Physical Ed), was appointed the new Staff Sergeant of the St. Jax. Marie Ontario Provincial Police for July 1.

Shaun Finnie, LLB’98, has been appointed Senior Managing Director and Head of Oil and Gas and Defence and Aviation director for Evercore Partners Inc.

Andrew Dallmann, BSc’89 (Geophysics), has joined Jeffrey Manga Rodier & Michael D’Orange County, California office.

1990s:

Bob Copeland, BSc’86, MSc’91 (Biochemistry), MB’98 (Medicine), has joined Byron Economics, was recently appointed President and CEO of Canadian Precious Metals Inc.

Gail Brodie, BSc’86, MSc’91, is a new trustee for the Aurora Art Gallery of Windsor. (1983 to 1986), and the Art Gallery of Windsor (1983 to 1986).

Trevor Shortt, MSc’88 (Geophysics), has been appointed Manager of Environmental Consulting at Paterson, an ASX-listed junior exploration and production company.

Carolee Eustis, BPharm’61 (Physical Ed), was appointed the new Staff Sergeant of the St. Jax. Marie Ontario Provincial Police for July 1.

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Andrew Dallmann, BSc’89 (Geophysics), has joined Jeffrey Manga Rodier & Michael D’Orange County, California office.

1990s:

London lawyer Alfred Mamo, LLT’70, was awarded a Law Society Medal in May 25, in recognition for his 35-year commitment to justice for children and families and his significant contribution to family law reform in Ontario. Mamo was called to the Ontario Bar in 1972.

Longtime columnist Don McLeish, BA’70 (English, Hons), was named the Masters Athlete of the Year 2010 in the Mississauga Sports Council Awards Ceremony held on June 9.

Christopher Andrews, BA’77, PhD’06 (Geography), has been appointed as an Associate at Golden Associates, he’s based in London, Ont.

Dr. Roberta Bondar, MS’71 (Pathology), DSc’95, has been appointed to the Board of Directors at CIM DEV International, a leading manufacturer of space hardware subsystems.

Spirit of CAPS (Canadian Association of Professional Speakers) award for “contribution to excellence in the speaking profession.”

Bob Copeland, BA’81 (Economics), has been appointed VP, Operations at Lincs, Canada’s largest producer of refined sugar.

David Hess, BA’81 (Economics), became President and CEO of Macquarie Capital Markets Canada Ltd. effective May 16, 2011.

Colley Clarke, HK’81, MA’87, has been appointed an interim Chief Financial Officer of Resigon Technologies Inc., a provider of biosimilar systems.

Hans Kyle, BA’81 (Economics), has been named EVP & COO of Canadian Precious Metals Inc. and resumed his role in the Toronto office effective June 6.

Kevin Newman, BSc’81 (Political Science), has been appointed Co-Host of CTV’s Question Period effective August 22, 2011.

Terry Griffin, BSc’82, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Benderson Art Gallery, Fendersock, New Brunswick, and Graduate of the Fanshawe College, Fine Art Program (1976), was honored with a Fanshawe College Distinguished Alumni Award on July 6. Griffin is well known as a gifted artist, writer, teacher and curator, and is a master in Canada’s national art scene. Before accepting his current role, he served as Director and CEO of Saskatchewan’s renowned Mendel Art Gallery. His vision has uniquely shaped each of the galleries where he has served during his career, including the Rodman Hall Arts Centre in St. Catharines (2005 to 2007), the Confederation Art Gallery and Museum in Charlottetown (1993 to 2008), and the Art Gallery of Windsor (1983 to 1986).

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George Bonnell, LLB’91, has been appointed as President and CEO of Argus Mining Inc, which is transitioning from a titanium, iron and vanadium explorer to a development company with projects in the province of Quebec.

John Scott, MBA’91, has been appointed Senior VP, Strategic Projects of Alcan Potash Co.

Derek Kent, BA’92 (Political Science), has been appointed as Executive Director, Corporate and Brand Communications of The Canadian Olympic Committee.

Don McPherson, MBA’92, has joined Husqvarna Private Wealth in Calgary.

Anne Marie Langlois, BA’93 (History), is the City of Barrie’s new human resources director. She had been the city’s human resources development manager for the last six years.

Kevin O’Brien, HBA’93, has been appointed Chief Commercial Officer at Hazelwood Canada.

Jean-Philippe Rechtschaffen, BS’93, has been appointed a principal at Golder Associates; he is based in Calgary.

Patrick Crocke, MBA’93, has been appointed Head of Trading Products at RBC Capital Markets, where he will have responsibility for all trading-related lines of business. Since 2008, he has been head of both the financial products and debt products groups.

Jennifer Treadwell, BA’93 (French), LLB’96, has been appointed as a VP, General Counsel to MiDevs Development effective July 2011. She was previously associate general counsel and corporate secretary at Revolq Corp, which has been merged with Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc.

Jimmy Stovel, BA’94, (Astrium) was appointed Senior Radiologist, Therapeutics for Oncure Medical Corp in Sarasota, Florida. Oncure is a national network of world-class cancer treatment centers based in Denver, Colorado.

Paul Begin, BA’94 (Political Science), has been appointed Chief Financial Officer of Continental Gold Ltd., an advanced-stage exploration company with gold projects in Colombia.

Calvin McDonald, BS’94 (Biology), has been appointed as President and CEO of Iamgold Canada. He comes from food distributor Loblaw Companies Ltd., where he most recently served as executive vice president of its conventional division.

Jody Becker, BA’94 (EngLang), LLB’99, counsel and vice president for Eldorado Corp, won the Tomorrow’s Leader Award at the Canadian General Counsel Awards, organized by the National Post and ZSA Legal Recruitment.

Jennifer Chapman, BA’97 (Sociology), LLB’90, has been appointed a partner at Brown Binning LLP in London, Ont.

Heidi Julien, PhD’97 (US), has a new job as Director, School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama.

Ryan Fungquah, LLB’90, has been appointed VP and General Counsel of Tuxbridge Power Inc, a Toronto-based developer of electrical/transmission assets.

Daniel Spieg, PhD’96 (Business Administration), has been appointed associate dean for executive programs at the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. He is an award-winning teacher and expert on financial management, including the areas of management accounting, capital budgeting, post-investment review, and the “balanced scorecard.”

Sima Gold Corp has appointed Allan Armitrage, PhD’98 (Geology), as an independent director. He is currently a senior geologist with Goldcorp Management and works from his home in Vancouver.

Dr. Michael Scott, PhD’99 (Med Biophysics), has been appointed as VP, Device Research and Development for Viatric Inc, a preclinical cell therapy company focused on diabetes.

James Porter, BA’99 (Advisory/Financial), has been promoted to Chief Financial Officer of the Alamos Gold Inc.

Emmanuel Broushakos, MAV’99 (Classic), has been appointed as a faculty member of Princeton University, effective Sep. 1, 2011. He is a scholar of Renaissance literature, currently working as a research fellow at Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany.

2000s

David Smih, BA’01 (Political Science), managing editor of GlobalNews.ca, won a Newman Fellowship at Harvard. He is the first Canadian online journalist to win the prestigious year-long Newman Fellowship to study at Harvard University.

Ken Vlazny, BS’02, PhD’11 (Neuroscience), is one of two Western graduate students who received the Governor General’s Gold Medal at Spring Convocation. The Governor General’s Gold Medals are awarded to students graduating with the highest academic standing in a Masters or Doctoral degree program.

Matthew Torgljan, MPA’05, has been appointed President of Ontario Association of Police Chiefs.

Scott John-Bowen, PhD’01 (Geology), has accepted the duties of Charman at Ties Inc., a gold mining company based in Kalowna, BC.

David Sayers, BA’06, MArts’07 (Political Science), has been appointed as Military Legislative Assistant in the office of Congressman J Randy Forbes (R-VA)

Eric Pollitt, BA’07 (Political Science), has been appointed as Director of Client and Public Relations of Infront Advertising Group.

Laura Murray, MLS’09, has a new job as Children’s Services Librarian at the Peterborough Public Library.

Edgar Sulai, BAcc’s11 (Performance, Piano), is the London Kwara music festival’s 2011 piano champ. Sulai studies with the Don Wright faculty Prof. John Paul Rumsey. He came first in a field of three Wright faculty students. The prize brings $1,000.

Stefanie Marioni, MArts’11 (journalism), has been awarded a Cudd F.X. Scholarship by The Radio Television News Directors Foundation for Canada of 2011. The awards are made on a competitive basis from applicants across Canada.

IN MEMORIAM

Kathlyn Wall, BA’74, on May 14, 2011, in Woodstock, Ont.

Melvin Gordon Roy Wallace, BA’78, on January 13, 2010, in Wester, MA.

William Morton Lovgren, MD’42, on June 15, 2011, in Aldergrove, BC.

Dr. Nelson R. Gadd, BSc’46, on June 9, 2011, in Ottawa, Ont.

William Frederick McBratney, BSc’69, on July 13, 2011, in Kelowna, BC.

John R. Howell, BA’69, CAT’72, on February 19, 2011, in Calendel, Ont.

Richard Douglas Dennis, BA’72, on March 5, 2010, in Hamilton, Ont.

Alexios Dreminakis, BSc’89, Professor Emeritus in Earth Sciences, on July 8, 2011, in London, Ont.

Avram (Michael) Wald, MBA’91, on April 24, 2011, in Toronto, Ont.
was going to make, about innovation. Everyone
knows Apple has passed Exxon and Uncle
Sam by selling products a little fresher than
those. But it’s more than that: if Steve Jobs
had relaxed in 2006 because he had the best
music player and the coolest laptops on the
market, he would have forgotten all the growth
his company has experienced since then. New
ideas are really valuable.

But of course governments get that memo.
In August, Stephen Harper visited McMaster
University to announce the latest winners of
the Vanier Canadian Graduate Scholarships. This
new initiative pays for high-level research by
the best Canadian and international graduate
students. Six of the latest Vanier scholars will
pursue their research at Western.

Why a new knowledge-economy program?
“We are building a culture of innovation
and high achievement right here in Canada,”
Harper said. “The importance of this cannot
be overstated. Research leads to discoveries
and inventions, that leads to patents that build
Canadian businesses and create Canadian
jobs and that makes for greater prosperity for
Canadian families and workers.”

To which an honest observer can only say:
No it doesn’t.

If I were Katie Kryski or Fabrice Szabo
reading the PM’s remarks, I might be a bit
nervous. Kryski and Szabo are two of Western’s
new Vanier Scholars. They both have dynamite
research programs lined up. Kryski will
examine the relationship between genetics
and environment in determining vulnerability
to depression. Szabo will compare Hughes’ Lex
Mibirables with latter-day adaptations to see
how a work is transformed and distorted as it
finds new life.

Kryski’s work gives us a shot at a society
with better mental health. Szabo’s might give us
new clues about beauty. Worthy recipients, say I. But
what they probably won’t do is lead to “patents
that build Canadian businesses and create
Canadian jobs,” and as I’ve written before, if we
ever reach the day where that’s the only lens
through which universities’ work is judged, then
universities are going to be flat out of luck.

But there’s another angle through which
to look at all of this, and it’s why I started with
the survey of Apple’s fortunes. You’re not going
to find a company that builds more prosperity
through discovery and invention than Apple,
and none of its game-changing innovations
since 2007 have come out of a university lab.
Universities weren’t irrelevant, of course. Apple
engineers and designers come from some of the
best schools, and advances in flat screens and
battery life come from research. But you don’t
own an iPad because it has a unique screen or
a perfect battery; because it really doesn’t. You
own it because it embodies new notions about
what a computer can do in your life.

A couple of years ago Harper got in trouble
for skipping a United Nations meeting in New
York City so he could hold a photo op at
something called the Tim Hortons’ Innovation
Centre. Oh, we had a chuddle over that one.
Laser cutters! Quantum Tombs! But actually,
a place like Tim Hortons’ needs an innovation
centre, because no company in a competitive
market should rest on its laurels. Innovation
here might look like adding drive-through
lanes, which have the effect of multiplying a
restaurant’s virtual floor space without adding
to the rent bill. An innovation is just an idea
that hasn’t been tried.

We’re getting a lot of this backwards in
Canada. Governments that want to “produce
more innovation” look first to the elements
of society they control most directly: universities,
granting councils, ribbon-cutting ceremonies.
The universities dutifully stack up breakthroughs
like cordwood — by any measure I’ve seen,
Canadian universities are good at producing
influential research — but Canadian businesses
don’t change their ways, because they don’t
know how or they don’t even know they’re
supposed to.

When we make “innovation,” “jobs” and
“university research” synonymous, we put unfair
distorting pressure on university science, we let
business off the hook, and we get frustration
instead of prosperity. Business schools can play
a huge role in getting innovation right. So
can design schools. Internships to get smart kids
out of labs and onto shop floors. But first things
first: we need to understand that productivity
breakthroughs happen when businesses pick a
new idea up, not when labs push one out.

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