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On the cover: Matthew Corrin, BA’02, is best known for creating Canada’s biggest fresh food chain, Freshii, at the age of 23. Today, Freshii has over 100 locations in 12 countries around the globe. (Photo by Jimmy Fishbein) See related story on page 12.
YIN YANG OF SALADS AND DELI


Fast lives lead to fast choices like fast food. In this issue, we share the story of Matthew Corrin, who has put a green spin to staple foods to an appreciative customer base in Shanghai. Brian Tock has taken Tock’s: A Montreal Deli to China and is now ranked No. 12 of 11,682 restaurants in Shanghai. In Toronto, Zane Caplansky has taken Caplansky’s has taken off in Hogtown. He’s no longer just a downtown sensation. Since 2014, he has two new outlets at Pearson International airport with more plans in the future.

And to balance that extreme healthiness with some traditional mouth-watering comfort food we tell you about a Montreal deli that has found success serving up Montreal smoked meat and other Quebec staple foods to an appreciative customer base in Shanghai. Brian Tock has taken Tock’s: A Montreal Deli to China and is now ranked No. 12 of 11,682 restaurants in Shanghai. In Toronto, Zane Caplansky has taken Caplansky’s has taken off in Hogtown. He’s no longer just a downtown sensation. Since 2014, he has two new outlets at Pearson International airport with more plans in the future.

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Western alumna Alice Munro, DLitt’76, the recognized short story master and first Canadian woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, is being celebrated on a new stamp that pays homage to her life and work.

Released July 10 to mark Munro’s birthday, the stamp incorporates a photograph of Munro taken by her daughter, Sheila; a sample of the author’s handwriting from archival material; and vintage images of her hometown, Wingham, Ont. Many believe Wingham inspired her fictional town of Jubilee, in which many of her stories are set. The stamp was designed by Marcio Morgado and Paul Haslip of HM&E Design in Toronto.

The pressure-sensitive stamp – printed by Colour Innovations Inc. on Tullis Russell paper using lithography in five colours – is available in booklets of 10 and measures 26 mm x 32 mm, with simulated perforations. The Official First Day Cover will be cancelled in Wingham, Ont.

Munro’s first connection to Western’s Department of English came while she was an undergraduate student pursuing an English major. As a student, she published three short stories in Western’s undergraduate English magazine, Folio, from 1949-51.

She returned to Western in 1974-75, when she held the post of writer-in-residence. During that time she was working on her collection, Who Do You Think You Are?, which won the Governor’s General’s Award.

Decades later, David Bentley looks at it as one of the best decisions he’s ever made. As a second-year university student, the Western professor decided to switch the focus of his study – from Physics to English.

“Father, when I told him, after thinking for a long time, said, ‘That’s what it’s all about.’ And I feel comforted by those words, in that what we study is ultimately what it’s all about,” said Bentley, who, since 1976, has taught English at Western.

“It’s about the human spirit and imagination. It’s about the capacity for human empathy. It’s about things that are absolutely essential to our humanity, and that’s why the arts and humanities strike me as being centrally important,” he noted.

He arrived from the University of Toronto where he is currently a Distinguished Professor of Social Science and chair of the Department of Sociology (St. George Campus). Prior to joining Toronto in 2007, he held various academic and administrative appointments at Brock, Oxford, Western and McMaster. Andersen was an assistant professor at Western from 2002-2003.

He holds three degrees from Western – a BA in Political Science in 1991, honours diploma in Sociology in 1992 as well as an MA in Sociology in 1994 – and a PhD from McMaster.

Andersen succeeds Brian Timney, who has served as dean since July 2002.

Jayne Garland was appointed to a five-and-a-half-year term as dean of Health Sciences, effective Jan. 1, 2016. Current Health Sciences Dean Jim Weese will continue in the position until the end of the calendar year.

Garland, MCISc’85, arrives from the University of British Columbia (UBC), where she currently serves as professor and head of the Department of Physical Therapy. Prior to joining UBC in 2009, she was a member of Western’s Faculty of Health Sciences since 1989, including eight years as director of the School of Physical Therapy (2000-8). Prior to her faculty appointment at Western, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Arizona and practiced physiotherapy in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Karen Campbell was named to a four-year term as Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty), starting July 1, 2016. She began Sept. 1 as Special Advisor to the Provost and Vice-Provost-Elect, working closely with Alan Weeden during the final year of his term. Weeden has served as Vice-Provost since July 2002.

Campbell joined Western as a faculty member in 1986 and moves to central administration from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, where she has served as chair of Epidemiology & Biostatistics since 2003. In addition to her administrative role, she has served as a professor within Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Paediatrics, as well as been affiliated as a scientist with the Children’s Health Research Institute.

The Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty) is responsible for developing and implementing the university’s budgetary and operational policy to support academic planning. Also within the portfolio is the Office of Faculty Relations, which has responsibility for negotiation and administration of the collective agreements between the university and the faculty and librarians represented by The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association, as well as the agreements on conditions of appointment of clinical faculty.

**BENTLEY EARNs KILLAM RESEARCH PRIZE**

Decades later, David Bentley looks at it as one of the best decisions he’s ever made. As a second-year university student, the Western professor decided to switch the focus of his study – from Physics to English.

“My father, when I told him, after thinking for a long time, said, ‘That’s what it’s all about.’ And I feel comforted by those words, in that what we study is ultimately what it’s all about,” said Bentley, who, since 1976, has taught English at Western.

“It’s about the human spirit and imagination. It’s about the capacity for human empathy. It’s about things that are absolutely essential to our humanity, and that’s why the arts and humanities strike me as being centrally important,” he noted.

In April, Bentley’s distinguished career as a researcher in the arts was recognized with a Killam Prize, presented by the Canadian Council of the Arts. Bentley was among only five Canadian researchers, who received $100,000 each in recognition of...
Leave an Extraordinary Legacy

“An education at Western makes dreams possible. I know my bequest will assist those who otherwise wouldn’t be able to have the experience of a lifetime. For me, it’s paying it forward.”

Nanci Harris, BScN’83, MLIS’87
Western alumna and donor

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Bentley became only the fifth Killam Prize winner at Western, and the most recent winner since Economics professor John Whalley won in 2012. Other Western winners included Engineering professors Alan Davenport (1993) and Maurice Bergiougou (1999) and Robarts Research Institute founder Henry Barnett (1988).

COMBINED ATHLETIC ALUMNI COMMUNITY FORM

Western’s two athletic alumni chapters, The W Club and the Women’s Athletic Alumnae (WAA), formally voted at their Annual General Meeting May 2 to unify as one organization of Western Mustangs Athletic Alumni.

“Bringing together both the W Club and the WAA will provide huge benefits not only to our alumni, but also to our current scholar-athletes,” said Therese Quigley, director of Sport and Recreation Services and herself a Mustangs Athletic alumna.

“Combining the resources, expertise, and passion of these two groups will allow us to expand our engagement efforts with alumni around the world, and also enhance the student-athlete experience.”

For years the Mustangs have had two alumni groups, the W Club representing male athletic alumni and the WAA representing the women. The W Club was actually the first recognized chapter of the University’s Alumni Association, founded in 1957, while the WAA formed in 1987. While the two organizations have traditionally operated as separate entities, although they worked together on various initiatives, the board and executive members of both groups determined that they could do more as one organization and have been working diligently for more than a year to make this transition.

In a joint statement, W Club and WAA presidents Guy Zink, BA’74, BEd’75, and Mary Riezebos, BA’74, BEd’75, MA’80, said that “We are delighted to be involved with the movement toward the significant and historic union of the WAA and the W Club.”

USC MARKS 50 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

W hen we talk about providing Western students with an education that is second to none, we are speaking about more than a superior education. At Western, we are also committed to developing our students’ leadership skills so they are able to compete successfully in an increasingly global world.

Western attracts some of the highest achieving students in the country and many of them arrive with innately strong leadership skills. One of the places where I see that leadership in action is Western University Students’ Council (USC).

During their time as USC leaders, these students hone their skills in communications, finance, human resources and politics. This year, they are participating in a pilot project to encourage students to vote in the federal election.

The USC is celebrating 50 years of student government this year. It’s one of the biggest and most influential student councils in the country. Year-after-year our student body has chosen outstanding student leaders to represent their interests and this year was no exception when USC President Sophie Helpard and her five-member executive team took office June 1.

It is my immense pleasure to meet with Sophie and other USC leaders throughout the year. We don’t always agree on everything – and that is how it should be. But even when we differ on issues, I have the greatest respect for their intelligence, drive and commitment to their mission: “To enhance the educational experience and quality of life for all undergraduates at Western.”

The USC has 50 voting members who represent the various Faculties at Western. Together with the executive, they manage an annual budget of $27 million (operational and capital). Besides the funding the USC receives from student fees, it operates two campus restaurants, a movie theatre, a clothing store, a bike shop, a newspaper, a printing store and more. In turn, they use that income to provide services to students including running student health, dental services and bus pass plans. They also provide internships and part-time employment for about 500 students. About 200 students volunteer or sit on committees. Through their Peer Support Network, the USC ensures students dealing with difficult personal issues can find the services they need.

Walk through the University Community Centre, where the USC is housed, and you’ll see a hive of activity from student-led music, to bazaars, to information on the 285 student clubs that fall under the USC umbrella.

The USC also advocates on behalf of students with government and Western’s administration. Their intelligent, yet passionate approach, to presenting what they view as in the best interests of students- has won them credibility at all three levels of government and with Western’s administration.

It’s little wonder that when they graduate from both Western and their service to the USC, they move on to careers and leadership roles in business, finance, government, law and many more areas where they continue to make Western proud.
“You may not achieve your goal, and I have often found that out, but the attempt itself has enormous value for you and your development. Canada needs you to be your best.”

Roger Jackson, BA’63

“Your generation has a responsibility to respect the land; my generation has a responsibility to help you.”

David Cornhill, BSc’77, MBA’80

“Your education, and the broadening mind it facilitates, can be of great use in understanding what so many people around the world lack, how the situation can be alleviated, and even possibly, removed.”

Amartya Sen

“Our world is full of noises, but by organizing sound in a structured way, we can create sweet airs that give delight.”

Berthold Carriere, MMus’72

“Your mind is a beautiful thing – celebrate it, challenge it. Engage the world – don’t block it out.”

Michael Goodchild

“There is no simple set of instructions on how to proceed in turbulent times. The only ending to your story is the one you make up for yourself. Stand on the cracks in between; know you’ve been blessed.”

Elizabeth Dowdeswell
“One day, you won’t fail; you won’t have the wrong answer. You will be right, and you will be heard and you will answer questions ordinary people said were unanswerable.”

Donna Soble Kaufman

“Encourage your curiosity and deploy your critical faculties. It will give you tremendous advantage in life.”

David Mulroney

“Without sound knowledge, anatomy is like sailing a ship without knowledge of a navigator’s map. Care for patients with empathy and compassion.”

Keith Moore, BA’49, PhD’54

“None of you can ever consider yourselves under privileged now that you have the great fortune of being a university graduate.”

Robert Birgeneau

“Remember the Wizard of Oz. You have a heart. You have a brain. And you have courage.”

Bonnie Patterson, BA’75, MLS’79

“We all want to be different, but we crave the same things – a roof, food, safety and freedom of expression.”

Pierre Lassonde

“When you find your passion, it doesn’t matter how many hours you work, how much money you make. You love what you are doing and what you are learning.”

Judy Erola

“Hubris and dogma are the enemies of professionalism. Avoid both, if possible. A lawyer’s greatest dogma is the worship of the billable hour.”

Constance Sugiyama
BY DAVID SCOTT

Victoria Falana, BA’12 (Kinesiology), embraces uncomfortable situations. Raised by Nigerian “non-musical” parents in Brampton, Ont., Falana searched for her voice as a youth, listening to the sounds of Fela Kuti and King Sunny Adé, as well as traditional radio pop. Then names like Lauryn Hill, Nina Simone and Etta James started ringing true.

In order to hone her skills, she performed in competitions in the Greater Toronto Area, like CNE’s Rising Star Talent Competition. And then she arrived at Western in 2008.

Her first steps, however, weren’t exactly full of Purple Pride and parties. An avid soccer player, she had a torn ACL repaired just months before arriving on campus.

“I started my first year on crutches and a wheelchair,” she said. “Frosh Week was horrible. My first few months at Western were pretty sad. I couldn’t hang out; I couldn’t take part in any activities.”

Despite the rough start, later that year, she won the Western Idol competition. The prize, a trip to Europe, opened the door to a future she always wanted, but never expected.

With the international bug planted, she reached third year without a clear path. Stagnated personally, she applied for a summer exchange to Denmark.

“It was not something highly premeditated,” she said. “And that’s how life is sometimes. But I wrote a lot of music in Denmark. I’d explore and meet people. I spent a lot of time on my own. It took me a while to get used to Denmark. It was really different.”

Soon afterward, she joined Kinesiology professor Darwin Semotiuk’s Physical Activity in Cuba course, which included a class trip to Cuba. She travelled there in February 2012 during Reading Week.

Although she loved music as a child, her singing and playing various instruments was all self-taught. Speaking with Cuban musicians and experiencing a music that was “very raw” sparked a passion to take action. It inspired a leap of faith.

“I’m the kind of person when I say I’m going to do something I do it,” she said. “I’m going to go to Cuba.” And so, following convocation, Falana moved to Cuba.

“(Cuba is) a place where people really honour musicianship and art, and the roles music and art play in that context versus somewhere in Canada, where we tend to put more emphasis on sciences, with science being something that’s ‘respectable,’” she said.

“Intuitively, I’m very percussive. I started studying more rhythms. Being in Cuba was really great for that. That’s very much part of my identity. The rhythms I’ve picked up in different contexts tend to overlap a lot – Cuban rhythms have a lot of African influences.”

“IThought, ‘This is Impossible. Why did I do This to Myself?’”

Aside from learning more music, she was also studying Spanish and sociology (in Spanish) at the University of Havana. “The first week, I just cried every day. I thought, ‘This is impossible. Why did I do this to myself?’ Eventually, it got easier – well, not easier – but it wasn’t as painful.”

She stayed just over a year, and spent that time performing, developing and, eventually, recording her debut five-song EP Things Fall Together with the help of local Cuban musicians.

She wrote four of the five songs. The only song she didn’t write was a cover of Angelitos Negros, written by Antonio Machin, and performed, perhaps most famously, by Roberta Flack. Western Sociology professor Anton Allahar introduced her to the song.

In Cuba, she honed a sound she calls “soul fusion,” her own blend of jazz, soul, afrobeat and R&B.

“I’m doing what I want to do, on a smaller scale,” she said. “I know those things build on themselves. In music, everyone thinks it happens overnight, but nothing happens overnight.”
Western mentors:
Kinesiology professors Darwin Semotiuk and Janice Forsyth, Sociology professor Anton Allahar

International exchanges: Denmark through Western, after her third year; Cuba through Western during her fourth year.

Result: Priceless experience. Changed person.
N o one would accuse Matthew Corrin, BA’02, of lacking confidence. In May, the 33-year-old Corrin, founder and CEO of the better-for-you restaurant enterprise Freshii, penned an open letter to McDonald’s CEO Steve Easterbrook essentially daring the burger-peddling behemoth to co-brand a Freshii store inside any of McDonald’s 14,000 U.S. locations.

The letter, which Corrin titled “A Bold Risk [late McDonald’s visionary] Ray Kroc Would Endorse,” captured headlines in and out of the restaurant industry as Corrin pledged impressive returns and issued a bold guarantee.

“If after one year Freshii in McDonald’s has not improved your sales and profits, I will refund you the difference,” Corrin wrote. “I’ll assume all the risks to prove my theory that fast food and fresh food can coexist.”

While some observers tabbed Corrin’s missive little more than a clever publicity play, Corrin calls the open letter a calculated, sincere strategy capable of boosting the Golden Arches’ marketplace standing and propelling Freshii’s pursuit of its central – and unapologetically bold – mission: to help people lead healthier lives.

“I try to think with a no-limits mentality and to avoid traditional constraints,” says Corrin, who completed a three-year media studies program at Western. “In a world of thinking big, McDonald’s has a footprint and supply chain bigger and better than any other retailer on the planet, so why not try to tap into that?”

Thinking big is nothing new for Corrin. Over the last decade, the Winnipeg native has been singularly focused on establishing Freshii as a restaurant empire capable of changing the face of fast food.

From streetside eateries in cosmopolitan cities, including a Freshii slated to open this fall in London, Ontario’s Financial District, to locations in malls, airports and on college campuses, Freshii will close 2015 with nearly 225 restaurants in 13 countries around the globe, cementing its place as one of the world’s fastest-growing restaurant enterprises. By comparison, it took Starbucks 21 years – more than double the time – to open its 200th unit.

It’s been a remarkable journey for Corrin, a former “Late Show with David Letterman” intern who left a marketing career with fashion icon Oscar de la Renta to launch Freshii in 2005, an ambitious gamble given that Corrin had zero restaurant experience.

“One word: naiveté,” Corrin says. “I had no idea how hard [the restaurant business] was.”

Inspired by the restaurant industry’s low barriers of entry – “Anyone can do anything,” he says – and New York City’s myriad delis promoting fresh food bars, Corrin conceived of Freshii as the
antithesis to the burger joints and pizza shops that litter the fast food landscape. His eatery would embrace a diverse, healthier menu headlined by soups, salads, wraps, bowls, frozen yogurt and smoothies.

Eschewing a formal business plan, Corrin then “fooled” a dentist and nurse – his parents – into becoming Freshii’s initial investors.

“And it’s the best investment they’ve ever made,” jokes Corrin, a father of two married to the former Kate Danson, a 2002 Western philosophy alumna.

Blessed with a strong first location in Toronto’s Financial District and savvy branding, high sales disguised lousy operations. As consumer interest in the concept surged, however, Corrin became increasingly “maniacal” about data and business metrics, sharpened Freshii’s operational systems to heighten efficiencies and opened eight additional Toronto area stores within two years.

“The thing about business-to-consumer brands is that they’re sexy and you can create buzz without being a big business,” Corrin says. “If you get in the right locations, you can look like a juggernaut of a brand in a local market.”

Initially envisioning restaurants in Canada’s biggest cities, Corrin soon dreamed beyond The Great White North. By the end of year two, Freshii had debuted in Chicago and began inking development deals in markets across the U.S. and then the world.

“I thought, ‘If we’re going to do this, then let’s really go for it,” Corrin says.

In 2008, Freshii shed its reliance on private equity and introduced franchising to accelerate store development and consumer reach.

“Now, I share Freshii with hundreds of partners and that’s allowed us to grow the brand and the mission faster,” says Corrin, who adds that accelerating global interest in health and wellness and Freshii’s ability to curry favor with Millennials drives its current performance and compelling potential.

And though Corrin has yet to hear from Easterbrook, his spirited note to the McDonald’s CEO spurred other intriguing opportunities. Several McDonald’s franchisees contacted Corrin about being the pilot store in any potential deal, while numerous retail chains reached out with propositions of their own. To that end, Freshii will soon announce a deal with a major U.S. retailer that will incorporate Freshii units into hundreds of U.S. stores.

“We’re accelerating our mission and believe the possibilities are endless,” Corrin says.
Visual artist Ed Pien, BFA’82, has been stalked by ghosts since he was a boy. “We are who we are based on the stories and the baggage we inherit, based on the stories and memories we build,” said the 56-year-old. “I’m looking for similarities among people. Once we find these common elements, or common grounds, we can then start to celebrate our differences.”

For the last 30 years, this interest has fueled his work – installations, videos, public art, sculpture, drawings and his signature hand-cut paper works which employ a traditional craft to create monumental drawings. In many of these works, you’ll see a common subject – fanciful and sometimes fierce ghostly creatures.

Pien’s fascination with ghosts stems back to his early years in Taipei, Taiwan, where folklore was a daily staple. He and his family moved to London, when he was 11.

The apparitions he creates are anything but supernatural. Often, they project aspects of ourselves we’d prefer not to discuss — acts we’re not proud of, uncomfortable emotions, the issues and people we don’t understand.

Starting Nov. 5, Pien’s ghosts will be on view during his exhibition, Luminous Shadows, at Western’s McIntosh Gallery. The exhibition runs until Dec. 12.

The main feature of the installation is a canvas structure shaped like a traditional Inuit hunter tent with a rounded bottom and peaked top. Occupying the interior are roughly 30 model-sized houses made of transparent Mylar as well as suspended disks and mirrors and two video projections.

“He has brought to the Canadian art scene quite a different way of seeing,” Catherine Elliot Shaw, McIntosh Gallery curator, said. “The way he fashions and combines all of these elements brings us into a magical, dreamlike state. He invites us to participate. Then, he allows us to take that experience where we want to go and to create our own narrative to discover new insights about ourselves.”

Ed Pien has been drawing for almost 30 years and has exhibited nationally and internationally. As an art instructor, Ed Pien has taught at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and the Ontario College of Art and Design. He currently teaches part-time at the University of Toronto.
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Natalie Raffoul, BESc’01, may not feel she has quite perfected her game on the courses of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. But off the tees and greens, she is one of the country’s top patent attorneys, recently honored with the 2015 Ottawa Business Journal’s Top Forty Under 40 award.

The fair way
Ensuring the integrity of original ideas

BY DAVID SCOTT
How does Natalie Raffoul, BESc’01, approach her golf game? “With a sense of humour.”

Don’t get her wrong. The Managing Partner at Brion Raffoul loves the game and her time on the courses of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. In fact, she considers it a welcomed respite from her hectic world.

“That’s my retreat,” she said. “That’s my sanity – right there.”

Raffoul, BESc’01, spends her days off the greens as one of the country’s top patent attorneys, managing worldwide intellectual properties for clients. She is also an in-demand speaker and lecturer at Sprott School of Business at Carleton and McGill universities, where she teaches courses for entrepreneurs that cover patents, trademark, copyright and industrial design issues.

“Just this morning, I corresponded with someone in Mexico. I spoke to someone in China and someone in Japan,” she said. “We’re really reaching out to folks all over the world. We’re constantly butting up against deadlines and timelines and time zones.”

In Canada, she has worked with the National Research Council, Defence Research and Development Canada, Husqvarna Group and the University of Calgary. Locally, she is connected to WORLDiscoveries, the business development arm of London’s research network that includes Western and Robarts Research Institute among its partners.

Outside work, Raffoul is a member of Western’s Alumni Association board, a campaign cabinet member of the Caring and Sharing Exchange in Ottawa, as well as a volunteer with several other organizations.

Her community involvement and pro bono work led to her being recognized with the 2015 Ottawa Business Journal’s Top Forty Under 40 award.

“Part of your job (as a patent attorney) is learning every day,” Raffoul said. “You’re looking at new technology and you’re getting your mind around the latest thing.”

And studying Engineering at Western, she continued, provided her with a solid foundation to do just that.

“Engineering really teaches you to hone your problem-solving skills,” she said. “You start to apply that same sort of logical thinking into a fact pattern in law. And it works really well. I still wear my Engineering iron ring. I wear it every day.”
You’ve just slurped the last of your matzo ball soup when your overstuffed smoked meat sandwich arrives, piping hot, on rye, slathered with mustard, garnished with a pickle and a side of slaw.

Eating at Tock’s is like every deli experience you’ve ever had, with just one major difference: It’s in China.

Yes, among the thousands of restaurants in Shanghai serving rice and stir-fries, snow peas and bamboo shoots, is an increasingly popular Jewish delicatessen. Opened by a Western alumnus, it brings Montreal-style smoked meat, poutine and matzo ball soup to an incredibly appreciative Chinese (and expat) clientele.

Brian Tock, BACS’04, found himself in China working for a textile manufacturing company in 2010, craving a good sandwich. When his uncle, Richard Tock, later suggested the idea of bringing Montreal smoked meat to Shanghai, Tock jumped on it.

It seemed like destiny.

“It provided me with a useful foundation in finance, marketing, management and, most importantly, entrepreneurship,” Tock said.

He would need all of that, plus a little old-fashioned chutzpah, to have the audacity to set up a smoked meat restaurant in a place where sourcing traditional Jewish deli foods he needed would be a huge challenge.

Tock graduated from Western’s Administrative and Commercial Studies Program in 2004 (he also played football for the Mustangs), ready to launch his career as a suit-wearing executive. And he did just that for his first job at a medical research company.

A transition to working in sales and textiles is what first brought him to China. His entrepreneurial spirit, however, never left him.

As a kid, Tock was always enterprising and spent his summers “starting companies,” eager to succeed with various painting services, or with buying and selling baseball cards. But he credits the small-business entrepreneurship course he took at Western with giving him
the skills to actually run a business - and reminding him of the importance of doing what you love.

When the opportunity presented itself to open a deli in China close to four years ago, Tock said it appealed to both his entrepreneurial spirit — and to his love of a good sandwich.

Still, he never imagined he would be operating the only Jewish deli in Asia, which recently expanded with a second restaurant.

Tock’s: A Montreal Deli is ranked No. 12 of 11,682 restaurants in Shanghai. It has received glowing reviews from several magazines and websites, and was voted the best new restaurant of 2014 by City Weekend, which irrefutably concluded: “What more could you want, eh?”

After the decision to forge ahead with the idea took hold in 2011, Tock started working at a deli in Montreal and perfecting his recipe for smoking the meat. Curing and spicing are key to creating the perfect slab of spicy, tender beef brisket for which Montreal has become renowned.

It had to be adapted to reflect both Chinese and foreign tastes alike, but a couple of months later, they were ready to host a taste test in Shanghai. About 50 Chinese people gathered at a local hotel to sample a smorgasbord of smoked meat, hotdogs, salami and karnatzel.

Of course, the real work began after that: scouting a location, intense work and training, getting through the red tape of operating in China. Not to mention that you can’t just walk into a store in China and order rye bread. Or brisket. Or cheese curds for poutine.

Oy! Everything had to be developed from scratch. Brian Tock found a baker willing to learn to make rye bread and began importing Angus briskets from Australia. And he started working with a cheesemaker to make curds.

The menu was fleshed out with smoked duck, turkey and chicken. A matzo ball soup recipe, just like “Bubby’s,” was concocted. Brian worked with another baker to develop a delicious apple pie and carrot cake, which has now been replaced with a Red Velvet cake and fresh baked Chocolate Chip Cookie dough. And they were able to import Moosehead, the only Canadian beer served in Shanghai.

While Brian loves being there and is learning to speak Mandarin, there are constant challenges. Consistent beef supply, potato supply and bread supply has been an ongoing hindrance, he said.

“Just when you think you’ve found the right supplier, secured the right price or designed a kitchen SOP (standard operating procedure) around a preparation method for a specific potato ... whack!” he said by email from Shanghai. “The supplier sold off the stock, the product is not what they promised, the government has an issue with that product or demand has increased, causing the price to skyrocket.”

Similar issues have persisted with staffing, but Tock knows that, no matter what, “the show must go on.” The reward is having satisfied customers who appreciate the food.

The deli is in an area known as the Bund, a few blocks away from the prohibitively expensive main street. It opened in the spring of 2013 on Henan Zhong Rd., with 55 seats and a lot of Montreal and Jewish flavour. One wall features Montreal scenes and memorabilia in English, while another does the same in French.

A smoked meat sandwich, fries, coleslaw and a soft drink costs about 95 RMB, which is about $18. Tock said that the response has been “extremely positive” — especially to the smoked meat, known in Mandarin as Xun niu rou.

“Most customers don’t know that we are serving Eastern European Jewish cuisine, but quite simply delicious sandwiches and smoked meats,” he said. However, he is satisfied that the “atmosphere and vibe” at Tock’s is that of an authentic Montreal deli, with a Shanghai twist. In fact, one reviewer on TripAdvisor had this to say: “I’m from Montreal and prefer Tock’s smoked meat in Shanghai to the ones at Schwartz’s in Montreal.”

There is no praise higher than that. After all, the famous Schwartz’s on the “Main” in Montreal has inspired a musical and even excited Quebec singing star Céline Dion enough to convince her to invest in the legendary eatery, prompting some to call her the Deli Diva.

And the success of the Chinese operation, including the recent expansion to the Portman Ritz-Carlton in Jing’an, speaks volumes about the far-reaching appeal of a local iconic food experience, the humble smoked meat sandwich.

Brian still wakes up every day wondering if people will actually show up to eat at the deli. And, when they inevitably do, it reminds him that staying the course is important. “Believing in what I do got me to this point.”
TAKING ON THE AMERICAS

BY JASON WINDERS

Turns out, it wasn’t just another race for Sasha Gollish.

Competing on the final night of the 2015 Pan Am Games, the Western Engineering alumna walked into CIBC Athletics Stadium at York University ready for her 1,500-metre race. She was on home turf – a Toronto woman taking on the best of the Americas on Canadian soil. Even so, she never expected what happened next.

“[I] was blown away by the noise in the stadium,” she said. “It’s one thing to walk into a stadium and hear cheering; it’s another thing to walk into a stadium and hear a whole stadium cheering for you. I was just trying to tell myself it was ‘just another race, just another race.’ But when you walk in and hear that noise from that many people, you think, ‘Oh my gosh, this isn’t just another race.’”

Gollish was one of a pair of Western alumnae who contributed three medals to Canada’s total count of 217 at the Games, a haul behind only the United States and its 265. Gollish, BESc ‘07, and Alexandra Bruce, BESc ‘14, were part of the country’s best Pan Am Games showing since it won 196 medals at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg. With 78 golds this year, Canada beat its record of 64, also set at the Winnipeg Games.

Gollish took home a bronze in the women’s 1,500-metre race – despite nearly shedding off her left shoe 150 metres into the race.

As the racers bunched in the first turn, the pace slowed and a runner behind her stepped down the back of her leg and into her shoe. “I had a decision to make: I could drop out, and everyone would understand, or I could fight,” Gollish said of her internal dialogue during the race. “If I chose to fight,
I had to ignore the fact my shoe was falling off and just race. If I focused on my shoe, I wouldn’t have been in the race. So, I decided to fight.

Bruce, a former member of the Western Mustangs badminton team, won two medals – a silver in mixed doubles badminton and a bronze in women’s doubles badminton.

A Civil Engineering alumnus, Bruce played two years at Western before taking a break from her studies to pursue badminton at the international level. She was an OUA All-Star in her two seasons of competition from 2008-10, as well as the 2008-09 OUA Women’s Badminton Rookie of the Year.

Sasha Gollish, left, (and above) was one of a pair of Western alumnae who contributed three medals to Canada’s total count of 217 at the Games, a haul behind only the United States and its 265. Gollish, BESc‘07, and Alexandra Bruce, BESc‘14, (right) were part of the country’s best Pan Am Games showing since it won 196 medals at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg. (Photos provided)

Alumni Career Management

Western’s commitment to your success doesn’t end at graduation

Western alumni now have exclusive access to opportunities and tools designed to help you advance in your career or transition to a new one. As a Western alumna or alumnus, you can:

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Whether you are a new graduate or experienced professional, Western can help.

To learn more and view our events, visit alumni.westernu.ca/careermanagement
MICRO/MACRO

A thousand words-worth

The 2015 Alumni Photo Contest, formerly named in honour of nursing alumna Arlie Laxton, BScN’37, through a past bursary, was restructured last year into four new categories. A restriction was lifted on one entry per alumni per the entire contest. That resulted in increased submissions from some alumni who submitted photos in all four categories. In all, there were 160 submissions making the contest even more competitive and judging more critical. Our judges again this year were: Dallas Currow, BA’06 (freelance photographer in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa), Jim Rankin, BSc’88 (photographer for the Toronto Star), Terry Rice, BFA’98 (Art Director, Alumni Gazette & Director, Marketing & Creative Services), and Paul Mayne (award-winning photographer/reporter).

Winner: Margaret Leitch, BEd’88. This photograph of a fishhook was shot in RAW format at F9, ISO 500, with a Canon 5D Mark III, Canon 100mm f2.8L macro lens, and the assistance of a tripod. Judges comments: “Excellent use of macro and shallow depth of field.”

Runner-up: Karen Bygnes, BA’76. “This was taken in my kitchen while making pancakes. As I added the oil to the milk, I noticed the interesting bubbles and geometric shapes created by this action and grabbed my camera.” Judges comments: “So mysterious. I’ll never look at pancakes the same way.”

Honourable Mention: Natalie Sansone, BA’08 (King’s). “Blowing Bubbles” - a fly blowing a bubble, captured with a reverse lens technique.

**Runnerup:** Marion Buccella, BA’07. “What Now?” – “I don’t know who was more surprised—me or the frog—when it unexpectedly jumped into the flower. I quickly captured the moment and the frog moved on.”

**Honourable Mention:** Dan Bryer MD’68. “Mayhem.” On most evenings animals will congregate at a watering hole in Etosha National Park providing photographers a great opportunity to capture images. Taken at Etosha National Park in Northern Namibia. ISO 1250, 550mm, f 8, 1/1000th, Nikon D800, Tripod.
Winner: Mimi Lo, MLIS’86. “Morning Catch.” Karst mountains of Yangshao. This image was taken on the Li River, near the town of Yangshao, China. “I was standing on the riverbank early morning and took a burst of hand-held shots to capture the beautiful landscape which also included a fisherman casting his net.” Judges Comments: “This image has a number of things that make it a winner: great composition, terrific light and a moment in time, frozen at just the right split second.”

Runnerup: Bill Boswell, BA’81, MBA’84. Sunrise at Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. “I call it Bryce Canyon Sunrise.” Judges Comments: “If Ansel Adams shot colour, this would have been something he would have been happy with.”

Honourable Mention: Margaret Leitch, BEd’88. This photograph was taken in Kawhia on the north island of New Zealand in April 2015. Shot with a Canon EOS Rebel T4i and Canon 50mm f/1.4 at F3.2, 1/100 shutter speed, ISO 100.
上方 Winner: Jonathan Fiske, BA’91 (PoliSci/History). “You Lookin’ At Me?” “This submission is a picture of my father, whose newspaper reading was interrupted by a 28mm lens being focused on him. He silently cooperated by hamming it up with a ‘yeah? what do you want’ look. Black & White seemed to work out best because it draws out some personal features, including the light grey beard against the dark shirt and his eyes staring over the sunglasses.” Nikon D7000, f 3.2, 1/320, ISO 100. No flash. Judges Comments: “Great choice to use black and white, and a nod, intended or not, to Yousef Karsh and Ernest Hemingway.”

上方 Runnerup: Stephanie Keating, BSc’08, MSc’10. “Kevin at AGO.” “I loved the light in the Art Gallery of Ontario where I took this portrait of my partner, Kevin Kuhl. The gorgeous architecture of the Frank Gehry staircase was a great backdrop.” Judges Comments: “Great lines and a perfect scene to insert a human form.”

上方 Honourable Mention: Roel Olay, BA’89. “On a recent trip to New Orleans, I stumbled across a wedding procession winding through the streets of the French Quarter. Judges Comments: “By lifting the camera into the air, the photographer brings a wide-angle perspective to a nice, candid feature picture.”
**Animals/Wildlife:** Penny Rintoul, BACS’87, LLB’91, MBA’91. I got this photograph of Ava, a barn owl using my Canon T5i camera and the 18-135 mm kit lens, set at 135 mm, at 100 ISO at f5.6 and 1/250 second. Judges Comments: “Loved the coy look on the bird.”

**Nature/Landscapes:** Stephanie Keating, BSc’08, MSc’10 (Astronomy). Star Trails with Faint Aurora, over Pog Lake, Algonquin. “I set up my tripod and used the cable release to take 142 exposures of 30 seconds each, which I then stacked together, for a total exposure time of 72 minutes. Each exposure was shot at f2.8, ISO 800, with a 16mm lens.”

**Micro/Macro:** Dan Bryer MD’68. “Bee on Rhododendron” “The Rhododendron bushes are in bloom at this time of year, which means there are plenty of macro opportunities. I particularly like this image as it combines a well focused bee on a background of somewhat abstract Rhododendron blooms.” SO 1250, 105mm with 36mm Extension tube, f 22, 1/400th sec Nikon D810, hand-held. (*Processed in Lightroom and Photoshop*)

**People/Portraits:** Dan Bryer MD’68. “Big Eyes” “I captured this image on the Peruvian Amazon River in a tiny village of fewer than 100 inhabitants located approximately 200 Kilometres from Iquitos in Eastern Peru. The village was very primitive - no schools and no electricity. This inquisitive youngster had the deepest eyes and a real sense of innocence. The runny nose was a nice added touch. It was quite dark so I shot this wide open.” ISO 400, 50mm, f 1.4 1/60th sec Nikon D800 hand-held. (*Processed in Lightroom and Photoshop*)
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Be Extraordinary.
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It’s all about our students
Can a man with a demanding job really be a good father? *All Out* is a bracingly honest answer from Emmy and Gemini Award-winning anchorman Kevin Newman, BA’81 (Political Science), and his grown son, Alex. Confessional and provocative, their memoir is also a touching meditation on ambition, absence and family that will resonate with every parent and child who’ve ever struggled to connect and understand each other.

Kevin Newman wanted to be a family man in an era when fathers are expected to be more engaged than ever before; he also wanted to reach the top of a profession that demands 24/7 commitment. The higher he climbed, the more irreconcilable those aspirations seemed. Meanwhile, his artistic, solitary son, Alex, was wrestling with his own competing ambitions: to be the sporty, popular son his dad wanted, and to be true to himself. Paradoxically, their attempts to live up to expectations – their own, and each other’s – were driving them apart. Then, two parallel identity crises forced a reckoning. Kevin reached the summit of American network television, becoming co-host of Good Morning America – where he was instructed to develop a “quarterback” persona and change his accent, mannerisms, personality, hairstyle and everything else that made him Kevin. At the same time, Alex was realizing he was gay, but frantically trying to mask and change that fact. Both felt like failures and hungered for one another’s approval, but didn’t know how to bridge their differences. Today, a decade later, they retrace their steps (and missteps) to reinventing their relationship and becoming one another’s role models for what it means to be a man in our culture. *All Out* is a moving chronicle of all the ways that fathers and sons misunderstand and disappoint one another – and a powerful reminder that they can become closer not despite their differences, but because of them.

[www.newmanallout.com](http://www.newmanallout.com)

Kevin Newman will be on campus Sept. 29 to discuss the book with students and alumni. Check the website for details.
NEW RELEASES FROM WESTERN ALUMNI

1. **Maurice Stubbs: Intuitive Painter**, by Tom Smart, BA'83, Catherine Elliott Shaw and Phillip McNamara.
2. **The Resourceful Mother’s Secrets to Emotional Health**, by Meredith Deasley, BA’89.
5. **Dr. Verity Lake’s Journey of a Thousand Revelations**, by Alexandra Kitty, MA’96.
6. **Measure Twice: Tips and tricks from the pros to help you avoid the most common DIY disasters**, by Bryan Baeumler, BA’96.
7. **Murder City: The Untold Story of Canada’s Serial Killer Capital**, by Michael Arntfield, BA’97, BA’05, MA’07, PhD’11.
8. **A New Index for Predicting Catastrophes**, by Madhur Anand, BSc’93, Crt’93, PhD’97.
9. **Per La Famiglia: Memories and Recipes of Southern Italian Home Cooking**, by Emily Richards, BA’03 (King’s), MLIS’06.
10. **Port Stanley: The First Hundred Years, 1804-1904**, by Robert J. Burns, PhD’75, Craig Cole, MD’63.
15. **In the Tiger Park**, by Alison Calder, MA’92, PhD’96.
17. **S is for Surfing**, by Carly Seibel, MIT’07.

Visit [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca) to read summaries of each new release.
Relive the shine.

September 25-27
Homecoming 2015

Cheryl Whipp, BA'73, BEd'74
Emily Addison, BA'15
Welcome home Western alumni and friends!

Whether you graduated in the 40s, 70s or the 21st century, some memories are a universal part of the Western Experience. Maybe you shined shoes and cars during O-Week in support of Shinerama, tobogganed down UC hill on a cafeteria tray, asked that special someone to dance at the Charity Ball or pulled an all-nighter for that final paper. It’s time to recreate those memories, it’s time to come back to campus and relive your Western Experience, at Homecoming 2015.

NEW! #HOCOonthehill

One day. Two concerts. An unforgettable Western Experience.

Canadian electronic dance music duo DVBBS headlines the morning concert while Our Lady Peace and other top artists perform in an evening concert under the stars. Don’t miss this music-filled day on UC Hill, brought to you by Western University, the USC, PremierLife and Western Alumni.

Reconnect with Western

From concerts and open houses to athletic events and lectures, there’s something for everyone. Visit your Faculty or School to reconnect with fellow classmates and learn what’s new. Remember to visit the Welcome Centre in Alumni Hall for information and Western swag!

Relive the spirit: Milestone events

At Homecoming, we recognize the achievements of our extraordinary alumni at special awards dinners and ceremonies. Reunions are being planned for alumni who graduated in a year ending in 0 and 5. It’s also the 50th anniversary for Delaware Hall and the USC.

Relive the glory

Support our student-athletes as they give it their all. Join the action on the pitch, the diamond, the gridiron, the court, the field, the course and the rink. Go Stangs!

Visit our website often to learn more about the exciting events on and off campus for alumni, friends and families to enjoy.

westernhomecoming.uwo.ca #westernhoco

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Congratulations Alumni!

Each year, we recognize alumni achievements at the Annual Alumni Awards Dinner held at Homecoming. The Alumni Awards of Merit recognize four individuals who serve as outstanding ambassadors for Western in four categories. The Women’s Athletic Alumnae’s Elfrida Berzins Awards and ‘W’ Club Wall of Fame honour eight alumni for their achievements and contributions to athletics. The Don Wright Faculty of Music Wall of Fame honours the professional accomplishments of two talented Music alumni.

2015 Alumni Award of Merit Recipients

**DR. IVAN SMITH AWARD**

Helen Luckman, MEd’82

Scottish-born Helen Luckman began her career at Western in the Faculty of Physical Education. In 1986 she joined the Department of Alumni Relations, where her creativity and energy led to new and enhanced programming. In 1987 she helped found the Women’s Athletic Alumnae for former varsity athletes. In 2002 she wrote *Mustang Tales*, a history of women’s sport at Western. She has served on the Alumni Association board and University Senate, and today is a member of the McIntosh Gallery Art & Travel Committee.

**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Dr. John Kelton, MD’73

Windsor native John Kelton put himself through medical school working on the line at Ford. After graduating from Western he completed additional training at Duke University and then joined McMaster University’s medical school. A world leader in the field of platelet and bleeding disorders, Kelton also became a highly respected administrator as dean of the DeGroote School of Medicine. He led the development of regional campuses in Kitchener and St. Catharines, and has raised more than $200 million in philanthropic support for the School.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Dr. Danielle Martin, MD’03

A passionate and articulate defender of Canada’s single-payer public health system, Danielle Martin helped found Canadian Doctors for Medicare in 2006. She quickly became a sought-after commentator and speaker. In 2013 she completed a master’s in Public Policy and assumed her current role as Vice President Medical Affairs and Health Systems Solutions at Women’s College Hospital, tasked with finding innovative ways to deliver community-based health care. In 2014 her passionate defence of the Canadian health system before a U.S. Congressional hearing went viral, attracting more than 1.3 million viewers.

**YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD**

Shawn Johnston, BSW’13

As a gay Aboriginal youth, Shawn Johnston faced relentless bullying at school. After 10 years of drug and alcohol abuse, Johnston got the help he needed and completed a college diploma. He moved on to the Social Work program at King’s University College, where he found his voice as an advocate and activist. In 2014 he completed a master’s at Wilfrid Laurier University, with his mother Lila, a residential school survivor. Now working with the Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre, he continues to be a dedicated advocate and presenter.
Women’s Athletic Alumnae (WAA) Elfrida Berzins Award

Vickie Croley, BEd’87  
Coach

Laurie Danowski, BA’88  
Soccer

Beth Johnston, BSc’74  
Basketball

Marnie Rolt (Simpson)  
BA’00, MCSc’02  
Volleyball

‘W’ Club Hall of Fame

Sean Basilio, BA’94  
Hockey

Christian Heffernan, BA’04, BEd’08  
Football, Track and Field

Steve McCullough, BA’90  
Track and Field

Jerry Gonser  
Coach

Don Wright Faculty of Music Wall of Fame

Tomson Highway, BMus’75, DMus’93  
Playwright, novelist and pianist/songwriter

Brenda Zadorsky, BMus’74, Dip.Ed’75  
Voice teacher, clinician and adjudicator. Co-founder of the Amabile Youth Singers

Join us at

The 41st Annual Alumni Awards Dinner

September 25, 2015
The Great Hall, Somerville House
westernconnect.ca/alumnidinner
Department of Alumni Relations & Development at Western and ensures alumni representation on Western’s Board of Governors, university Senate and active campus committees. This structure keeps us front and centre for all debates and discussions on the direction of this proud institution. The Alumni Branch and Chapter structure also provides a mechanism for you to connect with important university conversations. Get involved in your local region, participate in alumni programs and offer your opinions!

Getting to know these people is key to your meaningful engagement. With that, allow me to introduce to you the 2015-16 Alumni Association Board of Directors:

• President - John Eberhard, BA’66, LLB’69;
• President-Elect - David Simmonds, BA’07;
• Warren Bongard, LLB’91;
• Mark Brown, MBA’95;
• Sharon Cowin, BA’64;
• Fiona Cuddy, BA’99;
• Mark Millar, BSc’04;
• John Moore, BA’92;
• Erika Mozes, BA’00;
• Elena Murgoci, BA’81;
• Natalie Raffoul, BESc’01;
• Ashley Rowe, BA’11;
• Eric Saarvala, BA’95;
• Promod Sharma, BSc’84;
• Nick Staubitz, BSc’06; and
• Sunny Uppal, BSc’08.

Contact the President (eberhard@uwo.ca) to express your views on how the Association can become more effective in reaching out to all alumni.

You can also connect with Trista Walker, Secretary to the Board, at trista.walker@uwo.ca, who can share your thoughts with the entire board or an individual member best aligned with your interests.

So, take a moment and make yourself heard today. Your voice truly matters.

STRENGTH IN OUR NUMBERS

We are reminded of one important fact today: Your voice matters.

Western alumni are widely recognised by the campus community as important stakeholders in this public – and for us – very special institution. What our collective voice says carries considerable weight. When your Alumni Association’s unified voice speaks, what we say can change a debate in positive ways for the betterment of the university. There is truly strength in our numbers.

Given the awesome responsibility of representing those voices – your voices – your alumni Board of Directors is focused on engaging all alumni and encouraging their participation in programs, activities, governance and financial support of our alma mater. We see the importance of letting your voice be heard.

At our core, Western Alumni is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, which enjoys an advisory role to the

Get all of your alumni benefits.

We have your mailing address but do we have your email address?

Email is the primary way we communicate with our alumni to let them know about all the benefits available to them. Updating your email address ensures you receive the latest news from Western, information about alumni services and discounts and details about Homecoming and alumni events in your area.

Stay current by confirming your email address at www.westernconnect.ca/email-update.

And you can also request a Western Alumni card to gain access to exclusive services and discounts.

Questions? Contact alumni@uwo.ca for more information.
ALUMNI EVENTS

Connect with old friends and make some new ones at Western Alumni events happening in locations around the world. Many of our events are family friendly and offer a great opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow alumni. Our full events listing can be found at: alumni.uwo.ca/connect/events

FEATURED EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 12 – Dentistry 50th Anniversary Gala (London, ON)
SEPTEMBER 24 – Homecoming Away from Home, Faculty of Law (Toronto, ON)
SEPTEMBER 25-27 – Homecoming (London, ON)
SEPTEMBER 25 – Homecoming Away From Home – NYC (New York, NY)
SEPTEMBER 26 – Homecoming Away From Home: Vancouver (Vancouver, BC)
SEPTEMBER 29 – Adrienne Pieczonka, BMus'85, DMus '12 Concert: Beyond the Aria (Toronto, ON)
SEPTEMBER 30 – Best. Resume. Ever: How to Build a Resume That Works (Toronto, ON)
OCTOBER 1 – Western Suits with Peter Aceto, BA’90, LLB’94, President & CEO, Tangerine Bank (Toronto, ON)
OCTOBER 2 – After WesternU (Ottawa, ON)
OCTOBER 14-16 – Western Alumni Career Coaching (Calgary, AB)
OCTOBER 17 – London Branch Lake Erie North Shore Wineries Tour (London, ON)
OCTOBER 22 – After WesternU (Ottawa, ON)
OCTOBER 22 – After WesternU (Vancouver, BC)
OCTOBER 23 – Emotional Intelligence in Action, Lunch & Learn (London, ON)
OCTOBER 28 – After WesternU (Toronto, ON)
OCTOBER 29 – After WesternU (London, ON)
NOVEMBER 5 – 6th Annual Western Engineering Leaders’ Reception (Toronto, ON)
NOVEMBER 10-12 – Western Alumni Career Coaching (Vancouver, BC)
DECEMBER 2 – Geography/UDP Alumni Reception (Toronto, ON)
DECEMBER 2 – Mingle Bells Reception (London, UK)
DECEMBER 3 – Mingle Bells Reception (Vancouver, BC)
DECEMBER 3 – USC Alumni Mingle Bells (Toronto, ON)

(L-R): Randy McAuley, BA’08, BHSc’12, JD’15, Mark McAuley, BA’02, Mike Ross, BA’02, perform at the Western Engineering celebrates 60 years event May 21 in Toronto at the Rosewater Room.

Discover the World

Western Alumni’s 2015-16 Discover the World program offers travel opportunities for Western alumni and their friends and family, faculty, staff and friends of the University.

Join like-minded travellers on one of our journeys, enhanced by knowledgeable lecturers and tour directors, offering an exceptional cultural and educational experience.

Winter 2016
Galapagos
Treasures of Southern Africa
Legends of the Nile
Myanmar River Cruise

Spring 2016
Holland & Belgium
Greek Isles
Inland Sea of Japan & Korea
Cycling in the Loire Valley

Summer 2016
Paris Immersion
Cruise Alaska
North Sea Circle Cruise
Grand Danube Passage

Autumn 2016
Ireland - Westport
Canary Islands
Barcelona & San Sebastian
Holiday Markets

To view all upcoming trips, visit alumni.westernu.ca/travel.

Contact Susan Henderson to be added to our mailing list.

Tel: 519.661.2111 or 1.800.258.6896 ext. 85871
Email: discovertheworld@uwo.ca
ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSS MACDONALD’S BIRTH, LINWOOD BARCLAY REFLECTS ON THE MYSTERY WRITER’S WORK

BY LINWOOD BARCLAY

Back in 1970, when I was 15 years old, my bookstore was the twirling metal stand at the Shea’s IGA in Bobcaygeon, Ont., where my parents ran a cottage resort and trailer park. This was where I’d grab an Agatha Christie novel, or the latest Nero Wolfe mystery. But on this particular day, what caught my eye was the Bantam paperback edition of The Goodbye Look, a Lew Archer novel by Ross Macdonald.

I put down 95 cents and the book was mine.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Macdonald – whose real name was Kenneth Millar, BA’38 – was seen as a novelist who’d taken the conventions of the detective novel and enriched them with psychological insight and greater moral complexity.

Since Macdonald’s death in 1983, his star has faded somewhat, while contemporaries like Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett remain literary household names. But on the 100th anniversary of Macdonald’s birth, The Library of America is taking a welcome step to ensure his work is given proper consideration.

It just published Ross Macdonald: Four Novels of the 1950s – The Way Some People Die, The Barbarous Coast, The Doomsters and The Galton Case. The first two novels are of the hard-boiled variety, and owe much to Chandler and Hammett. But Macdonald believed he could do better.

His approach has evolved by the time he writes The Doomsters, about an escapee from a psychiatric facility who comes to Archer for help, and The Galton Case, in which a woman engages Archer to find her long-lost son. Archer himself is rarely the story. He’s not hired by old girlfriends with long legs and ample bosoms who now find themselves in a jam. As Macdonald himself had said, Archer was so two-dimensional that if he turned sideways, he would disappear.

I wouldn’t go that far.

Archer feels fully realized, has a strong moral code, a sense of decency. But he is also a device, a kind of gardener who unearths dirt to allow sunshine in and expose diseased roots. Unlike the earlier novels, where Archer often tangled with common thugs, in The Doomsters and The Galton Case the detective’s clients are more upscale, but their sins run just as deep.

The latter is seen by many as Macdonald’s masterpiece, and it may well have been at the time, but his career highs would come in later decades with The Chill, Black Money and The Underground Man.

The Galton Case, however, marked a period where Macdonald mined his own life for material. It explores his feeling of displacement that came from being born in the United States but raised in Canada.

Plus, there’s the theme of the absent father. Macdonald’s father abandoned the family when he was a boy. In Galton, Archer is on the trail of a young man named John who’s in search of his own. Macdonald’s father’s name was John. Many of the 18 Archer novels and short stories are about disappearances, and it doesn’t seem to be reading too much in to surmise much of Macdonald’s writing was about finding what he had lost.

Macdonald was a prodigious writer of letters. I know. I have a stack of them.

I was in my late teens when I wrote to my favourite writer, who lived in Santa Barbara, Calif., ostensibly to ask if he could point me to pieces written about him for a thesis I was intending to write for a Trent English course. When, to my joy, he replied, I wrote back and made a request I now
realize was a huge imposition. Could I send him the manuscript of the detective novel I’d written? He said sure.

I’ve often wondered why. Maybe it had something to do with my letter’s postmark. Ontario had made its mark on Macdonald. He’d attended Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate, studied at Western, married the daughter of Kitchener’s mayor (Margaret Millar would achieve fame as a crime writer before her husband hit it big), saw his first professional work published in Toronto Saturday Night.

In 1976, in the lead-up to the publication of The Blue Hammer, Macdonald wrote to tell me he was coming to Canada. Maybe there would be a chance to meet in Peterborough when he was visiting with Margaret’s family. The call came on a May afternoon. Did I want to join them for dinner?

I raced over and found him standing outside, as though expecting me, dressed in a sport jacket and nice slacks, looking just like his author photo on the hardcover of Sleeping Beauty I’d brought with me. He was reserved and soft-spoken.

He asked about my family. I told him about losing my father when I was 16. It seemed to hit home. “I’m sorry,” he said.

I drove him along the road that hugs the Otonabee River, gave him a walking tour of Trent. We talked about writing and other things; I remember telling him how much I loved the low-key, opening chapter of The Underground Man, where Archer befriends a troubled young boy feeding some blue jays.

“I’ll write another one like that for you,” he said, and smiled.

Not that he actually would have, but unbeknownst to him, he’d already written his final novel. Encroaching Alzheimer’s disease would end his writing career, and seven years later, he would be dead.

In my copy of his novel Sleeping Beauty, he wrote: “For Linwood, who will, I hope, someday outwrite me. Sincerely, Kenneth Millar (Ross Macdonald).”

Perhaps as much as I treasure that inscription are these words he wrote to me in a letter dated Feb. 28, 1976: “This is a fairly complex discipline that you and I have undertaken, and it takes time to master or be mastered by it. Something like a lifetime, in my rather slow case, but worth the time, and we make friends on the way.”

Linwood Barclay’s new novel, Broken Promise, was released in July. This piece is an edited version of one that was originally published May 1 in The Globe and Mail. It is reprinted with permission of the author and The Globe and Mail.

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AWARDS AND HONOURS

Western French Studies professor Henri Boyi and alumnus Navjeet ‘Bob’ Dhillon, MBA’88, were named among the winners of the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award for 2015. The annual event, given out by Canadian Immigrant Magazine, in partnership with RBC Royal Bank, since 2009, is the first Canadian national award program that recognizes immigrants’ achievements from all walks of life.

Tamer Abdalla, BA’14, Nana-Abu Duncan, MA’03, Dr. Boluwaji Ogunyemi, BSc’08, Dr. Nekessa Remy, BA’02, and David Simmonds, BA’07, were recently named as recipients of the Black Canadian Awards for 2015.

50 YEARS SINCE GRADUATION!

Every year, our group of Western grads travels from the Niagara Region, Toronto area and London to meet for lunch. This year, to celebrate 50 years since our graduation, we gathered in London. We reminisced, laughed and shared some sad moments. Over the weekend, we ate wonderful meals at London restaurants, toured the campus, drove past our former residences and visited the grounds of our old Gamma Phi Beta house, where we were given a tour of its renovations and the former Bishop’s residence across the driveway. It was definitely a special weekend.

Pictured are, front row, from left, Pat Barker (Kaye), BA’66, Crt’67; Linda Lang (Maiers), BA’65; Eva Bettger (Wicks), BA’66; Ann Pinnegar (Keasey), BA’64; Ruth Anne Murray (McLellan), BA’65; and Sue Dixon (Crosby), BA’65; back row, from left, Barb Garrow, BA’65, Fran Thomas (Fairley), BA’65; Ginny Cowan, BA’64; Sandy Jamieson (Scott), BA’64, Crt’68; Marion Allen (Thomas). Attending, but not pictured, were Jane Newman (Orr), BA’64, and Lynn Watson (Maybee). Absent from this year’s reunion were Sara Dalley (Gibson), BA’65, Jackie Thomas (Lawson), BA’65, and Marny Woloshyn (Moore), BA’65.

1960s

Vivi-Anne Eadie (Callow), BA’62, and Tom Eadie, BA’63, along with Martha Archbold (Jackson), BA’63, and John Archbold, BA’64, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries together with a cruise and tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Karl Wysotski, BA’64 (King’s University College), celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Phyllis (Teskey), family and friends on June 19 in Millbrook, Ont. Karl and Phyllis met at Western in 1963.

1970s

Ira Goldmintz, BA’72, and his wife, Marion, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 17.

Chaminade University of Honolulu recently honoured Richard Tanaka, BA’72, with a Lifetime Achievement Award in April. Tanaka is a business and community leader who serves as chairman, CEO, and sole shareholder of Tanaka of Tokyo Restaurants Ltd.

In May, John B. Carmichael, BA’74, was named chair of the Conservative Caucus for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Central Ontario.

Robert Stapleford, BA’74, was appointed president of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, at the group’s annual meeting June in Ottawa.
Dean P. Bertho7y, BSc’78, MD’82, was named a fellow in the American College of Radiology at the recent ACR 2015 meeting in Washington. D.C. Bertho7y is a radiologist at Radiology Specialists, Ltd., in Las Vegas.

William A. Howe, BEd’77, was named a Distinguished Alumni at the annual Teachers College/Columbia University Academic Festival on April 11. Howe has MA and EdD from Teachers College in 1991.

Hilary McCormack, LLB’78, was appointed to a five-year term as chairperson of the Military Police Complaints Commission of Canada, in Ottawa.

Dr. Joseph J. Shocrylas, BSc’78, retired from dentistry after 32 years. He practiced in Waglisa, B.C., and Duncan, B.C., and Reddele, Ont., and Ottawa before settling in Barrie, Ont. He was team dentist for the Barrie Colts of the OHL.

After four decades on campus, Phil Floyd, BSc’79, retired from Information Technology Services at Western on July 31. In addition to ITS, he has worked with University Hospital, Anatomy, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Law and Continuing Studies. He will be busy with music, and work needed for his home and Port Stanley cottage.

After teaching for 35 years in the public school system, Maureen Smyth, MA’79, has retired.

Rev. Wanda R. Winfield, BA’79, MA’80, was named minister of Blenheim United Church in April. As of Sept. 28, 2014, she is now married to Barbara Dale, her partner of 28 years.

1980s
After several decades of teaching music, Judith Aronson, BMus’82, BEd’84, MMus’15, received her Masters of Music in Music Education in June. She received her degree one week after her youngest son graduated with his degree.

Charles Ballantyne, BA’82, was named CFO of the Agenus Co., of Lexington, Mass.

John ‘Johnny C’ Charlebois, BSc’82, will be inducted into the Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame this fall.

Richard ‘Tiff’ Macklem, MB’84, PhD’89, was appointed to the board of directors of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Nancy Clark (Henry), BA’85, recently retired from IBM Canada Limited after 30 years of service. She is living back in her hometown of Barrie, Ont., with her family.

Kevin Rollason, MA’85, was recently awarded a National Newspaper Award for a feature he wrote in the Winnipeg Free Press about Brian Sinclair, a disabled aboriginal man who died untreated in a hospital emergency department’s waiting room after sitting in his wheelchair for 34 hours.

Michael Falkenstein, MBA’85, was named director of manufacturing for Hillman Group Canada and will lead three divisions, Capital Metal, Precision Fasteners and Long Lok. Falkenstein has been married for 26 years, still lives in Oakville, Ont., and has three children – a 23-year-old daughter completing her masters in Mining Engineering at Queen’s University, a 21-year-old son currently employed by National Steelcar and a 19-year-old son in the midst of training in fire fighting.

In May, Glenn Yonemitsu, BA’85, MA’83, was honoured as a fellow by the Institute of Certified Management Consultants of Ontario. He currently serves as the lead trustee from Canada with the International Council of Management Consulting Institutes. He is also proud that his son, Tait, graduated from Western in June, with a BA from King’s.

Jo-Anne Archibald, MBA’86, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Oil Optimization Inc., in Toronto.

After 28 years with CRA, Pak Kwan, MBA’86, retired to spend more time with his children in Indiana and New Jersey.

Francis Nedvidek, PhD’86, was named managing director of NanoXplore GmbH, a subsidiary of Group NanoXplore Inc., in Montreal.

Dr. Michael Salter, MD’86, was appointed chief of research at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) Research Institute. Salter is senior scientist in the Neurosciences & Mental Health Program, and a professor at the University of Toronto. He holds the Canada Research Chair in Neuroplasticity and Pain, and is the Anne and Max Tennenbaum Chair in Molecular Medicines.
Barbara Cubberley (Blake), BSc’87 (Brescia University College), recently received the Dr. Al Annen Award, presented to individuals who show “inspiring compassion and unwavering respect in his or her work with patients and colleagues.” Cubberley is a dietician with the Thames Valley Family Health Team (Whitehills site) and a former diabetes educator at St. Joseph’s Health Care in London.

Michael Elliot, MA’87, was recently named head of rheumatology marketing at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, located in San Francisco, Calif. He lives in the Bay Area with his wife, Bonnie, and two energetic Siberian Huskies.

John Klein, BA’87, was appointed acting academic superintendent at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

Michelle Cherutti-Kowal, BA’88, became a Master of Wine, one of only 323 in the world. Cherutti-Kowal is a wine lecturer, writer and wine consultant and has been based in the U.K. since 2001.

Tim Hughes, BA’89 (Huron University College), was named managing director of cairns oneil, a Toronto-based, advertising agency. Hughes brings to team more than 20 years of experience in media planning and buying at both multinational and local boutique agencies across a wide variety of categories, including consumer packaged goods, retail, luxury, tourism and not-for-profit.

Christopher Nowak, MLIS’89, won his 53rd running medal (first, second or third in his category) in the Waterloo Classic 3K. That number matches his age and represents 75 medals – including finisher medals – overall.

1990s

Jason Donville, MBA’92, was named to the Apivio Systems Inc Board of Directors, in Vancouver.

Douglas Hamilton, MBA’93, was appointed president and CEO of MetaStat Inc., of Boston.

Bertrand Dussert, BA’94, MA’95, is working for Oracle as vice-president for human capital transformation. He has consulted with more than one-third of Fortune 100 HR leadership teams, and also serves as one of Oracle’s official media spokespersons. He lives in Florida, but “works everywhere.”

Graham Robertson, MBA’94, started Beloved Brands as a boutique brand-coaching firm, helping brands in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Graham spent 20 years in brand management, leading some of the world’s most beloved brands at Johnson and Johnson, Pfizer, General Mills and Coke.

Kimberly Hunter-Galt, BA’96, and Thomas Galt, BSc’97, welcomed a baby girl, Alyssa, on Feb. 27.

Michael Dinsdale, BSc’97, DocuSign chief financial officer (CFO), was named the 2015 Bay Area CFO of the Year for Emerging Business by the San Francisco Business Times.

Paul Emerson, BA’97, has a new job as assistant vice-president liability claims at Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance.

Roberto Israel, BSc’97, was appointed recently as the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) chief information officer of Canadian apartment properties.

Fraser Ball, BA’98, MA’00, was appointed recently as acting Lambton Crown Attorney.

Selana Fung, BMus’98, was named one of four International Clore Fellows for 2014-15, by The Clore Leadership Programme. Fung is a music and music education specialist and teacher at the Christian Alliance International School in Hong Kong. She helped establish the first Hong Kong Blind Choir as artistic director and is assistant director of Bel Canto Chorus.

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Carla Coveart, BESc’13, a former member of the Western varsity skating team, was a member of the NEXXICE skating team that won the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships in April in Hamilton. Coveart, a project design engineer at GM Blue Plan in Kitchener, is now a two-time world champion having been a member of NEXXICE when it was the first Canadian team to win in 2009 prior to start of her Engineering studies at Western. Watching the team’s gold medal performance in Hamilton were her father, James Coveart, BESc’78, mother Antonet Svircev, BSc’79, PhD’84, and aunt B. Lynn (Coveart) Franklin, BScN’71.
Tera Oswald, BA’98, has been with Infrastructure Ontario for the last 10 years and was recently promoted to a senior vice-president, real estate. She has been married to Michael Oswald, BA’98, Dpl’99, for the last 15 years.

2000s

Neal Castello, HBA’01, was appointed managing director at AlpInvest Partners in New York.

Michael Reid, BSc’01, has been promoted to the role of senior strategist, Pension Solutions of the Manulife Asset Management, in Toronto.

Tracey Duncan, BA’02 (Huron), and her partner, Steve McGill, celebrated the birth of a daughter on Jan. 21, in Toronto.

Eliot Freeston, HBA’02, married to Ashleigh Elizabeth Freeston (Stevenson) on Aug. 6, 2011. Their first child, Preston Patrick Freeston, was born on Nov. 10, 2014.

Darryl Dixon, BSc’03 (Chemistry), is starting a new position at Bristol Myers Squibb in New Brunswick, NJ, as a research investigator II in Early Phase Chemical Development.

Daniel Jewell, MBA’03, was appointed vice-president operation for Ultima Foods Inc. of Longueil, Quebec, in November 2014.

Peter Cavell, BMus’04, and Megan Phillips, BMus’05, have teamed up to write People Suck, a new musical which premiered as a part of the Toronto Fringe Festival at the Randolph Theatre in July. Arthur Wright, BMus’07, was featured in the cast. The trio was thrilled to have a mini reunion in a professional capacity.

Adrian Moody, BHsc’05, is happy to be celebrating two years of life at Music Without Barriers, a non-profit made to make music universally inclusive for individuals with disabilities. The organization was founded by Moody and other Western grads.

Allison Daley, MSc’06, has been honoured with the 2015 Jan Bergström Young Geoscientist Award in recognition of her contributions to research. Daley is a University of Oxford departmental lecturer in Animal Diversity in the Department of Zoology and research fellow to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, as well as being a junior research fellow at St Edmund Hall.

James Wetmore, BA’06, married Joanna Flick, on June 13.

Sandra Yoon, BMOS’06, recently joined Korea Investment Securities in New York City and accepted a senior equity sales role (director).

Jeffrey Van Poucke, MBA’07, was appointed president of Cummins Easter Canada in Pointe-Claire, Que., on May 1.

Mahmoud Elsharnouby, MESc’08, PhD’13, obtained his PEng designation in Ontario.

Heather Bray, LLM’11, received the 2015 Promising Alumni Award from Camosun College in Victoria, B.C. Bray, a junior researcher at the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg, Germany, is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, a Juridical Science (S.J.D) candidate at the University of Arizona and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellow.
Sunali Swaminathan, MBA’10, got married to her high school sweetheart, Shanthal Perera, on July 4.

Celebrate your life’s milestones.
We want to join in the celebration.

Share your updates about your new job or business, wedding, new home or baby, and Western Alumni will send out a great gift with our congratulations!

Visit alumni.uwo.ca/milestones to share your news and any other announcements or to learn more about our Milestones Program.

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Spencer Sandor, BA’11, BA’12, (Huron), MPA’13, was hired as a municipal advisor with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Nicole Amos, BA’13, is working for the Herjavec Group as its marketing events coordinator. She is in charge of all external company events.

Michelle Amri, BHSc’13, moved to Manila, Philippines, in January to work as a health promotion consultant with the World Health Organization (Regional Office for the Western Pacific).

Caitlyn Keable, BA’13, found a job in her field at Red Rhino Inc., a marketing and ad agency in London, Ont. Starting as an intern, she was hired full time after completing her diploma in Public Relations at Western Continuing Studies.

Maria Luisa Lopez, MA’13, is celebrating her first year at her job at BMW.

Christine McManus, BA’13 (Brescia), BA’15, and Joe McManus celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on June 3.

Kevin Chu, BA’14, recently started his new job with Louis Vuitton in Chicago.

Sacha Lywood, BA’14, and Joe Fonseca, BA’13, MA’14, met in their first-year East Asian History class at Western and have been together for five years. Fonseca graduated with his masters in History and went to Japan to prepare for his PhD in September. During Lywood’s semester break from teacher’s college in Australia, she traveled to Japan to visit him. On Jan. 25, Fonseca proposed to her at Fushimi Inari shrine in Kyoto, Japan.

Melissa McLlwain, BA’14, and her fiancé, Adam Bush, recently purchased their first home.

Aisha Wasty, BSc’14 (Brescia), and Rehan Noor were recently married in a traditional South Asian wedding ceremony.

Stephanie Tran, BSc’15, a Neuroscience undergraduate who participated in a project at the Movement Disorders Centre at Western, presented findings of her research team that quantified the effects of deep-brain stimulation in Parkinson’s disease patients. The team’s abstract was selected among the Top 5 in the INS 12th World Congress abstract competition, held in June in Montreal. The team used a motion-capture suit to assess the slow, stiff movements of bradykinesia.

Morgan Seale, BMOS’12, was named general manager at Sugar Bay Barbados Hotel, overseeing renovation and implementation and set to open this fall.

Bailey Spagat, BA’10 (MIT), was married this summer to Evan Babins.

Janet Dang, BHSc’09, and Eric Kes, BSc’09, married on May 16. The ceremony was held in Western’s Physics & Astronomy Building; the reception was at The Wave in the University Community Centre, where they had their first date. The couple met in first-year Biology in 2005. They will be moved to Edinburgh, Scotland, this summer where Eric began a post-doctoral fellowship in chemistry.

Sandra Dufon Photography should have received the photo credit for a wedding photo of Thalia Wells, BSc’14, in our Spring 2015 issue.

The incorrect Dr. Michael Kovacs was congratulated for a recent Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) award. The Dr. Michael Kovacs who received the award has a 1996 MSc (Honors Chemistry and Biochemistry) from Western and a 2001 PhD (Medicinal Inorganic Chemistry) from University of British Columbia. He is a Medical Imaging assistant professor at Western, as well as a research scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute in Imaging.

Michelle Ricco, BA’09, had a baby girl, Jasmine, on Sept. 26, 2014.
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. C.D. McKeen, BA’38, on August 30, 2014, in Orangeville, Ont.
Albert M. Boles, BA’43, MBA’53, on August 4, 2014, in Toronto, Ont.
Dr. Norvel W.F. (Pink) Scratch, MD’43, on April 3, 2015, in Stratford, Ont.
S.A. Blake Ward, HBA’44, on February 17, 2015, in Chatham, Ont.
Audrey Jean Weldhen, BA’44, on September 1, 2014, in Niagara Falls, Ont.
Dr. Ramsay Willis Gunton, MD’43, on April 3, 2015, in Stratford, Ont.
Dr. Norvel W.F. (Pinky) Scratch, MD’43, on April 3, 2015, in Orangeville, Ont.
Dr. C.D. McKeen, BA’38, on August 30, 2014, in Orangeville, Ont.

DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE WINTER 2016 ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 30.
LISTENING THROUGH THE YEARS

Somewhere, I’m sure I saw a photo of the Duke Ellington Orchestra playing at Wonderland Gardens. Probably it was on the red-and-white bandshell itself, one night in the ’80s when I was at the old dancehall off Springbank Road.

By the time I was at Western, Wonderland Gardens was still a venue for the occasional live music event. It was the kind of place where you’d see Larry Gowan in those days, or Kim Mitchell. But seeing the photo of Ellington and his band resplendent in their finery reminded me of the sort of thing students always need reminding: that your favourite haunts were around long before you showed up and will be around long after you move on.

In between, there’s the eternal moment, and the moment at Western usually had a soundtrack. Often, it was insipid.

As one example among many, for almost the entire time I was at Western, few Frosh Weeks were complete without an appearance by Spice, which was billed as “Jamaica’s Hottest Band” even though nothing about it was identifiably Jamaican as “Jamaica’s Hottest Band” even though nothing about it was identifiably Jamaican. “Why’s it so cold all of a sudden? Where has Spice gone? Why has Spice forsaken us?”

Slightly higher on the food chain were the bands that played at The Spoke on Friday nights. (This was in the days when The Spoke was still in the basement of Somerville House, where it was supposed to be.) Usually, they were cover bands, broadly indistinguishable from the taped hit music that played on other nights. Sometimes they were trying to do something interesting musically.

I learned early how to know which of the two it was on any given Friday. A group of my neighbours at Westminster College would troop up to The Spoke every Friday night. If they came home early, shaking their heads in disgust at how much the band sucked, I knew it was not a cover band and that I should head out, almost invariably by myself, to check it out.

And, of course, university life being what it is, very often there were opportunities to hear bigger names. At the aforementioned Wonderland Gardens, at approximately the midway point between Duke Ellington’s heyday and my own, the goateed and deeply eccentric California guitarist Frank Zappa apparently played a memorable concert in 1971, for which he prepared by water skiing on the Thames River. My own time at Western coincided with the rise to prominence of two great bands, Blue Rodeo and the Tragically Hip. I was a regular at Blue Rodeo’s early gigs. Not so much for The Hip.

In both cases credit or blame can be laid at the door of my long nights working at The Gazette.

Record companies used to send us a few dozen vinyl LPs a week for consideration for reviews. The obviously high-quality arrivals – REM, Talking Heads – would be divvied up among our better writers. The crud was carted off by the lucky entertainment editor, me, to Doctor Disc to be sold for walking-around money.

In between were the question marks, the albums that looked like they might be good but who was to say?

One night after midnight I took an armload of question-mark albums home, cracked open a beer and started listening. Crap. Crap. Crap. Then, suddenly, great rock and roll.

That last one was Outskirts, the first Blue Rodeo album. Haunting, dangerous in a way the band’s later albums surely weren’t. I went to their next Western gig, which was probably their first. And to the following one, and the one after that. Blue Rodeo – along with the Shuffle Demons and a local Christian rock band named Elm Hall, whose Christian lyrics I didn’t hear clearly enough to understand that they were, you know, Christian – was a recurring feature of the soundtrack of my years at Western. (I think I registered, more or less subliminally, that something was up with Elm Hall. It just seemed to me that the crowd that came out to their concerts was unusually clean-cut.)

I totally missed the boat on the Tragically Hip, though. That’s because I didn’t hear them for myself. They were playing a concert somewhere on campus, and we sent one of our younger writers to review the gig. The writer came back to the newsroom, around 11 p.m., to write his review, but not before announcing to nobody in particular, “That band from Kingston? The Tragically Hip? They suck.”

Now, my own experience from Friday nights at The Spoke should have taught me to view this judgment with suspicion. But for whatever reason, I took this now-forgotten writer’s counsel to heart, and studiously ignored the Tragically Hip for 20 years. I finally heard the band in 2007 in Brussels. I was amazed at how good they sounded.

Sometimes it takes a generation or so for the soundtrack of your university years to catch up with you. Or you with it.
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Cameron Bailey (BA’87) knows a great movie when he sees one. As Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival, he discovers award-winning films from Cannes to Cape Town. And his love of film started at Western.

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