

# Alumni Gazette

WESTERN'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE SINCE 1958

WINTER 2018

## APPETITE FOR CHANGE

Michael McCain, HBA'79,  
LLD'17, reshapes the role  
of food in our world



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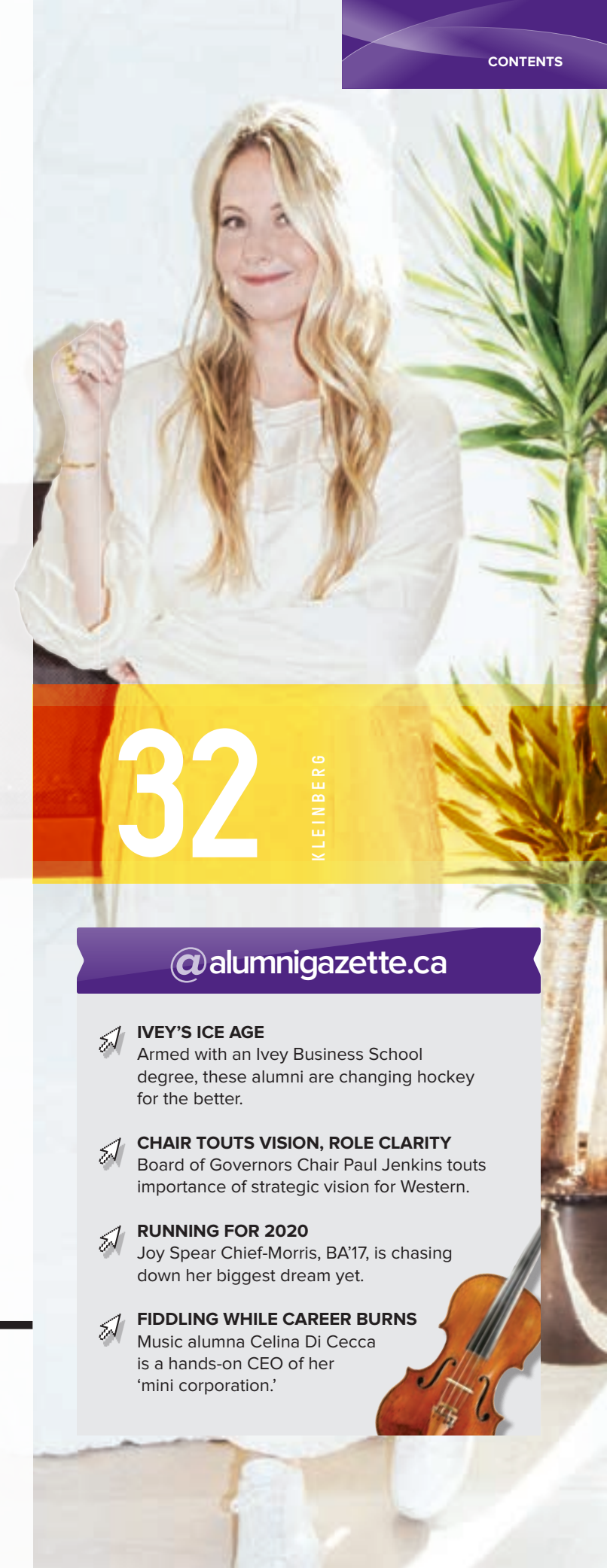
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**On the cover:** Maple Leaf Foods President and CEO Michael McCain, HBA'79, LLD'17, photographed in his Mississauga office in October 2017.  
(PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)



## Alumni Gazette

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(PHOTO BY ADELA TALBOT)

## Hord named university's 23<sup>rd</sup> Rhodes Scholar

**L**evi Hord, a fourth-year Sexuality Studies, School for Advanced Studies in Arts & Humanities (SASAH) and Scholar's Electives student, was named a recipient of the esteemed 2018 Rhodes Scholarship, an international postgraduate award for students to study at the University of Oxford. It is widely considered to be one of the world's most prestigious scholarships.

Eleven Rhodes scholarships are awarded annually in Canada, two of which are designated for Ontario. Hord is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Western scholar to receive the award.

While studying as an undergraduate, Hord has undertaken extensive research on the use of gender-neutral language in transgender communities, and how linguistic identity expression varies based on grammatical gender systems. This project is part of a larger mission to raise awareness of, and enhance research into, transgender identities and how they are embodied and experienced in society. Hord hopes to play an integral part in breaking through the social and intellectual barriers that remain for those who subvert the binary gender system.

At Oxford, Hord plans on doing a double master's – two one-year degrees, the first in women's studies and the second either in political theory or with the Internet Institute at the university, looking at how embodiment and identity are negotiated in a digital age.

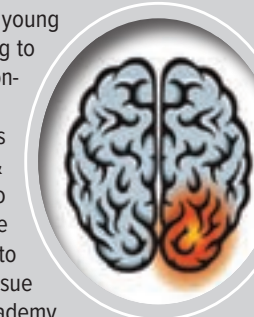


## RESEARCHERS UNCOVER CLUES ABOUT RETURNING TO PLAY

**F**indings from a recent Western-led study indicate young athletes who suffer concussions may be returning to the field, court or ice too soon, as their brains are continuing to change long after they are cleared for action.

Western researcher Ravi Menon and his team at Robarts Research Institute and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry have shown that young hockey players who have suffered concussions still show changes in the white matter of the brain months after being cleared to return to play. The findings were published in the October 2017 issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

The study looked at MRI brain scans from 17 hockey players between the ages of 11 and 14, who suffered a concussion during the regular



season. Most of the concussions were a result of falls involving a hit to the back of the head.

The athletes had their brains scanned within 24-72 hours of the initial concussion and again three months post-concussion at Western's Centre for Functional and Metabolic Mapping. At the time of the three-month scan, all the players reported no symptoms on clinical evaluations and were cleared to return to the ice following the standard concussion consensus return-to-play protocol.

"What the MRI shows is there are still changes occurring in the brain even after the clinical tests have returned to normal,"

Menon explained. "This is potentially of some concern and we'd like to understand this further to determine if these are normal healthy changes or if they are indicative of something that might be going wrong."

ILLUSTRATION: ROB POTTER



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## GIFTS TRANSFORM NUMEROUS PROGRAMS

Programs across campus benefit from a series of game-changing gifts last fall

**SEPTEMBER.** Female students aspiring towards engineering and business leadership will gain the boost of a lifetime through a \$5-million investment to Western from Linamar Corp. and the families that founded and operate the manufacturing giant.

The Linamar Scholarship for Women in Engineering and Business will offer 10 scholarships to female students each year, to fund half the cost of tuition for each of the three years recipients spend in Western's Engineering and Business Dual Degree Program. The scholarships will also guarantee students a summer co-op at the end of their third and fourth years, plus an offer of full-time employment at Linamar after graduation.

The gift comes from Linamar, its CEO Linda Hasenfratz, MBA'97, and her husband Ed Newton, and Linamar founder Frank Hasenfratz.

**NOVEMBER.** A \$1-million investment by TD Bank Group into data analytics teaching and research in Western's Faculty of Science will position the University as a hot spot for solving some of the world's most complex problems.

Data analytics — the science of extracting meaning from large volumes of complex information — has diverse applications currently being researched by Western experts, including disaster risk analysis and response planning, health analytics, finance and banking, ecosystem analysis and real-time brain imaging.

Insights drawn from this research are helping build smart power grids, prevent bank fraud, plan for and mitigate damage from forest fires, and even improve affordable housing.

**DECEMBER.** The DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies welcomed a \$5-million donation from the

department's namesake, Aubrey Dan — his second \$5-million donation to Western in a little more than a decade.

Dan, BACS'85, has directed \$4.5 million of his gift to create three endowed research chairs in the fields of Consumer Behaviour, Change and Innovation and Corporate Governance. The Corporate Governance Chair will be appointed jointly between DAN Management and the Faculty of Law, and is intended to lead to the creation of a new module in Management and Legal studies, pending approval.

With matching funds from Western, the chairs' initial endowment is \$9 million.

Another \$500,000 will establish two endowed Distinguished Lectures in the areas of consumer behaviour and corporate governance, which are designed to help elevate the profile and promote the expertise of the department.



## ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT SURVEY 2018

Your thoughts and opinions matter to us.

We recently emailed alumni a link to our 2018 Alumni Engagement Survey, which is open until February 28.

Your responses are important as they will help us improve our alumni programs and services.

As a thank you, survey respondents are entered into a draw to win one of two Apple Watches (Series 3 with GPS and Cellular).

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**Kevin Vuong, BMOS'11**  
 Young alumnus and bequest donor  
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 Canada’s Top 30 Under 30, (2016)

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## WESTERN PLAYS HOST TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Western once again played host to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as Alumni Hall was the setting of a London Town Hall meeting Jan. 11. Trudeau was visiting London as the Canadian government held its winter cabinet retreat in the Forest City. The visit came almost one year to the day after Trudeau brought his London Town Hall to campus in 2017.

(PHOTO BY PAUL MAYNE)

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(PHOTO BY PAUL MAYNE)

# MUSTANGS FOOTBALL



**T**he Western Mustangs ended a 23-year Vanier Cup drought with an exclamation mark this year, knocking off the defending champion and No. 1 nationally ranked Laval Rouge et Or 39-17 in the Canadian university football championship game in November in Hamilton.

It marked the seventh Vanier Cup for Western and served to avenge the Mustangs' 2008 loss against Laval in the championship game, also played in Hamilton that year. Western's last national championship victory came in 1994 against Saskatchewan.

Western quarterback Chris Merchant of Calgary captured the Ted Morris Trophy as the Vanier Cup's most valuable player by rushing for two touchdowns and tossing another in the victory. He finished with 365 all-purpose yards completing 13 passes on 20 attempts for 276 yards while adding 89 on the ground.



# FORWARD FACING

Pierre Morrisette, MBA'72, LLD'10, still pushing Canadians toward a more entrepreneurial future

(PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)

BY JASON WINDERS, MES'10, PHD'16

**D**uring a years-ago conversation between a pair of Canadian communications giants – Pierre Morrisette and Ted Rogers – the late Rogers Communications CEO joked that his definition of an entrepreneur was someone who, at some point, had mortgaged their house to make payroll.

“What does it mean if you have done it twice?” Morrisette asked.

“That means,” Rogers replied, “you’re now a member of the club.”

Morrisette, MBA'72, LLD'10, has been a member of that entrepreneur club for nearly half a century. For a kid who preferred his father's *Fortune* magazine to *Sports Illustrated*, there was no other future in mind. And today, as he enters the next stage of a storied career, Morrisette still sees entrepreneurship not only as an integral part of the next generation's mindset, but a vital piece of a prosperous future for Canada.

“Most people would like to start their own business, own their own business – but few do. Why is that?” Morrisette asked. “For one, entrepreneurship is tough. Every step of the way, you are starting from scratch. Ultimately, you need a tolerance for risk, you have to be willing to bet the farm. And you have to have great supports.”

After early stints in the banking and communication sectors, the Montreal-born Morrisette founded Pelmorex Media Inc. in 1989. Starting with a handful of television stations, the company purchased The Weather Network and MétéoMédia in 1993. Under his direction, Pelmorex became the undisputed leader in weather-related data across all platforms in Canada.





It is a position the company garnered by its leader's willingness to think a bit differently.

"Managing from the rearview mirror doesn't get you very far," said Morrisette, who drew early inspiration from his father, who started as an entry-level accountant in a multinational food company and, eventually, rose to become its CEO. "As a company, we have been very good at going where the market is going to be. We get there early, we occupy that space and we create a leadership position there. And we often do all that before we know what the exact business model is going to be.

"It is entrepreneurial. It is innovation. And it requires embracing change."

Serving as Pelmorex founder and CEO since 1989, Morrisette became the company's Executive Chairman in September 2017 as Sam Sebastian, former Google Vice-President and Managing Director of Canadian Operations, was named President and CEO. While an active advisor within the company, Morrisette has also used this transition to augment his focus on helping the next generation of entrepreneurs across Canada.

"More and more people, especially among this generation, view entrepreneurship as a really exciting path to follow, a really exciting career. I don't think it was seen as that 20 years ago," he explained. "These are young people who see the advantage in taking ownership over their lives and careers through entrepreneurship. In them, I see that determination and tenacity necessary for success."

Among 18-34 year olds, more than 1-in-3 consider themselves an entrepreneur. Perhaps surprisingly, the positivity of these young entrepreneurs has not been swayed by economic slowdown or an evolving job sector shedding full-time work in lieu of a 'gig economy' of part-time and contract work. Among self-identified entrepreneurs, almost 60 per cent see good opportunities to start a business in the next six months. More than half have confidence in their skills to start a business; a further majority are uninhibited by thoughts of failure, according to the *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Canada 2016* report.

More broadly, Canada stands as the second-easiest place in the world to start a company, behind only New Zealand and a full 49 positions above the United States, according to the *World Bank's Doing Business 2017* report. Nearly 1-in-5 working-age Canadians are either setting up a company or are already owner-managers of a

revenue-generating business less than three and a half years old, according to the *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor*.

But this isn't just a young person's opportunity. Morrisette pointed to numerous mid-career individuals looking to make the leap, as well. And he should know – he made his entrepreneurial leap in his mid-40s

"We are going to see more and more of that. And that is a good thing," he said. "The more people who come into private enterprise – and that is the base of our economy – that means we grow our economy, we grow investment, we grow jobs.

"That is why I am so passionate about entrepreneurship. The end result is long-term, beneficial growth for Canada."

**"MORE AND MORE PEOPLE,  
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Calling it the "engine that drives the country's economy," Morrisette sees entrepreneurship as an opportunity to create homegrown global champions of Canadian values, beliefs and practices and export them into new markets. At every level of government, at every university, we need to create ways to help these people chase and achieve their dreams, he stressed.

For the last decade, Morrisette has done that through the Pierre L. Morrisette Institute for Entrepreneurship at Ivey Business School. Created in 2006, the Institute is the global standard-bearer for entrepreneurship research and education.

It was the success found within those walls that inspired Morrisette to push out even further. As co-chair of the Western Entrepreneurship Advisory Board, he is a key player in the campus-wide entrepreneurship ecosystem taking shape over the last year.

"We were very successful in the Ivey Business School with the Morrisette Institute," he explained. "But now, we are seeing it grow throughout all the faculties at Western. Other universities have achieved success within one faculty – like with engineering at 'The Other W School' – but Western is setting itself apart by partnering across all faculties. We are integrating all of our skill sets to create success stories.

"We are talking about expanding entrepreneurship across the university. We are looking to create ideas and then enable the commercialization of those ideas. What that means is employment, investment and growth. With where the economy is going in the future, the more of these type of people Western produces, and as Western becomes a leader in this area, then we are contributing greatly to Canada. That is exciting." **WAG**

## Setting the Stage

Western sparked performance  
'fire' for Tate Kenney, BA'14

BY ANGIE WISEMAN

For Tate Kenney, BA'14, the feeling of performing on stage during her first year at Western sparked something inside her. "I got a small role in a play at Conron Hall. It set me on fire in the best way. I was immersed in it. I couldn't imagine ever letting it go," she said.

Acting wasn't in the realm of possibility for the small-town daughter of a police officer father and marketing analyst mother – until she arrived at university.

"Western gave me all of the resources to feed my talent and my passion to become an actor," she said.

After completing her degree – one she calls a "family affair" since her parents weren't able to pursue postsecondary education – Kenney began studying in the two-year Conservatory Program at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York City. The school's alumni include names like Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Sally Field, Marilyn Monroe, Claire Danes and Angelina Jolie.

She absorbed every ounce of the experience.

"While I lived in New York, I found out about the rush policy for Broadway plays. If you go the day of, you can get any seat left for \$29. I saw 23 plays the first year I lived there. I did that instead of dinner a lot. I wanted to see everything. I wanted to have an opinion," she said.

While studying in New York, Kenney received the Vincent D'Onofrio Scholarship Award for lifelong dedication to method acting. She trained with the veteran American character actor in an invitation-only master class. Since, Kenney has assisted



(PHOTO BY BRIAN YUNGBLUT PHOTOGRAPHY)

him in his master classes for students at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Kenney also starred in several productions at the Lee Strasberg Theatre during her time as a student.

After completing her training, she workshopped plays at the legendary Actors Studio and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, performed Off-Off Broadway at New Perspectives Theater and as part of the Future is Female Festival.

Kenney made her television debut this past year in the leading role of true-crime victim Erin Belanger on Investigation Discovery's *The Real Story with Maria Elena Salinas*.

She recently made the move back to Canada for a job with an agency in Toronto while she works on her artist's visa, which will allow her to return to New York.

"I'll go anywhere for a job I love. It all feeds into community and mentorship. Everyone's in it together. Art is such a collective," she said. **WAG**



BY JASON WINDERS, MES'10, PHD'16

# Appetite for *deconstruction*

Michael McCain, HBA'79, LLD'17, rethinking the role of food in our world

Michael McCain has never shied away from the right thing – even when it wasn't the easiest thing. And now, a decade after his most daunting professional challenge, the Maple Leaf Foods President and CEO is building a company set to become unlike any other on the planet.

Born in Florenceville, N.B., McCain started university at 16. After completing two years at Mount Allison University, he was approached by the dean of the school's Commerce Department about the future. Seeing something in the young man that could benefit from broader opportunities, the dean advised McCain to transfer to the Ivey Business School.

"I had a big appetite for challenge and adventure – and that sounded like quite a challenge and adventure," McCain said.

At Western, McCain thrived by embracing the "intensely focused experience" of Ivey.

"I was something of a workaholic at the time. Mine was an academic experience. I didn't have the first two years at the school – I didn't have that broad, social experience," explained McCain, whose five kids all attended Western and had, he points out with a laugh, "more of a social experience than I did."

"But what I had was a deep, enduring experience with my classmates. It is a tight-knit experience."

And what he drew from Ivey, he carried with him into his career.

"When I think to my time there, there are two things that endure not just in business, but in my whole life's ecosystem. One was the mental discipline of decision-making, the architecture of how Ivey teaches. Everything was about embedding the DNA of decision-making – the art and science of the simple notion that you have got to make a call," McCain said.



(PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)



“The second was around communication skills. It was about coming to class with that feeling of preparedness but still knowing there was someone in the class just a little more intelligent, that spent just another hour preparing, who had a completely different point of view and was going to share it. You had to be ready to defend your point of view. That art of communication was foundational.”

McCain has since devoted his career to the food industry, starting at McCain Foods in the late 1970s where he held a variety of roles culminating in his appointment as President and CEO of McCain Foods USA. He joined Maple Leaf Foods in 1995. For most of his life, he has watched an industry evolve.

“The food industry has gone through lots of transition. Our journey, specifically, at Maple Leaf has been one of evolution and transformation. It has had many successes, and many obstacles, along the way,” he said.

No obstacle was bigger than the crisis the Canadian food processing giant faced a decade ago.

In August 2008, listeriosis contamination was confirmed at one of the company’s meat-processing plants near Toronto. In total, 23 deaths and numerous serious illnesses would be linked to the outbreak.

## IT HAS TO BE ABOUT MORE THAN PROFITABLE GROWTH – THERE NEEDS TO BE PURPOSE HERE.

Starting the evening the outbreak was confirmed, and continuing throughout the crisis, McCain and his team took accountability for the issues and opted for transparency, rather than spin, in providing information to the public. The handling of the situation is still studied today as an example of responsible crisis management. That ‘buck-stops-here’ approach is credited with not only saving the company, but restoring confidence in the entire Canadian food industry.

Today, McCain heads a company with a renewed vision, a company that sees itself as a larger part of the solution to problems faced by the planet.

“We came through a difficult period, a decade of struggle in our business. We spent a billion dollars in our supply chain to rebuild that. It was re-engineering – fixing, if you will – our business. When we came to a successful conclusion of that, the whole energy of our team turned from fixing a business to what do we want to be in the future, how do we want to grow, how do we find a prosperous future of growth in our industry,” he explained.

“That led quickly to the question of ‘Why?’ There is a big appetite to answer, ‘Why the hell do we want to do this?’”

For Maple Leaf Foods, that answer was bigger than many expected.

“The idea of shared value in our prosperity is where commercial enterprise needs to change the lens through which we look. Capitalism 2.0 needs to be defined through the construct of shared value – what is good and healthy for the business only on the basis it creates value in the society, as well. That’s how we define our future,” McCain said.

“It has to be about more than profitable growth – there needs to be purpose here. Our path forward is to find that shared value. We can both find prosperous growth as a business and be a different kind of company in our industry.”

Maple Leaf has opted to confront the “challenging place” the industry finds itself in.

“It’s a challenge that connects the needs of feeding nine billion people by 2050 with the recognition that Planet Earth does not have a sustainable capability today to accomplish that. The food security – or, said differently, the food insecurity – attached to that crisis is compelling to anyone in the industry. It’s addressing the needs of billions by finding a balance between affordability, accessibility, nutrition, sustainability and animal welfare – all of which conflict with one another, none of which have the ability to address the fundamental challenge of feeding nine billion people.”

Last June, McCain and Maple Leaf Foods set out a bold, new vision. They plan to become “the most sustainable protein company on Earth,” a goal based on a sweeping set of principles and an expansive agenda that has yielded substantial advancements in nutrition and environmental impact, elevated animal care, and step-changed the company’s investment in social change.

Sustainability requires a broad perspective and Maple Leaf has spent a lot of time researching and thinking about what this entails. The result is an industry-first set of Sustainable Meat Principles that will guide the company’s growth and business practices.

Beyond being “the right thing to do,” the company’s vision aligns with the changing tastes of its consumers, and an oncoming generation “materially more focused on responsible consumption.”

“Their food purchases need to mean something more than just a great food experience,” McCain said. “It has to be delivered in a way that is responsible. They are helping revolutionize the food industry.”

McCain touts his as an organization that embraces changes – “We have been through so much of it.” – but knows the path forward is not necessarily easy.

“When you establish a goal to be the most sustainable protein company on Earth, that is a relatively bold undertaking. There is the continuous appetite to understand how we are going to address the questions of ‘Is that possible?’ ‘How?’ ‘Is that important?’ ‘What does it mean to the commercial success of the business?’

“Today, most of the people in the organization are emotionally aligned with this. It would be hard to argue this idea doesn’t matter; it is too obvious to ignore. The obstacle isn’t that, but it is ‘Wow, that is really important, but that is really big – can we do this?’ My job is to give people the clarity that, yes, we can do this.” **WAG**

BY KRISTA HABERMEHL, MA’05

# Around the world in 40 Days



ne hundred and three airports. Fourteen countries. Thirty-eight thousand kilometres.

All in the span of just over a month.

Father-and-son-team Bob and Steve Dengler, BA’93, covered that distance this summer in a Bell 429 Global Ranger helicopter. The seasoned aviators took off from Ottawa July 1 for what was the first-ever father/son aircraft circumnavigation and the first-ever Canadian helicopter circumnavigation of the globe.

“Basically, it was an idea my father had that, when I got involved, went from being a ‘what if’ to a ‘let’s do it.’ We’ve probably spent more quality time together in the last year, planning the trip, than we did in the previous 10. It’s been an amazing time to reconnect, re-establish the relationship that, because we’ve both been busy, we haven’t had the time to put a lot into,” said Steve.

Throughout the journey, which took the Denglers through the Canadian Arctic and remote locations in Greenland, Iceland and Russia, they photographed and live-streamed what they saw, thanks to a helicopter equipped with broadband Internet. They also brought VIP guests on board for different legs of the journey, including hockey legend Guy Lafleur, astronaut Dave Williams and internationally renowned photojournalist Peter Bregg. **WAG**



(PHOTO BY PAUL MAYNE)





# Building her dreams

**Sarah Baeumler, BA'99, brings creativity, perspective to family business**

BY ANGIE WISEMAN

**S**arah Baeumler, BA'99, may seem like she has it all – but she is just getting started. In 2009, the television design guru made her HGTV Canada on-air debut alongside her husband, Bryan, as the couple built and designed their dream home on the television series, *House of Bryan*. The show's popularity led to three subsequent seasons.

Bryan Baeumler, BA'96 (Political Science), is a Gemini Award-winning television personality who has hosted shows *Disaster DIY*, *Leave it to Bryan*, *House of Bryan* and most recently

*Bryan Inc.*, which follows Bryan and Sarah working together as they built and renovated investment properties.

The couple has become something of a sensation in the ever-popular home improvement-meets-entertainment television landscape. And in that journey, they have found both professional and personal satisfaction.

"The time that we have behind the camera has helped our relationship become stronger – we're now sort of spinning in the same direction. It's important and it's helped us grow as individuals. He's been there to support me and vice versa,"

▲ Sarah Baeumler, BA'99, made her HGTV Canada on-air debut in 2009 alongside her husband, Bryan, as the couple built and designed their dream home on the television series, *House of Bryan*. The show's popularity led to three subsequent seasons. (SPECIAL TO ALUMNI GAZETTE)

she said. "We've learned how to trust each other. Instead of arguing or trying to prove that one way is best, we've really understood what compromise is. We've learned some valuable lessons about ourselves and our marriage."

After completing her degree in Political Science at Huron University College, Baeumler moved onto International Business at Sheridan College. Her time in post-secondary education gave her clarity on what her next steps would be.

"You really need those years to mature and dig deep into what your passions are. You go back to your roots and things you love the most," said Baeumler, who credits her time on the University Students' Council for shaping her Western Experience.

"I was shy and came from a small school. It was a chance to meet other people and become more involved in the school as a whole and feel like you were giving back in a different way," she explained. "It was a huge growth experience. I came to university at 17 and was on the younger side. I needed that growth and maturity."

After university, she followed her passion and opened her own dance studio.

Around the time of filming her first show, *House of Bryan*, she joined her husband for long filming days and taught dance at night. It was a lot to juggle and she realized that something had to give. Baeumler soon came to the difficult decision to give up the dance studio.

"We needed to reorganize our careers in a way that we were both helping our family and giving us the time we needed with our children. It was time to step away and commit to spending some time working alongside Bryan," she said.

The shift allowed Baeumler to trade one passion for another.

**"...WE STARTED WORKING TOGETHER AND FOUND WHAT WE THINK IS REALLY A PERFECT PATH FOR BOTH OF US."**

"It was our home and there was a tie in to the creative side of things that I always sort of longed for. It seemed like a good path and we started working together and found what we think is really a perfect path for both of us. We can focus on our work and our family," she said.

With her own lifestyle website and a subscription box called *Sarah Delivered* that includes specially curated items for women, Baeumler has carved out a place all her own.

She describes her website, [sarahbaeumler.com](http://sarahbaeumler.com), as "a place to discuss some of my favourite things, sometimes become more philosophical, sometimes give advice and sometimes offer a shopping guide. It's a huge outlet for me and it's something that is my own where I can sit quietly and write to share some of my day's thoughts. It's helped me find some serenity," she said.

Something else she finds meaning in is the foundation she and Bryan started a few years ago. The Baeumler Family Foundation for Kids' primary focus is to provide renovations for children and families in need of accessibility, safety and security in order to create a nurturing and positive environment in their home.

One of the first projects they completed was for a 14-year-old girl returning home from Sick Kids hospital that needed an accessible bathroom and bedroom. Sarah and Bryan enlisted the help of their design pals, Sarah Richardson, BA'93, and Tommy Smythe, to create a Tiffany-inspired motif.

Recently, Baeumler added magazine editor to her repertoire with the launch of *Curated*. All of that, along with what Sarah considers her most important role, being a mom to four busy children.

"There is a lot to sink my teeth into; it makes me thrive. I like to be a busy person. Sometimes as women and mothers, we are very hard on ourselves. I hope we continue to support each other because a modern-day woman is very different this day and age and her ability to sort of do it all and balance a home life and a strong career is what a modern woman is. We just take it all in stride," she said. [WAG](#)



BY PAUL MAYNE

# RESTORING TITLE TOWN

**Michael Copeland, LLB'93, MBA'99,  
helped Argos return to prominence**



On Nov. 25, Michael Copeland, LLB'93, MBA'99, watched the Western Mustangs celebrate their first Vanier Cup title in more than two decades on Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton, Ont. Fewer than 24 hours

later and 500 kilometres away, Copeland kept on celebrating as his Toronto Argonauts hoisted the Grey Cup after a last-minute field goal by former Mustangs kicker Lirim Hajrullahu, BA'13, MA'15.

"It was an incredibly exciting and special weekend," said the former Argonauts President and CEO. "I watched the Vanier and have always remained a big supporter of the team, of coach (Greg) Marshall, and the school. It was great to see the Mustangs win.

"Then, with our Grey Cup win, it was huge – a career moment for me and our team. I don't know if that feeling will wear off. But, over time, we want to continue to look forward by taking all this in, enjoying it, but building off of it and never taking it for granted."

Wrapping up just his second year leading one of the oldest existing professional sports teams in North America at 144 years, Copeland is thrilled to have helped bring the Argos back to prominence in the Canadian sports landscape.

A seasoned Canadian business executive with an extensive business development, marketing and legal background, Copeland served as Chief Operating Officer of the Canadian Football League starting in 2006, then headed league operations as President and COO from 2013-15.

During his time in the league office, he led several key initiatives, including a comprehensive new broadcast and digital rights agreement, the establishment of a new salary cap system, a new collective bargaining agreement with players, the introduction of the league's first drug-testing policy and the return of football to Ottawa.

In January, Copeland announced that he was leaving his role as Argos President and CEO to assume a new role within MLSE. Details of that role will be coming out at some point in the near future.

But for a kid born and raised in the GTA, Copeland saw the Argos job as a hometown challenge.



(PHOTO BY JOHANY JUTRAS, TORONTO ARGONAUTS)

In CFL circles, Toronto is 'Title Town' with the Argonauts having won a record 17 Grey Cups. The franchise boasts the best winning percentage in the championship game and the longest active winning streak in which they have appeared in the title game, at six. They last won in 2012, again defeating the Calgary Stampeders.

But, in recent years, tight budgets and non-fan-friendly surroundings saw the team slip. Sports talk centred on the NHL, MLB, NBA and, increasingly, MLS. Copeland knew it was time to get the team back into the Toronto sports scene conversation.

"At various stages of your career, there are natural transition points. It had been 10 years at the league office for me. Somebody had said you know it's the right time to make a transition when you look at all of the check boxes you originally established, and all of them have check marks," he explained.

"The only one that wasn't checked was bringing the Argos brand back to a position of prominence and stature. I thought I had a greater ability to contribute to that at the team level versus the league level."

His move to the Argos coincided with the 2015 sale of the team to Larry Tanenbaum's Kilmer Sports Inc. and

Bell Canada – two-thirds of the mega Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE) group, and owners of such Toronto sports teams as the Raptors, Maple Leafs, Marlies and Toronto FC. In November 2017, Rogers Communications, the third partner in MLSE, joined as part of the CFL team's new ownership.

While "great for the team and great for the city," the powerful partnership brought great expectations.

"Everyone involved understood what the objective was – restore the Argos to where it should exist in the landscape of Toronto sports," Copeland said. "Certainly, it was a big challenge, and continues to be a big challenge, but one we know we will achieve.

"It's a lot more fun being involved in something that requires a group to roll up their sleeves and make a difference. It would have been less attractive to me if it didn't require our group to work together to make an impact. I like to think of myself as a builder – and the bigger and more daunting the challenges the better. I learned, in my consulting background, there is no problem too large or too complex that can't be resolved with the right amount of creativity and hard work."

While the on-field product was top priority, he recognized

the importance of the off-the-field experience. "We want fans understanding that our game experience is different now and really something special. We want to continue to improve in those areas and we've made some great strides and progress in the last two years."

He continued, "Our core fans are incredible. They have stuck through some very difficult times and conditions with this team over the last decade. They are passionate about the team. Anything we do to bring in new fans, they are receptive and supportive of. The core fans really care about the pride we have in the team, which is important to us as management. We never want to alienate them as they are the foundation on which we are building."

Dedicated to delivering fans the greatest football experience, Copeland understands the careful balance between consistency and tradition with staying current.

"Sports is a business and it has its challenges, like any other business. But it's always a fun place to be," he said. "We're involved in something that is meaningful to people. When you can bring a championship to your hometown and be involved in this, it is exciting. It's one of the reasons I love it so much." **WAG**





# Uncharted course

BY JASON WINDERS, MES'10, PHD'16

Jeffery Hutchinson, LLB'94, was named Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard in March 2017, after having served as Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Shipbuilding from 2015-17. (SPECIAL TO ALUMNI GAZETTE)

## Jeffery Hutchinson, LLB'94, navigated an unexpected path to Coast Guard

Jeffery Hutchinson never set out to chart a meandering course toward the Canadian Coast Guard.

His visions were of operating rooms, not open waters. Yet, following a challenging first year at Western when his pre-Med dreams ended quickly, Hutchinson stepped away from school and headed to sea.

His parents, neither of whom attended university, were trepidacious about the move.

"It was difficult for them. After I left school after that bad year, my father's deepest fear was I would not go back," Hutchinson, LLB'94, explained. "But he was the person who encouraged me most strongly to travel, to see the world, to make a contribution by volunteering, and then decide on what my next step would be. My father was driven by his personal faith to do things on a large scale.

"He came from a small place, but he had a large vision of the world."

Born, raised and educated in London, Hutchinson had never set foot on a ship, let alone lived on one. Yet, he ended up on a relief and

development ship cleaning up Jamaica in the aftermath of Hurricane Gilbert, a massive storm that killed 49 people and left the island looking, according to then-Prime Minister Edward Seaga, "like Hiroshima after the atom bomb."

The experience opened Hutchinson's eyes to a world he never considered.

For a moment, he almost remained in the Caribbean when offered a job "doing sound for a band on the island." He thought better of that and returned to Western where he eventually ended up pursuing Law.

"I had no intention of being a lawyer. I am pretty sure by the time I started Law school, I had never met a lawyer," Hutchinson said. "But I have a genetic wiring that makes me a bit rules oriented. I loved frameworks and structure. I found myself attracted to the law's historic roots – how the law developed, the philosophical and religious influences on it. And the toolset you got, in terms of both analysis and problem-solving, that all clicked for me. That all appealed to me.

"I spent three years in law school. I am the only person in my class that wished law school was a year longer."

After graduation, he became a Department of Justice attorney, working in Halifax, White Horse and Ottawa, focusing mainly on Indigenous law. He worked closely with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). As the Executive Director of the Independent Assessment Process, he set up the original out-of-court process to resolve claims of sexual and/or physical abuse that caused psychological harm to former students of Indian Residential Schools.



**"WHAT WE DO AT THE FRONT LINE, AND THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT I SEE, IT INSPIRES ME EVERY DAY."**



"Working with the TRC was a highlight of my career, but it was also emotionally draining work. I remember sitting in my office in the evenings, working through claims I had to sign off on, and reading about little kids who had been so mistreated and then thinking about my kids at home who were the same age. After a certain amount of time, I needed a reprieve from that."

After a stint in the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat office – where he "learned a thing or two about how Ottawa works" – he was recruited to the Canadian Coast Guard. In March 2017, Hutchinson was appointed Commissioner to lead the organization and its 5,000 individuals charged with overseeing Canadian waters.

Formed in 1962, the Canadian Coast Guard is tasked with marine search and rescue, communication, navigation and transportation issues in Canadian waters, such as navigation aids and icebreaking, marine pollution response and providing support for other government initiatives. Headquartered in Ottawa, the organization operates 119 vessels and 22 helicopters, among others.

Since taking the helm, Hutchinson has helped restore the financial health of the organization, as well as expanded its recruiting push beyond traditional boundaries. It is a challenge he has embraced, if not expected.

"What we do at the front line, and the level of commitment I see, it inspires me every day." *WAG*

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Western Alumni





BY ANGIE WISEMAN

# UNLOCKING THE CODE FOR SUCCESS

HEATHER PAYNE, HBA'09, AND **HACKERYOU** LOOKING TO CHANGE LIVES

As Heather Payne, HBA'09, sat taking online coding tutorials in a café in China, she had no idea that moment would become a full-fledged career – and she would be at its helm.

“My plan was to join a Fortune 500 company and work my way to the top – that was my definition of success,” said the founder and CEO of the Toronto-based career college HackerYou.

“Being in an entrepreneurship class didn’t get me thinking about entrepreneurship for myself. But looking back now, it was my favourite course. Learning about making deals and how things are done, those are the parts of my career today I love most. It was an impactful experience, despite my not being ready for it in the moment.”

An exchange brought Payne to Hong Kong in her fourth year of university. It was there she decided to stay in China and continue her schooling, while starting to learn how to code.

“Even when I moved to the Chinese mainland, I knew I was moving back to Toronto. I thought I should improve my skill set. I thought if I learned how to code, if I could put coding skills on my resume, I would be a more attractive candidate to potential employers,” she said.

Even though she didn’t get a job in technology when she moved back to Canada, she continued to build her coding skills. In Los Angeles for business, Payne stumbled upon a workshop to learn the programming language Python.

“I drove out to a workshop in the middle of nowhere and had the best day. It was productive and fun and gave me the idea there should be something like this in Toronto because there wasn’t at the time. I tweeted about how there should be workshops in Toronto for women who want to learn to code,” she said. “It took off from there.”

Payne’s tweet created a buzz. More than 80 people signed up for a brainstorming session she offered to figure out how to build the workshops. From there, she gathered a small group of women to bring the ideas to fruition.

“The energy was really high and it felt really exciting,” she said.

“I had a plan to announce that our first workshop would be one month later. I didn’t have an instructor, a venue, or a curriculum but I thought by making a public commitment, it was the best way to make it happen.”

And make it happen, she did.

From there, Ladies Learning Code, a not-for-profit organization focused on teaching beginner-friendly technical skills in a social, collaborative way, was born. Payne quit her job to work full-time for the organization she created with fellow alumna Melissa Sariffodeen, HBA '10, and two other co-founders. During this time, Payne heard from participants that they wanted more than a one-day event.

“People loved the style, the energy and the way we were teaching with a low

ratio of students to instructors. But they kept saying that one day wasn’t enough. People wanted a multi-month-long course so they could really build their skills and put them on their resume,” she explained.

“First of all, our participants were asking for it. Second of all, somebody is going to do this in Toronto and if it’s not me, I will be really upset,” she laughed.

In 2012, Payne’s vision came full circle with HackerYou, a career college in Toronto, with compressed web development courses, officially launched with an article in the *National Post*. It now serves almost 1,000 students with 140 full-time students and 850 part-time students.

Today, she has expanded the program and moved to a larger space. While the future is promising, she is not rushing things.

“I don’t have a thirst for growth. What I have is the desire

to change people’s lives. I’m OK with changing fewer lives if we change them deeply. That’s just as impactful,” she said.

What she wants to do, however, is shake up the status quo for women in tech.

“I’m an entrepreneur and I’m a woman. I’m an entrepreneur and I’m a mom. I’m an entrepreneur, a young person and a mom. I want to show people it doesn’t matter what other people think you are capable of – you can do whatever you think you can do.” **WAG**

```
/* Sometimes its required to have a fixed set of decimal places
for a
* number. We can set that by changing the precision number
for a particular
* input BigDecimal Input String
*/
public static String changeToRequiredDecimals(String bigDecimalString,
int precision) {
String newFormattedString = null;
String afterDecimal = null;
if (bigDecimalString == null || bigDecimalString.length() == 0) {
return "0.0";
}
if (bigDecimalString.contains(".")) {
afterDecimal = bigDecimalString.substring(bigDecimalString
.indexOf(".") + 1);
int length = Math.abs(afterDecimal.length() - precision);
if (afterDecimal.length() < precision) {
newFormattedString = bigDecimalString;
for (int i = 0; i < length; i++) {
newFormattedString = newFormattedString + "0";
}
} else if (afterDecimal.length() > precision) {
newFormattedString = bigDecimalString.substring(0,
bigDecimalString.length() - length);
if (precision == 0) {
```

**“It was productive and fun and gave me the idea there should be something like this in Toronto...”**

(SPECIAL TO ALUMNI GAZETTE)





BY KERI FERGUSON

# Taking a big step

Chance encounter lets David Hackam, MD'92, offer hope to premature infants

It was not what David Hackam, MD'92, had planned, but thanks to the influence of a famed London surgeon early in his career, he now stands on the brink of helping more children than he ever imagined possible.

"I wanted to be a paediatrician and neonatologist. I wanted to help children," Hackam said. "But then I rotated with this new recruit to London – Murray Girotti, a hot-shot trauma surgeon, an engaging teacher and an amazing human being."

It proved a pivotal encounter. Girotti, the former Chief of Surgery at Victoria Hospital and a Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry professor, "set the stage" for Hackam to become the esteemed surgeon-scientist who today sits at the helm of the Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore as co-director and paediatric surgeon-in-chief.

"Murray had this following," Hackam continued. "I quickly became one of them. I just wanted to be around him. He went out of his way to engage me and make me feel like I was a valued member of the team."

Yet, when Girotti approached him about becoming a surgeon, Hackam begged off at first, resolute in pursuing paediatrics. However, his next few rotations brought a change of heart.

"They were boring. There was no excitement, no pace, you weren't really fixing things the way you do in surgery. I still had this nagging feeling I wanted to be a paediatrician, but now I wanted to be a surgeon. I thought, 'How is this possible? How could I join these two worlds?'"

The answer was paediatric surgery, a relatively new field at the time. And when it came time to pursue his training in the area, Girotti once again held sway and directed Hackam "to the mecca, SickKids in Toronto."

At the Hospital for Sick Children, Hackam conducted fundamental research, taking a three-year hiatus from his residency to earn his doctorate in cell biology. "I knew doing things the way we'd always done them was not going to make a difference on society or children's health," he explained. "There were diseases we needed to investigate."

Among those in need of exploration was necrotizing enterocolitis – or NEC – a ravaging disease that causes the sudden death of parts of the intestine in premature babies.

"These children are sitting in the NICU, humming along, and out of the blue, they start to get sick," he said. "Their belly gets swollen, and then, within 24 hours, they're either dying or dead. When you operate on these kids, you see that their intestines have gone from pink and happy to violent and black. It's devastating for these families."

Hackam remembers "little Freddie," a premature newborn he met as a newly minted attending surgeon at a community hospital in Pittsburgh. Freddie's parents were somewhat older and became close to Hackam – and vice versa. All stood witness to the short, difficult life of the little boy. Despite numerous operations, Freddie died about one month shy of his first birthday.

"It was at that point, through that journey with that family, I decided to devote my research career to NEC," Hackam said.

His quest has led to ground-breaking discoveries and established him as a leading authority on intestinal inflammation and bowel disease in

infants. Notably, his team has shown that a protein known as TLR4 is behind the malfunction that fuels necrotizing enterocolitis.

TLR4 is required for the normal development of the intestine, and once the gut is made, its expression in the intestine goes away. When a premature baby's still-developing intestines enter the world and become colonized with bacteria, the immature TLR4 protein is still present in the tiny, underdeveloped gut. It then goes haywire, shutting off the oxygen supply to the gut cells, which causes the rapid death of intestinal tissue.

## "I WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW I WANTED TO MAKE AN ARTIFICIAL INTESTINE – BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT AT A BAR."

To combat the effects of TLR4, Hackam's lab has also shown that sodium nitrate – a substance found in breast milk – can block TLR4 and stave off necrotizing enterocolitis in preemies by increasing the oxygen supply to the gut. By adding that substance to infant formula, researchers can prevent necrotizing enterocolitis in premature animal models. They have also identified novel agents present in breast milk that directly inhibit TLR4, and which can be engineered to synthetic formulas to mimic the effects of breast milk and thus prevent NEC.

As that research continues with an eye toward the future, there are cases happening every day. Currently, NEC is treated by intestinal transplants or feeding tubes. Neither option is ideal.

"If you lose all your intestine, you still need to eat," Hackam explained. "Your brain is fine; your legs are fine; you just need fuel. The only treatment is intestinal transplant. But it's not ideal. There aren't intestines available for every child and the incidence of mortality is still quite high."

The better solution is an artificial intestine made from

the patient's own intestinal tissue. Hackam's team has grown the lining of an intestine in a dish by harnessing the rapid and regenerative nature of stem cells.

It was a big step. But what was missing, was a tubular surface – or scaffold – the stem cells could grow upon. John March, a biomedical engineer from Cornell University, created such a thing. And he showed up at the right time, right place – a bar, actually – while in town attending the same scientific conference as Hackam.

"It was a total geek encounter. I was talking about how I wanted to make an artificial intestine – because that's what you talk about at a bar," Hackam laughed. "I said, 'I can make these stem cells I take from the intestine grow. I can do it in mice and other animals. I just wish I had something to grow them on that looked like an intestine.' Next to me at the bar was John (yes, that's his real name). He had this scaffold and had shaped this platform in a way that looked just like a real intestine."

"We started talking. I said, 'You've got a scaffold and need stem cells; I've got stem cells and I need a scaffold. We should get together.'"

They did. The two teams collaborated to create an artificial gut, with their model being the first to successfully recreate the delicate finger-like projections of the intestine, called microvilli, integral to absorbing nutrients.

"We take stem cells at the time of surgery, and grow them in a dish. Then we take a customized scaffold that's the right size and shape of the patient. We place the cells on the scaffold, which grow in this tube. It is then implanted into the mouse in an organ called the omentum that gives it a blood supply. Then we hook it up with whatever intestine is left, and – assuming this will work in humans as well as it works in mice – now the patient has a new intestine made from their own stem cells," Hackam said.

They've found great success in small-to-mid-size animal models and predict human trials are hopefully only three to five years away.

"We've got a little way to go. But we feel like we're a little bit like the Wright Brothers," Hackam said. "We're tinkering now; we have a concept; we think we can make this thing fly. Now, we're optimizing the conditions, to make it really soar."

"And when it does, we believe we can offer new hope to these tiny patients, which is our ultimate goal." **WAG**

## Western Mustangs Sports Hall of Fame

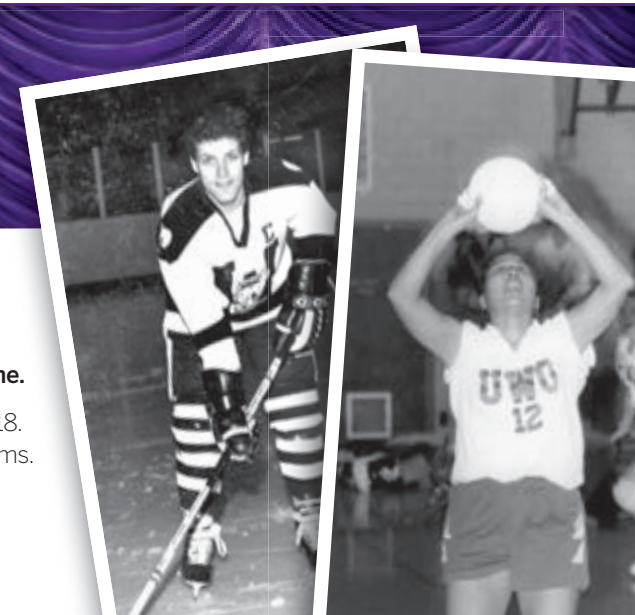
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Western Alumni





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# years

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Put on your Western gear and attend an alumni event or plan a gathering with your fellow Mustangs. No matter where you are or what you're doing, add a little purple to your day on Wednesday, March 7 and tag your social posts and pictures [#purpleandproud](#)

Learn more at [alumni.westernu.ca/founders-day](http://alumni.westernu.ca/founders-day)



## Alumnae put elite athletes in capable hands

BY SONIA PRESZCATOR

**W**hen Geneviève Renaud, MCISc'14, travelled 12,000 km from Ottawa to Taipei on one of the sport medicine support team for the 2017 Summer Universiade, she expected the rewards of working with the world's best athletes. What she didn't expect was to find out her roommate for the event, Heather Clegg, MCISc'17, was a fellow Western alumna of the Advanced Health Care Practice Program.

While Renaud has worked with athletes of all skill levels, the Summer Universiade was a unique experience thanks to the calibre of the athletes competing. Renaud was responsible for the care of rhythmic gymnastics athletes, while Clegg was committed to the badminton teams.

The Summer and Winter Universiades are international sporting and cultural festivals in which thousands



Geneviève Renaud, MCISc'14, left, and Heather Clegg, MCISc'17.

of university student-athletes compete. The Summer Universiade had more than 10,000 athletes from more than 150 countries competing in 15 compulsory sports, which makes it the largest amateur sporting competition after the Olympics.

"These games are intense, for us and the athletes alike. We had a ball taking care of them and cheering them all on."

While watching competition at an elite level, it can be easy to forget that even these athletes struggle with challenges like the rest of us. As physiotherapists with manual and manipulative therapy training, Renaud and Clegg used their capable hands to keep joints and muscles in balance to avoid injury.

"From early morning workouts, to practices and long hours at the clinic, we were constantly moving from helping competitors get warmed up and prepared for competition, to designing a recovery plan to keep them in top shape and ready to win," Renaud said.

As for the 'team' behind the teams, Renaud honed her own training in the fast-paced, 24-hour sport medicine clinic as a member of the health team playing a key role in supporting each athlete's best performance.

"Although making sure our specific teams were well taken care of, collaboration in the clinic was an adrenalin rush. Working side by side with other professionals, each with their own expertise, experiences and treatments, it is not only satisfying to see how quickly comprehensive care can happen, it is amazing to 'talk shop' with everyone from sport medicine physicians, surgeons, massage therapists, physiotherapists and athletic therapists. There aren't any barriers to information and we're all on the same team with the same goal. As a learning and emotional experience, there's nothing like it." [WAG](#)

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By Angie Wiseman

# Fashion Forward

## Erin Kleinberg, BA'06, takes entrepreneurship and keeps it cool

Erin Kleinberg's resume reads like the glossy pages of a fashion magazine: glitz, glamour and ingenuity. Yet, her success as a designer, publisher and advertising executive is the pinnacle of her hard work, tenacity and a little inspiration from her grandmother.

"My favourite thing to do is take something from nothing and make it cool, build brands and tell stories."

It's something Kleinberg, BA'06, has been doing since her early days at university.

"When I was at Western, I ran a fashion show. Through that, I gained confidence to be a leader. I was running the show, taking minutes and sending out emails. Essentially, I was a 20-year-old learning how to run a business and help raise \$20,000 for charity. All of it helped me understand what I wanted to do," she said.

Around that time, Kleinberg visited her grandmother – a woman with an "obsession with fashion." During the visit, her grandmother pulled out a collection of vintage scarves. In them, Kleinberg saw opportunity – make the scarves into shirts and showcase them at the fashion show. The scarves were a hit with

other students and the orders poured in.

Erin Kleinberg Inc. was born.

"Western prepared me for everything I could have asked for in life. It taught me so many lessons. It taught me what capitalism meant and what consumerism was and how to see the world through a critical lens," she said.

After a chance run-in between Kleinberg and Mischa Barton, *The O.C.* actress was photographed in one of Kleinberg's shirts. That photograph convinced a pair of large Toronto retailers to pick up the line.

"I found myself in Holt Renfrew and they said, 'What's the lead time on these tops?' I said, 'I don't know what lead time is.' It was all naiveté and I didn't care. I was fearless. When you are that age, you aren't scared of anything," she said.

Kleinberg used the money she made selling her line to Holt Renfrew to move to New York for an internship at *W Magazine* with fashion director Alex White.

"She (White) taught me everything I know about how to handle chaos and how to get everything done. On Day Two

of my internship, I was dropping off underwear (for a photo shoot) to George Clooney. I got to go on all the ad campaigns, including ones for Celine Dion, Oscar De La Renta and French Connection and really see how a vision comes together from start to finish in advertising," she said.

After not being able to obtain a work visa to accept her dream job at Chanel, Kleinberg moved back to Toronto to revisit the clothing line she put on pause.

"I got great experience and went home and tried to get a job in fashion. But the pool in Toronto isn't that big and that's partly why I've had to create my own job. I thought, 'OK, I can't get my own job. I know how to make clothes. Maybe I should do that again.'"

Although Kleinberg has no formal fashion design training, she has a knack for seeing gaps in the market. This time it was embellished T-shirts. With her sights set high, she went directly to Barney's New York and convinced them they needed to buy the shirts. To her surprise, they agreed.

"Once again, I was fearless. They purchased the collection and I was in complete shock. It was the highlight of my life," she said.

From there, she sold to Intermix, Neiman Marcus, Lane Crawford and Harvey Nicolls. From 14 accounts, she grew the business to 80 worldwide.

Around the same time, the Facebook movie, *Social Network*, had just been released and Kleinberg felt inspired to brainstorm some new ideas with a friend at brunch. "I was thinking we should start a website because there's no overhead," she laughed.

That website turned out to be the highly successful *Coveteur*, an online fashion magazine.

"We loved street-style fashion – when people take photos outside of the shows and you can see what the editors are putting together in a cool way. We felt like it had become infiltrated where anyone could get that photo. So, why don't we go into these tastemakers' homes and show not only what they had on that day, but also show them in their environment," she said.

"It was a crazy idea and it was for fun. We got a bunch of people together and went to New York and we did it and the content was really compelling. It was right time, right place and nothing like that existed at the time."

Kleinberg was able to get the support of *Vogue* and *Elle* simultaneously in advance of launching the site as well as *style.com* and *vogue.com*. "We had no idea how forward-thinking it really was," she said.

Kleinberg and her partners photographed closets in high-profile people's homes and told the stories of their individual style. Once they got some traction, they reached out to Chanel and partnered with them on a number of projects. They had the support of their favourite brand, so much so, Chanel became their first advertiser.

"Chanel flew us to Paris and we interviewed Karl Lagerfeld and toured Coco's apartment. We had never been to Paris before so it was an absolute crazy story," she said.

With an eye on expanding the website, Kleinberg and her team hired Janet Bannister, HBA'92, as their CEO and started to look for investors.

"We were on our way. We were in over 500 of the most epic individuals' houses and it was an experience, but I missed my clothing my line. It was the right time to move on," she said.

Kleinberg went on to work with big names such as Lena Dunham and Jared Leto through her clothing line but started to see another gap in the market. This time, she wanted to bring all of her experience together into an advertising agency. Along with partner Stacie Brockman, *Métier Creative* was established.

"I've tapped into the very popular movement of 'girl boss' and feel grateful to have all these women around me – women who are fundraising and building businesses and being moms and doing everything that they can," she continued.

"Being an entrepreneur, you always feel like there is more you can be doing, there's never really a time where you feel like you are done." **WAG**

*"They purchased the collection and I was in complete shock. It was the highlight of my life."*

## SAVE THE DATE

### Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

Friday, June 8, 2018  
Western University Campus

Western alumni are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Western's Alumni Association. Meet your Alumni Association Board of Directors and learn what's new at Western.

Details will be available closer to the date.  
[www.alumni.westernu.ca](http://www.alumni.westernu.ca)



Western Alumni



# Agent of change

Frank Hayden, BA'55, LLD'11, created and shaped the Special Olympics movement

BY KATHRYN KINAHAN,  
BA'86, MLIS'93



When Frank Hayden, BA'55, LLD'11, came to see sport as the great equalizer, few understood how 50 years later that steadfast belief would get millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities off the sidelines and into the game.

It was sport that led the Windsor, Ont., native down the highway to London. While working various jobs after high school, he heard some old school chums were at Western, so he and a couple of buddies drove to London for a visit.

"We met with legendary football coach John Metras; he was great," Hayden said. "When I was an undergrad at Western, I weighed about 126 pounds, but I tried out for football anyway. I made the first two cuts, and it came to the third and final cut. After practice, Metras called me into his office and he said, 'Hayden, I don't want to cut you, but I'd sleep better at night if you'd go down and join the track team.'

"He thought I was going to get killed – he was probably right."

After a brief time with the track team – where he only "looked fast" – Hayden joined the wrestling team. But a sustained love of football led Hayden to help coach Jack Fairs with the Colts, the university's intermediate intercollegiate football team.

Off the field, Fairs taught exercise



physiology – and that piqued Hayden's interest.

After graduating from Western, Hayden attended graduate school at the University of Illinois, reputed to be the best fitness lab in the country. Three years later, he received a Master of Science degree followed by a PhD. He completed his graduate work in phases to allow him to return to Canada to work so he could continue his schooling. During this time, he met his bride-to-be and partner in life, Marion.

Upon graduation, Hayden accepted a faculty position at the University of Toronto, where he began researching the effects of exercise on children with intellectual disabilities. He started to spend his mornings at the Beverley School in Toronto working to determine the fitness and performance levels of these long-ignored individuals.

"We were fighting the assumption that because they were mentally handicapped, they were weak, slow, etc. Their fitness level was more a result of their lifestyle – and I had a glimpse of that lifestyle. They were taxied to school every morning and taxied home. When they got home, nobody played with them on the street, nobody bothered to teach them how to ride a bike because they thought they couldn't do it," he explained.

"We set up fitness programs and measured the effects. It went amazingly well. We closed the gap between them and the control group by half in one school year. And they were still getting better."

Hayden documented his work in a research paper in 1963 at the International Conference on the Psychology and Sport in Rome. "I presented my work, went home and waited for the Nobel Prize people to call," he laughed.

Using his research, Hayden created a fitness program to improve stamina and muscle strength for children with developmental and/or physical disability. The program, presented in booklet form, included tests, practical training sessions, evaluations and directions for putting sessions together.

"Ultimately, we sold 50,000 copies of the booklet within a couple years. So I knew there was a market out there," Hayden said.

By 1964, Hayden was back at Western as a professor when word came that the Government of Canada had set aside funds for projects to celebrate the nation's Centennial. Hayden proposed a National Centennial Games for the developmentally disabled and mapped out a plan that included a three-year budget and specifics about organizing and running the games.

Hayden's proposal caught the attention of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy and Sens. Robert F. Kennedy and Ted Kennedy, who requested a meeting.

"I met with Eunice at her Maryland estate. During the meeting, her husband, Sargent Shriver, then-head of the Peace Corps, burst in holding the proposal for the National Centennial Games. He said, 'Can you do this in the United States?' And I said, 'Well, somebody can do it. It's bigger and more complex but it can be done here, too. But not by me. I have a job. But I'll be happy to help you in any way if you want to do it,'" Hayden recounted.

"For the next six weeks, I received a barrage of phone calls and telexes asking 'When are you coming? When are you coming?' and I'd say, 'I'm not coming.' But, they were persistent. And in three months, I was there," he said.

Hayden worked for the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation in Washington, D.C., from 1965-72. Things were slow materializing, but he continued giving presentations and building his network. His perseverance paid off. Hayden's proposal for the Centennial Games served as inspiration for the inaugural International Special Olympics Summer Games in 1968 in Soldier Field in Chicago. The event was a cooperative venture of the Kennedy Foundation and the Chicago Park District.

More than 200 events were staged for approximately 1,000 athletes from 26 states.

Canadian athletes were also represented in those Games, bringing a floor hockey team stateside accompanied by athletic and broadcasting legend Harry 'Red' Foster and Toronto Maple Leafs president Harold

Ballard. Ballard outfitted the team in Maple Leafs uniforms and recruited George Armstrong, then-captain of the Leafs, to serve as honorary team captain.

Hayden felt it was important to have high-profile people attend the first Games in order to grab the attention of the media and the public.

"The justification for the Games is what they stimulate at the local level. That's the purpose of the whole exercise. I thought it was better to start at the top and build the house down. Then people see what you're talking about. We use the excitement of the Games and the power of sport to motivate people and change attitudes," he said.

From the first games in Chicago, Hayden felt he was on to something special. Special Olympics was incorporated in Washington, D.C., about 10 days after the first Games.

To grow the movement, Hayden convened a conference where Sen. Ted Kennedy announced funding for regional games and directors learned how to build the organization and run the games. "From there, I had six or seven regional games, one of which was Toronto in 1969, that attracted 1,400 athletes from across the country," he said.

**"When they got home, nobody played with them on the street, nobody bothered to teach them how to ride a bike because they thought they couldn't do it."**

Within two years, the movement was gaining traction and the number of athletes and participating countries grew steadily.

After serving as executive director of the Special Olympics, Hayden returned to teach at Western in 1972. In 1975, he joined McMaster University as director of the School of Physical Education and Athletics, a position he held until 1981. But he never strayed too far from his calling.

From 1981-84, Hayden took leave from McMaster to establish the Special Olympics Office of International Development, and served as its first director. He designed and directed the growth of the program to include 50 national organizations. His travels took him across Europe, South and Central America, Asia and the South Pacific, Africa and the Middle East, North America and the Caribbean.

His international work culminated in 1988 with a move to Paris to establish the Office of European Affairs for Special Olympics International. In 1990, he returned to Canada. He served as Special Consultant to Special Olympics Canada until 2000.

Today, the Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities with more than 4.9 million athletes in 172 countries and more than one million volunteers.

Hayden's lifelong efforts have earned him widespread recognition including investiture as an Officer of the Order of Canada, induction into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, the naming of the Dr. Frank J. Hayden Secondary School in Burlington, and numerous honorary degrees, including one from Western.

But the true testament of his work is the enormous impact on the millions of athletes whose lives were immeasurably changed by the Special Olympics. It is a success rooted in some of his earliest beliefs discovered at Western.

"My experience from travelling the world is that we're all much more alike than we are different and sport is a great common denominator," Hayden said. **WAG**



# BUILDING CHAMPIONS

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# MORE THAN JUST GAMES

Mark Ideson, BSc'99, takes on the world in Pyeongchang Games

BY TODD DEVLIN, MA'09

When Canada's wheelchair curling team won Paralympic gold on home soil in 2010, Mark Ideson had never thrown a rock – let alone competed in the sport. Yet eight years later, the 41-year-old will skip that team into the 2018 Paralympic Games this March in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

"We'd certainly like to win another gold medal," said Ideson, BSc'99 (Environmental Science), who hopes to earn Canada an unprecedented fourth consecutive gold in the sport introduced in 2006. "I'm excited to lead this positive, fun group of talented players. I've been working very hard, both on and off the ice, to best prepare myself physically and mentally."

For Ideson, the Games will serve as the culmination of a remarkable journey – from a helicopter crash, to taking up the sport at age 33, to leading his country on the world's biggest sporting stage.

It's been more than a decade now since Ideson crashed his helicopter into a farmer's field during a maintenance flight just outside of Cambridge, Ont., on Feb. 2, 2007. He suffered 29 broken bones and was placed in an induced coma. The crash broke his neck in two places, and he was diagnosed with a spinal cord injury and quadriplegia.

He spent six weeks in hospital, and then five more months in rehabilitation at St. Joseph's Health Care in London.

Eventually, he regained limited function of his arms and hands. Soon after, he sought ways to become active again.

Growing up in small town



"MAYBE I CAN FIND A SPORT AND USE MY NEW ABILITIES AND MAYBE REPRESENT CANADA SOMEDAY, TOO."

Ontario, Ideson played hockey. When he arrived at Western in the mid-1990s, looking for something to fill his competitive desires, he joined the cheer-leading team.

"I was drawn to the athleticism and the height at which the girls flew during a basket toss," Ideson said. "I thought it might be a fun challenge to pursue. And luckily for me, I met my wife on that team and we've been married now for 14 years."

Hockey and golf were his favourites. But post-accident, he looked to new sports. He tried wheelchair rugby, but soon realized he was "like a turtle amongst rabbits on the court." When the Olympics came to Vancouver in 2010, his quest to find a new sport was fueled by new inspiration.

"I was sitting on the couch and a piece aired about Canadian gold medal-winning skeleton athlete Jon Montgomery," Ideson recalled. "It said Jon had chosen a sport in his 20s – a sport where he could use his athletic abilities and maybe one day represent Canada at the Olympics. I thought, 'Maybe I can find a sport and use my new abilities and maybe represent Canada someday, too.'"

The sport he found was wheelchair curling.

Training out of the Ilderton Curling Club, Ideson quickly improved his game, rising up the ranks at a rapid rate. In 2011, he skipped his team to a third-place finish at the Ontario Wheelchair Championships. When Team Canada conducted a coast-to-coast search for talent that year, he attended a camp in Grimsby, Ont., and was selected as one of 28 athletes to try out for the national team in Vancouver.

He continued to make cut after cut, week after week, and finally earned a spot on the five-person mixed team.

Ideson's first action on the world stage came in 2013, when he traveled to Sochi, Russia, for the World Championships.

"I felt extremely proud and honoured," he said of the experience. "I'll never forget throwing that first rock in an international competition."

The team won gold and then returned to Sochi for the Paralympic Games in 2014 to win gold again – beating the host Russian team, 8-3, in the final.



Mark Ideson, BS'99, shows off his Gold Medal during the Celebration of Excellence visit to Rideau Hall, in June 2014 in Ottawa. (PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MURNAGHAN/CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE)

Since then, Ideson has continued to move up the ranks of Canada's elite wheelchair curlers. And now, he will lead the team at the Gangneung Curling Centre at the 2018 Paralympic Games (March 8-18), calling the game and throwing the skip stones.

"It's a new role for me, but I've been learning the sport's strategy since I began playing and have been a student of the tactical game," Ideson said. "The transition to skip has been a real team effort. I've gained experience and knowledge from past and present players, as well as the coaching staff, in preparing myself."

He has been busy training – spending hours on the ice, in the gym, and studying film. And countless more hours fine-tuning his mental focus with mindfulness work. But every so often, Ideson reflects on just how far he's come since his days – and weeks – in a hospital bed 11 years ago.

"I've met many amazing people I wouldn't have met otherwise," he says. "I've been fortunate to spend loads of quality time with my kids and my wife, and I've become part of an amazing national team where I will have the opportunity to compete on the world stage for a second time – with great friends of mine. Life is good." **WAG**



# Coming home for many years to come



By David Simmonds, BA'07

Recently, my mother asked me why I was going to London "again." As I near the end of my tenure as Alumni Association President, I stopped

to really think about my answer. I landed on my belief that "moments matter." I give my time to Western to help shape, and experience, important moments – large and small. Over the past two years, a few of those moments really stood out for me.

## Answering a call to leadership for our students.

Habits, shared values, and rituals make a tribe – and we have a fiercely proud alumni tribe at Western. I've asked you to support our current students, and your response has been overwhelming. During exam season, not only have you donated to support campus mental health services, you've written notes to first-year students facing final exams through our 'Kind Mail' Campaign. You cared, and it made a difference.

We took a bold step this year, asking graduates within the last decade to donate – whatever they could – to support Western. It's a tough ask of our young alumni, many of whom are starting careers. Despite this, a number of you joined me and made gifts – gifts that were matched by the university.

## Having coffee. Lots of coffee.

In 2016, we launched a unique campaign in partnership with Ten Thousand Coffees. The concept was simple – invite alumni to register online and connect with current

students and young graduates to share advice and network. Hundreds of you signed up, and we've created more than 2,000 moments over coffee online or in-person.

## Mixing things up.

The success of Ten Thousand Coffees showed us alumni and students wanted to make career connections. So, staff and volunteers started an award-winning program called Mixed Business. This fall, for the second time, alumni joined current students and recent graduates for a night of casual conversation. Hundreds of students and young alumni have benefited because alumni like you gave the gift of time.

## Going to new places.

Alumni volunteers and staff ventured beyond Southwestern Ontario and held successful alumni community events in Australia, New York, and San Francisco. But, place is not just geography; place represents a state of mind.

This year, Western lived leadership, embracing LGBTQ community members in new ways. We were proud to host our first ever Alumni Pride Reception in Toronto. LGBTQ graduates and allies joined us at a Bay Street office tower to celebrate the progress our University community has made on and off campus.

At this event, two graduates in their golden years approached me and shared that while they were students at Western, over 25 years ago, they had no choice but to keep their relationship a secret. Never did they imagine they would be at a Pride reception with staff, students, and alumni as Western celebrated them.

## Celebrating champions.

Cheering is one of the few requisite skills for an alumni president and I was thrilled to join many celebrations of students and graduates over the past 24 months. I'll miss the convocations, award dinners and sporting events that have filled my calendar.

Thanks to all of you who joined me to cheer extraordinary leadership being exercised by alumni, students, staff and faculty on campus and around the world, including this year's six championship varsity teams.

## Forever Purple and Proud.

The years we spend at Western are a crucially formative time in our lives. The education we receive opens doors for success and the relationships we make create friendships for life. Western becomes part of our identity, and the moments we make there together stay with us.

My time as Alumni Association President has affirmed for me that those 'Western moments' continue long after graduation. So mom, please know I'll be coming home to Western for many years to come.

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**PLEASE NOTE:** Class Notes notices, like all portions 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 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 Operations Administrator, Advancement Services, 519.661.4176 or 1-800.420.7519, fax 519.661.4182, e-mail [advser@uwo.ca](mailto:advser@uwo.ca).



What's new with YOU? Share your news with fellow grads.

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Deadline for inclusion in the Fall 2018 issue is July 1.



1957 John Diefenbaker elected Prime Minister of Canada

## 1950

**57 Mary McGrath, BA'57**, received the 2017 Alumni Award of Distinction at Brescia University College.

## 1960

**60 Donald M. Henderson, BA'60**, announced his retirement after practising law for more than 52 years in the cities of St. Catharines and Thorold.

**63 Steven D. Scott, BSc'63, MSc'64**, was recently awarded the R.A.F. Penrose Gold Medal, presented by the Society of Economic Geologists, in Beijing. An Earth Sciences professor at the University of Toronto, Scott was recognized for his outstanding and multifaceted contributions to the science and profession of economic geology throughout his career.



1963 Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his I have a dream speech at Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

In his acceptance, Scott commented on what a wonderful honour it was to receive the Penrose Gold Medal at China University of Geosciences (CUGB) in Beijing where he has taught, is an honorary professor and has many friends. In fact, he has a Chinese name – Gao Di Wen ("big intelligent plant") – given to him by CUGB senior professor and academician Mo Xuen xue.

**66 Mary Louise White (nee Martin), BA'66**, came a long way to do further study with

the Head of the Australian National University (ANU) Glass Workshop. She took a train between Ontario and Los Angeles, then crossed the Pacific on a 22-day trip by ship. From Sydney, she took the bus to Canberra.

The former Western Education professor completed her Graduate Certificate in Visual Arts at the ANU School of Art and Design, concentrating on casting glass in June 2017. Across her five months in the program, she did a lot of model making, research, and realized several pieces in glass. One, a very large head of a girl with pigtails, weighs nine kilograms. She's one of a few pieces that refer to murdered and missing Indigenous women in Canada.

**68 Donald Gerson, BSc'68**, CEO of PnuVax Inc, received a \$29.4-million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to continue PnuVax's Pneumonia Vaccine development program through clinical trials. PnuVax is a private company dedicated to making large quantities of low-cost vaccines using the most advanced available technologies to improve immunization rates in the developing world.

## 1970

**70 Rudolf (Rudy) Bies, BSc'70**, published a book, *Bradlo and Other Slovak Pioneer Footprints in Northern Ontario*, in August 2017. "I set out to pay tribute to my parents



**70 Don McLeish, BA'70** (Huron University College), of London, at age 78, with 62 years in rowing was proud to row in the winning eight-plus at the Old Oars Regatta celebrating Western's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of rowing.

and to other Slovak Pioneer Homesteaders," he explained. "After hearing my parents and others recall not only the bad times but also the many good times of their immigrant experience, and experiencing some myself, I decided to write this book." Bies approached the few remaining original living settlers and their children for their memories in order to give readers a true sense of the immigrant experience of the 1930s Bread Generation of Slovak Immigrants to Northern Ontario.

**72 Bob Lee, BA'72, MBA'77**, and his wife Suzanne moved from Southern California to The Colony, Texas, on a peninsula of Lake Lewisville. Suzanne is with the Toyota HQ move to Plano, Texas, where there are 5,000

jobs in a fabulous new building in Legacy Business Park. Bob is happily retired and enjoying their golden retriever on walks around the HOA pathways.

**72 Dr. Louis Weatherhead, BSc'72**, was recently appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Ontario Skin Cancers Advisory Board, under the direction of Cancer Care Ontario.

**76 Mark J. Crawford, BSc'76** (Geology), recently published *Confederate Courage on Other Fields: Overlooked Episodes of Leadership, Cruelty, Character, and Kindness*, a book reveals untold or little-known U.S. Civil War stories which expand our understanding of this dreadful conflict and of the human spirit.



1972 1<sup>st</sup> flight of the Goodyear blimp

## Discover the World

Western Alumni's 2018 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.

To view all upcoming trips, visit [alumni.westernu.ca/travel](http://alumni.westernu.ca/travel)

Contact **Susan Henderson** to be added to our mailing list.

t. 519.661.2111 or 1.800.258.6896  
ext. 85871 e. [discovertheworld@uwo.ca](mailto:discovertheworld@uwo.ca)

Western Alumni





**10 Igor Lukac**, BESC'10/ HBA'10, and **Allison Harding**, BA'10, were married in July 2017 and are currently living in Switzerland.

**76 Patricia Oliver**, BA'76, MA'79, recently published *The Gynesaurs*. Oliver has worked as a gymnastics coach and administrator and, more recently, as a physician assistant in an Ob/Gyn office. Having always worked with body parts, her latest book focuses on 'the naughty bits' – equally as interesting and as strangely beautiful as a pointed toe. During these years she would surreptitiously note some of the hilarious exchanges between patients and professionals that occurred during a busy day at the office.

Born in Wales, she now lives in Hespeler, Ont., with her husband, Western Hall of Famer **Joe Dell'Aquila**. She has three children, Jessica, Erica and Evan, two of whom are also Western grads. *The Gynesaurs* is her first novel and is available at [Indigo.ca](http://Indigo.ca), [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca), and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

**77 Dr. Bert Chesworth**, BA'77, BSc'80, MCISC'87, PhD'00, Director of the School of Physical Therapy, recently received the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physical Therapists Lifetime Achievement Award.

**79 Carol Purcer**, BA'79, BEd'80, retired after 35 years as an educator as Principal of Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School in St. Catharines, part of the District School Board of Niagara, in 2016. Recently, she was elected President of Rowing Canada.

## 1980

**81 Nancy Snobelen**, BSc'81, received her Doctor of Health Administration degree from Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions, School of Health Sciences, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich., in December 2016.

**84 Brent Akeson**, BA'84, joined Sports Industry Credit Association (S.I.C.A.) in the role of President, in September 2017. Akeson has worked in senior roles with a number of



**1976**  
First commercial flights of British-French supersonic passenger jet airliner *Concorde*



**1984**  
*Night Court* starring Harry Anderson premieres on NBC TV



**1981**  
*The Smurfs* animated cartoon series first broadcasts in North America



**14** Right after graduating Western, **Michelle Char**, BA'14, landed a rewarding summer internship at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation. She became a full-time employee by that fall. Recently, she joined the Corporate and Community Partnerships team – a tight-knit group of co-workers who discovered they were all Western graduates. Included among the purple-and-proud group are, from left to right, **Paige Cunningham**, BA'11, Senior Development Officer of Corporate Partnerships; Char; **Dayna Bleeman**, BA'03, Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships; and **Malinda DenBok**, BMOS'07, Senior Development Officer of Corporate Partnerships.

world-class sporting-goods companies, including Nike, Adidas, Salomon, Taylor-Made and Champion.

**84 Gerald Lynch**, PHD'84 (English), recently released his sixth book, *Omphalos*, published by Signature Editions. Following 2015's *Missing Children*, the book is the second in a projected trilogy set in a near-future Ottawa.

**84 Jeremy Pridham**, MD'84, and **Gillian Peters**, DDS'84, spent Sept. 26-Oct. 3, 2017 with their two daughters, Allison and Carolyn, helping Team Broken Earth deliver medical care at the trauma hospital in Port au Prince, Haiti.

**84 Nazir Valani**, BSc'84 (Mathematics), was recently recognized as an 'elite problem solver' and 'leader' in the actuarial profession in North America by the Society of Actuaries (SOA). Nazir is a Partner and North American Leader for AXIS Implementation at KPMG.

**85 Lori Montague**, LLB'85, has been appointed a justice to the Ontario Court of Justice, and will be presiding in the City of Toronto.

**86 Stephen de Boer**, BA'86, LLB'89, was named Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), based in Geneva, Switzerland, in August 2017. Previously, de Boer was Canada's Ambassador to Poland and Belarus.

**86** Health Sciences professor **Jackie Sadi**, BSc'86, MSc'05, recently received the Golden Hands Award from the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physical Therapists in recognition of her commitment to the profession in manual therapy, education, mentorship and research.

**87 Tom Kornya**, BA'87, was appointed to Deputy Vice-Chair for Americas Assurance at EY in 2017. He is based out of New York City.

**88 Heidi Zetzschel**, LLB'88, recently became a benchler for the Law Society of BC. She is already a Director on the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC Board.

## 1990

**90 Dr. Mark Crowther**, MD'90, was recently appointed Chair, Department of Medicine, at McMaster University. He was also named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada for research in the treatment and prevention of blood clot complications.

**96 Catherine Cervený**, MLIS'96, released her newest novels, *The Rule of Luck* and *The Chaos of Luck*, published by Orbit Books, in November and December, respectively. The third book in the series, *The Game of Luck*, will be available in Fall 2018.

**96** The latest book from **Alexandra Kitty**, MA'96

(Journalism), *When Journalism was a Thing*, will be published in 2018 by Zero Books in the UK. The Hamilton-based author has written two previous books on the profession, *Don't Believe It!: How lies become news* and *OutFoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism*.

**96 Roger Beharry Lall**, HBA'96, has had a busy year both getting married in July 2016, as well as recently joining ThinkResearch as Senior Vice-President (Marketing).

## 2000

**03 Michael Lee-Poy**, MD'03, MCISC'12, was recently selected for the Reg L. Perkin Award as one of Canada's 2017 Family Physicians of the Year, named by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

**05 Deanna DiMenna**, BA'05, BEd'06, recently published *Set Me Free*, a coming-of-age tale inspired by how she met her



**1996**  
IBM Deep Blue becomes the first computer to win a game of chess against a reigning (human) chess champion, Garry Kasparov





**14 Mark Staniusz**, BA'14, and **Amelia Lockhart**, BEd'11, got married Aug. 19 in Collingwood, Ont. The couple met at a summer job at Blue Mountain Resort and now live in Brampton, Ont., where Amelia works as a Grade 1 teacher and Mark works for SportsNet.

husband on St. Patrick's Day at Poacher's Arms in London. She started writing the book five years ago when she had her son, Theodore. At the time, she was struggling to adjust to being a new mother and "writing helped me feel like myself again." She put the book aside when she returned to work after her maternity leave ended, but picked it back up last year after she had her daughter, Chloe.

**08 Henry Adam Svec**, MA'08, PhD'13, recently released his first book, *American Folk Music as Tactical Media*, published by Amsterdam University Press. Based on his dissertation research conducted at Western, the book draws on the fields of media archaeology, performance studies and sound studies to explore the various modes of communication that can be uncovered from the long American folk revival. An Assistant Professor of

Communication Studies at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., Svec has been published in the *Canadian Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, and elsewhere.

## 2010

**10 Emily Try**, BA'10, and her husband just welcomed their first child into the world, a baby girl Elizabeth.

**11 Michael Lukaszuk**, BMus'11 (Theory/Composition), MMUS'23 (Composition), is currently teaching music composition and computer music at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music as an Adjunct Instructor. He previously taught music technology at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio).

He has played original compositions at the International

Computer Music Conference, Toronto International Electroacoustic Symposium, New York City Electroacoustic Festival, Now Hear This (New Music Edmonton) and the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States).

Lukaszuk's research on audio glitches in computer music was presented at the 2017 Music and Hacking conference held by Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac and IRCAM in Paris.

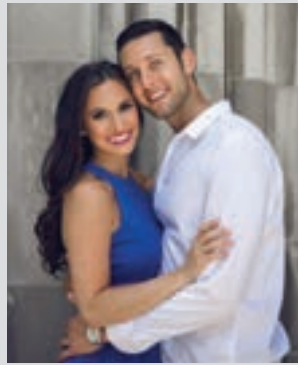
**12 Chris Inniss**, BA'12 (Sociology), was named Chief Executive Officer of AWCCU Financial in October 2017. Prior to that appointment, Inniss worked as Vice-President (Sales and Member Experience) at Copperfin Credit Union and TD Bank.

**13 Carmen Currie**, BScN'13, received a permanent full-time job right out of Western and has been working full-time for almost four years. Through the development and support of the Nursing program, she became a Preceptor for future nurses in Alberta. In September 2017, she got married.

**13 Robert R. Janes**, LLD'13, recently received the Director's Chair Award, designed to showcase outstanding achievements in the museum profession, presented by the Western Museums Association. Janes is an independent scholar-practitioner, a former museum director, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of *Museum Management and Curatorship*, and a Visiting Fellow at the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester (UK).

**14 Carmen Chan**, BMOS'14, of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), was recently recognized for her exceptional and inspirational leadership with a Public Service Award of Excellence from the Government of Canada in the Exceptional Young Public Servants category. Chan did her Management and Organizational Studies internship with CRA and now works for the organization full time.

This year, the awards



**14 Laura Santaguida and Gabriel Brutto** met on campus, dated throughout university and got engaged in 2016. Recently, they had their engagement photos taken on campus – "a special place for both of us and we are happy to have these memorable photos with us the rest of our lives." Gabriel, JD'14, HBA'14, runs his own legal practice. Laura, BMOS'12, obtained her CPA, CA license at a Big Four accounting firm, where she works as an Accounting Manager.

recognized 131 employees in five categories who demonstrated excellence in achieving results for Canadians and reflected the priorities of the public service, while demonstrating key leadership competencies.

"Chan's ability to mentor and support her colleagues makes her a great collaborator; her ability to solve problems and find solutions during difficult situations makes her a remarkable motivator; and her ability to bring out the best and showcase the diverse talents of those around her makes her a special leader," wrote Darryl Seunath, Appeals Officer, Canada Revenue Agency, who nominated Chan. "(She) is a trendsetter who embraces changes in technology while thinking ahead of the curve. Her pride as a public servant is evident in everything she does."

**15 Jordan Levinter**, BMSc'15, was named a Paediatric Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto.

**17 Kevin**, BSc'87, and **Betty (Christians)**, BA'84, **Dorey** proudly congratulate daughter



**2016** Republican Donald Trump is elected 44<sup>th</sup> President of The U.S.



**16 Mustangs alumni Daryl Waud**, BA'16, and **Lirim Hajrullahu**, BA'13, MA'15, celebrated the Toronto Argonauts recent Grey Cup championship. **Mike Copeland**, LLB'93, MBA'99, is the team President & CEO.

**Kristen Dorey**, BESC'14, MESc'17, on completing her master's degree in Software Engineering. They're equally thrilled her brother, **Liam**, became a FIMS graduate at Christmas.

**17 Ciara Maynard**, BMOS'17, started in Bell's Graduate Leadership Program in June 2017

## IN MEMORIAM

**Arnold Stover**, BA'59, MA'60, died Oct. 18, 2016. He was 81. Stover taught and served as head of the English department

at Tillsonburg's Annandale High School for more than 30 years while also coaching football, helping run the annual student variety show, and acting as yearbook adviser.

**Gordon Barker**, BA'76 (Geology), a computer software and database development professional, died Oct. 18, 2016. He was 63.

**Ronald Derrall Armstrong**, MD'57, of Toronto, died May 4, 2017 at the age of 88. Dr. Armstrong spent his career in diagnostic radiology. He had a number of interests, including genealogy, email contests,

recording TV, documentaries, movies, as well as traveling extensively. Future plans: Solo Dios Sabe (God only knows)

**Jeanette F Williams (nee Wilkes)**, BA'68 (Geography), of Trinidad and Tobago, died May 5, 2017. She was 73.

**Brian D. Hare**, BA'69 (Business), Died June 19, 2017, in Mississauga. He was 69.

**John Fletcher**, BA'62, died June 29, 2017. He was a retired teacher. He took his university courses extramurally in the summer and winter.

**Tony Hofstee**, BA'68, died July 24, 2017 at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. He was 72. Hofstee taught for 33 years at C.E.C.I in St. Thomas.

**Georgia Agnos Velos**, BA'71, BEd'72, died on Aug. 9, 2017, in Toronto. She was 92.

**Heather Anne (Clarke) Axelson**, BA'83, died Aug. 28, 2017.

**Laurie Harnick**, BA'92, DIP'95, MA'96, PhD'05, died Sept. 5, 2017.

**Isobel Campbell**, BA'59, died Sept. 16, 2017, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. In addition to teaching in secondary and adult education, she was a swimmer, skier, curler, sailor and traveller. She is survived by her son and

daughter and husband of 56 years, Bob Campbell, BA'59.

**John Rhodes**, BA'51, MD'55, died Oct. 8, 2017.

**Libby McKay McMurdo**, BA'53, died Oct. 19, 2017 in Midland, Ont. She was 87.

**Vernon Ross**, BS'46, pastor emeritus of the First Baptist Church of Hamilton, NY, died Oct. 31, 2017. He was 92.

**Lorraine (Leaper) Dilling**, BA'55, died Nov. 4, 2017, in Scarborough. She was 88. In 1948, Dilling began her career in primary and intermediate education during which she became a renowned developer of unique programs for staff and students. Notably, she organized the first MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Read-a-thon in Canada to promote reading and foster the spirit of charitable giving. In 2011, she published her autobiography *Growing Up Small*. Dilling is survived by her husband Dr. **Harold J. (Bud) Dilling**, BA'54. **David James Austen**, BSc'68, MSc'69, died Nov. 26, 2017 on his way to a family Grey Cup party. He had just returned from South Africa and was excited to share stories of his adventures with his loved ones. He was 71. After earning his PhD from the University of Manitoba, he went on to a 40-year career at the University of Alberta Physics Department.

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**2008** *Breaking Bad* premieres on AMC



## The Final Say

With Lauren Pelley



### Melting pot of campus life led to new insight

When I came to Western as a wide-eyed first-year student in 2006, my circle of friends quickly expanded from a rather homogeneous group of suburban teenagers to a network of diverse young people from all across the country, and beyond.

It sounds downright silly writing this now, but attending undergrad marked the first time I had serious conversations about politics or religion – or food, for that matter – with people who didn't grow up like I did in a humdrum, middle-class Canadian community. Be it during an editorial board session at our student newspaper or in an international relations seminar on conflicts in the Middle East, I found myself regularly enlightened by the diversity of thought surrounding my younger self.

Living in Toronto, that sort of cosmopolitan experience is routine for me these days. I have colleagues hailing from small-town Newfoundland to the capital city of Bahrain. I can walk out my door and stroll to an Anishnawbe restaurant or a Jewish deli. The diverse nature of this city, where half the population is born outside Canada, is stunning and beautiful and thought-provoking on a daily basis.

And when I first had a taste of that kind of experience at Western, as an 18-year-old coming from a Catholic high school – well, it was nothing short of eye-opening.

I was heartened, then, to read some new data about the university's growing push to increase its international enrolment.

In an opinion piece in the *London Free Press* in January, Western lecturer Larry Cornies wrote that, this year, the university has roughly 3,600 international students from nearly 130 countries in attendance, with hundreds more at the affiliate university colleges. Five years ago, he noted, that figure was roughly 1,780.

At that time, around 3 per cent of the university's undergrads were international students. Today, it's about

10 per cent, Cornies continued.

And it seems the trend is continuing the other way, with a rising number of Western students heading abroad for international study experiences.

Aside from making the campus a global village capable of attracting the brightest minds from abroad – good news for the school's reputation and, surely, its bottom line – this direction will serve students well, offering them a different kind of learning experience outside the classroom.

South of the border, Columbia University in New York has taken a similar stance, with Dr. Dennis A. Mitchell, the school's Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion, helping lead the push for diversity among both students and faculty members. A year ago in the *Columbia Spectator*, he posed a question to readers: "Why is diversity so important?"

The answer, he wrote, lies in the fact that "we cannot truly embody excellence, a hallmark of our storied institution, without diversity." And this is rooted in evidence, he said, not some "aspirational rhetoric."

Researchers have shown the benefits of diversity are apparent in various ways in a campus environment, from the sped-up pace of innovation spurred by interdisciplinary research to the "richness of conversations" in the classroom, enhanced by diverse voices, he writes.

"Diverse groups and diversity of thought produce a myriad of positive outcomes, including more innovative solutions to complex problems, more productive collaborations, and richer learning experiences," Mitchell continues.

I recall that richness during my time at Western, both in the classroom and outside of it. There were the simple moments, like residence potlucks where students from around the world shared their food and traditions. And there were heavier discussions, where opposing viewpoints on international relations or women's rights or world religions came to a head in lecture halls or at campus protests.

At times, the clash of ideas sparked conflict, but more often than not, the melting pot nature of university life led to new insight into other world views, if not appreciation and understanding. At least for me, anyway, and it's a mindset that has stuck with me long after graduation.

While Western looks and feels like a small town in many ways – the charming stone buildings, the lush green lawns – I'm glad our alma mater is pushing for a more cosmopolitan vibe on campus.

As Cornies noted, Western adopted an international action plan in 2014, with "10 detailed objectives to support the organic development of a more international university during the subsequent five years."

That's up for review next year. I, for one, hope our beloved school stays the course.

*Lauren Pelley, BA'10, MA'11, is a Toronto-based multimedia journalist and reporter at CBC.*



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