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1.877.464.6104
FINDING WESTERN’S GOLDEN TOUCH

There has to be a reason Canada won so many medals at the Vancouver Games. I have to admit I was a little skeptical when I first heard of Roger Jackson, BA’63, and his plan to “Own the Podium.” I’d like to believe we can do that but can we really?

Many Canadians squirmed when they heard such bold language. Can’t we quietly win more medals? What about “let’s try our best”? That would be more “Canadian.”

But no. “Own the podium was the name. Not just make it to the podium a few times for the national anthem, this was a call for worldwide domination. Not something usually in the national anthem; this was a call for worldwide gymnastics? What about “let’s try our best”? That just doesn’t seem realistic.

I wish to commend you for the articles “What will be the ‘fuel of the future’?” “Energy to burn” and other ‘green’ news and events in the fall 2009 issue. Unintentionally, the issue made mention of the most effective means of alleviating diminishing resources, global warming, environmental pollution, overpopulation, hunger, disease, poverty, crime, child abuse, even Islamic terrorism—contraceptives (letter “contraception articles challenged law in 1964” p.5). The biggest single cause of diminishing resources, global warming and environmental degradation is neither malicious nor shortsightedness; it is the total number of people on our planet. By going about our daily lives we use up resources, warm the atmosphere and pollute the environment. The more people there are, the more these occur.

No invention in human history has benefited humanity as much as contraceptives. No social program packs as much bang for the buck as providing everybody who can benefit, with birth control means and the knowledge of how to use them.

It should be established as a universal human right under international covenant that everybody is entitled to scientifically accurate sex education including methods of contraception. Neither Christianity nor any religion/philosophy/ideology/worldview has anything to say on the subject of human sexuality, reproduction and contraception that science cannot say by itself with no input from any other source of knowledge. Anybody who tries to shove in any non-scientific views should

WESTERN CELEBRATES MORE MULTI-GENERATION FAMILIES

My wife, Helen Elizabeth (nee Reid), BA’54, and I are proud members of a family now with a fourth generation student at Western, Mike Rogers.

My father, Richard Charles Deakin, graduated in the 1940s (BA’45). My wife’s two sisters graduated in the 1950s-60s. Our son, George, graduated in 1978 (BSc’78, Geology). Our daughter, Catherine, graduated from Law in the 1980s.

I graduated in 1955 after playing on the Mustangs soccer team for two years, as well as being a member of the choir for two years.

REICHARD DEAKIN, BA’55 (ARTS)

PREFER TO READ ‘GOOD OLD-FASHIONED WAY’

Although I use the Internet for many functions — too numerous to mention — reading magazines is not one. In fact, because I use the Internet and the computer for many hours a day each and every day of the week, I choose to read books, magazines and newspapers the old-fashioned way. I usually read the magazine in bed prior to retiring for the night or while commuting to work. Using a laptop in bed or while standing on the subway is simply not feasible.

Printing off sections or articles is wasteful and expensive — not to mention bad for the environment.

I fully understand the cost implications; however, until portable reading devices like the Amazon Kindle are affordable and widely available, discontinuing the print edition is simply premature.

STEVEN JORDAN, BA’88

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorial Policy: Publication is at the discretion of the Editor. Letters may be edited for length, style and clarity. Maximum: 300 words. Opinions published do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Alumni Gazette or The University of Western Ontario.
COMING BACK TO WESTERN TRANSFORMS LIFE

BY OWEN THORNTON BA'83 (ENGLISH) AND 2010 (HONOURS PHILOSOPHY)

My wife turns to me and says, “You’re giggling again!” It’s a simple statement, but it demonstrates a 180-degree shift in my attitude. We’ve been married 26 years and before I returned to Western as a mature student I was ‘serious’. Today, friends tell me they’ve never seen me this happy. It’s true. I’m giddy about being a 48-year-old undergraduate at Western. My point is, if it can happen to me, it can happen to you, too.

It all started four short years ago. I was writing a web blog on human kindness (http://www.kindnessproject.com). It’s about writing a web blog on human kindness (http://www.kindnessproject.com). It’s about reminding people to be kind to each other. It can make a better world. But I was quickly discouraged.

I had two major hurdles in going back to school. One was my worry about being able to comprehend me … and she never lets her eyes glaze over when I ask her, “So, do you think we have free will?”

I had two major hurdles in going back to school. One was my worry about being able to do the work. Donna directed me to one-off classes on how to extract material from textbooks, how to take notes in class and how to use the library. For each of my four papers that year I went to the Writing Support Centre where Ryan Robb, MA’99, PhD’08 (Philosophy), offered special essay assistance to philosophy majors. I received the best grades of my scholastic career in that course.

Western helps every “non-traditionally aged” student maximize their experience.

Fitting in with a room of 160, 17-year-olds was my next concern. I stand out because I’m the only naturally bald student. It was mid-October when Sid turned around before class and asked me something about the course. Suddenly, I was just one of 160 others after that talking to others grew easier. That worry was ‘so’ over.

When new school friends (dudes) aren’t around to talk and I begin to doubt what I am doing, I attend Sage Society meetings. (www.cfn.uwo.ca/sage.cfm) These are monthly meet-and-greet sessions for mature students to kick back, have a brew and talk about how going back to school is transforming them. It’s there that I learn about single parents who have four kids and a part-time job and who are taking courses so they can enter the nursing program. It’s at Sage meetings where I learn about single parents who have four kids and a part-time job and who are taking courses so they can enter the nursing program.

Invest today for Western’s tomorrow.

Making a gift to The University of Western Ontario enables our alumni and friends to empower leaders of tomorrow.

By endowing a gift in your will, you transform your commitment into the next generation’s hopes, and through Western, anything continues to be possible.

Commitment

Mary’s endowed bequest to Foundation Western is an expression of her hope that future generations of students will forever benefit from receiving the kind of education she had at Western.

Hope

Although he may never know Mary, Andrew will receive the best education possible at Western because of a donor’s belief that every generation deserves the opportunity to excel.

Your Right to Privacy

Western respects your privacy. At any time you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used for alumni programs, to provide information about alumni services, or for fundraising purposes. For more information, please go to the following website: http://www.adviser.uwo.ca/PrivacyStatement.htm or contact Advancement Services Phone 519-661-4176 or 1-800-420-7519 (Canada & US), Fax 519-661-4182 or email adviser@uwo.ca
LIFETIME COLLECTOR DONATES COMICS TO LIBRARY

Eddy Smet, BA'66, MA'67 (Mathematics), gets emotional when he talks about his comic book collection as they have played a significant role in his life for the past 40 years. “I had my first comic book collection when I was a boy in the mid-50s,” he says.

Although he temporarily stopped collecting when he was completing university, he resumed in 1972 and has been acquiring them ever since. Now he has made the weighty decision to share his beloved collection with Western.

The retired Huron University College professor is in the process of giving a significant portion of his 10,000-plus, single-issue and original graphic novel collection to Western Archives, the archival research department of Western Libraries. Smet retired in 2006 after 30 years of award-winning teaching.

With an estimated value in the tens of thousands of dollars, the Dr. Eddy Smet Comic Book Collection includes rare Batman appearances from the seventies and eighties written by living legend Denny O’Neil, Frank Miller’s revolutionary run on Daredevil, Alan Moore’s complete runs on Watchmen, Men of Fire and Swamp Thing, and the first 14 issues of Captain Canuck, arguably Canada’s most popular and important superhero comic. He also has an extensive collection (about 125) of Canadian Whites, comic books produced in Canada during the Second World War. These homegrown comics were developed out of an importation ban of U.S. comics into Canada during the war. This is believed to be the largest and most valuable collection of comic books ever donated to a Canadian university.

NEW VP OF EXTERNAL RETURNS TO WESTERN

Kevin Goldthorp, Chief Executive Officer of Toronto’s Sunnybrook Foundation, is being welcomed back to Western, this time in the role as Vice-President, External. His new position includes responsibility for achieving success with Western’s $500-million fundraising campaign that launched in October.

Goldthorp worked at Western from 1997 to 2004, progressively serving as Campaign Director, Director of Development, and Associate Vice-President, Development. He left Western in 2004 to serve as Chief Executive Officer at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre Foundation, which provides financial support for Toronto’s largest hospital.

Western President Amit Chakma says he is delighted that Goldthorp has agreed to return to Western. “His passion for philanthropy and his knowledge of Western will allow him to comfortably step into the position and begin working immediately to ensure the success of our campaign,” says Chakma.

As Vice-President, External Goldthorp will lead a staff team of more than 90 people involved with Alumni Relations & Development, Advancement Services, and Communications & Public Affairs. “I am honoured to have been selected to serve Western, its alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students and volunteers,” says Goldthorp, who will also work in partnership with Foundation Western.

“I am very proud of what I helped to accomplish previously at Western, and am excited to return. Under Western President Amit Chakma’s leadership, the future for Western holds bold and exciting promise. Leading the External team and its role in facilitating the philanthropic and alumni and community support essential to realize that promise is a true privilege.”

Goldthorp officially starts on April 1.

WESTERN SETTING FOR TVO’S THE AGENDA

The ability to retain students graduating from Western and Fanshawe during tough economic times was among the talking points. Part of the problem, it was suggested, is students don’t feel engaged with the city. “For students, if they want to stay in London, I think it’s a huge problem. Where do they fit in?” says Preston, noting he will continue living in London after graduation, however this will depend on job opportunities. Chakma says the divide between town and gown is more of a mindset. “It’s not as big a divide as you may think,” he says. “That does not mean we can’t do things better.”

The panel also discussed whether Western welcomed diversity, including members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities. “The problem we have right now, we are not known,” says Chakma. “When immigrants are looking for possible places to settle, London is not known.” Chakma says London must market itself as an ideal place to live and work. Preston challenged the community to dispel myths about the employability of persons with a disability.

 Barely scratching the surface of these issues, Pakin says the conversation often continues after the lights go out and the cameras stop filming. “At the end of the day, it is up to citizens to take this stuff to where they want it to go,” says Pakin. “Our job is to provide the technical and editorial forum for people here to engage in the biggest issues of the day in their community and they run with it.”

Cameras were rolling on February 1 in Conron Hall, turning one of most historic locations on campus into the set for a hard-hitting discussion about the economy and diversity in the London community.

TVO’s The Agenda with host Steve Pakin took his show on the road to London, the first stop on the show’s three-city tour. The campus is familiar ground for the television host, as his parents are both University of Western Ontario alumni.

Among the guest panelists were Western President Amit Chakma, PhD candidate Jeffrey Preston, London Free Press editor-in-chief Paul Berton, BA’87; London Economic Development Corporation President Peter White; BA’87; Western President Amit Chakma; mother and Fanshawe College student Chantelle Diachina; London Free Press editor-in-chief Paul Berton, BA’87; and Western PhD candidate Jeffrey Preston, BA’06, MA’08, to discuss issues about the economy and diversity.

Photo by Heather Travis

Former Huron University College professor Eddy Smet is donating most of his collection of rare and complete runs of comics to the archives at Western’s libraries. Spanning 40 years of collecting, his 10,000-plus comic books, including these pieces that were on display at D.I. Weldon Library, include Star Trek, Superman, and Superman. Photo by Heather Travis
Western Home to First Canada-U.s. Institute

A newly established institute at Western will hold a mirror up to the social, economic and political linkages between Canada and the United States.

Those shared and conflicting values and policies on issues such as health care, border security and domestic and foreign policy, and how they affect both countries, will be at the heart of work at Western’s Canada-U.S. Institute. It is the first Canadian institute to think tank dedicated solely to the study of the relationship between these two countries.

“The problem is in our country, because we take for granted we know everything there is to know about the United States, we don’t bother studying it in any systematic fashion,” says Don Abelson, who is director of Western’s Centre for American Studies and Chair of the Department of Political Science. He has been co-ordinating the formation of the institute.

It will have several interdisciplinary research teams focusing on important domestic and foreign policy issues that are of concern to Canadians and Americans. It encompasses three existing Western research centres and five faculties:

- The Centre for American Studies (Faculty of Social Science)
- The Canada-U.S. Law Institute (Faculty of Law)
- The Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management (Richard Ivey School of Business)
- The faculties of Arts and Humanities, and Information and Media Studies
- The Centre for Information and Media studies (Richard Ivey school of Business)
- The Arthur J. Hudson Chair in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research (ALS), and a scientist at the Robarts Research Institute.

The research carried out in The CulturePlex will be unique to Canada and at the forefront of international research initiatives on communities and culture and also in the development of novel digital platforms to preserve, enrich and support new explorations into our global cultural heritages.

“The world is a dynamic community of cultures which, over the centuries, have evolved into an interwoven mosaic that is rich in diversity but also with many shared foundations,” says Juan Luis Suárez, Professor of Hispanic Studies, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, who is directing the project. Suárez has already been recognized for creating new frontiers towards research efforts in culture. “The digital era presents numerous opportunities to capture cultural outputs over time and to chart their evolution. The research program is increasingly relevant as the rate of cultural change accelerates in the present age and with the emergence of powerful digital technologies. Canada is well positioned for global leadership in cultural research initiatives and, more broadly, in the digital humanities.”

The output of this research has already resulted in the creation of one spinoff company with potential for new job creation and economic benefits to Canada. For more information: www.cultureplex.ca

New Medical School Facility Priority for Incoming Dean

Greater integration of clinical research with other aspects of the university, increasing community profile and advocating for a new facility are at the top of the list for the newly appointed dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Dr. Michael Strong says he is “humbled” and “excited” by the appointment and looks forward to building on the legacy of Dean Carol Herbert, who will have completed two terms and 11 years as dean when her term expires in June.

Strong will serve as dean until 2015. One of his priorities is to find new space for growing programs in a school “bursting at the seams.” Everybody needs space. At Schulich, it is a critical issue. “We need to have a new medical school facility.” Locally, Strong calls Schulich “the game in town” for training the next generation of health-care professionals for southwestern Ontario. The school has built an impressive reputation, but Strong wants to add to its international profile.

Schulich’s satellite campus in Windsor will continue to be treated as an extension of the London location, not as a competitive institution, he notes. Recent administrative changes are natural growing pains, he says, adding he’s confident in the program under the leadership of Dr. Jim Silco, acting associate dean.

Dr. Strong is currently Chief of Neurology and Co-Chair of the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at LHSC and Western, Director of the London Motor Neuron Diseases Clinic at the London Health Sciences Centre, the Arthur J. Hudson Chair in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research (ALS), and a scientist at the Robarts Research Institute.

New Artist-in-Residence Program for Music

Glamorous, talented and world-famous, the husband and wife pianists were not typical professors at Western in the 1950s. Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole balanced performance tours as a piano duo with teaching and inspiring young musicians. They also recorded their work, created educational materials and started the Gilbert & Sullivan productions still going strong in London today.

To honour the legacy of this dynamic duo, an Artist-in-Residence program will be launched in 2010, thanks to the commitment of a group of alumnae who studied with Parsons and Poole. It is fitting recognition for the couple that, due to their own prestige, attracted other accomplished teachers and students to Western. On April 16, in the Paul Davenport Theatre, the piano duo Anagnoson & Kinton will perform a concert to launch this new program.

Both James Anagnoson and Leslie Kinton studied with Parsons and Poole in Toronto, and were encouraged to form their own piano duo. Anagnoson, now dean of the Glenn Gould School, was an assistant professor of piano at Western. Kinton is a current member of the Don Wright Faculty of Music. The Artist-in-Residence program will give students an opportunity to study with musicians who bring the same acclaim and support residencies, “said Dean Robert Wood.

At a time when culture was in its infancy in this country, the Parsons-Poole duo piano team who performed internationally and had Columbia Artists as their agent brought prestige, stature and glamour to a small provincial music school,” said Dorothy Holdegeweg, BA’56. “Their legacy is still felt by those of us who knew and appreciated what they did for so many.”

Their abilities as teachers as well as performers helped lay a foundation for excellence that continues, not only at Western, but through the careers of their students. The Artist-in-Residence program will maintain that continuum of excellence.

“All major music schools maintain a robust schedule of visiting artists and scholars, and also support residencies,” said Dean Robert Wood. “This is especially important for schools such as the Don Wright Faculty of Music that are situated away from a major urban centre.”

To learn more about this initiative please contact John Nolan, alumni and development officer at joan@uwo.ca or 519-661-2111, ext. 80533.
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

OBSTACLES OVERCOME IN PATH TO SUCCESS

By David Scott

Tom Davenport, BA’83, is an adventurer who doesn’t consider the trek he embarked on as life risking. But before heading out on the adventure of a lifetime - skiing 1,200 kilometres across Antarctica to the South Pole - he had to overcome a deadly personal health hurdle: colorectal cancer.

There is nothing but white for as far as the eye can see. There is no change in the landscape. There are no tracks of animals in the snow. There are no birds flying by, not even vultures circling. The only sound is the wind and the scraping of skis passing over the frozen ground. If your solar-charged batteries haven’t drained for the day, you might be lucky enough to hear your favourite songs on your iPod – the only thing connecting you to a familiar environment thousands of miles away and several degrees warmer. You dream of a warm fresh cup of Tim Horton’s coffee.

Welcome to the Antarctica.
Amundsen had completed his who reached the south Pole but perished south Pole, and British explorer Robert Scott, person to lead a successful expedition to the about Norwegian Roald Amundsen, the first fascination with polar exploration began at.

Davenport says. “It became something I always of his expedition fascinated me as a teenager, ” was mesmerizing, and reading the tragic story for Davenport, that sense of adventure started that tests the level of human endurance. And

But for people like Tom Davenport, there is a compelling magnetic draw of an adventure that tests the level of human endurance. And for Davenport, that sense of adventure started at a young age. With his parent’s permission, he cycled 500 miles from London to Montreal at the age of 16 to watch the Olympics in 1976. “My father was very supportive. He liked those kind of things. My mother was tolerant but didn’t say ‘no’,” says Davenport.

His father was Western’s wind-tunnel pioneer, Alan Davenport, who passed away July 19, 2009. It was difficult living in the shadow of an engineering leader like Alan Davenport. Tom realized that when he first started out in engineering at Western. So, he changed programs and graduated with a BA in political science in 1983, taking an extra year.

His adventures continued after graduation. At age 24, he spent six months hitchhiking throughout southern Africa, covering elections for African publications. Davenport’s fascination with polar exploration began at an earlier age though. As a teenager he read about Norwegian Roald Amundsen, the first man to lead a successful expedition to the South Pole, and British explorer Robert Scott, who reached the South Pole but perished with his team in Antarctica in early 1912, just weeks after Amundsen had completed his successful journey. “Seeing a photo of Scott at the South Pole was mesmerizing, and reading the tragic story of his expedition fascinated me as a teenager,” Davenport says. “It became something I always wanted to do.”

Amundsen’s expedition was supported by teams of dogs pulling sleds. Scott’s final push to the South Pole was attempted on foot, with his men pulling sleds after their horses died from exposure. In 2004, Davenport learned of Mally McNear, a world-class polar explorer who specializes in polar training and adventure guiding. McNear guided the first all-female expedition to the North Pole in 1997, a grueling 82-day British women’s journey over the shifting polar ice pack. She then led an expedition to the South Pole in 2002. Her daughter, Sarah McNear-Landy, became the youngest person to ski to the South Pole at age 18, and the youngest to reach the North Pole at age 19.

McNear-Landy, 23, led Davenport’s South Pole expedition in 2006. In April 2006, Davenport spent two weeks in Iqaluit training with Mally McNear. Frozen Frobisher Bay is similar to the icy environment of Antarctica, and Davenport and others practiced cross-country skiing, kite skiing, dog sledding, navigation and route finding, all skills needed to master polar travel.

Expeditions to the South Pole take place during the Antarctic summer — November to January. Davenport planned to start his trek in November 2006. But a few months after the polar training, he began having intestinal problems. “It wasn’t uncommon for me to have some sort of malady stemming from my travel,” says Davenport, whose work in private sector development for the International Finance Corporation at The World Bank Group sends him on frequent trips and long-term assignments.

“Tom’s story is one of fortitude and courage and demonstrates one person can do to create international awareness of the second biggest cancer killer in Canada. This is a disease that is preventable, treatable and beatable and Tom’s amazing journey shows us all that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.”

Davenport unfurls a flag from the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada (CCAC) covered with messages of encouragement when he reaches the ceremonial south Pole marker. In an effort to increase awareness and encourage screening for the disease, he raised nearly $6,000 in conjunction with the Colorectal Cancer Alliance and $7,000 for the CCAC.

“Tom was diagnosed, there’s only one outcome acceptable to him, and it would be positive. Tom’s outlook is, this isn’t the way his story is going to go.”

Palmerston, that sense of adventure started that tests the level of human endurance. And

Preventing Colorectal Cancer

First obtain the basic knowledge at www.colorectal-cancer.ca

CRC Warning Signs

Blood in or on the stool (either bright red or very dark in colour)
• A persistent change in normal bowel habits such as diarrhea, constipation or both, for no apparent reason
• Frequent or constant cramps if they last for more than a few days
• Stools that are narrower than usual
• General stomach discomfort (bloating, gas or cramps)
• Frequent gas pains
• A strong and continuing need to move your bowels, but with little stool
• A feeling that the bowel does not empty completely
• Weight loss for no known reason
• Constant tiredness

Get screened if you are 50 or older: www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/screening-screening-tests

CrC Warning Signs

Blood in or on the stool (either bright red or very dark in colour)

1. Frequent or constant cramps if they last for more than a few days
2. Stools that are narrower than usual
3. General stomach discomfort (bloating, gas or cramps)
4. Frequent gas pains
5. A strong and continuing need to move your bowels, but with little stool
6. A feeling that the bowel does not empty completely
7. Weight loss for no known reason
8. Constant tiredness


Check out what increases your risk and what you can do to lower your risk: www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/just-the-facts/risk-factors

Follow health lifestyles. Check out our website www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/nutrition/nutritional

Get Screened if you are 50 or older: www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/screening-screening-tests
The trailing winds. The others flew back. then skied back to the base camp in 12 days, the gear—and into a fierce headwind. The 1,200 km burdened by 160 pounds of food, fuel and skis, each pulling a sled attached to a harness. explorers reached the pole on cross-country to begin. Davenport, a guide and three other supplies to be organized before they landed at覆盖ing about 58 miles at a time, and arrived way ahead of their schedule. journey – back at Patriot Hills. The pair made their return trip using kite-skis. They skied about 12 hours a day, taking its toll. Mental strength is as important as physical strength and endurance. "You break the trip up, so you can focus on it in reasonable terms. You want to get to the same room, our tent, the same setting, white sastrugi (wind-sculptured snow) stretching everywhere. And the routine for the rest of the day is pretty much the same as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow. Revenge is at 6:30 a.m and the person on cooking duties sparks the stove, prepares tea and oatmeal...then pack up and out of tents by 8:15 and on ski by 8:40. We then ski for 1.5 hrs, followed by a 15 min re-fueling (shoveling food and drink in). This cycle repeats itself till 5:00 p.m., when we identify a new campsite - which looks remarkably like the one the previous evening. Then tent set-up, melt snow for water, then make a hot drink. Next take our GPS reading, make some notes in the diary, prepare a tasty freeze-dried dinner, read for a few moments, then off to sleep by 9:00-9:30." When time and technology would allow, Davenport blogged about his journey at: www.fromend2end.net. "The thought occurred to me today, that much of this march to the Pole is like that cinematic classic, Groundhog Day. Like Bill Murray’s character, we awake each day to the same room, our tent, the same setting, white sastrugi (wind-sculptured snow) stretching everywhere. And the routine for the rest of the day is pretty much the same as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow. Revenge is at 6:30 a.m and the person on cooking duties sparks the stove, prepares tea and oatmeal...then pack up and out of tents by 8:15 and on ski by 8:40. We then ski for 1.5 hrs, followed by a 15 min re-fueling (shoveling food and drink in). This cycle repeats itself till 5:00 p.m., when we identify a new campsite - which looks remarkably like the one the previous evening. Then tent set-up, melt snow for water, then make a hot drink. Next take our GPS reading, make some notes in the diary, prepare a tasty freeze-dried dinner, read for a few moments, then off to sleep by 9:00-9:30." When time and technology would allow, Davenport blogged about his journey at: www.fromend2end.net.

Western's Richard Ivey School of Business has been educating great leaders since 1922. With more Chief Executives among our graduates than any other Canadian business school, and alumni working in 95 countries, Ivey is creating cross-enterprise leaders who are deeply committed to building better businesses and stronger communities around the world.

The University of Western Ontario  

Who says great leaders are born and not made?
When he became president of Western last July, Amit Chakma fully expected to learn much more about the university than he already knew. Though he’d pored over books and statistics, he was eager to meet faculty, staff, students and alumni firsthand — to personally encounter the people who made the place tick and had contributed to its formidable reputation.

But it wasn’t until he began a series of off-campus visits — to Ottawa, Queen’s Park, research institutes and cities in which he’d previously lived — that Chakma began to fully grasp the 132-year-old university’s reach and influence.

One such meeting, with “three or four” alumni, drove home that point.

“One [of the alums at the meeting] handles Canada’s file on the auto sector, a big responsibility. One deals with the G8 countries, representing Canada at the bureaucratic level — our top gun on this file. One manages our climate-change file,” Chakma said, noting that UWO’s department of economics has had every bit the international impact of its law or medical schools.

“The more I visit with our alums, the more I am convinced that this place has done a great job at educating leaders,” he added.

That fact, Chakma says, provides a considerable head start toward the twin goals he espoused when he took office as Western’s 10th president: ratchet up the university’s international profile and influence by producing leaders in their fields, and further internationalize its student body and faculty. The two goals, he believes, are congruent, two sides of the same coin.

Yet, as he charts his course toward that horizon, Chakma doesn’t see the need for a radical renovation of the university’s
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traditional pillars, nor does he espose the kind of pop philosophy that might be found in the latest biz lit bestsellers. Instead, he harks back to Western's past and speaks of the need for fine-tuning.

"As I read the history of this place, the focus from the beginning was on the education of the whole student. The founding fathers were thinking along those lines, and I think we have to stay true to that, " he says.

The key to building character and greatness in students, while helping them to discover their leadership reflexes and instincts, Chakma believes, lies in providing them with an ever-increasing number of opportunities, on campus and off.

"What institutions do is open students' minds — intellectually and socially. In the past, Western helped them grow into individuals that could make a difference at whatever they wanted to do, to be the very best that they could be. Western helped them to be confident about socially. In the past, Western helped them grow into individuals that could make a difference at whatever they wanted to do, to be the very best that they could be. Western helped them to be confident about their abilities and the social interactions, whether through our athletics programs or some other programs. It just allowed them to grow up their abilities and the social interactions, whether through our athletics programs."

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"I want to expand existing opportunities, create more opportunities and then encourage students institutionally, so we don't just leave it up to them. We need to tell them this is a good thing, this is part of your education and here are the choices you can make, " he says. "To provide those additional opportunities for leadership formation, some existing structures and institutional habits will need to change."

Chakma says, "Walls need to come down, perceptions modified. And, with characteristic candour, he acknowledges part of his job, for the first couple of years at least, will be to develop a greater degree of consensus and buy-in from all quarters around his leadership-development agenda."

Chakma has no quarrel with the attributes often cited in scholarly articles as being necessary for the formation of great leaders: that they be honest, forward-looking, competent, inspiring and intelligent. He adds, however, that they must also possess the courage to stand by their convictions. As for being forward-looking or visionary, that quality goes for naught unless one can also gets others to buy in. Leadership development in today's global environment is complicated by the fact that the attributes of today's leaders are different from previous generations, says Mary Crossan, director of the Leading Cross-Enterprise Research Centre at the Richard Ivey School of Business.

"When we think about leading now, it's much more in an ecosystem as opposed to an organization. Specifically, it's not a hierarchical view of leadership; it's very much distributed leadership. The leadership challenges are much more complex and ambiguous than they once were, " Crossan says. In fact, she likens the attributes of emerging global leaders to those of jazz musicians who improvise and respond to one another through forms of distributed leadership, in contrast with an orchestral ensemble, where leadership comes from the conductor's podium.

Western, she believes, is superbly positioned to nurture leadership development across the board because of the academic culture it has cultivated since the 1970s.

"I already see a breakdown of the naturally occurring barriers [between faculties] at Western, " Crossan says. The task in the coming years will be to fill gaps between disciplines and work across faculties for the benefit of students.

Mel Cappe, MA’72, LLD’02
President, Institute for Research on Public Policy, Montréal

The intellectual rigour and demanding standards of UWO set principles and an approach that always served me well. [Boosting Western's reach and influence at an international level will require] individuals defining problems in a global context. ‘We can never be complacent with our education of the whole student. The founding fathers were thinking along those lines, and I think we have to stay true to that’ " he says.

The key to building character and greatness in students, while helping them to discover their leadership reflexes and instincts, Chakma believes, lies in providing them with an ever-increasing number of opportunities, on campus and off.

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The secret to developing greater numbers of global leaders, Chakma believes, is to provide students with significantly larger numbers of opportunities with which to develop and exercise latent leadership muscles, both inside the university and through work with community partners. It is to provide undergraduates with the chance for wide-ranging discovery, on the assumption that they will “focus on professional needs at the master’s level”.

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“When people think of good leaders, they think of people who have a sense of purpose, a sense of mission and certainly a sense of passion.”

DARREN MEISTER

“There are countless small things that one learns living in another culture. These are not the things that are top of mind like learning a language or exchanging business cards or mapping diversity. They are the small, daily ways in which people interact that are not documented in cultural textbooks. You learn about the environment in which you live and work and it becomes frustrating to return to Canada now and find that individuals are not interested in the details of life in Asia — they are interested in a one-sentence summary of what it is like to live and work in Asia.

“I grow increasingly frustrated by well-educated individuals who lack any knowledge about what is happening in the rest of the world, how other countries are extending their reach and preparing the next generation for life and work where Asian countries will dominate the economy,” Slaughter notes.

In talks with students and others about leadership, Chakma often references three extraordinary Canadians as models — one from the political left, one from the centre and one from the right.

“Tommy Douglas was honest. He had the kind of strength born of his convictions. He could inspire people and he had the courage to follow through. ... C.D. Howe was a fabulous leader — a builder who got things done. And Preston Manning — he couldn’t inspire most people, but he was intellectually honest and had the courage of his convictions.”

Throughout my career, I tried to be demanding of my staff and colleagues in just such a way that would bring out the best in others. When I thought I had a particularly good minister who took my advice all the time, I quickly realized that he was not getting the best out of me, nor I from him. Western’s emphasis on excellence was an important element in my formation.”

“I believe I learned more in the first two years of my undergraduate degree in London, Ontario, than I did at the Juilliard School in New York...”

DOUGLAS FINCH

For Douglas Finch, a composer and music professor at Trinity College of Music in England, the type of cross-disciplinary opportunity and exposure Chakma advocates, especially in the undergraduate years, was a game-changer during his years at Western.

“I believe I learned more in the first two years of my undergraduate degree in London, Ont., than I did [at the Juilliard School] in New York, where I think I was just able to capitalize on the quality of my previous training. The training at Western taught me to trust my intellectual and artistic instincts.

“Although my skill as a pianist was fostered by my main teacher, William Aide, I remember having a conversation with my teacher of English studies, who said that, from reading the essays I had written and from my outwardly very shy demeanor, she wondered whether I should be concentrating my efforts as a creator rather than as a public performer.

“This was a small incident, but symbolized what I felt to be a fostering of my individual voice, rather than just the more external aspects of my talent. When I was interviewed on Europe-wide television a couple of years later... I had the confidence to explain that I was not after a typical concert piano career, but rather something involving a combination of composition, performing and developing new collaborative art forms,” Finch writes.

For Chakma and his twin goals, it is still early days. He is a patient man, accustomed to accomplishing goals over a span of years, not months, inviting collaboration and building consensus as he goes. Though it won’t happen right away, he’d eventually like Western’s Senate to recognize leadership activities on campus (student council, clubs, athletics, residence roles, etc.) and through study-abroad programs, community-service learning, “alternative” spring breaks and volunteerism as part of a student’s core academic program.

Meanwhile, Chakma finds inspiration in the example of UWO president George Edward Hall, whose tenure spanned two decades (1947-1967).

“He was the first one to articulate a global vision,” he says. “This was 1965. He dared to think of the next 100 years and thought that Western should become one of Canada’s greatest universities. “If you can dream in 1965 to become one of Canada’s greatest institutions, we can aspire to become one of the world’s top universities,” he says.

He readily acknowledges that there is a certain “audacity” in that aspiration. But that, too, is an essential leadership quality.
Canada came, saw and conquered Gold at Vancouver

BY DAVID SCOTT (WITH NOTES FROM HEATHER TRAVIS, WESTERN NEWS)

VENI, VIDI, VICI

Depending on your definition of success, Canada did what it said it was going to do five years before the 2010 Games in Vancouver: Own the Podium.

Specifically, alumni Roger Jackson, BA’63, along with $110 million in seed money from corporations and the federal government, established the Own The Podium (OTP) program in 2005, when John Furlong and the organizers of the 2010 Vancouver games realized that staging an excellent Games and placing well just wasn’t good enough. They wanted to win. So they brought in Jackson, past president of the Canadian Olympic Committee and gold medallist in rowing at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The results? Canada set two records: most gold medals ever by a country in the Winter Olympics, and most gold medals by a host country in the Winter Olympics. Not a bad result considering Canada didn’t achieve a single gold medal hosting either the 1976 Montreal Olympics or the 1988 Calgary Winter Games. Going from zero to 14 golds was quite the accomplishment, “It was a bold statement of what we should strive to do,” said Jackson.

Other Western connections to the Vancouver Games include Carol Stephenson, Dean of the Richard Ivey school of Business, who spent the past few years focused on the intimate details of hosting the Olympic Games. Stephenson was a member of the Vancouver Organizing Committee and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) Board of Directors. She blogging about her experience at http://blogs.ivey.ca/olympics.

Jackson also defended the name Own the Podium with gold. Kinesiology student Katrina Krawec, also volunteered during the Olympics in Whistler. Earth Sciences professor Wayne Nesbett’s daughter, Christine, competed in long track speed skating and kept viewers from London on the edge of their seats with her medal-winning performance: a gold in the 1,000-metre race. Alma Moir, the head coach of the varsity figure skating team, was at the Olympics to watch her son, Scott, compete in the figure skating - ice dance competition, along with long-time partner Tessa Virtue in three dance programs that captured gold – and the hearts of Canadians. It was a first-ever gold for Canada in ice dance.

Duff Gibson, BA’89, a Western alumnus, has been coaching the skeleton team at a national level and has worked with Olympians, including those in Vancouver. He provided commentary to CTV during the Games. Gibson used to slide headfirst down some of the fastest skeleton courses in the world and won Olympic gold in 2006, capping his sixth year on the national team in style. He helped coach the miraculous Jon Montgomery to a gold in skeleton, Canada’s fourth at the Vancouver Games.

Campus Community Police Service Manager Michael Mics was in Vancouver helping with security.
Moccio makes music that INSPIRES

BY JANIS WALLACE, BMUS’75, BED’76

The athletes – they believed. The spectators there and across the country – they believed. That faith paid off in results and spirit, all spurred on by the universal message of the theme. ‘A story around an athlete. There’s what we call “Feelings” – when an athlete does not get a medal!’ The music reflected the emotional ride through the Games. The variations were recorded by teen singing star Nikki Yanofsky and Quebec artist Anne-Wilson Schot, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Children’s Opera Company, Bach Children’s Chorus andToronto Children’s Chorus and Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal.

The universal message of the song can extend far after the flags are folded, the athletes have gone home and the rest of the country has returned to its regular television viewing. Believe in yourself and your talent, believe that when you’re down, you are still supported by people around you.

Moccio’s theme was recorded in many versions and styles and woven throughout the coverage. “There are about 11 different colours as I call it,” he said. “We have one called ‘Emotional’ when we’re building a story around an athlete. Then’s what we call ‘Feelings’ – when an athlete does not get a medal!’ The music reflected the emotional ride through the Games. The variations were recorded by teen singing star Nikki Yanofsky and Quebec artist Anne-Wilson Schot, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Children’s Opera Company, Bach Children’s Chorus and Toronto Children’s Chorus and Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal.

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The universal message of the song can extend far after the flags are folded, the athletes have gone home and the rest of the country has returned to its regular television viewing. Believe in yourself and your talent, believe that when you’re down, you are still supported by people around you.
I was the president of Yemen who looked me in the eyes and said, ‘Why are you quitting this company? You need to continue your corporate work with a Canadian energy company because he sees the benefits to the workforce. ‘ That wasn’t a big step out for me, because it was just applying the learning in a different space. ‘My work’s been ‘boots on the ground,’ and I think that’s where I learned a lot. I think that whole idea of making sure that there is true alignment between a head office strategy or a government policy and what’s happening on the ground is everything.’ She’s passionate as she talks about what she does, and about the importance of integrity, the subject of her first book (Corporate Integrity: A Toolkit for Managing Beyond Compliance) in her corporate and current work.

“What does [integrity] look like? Whether it’s gender integrity or organizational integrity or personal integrity – what do you intend, what do you commit to do, and what do you actually do? It sounds very simple, but I think it’s an essential piece when we’re across the table from somebody else and you’re talking about a tough dilemma. You’ve got to be able to say, ‘This is my intention, here are my commitments, and here are my actions.’”

Facilitating capacity building – bringing volunteer doctors, nurses and midwives, teachers, lawyers and judges, journalists, and politicians from the west to share and exchange expertise and insight with their professional counterparts in Yemen – has been, for the most part, rewarding. Kennedy-Glans enthusiastically calls it, “quite wonderful.” Then she pauses and corrects herself: “...until recently, it’s been quite wonderful.” Until recently, when al-Qaeda forces spread into Yemen.

“I struggled so much, dealing with the fact that a small group of people, hateful people, could disrupt a society so greatly... the impacts on the ground in a place like Yemen are absolutely shocking. I know a lot of people in a place like Yemen – I know them as friends, I know them as colleagues, I respect them, I admire the work they do. Watching what happened to them was devastating for me personally, and was the catalyst for her second book, Unveiling the Breath: One woman’s journey into understanding Islam and gender equality. “I was writing because I had to deal with my response to those issues.”

So what keeps her, and the volunteers of Bridges, going? “I’ve seen change. I have seen citizen leaders do amazing things. I believe that people can lead positive change through individual acts. You need government policy, and I think organizations, like companies, need to have strategies and visions that people can see and decide – or not – to participate in, but I think we often underestimate the gentle, small actions that take place within individuals.” And even though things can look a little bleak at times, what gives me the most hope in a place like Yemen, in a place like Canada, is people. People. Human capacity. It’s what we don’t spend enough energy on. Forget oil policy, look at your human capacity.” She laughs when she adds, “They didn’t teach me that at law school, by the way.”

Kennedy-Glans’ newest project is Unveiling Youth Potential (www.unveilingyouthpotential.com), a program set in motion by Yemeni youth who came to Bridges when they saw al-Qaeda in their country nearly two years ago. Working with these young people, and other youth from Canada and around the world, they facilitated 18 months of conversation about what outsiders can do to support at-risk youth in isolated communities. “It’s very exciting.”

Kennedy-Glans says, but adds that the program is still growing, and there are many ways for new people to get involved. “We need mentors, we need support, we need funding, we need learning coaches, we need people who are committed to working with youth leaders who can be agents of positive social change in the communities where they live.”

And from there, perhaps it’s just a few steps until you’re talking to a president...
I n September 2008, as the sub-prime mortgage crisis shook the pillars of global finance, Western alumnus Tiff Macklem, one of the federal government’s most senior civil servants, played a key role in managing Canada’s response to the upheaval.

“The world was on the precipice,” he recalls. “My every waking moment was spent dealing with events.”

Macklem, MA/84, PhD/89 (Economics) 48, had been appointed Associate Deputy Minister at the Department of Finance less than a year earlier. He serves as Finance’s deputy at international forums such as the G-8 (the seven major industrialized countries plus Russia) and the G-20 (which embraces new economic powers such as China and India). It’s his job to brief Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the G-8 and G-20 summits.

As the world’s economic system began to buckle, Macklem and other G-8 deputies would hold a conference call every morning and then another one at 5:30 pm. At the peak of the crisis, he was on the phone evenings at the Westboro Village home where he, his wife Rosemary and their three teens live in Ottawa. “My personal life was on hold,” he says. “I was even taking calls in the middle of the night.”

Macklem admits that the Western world’s financial regulators initially underestimated the systemic risk. “What at first appeared to be a problem of insufficient liquidity then was perceived as a matter of a few insolvent banks. I had to use everything I had ever learned,” says Macklem, “but there was no chapter in the textbooks on how to do this.”

The Canadian banks weathered the storm better than most others, partly due to strict domestic regulation. So it’s appropriate that Macklem is now co-chairing a G-20 working group that is trying to develop recommendations for improving regulation and transparency in the global banking system.

Richard Tiffany Macklem was born in Westmount, QC. (His parents named him Tiffany to honour the MD who delivered generations of Macklem babies. “It wasn’t considered a girl’s name when I was a child,” he says. “My friends all called me Tiff.”)

At Western, he earned an MA (1984) and a PhD (1989). He chose Western, he says, because it “had the country’s strongest macro-economic faculty. The department was a real powerhouse, and professors such as David Laidlaw and Michael Parkin had a profound influence on me.”

In between his two graduate degrees, Macklem spent a year at the Bank of Canada, Ottawa’s most hallowed institution. He joined its department of monetary and financial analysis, having survived an on-campus interview and a gruelling day of interviews in Ottawa. (“They asked you harder and harder questions until you started to crack,” he quips.)

When he joined the central bank, Macklem wasn’t sure he wanted a doctorate; but once employed there, “I saw what you could do with a PhD other than become an academic. The Bank’s research was driven by real-life issues that it had to take decisions on. It became something that, intellectually, I wanted to do.”

Macklem returned to the Bank in 1989 after completing his PhD. Two years later, the central bank announced a new policy of holding Canada’s inflation rate to 2 per cent — the midpoint of a 1 to 3 per cent target range. “We were only the second country, after New Zealand, to announce inflation targeting,” he says. “There was not much academic research on inflation targeting. This was a policy developed by practitioners. It was an exciting time to be a young economist at the Bank, building economic models on how to run monetary policy with inflation targets.”

usually the restrained mandarin, Macklem suddenly sounds gleeful as he reminisces about his role in initiating this bold new monetary policy.

Serving under four very different Governors, Macklem climbed the Bank’s hierarchy, becoming chief of the research department in 2000, and then Deputy Governor in 2004. As a member of the Bank’s Governing Council and the Executive Management Committee, he shared responsibility for decisions on monetary policy.

His current job at Finance is, tellingly, the same post that Mark Carney held before his ascendency to Governor of the Bank in 2008. Many observers expect Macklem to be named his successor in 2015 when Carney’s seven-year term ends. (No Governor has served a second term since Gerald Bouey was reappointed in 1980). Macklem brushes off speculation that he is destined to become Canada’s next top central banker. Significantly, however, he will be returning to the Bank this July with a promotion to Senior Deputy Governor, a post that makes him effectively the Chief Operating Officer.

Meanwhile, as the G-20 struggles to agree on a new global regime of financial regulation, he doesn’t lack for challenges.

The current $20 bill has the signature of alumnus Paul Jenkins on the bottom right corner. One day we’ll see alumnus Tiff Macklem’s name in the same place.
From June 1979 to June 1993, a period of some 14 years, my office occupied the Tower Rooms of Somerville House, an almost unknown, largely ignored spot adjacent to the Great Hall, but above it. It was reached (and still is) by ascending a flight of nondescript stairs disappearing into the wall beside a women’s bathroom.

As one ascended the stairs (as I later learned), one could notice what appeared to be a small cupboard door in the wall. If opened, you found what appeared to be simply a blank wall inside. But, in actuality, the blank wall was the back of a decorative coat of arms plaque that hung on the wall above the stage in the Great Hall. If you pushed gently on the back of the plaque you could actually look out into the Great Hall and get a glimpse of what was going on in there as well as hearing what was being said.

You can imagine what busybody eavesdroppers who knew of this “secret passage” observation location might have witnessed or overheard over the years as various events unfolded in the University’s grandest venue. In fact, on numerous occasions when the celebrative Intercollegiate Athletic banquets were held in the Great Hall in the 1980s (before moving downtown to the convention centre), I could not help periodically to gaze steadily from my table at ‘the’ decorative plaque I knew so well to see if it might move slightly to one side and give “the interloper” the same perspective that I am afraid I myself exercised on several occasions.

The International Centre for Olympic Studies was born in those Somerville Tower rooms at the top of the largely unnoticed stairs that led to them. When the Centre moved into its first substantial public space in the basement of Alumni Hall (Room 11) in 1993, the Somerville Tower became the office-space of Bob Vigars, noted Mustang cross-country coach. Alas, my then new surroundings in Alumni Hall, and the three ICOS precincts experienced since the Centre moved from Room 11 in Alumni Hall, never afforded such an opportunity to be an uninvited, silent, indeed an unbeknownst guest at the proceedings. I made sure that my colleague and office successor in the Somerville Tower, Bob Vigars, was properly informed of and initiated into the small circle who knew of “the secret passage-type spy-hole.”

Who knows for what reason this secret cupboard door was installed in the Great Hall in Somerville House, offering a clandestine view of where students used to write exams and where great functions and ceremonies were, and still are, held. It is reported that strange and ghostly sounds were occasionally heard emanating from the walls of the Great Hall.

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FIVE CANADIAN FILMS YOU SHOULD SEE BEFORE YOU DIE

BY JEFF RENAUD

In October 2006, the producers of Bon Cop, Bad Cop claimed that the film had become the highest-grossing Canadian film domestically, surpassing the $11.2 million earned by the 1981 teen comedy Porky's. As record-breaking movies, both could lay claim to the honorific of “classic Canadian films” but are they truly the best this country has ever offered to international audiences? Not likely, as critics and academics have argued for years the importance of such films versus more inspired efforts like Jiseux de Montréal, The Sweet Hereafter and Wavelength.

Tim Blackmore, a professor in Western’s Faculty of Information and Media Studies, specializes in popular culture, new media, war and technology, has his own thoughts on maple syrup-dipped movies and so he shared five films with Western Alumni Gazette that any true Canadian should check out if they want to fully embrace the cinematic landscape of the Great White North.

A gorgeous period piece about the closing of the Canadian west, the increasing corporatization of Canada, and a gentleman (and gentlewoman) thief. Bill Miner, played with a charming repose by Richard Farnsworth, leaves prison and enters the twentieth century, where everything, but especially people, animals and machines, are in collision. Jackie Burroughs turns in a terrific role as the eccentric free spirit with whom Miner connects.

HIGHWAY 61 (1991) dir. Bruce McDonald
Hilarious, beautifully written, another terrific entry from Bruce McDonald, getting a vast assist here from his actors, Don McKellar and Valerie Buhagiar. A whimsical trip for a would-be jazz musician and a woman all in wondrous states of change.

J.A. MARTIN, PHOTOGRAPHE (1977) dir. Jean Beaudin
Another astonishingly beautiful film that explores a travelling photographer’s life and world in 19th century Quebec as he goes on his annual tour in his photographic wagon. The history lesson goes down smoothly in the context of the returning-love-relationship between a man, “J.A.” and his wife, who determines, against all odds, to accompany him one year. A picture of a technology, a people, and a woman all in wondrous states of change.

LES ORDRES (1974) dir. Michel Brault
A painful and touching near-documentary, done in the style of Costa-Gavras’ Z, and Missing. A step by step recounting of what happened when Pierre Trudeau issued the famous “orders” of the title: the War Measure’s Act. The largely working-class French Canadians who are caught in the round-up and imprisoned without access to lawyers or trial is a reminder to us now of how Patriot Acts in popular culture, new media, war and technology, has his own thoughts on maple syrup-dipped movies and so he shared five films with Western Alumni Gazette that any true Canadian should check out if they want to fully embrace the cinematic landscape of the Great White North.

TENT CITY KEPT COSTS DOWN DURING DEPRESSION

CONTRIBUTED BY ALAN NOON

Western had begun Summer School classes while still renting space in the old Huron College on St. James Street. When the present campus was opened in 1924 the Summer School students were the first to occupy the new buildings. Many of them were teachers hoping to upgrade their qualifications and work towards a degree. By 1930 Canada was in the grip of the Great Depression and to help keep costs down the University supported the founding of “Tent City,” Students, with their families in some cases, set up tents and trailers near the bottom of the hill near the Power Plant. Washing and showers were available in the nearby J.W. Little Memorial Stadium and the University provided an electrical hook up to each site for a seasonal fee of $5. Arrangements were meade each summer through the camp supervisor to provide a community washing machine and iron and receive daily deliveries of ice, milk and bread.

The camps elected their own “Mayor and Aldermen” to ensure that the camp provided a pleasant environment for summer study. No dogs, pets or radios were allowed. Circa 1942 the ‘city’ was relocated further up the hill near the site of the present day Business School. At this time the University grounds were yet to be annexed by the City of London to the south, and were officially part of London Township. In 1947 the Township Council passed a new bylaw. It stated that persons other than tourists could not use lands within its jurisdiction for a trailer camp. With a great deal of regret the Board of Governors complied with this ruling and Tent City was discontinued.

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NEW RELEASES

CANADA’S FIRST WINE & FOOD MOBILE APP GOES GREEN
Which Canadian wines go best with “green food,” such as asparagus, peppers and peas? How about other fresh vegetables that we’ll enjoy this summer? Natalie MacLean, MBA’92, editor of Canada’s largest wine site www.nataliemaclean.com has just launched a new mobile application for iPhone, iPod Touch, Blackberry, Droid and other smartphones. Developed by Canada, this app builds on the success of her Drinks Matcher and includes all the pairings in the original app, plus thousands of wine reviews, recipes, articles, blog posts, glossary definitions, cellar journal and winery directory. You can access the new app at: www.nataliemaclean.com/mobileapp.

EATING BUCANEERS
Toronto’s rising star, Jeff White, BSc’96, shines alongside Leah Pinsent and Peter Keleghan in the hilarious new film Eating Bucaneers, which opened on October 16, 2009. For White, a relative newcomer to comedy, this role was an amazing opportunity to work intimately with a cast of passionate Canadian talent on a critically acclaimed film that can be described as The Office meets Lord of the Flies. In Eating Bucaneers, four self-absorbed advertising executives and one overbearing client crash their charter plane in the woods of northern Ontario. The survivors are left to battle nature and each other as they attempt to find their way back to civilization. White’s character, Doug, is a hotshot copywriter who thinks he’s king of the world — that is, until he comes face to face with a severe case of writer’s block. www.eatingbuccaneers.com.

AND NOW…HERE’S MAX
And Now... Here’s Max, the Leacock Award-winning memoir of CBC broadcasting legend Max Ferguson, BA’46. It has been re-issued with a new introduction by fellow broadcaster and alumnus Shelagh Rogers, and honorary degrees from several universities. www.sybertooth.ca

GREATNESS IN OUR TEENAGERS
Published in Canada and the United States by Paulist Press, Greatness In Our Teenagers by Peter Taas, BEd’79, is a 10-step formula for parents and educators, showing them how to re-direct the lives of their teens, creating in them a strong self image, a positive attitude and an opportunity to live meaningful and fulfilling lives. “With combined experience of 35 years in working with teens, we believe we have discovered keys to unlock the doors to better understand teenagers and offer them an avenue out of their troubles and feelings of hopelessness. We are published authors of books on teens and now we have written this easy to follow, 10-step book offering parents and educators a formula to help their teenagers find meaning in their lives.” www.pettertass.com/greatness-in-teenagers.php

THE NEXT STEP
Unlike most ballet stories which focus on issues arising from dancing and dramatic devices such as dancer rivalries and who will get the lead, The Next Step by Beth Pollock, BA’85, MBA’89, addresses the issues a young girl must face after the death of her mother. Ballet is a familiar setting to many young girls, resulting in a book that may make kids more comfortable when reading about the subject of death. “I didn’t plan to centre the story around ballet, but as the story developed it became an important part of my central character’s journey. Ballet became the main backdrop of the story and leads to the next step in this young girl’s healing process,” says Pollock. www.bethpollock.ca

THE DAY THE FALLS STOOD STILL
Cathy Marie Buchanan, BSc’86, MBA’88, recently had her debut novel, The Day The Falls Stood Still, published. Steeped in the intriguing history of Niagara Falls, this is an epic love story as rich, spellbinding and majestic as the falls themselves. It’s 1915. The dawn of the hydroelectric power era in Niagara Falls, Seventeen-year-old Bess Heath has led a sheltered existence as the youngest daughter of the director of the Niagara Power Company. After graduation day at her boarding school, she is impatient to return to her picturesque family home near the falls. But when she arrives, nothing is as she left it. www.harpercollins.ca

AUTUMN
Award-winning Ottawa author, Emily-Jane Hills Orford, BA’78, is releasing her recent novel, Autumn, this week in the third book in The Four Seasons series. Autumn is a story about Martha Kapakatoak, a young Inuit girl with a passion for music. She has a talent and an instrument that was passed down to her by her ancestors. She is a self-taught pianist because in Iqaluit, the capital city of Canada’s newest territory, Nunavut, there are no piano teachers. In fact, her piano is the only real acoustic piano in the entire community and it is sadly in need of repair and a good tuning. www.3sympatco.ca/mystmo

THE BANDIDO MASSACRE
As gripping as any crime novel, The Bandido Massacre by Peter Edwards, BA’81, MMa’82, takes us inside a crumbling brotherhood bent on betrayal and self-obliteration. On the morning of April 8, 2006, residents of the hamlet of Shedden, Ontario, woke up to the news that the bloodied bodies of eight bikers from the Bandidos gang had been found dead on a local farm. The massacre made headlines around the world, and the shocking news brought a grim light to an otherwise quiet corner of the province. Six Bandidos would be convicted of the first-degree murders of their biker brothers. This is the story of how the Bandidos self-destructed over one dark night. www.tebanidomassacre.com

SURGICAL HEIGHTS
Based on real surgical cases, the novel Surgical Heights by Paul Hardy, M'D’86, follows Dr. Jim Smythe through the most tumultuous six months of his career thus far. At 44, the general surgeon is at the top of his game. Yet with doubts about his health, he finds himself under escalating pressure from the Medical Licensing Authority and his own hospital administration over a series of complaints. The situation reaches breaking point in the emergency room, leading to a showdown where everything is on the line. Surgical Heights offers a fascinating inside view into the stress, risks and humour in the life of a busy surgeon. www.surgicalheights.com

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The spring season is renowned as a time for renewal and growth. And this spring is no different for Alumni Western. The launch of the electronic version of the Western Alumni Gazette, our signature publication, is a significant growth step, both to help preserve the environment and to keep pace with the electronic age and alumni preferences.

This past month, as I pondered through the many treasures that my late mother had tucked away, I found amongst them a program from a memorable event that Mom had kept all these years. There were names on the program that were familiar, reminders of those friends and colleagues over the years.

I recognized from her stories and recollections that the program was obviously a keepsake from this special event on campus enjoyed a special Founder’s Day menu and celebration on March 3 as March 7 fell on a Sunday. The menu included “items of yore” such as Yorkshire pudding, fried bread with bison chili, heirloom carrots, corn bread and sticky toffee pudding. The staff wore Founder’s Day shirts and served cake sporting the Founder’s Day image on it.

Two things struck me about this surprise find – the significance of Western alumni events, and the evolution of the form of our mementos over the years;

have engraved programs on fine bond paper for most events, the memories live on just the same, renewable each time we reconnect with other Western alumni. I am certain that this program renewed many stories and memories for my mother, just as my ragged rugby shirt from Delaware Hall (circa 1979) does for me each time I pull it out of the cedar chest. It’s the people and the experiences behind these treasures that continually renew our bonds and remind us of our lifelong membership in the Western community.

So whether your memories are tucked away in a treasure box, downloaded to a computer file, or simply recollections, they remain “renewable resources” throughout our lives. I would challenge you to take stock of your own treasures, be they virtual or physical. Renew your ties to Western, cultivate your affiliation to this great institution that we are all proud to call ‘home’.

To learn more about Alumni Western, visit us at www.alumni.uwo.ca
The challenge and desire to win has kept Don Mcleish, BA’70 (Huron), rowing from his early teens after doctors had dire predictions about his future health.

“I had polio in 1949 in Niagara Falls at age eight, spent nine months in the hospital and was told I would never walk again. It took 17 years of arduous work and determination to overcome the initial disease. I was assessed in 1984 at the West Park Clinic, Toronto dealing in post polio patients and was told that my choice of rowing as the sport to excel in was a wise one because of the physiological aspects,” says Mcleish. Not only was it wise, it was ideal for the Mississauga rower who has “owned the podium” in his 55 years in the sport.

“I was told I would never walk again. It took 17 years from polio. I was assessed in post polio patients and was told that my choice of rowing as the sport to excel in was a wise one because of the physiological aspects of the sport,” says Mcleish. Not only was it wise, it was ideal for the Mississauga rower who has “owned the podium” in his 55 years in the sport.

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“I’m a naturally feisty competitor who proved my doctors wrong decades ago, it turns out that rowing might be in the genes, too. I competed in Scotland, F.I.S A Veteran Rowing Championships, in 1988 winning the 4+, 4-, 8+, 21km, 10km, despite on crew makeup and distance, I choose 4+, 4-, 8+, 21km, 10km. I choose cycling as my cross-training sport averaging 4,000 kilometres each summer.”

“I haven’t been told by the medical professionals to quit,” he says. “This is my life. I’ll quit when I die in a boat, I guess.”

With notes from the Mississauga News -

Alumni Events

Branches: Canada

Vancouver, BC
Wine Tasting and Food Pairing June 4, 2010

Victoria, BC
Alumni Reception at The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria June 4, 2010

All-Canadian University Golf Tournament June 5, 2010

Winning, AB
Winnipeg, Manitoba Homecoming 2010 July 29, 2010

Branches: International

Chicago, IL
Six Degrees Dinner with 10 Strangers April 15, 2010

Hamilton, Bermuda
Alumni Reception May 20, 2010

Hong Kong, China
Gold Coast at Mission Hills April 24, 2010

Watershays Annual Dinner May 15, 2010

Western Convocation May 16, 2010

Dragon Boat Races at Stanley Beach June 16, 2010

Canada-Off Beef & Beer Dinner June 29, 2010

Career Day August 15, 2010

Off to Western August 15, 2010

London, UK
UK Alumni’s Reception at Canada House June 29, 2010

Nassau, Bahamas
Alumni Meet and Mingle April 22, 2010

New York, NY
New York and Area Pub Night April 20, 2010

Six Degrees Golf Schmooze June 16, 2010

Palo Alto, CA
Alumni Reception September 16, 2010

Port of Spain, Trinidad
Hiking Grandeur Over Naura May 7, 2010

San Francisco, CA
Alumni Reception April 15, 2010

Shanghai, China
Canad. Connection Inter-University Alumni Reception July 1, 2010

Washington, D.C.
Canadian Alumni Celebration at the Embassy April 13, 2010

All Canadian Alumni Dinner April 24, 2010

Future Homecoming Dates

2010: September 30 - October 3

2011: September 29 – October 2

2012: September 27 - 30
Alumni Gazette 42

1940s
John McCutcheon, B.A.48 and Mary McCutcheon, B.A.49, the dean of their class celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept 17, 2009 in Huntsville, Ontario. The occasion was celebrated with friends and family, including daughters Sue McCutcheon B.S.75, and Jan McCutcheon B.S.75, M.B.A.79 and granddaughter Brena Carnac, B.A.07.

Douglas Allen Morrison, B.Ha.B.66, has been appointed to the position of assistant umpire in the Canadian Hockey League (CHL). Morrison is a native of the northern Ontario town of Moosonee. He began his career in hockey in the Northern Ontario Junior B league before moving up to the Ontario Junior A league where he played for the Moosonee Indians for three seasons. Morrison has also played in the Canadian Amateur Hockey League (CAHL) as a member of the Moosonee Indians and the Moosonee Flyers. He has been a member of the Canadian national junior hockey team and has represented Canada at the World Junior Championship. Morrison is a graduate of the University of Toronto, where he received his Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1966. He has been a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Association since 1968 and has served as a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Board since 1975. He is currently the chair of the University of Toronto Alumni Board and has been a member of the Alumni Board for over 20 years. He has also served as a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Board of Governors since 1990. Morrison is a recipient of the 2009 University of Toronto Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service.

1960s
Donald Franklin Gerson, B.Sc.'68, has been appointed to the position of vice-president of the University of California, Los Angeles. Gerson is a native of the United States and has been a member of the University of California Alumni Association since 1970. He is currently a member of the University of California Alumni Board of Governors and has been a member of the Alumni Board for over 10 years. Gerson is a recipient of the 2009 University of California Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service.

Donald William Anderson, B.A.70, was recently appointed to the position of president and chief executive officer of the University of Toronto Alumni Association. Anderson is a native of the United States and has been a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Association since 1970. He is currently a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Board of Governors and has been a member of the Alumni Board for over 10 years. Anderson is a recipient of the 2009 University of Toronto Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service.

1970s
Mary Anne Layton, LL.B.79, has been appointed to the position of vice-president of the University of Toronto Alumni Association. Layton is a native of Canada and has been a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Association since 1970. She is currently a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Board of Governors and has been a member of the Alumni Board for over 10 years. Layton is a recipient of the 2009 University of Toronto Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service.

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Courtney Marie (Dunson) Hirata, BA’79 (Political Science), and Aaron Hirata are proud to announce their marriage on September 1, 2010 in St. Catharines, Ont. They currently reside in Winnipeg, Man.

Trevor R. Walker, BA’99, Dip’02 (PhD), was appointed as interim President for Houston Lake Inc., an advanced exploration company seeking gold, platinum group and rare metal deposits in Ontario.

2000s

Ian Leang, DiplPubAd’00, was appointed as the new Fire Chief of Central York Fire Department.

Gazetteer

In Memoriam

Margaret (nee Gibson) Ba’94, Splash’92 (English), survived by her brother-in-law Robert (Margaret) and sister-in-law Marla (Stuart) and several aunts and nephews in the United Kingdom. Bill was born in Sudbury on July 11, 1929, the son of the late Walter Henry and Mary Margaret (Williams) eBook. He practiced for fifty years. He was a charter member of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He was a member of the Bar Association of Ontario and was appointed as an Elmer Fierce for 46 years. Bill also served on the St. Thomas City Council for four years.

Dr. Ron Bau, BA’03, MD’07, DK’08, was an icon, and his passing leaves a chasm void in the community, and sorrow in many hearts. A visionary, philosopher, intellectual leader, tireless community volunteer, mentor, consummate corporate citizen, devoted husband and father; Don was at the core—a physician and healer. Even in the early days of his career, Don gave his time to volunteer as a director on or chair of many boards, including Sunnybrook Hospital Foundation, Children’s Hospital Foundation and Cancer Care Ontario. Don was extremely proud of his association with the organizations and institutions he helped and supported—the Ronald McDonald House for children in need of financial assistance, MusiFest (formerly Festival Vancouver) to expand its programs throughout the province, and the USC and UWO of Western Ontario for expansion of their medical training. Don was passionate about education, which he viewed as fundamental. Some of his most memorable times were those spent mentoring medical students. For more information visit www.vancouversun.com/life/remembered+philanthropic+legacy/2194567/story.html

James Alexander, BA’94 (English), peacefully passed away at the SouthEast Hospital on January 8, 2010, at the age of 46 years. Beloved husband of 46 years of Richard (Dick) McInnes, Malla’87, M.A.A’05, of South Huron; father of Laura (Jay), christa, jason (Carrie), and Andrew, caring aunt of Laura (Jay), christa, jason (Carrie), and Andrew. Karen and Rod used Remembrance by their aunt, Charlotte, and her close friend. After a long career as a recognized 100lbs. in Paris, France. He will be missing his 65th degree this year in Paris and looking for an operation position in airline or airport management.

Marilynn prefontaine, BA’06, Bed’09, is finishing her MBA degree this year in Paris and looking for an opportunity to move to a business school in Paris, France. He will be finishing his MBA degree this year in Paris and looking for an operation position in airline or airport management.

Carl Calandra, BHA’95, LLB’98, MBA’, has recently joined Hill+Thompson as an associate in the London, Ont. Law Group in Toronto. His practice focuses on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, securities regulatory matters and corporate and commercial law.

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MCCUTCHEON (Jeanne’s mother) and loving mother of Richard McCutcheon (Jennifer Jean-Marie) of Barrie and Robert McCutcheon (Suzanne Motluk) of Sault Ste. Marie. Only daughter of Walter Shenker and Muriel (formerly of London) and loving mother of Richard McCutcheon (Jennifer Jean-Marie) of Barrie and Robert McCutcheon (Suzanne Motluk) of Sault Ste. Marie. Remembered+philanthropic+legacy/2194567/story.html

Trevor R. Walker, BA’99, Dip’02 (PhD), was appointed as interim President for Houston Lake Inc., an advanced exploration company seeking gold, platinum group and rare metal deposits in Ontario.

Adam Ruby, BA’98, is currently attending SSEC Business School in Paris, France. He will be finishing his MBA degree this year in Paris and looking for an operation position in airline or airport management.
OLYMPIC EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES CAN BREAK GLASS CEILINGS

As luck and my awesome ability to push deadlines to the limit would have it, I wrote this column at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver during the short-track speed skating finals of the Winter Olympics. (Sixteen bucks for a Diet Coke and two slices of pizza, I’ll have you know.)

The Olympics were amazing. They really were. The athletes were amazing. They really were.

But in a democracy, spreading opportunity even if you’re no longer there.

In so many fields, you learn at university that the only way to excel is to be excellent.

But high stakes and limitless possibility are also part of the life of academic researchers, who compete with peers around the world for grants and for space in the top journals. You learn early in physics or chemistry that the whole history of knowledge is the ground you have to perform on, and the most that’s ever been known is only a prelude to your own contribution, if you have one to offer. Business students know they won’t get special favours for being somebody’s hometown favourite when they make their move in a competitive business environment.

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In even poli-sci, my own field, we soon found ourselves imagining careers at the highest level of public service (or, in my own case, a career making fun of the highest levels of public service). Most of us were from small towns around southern Ontario. Taking on the world wasn’t a native-born or homegrown instinct. We picked it up, from our professors, our surroundings, and one another while at Western.

So many fields, you learn at university that the only way to excel is to be excellent. That sort of talk probably strikes some people as elitist. But to me it’s always been tremendously democratic and egalitarian, because your social background and your connections don’t matter in these tests as much as your wit and your will. No better tool for shattering glass ceilings than a good university education has yet been devised.

That’s worth keeping in mind as governments head into a period of austerity to help dig out of the deficit spending that returned during the 2009 recession. There’ll be pressure on anything governments do, except for two sacred cows. Governments will be terrified of cutting health care and they’ll be even more terrified of raising taxes. Everything else, including university funding, will be considered for cuts.

And when university funding comes up, it won’t be hard to find voices saying this is fancy-pants stuff that only a few eggheads care about. Better to spend on the essentials and cut this frippery.

But in a democracy, spreading opportunity regardless of background is essential. When somebody says we can’t afford our universities, what they’re saying is that there’s a ceiling over the head of the next door neighbour’s kid — that that kid, and every other kid in town can get only so far in life and no further — and that they’re fine with that. That’s the truly elitist talk, because it ensures that the only way to get ahead is to be born ahead.

Follow Paul Wells online at www.macleans.ca/links/paulwells.

* Based on a 39-year-old female non-smoker.
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