

Buying? Renewing? Refinancing?



CONTENTS





- **'EVERY DAY IS SATURDAY'** Cover story: At the plate with Blue Jays president & CEO Paul Beeston, BA'67, LLD'94
- A DIPLOMAT FINDS HER CALLING Sheila Siwela, BA'79, Zambia's ambassador to the United States
- THE RIVER RUNS DEEP Valiya Hamza, PhD'73, discovers underground river in Brazil
- THE WILL TO WIN Silken Laumann, BA'89, reflects on her bronze medal win at the '92 Olympics
- **NEVER SAY NEVER** Tim Hudak, BA'90, and his path to Queen's Park
- **ROCK STAR** Richard Léveillé, PhD'01, and NASA's Mars
- THE CIRQUE LIFE Craig Cohon, BA'85, brings Cirque du Soleil

DEPARTMENTS

- What's in a name?
- **116** CAMPUS NEWS IBM contributes \$65 million
- **NR** CAMPUS QUOTES Dr. Henry Barnett, DSc'01, James Bartleman, BA'63, LLD'02
- 28 MEMORIES Canada's most beautiful campus

- 29 BEST KEPT SECRET A medical master: Dr. Leonard Rowntree, MD'1905, DSc'1916
- **34** CONSUMER GUIDE Latest golf trends
- 36 NEW RELEASES Scott Goodson, BA'85, on movement marketing
- 40 GAZETTEER Alumni notes & announcements

alumnigazette.ca

- BASEBALL LIGHTNING ROUND Q&A WITH BLUE JAYS PRESIDENT & CEO PAUL BEESTON, BA'67, LLD'94
- SUMMER CAMP LESSONS INTERVIEW WITH JAY GILBERT, HBA'08, MBA'11, AUTHOR OF THE CABIN PATH: LEADERSHIP LESSONS LEARNED AT CAMP
- DORIS INC., A BUSINESS APPROACH TO CARING FOR YOUR ELDERLY PARENTS - EXCERPT BY SHIRLEY ROBERTS, HBA'74
- CANNES ACCEPTS SHORT FILM BY ALUMNUS INTERVIEW WITH JOHN VIRTUE, BA'10



National Group Mortgage Program is a company of registered Mortgage Agents licensed with TMG The Mortgage Group Ontario Inc. FSCO Registration No. 10315

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK WITH MARCIA STEYAERT, BA'96

WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

I blame Ms. Smythe, a teacher at my elementary school, for my obsession.

In Grade 7, she gave me a stack of *Glamour* and *Mademoiselle* magazines she was through reading. "I thought you'd enjoy these," she said matter-of-factly. As a child, I was surrounded by newspapers and books, but magazines were a new and welcome discovery.

In the months that followed, my best friend and I spent recesses hatching plans to jet off to New York where we would live in a fabulous apartment and work in the fashion industry. Keep in mind, this is the mid-1980s and *Sex and the City* was unheard of. Instead, the magazines' stories fuelled our dreams, and we devoured them.

Over the years, my dreams changed, but not my passion.

I may not be living in the Big Apple à la Carrie Bradshaw, but my love of magazines is stronger than ever.

Who knew one day I'd get to edit one? In March, Facebook Canada's managing director Jordan Banks, BA'90, addressed Western's graduating class at 'Last Lecture,' an annual event hosted by the Alumni Association. He spoke of the best careers being born out of circumstance and coincidence, the importance of finding a career that keeps you curious and surrounding yourself with good people.

I have to agree on all counts.

My stint as interim editor of this publication certainly was serendipitous, happening because

the editor took a secondment. And I am constantly curious about people's life stories, how they became who they are, what influences them, their choices, their regrets, their 'a ha moments'. And everywhere I look at Western, I'm inspired and supported by the people around me – colleagues, students, faculty, staff and our alumni.

In this issue, you'll meet alumni who've each taken a variety of paths to where they are today.

He grew up loving baseball, but Paul Beeston, BA'67, LLD'94, never imagined he'd run a major league team one day, let alone the league itself. We feature two engineering grads who work outside the box - Jeff Burney, BESc'93, as a cartoonist, and Ashlee Firsten, BESc'06, as a fragrance entrepreneur. Valiya Hamza, PhD'73, tells us of the 6,000 km underground river he discovered, when he wasn't even looking.

Their stories, and Banks' lecture, remind us that while it's OK to have a plan, don't overlook unexpected opportunity.

After all, opportunity doesn't mind moving on to the next door, if you don't answer yours.

Jordan Banks, BA'90, is profiled in Western's 2012 Young Alumni magazine, mailed to the graduating class each year, and available online at alumnigazette.ca in June. Listen to his 'Last Lecture' on Western's YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/westernuniversity.

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 visit www.advser.uwo.ca/privacystatement.htm or contact Advancement Services: phone 519-661-4176 or 1-800-420-7519 (Canada & U.S.), fax 519-661-4182 or e-mail advser@uwo.ca.

AlumniGazette

Spring 2012 (ISSN # 1189-6272)

Editor: Marcia (Daniel) Steyaert, BA'96 (King's)

Executive Editor: Jason Winders, MES'10

Director, Alumni & Development Communications:Diana Cunningham

Publisher: Helen Connell, MBA'96

Art Director: Terry Rice, BFA'98, MA'00

Designer: Rob Potter

Staff, Faculty & Volunteer Contributors: Steve Anderson,
Jess Bechard, Ashley Conyngham, Jennifer Davila, Susanna Eayrs,
Keri Ferguson, Mathew Hoy, Jo Jennings, Douglas Keddy, Kathryn
Kinahan, Keith Marnoch, Scott May, Paul Mayne, Sonia Preszcator,
Jeff Renaud, David Scott, Gulnara Shafikova, Allison Stevenson,
Adela Talbot, Heather Travis, Janis Wallace, Kathy Wallis,
Jen Wilson, Angie Wiseman, Scott Woods

Photography/Art: Matt Barnes, Canadian Olympic Committee, Karmen Dowling, Jessica Eckert, Grace Image Photography, Beth Hayhurst Photography, M.J. Idzerda, Lawrence Jackson (official White House photo), Anne-Marie Laprise, David Manning (cover), Alex Masters, Paul Mayne, Chris Omelon, Adela Talbot, BA'08, MA'11, Richard Sibbald, Heather Travis, Western Archives, Charlie Williamson, Nation Wong

Advertising Inquiries: Denise Jones, 519-661-2111, ext. 85460; denise@uwo.ca

Editorial Advisory Board: Robert Collins, BA'77, Helen Connell, MBA'96, Diana Cunningham, Susanna Eayrs, Jim Etherington, BA'61, Susana Gajic-Bruyea, Jo Jennings, BA'04, Chris Makuch, BA'93 (King's), Jennifer Parraga, BA'93, Terry Rice, BFA'98, MA'00, Trista Walker, Janis Wallace, BMus'75, BEd'76, Jason Winders, MES'10

Guest Contributors: George Clarke, BA'66, David Dauphinee, Sheldon Gordon, Carol Kehoe, BA'82, MA'84, BEd'11, Silken Laumann, BA'89, Chris Makuch, BA'93, David McPherson, BA'96, MA'98, Alan Noon, Bradley Rawling, Shirley Roberts, HBA'74, Tom Spears, Paul Wells, BA'89, Angie Wiseman

The Alumni Gazette is published three times annually by the Department of Communications & Public Affairs in partnership with Alumni Western and the Department of Alumni Relations

For publication dates or to make submissions, contact the editor at 519-661-2111 ext. 87482, wag.editor@uwo.ca or by mail at Western University, Suite 360, Westminster Hall, London, Ontario, N6A 3K7. Forward change of address information to adserv@uwo.ca or call (local) 519-661-4176 or (toll-free) 1-800-420-7519.

Printed in Canada.

Publication Agreement #40069342 Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Western University, Suite 360, Westminster Hall, London, ON N6A 3K7

Read the Gazette online at: alumnigazette.ca



FRIENDSHIPS FORGED, MEMORIES MADE

(Re: Editor's Notebook, Winter 2012)
I read your Editor's Notebook column in the
Gazette with a broad smile.

I was one of those 'big-city kids' who came to King's College on the same move-in day as you in 1992, and I wore the exact same T-shirt. I felt as though I didn't belong there either, but I've made friends from King's and Western that I cherish today. In fact, I'm seeing my former King's roommate and a few other 'new res' friends this weekend. I came back home and attended the University of Toronto for graduate school but I didn't have nearly the same warm, homey experience at U of T that I did at Western, and whenever the Varsity Blues play Western at football or swimming or track and field and the teams are meeting up in Toronto, I flash the 'W' sign with my fingers to the visitors wearing purple.

I think one of us may still have our Purple Spur shirt somewhere!

Thanks for the trip down memory lane.

AMY HERSKOWITZ, BA'96 (KING'S)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

(Re: Editor's Notebook, Winter 2012)
Your "Editor's Notebook" brought back
memories. In 1960, I pulled up with my dad
in front of the then-Christ the King College
on Epworth Avenue, and my own college
education began. Many of us went through the
same experiences you describe.

But something from the cover story is not clear to me. Will the official name of the university remain (I hope) 'The University of Western Ontario?' That's the name it will always be for many of us.

My wife and I just had a wonderful visit here from my one-time professor, Leslie (Classics)

WESTERN

EST. 27 1878

and his wife Barbara (History)

Murison, and they brought me
three t-shirts with 'The University
of Western Ontario' on the
front. I hope they're not

already out of date!
Les taught me Classics
in the mid-60s, and
I taught with him in

that department from 1969 until 1976. I then became assistant director of Summer School and Extension and then emigrated to the United States in 1977 where I'm now retired from The California State University (Fullerton campus).

I hope you'll send me the answer I'm hoping for. Much of my heart and memory remains with Western and my days there, and I remember those years fondly!

MARTIN CARBONE, BA'64, MA'65 MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

Editor's note: Keep wearing your T-shirts Martin. Western's official name remains The University of Western Ontario, and this will continue to appear on all diplomas and legal documents. However, we will be calling ourselves "Western" or alternatively "Western University" when the context requires in marketing and media relations materials and websites. Details, including FAQs, can be found at communications.uwo.ca/brandnew/index.html

UNHAPPY WITH NEW BRAND

(Re: Logo's most important element is you, Winter 2012)

I am shocked at the revision of UWO's name. Are the initiators of this unfortunate move not aware that UWO is not a bearer of a 'brand'? It is not a commodity or a steer. It is also not a business even though it appears to be treated and run like one. It is a university with a tradition and its name is part of that tradition.

Are the revisionists not aware that they will destroy a vast number of its alumni's loyalty to UWO by obliterating a name and a symbol that they remember? Good grief, throw the public relations corporate manipulators out of the temple.

NORMAN ROSENBLOOD, BA'56 CO-DIRECTOR, HAMILTON CENTRE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

PRAISE FOR AYITTEY

(Re: Blueprint for Revolution, Winter 2012)
I very much enjoyed the above-noted article.
George Ayittey is a very smart man indeed.

For years, I have held the belief that it is up to Africans to affect permanent positive change in their lives and it must start with the ousting of oppressive and inadequate leaders. Monies and supplies sent to African countries by the West is a Band-Aid approach at best and, in most instances, are never received by the people who really need help. Instead, they are diverted to greedy and corrupt politicians, military, police and armed thugs for their personal profit.

Continued success to Mr. Ayittey with hope the rest of the world will take serious note of what he has to say on the matter.

Toni Wayne, BSW'76

SMIBERT TOUCHED MANY LIVES

(Re: Remembering, Winter 2012)
I was pleased to see the essay about Marie
Smibert. Not only was I a recipient of her
letters, she was also a distant cousin. We shared
a love of family history and with her help, my
initial forays into the field were made easier.

Thanks for recognizing such a great character.

ALAN CAMPBELL, BA'74

(SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY)

(Re: Remembering, Winter 2012)

I just wanted to commend you on including a very lovely article on such an extraordinary individual in the winter 2012 issue of the Alumni Gazette. Marie Smibert touched the lives of many and it was a delightful way to see her honoured. A very well written article for a great woman!

CASSANDRA JOHNSON, BA'07 (KING'S), BED'09

Correction

(Re: "Berkeley of the North", Winter 2012) The first photo shows Charles Smedmor (not Charles Smedman) with Dick Lyke.

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 Western University.

Alumni Gazette

PROF DEVELOPS SUN-TRACKER FOR SOLAR COLLECTORS

As solar farms surface across the countryside at an exponential rate, the push for harvesting greener energy has driven a Western researcher to figure out a way to maximize daylight hours.

Due to the sun's rotation throughout the day, current solar cells, housed in fixed solar panels, are not in a position to harness the greatest amount of sunlight. As a solution, Kamran Siddiqui, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, along with graduate student Hassan Hassan, has developed a smart solar tracker and a load compensator for solar collectors. These technologies can be used in a variety of solar energy applications, such as photovoltaic (PV) panels, parabolic dishes, parabolic troughs and solar water heaters.

To collect the most amount of sunlight, the solar energy systems must be able to track the sun's movement throughout the day. When Siddiqui began researching what was already available on the market, he found most had a microprocessor, which uses mathematical equations utilizing longitude and latitude coordinates of the site to calculate the sun's path at any given time of the day.

Siddiqui developed a simple, smart, cost-effective system that doesn't rely on a computer and pre-defined coordinates of longitude and latitude to improve the accuracy of solar tracking systems.

"It basically tracks the sun with sensors and we developed our own control board with a logic circuit, which precisely locates the sun. As soon as it finds the sun, it stays there," he says. "When the sun position changes in reference to the ground, it moves, and as soon as it finds the sun, it stops there. It is continuously tracking the sun."

Siddiqui is currently working with WORLDiscoveries to bring these new technologies to the marketplace.

CASSELS BROCK DIGS DEEP FOR WESTERN LAW

Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP has staked a significant claim in mining law education at Western Law.

The firm's gift of \$750,000 will support a unique mining law program and initiatives to prepare students for the mining law and finance sector.

"Our firm is excited about playing a role in this unique program in Canada," says Paul Stein, LLB'81, co-chair of the mining group at Cassels Brock, one of Canada's leading resourcefocused business law firms.

Canada dominates international mining finance with almost 60 per cent of the world's public mining companies listed on a TMX Group exchange, and mining is an integral part of Canada's economy, comprising more than \$40 billion of the national GDP.

"We're grateful to Cassels Brock for its leadership and its generous investment in Western Law," says lain Scott, Western Law dean. "We're the first law school in Canada to focus on mining law and finance. That emphasis, along with our close collaboration with our colleagues in Geology, will create meaningful opportunities for our students to participate in the mining sector."

NEW MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS

Thanks to the generosity of alumnus Walter M. Lobb, Western's Faculty of Education has developed a new mental health program and scholarship fund to address the needs of teachers who deal with students' mental health issues every day: The Walter M. Lobb Program for Mental Health for Educators and the Walter M. Lobb Ontario Graduate Scholarship award.

Lobb, BA'76, BEd'78, MEd'93, an elementary school teacher in the Chatham area, left a bequest of \$430,000 to the Faculty. Funds will be used to develop research, materials and resources to help educators

identify and meet the needs of students with mental health disorders. Funds will also assist educators with the personal challenges and stress of dealing with the demands of the modern classroom.

"Teachers are on the front lines," says
Western professor Alan Leschied, one of
the faculty members coordinating the Lobb
program. "They are very often the most
trusted if not the only person in whom a child
in need might confide. As there is an enormous
gap in resources and expertise, our teachers
need our help to deal with this growing and
troubling issue." The gift will also provide
support to teachers in dealing with their own
mental well-being.

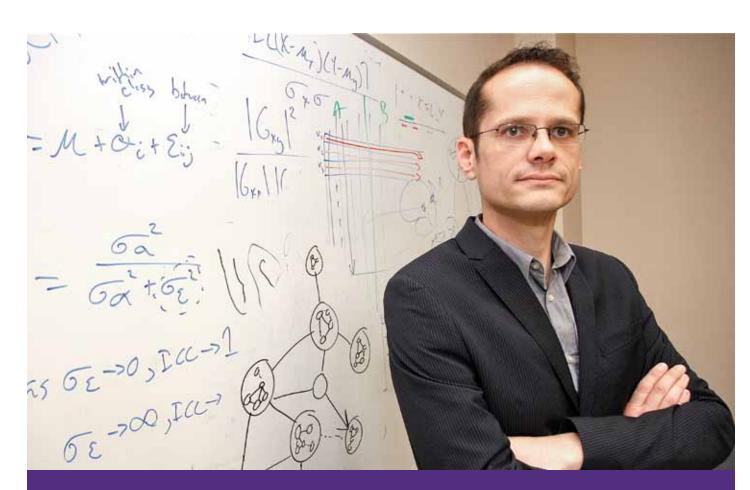
Recent surveys indicate as many as 20 per cent of children aged 4 to 17 have clinically important disorders at any given time. This translates to more than 800,000 Canadian children who experience mental health disorders that cause significant distress and impairment at home, school, and in the community.

The gift has also created the Walter M. Lobb Ontario Graduate Scholarship, which will be awarded to a graduate student conducting research in the Faculty of Education, focused on children's mental health.



WELDON MARKS 40 YEARS

This summer, D. B. Weldon Library celebrates its 40th anniversary and Western Libraries staff is looking for your memories of the library to incorporate into the celebration. Share your stories at lib.uwo.ca/weldon40



Western computer science professor and alumnus Mark Daley, MSc'12, believes the software from IBM Canada will help him wade through the mountains of data he deals with at Western's Brain and Mind Institute at a much quicker pace.

IBM CONTRIBUTES \$65 MILLION TO WESTERN

On April 18, IBM Canada announced a landmark \$65 million gift-in-kind of computers and software to Western, which will enhance the collaborative efforts already underway between the two partners, as part of a recently announced \$210-million research and development innovation network.

Western, IBM, the Governments of Canada and Ontario and the University of Toronto announced on April 10 the IBM Canada Research and Development Centre, an Ontario-based high performance and cloud computing network charged with storing and exploring the limitless amount of "big data" that is generated 24 hours a day from everything from functional MRI scans and watershed monitors to seismic readings and wind patterns. IBM estimates 2.5 quintillion bytes of data is created every day.

IBM's gift to Western provides researchers and scientists with the leading-edge research tools, in the form of analytics software, necessary to fully utilize and accelerate the processing capabilities of the revolutionary hardware to drive the research cloud platform the university will also receive as one of the primary nodes for the newly formed Southern Ontario Smart Computing and Innovation Platform.

IBM business analytics software will help Western researchers and scientists extract relevant data, analyze it and create pertinent reports through a web-based, service-oriented architecture while the IBM DB2 database software will offer the university a virtual computer lab for multiple workloads on distributed systems, producing unparalleled

efficiencies for users and storage.

"The curse of science now is that for years it has been data starved, and all of a sudden we have a delusion of data that we don't even know what to do with," says Western alumnus and computer science professor Mark Daley, MSc'12.

"The tools IBM is providing us with are exactly what we need to be able to take these colossal data sets and make sense of them in an automated way," says Daley, adding researchers from disciplines across campus can benefit from big data analytics. "These are the foundational tools we need to bring these data sets down to something we can analyze."

Learn more at communications.uwo.ca/ media/ibmcloud

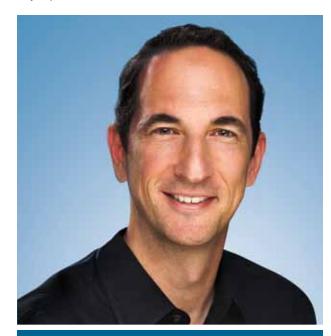
Alumni Gazette



"It was 1964 when I was sitting here and the idea came into my head that if we were going to make people

with intellectual disabilities fitter, stronger and healthier, sport was the route to go."

Frank Hayden, BA'55, LLD'11, at an event on April 4 commemorating his time at Western, when he conceived the concept of the Special Olympics.



"Careers are not linear... the best careers are based on serendipity and coincidence and circumstance."

Jordan Banks, BA'90, Facebook Canada's managing director, at 'Last Lecture' for the class of 2012, March 29.



My parents were behind me (while I testified), and I figured if I can live up to their standards then I wasn't really worried about living up to the Senate's standards."

Anita Hill, at a talk presented by Western's Canada-U.S. Institute, the Centre for American Studies, and the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research, March 13. In 1991, Hill testified that U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas had sexually harassed her.



"Technology should free you, not chain you."

Rahaf Harfoush, HBA 'o6, social media strategist and member of U.S. President Barack Obama's 2009 presidential campaign, at the Ivey Idea Forum, Feb. 27.



We never had treatment for stroke before, and now we do. We can treat stroke, we can reduce the amount of disability, we can send some people back like they never had anything happen to them."

Dr. Henry Barnett, DSc'01, co-founder of Western's Robarts Research Institute, speaking at the April 4th launch of *Stroke Prevention*, *Treatment and Rehabilitation*, a book he cowrote with Dr. David Spence, BA'65, MD'70.



"I've learned there are two kinds of secrets – those we hide from others and those we hide from ourselves."

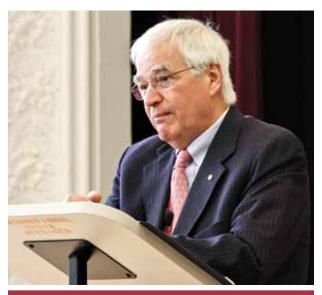
Frank Warren, founder and curator of the PostSecret Project, a collection of

more than 500,000 postcards mailed anonymously from around the world, speaking at Alumni Hall, March 8.



"Unless you are working for a homicidal maniac or you are on the verge of a nervous breakdown, you say yes!"

Kids in the Hall and Saturday Night Live alumnus Mark McKinney on taking chances early in your career, at a talk with Arts & Humanities students, April 3.



Residential schools were an example of social engineering to turn brown-skinned people into white-skinned people. They were a cross between orphanages and prisons. Thousands died and that wasn't the worst of it."

Former Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman, BA'63, LLD'02, delivering a lecture on "Canada's Forgotten Native Children," March 27.



on Western's campus. He is a pioneer of the game in Canada, and a

The son of a school teacher, who grew up "without a question

of going to university," followed his sister and a love for the region

(especially Lake Huron) to Western. "Western seemed like a natural

major player in its direction for almost four decades.

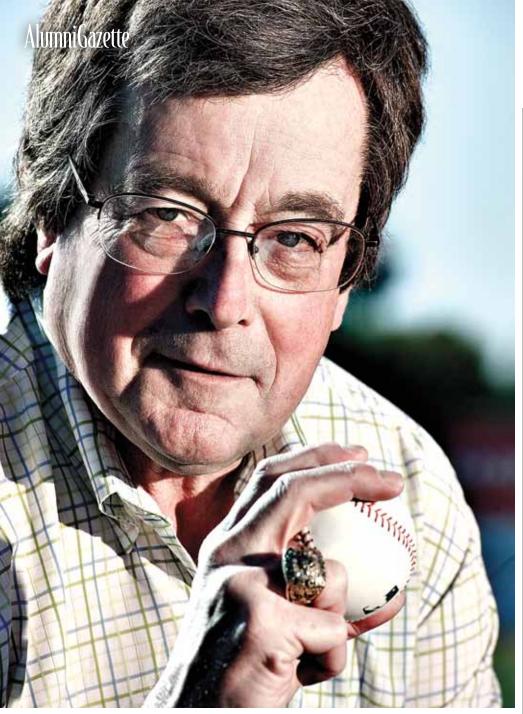
Fame (2002), Blue Jays Level of Excellence (2008).

with his dad.

But despite the accolades and his front-row seat for some of

baseball's most interesting times, Beeston maintains the same

passion for the game as that boy who grew up going to games



"That's the funny thing about baseball. Your team is your team. You can move in any other sport and you'll adopt the team from the city you moved to. But you never lose that first team you went for in baseball," says a man who makes the Tigers' score his second check every day. "It's one of those allegiances. You'll never get into their hearts."

Once he finished university, Beeston interviewed at accounting firms, landing at McDonald Currie in London, Ont. (eventually Price Waterhouse Coopers) in the summer 1968. And one year removed from the Summer of Love, he fell for accounting. Seriously. "I enjoyed accounting, auditing, the whole principles of the game and what you were trying to do and achieve," says Beeston, who would earn his CA in 1971.

But baseball would soon call. And it would need a numbers guy.

One of Beeston's oldest friends, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Peter Fowler, BA'60, MD'64, DSc'08, lived next door to Labatt president and former Western board chair Donald McDougall, MBA'61. McDougall, who Beeston grew to know well, spearheaded the drive to move the San Francisco Giants to Toronto in the mid-1970s, and the deal was done. The team would move north. Knowing

"I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY QUESTION WE THOUGHT WE WOULD BE BACK IN 1995. WE WERE JUST TOO GOOD."



his love for baseball and accounting, Beeston was tapped for a job with the new organization.

To facilitate his move to Toronto, he turned down a partnership at his accounting firm to join the new franchise, just in time to see the deal collapse in February 1976. Two months later, however, the city landed an expansion team thanks to the ownership organization already in place. Beeston would move to Toronto as the Jays' first employee, and never look back

"Effective that day, I retired. Every day since has been a Saturday for me," Beeston says.

The Blue Jays played their first game on April 7, 1977, against the Chicago White Sox, winning 9-5. Beeston can recount almost every detail of the game – and that season. "It was Major League Baseball, and the idea for us wasn't to win at that time," Beeston says of the team's youth-first approach to building the franchise.

After day one, there would be only 53 more wins that season. But, to be honest, Beeston and the 27 other lays employees didn't care.

"Winning and losing, it didn't really matter at that time. I cannot help but think if we won 54 out of 162 games today, that's one in three, it would be the worst season of your life. For us, it was incredibly exciting," Beeston says. "We were playing in a ballpark that was, effectively, the worst ballpark in sports. It was not the worst ballpark in baseball; it was the worst ballpark in sports. It didn't work for baseball, it didn't work for football. But it was ours."

It would be only 15 years before the franchise found the ultimate success – winning the World Series in 1992 and 1993.

Beeston traces the roots of those championships to 1985. That year, the Jays won 99 games, topping the American League East. In the playoffs, they lost to the Kansas City Royals, the eventual world champions, in a seven-game series. "We ended up losing, but we never thought we wouldn't be back there the next year, that the season ending in 1985 would just continue on in 1986," he says. "But we didn't."

The Jays wouldn't return to the playoffs until 1989, when they lost to the Oakland A's. But the wheels were in motion. Two more seasons of near misses followed. During that span, the Jays would add future staples Roberto Alomar, Joe Carter, Dave Winfield and Jack Morris.

"It all started coming together," Beeston says. "In spring training 1992, the disappointment of 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991 was there; we were a team that was right there but, like the Buffalo Bills, we just couldn't close the account."

The Jays won their first World Series against the Atlanta Braves in 1992. It was the first World Series ever played outside the United States, as well as the first won by an African-American manager, Cito Gaston. The team would rebuild – adding Paul Molitor, Dave Stewart and Rickey Henderson – and win again in 1993 against the Philadelphia Phillies.

The MLB strike wiped out the 1994 season, and any chance of three years in a row.

"I don't think there is any question we thought we would be back in 1995. We were just too good. Turned out, we couldn't be more incorrect," Beeston says.

They won only 56 games in 1995, and haven't been back to the playoffs since.

With the team up for sale in 1995, Beeston knew new owners meant new management.

"My life was going to change and I wasn't going to like it," he says. "Whether I like it or I don't like it, I am not going to have anything to say about it. Whoever was going to buy the team is going to want my job. And I'm not going to blame them."

Baseball had been without a commissioner since 1992, although Selig, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, had served in an acting



Paul Beeston, BA'67, LLD'94, pays a visit to Jays spring training in Dunedin, Fla. in March.

capacity during that time. He invited Beeston to become president of Major League Baseball in July 1997. It was a different role from the one-team man, but one in which he enjoyed every minute.

"You really don't care who won or lost the games. You want a seven game World Series and pray it doesn't rain," Beeston says. "You are kind of a steward of the game, not a steward of the team. You were representing all fans, as opposed to the fans in your community; you were looking at what is right for the game of baseball as opposed to your own team. It became a different perspective."

He agreed to go to the New York head office for three years; he stayed for five and oversaw what might be considered the most exciting and turbulent time in baseball history. He witnessed two numbers etched into the bedrock of baseball history -2,131 and 70 - 0 only to see the latter crumble during the steroid controversy, counted among baseball's darkest days in 80 years.

"When you look at it, we were idiots. It was there," Beeston says of the steroid era. "What started as a creep with a few guys, got to a crawl which got to a run which got everybody involved in it. When you look back you say to yourself, 'We're the dumbest guys.' But we didn't know. That is shameful, a shameful indictment on us and the game. Should we have seen it? Absolutely. Without question."

When his term expired, Beeston returned to the Jays as president and CEO in 2009. It's a homecoming that continues to this day.

Beeston knows he's a lucky man, one whose sins of the fall are cleansed every spring. That kind of gift isn't afforded many professions, especially accountants. Perhaps that's why he wouldn't change a thing.

"I have no regrets – maybe that I can't start over," Beeston says of a far-from-over career. "I consider myself extremely, extremely fortunate and lucky. I have worked for and with great people. It has been a terrific ride being able to be part of an organization that had the ability to laugh at itself, the ability to take itself seriously. We had an impact on making people feel good. I think that's a tremendous way of spending your life."

Beeston takes on some of the biggest questions in baseball today at alumnigazette.ca



BY SHELDON GORDON

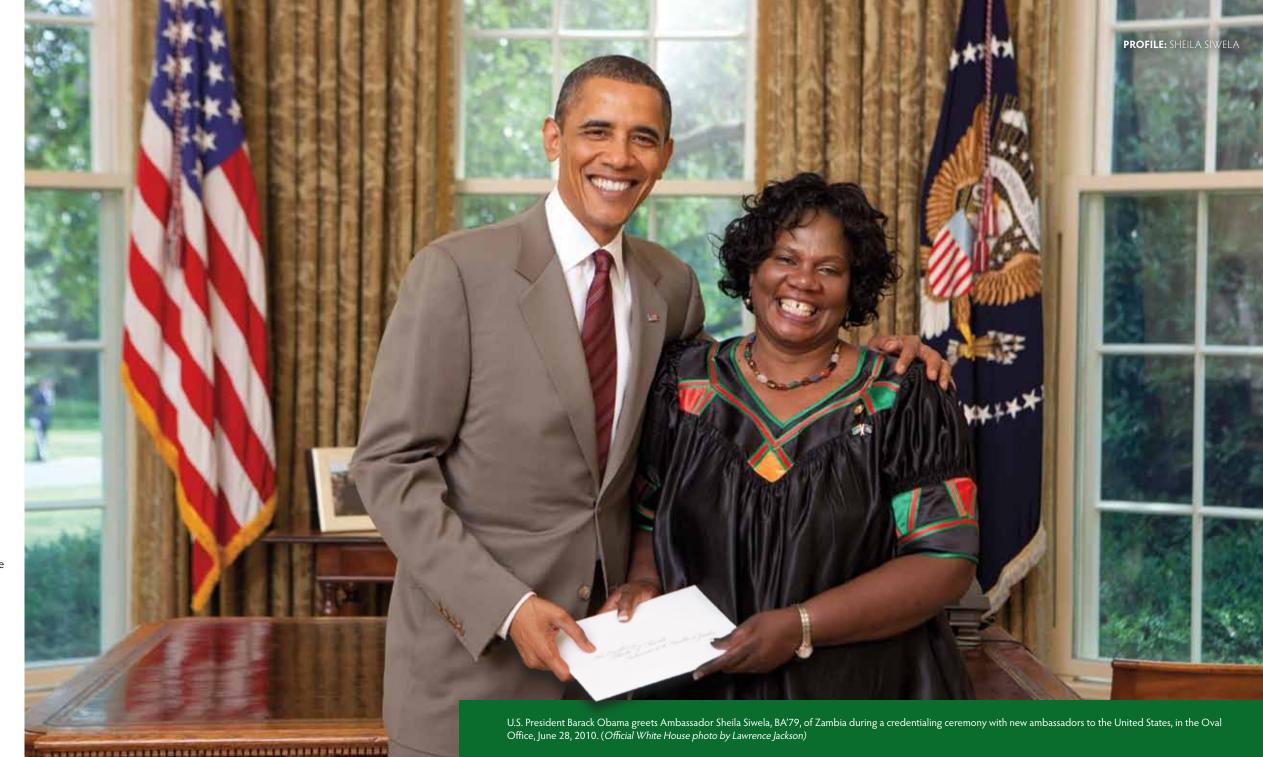
To call Sheila Siwela a devoted diplomat would be an

As her native Zambia's ambassador to the United States since June 2010, she represents the interests not only of her country, but of the African continent.

As co-chair of the Economic Development Committee of the African Diplomatic Corps in Washington, D.C., Siwela, BA'79, is pressing Congress to renew the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a set of trade preferences enacted at President Clinton's behest in 2000, which are set to expire in 2015. The AGOA has been crucial to the growth of the textile industry in Africa.

"We don't mind AGOA being phased out in 2025 or 2030, but we don't want it to end abruptly in 2015," says Siwela. "We're very optimistic it will be renewed. It also benefits the U.S., so it's a win-win situation."

Meanwhile, Siwela is trying to leverage the presence of the estimated 5,000 Zambians who study or work in the United States, launching a 'Give Back to Zambia' campaign to mobilize expatriates as a force for investment in their homeland. "We're not saying, 'you have to go back,' but it's important you give back," she says. On April 21, she launched a related campaign - the U.S. Zambian Diaspora Initiative – in which American friends of Zambian expats are encouraged to contribute. Local church groups, for example, would donate clothing to orphanages in Zambia.



Siwela also makes time to be Zambia's envoy to 10 other countries (Mexico, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Belize, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala) as well as the Washington-based World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

This multi-pronged posting caps a meteoric diplomatic career. It began in 2003 when she was named deputy ambassador to Nigeria, and continued with ambassadorships to, first, Zimbabwe and, later, the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) and the European Union.

Originally trained in social work at the University of Zambia, Siwela practiced for six months before enrolling at Western, where her husband was pursuing his PhD. Andrew Siwela, PhD'80 (Zoology) later served as president of the University

of Zambia before his death a decade ago.

Siwela recalls Western as "a very friendly, cosmopolitan environment" where she learned business principles that soon proved useful in her career. During the early nineties, she served on a committee that guided the privatization of more than 260 state-owned enterprises, as Zambia transitioned to a market economy.

After completing a master's degree in the United Kingdom in human resources development, she worked on a series of consulting contracts at the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute, tackling leadership and gender issues.

During work with the United Nations Development Program, she started giving motivational speeches on how people can discover their innate abilities.

She founded the Motivational Centre for Africa's Transformation in 2002 and has been giving uplifting talks ever since.

When her audiences began requesting take-aways, Siwela wrote and published two books, You Have What It Takes and Success Guaranteed with 10 D's (such as desire, determination, discipline, destiny and divine connection).

Although she's had to shelve much of her motivational speaking due to the hectic pace of diplomatic life, she has two more manuscripts ready to be published. "I'm a Christian, and I have found my calling," she says. "I want to leave people better than I found them."

The River Runs Deep

Alumnus discovers large underground river in Brazil

BY TOM SPEARS



he great rivers of the world are magnificent features slashing across whole continents: he Nile. The Amazon, And now the Rio Hamza in Brazil, named after the Western

geophysics alumnus who found it recently - by accident.

This underground river runs 6,000 km from the Andes to the Atlantic, an odd twin to the Amazon: it follows roughly the course of the great river, but is thousands of metres beneath it. And no one noticed it until Valiya Hamza and his Brazilian students figured out the meaning of data that sat on the shelf for nearly 40 years.

Hamza, PhD'73, wasn't even looking for a river.

He just wanted to see what he could learn from 241 wells conveniently left in the 1970s and 1980s by Brazil's giant oil and gas company, Petrobras.

"We had a project looking at the underground temperature distribution," he says.

And the river? He laughs at the memory: "That was a complete surprise!"

It happens that underground temperatures are a sign of where water flows. The rocks they found from the border of Peru all across the Amazon basin were unusually cool, meaning there's water all through them.

A closer look showed heavy rains penetrate far beneath the surface, leveling out 3,000 to 4,000 m deep, and then beginning their slow trip through sedimentary rock to the ocean. The Hamza River flows like a glacier, only a few hundred metres a year. But its sheer volume – it may be 200 or 300 km wide – means it is carrying 3,000 cubic metres of water per second. That's nearly half the flow of the St. Lawrence River as it leaves Lake Ontario.

"There's a tremendous quantity of rain," Hamza says. "And that is a huge drainage system."

It enters the Atlantic many kilometres offshore from the mouth of the Amazon.

Born in India, Hamza did two degrees there and was drawn to Western in 1968 by the chance to study under Alan Beck, a world leader in geothermics. Hamza boarded at first with a family on Grey Street, then moved into Saugeen-Maitland Hall in order be on campus full-time and concentrate on work. The residence was brand new, with men and women in

Western satisfied his eagerness to get out in the field and explore. Field work took him across a lot of central Canada, from Manitoba through Sudbury, Manitoulin Island and the Chalk River Nuclear

He has worked in Brazil since 1974, at the University of Sao Paolo and most recently at the Brazilian National Observatory's earth sciences department.

Hamza, 70, recently retired, and his students decided to pay him a special tribute. "They put my name to the river. I didn't propose that name."

There's no official convention for naming underground water as there is for surface rivers and lakes, but the name has caught public attention and even ended up as a Wikipedia entry, so it may have staying power.

"It's quite satisfying to know you have done something and attracted the attention of the scientific community – and also the public," the geophysicist

And there's a quirky connection with the distant past. As a small boy, Hamza was fascinated by stories of the Amazon. He told his friends that some day he would grow up and see the Amazon, never dreaming he would also discover a river under the river.

He found another underground river last year – this time in Chile, on the other side of the Andes, where there's evidence of cold water draining into the Pacific.

He even suspects there may be rivers left to find beneath the surface of British Columbia. Or even, he suggests, on Mars.

The Hamza is actually a type of aquifer, a wet underground layer of water-The Hamza runs west to east, som<u>e 4,000 metres</u> below the Earth's surface, and follows roughly the path of the Amazon river. Hamza River Speed: 100-200m/year the surface

Amazon River

Speed: 2m/second The Amazon is the world's second longest river (only the Nile is longer). It has the argest drainage basin in e world, (about 7,050,000 quare km) and accounts for approximately one-fifth of the world's total river flow.

The Hamza empties in the Atlantic Ocean, deep under the surface, and may be responsible for the low salinity around the mouth of the Amazon River.

The Hamza flows through sedimentary rock like a liquid passes through a sponge.

16 ALUMNIGAZETTE.CA SPRING 2012 EDITION 17

that comes from

rain or snow melt

soaks into the ground. This

process is called "infiltration".

The water slowly percolates down

into the aguifer by travelling through

the pores that are connected together.



THE WILL TO WIN

ALUMNA SILKEN LAUMANN REFLECTS ON HER BRONZE MEDAL WIN 20 YEARS AGO AT THE 1992 OLYMPICS, KNOWN AS ONE OF THE GREATEST COMEBACKS IN CANADIAN SPORTS HISTORY.

BY SILKEN LAUMANN, BA'89

At Western, with the exception of my athletic activities, there was little to indicate my future as a speaker, writer, child advocate and life coach. But, somewhere between Women's Studies, Shakespeare, and public speaking classes, I would find a clue to my vocation. Since my university days I have guided my life from a map of passion, made easier by the fact that I seem to be incapable of achieving things I'm not passionate about. I am outstanding at a small handful of pursuits that truly capture my imagination. Passion is my driver.

I often know I will do something decades before I actually achieve it. My involvement with the Right to Play organization began as a childhood dream to help kids in Africa, spurred on by news coverage of the Ethiopian famine in the late 1970s. In 1976 I watched Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci win medal after medal, and I imagined myself on an Olympic medal podium one day. Sixteen years later, I was poised to win Olympic gold, entering the 1992 Olympic season as the defending world champion. But, just ten weeks before the Olympic Games, I was broadsided by a German men's pair in the warm-up area at the World Cup in Essen, Germany. Their boat shattered my wooden splash board, driving hundreds of splinters into my right leg. It was a life changing moment, confirmed when I learned my calf muscle had been shredded, the skin damage was significant, and my ankle had shattered with the impact. The doctor sensibly told me "the Olympics were over".

But, I chose not to hear the doctor. Naivety and obstinance combined to convince me not



only were the Olympics a possibility, I could still aim for a medal. With this in mind, I visualized my healing, seeing blood flowing to the damaged tissue, imagining my body strong and capable. I tied Therabands to the end of my bed and began "rowing". What a sight I must have been; my leg an open wound, metal screws driven into my foot and shin, desperately trying to keep myself conditioned by pulling on a glorified bungee cord. Negative people, even at times family, were swept aside in the intensity to accomplish my recovery.

Friends and family, though, proved a huge support. Marilyn and Peter Copland put their lives on hold to nurse me back to health; Cam Harvey took a week of holidays to row with me.

I decided to train as if I wasn't hurt. When I got back in the boat 22 days after my accident, I was supposed to take a few strokes to judge how the adapted boat felt on my damaged leg. Instead, I rowed stroke after stroke, until I was in the middle of the lake. Only then did I glance back to see my doctor and support crew spring into action; obviously they perceived a risk I couldn't see in my enthusiasm to row again.

This was no time to be tentative. I pushed myself to exhaustion, making up for lost time, trying to squeeze through that narrow window of opportunity to still be fit enough and fast enough to compete in Barcelona.

As difficult as those days and weeks were, they were also magical as we were achieving things that didn't make sense on a purely physical level. With a bandaged leg, broken ankle and massive skin damage, it didn't make sense that I could row 10 consecutive one-minute sprint pieces or 500 repeats at race pace, but we were taking these little miracles as they came. Ten weeks later I crossed the finish line breathless, body screaming with lactate, winning bronze for Canada. That feat made every front page in the country and changed my life forever by making me a household name for two decades.

However spectacular, we are not defined by any one event in our lives. My performance in Barcelona is how many Canadians know me, but my life is a rich tapestry of all my varied and, often intense, experiences. I have used my experiences in sport to speak and write about many of the ideas, beliefs and perspectives I have solidified after sport. Sport is a great illustrator of the power of the mind, the force of focus, and the role of grace and magic in our lives. I was lucky enough to have all of those by the right measure, at the right time. I continue to see things I will do years before I actually do them, and the future looks bright.

NEVER SAY NEVER

HE WAS TOLD HE DIDN'T HAVE THE GRADES TO GET INTO WESTERN, HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING HIS FIRST ELECTION AND WAS DECLARED POLITICALLY DEAD JUST MONTHS AGO. SO WHY IS TIM HUDAK STILL STANDING TALL?

BY JASON WINDERS, MES'10

Tim Hudak isn't supposed to be here.

Not that there is anything wrong with his Queen's Park office, a warm, spacious room reflecting a man devoted to family and party. It's just pundits had penciled him in for something a bit

Last fall, the 44-year-old Fort Erie native led a surging party into a provincial election most agreed would end with Hudak moving out of the Leader of the Opposition's office, and into the province's top job. But the party would fall short, and many of those same pundits would declare the Progressive Conservative leader politically dead.

However, just four months later, here Hudak, BA'90, sits in his third-floor office as the vocal point man for the official opposition, one reaffirmed by his party with nearly 80 per cent support.

Not that any of this comes as a surprise to Hudak. He has been ignoring naysayers for a long time.

Growing up the son of a high school principal and special needs teacher, Hudak was as all-Canadian a boy as you'll find. He comes from a family active in community, church and sports. His home on Lindbergh Drive was smack in the middle of "the kind of neighbourhood where you knew your neighbours, and they all looked after each other's kids, generally you liked them, too."

His father, Patrick William Hudak, and uncle, Joe, were the first in the family to attend university. Patrick Hudak, BA'63 (King's), played football for the Mustangs. The younger Hudak hoped to follow his father to Western.

But a high school guidance counsellor, fearing Hudak's love of sports wouldn't translate into smarts, didn't want him to aim too high. "She told me to temper my expectations, and perhaps I shouldn't look at schools like Western and look elsewhere," he

Despite the warning, Hudak would receive a full-ride academic scholarship to the university.

"I always had a fond association with Western," says the man whose sister, Patricia Anne Hudak, BEd'95, and wife, Debbie Elaine (Hutton) Hudak, BA'88, also attended the university. "There was never really any doubt."

In first year, he was drawn to economics, despite a classroom of nearly 600 students. And while elected office never entered his mind in those days, an "awakening toward the conservative side" started to take shape in various history and political science classes.

"My grandparents always voted Liberal because the Conservative Party was 'The Boss' Party.' My mom's parents were ardent socialists," Hudak says. "But these were days of great debates, too, a big Renaissance of conservatism with (United States President Ronald) Reagan in The States, (British Prime Minister) Margaret Thatcher in Britain, (Canadian Prime Minister Brian) Mulroney majorities in Canada. So campus was consumed at the time with a lot of debate on the big

"The political dynamic was exciting at the time."

He enjoyed the social side of Western, and still carries some of the musical memories of those days on his iPod - Talking Heads and REM ("before they sold out"). He also reflects on two campus lectures by controversial conservative icons which still resonate for him – one by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, another by John Crosbie, former Mulroney cabinet minister.

"Sitting through Crosbie's discussion, and him getting some of the pertinent questions from the campus know-it-alls on the left, I enjoyed when Crosbie stuck to his guns and shot them down without mercy," he says.

After earning a master's degree in economics from the University of Washington, Hudak eyed returning to Western to pursue a PhD. But that wouldn't happen. In 1995, PC party officials approached the 27-year-old Hudak about running in the provincial election when the local candidate dropped out. Fresh out of grad school, nobody - including Hudak - gave him a chance.

"I liked what Mike Harris and the PC party stood for; I was frustrated Bob Rae had created the worst environment for graduating students from Western and other schools since the Depression," he says. "I was motivated to run thinking I would do a dry run and make connections to the party, and then as an adult – in my 40s or 50s - run again. Except I won."

He defeated two opponents by fewer than 1,100 votes on the back of Harris' Common Sense Revolution. And he has never looked back. Hudak has won four straight elections, and risen in prominence within the party to the point of serving as leader since 2009.

Not bad for a guy who isn't supposed to be here in the first place.

"My experience in life is to do something that drives you, that you enjoy. At the end of the day success is doing what you enjoy," says Hudak, echoing advice his grandfather gave him in the days before he came to Western. "There are always up and downs in any career, but it's easy to forge ahead when you know what you're doing is right."





BY TOM SPEARS

Research at Western took Richard Léveillé to Hawaii, but this was no trip to the beach.

High up a rain-drenched mountain, the young geologist crawled deep into dark caverns to study the dripping, slimy environment loved by some kinds of microbes, little creatures that form thick mats on the rocks.

At the time, it couldn't have seemed farther from the job he has today - exploring Mars for NASA and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). Mars is dry, dusty, and (probably) empty of life.

But its past may have been wetter, and alive. Léveillé, PhD'01 (Geology) is on the way to finding out whether Martian rocks show a distant history of key elements necessary to life - water, carbon and energy.

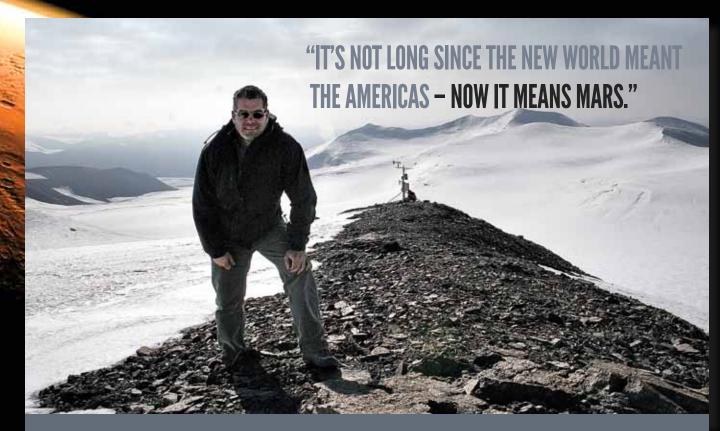
As a planetary scientist with the CSA, he's one of only 29 researchers invited by NASA to participate in the mission to Mars that will arrive on the Red Planet in August. Only three Canadians are in the group. John Moores, a postdoctoral fellow from Western's Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration, is also joining the mission.

There are separate scientific teams for the various instruments on board, but the group of 29 will stand back and look at the big picture, interpreting data and planning strategy as the mission unfolds.

The Mars Science Laboratory is looking for signs of ancient life.

It's not long since the New World meant the Americas, Léveillé says. Now it means Mars.

"It's part of human nature to explore, and that includes the immediate (places) around us and the farther-off around us. I think it's only natural that we want to understand why we're like we are here, and why our neighbour is different - or maybe, what are the similarities?" he says. "Mars is far off in one sense, but in another sense it is Earth's neighbour."



Richard Léveillé, PhD'01, making a helicopter stop to collect data at McGill University's weather station along the White Glacier, Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, July 2009.

The road to Mars led Léveillé to Western in 2000. He's a native of St. Bruno, Quebec, a five-minute drive from CSA headquarters in St. Hubert. He didn't know much about Western back in 2000. Had never seen London. Hadn't thought of working in the space business. Rocks, he figured, were things you find on Earth.

He was recruited to Western for two years (or so he thought) by Fred Longstaffe and William Fyfe, DSc'95, both former Deans of Science. He liked it so much his master's stretched into a PhD.

Maybe the cosmos had a plan for him. In 1996, the story of a Martian meteorite that seemed to contain signs of ancient life hit the news. It struck him that this connected closely with his own work on traces left in rocks by micro-organisms. He set the idea aside.

Years later he attended a CSA-sponsored space conference, and met some CSA science people who liked his work. Set that aside, too.

But space didn't leave him alone. A couple of years passed, and the CSA was advertising for a life sciences job. He called his old contacts from the space conference. He didn't qualify for that position, but they did have an opening for a visiting fellowship. He jumped, and is now on staff.

"A bit of a tortuous road but I've been fortunate and it's been a fun ride," he says now.

The CSA has even given him another free trip to Hawaii, even higher up a mountain this time, to the cold, rocky and Mars-like place where they torture-test Mars rover prototypes.

Now his Martian work has reunited him with Longstaffe, who is still developing research that Léveillé began at Western.

"A funny clay mineral" in the Hawaiian caves looks exactly like what may show up on Mars, Longstaffe says. "It's a really good example of how the work you do in one area of research can turn out to be the thing you need in another."

Rocks are records where information about the underpinnings of all life is frozen in time, carved in stone millions or billions of years ago by water and minerals and, if the Mars expedition is lucky, by living things.



For alumna Sally Lane, it's helping students, faculty and researchers achieve their goals through ongoing financial support and including Western in her will.

While those who benefit from planned gifts may never meet the donor who helped them, they will always appreciate the opportunities they have been given because of someone else's generosity.

Consider making an endowed gift to Western through your will. Your commitment will help the next generation achieve their full potential.

givingtowestern.uwo.ca/howtogive/giftplanning

For more information, contact: Jane Edwards at jane.edwards@uwo.ca or call 519.661.2111 ext. 88829 Western University, Alumni Relations & Development, Gift Planning Westminster Hall, Suite 160, London, ON N6A 3K7





platinum princess of the Chelsea gallery scene," she represents upwards of 25 of the world's best contemporary artists including England's Nigel Cooke and premier Canadian artist David

Armed with her Western degree, Rosen moved New York some 28 years ago to work in a variety of gallery jobs, even starting, but not completing, a masters in East Asian studies at Columbia University. "When you're starting out, you don't have any idea of the complexity of the world you're entering, so, I didn't really know what I was going to do when I left Western. I definitely knew I wanted to live in New York, but when I moved here, I didn't have an accurate sense of what a working gallery really was; I couldn't possibly have had that kind of clarity when leaving school because I was just so naive," she says.

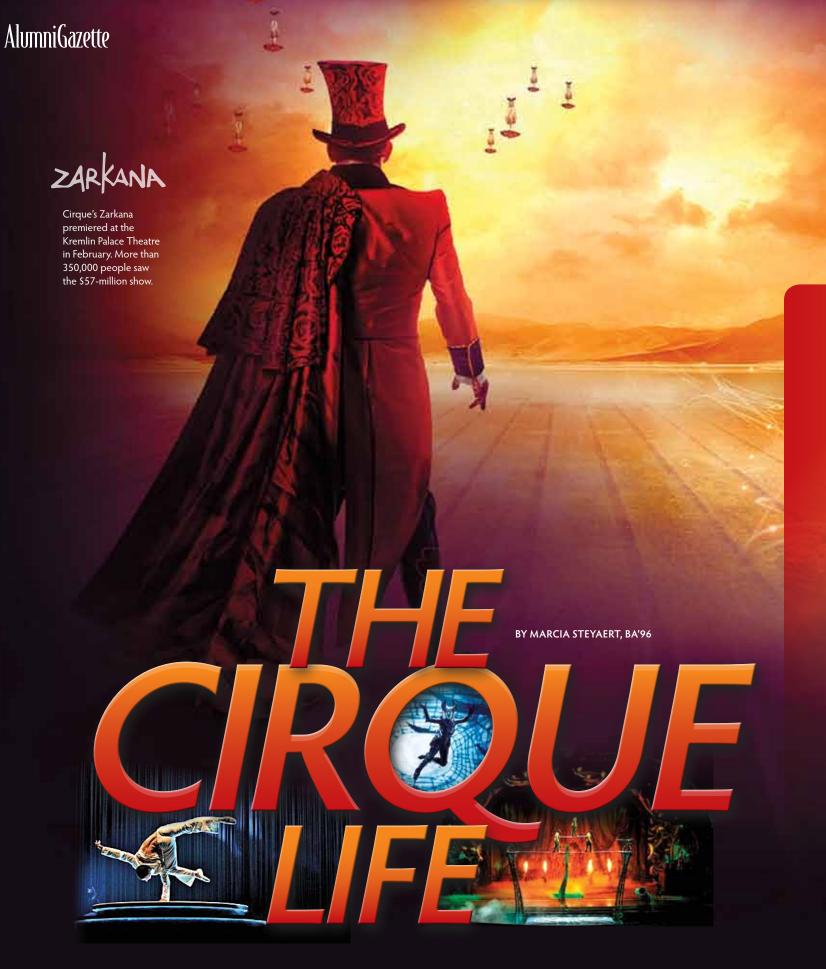
"But on an intuitive level, I knew I wanted to be in a place where there was the ability to

with a Felix Gonzalez-Torres exhibition that set her apart as discerning and perceptive. Today, she represents the estate of the legendary conceptual artist who died of AIDS in 1996, and manages his foundation as well. "He was generous and active and responsible," Rosen told art writer Adam Lindemann in 2006, "and he articulated in his work this idea that you could actually have a voice in the public world." Rosen continues to seek out those artists whose voice is intertwined with the content and medium of their work.

Mid-career now, Rosen – who lives in the West Village with her daughter and furniture designer husband Simrel Achenbach – is thoughtful

about her Canadian roots and her time at Western. "I chose to go to Western because of the liberal arts program. The diversity of the classes I was able to take while studying art history made it compelling and interesting. I especially remember how influential philosophy was for me.

> "The voice I sought as an American, really as a New Yorker, is tempered by the responsibility I know comes with having a voice. I don't know if I could have articulated such a view if I wasn't Canadian."



"...YOU HAVE TO REALLY BELIEVE IN THE COUNTRY. IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE COUNTRY, YOU WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL."

Craig Cohon, BA'85, knows a few things about doing business in Russia.

"You have to completely engage in the culture and live it, learn the language, understand the history, culture, politics, economics."

"You also have to have what I call 'aggressive patience'. The amount of bureaucracy is enormous, but you have to absolutely trust your business partners. Deals that often start with handshakes eventually turn into contracts."

"Lastly, you have to really believe in the country. If you do not believe in the country, you will not be successful."

In 1990, Cohon brought Coca-Cola to the Soviet Union, one year before its collapse. At the age of 27, he was the company's first employee there. In an effort to fully immerse himself in the Russian culture, Cohon learned the language within six months of arriving in Moscow, and took on factory and restaurant jobs.

He went on to hold several executive positions with Coca-Cola, including head of marketing in Northern Europe and the former Soviet Union, brand director worldwide, director of learning strategy and deputy division president for the Northwest Europe division. In 1993, Cohon received an honorary doctorate of economics from Moscow International University.

In 2008 Cirque du Soleil came calling - would Cohon help bring their shows to Russia, too?

The call was answered, and Russia is now the fastest-growing market for Cirque in the last decade. To date, there have been four Cirque shows in Russia, selling more than 800,000 tickets. Cohon is Cirque du Soleil Rus' vice-chairman.

In February, Cirque's Zarkana premiered at the Kremlin Palace Theatre, one of the largest stages in the world. The \$57-million show, scored by Elton John, marks the first time the venue has been rented to a non-Russian organization for more than a week. More than 350,000 people saw Zarkana over its 10-week run.

Between Coca-Cola and Cirque, Cohon spent eight years owning and running an international development strategic advisory firm, Globalegacy International, building businesses in India and Africa, including a modern clean energy enterprise



The medal Craig Cohon, BA'85, is wearing was a gift from Vladimir Aloyshin, owner of the Luzhniki Olympic Complex in Moscow, honouring Cohon's work in Russia over the last two decades.

with BP for rural Indian women.

Recalling his university days, Cohon credits student politics (he was the University Students' Council vice-president communications) with helping him "understand the issues of a university, which translated to the issues of a global company, and then to the issues of villages of India, and finally with how to do business in Russia."

Cohon's legacy at Western includes co-founding TV Western and the Charity Ball, which he got Western alumnus Alan Thicke, BA'67, to host in the height of his *Growing Pains* stardom. He also helped create Western's mascot, J.W. In 2003, Western honoured Cohon with a young alumni award. He still keeps in touch with at

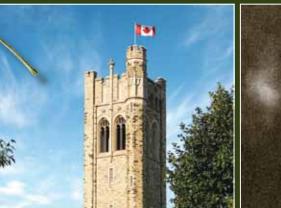
least a dozen friends he made at Western; a few of his former fraternity brothers even attended Zarkana's opening night.

Cohon now splits his time between Moscow, Stockholm and London, England where he lives on a river yacht in the Thames.

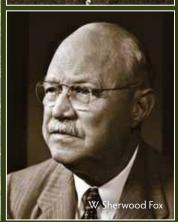
He and his children, Jonas, 13, and Amber, 11, are excited to host Canadian athletes during this year's summer Olympics in London. "We'll be proud supporters of Canada, waving the Canadian flag," he says. With the winter Olympics coming to Sochi, Russia in 2014, Cohon expects Cirque will probably play a role, although he's unsure yet what that will be.

Still one year shy of 50, what's next for Craig Cohon? "My first career was a great corporate career with Coke, my second was in international development, and the third in entertainment. I don't know where the fourth will be, but I will say I'm very much focused now on raising my kids. I want to make sure they are successful and all ready to go and conquer the world. I'd like to take the yacht down the major rivers of the world in the next decade, too."

"And I still have a couple of good businesses in me, to be determined."







Col. John Bayne Maclean

CANADA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

CONTRIBUTED BY ALAN NOON

Western is often referred to as Canada's most beautiful university

competition as the top entrant in the Parks and Grounds category, defeating Banff National Park. This was not only indicative of the skills and dedication of the present-day grounds crew, but a tribute to those who contributed their talents and financial support over many years.

Col. John Bayne Maclean, publisher of Maclean's magazine and the Financial Post. While admiring the view from University College, Maclean became aware of the wonderful possibilities in landscape architecture offered by the contours of the land and the remnants of the original forest. He retained the services of Toronto landscape architect Gordon Culham, LLD'66, who would later fix the sites of many future campus buildings and harmonize them with the landscape. Col. Maclean continued to pay Culham's retainer until 1946. Twenty years later, Western conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon Culham in recognition of his contributions to beautify campus.

Western's third president, W. Sherwood Fox (1927-47) took a personal interest in the natural development of campus

and in 1933 declared the area would become a tree and plant sanctuary. He said there would be no unnecessary displacement of older trees in constructing new buildings and that the collection would stress native and rare trees. Today, Western's Sherwood Fox Arboretum with its thousands of tagged specimens is a

College was a gift from the Ivey family in honour of Mrs. Ivey's 55th anniversary of her graduation from Western, her long-time generosity to the university, and her love of the natural world. It features an amphitheatre, and plantings Mrs. Ivey enjoyed including contemporary ornamental grasses, traditional perennials and shade-tolerant plants such as hostas.

In his summary of Western's campus, 'Canada Blooms' judge Marc Lalond noted, "Green space within the campus is abundantly present which creates a wonderful working and living environment for those within. Heritage is the very foundation of the campus. The presence of the urban forest is not only encompassing but it also plays a fundamental role in the historical integrity of the campus."

A MEDICAL MASTER

BY: GEORGE CLARK, BA'66

He has been recognized by two United States Presidents and is credited with establishing the research tradition at the world-renowned Mayo

And while many Western medical luminaries are widely known, such as Dr. Murray Barr, BA'30, MD'33, MSc'38, DSc'74, Sir Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles Drake, MD'44, MSc'47, DSc'87, Dr. Leonard Rowntree, MD'1905, DSc'1916, remains relatively in the shadows.

Born in 1883 to George and Phoebe Rowntree who owned a grocery store in London, Ont., Leonard G. Rowntree graduated from Western's medical school in 1905, winning the gold medal.

After interning at Victoria Hospital, he entered general practice in New Jersey, eventually moving on to John Hopkins standard for 30 years. Rowntree and Dr. John Abel developed the first artificial kidney in animal research in 1913, being first to carry out

few years later joined the U.S. Army, studying the effects of altitude on pilots. Following the war, he joined the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota as a professor, becoming known as the person most responsible for establishing the research tradition at the world famous clinic. In 1933, he published early research

Western awarded Rowntree an honorary degree in 1916, and he was president of the medical alumni association from 1929 to 1937. He returned to Western in 1940, consulting with Banting and the London Association for War Research on aviation research at chamber. Rowntree even joined a simulated flight at 25,000 feet as "a passenger", and though he insisted he was alright, a witness described his physical condition as so poor he could scarcely control himself.

In 1941, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt named Rowntree head of the U.S. Selective Service Board, leading 17,000 doctors in screening recruits for the U.S. Army. Five years later, U.S. President Harry Truman awarded him onduct in the performance of outstanding

Funding for the portrait was oversubscribed, leaving enough leftover to establish three a story at the unveiling about life at Western up half a barbershop quartet, singing for their suppers aboard the steamship Huronia.

When Rowntree passed away in 1959, the London Free Press made note editorially. Headlined "Leonard Rowntree: Master of Medicine", it stated "the world of medicine loses one of its most distinguished figures."

In 2004, 'Canada Blooms' recognized Western in a nationwide living tribute to his concern for the environment. University. Many firsts followed. In 1910, he using cortical hormone in successfully treating the President's Medal of Merit, for "exceptional Addison's disease. The tradition of planting a tree by the graduating class began in 1924 with a and Dr. John Garaghty first described the use of then rare Ginkgo. Although moved twice to accommodate building additions, it chemicals for determination of renal function. services to the United States." continues to add interest and colour to the east lawn of University College. Many Dubbed the 'Rowntree Test', it was the clinical A portrait of Rowntree was unveiled during alumni and members of the university community participate in memorial tree Western's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1928. plantings and dedications that continue to beautify the campus. In 1928, the university conferred an honorary degree upon Friends of the Gardens, a volunteer group of staff, faculty, students, alumni prizes in medical history in his name. He shared and interested members of the public maintain several garden areas around the dialysis. A year later, he was the first to carry out the medical school's famed decompression Biological & Geological Sciences Building. and report plasmapheresis, a blood purification Officially opened in 2004, the Beryl Ivey Garden on the west side of University procedure used to treat auto immune diseases. during his student years, recalling that Western In 1915, Rowntree was named chairman of vice-president and chief librarian Fred Landon medicine at the University of Minnesota and a and he were waiters during the summer, making

BEST KEPT SECRET



BY ANGIE WISEMAN

Becoming a fragrance industry entrepreneur wasn't even in the realm of possibility for Ashlee Firsten when she arrived at Western.

She had strong math and science skills, was inspired by her brother's engineering experience, and was certain a chemical engineering degree would lead to a career. But Firsten, BESc'06, wasn't clear what that career would look like.

Many of her classmates had dreams of working in the gas and oil industry, but Firsten just couldn't see herself fitting that traditional mould. Then a conversation with engineering professor Lauren Briens, BSc'92, BESc'94, PhD'00, changed how she looked at her future.

"Lauren was the first person to tell me that my engineering degree could help me do anything," Firsten says. "She asked 'You don't think there's engineering in makeup or jewellery plants or anything else that you might have an interest in?"

With a fresh perspective and renewed excitement, Firsten looked for internships in the cosmetics industry, eventually finding a quality assurance position at Ahava, a skin care company in Israel. It became a stepping-stone for her career.

While researching internships, Firsten was surprised to discover Estee Lauder had facilities in Toronto. She later learned the company doesn't post jobs externally – ever. Unfazed, she continued to call their HR department every two weeks for months, until she was successful in snagging an interview and eventually a position with the quality assurance team.

After a year and a half with Estee Lauder, Firsten started

to develop a keen interest in how the business was run. Next stop: an MBA in Marketing in Luxury Goods from International University of Monaco.

Firsten returned to Toronto in 2008 at the peak of the recession and the jobs that had once looked promising started to disappear. Around the same time she met her future sister in-law and business partner, Kirsten Menkes. After getting to know each other they realized with Menkes's experience in event management and public relations and Firsten's engineering and business background, they made a dynamic team.

The pair decided to make their mark in the fragrance industry by creating a customized fragrance experience based on personality traits. For the next six months, they researched fragrance production and developed a business plan. From there, they formed Aromachology, a fragrance company that matches personality to scent.

"We based our whole line on the science of aromacology - how scent affects behaviour." Firsten says.

With a perfume bar prototype, Firsten and Menkes pitched Bergdorf Goodman and Henri Bendel, two of New York City's largest department stores. Bergdorf Goodman turned them down, but Henri Bendel signed on for a fall 2009 launch.

Firsten and Menkes promoted Aromoachology at the ground level by working at Henri Bendel, directly serving their customers, allowing them to gather first-hand knowledge about their target demographic.

Soon after, the pair returned to Canada to further build their business, expanding their fragrance line to include candles and bath and body products.

But the Big Apple has beckoned them back, and Firsten and Menkes recently signed a contract with Sephora, a powerhouse in the world beauty market, to test one of their perfume bars in the company's Union Square store in New York. Firsten calls it, "probably one of the biggest opportunities we will ever have."

With Firsten's blend of confidence and drive, there are sure to be more 'big' opportunities to come.

A BUSINESS APPROACH TO CAREGIVING

BY SHIRLEY ROBERTS, HBA'74



Caring for an ill elderly parent can be an overwhelming life event, taking an emotional, physical, and financial toll. With an aging population, this is a reality millions of Canadians are or will soon be facing.

I became the primary caregiver for my elderly mother, Doris, when my father passed away suddenly in 2002. I did the best I could for her; we spoke on the phone each day, I recruited volunteers

and hired help to do many of her household chores, and I drove from Toronto to Cobourg every other Saturday to spend the day with her. My brother, David Roberts, HBA'71, lived in Vancouver so the responsibility for her well-being fell squarely on my shoulders. Meanwhile, I was running a busy marketing consulting firm and I had a fiancé, Mitch, who wanted my attention too.

Within a few months, Mom's grief unleashed the mind fog of Alzheimer's disease. On one of my visits, I discovered unopened mail collecting dust, laundry lying in piles on the floor, a burnt out hallway light bulb, expired milk and yogurt cluttering her fridge, and her blouse covered in tea stains. As I left that day, tears welled up in her eyes and mine. It was painfully obvious I was neglecting my mother in her time of need. My heart was broken; I loved my mother dearly and she had never let me down.

Nevertheless, I was torn between conflicting roles. I wanted and needed to spend more time with my mother, but I also had to earn a living, and wanted to spend time with Mitch. I grasped the magnitude of my heart-wrenching dilemma with frustration, overwhelming sadness, and tremendous guilt. And I felt helpless watching old age ravage my once independent mother because I knew I had no way to stop her decline.

For a year and a half, I tackled my mother's health and loneliness issues using what I called a solo-firefighter approach to caregiving, which failed miserably and left me feeling exhausted and out of control. I worked alone, focusing only on my mother's crisis of the day. There was no back-up plan if I got sick or needed a break, and I was forced to make decisions in great haste, without the benefit of good information and advice. Once Mom landed in the hospital after a bad fall, I knew I needed to find a better path; my caregiving duties would continue to increase as she became more dependent on me.

It was then that the analytical and problem solving skills my brother and I learned at Western kicked in, and a solution evolved that we affectionately dubbed Doris Inc. By applying business disciplines to caregiving, we found a way to meet not



Shirley, Ed, Doris and David Roberts, at Doris and Ed's 50th wedding anniversary celebration (1997)

just our mother's physical needs, but also her social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs. And we were able to do this while still having lives of our own.

Doris Inc. wasn't a real business, of course, but it had all the components of a well-run company: unified, proactive, and decisive family leadership, well-coordinated care-team operations, clearly defined goals, prudent financial management, and a passionate, caring culture. We accomplished this high level of care using only the resources of our parent's middle-class capital assets, and government-funded pensions and health-care support.

One of our first tasks was to assemble three care-teams. Our family caregiving team consisted of David and me; we played a dual role of managing care and providing care. Our health-care team was responsible for her medical, nutritional, and hygiene care, and our team of caregiver-companions was in charge of Mom's happiness and comfort, and for helping her to eat. Our care-team operations ran like a well-oiled machine, with well-defined roles and responsibilities, communications tools that fostered teamwork, and monitoring and problem-solving procedures. Doris Inc. succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. Mom was happier and no longer lonely or anxious, because we had created a home-like environment for her in a nursing home. She was also receiving much better care and we had developed a great back-up system.

While caring for my mother, I discovered first-hand our society's crisis-driven approach to caregiving too often results in neglected elders, burnt-out caregivers, and stalled careers. This disturbed me greatly, and inspired me to share the strategies that worked so well for us. In December 2011, *Doris Inc.: A Business Approach to Caring for Your Elderly Parents* was published by Wiley Canada.

Sadly, my mother died in 2009. Our venture ran for five years, and although our mother's care needs became much more complex in the final stage of Alzheimer's disease, her life had been as good as it could have been every step along the way.

Visit alumnigazette.ca to read an excerpt from Doris Inc.: A Business Approach to Caring for Your Elderly Parent.

30 SPRING 2012 EDITION 31

Alumni6azette Profile: Jeff Burney



THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY IS STALL-ING ALL MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS...







A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE LAB



"IT WAS ONE OF THOSE LUCKY MOMENTS WHEN THE ART AND THE FEELING OF THE ARTWORK CLICK WITH THE PERSON WHO IS REVIEWING THE MATERIAL."

BY DAVID DAUPHINEE

Under the Western Engineering jacket of Jeff Burney beats the heart of a filmmaker, T-shirt designer and newspaper cartoonist. From an early age Burney, BESc'93, had a foot in both sciences and arts. There was no need to choose between Newton's Laws of Motion and Lego filmmaking until high school graduation planted a fork in the career road – where now?

"There was a lot of soul searching," says the now 42-year-old Chelsea, Quebec father of two. "In many ways I fit into that (engineering) personality type. I liked science, I liked Star Trek, I liked Dungeons and Dragons. I did the nerdy things people associate with geeks."

Burney chose engineering at Western, helped along by knowing his Ottawa buddy Fred Dick – now Western biochemist Fred Dick, BSc'92 – would be his roommate.

So the sciences won. For a while.
These days, if you follow 'Attica,' Burney's

These days, if you follow 'Attica,' Burney daily cartoon strip in the *Ottawa Citizen*

(www.atticacomic.ca), you'll know the arts side of the former Bell Canada engineer has gained the upper hand.

At the drawing table, his world is set in 450 BC Athens, Greece, a city-state

working out the bugs of a new system of government – democracy. Nearby Sparta feels threatened and declares war. The characters are 2,500 years old but their banter is Tim Hortons lineup.

Burney was born in Japan, one of four sons of Canadian diplomats. His father Derek Burney was onetime ambassador to the United States.

At Western the art side resurfaced, what with designing T-shirts for intramural teams, redesigning the engineering handbook and creating the cartoon strip 'Another Day.'

One series tackled then-Western president George Pedersen for criticizing engineering student behaviour. "The football team paraded naked through the Ceeps Tavern; that got kind of a laugh and a chuckle from the president. I thought there was a double standard."

Then as a Bell engineer in Montreal and Ottawa, "I was keeping an eye on moving into that (arts) career path." Leaves of absence helped to hone art skills.

With Attica finally developed, Burney eased out of Bell. He pitched his strip to syndicates, then to newspapers. Two years ago he got a bite from an *Ottawa Citizen* editor.

"It was one of those lucky moments when the art and the feeling of the artwork click with the person who is reviewing the material."

Now with his technique improved and halfway into a five-year plan, Burney is seeking fresh markets and wider exposure. An online contest (www.thecartooniststudio.com) this year pitted 'Attica' against dozens of other strips, and an 'Attica' book is being considered. "There are several irons in the fire right now."

Funny where a fork in the road can take you.





Album cover for Eat a Peach

Piano-pop singer/songwriter
Darrelle London's journey from
local indie gem to internationally
recognized rising artist has
involved personal dedication,
and a little help from unexpected
supporters along the way.

Of the Western alumna, celebrity blogger Perez Hilton has written, "We are in love

with Darrelle London. She totally hits our sweet spot: female vocalist with a pretty voice singing pretty songs. If you like Sara Bareilles, Colbie Caillat or Ingrid Michaelson, then you will love her song *Understand* upon first listen!" Hilton continues to be a vocal supporter of London's music, exposing it to his millions of readers around the world.

Acclaimed Canadian singer/songwriter Chantal Kreviazuk,

one of London's career idols, co-wrote three songs for London's second album *Eat a Peach*, released in Canada on April 3, two of which Kreviazuk also produced.

"I had never co-written before and was intimidated by the idea," says London, BA'07 (MIT). "But Chantal heard my music and sent me the nicest e-mail, expressing an interest in writing together. I was nervous, but obviously couldn't say no!"

London has come a long way since performing as a teen in cafés in her small hometown of Acton, Ont., having graced the stage of Hollywood's Troubadour Club and Lilith Fair. Her music has been featured on MuchMusic, *ET Canada*, MTVMusic.com, CBC and PBS and the *90210* television soundtrack (2009) included *Understand*, alongside tracks by Adele and All-American Rejects.

London's life experiences provide inspiration for her playful songs. "I get a lot of my ideas when I'm on the road. On *Eat a Peach*, I write about everything from love and friendship, to bad first dates, to my fascination with RVs."

Visit alumnigazette.ca to listen to London's song 'Fine' off her latest album, Eat a Peach.



avid McPherson's love of golf began as a junior at Westmount Golf & Country Club in Kitchener, Ont., where famed Canadian golfer Moe Norman often played. A love of words soon followed.

Now a Toronto-based golf writer with his own corporate communications business, McPherson, BA'96, MA'98, is also a member of O'Connor Golf Communications, led by fellow Western alumnus and golf industry veteran Tim O'Connor, BA'81.

In January, McPherson attended the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Fla. Over three days, more than 40,000 global golf industry professionals gathered to see the latest trends and discuss the state of the game. "With nearly 10 miles of aisles and a million square feet of exhibit space, it was like Disneyland for golfers," he says.

Here, McPherson shares his thoughts on what to watch for this golf season.

GOLF 2.0: With golf participation rates declining throughout North America, this theme of the 59th annual PGA Show speaks to golf's need to reinvent itself. Jack Nicklaus addressed delegates on this topic on opening day. The Golden Bear, who admitted he's a traditionalist, said, "To save the game we need to think outside the box." Time, money, and the game's difficulty are the three biggest barriers to getting people to tee it up. Creative ideas put forward included making the holes bigger or the courses shorter. Nicklaus even suggested converting public parks into makeshift golf courses when its baseball diamonds and soccer fields are not in use.

STREETWEAR TAKES TO THE FAIRWAYS: Fun colours, lighter weights, and spikeless styles more suited for a Sunday stroll around town than a walk on the links, are the top footwear trends. Oakley's Cipher leads this "crossover" category. At 260 grams, it's the lightest performance golf shoe on the market. The Cipher's Nanospike cleatless technology replaces traditional spikes for greater traction. The shoe looks fantastic, but time will tell whether this comfort continues over the course of 18 holes. Other new footwear products include: Ecco's new crossover collection (BIOM Hybrid) and the adicross by Adidas. Footloy remains the category leader and its Myloy program where you can customize your shoes online —is still extremely popular.

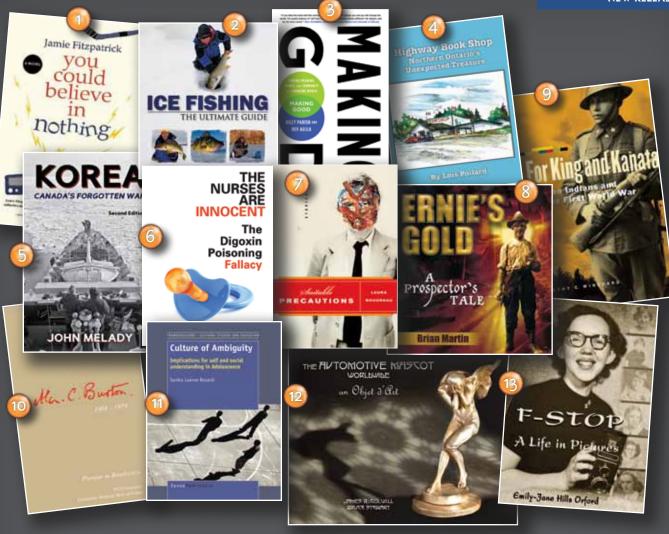
BELLY UP: The long putter saved my short game two years ago; it's no surprise belly putters remain hot in 2012. Each week, more PGA Tour players add one to their bags. While golf's governing bodies grapple with whether to ban these elongated "short sticks," in the interim, give one a try. There's even a company selling a patent-pending device that converts your current putter into one: bellyputt.com.

LOUD & PROUD: While there are still lots of traditional looks in golf apparel, the major trend is louder, more vibrant colours, and shades not traditionally seen in this conservative game. When it comes to fairway fashion, no one pushes the envelope more than Loudmouth (LoudmouthGolf.com). PGA Tour player John Daly is their golf brand ambassador - need I say more? Quagmire (quagmiregolf.com) offers cool and creative fashions, "not fit for the fairways." In 2012, the exciting news for the Toronto-based company is a partnership with Arnold Palmer, and its resulting Arnie Wear—a throwback line of clothing based on the styles of clothes Palmer wore throughout his career. Quagmire went through Arnie's wardrobe and updated these retro duds to give them a modern look.

NO ONE BALL FITS ALL: These small, white, dimpled objects are big business, with golf manufacturers spending millions on research each year to come up with more durable balls that will fly farther. For 2012, Titleist (the number one golf ball brand) offers the NXT Tour, NXT Tour S, the Velocity, and the DTSoLo. TaylorMade launches RBZ (RocketBallz), a three-piece construction featuring its "React" core technology and a new "speedmantle" to generate greater velocity and more distance. Nike offers its 20XI (s and x versions) and Callaway launches Hex Black Tour, which it calls "the most highly engineered tour ball ever."

Follow David McPherson on Twitter @aspen73.





NEW RELEASES FROM ALUMNI AUTHORS

VISIT ALUMNIGAZETTE.CA TO READ SUMMARIES OF EACH NEW RELEASE.

- 1) YOU COULD BELIEVE IN NOTHING -by Jamie Fitzpatrick, MA'84
- 2) ICE FISHING THE ULTIMATE GUIDE by Tim Allard, BA'99
- 3) MAKING GOOD: FINDING MEANING, MONEY & COMMUNITY IN A CHANGING WORLD by Billy Parish and Dev Aujla, BA'06
- 4) HIGHWAY BOOK SHOP by Lois Pollard, BA'46
- 5) KOREA CANADA'S FORGOTTEN WAR (2ND EDITION) by John Melady, BA'62 (King's)
- 6) THE NURSES ARE INNOCENT THE DIGOXIN POISONING FALLACY by Dr. Gavin Hamilton, MD'55
- 7) SUITABLE PRECAUTIONS by Laura Boudreau, BA'06
- 8) ERNIE'S GOLD: A PROSPECTOR'S TALE by Brian (Chip) Martin, HBA'74
- 9) FOR KING AND KANATA CANADIAN INDIANS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR by Timothy Winegard, BA'98
- 10) PIONEER IN BIOPHYSICS: ALAN C. BURTON (1904-1979) by Alfred Jay, PhD'71, and Peter Canham, PhD'67
- 11) CULTURE OF AMBIGUITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF AND SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING IN ADOLESCENCE by Sandra Bosacki, BA'90
- 12) THE AUTOMOTIVE MASCOT WORLDWIDE UN OBJET D'ART by Bruce Stewart and Dr. James Colwill, MD'61
- 13) F-STOP: A LIFE IN PICTURES by Emily-Jane Hills Orford, BA'79



CONTINUING TO CONNECT

Western and the Alumni Association hosted a jam-packed schedule of alumni events over the last few months, connecting alumni to each other, and to campus.

On March 7, we celebrated Founder's Day with alumni gathering in cities around the world to mark the 134th anniversary of Western's founding. London (both Ontario and England), Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Vancouver and New York all hosted celebrations. Our goal is to continue to grow Founder's Day by hosting events in more cities in the years to come. Contact Natalie Devereux if you're interested in a Founder's Day event in your city: ndevereu@uwo.ca.

'Last Lecture,' an elegant annual affair hosted by Western's Alumni Association, was a sellout again this year with Facebook Canada's managing director Jordan Banks, BA'90, addressing the graduating class on March 29. His talk was humorous, inspiring and insightful, with great bits of advice for our newest graduates.

Western's first-ever 'Easter Eggstravaganza' on April 7 saw 250 children and 300 parents descend on campus to hunt for eggs, enjoy refreshments and get reacquainted with campus. The event was a tremendous success and we've received many requests to bring it back next year.



Enjoying Alumni Western's first annual Easter Eggstravaganza,

June brings convocation where we will welcome another 5,000 people to our network of 275.000 alumni in 140 countries around the world. This is my favourite time of year at Western. Compelling addresses from honorary degree recipients, excited new

graduates, proud families. There's an unmatched energy on campus as our latest alumni start on their path post-graduation.

Throughout August, we will host 'Off to Western' events in several Ontario cities, as well as Vancouver, Calgary and Hong Kong. 'Off to Western'

provides our newest students the inside track on strategies for success at university and the services, extra-curricular activities and volunteer opportunities Western offers. For more information, contact 'Off to Western' at otw@uwo.ca.

Spring is a time of renewal and I hope you will consider renewing your Western connection. Visit us at alumni.uwo.ca, download Western's alumni app, follow us on Twitter (@westernu) and like us on Facebook (WesternUniversity). And be sure Homecoming 2012 is marked on your calendar – September 27-30.

We can't wait to see you.

Chris Makuch is president of Western's Alumni Association.

ALUMNI EVENTS

BRANCHES: CANADA

Calgary, ON

Rick McGhie in Calgary June 22, 2012 Off to Western August 2012

Elgin County - St. Thomas, ON

72nd Annual Alumni Dinner Picnic June 13, 2012

Hamilton, ON

Family Day at African Lion Safari June 10, 2012

Huntsville, ON

Rick McGhie Rocks Muskoka July 6, 2012

London, ON

Love Your London at The Banting House National Historic Site lune 7, 2012 Stratford Festival outing to 42nd Street June 23, 2012 July 13, 2012 Sun and Beach Volleyball Fun Six Degrees Homecoming September 28, 2012

Local Government Alumni Conference November 2, 2012

Niagara, ON

Off to Western August 2012

Oakville, ON

Off to Western August 2012

Ottawa, ON

Ottawa Alumni Reception

Off to Western August 2012 **Alumni Western Golf Tournament**

When: Saturday, June 16, 2012

Where: Lionhead Golf & Country Club, Brampton, ON Price: \$160 per person (includes golf, lunch, dinner, cart) westernconnect.ca/golf tournament

Toronto, ON

Lecture Series -Building a Life of Passion May 30, 2012 Rick McGhie Rocks the Steam Whistle for the Toronto Branch Scholarship June 8, 2012 Alumni Golf Tournament at Lionhead June 16, 2012 Vancouver Whitecaps FC @ Toronto FC July 11, 2012 New York Yankees @ Toronto Blue Jays August 11, 2012

Off to Western Vancouver, BC

August 2012 Off to Western Vancouver Alumni Reception August 2012

Waterloo, ON

August 2012

Stratford Festival outing to 42nd Street lune 23, 2012 Off to Western August 2012

INTERNATIONAL

Hong Kong, China

August 2012 Off to Western

UNIVERSITY FACULTY EVENTS

Dentistry

Alumni Award of Distinction

Reception (London) September 28, 2012

Engineering

Western Engineering Leader's

Reception (Toronto) November 7, 2012

Alumni Spring Denning (Toronto) June 6, 2012 Western Law Alumni Awards Reception

November 1, 2012 (Toronto)

Social Science

Local Government Alumni Conference

November 2, 2012 (London)

Urban Development Reception

(Toronto) November 29, 2012

FUTURE HOMECOMING DATES

2012 - Sept. 27 - 30 2013 – Oct. 3 – 6

2014 – Oct 2 - 5

August 2012

Alumni Western is reducing the number of printed event invitations. Please do your part for the environment and update your e-mail address with us to receive digital invitations to events in your area. Check out our event listing and register at alumni.uwo.ca

Email For Life Now available for Western alumni

email account today!

A winning team requires the collaborative efforts and resources of many people - coaches, players and supportive fans.

Your gift to the Adopt A Mustang program ensures our athletes can train at an elite level and bring their personal best to the team.

Support a team now. www.westernconnect.ca/aam Contact Jan New: jnew@uwo.ca





Show you're a Western It's easy to get: grad with your own 1) Go to www.alumni.uwo.ca @alumni.uwo.ca email address. Get the 2) Click on the Email For Life button benefits of Google's 3) Follow the steps to register award-winning Gmail Put your Western connection to work service. for you and get your @alumni.uwo.ca

ALUMNI NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



1930s

Harold Bettger, BSc'36, was presented with his 75th Western reunion pin on Dec. 15 in Goderich, Ont. In attendance were Harold's children Harold Bettger, Jr., BMus'67, Eva Bettger, BMus'66, and Margo Bettger-Hahn, MScN'96.

1940s

Russell Nightingale, BA'47, and his wife Bernice will celebrate 65 years of marriage in June. While at Western, Russell played varsity basketball, and he recalls his coach, the renowned John Metras, telling him he'd play better if he wasn't so "lovesick". Russell and Bernice have four children, Mary Anne, Peter, Randy, BA'76, Gary, BA'87 (daughter-in-law Lisa Tucci Nightingale, BA'89); nine grandchildren, including grandson Darren Hatherell, HBA'95, MBA'00; granddaughters Andrea Hatherell, BA'97, MCLSc'04, and Catherine Nightingale-Taylor, who is in second year of the Bachelor of Theology program at Huron University College; and two great-grandchildren. Russell and Bernice keep busy teaching ballroom dancing four times a week at a community centre in London, Ont.

1950s

Frank Hayden, BA'55, LLD'11, has been appointed to The Order of Ontario. Hayden conceived and created Special Olympics International.

Barbara Killinger, **BA'55**, who went on to York University to complete her PhD, is an author and clinical psychologist in Toronto specializing in workaholism. Recently, *Psychology Today* magazine invited her to write a monthly blog for their website.

The Honourable Ray Stortini, BA'56, a retired Superior Court Justice, has been appointed to The Order of Ontario. Stortini is known for establishing the first community service program in Canada for non-dangerous offenders, and for his work in the Aboriginal community.

Renowned Canadian businessman and philanthropist **Joseph L. Rotman, BA'57, LLD'09,** is a recipient of a 2012 Life Sciences Ontario award for Lifetime Achievement. Rotman's term as Western's 21st chancellor begins July 1.

1960c

David Crombie, BA'60, has been appointed to The Order of Ontario. Crombie, a three-term mayor of Toronto, is founding chair of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and chair of the Toronto Lands Corporation.

James Bartleman, BA'63, LLD'02, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for his contributions to his country, notably as lieutenant governor, and as a champion of mental health, literacy and poverty reduction.

Royden Rabinowitch, BMus'63, a sculptor, won a 2012 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. **Douglas A. Morrison, BA'66,** has received the Syracuse University Alumni Orange Circle Award, along with the students of the SU Habitat for Humanity campus chapter. In his position as their faculty advisor for 20 years, Morrison has overseen fundraising and building of five Habitat for Humanity homes, resulting in the chapter being chosen as one of the top three university chapters in the United States in 2008 and again in 2010, by Habitat International Inc.

Dr. Cecil Rorabeck, MD'68, LLD'09, has been named president-elect of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He assumes the presidency in February 2013.

'On The Waterfront Of Toronto', a poem by **David Hobberlin BA'69 (English)**, won the Monica Ladel Award 2012 as the best poem in the new digital anthology of local artist, poets, and writers published by the Scarborough Arts Council and titled the *Big Art Book*.

1970s

Dr. Jock McKeen, MD'70, co-founder of The Haven Institute on Gabriola Island (B.C.), has received an honorary Doctor of Letters from Vancouver Island University.

Henry Cheng, BA'71, MBA'72, has been appointed chairman and executive director of New World Development.

Barry Leon, MBA'71, partner, Perley-Robertson, Hill & McDougall LLP/s.r.l., has been appointed head of the firm's Canadian-based International Arbitration Group.

Terrence Downey, MA'72, PhD'77 (PoliSci), has been named president of St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan.





Thomas Collins (1970s) with Pope Benedict XVI

Dr. Margaret Chan, BA'73, MD'77, DSc'99, has been nominated for a second term as chief of the United Nation's World Health Organization (WHO). The appointment must be approved at the 65th World Health Assembly, scheduled to meet May 21-26. If confirmed, Chan's new term will begin on July 1 and continue until June 30, 2017. Chan was elected to the WHO's top post in November 2006.

Thomas Collins, MA'73 (English), Archbishop of Toronto, has been elevated to the College of Cardinals, an international group of principal advisors to Pope Benedict XVI. Cardinal Collins is the fourth cardinal in the 110-year history of the Archdiocese of Toronto and the 16th cardinal in the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada.

Gary Slaight, BA'73, received the Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award at the 2012 Juno Awards.

Prem Watsa, MBA'74, LLD'12, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd., received an honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD), from Western at the annual Richard Ivey School of Business MBA/EMBA convocation April 4.

Denis Losier, MA'75 (Economics), has been appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to the economic and social development of his province, as a politician, businessman and community leader.

Sylvia Stead, BA'75 (Journalism), has been appointed the *Globe & Mail's* first public editor.

Greg Hertzberger, LLB'76, has accepted partnership in the Waterloo, Ont. office of Miller Thomson LLP.

Ed Holder, BA'76 (Philosophy), MP for London West, has been appointed to the national board of directors for the Sunshine Foundation of Canada.

John C. Carter, BEd '77, has retired as a provincial museum advisor from the Ministry of Culture. He has been appointed a research associate in the School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania and was elected to the Ontario Historical Society's board of directors.

William A. Howe, BEd'77, has been elected chair of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission in Hartford. CT.

Robert Bryant, BESc'78, was awarded the Engineering Medal for Engineering Excellence at the 2011 Ontario Professional Engineering Awards Gala.

Jan Peacock, BFA'78, won a 2012 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Barbara Stymiest, HBA'78, LLD'11, has been named independent board chair for Research in Motion.

1920

Jim Hendry, BA'80 (English), has been appointed the *Peterborough Examiner's* managing editor.

William Taws, LLB'80, has been certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada to be a specialist in Estates & Trusts Law.

Dr. Annunziato Amendola, MD'84, an orthopaedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist at the University of Iowa, has been elected to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons board of directors.

Mary Ann Mavrinac, MLIS'84, has been named Vice Provost and Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly Dean of River Campus Libraries at the University of Rochester.

Terry Rees, BA'86 (Economics), executive director of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, has been honoured by *Water Canada* magazine for representing Canadian water excellence.

Cameron Bailey, BA'87, has been named artistic director for the Toronto International Film Festival.

Marion Korn, LLB'87, is a family lawyer and mediator in Toronto and teaches advanced mediation and negotiation at York University in the certificate programme in dispute resolution. Korn co-founded Mutual Solutions, a practice that uses collaboration to ease couples through the process of divorce

Henry Huotari, BESc'88, senior project manager, principal with Delcan Corporation, won the Canadian Consulting Engineers award for design of the Hale-Trafalgar overpass in London, Ont.



40 SPRING 2012 EDITION 41



James Burtnick, BA'89 (Economics), has been named a senior vice-president at Sotheby's International Realty Canada.

Dan Shulman, BSc'89 (Actuarial Science), has been named National Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. Shulman handles play-by-play for ESPN's NBA coverage, Saturday night primetime college basketball and *Sunday Night Baseball*.

1**99**0s

Mike Crawley, BA'90 (PoliSci), has been elected president of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Dr. Louis Siminovitch, DSc'90, has been appointed to The Order of Ontario. A geneticist, Siminovitch pioneered the development of medical genetics in Canada, and was the first head of four major research facilities in Ontario.

Jim Diodati, BA'91 (Psychology), mayor of Niagara Falls, Ont., would love to hear from the Western gang that started with him in '87. You can reach him via Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter @jimdiodati.

Admassu Tadesse, BA'91 (Economics), has been appointed president & CEO of the Eastern and Southern African Trade & Development Bank.

Natalie MacLean, MBA'92, editor of Canada's largest wine website (nataliemaclean.com) has developed a new smartphone app called Wine Picks & Pairings. It uses GPS to pinpoint the closest liquor store, then gives the user a top 10 list of wines currently in stock.

Rob Payne, MPA'92, has been promoted to leader, consumer relationships at Nestlé Canada Inc.

Gareth Kung, MBA'95, has been appointed CFO of Ambow Education Holding Ltd., a leading provider of educational and career enhancement services in China.

Elizabeta Markuci, BA'96, is co-chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) New York chapter pro bono committee. AILA received the New York Bar Association's 2011 Bar Leaders Innovation Award in recognition of its pro bono immigration clinics.

Eric Moeller, BA'96 (PoliSci), recently launched Tinkr Apps Ltd., a mobile application company. His first mobile app for the iPhone, *Tinkr Math*, is a game for children ages 6 to 9.

Peter Tolensky, BA'96, and Philip Kroft, LLB'97, were named Leading Lawyers Under 40 by *Lexpert*; Canada's leading source of news and information about the business of law.



Tobias Bourdeau BA'97 (King's) and his wife Cara joined a team of 15 Canadians to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa in January. The team raised \$121,000 for Outward Bound Canada's Women of Courage program which supports survivors of abuse by using the outdoors to help participants expand their capabilities and return to their regular lives with a renewed sense of strength and resilience.

Andy Brown, MPA'98, has been named CAO of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Ont.

SUUU

Kevin Mackey, BA'03 (Psychology), has been named head coach of the Bishop's University Gaiters football program.

The Good Lovelies were named Vocal Group of the Year (2011) at the Canadian Folk Music Awards. The trio includes **Kerri Ough, BMus'03**, Sue Passmore and Caroline Brooks.

Christopher Plummer, LLD'04, won best supporting actor at the 84th annual Academy Awards for his role in *Beginners*.



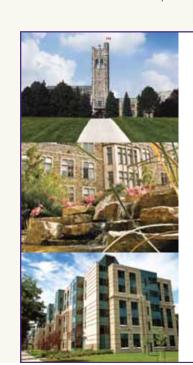
Kerri Ough (2000s), right

At the age of 82, he is the oldest person to ever receive an Oscar. That title had previously been held by the late Jessica Tandy, LLD'74, who won an Oscar at the age of 80.

Sonya Poweska, **BA'04**, has been appointed executive director of the Guelph Arts Council.

Eric Brass, HBA'05, was a recipient of 'Top 20 under 40' by *Shalom Life*. He is a founder of Tequila Tromba, a boutique tequila brand available in Toronto restaurants.

Western



Western Bed & Breakfast

This summer, stay at Western

- Western B&B is conveniently located in Elgin Hall – on University Drive, off Richmond St. North
- Competitive rates
- Open May-August

www.stayatwestern.ca

• Ideal for visitors to London, family vacations, sports teams, weddings, reunions, conferences & business meetings – and of course, students attending summer classes!

Contact Conference Services to book your stay:

Tel: 519.661.3476 Toll Free: 1.888.661.3545 Email: stayatwestern@uwo.ca

Western University • London, Ontario



If wearing glasses and contacts is interfering with your life, Laser VisionCorrection from TLC Laser Eye Centers can help.

Call Today for a FREE Consultation

Laura Nicholls · Olympic Swimmer & TLC Patient 800.TLC.2020 · LASIK.com

Mississauga · Toronto · London · Waterloo

ALUMNIGAZETTE.CA 43



Kimberley D. Caines, BA'06 (Honors Women's Studies and Spanish), graduated in 2009 with an LLB (Hons) from the City Law School in London, England, where she also completed the Bar Vocational Course in 2010. She was admitted to the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 2009 and was called to the Bar of England and Wales at Lincoln's Inn in October 2010. Caines was subsequently called to the Bermuda Bar in October 2011, and currently works at MJM

Barristers and Attorneys in Bermuda in the Litigation Department. She is active in the local Bermuda community and sits on two government-appointed committees.

Western alumnus Rahim Fazal, MBA'06, was among 100 successful entrepreneurs under 30 recognized at the White House in November as part of National Entrepreneurship Month. Fazal's company Involver.com made the Empact 100, a list of 100 companies helmed by entrepreneurs 30 and under.

Aric Sudicky BEd'08, director of fitness and nutrition at Medpoint Health Care Centre in London, Ont., has been named 2011 CANFITPRO fitness professional of the year.

Lisa Huynh, BSc'10, Diploma'11 (Not-for-Profit Mgmt), has been named Canada's Next Top Young Philanthropist in the inaugural year of the competition. Huynh's winning idea 'It Starts With Her' is an after school group mentoring program promoting positive life choices for at-risk adolescent girls.

Former prime minister Paul Martin, LLD'10, has been appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada for his distinguished contributions to Canadian politics and for his active involvement in promoting opportunities for Aboriginal Selected as one of 65 young women from across Canada, Tara Patterson, BA'10 (English), Diploma'11 (Public **Relations),** is competing to win the title of Miss Universe Canada on May 19. Winners go on to represent Canada in the 2012 Miss Universe pageant.

This summer, sailing instructors Joey Carson, BHSc'11, Max Tabord-Meehan and Ira Carson are biking across Canada to benefit an accessible sailing program at Easter Seals Camp Merrywood in Perth, Ont. They aim to raise \$1/km to provide Easter Seals with adaptive sailing and water-safety equipment for kids with physical disabilities. www.8000km.ca.

Shannon Charnock, BA'11, has started her own theatre company in London, Ont. called SEE Productions. She recently produced and directed an award-winning, Canadian play, Goodness by Michael Redhill, which was performed at the ARTS Project in March.



Kimberley Caines (2000s)

PLEASE NOTE: Gazetteer 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. Weste 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.

Discover the World



Alumni Western's 2012 - 2013 Discover the World program offers travel opportunities for Western alumni and friends.

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



Normandy and Paris Rome, Rhine River, Italian Lakes





Summer/Fall 2013 Black Sea, Tuscany, Canada's NW Passage, Around the World

Istanbul, Argentina and

Chile, Provence, Spain

Spring 2013

To view all upcoming trips, visit www.alumni.uwo.ca/travel. Contact us to receive a copy of our catalogue or to be added to our mailing list.

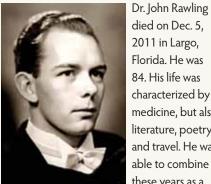
Susan Henderson 519.661.2111 or 1.800.258.6896 ext. 85871 or e-mail discovertheworld@uwo.ca



REMEMBERING:

DR. JOHN RAWLING, MD'49

BY: BRADLEY RAWLING



died on Dec. 5, 2011 in Largo, Florida. He was 84. His life was characterized by medicine, but also literature, poetry, and travel. He was able to combine these years as a

volunteer physician providing medical care, health education and humanitarian assistance in developing countries.

John received his MD in 1949, a few months before his 21st birthday. Most of the class had nicknames, and he was known as J.C or Joltin' John. He specialized in urology, completed his residency in Orlando, Fla., and began his practice in Flint, Mich., in 1954. Keeping both Western and medicine in the family, his brother Edward Rawling also received his MD from Western in 1957.

As a relative of renowned poet Rudyard Kipling (his grandfather's cousin), John combined his passion for medicine with poetry and literature. In the words of Kipling, "Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." While John could have sustained these interests at home, he was determined to share his talents and skills around the world.

John loved to travel. Even early in his career, he chose to teach and travel as a volunteer physician on the SS HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), the

world's first peacetime hospital ship. In this way he was able to provide medical training and health education for healthcare professionals around the world. He completed voyages on the SS HOPE to Indonesia, Vietnam, Peru and Nicaragua.

For his many contributions and his work on behalf of the SS HOPE, John was awarded the Key to the City of Flint, Mich., and recognized in 1963 as 'Man of the Year' by the Flint Chamber of Commerce.

Continuing to travel and learn, he worked for two years as a physician in Saudi Arabia.

A father, grandfather, and a teacher of medicine and surgery the world over, John still found time to excel at bridge, chess, golf, tennis and trombone and raise deer and horses.

Bradley Rawling is Dr. John Rawling's son.

Remembering essays of less than 400 words about alumni who have passed in the last year will be considered. Only one will be published per issue, and you will be contacted if yours is chosen. Submissions can be sent to wag.editor@uwo.ca or Remembering, c/o WAG Editor, Communications & Public Affairs, Western University, Suite 360, Westminster Hall, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 3K7.

IN MEMORIAM

Audrey (Gray) Cobban BA'40, on Sept.17, 2011, in Wardsville, Ont.

Dr. Frank DeMarco, Sr., MD'43, on Feb. 2, 2012, in Windsor,

Walter (Pete) Colston Howell, BSc'50, MSc'51, PhD'55, on Nov. 16, 2011, in Perugia, Italy.

Jack Leitch, BA'50, MD'52, on Jan. 12, 2012, in Toronto, Ont.

Mary Elizabeth Dryden, BA'52, on Feb. 6, 2012, in Guelph,

W.C. (Bill) McMurray, BSc'53, PhD'56, on Aug. 2, 2011, in London, Ont.

Nancy Ecclestone, BA'60, BSc'86 (Computer Science), on Dec. 19, 2011, in London, Ont.

Dr. Brian G. Sparkes, BA'62, MSc'64 (Biochemistry), on Dec. 18, 2011, in Toronto, Ont.

Rev. Robert Ronald Campbell, BA'67 (Zoology), on Dec. 23, 2011, in Ottawa, Ont.

Richard Sullivan Hallisey, MBA'68, on July 22, 2011, in Toronto, Ont.

Norman Sanderson Gibb, BA'69, on Dec. 3, 2011, in Oshawa, Ont.

Gary Norman Leigh, BA'73, on Feb. 14, 2012, in Coburg,

Randy Junnila, BA'78, MSc'86 (Geology), on July 28, 2010, in Toronto, Ont.

Rev. Stephen Bruce Demitroff, BA'81, MDiv'84, on Dec. 28, 2011, in London, Ont.

Elmeta (Powell) Van Overloop, BA'84, on July 7, 2011, in London, Ont.

Heidi Mueller, BSc'87, on April 1, 2011, in Kitchener, Ont.

Pam (Vanderhoeven) Forcey, BA'90 (Hons Phys Ed) on April 16, 2012, in London, Ont.

Derek Jason ("Jay") Tennant, BA'95 (Philosophy), on Jan. 14, 2012, in Collingwood, Ont.

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU? SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH FELLOW GRADS AND HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE.



Gazetteer Ste. 160. Westminster Hall. Western University London, ON, N6A 3K7



519-601-2111 800-258-6896 519-661-2111 ext. 86863



519-661-3948



gazetteer@uwo.ca

DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE FALL 2012 ISSUE IS JUNE 22.



WHEN THE **'OFFICE' WAS MORE LIKE HOME**

I'm not even sure what got me thinking about Call The Office. I think about the place every once in a while. I practically lived there, a lifetime ago. The little music club down on York Street, across from the train station, was a London nightlife mainstay in the 1980s, when I was at Western. It's still there today.

What surprised me, but shouldn't, was to learn it had been there for decades before I stumbled across it.

Call The Office, if you've never been there, is a tidy late-19th-century brick residential building whose structure has barely been modified in all its decades as a music venue. The place must have stood on that corner when Wilfrid Laurier was prime minister. It felt old the first time I set foot in it, which must have been when I was a sophomore in 1985-86. (I wasn't much for saloons during my freshman year.)

What Call The Office offered was live bands, operating vaguely in the stylistic zone called 'alternative'. This was supposed to mean they didn't care whether they sold records.

Of course, in many cases, it meant they'd be thrilled to sell records but, in the absence of buyers, had abandoned most hope of doing so. Whatever. The bands were looser, rougher, wilder, more eccentric than the cover bands at The Spoke. They came, in many instances, from exotic locales like Vancouver or Toronto.

If lectures at Western offered the obligation to work like thousands of other students; and a lot of what went on after hours on campus offered the chance to play in precisely the same way that thousands of other students played; Call The Office was something different. It felt like a break from routine, a chance to be yourself, a chance to see musicians who were comfortable being themselves.

It offered a touch of anarchy.

Just a touch. This was still London, after all.

One of the bands there was 63 Monroe, a bit of a different proposition from the more genteel fare at Call the Office because they were an unreconstructed punk band. They had, as far as I could tell, been around forever. The evidence suggests they're still playing. The lead singer was Steven R. Stunning, a gaunt blond with assorted body modifications and a perma-

At one point, Stunning decided to run for mayor, which presented some difficulty because he was required to use his legal name on the ballot. His campaign staff, to the extent there was one, was worried his normal audience wouldn't be able to find him and vote for him.

At The Gazette we did what we could to help connect candidate with voter base. We got a student reporter to write about the Stunning candidacy. I was proud of the headline: "Stunning reaches for brass ring to match the one in his nose."

Our reporter was cross with me; he thought the headline made it sound like we weren't taking Stunning seriously as a potential mayor. Actually, considering the boondoggle mall London Council wound up locking in for downtown London, I'm not sure a punk singer would have done a worse job.

But I digress.

The club's current schedule suggests they don't do this so much any more, but in my day, a band would often settle in for most of a week. I'm sure I saw the Shuffle Demons at least twice within the same week. I can't recall whether I saw Bob's Your Uncle twice or whether one night of that band was so epic it just seemed to last several days. My girlfriend suspected me of harboring a crush on Sook-Yin Lee, the Vancouver band's radiant singer, who would go on to work at the CBC. My girlfriend knew me well. On another occasion I fell in love with a blues-rock band from Toronto called the Phantoms, even though none of the guys in the band were particularly attractive, and I went to hear them at least three nights in a row.

In my spare time I sometimes stayed home

This week I stumbled across a three-part video on YouTube, a TV documentary from 1990 called Reunion at the York. It's about a reunion of artists, poets, folk singers and experimental bands in 1990. The venue was Call The Office – or the York Hotel as it was known when it was ground zero for the beatnik, folk, hippie and assorted other undergrounds of the 60s and 70s.

I learned when I was a toddler the Nihilist Spasm Band, experimental saxophonist Eric Stach and folk singer Mike Mulhern, who later became my editor at the London Free Press, were holding court at the place that would become Call The Office in 1984.

So the building's status as a pillar of underground culture in London now extends back at least half a century.

I don't have a grand thesis to feed you today. But in February I was in China and I saw the Guangzhou Opera House, constructed in 2010 at a cost of a quarter of a billion dollars. Leaking and drafty. Empty and unused 25 days a month I am not sure the Guangzhou Opera House will last another five years, let alone 50.

Sometimes cultural institutions don't take root where the best wishes of central planners would wish. Sometimes they find a windy street corner and they just never let go. I learned at least as much at Call The Office as I learned in second-year cell biology, and if those two observations are related, well, I have few regrets.

Paul Wells is political editor for Maclean's magazine. Follow him on Twitter @InklessPW.



Thanks to donors. Heather, Mehdi and Ryan are on their way to creating a better tomorrow. Through their research, they are driving discovery and seeking solutions to enhance the world. They are just three of the more than 400 graduate students at Western supported through the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program.

For every \$1 you donate to the program, the provincial government contributes \$2 to advance the studies and research of graduate students.

Learn how you can help more Western students seek solutions for a better tomorrow. Visit www.ogsgivingtowestern.uwo.ca



AlumniGazette

Publication Agreement # is 40069342 Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Western University, WH, Suite 360 London, ON N6A 3K7



Whatever the future brings, you can be prepared with Alumni Term Life Insurance.

- Available exclusively to alumni at affordable rates
- Same great rates apply for spouses
- Choose from \$35,000 to \$770,000 in coverage
- Save 10% if you have \$280,000 or more in coverage

Visit **www.manulife.com/westernmag** to get a free quote, apply online, and learn about the other alumni insurance products available to you.

Or call **1-888-913-6333** toll-free to speak to a licensed insurance advisor.



Underwritten by:



The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company