

# Alumni Gazette

WESTERN'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE SINCE 1939

WINTER 2012



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## DEPARTMENTS

- 05 LETTERS  
Vandana Shiva heralded
- 07 CAMPUS NEWS  
HIV vaccine heads to human trials
- 10 CAMPUS QUOTES  
Maya Angelou, Michael J. Fox
- 22 BEST KEPT SECRET  
Chemo origins discovered at Western
- 34 MEMORIES  
'Berkeley of the North'
- 36 CONSUMER GUIDE  
Food trends for 2012
- 38 NEW RELEASES  
Kelley Armstrong, BA'91, has us *Spell Bound*
- 44 GAZETTEER  
Alumni notes & announcements

- 12 **BLUEPRINT FOR REVOLUTION**  
Africa can be saved, and George Ayittey, MA'70, knows how
- 16 **LOGO'S MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS YOU**  
Cover story
- 18 **ROCCHI PICTURE SHOW**  
Film critic James Rocchi, BA'92, takes on Hollywood
- 24 **COACH MEG: USING BRAIN BIOLOGY TO MANAGE OUR MINDS**  
Wellness coach Margaret Moore, BSc'78, MBA'83, on creating psychic order
- 26 **THE CAMPAIGN FOR WESTERN**  
Enriching the Western Experience

@ [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca)

- ➔ **DEFEATING A DICTATOR - EXCERPT**  
BY GEORGE AYITTEY, MA'70
- ➔ **TOP 10 MOVIES OF 2011**  
BY FILM CRITIC JAMES ROCCHI, BA'92
- ➔ **THE NHL'S HOT-BUTTON ISSUES**  
Q&A WITH HOCKEY AGENT IAN PULVER, BA'87
- ➔ **ORGANIZE YOUR MIND, ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE - EXCERPT**  
BY MARGARET MOORE, BSc'78, MBA'83
- ➔ **HUMANITARIAN WORK - A FAMILY AFFAIR**  
Q&A WITH WORLD VISION'S LINDSAY GLADDING, BA'03
- ➔ **WESTERN HEADS NORTH**  
ALUMNI VOLUNTEER WITH THE NUNAVUT STARS HOCKEY CAMP

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WITH MARCIA STEYAERT, BA'96



## MORE THAN WORDS

I can't throw it away.

I see it hanging every day, graying and fraying, taking up prime real estate at the front of my closet. Not shoved in a bottom drawer. Not crumpled up in a box in the attic.

I haven't worn it in 20 years, and likely never will again.

Don't get the wrong idea. I'm not sentimental by any stretch. And the *Hoarders* TV show gives this 'Type A' personality heart palpitations. In fact, once a year I purge my closet, sending anything I haven't worn in the last year off to Goodwill.

So why then can't I let go of my Western Orientation '92 T-shirt?

It's the Experience – with a capital E.

A farm girl from modest means, I was the first in my family to go to university. Pulling up in front of King's University College on move-in day I was scared, nervous and downright intimidated by the sophisticated, big-city kids and their families.

I don't belong here, I thought.

But before I knew it, I was swept up in a flurry of friendly sophs, who helped me settle into my room and get to know campus. And as we were rushed from event to event that first week, we all wore the T-shirt. Gone were the feelings of inadequacy. Western welcomed me, and not only did I feel like I belonged, I felt I was part of something special, something only those who

have gone to Western can fully grasp.

Western is more than a place, more than a degree. The university's recent rebranding process taught us that.

The Western Experience is difficult to put into words, let alone capture with a logo.

But as an alumnus, you know it, you felt it. And hopefully you still feel it when you reminisce about your student days, or come home to our campus.

It's being part of something backed by tradition, fueled by spirit where all around you, people are aspiring to achieve great things and make their mark on the world.

As a new year gets underway, why not resolve to connect with old classmates; come back for Homecoming this fall; show the kids and grandkids your yearbooks and photos.

Let the Experience live on. And always make closet space for your memories.

**Is there something that represents your Western Experience? Maybe it's a ticket stub, an old essay, or a poster that hung above your bed in residence? Or maybe it's a song that takes you back every time you hear it?**

**Send us a photo, along with 100-200 words, on why it captures your Western Experience to wag.editor@uwo.ca. We will run some of your stories in future issues.**



### 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](http://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](mailto:advser@uwo.ca).

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## GRATITUDE FOR GALLANTRY

(Re: Alumni Gazette Letters, Spring/Summer 2011)

I really want to thank you for the splendid issue of the Alumni Gazette, Fall 2011. It gave me pleasure to see how my old alma mater is doing.

I, too, want to comment on the Honour Society. I was a member of the Arts - Journalism graduating class of '51 and a member of the Honour Society of that year. I am sad to say that while the spirit is more than willing, the flesh is weak and I wasn't able to attend the Journalism Class' 60th reunion this year. I'm going to ask for some thumbnail profiles from the gang just to see what everyone has been up to in these last years.

I wanted, too, to throw a big bouquet to Joe Fricker. I've always wanted to thank him for an act of incredible generosity but I lost track of him. We were travelling together to a national meeting of the National Federation of University Students, Joe as president of our Western group, if I remember rightly, and I as the Minister of External Affairs. We met at the station for the overnight train to Quebec City and Joe had my ticket for me. Then he said, "Did you reserve your berth?" I was completely taken aback, thinking it was all a package, and mumbled and muttered something about getting one now. Without a second's hesitation, he handed me his reservation and said he'd get one. He ushered me to the berth, bade me good night and was off like a flash. I found out he sat up all night! If that isn't a selfless act I don't know what is.

Joe, I've always wanted to thank you properly. I've never forgotten you.

CYNTHIA CLARK STEERS, BA'51 (JOURNALISM)

## SHIVA'S ROOMIE REMINISCES

(Re: Seeds of the Future, Fall 2011)

As one who shared a house on Broughdale Avenue with Vandana Shiva and a small group of (mostly) graduate philosophy students during her first year at Western, I took great pleasure in reading Jason Winders' fine profile.

I fondly remember explaining to Vandana the cultural intricacies behind one of the all-



**Editor's note:** Cynthia Clark Steers sent us this photo of the Journalism Class of 1951. Cynthia is in the middle row, wearing a scarf. If you can identify others in the photo, please send an e-mail to [wag.editor@uwo.ca](mailto:wag.editor@uwo.ca).

time great cult shows on television — *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*, the soap opera parody produced by Norman Lear that aired in nightly weekday syndication from January 1976 to May 1977. We both became fast addicts. Only one of us, sadly, had the moxie to take on the world. But to this day, neither of us much cares whether our floors have a waxy yellow buildup.

EARL FOWLER, MA'77 (PHILOSOPHY),  
MA'78 (JOURNALISM)

## BRING SHIVA BACK

(Re: Seeds of the Future, Fall 2011)

How wonderful to find out that Vandana Shiva is an alumna of Western! I have followed her for years, seeing her speak first at my place of work, SUNY Fredonia, and then at Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania. I find her to be very humble, and extremely inspiring to those who are concerned about the quality of the world's food



Vandana Shiva (1976)

supply, and the lives of those who farm. She was even mentioned in my daughter's most recent U.S.-based *New Moon Girls* magazine right beside famous activists Rachel Carson (*Silent Spring*) and Frances Moore Lappé (*Diet for a Small Planet*).

I suggest, if it has not already happened, that you invite her to speak at Western. She is thought provoking!

SARAH HAMILTON BMUS'86  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF OBOE  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT SUNY FREDONIA  
FREDONIA, NEW YORK

### Clarification

Alan Thicke ('*Could Alan Thicke be world's favourite TV dad?*' Fall 2011) supports the Alan Thicke Centre for Juvenile Diabetes Research, a venture launched by Thicke and his father, Dr. Brian Thicke, MD'56, who still practices medicine in Brampton.

### 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.

# WESTERN ALUMNAE INFLUENCING THE WORLD

## CANADA

Five Western alumnae have been named in this year's list of "25 Top Women of Influence in Canada," according to *Women of Influence* magazine: **Teri Currie, MBA'98**, Group Head of Direct Channels, Corporate and People Strategies, TD Bank Group; **Rosemary McCarney, LLB'77**, Plan Canada president; **Farah Mohamed, MA'96** (Political Science), president of The Belinda Stronach Foundation; **Dale Ponder, LLB'80**, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP managing partner; and **Sandra Smeltzer, BA'95**, Information and Media Studies professor at Western. Richard Ivey School of Business Dean **Carol Stephenson** was also named to the annual list.

## AFRICA

In September, *IT News Africa* named two Western alumnae, **Uche Eze, HBA'06**, and **Tebello Nyokong, PhD'87** (Chemistry) in their list of top 10 most influential women in science and technology in Africa.

Nyokong is a professor of medicinal chemistry and nanotechnology at Rhodes University and is recognized as one of the top three publishing scientists in South Africa.

Eze is managing director of new media company BainStone Limited and founding editor of BellaNaija.com, a popular fashion, music, style, movie, television and beauty website with more than one million hits per month.



Currie



McCarney



Mohamed



Ponder



Smeltzer



Eze



Nyokong



Dr. Chil-Yong Kang (Photo by Paul Mayne)

## HIV VACCINE HEADS TO HUMAN TRIALS

A potential first and only preventative HIV vaccine, developed by Dr. Chil-Yong Kang and his team at Western, has received approval by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to start human clinical trials south of the border.

With support from Sumagen Canada, it is the only HIV vaccine currently under development in Canada, and one of only a few in the world. The vaccine, SAV001, holds tremendous promise, having already proven to stimulate strong immune responses in preliminary toxicology tests with no adverse effects or safety risks.

"FDA approval for human clinical trials is an extremely significant milestone for our vaccine, which has the potential to save the lives of millions of people around the world by preventing HIV infection," says Kang, a researcher and professor at Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

HIV/AIDS has killed more than 28 million people worldwide, and more than 35 million people currently live with the virus infection. Since the virus was characterized in 1983, there have been numerous trials around the world to develop vaccines; however, no commercialized vaccine has been developed to date. Other HIV vaccines evaluated through human clinical trials have focused on either one specific component of HIV as an antigen, genetic vaccine using recombinant DNA, or recombinant viruses carrying the HIV genes. Kang's vaccine is unique in that it uses a killed whole HIV-1, much like the killed whole virus vaccines for polio, influenza, rabies and hepatitis A.

Learn more at [communications.uwo.ca/media/hivvaccine](http://communications.uwo.ca/media/hivvaccine)

**BEFORE IT CAN BE COMMERCIALIZED, KANG'S VACCINE MUST GO THROUGH THREE PHASES OF HUMAN CLINICAL TRIALS. IF ALL GOES WELL, THE VACCINE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN FIVE YEARS.**

- **Phase I**, set to begin in January 2012, will double check the safety of the vaccine in humans, involving 40 HIV-positive volunteers.
- **Phase II** will measure immune responses in humans, involving approximately 600 HIV-negative volunteers who are in the high-risk category for HIV infection.
- **Phase III** will measure the efficacy of the vaccine, involving approximately 6,000 HIV-negative volunteers who are also in the high-risk category for HIV infection.

## OWEN MEETS WITH DALAI LAMA

Adrian Owen, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and Imaging at Western and one of the world's foremost neuroscientists, shared his research findings with the Dalai Lama in São Paulo, Brazil at a symposium, *States of Consciousness: Ancient Knowledge meets modern Neuroscience*, in mid-September.

"The Dalai Lama has been interested in the relationship between science and society for many years and, in particular, how scientific discoveries often create new and difficult ethical challenges," Owen says. "Our neuroimaging research with vegetative state patients has created many such challenges and this was an exciting opportunity for me to discuss the wider implications of this research with him."



Adrian Owen of Western's Brain and Mind Institute meets with the Dalai Lama in Brazil. (Photo provided by Palas Athena / Pedro Pacheco)

## NEW COMPOSITES RESEARCH CENTRE SET TO OPEN

Western has partnered with Europe's largest application-oriented research organization – the Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology – to create the new Fraunhofer Project Centre for Composites Research @ Western.

The centre will improve fibre composite materials for lightweight construction at an industrial scale for various markets, including the automotive sector. This is particularly significant given London's location at the heart of the Canadian automobile industry and within a short distance to major North American automotive assembly and R&D centres in Detroit.

Western will contribute established expertise in the fields of surface technologies and materials science at the new facility, which will be equipped with a state-of-the-art hydraulic press with a maximum clamping force of 2,500 tonnes.

This unique project will make London the leading site for advanced composite materials

research and testing at the manufacturing scale in North America, and will create jobs throughout the region.

The FPC@Western – which represents Fraunhofer's first foray outside Europe – will open later this year and has been supported by \$10 million from the City of London.

## MORE ACCESS, LOWER COSTS TO REVOLUTIONARY TREATMENT

Researchers at Western have discovered a practical and cost-effective method for assessing whether some patients who appear to be vegetative, may actually be conscious, but simply unable to respond. Their findings were described in the Nov. 12 issue of *The Lancet*.

Despite rigorous clinical assessment, a significant proportion of vegetative state patients are misdiagnosed. Studies led by Adrian Owen, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and Imaging at Western's Brain and Mind Institute, show

a significant minority of these patients are consciously aware and, in some cases, can communicate using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

But while this solution is revolutionary, expense and accessibility preclude the use of fMRI assessment in the majority of vegetative patients.

"Our new method uses electroencephalography (EEG) which is relatively cheap, portable and widely available," says Damian Cruse, postdoctoral fellow and the study's lead author. "This means we can now visit patients in their residential care homes or hospitals and provide a more accurate diagnosis than was previously possible."

The new research shows 19 per cent of a group of patients who were entirely unresponsive and presumed to be vegetative, were actually aware, exceeding previous estimates of the incidence of 'covert' awareness in this group.

"It's astonishing," Owen says. "In some of these cases, patients who seemed entirely unresponsive were able to signal that they were, in fact, conscious by changing their patterns of brain activity – sometimes hundreds of times."



Ray Elliott, BA'74 (Huron), looks on as his wife Margaret Elliott uses one of the surgical simulators at Canadian Surgical Technologies and Advanced Robotics (CSTAR). CSTAR is a collaborative research and education program at Western, London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care London. (Photo by Geoff Robins)

## SURGICAL INNOVATION DONATION

A \$1.5-million donation from Ray and Margaret Elliott will be matched by Western to form the \$3-million endowed Ray and Margaret Elliott Chair in Surgical Innovation. The chair positions Western at the forefront of surgical innovation.

Ray Elliott, BA'74 (Huron), is president and CEO of Boston Scientific, one of the world's largest medical device companies. Prior to joining Boston Scientific in 2009, he led other major medical companies including Zimmer Holdings Inc. as chairman and CEO, Cybex International and American Hospital Supply Corporation as president of its Far East Divisions. In 2005, Elliott was named "Best CEO in America for Health Care" (Medical Supplies and Devices) by *Institutional Investor* magazine.

"We wanted to focus on contributing to improved patient quality of life through

less invasive procedures and medical education through global innovation," Elliott says. "Our relationship with Western and this new chair will allow us to accomplish our mutual goals."

## FIRST TROJAN ASTEROID FOUND IN EARTH'S ORBIT

Studying images compiled by NASA, a Western astronomer has proved the existence of the first Trojan asteroid found to share Earth's orbit. The findings of physics and astronomy professor Paul Wiegert and his colleagues at Athabasca University and the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope were the cover story of the July 28 issue of *Nature*.

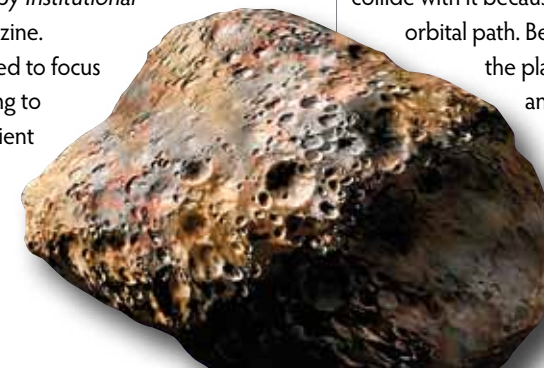
Trojan asteroids share an orbit with a larger planet or moon, in this case Earth, but do not collide with it because it follows the same orbital path. Before this discovery, only the planets Jupiter, Neptune and Mars were known to harbour these asteroids named for the soldiers of the ancient war

immortalized by Homer in *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

"Like a pair of dancers performing a complicated tango, the asteroid moves in an elaborate path that brings it sometimes closer and sometimes farther from us," Wiegert says. "The Earth and the asteroid remain in sync, however, with the asteroid always preceding the Earth as they both move around the Sun."

## WESTERN RATED BEST STUDENT EXPERIENCE

For the 10th year in a row, Western received top marks in the category "Most Satisfied Students" in *The Globe and Mail's* annual *Canadian University Report*. In a survey of more than 33,000 undergraduate students, Western received the only 'A-' grade in that category, among large universities (more than 22,000 students). Of the 19 categories published, Western ranked first in eight categories including Quality of Teaching and Learning and Campus Atmosphere. Western also tied for first in six, tied for second in three and tied for third in two.





**“Don’t ever underestimate the importance of a liberal arts degree.”**

Sarah Richardson, BA’93, co-creator/co-producer of five home design television series on HGTV, Young Alumni Award winner, at the 37th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner, Sept. 30



**“I’ve been honoured to be a guardian of the Western legacy and I’ve been proud to lead young men coming to Western to pursue their student athlete dreams.”**

Larry Haylor, Mustang football builder/head coach (1984-2006), ‘W’ Club Hall of Fame inductee, at the 37th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner, Sept. 30



**“Politicians usually say you are the ‘leaders of tomorrow.’ I don’t like that. You need to make an impact today. Everything you do makes a difference.”**

Justin Trudeau, MP and federal Liberal critic for youth, post-secondary education and amateur sport, speaking to students at The Spoke, Oct. 12



**“If you hit a wall, fine. Go around the wall and find a door and go through to the other side and carry on.”**

Michael J. Fox, actor and founder of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, spoke at the Leaders in Innovation Dinner marking the 25th anniversary of Robarts Research Institute at Western’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Nov. 21



**“It is a wonderful thing to be at this university and know that it is a rainbow in the clouds.”**

Maya Angelou, acclaimed poet and autobiographer, at a talk in Alumni Hall, presented by the Arts & Humanities Students’ Council and the University Students’ Council, Nov. 3



**“A couple things engineering taught me: one was a deep curiosity for how things work and how they can work better; and two, was solving problems.”**

Bruce Ross, BESC’85, IBM Canada president, at the IBM Centennial Lecture, Oct. 12



**“We have become a country that is willing to embrace its past and to act to build a future together.”**

Roberta Jamieson, LLB’76, LLD’93, President & CEO, National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, receiving Western Law’s Community Service Award, Oct. 20



**“Journalism is an entrée, a free pass to slip into other people’s skins for a brief moment and to witness there the full expression of human nature, from honour to evil and everything in between.”**

Heather Hiscox, MA’87 (Journalism), LLD’11, CBC News Morning anchor, receiving her honorary degree at Western’s 298th Convocation, Oct. 28

# BLUEPRINT FOR REVOLUTION

BY JASON WINDERS, ME'S'10

**GEORGE AYITTEY DOES NOT MINCE WORDS. SO WHEN HIS LATEST MANUSCRIPT LANDED ON HIS PUBLISHER'S DESK A FEW MONTHS AGO, THE BOOK'S TITLE SHOULDN'T HAVE SURPRISED ANYONE: *HOW TO TOPPLE A BRUTAL DICTATOR*.**

"I had so much trouble convincing my publisher on the title," he laughs. "He was so spooked. He said, 'No, no, no we cannot go with this title. It is too provocative. We don't want to do a how-to book on revolution.'"

The publisher countered with his own: *The March of Freedom: Fighting Dictators in Africa and Around the World*. But those words rang hollow to Ayittey, MA'70 (Economics).

"I don't like the word 'fight.' You can fight someone without winning. I don't want to 'fight' these dictators; I want to defeat them, topple them," he says from his Virginia home. "And what is this 'around the world'? Everyone knows where these sons-of-bitches are."

You see, for George Ayittey, the only good dictator is a dead dictator.

As president of the Washington, D.C.-based Free Africa Foundation, which he founded in 1993, Ayittey has dedicated his life to the argument that Africa is poor because she is not free. Through a half dozen books and countless appearances in front of audiences and political bodies across the globe, he has brought his message – often unpopular – about how to save Africa.

"This is a story which has to be told by an African. It cannot be told by a Canadian or an American. It has to be told by an African because we have experienced this, we have seen these dictators and how they operate," he says. "(After colonialism), independence was in name only. All we did was trade one set of masters for another and the oppression and exploitation of the African people continued unabated."

His most recent book, published in November, continues telling that story. In the eventually titled, *Defeating Dictators: Fighting Tyranny in Africa and Around the World*, Ayittey argues financial and other aid to Africa, while virtuous, is done in vain unless the continent sheds itself of violent dictatorships. Offered on the book's pages is what his publisher feared, a near blueprint for how to bring down a tyrant.

Ayittey has run counter to conventional wisdom most of his life. But just as he was growing accustomed to being a "voice in the wilderness," his message has started to gain traction as the world looks for another way in Africa.

And to this day, he credits Western for helping him not only find his voice, but make the connections necessary to spark his revelation on revolution.



Musician/humanitarian Bono and George Ayittey, MA'70 (Economics), at TEDGlobal 2007 in Tanzania. (Photo by Erik Hersman)

Ayittey graduated from the University of Ghana in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in economics. That fall, an exchange program between the Canadian and Ghanaian governments brought him and three fellow countrymen as students to Western.

He landed at the London airport on a cold September day, wearing only a "puny little jacket." The professor who picked him up took Ayittey straight to the Hudson's Bay Company and bought him a winter coat. That would be the first of many warm memories for Ayittey at Western.

"We looked different. You're talking about 1969, about the first batch of black students at Western. A lot of people were curious about us, asked us where we're from, and made us feel welcome," he says. "It put my mind at ease. I could focus on my studies and not worry about being accepted."

Ayittey, who would graduate from Western in 1970 with a master's degree in economics, admits much of his revolutionary fire was stoked in Western's classrooms. His professors put economics into a political context, preaching the importance of individual freedoms and liberties to a fair economic system. Those words stuck.

"They very much believed in economic freedom. For me, it was just natural to leap from economic freedom to political freedom," Ayittey says. "It made me instinctively aware of the lack of freedoms in Africa – not just economic, but political as well."

"It created this passion that we have to do much to liberate Africa."

He returned in Ghana in 1971, where he would use his economics background to deliver informed radio commentaries, often critical of the country's ruling party's policies. The

Ghanian military government didn't take kindly to the criticism and would haul Ayittey in for questioning, even raid and rifle his home.

"That was when I became more and more radicalized about military regimes and the way they have robbed people of their freedoms," he says. "That's when it dawned on me that we will never make any progress in Ghana until we rid ourselves of these military regimes."

Stepping back, he saw problems not just in Ghana, but a proliferation of military regimes across Africa. He knew something needed to be done. "Maybe it was being hauled into a military barracks that was the spark," he laughs. "Then I decided to fight this particular scourge."

Prior to leaving for Ghana, Ayittey had completed his PhD requirement at Western, needing only to write his thesis. But a military coup and the ensuing new regime at home ended his country's exchange program. He

would end up at the University of Manitoba where he received a PhD in 1981.

That same year, yet another military coup swept yet another military dictator into power in Ghana. "At that point I said to myself I want to devote my life to ridding Ghana of this type of military dictatorship," Ayittey says.

That was accomplished in 2000 when John Kufuor of the New Patriotic Party was elected president. As the nation's first legitimate leader since 1966, Kufuor knew what he had in Ayittey, calling him an "architect of change in Ghana." He invited Ayittey to join the new government as a cabinet minister.

Ayittey declined.

"I didn't wage this war for my personal benefit," he says. "We had liberated Ghana. But there are many other African countries we have to liberate."

\*\*\*

You would short Ayittey to simply brand him controversial.

Throughout his career, he has challenged the deep-rooted dogma that has formed the foundations of some of the world's largest government aid agencies and NGOs. To get his point across, Ayittey has aligned his organization with powerful conservative think tanks (Hoover Institution, Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute and Earhart Foundation) to influence the way the world does business with Africa.

And people are listening.

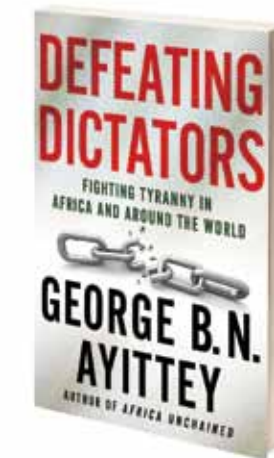
In 2008, *Foreign Policy* magazine named Ayittey one of the world's 'Top 100 Public Intellectuals.'

"The externalists believe Africa is poor because of external factors like colonialism, Western imperialism and an unjust international economic system," he says. "In other words, Africa is poor, but it's not its fault. It's a victim of hostile external factors."

"This is the orthodoxy that has held sway for much of the post-colonial period."

But Ayittey knows internal factors can play just as detrimental a role.

"One of those factors is bad leadership," he says. "In the West, very few Westerners want to talk about bad leadership in Africa for fear of being called racist. Many in the West didn't



**“THERE IS VERY LITTLE THE WEST CAN DO TO AFFECT CHANGE IN AFRICA. AFRICA – AND AFRICANS – MUST START IT ALL.”**

want to talk about bad leaders like (former Uganda President) Idi Amin, even (former Zimbabwe President) Robert Mugabe. Political correctness was a problem in the West."

The West's silence, combined with the oppressive nature of the regimes, has fed drastic reactions in African populations, often with catastrophic consequences. Civil wars. Breakaway republics. Mass exoduses causing humanitarian crises on biblical scales. These scenarios, playing out across the continent for decades, leave little room for the development necessary to lift its people out of poverty.

Ayittey stresses change – in government, in economics, in leadership – is necessary. "Until we do that," he says, "no amount of financing is going to help us in Africa."

Written off as a gadfly in his early years, Ayittey has remained steadfast in his beliefs, remarkably consistent in his message for two decades.

He has been denied academic promotions, even ostracized by colleagues for his opinions. He has been jailed in Senegal, banned from

store shelves and banished from state-owned media across Africa. His hotel room was raided and papers seized in Kenya, and he has been followed on the streets of his own country. In 1999, his office at American University in Washington, D.C., was firebombed.

"What have I done wrong?" he says. "The more these things went on, the more radical I became, the more passionate I became about freedom."

He has clashed with the World Bank, The International Monetary Fund, colleagues in academia and counts few friends among the aid elite.

"I don't question their motives," he says. "They want to help poor people."

But he feels they are going about it the wrong way.

In Canada, he testified about foreign aid in front of the Senate, a body he found too rooted in the wrong-headed belief that more money to African governments equals a better life for Africans. "My god, what do you mean governments? We don't have governments in Africa," Ayittey says. "What we have are mafia states, vampire states, governments that have been hijacked by bandits and crooks who use the instruments of state power to advance their own interest and enrich themselves."

Today, his message is resonating. In light of an Arab Spring focused on the overthrow of long-time dictators in the Middle East, people are taking another look at Ayittey's thesis. He has held audience with everyone from U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton to rock star/humanitarian Bono to TED conference attendees. From Parliament Hill to the White House to halls of power around the globe, people are now listening to George Ayittey.

But it's not Ayittey who has changed; he has preached much the same message as he did during his days at Western. The world has simply, and slowly, come to him.

"There is very little the West can do to affect change on Africa," Ayittey says. "Africa – and Africans – must start it all."

Visit [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca) to read an excerpt from *Defeating Dictators: Fighting Tyranny in Africa and Around the World*.





Western

“ Together, as faculty, staff, students and alumni, we will bring value to this new visual identity. Together, we are the Western story.”

### The Process

A visual identity engagement website was home-base that kept all stakeholders in the loop on our process, as well as opportunities to engage in surveys, and send us direct feedback.

- 4,995 survey responses
- 9 workshops with faculty, staff, students and alumni
- 154 student iPad interviews on campus
- 63 one-on-one interviews with internal and external stakeholders

### What we learned

- You call us Western
- Lose purple at our peril
- You value our history and tradition

# Logo's most important element is *you*

BY TERRY RICE, BFA'98, MA'00

American design guru Michael Bierut put it best: “Logos on their own, particularly new ones, don't mean that much in and of themselves.”

Don't get me wrong.

Western's much-needed rebrand comes at a critical point in our history. A once regional university has earned a national reputation for providing an experience second to none. That reputation can only strengthen as we build partnerships with universities around the globe.

If we want to make Western more broadly known, however, one thing about our visual identity is abundantly clear:

We need to simplify.

At last count, Western uses more than 70 different logos to promote itself to the world. That's not including the dozens used by student groups and clubs.

Websites, brochures, bulletin boards, research posters all displaying different names, symbols, fonts and colours. Disparate logos used inconsistently water down the important stories Western needs to tell.

In response, we hired a strategic marketing firm, Level5, to help determine our brand positioning – bringing clarity to what makes Western unique. Secondly, we conducted a full review and redesign of our visual identity in partnership with Hahn Smith Design, an award-winning agency based in Toronto.

Throughout our brand journey we tried to get as much feedback from as many stakeholders as possible.

And what results is a logo that is respectful of our past, with some modern elements added to make it more relevant and more easily reproduced – especially in today's digital world.

But, as Bierut suggests, a new logo won't put Western on the world stage. It's the plan and how we use the logo that will “start to create value around it.”

It will be the messaging we build. The stories we tell. The discoveries our researchers make. The care our professors take in teaching our bright students. And it will be our students, who through transformative learning experiences, in big cities and in remote villages thousands of kilometres from home, will leave here as our best ambassadors.

Together, as faculty, staff, students and alumni, we will bring value to this new visual identity. Together, we are the Western story.

We hope you will embrace this new identity. Wear it proudly. But more importantly, we hope you will continue to help us tell the Western story.

Your voices are indeed our most valuable asset.

*Terry Rice is Western's director of marketing and creative services and the art director for the Alumni Gazette.*



Respecting and learning from the past: As part of Western's visual identity review, Hahn Smith Design combed through the archives to see how the university has been represented throughout its 133-year history.

## Anatomy of Our New Identity



### THE NAME: WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Eighty-six per cent of survey respondents called us 'Western', which is more true to our original name - The Western University of London, Ontario.

### THE COLOUR

Is purple! A slight move from Pantone 266 to 268 makes it darker and richer.

### THE FONT

A custom-made serif font, truly unique to Western. We're calling the font Hellmuth in honour of our founder, Bishop Isaac Hellmuth.

### UNIVERSITY • CANADA

It's important people know Western is a university in Canada, as some outside our country may not be as familiar with us.

### IN REVERSE

A simple key line around the outside of the shield makes the logo work well on dark backgrounds while keeping the integrity of the rest of the logo intact.

### THE SHIELD

Rising sun – made more stylized (less like a fire ball)

Book of knowledge – Western's founding date of 1878 has been added

Stag – The stag comes from the City of London's coat of arms. We are proud to be located in London, Ontario and have made the stag more active than the previous version.

Demi lion – The demi lion is from the coat of arms of Canon Alfred Peache who in 1878 gave an endowment that made possible the establishment of Huron College. Peache would become Western's second Chancellor.

Maple leaf – Repositioning the stag opposite the demi lion allowed us to include a maple leaf. Western can represent itself internationally and be proud of our great country.

To learn more, please visit: [communications.uwo.ca/brandnew](http://communications.uwo.ca/brandnew)

# ROCCHI

## PICTURE SHOW

BY JEFF RENAUD

While it may come as no surprise that film critic James Rocchi utterly despised *Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen* (ergo a legion of fans nearly broke the Internet rebutting his review), what's shocking is the Western alumnus also thinks Hollywood icon Clint Eastwood is overrated as a director.

"*Million Dollar Baby* drove me crazy with how manipulative it was," offers Rocchi, BA'92 (King's), of Eastwood's 2004 Oscar winner. "And I thought *Gran Torino* took a lot of easy outs."

Ouch. Rocchi, who graduated with a joint honors degree in English and history, readily admits he would much rather get behind a film he thinks is amazing and that people should go see than try to talk them out of something they've already decided on.

"If somebody has an Optimus Prime tattoo, I'm not going to convince them to not spend \$12 or \$14 on *Transformers 3*," Rocchi says. "But if I praise a film like *Bellflower*, one of the best American films of 2011, and it gets people to go out and see that film, terrific."

Rocchi, who currently writes for *MSN Movies* and *The Toronto Star*, has been supporting the arts since his days at Western when he first wrote about movies and music for *The Gazette* and later served four years as CHRW Radio's program director.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't stuck around London and worked at CHRW and saw a bunch of great shows," recalls Rocchi, who also won public speaking titles at the Canadian National Debating Championship and the World Universities Debating Championship in 1991. "And not coincidentally met the woman who became my wife, who is now my ex-wife, but with whom I moved to America. The whole London and Western thing was incredibly important to all of that."

After his turn at CHRW, Rocchi helped revamp *London Music News* into a more consumer-friendly, music-oriented publication, which led to him writing about music and movies for money. A move to California was the next logical step.

"When I moved to Santa Cruz, California, my first part-time job was working for a plucky, new startup called Netflix. And that became a full-time job, serving as their sole film critic for five years," says Rocchi.

After Netflix, he wrote reviews for AOL's Cinematical.com

before landing at MSN Movies in 2010. And while Rocchi's home box office has changed from time to time over the years, his passion for cinema has never faded.

"A lot of my passion for movies goes back to watching Elwy Yost on TVO's *Saturday Night at the Movies* and bonding with my dad. That was the most important night for any Canadian film nerd-in-training," quips Rocchi. "My mom and dad really loved storytelling and my older brother studied drama, so a love of movies and acting was always there."

And that's why every film, even the aforementioned *Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen*, gets Rocchi's full attention when he slides into his reviewer's seat at the theatre.

"Even for the worst film in the world, when the lights go down, I am completely in the grip of hope," Rocchi says. "Even if it's me saying to myself, 'Kevin James, have this be an amazing film. Have this be the film that demonstrates to me that you are a decent human being.' I love movies. And I love good movies. And when you find those good ones, they're like diamonds and you have to treasure them."

Rocchi, who never misses a Steven Soderbergh film, says no critic has a magical set of scales sitting on his or her desk and a copy of *Citizen Kane* to serve as a base measurement for all that is good in cinema.

"The job is to make an entirely subjective opinion make sense to the objective reader," Rocchi explains. "And if you're not writing an honest review, you're not doing your job. At the same time, a review doesn't need to be rude to be honest. I know a lot of people, especially in the online era, love to be unkind or vulgar or say uncharitable things about people's appearances, which is fun but I think it's more important in a negative review to get under the hood and really talk about why the movie didn't work."

"I also tell myself anything that I write down in a review I should be able to sit down, opposite the table, from someone responsible and say the same thing politely. It's not, 'this person is a total incompetent,' but rather, 'there were some problems with the script and perhaps if tact could have been taken with the direction, wouldn't that have been more satisfying?'"

Rocchi says legendary wordsmith George Orwell's description of prose best sums up what he tries to do with each and every review.

"Orwell said, 'Good prose should be transparent, like a window pane.' It should be utterly transparent and yet completely direct your point of view. And that's how you try to write. You try to write in a clear way where people understand exactly what it is you are saying and why. And then they can take part in the conversation."

Not unlike the Orwellian beasts of *Animal Farm*. Or *Zookeeper*.

Check out Rocchi's top 10 films of 2011 at [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca).



(Photo by Mark Robert Halper)

# LEARNING to LIVE AGAIN

Kelly and her daughters Paige, 8, (left) and Bridget, 6, near their home in London, Ont. (Photo by Shawn Simpson)



**ON MARCH 3, 2010, KELLY (PETTIT) ROWCLIFFE, BA'93, WAS TOLD SHE HAD STAGE 3 BREAST CANCER. SHE WAS ONE OF MORE THAN 23,000 WOMEN IN CANADA WHO RECEIVED A BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS THAT YEAR. BUT THEN, JUST SIX WEEKS LATER, HER HUSBAND, DAVID ROWCLIFFE, LLB'91, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH ESOPHOGEAL CANCER WHICH HAD SPREAD TO HIS LIVER. THIS IS KELLY'S STORY.**

BY KELLY (PETTIT) ROWCLIFFE, BA'93

Two wonderful daughters. Successful careers. A new addition on our home. And then I felt a lump in my left breast.

That's when the panic set in.

On March 3, 2010, I got the diagnosis – Stage 3 locally advanced breast cancer.

During my treatments, my husband Dave was pale and losing weight, but

we attributed it to stress. Six weeks later, he went in for a routine endoscope to repair a stricture in his esophagus. After the procedure, the doctor told us he had found a mass – Stage 4 esophageal cancer with metastases to the liver.

The room started to spin. There was no cure.

"But I have breast cancer!" I blurted out.

It was inconceivable, even bordering on the absurd. We had already told the kids about my cancer, but how can you tell them another parent has cancer?

We were both receiving chemo and radiation treatments at the same time. Our lives revolved around cancer centre appointments, sometimes four a day between the two of us.

Dave wanted the best chance at survival, which meant surgery. We knew it was a gamble, but he had to take the chance to buy him – buy us – more time. But Dave's cancer would come back. And, despite the chemo, he started to slip away; the side effects were too much. He stopped treatment on Jan. 12, 2011.

We knew we had to tell the kids Dave was dying. It felt like someone pulled my heart out of my chest. They ran from the room crying, and Dave couldn't even get out of bed to go to them. We just huddled on the floor in tears.

On Feb. 4, he died quietly in my arms.

**"WE HAD ALREADY TOLD THE KIDS ABOUT MY CANCER, BUT HOW CAN YOU TELL THEM ANOTHER PARENT HAS CANCER?"**

## DAVID ROWCLIFFE GALE CUP MOOT TEAM FUND



Led by Rob McGill, Warren Bongard, Catherine Bruni and Jim Holloway, Western's Faculty of Law Class of 1991 has established a fund to honour Rowcliffe, who was the faculty advisor for the Western Law Gale Cup, a national criminal law moot court room. The goal of the fund, named the David

Rowcliffe Gale Cup Moot Team Fund, is \$25,000 to support Western Law's Gale Cup Moot team to annually attend the Fraser Milner Casgrain Gale Cup competition, Canada's premier bilingual mooting competition school where teams argue their "moot" – or hypothetical case – before a panel of judges from across the country. Specifically, the funds will support travel, accommodation and registration of students. Learn more about the David Rowcliffe Gale Cup Moot Team Fund at [westernconnect.ca/rowcliffe](http://westernconnect.ca/rowcliffe).

In the months that followed, I could barely get through a day. But, I am learning to live again – as a cancer survivor, a widow and a single parent.

Some days, the worry my cancer will come back creeps in and sadness takes over. But those are fewer now than before. I've learned to honour how I feel, that it's part of the healing process. I have a different view of the world now, one that has made me slow down. I can't rush this – there is no quick fix.

I talk openly and often about Dave with the girls. What he would have thought about a situation, how their mannerisms can remind me so much of him.

The most important thing we can do is create new, happy memories and traditions. Not to forget the old ones, but to know we still have a life to live. This past November, we went to Disney and while it wasn't the same without Dave, I was able to see pure joy in my daughters' faces again.

## CHEMOTHERAPY ORIGINS DISCOVERED AT WESTERN

One of the world's first and most useful chemotherapy drugs was discovered at Western.

Drs. Robert Noble and Charles Beer joined forces in the 1950s to isolate and purify Vinblastine, considered to be a major milestone in the history of cancer chemotherapy.

In 1952, Noble's brother, also a doctor, sent him leaves from the Madagascar periwinkle plant (*Vinca rosea*) that his patient, Lily Farquharson, hoped might treat diabetes. Noble, then associate director of Western's Collip Medical Research Laboratory, found the leaves had little effect on blood sugar levels, even when injected, and was ready to abandon them altogether. But his young laboratory technologist Halina Czajkowska noticed it reduced white blood cell counts, leading Noble to reconsider the leaves as a potential cancer treatment.

Beer, with a background in biochemistry,

joined Noble at Western in 1954. After many attempts, Beer successfully isolated and purified an extract from the leaves in

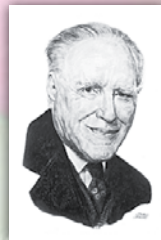
1956 to create the drug vincalcaleukoblastine, now known as Vinblastine. Eventually, the process received a patent and was administered by Western in cooperation with Eli Lilly.

In the years to come, both Noble and Beer joined the B.C. Cancer Agency where they worked until their deaths in 1999 and 2010 respectively. They have received numerous honours for their research, and were jointly inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 1997. Both were also named Officers of the Order of Canada.

Today, Vinblastine is used throughout the world to treat bladder, breast, lung and testicular cancers as well as Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma (Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's) and melanoma.



Noble



Beer

# Pasternak TAKES ON TELEVISION

BY MARCIA STEYAERT, BA'96 (KING'S)

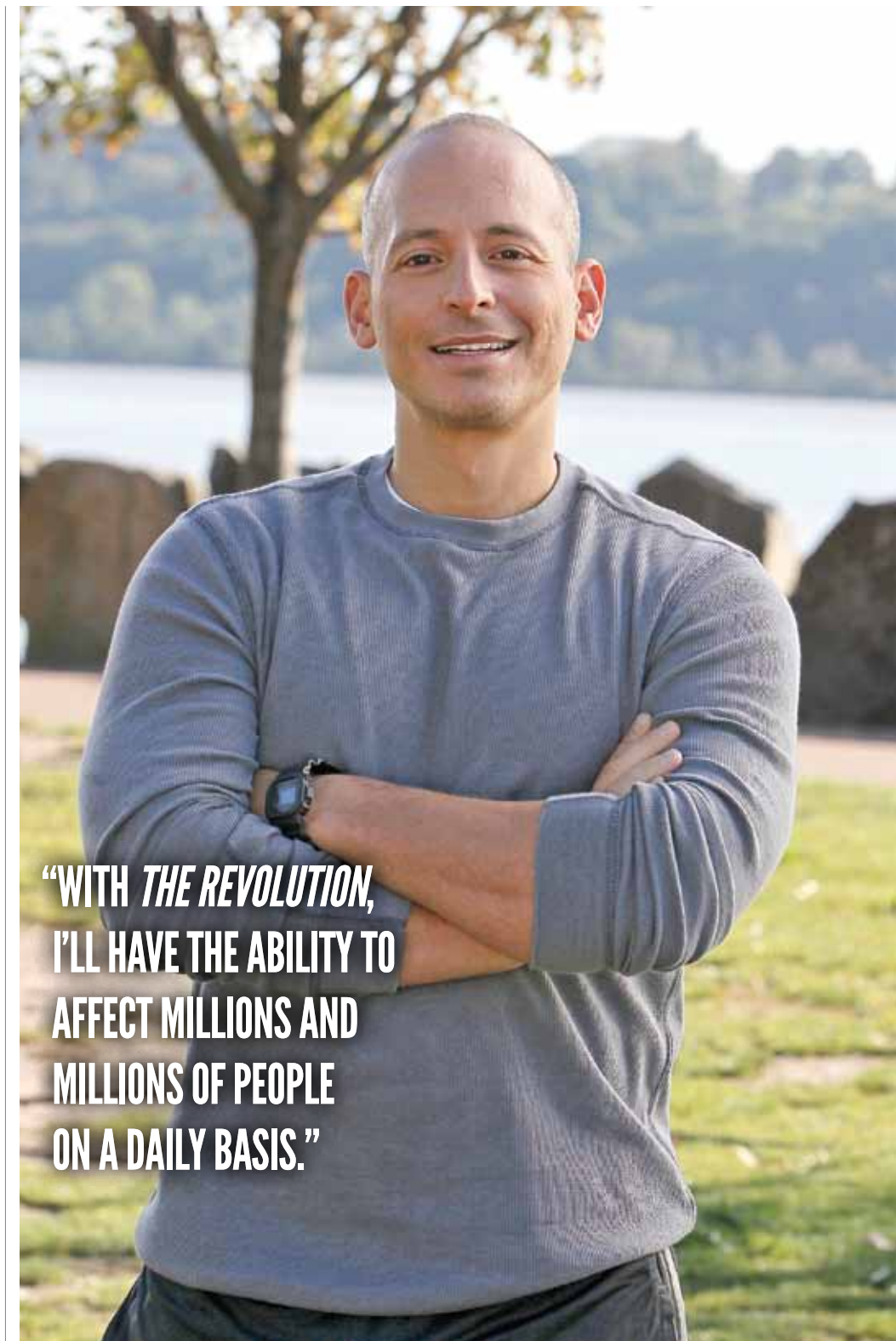
Personal fitness and nutrition expert Harley Pasternak has written two best-selling books, produced a series of workout DVDs, launched a line of snack chips, and counts celebrities like Lady Gaga and Robert Downey Jr. as clients. As if that's not enough, he's taking on the television world, co-hosting *The Revolution*, a new ABC TV daytime talk show that debuted January 16.

Billed as a one-stop shop for better living, *The Revolution* aims to help viewers transform all areas of their lives, including family, physical and emotional well-being, fashion, home design, personal finance, food, jobs and more.

Realizing everyone has limited time, Pasternak, BA'97 (Honors Kinesiology), doesn't believe in spending hours in the gym. On *The Revolution*, he helps each individual find a personalized diet and fitness plan that works for them.

"I've been very lucky over the years to work with many clients, from Grammy winners to Oscar winners, presidents of countries to professional athletes. With *The Revolution*, I'll have the ability to affect millions and millions of people on a daily basis," Pasternak says. He is joined on the show by relationship expert Dr. Tiffanie Davis Henry, ob-gyn Dr. Jennifer Ashton and fashion guru Tim Gunn. Ty Pennington of *Extreme Home Makeover* acts as host.

Pasternak got his start training actors on movie shoots in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. When he was training Halle Berry in Montreal for her role in *Catwoman*, Oprah took notice of Berry's physical transformation. It was on Oprah's advice Pasternak wrote his first book, *5 Factor Fitness: The Diet and Fitness Secret of Hollywood's A-List*, followed by *5 Factor Diet: Hollywood's Hottest Eating Plan*. Both have been translated into 14 languages and are sold in more than 50 countries.



**"WITH *THE REVOLUTION*, I'LL HAVE THE ABILITY TO AFFECT MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ON A DAILY BASIS."**

# Coach Meg:

## Using Brain Biology to Manage Our Minds

BY WENDY HAAF

Nearly everyone who hears about Margaret Moore's new book, *Organize Your Mind, Organize Your Life* (Harvard Health Publications, 2012), says the same thing. "People say, 'I need that!'" says Moore, BSc'78, MBA'83, a wellness coach who was instrumental in establishing the profession.

"I think that speaks to the distraction epidemic we have today; there's a lot of external frenzy, because you have text messages, voice mails and e-mails coming at you all the time," adds Moore, also known as Coach Meg. "When you're in a state of frenzy, it's very hard to focus and get things done."

*Organize Your Mind*, which Moore co-authored with Harvard Medical School psychiatrist and ADHD researcher Dr. Paul Hammerness, is aimed at transforming psychic chaos into order, in part, by better understanding the biology of the brain.

The book is just the latest chapter in a career that's bridged biology and behaviour, disciplines Moore now combines to help people live their healthiest lives.

After a brief stint in a chartered accounting program, Moore decided to pursue her MBA, and upon graduating got into biotechnology just as the field was taking off. She began her career in Great Britain, where, on an international scholarship, she had completed her final term at the London School of Business.

For the next 17 years, Moore raised money for biotech start-ups, eventually ending up in Vancouver, where her life took an abrupt turn worthy of her late mother, Anne Dick, who also attended Western.

"My mother was constantly reinventing herself, from nurse to teacher, and eventually to number three in the Ontario government department of education," Moore recalls.

As COO of the biotechnology venture NeuroVir Therapeutics Inc., Moore hired Paul Clark, a prominent U.S.-based biotech patent lawyer. Soon after, the couple decided to marry.

Passionate about wellness since she first began jogging around campus while living in Delaware Hall, Moore was ready for new challenges.

She had come up with the idea for a brand new breed of health professional – an expert on adopting health-promoting lifestyle changes who would work with physicians.

"The majority of our future health costs are going to come from lifestyle-related diseases like diabetes. But we have not paid enough attention to helping people build the skills to take better care of themselves," Moore notes. "Physicians can only go so far in helping people tackle their lifestyles."

She sees medicine as too siloed.

"You don't sleep, so you don't have the energy to exercise. Then you feel stressed out, so you overeat. Then you feel badly, so you don't sleep. It's all interconnected," Moore says. "I thought, someone needs to look at this whole package."

Moore decided to translate the basic biology and psychology behind human change into effective coaching practices, in much the same way she had explained the science behind biotech discoveries to novice potential investors.

During a pre-wedding weekend getaway, Moore and her fiancé were lamenting having missed out on the dot-com boom, when Clark began casting about for innovative ways of using the Web. He hit on the concept of online coaching, and Wellcoaches Corporation was born.

Since, Moore has helped co-write the first wellness coaching textbook, create science-based curricula and establish certification standards for the profession. Along the way, she co-founded what ultimately became the Harvard-affiliated Institute of Lifestyle Medicine and the Institute of Coaching, both of which she co-directs.

She also coaches her own clients, teaches and mentors other coaches, blogs for *Psychology Today* and *The Huffington Post*, and has co-authored a continuing medical education program on coaching for physicians. Recently, her vision was vindicated when wellness coaching was included in U.S. health care reform.

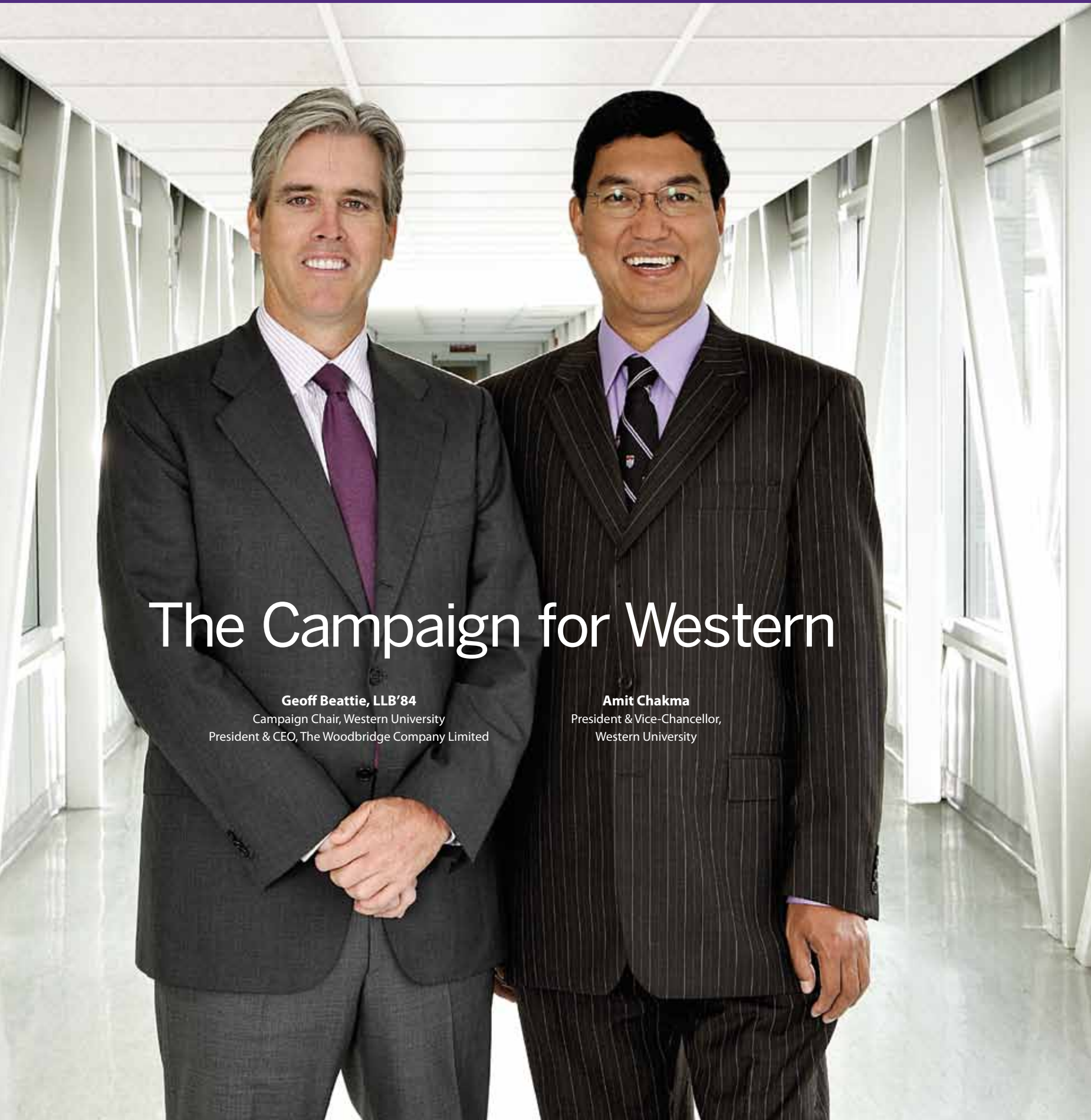
"Wellcoaches is as much a social venture as a business because it really is about changing the world," she says.

To read more about *Organize Your Mind, Organize Your Life*, including an excerpt, visit [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca).

**"YOU DON'T SLEEP, SO YOU DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO EXERCISE. THEN YOU FEEL STRESSED OUT, SO YOU OVERTAKE. THEN YOU FEEL BADLY, SO YOU DON'T SLEEP. IT'S ALL INTERCONNECTED."**



(Photo by Rose Lincoln)



# The Campaign for Western

**Geoff Beattie, LLB'84**  
 Campaign Chair, Western University  
 President & CEO, The Woodbridge Company Limited

**Amit Chakma**  
 President & Vice-Chancellor,  
 Western University

**W**estern delivers an academic experience second to none – The Western Experience. A leading Canadian university, Western has an exceptional school spirit and a world-class legacy of excellence and traditions we have been building since 1878.

We are now embarking on an ambitious fundraising campaign to enrich the experience by creating a more diverse and supportive university environment while bringing together the world's best minds to create a positive impact on society.

With your support, we will further define The Western Experience by focusing our efforts on select areas to create impact that is truly transformative for our students and society. We invite you to learn more about our bold vision to inspire the next generation to achieve their potential.

## The Western Experience

The Western Experience develops leaders, creates a global context for learning and living, and values research and the creation of new knowledge that has a real impact on society. Since 1878, The Western Experience has combined academic excellence with life-long opportunities for intellectual, social and cultural growth in order to better serve our communities.

Western has accomplished much since its original founding as a regional school for the people of southwestern Ontario to becoming a national university, recognized for excellence in teaching and research.

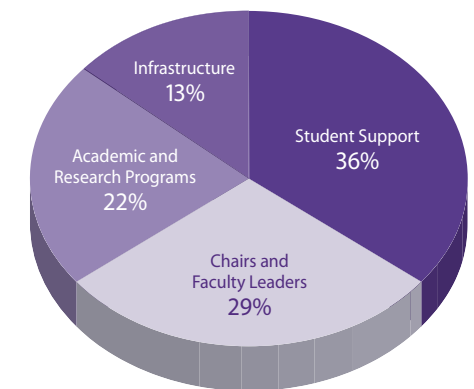
We now strive to become a top-ranked global university. Our \$750-million campaign is designed to advance the university and each faculty's academic strategy over the next decade.

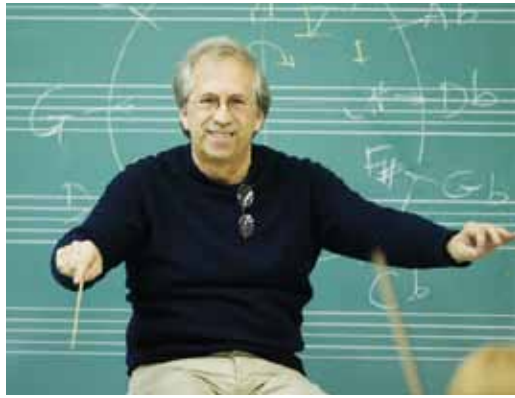
Our campaign is focused on enriching The Western Experience for our students by investing in four main areas: **student** award and support programs, attracting and retaining the world's best **faculty** leaders, building on our **research** and academic strengths, and enhancing the on-campus learning environment through **infrastructure** investment.

## Goals:

- Triple the number of undergraduate student scholarships
- Provide more than 2,000 graduate student awards
- Create 100 new endowed chairs
- Build internationally significant research clusters and academic programs
- Enhance student support in leadership and career development

## Priority Areas





## Increase Knowledge

Western's standing on the global stage is driven by our strengths in teaching and research. This is dependent on one factor alone – the quality of our faculty. Our campaign is focused on attracting and retaining the best teachers and researchers to teach our students. We have set an ambitious goal to grow the number of endowed chairs at Western. These chairs will bring new knowledge and research, teaching strengths and will provide sustained leadership in fields of strategic importance to the University.

### Our vision includes:

- Adding 100 new fully endowed chairs – going from 17 to 117
- Building critical mass in targeted disciplines
- Enhancing our emphasis on teaching
- Incorporating research into all curricula – including at the undergraduate level

## Ignite Discovery

Western excels in moving research out of the labs and into the lives of people around the world. From the operating room to the boardroom, the factory floor to spacecraft rocketing beyond the Earth's atmosphere, Western's research drives discovery and influences the way we live.

We will strengthen our international reputation by focusing our research on select themes and innovate across disciplines to explore new ways of addressing important global issues. These discoveries will create new programs for students, such as resource geoscience and biomedical engineering, and enhance the competitiveness of our graduates.

### Our vision includes:

- Supporting select research programs in areas of business, neuroscience, philosophy of science and public health
- Incorporating undergraduate students into research efforts
- Creating a more entrepreneurial engineering curriculum
- Reconfiguring our libraries to support the way students collaborate, learn and conduct research
- Enriching focused areas of study such as entrepreneurship and Jewish, American and African studies
- Learning experiences such as geology and archaeology field schools and curatorial fellowships

## Create the Environment

While our campaign is focused on much more than simply bricks and mortar, we are mindful of the important role our campus plays in delivering The Western Experience. We need to ensure our infrastructure offers the services and spaces needed for our students to achieve. Often cited as the most beautiful campus in Canada, Western provides an inspiring environment and perfect palette for learning.

### Our vision includes:

- A new, state-of-the-art building for the Richard Ivey School of Business
- Expanded and renovated space for the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- Space for the world's first 3-D wind engineering facility
- Upgrades to library study, music practice and planetary science research space
- Investments in athletic facilities



## Develop Leaders

Students choose Western for its academic excellence and unmatched learning experience. Our undergraduate student average is among the highest in Canada. The experience goes beyond academics to one that fosters leadership through widespread participation in student government, community service, campus clubs and charities, athletics and the arts. Western students graduate as well-rounded citizens, with an ability to lead, innovate and serve.

Our campaign seeks to increase support to our students, ensuring the best minds, regardless of financial means, have access to an education at Western. By creating a more diverse student body, the learning environment is enriched to include international perspectives and experiences – further strengthening The Western Experience.

Our campaign will enhance the support we provide to all Western students to learn and excel in a highly competitive university environment and provide further support to students with disabilities and mental health issues. We also seek to create more leadership and career development opportunities that will assist our students as they transition to successful careers after graduation.

### Our vision includes:

- Having one in 10 students come from parts of Canada outside of Ontario
- Having one in 10 students attend from outside Canada
- Enabling one in 10 students to spend some portion of their year learning outside Canada
- More than 3,000 new undergraduate awards and 2,000 new graduate awards
- Global Opportunity (GO) Awards to support international learning
- International scholarships to support students from around the world

## Your Support to Achieve

We believe passionately that The Western Experience is key to inspiring and developing tomorrow's leaders – global citizens who embrace their responsibility to make the world a better place.

We hope you will embrace our bold vision to inspire the next generation to achieve their potential and advance Western's standing on the global stage.

Visit [www.givingtowestern.uwo.ca](http://www.givingtowestern.uwo.ca) to learn more.



Western

# Fund the Future



"I'm working to ensure students with autism succeed at university and college."

Heather Brown, PhD '13  
Health Sciences

"I'm finding ways to create lighter and more efficient vehicles."

Mehdi Farrokhnejad, PhD '13  
Engineering

"I'm helping to provide a safer environment for youth who are cyberbullied."

Ryan Broll, PhD '14  
Social Science

Thanks to our donors, Heather, Mehdi and Ryan are on their way to creating a better tomorrow. They are just three of the more than 400 graduate students across all faculties at Western supported this year through the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program.

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## HUMANITARIAN WORK: A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY MARCIA STEYAERT, BA'96 (KING'S)

**LINDSAY GLADDING HAS SEEN THE WORST OF THE WORLD. MUCH OF IT WITH HER SON AT HER SIDE.**

Gladding, BA'03 (Brescia), who has worked for World Vision in 23 countries in the last seven years, moved to Lebanon as the aid organization's humanitarian and emergency affairs manager in November 2010. That's when her son William, 3, began to travel with her.

"I'm so grateful that I don't have to miss so much of this important time in his life," she says, "while also providing him a different perspective on the world."

After graduating from Western, Gladding took a year off and then enrolled in Humber College's International Project Management post-grad program in fall 2004. That December, Asia was hit with a devastating tsunami, inspiring her to volunteer with World Vision, supporting their response in Indonesia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. The organization hired her in spring 2005.

"What drew me to World Vision, and particularly to humanitarian response, is the focus on the world's most vulnerable children – children affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and chronic poverty, children who simply as a result of their birth into fragile contexts deal with circumstances we cannot even imagine," she says.

Against this backdrop, she is raising her only son.

William has seen a lot. In the past year alone, he has attended a children's event in a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, played with Bedouin children in Jordan, learned Russian in Armenia and navigated England's Tube transit system.

But not everything is for his eyes. William stays with family in Gladding's hometown of Guelph, Ont., when she travels to extreme



Lindsay Gladding and her son William in Baalbek, Lebanon. (Photo by Wadih Masri)

emergency situations, like the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

In fact, it was during that time when Gladding began to feel like she was missing too much of her son's young life. Not wanting William's earliest memories to be of talking to his mom on Skype, she made up her mind he would come with her whenever possible.

To help William feel at home wherever they are, Gladding packs a few comforts: a favourite blanket, even some well-worn books like *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Helen Oxenbury and *Michael Rosen* and *Mortimer* by Robert Munsch.

She also tries to keep the traditions of home alive: Easter in Armenia, hiding eggs around the hotel room; Thanksgiving in Beirut, lighting fireworks on the beach; Halloween with costumes and pumpkin kibbeh, a traditional Lebanese dish.

Mother and son returned to Canada in late December, just in time to celebrate Christmas. At press time, Gladding was planning trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan, but due to the security situation in both countries, William will stay behind.

Gladding doesn't expect they will settle down any time soon, but feels the effort, and the uncertainty, is worth it for her son – and the world.

"By virtue of my birth in Canada," Gladding says, "I have been given opportunities many mothers cannot even dream about for their children and I feel a responsibility to make use of the opportunities I have been granted to do good, to make even a small dent in the injustices I see."

To read the full interview with Lindsay Gladding visit [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca).





# AGENT OF CHANGE

BY KEVIN GLEW

(Photo by Shawn Simpson)



**“SOCIOLOGY HELPED PREPARE ME FOR DEALING WITH PEOPLE AND SOCIETY, AND FOR DEALING WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.”**

Ian Pulver has helped put millions of dollars into the pockets of NHL players.

And the former labour lawyer with the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA), who's now a player agent, credits his education at Western University for some of his success.

“Sociology helped prepare me for dealing with people and society, and for dealing with people from all over the world,” says Pulver, BA'87 (Sociology), who represents players from several countries.

The former Pi Lambda Phi fraternity member also met his wife, Corinne, BA'87, at Western and worked on sports broadcasts on CHRW. After three years at Western, the Toronto native attended law school at the University of British Columbia.

“I took sports law at UBC in my second year,” he explains, “and in my third year I wrote a paper on the collective bargaining dynamic between the NHL and the NHLPA.”

He mailed that paper to every NHL team and to Bob Goodenow, the soon-to-be executive director of the NHLPA. He would later meet Goodenow at the 1990 NHL Entry Draft in Vancouver.

“One thing led to another and I found my way back to Toronto and started working for the NHLPA on nights and weekends,” Pulver recounts.

The ambitious Western grad quickly evolved into one of the NHLPA's most respected and influential voices. During his tenure with the NHLPA from 1990 to 2006, Pulver helped “professionalize” the arbitration process and ensure players had proper representation at disciplinary hearings. He was also one of the authors of the current collective bargaining agreement, a document forged at the expense of the 2004-05 NHL season.

In 2006, Pulver left the NHLPA to become a player agent. Now considered one of the best in his field, he negotiated centre Scott Gomez's lucrative seven-year, \$51.5-million contract with the New York Rangers in 2007. He also represents Mike Cammalleri, Sam Gagner and Tyler Seguin.

Over the years, Pulver has appeared on *Hockey Night In Canada* and Rogers Sportsnet. He also blogs on his website ([pulversports.com](http://pulversports.com)), is active on Twitter (@pulversports) and has returned to speak at Western's law school on multiple occasions.

“I've gotten to know professor (Richard) McLaren at the law school quite well because he's an arbitrator,” Pulver says. “When I worked at the NHLPA, I appeared before him several times as an advocate and he was the arbitrator. I have a lot of fond memories of Western. I love going back there.”

Visit [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca) for Pulver's thoughts on the NHL's hot-button issues.



1) Charles Smedman (left) and Dick Lyke argue, 1973; 2) Ill-fated gun shed near JW Little Stadium circa 1946; 3) 1967 housing protest march; 4) 1961 anti-nuclear demonstration; 5) 1939 protest balloon launch; 6) 1967 parking on lawn (Social Science Centre site)

## 'BERKELEY OF THE NORTH' CAMPUS PROTESTS 1939-1969

CONTRIBUTED BY ALAN NOON

To the casual onlooker, some of the protests and demonstrations at Western over the past century may seem rather frivolous. But to the participants, all of them were meaningful.

Perhaps Ontario Premier Mitch Hepburn was echoing public sentiment in 1939 when he said, "This government has been far too generous towards provincially funded universities and intends to reduce their grants." He wanted to redirect funds to primary schools rather than assist universities to "clutter up the professions." Western students responded with a message-carrying balloon launch, and later marched into downtown London. However, the general public, still feeling the effects of the Great Depression and the looming war clouds in Europe, had little sympathy for university students who they considered part of the privileged class.

Government grants enabling Second World War veterans to upgrade their education produced a dramatic increase in university enrolments. Overcrowding extended to suitable living quarters, especially students with families.

In 1947, Western attempted to accommodate students by converting a gun shed near JW Little Memorial Stadium into a six-unit apartment complex. Wafer-thin walls and lack of privacy led to confrontations between occupants and eventual closure and demolition of the building. Less than 10 years later, Western president G. Edward Hall, officiating at the opening of Medway Hall, the first men's residence on campus, acknowledged the responsibility of the university to provide decent shelter for its students. Sydenham Hall, a second men's residence, and Delaware Hall, Western's first female residence, followed but it was not enough, and the lack of accommodation led to student demonstrations. In 1968, the Glenmore apartment complex was the first of several buildings to provide space for men and women, and married students with children.

Members of the Combined University Campaign displayed the anti-nuclear sign, first seen at a 1958 rally in London, England, during a 1961 campus protest march for nuclear disarmament. This demonstration was the first of many calling for an end to nuclear arms

proliferation around the world.

Campus demonstrations peaked during the tenure of President D. Carlton Williams (1967-77) who faced widespread unrest, confrontations between various campus organizations, sit-ins and occupation of administrative offices as well as the task of implementing a new UWO Act. Williams sparked widespread opposition when he introduced the first campus parking fee (\$45 annually for faculty and staff, \$15 students). On Oct. 24, 1967 more than 150 cars were parked on the lawn in full view of his office (present site of the Social Science Centre).

Proposed faculty layoffs in 1973 provoked several demonstrations that attracted national media attention, including an angry confrontation between Dick Lyke, a Senate student representative, and undergraduate student Charles Smedman, who was fed up with demonstrations hurting Western's image. Visiting students from the University of California at Berkeley interviewed by the local media referred to Western as the "Berkeley of the North".

## Rotman named new chancellor

BY JASON WINDERS, MES'10

Canadian businessman and philanthropist Joseph L. Rotman, BA'57, LLD'09, has been named Western's 21st chancellor.

Rotman, whose term begins July 1, 2012, will be officially installed at Autumn Convocation on Oct. 25, 2012 and serve a four-year term through 2016. He succeeds John Thompson, BESC'66, LLD'94, who has served the university since 2008.

"It's a great honour," Rotman says. "Most importantly for me, it is an opportunity to work with the senior leadership on implementing a vision of excellence in several areas they have highlighted that, I believe, are very important for Western to do to establish itself in an international sense."

Western President Amit Chakma echoed those sentiments.

"Joe stands among a small group of great Canadians who have contributed in many extraordinary ways to the betterment of our country," Chakma says. "He is one of those rare leaders who dedicates much of his time, business acumen and personal wealth toward a wide range of philanthropic endeavours that have had transformative effects on the arts, health care and higher education in Canada."

Born Jan. 6, 1935 in Toronto, Rotman



earned a BA from Western in 1957 and an MComm from the University of Toronto in 1960. During 1960-61, he studied at the Columbia University Graduate

School of Business in the PhD program. He was awarded an honorary LLD from Western in 2009.

Chairman of Roy-L Capital Corporation, a private family investment company, Rotman launched his business career in 1962 and has been involved in establishing a number of private and public companies active in oil trading, petroleum distribution, oil and gas exploration, merchant banking, real estate and venture capital.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1995 and inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2008, he was appointed to a five-year term as Chair of the Canada Council for the Arts. He previously served as Chair of the Board of the Art Gallery of Ontario (1993-96) and a board member (1991-2000), as well as a board

member of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards (1996-98).

"My goal as chancellor is to try and help the university achieve excellence – the very basis of what makes any university great – the ability of its students and scholars to think creatively, independently and usefully," says Rotman, who donated \$4 million to create Western's Rotman Institute of Philosophy in 2008.

"Western has been one of Canada's great academic powerhouses for many years. I see all kinds of potential to expand its strengths and reputation across the country and well beyond."

### CHANCELLOR - ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The chancellor is the honorary and symbolic head of the university. The position reflects the leadership and global aspirations of Western and, in addition to official convocation and degree-granting functions, serves as a principal ambassador of the university, playing a significant role in supporting and promoting Western's distinctive global role as a leader in education and research.



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**“I THINK ANYONE WHO LIKES FOOD AND ENJOYS THINKING UP NEW WAYS TO ENJOY IT OR DISCUSS IT, IS A FOODIE.”**



(Photo by Shawn Simpson)

## FOOD TRENDS FOR 2012

With more than 14,700 followers on Twitter (@TOFoodie), Western alumna Andrea Chiu, BA'03 (MIT), can't point to a precise 'a-ha' moment when she became a foodie. "I think anyone who likes food and enjoys thinking up new ways to enjoy it or discuss it, is a foodie."

However, she does credit her Chinese ancestry for fueling her food fascination.

Although there were only a few restaurants offering Chinese food when Chiu's parents moved to Canada from Hong Kong in the late 1970s, "Still, my childhood was rich with congee, dim sum and windows of hanging roasted animals - faces and all," she says.

When not tweeting about food, Chiu works as a senior content strategist at Syncapse, a Toronto-based social media company. Here, she shares her top five food trends for 2012:

**SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD:** In recent years, Canadian restaurants have been emphasizing organic, hormone-free and grass-fed meat on their menus. Now, the focus has spread to seafood. Expect more restaurants and grocery stores to indicate their sustainable offerings. SeaChoice Canada's sustainable seafood program even publishes guides and an iPhone app to help consumers choose fish and seafood that's better for the environment.

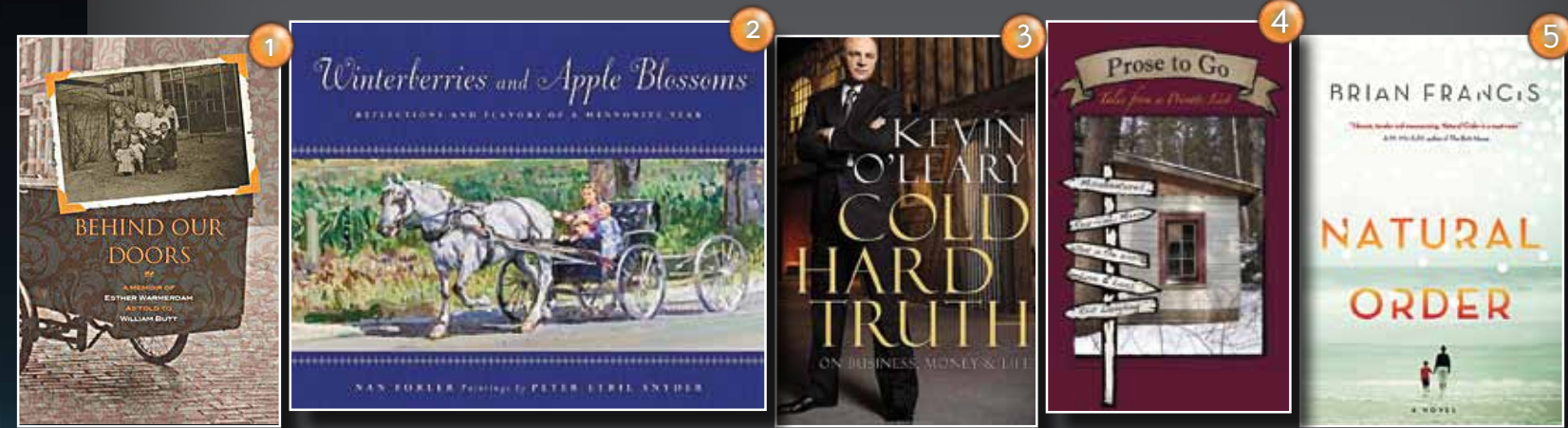
**BACON GETS BACK TO BEING JUST BACON:** We get it: bacon is tasty. But the bacon craze has gone too far. Not only has bacon made its way into odd parts of the menu (dessert, anyone?) but it has been made into unconventional products like bacon toothpicks, bacon lip balm and bacon toothpaste. While real bacon will always be delicious, I hope the bacon fad is losing its sizzle.

**KOREAN FOOD:** Thanks to the popularity of American chef David Chang, owner of New York restaurants like Momofuku and Má Pêche, Korean food is becoming one of the most popular cuisines in the foodie world. Chefs and serious home cooks across North America are playing with ramen, pork buns and kimchi. Chang's popularity shows no sign of slowing down, especially as hungry Torontonians await the opening of his first Canadian restaurant in the Shangri-La Hotel later this year.

**DOWN WITH VODKA:** As classic cocktails like the Manhattan make their way into bars and restaurants, drinkers are reaching for liquors of the strong, dark kind and rejecting the liquor of the clear, subtle kind. Bartenders like Jen Agg of Toronto's Black Hoof have even banned vodka from their bars simply because it has no taste. "Vodka is stupid," she says, as it doesn't have any flavor or character and is an alcohol people only drink to get drunk. Agg makes a fair point. If I'm going to pay \$12 for a cocktail, I might as well taste the booze in it.

**TEA KEEPS GROWING:** Touted as the healthier alternative to coffee, tea is gaining momentum. Canadians aren't likely to replace their morning cup of beans with tea, but they are becoming more interested in it. Numerous specialty tea shops can be found across the country and it's not hard to see why. Tea makes a superior hostess gift to coffee (beans don't stay fresh long) and its wide selection and health benefits have encouraged many to choose it as an alternative to a second or third cup of coffee.

(Photo by Curtis Lantinga)



# NEW RELEASES FROM ALUMNI AUTHORS

VISIT [ALUMNIGAZETTE.CA](http://ALUMNIGAZETTE.CA) TO READ SUMMARIES OF EACH NEW RELEASE.

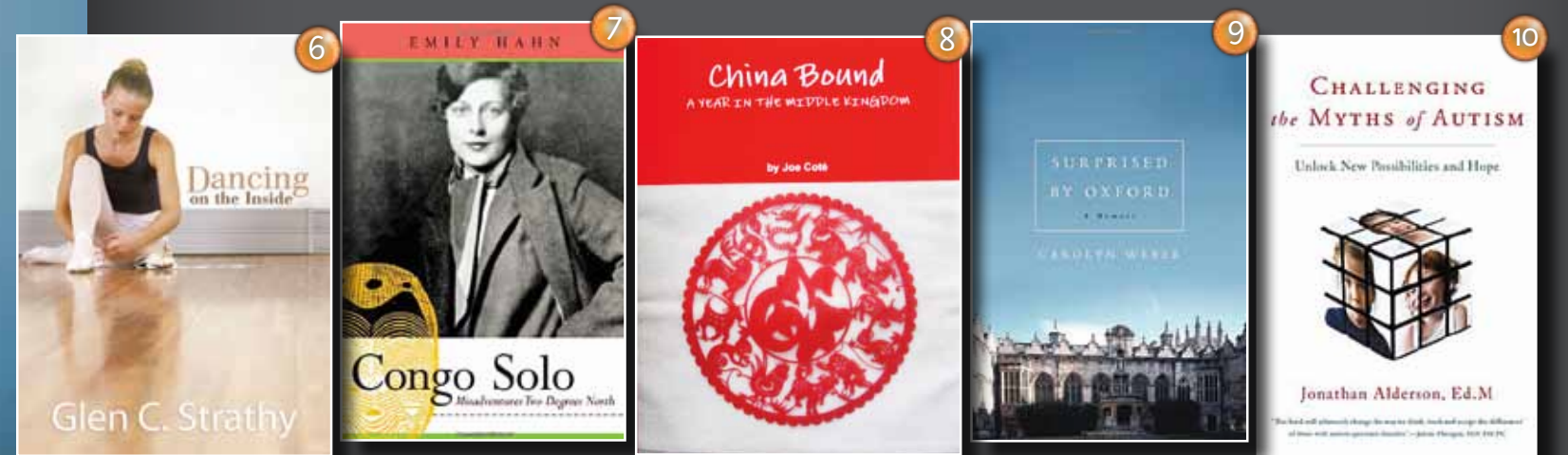
- 1) BEHIND OUR DOORS: A MEMOIR OF ESTHER WARMERDAM AS TOLD TO WILLIAM BUTT - by William Butt, BA'69, MA'71, PhD'77
- 2) WINTERBERRIES AND APPLE BLOSSOMS: REFLECTIONS AND FLAVORS OF A MENNONITE YEAR - by Nan Forler, BEd'88
- 3) COLD HARD TRUTH: ON BUSINESS, MONEY & LIFE - by Kevin O'Leary, MBA'80
- 4) NEW YEAR, NEW DATE (FROM THE COLLECTION PROSE ON THE GO) - by Mark Kearney, BA'77 (Journalism)
- 5) NATURAL ORDER - by Brian Francis, BA'94 (English)
- 6) DANCING ON THE INSIDE - by Glen C. Strathy, BA'85, MA'90 (English)
- 7) CONGO SOLO - by Ken Cuthbertson, MA'75 (Journalism)
- 8) CHINA BOUND: A YEAR IN THE MIDDLE KINGDOM - by Joe Cote, BA'64
- 9) SURPRISED BY OXFORD - by Carolyn Weber, BA'94
- 10) CHALLENGING THE MYTHS OF AUTISM - by Jonathan Alderson, BA'92 (Psychology)



## SPELL BOUND

Kelley Armstrong, BA'91 (Psychology), is the New York Times bestselling author of the *Women of the Otherworld* series and *The Darkest Powers* trilogy. *Spell Bound* continues the story of Savannah Levine, who is in danger, and for once, powerless to help herself. At the conclusion of *Waking the Witch*, Savannah swore she would give up her powers if it would help a young girl. Little did she know someone would take her up on that promise. And now, witch-hunting assassins, necromancers, half-demons, and rogue witches all seem to be after her.

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





## VOICE OF ALUMNI

WITH CHRIS MAKUCH,  
BA'93 (KING'S, HISTORY)

## THE SPIRIT REMAINS THE SAME

I know you have your favourites. I certainly have mine.

Alumni remember countless logos and symbols from our days on campus. For many, those memories won't necessarily reflect the university's 'official' brand, but something far more meaningful to our time on campus.

Maybe you think back to the white sleeves of your Western leather jacket. Or the modular 'UWO' logo issued at the time of our centennial. Perhaps even the galloping Mustang and bold 'W' representing our sports teams jump to mind.

Then there is the ever-present crest, which through its many iterations, has appeared on everything from diplomas and class rings to stone walls and tiled floors.

Yes, Western has presented itself to the world in many ways since 1878.

But these are only symbols representing something far more important: The Western Experience. And that, as we know, has been a constant throughout the years.

Today, as we follow President Chakma's vision for the internationalization of the student body and global recognition of our school, the university needs a more unified, easily identifiable visual identity. As a result, Western has undergone a bit of a re-evaluation, and made a few changes.

They didn't land on these decisions randomly. An exhaustive consultation process included nearly 5,000 surveys, numerous meetings, focus groups and even person-on-the-street conversations with students, faculty and staff on campus, and with alumni around the globe.

The thoughts and feelings uncovered in that process are reflected in the changes you'll see explained in this magazine and on the university's website.

For instance, did you know most of you say you attended 'Western'? At least that's what you tell us.

You didn't attend The University of Western Ontario. Or UWO. Or even Western Ontario. When your thoughts turn to your alma mater, they turn to 'Western.'

And now, the university is formalizing that a bit, referring to itself – once again – as Western University, a name drawn from its founding as The Western University of London, Ontario.

Reaching back yet again, the crest returns to prominence, albeit updated and modified, replacing the recent 'Tower Logo' as the university's 'official' logo.

Both changes serve as a vision for the future with a knowing nod to the past.

As alumni, we have a sense of 'our' Western Experience. We know what drew us here and what keeps us coming back. We build on those early memories through our continued connection with the university.

The visuals we came of age under are a big part of that. Even though we shared them with thousands, they serve as a portal to our individual Western Experience. They are deeply personal and bring us back to our place in time here at Western.

Those will never go away.

And while the official 'look' of the university may change over the years, the spirit remains the same. And isn't that what Western is all about?

*Chris Makuch is President of Western's Alumni Association.*

## ALUMNI EVENTS Find us on Facebook

### BRANCHES: CANADA

**Elgin County/St. Thomas, ON**  
72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alumni Dinner Picnic June 13, 2012

**London, ON**  
Senior Alumni Program January 10-April 3, 2012  
Classes Without Quizzes  
– Astronomy February 9, 2012  
B2B: LinkedIn February 15, 2012  
London Knights February 17, 2012  
Scotch Tasting at The Runt Club February 24, 2012  
Founder's Day Celebration March 7, 2012

Classes Without Quizzes –  
Children's Health March 22, 2012  
Last Lecture March 29, 2012  
Easter Egg Hunt on UC Hill April 7, 2012  
SilverStang Co-ed  
Alumni Hockey Tournament April 13-15, 2012  
"Hair" at the Grand Theatre May 4, 2012  
Love Your London at The Banting House National Historic Site June 7, 2012  
Stratford Festival Outing to 42nd Street June 23, 2012

**Ottawa, ON**  
Founder's Day Celebration March 7, 2012

**Sarnia, ON**  
Founder's Day Celebration March 7, 2012

**Toronto, ON**  
Lecture Series – Echolocation February 1, 2012  
MLIS Alumni Reception February 2, 2012  
Founder's Day Celebration March 7, 2012  
Lecture Series – Advertising March 14, 2012  
Lecture Series – Power of Attorney April 25, 2012  
Lecture Series – Build Your Passion May 30, 2012

Rick McGhie Rocks the Steam Whistle for the Toronto Branch Scholarship June 8, 2012  
Alumni Golf Tournament June 16, 2012

**Vancouver, BC**  
Founder's Day Celebration March 7, 2012  
**Waterloo, ON**  
Tubing at Chicopee February 11, 2012  
Family Day at African Lion Safari June 10, 2012

### INTERNATIONAL

**Bonita Springs, FL**  
Luncheon with the President March 15, 2012

**Hong Kong, China**  
Spring Dinner February 19, 2012  
Founder's Day Celebration March 7, 2012  
Founder's Day Happy Hour March 8, 2012  
Annual Golf Clinic at Mission Hills March 24, 2012

**Dallas, TX**  
Calgary Flames @ Dallas Stars March 24, 2012

**London, UK**  
Founder's Day Celebration March 6, 2012

**New Orleans, LA**  
Six Degree: Western Builds May 7 - 12, 2012

**San Francisco, CA**  
Cocktail reception February 23, 2012

**Sydney, Australia**  
Canadian Alumni Amazing Race February 4, 2012

### UNIVERSITY FACULTY EVENTS

**Law**  
Alumni Wine Reception (London) March 6, 2012



## Celebrate Western's Founder's Day!

Founder's Day is recognized annually by the Western community on March 7. On this day, we remember the contributions of Western's founders and celebrate the achievements of students, alumni, faculty and staff.

One of Canada's oldest universities, Western was founded on March 7, 1878. Western's Alumni Association has spearheaded activities on campus and around the world to commemorate this day.

Visit [alumni.uwo.ca/connect/fundersday.html](http://alumni.uwo.ca/connect/fundersday.html) to see what's happening and to join in the celebrations.

### Dentistry

Pacific Dental Conference  
Alumni Reception (Vancouver) March 8, 2012  
Ontario Dental Conference  
Alumni Reception (Toronto) May 11, 2012

### FUTURE HOMECOMING DATES

2012 – September 27 - 30  
2013 – October 3 - 6



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 alumni events in your area. Check out our event listing and register at [www.alumni.uwo.ca](http://www.alumni.uwo.ca)



## Western's Alumni App



### Featuring:

- Alumni Gazette News
- Alumni Events
- Notable Alumni Profiles
- Homecoming Information



Download the latest version today!

## Nominate an outstanding Western alumnus for a prestigious Alumni Award of Merit

Categories, criteria and nomination form can be found at [www.alumni.uwo.ca/connect/awards/merit.html](http://www.alumni.uwo.ca/connect/awards/merit.html)

The nomination deadline is **March 15, 2012**. Awards will be presented on Homecoming weekend, September 27 - 30, 2012

For more information, please call Susan Henderson at 519-661-2111 ext. 85871



2011 ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

John Eberhard Q.C., BA'66, LLB'69  
Community Service

Sarah Richardson, BA'93  
Young Alumni

Jack Cowin, BA'64, LLD'00  
Professional Achievement

Ted Hessel, BA'67 (Hon)  
Dr. Ivan Smith Award

# How will you impact future generations?



"Western is like a family to me and I want to do my part to take care of my alma mater."

Sally Lane, BA'73, BEd'74  
- donor

"With my student scholarship, I have been able to explore my educational interests and discover my ultimate career goal in public health."

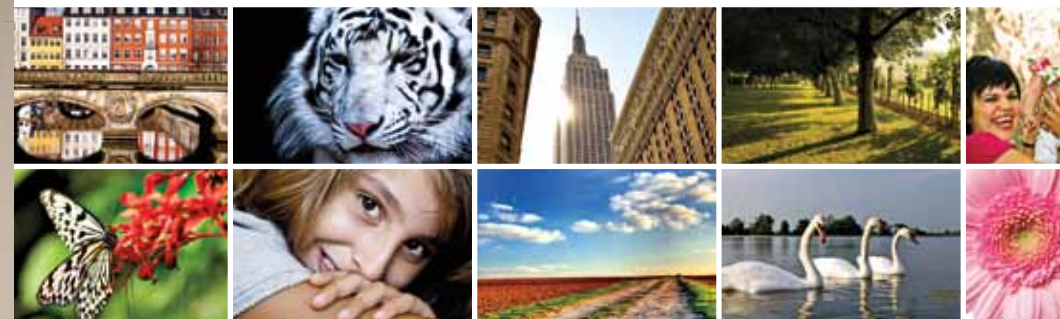
Sanna Malik, BScN '12  
- student award recipient

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.

For more information:  
Jane Edwards at [jane.edwards@uwo.ca](mailto:jane.edwards@uwo.ca) or call 519-661-2111 ext. 88829  
Western University, Alumni Relations & Development, Westminster Hall,  
Suite 160 London, ON N6A 3K7



## Arlie Laxton Alumni Photo Contest

The Arlie Laxton Alumni Photo Contest is named in honour of the late Arlie Laxton, BScN'37, a nursing grad who made it possible through an endowed gift to Western.

### Categories:

- **People** – portraits, candid and activity photos of family, friends, other alumni, etc.
- **Other** – landscape, still life, nature, architecture, animals, etc.
- **Digitally Enhanced** – Photos altered, enhanced, touched-up after the fact by Photoshop or any other computer photography software. This category is open to photos of people, portraits, landscape, nature, etc.

### Rules:

- Limit one entry per person.
- Entries must include photographer's full name, degree and year, address, telephone number and a brief explanation of the photograph, how it was taken and in which category it is being entered.
- Photos of people must be accompanied by a statement that those depicted have given permission for the photograph to be published. People in the photos must be identified.
- If there is any digital enhancement of the photos, it must be declared and entered in the Digitally Enhanced category.
- Entries not meeting these requirements or formatted improperly will not be judged. Entries mailed will not be returned. Contest open only to alumni of Western University who are not employees and/or officers of the University.
- **Deadline for entries: May 1, 2012**
- Winners will be announced online at [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca) and in the Fall 2012 issue of the Western Alumni Gazette.

### Submissions:

Preference is for photos to be submitted via e-mail to [wag.editor@uwo.ca](mailto:wag.editor@uwo.ca) (maximum file size 5MB). Photos can also be submitted to Arlie Laxton Alumni Photo Contest, Communications & Public Affairs, Western University, Suite 360, Westminster Hall, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 3K7

### Prizes:

First prize in each category – \$250 each  
One runner-up prize in each category – \$100 each

### Judges:

- **Dallas Curow, BA'06 (MIT)**, freelance marketing associate, McGill University; photographer
- **Paul Mayne**, Western News reporter/photographer
- **Jim Rankin, BSc'88 (Biology)**, Toronto Star photographer
- **Terry Rice, BFA'98, MA'00**, Director, Marketing & Creative Services, Western

For more information, please e-mail [wag.editor@uwo.ca](mailto:wag.editor@uwo.ca)

To see previous winning entries, visit  
<http://bit.ly/alumni-photocontest>



## ALUMNI NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Billy Bishop Goes to War*, directed by Barbara Willis-Sweete (1970s)

### 1960s

**Jack Cowin, BA'64, LLD'00**, has received Western Alumni's 2011 Professional Achievement Award. Cowin moved to Australia more than 40 years ago where he took the fast food industry by storm, initially with Kentucky Fried Chicken, then his own burger chain, Hungry Jack's, and next with Dominos Pizza. He expanded his reach into food manufacturing and now exports to 27 countries employing 17,000 people.

**John Eberhard, BA'66, LLB'69**, has received Western Alumni's 2011 Community Service Award in honour of his lifelong dedication to a number of causes. Eberhard currently holds a seat on the Alumni Association's board of directors serving as a leader in the areas of alumni outreach and internationalization. His most notable volunteer efforts have been realized through his decades-long relationship with Rotary International where he has served in various capacities including international director.

**Ted Hessel, BA'67 (Honors Phys Ed)**, has received Western Alumni's 2011 Dr. Ivan Smith Award. Hessel's tireless service to Western has been realized through his active volunteer career with the Alumni Association, the W-Club, and as a member of Senate. He has served his country through his posting with NATO as a fighter pilot in Europe, his community as a vice-principal, teacher and coach and his alma mater through decades of commitments both large and small.

**Achilla Imlong Erdican, MLS'69**, has been awarded The Governor's Award 2011 (Nagaland, India) for distinction in the field of literature.

**James Henry, MSc'69, PhD'72 (Physiology)**, was honoured with a Civic Recognition Award for his efforts "to make the City of Burlington a great place to live, work and play."

### 1970s

**Jamie Lewin, BA'72**, has been appointed chief financial officer of Musgrove Minerals, a Canadian-based mining and exploration company.

A team led by **Valiya Mannathal Hamza, PhD'73 (Geophysics)**, professor at the National Geophysics Observatory in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, recently discovered a 6,000-kilometre subterranean river running 4,000 metres below the Amazon River. The river has been named Hamza in his honour.

**Prem Watsa, MBA'74**, has been re-elected chancellor of the University of Waterloo. Watsa, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd., will serve a second three-year term, beginning May 1, 2012.

**John French, HBA'75**, and **Laurie Tugman, BA'75 (Economics)**, have been elected into fellowship by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

*Billy Bishop Goes to War*, directed by **Barbara Willis-Sweete, BMus'75**, was screened at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival in September and played in select Canadian cities in November.

**John F. Cowan, BA'76 (Geology)**, has been appointed to the Board of Dundee Energy Limited.

**Roberta Jamieson, LLB'76, LLD'93**, has been honoured with Western Law's Community Service Award, an award recognizing alumni who have made outstanding volunteer contributions to the community. As CEO and president of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Jamieson is dedicated to realizing the potential of First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth through scholarship assistance and other supports.

**Jack Yolland, MBA'76**, has held every executive position with the B.C. Seniors Games Zone 6 Committee and has been involved since the inception of the Games in 1987. He was given the honour of lighting the flame as the countdown to the 2011 games began last May and this year, at the age of 91, will be recognized for his 25 years of service to the Games.

**Rob Miller, BA'77 (Journalism)**, has been appointed executive producer of news at CBC Windsor.

**Paul Taillefer, BEd'77**, has been appointed president of the Canadian Teachers Federation.

**Nancy Laird, BA'78 (Honors Psychology)**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of FilterBoxx, a provider of packaged potable water and wastewater treatment systems to drilling, mining and pipeline camps, small municipalities and aboriginal communities.

**James Houston, BA'79 (Economics)**, has been appointed VP of Nexus Investment Management, an investment management and financial counsel company.

Ontario Court Justice **David Paciocco, LLB'79**, has been named a provincial court judge in Ottawa.

**David G. Thomson, MBA'79**, business consultant, speaker and bestselling-author of *Blueprint to a Billion*, has joined the Board of Directors for Sandvine, a leading provider of intelligent network policy control solutions for fixed and mobile operators.

### 1980s

**Wayne Caldwell, BA'80, MA'82 (Geography)**, has been appointed director of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph.

**Joseph MacDonald, BA'80**, has joined Galileo Global Equity as a partner. He also serves as COO and director of GGE, an investment management company.



Stacey Allaster (1980s) with tennis great Andre Agassi

**Douglas Carty, MBA'81**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of YRC Worldwide, a Fortune 500 company and one of the largest transportation service providers in the world.

**C. Evan Ballantyne, BA'82 (History)**, has been named CFO of Avedro, Inc., a privately held medical device and pharmaceutical company.

Former *Globe and Mail* columnist **Stephen Brunt, MA'82 (Journalism)**, has signed an agreement to work exclusively on a full-time basis across all Rogers Sportsnet media platforms.

**Michael Benarroch, MA'83 (Economics)**, has been appointed dean of the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba.

**Dr. Jan Goossens, MD'83**, is the new chief of staff for Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare.

**Mark Hadley, BSc'83 (Geology), DipGeo'85 (Honors Geology)**, has been appointed VP of Exploration for Contact Exploration Inc., a public company with a focus on Canadian East Coast onshore oil production and exploration.

**Paul Kirkonnell, MBA'83**, has been appointed executive VP, Venture Canada for The Business Development Bank of Canada.

**Geoff Beattie, LLB'84**, president of The Woodbridge Company and Western's campaign chair, was honoured with Western Law's Business Leadership Award, recognizing superior achievement in business and leadership.

**Michael Medline, BA'84 (Huron, History)**, has been appointed president of The Forzani Group Ltd., Canada's largest national retailer of sporting goods.

**Thomas Little, HBA'84**, has been appointed president of Bell Business Markets.

**Stacey Allaster, BA'85, MBA'00**, chair and CEO of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), was inducted into the Rogers Cup Hall of Fame in August, along with Andre Agassi and Jimmy Connors. In October, the WTA's board of directors unanimously voted to extend her contract by an additional five years which will make Allaster the second longest-serving CEO in the WTA's history.

**Michael Baxter, BESC'85**, has been appointed VP of XL Insurance North America Property.

**Frank Trivieri, BESC'85**, has been appointed head of sales operations for Volkswagen of America.

**Ian de Verteuil, MBA'86**, has rejoined BMO Capital Markets as its global head of research.

**Jennifer Hall, BA'86 (English)**, is now a part-time news anchor with CBC News Network in Toronto. For the past two years, she was a news anchor at CBC Montreal, and prior to that was national affairs reporter in Ottawa for CTV's 'A' Network.

**Robert Wonnacott, MBA'87**, has been appointed to the Board of Lone Pine and will serve as a member of the Audit and Reserves Committee. Lone Pine is engaged in the exploration and development of natural gas and liquids in Canada.



Sonja Salmon (1990s), Greg Fletcher (1990s) and sons

**Matthew Gaasenbeek, BA'88 (Geography), MBA'92**, has been appointed president of Canaccord Genuity, the capital markets division of Canaccord Genuity Corp.

**Pierre Taillefer, BA'88 (History)**, has been appointed as partner of BDO Canada LLP.

**Lester Wong, BSc'88 (Biology)**, has been appointed senior VP, general counsel & legal affairs to Kulicke & Soffa Industries, a designer and manufacturer of semiconductor and LED assembly equipment.

**Bradley Boehler, BESC'89**, has been appointed interim president for Skyjack, a leader in the design, manufacture and service of self-propelled aerial work platforms.

**Cameron Haygarth, HBA'89**, has been promoted to VP, Sales & Marketing at Sun Rich Fresh Foods.

**Dr. Claire Miller, BScN'89, MD'95**, has been appointed chief of the hospitalist program at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance.

**David Rombough, HBA'89**, has joined Ernst & Young as a partner.

**David McGraw, MBA'81, Mary Heisz, HBA'82, MBA'02, David Boyce, MBA'86, Cynthia Devine, HBA'87, and Bruce Rothney, MBA'89**, have been elected into fellowship by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

1990s

**Barbara Elliott, BA'90 (Honors Economics/Math)**, has been appointed an associate partner to PwC.

**Adrienne Arsenault, BA'90 (Honors PoliSci), MA'91 (Journalism)**, is the recipient of two Gemini Awards for Best Breaking Reportage and Best News Information Segment.

**Edward Bereznicki, MBA'91**, has been appointed VP and CFO of Lone Pine Resources Inc, an oil and gas exploration and development company.

**Janice Detta Colli, BA'91 (Honors Eng/Soc), MA'94 (Soc)**, has been appointed managing director of Boyden World Corp, a global leader in the executive search industry.

**Anthony Germain, MA'91 (Journalism)**, is the new host of St. John's Morning Show on CBC Radio.

**Dr. Feisel Haji, BSc'91 (Honors Physio), DDS'96**, has been named to the Medical and Dental Advisory Board of Medical Care Technologies Inc., a rapidly growing children's healthcare service provider. Dr. Haji maintains a private dental practice, Soho Dental, in Toronto.

**Matthew James, BA'91 (PoliSci)**, has been appointed president of Purity Life Health Products, Canada's largest natural health products supplier. He is also board chair of the Canadian Health Food Association.

**Michael McCloskey, BSc'91 (Math)**, announced the formation of his new firm, GreensKeeper Asset Management, a value-oriented equity manager. Before founding GreensKeeper, McCloskey spent nine years as an investment banker with Cormark Securities and six years as partner with the Toronto law firm, Aird & Berlis.



Stephan Moccio (1990s), with soprano Measha Brueggergosman and actor Martin Short

**David Chow, BA'92 (Economics)**, has been appointed managing director and portfolio manager for Wells Capital Management, a multi-boutique asset management firm.

**Sonja Salmon, BACS'92**, and **Greg Fletcher, BMus'88, BEd'93**, are enjoying life in Bermuda. After graduating from Western, Sonja completed a double law degree before starting her career with two large Bay Street law firms. After a few years, she moved to RBC Financial Group where she worked as in-house legal counsel. In 2003, she added an MBA to her accomplishments. Greg has enjoyed many diverse careers since his time at Western including managing a jazz and classical music store, teaching high school and joining a national investment and insurance advisory firm all before starting his own financial consulting business. In 2005, the couple moved to Bermuda where Sonja served as general counsel for HSBC Bermuda until 2010 while Greg was VP of retail investments at a local investment firm prior to becoming Head of PFS Investments for HSBC Bermuda in 2006. Today, the couple has two sons, ages seven and three, and continues to work for HSBC Bermuda where Greg heads HSBC Premier

and Wealth Management for retail banking while Sonja is chief risk officer.

**Mark Walton, BA'92 (History)**, has been appointed a partner for KPMG.

In October, **Laurel Broten, JD'93**, was named Ontario's Minister of Education. She also continues her cabinet role as Minister Responsible for Women's Issues.

**Wendy Cornelis, BA'93 (Sociology)**, has been appointed Petrolia's manager of marketing, fundraising and special events.

**Mark Morabito, JD'93**, has been appointed executive chairman of Alderon, a mining and resource development company.

**Sarah Richardson, BA'93 (Visual Arts)**, co-creator/co-producer of five home design television series on HGTV, has received Western Alumni's 2011 Young Alumni Award.

**Paul Robertson, BA'93 (English)**, has been appointed CFO to Eco Oro Minerals, a precious metals exploration and development company.

**Robert Robis, BA'93 (Honors Economics)**, has been appointed senior portfolio manager for global bonds and head of fixed income macro strategies for INC Investment Management Americas.

**Allan Buitendag, BA'94 (Honors Philosophy), MBA'00**, has been appointed as a partner to PwC.

**Barry Egerter, BSc'94**, is president & CEO of Eggman Technologies Inc. He and his wife Lorrie own the London, Ont.-based company and provide mobile apps for iPhone, iPad, Android and Symbian devices. Their first app, Live Cams, was the No. 1 paid app in iTunes for the United States and Japan before Angry Birds was released. It reached the No. 2 overall spot in Canada in 2009. Their latest product, Live Cams Pro, has been No. 1 in Germany and No. 2 in Spain in 2011.

**Douglas Jones, BA'94 (Honors Geography)**, has been appointed VP of forestry for Remsoft. Jones is a former professional hockey player who played in Sweden, Denmark and Italy.

Renowned composer **Stephan Moccio, BMus'94**, has been named a judge for *Canada's Got Talent*, set to debut on Citytv in March. Moccio joins fellow judges actor Martin Short and opera singer Measha Brueggergosman.

**Robert Barbara, MBA'96**, senior VP of Burgundy Asset Management, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Foundation.

**John Cape, MBA'96**, is the co-founder, president and COO of Tailor Medical, dedicated to health promotion through advanced diagnostics, personalized medicine and collaborative interdisciplinary care. Cape is also president of



Laurel Broten (1990s)



Brian Fauteux and Dallas Curow (2000s)

the Upper Canada College Association Council, board member and class president. He and his wife Franziska live in Toronto and have two daughters and a son.

**Chris Egerter, BSc'97**, is president & CEO of Egerter Software. He is a mobile app developer for iPhone, iPad, Android, Windows Phone 7 and Playbook with more than 50 mobile games developed under the brand Rocking Pocket Games.

**Erin Lawrence, MA'97 (Journalism)**, was named to Calgary's "Top 40 Under 40" list in *Avenue Magazine's* November 2011 issue. She is executive producer for news and senior producer, television at CBC Calgary.

**Samuel Tyler, BA'97 (Honors Economics), LLB'00**, has been appointed as a partner to KPMG.

**Allan Armitage, PhD'98 (Geology)**, has been appointed VP of exploration for Northern Freegold Resources, a Canadian mineral exploration company.

**Deb Matthews, BA'98 (Honors Sociology), PhD'06 (Sociology)**, has been re-appointed Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Ryan Ptolemy, BA'98**, has been appointed CFO of United Silver Corp.

**Craig Shufelt, MLIS'98**, has been appointed CEO of the Fort Erie Public Library.

**Patrick Spence, HBA'98**, has been appointed managing director of global sales at Research in Motion.

**Marcela Diaz-Ruiz, MBA'99**, has been promoted to senior principal with Delcan Corporation.

**Mitch Frazer, LLB'99**, a partner at Torys LLP, was honoured with Western Law's Ivan Rand Alumni Award, recognizing superior contributions to both the law school and to the alumni community. As president of the Western Law Alumni Association he revitalized the association and took a lead role in the creation of the Torys LLP "Pre-Eminent Speaker Series".

**Darryl McCoy, MBA'99**, has been named VP, supply chain for Thompson Creek Metals Company Inc., a diversified North American mining company.

AnaptyBio, Inc., a privately held therapeutic antibody company, has promoted **Hamza Suria, MSc'99, MBA'05**, to chief business officer and acting CEO.

**Blair Zaritsky, BA'99 (Economics)**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors at Anglo Swiss Resources, a Canadian mineral exploration company.



Chris and Barry Egerter (1990s)

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Jeff Miski and Talia Dabby (2000s)

## 2000s

**Suzanne Dale, BSc'00 (Honors Microbio/Immun)'00, PhD'05 (Microbio/Immun)**, has been appointed director of microbiology for ACM Global Central Laboratory, a clinical research services company.

**Roger Rosmus, MBA'00**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Key Gold Holding Inc., a mineral exploration company focused on the acquisition, exploration and development of gold and copper properties.

**Robert Werstine, BSc'01 (Phys Therapy), MSc'10 (Rehab Sci)**, has been appointed president of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

**Jason Naccarato, BESC'02**, has been appointed VP, development at the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

**Dale Pineau, BA'03 (Sociology)**, has been appointed VP, seniors' living for Sifton Properties Ltd.

**Joscelyn Gardner, MFA'04 (Visual Arts)**, received the grand prize at the seventh International Contemporary Printmaking Biennial.

**Talia Dabby, BACS'05 and Jeff Miski, BSc'04 (Kinesiology)**, met at Western in Medway-Sydenham Hall and have been together since. Talia is a manager in the consulting practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Toronto and Jeff is a paramedic with Halton Region. They are set to marry on June 3, 2012 in Toronto.



Neil Silcox (2000s)

**Chunbao Xu, PhD'05 (Engineering)**, is the winner of the 2011 Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering, Syncrude Canadian Innovation Award.

**Peter Caldwell, MBA'06**, has been appointed director and CEO for the Ontario Arts Council.

**Dallas Curow, BA'06 (MIT)** married **Brian Fauteux, BA'06 (MIT)**, on May 14. Dallas works at McGill University as a marketing associate and is a freelance photographer. Brian is a PhD candidate in communication studies at Concordia University.

**Neil Silcox, BEd'06**, has been appointed artistic director for the Toronto Youth Theatre.

**Mike Carnegie, BA'07 (Honors Geography)**, was named to Calgary's "Top 40 Under 40" list in *Avenue Magazine's* November 2011 issue. He is a survey analyst with Stantec Consulting Ltd. and assistant captain for the Calgary Roughnecks, a professional lacrosse team.

**Jason Hrick, BA'07 (MOS)**, has been promoted to senior business analyst at Ovations Foods, a division of Comcast in Tampa, Florida.

**Meghan Adams, BA'09 (English)**, was a winner of a 2010 CBC Literary Award (short story category). She returned to Western in September 2011 to begin PhD studies.

**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. Western respects your privacy. At any time you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used to recognize outstanding achievement or distinguished service in University publications. For more information or to make a request about the kinds of contact you would like to receive, please contact the Operations Administrator, Advancement Services, 519-661-4176 or 1-800-420-7519, fax 519-661-4182, e-mail [advser@uwo.ca](mailto:advser@uwo.ca).

# REMEMBERING: MARIE SMIBERT, BA'40 (HONORS)

BY JESSICA SCHAGERL, PHD'06, AND  
PATRICIA MCLAUGHLIN, BA'71, MA'81



On Sept. 28, Western lost one of its most esteemed alumni, a woman whose dedication and vision helped generations of students. A former Dr. Ivan Smith Award

winner in recognition of her decades of work with the Toronto Chapter of Alumni Western, the Toronto Senior Alumni Program, and various Homecoming activities, Marie Smibert (1919-2011) was also a prominent philanthropic supporter of Western. But, to her friends, among whom we count ourselves, Marie is missed most when we check the mail and realize there are no letters from her waiting to be opened.

One of the wonderful things about Marie was that she wrote long letters, at once digressive and personal, while being astute and focused. She wrote them with an impeccable and highly individual prose style, refined over years of writing similar missives to her family and friends, newspapers and politicians, fellow administrators and educators. We were touched to be the recipients of letters from Marie. The letters we wrote in return were deeply personal, because Marie gave so generously of herself that one felt compelled to do the same. It was not unusual for one of Marie's correspondents to take two full evenings to craft a letter, ensuring it had the right mix of anecdote and intellect to keep the attention of someone who was incredibly

sharp. She had that kind of reciprocal relationship with any number of people, all of whom miss the intellectual exchange, as well as the luxury of sitting to write a proper letter.

Marie was passionate about education, especially Canadian history and proper writing. She felt these two areas were increasingly overlooked in the education system, to the detriment of society. Her endowments at Western support the Program in Writing, Rhetoric and Professional Communication and the Department of History, where several bursaries honour her deep ties to southwestern Ontario. She was firmly committed to women and education, having carved for herself a career that included, among many other accomplishments, being the first female high school principal in Toronto (Central High School of Commerce). First and foremost, though, she was an epistolary friend - a writer of letters that touched people, deeply.

*Remembering* is a new Western Alumni Gazette feature. 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. Those not chosen for publication may be featured online at [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca). Submissions can be sent to [wag.editor@uwo.ca](mailto: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

**Joan (Breakspear) Hamilton, BA'39, Cert '67**, on Sept. 10, 2011, in St. Marys, Ont.

**William Wallace Judd, MA'40**, on Oct. 19, 2011, in London, Ont.

**Netta (Kingsmill) Brandon, BA'44**, on May 23, 2011, in London, Ont.

**Edgar Charles Pearce, BSc'50**, on Nov. 27, 2010 in North Bay, Ont.

**Kenneth Charles Sample, BA'51**, on Dec. 25, 2010, in London, Ont.

**Edwin Robert Procnier, BA'51 (English)**, on Sept. 26, 2011, in London, Ont.

**Ian Barry Connell Steers, BA'51, LLD'89**, on Nov. 20, 2011, in London, Ont.

**Barbara Ann (Bradley) Shannon, BA'53**, on Aug. 23, 2011, in Cambridge, Ont.

**Thomas L. Wills, BA'54**, on Sept. 25, 2011, in Hartford, CT.

**Cela Anne (McKillop) Sloan, BA'55**, Oct. 29, 2011, in St. Thomas, Ont.

**Katherina Crosbie, DipNursing'63**, on July 26, 2011, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Bert W.J. Bakker, BA'64 (English), MEd'77**, on May 20, 2011, in Strathroy, Ont.

**Shelagh Elizabeth (Cockayne) Sims, MA'71 (Geography)**, on Aug. 16, 2011, in Sedgefield, U.K.

**Sharon (Fukushima) Andrews, BMus'74, BEd'75**, on Jan. 4, 2011, in Toronto, Ont.

**Daniel William O'Shea, MBA'74**, on Aug. 25, 2011, in Ottawa, Ont.

**Orpha Mary Mohrmann, BA'76**, on June 21, 2011, in Stratford, Ont.

**Harry William Beatty, M.ED '77**, on Sept. 5, 2011, in London, Ont.

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## THE FINAL SAY WITH PAUL WELLS, BA'89

# LIFE LESSONS: LOOKING BACK & TAKING STOCK

I've been fascinated lately by an odd turn in the writing of *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, and especially by a column he published on Oct. 27. Brooks has been the Times' resident very-very-moderate Republican for most of a decade. He supported Barack Obama for president in 2008, though never too fervently. He came to regret it, but never too bitterly. He is unfailingly polite and very-very-moderate in the ways he writes about politics. I'm a fan.

But lately he's writing less about politics, which is the study of human nature in limited and peculiar situations, and more about human nature in general. He's gone from worrying about whether it's Democrats or Republicans who'll win such-and-such a fight, to wondering what motivates people in general, makes them happy, keeps them going after a setback, influences their choice

of a mate or a job. These questions are more eternal than the fight over the debt ceiling, but less often pondered in the editorial pages, so it's been fun to watch.

On Oct. 27, Brooks invited his readers to become research subjects. "If you are over 70, I'd like to ask for a gift," he wrote. "I'd like you to write a brief report on your life so far, an evaluation of what you did well, of what you did not so well and what you learned along the way."

Brooks figures these inner inventories will be of some use to the people who write them, and of more to any who read them — especially if they are well under 70 when they do so. "Young people are educated in many ways," he wrote, "but they are given relatively little help in understanding how a life develops, how careers and families evolve, what are the common mistakes and the common blessings of modern adulthood."

The closest thing Brooks could find to these sorts of "life reports" were the essays college alumni sometimes write before reunions. That's most of the reason why I'm writing about the life-report idea here instead of somewhere else. Brooks found a bunch of Yale University alumni sketches written for the 50th anniversary reunion of the Class of 1942.

"The most common lament in this collection is from people who worked at the same company all their lives and now realize how boring they must seem," he reports. "These people passively let their lives happen to them."

Many regret risks they didn't take. Many, of course, report catastrophes that changed everything for them. And many pulled up stakes and changed their lives on their own initiative, chasing a dream or a business deal or a love halfway around the world. Brooks finds they are happier than the ones who stayed put. "Nobody regretted the life changes they made, even when they failed," he wrote.

I'm well short of 70 and nowhere near ready to draw big conclusions from my own life. But every few months when I sit down to write one of these columns, I do a little stock-taking. And a few times after a major screw-up or a minor triumph I've tried to do it in a



more formal way. It's true that just about every time I've bet everything on a new direction, it's worked out better than if I'd stayed put. Once I bet everything and it worked out very badly. But even then, failure made a better life possible.

These are not lessons university teaches us well. Partly that's because the young so rarely have any interest in learning them. I spent a lot more time at Western trying to figure out how to be successful than I did trying to figure out how to be happy. I figured 'happy' was in the gods' hands, not mine. Almost everything that followed was accident.

To the extent we can learn how to live a good life, I think that so far, we learn it better from the arts and humanities than from science or even social science. Aristotle and Haydn have helped get me out of more fixes than cell biology did, although to be fair I was a lousy scientist. I'm quite sure it'll never be possible to know, to three decimal places, how to live life well. Too many variables. But the question is still worth asking.

I'm with the Yale class of '42. Change and risk have stood me in better stead than stasis and worry ever did. There may be a role for universities in teaching that much, at least.

*Paul Wells is a senior columnist for Maclean's magazine. Follow him on Twitter @InklessPW.*

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